



UNITED NATIONS
KOSOVO TEAM



UN Kosovo Team - In Brief, January 2021

19 January UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA launched the second Rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) to understand the impact of COVID-19 on Kosovo's households and businesses. Data collection took place in November 2020 and offers comparisons to the first SEIA of May 2020. The current SEIA results shows that the COVID-19 pandemic has a strong gender dimension with impacts felt greater by women. Data revealed among other things that the share of unpaid care work increased for women, as they were more likely to have spent increased time on cleaning (24%) and cooking (18%) as compared to men (13%) and (6%), respectively. Full report interactive visualizer can be found at [LINK](#)



21 January UNICEF supported organized catch-up regular vaccinations in Kolonia neighborhood Gjakova -Đakovica, among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as well as for children from marginalized families in another eight selected municipalities in Kosovo¹. In cooperation with health facilities, 543 in total children were provided with catch-up vaccinations (287 in January 2021) and baby kits with essential hygiene supplies were distributed for children 0-6 years old. [LINK](#)



25 January UNICEF, in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health, published results of a U-Report poll from December on the perceptions and levels of acceptance of vaccines in general as well as COVID-19 vaccines. The Report highlights that less than half of U-Reporters (40%) would take the COVID-19 vaccine if available, with 25% stating they would not take the vaccine and 35% indecisive. The most frequent reasons for refusal were lack of information on vaccines and safety concerns. [LINK](#)



14 January The Government of Germany and WHO delivered critical medical supplies worth EUR 2.17m to Kosovo institutions to strengthen COVID-19 response and save lives: : 5,000 fingertip pulse oximeters, which measure the oxygen saturation of the blood, and 200 ventilators to help move breathable air into and out of the lungs. The Press Conference ended with a brief Q&A. [LINK](#)



19 January UN Kosovo Team welcomes the new Head of Office and Chief Technical Advisor of UN-Habitat, Mr. Omar Siddique. Mr. Siddique joins us from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP)'s Sustainable Urban Development Section in Thailand. [LINK](#)

15 January European Union (EU) office in Kosovo, together with implementing partners United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Kosovo, International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Save the Children, launched the EU funded Programme 'EU4 Social protection following the coronavirus crisis'. A project worth EUR11.8m, will provide emergency support, social protection, and early socio-economic recovery to socially vulnerable groups in Kosovo. [LINK](#)



Highlights:

- UNDP, UN Women and UNFPA launch the second Rapid Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) of COVID-19.
- UNICEF U-Report poll on perceptions of vaccines shows concerns around lack of information.
- The EU, with UNDP, IOM, and Save the Children, launches EUR11.8m programme on emergency support, social protection, and early socio-economic recovery.
- UNICEF helps carry out catch up vaccinations for children in marginalized communities.
- Germany and WHO deliver critical medical supplies to strengthen COVID-19 response.
- UN-Habitat welcomes new Head of Office Omar Siddique.



¹References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)



11 and 15 January The Ministry of Education, Institute of Public Health and University of Pristina, supported by WHO, organized a series of online lectures. Aiming to increase the awareness of education staff on the impacts of COVID-19 on the mental and emotional wellbeing of students, teachers, and parents, and on appropriate steps that can be taken, the first round covered the municipalities of Pristina, Peja/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane and Ferizaj-Uroševac. [LINK](#)

14 January Street lights were installed in the multi-ethnic villages Vojnoc/Voinoc and Gjurkovce/Djurakovac of Shtime/Štimlje municipality, funded by the European Union Office in Kosovo, co-financed by the Ministry of Communities and Return (MCR) and implemented by the International Organization for Migration. The municipality pledged maintenance of the newly installed streetlights. [LINK](#)

16 January The Head of the EU and the UN Development Coordinator visited the Institute of Public Health to learn about the overall situation with the cold chain system in Kosovo as part of UNICEF's support to the Ministry of Health. The cold-chain system is essential for the Kosovo deployment plan for the safe and efficient delivery of COVID vaccines. UNICEF has supported an assessment of the cold chain system in Kosovo, which is a critical part of readiness to receive the COVID19 vaccine. [LINK](#)



19 January UN Women, in cooperation with the Association of Kosovo Journalists, organized an online training on Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) with more than 15 journalists from local and central media outlets. The training enabled journalists to report, in an impartial, gender sensitive and ethical manner on how gender inequalities can be addressed through GRB with a special focus on how to increase awareness on financing for gender equality. The initiative forms part of the regional project 'Transformative financing for gender equality towards more transparent, inclusive and accountable governance in the Western Balkans' financed by Sida. [LINK](#)

25 January Primary school Xhemajl Kada in Pejë/Peć municipality was provided with new equipment, directly improving the educational conditions for preschool children attending the school. Community-based development initiatives are implemented by IOM's EU Return and Reintegration in Kosovo phase V (IOM EU RRR V) [LINK](#)

25 January On the 20th anniversary of its establishment, the Kosovo Cadastral Agency has presented a Certificate of Recognition to UN-Habitat as a sign of gratitude for support over the years, particularly to the process of creating decentralized services for the cadaster in partner municipalities. [LINK](#)



