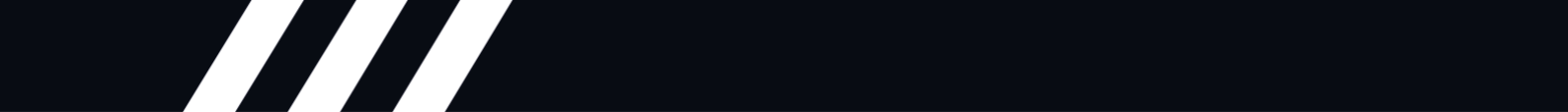


Following the Coronavirus Money Trail

THE CASE OF ALBANIA

REPORT



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The authors produced this report for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The views and opinions expressed in this report are that of the authors and do not reflect those of the Government of the United Kingdom or the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.



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December 2020

Terms and definitions

COVID - 19	A disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus. 'CO' stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.'
CAPEX	Capital Expenditures - Investment purchases a company makes that are designed to be used over the long-term
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EU	European Union
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HCSO	Health Care Services Operator
IPH	Institute of Public Health
Lex Specialis	Lex specialis means "law governing a specific subject matter." It comes from the legal maxim "lex specialis derogat legi generali." This doctrine relates to the interpretation of laws. It can apply in both domestic and international law contexts.
MoHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
OPEX	Operational Expenditures: day-to-day expenses a company incurs to keep their business operational.
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WHO	World Health Organization

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MAIN FACTS AND FINDINGS

- The share of expenditures in Albania for health and social protection in the last two years (2019 and 2020) has been 2.9% of GDP.
- The Budget for the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) is EUR 512,03 million, as per the Budget Law 2020.
- From March 2020 to September 2020, the Budget Law of 2020 has been amended 3 times.
- The impact of normative acts on the budget law 2020 is expected to cause a deficit of EUR 132,6 million on the 2020 budget for total expenditures of the Government (including the health sector).
- The budget allocated by normative acts to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the Ministry of Finance and Economy is:
 - EUR 14,5 million (ALL 1,8 billion) for operational expenditures
 - EUR 9,7 million (ALL 1,2 billion) for capital expenditures.
- Donations made by individuals, organizations, institutions and foreign governments, as well as the health assistance available from the MoHSP, amount to a total value of EUR 4,2 million.
- The MoHSP has spent EUR 266,4 million until September 2020, and spending from hospitals is EUR 93,4 million.
- The remaining budget until the end of the year is around EUR 200 million.
- The transfer of funds to regional hospitals amounts to EUR 93,4 million, which constitutes 26% of all funds available to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- The bulk of expenses in a hospital has gone to staff salaries and bonuses, which on average amounts to 58% of the total.
- Expenditures for medicines and medical equipment comprise a 20% share of the total monthly expenditures of hospitals.
- Other operational expenditures comprise a 22% share of the total monthly expenditures of hospitals.
- 15 (secret) procurement contracts were approved according to decisions of the Council of Ministers with a total value of EUR 4,05 million.
- The procurement contracts done with negotiated procedure without prior publication were valued at EUR 2,18 million.
- The Ministry of Health and Social Protection declares the increase of intensive and sub-intensive therapy capacities, dedicating 500 beds, 80% of them with oxygen lines, half of which are new (COVID 3 and 4).
- Medical staff specialized in infectious diseases (epidemiologist and intensive care physician or intensivist), is insufficient in the case of an increase in the number of patients being treated in hospitals.
- Of the 200 respirators reported in the hospital system prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, 173 respirators were added through purchases from the MoHSP

and donor assistance, which increased capacities at the Covid hospitals and several regional hospitals.

- Through donations and financing in MoHSP, the two hospitals Covid (3) and Covid (4) have been outfitted with beds and medical equipment.
- The limited opportunities of epidemiological groups followed by the increase of requests for tests, especially in Tirana and Durrës, have increased the wait time to get tested.

AIM OF THE REPORT

The main aim of this report is to monitor the budget allocated to the health sector during the Covid-19 pandemic, including the state budget, foreign aid and other donations to the health sector. This report also considers the transparency and proportionality of financial assistance made available by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection in order to provide the necessary safeguards, equipment and other related needs to cope with the Covid-19 situation in regional hospitals, including hospitals dedicated to Covid-19.

OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

The objectives include: an analysis of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health system and the effectiveness of administrative and economic actions; a re-flection on the changes in the budget to cope with the situation of Covid-19; monitoring of the budget allocated to the health sector during the pandemic situation (including the state budget, foreign aid and other donations to the health sector); monitoring of the distribution of funds according to the programs and main hospital institutions; identification of problems and suggested recommendations for improving the planning and management of budget funds.

The methodology included the collection and analysis of data on planning, amendment and budget allocation for the health system according to publications in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Ministry of Finance and Economy as well as the collection and analysis of data on the execution of expenditures in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and in the main hospitals in the country, according to the data of the budget implementation of 8 months 2020, data from the Treasury (Ministry of Finance and Economy), publications and data from the publication of contracts realized on the website [app. gov.al](http://app.gov.al) and in the Official Journal.

Information has been received regarding the allocation and spending of funds from the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and from university and regional hospitals through questionnaires sent to these institutions regarding certain issues needed for the objectives of the report and reflected the legal changes and analysis of their im-pact. During this process, the donation data based on the declarations of the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE), Ministry of Health and Social Protection and hospital institutions were collected and we have used the comparative method for the analysis of the impact of Covid-19 on the budget of the health system. An important part of the methodology was the identification and analysis of problems and the justification of recommendations.

1. Introduction

Albania entered 2020 after the devastating earthquake of November 26th, 2019, which left behind 51 victims, thousands of homeless and, according to government estimation, about EUR 985 million in damage. The challenge of rebuilding homes and businesses was compounded by the challenge of protecting the health of citizens by taking measures to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic, and strengthening the health system to deal with each situation it faced. Both challenges had a negative impact on the control of the country's economy.

1.1 Occurrence and spread of the Covid-19 infection in Albania

In February 2020, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection reported that there were no cases of Covid-19 infection in Albania and that it was continuing with the risk assessment and taking actions to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus in the country.

While the situation in Europe and beyond was escalating with increasing numbers of people infected with coronavirus and the number of casualties was increasing significantly, especially in the north of Italy, Albania's borders continued to be open, even so Tirana International Airport started announcing preventive safety measures¹ against the spread of the Covid- 19.

The rapid spread of the Covid-19 infection and the announcement by the WHO of the global pandemic required immediate technical, organizational and financial actions to prepare the system and health personnel to cope with this previously unknown virus.

- *March 9th, Albania registered the first cases with Covid-19.*
- *March 11th, the MoHSP declared a state of epidemic from the Covid-19 infection.*
- *March 23rd, the Albanian government declared the emergency due to Covid-19 a "natural disaster"*

In the framework of these actions, with the order no. 193, dated 20.3.2020 "On the closure or restriction of movements in the Republic of Albania", from the Minister of Health and Social Protection, it was decided to restrict movement in the entire territory of the country, which brought a total blockade of social and economic activity in the country, with the exception of those of production and trade of food, pharmaceutical and financial products.

On June 1st, 2020, by order no. 351, dated 29.5.2020, "On taking special measures and restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19" and following a series of measures, the restrictions were gradually removed.

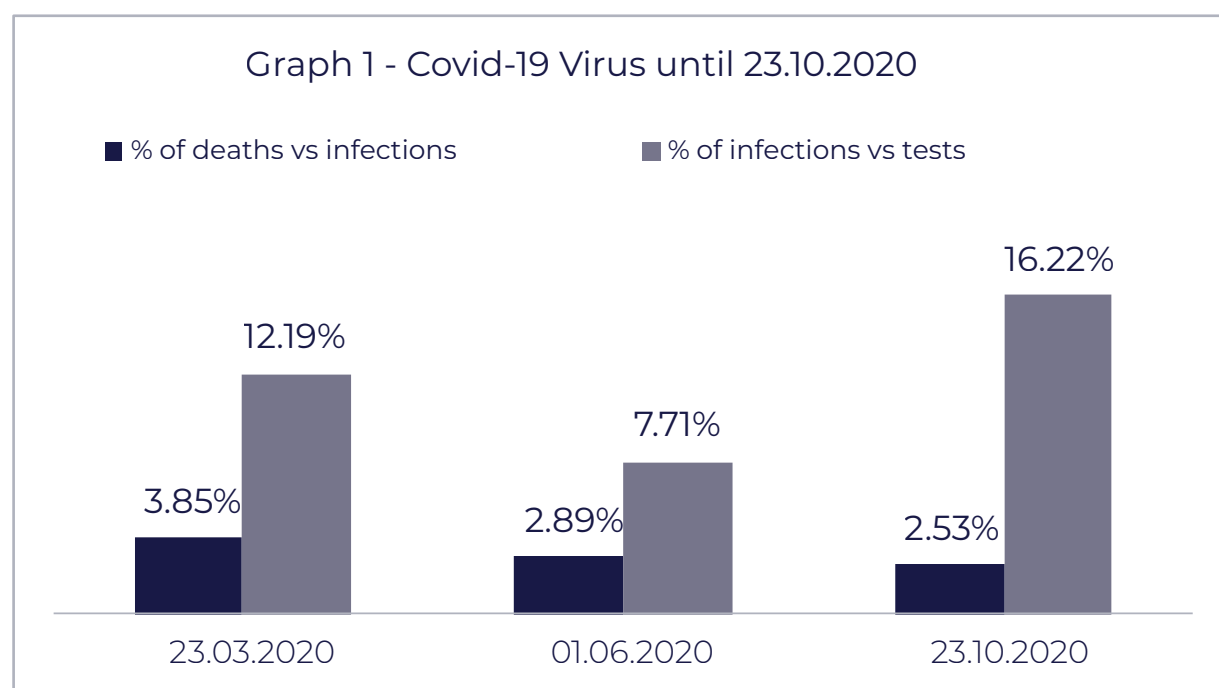
The opening of the borders during the months of the tourist season as well as the arrival of the autumn season, brought a significant increase in the number of people infected.

1. <https://dosja.al/mjeku-ne-rinas/>

Reference period	Tested patients	Positive patients	Currently in hospitals	Healed patients	Active cases	Total deaths	Administrative actions	Economic actions
Until 23.03.2020	853	104	49	5	99	4	Order no. 193, dated 20.3.2020 "On the closure or restriction of movements in the Republic of Albania",	In total, the additional funds according to the revised Budget, in the amount of EUR 38,869,000
Until 01.06.2021	14824	1143	28	877	233	33	Order no. 351, dated 29.5.2020, "On taking special measures and restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19",	
Until 22.10.2022	114381	18556	258	10395	7390	469	Guideline no.1163 / 1, dated 13.10.2020, of the Institute of Public Health on the mandatory use of masks in the premises outside the home"	

From the table above we understand how the situation of Covid-19 and the actions taken by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection have evolved. It has to be highlighted that the increase in the number of tests was accompanied by an increase in the detection of persons infected with Covid-19.

Public Health specialists report that the situation may become worse in the coming months. To understand the impact of the action, we can refer to the % of infected patients versus the total number of tests and the % of loss of life versus infected patients.



Graph 1, above, shows that the percentage of loss of life in patients infected with Covid-19 has decreased, leading to the theory that the aggressiveness of the virus has also decreased. It is also noticed that the percentage of patients infected with covid-19 has increased compared to the number of tests, indicating that the virulence of the infection has increased influenced by the removal of restrictions after June 1st.

1.2 The economic and financial situation created by the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had its own financial cost. According to reports from the Ministry of Finance that analyse budget indicators, this pandemic has reduced revenues in the state budget by not less than EUR 593.5 million (ALL 73 billion) and has also increased expenditures beyond forecasts.

