



UNITED
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ALBANIA
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COVID-19 RESPONSE

A Special Covid-19 Response Newsletter | Issue No. 14 | Nov 2021–Jan 2022



Photo: @RBdandi

Vaccination against COVID-19 in Albania started on the 11th of January 2021. As of January 25th 2022, 2,574,982 anti-COVID vaccinations have been performed with 58% of target population having received at least one dose of vaccine.

The spread of misinformation during a crisis like #COVID19 can result in people being left uninformed, unprotected and vulnerable. Don't share rumors. Choose content verified by reliable sources. #pledgetopause before sharing.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been accompanied by a massive "infodemic". An infodemic, is an overabundance of information including false or misleading information in both digital and physical form. It causes confusion and risk-taking behaviors that can harm health. It also leads to mistrust in health authorities and undermines the public health response. An infodemic can intensify or lengthen outbreaks when people are unsure about what they need to do to protect their health and the health of the people around them.



Infodemic Management training - Photo: WHO Albania

In December, the WHO arranged two Infodemic Management trainings to tackle rumors and misinformation about the covid-19 pandemic and vaccination in Albania. The first training was held with the Institute of Public Health (IPH), and the second one was held with representatives from academia and media. Infodemic Management is the systematic use of risk- and evidence-based analysis and approaches to manage the infodemic and reduce its impact on health behaviors during health emergencies.

The WHO supported the Association of Health Journalists (LGSH) to organize 10 sessions on responsible journalism during the covid-19 pandemic. Around 130 journalist students from 5 different universities around Albania participated in the discussions that promoted scientific and credible media reporting.



Students' training on responsible journalism - Photo: WHO Albania

Countries both need to secure timely and sufficient supplies of vaccines and a distribution plan. Cold Chain is key when it comes to maintaining and distributing covid-19 vaccines. The cold chain is a set of rules and procedures that ensure the proper storage and distribution of vaccines to health services from the national to the local level. The cold chain is interconnected with refrigeration equipment that allows vaccines to be stored at recommended temperatures to maintain their potency.



One of the 'cold chain' rooms - Photo: WHO Albania

To strengthen the cold chain capacity in Albania, the WHO has supported the Institute of Public Health (IPH) with two refrigerated vehicles and the Operator of Health Care Services with the installation of three cold rooms in Tirana, Durrës and Fier.

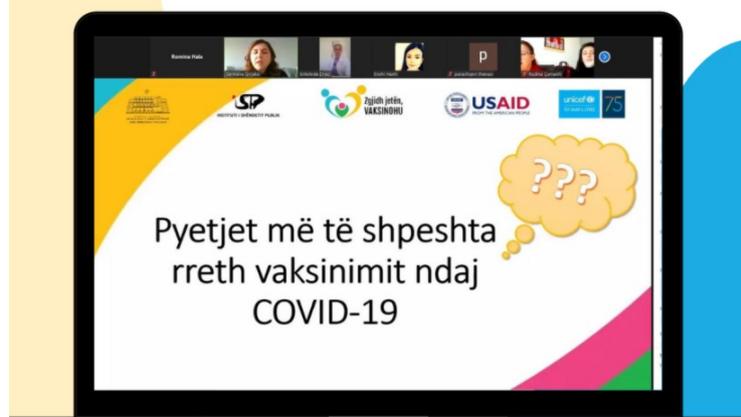


UNOPS handing over the vehicles to Albanian health authorities

As part of the COVID-19 emergency response project UNOPS delivered 20 Emergency Care Ambulances to Albania. The vehicles were handed over to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the National Centre for Medical Emergencies. The vehicles are fully equipped with all necessary equipment, including specific instruments for Covid-19 emergency patients. They will be used at regional hospitals across Albania and are expected to improve emergency care service for all citizens of these regions. More [here](#)

Eighty promotion specialists from all over Albania attended online training sessions organized and facilitated by public health experts, with the support of #UNICEFAlbania and USAID. Some of the topics discussed were: The measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, vaccination against COVID-19, the safety and effectiveness of vaccines, the risks of infection with the SARS-CoV-2 virus for pregnant women, and

#ZGJIDHJETËNVAKSINOHU
#VAKSINATVEPROJNË



UNICEF Albania continues to work with the social services workforce and strengthen their capacities especially in the context of the pandemic. [Read the recent story published by UNICEF Albania](#) in which Yilka Brahimllari, a Social Administrator working to review the applications to economic aid in Lezha, shares her thoughts and experience over the impact of COVID-19 and the innovative ways of bringing the individuals and their families closer to the services they are entitled to.

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



Photo: UNICEF Albania

PROTECTING PEOPLE/SOCIAL COHESION

22 TechHUBS have been set up in compulsory schools affected by the Earthquake, benefiting 8,000 students funded by Government of Netherlands through SDG fund. Schools were provided with 1,840 tablets and 24 smart boards. As part of the TechHUBS initiative, UNICEF and ASCAP have prepared a methodology for teacher training in ICT to provide teachers with the knowledge and skills to use technology as a means to improve children learning outcomes. To date, 2,362 teachers have been trained, while 14,000 others have benefited from peer learning experiences. UNICEF also supported ASCAP to develop the ICT Standards for teachers, currently approved by Ministry of Education and Sports.



Packs with Personal Protection equipment delivered to Reception Centre in Babrru, Tirana. Photo: UNHCR

During the reporting period, several persons of concern (PoCs) to UNHCR were affected by COVID-19. UNHCR, through its partner RMSA, continued to provide necessary support and guidance to the families infected by or showing symptoms of COVID-19. UNHCR facilitated vaccination of PoCs and ensured that all eligible (and willing) PoCs are vaccinated with two doses. UNHCR also continued to deliver PPE to PoCs and relevant personnel working with refugees, including the staff of Reception Centre for Asylum in Babrru, Tirana.



Teachers training in ICT Photo: UNICEF

UNFPA Albania run consultations with key actors, from the health and social sectors, to present the findings of the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH in Crisis Situations evaluation and to develop a workplan for 2022, where the focus is put on interventions to strengthen capacities and health structures to provide sexual and reproductive health services in times of emergency, including COVID - 19.



UNFPA Albania running consultations with key actors, from the health and social sectors.

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



PROTECTING PEOPLE/SOCIAL COHESION

UN Women Albania continues its mission to build capacities for central and local government. Under COVID-19 circumstances, their decisions on budget cuts and reallocations were taken rapidly and without prior analysis of the needs and without including gender perspective. During the gender responsive budgeting trainings with municipalities representatives was emphasized the importance of reallocating their budgets toward gender perspective. Lately, UN Women Albania has published "[Budget choices in a time of pandemic: Advancing gender equality or holding it back?](#)" report.

#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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