



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- 23 COVID-19 patients have recovered. One COVID-19 fatality and 107 new cases were reported in the last 24 hours. **The total number of registered COVID-19 cases in the country has surpassed 1 000.** 143 of the COVID-19 cases among health professionals (13.2%) and COVID-19 cases are registered in 21 cities.
- 71.5% of the cases are reported from three cities Skopje, Kumanovo and Prilep (367, 306, 100 cases, respectively). 63% of the deaths are in Kumanovo, Struga and Skopje. The incidence rate among people above 60 years old is 56.6/100 000 people and 67.4% of the deaths were in this age group. 39 and 42 cases are registered among children ages 0-9 and 10-19, respectively.
- A total of 660 molecular SARS-CoV-2 tests were performed in past 24 hours. 107 or 16.2% tested positive. COVID-19 cases from 13 cities have been reported and most reside in Kumanovo (n=44) and Skopje (n=28).
- The ban on movement across the country is enforced today starting at 4 pm and in all picnic places, parks and forests since yesterday, until 5 am on Tuesday, which means North Macedonia will be in total lockdown in the next 85 hours. People with disabilities and their companions are exempted from the restriction of movement.
- The national Security Council recommended extension of state of emergency for additional 30 additional days.
- President of North Macedonia calls upon the Church to comply with the rules imposed on gatherings because of COVID-19 pandemic.
- WHO has released a substantial update to its COVID-19 dashboard, offering better data visualization. The news article is available [here](#) and the dashboard is available on the WHO COVID-19 webpage [here](#).

#### SITUATION IN NUMBERS

##### total (new) cases in the last 24 hours

##### North Macedonia

1081 confirmed (107)

46 deaths

121 recovered

##### Globally

1 991 562 confirmed (76 647)

130 885 deaths (7875)

##### European Region

1 013 093 confirmed (35 497)

89 317 deaths (4710)

##### Regions of the Americas

707 121 confirmed (33 760)

30 245 deaths (2909)

##### Western Pacific Region

125 571 confirmed (1367)

4239 deaths (38)

##### Eastern Mediterranean Region

111 432 confirmed (4043)

5532 deaths (137)

##### South-East Asia Region

21 790 confirmed (1503)

990 deaths (54)

##### African Region

11 843 confirmed (477)

550 deaths (27)

#### WHO RISK ASSESSMENT

Very high

RISK ASSESSMENT OF COVID-19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA ACCORDING TO GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD IS VERY HIGH: community widespread virus transmission on all the country territories.

SURVEILLANCE

Figure 1. North Macedonia – Cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases (n=974) and deaths (n=45) by 16 April 2020 19:00

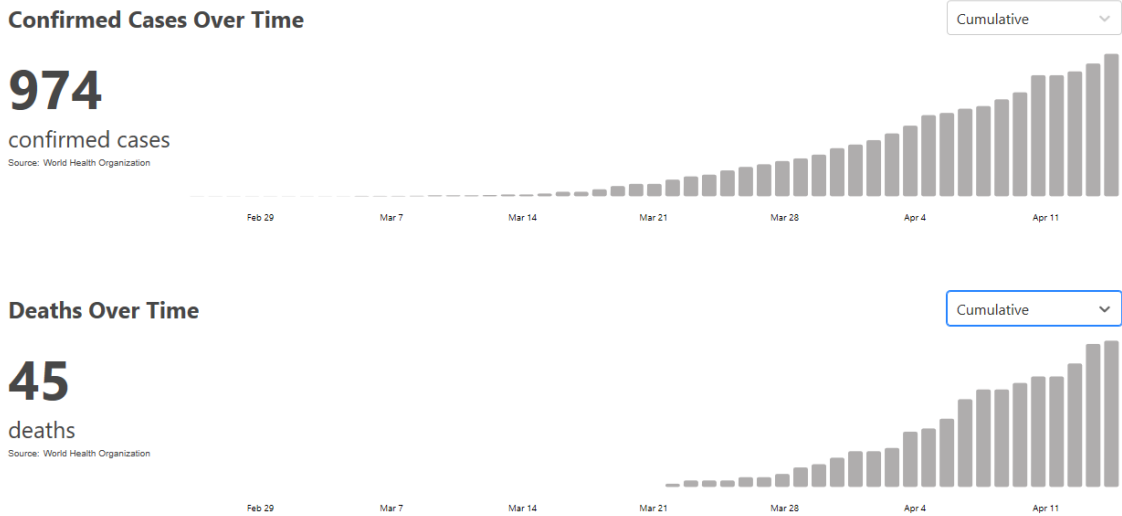
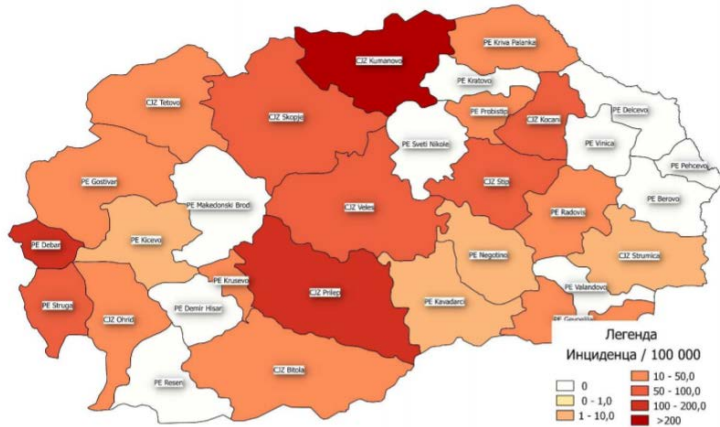