Albania is considered one of the countries that will suffer the most from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on its economy. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)² said it expects Albania's economic output to decrease by 7.5% this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the 2019 earthquake, more than the 5% contraction projected earlier. The IMF also expects Albania's fiscal deficit to increase to about 7% of the gross domestic product (GDP) and the public debt-to-GDP ratio to rise to 80% in 2020. The World Bank said³ that Albania's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decline by 8.4% this year, downgrading its forecast for a 5% contraction made in June. High dependence on tourism is one of the main reasons why the forecasts of international institutions are pessimistic.

To have a better view of the situation in the health sector and also to understand the position of Albania in the Western Balkans, after selecting the data for these countries, we realize that according to the Global Health Security Index for 2019⁴, in the last two years (2019 and 2020) Albania has had a share of expenditures for health and social protection of 2.3 % of GDP.

Table 1	Global Health Security Index, Western Balkans 2019						
Countries	Prevent ⁵	Detect ⁶	Respond ⁷	Health ⁸	Norms ⁹	Risk ¹⁰	Overall
Albania	43.8	74.3	52	35.9	53	55.7	52.9
Serbia	48.8	46.2	55.1	56.6	49.7	59.2	52.3
Montenegro	37.6	77.3	37.8	30.8	52.6	60.8	43.7
Bosnia-Herzegovina	36.7	41.7	51.8	38.3	37.8	50.8	42.8
North Macedonia	37	41.7	33.1	25.4	44.8	57.7	39.1
Kosovo	n/a						

However, when we look at the quantitative indicators and the values spent per capita in these countries, we see that Albania is ranked the last, as it the smallest number of doctors, nurses and beds per 100,000 inhabitants

2. <https://seenews.com/news/albanias-economy-to-shrink-75-in-2020-imf-715315>

3. <https://seenews.com/news/albanias-gdp-to-shrink-84-in-2020-expand-5-in-2021-world-bank-716420>

4. For more detailed data and comparisons between countries, see <https://www.ghsindex.org/>

5. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR); Zoonotic disease; Biosafety; Dual use research and culture of responsible science; Immunization

6. Laboratory systems; Real time surveillance and reporting; Epidemiology workforce; Data integration between human/animal/environmental health sectors

7. Emergency preparedness and response planning; Exercising response plans; Emergency response operation' Linking public health and security authorities; Risk communication; Access to communications infrastructure; Trade and travel restrictions

8. Health capacity in clinics, hospitals and community care centers, medical countermeasures and personal deployment; Health care access; Communications with healthcare workers during a public health emergency; Infection control practices and availability of equipment; Capacity to test and approve new medical countermeasures

9. IHR reporting compliance and disaster risk reduction; Cross-border agreements on public health emergency response; International commitments; JEE and PVS; Financing; Commitment to sharing of genetic & biological data & specimens

10. Political and security risk; Socio-economic resilience; Infrastructure adequacy; Environments risks; Public health vulnerabilities

Table 2	Fund distribution to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Hospitals, 2020								In million Euros
Institutions	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Ministry	35.4	38.5	35.0	45.3	37.7	41.7	42.2	39.8	44.3
Hospitals	5.6	11.2	11.6	11.9	10.3	11.9	9.5	10.2	11.2
Hospitals/ Ministry	16%	29%	33%	26%	27%	29%	23%	26%	25%

The data presented by the *Global Health Security Index* 2019 for the period before the outbreak of the pandemic shows that the capacities concerning doctors, nurses and hospital beds in the countries of the Western Balkans are significantly different. Albania results in lower levels of resource capacities for medical staff, but also for hospital beds, while budget expenditures on health are at relatively high levels.

1.2.1 The Situation of medical staff

The largest number of infectious disease doctors was in the infectious service at the University Hospital Center of Tirana which for 9 months has faced a heavy workload. In other hospitals, the number of infectious disease doctors is very limited.

Family doctors: 1,561

- Specialist Doctors in Primary Health Care Services: 310
 - Doctors in Hospitals: 1,979
 - Doctors in other institutions (health institutions, private hospitals, local health care unit etc.): 827
- Total Doctors- 4677**

- Nurses in Primary Health Care Services: 6,950
 - Nurses in hospitals: 5,400
- Total nurses – 12,350**

The following data is for the medical staff:

- Epidemiologists: 134 (about 5 epidemiologists for 100,000 inhabitants)
- Infectologist: 61 (about 2 Infectologist for 100,000 inhabitants)
- Anaesthesiologists and intensive care: 114 (about 4 anesthesia doctors' resuscitation for 100,000 inhabitants)

**According to the definitions by MHSP and the Order of Physicians*

The need for additional medical staff should be considered if we are to face an increase in the number of infected patients who need to receive therapy in hospitals. There are about 150 employees reported to have been added to the health system, including at the University Hospital Center 'Mother Teresa', the hospital "Shefqet Ndroqi" and also in the field monitoring, and staffing control and inspection teams. 45 nurses are being trained for the opening of Covid (3) and Covid (4) hospitals.

Based on the law no. 15/2016 "On the prevention and control of infections and infectious diseases," amended, the MoHSP on 24.01.2020, issued the:

Order “On strengthening the preparation to protect against the new coronavirus and prevent the spread in Albania,” which instructed the Institute of Public Health (IPH) in cooperation with national experts and based on the instructions of the WHO and ECDC to determine the level of risk related to the infiltration and spread of this virus in our country, as well as drafting the protocols for coordinating care for and managing patients who may be infected.

Order no. 53, dated 31.01.2020, “On the establishment of the Temporary Committee for the spread of the new coronavirus infection” of the Minister of Health and Social Protection.

The MoHSP and the IPH drafted the Action Plan for the prevention of, preparation for and response against COVID-19

From an organizational point of view, the identification and monitoring of cases of coronavirus infections is done by family doctors and the service of the National Medical Emergency Center.

1.2.2 The situation of hospital beds dedicated to patients with Covid-19

The testing of the population and analysis is done by epidemiological groups and the laboratory of virology at the IPH. In all, 70 epidemiological groups are reported to be operating throughout the country to obtain swabs, testing some 1400 patients per day. Meanwhile, 12 mobile units have been added to the tools available to the epidemiological investigation teams, thanks to the cooperation and assistance of USAID

The increase in the number of requests for testing, especially in the Tirana-Durrës area and the limited opportunities of epidemiological groups have been accompanied by an increase in the wait time from 1 to 3 days (media have reported that citizens have waited until 9 days to test¹¹) for patients suspected of being infected, and an increase from 24 to 72 hours for a test response from the virology laboratory. These delays have increased the number of patients starting antibiotic treatment without being confirmed as infected with Covid-19, as well as those starting treatment late as they wait for test results.

1.2.3 The situation of hospital beds dedicated to patients with Covid-19

The treatment of patients with Covid-19 who need hospital-level treatment, has so far been done in Tirana. In all, there are:

- 140 beds in the Infectious service at QSUT, named Covid (1) hospital,
- 190 beds at the University Hospital of Lung Diseases “Shefqet Ndroqi”, named Covid (2) hospital

And, in the case of an increase in the number of patients, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection reports that it has prepared and completed:

- 125 beds at the former surgery clinic at QSUT, known as Covid (3) hospital,
- 108 beds at the Covid (4) hospital, in a building formerly used by the Kristal University, which was made available to MOHSP until the end of the pandemic,

according to DCM No. 244, dated 26.3.2020, "On making available to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection the former facility - Kristal University".

However, the MoHSP stated that it is preparing for any scenario to cope with the Covid-19 epidemic, including the regional hospitals, by strengthening the capacities of intensive care, providing the necessary equipment for emergency and resuscitation, and envisaging an increase in the total number to 1600 beds, which will be available for the treatment of patients with coronavirus.

1.2.4 The supply of protective materials and medical equipment to the health system

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, trying to increase the capacities of Covid-19 hospitals and other regional hospitals, as well as giving priority to the protection of medical staff, has distributed protective equipment and medical devices to the health staff, provided by donations¹². These donations are distributed in the health system as follows:

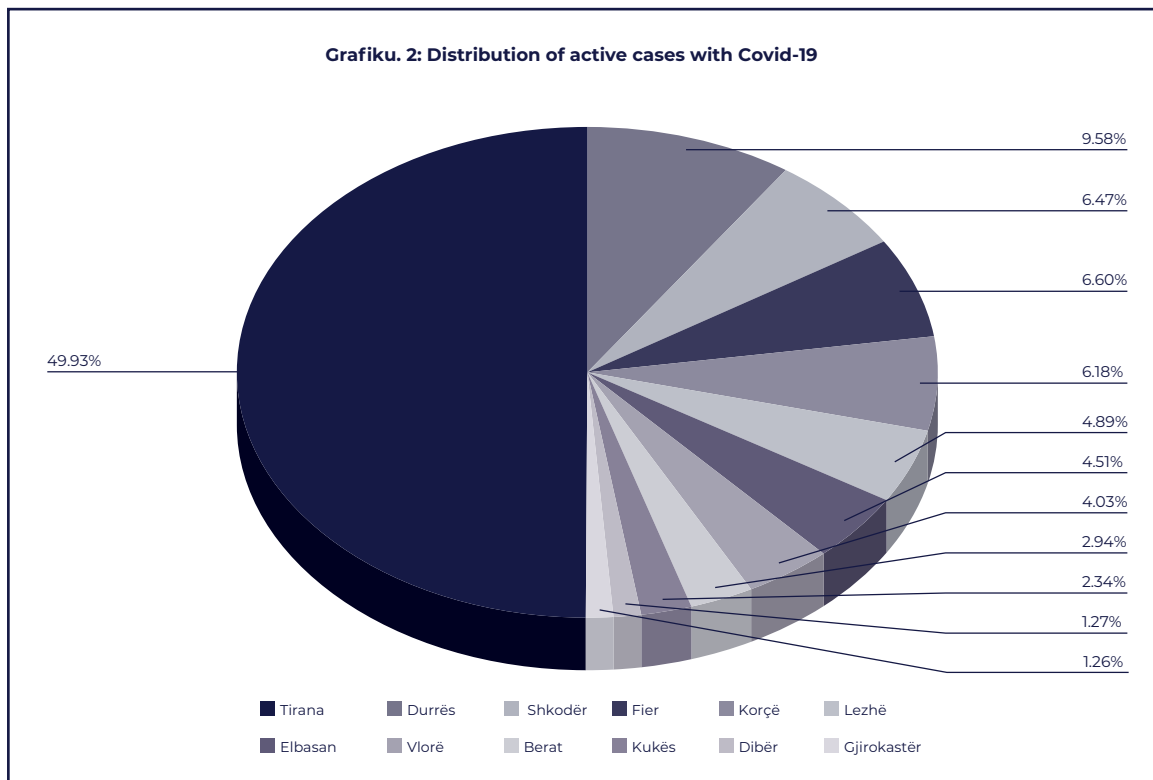
1. Protective masks for medical staff
 - ▶ Medical protective face mask (surgical mask): 1,150,450 pcs
 - ▶ Respiratory masks for medical staff: 98,000 pcs
2. Respiratory: Of the 200 respirators reported in the hospital system prior to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, 173 respirators were added through purchases from the MoHSP and donor assistance, which increased capacities of the Covid and regional hospitals.
3. Patient monitors: 330 pieces were supplied, of which 46 are multifunctional
4. Patient beds: 100 patient beds have been supplied
5. Ambulances: 5 ambulances were donated, and a contract was signed for the supply of 36 new ambulances.

The situation in the supply of medical equipment and personal protective equipment for medical staff is changing as supplies come in daily from donations, purchases with aid funds, and purchases made by the MoHSP with budget funds, among others.

1.2.5 Identified problems

The concentration of treatment of all patients with Covid-19 in Covid (1) and Covid (2) hospitals in Tirana led to an increase in the workload of these hospitals, an increase in their expenditures on protective equipment, medical supplies, drugs and medical equipment, as well as case overload and high exposure to the virus for the health personnel, associated with the infection of a segment of the staff.

