Overview of the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 21st

(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 48hours. Borders are open for citizens of Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia as of 1 June and air travel is allowed to resume. Due to the recent rise in numbers of new cases across the region, stricter measures upon entry apply for anyone coming from BiH into Montenegro and Slovenia. Croatia is expected to relax some of the recently imposed restrictive measures towards entry from BiH as of 1 July. BiH Council of Ministers is set to discuss the further opening of BiH borders at their session on 2 July.

Localized clusters continued to appear throughout BiH, raising the overall numbers of new cases to daily record highs in the past week (reaching a peak of 172 new cases on 27 June), with 11 more people passing away due to Covid-19 induced health complications.

Distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 21th

(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, June 21th

Overview of Active Cases and Hospitalized in Bosnia and Herzegovina, June 21th

(Credit: WHO Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Sources: IPH FBiH, IPH RS, FMoH, MoCA)
UN SUPPORT IN RESPONSE – LATEST

The UN team continued with the weekly presentation of key findings with regards to the sectoral and cross-cutting assessments conducted. Following the Economic Pulse and COVID-19 Economic Impact Assessment (led by UNDP), UN Women presented findings of the preliminary analyses on how the rebalances of budgets in Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Canton Sarajevo will impact women and vulnerable groups most affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The Socially Responsive Budgeting and Budget Rebalancing Analysis with regards to COVID-19 urges the governments in BiH to be transparent in their newly planned budget allocations. Next presentation will be held by UNICEF, covering COVID-19, Youth and Mental Health, on 25 June.

Total of 95 micro, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs and/or cooperatives with established network of cooperants/individual agricultural producers applied for support within the EU4Business project’s public call worth BAM 1.8 million. The EU4Business, implemented by UNDP, aims to support beneficiaries to re-establish the commercial linkages, stabilize the supply networks and reopen existing access to...
market. 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 Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UNICEF, in partnership with Roma support center - Romalen Kakanj and the Roma Information Center Kali Sara, continued the work on increasing awareness on immunization benefits in Roma communities, with an additional focus on promotion of good hygiene practices during COVID19 pandemic. The online training for 16 health mediators was completed last week. Awareness raising will be accompanied with the distribution of hygiene packages in Roma communities. Additionally, UNICEF – supported by USAID, initiated procurement of hygiene supplies for kindergartens in both entities and Brcko District. Delivery of PPE for health workers and pre-school workers to the RS Public Health Institute is scheduled for this week. Activities within LearnIn blended learning initiative continued in Canton Sarajevo, where Ministry of Education’s Local Task Force participated in the development of LearnIn Emergency Manual for Teachers – with inputs from 11 schools.

UNICEF in partnership with the Bosnian Herzegovinian Association of Integrative Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy delivered 5 out of a total of 8 modules to 29 professionals from centres for social welfare, centres for mental health and schools in Canton Sarajevo, to empower them to provide virtual crisis intervention. UNICEF kicked off a 7-months partnership with the FBiH Association of Psychologists to support mental health and psychosocial support to children and adolescents (0-17 years); parents (in particular parents of children with disabilities); employees of centres for social welfare and centres for mental health; teachers and school staff; individuals who lost their jobs due to COVID-19; and individuals with post-traumatic stress disorder; and other vulnerable groups. Furthermore, in cooperation with Maestral International, four webinars were conducted to support social service professionals in BiH, with a focus on strengthening their knowledge and skills for child protection response during COVID-19 pandemic. Over 350 social service professionals participated thus far, with the fifth webinar announced for end of June.

IOM organized the 3rd online counselling session with a focus on motivation. Through various interactive activities, participants talked about the difficulties they are facing at this moment and received advice on how to overcome these difficulties and stay motivated during the pandemic.

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On 22 of June, 10 migrants were accommodated in the isolation areas set up in the TRCs/ETC for those having COVID-19 symptoms. During the week, at the request of the Public Health Center and after a doctor working on the site tested positive, all PoCs in isolation at TRC Sedra were tested before being moved to the accommodation area of the TRC. All results came back negative. UNICEF provided support to the Red Cross team at the checkpoint Velecevo in Kljuc/Una-Sana Canton through the distribution of NFI and food items to families with children who were disembarked from the bus and temporarily staying at the checkpoint. Support was also provided to families with children temporarily staying in front of TRC Miral in Velika Kladusa.

Non-formal and formal education efforts in TRCs continued, with 185 children participating in online education last week. With the end of the school year, children took final assessment tests to receive their individual final reports as a proof of finishing the school year in one of the public schools in Una-Sana Canton. Educational workshops for parents in Una-Sana Canton were held for 13 parents in the last week.

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