



**NATIONAL BACKGROUND REPORT ON  
HEALTH RESEARCH FOR KOSOVO  
(under UNSCR 1244)**

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b>DALY</b>	<b>Disability Adjusted Life Year</b>
<b>GDP</b>	<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	<b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome</b>
<b>MEST</b>	<b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technology</b>
<b>MoH</b>	<b>Ministry of Health</b>
<b>NCS</b>	<b>National Council for Science</b>
<b>NIPHK</b>	<b>National Institute of Public Health of Kosova</b>
<b>NGO</b>	<b>Non-Governmental Organizations</b>
<b>R&amp;D</b>	<b>Research and Development</b>
<b>SWOT</b>	<b>Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats</b>
<b>TB</b>	<b>Tuberculosis</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Program</b>
<b>UNFPA</b>	<b>United Nations Population Fund</b>
<b>UNICEF</b>	<b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>
<b>UCCK</b>	<b>University Clinical Center of Kosovo</b>
<b>USAID</b>	<b>The United States Agency for International Development</b>
<b>WHO</b>	<b>World Health Organization</b>
<b>WB</b>	<b>World Bank</b>
<b>WUS</b>	<b>World University Service</b>

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## Executive Summary

Research resources for addressing health problems of developing countries remain disproportionately low compared with the tremendous disease burdens borne by these countries. Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, as the most underdeveloped economy in Europe, is not an exception to this rule. The scarce research resources must produce results, which after that will be translated into policies and action. The main objective of interventions is to use, to improve, to protect and to restore health care in Kosovo.

This national background report on health research has been prepared in April 2009 within the framework of the Western Balkan Countries INCO-NET project (WBC-INCO.net), which aims to contribute to integration of the Western Balkan countries (WBC) in the European Research Area (ERA). The initiative is supported by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7).

The report provides a brief overview of the health research environment in Kosovo. It includes key facts and figures concerning policy framework, as well as short overview of main drivers of health research, research infrastructure and main health sector trends in Kosovo.

The aim of this report is to describe and estimate the state and performance of health research in Kosovo. This report is a country-specific synthesis based on the available statistical information from Kosovo Statistical Office and consultation with health experts, academic research actors, stakeholders and other relevant factors in Kosovo in order to identify key elements of health research position in Kosovo. The SWOT analysis technique was utilized to match the environment threats and opportunities with the weaknesses and especially strengths within health research capacities.

The final Strategic Research Agenda identified a set of eight health research priorities for Kosovo, driven by National Health Strategy, developed by the Ministry of Health. The Health Strategic Research Agenda is intended to contribute to the shaping of future EU-Western Balkan research co-operation, through relevant European Commission research policies and funding programmes in a way that meets the interests and actual needs of regional health research area.

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<sup>1</sup> Under UNSCR 1244

## Introduction

With the youngest population in Europe and unemployment rate of more than 40% many challenges lie ahead of Kosovo. The World Bank (WB) Poverty Assessment Report<sup>2</sup> indicates that 45% of the Kosovo's population lives below the poverty line with another 18% vulnerable to poverty. On the other hand, 15% of the population is extremely poor defined as individuals who have difficulty to meet their nutritional needs.

Furthermore, educational and health outcomes are low, while exposure to health risks is widespread. Moreover, Kosovo continues to face challenges common to all fragile states; huge backlog of investment needs and limited government resources to meet them, fractured societal relations, and weak security. On February 17, 2008 Kosovo Assembly declared independence which has been recognized by 58 UN member states.

Health care in Kosova underwent important reforms in the last decade facing a lots of difficulties and obstacles, of which the most important are lack of political commitment and scarce resources.

### **1. Purpose of the national background report on health research and methodology/summary of the consultation process**

This National report is compiled within the framework of WBC-INCO.net project and its main goal is to provide an overview of the current situation in the health sector in Kosovo regarding main health indicators and research policies. The report is based mainly on quantitative data gathered from different sources. The report also includes a SWOT (Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis of the health research capacities.