¹². Appendix 1



The Ministry of Health and Social Protection declared the increase of intensive and sub-intensive therapy capacities, dedicating 500 beds, 80% of them with oxygen lines, half being new (Covid-3 and 4), in the amount of 1,295,546 million Euros.

Considering that Tirana had 46% of the total number of infected cases and the necessary expenses incurred by the MoHSP for the completion of the Covid (3) hospital and for the adaptation and completion of the Covid (4) hospital, it seems that it would have been more efficient if, instead of building new hospitals, that the existing regional hospitals with their capacities were utilized, given the fact that a great percentage of them have infective departments and specialized health staff. This would have increased the rate of response toward the infected patients.

It is necessary to take advantage of the professional capacities of infectious disease specialists in the primary healthcare stage, as well as to strengthen the intensive care units in regional hospitals by investing in them, adding the necessary medical equipment to increase the effectiveness of the treatment of Covid-19 cases. This also requires an increase in the budget.

2. Budget law 2020 amendments

2.1. Approved budget law 2020 for the health and social protection sector

The budget for 2020 was approved on 18/12/2019, with law No. 88/2019, "On the budget for 2020", after the revision of the draft budget to cover the damage caused by the earthquake and the financing of the Reconstruction Program.

Programmes	OPEX	CAPEX			TOTAL Expenditures (OPEX+ CAPEX)
		Domestic financing	Foreign financing	Total CAPEX	
Management and Administration	3,406	34	0	34	3,440
Primary Health Care Services	62,088	4,279	1,285	5,563	67,652
Secondary Health Care Services	192,703	10,618	6,927	17,545	210,248
Public health Services	24,264	191	0	191	24,455
National Emergency Service	2,520	188	0	188	2,709
Social Care	193,896	307	813	1,120	195,016
Rehabilitation of Politically Persecuted	8,423	10	0	10	8,433
TOTAL EXPENDITURES PROGRAMME 2020	487,300	15,626	9,024	24,650	511,951

Source MoFE

The budget planned by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection at the beginning of 2020 was 2.36% higher compared to the budget of 2019, with an increase according to the programs given in the table below¹³:

Table 6 MoHSP- Comparison between the Budget Law Realized in 2019 and the Budget Planned in 2020			000 Euro
Programmes	Budget 2019 Realized	Budget 2020 Initial plan	Changes by programs
Management and Administration	2,754	3,447	25.17%
Primary Health Care Services	63,532	67,654	6.49%
Secondary Health Care Services	208,718	210,257	0.74%
Public Health Services	21,765	24,502	12.58%
National Emergency Service	1,462	2,710	85.38%
Social Care	191,402	195,028	1.89%
Rehabilitation of the Politically Persecuted	10,583	8,433	-20.31%
TOTAL Expenditures	500,216	512,032	2.36%

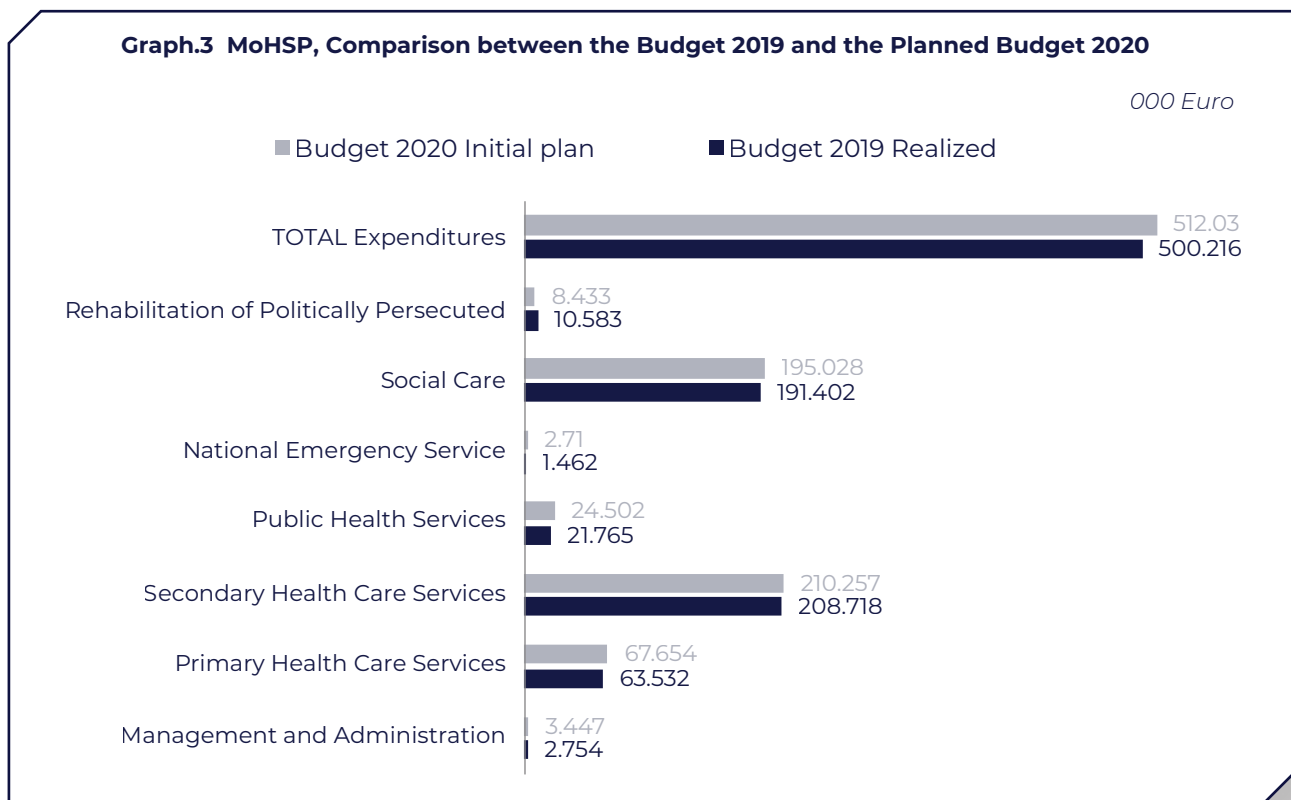
Source MoHSP

As can be seen above, compared to 2019, increased funding is planned for the following programs:

- Development of emergency medical services as an integral part of the health system, in providing timely and quality emergency medical care throughout the country.
- Ensuring the supply of hospital institutions with drugs, treatment materials and medical equipment.
- Continuation of the reconstruction program of hospitals and healthcare centers.
- Increased epidemiological surveillance and follow-up of infectious disease.

13. According to the division of programs, the tertiary health system is included in the secondary health service. All hospitals (municipal, regional and tertiary) are included in the secondary health care program.

In the graph below we can see the differences in values between the budget of 2020, compared to the budget realized in 2019



2.2. Amendment of the 2020 budget to cope with Covid-19

Out of 210 Laws and other legal acts adopted and published during the March - September 2020 period, the current activity related to the health sector dominates with more than 84% of legal acts. From all of that we have analysed, those that target the changes in budget and procurement procedures, the greatest are those introduced in order to cope with the situation of Covid-19.

2.3. Administrative actions

Budget amendments increased the budget for the Ministry of Health and Social Protection based on the Covid-19 needs of hospital systems, as defined in Decisions of the Council of Ministers¹⁴ and ratified by normative acts with legal powers.

In the period March to September 2020, the budget has been amended 3 times. Measures in the fiscal field are also coordinated with measures in the monetary field. The continuation of these measures necessitated three amendments to the budget law for the period March-July 2020 through normative acts no.6, no.15, and no.28.

14. - DCM no. 205, dated 9.3.2020 "For an additional fund in the budget of 2020, approved for the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, for taking measures to meet the preliminary needs for the infection caused by Covid-19".

- DCM no. 207, dated 10.3.2020 "For bonuses for the medical staff, doctors, nurses and other employees".

- DCM no. 240, dated 21.3.2020 "For an additional fund in the budget of 2020, approved for the Ministry of Health and Social Protection".

- DCM no.244, dated 26.3.2020 "On making available to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection the property of the former university "Kristal".

- DCM no.249, dated 27.3.2020 "On the details and how to use the Anticovid-19 fund".

The Bank of Albania since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has undertaken a complete package of measures to support the households and sectors mostly affected by the crisis. These measures provide the needed liquidity to the banking system and to the whole economy, cushion the uninterrupted flow of lending to households and firms, and maintain favourable financing conditions to them.¹⁵¹⁶

Administrative Acts and Date	Actions	Budget effects
Normative act no. 6, dated 21.3.2020- "Changes in the budget of 2020" ¹⁷	The first amendment to the 2020 budget was approved by the normative act of the Council of Ministers no.6, dated 21.3.2020. This normative act enabled several measures to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including support for the health sector, the people with social needs, those employed in businesses, and those who remained unemployed due to this situation.	This normative act reduced the total budget revenues by ALL 20 billion, leading to an increase in the budget deficit and public debt.
Normative act no.15, dated 15.4.2020 "On changes in the law "On the budget of 2020"	The second amendment in the budget of 2020 was made with the normative act no. 15/2020, which enabled financing with 7 billion ALL of the expenditures for the contingency for the "anti-COVID social package", by using like-source reallocation expenses and by not changing the level of the general budget revenues and expenditures, and causing the budget deficit.	In the second change, support for business was enabled, in the form of the new sovereign guarantee instrument, in the amount of ALL 15 billion, financing with 7 billion ALL of the expenditures for the contingency for the anti-COVID social package"
Normative act no. 28, dated 2.7.2020 "For some changes in the law for the budget of 2020"	Normative act no. 28, dated 2.7.2020 was approved in the following emergency situation: health, caused by the COVID-19. This normative act aimed to enable the financing of state measures for the mitigation of the effects of the health pandemic on citizens and businesses	The budget funds programmed: - allocation of expenditures in the amount of ALL 7 billion; - approval of the sovereign guarantee in the amount of ALL 15 billion

15.https://www.bankofalbania.org/Press/Governor_Sejko_Address_to_the_Parliamentary_Committee_on_Economy_and_Finance_presenting_the_Annual_Report_of_the_Bank_of_Albania_for_2019_26872_1.html

16. The package of the measures undertaken by the Bank of Albania consists in:

- reducing the policy rate, at 0.5%, and the unlimited supply with liquidity to the banking system, aiming to boost the smooth functioning of financial markets and reduce credit cost to private sector.
- the temporary easing of bank regulations, to provide the temporary extension, with two quarters, of the payments of credit, with the aim to keep the liquid position of firms and households in temporary difficulty, and increase their chances to survive;
- eliminating the operational costs of electronic payment system, in response to the upward demand for this type of activity; and
- enhancing the operational capacities to guarantee the supply of economy with cash, by providing a sufficient stock to meet the increasing demand of market for cash.

17. Approved by Parliament with Law no.27, dated 16.04.2020

2.4 Fiscal actions - Funds made available to MoHSP

On the proposal of the Minister of Health and Social Protection, the Council of Ministers¹⁸ has allocated these funds:

The *first amendment* of the Budget Law 2020 planned to allocate EUR 9.7 million to the MoHSP budget, according to the following details:

- a) In the amount of EUR 4 million, in the program "Secondary care services", in the category of current expenditures.
- b) In the amount of EUR 1.3 million, in the program "Public health services", in the category of current expenditures.
- c) In the amount of EUR 0.4 million, in the program "National Emergency Service", in the category of current expenditures.
- ç) In the amount of EUR 4 million, in the program "Planning, management and administration," in the category of current expenditures.

The *second amendment* of the Budget Law 2020 does not have any impact on the MoHSP's budget. In this second amendment of the Budget Law 2020, a fund of EUR 56,131,578 is allocated to the item "Contingency for the anti-COVID social package". This fund will be used by decision of the Council of Ministers to finance social measures, such as supporting people affected by the suspension of work processes (who have been employed in large and small business), as well as other people in need. Expenditures on other budget items are reduced by EUR 56.1 million euros. This reallocation is aimed at financing the second package of anti-Covid-19 measures, at no additional cost to the budget. This amendment did not change the level of the general budget revenues and expenditures, and consequently the budget deficit.

