SITUATION REPORT #P1  
2 JUNE 2020

CONFIRMED CASES | RS ENTITY | FBIH ENTITY | DEATHS REPORTED AS ASSOCIATED WITH COVID-19
---|---|---|---
2535 | 1540 | 1085 | 152

SITUATION SNAPSHOT AND RESPONSE

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

May 30th

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

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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. Both the RS and the Federation entities now allow movement of all population categories with a mandatory requirement that everyone wear face masks in enclosed spaces/areas. Curfews have been lifted across the entire territory of BiH. BiH citizens entering into the country no longer need to observe self-isolation, while foreign citizens entering the country on business need to show a letter of invitation from a legal body/institution which is engaging that person, as well as certificate reflecting a negative COVID-19 test result that is not older than 48 hours. Borders are open for citizens of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia as of 1 June and air travel is allowed to resume. The repatriation of BiH citizens and foreign citizens in BiH is allowed with respect to the protocols currently in place.

Prosecution offices at different levels continued to look into reported cases of misconduct during public procurement of Covid-19 related items. These now include official cases involving the FBiH Entity Prime Minister and the suspended Director of FBiH Civil Protection in the FBiH “Respirators” case, as well as the RS Prosecution case re: the terminated contract for the mobile hospital. The BiH Council of Ministers reached the decision on distribution of IMF funds at session held 2 June, confirming the previously indicated percentages per entities and Brcko District.

Following the lifting of self-isolation measures and the opening of borders, BiH saw an increase in the number of entries at all crossings. Health authorities are urging the citizens to continue exercising responsible behavior in order to keep the recovery trends positive and to mitigate a potential stronger “second wave”, especially in the light of the emerged new Tesanj cluster. In the FBiH Entity, public gatherings of up to 300 people outside (with a secured 2m distance space between individuals) are allowed, while in the RS Entity gatherings are allowed for no more than 50 people. The epidemiological curve is currently stable across the entire BiH, with numbers of recovered patients increasing (reported as 1910 on 2/06 at 17:00 hrs). The line health authorities reported a total of 153 cases of death related to Covid-19 induced complications since the first case was reported in BiH.

Distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 30th

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

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Overview of ongoing COVID-19 epidemic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 30th

Total number of tests performed by entities and Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina per 100,000 population, May 30th

(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMoH, MoCA)
Daily new cases and recoveries in Bosnia and Herzegovina, May 30th

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

UN SUPPORT IN RESPONSE – LATEST

In partnership with UNICEF, the Sarajevo Canton Ministry of Education held two webinars for teachers on the topics of digital tools and the implementation of accessibility standards for Children with Disabilities. IOM organized a series of activities focused on COVID-19 for BiH youth: a 3rd online workshop with the aim of improving critical thinking and to help youth deal with the current situation. IOM also organized a 5th online quiz “Time to switch on” with a national focus and with the aim of offering an opportunity for youth engagement during COVID-19 pandemic. A 2nd online counselling session focused on youth anxiety and concerns of getting back into the “normal” life after COVID-19 restrictions was also executed. Finally, as a response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, IOM procured seeds and other agricultural materials and had them distributed among socially vulnerable families – through IOM’s network of 46 Community Liaison Points spread across 16 different municipalities.

Within its integrated response, UNDP presented an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) of COVID-19 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Economic Pulse of BiH on 28 May, highlighting the need for urgent and comprehensive interventions to preserve jobs, to protect the most vulnerable groups and to prevent an economic downturn in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The assessment was conducted by UNDP on behalf of the United Nations in BiH. Over 120 representatives of all levels of governments in BiH, international financial institutions, embassies, agencies and business associations/chambers of commerce participated in the online presentation and discussion.

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Link to Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BiH (pdf, English)
Link to presentation of Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in BiH (pdf, English)
Online discussion on Economic Impact of the Pandemic on Women in BiH was organized on 28 May as part of a series of online discussions designed to reaffirm female leadership at the time of crisis. Online discussions are organized within the “Women in Elections” project financed by the Government of Sweden.

The distribution of vital medical supplies and equipment continues as part of the UNDP-led purchase and delivery of planned 2.9 million items financed by the European Union, Governments of Norway, Switzerland and the institutions of BiH. To date more than 2 million items of medical supplies and equipment have been delivered to health institutions countrywide, including ventilators, personal protective equipment (PPE), COVID tests, ECG and X-Ray machines. Infographic illustrating UNDP’s integrated response to COVID-19 is available on: https://bit.ly/IntegratedResponseUNDPBiH

While the FBiH Crisis HQ and Cantonal Ministries of Health, in coordination with DRC, decided to close the COVID preventive quarantine areas set up in the Temporary Reception Centers/ETC for asymptomatic PoCs on 29 May, the IOM-managed TRCs/ETC will continue to have isolation areas where those with COVID-19 symptoms are to be accommodated. On 1 of June, 7 symptomatic migrants were accommodated in the isolation areas.

UNICEF, with its partner Save the Children, in Una-Sana Canton continues facilitating online education for children in TRCs. Since the beginning of 2020, 381 children were included in formal education in Una-Sana Canton. In the last week 159 children participated in online education, 33 were following regular classes and others are in the preparatory classes. 252 children participated in non-formal education activities in USC and Sarajevo. 60 non-formal educational workshops were organized, and consultations initiated with the USC Ministry of Education regarding some of the responsibilities over inclusion of r/m children in education.

All Child Friendly Spaces are now operational.

In the domain of health and nutrition, UNICEF with its partner NGO “Fenix” in USC and World Vision in TRC Ušivak and RRC Salakovac, is providing nutritional support, supportive care and education and counseling on breastfeeding and infant feeding for mothers through Mother Baby Corners (MBC), with support of IOM.

ILO has developed and shared the Rapid Social Protection Calculator for COVID-19 with local authorities in charge of social protection policies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The purpose of the tool is to support policy makers to make rapid adjustments to social protection systems in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Calculator is based on a minimum set of parameters and users can cost several policy options such as the extension of coverage of existing schemes to new beneficiaries; the increase of current benefit levels; and the introduction of universal or categorical lump sum benefits or temporary wage subsidies.

At the global level, ILO updated estimates and analysis for the “World of Work” monitor, found here: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_745963.pdf

Check the running list of United Nations resources at the UNCT BiH website.