Figure 2. North Macedonia – COVID-19 incidence per 100,000 people, as of 16 April 2020



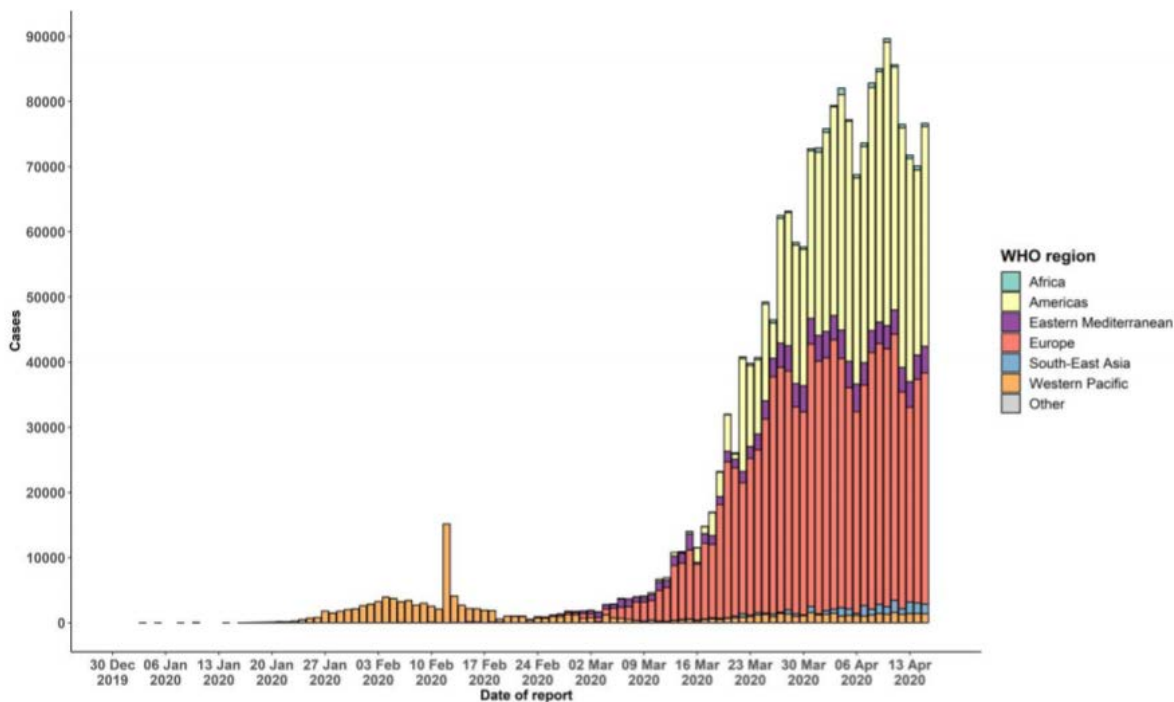
The highest cumulative incidence is in Kumanovo (214.5/100,000 people), followed by Debar (183.8/100,000 people) and Prilep (104.9/100,000 people). Five other cities have incidence above 50.0 cases per 100,000 people (Struga, Veles, Shtip, Kochani and Skopje).