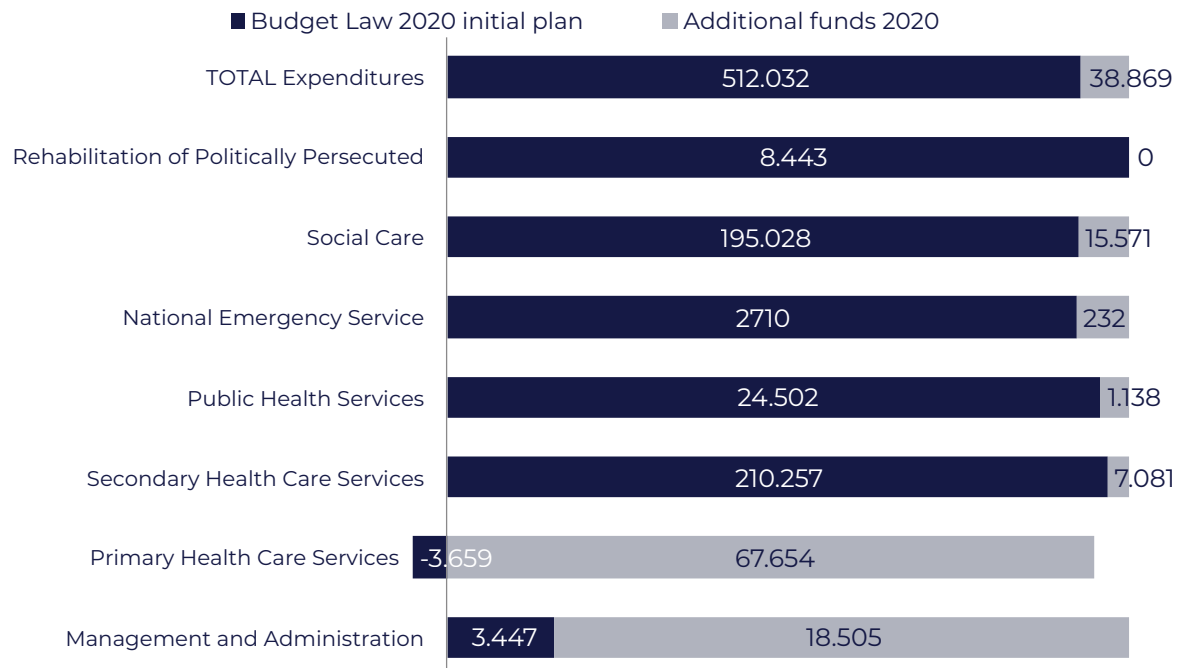
The *third amendment* of the Budget Law 2020 consists of an increase in funds for coping with the Covid-19 situation in the hospital service institutions, increasing the funds for expenses in the supply of personal protection equipment for health structures, laboratory testing and diagnostic materials, and the increase in funds for capacities in health systems and medical equipment needed to cope with the situation.

Table 7: Ministry of Health and Social Protection Distribution of funds Budget Law 2020 revised	000 Euro
Management and Administration	21,952
Primary Health Care Services	63,995
Secondary Health Care Services	217,339
Public Health Services	25,641
National Emergency Service	2,942
Social Care	210,599
Rehabilitation of the Politically Persecuted	8,433
TOTAL Expenditures	550,901

Source MoHSP

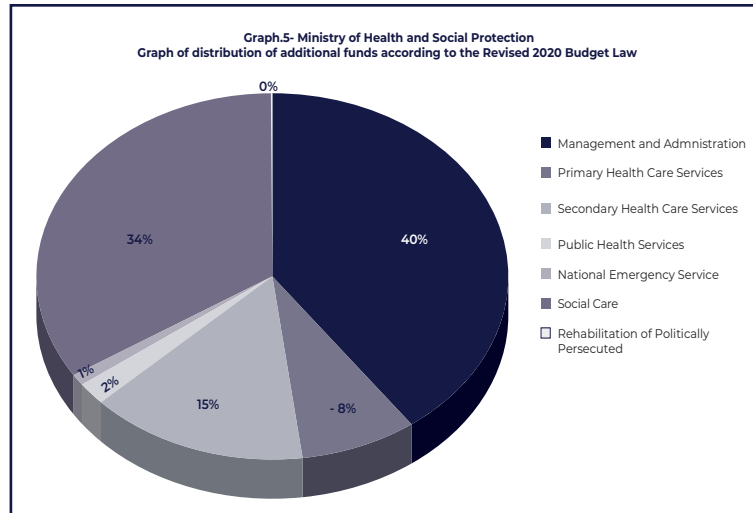
18. According to DCM no. 249, dated 27.3.2020 "On the details and how to use the anticovid-19 fund " pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution, Articles 5 and 45, of Law no. 9936, dated 26.6.2008, "On the management of the budget system in the Republic of Albania", as amended, and Article 5, of Law no. 88 / 2019, "On the budget for 2020", as amended,

Graph 4 Distribution of funds according to the Planned 2020 Budget Law and additional funds according to the Revised 2020 Budget Law in 000 Euro



In all, the additional funds according to the Revised Budget in the amount of EUR 38,869,000 is distributed as follows:

- 47.61% (EUR 18,505,000) goes to the Management and Administration program. The added budget is allocated mainly for current expenses for taking anti-Covid-19 actions, for the purchase of protective materials and medical equipment for the hospitals that treat patients with Covid-19. Procurement procedures of these contracts are concentrated in the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- 40.06% (EUR 15,571,000) goes to the Social Care program, the added budget is allocated for doubling the social assistance payments for the quarantine period.
- 18.22% (EUR 7,081,000) goes to the Secondary Health Care Services program. The budget allocation is provided mainly for current expenses to be incurred by hospitals for anti-Covid-19 measures, and for staff bonuses, for those working on the front line of the epidemic.
- 2.93% (EUR 7,659,000) goes to the Public Health Services program
- In the program Primary Health Care Services, there has been a reduction of funds by 9.41%, utilizing reserves from unrealized services as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.



In total, according to DCM no. 249, dated 27.3.2020 “On detailing how to use anti-Covid-19 funds”:

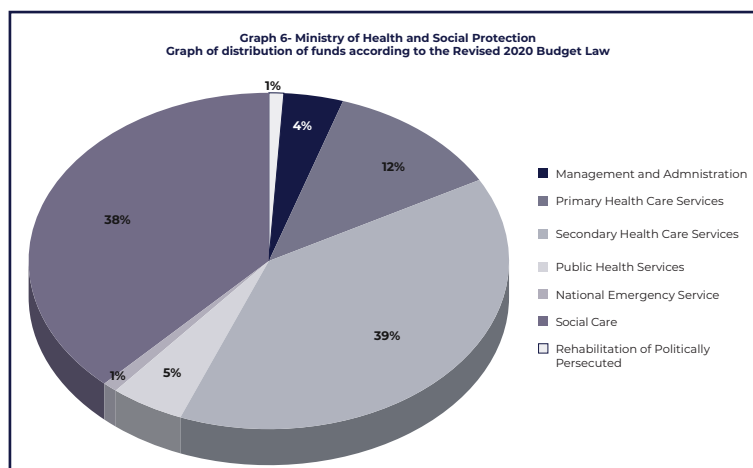
1.The Anti-Covid-19 fund of EUR 20.2 million is used by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection according to the following details:

- In the amount of EUR 4 million, for the program “Secondary care services”, in the category of current expenditures.
- In the amount of EUR 1.2 million, for the program “Public health services”, in the category of current expenditures.
- In the amount of EUR 0.4 million, for the program “National Emergency Service”, in the category of current expenditures.
- In the amount of EUR 6.5 million, for the program “Planning, management and administration”, in the category of current expenditures.
- In the amount of EUR 8.1 million, for the program “Planning, management and administration”, in the category of capital expenditures.

The structure of the 2020 budget changed following the addition of funds to support Covid-19.

The distribution of the total budget of 2020, revised, by percentage, is given in the chart below:

- Management and Administration 3.98%
- Primary Health Care Services 11.62%
- Secondary Health Care Services 39.45%
- Public Health Services 4.65%
- National Emergency Service 0.53%
- Social Care 38.23%
- Rehabilitation of the Politically Persecuted 1.53%



2.5 Distribution of funds in regional hospitals

The concentration of patients with Covid-19 in the Covid (1) and Covid (2) hospitals in Tirana, has affected the distribution of funds for the Covid-19 pandemic. Funds made available to regional hospitals that have not treated patients with Covid-19 have been used to purchase personal protective equipment and disinfectants. Table 8 reflects the distribution of funds according to the hospitals that have reported.

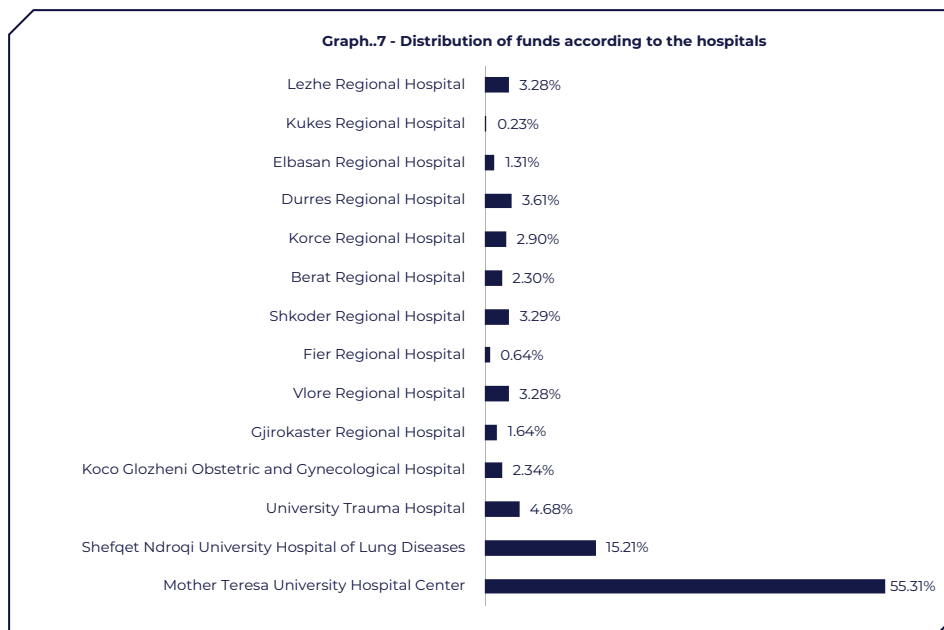
Table.8- Distribution of funds according to the hospitals

Euro

No.	Hospitals	Funds available for Covid 19	Additional funds for transferred services
1	Mother Teresa University Hospital Center	1,922,024	
2	Shefqet Ndroqi University Hospital of Lung Diseases	528,455	
3	University Trauma Hospital	162,602	5,539,138
4	Koco Glozheni Obstetric and Gynecological Hospital	81,301	
5	Gjirokaster Regional Hospital	56,911	
6	Vlore Regional Hospital	113,821	
7	Fier Regional Hospital	22,358	
8	Shkoder Regional Hospital	114,228	
9	Berat Regional Hospital	79,813	
10	Korce Regional Hospital	100,813	
11	Durres Regional Hospital	125,325	
12	Elbasan Regional Hospital	45,699	
13	Kukes Regional Hospital	8,130	
14	Lezhe Regional Hospital	113,821	
	Total	3,475,301	5,539,138
	Total additional funds for Secondary Health Care Services	7,081,000	

Source: Hospitals

Table 8 shows that most of the funds have been allocated to the University Trauma Hospital, because this hospital covered all the patients of the "Shefqet Ndroqi" hospital, which was turned into the Covid (2) hospital. In addition, patients seeking some services at the Mother Teresa University Hospital Center were transferred to the University Trauma Hospital. The fund made available for Covid-19 in this hospital is valued at EUR 162,602 (20 million ALL) and is used for anti-Covid protection materials and for the bonuses of the medical and nursing staff who are at the frontline of contact with the infection.



