

World Vision



**COVID-19 AND CHILDREN:
HOW A GLOBAL PANDEMIC
IS CHANGING THE LIVES OF
CHILDREN IN ALBANIA &
KOSOVO**

A Mixed Method Study

2020

World Vision Albania & Kosovo

World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe

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“I did not enjoy online learning since I could not capture the learning and I was always feeling stressed and anxious.”

(Girl 15, Albania)

I. Introduction

On 12 December 2019, a case of pneumonia of unknown aetiology was detected in China. On 31 December 2019, the outbreak of this new disease was first reported to the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020a). The novel coronavirus has thus been named 'severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2' (SARS-CoV-2), while coronavirus disease associated with it is now referred to as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (WHO, 2020b). On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) escalated the COVID-19 outbreak from a 'Public Health Emergency of International Concern' to a pandemic. The WHO Director-General explained he was "deeply concerned by both the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction." (WHO, 2020c).

The disease was confirmed to have reached Albania on March 8 2020 (WHO, 2020d) and Kosovo on March 13 2020 (Ministry of Health, 2020) when the first case respectively was confirmed. The virus, known to its very fast spread ability, forced governments to take drastic measures in order to contain it. Lockdown measures were imposed and the lives of girls and boys, families and communities in Albania & Kosovo changed drastically as health systems buckled, borders closed, and schools and businesses shuttered under the pressure of the crisis of COVID 19. The most vulnerable families and their children was hardest hit in such crises. Due to pandemic suffering of those living in fragile contexts already facing difficulties from economic distress, conflict, instability or natural disaster and great injustices has further increased.

In Albania the unemployment rates are expected to rise again and poor labour market conditions might be exacerbated, given that a notable share of the workforce lives abroad. Children in Albania are in a particular vulnerable situation since they experienced the 2nd school closure in this academic year, as schools were also closed after the earthquake that hit the county in November 2019 (MARS, 2020). The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports has recently declared that around 10,000 children in Albania have missed education (Save the Children, 2020). Kosovo has one of the highest poverty levels in South Eastern Europe, with 20.7% child poverty rate. The impacts of COVID-19 on poverty are likely to be substantial, as economic activity in Kosovo has been brought to a standstill and remittances plummeted. A significant number of people are likely to lose their jobs, especially those on fixed-term contracts, seasonal workers, and those working in the informal economy (Save the Children, 2020).

World Vision in Albania & Kosovo (WVA&K) responded to COVID-19 and supported communities. World Vision is committed to listening to girls and boys, include them in decision-making processes and empower them to contribute to change in public decision-making. As part of this mandate, a consultation with girls and boys was conducted in Albania & Kosovo. In this consultation 10 girls and 10 boys were interviewed and shared their views and experiences of the outbreak of COVID-19. Additionally, 515 girls and boys were surveyed to understand the impact of the pandemic on their lives. Participants shared the ways in which the pandemic and the subsequent measures put in place to quell the spread of the virus, have exposed them to multiple stressors and have affected their daily life, their education, their psycho-social well-being and put them at greater risk of experiencing and witnessing violence and abuse in their families and in their communities. Girls and boys, however, are not passive victims of the pandemic and its aftermath. In this consultation participants also shared the ways in which they are facing the often-difficult changes to their daily lives and working towards contributing to stop the spread of the virus in a variety of creative and innovative ways.

2. Methodology

2.1. Research objective

The child consultation project in Albania & Kosovo seeks to explore girls' and boys' views and experiences related to the outbreak of COVID-19, focusing on its impact on daily life, education, psycho-social wellbeing, violence against children and around opportunities that contribute to stop the spread of the virus.

The results will serve a threefold purpose:

first, in building on girls' and boys' experience and views during the COVID-19 outbreak, in order to engage them in advocacy for their protection related rights;

second, in informing child protection related policy directions, by bringing girls' and boys' asks to decision makers levels;

third, by consolidating World Vision position as a thought leader organisation in evidence based advocacy and in engaging especially for empowering girls and boys to contribute to change in child protection public decision-making.

2.2. Research design and target population

The study is a mixed method research that included close-ended information collected through online surveys and open-ended information gathered through online or face-to-face Key Informant Interviews (KII) with girls and boys in Albania & Kosovo supported within different projects. The quantitative data was collected at one point in time in June 2020 through a cross-sectional observational design to provide a snapshot of the distribution of factors that impacted the children lives during the outbreak. The qualitative data collected in June 2020 complemented the quantitative data collected to provide a better understanding of the COVID-19 impact and children opportunities to contribute to stopping the spread of the virus.

2.3. Sampling framework and sample size

The survey sample size included overall 515 girls and boys (290 girls and 225 boys) aged 12 to 16 in Albania & Kosovo. In Albania the survey sample included 477 girls and boys (269 girls and 208 boys). In Kosovo the survey sample included 38 girls and boys (21 girls and 17 boys). The sample size in each country was selected by convenience where it is taken from a group of children easy to contact and to reach for different reasons related to budget, time constraints and logistics. The sample size of 515 girls and boys was estimated in order to maximize the statistical power and to identify difference related to gender for some factors.

Since the sample size follows the non-probability rules, the results from this research cannot be generalized to the target population of Albanian and Kosovar children. However, the results will provide an understanding of children experience during the COVID-19 outbreak and will be used to develop hypotheses for future research. The KII sample included overall 20 girls and boys (10 girls and 10 boys). In Albania, the KII sample included 18 girls and boys (9 girls and 9 boys) and in Kosovo, the KII sample included 2 girls and boys (1 girl and 1 boy). Selection criteria for surveyed and interviewed girls and boys included being aged between 12 and 16 years old and being part of World Vision Albania & Kosovo programmes in the most vulnerable communities. Since all the participants are World Vision beneficiaries, it is to acknowledge that those girls and boys have been trained through different programmes on Child Protection related issues, thus their views and opinions do not represent all girls and boys in their countries.

2.4. Tools

The tool for the survey was originally developed by World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe (MEER) in consultation with all field offices including WV Albania & Kosovo. It has been translated to Albanian by WV Albania & Kosovo team. It included questions about:

- Socio-demographic information including age, gender, social status, education, household size, household vulnerability, employment and income
- Stress factors during COVID-19 outbreak
- Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on daily life at home
- Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on education
- Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on psycho-social wellbeing
- Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on child labour
- Violence against children during COVID-19 outbreak (physical, emotional, intimate and online violence)
- Support, asks and girls and boys contribution

The KII research questions were developed by WV Global Centre as part of global child consultation initiative. They were translated to Albanian by field team. The questions are as follows:

- How is COVID-19 affecting the lives of girls and boys in their countries and communities?
- How are girls and boys contributing, or can contribute, to the fight against the spread of COVID-19?
- Have girls and boys in the community experienced an increase of violence at home? Do they feel more unsafe than before? Have underage people been getting married, or worried about having to get married, more than before?

2.5. Data collection

WVA&K staff were engaged in the data collection process. Prior the start of the data collection the staff were oriented through 'Zoom' platform about the importance of the process, inform consent, ethical issues, and the selection of the children and adolescents.

The survey was uploaded in the KoBo collect platform and the link was shared to the selected children and adolescents that fulfilled the criteria. The data gathering with the online link lasted 5 days. The Child Protection Development Facilitators administrated the key informant interviews face-to-face and via online video calls.

Ministry Quality Department provided oversight to the process of data collection in close collaboration with field operation teams, by supporting, clarifying if issues arose and monitoring daily the progress of data collection and updating them daily on the progress.

2.6. Data Analysis

Data from survey was entered and analysed using the statistical software package SPSS Statistics 24. All variables were tabulated and presented as means and standard deviations (SD) or frequencies and percentages. Graphs were developed for a visual story telling. Bivariate analyses using cross tabulations, Pearson chi-square test and Fisher's exact test were performed to determine the association between various factors and gender. Significant associations were determined at a p-value level ≤ 0.05 as obtained from appropriate statistical tests. Data from KII transcripts was analysed by research team using a thematic approach to identify emerging themes and patterns mentioned by girls and boys.

2.7. Ethical considerations

This consultation followed the minimum standards for consulting with girls and boys developed by the Inter-Agency working group on children participation. These principles include, transparency, honesty, accountability, provision of a child-friendly environment, equality of opportunity, and the safety and protection of children. The project took into account the special considerations required to gain informed consent, ensure confidentiality and anonymity, acknowledge the diverse cultures of the research sites, and refrain from presenting any information that may potentially harm participants. The facilitation team ensured safe and ethical participation of girls and boys, strictly adhering to World Vision's safeguarding policy and protocols, including a referral procedure in coordination with local partners engaged in the crisis response. In order to ensure that participation was meaningful, safe and ethical, World Vision staff members including child protection staff members facilitated online conversations with child participants, and they were encouraged to decide on their own whether or not they would participate.

2.8. Limitations and challenges

When considering the findings of the study, some methodological limitations should be kept in mind.

- The sample size was chosen through convenient sampling which follows the non-probability rules. Thus, the results from this research cannot be generalized to the target population of Albanian and Kosovar children.
- Statistical conclusions related to gender difference in Kosovo were drawn from a convenient sampling with limited power to identify difference in population subgroups. Therefore, those conclusions should be analysed carefully and explored further in upcoming research.

3. Findings

The findings from this research are arranged in ten parts. Since all participants are World Vision beneficiaries, the first section of the report describes the projects of which the participants were selected and the funding sources of the aforementioned project. The second section explores the socio-demographic characteristics of the sampled population. Namely it explores girls' and boys' age, gender, social status, education, household size, household vulnerability, work and income. The third section outlines the stress factors encountered by girls and boys during the COVID-19 outbreak. Sections four to section nine outline the impacts of COVID-19 on girls and boys. Namely, it explores the affected daily girls' and boys' routine, the consequences on mental and psycho-social well-being, the affected education and the increased risk girls and boys face of witnessing or experiencing violence, child labour and early child marriage during the COVID-19 outbreak. Finally, the last section, considers the ways in which girls and boys are asking for support to respond to these changes in their daily lives. It also outlines how girls and boys as active and engaged citizens are willing to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 individually and in their communities.

3.1. Socio-demographic characteristics

Age

In Albania, surveyed girls and boys are aged 13 to 16 years old with approximately one third (35%) aged 14 years old, in Kosovo, surveyed girls and boys are aged 12 to 16 years old with a predominance of children aged 14 years old (34.2%) and 15 years old (28.9%) (Figure 1). Interviewed girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo are aged 13 to 15 years old.

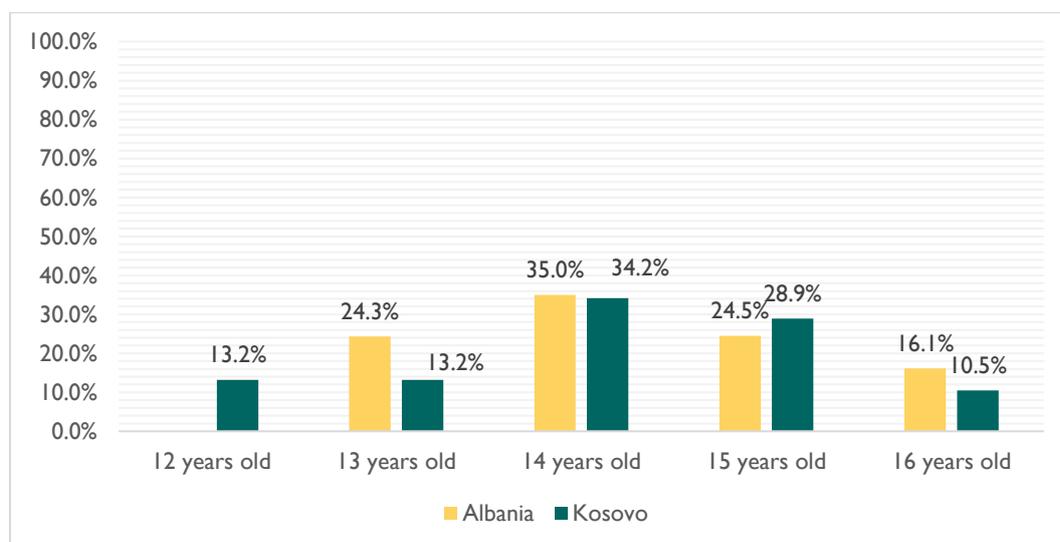


FIGURE 1: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEYED CHILDREN IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

Gender

Out of 477 surveyed children in Albania, 56.4% were girls (n=269) and 43.6% were boys (n=208). In Kosovo, 55.3% (n=21) of surveyed children were girls and 44.7% (n=17) were boys. The key informant interviews were conducted also with 9 girls and 9 boys in Albania and 1 girl and 1 boy in Kosovo.

