VHPB BALKAN MEETING
INTRODUCTION IN THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE

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Kosovo is located in the centre of the Balkan Peninsula in South-eastern Europe.
The total area is 10,887 km² (square kilometres)
KOSOVA
COUNTRY PROFILE

Population (in millions) (year):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Total</th>
<th>1,850,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population Density</td>
<td>190 p/km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo territory</td>
<td>10.887km²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Distribution by age**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14 years</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-64 years</td>
<td>65.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and older</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women of fertile age</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>26.5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Distribution by gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>50.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>49.60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KOSOVA
COUNTRY PROFILE

Population (in millions) (year):

Triangle shape of the pyramid illustrates that Kosova has a young population.
### KOSOVA COUNTRY PROFILE

#### Year GDP per capita* / €
- 2017: 3,534 €
- 2018: 3,715 €
- 2019: 3,959 €
- 2020: 3,772 €
- 2021: 4,486 €

#### Year GDP per capita **/ US$
- 2017: 4,009 US$
- 2018: 4,384 US$
- 2019: 4,416 US$
- 2020: 4,310 US$
- 2021: 4,986 US$

**Source:**
- *The Kosova Agency of Statistics*
- **The World Bank**

#### Health spending per capita & %GDP
- 2019: 153 US per capita; 3.44 % GDP
- 2020: 155 US per capita; 3.60 % GDP
- 2021: 163 US per capita; 3.24 % GDP

#### Gross national income per capita (int EUR) (year):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>74.1</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>75.0</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>73.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>69.7</td>
<td>70.1</td>
<td>70.5</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>68.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:**

Poverty rate: 23% of the population living in poverty; Kosovo’s GDP per capita is just ¼ of the European Union average; Kosovo spends just 8.5 % of its GDP on social protection (compared to an average of 28% in the EU); **Source: UNICEF / Annual Report 2021 Kosova.**
Hospital and University Clinical Service of Kosovo (HUCSK) is a public healthcare institution with headquarter in Prishtina;

As part of its health functions, SHSKUK also carries out scientific, educational and research activities.

HUCSK is a unique, integrated health institution, which consists of public, secondary and tertiary institutions, as its organizational units;

The Secondary and tertiary healthcare institutions that constitute HUCSK, are the following:
KOSOVA
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE

✓ University Clinical Center of Kosova (UCCK) in Prishtina;
✓ Seven General Hospitals in 7 regions of Kosova (Gjilan, Ferizaj, Prizren, Gjakova, Peja, Mitrovica & Vushtri)
  ✓ Seven (7) Community based Mental Health Centers and Houses for Integration
  ✓ National Telemedicine Centre in Prishtina;
  ✓ National Centre of Sport Medicine;
  ✓ National Centre of Labour Medicine;
  ✓ The Centre for integration and rehabilitation of chronic psychiatric patients;

❖ UCCK is the only tertiary level public health institution in Kosova, consisting of 38 Clinics /Services.
❖ Other health institutions of HUCSK offer secondary level health services;
Infectious Diseases Clinic – University Clinical Center of Kosova, Prishtina
- Human capacity: 22 IDS
- Bed capacity: 126 beds (including ICU ward, 6 beds)

Regional Hospitals
1. Gjilan; human capacity = 5 IDS; Bed capacity = 28
2. Prizren: human capacity = 5 IDS; Bed capacity = 36
3. Gjakova: human capacity = 2 IDS; Bed capacity = 21
4. Peja: human capacity = 2 IDS; Bed capacity = 16
5. Mitrovica: human capacity = 1 IDS; Bed capacity = 08
6. Vushtri: no infectious diseases ward,
7. Ferizaj: no infectious diseases ward, 1 IDS
Health services related to viral hepatitis

- **Testing / Diagnosis**
  - HBsAg and antibody to HCV antigens:
    - available at public health services, free of charge;
    - available also in almost all private labs (so called rapid tests), no government reimbursement;
  
  - Serological markers for HBV infection (HBsAg, anti-HBs, HBeAg, anti-Hbe, anti-HBc /IgM, IgG):
    - available in National Institute of Public Health in Prishtina – free of charge, but only with a physician’s prescription;
    - also available in private labs, but no reimbursed by government;
Health services related to viral hepatitis

- **Testing / Diagnosis**
  - HBV DNA and HCV RNA:
    - available only in private labs, no reimbursed by government;
  - Genotyping:
    - available only in private labs (internationally), no reimbursed by government;
  - Drug resistance testing:
    - available only in private labs (internationally), no reimbursed by government;
  - Shear wave elastography: available in Infectious Diseases Clinic (since 2021);
  - Fibroscan test: available only in private labs (no reimbursed by government);
KOSOVA
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE SERVICE

✓ Health services related to viral hepatitis

❖ Treatment:

➢ Acute infection:
  • usually at the Infectious Diseases Clinic in Prishtina in most cases;
  • but also in some of the regional hospitals, mainly in Prizren and Gjilan;

➢ Chronic infection:
  • only at the Infectious Diseases Clinic in Prishtina.
Health services related to viral hepatitis

Treatmnet / drugs available for chroniv infection:

- Chronic Hepatitis B infection:
  - Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate – for all patients with chronic Hep B infection
    (provided by government, no restriction)

- Chronic Hepatitis C infection:
  - Sofosbuvir/Velpatasvir – for all patients (provided by government, no restriction)
- Treatment of chronic hepatitis C in Kosovo through public funds started in 2009 and was based on Pegylated interferon alfa-2a and ribavirin, which was administered only at the Infectious Diseases Clinic, in Prishtina.

- DAA were not available through public funds until September 2019.

- Sep 2020, a National Clinical Guideline: “Care and treatment of persons diagnosed with hepatitis C” has been introduced by MoH.
HEP B - KOSOVA EXPERIENCE

✓ Until 2009 only Lamivudine was available and used for treatment of chronic HBV

✓ Since 2009: Introducing of Pegylated interferon alfa-2a on treatment of chronic HBV (provided by government);

✓ Since 2018: Introducing Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (provide by government); until 2018 Tenofovir was used in indicative cases (patients paid on their own);

✓ At the moment, there are 440 patients with chronic HBV undergoing treatment with Tenofovir.
HCV - DAA AVAILABLE IN KOSOVA

Nucleotide-based regimens

Sofosbuvir/velpatasvir
± ribavirin
Genotypes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

HCV
12 weeks’ treatment
CURE

EASL CPG HCV. J Hepatol 2020; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhep.2020.08.018
HCV - DAA AVAILABLE IN KOSOVA

- 2018 – Sep 2022;

157 patients with HCV infection have been treated with DAA.

- 72 patients paid for their own medicines (DAA);

- for 85 patients (Nov 2019-Sep 2022), DAA were provided by government and/or donors:
  - 10 cases treated with Elbasvir / Grazoprevir (donation) and
  - 75 cases with Sofosbuvir / Velpatasvir (provided by government)
“Në zemër të Covidit”
Pamje dhe rrëfime ekskluzive nga Klinika Infektive