Most of the funds are allocated to the two Covid-19 hospitals in Tirana. The funds allocated to the regional hospitals are mainly used to cover the needs for protective equipment for the staff, for disinfection services, and for bonuses of the medical and nursing staff that are at the frontline of contact with the infection.

Recommendation: In the case that regional hospitals are included in the scheme of treatment of patients with Covid-19, it is necessary to increase funds for these institutions.

2.6 Approved draft budget of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for 2021

The draft budget for 2021, planned by Ministry is based on the forecast of continuation of pandemic.

Table 9- Draft budget of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for 2021

000 Euro

Ministry of Health and Social Protection

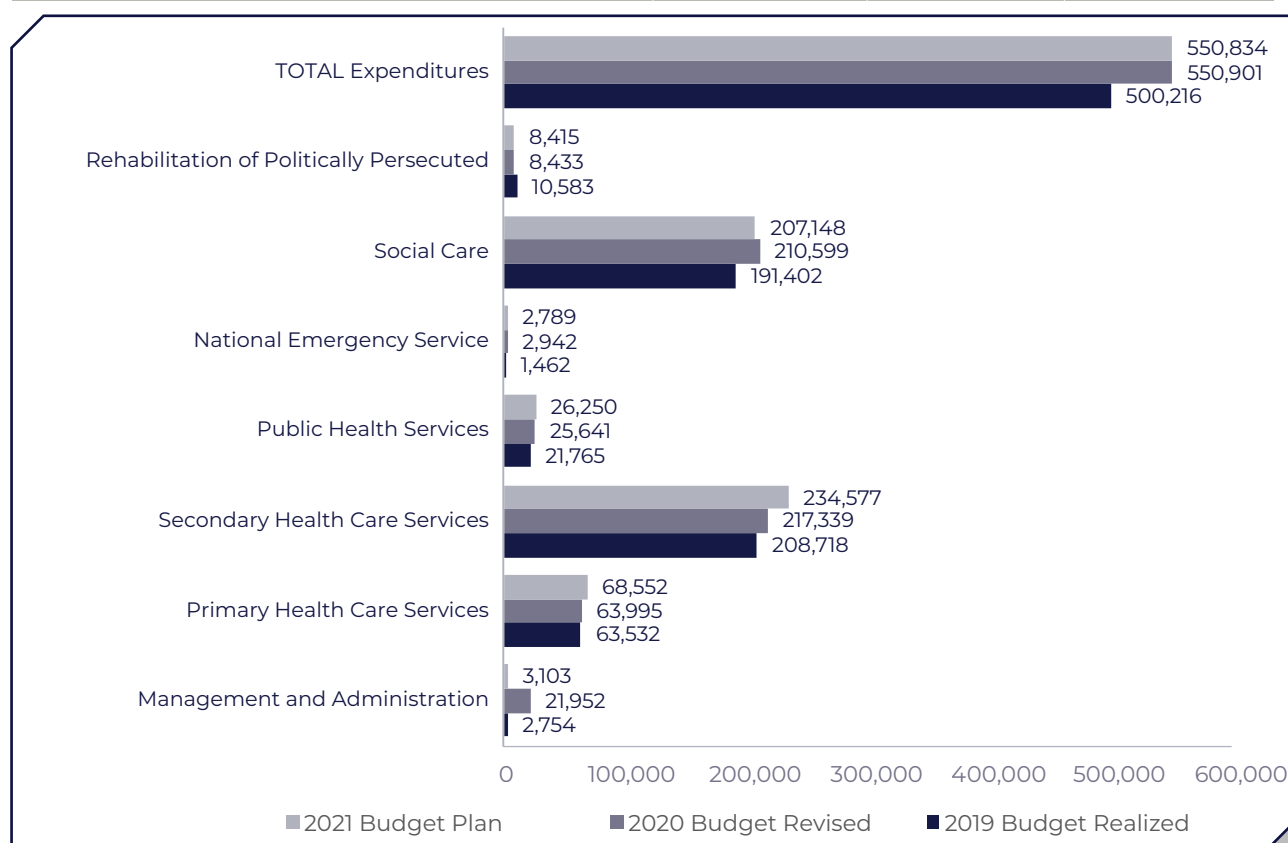
Programs	OPEX	CAPEX			TOTAL Expenditures (OPEX+CAPEX)
		Domestic financing	Foreign financing	Total CAPEX	
Management and Administration	3,062	41	0	41	3,103
Primary Health Care Services	64,748	2,519	1,285	3,804	68,552
Secondary Health Care Services	210,651	16,998	6,927	23,925	234,577
Public Health Services	26,079	171	0	171	26,250
National Emergency Service	2,667	122	0	122	2,789
Social Care	206,254	81	813	894	207,148
Rehabilitation of the Politically Persecuted	8,415	0	0	0	8,415
TOTAL Expenditures on programs	521,877	19,933	9,024	28,957	550,834

If we compare the projected budget funds for 2021 and 2020, we see that they are at the same level, with a change within the programs after an increase in the funds for the Primary Health Care Services by 4,557,000 Euro and the Secondary Health Care Services by 17,238,000 Euro.

The data in the table below reflect the budget changes over the years 2019,2020, and 2021.

Table 10 - MoHSP- Comparison between the Realized 2019 Budget Law, the Revised 2020 Budget, and the Planned 2021 Budget in 000 Euro

Programs	2019 Budget, Realized	2020 Budget, Revised	2021 Budget, Planned
Management and Administration	2,754	21,952	3,103
Primary Health Care Services	63,532	63,995	68,552
Secondary Health Care Services	208,718	217,339	234,577
Public Health Services	21,765	25,641	26,250
National Emergency Service	1,462	2,942	2,789
Social Care	191,402	210,599	207,148
Rehabilitation of the Politically Persecuted	10,583	8,433	8,415
TOTAL Expenditures	500,216	550,901	550,834



As noted above, the 2021 budget plan maintains the same structure as the revised 2020 budget, foreseeing increases in Primary and Secondary Health Care services expenditures related to the expected impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. Donations to cope with Covid-19

Albania has been supported by international aid to deal with the pandemic and, especially, to balance the state budget.

3.1. Donations from the EU: funds, facility, and distribution

The donations that have been declared to benefit Albania for the Covid-19 situation amount to several tens of millions of euros / dollars. Regarding donations to the health sector, below is a summary based on the statements of government leaders, resulting from the intersection between information from Albanian and foreign media.

1. The EU is mobilizing a package of over EUR 410 million in reallocated bilateral financial assistance to support the Western Balkans during the coronavirus emergency. Out of this package, Albania will receive only EUR 4 million of immediate support for the health sector and EUR 46.7 million of support for its social and economic recovery.
2. Albania has received USD 700 thousand in health assistance from the USA to help prepare the response of the health sector to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on the response sent by the MoFE regarding donations made by individuals, organizations, institutions and foreign governments, as well as the health assistance available from the MoHSP, they amount to a total value of 4.2 million Euros.

Numerous donors have made in-kind donations of personal protective equipment, as well as medical equipment to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

The table below explains in detail the months, names of donors, and the items received, together with the value that corresponds to them and also the final destination.

Table 10 Health Assistance received from MoHSP for coping with the Covid-19

Month	Donor	Health assistance	Value in Euro	Distribution
May- 2020	EU (UNOPS)	Protective equipment (gloves and goggles) disinfectant	40,650	Regional Hospitals, Maternity 1, 2, Shefqet Ndroqi UH
May- 2020	EMAAR (China)	Protective equipment (gloves and goggles) disinfectant	178,862	HCSO Tirana, Tertiary services, Maternity 1, 2
May- 2020	Qatar	Protective equipment (gloves and goggles) disinfectant	447,154	HCSO Tirana, Hospitals in Tirana, Maternity 1, 3
June-2020	United Arab Emirates	Protective equipment (gloves and goggles) disinfectant	73,171	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana
June-2020	Jordan	Protective equipment (gloves and goggles) disinfectant	422,764	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana, HCSO
June-2020	Albanian Red Cross	Medical equipment	24,390	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana
June-2020	EU (UNOPS)	Medical equipment	1,869,919	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana
July-2020	PNUD, SWISS and NOR.Govts.	Medical equipment (Respirator)	650,407	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana
July-2020	WHO	Protective equipment (gloves and goggles) disinfectant	113,821	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana
July-2020	Albanian Red Cross (MSE)	Medical equipment	32,520	Covid
July-2020	US Embassy	Protective equipment and medical equipment	48,780	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana
August-2020	UNICEF	Medical equipment (Oxygenator)	6,504	Regional Hospitals, Hospitals in Tirana
August-2020	EU (UNOPS)	Laboratory materials for Covid-19	292,683	PHI Tirana
September-2020	German Embassy	Medical equipment (Respirator)	250,000	Shefqet Ndroqi UH
TOTAL			4,451,626	

Source: MoHSP, Embassy of F.R.Germany

Donors and relevant amounts donated are reflected in the issuance of “Voluntary Contributions, COVID-19” accounts opened in the banking system.

Table 11

Voluntary contributions for Covid-19 deposited in the Government deposit in Euro/USD/ALL by commercial banks		
Description	Value in currency	Value in ALL
Government deposit in Euro	6500	807,068
Government deposit in ALL		63,620,133
Total 1	6500	64,427,201
Voluntary contributions for Covid-19 deposited in the Government deposit in Euro/USD/ALL by commercial banks		
Description	Value in currency	Value in ALL
Government deposit in USD	299,152	32,918,700
Total 2	299,152.13	32,918,700.39

Source MoHSP

About Euro 869,920 (ALL 107 million) were donated to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection designated for the purchase of medical equipment.

Lezhe Regional Hospital reports on Euro 32,135 (3,952,690 ALL) donations. Other hospitals report donations in anti-Covid-19 protection materials, without specifying values. In total, the donations reported by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection are Euro 5,353,682.

It should be noted that there is a lack of transparency of budgetary institutions regarding the donations received. It is necessary to make donations more transparent, in order to ensure they are managed well.

