



UNITED NATIONS
ALBANIA



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

A Special Covid-19 Response Newsletter

• Issue No 7 • February, 2021

HOW TO

Wear a Mask



- 1** Wash your hands properly
- 2** Put the mask on so it covers your mouth and nose and don't touch it whilst wearing
- 3** When you're ready to remove the mask, don't touch the front and throw it away if it is single use.
- 4** Wash your hands again thoroughly.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** continues to assist Albania with COVID-19 case management and infection prevention. 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.



WHO's mission of experts visiting Regional Hospital of Elbasan

Dr. Bettina Menne, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office in Albania, met Mrs. Yuri Kim, Ambassador of the United States of America in Albania to discuss WHO's support to the country's COVID-19 response, vaccines deployment and vaccination, as well as future health needs. Dr. Menne whose mandate in Albania ended this month, is succeeded Dr Gerald Rockenschaub, the new WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office in Albania, effective 22 February 2021.



Dr. Bettina Menne, WHO Representative and Head of WHO Country Office in Albania, meets with Mrs. Yuri Kim, Ambassador of the United States of America in Albania



UNICEF donating personal protective equipment to the Albanian health services

UNICEF donated 7 tons of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) including 100,000 face masks, 35,000 disposable gowns, 3,000 goggles, 80,000 surgical gloves and 1,900 face shields. This donation was made possible thanks to UNICEF's global humanitarian thematic funding. Thanks to



UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme. Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) at Tirana International Airport

The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** is supporting the Air Cargo Control Unit (ACCU) at Tirana International Airport to provide the necessary response following the issuance of the national vaccination plan. The ACCU has taken the appropriate measures to with respect to border clearance essential to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and related medical supplies. Trained by the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme, the ACCU is at the front line to prevent organized criminal organizations from exploiting the sanitary situation, and to address the threat posed by trafficking of illegal goods, including potential counterfeit medicines and vaccines.



UNICEF continues to work with local governments to provide humanitarian cash transfer to families and persons most in need launched as a pilot project. Watch the video to hear the testimonials UNICEF local partners in Durrës, Shkodër and Korçë

Over 100 participants worldwide gathered online on the issue of children’s access to justice and children deprived of liberty during COVID-19 pandemic. Several experts of the area shared reflections and the content of three related publications that highlighted positive examples from some country offices. Albania was particularly mentioned for releasing half of its children in detention between March and June of last year, as well as for keeping courts and legal procedures open for children even during the lockdown. This is due to UNICEF’s strong advocacy and the commitment of the Albanian authorities.



UNICEF is supporting [ASCAP](#) and the **Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports** through fun-play-based activities to support the wellbeing of children. Thanks to the support of **Dutch Embassy** via the **United Nations Albania SDG Acceleration Fund** UNICEF is endorsing the project "Caring Schools". This project aims to strengthen the prevention mechanism for the dropout and to ensure that all students learn and engage through cognitive and exploratory activities.

Talking to children about misinformation is important



Some tips:

- Turn everyday examples into teachable moments
- Explain what misinformation is and how it can be harmful
- Remind them you are there to answer questions
- Let them know when they spread misinformation



One of the fun-play-based activities to support the wellbeing of children. Hit "Play" above to watch Video.

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To respond to COVID-19, **UN Women** started supporting last year **Woman Forum Elbasan** who has been working with women survivors of violence especially in remote areas of the region of Elbasan. During January, 8 women and girls survivors of violence were represented in court for divorce proceedings. 8 women were provided with protection orders and immediate protection orders and 20 counselling sessions were held with the lawyer of the CSO who is situated at the police HQ in Elbasan. Furthermore, 9 training sessions were organized



online with students from the University Elbasan on addressing sexual harassment online and offline as well as other forms of violence on campuses and especially in the context of the pandemic, with the aim to encourage reporting and a culture of non-acceptance. Lastly, 72 women were supported with psycho-social counselling in 7 municipalities of the region of Elbasan, whereby a psychologist is supported by the Woman Forum Elbasan is situated in each municipality and provides counselling sessions to survivors so they don't have to travel to Elbasan

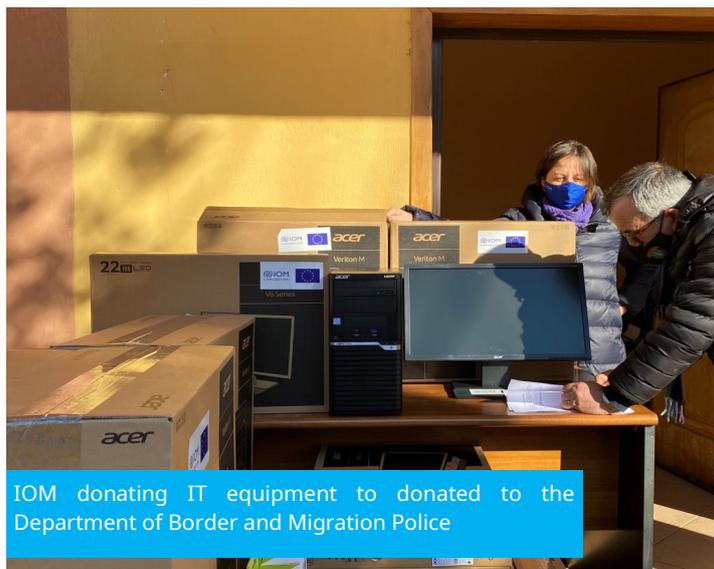
Workshops were held also with members of the Coordinated Referral Mechanisms in the region of Elbasan, with a specific focus on addressing the challenges posed by COVID-19 in managing reported cases of gender-based violence and domestic violence. These activities were supported by the **EU-funded UN Women's regional programme "Ending violence against women in the Western Balkans and Turkey"** and the UN Joint programme on ending violence against women in Albania, with financial contribution of the **Swedish Government**.

