



SITUATION REPORT #P8

21 July 2020

CONFIRMED CASES¹



8788

130_{BD}

RS ENTITY

3764

FBIH ENTITY

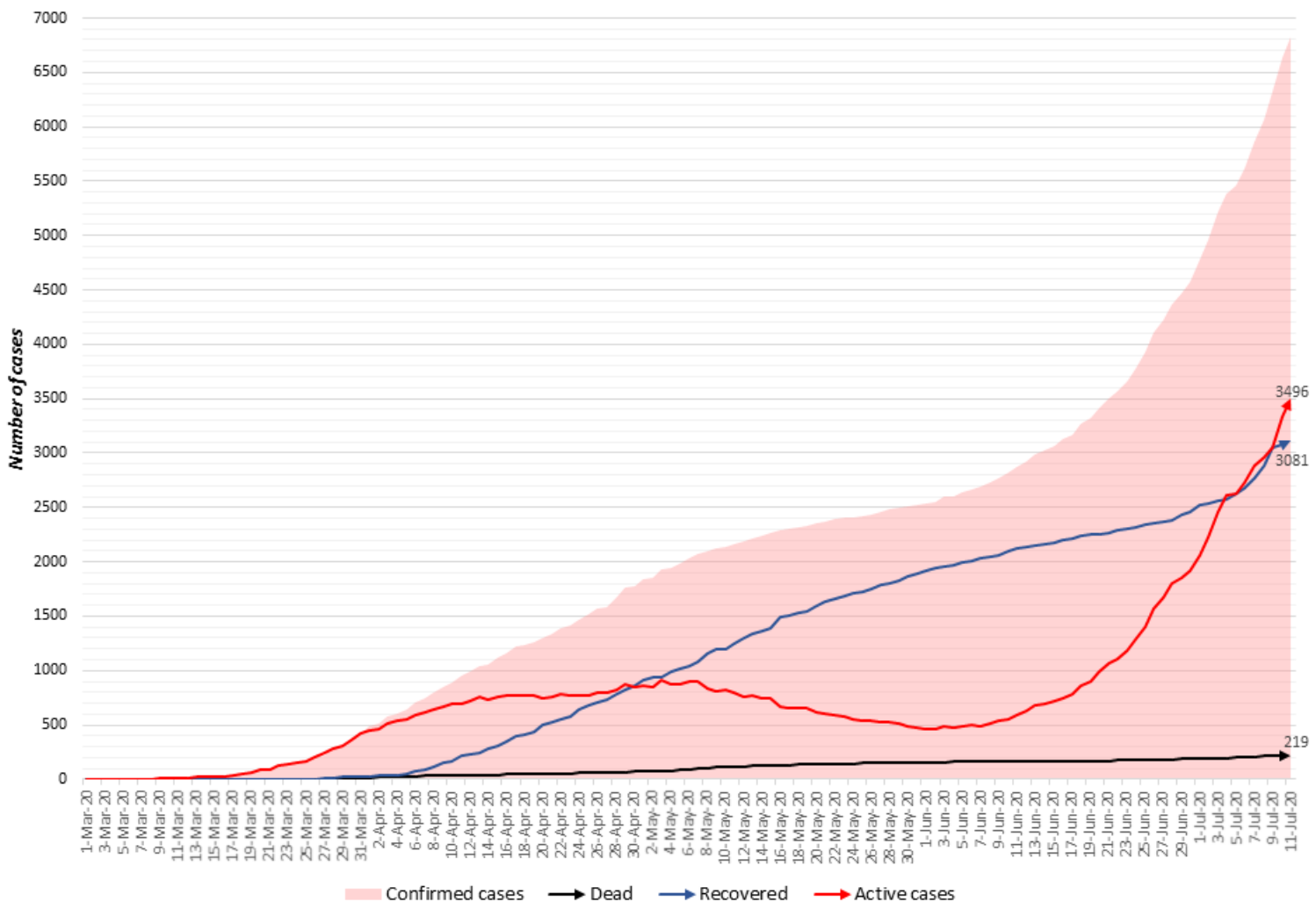
4894

DEATHS REPORTED AS
ASSOCIATED
WITH COVID-19

264

SITUATION SNAPSHOT AND RESPONSE

Overview of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 19th



(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMoH, MoCA)