Consultation process in Kosovo took place during April 2009 which included several face to face and phone interviews conducted during the data collection phase. Consultation process involved the following stakeholders:

- National research and development policy-makers: Ministry of Health (MoH), Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)

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<sup>2</sup> World Bank. **Kosovo - Poverty Assessment** (October 2007), <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/ECAEXT/KOSOVOEXTN/>

- Research actors: Kosovo Academy for Sciences and Arts, University of Prishtina (Faculty of Medicine), National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo (NIPHK), University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK)
- Academic institutions in private sector: Faculty of Medical Sciences "Rezonanca"
- International, governmental and nongovernmental organizations involved in health care and health research in Kosovo (World Health Organization, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Population Fund, United States Agency for International Development, World University Service-Austria)
- Health industrial actors: pharmaceutical companies
- Local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from different medical sector (general medicine and specialized medical profiles)

The national background report on health research identified a set of eight health research priorities for Kosovo, which are presented further below.

The biggest problem was the lack of a centralized data collection system, and a high degree of fragmentation of the research data.

## **2. The Health S&T System in Kosovo**

Ten years after the war, Kosovo has not set up a fully fledged scientific research system yet. National economy remains too weak to support research and development, as it is not able to absorb the products of research and benefit from them. Research activities remain sporadic and marginal, based mainly on individual initiatives in the university sector and with almost no support from Government, which remains focused on teaching component of higher education. Public expenditures for research and innovation in Kosovo remain at level of 0.1% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), indicating minimum conditions for any scientific and research work. This funding is mostly used to cover operational costs of the existing research institutions<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Pupovci D. Kosovo National Research and Technology Program 2010-2015 - Foresight exercise. Draft.

Besides a lack of financial support and capacities for research in Kosovo, there is not enough interest among institutions to use opportunities available for the development of science and technology, such as 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program of the European Commission.

## 2.1. Kosovo health policy framework

The basis of the policy framework is set up by Kosovo Assembly and Government, which adopt and implement legislative acts. The Kosovo Assembly has two operating Committees that regulate the legal framework in areas of health and research:

1. *Committee for Health, Work and Social Welfare*, responsible for monitoring the implementation of health related legislation and policies by the Government of Kosovo, and
2. *Committee for Education, Science, Technology, Culture, Youth and Sports*, which reviews legislation and policies related to all levels of education, as well as to the field of science and technology;

Medical research activities in Kosovo are partially regulated by several laws and policy documents:

- a. The Law on Scientific Research Activity<sup>4</sup>
- b. Health Law<sup>5</sup>
- c. Strategy for Development of Higher Education in Kosovo (2005-2015)<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Assembly of Kosovo. The Law on scientific research activities . [http://www.assembly-kosovo.org/common/docs/ligjet/2004\\_42\\_en.pdf](http://www.assembly-kosovo.org/common/docs/ligjet/2004_42_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Assembly of Kosovo. Kosovo Health Law- [http://www.assembly-kosovo.org/common/docs/ligjet/2004\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://www.assembly-kosovo.org/common/docs/ligjet/2004_4_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Strategy for development of higher education in Kosovo (2005-2015). Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology, Prishtina 2004. [www.sec-educoop.net/education\\_in/pdf/str-develop-high-educ-kos-enl-t02.pdf](http://www.sec-educoop.net/education_in/pdf/str-develop-high-educ-kos-enl-t02.pdf).



### **a. The Law on scientific research activities**

The most important document that regulates the area of research in Kosovo is the Law on Scientific Research Activity, which defines establishment, activity, organizing, governance and termination of public legal persons in scientific-research activity field; status of National Council for Science (NCS); and other issues related to scientific-research activity in Kosovo.”

Scientific research according to this Law, includes fundamental, applicative and development research. For the purpose of fulfilling the necessary conditions and providing the means, the Law prescribes that up to 0.7% of GDP shall be allocated through the Kosovo Consolidated Budget for the purpose of research.

In July 2007 Kosovo Assembly elected the National Council for Science (NCS) of Kosovo composed of 15 members. The decision of the Assembly was implemented only in October 2008 when the first meeting of the Council took place. Since then, the Council announced the intention to develop a five-year National Research Program for Kosovo, but the negotiations with the Government to start working on this project are still ongoing.