Social status

Out of 515 surveyed girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo, only one 14 years old boy in Albania is married and all the remaining surveyed children are single.

Education

In Albania, 87.8% (n=419) of surveyed children are enrolled in formal education and 12.2% (n=58) are out of school (Figure 2). Among those attending formal education (n=419), 1% (n=4) are enrolled in primary level covering grade 1 to grade 5, 78.5% (n=329) are enrolled in intermediate level covering grade 6 to grade 9 and 18.1% (n=76) are enrolled in secondary education level including grade 10 to grade 12. (Figure 2). When out of school children (n=58) were asked about the highest level of education attained, 1.8% (n=1) said they are illiterate and did not have any education, 17.9% (n=10) said that they have achieved the primary level of education, 67.9% (n=38) have achieved the intermediate level of education and finally 10.7% (n=6) have achieved the secondary education level (Figure 2).

In Kosovo 92.1% (n=35) of surveyed children are enrolled in formal education and 7.9% (n=3) are out of school (Figure 2). Among those attending formal education (n=35), 85.7% (n=30) are enrolled in intermediate level covering grade 6 to grade 9 and 14.3% (n=5) are enrolled in secondary education level including grade 10 to grade 12. (Figure 2). When out of school children (n=3) were asked about the highest level of education attained, 100% (n=3) said they have achieved the intermediate level of education (Figure 2).

A gender analysis was applied to evaluate the difference between girls and boys in accessing formal education in Albania and Kosovo. Findings have shown that there is no significant statistical difference with a p value of 0.08 in Albania and a p value of 0.68 in Kosovo.

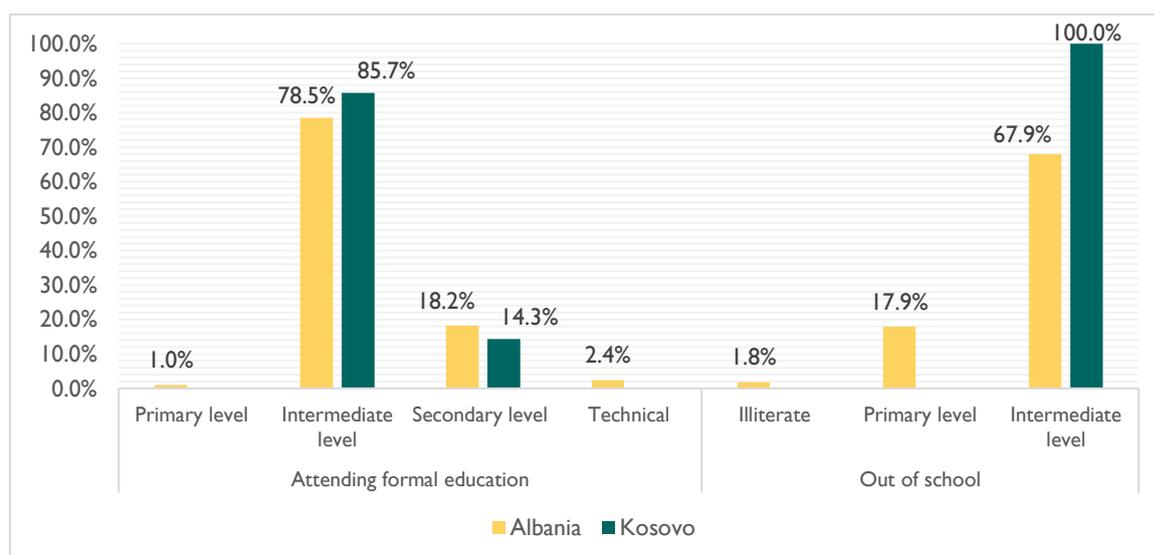


FIGURE 2: ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

Household size and vulnerability

In Albania, 99.6% of surveyed children live in households and only two children (0.4%) live in residential care centre. In Kosovo, 100% of surveyed children live in households. The average number of household members in surveyed children is 5.2 (± 1.7) in Albania and 6.4 (± 1.6) in Kosovo.

When asked about household vulnerabilities, in Albania, out of 477 surveyed children 11.5% (n=53) said that at least one member from their family is unable to take care of himself and 10.4% said the same in Kosovo. Furthermore, 38.3% of surveyed children in Albania and 40% in Kosovo live with elderly members. Sixteen percent of surveyed children in Albania said that they live with chronically ill member. In Kosovo, 17.1% (n=6) live in female-headed households and 8.6% live with chronically ill members. Other types of household vulnerability are shown in Figure 3.

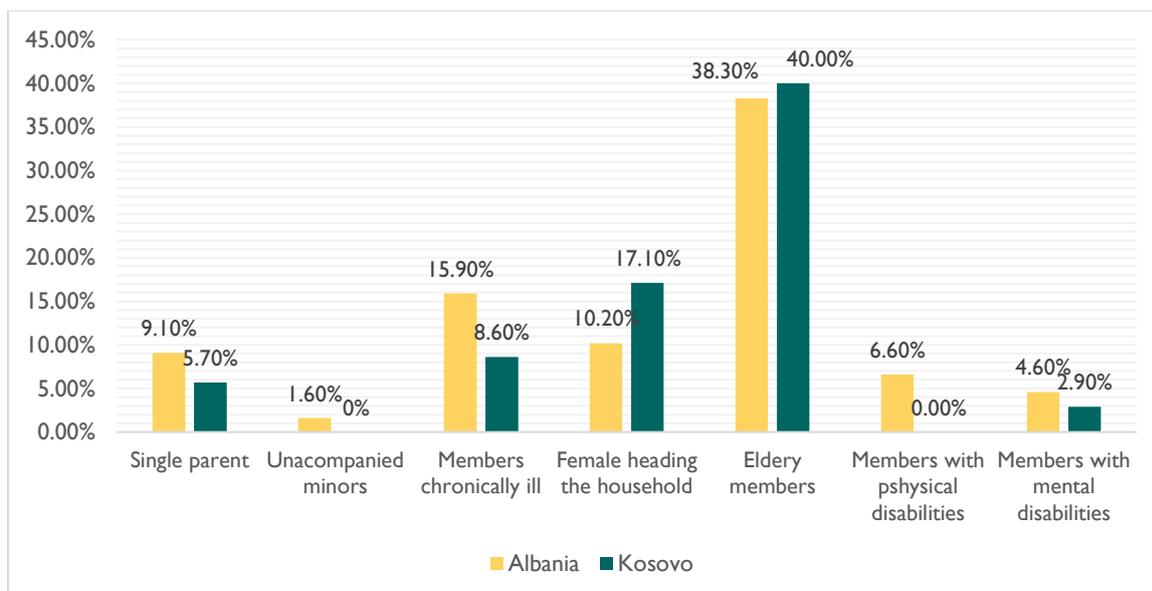


FIGURE 3: TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD VULNERABILITY IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

Paid work and contribution to income

Before the COVID-19 outbreak, 2.1% of surveyed children in Albania (n=10) and 5.3% (n=2) of surveyed children in Kosovo used to have a paid job. No statistically significant gender difference was observed in Albania (p=0.09) and in Kosovo (p=0.11) for paid work before COVID-19.

When asked about who contribute to the family income, 91.1% (n=401) of surveyed girls and boys in Albania and 100% (n=36) in Kosovo said it was their father. Seventy-seven percent (n=332) in Albania and 51.6% (n=16) in Kosovo, said that their mothers contribute. Twenty-nine percent (n=102) of surveyed children in Albania and 40% (n=12) in Kosovo said that siblings above 18 contribute to the income while 8.5% (n=29) of surveyed children in Albania and 13.8% (n=4) in Kosovo said that siblings under 18 contribute to the income. Finally, 6.5% (n=22) of surveyed children in Albania and 13.3% (n=4) of surveyed children in Kosovo said that they contribute themselves to the family income. A gender lens analysis showed a non-significant difference between girls and boys.

3.2. Stress factors during COVID-19 outbreak

Lives of girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo have been turned upside down by this pandemic. Between schools being closed, gathering with friends being cancelled and high-rise in COVID-19 cases, girls' and boys' routines are anything but routine. This change in routine is causing widespread concern, fears and stress, all of which are reactions to the changing and uncertain situation that girls and boys find themselves in.

Stress factors related to disrupted education

With school closure as part of necessary lockdown measures, the education of girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo was very disrupted. However, the majority of surveyed children previously enrolled in formal education in Albania and Kosovo did not express stress and concerns as consequences to this disrupted education. For instance, approximately three-quarter (70.7%) of surveyed children in Albania and 84.4% in Kosovo said that missing out the school curricula and falling behind in class during the outbreak did not stress them at all or stressed them only to a small extent. Furthermore, other children (77.7% in Albania and 85.3% in Kosovo) are not at all stressed or only stressed to a small extent by missing out the school year and graduation. On the contrary, being isolated from classmates is identified as a source of stress with approximately half of children

in Albania (52.5%) and Kosovo (55.1%) who said being moderately and greatly stressed by the fact that they were not able to say goodbye to their classmates and friends.

Talking about next school year, more than half of surveyed children do not have concerns about continuing their education with 61% of surveyed children in Albania and 64.7% of surveyed children in Kosovo who are not stressed or stressed only to a small extent by the fact that they did not learn enough to be ready for school in the next fall. 82.4% of surveyed children in both Albania and Kosovo respectively who are not stressed at all or stressed to a small extent by not being able to join school in the next fall due to financial problems (Table 1).

Interviewed children expressed sadness towards the cut-off feeling from school and classmates. A 14 years old girl in Kosovo said: *"It is bad that we have been locked, I miss my school and friends"*, a 13 years old girl in Albania said: *"I miss the large gatherings at school"*, a 15 years old boy in Albania said: *"I noticed that I have a gap and I need to work harder next year to achieve results"*.

Stress factors related to economic hardship

The majority of surveyed girls and boys in Albania & Kosovo also did not raise concerns over the socio-economic consequence of COVID-19. In fact, 84% of surveyed children in Albania and 88.5% in Kosovo said that they are not stressed at all or only to a small extent by the fact that they can fall into more poverty. Furthermore, 87.7% of surveyed children in Albania and 88.9% in Kosovo are not stressed at all or only to a small extent by missing out food at home and finally, 77.5% of surveyed girls and boys in Albania and 82.9% in Kosovo are not stressed at all or only to a small extent to see their parents losing their jobs and not being able to meet their needs (Table 1).

