

15 April UN Kosovo¹ Team led by UN Development Coordinator held courtesy meetings with President, LINK, which follows the meeting with Prime Minister LINK and Speaker of the Parliament LINK on 30 March. Further UNKT delegation continued with meetings with Minister Of Justice LINK and Minister of Foreign Affairs LINK on 7 April. On 12 April UNKT met with Minister for Communities and Return LINK; on 15 with Minister for Culture Youth and Sports LINK, followed by Minister of Education Science and Technology LINK; ending with meeting with Minister for Spatial Planning, Environment and Infrastructure LINK. On 19 April UNKT met with Deputy Prime Minister for Minority and Human Rights LINK; and on 29 April Minister of Internal Affairs LINK



**UNITED NATIONS
KOSOVO TEAM**



UN Kosovo Team - In Brief, April 2021

26 April The UN-Habitat Project Advisory Committee for new Social Housing Programme was held. Prime Minister, Albin Kurti, opened the meeting, followed by remarks from the UN Development Coordinator, Ms. Ulrika Richardson, Minister of Environment Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Mr. Liburn Aliu, Minister of Finance Labour and Transfers, Mr. Hekuran Murati and Head of UN Habitat Mr. Omar Siddique. The meeting included UNHCR and IOM, and actors whose work supports the housing sector. Participants highlighted the need for strengthened management of the housing sector, including identification of actual housing needs, and harmonize housing with other relevant policies. The project is supported by the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) and the Italian Fund for Innovative Projects. LINK



Highlights:

- UN Kosovo Team led by UN Development Coordinator held courtesy meetings with President, Prime Minister and Speaker of the Parliament.
- Tech Heroes Competition – Concluded by IOM.
- Marking of the International Mother Earth Day – led by UNDP and UN Habitat with 'Earth Day' events.
- Prime Minister Kurti opens the Second Meeting of the UN-Habitat Project Advisory Committee (PAC) for new Social Housing Programme in Kosovo.
- UNICEF, Ministry of Health & Government of Luxembourg, work to strengthen maternal and child health services.
- Report 'A seat at The Table: Women's contributions to and expectations from peacebuilding processes in Kosovo' launched supported by UN Women through joint PBF project.

19 – 23 April UNDP led the marking of the International Mother Earth Day (22 April) and series of events dubbed 'Earth Days', with aim to raise awareness on the collective responsibility to protect the environment for future generations. Topics ranged from promoting the green economy, sustainable urban development, and environmental sustainability, among others. Initial event was the inauguration of the Urban Garden with UN-Habitat and the UN Development Coordinator, followed by events that included other UN agencies (UN Women, UNICEF, IOM) and partners. LINK



1 April Supported by IOM, the third edition of the Tech Heroes Program was concluded with the announcement of winners, this way Celebrating World Creativity and Innovation Day by transforming global challenges into local opportunities! To document a successful cooperation between different ethnic groups in Kosovo, this edition of Tech Heroes involved 210 participants from 9 municipalities. Tech Heroes is an initiative designed and implemented by jCoders Academy together with IOM and supported by the British Embassy Pristina. It aims to create opportunities for ethnicities in Kosovo to work together in designing technological solutions to improve the society. LINK



19 April UNDP & UNMIK launched the first fully functional Translation Office in the Basic Court of Pristina. For the first time, Basic Court of Pristina will have a translation office with fully trained translators, proper facilities and technology that allows court translators to provide high quality and fast translation services. Adequate and timely court translation and interpretation is key to ensure people's access to justice and right to fair trial. LINK



28 April UNICEF and Ministry of Health announced to strengthen maternal and child health services in Kosovo over the next two-years. The partnership supports expansion of the home visiting programme, under the leadership of the Ministry of Health to provide the best start in life for all children. The prequel programme successfully reached over 50,000 children in 27 municipalities over the past five years. The Programme is supported by the Government of Luxembourg with a financing amount of 1.5 million Euros. LINK



14 April 'A seat at The Table: Women's contributions to and expectations from peacebuilding processes in Kosovo' report was launched. This report was supported by UN Women through the UN Peacebuilding Fund and written by Kosovo Women's Network. The report examines the roles, contributions, and needs of women, particularly young women, related to peace and security processes in Kosovo since 1989. It includes attention to the role of women's rights organizations in peacebuilding processes. It also contains recommendations for furthering peace and security in Kosovo, including in the context of the continued dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. LINK