### **b. Kosovo Health Law**

Kosovo Health Law was approved in 2004, with the aim of establishing legal grounds for the regulation, advancement and the improvement of the provision of health care for the citizens of Kosovo.

The Law on Health Care treats scientific research activities in several articles. Article 31 states that “ institutions in tertiary care level are responsible for organization of educational university process, scientific-research works and the postgraduate education”. Research in health care sector is covered also by the Law on Public Health.

### **c. Strategy for Development of Higher Education in Kosovo (2005-2015)**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology set up structures to support research activities in Kosovo: the Department of Science, the Centre for Innovations and Transfer of Technology, and the Centre for International Co-operation in the field of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

The Strategy for Development of Higher Education in Kosovo (2005-2015) prepared by MEST addresses also the issue of research to the extent it is linked to higher education. One of the six objectives defined in this document is to improve the capacity for scientific research. Based on strategy the following measures are recommended to achieve this objective: conceptualize new policies, amend existing legislation supporting the research and scientific activity, build institutional and intellectual capacity, set standards for research and scientific work, find the needed funds and provide appropriate incentives.

So far, no policy was adopted or specific measures taken to improve research cooperation and integration into the European Research Area.

### **2.1.1 The overall health policy framework**

National Healthcare System is governed by the Ministry of Health. There are two categories of medical service available in Kosovo: public and private. The public health system is financed by the Kosovo Consolidated Budget, and accounts for 9.2% of Government expenditures. The annual per capita government expenditure in health care is only 35 € (the lowest in Europe).

In the absence of economic development, the Kosovo Consolidated Budget is not likely to grow rapidly in the near future. No health insurance system has yet been established and this represents a key obstacle to improvement of health care sector at all levels. Although in April 2006, the Kosovo Assembly discussed the health insurance law, it was returned to the Government due to limited availability of human, organizational, and institutional capacity to implement and manage an insurance fund. Financial implications of the benefits associated with the health insurance scheme also raised concern.

During the second part of last century, Kosovo had an “all-inclusive” healthcare system based on equity and social justice. After the war, the transition from old to more modern concepts of healthcare management presented a challenge to both healthcare staff and the population. Currently, the health care system in Kosovo consists of primary health care centers located in each municipality; secondary health care facilities at the regional level (hospitals); and tertiary health care centers – University Clinical Center of Kosovo and other specialized institutions.

Besides public sector, the private sector in health care has grown in the recent years and is predominantly focused on diagnosis and treatment. Counseling or

preventive medicine is virtually non-existent in the private health sector, in contrast to the public sector.

Health indicators remain among the most unfavorable in the region. Health statistics for adequate analysis, planning, and decision-making, are still under development, and there is much to be desired in this area. Unfortunately, there are no comprehensive and consistent data to quantify the burden of disease in Kosovo with new metric system – disability adjusted life year (DALY), introduced by the Harvard School of Public Health in collaboration with the World Bank and WHO<sup>7</sup>

Communicable diseases in Kosovo remain the largest ongoing health care problem. Kosovo has one of the highest perinatal mortality (23 per 1.000 live births) and maternal deaths (7 per 100.000 live births) in Europe. It is of great concern that 40% of hospital mortality is among infants. Only 65% of Kosovars consume safe drinking water. The annual incidence of Tuberculosis is 53.4 per 100,000 inhabitants. Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, tularemia and viral meningitis are endemic diseases in Kosovo. The number of physicians per 1000 inhabitants is only 0.94. The use of hospital capacity is at an average rate of 62.9%, whereas average hospital treatment is 5.8 days. Life expectancy at birth is the lowest in the region, with 69 years of expected life<sup>8</sup>. The majority of deaths (53%) among population are from noncommunicable diseases (cardiovascular diseases, cancers), followed by neonatal deaths (28%) and deaths from communicable diseases (12%). From statistical point of view, it is important to note that in Kosovo there has not been any registration of population since 1981.