¹ As reported on 21 July 2020 by 15:00hrs

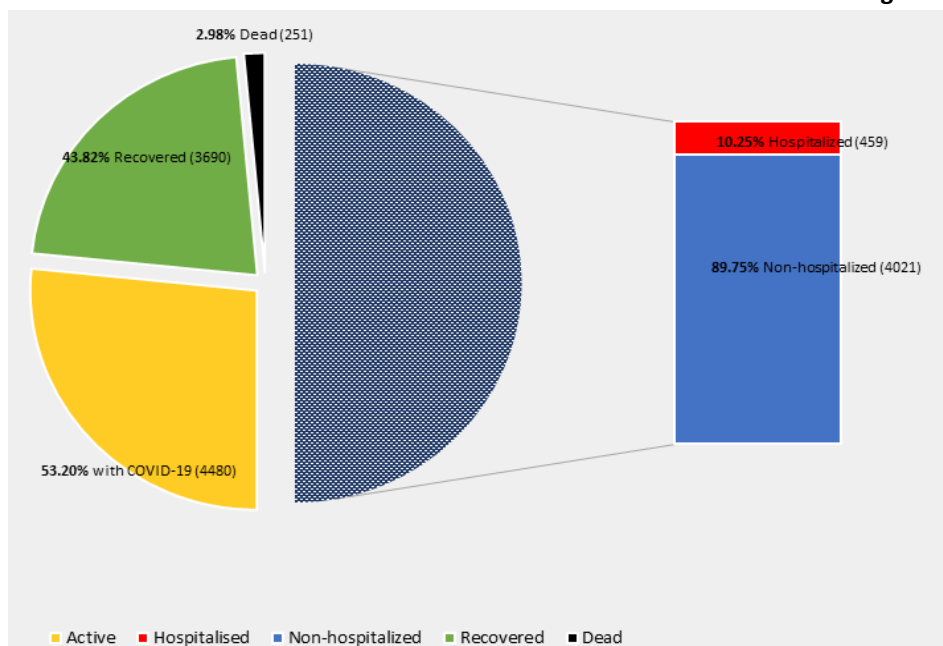
SITUATION OVERVIEW

The BiH Council of Ministers decision on State of Natural or Other Disaster (BiH's equivalent of „State of Emergency“) remains in place. At the entity levels, however, the previously declared State of Emergency in the RS was terminated on 20 May, and the State of Natural Disaster in FBiH was, likewise, lifted on 29 May. Curfews have been lifted across the entire territory of BiH, however mandatory requirement that everyone wear face masks in enclosed spaces/areas is still in place. BiH citizens entering into the country no longer need to observe self-isolation, while BiH now allows entry of EU and Schengen area citizens, with a negative COVID-19 test not older than 48 hours. Due to the recent rise in numbers of new cases across the region, stricter measures upon entry apply for anyone coming from BiH into Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia, while flights to Austria from BiH (and other Western Balkan countries) are discontinued as of 15 July until 31 July, due to the deterioration of epidemiological trendline in the region.

Localized clusters continued to appear throughout BiH, raising the overall numbers of new cases to daily record highs in the past week, however with a note – in some instances – higher daily numbers occur due to backlog in testing. Unfortunately, high numbers come with a continued reporting on cases of death associated with Covid19. FBiH Entity officially declared „State of Epidemics“ on 17 July; while the decision does not imply any new restrictive measures for the population, it does allow for greater access to the Entity’s budget reserves, as well as stricter border control should it be needed. As of last week, masks are mandatory outside in both BiH Entities and Brcko District if the physical distance is not possible. In Brcko District, the rapid rise in new cases of COVID-19 (from 30 cases at the beginning of July to over 120 by 20th July) urged the authorities to ban all public gatherings (and unofficial gatherings over 20 people).