Age of patients vary from 0-91 years (median age – 46 years old). However, the highest risk group is between 50-59 years old.

The disaggregated data of the confirmed COVID-19 cases through 15 April 2020 which includes the cases reported on 16 April 2020 by MoH could be accessed at the [www.iph.mk](http://www.iph.mk)

## GLOBAL COVID19 SITUATION

### Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19, by date of report and WHO region through 16 April 2020



## CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-2019), EUROPE

Based on the WHO and ECDC data as of 16 April 2020 10:00 CET, cases reported in the WHO European Region, represent **51% of the global burden** to date. Globally, USA carries the heaviest case load (604 070), with **Spain and Italy concluding top-3. In addition, five more countries from the European Region are in the top-10 (Germany, France, United Kingdom, Turkey and Belgium).**

Cumulatively, 68% of the global burden of COVID-19 deaths (130 885 deaths) have been reported in the European Region (89 317 deaths), with **Italy, Spain, France and the United Kingdom each reporting more than 10 thousand deaths and together accounting for 79% of all deaths in Europe.** Another five countries in the Region reported 1000 deaths or more (Belgium 4440 deaths, Germany 3569 deaths, Netherlands 3134 deaths, Turkey 1518 deaths and Sweden 1203 deaths).

Countries in focus in the WHO European region: (Alphabetically – Info as of 14 April 2020)

- **France:** total cases increased 40% in the past 7 days to just over 98,000 cases with the number of new cases reported each day continuing to steadily decrease. Since March 1, 14,946 deaths have been reported. As of 14 April, 27.8% of cases have recovered, 31.2% of cases are hospitalized, 6.5% of cases are in intensive care, 15.2% of cases have died.
- **Germany:** >125,000 cases as of 14 April; the number of cases reported each day has consistently decreased since 9 April. 52.3% of cases are recovered; 15% of cases are hospitalized; 2% of cases are in ICU; 75% are mechanically ventilated; 2.3% of cases have died; The current estimation of the reproductive number of the outbreak

is  $R = 1.2$  (1.0- 1.6) - a 0.1 decrease since last week. As of 13 April, 58% of registered ICU beds are occupied. Of reported cases 5,713 (4.6%) were reported among healthcare staff working in medical facilities, out of these 72% were female and 28% male and the median age was 42 years.

- **Italy:** ~160,000 cases and 21,000 deaths were reported as of 14 April. 1,073,689 tests have been conducted to date. Although Italy has ramped up testing practices, the number of positive cases is smaller than that reported in the previous week for the 2nd consecutive time (increase factor: 0.99). The overall positivity rate is now ~9% compared to 14% last week and 20% two weeks ago. Among cases: 45% are in home isolation; 17% of cases are hospitalized with symptom and 2% are in intensive care; The crude fatality ratio is 13%. ICU patients and bed occupancy rates are decreasing in all regions (most new cases presenting mild symptoms). On 10 April, authorities extended the national lockdown until May 3. Transition discussions ongoing.
- **Russian Federation:** 70% of the cases have been reported in the last week. 7th among the top 10 countries reporting the highest number of new cases in the past 7 days. 1,426,014 people have been tested for coronavirus. Moscow is the hardest hit area in the country. On Monday, Mr Putin acknowledged that the country hadn't yet reached its peak and was seeing an increase in cases and severe illness.
- **Spain:** ~170,000 cases of COVID-19 and nearly 18,000 deaths reported – it is still the most affected country in the Region and the 2nd most affected country globally. 39% of cases have recovered, 10.5% of cases have died. Spain has lifted some restrictions on non-essential workers after the country reported its lowest daily growth in confirmed cases in three weeks on Monday. The head of the regional administration in Catalonia, Quim Torra, said he would not comply with any easing of the lockdown for non-essential workers fearing a second wave. Officials plan to distribute 10 million face masks on public transport.
- **Turkey** has reported the 3rd highest number of new cases over the past 7 days (37,013). The number of total cases and deaths reported both increased 125% in the past 7 days to 61,049 and 1,296, respectively. 6.5% of cases are recovered, 2.9% of cases are in ICU – 60% are intubated; 2.1% of cases have died. As of 13 April, 410,556 tests had been conducted in Turkey. The daily number of tests processed has been above 30,000 for the past 4 days. The proportion of positive sample peaked 27 March (27%), followed by a decrease on 13 April (12%).
- **United Kingdom:** reported the highest number of new cases in the past week in the Region. 382,650 people have been tested, of whom 93,873 tested positive (24.5%). Testing capacity is increasing, which may be resulting in a greater number of observed cases.