Stress factors related to social isolation

Normally developing adolescents always yearn to be with their peers and look ahead to the future. During the lockdown time, girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo said that their plans to hang out with friends and relatives have been upended due to social distancing measures. They said that even though they were respectful and aware of the importance of social distancing measures still they have suffered from less opportunity to be with their friends and from social isolation. A 16 years old boy in Albania said: *"Meetings and activities with World Vision IMPACT group and the Orthodox Church were also conducted online and we missed the human interactions"*, a 13 years old girl in Albania said: *"The situation caused by COVID-19 was very bad. I couldn't go out and I also cut ties with my friends immediately"*, a 14 years old girl in Kosovo said: *"It is bad that we are locked and cannot see our relatives and friends"*. A 13 years old girl in Albania said: *"I miss hugging my grandparents and meeting with Friends"*. Moreover, 60% of surveyed children in Albania and 52.9% in Kosovo said that they are stressed from a moderate to a large extent because they are isolated from their friends during the COVID-19 outbreak. Furthermore, 56.5% of surveyed children in Albania and 57.4% in Kosovo are also stressed from a moderate to a large extent because they cannot see their relatives due to lockdown measures (Table 1).

Stress factors related to fears from COVID-19

Girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo are experiencing worry and fear from possible contamination from COVID-19, and this can include the type of fears that are very similar to those experienced by adults, such as a fear of dying from COVID-19, a fear of their relatives dying from the virus, or a fear of what it means to receive medical treatment in case of contamination. A 15 years old girl in Albania said: *"I am afraid for my father who suffers from heart disease"*, a 13 years old girl in Albania said: *"I am scared even by a very weak cough"*, a 16 years old girl in Albania said: *"I feel anxious when I walk down the streets. I wonder whether the disease will catch me too"*. More than half of surveyed girls and boys in Albania & Kosovo are stressed from a medium to large extent about the health of their beloved ones (55% in Albania and 66.7% in Kosovo). However, they are less worried about their own health with 56.1% of surveyed children in Albania and 52.7% in Kosovo who are not at all stressed or stressed only to a small extent from catching COVID-19 (Table 1).

Gender analysis of stress factors

Gender lens analysis in Albania showed that girls (34.4%) are more likely than boys (23.1%) to stress to a large extent because they cannot meet and see relatives due to lockdown measures ($p=0.002$). Girls (34.2%) are also more likely than boys (22.6%) to stress to a large extent over the health of their parents or loved ones ($p=0.04$).

Gender lens analysis in Kosovo showed a difference between both gender over the concern related to falling into poverty ($p=0.02$). In fact, 13% of boys in comparison to 0% of girls are stressed to a large extent by the consequence of the economic hardship and worried about falling into poverty.

TABLE 1: STRESS FACTORS IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19 IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All %	Girls %	Boys %	P Value	All %	Girls %	Boys %	P Value
Missing out on school curricula and falling behind in class	Not at all	43%	45.4%	40.1%	0.46	65.6%	83.3%	42.9%	0.09
	Small extent	27.7%	24.5%	31.6%		18.8%	11.1%	28.6%	
	Medium extent	17%	17.1%	16.9%		9.4%	5.6%	14.3%	
	Large extent	12.2%	13%	11.3%		6.3%	0%	14.3%	
Missing out the school year and graduation	Not at all	65.5%	67.3%	63.4%	0.87	73.5%	84.2%	60%	0.21
	Small extent	13%	12.7%	13.4%		11.8%	10.5%	13.3%	
	Medium extent	10.9%	10.2%	11.6%		5.9%	5.3%	6.7%	
	Large extent	10.6%	9.8%	11.6%		8.8%	0%	20%	
Not being able to say goodbye to friends	Not at all	26%	23.7%	28.7%	0.29	27.6%	28.6%	26.7%	0.48
	Small extent	21.6%	19.4%	24.1%		17.2%	14.3%	20%	
	Medium extent	23.9%	26.5%	20.7%		24.1%	14.3%	33.3%	
	Large extent	28.6%	30.3%	26.4%		31%	42.9%	20%	
Not learning enough to be ready for school in the fall	Not at all	35.6%	33.8%	37.9%	0.68	44.1%	47.4%	40%	0.55
	Small extent	25.4%	25%	25.9%		20.6%	26.3%	13.3%	
	Medium extent	21%	23.1%	18.4%		17.6%	15.8%	20%	
	Large extent	17.9%	18.1%	17.8%		17.6%	10.5%	26.7%	
Not being able to go to school in the fall due to financial problems	Not at all	67.2%	69%	64.9%	0.53	73.5%	84.2%	60%	0.18
	Small extent	15.2%	13.6%	17.2%		8.8%	10.5%	6.7%	
	Medium extent	11.9%	10.8%	13.2%		11.8%	5.3%	20%	
	Large extent	5.7%	6.6%	4.6%		5.9%	0%	13.3%	
Falling into poverty	Not at all	66.2%	68.3%	63.5%	0.26	77.1%	95%	53.3%	0.02*
	Small extent	17.8%	16.7%	19.3%		11.4%	0%	26.7%	
	Medium extent	8.4%	6.5%	10.9%		5.7%	5%	6.7%	
	Large extent	7.5%	8.5%	6.3%		5.7%	0%	13.3%	
Not having access to food at home	Not at all	75.8%	75%	76.8%	0.82	80.6%	90.5%	66.7%	0.31
	Small extent	11.9%	12.9%	10.5%		8.3%	4.8%	13.3%	
	Medium extent	8.2%	7.7%	8.9%		8.3%	4.8%	13.3%	
	Large extent	4.1%	4.4%	3.7%		2.8%	0%	6.7%	
Parents losing their jobs	Not at all	54.5%	54.3%	54.7%	0.56	68.6%	80%	53.3%	0.13
	Small extent	23%	24.9%	20.5%		14.3%	15%	13.3%	
	Medium extent	12.6%	11%	14.7%		8.6%	5%	13.3%	
	Large extent	9.9%	9.8%	10%		8.6%	0%	20%	
Not being able to see my friends due to social	Not at all	19.4%	15.9%	23.9%	0.10	26.5%	2.2%	31.3%	0.73
	Small extent	20.6%	19.2%	22.3%		20.6%	27.8%	12.5%	

distancing measures and lockdown	Medium extent	30.7%	33.5%	27.1%		17.6%	16.7%	18.8%	
	Large extent	29.3%	31.4%	26.6%		35.3%	33.3%	37.5%	
Not being able to see older relatives due to social distancing and lockdown	Not at all	21.3%	19.1%	24.1%	0.002*	42.9%	52.6%	31.3%	0.15
	Small extent	22.2%	16.6%	29.2%		14.3%	21.1%	6.3%	
	Medium extent	27.1%	29.9%	23.6%		20%	15.8%	25%	
	Large extent	29.4%	34.4%	23.1%		22.9%	10.5%	37.5%	
Worried over the health of a parent or loved one catching COVID-19	Not at all	25.2%	21.4%	30.1%	0.04*	16.7%	15%	18.8%	0.92
	Small extent	19.8%	19.3%	20.4%		16.7%	20%	12.5%	
	Medium extent	25.9%	25.1%	26.9%		27.8%	25%	31.3%	
	Large extent	29.1%	34.2%	22.6%		38.9%	40%	37.5%	
Worried about myself catching COVID-19	Not at all	33.5%	31%	36.6%	0.54	33.3%	20%	50%	0.16
	Small extent	22.6%	22.6%	22.5%		19.4%	30%	6.3%	
	Medium extent	21.9%	22.2%	21.5%		25%	25%	25%	
	Large extent	22.1%	24.2%	19.4%		22.2%	25%	18%	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

3.3. Impact of COVID-19 on life at home and daily routine

Daily routine

In Albania and Kosovo, eating patterns were positively affected by COVID-19 outbreak. In fact, 45.3% of surveyed children in Albania and 72.7% of surveyed children in Kosovo are less eating alone in comparison to the period before the pandemic. Moreover, 51.3% of surveyed children in Albania and 62.9% in Kosovo are sharing more meals with family members after the pandemic. With regards to sleep time, more than half of the surveyed children (50% in Kosovo and 42.1% in Albania) continue to have the same sleeping patterns than before COVID-19 outbreak while almost the other half (49.9% in Albania and 42.1% in Kosovo) are sleeping more (Table 2).

With lockdown measure, physical activity level in surveyed Albanian children decreased with almost 46.4% who are doing less physical activity than before the pandemic. In Kosovo, 50% of surveyed children said that physical activity remained the same in comparison to before the pandemic and 30% said that it increased. Spending time outside home is definitely minimal with 70.8% of surveyed Albanian children and 52.8% of surveyed Kosovar children who said that it was less than the period before COVID-19. The time spent at home and with family expanded with 58.4% of surveyed girls and boys in Albania and 57.9% in Kosovo who said it was more comparing to the period before COVID-19. Spending time in person with friends was also affected by the pandemic with 67.3% of surveyed children in Albania and 62.9% in Kosovo who said it was less than the period before the outbreak. Moreover, meeting with friends remotely through social media increased for 58% of surveyed children in Albania and for 59.5% of surveyed children in Kosovo (Table 2). Spending time watching TV and playing games for both educational and non-educational purposes increased in Albania and Kosovo. In fact, 63.6% of surveyed children in Albania are more spending time online for education and 45.2% of surveyed children in Kosovo are more spending time online for leisure and gaming purposes (Table 2).

Increased responsibilities at home

Responsibilities at home for surveyed children in Albania and Kosovo were affected by the pandemic; 52.1% of surveyed children in Albania and 41.2% in Kosovo are more supporting in household chores. Furthermore, 43.2% of surveyed children in Albania and 55.6% in Kosovo are more taking care of sick family members and almost the half in both countries are more taking care of older family members and younger family members (Table 2).

Gender analysis of life at home and daily routine

In Albania, the difference between girls and boys is statistically significant in two daily life routines; supporting in household chores ($p < 0.0001$) and spending time remotely with friends ($p = 0.04$). In comparison to the period before the pandemic, 62.2% of surveyed girls in comparison to 37.9% of surveyed boys support more in household chores. After the pandemic, girls are also more likely than boys to spend time with friends remotely via online platforms and social media (Table 2).

In Kosovo, the gender difference is statistically significant in three daily life routines; supporting in household chores ($p = 0.02$), spending time outside home ($p = 0.02$) and spending time with friends in person ($p = 0.03$). While boys are more likely than girls to spend time outside home than before the pandemic, girls are more likely than boys to spend time with friends in-person than before the pandemic and to support in household chores (Table 2).