While health authorities note that testing and treating capacities are still sufficient, almost all COVID-19 clinics in BiH are urging for expanded capacities in available beds. Situation is reportedly most critical in Canton Sarajevo, whose Podhrastovi isolatorium area might be full in a matter of days. Canton Sarajevo also confirmed that WHO re-testing guidelines will be followed as of this week, meaning there will be no retesting of positive patients. Those who have not been experiencing any symptoms will be considered healthy 15 days after they were initially tested. Patients which developed symptoms will be considered healthy 10 days after the appearance of symptoms and three days after the symptoms disappear.

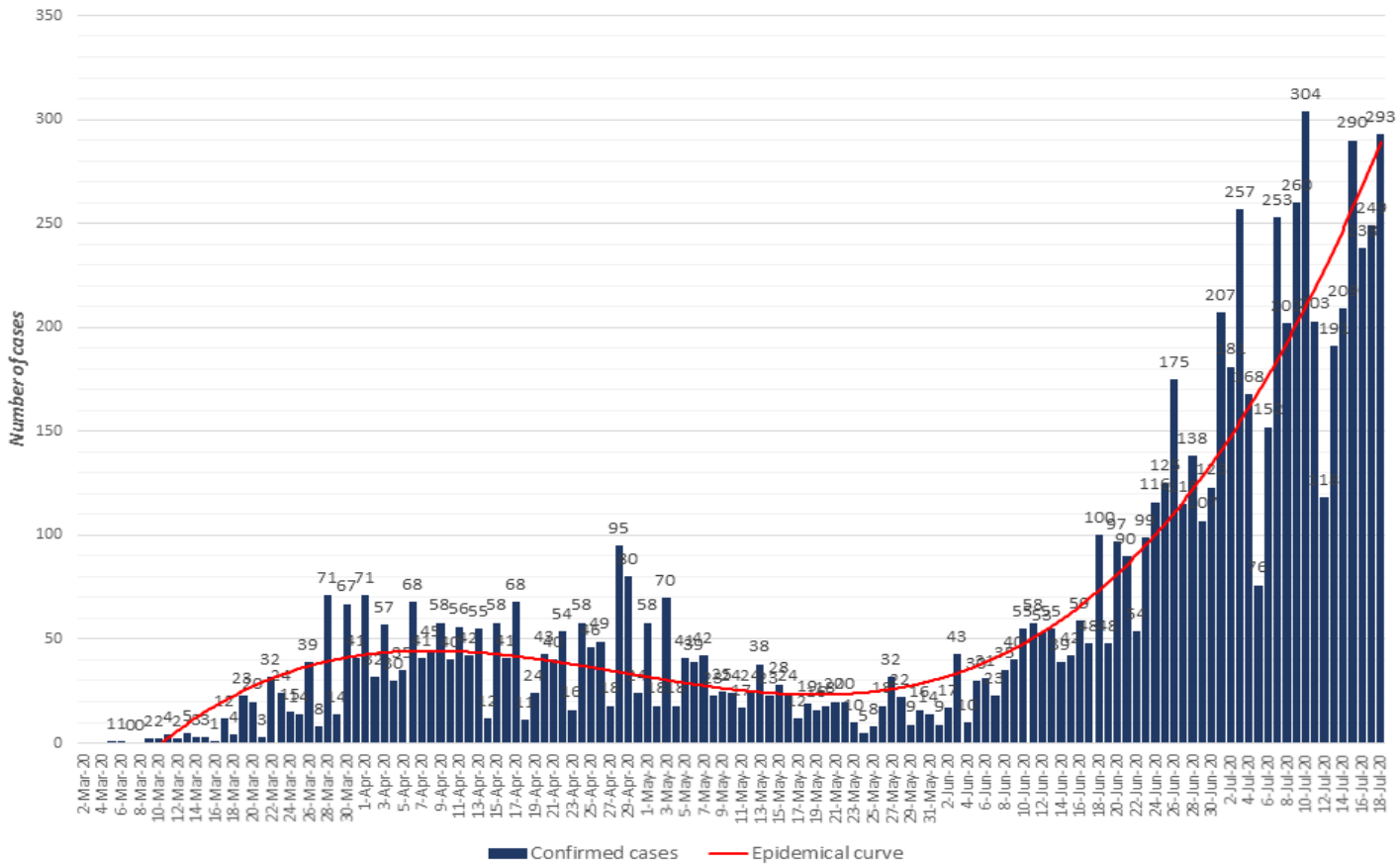
Distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 19th