## WHAT WHO IS DOING FOR COVID19 IN NORTH MACEDONIA?

In line with the strategic Government's approach in fighting COVID19 whereby efforts are put on increasing testing, maintaining quality COVID19 care and essential care and protecting health care workers, WHO works closely with the government and national and global health partners to enable the response.

In North Macedonia:

- WHO is supporting North Macedonia for Sero-epidemiological studies investigating the extent of infection in the general population, as determined by seropositivity. A standardized WHO master protocol is available that is being now tailored to country needs in terms of public health, laboratory and clinical systems, capacity, availability of resources and cultural appropriateness. Using this standardized protocol allows for comparability of data across different countries and helps to determine important epidemiological parameters (e.g. the proportion of the population that remains susceptible to infection, proportion of asymptomatic infections etc.) which inform public health action. The protocol can be accessed here: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/population-based-age-stratified-seroepidemiological-investigation-protocol-for-covid-19-virus-infection>
- WHO **donated 5000 COVID tests** to the Virology Lab of the Institute of Public Health on 8 April 2020.
- With WHO/USAID support, the **Epidemiological emergency operations venue at MOH** is now equipped and functional in its temporary premises, refurbished and with IT equipment.
- **WHO held a training meeting on Solidarity trial** to all those involved in the scheme from COVID19 treating hospitals.
- A Ceremony for **launching of the USAID / WHO joint support** to the country to help contain and mitigate the COVID19 virus spread <https://un.mk/ceremony-for-launching-of-the-usaid-who-support-to-the-country-to-help-mitigate-the-spread-of-covid19/> was organized on 7 April 2020. This act of solidarity is directed mainly to support the health staff at the frontline of this fight against the virus: to ensure they have the means and the skills to protect themselves and control the infection all health care settings not only in treatment centers. A large part of the grant will also help the Institute of Public Health to continue its remarkable work in tracing and testing and early identification of the cases.
- WHO also held on Friday 3 April 2020, a **Zoom training session in Macedonian language** open for **all Health Care workers dealing with COVID19** for the proper practices in Infection control and prevention of virus transmission in hospitals and clinical management of severe respiratory cases.
- WHO developed a **risk assessment tool to be used by health care facilities with COVID-19 patients**. The tool is to be completed for all health workers who have been exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 patient in a health care facility. The tool will help determine the risk of COVID-19 virus infection of all HCWs who have been exposed to a COVID-19

WHO action in COVID-19 outbreak in North Macedonia aims at limiting the virus spread, protecting health and the health workers at the frontline, preserving the health care system capacity and its sustainability to respond and provide essential services to the population.

WHO is the lead UN agency for Health and main technical and health policy advisor to the government on COVID-19 containment and mitigation.

WHO works in coordination closely with other UN agencies as per the UN reform.

Western Balkan including North Macedonia is one of the priority countries for the WHO European Region.

Technical support, guidance and assistance are provided through the WHO Country Office from all levels of the Organization.

There is abundance of technical guidance WHO has developed in all areas of work: we are supporting the country to develop technical plans and implement priority interventions in the framework of a strong nation-wide strategic response.

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

patient and then provides recommendations for appropriate management of these HCWs, according to their infection risk.