Environmental risks to public health are still very high, including pollution of air and water; food contamination; tobacco, alcohol, lead exposure/poisoning, due to insufficient preventive policies and measures at executive level.

### **2.1.2 The elements of Health research policy making**

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<sup>7</sup> Ezzati M, Lopez A, Vander Hoorn S, Rodgers A, Murray CJL, Comparative Risk Assessment Collaborative Group. Selected major risk factors and global regional burden of disease. *Lancet* 2002; 360(9343):1347-1360

<sup>8</sup> Health statistic 2007, Kosovo Government, Ministry of Public Services, Statistical Office of Kosovo, Prishtina 2008.

Budgetary allocation for scientific research and technological development in 2008 from Kosovo Government was less than 0.1% of GDP. However, this amount is not purely dedicated to research, but includes salaries, goods and services, and public utilities for research institutions under the authority of MEST. There are several national strategies created by the Ministry of Health of Kosovo, but they are not research strategies and there is no department or another body responsible for scientific research.

The Ministry of Health does not fund research projects but has several programmes related to or involving health research (such as for TB, HIV/AIDS, Infection Control, immunization, Mental Health, etc)

Ministry of Health adopted “Strategy of Health Care in Kosovo 2005-2015”, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals<sup>9</sup>. Main national development policy goals set in health care by the Kosovo government in period 2005-2015 are:

- healthy start in life;
- improving the health of young people;
- improving mental health;
- developing human resources for health;
- reducing communicable and non-communicable diseases;
- institutional reforms and
- improvement of management in health care.

Currently there are few other draft-strategies concerning specific issues in the health sector pending the approval of the Ministry of Health.

## **2.2. Overview of medical scientific research activities in Kosovo**

This overview presents research projects in the area of health, major research topics and the infrastructure for health research. Health research activities in Kosovo are conducted mainly on personal initiatives at the Medical School of the University of Prishtina, respectively in UCK and NIPH. These research activities, with very few exceptions, are not supported by any research grant

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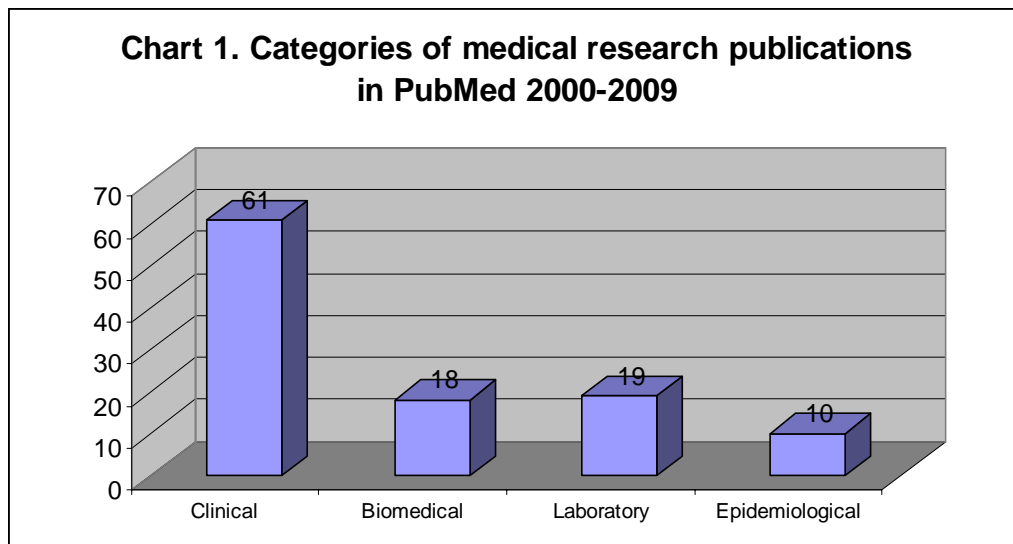
<sup>9</sup> United Nations. United Nations Millennium Declaration. 2000, available at: <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm>.

from government, university or industry. So far, institutions had insufficient interest to use opportunities available for the development of research area, such is 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Program of the European Commission.