4. Ministry of Health and Social Protection Budget execution for 8 months

4.1 Budget execution for 8 months

For the 8 months of 2020, the realization of expenditures is reported as follows:

Table 12- Budget execution for 8 months in 000Euro

Programs	January-August Period progressive
Management and Administration	8,998
Primary Health Care Services	44,788
Secondary Health Care Services	121,987
Public Health Services	13,867
National Emergency Service	934
Social Care	151,394
Rehabilitation of the Politically Persecuted	5,770
TOTAL Expenditures	347,739
Out-of-Limit Revenue Expenses	2,881
TOTAL	350,620

Source MoHSP

According to the reports of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection for the period of the eight months January-August 2020, the results were as follows:

Table 13

000 Euro

Name of Performance / Product Indicator	Actual Expenditures (end of current / progressive period)
Protective materials purchased for COVID 19	5,424
Medical and non-medical staff given bonuses for COVID-19	5,171
Patients treated with COVID 19	934

According to the statements of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection:

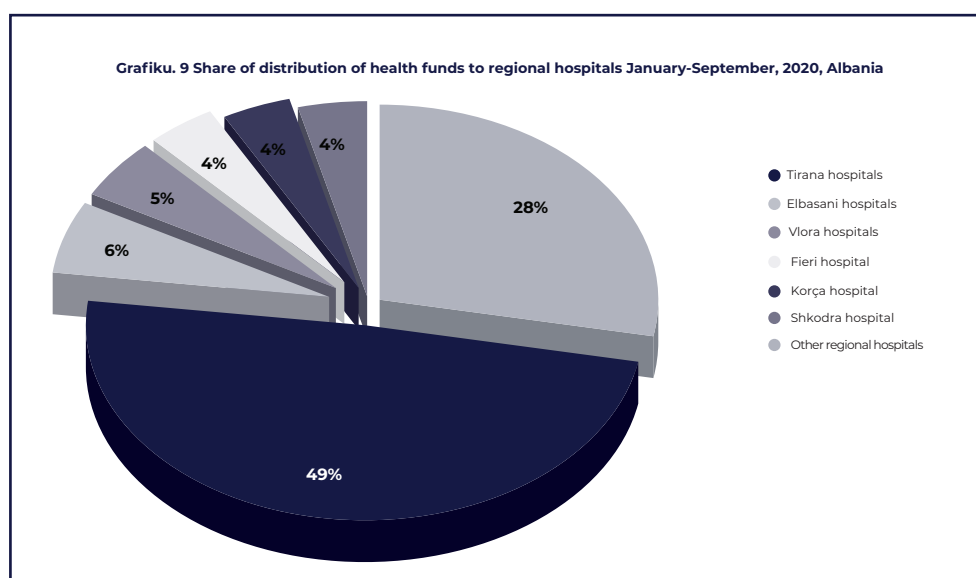
- It is noted that in reality the data on the expenses for the patients with Covid-19, treated in the Covid-19 hospitals and for the bonuses of the doctors are higher than the data reflected in the table above, because reporting on these issues in particular, apart from other expenses, started too late.
- 522 doctors, 1,130 nurses and 134 epidemiologists have received a 1,000 Euro bonus on their monthly salary/reward based on their work with Covid-19 patients. 739 support staff have received the 500 Euro bonus/reward according to the work done with patients with Covid-19 on the monthly salary. In addition, 150 health personnel have been hired to ensure the increase in human resource capacities in Covid-19 hospitals.
- Personal protective equipment is guaranteed for health staff at all levels of the public, primary and hospital health system in the amount of 9.76 million Euro (1.2 billion ALL).
- It has invested in strengthening the capacities of intensive and sub-intensive therapy, dedicating 500 beds, 80% of them with oxygen lines and where half of them are new capacities in the system Covid (3) and (4) - in the amount of 1.3 million Euro (160 million ALL).

- Medications are provided according to the protocols of hospital services in other countries, without any shortages, in the amount of EUR 406,504 (50 million ALL)
- Guaranteed plasma therapy according to protocols in the amount of EUR 650,406 (80 million ALL).

Based on the total Budget of the MoHSP at their disposal, the total lump sum with no Covid-19 funds was 550.9 million Euros. Until now, the MoHSP has spent EUR 350.6 million. The budget remaining at their disposal until the end of the year 2020 is EUR 200.28 million.

4.2. Services in the hospitals

The information provided in the graph below is from Treasury payment registrations and presents all the payments for the hospitals in Albania from the MoHSP. We can see that almost 49% of funds for hospitals are distributed to 5 hospitals¹⁹ in Tirana and in the second place are 2 hospitals in Elbasan (6% of total funds), in third place are 2 hospitals in Vlora (5% of total funds), followed by the hospitals in Korça, Fier and Shkodra (with 4% of total funds, respectively). In the graph below, we can see how the funds spent by budget institutions were allocated for the period January-September 2020, according to the Treasury data.



The transfer of funds to regional hospitals amounts to EUR 93.4 million, which constitutes 26% of all funds available to the MoHSP. For the period March – September 2020, the transfer of funds to regional hospitals amounts to EUR 76.6 million.

Table 12 Fund distribution to Ministry of health and Social Protection and Hospitals, 2020 in million Euros

Institutions	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
Ministry	35.4	38.5	35.0	45.3	37.7	41.7	42.2	39.8	44.3
Hospitals	5.6	11.2	11.6	11.9	10.3	11.9	9.5	10.2	11.2
Hospitals/Ministry	16%	29%	33%	26%	27%	29%	23%	26%	25%

Source: Treasury, MoFE

19. "Mother Teresa" University Hospital
 "Shefqet Ndroqi" University Hospital
 Trauma University Hospital
 University Hospital Obstetric Gynecology "Koco Glozheni"
 University Hospital Obstetric Gynecology "Queen Geraldine"

Table 12 shows that the moment the first normative act is approved, an increase in funds transferred to the regional hospitals can be observed. In March 2020, the percentage of funds transferred to hospitals in relation to the entire MoHSP budget reaches the peak of the period with 33% of the total. The largest funds are allocated to Covid-19 hospitals in Tirana, where the transferred funds amount to EUR 5.8 million, accounting for 50.3% of all funds transferred to hospitals across the country. The same access to funds is seen in May-June, and in September, which coincides with the time the number of infected increases.

The detailed information with data about the distribution of funds to 36 localities, including the 43 hospitals²⁰ that are located in these regions, for every month of 2020 (January – September) can be found in Appendix B.

Table 14 Budget and procurement procedures in main hospitals 2020, në ,000 Euro

Hospital name	Budget for Covid-19		Budget distribution			Secondary income	Tenders and procedure			Donations			Infections
	Allocated	Requested	Protection and medicine	Equipment	Staff-service		Number	Open	Closed	Medicine	Equipment	PPE	
Mother Teresa University Hospital	528	2423	358		358	No income	3	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mother Teresa University Hospital	1922	1922	805	n/a	Yes	Lower incomes	9	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trauma University Hospital	5702	n/a	Yes	Yes	Po	Lower incomes	2	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Regional Hospital of Shkodra	114	84	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lower incomes	4	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Regional Hospital of Vlora	155	47	57	41	57	Lower incomes	4	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Regional Hospital of Lezha	89	89	45	n/a	44	Lower incomes	16	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Koco Gllazheni Hospital	81	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	Lower incomes	n/a	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Regional Hospital of Berat	65	30	Yes	No	Yes	Lower incomes	4	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Regional Hospital of Durres	288	61	Yes	No	Yes	Lower incomes	1	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Regional Hospital of Korce	101	n/a	89		11	Lower incomes	3	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

According to the responses from the regional hospitals (Table 14), including those that are the main hospitals in Tirana, it can be seen that the funds allocated for coping with the Covid-19 situation are EUR 9 million. The request for funds allocation from the hospital administrations is EUR 4.6 million. The requests are mainly for medical and protective equipment. According to the analysis of requests it looks that staff remuneration is centralized in the MoHSP.

20. 12 regional and localities hospitals

5. Management of budget funds for coping with the Covid-19

5.1. Manner of procurement, legal change

Funds intended for Covid-19 are mainly concentrated in the MoHSP, where centralized procurement procedures have been performed to cover the needs of hospital institutions.

Based on the decision no. 1563, dated 24.03.2020 of the Technical Committee for dealing with the Covid-19 situation, the MoHSP has implemented the direct procedure defined in DCM No. 203, dated 26.02.2020, for signed contracts approved by the Council of Ministers.

Since March 2020, procurements for contracts related to Covid-19 by the MoHSP, were made based on DCM no.203, dated 26.2.2020 "For the procedures used for concluding contracts dictated by the essential interests of the state."²¹

Given that the country is dealing with a national emergency, in the form of a "natural disaster", and, given that we are dealing with contracts dictated by the essential interests of the state to cope with the situation and protect the health of the population, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection has used the direct procedure for 15 contracts as seen in Table 16.

Table. 16 Procurement procedures by Decision of Council of Ministers, March, - September, 2020

No.	Object of Procurement	Type of Procurement Procedure	Contract Value (in 000 Euros including VAT)	Contract Value (in 000 ALL including VAT)	Procurement Developer
1	On the approval of the contract with object "Purchase of materials for personal protection for COVID-19, "Purchase of drugs against Coronavirus COVID-19, divided into 10 lots (one drug one lot)",	Direct Procedure	2814	346106	DCM
2	Lot 1 "Purchase of kits for the microbiological laboratory for the implementation of RT-PCR suitable to be used for the Existation equipment of the company Bioneer or equivalent for QSUT"	Direct Procedure	83	10200	DCM
3	Lot 2 "Treatment and disposal of waste resulting from services where patients receive treatment with COVID-19 for QSUT"	Direct Procedure	29	3551	DCM
4	"Supply of respiratory placement with two modalities for adults and pediatric age for COVID-19"	Direct Procedure	732	90072	DCM
5	"For purchase omeprazole 40 mgvial flacon"	Direct Procedure	79	9666	DCM
6	"For the purchase of oseltamivir (tamiflu) 75 mg tablet"	Direct Procedure	7	885	DCM
7	"To buy drugs beclomethasone + salbutamol 80 mcg + 1600 mcg vial"	Direct Procedure	4	513	DCM
8	For the purchase of kits and consumables for molecular biology for IPH"	Direct Procedure	212	26070	DCM
9	For the purchase of laboratory consumables for IPH"	Direct Procedure	31	3799	DCM
10	"For purchase of ribavirin 200 mg capsule tablets"	Direct Procedure	0.1	11	DCM
11	"For the purchase of propofol drugs 10 mgml - 50 ml vial"	Direct Procedure	3	360	DCM
12	"For supply of disposable paper products of the type roll paper table and toilet paper, for patients with covid-19 and medical staff at QSUT"	Direct Procedure	17	2135	DCM
13	"For the purchase of kits for the microbiological laboratory for serological diagnosis"	Direct Procedure	34	4214	DCM
14	"On the relocation of the dialysis system from the pediatrics of specialties to the building of the infectious hospital"	Direct Procedure	8	1020	DCM
TOTAL			4054	498,602	

Source: Council of Ministers, Official Bulletins, 2020

21. Amended by DCM No.242, dated 22.3.2020 "For procedures for concluding contracts related to the epidemic caused by COVID-19 infection"

The contracts that were approved according to the decision of the Council of Ministers include a total amount of EUR 4.05 million. The tender for the purchase of health medicines and equipment has been the topic of a heated debate in Albania, because of the fact that those are realized through another procedure which avoids the publication of data.

The Council of Europe Body of Anti-Corruption (GRECO), estimates that *“the risks of corruption should not be underestimated as countries face the undeniable emergency, and the governmental power concentrates, while freedoms and rights are bypassed, and at the same time large sums of money are poured into the economy to ease the crisis”*. Precisely for this reason, GRECO issues an instruction for member countries, among which is Albania.²²

The debate focused on the fact that in the case of the spread of Covid-19 infection and the declaration of the state of natural disaster, the procurement procedures should have referred to Article 33, point 2 / c, of Law no. 9643, dated 20.11.2006 “On public procurement”, as amended, which stipulates that “due to extreme necessity, caused by unforeseen events by the contracting authority” the “Negotiated procedure, without prior notice” is used. This procurement procedure is transparent because the tender documents are published in the electronic procurement system.

In the DCM no. 203, dt. 26.02.2020, “On the procedures used for concluding contracts that are dictated by the essential interests of the state”, the definition of the situation, circumstances or cases when we are dealing with “essential interests of the state” is not defined. As the term “essential interests of the state” has not found a legal regulation, conditions are created for arbitrariness in the use of this procedure and transparency is not ensured.

Procurements carried out by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, according to the direct procedure, based on DCM no. 203, dt. 26.02.2020, were accompanied by a lack of transparency, regarding the object of the contract, the participating operators, the evaluation criteria, the calculation of the limit fund and the winner’s prizes. In the DCM of the approval of the contracts data are provided only for the total value of the contract and the name of the contractor.

This procedure does not provide the transparency required for public contracts.

The approval of contracts by decision of the Council of Ministers has been subject to audit, however, although their files were made available to SPAK23 in May 2020 and the Supreme State Audit has completed their audit back in July 2020, none of these institutions have yet published audit reports to make budget expenditures transparent. After this debate, procurements for contracts related to Covid-19 were performed by the MoHSP, pursuant to Law no. 9643, dated 26.11.2006 “On public procurement”.