- WHO continuing the roll out of the **Partners Platform for the Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan (SPRP)**: Onboarding has taken place supporting North Macedonia to link with international support; the Country Preparedness and Response Plan has been uploaded for increasing capacity for 2000 COVID19 cases.
- The country is active on the platform <https://covid-19-response.org>
- SPRP includes health systems continuity, the Platform will have a **9th Pillar** for assessment of priority actions to maintain essential health services.
- COVID-19 Health System Response Monitor (HSRM) has been formally launched by WHO EURO and the European Observatory for Health systems. North Macedonia is participating.  
<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/mainpage.aspx>

WHO continues to be actively engaged in:

- In risk communication targeted messages and developed many messages and infographics in national languages for display at MOH media channels and other. *WHO [Facebook/Twitter](#) ; MoH [Facebook/Twitter](#); [WHO Europe website for COVID-19](#)*
- Providing technical advice and support to many national and international partners for stepping up everyone's engagement in halting the virus spread and its impact on North Macedonia.
- Ensuring lab and testing tools are available for COVID19 related testing kits and PPE.
- Assisting the MOH in gaps and needs assessment and bridging those gaps for better health system coping and response.
- Establishing bilateral partnerships, resource mobilization, and joint plans to address gaps and needs of the MOH.
- Sustaining professional and technical knowledge of all health care workers in the country through the online WHO training course for COVID-19 for health care and infection control and protection (IPC) is now available in Macedonian Language on the WHO learning platform for Health workers. <https://openwho.org/>
- Generating Robust data needed to show which treatments are the most effective, by North Macedonia joining the WHO SOLIDARITY Trial which is a large, international therapeutic study that will allow also receiving free of charge medicines for COVID19 and latest evidence-based indications for changing treatment protocols when needed to reduce mortality, length of stay under mechanical respiration and reducing complications.
- Tracking the epidemiological spread of the virus, supports early warning system and keep communities and frontline responders informed with the latest technical guidance.
- Contributing to the UN in the country to make sure that timely procurement takes place and supporting the newly set UN coordination mechanism for the COVID19. [1UN MK@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/1UNMK)

## NORTH MACEDONIA STRATEGIC RESPONSE AND ACTION

North Macedonia mobilized an all-of-government action to fight this new coronavirus, including scaling up emergency response mechanisms in all sectors. Actions and readjustments of measures are continuous and monitoring of the situation is ongoing on daily basis. The country is in declared national emergency Announced by the President of the Republic on 18 March 2020 for one month.

On the health front, the country is working hard now to ensure its COVID19 hospitalization surge capacity with the necessary personnel are in place with the influx of additional cases in recent days.

The Ministry of Health increased public health measures, such as rapid identification, diagnosis and management of the cases, identification and follow up of the contacts, infection prevention and control in health care settings, implementation of health measures for travelers, awareness-raising in the population and risk communication and counter misinformation as well as minimizing social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

- The members of the Government – Prime Minister Oliver Spasovski, Minister of Health Venko Filipche, Vice President Bujar Osmani and the Minister of Education, Arber Ademi – are in self-isolation following the positive result of COVID-19 of the Mayor of Kumanovo. The health authorities informed that all COVID19 work will continue as planned and the continuous communication and coordination with the stakeholders and the media will continue, despite the new developments.
- The Minister of Health urged the citizens to adhere to the measures during the Easter holiday as the country is entering the most critical phase of the pandemic and the number of the newly diagnosed COVID-19 cases is rising.
- MoH received €30 000 donation from China – these funds will be used to procure equipment for the epidemiologists and the health professionals.
- The Ministry of Finance is preparing the application for World Bank’s COVID-19 emergency response and management project.
- Health authorities informed that the 23-year-old who passed away in the prison “Shutka” came back negative on COVID-19. The work of the epidemiologists in the prison is in progress and they are evaluating and testing the other people in the facility.
- The Government adopted a Decree with Legal force for the application of the Law on Trade during emergency for establishing order and discipline at the entrance and inside the facilities where trade is conducted such as retail, grocery stores, markets, bakeries etc. during the state of the emergency. The Trader is obliged to provide security at the entrance and inside the facility, in order to maintain the minimum required distance between the people and to ensure implementation of hand disinfection. The trader is obliged to place appropriate markings indicating the direction of movement and observance of the minimum required distance. The markings are to be placed at the distance of two meters in front of each cash register and in front of the entrance of the facility.