TABLE 2: IMPACT OF COVID-19 OUTBREAK ON GIRLS' AND BOYS' LIFE AT HOME IN KOSOVO AND ALBANIA

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children (%)	Girls (%)	Boys (%)	P value	All children (%)	Girls (%)	Boys (%)	P value
Eating alone	Less	45.3%	48.1%	41.7%	0.37	72.7%	76.5%	68.8%	0.71
	Same amount	41.3%	38.2%	45.2%		27.3%	23.5%	31.3%	
	More	13.4%	13.7%	13.1%		-	-	-	
Sharing meals with family members	Less	4.9%	6%	3.5%	0.43	8.6%	10%	6.7%	0.90
	Same amount	43.8%	42.4%	45.5%		28.6%	30%	26.7%	
	More	51.3%	51.6%	51%		62.9%	60%	66.7%	
Sleeping	Less	8%	8.2%	7.7%	0.70	7.9%	0%	17.6%	0.13
	Same amount	42.1%	40.3%	44.3%		50%	52.4%	47.1%	
	More	49.9%	51.4%	47.9%		42.1%	47.6%	35.3%	
Physical activity	Less	46.4%	43.7%	50%	0.42	19.4%	10.5%	29.4%	0.18
	Same amount	27.8%	29%	26.3%		50%	47.4%	52.9%	
	More	25.7%	27.3%	23.7%		30.6%	42.1%	17.6%	
Spending time outside home	Less	70.8%	72.1%	69.3%	0.78	52.8%	35%	75%	0.02*
	Same amount	15.3%	15%	15.6%		16.7%	30%	0%	
	More	13.9%	13%	15.1%		30.6%	35%	25%	
Spending time with family	Less	10.1%	7.2%	13.8%	0.06	10.5%	4.8%	17.6%	0.15
	Same amount	31.5%	31.2%	31.8%		31.6%	23.8%	41.2%	
	More	58.4%	61.6%	54.4%		57.9%	71.4%	41.2%	
Supporting in household chores	Less	7.6%	4.3%	12.1%	<0.0001*	14.7%	0%	35.7%	0.02*
	Same amount	40.4%	33.5%	50%		44.1%	50%	35.7%	
	More	52.1%	62.2%	37.9%		41.2%	50%	28.6%	
Taking care of younger family members	Less	9.5%	6.7%	13.2%	0.07	13.3%	0%	30.8%	0.05
	Same amount	49.3%	48.2%	50.7%		46.7%	52.9%	38.5%	
	More	41.2%	45.1%	36.1%		40%	47.1%	30.8%	
Taking care of older family members	Less	8.2%	7.6%	8.9%	0.51	6.9%	6.7%	7.1%	0.23
	Same amount	42.3%	39.9%	45.5%		41.4%	26.7%	57.1%	
	More	49.5%	52.5%	45.5%		51.7%	66.7%	35.7%	
Taking care of sick family members	Less	17.6%	16.7%	18.8%	0.31	27.8%	27.3%	28.6%	0.98
	Same amount	39.2%	35.7%	43.8%		16.7%	18.2%	14.3%	
	More	43.2%	47.6%	37.5%		55.6%	54.5%	57.1%	

Spending time with friends in-person	Less	67.3%	68.6%	65.6%	0.80	62.9%	45%	86.7%	0.03*
	Same amount	17.6%	16.7%	18.8%		11.4%	20%	0%	
	More	15.1%	14.7%	15.6%		25.7%	35%	13.3%	
Spending time with friends remotely (e.g., online, social media, texting)	Less	15.1%	11.3%	19.9%	0.04*	5.4%	4.8%	6.3%	0.94
	Same amount	26.9%	27.5%	26%		35.1%	33.3%	37.5%	
	More	58%	61.1%	54.1%		59.5%	61.9%	56.3%	
Spending time watching TV and online for educational purposes	Less	6.9%	7.5%	6.1%	0.65	8.1%	4.8%	12.5%	0.69
	Same amount	29.5%	28%	31.5%		27%	28.6%	25%	
	More	63.6%	64.6%	62.4%		64.9%	66.7%	62.5%	
Spending time watching TV and online for non-educational purposes	Less	21.9%	26%	16.6%	0.08	22.6%	25%	20%	0.67
	Same amount	31.9%	29.6%	34.9%		32.3%	37.5%	26.7%	
	More	46.2%	44.4%	48.5%		45.2%	37.5%	53.3%	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

3.4. Impact of COVID-19 on psycho-social well being

Negative emotions

COVID-19 amplified social isolation and contributed to fading friendships, to missing educational and social milestones, to missing physical touch with grandparents, relatives and friends, to disrupted education and to challenging family relationships. A 16 years old boy in Albania said: “*Being stuck at home all day long makes you upset or frustrated whether you like it or not*”, a 13 years old girl in Albania said: “*I was feeling distress during the lockdown at home*”. The majority of surveyed children in Albania and Kosovo most often did not express those negative emotions as consequences of COVID-19. In fact, 78.7% of surveyed children in Albania and 73% in Kosovo said that during the outbreak they never or rarely felt lonely; 76.9% of surveyed children in Albania and 81% in Kosovo said they never or rarely been scared; 72.8% in Albania and 84.9% in Kosovo never or rarely been confused; 67.2% in Albania and 59.4% in Kosovo never or rarely been worried; 69.6% in Albania and 67.5% in Kosovo never or rarely been stressed; and 69.1% in Albania and 78.4% in Kosovo never or rarely been sad. Boredom at home was the only negative emotion expressed most often by 46.4% of surveyed children in Albania while in Kosovo 35.1% of children said they were rarely bored at home. (Table 3). No significant gender association was observed with children’s negative emotions (Table 3).

Positive emotions and Resilience

Interviewed Girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo are responding to the challenges created by the pandemic, and working towards bettering their own lives and the lives of those around them. Interviewed girls and boys said that spending quality time with family did help in coping with boredom, and dealing with a sense of loss, instils a feeling of security, inculcates family values, and much more. A 15 years old girl in Albania said: “*I have spent most of my time with my parents, I can even say that our relationship got better and maybe we love each other more than before*”, a 16 years old boy in Albania said: “*Usually my father is authoritative and does not ask for my opinion since I am young. However during the pandemic he asked for my opinion several times and this was something different I never noticed before*”. Moreover, time in lockdown has given many girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo an opportunity to manage their own boredom, it has taught children resourcefulness and how to foster creativity. It has given them responsibility for occupying their time, has built their

independence and allowed them to experience the satisfaction this brings. A 16 years old boy said: “During the pandemic period, I read many psychological books. This activity helped me to spend good time at home and to better express my emotions” another 16 years old boy said: “I was able to cook with my parents, to learn how to set the table”.

Furthermore, 48.4% of surveyed children in Albania said they are most often optimistic about the future while in Kosovo children are less optimistic with 69.7% who said they are never or rarely optimistic about the future. Approximately half (55.3%) of surveyed children in Albania feel most often useful while in Kosovo 44.1% feel rarely or never useful. In both countries, half of surveyed children sometimes and often feel relaxed. Dealing well with problem and thinking clearly is also prominent with 49.8% and 58.4% of surveyed children respectively who do it most often in Albania and 69.4% and 33.3% who do it sometimes to often respectively in Kosovo. Making up the mind is also prominent in 54.6% of children in Kosovo and 63.9% in Albania who use it most often (Table 3). No significant gender association was observed with children’s resilience mechanisms (Table 3).

TABLE 3: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GIRLS' AND BOYS' PSYCHO-SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
I feel bored at home	None of the time	14.5%	12.8%	16.7%	0.44	13.5%	14.3%	12.5%	0.55
	Rarely	32.1%	30.8%	33.8%		35.1%	28.6%	43.8%	
	Some of the time	20%	19.5%	20.6%		18.9%	14.3%	25%	
	Often	26.4%	28.9%	23%		29.7%	38.1%	18.8%	
	All the time	7%	7.9%	5.9%		2.7%	4.8%	0%	
I feel worried	None of the time	27.8%	26.9%	28.9%	0.94	21.6%	19%	25%	0.26
	Rarely	39.4%	39.6%	39.2%		37.8%	38.1%	37.5%	
	Some of the time	15.5%	15.4%	15.7%		13.5%	4.8%	25%	
	Often	14.7%	15%	14.2%		24.3%	33.3%	12.5%	
	All the time	2.6%	3.1%	2%		2.7%	4.8%	0%	
I feel scared	None of the time	45.5%	42.5%	49.3%	0.60	48.6%	42.9%	56.3%	0.05
	Rarely	31.4%	32.2%	30.3%		32.4%	38.1%	25%	
	Some of the time	13%	13.8%	11.9%		8.1%	0%	18.8%	
	Often	8%	8.8%	7%		10.8%	19%	0%	
	All the time	2.2%	2.7%	1.5%		-	-	-	
I feel confused	None of the time	39.9%	32.9	40.5%	0.96	48.5%	44.4%	53.3%	0.16
	Rarely	32.9%	32%	34%		36.4%	38.9%	33.3%	
	Some of the time	14.7%	15.4%	13.7%		6.1%	0%	13.3%	
	Often	10.3%	10%	10.7%		9.1%	16.7%	0%	
	All the time	2.2%	1.9%	2.5%		-	-	-	
I feel stressed	None of the time	37.1%	37.8%	36.2%	0.12	32.4%	23.8%	43.8%	0.55
	Rarely	32.5%	27.8%	38.7%		35.1%	38.1%	31.3%	
	Some of the time	14.4%	16.6%	11.6%		10.8%	9.5%	12.5%	
	Often	13.1%	14.7%	11.1%		16.2%	19.0%	12.5%	
	All the time	2.8%	3.1%	2.5%		5.4%	9.5%	0%	
I feel sad	None of the time	38.2%	33.8%	44%	0.28	54.1%	52.4%	56.3%	0.25
	Rarely	30.9%	32.7%	28.5%		24.3%	28.6%	18.8%	
	Some of the time	15.1%	16.7%	13%		5.4%	0%	12.5%	
	Often	12.5%	13.3%	11.5%		13.5%	19%	6.3%	

	All the time	3.2%	3.4%	3%		2.7%	0%	6.3%	
I feel lonely	None of the time	61.6%	60.1%	63.6%	0.81	59.5%	57.1%	62.5%	0.76
	Rarely	17.1%	17.1%	17.2%		13.5%	14.3%	12.5%	
	Some of the time	9.9%	10.9%	8.6%		8.1%	4.8%	12.5%	
	Often	8.8%	9.7%	7.6%		13.5%	19%	6.3%	
	All the time	2.6%	2.3%	3%		5.4%	4.8%	6.3%	
I feel optimistic about the future	None of the time	13.3%	15.2%	13.3%	0.48	42.4%	41.2%	43.8%	0.15
	Rarely	18.9%	19.9%	18.9%		27.3%	41.2%	12.5%	
	Some of the time	19.4%	19.5%	19.4%		12.1%	0%	25%	
	Often	23.9%	23%	23.9%		6.1%	5.9%	6.3%	
	All the time	24.5%	22.3%	24.5%		12.1%	11.8%	12.5%	
I feel useful	None of the time	9.4%	9.5%	9.3%	1.00	23.5%	21.1%	26.7%	0.61
	Rarely	13.7%	13.5%	14%		20.6%	21.1%	20%	
	Some of the time	21.6%	21%	22.3%		17.6%	10.5%	26.7%	
	Often	33.5%	34.1%	32.6%		23.5%	26.3%	20%	
	All the time	21.8%	21.8%	21.8%		14.7%	21.1%	6.7%	
I feel relaxed	None of the time	7.8%	9%	6.2%	0.75	11.1%	9.5%	13.3%	0.14
	Rarely	22.9%	23.5%	22.2%		25%	28.6%	20%	
	Some of the time	24.1%	23.1%	25.3%		11.1%	0%	26.7%	
	Often	27.2%	27.5%	26.8%		38.9%	47.6%	26.7%	
	All the time	18.0%	16.9%	19.6%		13.9%	14.3%	13.3%	
I've been dealing with problem well	None of the time	9.9%	10.2%	9.6%	0.40	11.4%	10%	13.3%	0.22
	Rarely	17.2%	18.4%	15.4%		11.4%	10%	13.3%	
	Some of the time	23%	22%	24.5%		22.9%	10%	40%	
	Often	27.5%	29.8%	24.5%		40%	50%	26.7%	
	All the time	22.3%	19.6%	26.1%		14.3%	20%	6.7%	
I've been thinking clearly	None of the time	4.4%	3.9%	5.1%	0.34	13.9%	14.3%	13.3%	0.27
	Rarely	15.1%	13.5%	17.2%		5.6%	4.8%	6.7%	
	Some of the time	22.1%	21.2%	23.2%		22.2%	9.5%	40%	
	Often	30.2%	34%	25.3%		47.2%	57.1%	33.3%	
	All the time	28.2%	27.4%	29.3%		11.1%	14.3%	6.7%	
I feel close to other people	None of the time	9.1%	7%	11.9%	0.37	16.7%	4.8%	33.3%	0.05
	Rarely	23.2%	22.7%	23.8%		27.8%	33.3%	20%	
	Some of the time	17.6%	17.2%	18.1%		8.3%	4.8%	13.3%	
	Often	27.4%	29.7%	24.4%		33.3%	47.6%	13.3%	
	All the time	22.7%	23.4%	21.8%		13.9%	9.5%	20%	
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	None of the time	4.9%	6%	3.6%	0.37	2.8%	0%	6.7%	0.34
	Rarely	18.1%	17.1%	19.5%		16.7%	14.3%	20%	
	Some of the time	22.4%	19.8%	25.6%		16.7%	9.5%	26.7%	
	Often	31.8%	34.1%	28.7%		41.7%	52.4%	26.7%	
	All the time	22.8%	23%	22.6%		22.2%	23.8%	20%	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

3.5. Impact of COVID-19 outbreak on education

Deprivation from education and distance learning

During the imposed lockdown, some schools and teachers in Albania and Kosovo scrambled to get coursework through media channels such as TV, social media platforms and online platforms. Some other schools did not shift to distance learning and many children were deprived from their education. Moreover, given the lack of access to TV, internet connection, electronic devices, electricity, and educational resources, some girls and boys have been left without any distance learning opportunities at all.

