



UNITED NATIONS
ALBANIA



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

A Special Covid-19 Response Newsletter

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information**





WHO delivers 1000 pulse oximeters donated by Germany for Albania's COVID-19 patients

In continuing efforts to support the country's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and protect those who are at a high risk of serious complications of coronavirus, WHO delivered 1000 pulse oximeters donated by Germany. The pulse oximeters were delivered to the Albanian healthcare authorities at a handover ceremony with the presence of Mrs. Ogerta Manastirliu, Minister of Health and Social Protection, Mr. Peter Zingraf, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Albania, and Dr. Betinna Menne, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office in Albania.

WHO assists Albania with COVID-19 case management and infection prevention

In a recent field visit to the Regional Hospitals of Vlora, Elbasan, the National Center of Medical Emergency and other healthcare facilities, WHO's latest mission of experts focused on how to enhance and strengthen coordination mechanisms in mounting and maintaining sustainable infection prevention levels at health facilities and clinical management procedures according to WHO guidance.



Work in progress for the WHO-supported new Public Health Emergency Operation Center

WHO Albania is supporting the establishment of a new Emergency Operation Center in Tirana. The Center will enable MoHSP to coordinate overall response, make policy decisions, plan response, allocate resources, personnel, gather and manage information, monitor and evaluate the efficiency of response operations. It is an

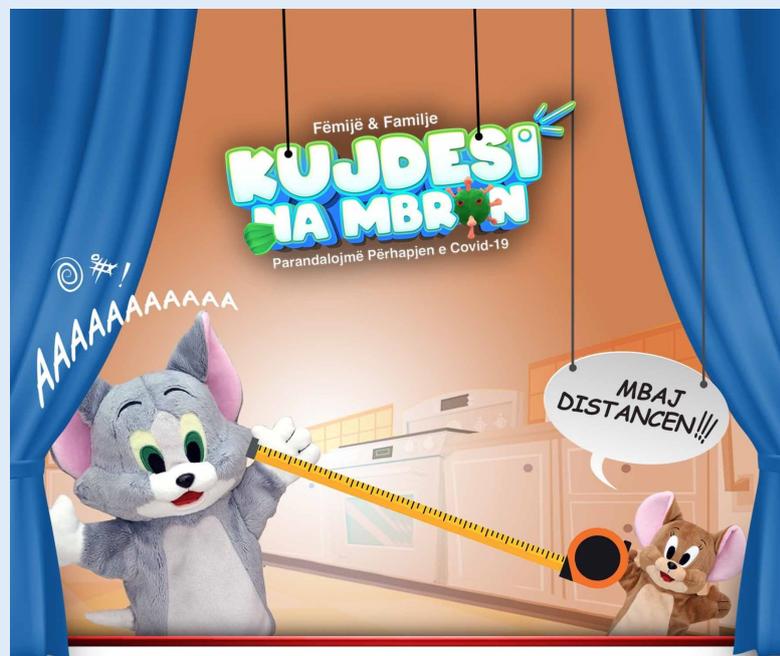


important instrument in handling all emergency risk management components: prevention & mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Establishment of the Center is part of a comprehensive programme of public health emergency preparedness, planning and capacity building. It will coordinate planning and operations within health sector.



UNICEF Health

UNICEF's Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) is developed and it is in line with the national COVID-19 guidelines and corresponding to the country's needs. The communication strategy is supported by the state health structures (Institute of Public Health). Activities supporting Risk Communication and Community Engagement have reinforced messages on people's individual responsibility in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Core messaging about new normal (hygiene and sanitation behaviours, follow safety measures, nutrition, responsive parenting) has been adapted to reach the most excluded population. UNICEF facilitated a training of 12 journalists for national media to communicate key COVID specific and sensitive messages. link Youth influencers are identified and are mobilized to support online activities through their own social media channels.



UNICEF Education

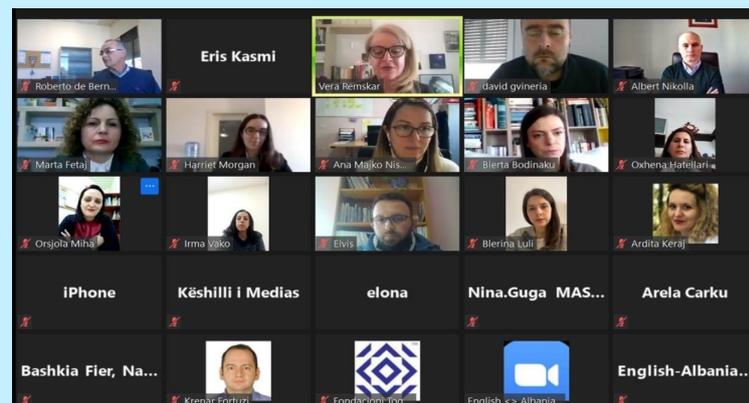
UNICEF is providing a model for use of technology for assisting the most vulnerable children with Tec hub in schools project. Marginalized groups are already at risk of being excluded by digital



approaches, an issue that is exacerbated when such tools are used remotely as necessitated by Covid-19. Not being able to communicate through a foreign language is a huge barrier to social and academic inclusion for learners. In the context of the children on the move, without language skills to interact outside the home, migrants and refugees struggle to integrate.