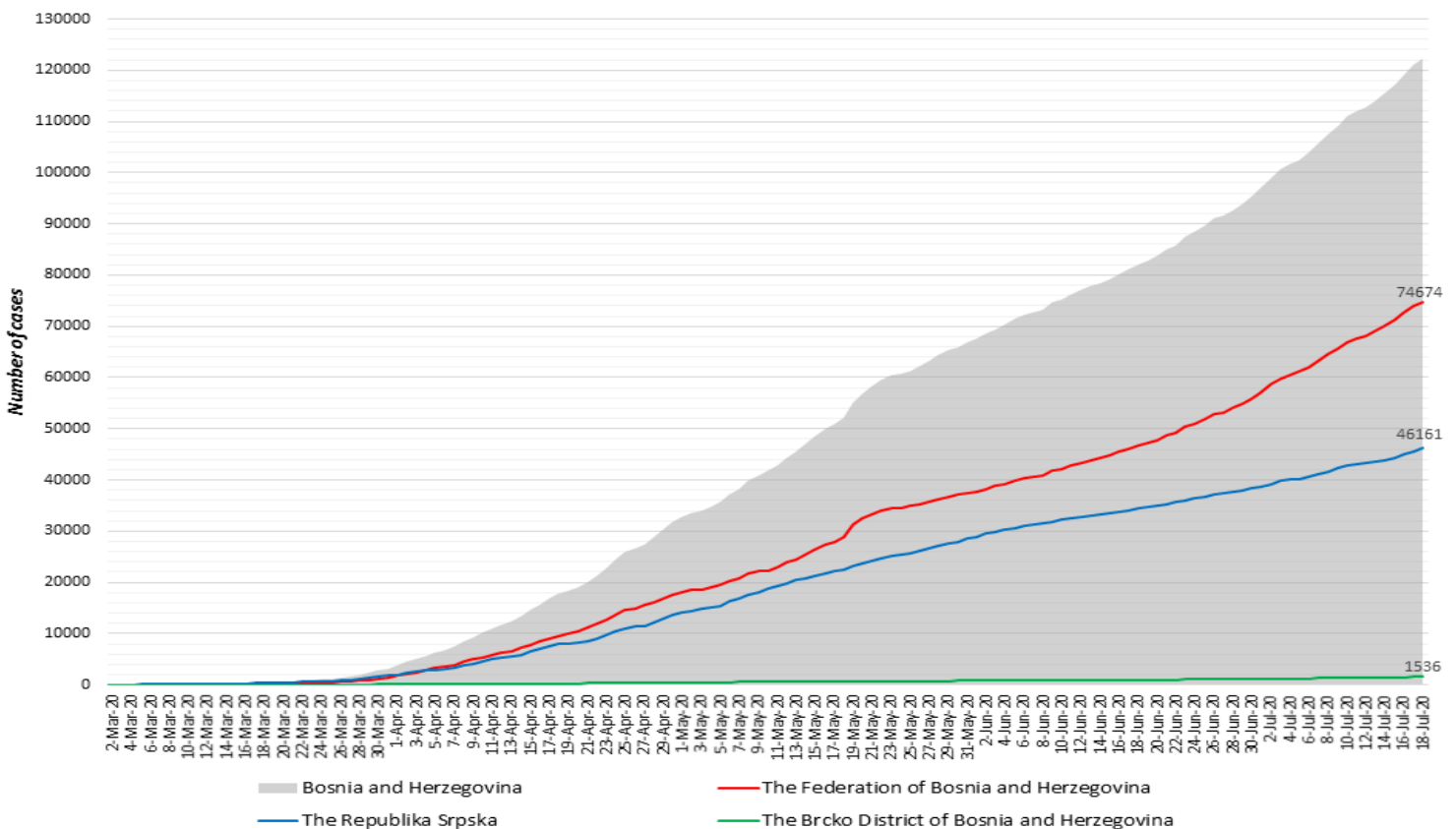
(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMOH, MoCA)