For the latest information on the Government's COVID-19 measurements (from 18/04/2021), please see LINK



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



16 April UN Development Coordinator, UN-Habitat Head of Office and UNDP Resident Representative met with the Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure, Mr. Liburn Aliu. The parties discussed the development priorities of Kosovo and the implementation of #SDGs through local climate action, spatial planning, and social housing. [Link](#)

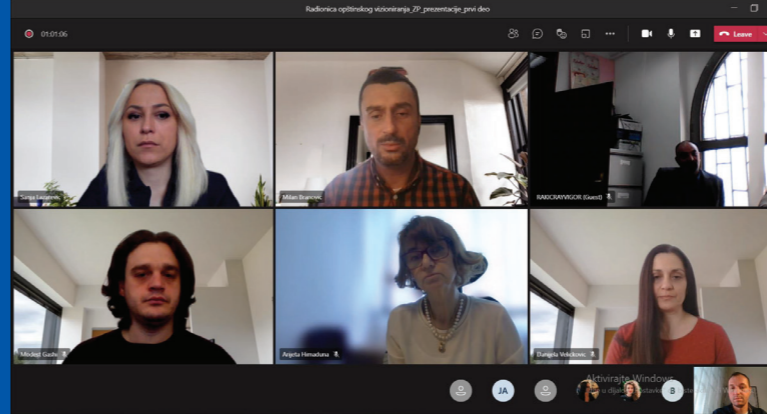


7 April IOM supported the development of a National Road Map (NRM) on Migration Statistics in Kosovo that aims to serve as a guideline towards full alignment with EU Regulation 862/2007. This is a joint collaborative process between the Kosovo Agency for Statistics, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Police, the Employment Agency, IOM, and other relevant stakeholders working on migration statistics. The NRM is developed in the framework of the EU-funded regional IPA II project 'Regional Support to Protection Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey.' [LINK](#)



9 April UN-Habitat Head of Office met with the United States Ambassador and USAID officials to discuss areas for cooperation in Kosovo. [LINK](#)

12 April UN-Habitat brought together representatives of the municipality of Zubin potok/Zubinpotok and civil society through an online platform and presented Technical Standards in Urban Planning. The overall aim of the workshop is to strengthen the vision of future municipal development through identification of main goals and respective specific activities of identified priority sectors. [LINK](#)



15 April The selected staff from the Municipalities of Mitrovica South, Vushtrri/ Vucitrn and Skenderaj/ Srbica were trained on Geographical Information System (GIS) as part of the project 'Creating the GIS based spatial database component'. [LINK](#)

22 April UN-Habitat Kosovo Head of Office and Chief Technical Advisor, held a keynote speech alongside other experts on the topic of local climate action, protecting biodiversity, and environmental health, as part of the Save the Planet Conference in partnership with different NGOs in Kosovo. [LINK](#)

27 April UN-Habitat organized a meeting in the municipality of Skenderaj/Srbica which his part of the component 'Neighbourhood Based Plan Deliberation (NBPD)'. Emphasis on the importance of raising the community's awareness of cultural heritage, notably protecting the neighborhood's cultural assets, and promoting a sustainable tourism development, were discussed. [LINK](#)

13 April IOM launched an e-learning course on COVID-19 border guards in Western Balkans. The five-module course is designed for officials who are in direct contact with people on the move. The course is free, self-paced and open to everyone. Based on the latest guidance by the World Health Organization, it will familiarize officials with the history, main symptoms, transmission, and prevention methods of COVID-19. Available in English on IOM's e-learning platform E-Campus (www.ecampus.iom.int). [LINK](#)



COURSE

COVID-19 Response
at Points of Entry



12 April UN Kosovo Team led by UN Development Coordinator, UNHCR Chief of Mission and IOM Chief of Mission, met with the Minister of Communities and Return, Mr. Goran Rakic. The meeting focused on voluntary return and improvement of living conditions of displaced persons. Mr. Rakic thanked UNHCR and IOM for their support to the Ministry. [LINK](#)