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There has never been a greater need for accurate, verified information



On her visit to Albania, the **EU Commissioner** Ylva Johansson visited the Kakavija/Gjirokastra Border Crossing Points facilities. One fully equipped medical clinic and isolation ward, accommodation units and sanitary facilities for 18 people were installed at border crossing point in Kakavija, in the framework of the project "Addressing COVID-19 Challenges within the Migrant and Refugee Response in the Western Balkans", which is financed under the EU Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace. The intervention contributes to ensure that the rights of migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees are protected, and that migration and asylum management systems remain operational.



IOM and **UNCHR**, through the funding support of **European Union** continue supporting Albanian authorities to address the challenges of #COVID19. On 18 February 2021 Computers & web cams were donated to the Department of Border and Migration Police to facilitate Border Police officials' attendance to the online training on COVID-19 at Points of Entry, which is being developed in collaboration with IOM. The training is currently being translated in Albanian. This will complement a first donation of IT equipment delivered at the beginning of the year, including laptops, projectors, printers, desktops, etc. This equipment will be used in the training facilities of the Regional Directorates of the Border and Migration

For over two years Ghalia has helped asylum seekers and refugees in Albania. During COVID19 pandemic she assisted them with information, counseling and translation. On this year's International Women's Day, let's listen to the voices of our resilient women.



#InternationalWomensDay

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"You have to be strong and compassionate enough to hear the stories of people who are victims of trafficking, war, tortures, extreme poverty. It is not necessary to be a migrant to feel and understand them, it's enough to be a human being."

GHALIA KETTEB

Former Consultant, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme

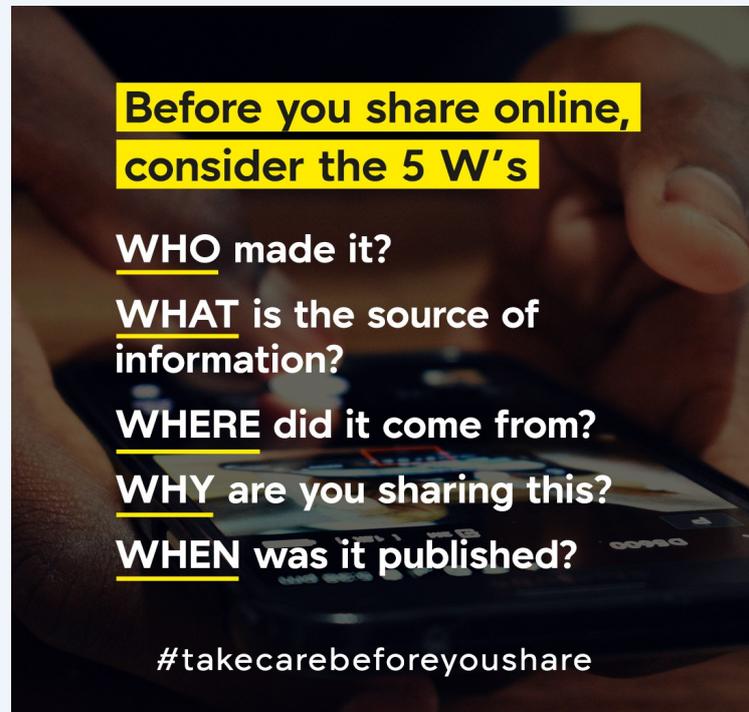


We at **UN Albania** have joined the global 'Verified' campaign aiming to raise awareness about the risks of misinformation around COVID-19. We use our communication channels to encourage people to check the advice we share and contribute to stop misinformation which may cost lives. You can also sign up to receive content you can trust [HERE](#)

[WHO Albania](#) is a great source of information. Please check out and follow their [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) presence.



UNDP and **ONE Communications** have recently launched the initiative 'Connected and Safe!' aiming to inform and raise citizen awareness on the COVID19 pandemic. The Campaign features a [web portal](#) where citizens can get accurate information about the pandemic and foresees live online sessions with a pulmonologist, answering direct questions from the public about health concerns related to COVID-19. Sourcing information from authoritative health sources the campaign serves as a platform for combatting misinformation.



UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and Social Protection Albania continue the campaign to raise awareness among children on the protection measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. The initiative is supported by USAID.

