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**Second Report on
the Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for
Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the
Kosovo Society 2017-2021**

for 2018

Prishtina, 2019

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1. ABBREVIATIONS

HEDA	Health Education and Development Association
KPA	Kosovo Property Agency
KFA	Kosovo Forest Agency
EARK	Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo
KAS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
EU	European Union
EU-CSP III	EU Community Stabilization Programme, third phase
CSP	Community Stabilization Programme
DPUE	Department of Pre-University Education
DCSA	Department of Civil Service Administration
DHC	Department of Housing and Construction
MED	Municipal Education Department
DCR	Department of Communities and Return
DPDV	Department of Protection from Domestic Violence
DSW	Department of Social Welfare
DSP	Department of Spatial Planning
DSPCH	Department of Spatial Planning, Construction, and Housing, Housing Division
DPPA	Department of Policy Planning and Analyses
DRC	The Danish Refugee Council
DRRP	Division for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons
DHSW	Department of Health and Social Welfare
EU SIMRAES	EU Support for the Implementation of the RAE Strategy
FCPD	Families of Children with Permanent Disabilities
KSF	Kosovo Security Force
GIZ	Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

NIPHK	National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo
ILO	International Labour Organization
SISH	Special Institute in Shtime
KEC	Kosovo Education Centre
KEEN	Kosovo Education and Employment Network
KFOS	Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
KJC	Kosovo Judicial Council
MAC	Municipal Action Committees
KOPF	Kosova Population Foundation
MPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
ALMM	Active Labour Market Measures
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MCR	Ministry for Community and Return
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MoH	Ministry of Health
HRU	Human Rights Unit
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSBE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
TYHP	Three-Year Housing Plan
VTC	Vocational Training Centre in Kosovo
MFMC	Main Family Medicine Centre
MFHC	Main Family Health Centre
CSW	Centres for Social Work
REF	Roma Education Fund

ROMACTED	European Council programme “Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level”
HSS	Health Sector Strategy
HEFC	House of Elderly without Family Care
ESML	Electronic System of the Ministry of Labour
HIS	Health Information System
EMIS	Education Management Information System
SAS	Social Assistance Scheme
AI	Administrative Instruction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UP	University of Prishtina
VoRAE	Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians
VoT	Victim of Trafficking
OCA	Office for Community Affairs
CPD	Continuing Professional Development
MOCR	Municipal Officers for Communities and Return
OGG / OPM	Office of Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister

1 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Office of Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination within the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo extends its gratitude to all those who contributed to this report.

This report is a product of broad cooperation with Kosovo institutions at central and local level and close inter-institutional cooperation with the most important national and international stakeholders.

We extend our gratitude to Secretaries-General of relevant ministries for their very important support and also to points of contacts throughout ministries and various departments, as without their close cooperation and hard work the drafting of this report would be impossible.

We, also, extend a special gratitude to Mayors for their support and very close cooperation with the Office of Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister as well as to officials at local level, namely the Municipal Offices for Communities.

We extend a special gratitude to various international organizations representing interests of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo for their contribution.

2 INTRODUCTION

The present document is the second Report drafted by the Government of Kosovo concerning the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021.

The present Report is drafted by the Office of Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister by means of Government Decision No. 02/141 of 07.04.2017, in full cooperation with central and local level institutions of Kosovo and in close inter-institutional cooperation with the most important local and international stakeholders. The report presents the factual situation of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovo society.

The second Report is designed to assess the implementation of activities by Kosovo institutions and the impact of the implementation of the strategy and action plan for improving the conditions and the educational, socio-economic, cultural and health situation of the Roma and Ashkali communities.

Monitoring the implementation of the action plan is a key issue to provide an overview of the situation of these communities and relations with Kosovo institutions in four areas defined in the Strategy and Action Plan under European standards.

The budget is crucial for achieving objectives aimed by the Government of Kosovo. Institutions of Kosovo, upon adoption of this Action Plan, committed to allocate the budget as per Action Plan. The present Report outlines the budget of Kosovo; the budget committed and spent by Kosovo institutions for fulfilling responsibilities deriving from the Action Plan and assumed by Government of Kosovo.

The present Report is an overview of continuous efforts and activities taken by the Government of Kosovo for the best possible implementation of this Action Plan and for providing these three communities with the best possible socio-economic welfare; access to employment, health, housing and education system. The Overview section, an assessment for implementation of Strategy and Action Plan in all sectors, assessed four basic sectors of the Action Plan objectives, namely Education, Employment and Social Welfare, Health and Housing.

The present Report paid a special importance to identification of challenges in the implementation activities provided in the Action Plan, and addressed the opportunities in the form of recommendation for overcoming these obstacles.

The present Report includes also reports provided by municipalities, whereby assessing the real situation and identifying obstacles to reaching the results of activities provided in the Action Plan and recommendations for improving the situation of communities in various fields.