13 April Zvečan/Zveçan Municipal Assembly adopted by the unanimous decision of the councilors 'Plan for citizen participation in the decision-making process in the municipality of Zvecan' – a strategic document developed within the civic component of the Inclusive Development Programme implemented by UN-Habitat LINK. Related to Inclusive Development Programme, see more from the visit of the Swedish Ambassador municipality of Leposavić/Leposaviq LINK, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë South and Vuçitër/Vushtrri LINK

22 April The UNHCR and IOM Chiefs of Mission met with the newly appointed Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Xhelal Sveçla. Commitments to strengthening the protection-sensitive system of mixed migration management in Kosovo and overall asylum system to better respond to the rights and needs of refugees and asylum-seekers were expressed while ensuring close collaboration and partnerships. LINK

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15 April IOM Helped nine migrants to safely return home to Nepal after months of living a migrant's life. LINK

16 April IOM supported Kosovo institutions in strengthening reintegration capacities by providing IT equipment which will enable and support the standard work of probation services, and the agency's offices located in all seven regions Kosovo. The support provided by IOM through the regional project 'Providing support to youth in local communities in the Western Balkans', is financially backed by the Government of the United Kingdom and is being implemented across 10 municipalities in Kosovo. LINK

20 April Two small businesses received new equipment to expand production activities in Parteš/Partesh and Ferizaj/Uroševac municipalities. LINK

26 April With the restaurant industry changing a lot over the years and at a rapid pace, one of the most notable restaurants in the town of Štrpce/Shterpce received cuisine and restaurant equipment to assist its growing business. LINK

26 April The construction of a retaining wall successfully completed on the local road Bušince/Bushince – Kamenice/Kamenica. The road which had collapsed due to heavy rainfall and flooding had cut off villages, making it difficult for villagers to carry out their daily activities. The Municipality of Novo Brdo/Novoberde also participated in the co-financing of this joint initiative. LINK
These deliveries were made by IOM through its Community Stabilization Program (CSP) IV, funded by the European Union and co-funded by the Ministry of Communities and Return.

27 April To mark Kosovo Missing Persons Day, the British and Swiss ambassador, and the UNDP Resident Representative, visited the Kosovo Police War Crime Investigation Unit. UNDP supported the development of the electronic system to digitalize all physical files related to missing persons which will improve the efficiency of the investigation process. These files are very voluminous, both in quantity and content, and contain important information about missing persons, such as notes from victims' relatives, witnesses, testimonies, which are of particular importance for research processes in resolving missing persons cases. The UNDP project is supported by the UK and Swiss Embassy in Kosovo.

23 April In one month, over 5,000 healthcare workers and around 19,000 elderly people received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine which arrived in Kosovo for the first time through the COVAX program on March 28, 2021. The first delivery of 24,000 doses is part of the initial allocation of 100,800 doses of COVID-19 vaccines which will be delivered to Kosovo through May 2021. Through the COVAX facility supported GAVI alliance and donors, UNICEF and WHO will procure vaccines for up to 20% of the total population of Kosovo.

28 April WHO Pristina Office and the Balkan Hub, in support by the World Bank, provided training on diagnostic testing for SARS-COV2 for the group of newly appointed laboratory staff and on Infection Prevention Control for health workers as part of the project to enhance health service capacities.





2 April Klan Kosova broadcasted a story for the promotion of the cookbook 'Diversity through food' which presents the variety of foods from women and girls of non-majority communities. This project was implemented by the Jahjaga Foundation, a partner organization of UNHCR Kosovo. This book was supported by the project 'Multi-Partner Trust Fund' #MPTF in response of United Nations efforts for recovery from COVID-19. [LINK1](#), [LINK2](#) & [LINK3](#)

7 April The theme of the World Health Day for this year is: 'Building a fairer, healthier world for everyone'. The WHO press release was translated and shared with media and social media. [LINK](#) The updated version of the Interim guidance (7 April 2021) on Safe Ramadan practices in the context of COVID-19 was translated into Albanian and Bosnian languages and shared with media, social media and wider. In addition, of that the WHO social media tiles and short video on Ramadan translated and shared.