Distribution of COVID-19 positive cases and trendline in Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 19th

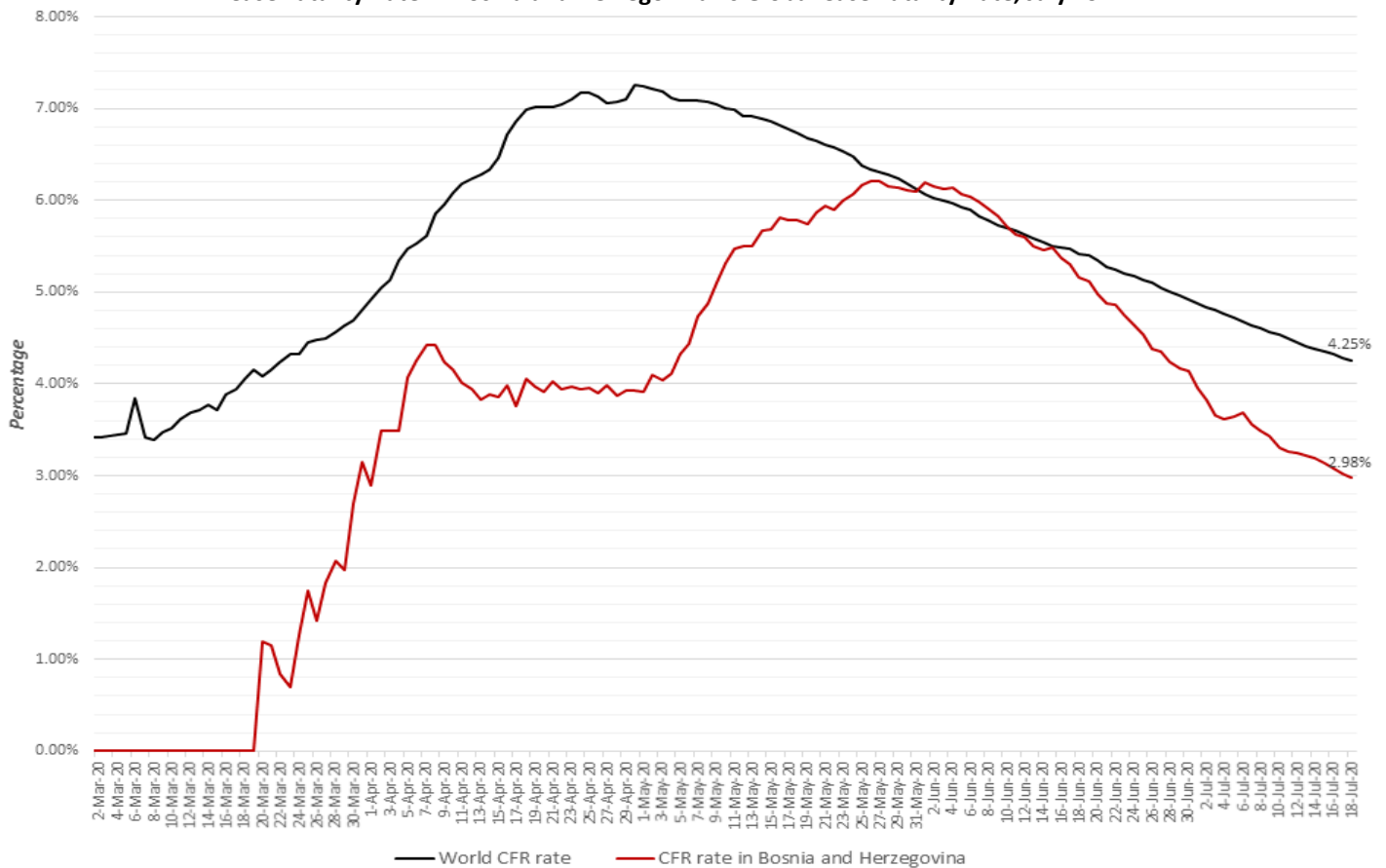


Total number of tests performed by entities and Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, July 19th





Case Fatality Rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina vs Global Case Fatality Rate, July 19th



(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMoH, MoCA, ECDC)

UN SUPPORT IN RESPONSE – LATEST

The United Nations Secretary General launched an appeal for a policy shift towards the “New Social Contract” to combat the **inequality pandemic**, at the UN event marking the observance of Nelson Mandela Day. The speech – delivered online – is accompanied with the Secretary General’s OpEd, outlining that the COVID-19 recovery based on a New Social Contract and a New Global Deal can put the world back on track to realize the promise of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, the UN SG notes, Education and digital technology must be two great enablers and equalizers, by providing lifelong opportunities to learn how to learn, to adapt and take on new skills for the knowledge economy.

