WHO figures for cases detected in Kosovo (as of 5 August 2020)

Identified: 9,645
Active: 3,944
Recovered: 5,411
Casualties: 290

- Total tests performed 38,795
- 622 patients hospitalized, from which:
  - 11 are intubated, 35 CPAP (intensive care) and 385 on oxygen-therapy
  - 3,612 patients in homecare.

Global Cases according to WHO (data updated globally, 3:17pm CEST, 6 August 2020)

Total COVID-19 cases: 18,614,177
Total COVID-19 related deaths: 702,642

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** & Laboratory Testing in Suspected Cases [LINK](#).

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 July 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:

**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. 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.

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 Administrative 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 and has put the whole system under a great deal of stress.

Support provided by UN family and International Community

**Risk Communication & Advocacy**

1. A video produced by UN Development Coordinator’s Office with actress Arta Dobroshi on advocating on following the measures against the spread of COVID (wearing the mask, keeping the physical distance and personal hygiene), has surpassed 150k views in total on Facebook and it was additionally broadcasted on RTK 1 and 2 during morning shows. [LINK](#) & [LINK](#)

2. **UNMiK’s United Youth Task Force** youth volunteers delivered more than 600 reusable masks to 200 Albanian, Serbian, Roma and Ashkali families in Lipjan/Lipljan with UNMIK support!

   The activity was organized by the a multi-ethnic network of young peacebuilders who are conducting an awareness-raising campaign on inclusive youth participation under the motto “Make Your Voice Heard”. In August, similar actions will be organized in different municipalities across Kosovo. [LINK](#)

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

   - With WHO support, additional expertise is deployed to Kosovo for three weeks to support and provide COVID-19 technical advice and expertise to national authorities in the areas of: Clinical management and epidemiology; Support strengthening of case-cluster detection, Investigation and response; and Support strengthening of contact tracing activities including improved Monitoring and Evaluation. The expertise will work alongside stakeholders. Efforts to coordinate with other additional support such as the upcoming Italian medical-military support is ongoing.

   - During the first week of August UNICEF supported Primary Health Care facilities across Kosovo with provision of 40 Oxygen Concentrators. On 6th of August 2020, with the support of the Government of Luxembourg, UNICEF delivered another 40 Oxygen concentrators to the Ministry of Health of Kosovo, dedicated to the Primary Health Care Facilities in Kosovo.

   - On 3 August, UNOPS handed over 30 Fixed ICU Ventilators. This is a part of the final delivery under EU financed assistance. Also 150,000 worth of PPE are purchased from assistance from German government.

   - On 5 August, UNDP supported the Kosovo Employment Agency (KEA) with protective items. The donation includes 15,000 disposable filter protective face masks and 1000 hand sanitizers for the needs of KEA and its 34 Employment Offices Kosovo wide, as they continue to offer employment services for the jobseekers and employers/businesses. A 2-day online training (5-6 Aug 2020) on microbiology, was organized by WHO Pristina, WHO Balkan Hub, and WHO Regional Office Europe. The aim of this training was to raise the knowledge on real time PCR of the new staff from the central microbiology lab at the Institute of Public Health.
Gender dimension of COVID-19 Response:

On 30 July, a sub-group, chaired by the Agency for Gender Equality, and co-chaired by Kosovo Women’s Network, that will deal specifically with gender-based violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic is re-activated. The decision has been taken in the meeting of the Security and Gender Group, which is chaired by UN Women.

On 4 August, the subgroup held its first meeting, with the presence of the GBV shelters representatives. Two concerns raised on the disproportional number of cases reported which continues to be high, and the low number of women survivors admitted in shelters. Subsequently, UN Women immediately raised the concern with the Minister of Justice, while the Agency for Gender Equality with the Kosovo Police.

While 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, it is strengthening its support to management of the health crisis through additional expertise deployed by WHO and intensifying overall focus on strengthening health capacities. Experts include health emergency management, surveillance and health information management. 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.

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

UNHCR in Pristina/ Pristina has established a helpline for providing information to asylum-seekers on COVID-19, services and support available in Kosovo. Free of charge information and advice for asylum-seekers is to be provided through Helpline number 0800 60 200. This activity is 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. Asylum-seekers are receiving psychological and psychosocial assistance, counselling and support in lodging asylum claims and social assistance application. Recently, they benefitted from social assistance allowance, after a few months delay.

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 new measures against COVID-19, to keep distance and wear protective masks. Advancing Together has initiated a free psychosocial assistance service for marginalized communities. This service, available through free of charge phone line, is dedicated to counseling in pandemic conditions, to cope with stress from isolation, reduction of human and social resources 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.

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Human Rights and COVID-19

COVID-19 containment measures restricting the freedoms of movement, peaceful assembly, and religion remained in force. These measures also 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 while the situation at the University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK) and regional hospitals in Kosovo continues to worsen, raising serious concerns for the rights to life and health.

COVID-19 prevention measures are still not being sufficiently enforced/respected, which may be incompatible with the government's right to health obligations and positive due diligence obligations under the right to life to at least mitigate the spread of life-threatening diseases. However, as of 29 July, field health inspectors will begin issuing fines of 500 EUR and 1000 EUR to natural and legal persons, respectively, who fail to respect the COVID-19 containment measures, although such fines have implications for the right to an adequate standard of living and would also disproportionately impact persons in vulnerable situations, such as persons living in poverty.

The COVID-19 crisis continues to exacerbate pre-existing issues for the right to information and language rights for Serbian speaking communities in Kosovo. According an NGO, the Ministry of Health and the Kosovo Institute for Public Health (KIPH) are not publishing relevant COVID-19 information in Serbian. The Ministry of Health has reportedly not updated its webpage for months while the KIPH’s webpage and social media posts on COVID-19 are not provided in Serbian.

Due to COVID-19 and measures to contain it, about 255 businesses closed and 40,000 people have lost their jobs since the crisis began in March, which has implications for the realizing of economic and social rights in Kosovo. The Assembly of Kosovo passed the Law on Amending and Supplementing the Law on the Budget Appropriations, which mitigates the economic impact of COVID-19 by allocating 600 million EUR to compensate for the lack of revenues among private business and establishing a 385 million EUR recovery fund.

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, while a municipal Communities Committee stated that it will not conduct outreach visits to non-majority communities due to the pandemic, which may impact the ability to assess the needs of these communities and provide them with assistance. K-Serb returnees in Brestovik reportedly lack access to water to wash their hands. Two persons deprived of liberty and 26 correctional officers have also contracted COVID-19, raising concerns for the rights to health and life for detainees as they face compounded risks posed by COVID-19.

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 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.
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;
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;
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), 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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<tr>
<td>Mobile ventilators</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>40 pcs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other clinical equipment &amp; apparatus</td>
<td>1,192 pcs</td>
<td>938 pcs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>238 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests and related items</td>
<td>6,000 pcs</td>
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<td></td>
<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; disinfected for staff &amp; patients – Pcs</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>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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>IT equipment</td>
<td>36 packs</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>387 pcs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunization Items</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