Distribution of COVID-19 positive cases and trendline in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 7th

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

The BiH Council of Ministers held the first meeting of the Group for the Socio-Economic Response and finalized the remaining details around the organization of the Group’s work. In the RS Entity, the Minister of Finances confirmed that 120 million BAM are planned to cover 3 months worth of taxes, contributions, minimal salaries and to contribute to those companies which worked during the pandemics but saw a decrease in income. In the FBiH Entity around 175,000 workers applied for contributions under the FBiH’s so-called “Corona Law”. Contributions will be issued for all companies whose income dropped by 20% or more during the pandemic. The FBiH Law remains in force until the end of July. Prosecution Offices in both entities continue to investigate reported misconduct around public procurement processes, including the mobile hospital case in the RS, and the 100 respirators case in FBiH. There are reports of increased pressure towards prosecution offices (including HJPC) and journalists covering the investigations.

The epidemiological curve is currently stable across the entire BiH, with numbers of recovered patients increasing (reported as 2050 on 9/06 at 16:00 hrs), however localized clusters have been appearing and raising the overall numbers of new cases, most notably in Tuzla Canton, Tesanj and Modrica. The line health authorities reported a total of 155 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, June 7th

(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMoH, MoCA)
Overview of ongoing COVID-19 epidemic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 7th

Total number of tests performed by the entities and Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 7th
Daily tests performed and share of tests that were positive in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 7th

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

UN SUPPORT IN RESPONSE – LATEST

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 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To date 2.1 million items of medical supplies and equipment have been delivered to health institutions countrywide, including the ventilators, personal protective equipment (PPE), COVID tests, ECG and X-Ray machines. Online discussion on the Impact of the Pandemic on Political Engagement of Women in BiH was organized on 04 June, as third in a series of discussions aiming to place focus on the impact of Covid-19 and to reaffirm female leadership at the time of crisis. Weekly online discussions are organized within the “Women in Elections” project financed by the Government of Sweden.

IT Girls initiative completed implementation of its online programme called #ITGirlsGoOnline, offering free webinars every Wednesday and Saturday, with content designed to empower girls and young women.

14 webinars presenting the narratives of distinguished female ICT specialists in BiH delivered by IT Girls Initiative over the course of last 6 weeks, directly to:

- 301 workshop participants
- 16 062 people on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

Source: UNICEF
UNICEF supported procurement of 2 additional mobile phones for the RS Institute of Public Health to establish a hotline on immunization and COVID19 information, supporting access to up-to-date and evidence based information to ensure safe continuity of health care services. In Canton Sarajevo, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education successfully completed Phase 1 of the blended learning initiative LearnIN. The LearnIN local task force has successfully participated in 3 Pedagogy webinars organized by the UNICEF RO.

UNFPA launched Youth against COVID-19 campaign adjusted to current situation in BiH together with ”Asocijacija XY” NGO. Globally, UNFPA teamed up with Prezi to help teach young people around the world about COVID-19 and what they can do to keep their friends, families, and communities safe. The more accurate information they have, the better equipped they will be to stop the spread of the virus.

As of 8 of June, 14 migrants were accommodated in the symptomatic isolation areas set up in the TRCs/ETC for those having Covid19 symptoms. Thus far, there has been no confirmed COVID cases among the TRCs/ETC population in BiH. In Una-Sana Canton, UNICEF and Save the Children held a meeting with the Cazin Center for Social Welfare aiming to address protection concerns and to discuss alternative to strengthen capacities on child protection for the unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in USC. UNICEF and Save the Children continue to provide 24/7 child protection within TRCs Bira, Borici, Sedra and Miral in USC, supporting access to services and optimal protection for the unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) within TRCs, including participation in the Child Protection Working Group.

UNICEF outreach workers are present in the field together with the Danish Refugee Council outreach teams, ensuring that the protection risks faced by the unaccompanied and separated children on the move are addressed in a timely manner and providing protection and access to services for the UASC on the move in Una - Sana Canton.

Online education for children in TRCs continued. In the last week 138 children participated in online education and 205 children participated in non-formal education activities. In total 43 non-formal educational workshops were organized. All Child Friendly Spaces are now operational. Individual workshops for parents were also held, including 16 parents in the last week.

Enrollment of children on the move in public schools in USC in the following school year starting September 2020 was discussed during a meeting with the Ministry of Education.

More than 65 micro, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and/or cooperatives with established network of cooperants/individual agricultural producers have applied for grants within the EU4Business Public call to date. The public call is worth 1.8 million BAM. The EU4Business UNDP-implemented project aims to support beneficiaries to re-establish the commercial linkages, stabilize the supply networks and reopen existing access to market.

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

Contact: Dalila Sadinlija | UN Resident Coordinator Office | Communications and Advocacy | dalila.sadinlija@un.org