Speech and full OpEd can be [found here](#).

Income is not the only measure of inequality. People’s chances in life depend on their gender, family and ethnic background, race, whether or not they have a disability, and other factors. Multiple inequalities intersect and reinforce each other across the generations, defining the lives and expectations of millions of people before they are even born. (...) A New Global Deal must be based on a fair globalization, on the rights and dignity of every human being, on living in balance with nature, on respect for the rights of future generations, and on success measured in human rather than economic terms.

Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary General

The UN team in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues with the weekly presentation of key findings with regards to the sectoral and cross-cutting assessments conducted. This upcoming Thursday – 23 July – UN Women will present policy brief stemming from the assessment of the COVID-19 impact at the local levels, with information gathered from 75 self-governing units/municipalities across BiH.

Within its integrated response, UNDP conducted the second round of the Economic Pulse survey with input from 380 companies indicating a great potential in improving capacities/capabilities for collaboration and innovation among BiH companies especially in entering new markets, innovating with new products and services, developing new business models, all driven by the digital transformation. The survey UNDP conducted in June also highlighted need to place stronger focus on women and vulnerable groups (i.e. disabled, unemployed, minorities etc.) in economic recovery efforts. The Economic Pulse website with interactive data dashboard will be launched end of July. Results of the EU4Business project's public call worth BAM 1.8 million will be announced end of July. More than 90 micro, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and/or cooperatives with established network of cooperants/individual agricultural producers applied for grant funding aiming to re-establish the commercial linkages, stabilize the supply networks and reopen existing access to agri-food sector market.

Distribution of vital medical supplies and equipment continues as part of the UNDP-led purchase and delivery of planned 4.2 million items financed by the European Union, Governments of Norway, Switzerland and the line institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To date more than 2.4 million items of medical supplies and equipment have been delivered to health institutions countrywide, including the ventilators, personal protective equipment (PPE), COVID tests, ECG, ultra-sound and X-Ray machines. Additionally, WHO ensured over 20 tons of PPE for medical health facilities in the country, including masks, gloves, googles and suits which will be delivered in the following days.

UNICEF expanded the geographic coverage of the Rapid assessments covering impact of COVID-19 on the social protection systems: in addition to five cantons in the FBiH Entity, UNICEF will support conducting the assessment in 7 municipalities in the RS Entity. UNICEF with its new partner Médecins du Monde (Mdm) ensures that more children benefit from MHPSS in Temporary reception centers (TRCs) in Una – Sana Canton (USC) through initial and psychological sessions. Individual counselling were provided for ten children within TRCs within the last week. Importantly, UNICEF/Mdm MHPSS team increased outreach work in terms of approaching beneficiaries and introducing them with available services. Provision of Health care services for children continued with the DRC as well, through pediatric services in infirmaries in TRC Sedra and Borići. UNICEF/DRC Medical assistant conducted the workshop on personal hygiene targeting children of 8-12 years of age (14 participants, community of Iran, Iraq, Somalia and Afghanistan). Educational flyers for several infectious diseases were distributed to PoCs in their languages.

Office of the UN Resident Coordinator enabled an interactive chart which follows the COVID-19 trendline in BiH, including the effective reproduction factor (R). Standing page for the chart can be accessed [here](#).

[Links to UNDP Updated Resources:](#)

[Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BiH \(pdf, English\)](#)

[Link to presentation of Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BiH \(pdf, English\)](#)

[Infographic illustrating UNDP's integrated response to COVID-19 \(pdf, English\)](#)

Check the running list of United Nations resources at the UN in BiH [website](#).