### 2.2.1 Health research projects

There is presently no research project in the health care funded through the MEST, nor the the Academy of Science and Arts of Kosovo.

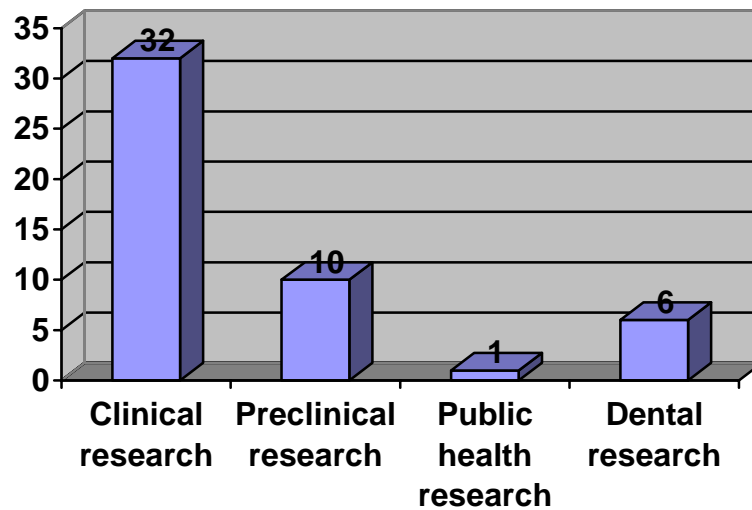
Kosovar scientists during the last ten years have published 108 articles in international medical journals indexed in PubMed (a literature database of life sciences and biomedical topics), with increasing trends over the last five years. More than half of the publications belong to clinical area of research (56.5%), biomedical publication accounts for 16.7%, whereas laboratory and epidemiological research participated with 17.6 and 9.2%, respectively, as shown in chart 1.



Another aspect of health research activities is reflected through the doctoral dissertations. From January 2000 till June 2007 overall 49 doctoral theses were defended at the Faculty of Medicinel at the University of Prishtina, whose fields of study are shown on Chart 2. Doctoral dissertation research predominated by the field of clinical research (65.3%). The publication output at the degree level is not satisfactory, with only 8.1% of Ph.D. theses resulted in articles published

in journals indexed in PubMed, indicating poor renewal capability of the health research community.

**Chart 2. Doctoral dissertation research fields of study: January 2000 -June 2007**



### 2.2.2 Key competencies in Health research field

Presence of researchers in the specific fields of science, the broad spectrum of diseases and pathogens as well as emerging and reemerging diseases in Kosovo pose a significant potential in health research field. However, the available research results are poorly transferred into practical interventions in the field.

The key drivers for health research come from the public sector. Collaboration on health research between research institutions and commercial companies is extremely low. The contribution of the private sector to the health research is minimal, but there is opportunity to increase it in near future.

Kosovo has a health system that has undergone numerous reforms in all levels. Although, overall research capacity is limited, the analysis suggests that the country's key competencies are in the following areas:

- Infectious diseases
- Public health
- Dentistry
- Cardiology

- Surgery (clinical and experimental)
- Pharmaceutical industry
- Infection control

### **2.2.3 Health research infrastructure**

Scientific research activities in Kosovo, including the field of medicine, are carried out in many institutions. Research institutions in the S&T field of health in Kosovo are:

- University of Prishtina, Faculty of Medicine
- University Clinical Center of Kosovo
- National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo
- Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo
- Centre for Development of Family Medicine in Kosovo
- University Clinical Stomatological Centre of Kosovo
- Faculty of Medical Sciences “Rezonanca”
- International organizations

The key institutions performing research in health are primarily Medical Faculty and University Clinical Center of Kosovo. Annex I provides a full list of health research institutions in Kosovo with the contact details.