22. <https://abcnews.al/tenderat-sekret-ne-kohe-pandemie-ne-shqiperi-voa-ja-rreziku-qe-paralajmeron-greco/>

23. SPAK, Special Anti-Corruption Structure is an independent judicial body tasked with investigating corruption and organized crime at the highest levels of government and society in Albania. It consists of the National Bureau of Investigation, the Special Prosecution and the Special Courts

Table.15 Procurement procedures by Ministry of Health and Social Protection, March - September 2020

No	Object of Procurement	Type of Procurement Procedure	Contract Value (in 000 Euro without VAT)	Contract Value (in 000 ALL without VAT)	Procurement Developer
1	"Purchase of antineoplastic drug and immunomodulator, Tocilizumab 400mg / 20ml"	Open Local	204	25056	MoHSP
2	Mother Teresa" "F. V equipment for medical gas lines in "Shefqet Ndroqi" University Hospital Center, "University Hospital, Queen Gelardine"(d) "Maternity Hospital and Kavaja Hospital", to cope with the situation COVID-19 "	Open Local	593	72977	MoHSP
3	Purchase of items for personal protection measures to cope with the COVID-19 situation by public health structures	Negotiated without Notice	1541	189585	MoHSP
4	Purchase masks and gloves for hands	Small Value	1	145	MoHSP
5	Purchase anti-covid patient monitor	Negotiated without Notice	446	54905	MoHSP
6	Purchase of nasopharyngeal tampons for IPH	Negotiated without Notice	75	9240	MoHSP
7	Purchase of sets and solutions for the productive approach together with the relevant equipment in use	Negotiated without Notice	122	14975	MoHSP
TOTAL			2983	36688	

Source: MoHSP

Contracts related to open procedures were valued at EUR 797,016. The contracts related to the negotiated procedure without announcement had a total value of 2.18 million Euros. The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, with the funds to cope with the pandemic Covid-19, has as part of the procurement process the procedures for the supply of hospitals with the necessary equipment for the confrontation of the pandemic, as given in the table below:

Table 16- Procurement process

No	Object of procedure	000 Euro
1	"Purchase of tests and necessary consumables for the device COBAS® 6800 for a period of 6 months", for IPH	1,614.73
2	"Supply and installation of equipment for medical gas lines in, SU" Shefqet Ndroqi "Tirana, Durrës regional hospital, Elbasan regional hospital, Korçë regional hospital, Shkodër regional hospital, Vlora regional hospital"	468.98
3	"Purchase of sets and solutions for productive apheresis, together with the relevant equipment in use" for the National Blood Transfusion Center, Framework Agreement with an economic operator - where all conditions are defined, with a duration of 12 months	417.02
4	Lot 1 - Standard Respirator for Resuscitation	ESA
5	Lot 2 - Advanced Respirator for Resuscitation	774.63
6	Supply placement Medical equipment - CT Scanner	1,171.64
7	Purchase of items for personal protective measures to cope with the situation of Covid-19" - Framework Agreement with an economic operator - where all conditions are defined - for a period of 12 months	4,877.56
8	Supply Placement of medical equipment - Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)	1,173.57
Total		11,004.24

Covid-19 contracts procured in total from the MoHSP, are about 11 million Euro (ALL 2,219 million)

5.2. Procurement procedures performed and contracts entered into by hospitals

The procedures developed by other institutions of dependence of the MoHSP, with the object of purchasing anti-Covid-19 protection materials and purchasing materials and disinfection services, had mainly low-value procurement.

Table.17- Procurement procedures by hospitals

No.	Hospital	Covid funds procured by hospitals (000 Euro)
1	Mother Teresa University Hospital Center	886.18
2	Shefqet Ndroqi University Hospital of Lung Diseases	602.67
3	University Trauma Hospital	15.48
4	Koco Glozheni Obstetric and Gynecological Hospital	3.25
5	Gjirokaster	16.26
6	Vlore Regional Hospital	7.80
7	Shkoder Regional Hospital	14.63
8	Berat Regional Hospital	7.18
9	Korce Regional Hospital	1.44
10	Durres Regional Hospital	3.46
11	Lezhe Regional Hospital	21.47

From the above table, with the data obtained from the official website app.gov.al, it is noticed that excluding the hospitals Covid (1) and Covid (2) the other hospitals have performed procedures with low procurement value, while the supply of medicines, medical materials, material for personal protection and medical equipment is performed through contracts performed by MoHSP, as a central purchasing body.

CONCLUSIONS

Although it has been stated by the government that the health sector has received sufficient funds to cope with the pandemic situation, in fact the health sector has directly benefited only EUR 24.3 million from the budget, of which EUR 14.5 million (1.8 billion ALL) are for Operating expenses and EUR 9.8 million (1.2 billion ALL) are for capital investments.

Of the allocated funds 60% of them go directly to infected people and salaries of medical staff, while the remaining 40% go to operating expenses.

Hospitals dedicated to Covid-19, so far have coped with the situation, but in case of an increase in number of patients according to the scenarios provided by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the professional capacities of doctors and nurses, those of life-saving, respiratory, ventilating devices, and aspirators, are too low in number to cope with the situation.

Prior to the outbreak of Covid-19, the health system faced critical difficulties in financing and delivering services. Per capita costs for the system are significantly lower than the EU average, and the way scarce funding is spent is inefficient or inconsistent with the morbidity profile in the region.

Distribution of funds in all hospitals of Tirana for the entire period, January - September 2020 is about half of the total funds planned to be distributed to all regional hospitals in the country. The greatest burden, however, of dealing with the pandemic remained in Tirana. It means that the funds generally do not correspond to the increase in the number of infected patients, but follow a flow of expenditures that correspond to historic budget planning and that should be realized according to the budget program.

In the analysis between the expenses incurred for coping with the coronavirus, it is noticed that there is an average increase of 10% on expenses for medicines, medical equipment and protective materials, salaries and other administrative costs compared to the distribution of funds according to the initial budget of 2020.

It is noted that funding for preventive actions to protect the population from infection has been neglected. In this context, only advisory actions have been in place including for wearing masks, washing hands and maintaining social distance. At the moment, as the number of infected people increases rapidly, there is no action from the MoHSP or local government, actions such as the disinfection of public areas, shopping centers, bus stations, school yards and other places that can become sources of infection. There are also no actions related to air pollution control.

The MoHSP has been left out of the spotlight and has had no team trained to assist a large proportion of patients with Covid-19 who are followed by a family doctor and treated at home, and there are no reimbursements for the medications used to treat this group of patients. It is necessary to provide medical staff to be able to monitor patients treated at home, as well as to provide reimbursement of drugs for Covid-19, as this treatment also has increased costs for low-income patients.

A major shortcoming in this report was identified with the data provided by the institutions in charge of providing accurate and clear information. The data found from official sources of information²⁴ are incomplete, with errors and fragmentary data, not affording the opportunity to analyse any particular situation to come to plausible conclusions.

24. Payments from treasury based on daily data

Although the guarantee of online financial data is given on certain pages accessible to the public, it appears that a majority of readers interpret at a level that does not lead to transparency, but to confusion and uncertainty when attempting to reach a conclusion on the use of public funds. In this context, the institutions for transparency of funds need to clarify the circulation of funds from the budget allocations to the final destination.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Investment of four regional hospitals: Fier, Elbasan, Kukës and Lezhë to cope with surgical emergencies (non-Covid) and those of malignant diseases. All emergency surgeries but also those of malignant pathologies have been transferred to the University Trauma Hospital, where the work in this hospital has tripled. Only the University Trauma Hospital may be at risk of collapse (there is currently information on medical personnel infected with covid-19, risking services, including surgery). In the event of a second closure, regional hospitals should be able to cope with the influx of surgical emergencies and those of malignant diseases, according to a distribution organized by MHSP.

Investing in laboratories and kits for the uninterrupted realization of an analysis package that responds in time to the needs of service quality

It is necessary to take advantage of the professional capacities of infectious disease specialists in primary healthcare, as well as to strengthen the intensive care units in regional hospitals, by investing them with the necessary medical equipment to increase the effectiveness of the treatment of Covid-19 cases. This also requires an increase in the budgeted funds.

The health system must increase efficiency in the use of medical, technical and professional capacities, in order to withstand a possible second wave of the Covid-19.

The loss from the decline in secondary revenues in the health system should be planned to be redistributed on the national level, and by reducing other budget expenditures for less important sectors and reassigned in the Medium Term Budget Program for 2021-2023.

Increase cooperation and funding with local government, to take measures to prevent and limit the spread of infection through cleaning and disinfection of public spaces.

Adding to the list of reimbursement of drugs the treatment of patients with Covid-19, based on the calculation of the financial effect on the budget.

Increase transparency through the publication of financial reports, statistics and donations by making financing and management of budget funds more transparent. For this, the legal framework for the right to information should be applied.

APPENDIX A

1. Data on donated equipment

Device name	Quantity
Monitors	330
Respiratory	173
Beds	100
Aspirator room	20
Defibrillator	25
ECG	50
Infusion pumps	50
Electric syringes	65
CPAP helmet	184
Portable ambulance fan	49
Pulse oximeters	57
Full face CPAP mask	140
Laryngoscope	55
Flexible and lightweight nasal CPAP	140
Oxygen concentrators	20
Intubation set	750
Portable ECO	10
ECO fixed	10
Portable graphs	2
CPAP fans	34
Medical Equipment and accessories and supplies (Ambu)	75
Double Surgical light	1
Trumpf Operating Table Jupiter (operating bed)	1

2. Protective procures for medical staff

- ▶ Medical protective face mask (surgical mask): 1,150,450 pcs
- ▶ Respiratory masks for medical staff: 98,000 pcs

3. Supplies of equipment according to donors

Donor	Name of equipment	TOTAL	Source of expenditures
MOHSP Budget	Monitors	265	Budget 2020
MOHSP	Respirator from MOHSP contract	5	Budget 2021
UNOPS	monitors	50	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	beds	100	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Aspirator room	20	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	defibrillator	25	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	ECG	50	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Infusion pump	50	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Electric syringes	50	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	CPAP helmet	140	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Portable ambulance fan	15	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Pulse oximeters	57	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Full face CPAP mask with headgear	140	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Laryngoscope	55	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Flexible and lightweight nasal CPAP	140	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Oxygen concentrators	20	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Intubation set	750	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Portable ventilator HOSPITAL	10	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Portable ECO	10	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	"ECO fixe "	2	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	Portable graphs	34	EU Fund donation
UNOPS	CPAP fans	75	EU Fund donation
PNUD	Medical Equipment and accessories and supplies (Ambu)	31	donation
KRYQI I KUQ (KOMPANIT E TELEKOMUNIKACIONIT)	Respirator (PNUD)	40	donation
The Red Cross	"Respirator (BiPAP) "	1	donation
	Trumpf Operating Table Jupiter (operating bed)	1	donation
American Embasssy	Electric Syringe (Syringe Pump)	15	donation
	CPAP helmet	44	donation
	Multi parameter Monitor	15	donation
The Global Fund	Respirator Donation from GF	3	donation
ABI Bank	Respirator Donation from ABI Bank	3	donation
Private Company X	Respirator donation private company	1	donation
NATO	Respirator donation USA	60	donation

These data may not be final, as they are constantly changing and are taken from publications in the MoHSP.

APPENDIX B

Data from the Treasury for payments made by hospital institutions

The information provided in Appendix 2 is from Treasury payment registrations and present all the payments for the hospitals in Albania from the MoHSP.

We can see that almost 49% of the funds for hospitals are distributed to 5 hospitals²⁵ in Tirana, and in the second place are 2 hospitals in Elbasan (6% of total funds), in third place are 2 hospitals in Vlora (5% of totals funds), followed by the hospitals in Korça, in Fier and Shkodra (respectively by 4% of total funds). The data from the Treasury for the Durrës hospital are influenced by the fact that this institution operates with current accounts as part of a pilot project for its administration.