Out of the surveyed children enrolled in formal education, 83.6% (n=321) in Albania and 80% (n=24) in Kosovo said that their school shifted to distance learning through different platforms during the outbreak while 16.4% (n=64) in Albania and 20% (n=6) in Kosovo were completely deprived from continuing any learning for this school year. Among those whose school shifted to distance learning in Albania, 54.1% of surveyed children always followed distance learning through social media platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp while 49.6% always followed on their coursework through online platforms such as Zoom and MEET. In Kosovo, 74.2% of surveyed children whose school shifted to distance always followed the distance learning through online platforms. More information on distance learning and frequency of using learning platforms are available in Table 4.

Gender difference in attending distance learning

Surveyed girls in Kosovo are more likely to attend distance learning than surveyed boys (p=0.04). In fact, 93.8% of surveyed girls versus 64.3% of surveyed boys said that they are attending distance learning classes. Furthermore, in Kosovo, 100% of surveyed girls versus 42.9% of surveyed boys are attending online learning via platforms such as Zoom, MEET, etc. (p<0.0001) (Table 4).

TABLE 4: DISTANCE LEARNING METHOD FOR GIRLS AND BOYS IN ALBANIA & KOSOVO

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Online platforms (Zoom, MEET, etc.)	Never	9%	11.5%	6%	0.19	-	-	-	0.0001*
	Rarely	8.2%	8.1%	8.3%		-	-	-	
	Some of the time	9.8%	11.5%	7.7%		-	-	-	
	Often	23.3%	23.4%	23.2%		25.8%	0%	57.1%	
	Always	49.6%	45.5%	54.8%		74.2%	100%	42.9%	
Regular media (TV, radio)	Never	14.4%	15.4%	13.3%	0.56	26.7%	17.6%	38.5%	0.14
	Rarely	14.2%	14.9%	13.3%		10%	11.8%	7.7%	
	Some of the time	14.4%	13.9%	15.1%		3.3%	0%	7.7%	
	Often	26.7%	28.9%	24.1%		13.3%	5.9%	23.1%	
	Always	30.2%	26.9%	34.3%		46.7%	64.7%	23.1%	
Social media (Facebook, Whatsapp, etc.)	Never	5.9%	7.3%	4.1%	0.70	11.5%	0%	25%	0.06
	Rarely	6.7%	6.8%	6.5%		23.1%	14.3%	33.3%	
	Some of the time	8.5%	8.8%	8.2%		7.7%	7.1%	8.3%	
	Often	24.8%	25.4%	24.1%		11.5%	7.1%	16.7%	
	Always	54.1%	51.7%	57.1%		46.2%	71.4%	16.7%	
School intranet	Never	17%	17.7%	16.1%	0.31	40%	28.6%	54.5%	0.12
	Rarely	8.5%	10.3%	6.2%		4%	7.1%	0%	
	Some of the time	7.7%	9.4%	5.6%		-	-	-	
	Often	23.1%	21.7%	24.8%		16%	7.1%	27.3%	

	Always	43.7%	40.9%	47.2%		40%	57.1%	18.2%
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*Significant if $p < 0.05$

Children concerns on distance learning

Children whose school shifted to distance learning in Albania (n=321) and Kosovo (n=24) were asked about their biggest concerns with regards to this new learning method. In Albania, 64.2% were concerned about the possibility to continue the school year with this method and 63.8% were concerned about being isolated from classmates during lessons. In Kosovo, the biggest concern is related to unavailable/ weak connection for 69.6% of surveyed children followed by concern over the possibility to continue the school year with this method for 55% of children. More information on children’s concerns related to online learning are displayed in Figure 4.

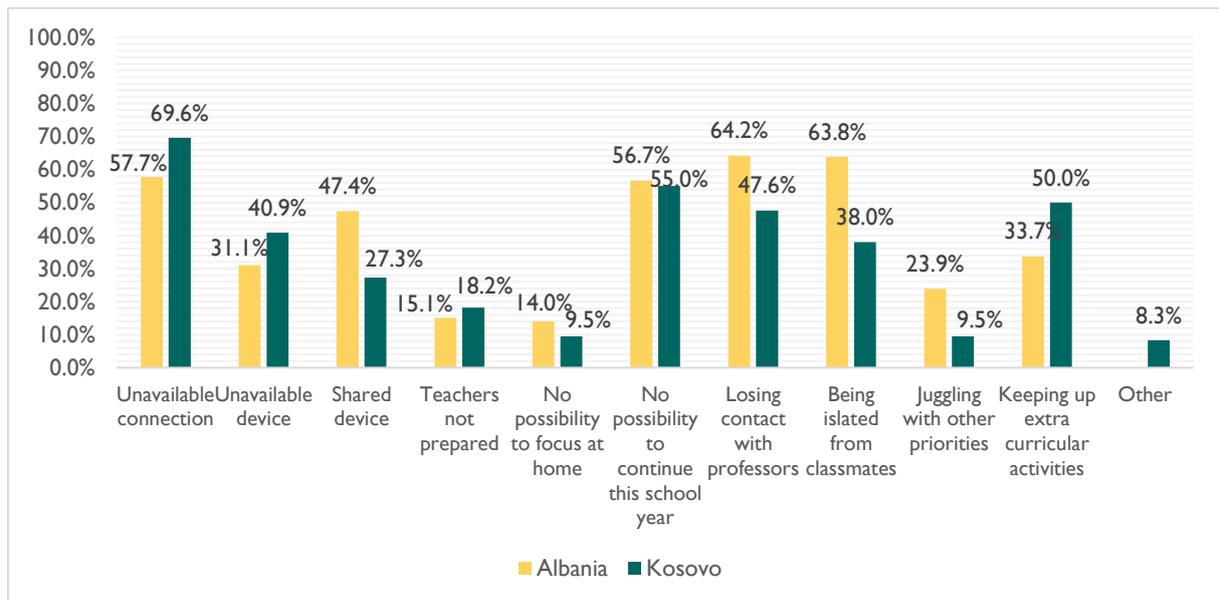


FIGURE 4: CHILDREN CONCERNS ON DISTANCE LEARNING IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

Interviewed children echoed the concerns of surveyed children. A 16 years old boy in Albania said: “I was constantly on the phone and the phone was shared between my mother, my sister and myself and our schedules were overlapping”, another 16 years old boy in Albania said: “Online learning has been a little more difficult than it is at school because the opportunities to understand or ask questions are more limited through the phone than in the classroom”.

Gender difference related to concerns from distance learning

In Albania, a gender difference was observed in the concern related to preparedness of teachers ($p=0.03$). In fact, 19.9% of surveyed boys whose school shifted to distance learning versus 11.1% of surveyed girls are concerned about this issue. Girls are more likely than boys to be concerned about juggling with other priorities ($p=0.02$). In fact, 29.1% of surveyed girls whose school shifted to distance learning in comparison to 17.7% of surveyed boys are concerned about this issue (Figure 5).

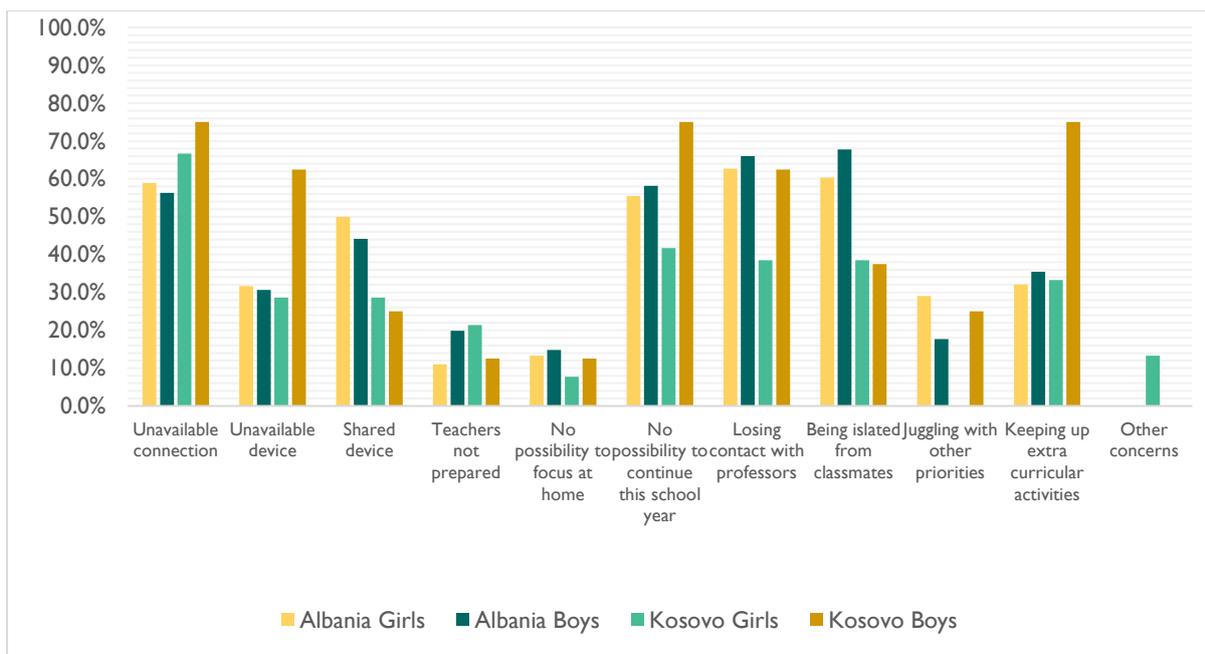


FIGURE 5: GIRLS' AND BOYS' CONCERNS ON DISTANCE LEARNING IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

Stressful school experience

In Albania, 41.6% of surveyed children who were previously enrolled in formal education said that the COVID-19 outbreak has been somewhat stressful to their usual school experience. In Kosovo 48.1% said also the same (Figure 6). No significant gender difference was observed in both countries.

