

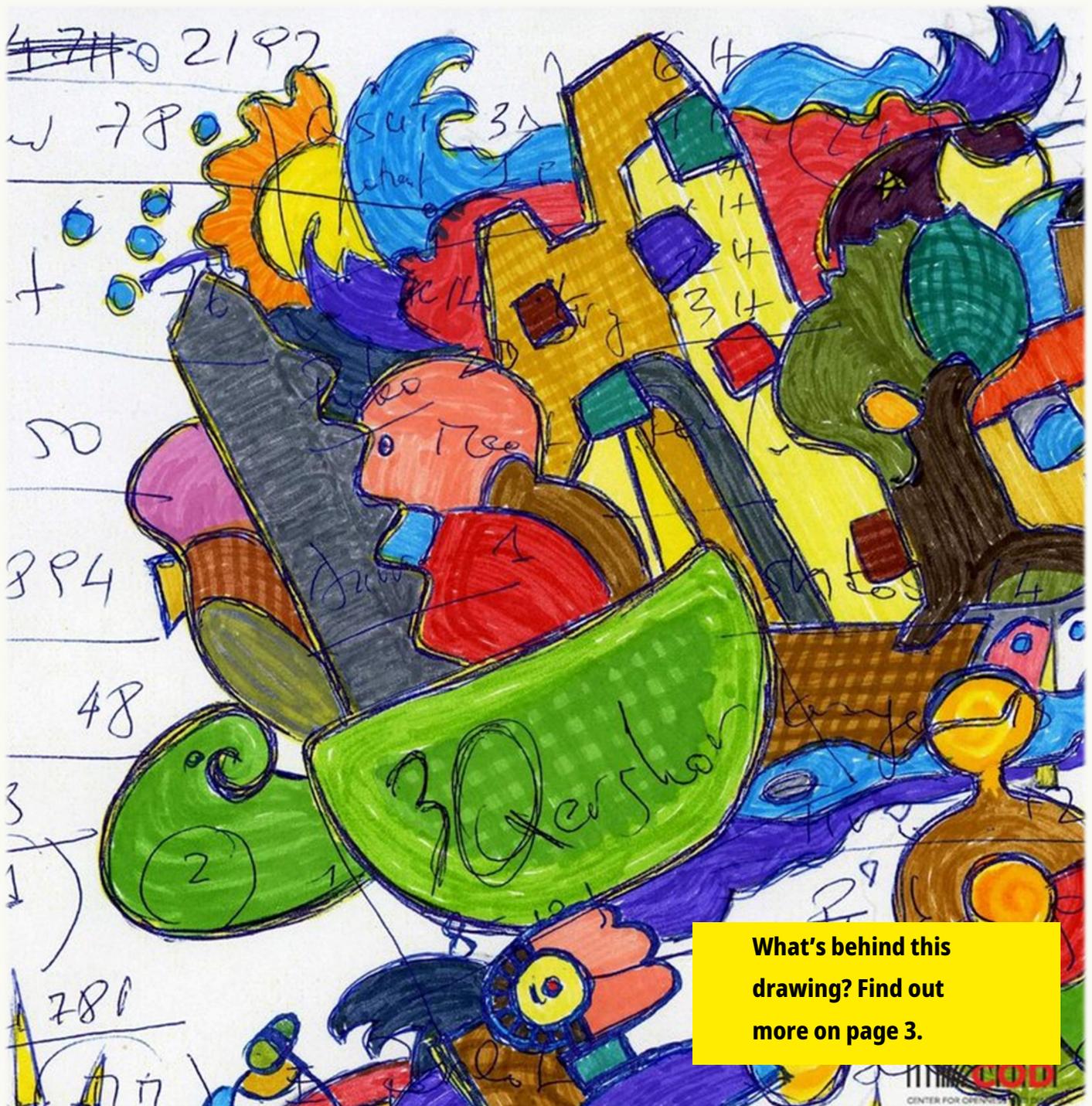


UNITED  
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ALBANIA



# COVID-19 RESPONSE

A Special Covid-19 Response Newsletter | Issue No. 13, September– October 2021



What's behind this drawing? Find out more on page 3.

Vaccination against COVID-19 in Albania started on the 11th of January 2021. As of the 24th of October 2021, around 40% of the target population is fully vaccinated. Based on clinical data, unvaccinated people comprise 95% of all COVID-19 hospitalization.

**If the #COVID19 vaccines aren't everywhere, this pandemic isn't going anywhere.**

WHO Albania is providing logistical and technical support to the Operator of Health Care Services in setting up and engaging mobile units for delivering the vaccination service closer to the place of residence for all at-risk populations and those incapable to have access to the vaccination points. Only during September 2021, 31 hard-to-reach communities were covered and 878 at-risk individuals received the vaccine.