The University of Prishtina was founded in 1970 and is one of the two public universities in Kosovo. It has 17 faculties with approximately 35.000 students. Starting in the academic year 2001/2002, the University of Prishtina adopted the two-tier system of studies as prescribed by the Bologna Declaration. International cooperation is one of main priorities of the University of Prishtina and is focused on intensive participation in various programs. The University of Prishtina has signed 80 cooperation agreements with other universities all over the World. Teaching and research in the University of Prishtina represent the main activity of the University, respectively its mission pursuant to article 5 of the Prishtina University statute. However, there is little evidence of organized scientific activity at the University and of any strong links between research and teaching component.

Medical education in Kosovo began with the establishment of the Faculty of Medicine. The Faculty engages 281 full-time teachers and assistants and 33 part-time teachers and assistants.

Academy of Science and Arts of Kosovo was founded in 1975. Today it is the supreme institution in the field of sciences and arts in Kosovo. It consists of four sections: Language and Literature, Social sciences, Natural sciences and Arts. Currently there is no representative of health sector in the Academy.

Another state body that defines and acts within the health policy framework and research is the National Institute of Public Health. The NIPH represents a multidisciplinary scientific and educational facility and is in charge of developing the health strategy in the fields of epidemiology, health education and promotion, disease prevention, laboratory diagnosis and health information.

UCCK is the only referral tertiary care center in Kosova with 2.100 beds and approximately 60.000 admissions per year. It is the main research institution in the field of clinical research.

Important support in health research in Kosovo was given by the international governmental and non-governmental institutions, lead by World Health Organization. Other institutions involved in health care sector, including scientific research are: UNICEF, USAID, WUS, UNFPA, DFID etc. (see Appendix II).

There is almost no research conducted by healthcare industry and enterprises in Kosovo. Pharmaceutical companies are the main sponsors of scientific events but they did not establish a system of research grants so far.

The NGO Sector (Non-Governmental Organizations) comprises of several associations providing input for health policies. This is emphasized through collaborative projects sponsored by international donors in the field of mother and child health, HIV/AIDS and TB. NGOs regularly organize fora, roundtables, and debates focusing on various issues from research perspective. (Kosova Asociacion of Gynecologists and Obstetritians, Surgeons, Chemotherapy, Labyrinth, Pharmacy etc.)

## **2.3 Key drivers of Health research**

### **2.3.1 Main Health sector trends in Kosovo**



The health sector in Kosovo is dominated by the national public health care system, although the private sector is rising every day.

Table 1. Budget of the Ministry of Health, 2009

		Amount (million Euro)
1	Wages and salaries (7302 employers)	19.975.409
2	Goods and services	30.877.003
3	Public utilities	3.187.073
4	Subsidies and transfers	500.000
5	Reserve	0
6	Total	54.539.485

In 2008 the health sector employed more than 13.000 staff.

The overall objective of health policy in Kosovo is to create an efficient system that operates with the scarce resources available. Also, there is a need for new human capacity in the research sector that will upgrade the current picture of health care and health research.

### **2.3.2 Main socio-economic challenges in Kosovo**

Due to the many difficulties over the last two decades and in particular through the post conflict period, Kosovo faces many economic developmental challenges. Underlying economic growth potential in Kosovo is roughly 3.0 – 4.0 per cent per annum. Unemployment is of the order of 35 – 40 per cent. Currently some 29,000 young people are entering the labour market every year. Even if the economy could move to a permanent growth rate of say 6.0 per cent, in ten to fifteen years time, unemployment will only have halved. This simple observation defines the real economic development challenge for Kosovo.

At the same time, it is estimated by the World Bank (WB) that perhaps as much as 45 percent of the population may well live in a broadly defined state of poverty. Thus it is clear that even if economic growth is increased markedly and sustained through the longer term, there will be an underlying and continuing social challenge that must be addressed. In a very real sense, this is what can be called a ‘baseline’ policy priority.

Kosovo's initial position contains a number of strengths. It has a young population, and significant natural resources. The social structure is characterized by the existence of networks both formal and informal that provide safety nets for the poor and the unemployed. The foundations for a liberal market economy and modern system of accountability are in place and international partners are supporting many dimensions of the developmental process.