27 January Women asylum seekers in Kosovo participated in psychosocial activities funded by the EU Service for Foreign Policy Instruments within the project Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans. [LINK](#)

27 January IOM launched tailored VocUp language courses for court translators and interpreters. The language component is part of the project Building Societal connections and protection of minorities in Kosovo supported by the British Embassy and implemented in cooperation with the Office of the Language Commissioner and local NGO Center for Social Initiatives. Developed in 2018, the VocUp online language learning platform has over 50,000 unique users, ranking as the most visited educational website in Kosovo. All 72 translators and interpreters in courts and prosecution will be part of intensive courses between January – March. [LINK](#)

Risk Communication and Communication for Development

6 January UN Women issued a Joint Statement by participants of the 'Women in Politics, Confidence, Influence and Effective Leadership: Ensuring Gender-responsive and Inclusive Political Dialogue Processes,' a joint UN-EU project. The statement called on Kosovo Institutions to adhere to their obligations under the Law on Gender Equality (No. 05/L-020) and the 2020-2024 Kosovo Programme for Gender Equality regarding the equal and meaningful participation of women in decision-making. The project aimed at strengthening and supporting the leadership potential of women leaders and networks to influence political and peace processes in a meaningful way. [LINK](#)

January IOM Published a set of videos related to **COVID-19:**

12 January How Will We Win the Battle Against the Virus [LINK](#)

24 January How to Recognize Fake News [LINK](#)

24 January Let us Support Health care Staff [LINK](#)

28 January How to Behave Amid the Pandemic (dos and don'ts) [LINK](#) . All videos are available with subtitles in Albanian, Serbian and Romani. The videos have been developed for the joint project 'Countering the deepening of pre-existing inequalities in Kosovo through COVID-19 by assisting Kosovo's non-majority communities and domestic violence survivors' implemented by IOM, UNHCR and UN Women. The project is funded by the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) designed to assist the most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption.

15 January The multi-stakeholder Security and Gender Group-SGG, chaired by UN Women, issued a Joint statement, urging the Central Election Commission to adhere to requirements set out under the Law on Gender Equality and guarantee equal representation of women and men in election lists as required by the Law. [LINK](#)

25 January The University of Pristina, in cooperation with UN Women, published a call for Essay Competition on UNSCR 1325, titled '1325 and Beyond.' Eligible for participation are Bachelor students. For more information see [LINK](#)



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27 January Marking Holocaust Remembrance Day, the UN Development Coordinator, on behalf of the UN Kosovo Team, laid flowers at the memorial stone in on the Assembly of Kosovo yard. [LINK](#)

Community Outreach and Assistance Delivery

5 January UNDP's Kosovo Safety and Security Programme (KSSP) handed over 80 monitors, 80 desktop computers, 10 laptops, 5 tablets, 40 multifunction printers and 40 toners to the Kosovo Police Investigation Department to be used at the local, regional, and central levels, thus effectively strengthening individual and institutional capacities for investigations of illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons. [LINK](#)

19 January UNICEF delivered 1,344 vaccine carriers for the regular immunization programme to the Ministry of Health with the support of the United Kingdom and Luxembourg Governments. The vaccine carriers will contribute to strengthening the vaccination programme in Kosovo, and will also be used as part of the COVID-19 vaccine deployment in Kosovo. [LINK](#)

20 January In light of the recent floods, the Social Inclusion project funded by the British Embassy Pristina and implemented by IOM, has provided assistance to the most affected households residing in different communities in Graçanicë/Gračanica and Kamenicë/Kamenica municipalities. Assistance in the delivery and distribution of much-needed goods and items was provided by volunteers, representatives of the British Embassy Pristina, IOM, Alpine Club Pristina, workers and representatives of municipalities. [LINK](#)

21 January IOM delivered two furniture processing machines to two carpentry businesses in the municipalities of Shtime/Štimlje and Dragash/š, through IOM's EU- Community Stabilization Programme Phase IV. Funded by the EU, co-financed by the Ministry of Communities and Return, the Programme provides support to all 38 municipalities.

21 January UNICEF jointly with the Mayor of Gjakova municipality launched its support to the Internet Connectivity initiative for 10 schools to narrow the digital divide. Internet connectivity is crucial for the successful implementation of distance learning. [LINK](#)

21 January During the Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, UNFPA together with Action for Mothers and Children delivered a microscope to Peja/Pec regional hospital as part of the Cervical Cancer Screening programme in Pristina, Prizren, Mitrovica/a and Peja/Pec for free Pap tests for women of all communities. The programme enables the early detection of abnormal cells, thus offering a good chance for prevention and successful treatment and saving the lives of women.

25 January Marking International Day of Education, UN Women visited 'AAB College' to discuss opportunities for cooperation, including the empowerment of girls to engage in higher education. [LINK](#)

28 January Three enthusiastic metal processing companies will now be able to enhance production of specialized metal products and improve the quality of their products, with IOM's assistance. Through the EU-funded Community Stabilization Programme Phase IV (EU-CSP IV), owners of the businesses from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities received important equipment including air compressors; metal cutting, drilling and welding machines, as well as dry cutters and angle grinders. [LINK](#)

