WHO figures for cases detected in Kosovo (as of 28 July 2020)

- Identified: 7,803
- Active: 2,801
- Recovered: 3,418
- Casualties: 186

- Total tests performed 35,087
- 435 patients hospitalized: 61 in intensive care, 374 on oxygen-therapy.
- 3169 patients in homecare.

Global Cases according to WHO (data updated globally, as of 12:09pm CEST, 30 July 2020)

- Total COVID-19 cases: 16,775,633
- Total COVID-19 related deaths: 661,244

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 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 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. 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](#)**
- **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 [LINK](#)
- **WHO’s Laboratory Testing Strategy Recommendations** [LINK](#) & [Laboratory Testing in Suspected Cases](#)

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

The 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 to under the factor 1. Current **Case Fatality Rate-CFR** in Kosovo is **1.96%**, which is relatively low compared to the global variable of 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 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.

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

For a detailed timeline of measures by Kosovo authorities up to the end of June 2020, please see LINK.

After the recent spike in new infections from 1 to 30 June at a rate of approx. 265.69% and from 15 June to 15 July at a rate of approximately 238.80%, the government has been introducing a series of measures as follows:

On 1 July, a list of 28 measures was introduced (LINK) which entered into force on 6 July 2020. An unofficial English translation can be found at LINK.

From 13 July, the usage of masks has been made mandatory in all public indoor and outdoor spaces. A full set of measures can be found at this LINK.

From 30 July, the curfew has been set from 22:30 to 05:00 the following day, while decisions on opening of kindergartens will be a matter for individual municipalities. Masks are mandatory, distance to be kept is 2 meters mandatory and 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 and an unofficial English translation is available at LINK.

Kosovo healthcare system

On 14 July, the Minister of Health signed two Administrative Instructions on serological testing, to assess the prevalence of COVID-19 within the population. 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, Pristina Municipality has established a special lab/facility for SARS-nCOV-2 near the University dormitories. The total current testing capacity per day is 100. This entity will also become part of the serological survey efforts.
Capacity of Health Care system of Kosovo

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 utilised.

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.

The current rate of infections has almost filled the capacity of the public health care system. With the system and health workers stretched maximally, experts are calling for a full respect of measures.

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

The UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia conducted a rapid gender assessment to evaluate the gendered impacts of COVID-19 effectively and accurately. The analysis revealed a troubling situation and the findings are intended to inform, guide and support, and identify gender gaps in the ongoing response. Access the Kosovo factsheet here: [LINK]

UN Women has launched the "Gender-Responsive Approaches and Efforts to Combat the COVID-19 Outbreak in Kosovo" project supported by the Embassy of Canada. The project will support women from marginalized and vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic, by providing access to basic medical services, including prevention and protection items.

The 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 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. 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], [Albanian] & [Serbian]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants, Internally Displaced Persons and Voluntary Returnees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Currently, there are around 100 asylum-seekers in Kosovo. They are receiving psychological and psychosocial assistance provided by UNHCR’s partner organisation Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture. In addition, asylum-seekers receive counselling and support in lodging asylum claims and social assistance application. UNHCR and partner organisations Forum for Development and Multi-ethnic Collaboration (FDMC) and Advancing Together (AT) continue to monitor the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and voluntary returnees. AT community advocates in Gjilan/Gnjilane and Ferizaj/Uroševac continued to visit elderly persons of concern to inform them about the new measures against COVID-19, and to encourage them to keep distance and have protective gloves and masks. AT continues with the identification of returnee individuals in several locations to participate in vocational training through the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund. Advancing Together has initiated a free psychosocial assistance service for marginalised communities. This service, available through a free of charge phone number 0800 200 20, is free of charge every working day from 8.30 to 16:30.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Rights and COVID-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On 28 July, the government adopted new COVID-19 containment measures that will enter into force on 30 July, such as prohibiting public and private gatherings of more than five persons, extending the curfew for 17 municipalities in Kosovo, and prohibiting “physical participation” in religious ceremonies and activities throughout Kosovo. These restrictions restrict the freedoms of movement, peaceful assembly, and religion. They also have the potential to affect a wide range of human rights in Kosovo, including the realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 cases and deaths continue to rise while a number of people with COVID-19 symptoms are still unable to obtain testing, raising serious concerns for the rights to life and health. 30 elderly persons and nine staff were confirmed to have COVID-19 in the Home for Elderly Persons in Pristina, although all residents have since been tested and the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, committed to providing a dedicated medical team to the Home. COVID-19 prevention measures are still not being sufficiently enforced, which may be incompatible with the Government’s health obligations and positive due diligence obligations under the right to life to at least mitigate the spread of life-threatening diseases. |

The initial COVID-19 fiscal emergency package has not yet been fully implemented reportedly due to a lack of budget, whilst Kosovo’s economy stands at risk of contracting by three to five per cent in 2020 because of the COVID-19 crisis. To mitigate some of the economic impact of the crisis, the government approved the Draft Law on Temporary Measures to Mitigate the Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic and the Draft Law on Ratification of the Agreement Between the Government and the International Development Association, while the Assembly of Kosovo ratified five international financial agreements with the World Bank and the European Union. |

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. According to a non-governmental organizations from Human Right group chaired by OHCHR, members of these communities live in overcrowded villages, lack sufficient access to clean water, and continue to have insufficient food and hygienic items, which may impact their rights to life, health, food, and other interrelated rights. All new asylum-seekers were reportedly provided with personal protective equipment as well as disinfectants and tested for COVID-19 immediately upon their arrival to asylum centers in Kosovo. K-Roma, K-Ashkali and K-Egyptian returnee women continue to face ongoing socio-economic challenges and a lack of employment opportunities, all of which have been exacerbated by COVID-19 and measures to contain it. |

Tailored assistance that prioritizes and accounts for the specific needs of communities and persons in vulnerable situations remains essential 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. This is especially important in the face of domestic violence cases, with at least one ending with casualty during this week. |
On 29 July, 60 adolescent and youth were empowered through the participation in the Youth Solution for COVID-19 workshop and developed 6 innovative ideas to tackle the COVID-19 challenges by providing solutions and advocacy campaigns to be implemented in their communities. Workshops were implemented by Innovations Lab Kosovo.

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 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.

**Donations by UN family**

During the first week of August, UNOPS will be handing over 30 Fixed ICU Ventilators. This is part of the final delivery under EU financed assistance. Also 150,000 worth of PPE are purchased from assistance from Germany.

In addition to 27 Oxygen Concentrators which were donated 2 weeks ago to the Infectious Diseases Clinic at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo, WHO Pristina will donate 211 additional Oxygen Concentrators by the end of July (in total 238). This will further expand the capabilities of the Clinic to treat patients suffering from COVID-19.

**Risk Communication & Advocacy**

UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs have released awareness raising videos on 24 July. These videos were made through UNDP’s KSSP project: [link].

A WHO Europe, Mission from Copenhagen, concluded their one week visit to Kosovo on 24 July. The mission 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;
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 13 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

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].

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
<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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<td>Mobile ventilators</td>
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<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>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>238 pcs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests and related items</td>
<td>6,000 pcs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>85,085 pcs</td>
<td>12,400 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Different PPE and disposable equipment &amp;消毒物品</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 packs</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 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>
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<tr>
<td>IT equipment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>36 packs</td>
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<td></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 1 Medical assistance 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>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>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. 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