### **3. Integration of Kosovo in the European health research environment**

At present, Kosovo has no elaborate plans for the development of the health R&D sector in the country neither for integration of the country in the European Research Area. The Government is still discussing terms for participation in the FP7 Program with the European Commission and setting up mechanisms needed for efficient cooperation<sup>10</sup>.

Researchers' mobility is expected to increase as the country gradually is getting further access to EU funded mobility programmes directed in higher education and research.

### **4. SWOT analysis of health research capacity in Kosovo**

#### **4.1. Strengths**

- The government has set up a legal framework in science and higher education
- Broad experience of infectious diseases burden
- Medical research capabilities of young scientists, who graduated or specialized in western universities and research centers
- Health policy favorable for children and women
- Active participation and collaboration in regional and international health initiatives

#### **4.2. Weaknesses**

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<sup>10</sup> Kosovo (UNSC 1244/99) progress report. Enlargement strategy and main challenges 2008-2009. European Commission, Brussels, 2008

- Inadequate allocation of budget for Research and Development
- Low priority placed on health research by Government
- Insufficient dissemination and communication of research findings with key decision makers
- Poor collaboration in health research between public and private sector and between government and industry
- Research is not linked to real needs of community
- Lack of project management skills
- Lack of skills for writing proposals for EU-funded research programmes
- Overload of research staff with education and routine professional duties
- Limited collaboration with non-medical disciplines involved in research (social sciences)

### **4.3. Opportunities**

- Ongoing health care system reforms
- Organization of doctoral studies based on European experience
- Increased mobility of research staff
- Availability of Information and communication technology (Kosovo Telemedicine Center)
- Presence of international organizations actively involved in health care sector
- International collaboration
- National disease burden (endemic diseases)
- Potential to enhance collaboration and strengthen capacities with neighboring countries to optimize use of limited resources.

### **4.4. Threats**

- Economic threats (global financial crisis)
- Rising costs of health care
- Brain drain
- New, emerging and re-emerging diseases
- Low level of research culture
- Limited opportunities for developing research skills in the curricula of health training programs

- Outcomes of inadequate health-care system (corruption, improper working conditions, work overload and low salaries )

## 5. Health research priorities for Kosovo

So far, research in the health area has been driven by the interests of the main research performers in their own academic field of interest. For purposes of this background report, health research priorities for Kosovo are driven by Health Strategy, prepared by the Ministry of Health. Moreover, health research priorities were formulated in terms of three main dimensions:

1. magnitude of diseases and conditions
2. determinants and risk factors
3. policies and cross-cutting issues affecting health and health research (policies, poverty and health, gender and health and research capacity strengthening).

After detailed analysis and guidance<sup>11</sup>, the following health research priorities were identified:

- Mother and child health- to reduce neonatal, infant and maternal mortality
- Substance abuse among young people- to protect young people from the negative effects of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases
- Mental health- to reduce mental health problems, injuries and violence in a manner that respects the autonomy and rights of persons suffering from those problems
- Infectious diseases - to reduce communicable diseases through health promotion, regulation, surveillance, control and community involvement
  - Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fevers,
  - tuberculosis,
  - sexually transmitted infections,
  - diarrheal diseases,
  - acute respiratory infections,
  - health-care associated infections & antimicrobial resistance,
  - vaccine-preventable diseases

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<sup>11</sup> Supporting National Health Research Systems in low and middle income countries, Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), 2007.

- Non-infectious diseases- to reduce the main factor of mortality among population;
  - cardiovascular diseases
  - oncology
  - diabetes,
  - injuries/violence
  - oral health
- Inequity and inefficiency in the delivery of health services - to strengthen all levels of Kosovo's health system by developing human resources that support the health care reform;
  - health information,
  - health costs and financing,
  - health policy);
- Environmental and occupational health-to improve life conditions and safety at work.
- Research capacity strengthening- to upgrade scientific capabilities in health area.

### **5.1 Health research priorities on the basis of the country's readiness**

Based on existing infrastructure, human resources and recent performance, the top fields in the Kosovo health research sector include:

- Biochemistry
- Cardiovascular Diseases
- Clinical Neurology
- Infection control
- Infectious diseases
- Pharmacology and Pharmacy
- Surgery (clinical and experimental)

Various topics within these disciplines may be supported as research priorities for the country. Among these, issues of prevention and diagnosis of malignant diseases, zoonoses, tuberculosis, patient safety have been identified as themes to pursue research and development.