## UN, DONATIONS AND PARTNER COORDINATION- COVID-19

To provide a comprehensive and coordinated approach in identifying and repurposing the available bilateral assistance to the COVID-19 response, all public administration bodies receiving bilateral donor assistance will report promptly to

the Secretariat for European Affairs (SEA) the amount of funds available for each project. The SEA will then submit a formal request to the bilateral donors for the reuse of funds in accordance with the identified priority needs for COVID19.

- **The Steiermärkische Sparkasse Group**, through the two local banks Ohridska Banka and Sparkasse Bank Macedonia, jointly donated funds to support various segments of the health system in the total amount of 110,000 Euros. Ohridska Banka expressed their solidarity with the help of 1,500 socially disadvantaged families in cooperation with the Red Cross of the City of Skopje.. For the needs of the University Clinic for Infectious and Febrile Diseases in Skopje, they donated 54,000 Euros for the purchase of protective masks and suits, and for the maintenance and repair of existing medical equipment - two mobile X-ray machines and the purchase of a vertical laminar chamber. As part of this donation, the Group has allocated funds to support the two general hospitals in Kumanovo and Ohrid, and provided fuel for 32 vehicles available for emergency medical care
- **USAID and UNICEF** have donated 2,350 packages of hygiene products for families of social risks for protection from the spreading of the coronavirus. Of these, 1,000 packages will be donated to families in Suto Orizari, Skopje, 500 in Trizla, Prilep, 500 in Bajro, Bitola, 250 in Keramidnica, Gostivar and 100 in Crnik, Delcevo.
- **United States** gave donation of personal protective equipment as a part of the continued support for North Macedonia. U.S. companies like Coca Cola, Microsoft and other are also offering assistance to North Macedonia in the COVID-19 crisis management, as announced by Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Balkans, Matthew Palmer.
- **Czech Republic** donation of one million masks arrived Skopje by a military plane from Prague.
- **China's** assistance for North Macedonia is expected by the end of April with protective gloves, hand and surface disinfectants in addition to 30000Euros provided yesterday to Ministry of Health.
- **Slovenia** provided 100,000 surgical masks and 100,000 protective masks.
- **Norway** has also donated medical supplies to North Macedonia (worth 180 000 Euro) which will be shipped from the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA). North Macedonia is currently using a field hospital donated by Norway, allowing it to double the capacity at the Infectious Disease Clinic.
- Sixteen applications have been picked out of more than 500 sent for the **CREATON public** call to tackle COVID-19 challenges, issued by the Fund for Innovations and Technology Development. The public call was supported by the Embassy of Switzerland to North Macedonia, USAID, UNDP, UNICEF, and the Chamber of Commerce for Information and Communication Technologies – MASIT. Nearly 158 applications were shortlisted. Of those that made the cut, there are solutions involving medicine, digital tools as support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to weather the crisis, education digital tools, culture and leisure tools. The total budget is 10 million denars and each proposal can receive up to EUR 10,000 in local currency. The call is the first in a series of the Fund's initiatives to tackle with the COVID-19 consequences.
- Disabled and elderly persons will receive aid during the coronavirus crisis. This activity is accomplished with the **UNDP** and in cooperation with the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**.
- Government authorized the Minister of Health Venko Filipce to sign the Donation Agreement between the **Information Technology Company Nextsen DOO** as a Donor and the Ministry of Health as a recipient of the donation.
- **British Embassy** Donated Equipment to Defence Ministry: The Embassy of the United Kingdom to Macedonia handed over to the Defence Ministry a donation consisting of protective equipment for better handling of the coronavirus situation
- The **Hungarian government** donated 100,000 protective masks and 5,000 protective suits
- **Turkey** delivered a donation to North Macedonia to deal with the coronavirus on 8 April 2020. The Turkish donation consists of 50,000 protective medical masks, 1,000 protective suits, 1,000 diagnostic tests and other medical supplies.