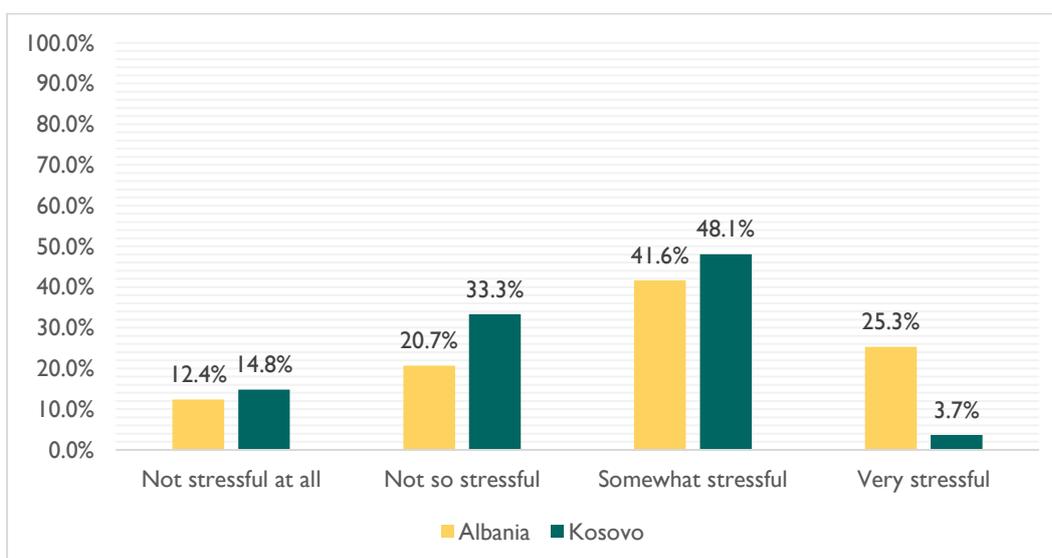


FIGURE 6: IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON USUAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE OF CHILDREN PREVIOUSLY ENROLLED IN FORMAL EDUCATION IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

3.6. Impact of COVID-19 on early child Marriage

Girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo said that a pandemic like this presents unique challenges that can increase the number of child marriages. With more exacerbated poverty, families are more likely to marry off daughters in times of economic stress to alleviate the perceived burden of caring for them. A 15 years old girl in Albania said: “Many children are worried about early marriage, in fact, they are very worried because their parents can force them to get engaged against their will”. A 16 years old

girl in Albania said: “Some cases of early marriage happened before the pandemic and children are worried the same could happen to them during this period”.

3.7. Impact of COVID-19 on child labour

According to interviewed girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo, the COVID-19 pandemic increased financial insecurity for families and resulted in losses of household income, which intensified the expectations that girls and boys can contribute financially to support the family income. School closure have exacerbated these tendencies. In Albania and Kosovo, the poverty caused by extended warfare has forced many girls and boys to seek to supplement their household income by getting jobs of their own. A 14 years old boy in Albania said: “Some children in my community sell items in the street because they do not have the necessary income to live and that makes them insecure facing strangers in the cars passing by and bullied by friends. They can be in danger of trafficking or dying because they pass in front of cars to sell candles. They often skip school to work every Tuesday”, a 16 years old boy in Albania said: “Two girls from my school went to Turkey with their family for work”, a 13 years old boy in Albania said: “I know friends who have skipped online classes as they have been forced to work during this period to support their families”.

Survey results showed that child labour remained the same in Albania with 2.1% (n=10) and in Kosovo with 5.3% (n=2) children who said they are working since COVID-19. Work since COVID-19 is focused on food service for boys and on online work and sport activity for girls (Table 5).

TABLE 5: WORK TYPE FOR GIRLS AND BOYS SINCE COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

	Paid work	n (%)
Boys in Albania (n=8)	Construction	1 (12.5%)
	Agriculture	1 (12.5%)
	Waiter	5 (62.5%)
	War wage (quarantine benefits in Albania)	1 (12.5%)
Girls in Albania (n=2)	Online work	1 (50%)
	Sport activity	1 (50%)
Boys in Kosovo (n=2)	Agriculture	1 (50%)
	Online work	1 (50%)

3.8. Violence against children during COVID-19 outbreak

Physical and emotional violence

Girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo are at an increased risk of violence at home, resulting from a variety of compounding structural, interpersonal and individual-level risk factors, including the increased economic strain placed on families, stay-at-home orders, school closures and other COVID-19 response measures. Girls and boys said that added family stresses related to the COVID-19 crisis – including job loss, isolation, excessive confinement, and anxieties over health and finances – heighten the risk of physical and emotional violence in the home. A 16 years old girl in Albania said: “I have heard that some children face domestic violence during isolation. This is due to families’ inability to provide the necessary food, or the boredom and stress caused by staying at home for long time”, a 16 years old boy said: “The pandemic has caused many negative emotions and parents became more aggressive”.

When children were asked about the experience of physical and emotional violence 32.7% (n=153) of children in Albania and 26.1% (n=9) in Kosovo reported that have experience at least one case of physical and emotional violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the COVID-19 outbreak 7.3% (n=35) of surveyed Albanian children and 5.3% (n=2) of surveyed Kosovar children reported at least one case of physical violence. In Albania, 2.8% said that they were once hit, slapped or kicked and in Kosovo 2.9% said the same. In Albania, 3.3% said that their hair was once pulled and 1.1% that they were forced to stay on their knees (Table 6).

TABLE 6: PHYSICAL VIOLENCE REPORTED BY GIRLS AND BOYS IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Reported physical violence		7.3%	7.1%	7.7%	0.79	5.3%	0%	11.8%	0.11
Hit/ slapped/ kicked	Never	95.7%	95%	96.5%	0.67	97.1%	100%	92.9%	0.21
	Once	2.8%	3.1%	2.5%		2.9%	0%	7.1%	
	Sometimes	1.5%	1.9%	1%		-	-	-	
	Often	-	-	-		-	-	-	
Hair pulled	Never	95%	94.6%	95.6%	0.83	97.1%	100%	92.9%	0.21
	Once	3.3%	3.5%	3%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%		2.9%	0%	7.1%	
	Often	0.2%	0.4%	0%		-	-	-	
Forced to stay on their knees	Never	97.8%	97.7%	98%	0.61	100%	100%	100%	-
	Once	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	1.1%	1.6%	0.5%		-	-	-	
	Often	0.7%	0.4%	1%		-	-	-	
Other physical harm	Never	98.5%	98.1%	99.2%	0.64	100%	100%	100%	-
	Once	0.4%	0.6%	0%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	-	-	-		-	-	-	
	Often	1.1%	1.3%	0.8%		-	-	-	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

In Albania, 50% of children who experienced physical violence said that the perpetrator was someone from the family and 42.9% said it was a friend. In Kosovo 1 child said it was another known adult and one other child said no one (Table 7). The gender lens analysis showed that in Albania, girls are more likely than boys to report the perpetrator of physical violence as another adult they know ($p=0.02$) (Table 7).

TABLE 7: PERPETRATORS OF PHYSICAL VIOLENCE REPORTED BY SURVEYED GIRLS AND BOYS IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Someone from the family	No	50%	50%	50%	1.00	100%	-	100%	-
	Yes	50%	50%	50%		-	-	-	
Another adult they know	No	73.3%	56.3%	92.9%	0.02*	50%	-	50%	-
	Yes	26.7%	43.8%	7.1%		50%	-	50%	
Friend	No	57.1%	61.5%	53.3%	0.66	100%	-	100%	-
	Yes	42.9%	38.5%	46.7%		-	-	-	
Teacher	No	82.1%	84.6%	80%	0.75	100%	-	100%	-

	Yes	17.9%	15.4%	20%		-	-	-	
Someone I do not know	No	74.1%	61.5%	85.7%	0.15	100%	-	100%	-
	Yes	25.9%	38.5%	14.3%		-	-	-	
No one	No	70.8%	83.3%	58.3%	0.18	50%	-	50%	-
	Yes	29.2%	16.7%	41.7%		50%	-	50%	
I refuse to answer	No	70%	58.3%	87.5%	0.16	100%	-	100%	-
	Yes	30%	41.7%	12.5%		-	-	-	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

With regards to emotional violence, 31% of surveyed girls and boys in Albania and 18.4% in Kosovo reported at least once a case of emotional violence. Namely, 24.7% of surveyed children in Albania and 12.5% in Kosovo said that once or sometimes someone shouted and screamed at them. 8.3% of surveyed children in Albania said that someone called them by names or sworn at them and 8.1% in Albania and 6.3% in Kosovo said that someone made them feel unimportant (Table 8).

TABLE 8: EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE REPORTED BY GIRLS AND BOYS IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Reported emotional violence		31%	31.6%	30.3%	0.76	18.4%	23.8%	11.8%	0.34
Shouted and screamed at you	Never	74%	72.7%	75.7%	0.81	87.5%	90%	83.3%	0.58
	Once	15.1%	15.2%	14.9%		12.5%	10%	16.7%	
	Sometimes	9.6%	10.5%	8.4%		-	-	-	
	Often	1.3%	1.6%	1%		-	-	-	
Called names/ sworn at you	Never	89.9%	91.4%	88.1%	0.22	96.9%	100%	91.7%	0.38
	Once	5.9%	4.7%	7.5%		3.1%	0%	8.3%	
	Sometimes	2.4%	1.6%	3.5%		-	-	-	
	Often	1.8%	2.4%	1%		-	-	-	
Humiliate you	Never	92.8%	92.6%	93.1%	0.75	96.9%	100%	91.7%	0.38
	Once	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%		3.1%	0%	8.3%	
	Sometimes	1.5%	1.9%	1%		-	-	-	
	Often	1.1%	0.8%	1.5%		-	-	-	
Threatened you	Never	95.4%	95.3%	95.5%	0.79	100%	100%	100%	-
	Once	2%	2.3%	1.5%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	2%	2%	2%		-	-	-	
	Often	0.7%	0.4%	1%		-	-	-	
Made you uncomfortable by standing close to you	Never	95.4%	94.9%	96%	0.20	100%	100%	100%	-
	Once	2.8%	2.3%	3.5%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	1.1%	2%	0%		-	-	-	
	Often	0.7%	0.8%	0.5%		-	-	-	
Made you feel unimportant	Never	90.8%	89.1%	93%	0.28	90.6%	85%	100%	0.37
	Once	5.5%	6.6%	4%		6.3%	10%	0%	
	Sometimes	2.6%	3.5%	1.5%		-	-	-	
	Often	1.1%	0.8%	1.5%		3.1%	5%	0%	
	Never	97.3%	98.6%	95.8%	0.15	90.5%	85.7%	100%	0.58
	Once	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%		4.8%	7.1%	0%	

Other emotional	Sometimes	1.1%	0%	2.5%		-	-	-	
	Often	-	-	-		4.8%	7.1%	0%	

* Significant if $p < 0.05$

Surveyed children who reported emotional violence said that the perpetrator was someone from their family (31.9% in Albania and 16.7% in Kosovo) or another adult they know (12.6% in Albania and 16.7% in Kosovo). Furthermore, 24.3% of surveyed children in Albania said that it was a friend (Table 9). No significant gender difference was observed concerning reported emotional violence.

