



Nazmije Bajrami, USAID.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Pandemic Response is a three-year activity that works to promote preventive practices for COVID-19. It was established in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Kosovo. The activity aims to increase acceptance, uptake, and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines through evidence-based interventions and community engagement; strengthen the cold chain system for vaccines in Kosovo; and address the effects of the pandemic on children from marginalized groups by improving their access to quality social services, both during and post COVID-19.

ACTIVITIES

- Increase community outreach to combat misinformation about the safety and effectiveness of routine immunization, along with COVID-19 vaccination, and encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Provide improved cold chain equipment to prevent the loss of vaccines from inadequate storage conditions, including new cold rooms and ultra-low temperature freezers for the Central Vaccine Storage facility, medical centers throughout Kosovo, and the Pristina airport.
- Enhance the effectiveness of COVID-19 tracking and surveillance at the National Institute for Public Health and its seven regional centers by delivering specialized equipment and materials to test and detect COVID-19 variants and support the implementation of the 2022-2025 National Action Plan for Immunization.

- Address the impact of COVID-19 on human rights and strengthen national child protection and education systems to ensure continuity in the provision of core services for children and their families.

KEY RESULTS TO DATE

- Developed the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan for COVID-19 , and identified main misinformation narratives around vaccination.
- Engaged vulnerable and marginalized groups, including Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian communities, people living in poverty, and the elderly through outreach, such as door-to-door visits, to raise awareness and increase the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Supported COVID-19 vaccine delivery by establishing five temporary testing and vaccination sites in five major municipalities in Kosovo; delivered critical equipment to primary health care institutions to decentralize vaccination at the municipal level.
- Renewed Kosovo’s vaccine cold chain system, providing critical support for delivering COVID-19 vaccination. This included the procurement and installation of five cold/freezer rooms and eight Ultra-Low Temperature freezers for Central Vaccine storage, and 270 refrigerators for Primary Health Care facilities.
- Over 400 Primary Health Care workers were trained to promote immunization
- Trained 430 front-line workers to deliver integrated, high-quality services at Centers for Social Work (CSWs), targeting marginalized groups of children, with a specific emphasis on the most vulnerable children.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROJECT FUNDING

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID/Kosovo)

DURATION

July 2021 - January 2024

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

UNICEF

TOTAL FUNDING

\$ 6,495,922.00

KEY COUNTERPARTS

Ministry of Health, National Institute for Public Health

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WHERE WE WORK

Nationwide