In support of COVID-19 vaccine roll out, UNICEF has provided IT equipment to the Institute of Public Health (IPH) and the Operator of Health Services. Tablets and laptops were handed over to IPH in July to support health personnel in the process of recording and reporting the results of the vaccination process. Logistic support was provided to the IPH teams to conduct monitoring of COVID-19 vaccination process in 5 regions.



UNICEF's Roberto De Bernardi delivering PPE to health care providers

UNICEF also supplied Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to departments of health in Durres, Fier, Elbasan to ensure health personnel and patients are protected from the spread of COVID -19 during contacts with the health services. Around 63 health centers in above cities have benefited from the supply assistance including 50,000 sets of gloves; 50,000 masks, and 6,000 gowns.

Additionally, WHO Albania is supporting the implementation of a COVID-19 Vaccination Promotion and Community Engagement campaign (see also last page of this newsletter) in the university setting, responding to the new phase of COVID-19 transmission, and the scenarios during fall-winter



WHO Albania's Gerald Rockenschaub at a townhall with students

The behavioral barriers to vaccine uptake are deeply rooted in experience and culture, and further entrenched by misinformation and peer pressure.

Dr Gerald Rockenschaub, WHO Representative and Head of Country Office in Albania joined students and academic staff at the University of Medicine of Tirana and the University "Aleksander Xhuvani" of Elbasan in two separate townhalls and provided them with the latest information in regards to vaccine safety and encouraged COVID-19 vaccine uptake.



Vaccine Uptake: Townhall with students. Photo: Who Albania

**UNICEF** continues to provide support to Albania to enhance the technical capacity of health workers on Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC). Interventions have been planned and implemented in partnership with the University of Medicine, and in close collaboration with Institute of Public Health (IPH) and the National Operator of the Health Services. 595 health personnel working in primary health care in Tirana, Durres, Fier, Elbasan have been trained on IPC.

The *on line* trainings were accredited by the National Center for Continuous Medical Education, and include elements of standard IPC precautions such as hand hygiene, respiratory hygiene, use of PPE according to risk, safe injection practices, waste management, cleaning and disinfecting in the COVID-19



UNICEF Trainings for Health provider (archive).  
Photo: UNICEF Albania

**UNOPS Albania** and representatives from the National Centre for Management of Emergencies visited the Ambulance Manufacturer in Turkey and inspected the prototype of the new auto-ambulances that will be added to the current fleet, in the frame of the COVID-19 emergency response project. The delivery of 20 new auto-ambulances is expected to be completed in November as planned.



Inspecting the prototype of the new auto-ambulances that will arrive to Albania. Photo: UNOPS Albania



UNOPS presenting IPH concept design. October 2021

As part of COVID-19 emergency response, UNOPS Albania has now developed and presented the concept designs for the modernization of two key health institutions in Albania, namely the Institute of Public Health and the Infectious Disease Clinic of Mother Teresa Hospital. The presentations were delivered to the Minister of Health and Social Protection, the leading medical staff and senior management of both respective organizations. This paves the way for the next phase of detailed design of planned renovation works for these institutions and bring them to international standards of healthcare.



**UN System in Albania work alongside Albanian partners to address the multidimensional impacts of the COVID-19** and to protect the needs and rights of people living under the duress of the pandemic, with focus on the most vulnerable groups, and people who risk being left behind.

[Read a blog by UN RC Fiona McCluney](#) telling how and why WHO Emergency Officer—and emerging artist— Ardian Xinxo exhibited his collection of what she calls “intricate illustrations and paintings” on the very daily updates on the pandemic in Albania, which are so familiar to UN and partners.

# PROTECTING PEOPLE/SOCIAL COHESION

In efforts to reduce the digital divide, **UNICEF** is continuing the supporting for the Ministry of Education through expanding the lessons provided through the Albanian public TV broadcaster - TVSH. More than 150.000 children have been reached as part of this support during the reporting period.

Awareness messages and child right information are also being prepared to be launched through TVSH Shkolla. In addition, 300 additional teachers have been trained in blended learning during the reporting period through the cooperation with Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth.



Launching Raporto Tani/Report Now"  
Photo: UNICEF

**UNICEF** and the National Child Helpline - ALO 116 111 teamed up to develop a child-friendly web-based reporting channel and a mobile app (Raporto Tani/Report Now") to enabling children report any violence, abuse, or exploitation.