TABLE 9: PERPETRATORS OF EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE REPORTED BY SURVEYED GIRLS AND BOYS IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Someone from the family	No	68.1%	68.8%	67.3%	0.87	83.3%	75%	100%	1.00
	Yes	31.9%	31.3%	32.7%		16.7%	25%	0%	
Another adult they know	No	87.4%	85%	90.2%	0.41	83.3%	75%	100%	0.44
	Yes	12.6%	15%	9.8%		16.7%	25%	0%	
Friend	No	75.7%	76.7%	74.5%	0.79	100%	100%	100%	-
	Yes	24.3%	23.3%	25.5%		-	-	-	
Teacher	No	94.4%	94.7%	94%	0.87	100%	100%	100%	-
	Yes	5.6%	5.3%	6%		-	-	-	
Someone I do not know	No	90.1%	91.5%	88.5%	0.59	100%	100%	100%	-
	Yes	9.9%	8.5%	11.5%		-	-	-	
No one	No	75.5%	72.9%	78.4%	0.50	71.4%	60%	100%	1.00
	Yes	24.5%	27.1%	21.6%		28.6%	40%	0%	
I refuse to answer	No	79.8%	80.4%	78.9%		100%	100%	100%	-
	Yes	20.2%	19.6%	21.1%		-	-	-	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

Violence in the community

Surveyed children in Albania & Kosovo were asked if they have been aware or have heard of children experiencing any forms of inappropriate intimate behaviours from adults or their peers during the COVID-19 outbreak in their community. In Albania, most of the children (87.8%) said that they were never aware of any case of intimate violence in their community, 6% (n=27) have sometimes heard of someone who experienced intimate violence, twenty children (4.5%) have heard at least once about someone who experienced intimate violence and finally eight children (1.8%) said they often have heard about intimate violence in their community (Figure 7). In Kosovo, 83.9% of surveyed children never heard about intimate violence in their community while 6.5% (n=2) have heard about it once and 9.7% (n=3) sometimes. (Figure 7). No gender difference was observed between girls and boys with regards to noticing intimate violence in the community ($p=0.50$ for Albania, $p=0.43$ for Kosovo).

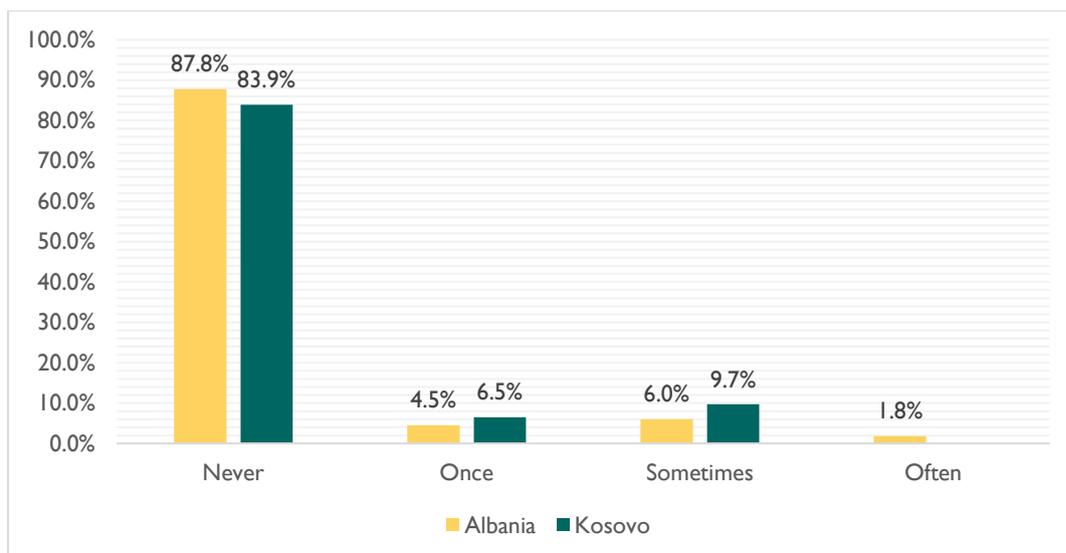


FIGURE 7: INTIMATE VIOLENCE HEARD BY SURVEYED CHILDREN IN ALBANIA & KOSOVO

Online risks

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an unprecedented rise in screen time among girls and boys in Albania and host countries. With school closures and strict containment measures mean, more and more children relied on technology and digital solutions to keep learning, entertained and connected to the outside world, but not all girls and boys have the necessary knowledge, skills and resources to keep themselves safe online. Girls and boys said that spending more time on virtual platforms exposed them to potentially harmful and violent content as well as greater cyberbullying. A 16 years old boy in Albania said: “A girl was cyberbullied when a video of her being yelled by her mother during a cooking class went viral”, a 13 years old boy in Albania said: “Someone sent me insults and inappropriate requests on Instagram and I blocked them”, a 16 years old girl in Albania said: “I know a girl who was threatened online and her friends intervened and helped her”

Online harm is reported as present by 13.6% of children in Albania and 23.6% of children in Kosovo during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Albania, 9.1% of surveyed children and in Kosovo 17.6% of surveyed children have once to sometimes heard about children in their community who were exposed to inappropriate harmful content while surfing the net. Furthermore, 14.7% of surveyed children in Kosovo most often heard about children who were asked to send their photos online, 4% of surveyed children in Albania have once to sometimes heard about children who were asked to send nude photos of them online, while 8.8% in Kosovo have once to sometimes heard about children threatened by publishing their photos. Finally, 8.8% of surveyed children in Kosovo have most often heard about children who were forced to watch pornographic or inappropriate content (Table 10). Gender lens analysis showed that boys are more likely than girls to hear about other children who were exposed to inappropriate content once while surfing the net ($p=0.02$) (Table 10).

TABLE 10: ONLINE RISKS HEARD BY SURVEYED CHILDREN IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Inappropriate content while surfing	Never	90.1%	89.9%	90.4%	0.02*	79.4%	85%	71.4%	0.15
	Once	6.2%	4.3%	8.6%		8.8%	10%	7.1%	
	Sometimes	2.9%	4.3%	1%		8.8%	0%	21.4%	

	Often	0.9%	1.6%	0%		2.9%	5%	0%	
Ask to send photos	Never	91.2%	89.8%	92.9%	0.26	85.3%	90%	78.6%	0.61
	Once	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	2.9%	3.5%	2%		5.9%	5%	7.1%	
	Often	0.9%	1.6%	0%		8.8%	5%	14.3%	
Ask send nude photos	Never	94.9%	93.3%	97%	0.15	97%	95%	100%	1.00
	Once	2.2%	2.4%	2%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	1.8%	2.4%	1%		3%	5%	0%	
	Often	1.1%	2%	0%		-	-	-	
Threatened publish photos	Never	94.5%	92.2%	97.5%	0.08	91.2%	90%	92.9%	0.68
	Once	2.6%	3.5%	1.5%					
	Sometimes	2.2%	3.5%	0.5%		2.9%	5%	0%	
	Often	0.7%	0.8%	0.5%		5.9%	5%	7.1%	
Forced to watch inappropriate content	Never	97.1%	96.5%	98%	0.39	94.1%	90%	100%	0.48
	Once	0.9%	1.2%	0.5%		-	-	-	
	Sometimes	1.8%	2.4%	1%		2.9%	5%	0%	
	Often	0.2%	0%	0.5%		2.9%	5%	0%	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

3.9. Support, asks and contributions

Support

When girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo were asked about the resources and support they need during the COVID-19 fight, they first mentioned the support needed from parents and caregivers to help them cope with changes and violence resulting from the pandemic. “An abused child can lose hope for life if parents do not support him” said a 15 years old girl in Albania, another 15 years old girl in Albania said: “Children need their parents’ support; not only emotional support but also material support”. Furthermore, in Albania, when surveyed children are exposed to different stress factors, 91.9% of them reach out to their parents for support. 77.2% reach out to siblings, 64.9% reach out to friends, 22.3% to faith leaders in their community, 45.8% reach out to the teacher or the school counsellor and 51.6% to grandparents. Furthermore, 72.8% would pray and 15.9% would call a CP hotline (Table 11). There is a statistical difference between girls and boys who asked for parental support. In fact, boys (88.2%) are less likely than girls (94.7%) to ask for parental support ($p=0.02$). Girls (78.7%) are also more likely than boys (65.5%) to pray when they need support ($p=0.002$) (Table 11).

In Kosovo, 94.3% of surveyed children ask for their parents’ support when they face stress factors, 86.5% ask for support from siblings, 52.8% from grandparents, 44.4% from other family members, 41.7% from teacher or school counsellor, 75.7% from a friend, 20.6% from faith leaders in their community. Moreover, 91.7% find in prayers a way to be supported and relieved, 25.6% call a child protection hotline to ask for support (Table 11). Gender analysis showed that in Kosovo, girls (100%) are more likely than boys (81.3%) to pray asking for support ($p=0.04$). (Table 11).

TABLE 11: CHILDREN ASK FOR SUPPORT IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

	Albania				Kosovo			
	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Parents	91.9%	94.7%	88.2%	0.02*	94.3%	95.2%	92.9%	1.00
Siblings	77.2%	78.2%	75.7%	0.53	86.5%	76.2%	100%	0.06
Grandparents	51.6%	52.2%	50.8%	0.76	52.8%	52.4%	53.3%	0.96
Other family members	47.6%	47.5%	47.8%	0.95	44.4%	47.6%	40%	0.65
Teacher/ school	46.8%	44.9%	49.3%	0.40	41.7%	42.9%	40%	0.86
Friend	64.9%	67.6%	61.5%	0.20	75.7%	81%	68.8%	0.39
Faith leader	22.3%	21.5%	23.4%	0.64	25%	23.8%	26.7%	0.85
CP hotline	15.9%	13.4%	19%	0.11	20.6%	15.8%	26.7%	0.44
Pray	72.8%	78.7%	65.5%	0.002*	91.7%	100%	81.3%	0.04*
Do not seek support	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
I have nobody to turn on	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

Asks

In Albania, approximately half of surveyed children (56.6%) considered that their government response to COVID-19 is sufficient or somehow sufficient (Table 12) and approximately half of surveyed children (58.2%) are in favour of increasing measures taken for protection from COVID-19. When asked about the availability of some services during the outbreak, 47.5% of surveyed children said that a hotline for children to report and get help was available while 37.9% do not know whether it was available or not. Moreover, 48.5% do not know whether sessions for parents, to help them interact constructively with their children during this time of lockdown, were available. Psychosocial support sessions for children to help them cope with changes coming with COVID-19 were also available as said 55.8% of surveyed children while 25.8% do not know about their availability. Online education was supported and electronic devices were available for half of surveyed children (53.4%) while only 25.2% said it was not available for them. Income support (e.g. financial aid-unemployment payments, cash transfers as assistance) was also available as said 41.8% of children (Table 13). Significant gender difference was not observed for children asks in Albania (Table 12 and 13)

In Kosovo, more than half of surveyed children (69.4%) considered that their government response to COVID-19 is sufficient and somehow sufficient (Table 12). Approximately two-third (60%) of surveyed children are in favour of increasing measures taken for protection from COVID-19 while only 17.1% are not interested in such initiatives. When asked about service availability during the outbreak, 57.1% of surveyed children said that a hotline for children to report and get help was available. Moreover, 39.4% said that sessions for parents to help them interact constructively with their children during this time of lockdown were available while 45.5% do not know about those sessions. Psychosocial support sessions for children to help them cope with changes coming with COVID-19 was also available as said 66.7% of surveyed children. Online education was supported and electronic devices were available for 58.3% of surveyed children while 13.9% did not benefit from this service. Income support (e.g. financial aid-unemployment payments, cash transfers as assistance) was also available as said 50% of children (Table 13). Significant gender difference was not observed for children asks in Kosovo (Table 12 and 13)

TABLE 12: CHILDREN’S EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Government Response	Sufficient	34.5%	33.2%	36.1%	0.75	47.2%	57.1%	33.3%	0.63
	Somehow sufficient	22.1%	23.4%	20.3%		22.2%	14.3%	33.3%	
	Neither sufficient or insufficient	9%	10.6%	6.9%		5.6%	4.8%	6.7%	
	Somehow insufficient	6%	5.7%	6.4%		-	-	-	
	Insufficient	6.2%	5.3%	7.4%		-	-	-	
	I don’t know	9.2%	9.1%	9.4%		5.6%	4.8%	6.7%	
	I don’t have an opinion	13.1%	12.8%	13.4%		19.4%	19%	20%	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