Distribution of budget from MoHSP to hospitals in Albania, January - September 2020

Destination	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		Total 9-m	
	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital	Expenses	% /tot hospital
Hospital Vlora	371,031	6.6%	700,445	6.5%	730,393	6.5%	605,177	5.1%	465,677	4.5%	480,335	4.0%	498,770	5.2%	510,383	5.0%	571,742	5.1%	4,933,953	3%
Hospital Tirana	2,277,646	40.7%	5,476,178	49.0%	5,830,901	50.3%	5,711,948	48.2%	5,250,766	50.9%	7,097,317	59.6%	3,841,969	40.4%	5,035,858	49.4%	5,936,641	52.8%	46,459,223	49%
Hospital Shkodra	353,459	6.3%	400,180	3.6%	484,731	4.2%	401,148	3.4%	375,559	3.6%	358,716	3.0%	489,409	5.1%	542,153	5.3%	479,843	4.3%	3,885,399	4%
Hospital Elbasan	309,240	5.5%	643,464	5.8%	557,282	4.8%	693,594	5.8%	551,976	5.4%	508,622	4.2%	581,189	6.1%	696,959	6.8%	594,611	5.3%	5,133,935	6%
Hospital Lezha	133,881	2.4%	247,365	2.2%	219,183	1.9%	220,070	1.9%	192,637	1.9%	178,982	1.5%	190,864	2.0%	171,981	1.7%	236,287	2.1%	1,791,250	2%
Hospital Lezha	125,162	2.2%	365,514	3.3%	384,326	3.3%	215,749	1.8%	354,913	3.4%	212,779	1.8%	284,953	3.0%	206,143	2.0%	195,388	1.7%	2,344,927	3%
Hospital Kukës	136,170	2.4%	160,597	1.4%	337,911	2.9%	594,108	5.0%	172,632	1.7%	126,053	1.1%	403,845	4.2%	136,780	1.3%	191,348	1.7%	2,259,444	2%
Hospital Korçë	206,307	3.7%	449,566	4.0%	349,000	3.0%	525,792	4.4%	381,654	3.7%	335,347	2.8%	334,487	3.5%	232,362	2.3%	513,257	4.6%	3,327,773	4%
Hospital Gjirokastrë	53,052	0.9%	325,574	2.9%	221,060	1.9%	214,617	1.8%	131,601	1.3%	182,794	1.5%	173,737	1.8%	196,003	1.9%	114,787	1.0%	1,613,225	2%
Hospital Fier	198,726	3.6%	199,506	1.8%	215,023	1.9%	363,656	3.1%	375,164	3.6%	485,179	4.1%	446,094	4.7%	528,865	5.2%	441,903	3.9%	3,254,115	4%
Hospital Dibër	130,903	2.3%	148,508	1.3%	151,212	1.3%	166,799	1.4%	238,049	2.3%	145,895	1.2%	211,767	2.2%	162,564	1.6%	146,680	1.3%	1,502,377	2%
Hospital Tiranë	61,950	1.1%	76,660	0.7%	70,989	0.6%	58,177	0.5%	75,644	2.3%	84,625	0.7%	74,072	0.8%	67,476	0.7%	70,925	0.6%	640,519	1%
Hospital Tëpelenë	50,475	0.9%	64,442	0.6%	66,762	0.6%	54,108	0.5%	54,690	0.7%	58,431	0.5%	64,621	0.7%	42,073	0.4%	60,017	0.5%	515,620	0.6%
Hospital Shkrapar	41,805	0.7%	49,784	0.4%	48,787	0.4%	44,983	0.4%	50,348	0.5%	55,087	0.5%	60,535	0.6%	58,052	0.6%	54,470	0.5%	463,852	0.5%
Hospital Sarandë	79,055	1.4%	257,094	2.3%	227,110	2.0%	156,045	1.3%	144,586	0.5%	135,747	1.1%	126,076	1.3%	132,690	1.3%	131,869	1.2%	1,410,272	1.4%
Hospital Pukë	47,404	0.8%	73,172	0.7%	65,660	0.6%	55,807	0.5%	53,952	0.5%	69,194	0.6%	62,895	0.7%	52,261	0.5%	73,449	0.7%	553,795	0.6%
Hospital Pogradec	81,747	1.5%	121,856	1.1%	140,332	1.2%	185,384	1.6%	134,207	1.3%	113,025	0.9%	96,945	1.0%	122,341	1.2%	166,019	1.5%	1,161,857	1.3%
Hospital Përmet	90,921	1.6%	50,287	0.5%	67,689	0.6%	61,163	0.5%	44,163	0.4%	62,386	0.5%	68,924	0.7%	42,143	0.4%	68,702	0.6%	556,378	0.7%
Hospital Peshë	20,068	0.4%	30,310	0.3%	20,021	0.2%	22,435	0.2%	21,906	0.2%	19,737	0.2%	20,231	0.2%	23,498	0.2%	22,652	0.2%	200,876	0.2%
Hospital Mirditë	53,583	1.0%	106,046	0.9%	68,404	0.6%	87,603	0.7%	57,220	0.6%	75,778	0.6%	75,919	0.8%	60,948	0.6%	93,828	0.8%	799,329	0.7%
Hospital Mat	67,834	1.2%	88,451	0.8%	85,027	0.7%	90,302	0.8%	87,585	0.8%	97,820	0.8%	79,952	0.8%	85,207	0.8%	88,512	0.8%	770,690	0.8%
Hospital Mallakastrë	39,936	0.7%	32,352	0.3%	26,152	0.2%	32,201	0.3%	28,802	0.3%	39,441	0.3%	32,796	0.3%	24,159	0.2%	27,025	0.2%	282,864	0.3%
Hospital M. Madhe	11,629	0.2%	13,567	0.1%	13,321	0.1%	11,858	0.1%	12,403	0.1%	13,744	0.1%	14,156	0.1%	7,041	0.1%	19,345	0.2%	117,063	0.1%
Hospital Librazhd	73,422	1.3%	152,198	1.4%	108,667	0.9%	90,664	0.8%	99,122	1.0%	100,681	0.8%	145,625	1.5%	112,654	1.1%	115,056	1.0%	998,088	1.1%
Hospital Laç	41,843	0.7%	77,227	0.7%	72,850	0.6%	70,715	0.6%	62,096	0.6%	58,235	0.5%	79,417	0.8%	42,628	0.4%	80,709	0.7%	585,721	0.6%
Hospital Kucovë	35,368	0.6%	49,329	0.4%	47,112	0.4%	42,612	0.4%	56,878	0.6%	41,724	0.4%	38,163	0.4%	51,570	0.5%	49,289	0.4%	412,045	0.5%
Hospital Krujë	66,676	1.2%	99,670	0.9%	81,197	0.7%	90,521	0.8%	91,269	0.9%	101,743	0.9%	102,483	1.1%	92,704	0.9%	105,024	0.9%	831,288	0.9%
Hospital Ersekë	46,102	0.8%	52,307	0.5%	77,214	0.7%	60,376	0.5%	47,790	0.5%	50,367	0.4%	59,462	0.6%	62,153	0.6%	52,487	0.5%	508,257	0.6%
Hospital Kavajë	56,165	1.0%	30,949	0.3%	74,740	0.6%	79,746	0.7%	79,471	0.8%	73,417	0.6%	77,814	0.8%	74,694	0.7%	71,662	0.6%	618,657	0.7%
Hospital Has	22,572	0.4%	40,483	0.4%	41,705	0.4%	34,339	0.3%	34,361	0.3%	26,843	0.2%	31,978	0.3%	29,176	0.3%	54,617	0.5%	316,076	0.3%
Hospital Gramsh	59,054	1.1%	137,902	1.2%	74,400	0.6%	102,886	0.9%	84,419	0.8%	83,406	0.7%	89,720	0.9%	82,561	0.8%	59,910	0.5%	774,259	0.8%
Hospital Durrës	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	179,756	1.6%	179,139	1.5%	163,420	1.6%	161,737	1.4%	0	0.0%	161,719	1.6%	0	0.0%	845,772	0.9%
Hospital Devoll	26,621	0.5%	40,321	0.4%	48,440	0.4%	28,314	0.2%	26,195	0.3%	29,865	0.3%	38,501	0.4%	28,776	0.3%	40,114	0.4%	307,147	0.3%
Hospital Delvinë	18,667	0.3%	23,851	0.2%	20,804	0.2%	25,873	0.2%	20,350	0.2%	19,911	0.2%	25,437	0.3%	23,096	0.2%	23,061	0.2%	201,049	0.2%
Hospital Bërditë	39,629	0.7%	62,527	0.6%	46,970	0.4%	52,447	0.4%	62,393	0.6%	50,330	0.4%	60,404	0.6%	45,449	0.4%	58,836	0.5%	478,984	0.5%
Hospital Berat	164,618	2.9%	327,014	2.9%	337,121	2.9%	430,644	3.6%	226,663	2.2%	183,343	1.5%	534,461	5.6%	238,387	2.3%	229,471	2.0%	2,671,724	2.9%
Total Hospitals	5,592,717		11,174,696		11,592,256		11,860,998		10,310,561		11,915,655		9,517,670		10,203,507		11,239,540		93,407,600	

Source: Treasury, MoFE

25. "Mother Teresa" University Hospital
- "Shefqet Ndroqi" University Hospital
- University Trauma Hospital
- University Obstetric Gynecology Hospital "Koco Glozheni"
- University Obstetric Gynecology Hospital "Queen Geraldine"

Reference

- DCM no.241, dated 21.3.2020 “On the approval of the contract with object “Purchase of materials for personal protection for COVID-19, “Purchase of drugs against Coronavirus COVID-19, divided into 10 lots (one drug one lot)”, with a value of 346,105,800 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM No. 272, dated 3.4.2020, contract with object Lot 1 “Purchase of kits for the microbiological laboratory for the implementation of RT-PCR suitable to be used for the Existing equipment of the Bioneer company or equivalent” for QSUT, with a value of 10,200,000 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM No. 273, dated 3.4.2020, contract with object Lot 2 “Treatment and disposal of waste resulting from services where patients receive treatment with COVID-19 for QSUT”, with a value of 3.551.040 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM No. 274, dated 3.4.2020, contract with the object “Supply of respiratory placement with two modalities for adults and paediatric age for COVID-19”, with a value of 90,072,000 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no. 313, dated 18.4.2020 “For purchase of omeprazole 40 mg vial flacon”, with a value of 9,666,250 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no. 314, dated 18.4.2020 “For the purchase of oseltamivir (tamiflu), 75 mg tablet”, with a value of 885,000 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no.315, dated 18.4.2020 “To buy drugs beclomethasone + salbutamol 80 mcg + 1600 mcg vial”, with a value of 513,000 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no.316, dated 18.4.2020 “For the purchase of kits and consumables for molecular biology for IPH”, with a value of 26,070,000 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no.317, dated 18.4.2020 “For the purchase of laboratory consumables for IPH”, with a value of 3,798.720 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no. 318, dated 18.4.2020 “For purchase of ribavirin 200 mg capsule tablets”, with a value of 10,700 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no.320, dated 18.4.2020 “For the purchase of propofol drugs 10 mg/ml – 50 ml vial”, with a value of 359,766 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no. 321, dated 18.4.2020 “For supply of disposable paper products of the type roll paper table and toilet paper, for patients with covid-19 and medical staff at QSUT”, with a value of 2,134,800 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no.322, dated 18.4.2020 “For the purchase of kits for the microbiological laboratory for serological diagnosis”, with a value of 4,214,400 ALL (including VAT)
- DCM no.323, dated 18.4.2020 “On the relocation of the dialysis system from the paediatrics of specialties to the building of the infectious hospital”, with a value of 1.020.000 ALL (including VAT).

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https://gateway.euro.who.int/en/indicators/hfa_566-6711-total-health-expenditure-as-of-gdp/

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**Western Balkans
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