14 April [LINK](#) Svetlana Rakic from IOM and Shpend Qamili from UNDC Office were guests at the TV Show Heroes of Pandemic, produced by Medija centra in Čaglavica/Çagllavicë, supported by UNKT. Broadcasted everz second Fridaz from 21:00 hours in local Serbina TV channels in Kosovo TV Mreža - TV Herc Štrpce/Shtërpçë, TV Puls Šilovo/Shillovë, TV Mir Leposavić/q, as well as RTV KIM u Čaglavica/Çagllavicë.

Earth Days:

19 April UNDP & UN Habitat, opened for the public the temporary installation of Urban Garden at the Skenderbeu square inviting all to enjoy the garden and take note on the importance of more green spaces in the city and a beautiful reminder of the importance of green urban spaces in building regenerative and resilient cities. One of the first visitors of the Urban Garden was H.E. Vjosa Osmani, President of Kosovo. [LINK](#)

20 April UNDP held online event to discuss sustainable fashion and ways for transforming this major environmental polluter. Fashion is the second biggest polluter in the world, just after the oil industry. Kosovo women are leading a different path. The online event, titled 'Closing the Loop/Responsible Fashion and Design', brought together Krenare Rugova, Hana Zeqa, Niki Murseli, and Vesa Salihu on a live screen where they unraveled how their innovative approaches to design and doing business is rethinking what fashion means today. [LINK](#)

20 April RTV Dukagjini Interviewed UN-Habitat on the importance of urban green spaces to combat air pollution in urban areas. [LINK](#)

22 April UNDP's Urban NAMA project and the Mayor of Prizren inaugurated the new solar panels in the Prizren Municipal Building, supported by Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). [LINK](#)

22 April UNDP shared a video prepared by the Image of Kosovo. [LINK](#) UNDP Published Changing Perceptions Through Tourism exposure article. [LINK](#)

23 April Marking Earth Days, UN Women Head of Office, Mayor of Gjakova, and the Executive Director of Women's Business Association SHE-ERA, visited women entrepreneurs in Gjakova Municipality who produce organic fertilizer. They also visited Novoselë Village where they met women entrepreneurs who deal with the production of organic fertilizers in innovative ways with the concept of regional economy. [LINK](#)

24 April To mark the opening of World Immunization Week 2021, UNICEF and WHO issued a joint press release highlighting the importance of the routine immunization programme, especially during the pandemic. The main message of UNICEF and WHO is 'Take Action – Vaccinate your child!'. [LINK](#) A live Facebook session featuring Dr. Lul Raka, a leading Kosovo epidemiologist, reached more than 5,000 people online. A compilation of statements from different influencers was produced into and shared widely through social media channels, the website, and traditional media. [LINK](#)

20 April UN Women published an interview with the Ombudsperson in Kosovo on the progress made towards ending violence against women with the support of the EU-funded regional programme 'Implementing Norms, Changing Minds.' [LINK](#)





1 April UN Women distributed laptops, office equipment and disinfectant equipment to Special Olympics Committee of Kosovo as part of the project 'Gender Responsive Approaches and Efforts to Combat COVID-19 Outbreak in Kosovo', funded by the Embassy of Canada to Croatia and Kosovo. [LINK](#)



12 April IOM's Mobile Team organized sports and physical recreational activities for refugees at the asylum-seeking center. The sports activities for migrants are funded by the EU Service for Foreign Policy Instruments #EUForeignPolicy within the project 'Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans'. [LINK](#)



29 April UNDP handed over 66,240 pipettes used for the sampling of COVID-19 tests, to the Institute of Public Health and the Ministry of Health. This effort marks the closure of joint efforts in providing urgently needed health products and equipment in response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the past year. Support was provided by the Governments of Austria, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland, through UNDP. [LINK](#)



30 April In response to COVID-19 pandemic, UNOPS through the Kosovo Emergency, continue to provide medical equipment and other medical supplies that are used to help medical staff in the fight against the pandemic. During April, UNOPS delivered 200 Oxygen Inhalers, 1500 Oxygen Masks and 60.000 RT-PCR Assay for SARS-CoV-2 Detection. The Kosovo Emergency COVID-19 Project is funded by the Government of Kosovo through World Bank Loan



23 April To support regional health capacities, WHO Pristina through the 'Return to (New) Normal' project funded by the British Embassy, has donated a mobile X-ray machine to the Gračanica/e Health Center. The health center provides health services to 16 villages and to communities including Serbian, Albanian and RAE. [LINK](#)