3 OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR INCLUSION OF ROMA AND ASHKALI COMMUNITIES IN KOSOVO SOCIETY 2017-2021

The second Report for 2018 on the implementation of Strategy and Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017–2021 reports on 4 sectors, such as education, employment and social welfare, health and housing. Two other sectors, namely gender equality and discrimination, have been reported under all four sectors.

3.1 Budget allocated and spent for 2018

The Government of Kosovo paid a special care to the budgeting of activities in drafting the Strategy and Action Plan. All institutions involved in the implementation of activities, in particular four ministries: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, have committed the budget of activities provided under the Action Plan.

The present Report indicates the budget allocated and spent by Kosovo institutions for implementing the activities included in the Action Plan for 2018.

During 2018, the budget spent by the **Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare** for employing Roma and Ashkali Communities amounted to €153,200.00, for social welfare €189,200.00¹, in total **€353,200.00**, final budget for one year for social assistance scheme for the said communities amounted to **€3,706,932.50**.

Ministry of Internal Affairs, for services provided by the Department for Reintegration for the period January–December 2018 for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities, spent **€345,737.00**.

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and municipalities, for capital investments, for renovation projects, spent in the amount of €42,449.50. Municipalities together with NGO VoRAE in 2018 are carrying out renovations of 72 houses in the Municipalities of Fushë Kosova, Klina, Lipjan and Prizren. The funding was made jointly and amounted to €223,615.00. Of this amount, the Government of Kosovo has invested: Municipality of Fushë Kosova €70,000.00, Municipality of Klina €15,000.00, Municipality of Lipjan €21,000.00 and Municipality of Prizren €20,000.00, in total: €126,000.00 and the amount by donors for NGO VoRAE reached to €97,615.00. By communities, these houses have been allocated as follows: 6 to Roma families, 47

¹ **Note:** This total does not include the budget of Social Assistance Scheme spent for Roma and Ashkali Communities during 2017 in the amount of EUR: 2,700,315.00 and budget spent for subsidizing the electricity in the amount of EUR: 282,960.00.

to Ashkali families, 8 to Egyptian families and 11 to families of other communities (Albanian and Bosnian).

According to the data from the **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development**, €577.00 have been spent for activities. In 2018, **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development** and **Kosovo Forest Agency (KFA)** have signed two Memorandums of Understanding with MLSW, where a series of activities have been carried out and the budget spent for implementation of these activities amounted to **€440.889.00. Total: €441.466.00.**

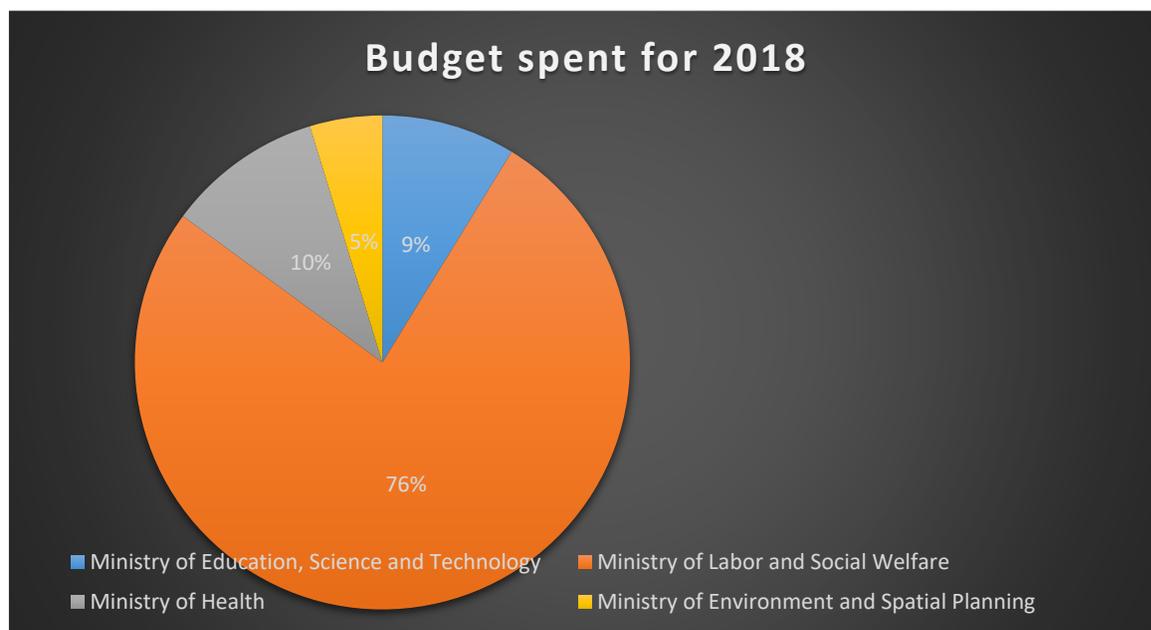
Office for Community Affairs reported to have spent **€34.000.**