Since the launching of the additional channels, 40 cases were reported and 144 chat communications assisted children and young people affected by violence, exploitation, online safety, COVID 19 related information and risks, etc.

Additionally, in partnership with Foundation Together Albania, UNICEF's local partner, 260 children and young people with direct psychosocial and mental health counselling sessions and dedicated helping them to cope with mental health concerns including depression and anxiety. More [here](#)



UNICEF's awareness campaign on the child right  
Photo: UNICEF

**UNHCR** continued to monitor the health situation of refugees and asylum seekers and provided necessary support and guidance to the families infected by or showing symptoms of COVID-19. Throughout the year, UNHCR partner RMSA continued to deliver PPE to persons of concern and relevant personnel working with refugees, including the staff of National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Babrru, Tirana.



The National Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Babrru, Tirana.  
Photo: UNHCR

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been a greater need  
for accurate, verified  
information



# PROTECTING PEOPLE/SOCIAL COHESION

**UNFPA Albania** supported the assessment of Albania's Minimum Initial Service Package' of Sexual and Reproductive Health Care in emergencies which is especially important in a pandemic situation.

The assessment was conducted by a team of three national experts representing Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Institute of Public Health and Health Care Operator. UNFPA has provided technical expertise and coordination in this process.

A wide range of key stakeholders, government and non-government, at the central and regional level have been actively involved throughout the process.

## MISP READINESS ASSESSMENT (MRA) ALBANIA:

ASSESSING READINESS TO PROVIDE THE MINIMUM  
INITIAL SERVICE PACKAGE OF SEXUAL AND  
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE IN EMERGENCIES  
Results of the 3rd MISP Readiness Assessment 2018-2021



**UNICEF** has partnered with Nisma-ARSIS to provide support to children affected from the earthquake and the hardship caused by Covid-19. So far 543 children have been directly assisted with psycho-social support in their temporary settlement areas. In addition, emotional support to families, case assessment, management and referral has been provided.



Six municipalities in Albania have received capacity building and the new standards of providing case management and social care in the circumstances caused by COVID19. **UNICEF Albania** negotiated and recently started a partnership with National Association of Social Workers aiming to provide support to social care service providers and social workers to be protected and cope with the challenges caused by COVID19.



Sharing information with families on social care services available.  
Photo: UNICEF

## 5 Tips to Keeping Kids Learning



Plan a routine together



Have open conversations



Take your time



Protect your children online



Stay in touch with your children's school



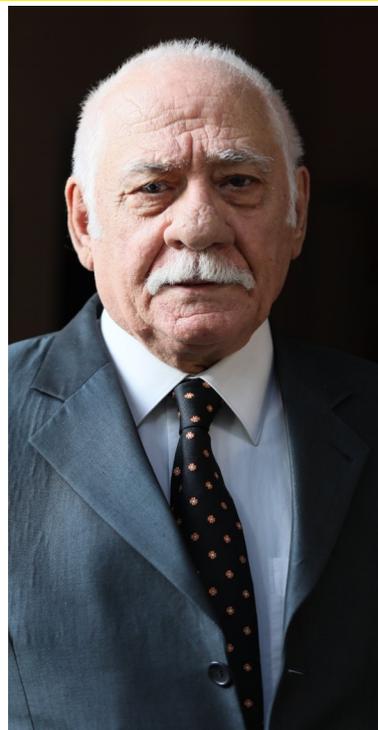
# COMMUNICATIONS

**WHO Albania** is providing technical support to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) in shaping and implementing a communication campaign intending to increase vaccine uptake in Albania the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP).



Lorik Cana, Football Player :“Your life counts, get vaccinated”

A number of public opinion influencers have shared personal stories advocating for vaccine uptake. As of the 28th of October, nine video messages have been published on the MoHSPs different platforms. The campaign continues until the end of the year.



Reshat Arbana, Actor: “Your life counts, get vaccinated”

“Të mendojmë më shumë për mbrojtjen e të drejtave tona njerëzore: Së pari, të jemi të fortë e të shëndetshëm. Së dyti, të jemi të gëzuar e të lumtur. Të falim sa më shumë dashuri për njerëzit e dashur të zemrës. T'i ruajmë e t'i mbrojmë ata nga transmetimi i këtij virusi të rrezikshëm”.

**Reshat Arbana**  
Aktor



**#vaksionohu**  
**#jetajotevlen**

## BEFORE YOU SHARE, THINK:

- WHO made it?
- WHAT is the source?
- WHERE did it come from?
- WHY are you sharing this?
- WHEN was it published?

**#TAKECAREBEFOREYOU SHARE**



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