- **MOH Solidarity fund is established:** Companies, individuals, organizations, institutions, embassies donated 59.3 million denars on the account of the Ministry of Health including donations of medical devices, protective equipment and other materials.
- North Macedonia to receive urgent medical equipment with 4 million euros from **EU for procurement** through UNOPS.
- **USAID** supported both WHO and UNICEF with 1.1. million USD in their efforts to fight the epidemic in North Macedonia
- **Germany** offered support to the Ministry of Health with an amount of USD 2 million in PPE
- **OSCE** is proposing donation of essential PPE for the COVID19 Center of Infectious Diseases for 30,000 Euros.
- Packages with food and hygiene assets in the amount of 100.000 USD will be allocated to most jeopardized Roma families in Macedonia that are socially and economically hit by the health crisis, announced the **Foundation Open Society – Macedonia** which donated the funds.
- **Macedonian Red Cross** supports the elderly and the disabled in shopping and basic needs for hygiene, protection and their livelihood.

## GAPS/NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

**The most important priority at this point and in the next 3 months is to ensure that the health system can cope with increasing numbers of cases needing intensive management, protecting the health care workers and ensuring essential social and medical care to the vulnerable.**

### ➤ **Technical needs at the health front:**

- Assess the socioeconomic impact on Health system during the crisis and after the crisis
- Determine the level of immunity to the virus in the population
- Review of the testing algorithms in consideration of the strategy to increase testing.
- Increase use of eHealth and telemedicine to improve and facilitate population preventive interventions
- Strengthen epidemiological capacity
- Enhance planning capacity for transition strategy after lockdown.

### ➤ **Critical needs:**

- Laboratory Kits and reagents; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); Mechanical Ventilators/Respirators (respirators from operating rooms are not adapted to need of respiratory diseases and cannot be used for the ICU) ;
- intensifying risk communication;
- socioeconomic relief for vulnerable groups and employment protection.
- Maintaining Essential health and social services
- Protecting health care workers whether those working in the COVID-19 designated facilities or elsewhere countrywide because of the community transmission.
- Mental Health Support to health workers and the public especially the vulnerable ones.

### ➤ **Challenges:**

- Procurement : Access to local or international supplies and mainly respirators for the critical needs identified because of international shortages.
- Shortage in health workforce as the situation progresses
- Ensuring sustainability of the health facilities and health care during and after the crisis.

- Outreach and social support to the vulnerable
- Ensuring continuity of treatment and access to regular health care for all citizens including the vulnerable groups with other diseases and pathologies.
- Fighting Isolation and scaling up community engagement in the regions
- Compliance of the citizens to instructions of the government and self-isolation

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS NORTH MACEDONIA:

Call Center 0800 002 03; “Alo Doctor” 02 15 123

### *Useful Links*

WHO [Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#)

MoH [Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#)

[WHO Europe website for COVID-19](#)

Government’s web page for all official COVID-19 related information ([MKD](#)/[EN](#)).

[MoH COVID-19 information](#)

NATO’s Next-Generation Incidence Command System ([NICS](#))

[How to stay physically active during COVID-19 self-quarantine](#)

[Q&A on COVID-19, pregnancy, childbirth and breastfeeding](#)

New WHO Global Campaign – [“Pass the message: Five steps to kicking out coronavirus”](#) with FIFA

### *For symptoms related to COVID-19*

CPH Bitola 071 261 330

CPH Veles 071 219 278

CPH Gevgelija 071 219 278

CPH Kochani 071 373 913

CPH Kumanovo 070 215 851

CPH Ohrid 070 723 029

CPH Prilep 076 475 747

CPH Skopje 071 289 614

CPH Strumica 072 235 543

CPH Tetovo 075 240 464

RU Gostivar 076 365 161

CPH Shtip 078 365 613

IPH Skopje 078 387 194

### *Psychological support*

-Self-isolated adults

072 919 009

-Citizens of municipalities Debar and Center Zhupa

070 241 807

-adolescents and their parents

078 378 728

-parents of children with disabilities

070291574

-Parents of preschool and school children 072 912 676

### *Red Cross mobile teams for elderly support*

Red Cross Center 070 297 166

Red Cross Kisela Voda 071 349 225

Red Cross Chair 070 208 383

Red Cross Karpos 071 349 230

Red Cross Gazi Baba

Team for support of homeless people

### *Foreign Affairs*

Regular line 075 446 647

Regular line, Viber and WhatsApp: 070 282 078

**[New]** Call Center for the economic measures in response to COVID-19 02/324-8040

WHO WhatsApp messaging service

**[New]** Text hi to +41 79 893 1892

Text hi to +41 79 412 32 36