TABLE 13: CHILDREN SAY ON AVAILABILITY OF SERVICE DURING COVID-19 OUTBREAK IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Hotline for children	Not available	14.6%	17.9%	10.2%	0.06	14.3%	20%	6.7%	0.31
	Available	47.5%	45%	50.7%		57.1%	60%	53.3%	
	I don’t know	37.9%	37%	39%		28.6%	20%	40%	
Session for parents	Not available	17.4%	16.7%	18.2%	0.91	15.2%	15.8%	14.3%	0.90
	Available	36.1%	36.2%	36%		39.4%	42.1%	35.7%	
	I don’t know	46.5%	47.1%	45.8%		45.5%	42.1%	50%	
Psycho-social support for children	Not available	18.4%	19.5%	17.1%	0.80	19.4%	28.6%	6.7%	0.22
	Available	55.8%	54.9%	57.1%		66.7%	61.9%	73.3%	
	I don’t know	25.8%	25.7%	25.9%		13.9%	9.5%	20%	
Distribution of devices	Not available	25.2%	25.8%	24.5%	0.84	13.9%	9.5%	20%	0.67
	Available	53.4%	53.8%	52.9%		58.3%	61.9%	53.3%	
	I don’t know	21.3%	20.4%	22.5%		27.8%	28.6%	26.7%	
Income support	Not available	23.9%	26.5%	20.6%	0.23	19.4%	20%	18.8%	0.99
	Available	41.8%	38.8%	45.6%		50%	50%	50%	
	I don’t know	34.3%	34.6%	33.8%		30.6%	30%	31.3%	

*Significant if $p < 0.05$

Interviewed girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo requested that their governments do more to fight the spread of COVID-19. They want their governments to keep people accountable for complying with safety requirements. A 14 years old girl in Kosovo said: “I want the president to put strict measures, so that the coffee places cannot open”. Because girls and boys believe that limited information can result in risky behaviour, they said that information is needed to make people aware of how to lower the risk of contracting the virus. A 14 years old boy in Albania said: “We need a TV program to answer all the questions and calm down the fears during this period”

Other girls and boys asked the government to support in distributing toys and organizing social games online and competitions where all classmates and friends can participate to fight against the isolation *"I ask our president or prime minister to provide every child with as much happiness as possible by giving everyone, without exception, various toys to fight the isolation"* said a 15 years old girl in Albania

Girls and boys who took part in the research spoke of their desire to resume safe and accessible education as soon as possible or to have access to internet connection and devices to catch up with distance learning. A 16 years old boy in Albania said: *"The prime minister could distribute tablets and provide internet connection so that everyone has access to online learning"*, a 14 years old boy in Albania said: *"I would like the Prime Minister to create safer conditions at schools for children so that we can resume school safely"*

Girls and boys and young people recognize the financial impact of the pandemic on their families. Loss of income and economic distress means parents have difficulties providing food for their children. Girls and boys and young people are asking organizations to provide food and livelihood opportunities. A 15 years old girls said: *"Children need the support of organizations such as World Vision to help those who did not have enough food to survive this period"*. Another 15 years old girl in Albania said: *"The government is responsible for designing concrete plans to support families who have no income, or who are most in need"*

Contributions

Girls and boys in Albania and Kosovo are not only victims of this global crisis. Girls and boys interview responses give evidence to their capacity as active and engaged citizens. They are aware that they can contribute to making a significant difference through individual and collective actions in their families and communities. Girls and boys in Albania and host countries have demonstrated high level of awareness on how to prevent the pandemic, but also a high level of individual social responsibility, that it starts within each one of them *"We can contribute by following the measures given by the ministry, using masks, gloves and disinfectants, keep distance and not gathering with lots of people"* said a 14 years old girl in Kosovo.

The majority of girls and boys interviewed said that they had or were planning on raising awareness online and in-person through using different social media platforms and other material. A 13 years old boy in Albania said: *"My brother made a video about hand washing and shared it on social media. The video had a lot of positive impact"*, a 14 years old boy in Albania said: *"Through leaflets we can carry out activities with young people to raise awareness among our peers but also the third age as they often go out even when it is not necessary"*.

Girls and boys said they were inspired to start a fundraiser to provide funds to local community service organizations to support people who lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic and could no longer afford to feed themselves or their families. *"We can raise funds to buy masks, gloves and disinfectants and give them to people or families who cannot afford buying those items"* said a 16 years old boy in Albania. *"Our idea was to help children affected by the economic crisis during COVID-19. Raising funds or donating food and clothes for them"* said a 16 years old girl in Albania. *"Many young people have contributed with food and it has served a lot and was one of the best thing"* said a 13 years old boy in Kosovo.

In Albania, 46.2% of surveyed children said that they would join or participate in programs that support parents/ government in increasing protection measures during COVID-19 outbreak. In Kosovo 45.9% want to contribute in such programs. For instance, 85.9% of surveyed children in Albania and 94.1% in Kosovo are very willing to engage with other children to raise awareness on CP issues; 76.8% of surveyed children in Albania and 88.2% in Kosovo are very willing to lead activities on CP issues; 63.2% of surveyed children in Albania and 70.6% in Kosovo expressed their great willingness to meet government representative and influence them for the best interest of children; 78.7% of surveyed children in Albania and 82.4% in Kosovo are also very willing to give ideas on how the situation of child protection could be improved. 79.6% of surveyed children in Albania and 100% in Kosovo are very willing to inform children and their parents where they could

get help and finally 81.9% of surveyed children in Albania and 88.2% in Kosovo are very willing to write letters and use other safe means to give messages for the protection of children (Table 14).

In Albania, gender lens analysis showed that girls (50.8%) are more likely than boys (40.3%) to join or participate in programs that support parents/ government in increasing protection measures during COVID-19 outbreak ($p=0.006$). Furthermore, girls (83.8%) are more likely than boys (72.8%) to be very willing participate in programs where they can inform children and their families about where to get help ($p=0.04$) and finally girls (90.7%) are more likely than boys (67.9%) to write letters and use safe means to give messages for protection of children ($p<0.0001$) (Table 14).

TABLE 14: CHILDREN CONTRIBUTION TO FIGHT COVID-19 IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

		Albania				Kosovo			
		All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value	All children %	Girls %	Boys %	P value
Engage with other children to raise awareness on child protection issues.	Very willing	85.9%	90.2%	79%	0.07	94.1%	87.5%	100%	0.47
	Somewhat willing	11.3%	8.3%	16%		5.9%	12.5%	0%	
	Not at all willing	-	-	-		-	-	-	
	I don't know	2.8%	1.5%	4.9%		-	-	-	
Lead activities on child protection issues.	Very willing	76.8%	78.5%	74.1%	0.58	88.2%	75%	100%	0.21
	Somewhat willing	18.5%	17.7%	19.8%		11.8%	25%	0%	
	Not at all willing	0.5%	0%	1.2%		-	-	-	
	I don't know	4.3%	3.8%	4.9%		-	-	-	
Meeting with government representative to influence for the best interest of	Very willing	63.2%	64.1%	61.7%	0.59	70.6%	62.5%	77.8%	0.07
	Somewhat willing	25%	25.2%	24.7%		17.6%	37.5%	0%	
	Not at all willing	2.4%	3.1%	1.2%		-	-	-	
	I don't know	9.4%	7.6%	12.8%		11.8%	0%	22.2%	
Give ideas on how the situation of child protection could be improved.	Very willing	78.7%	83.8%	70.4%	0.08	82.4%	87.5%	77.8%	0.62
	Somewhat willing	14.7%	12.3%	18.5%		11.8%	12.5%	11.1%	
	Not at all willing	1.9%	0.8%	3.7%		-	-	-	
	I don't know	4.7%	3.1%	7.4%		5.9%	0%	11.1%	
Inform children and their parents where they could get help.	Very willing	79.6%	83.8%	72.8%	0,04*	100%	100%	100%	-
	Somewhat willing	13.3%	13.1%	13.6%		-	-	-	
	Not at all willing	3.3%	1.5%	6.2%		-	-	-	
	I don't know	3.8%	1.5%	7.4%		-	-	-	
Write letters and use other safe means to give messages for the protection of children.	Very willing	81.9%	90.7%	67.9%	<0.0001*	88.2%	75%	100%	0.28
	Somewhat willing	11.4%	7%	18.5%		5.9%	12.5%	0%	
	Not at all willing	2.4%	0%	6.2%		-	-	-	
	I don't know	4.3%	2.3%	7.4%		5.9%	12.5%	0%	

4. Recommendations

The following recommendations are presented as a summarized synthesis. These are not intended to be exhaustive, but simply to highlight elements that have emerged from this report. The audiences of this report are free to consider and explore recommendations for action beyond the ones listed below.

Conclusions	Recommendations
6.5% (n=22) of surveyed children in Albania and 13.3% (n=4) of surveyed children in Kosovo said that they contribute themselves to the family income.	Social protection and cash/livelihood programming need be allied to Child Protection programming, as income and livelihood issues often stay as a root cause to Child Protection matters such as child labor, neglect, child marriage or violence against children.
Approximately half of children in Albania (52.5%) and Kosovo (55.1%) who said being moderately and greatly stressed by the fact that they were not able to say goodbye to their classmates and friends.	Multi-sectoral programming that addresses MHPSS, health and education should be uplifted. Provision of mental health and psycho-social support to children and adolescents is crucial in order to help them cope with school closure, isolation and social distancing from their peers due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
In Albania, 41.6% of surveyed children who were previously enrolled in formal education said that the COVID-19 outbreak has been somewhat stressful to their usual school experience. In Kosovo 48.1% said also the same.	Increase the number of qualified psycho-social staff in schools and equip them with capacities to work with children and adolescents experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety and prioritize mental health interventions in schools.
60% of surveyed children in Albania and 52.9% in Kosovo said that they are stressed from a moderate to a large extent because they are isolated from their friends during the COVID-19 outbreak.	The MoESY in coordination with the MoHSP should coordinate and prioritize a well designed campaign focusing on Mentally Health Schools initiative prioritizing socio-emotional well-being of girls and boys.
63.6% of surveyed children in Albania are more spending time online for education and 45.2% of surveyed children in Kosovo are more spending time online for leisure and gaming purposes.	Education and child protection sectors are urged to work together between them, as well as with ICT private sector in order to develop and implement policies and projects that guarantee child protection in cyberspace.
13.6% of children in Albania and 23.6% of children in Kosovo reported presence of online risks during the COVID-19 pandemic.	
16.4% (n=64) in Albania and 20% (n=6) in Kosovo were completely deprived from continuing any learning for this school year.	Continuous training opportunities and mentoring should be organized for teachers in the pre-university education system focusing on building capacities of adapting teaching

In Albania, 64.2% were concerned about the possibility to continue the school year with this method.

methodologies and approaches during online/ remote teaching practices;

Capacity building opportunities on Technology and Inclusive teaching approaches should be provided in the education system in such way to meet different learners needs while the teaching process is organized online.

Coordinating efforts by the MoESY should be continuously undertaken with agencies, CSOs, business to provide IT equipment meeting the needs of children from poor households and vulnerable groups.

32.7% of children in Albania and 26.1% in Kosovo reported that have experience at least one case of physical and emotional violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Children report as the main perpetrator of violence someone from the family.

Provision of necessary funding to build and implement evidence based positive parenting programming to strengthen a supportive family environment informed by gender analysis, domestic violence prevalence and discriminatory practices data with special focus on vulnerable groups.

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