UNICEF Child Protection

A round table was organized with representatives from the government and key stakeholders, civil society on poor mental health in childhood and adolescence. The UNICEF three accelerators: investment for all: to secure greater investment in mental health and psychosocial support services promotion and prevention in the family; to support families, through rolling out parenting programmes; response in the community: to ensure that all children learn, socialize and play in a safe, secure environment.



UNFPA provides Covid-19 protection masks to vulnerable groups

UNFPA has provided support with an overall quantity of 29,000 masks donated by LDS Charities to the Institute of Public Health in the COVID -19 vaccination process, to the Agency for Quality Assurance at Pre-University Education, and to local NGOs that work with the most vulnerable and marginalized groups all over Albania. An awareness campaign on the importance of protection measures to fight the pandemic was carried along with mask distribution.



IOM supports Albania to address COVID-19 challenges within migrant and refugee communities

IOM Albania, with EU funding continued to support the Albanian Government during January 2021 to address COVID-19 challenges within migrant and refugee communities. In addition to the support given during 2020 for the installation of containers, furniture, medical equipment, accommodation containers, facilities hand-washing stations, digital info boards and information on COVID-19 prevention for migrants in the centers, personal protective equipment provided to Albanian authorities, support to GoA to adjust and contextualize



the Standard Operating Procedures on detection, screening and management of ill travelers, in January 2021 started the process of developing an online training for border guards on COVID-19 in collaboration with the IOM E-Campus platform (<https://www.ecampus.iom.int/>). IOM Albania Provided IT equipment's needed to support the access of the online training. E-Campus is an ideal platform to strengthen knowledge of migration practitioners, civil servants, civil society, private sector, students, academics, and anyone who is interested in migration related matters.

UNHCR supports the National Reception Centre for Asylum-Seekers

UNHCR supported the set-up of two COVID-19 isolation rooms at the National Reception Centre for Asylum-Seekers, including the purchasing of necessary furniture and equipment. This activity took place within the scope of the EU-funded project "Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans", financed under the EU Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace and jointly implemented with IOM, which since last April has sought to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and frontline workers during the pandemic.

UNDP supports children and families in need

UNDP through the United Nations Joint Programme "Improving Municipal Social Protection Service Delivery" supports the Municipality of Kamza for the continuation of early intervention, education and integrated social care service delivery for children with disabilities and their families. The pilot municipalities of Tirana, Kamza, Rogozhina, Puka, Pogradec and Devoll are supported in the establishment of social care services, the social



fund and the modeling and provision of innovative integrated health and social care services. Interventions implemented in partnership with local NGOs, such as Global Care Albania, provided improved access to integrated health and social care services for more than 500 families in need, while addressing the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19. Watch [VIDEO](#).



UNDP addresses safety and health at the EU4Schools construction sites.

Under “EU4Schools” programme, funded by European Union and implemented by UNDP in collaboration with Albanian government, 100 workers in six construction sites are trained on health and safety issues, including Covid-19. They are instructed to follow all the measures foreseen by the authorities, such as keeping the distance, wearing a mask and washing hands during working hours. “EU4Schools” programme is based on Build back better approach – safety and health are crucial elements to be addressed.



UNOPS supplies EU funded additional medical equipment to help Albania’s medical system deliver better

UNOPS has continued to support Albania’s health system by supplying EU Funded additional medical equipment. A state-of-the-art CT Scanner is currently under installation at the Mother Theresa Hospital. The installation work includes renovation of



the premises where the scanner will be installed, training and consilience for CT use. During January UNOPS supplied and delivered 1M Eur worth additional medical equipment.

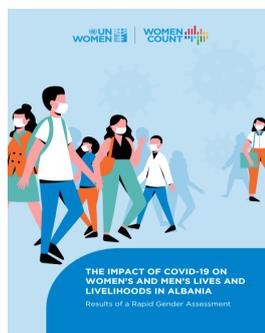
UNDP trains members of CRMs on managing cases of domestic violence related to Covid-19

UNDP, in the context of UN Joint Programme “Ending Violence against women in Albania” (EVAWIA) funded by Government of Sweden continued providing support in 20 municipalities to establish and strengthen coordinated referral mechanisms



(CRMs) for domestic violence cases. Around 150 members of CRMs are trained on the best use of the protocol for managing urgent and non-urgent cases of domestic violence cases in the COVID-19 situation.

UN Women’s study “The Impact of COVID-19 on Women’s and Men’s Lives and Livelihoods in Albania” is now available on the web.



Developed by UN Women Albania, the study assesses the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on main challenges faced by women and men, and how the changing situation is affecting their socio-economic situation. Access it [here](#).

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