### **5.2 Health Research priorities on the basis of future potential**

More health research areas are anticipated in case of availability of capacity building programmes. Specific areas addressed within this priority are:

- Research on infectious diseases.
- Molecular diagnostics and genetic engineering
- Bioterrorism

**Appendix I. List of Health R&D institutions**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Postal address</b>	<b>Web-site</b>
1.	University of Prishtina, Faculty of Medicine	Rrethi i spitalit, p.n. 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo	<a href="http://web.uni-pr.edu">http://web.uni-pr.edu</a>
2.	University Clinical Center of Kosovo	Rrethi i spitalit, p.n. 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo	<a href="http://www.mshgov-ks.org">http://www.mshgov-ks.org</a>
3.	National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo	Rrethi i spitalit, p.n. 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo	<a href="http://niph-kosova.org">http://niph-kosova.org</a>
4.	Kosovo Academy of Sciences and Arts	Rr. Emin Duraku, nr. 1 10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë	<a href="http://www.ashak.org">http://www.ashak.org</a>
5.	Centre for Development of Family Medicine in Kosovo	Rrethi i spitalit, p.n. 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo	<a href="http://www.cdfmk.org">http://www.cdfmk.org</a>
6.	University Clinical Stomatological Centre of Kosovo	Rrethi i spitalit, p.n. 10000 Prishtina, Kosovo	<a href="http://qksuk.org/qksuk/">http://qksuk.org/qksuk/</a>
7.	Faculty of Medical Sciences “Rezonanca”	Veternik, Prishtina	<a href="http://www.rezonanca.com">www.rezonanca.com</a>

**Appendix II. Projects funded by international organizations in Kosovo**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Authors/institutions</b>	<b>Year</b>
Perinatal situation in Kosovo 2000-2007	MoH/WHO/ UNFPA / UNICEF	2006
Aleance for healthy babies in Kosovo	USAID/AIHA	2004
Summary of: Substance use and the young people of Kosovo	WHO/UNICEF	2001
Exploratory research on the extent of gender-based violence in Kosovo and its impact on women’s reproductive health	UNFPA, KWN	2008
Demographic, social, and reproductive situation in Kosovo	UNFPA, CIDA, SOK	2003

Pregnancy and family planning in Kosovo – A qualitative study	UNFPA, PRC, Index Kosovo	2006
Research into violence against children in schools in Kosovo	UNIEF, MEST	2005
Trafficking in children in Kosovo	UNICEF	2004
WFP/UNHCR food assessment in minority areas of Kosovo	DRN	2001
Summary of: Substance use and the young people of Kosovo	WHO	2001
Promoting effective perinatal care in Kosovo – Evaluation report 2000-2001	WHO, UNICEF	2002
Second Millenium Development Goals Report for Kosovo	UNDP	2007
Psychosocial and trauma response in war-torn societies/THE CASE OF KOSOVO	IOM	2000
The Extent of Gender-Based Violence in Kosovo and Its Impact on Women’s Reproductive Health	Kosovo Women Network	2008
Pregnancy and Family Planning in Kosovo	Population Research Center-University of Groningen and INDEX Kosovo	2006
Evaluation Report of Project "Strengthened quality of Reproductive Health services through improved provider's competence"	Swiss Red Cross - Kosovo	2006
Sexual and Reproductive "Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practices" research report for youth target groups	CARE International Kosovo	2005
Kosovo Behavioral and Biological Surveillance Study on HIV/AIDS	USAID	
Perinatal situation in Kosovo for years 2000-2004	UNICEF Kosovo	2005
Knowledge, attitudes, practices, and behavior study on HIV/AIDS with young people in Kosovo		2008
Expanding Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment Activities in Kosovo	Global Fund	2007
Strengthening HIV prevention in Kosovo	Global Fund	2008