Table: *Planned and spent budget reported for 2017 by four ministries responsible for the four sectors of the Strategy and Action Plan:*

Sector	Budget spent
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	€78.500
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare -(ALMM, including vocational training (calculated))	€153200
Social Welfare	€189,200.00 €3,706,932.50
Ministry of Health	€91.278.76
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	€42,449.50
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development - Kosovo Forest Agency (KFA)	€205.193.00
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	€217.750.00
Ministry of Internal Affairs	€330.809.00.
Office of Community Affairs	€34.000

TOTAL	€5.049.311.00
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Graph: Budget spent for 2018 by four ministries responsible for the four sectors of the Strategy and Action Plan; MEST, MLSW-ALMM, MoH, MESP



4 COORDINATING AND MONITORING THE STRATEGY

Office of Good Governance will play a key role in the process of coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

A monitoring framework has been developed by the OGG / OPM. Monitoring is a key issue for proper document implementation. For a more efficient monitoring, a framework for monitoring the Strategy and Action Plan has been established, a methodology for collecting information through the development of a monitoring framework for central and local level has been

established, and this framework enables the collection of statistics and concrete data, where an implementation measurement of the Action Plan is enabled.

In 2018, the Office of Good Governance within the Office of Prime Minister drafted the first report for 2017 on the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021, and the same was sent to all institutions of Kosovo and non-governmental and international organizations in June 2018.

The report presented an overview of the on-going efforts and activities undertaken by the Government of Kosovo for a better implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo society 2017-2021, so that these three communities are provided with a better socio-economic welfare, with a particular focus on access to employment, health, housing and the education system. The report provides an assessment of four basic sectors of the Action Plan objectives; Education, Employment and Social Welfare, Health and Housing, while the cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and anti-discrimination have been elaborated throughout the sectors.

The report also identified and presented the challenges for the implementation of the activities envisaged in the action plan, while considering the possibilities in the form of recommendation for overcoming these obstacles.

4.1 COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Establishment of central and local level mechanisms for coordination, monitoring and implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan

Efficient implementation of strategic documents requires coordination and monitoring as well as proper and functional mechanisms.

Given this fact, the Strategy and Action Plan for the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021 envisaged the establishment of mechanisms at central and local level. Tasked with the coordinating and monitoring role for the implementation of this Strategy, the Office for Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister (OGG / OPM), as the secretariat of this Strategy and Action Plan based on the strategy, has undertaken initiatives to establish these mechanisms and ensure their functionalization.

Mechanisms that will ensure the progress of Strategy implementation are:

- Office of Good Governance (OGG) within the Office of the Prime Minister, responsible for overseeing and coordinating the Strategy and Action Plan implementation.

- Contact Points for coordinating the implementation of Strategy and Action Plan,
- Municipal Action Committees (MACs) for each municipality.

OGG / OPM, according to the Strategy and Action Plan, drafted the document of Terms of Reference **“Coordination mechanisms for implementing the Strategy and Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society (2017-2021)”**

This document enabled:

1. the definition of duties and responsibilities of mechanisms responsible for implementing and monitoring the Strategy; and
2. the coordination of actions between various mechanisms foreseen in the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society (2017-2021).

Office of Good Governance/Office of Prime Minister – Secretariat, based on the mandate and obligations granted under the Strategy, has undertaken activities to establish mechanisms at local level in order to coordinate and monitor the Strategy implementation process.

Upon sending the request for establishment of mechanisms, namely the “Municipal Action Committees” through MLGA to mayors on 04.10.2017, municipalities have expressed interest and in 2018 have undertaken concrete activities to establish these mechanisms.

Municipalities have drafted Action Plans at local level and established the mechanism such as “Municipal Action Committees” in order to have better coordination, capability, communication and monitoring at local-central level in the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021. These mechanisms have been established with the support of OGG / OPM and KEEN and VoRAE project.

A total of 16 municipalities - which have a larger number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities - have drafted Action Plans at local level, and 19 municipalities have established the mechanisms called “Municipal Action Committees”. These municipalities are: Lipjan, Ferizaj, Mitrovica, Vushtrri, Shtimje, Suhareka, Rahovec, Prishtina, Skenderaj, Viti, Obiliq, Istog, Gjakova, Prizren, Gjilan and Klina, Podujeva, F. Kosova, Graçanica.

The key document “Coordination Mechanisms for the Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society (2017-2021)”, which includes “Terms of Reference on the matter of Contact Points and Municipal Action Committees”, has been provided to Municipal Action Committees by OGG/OPM, specifying the responsibilities, duties and working procedures of each of these mechanisms.

4.2 Inter-institutional coordination

Involvement of all institutions in coordinating and monitoring strategic documents enables a more satisfactory result in implementation.

Office of Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister – The Secretariat, taking into account the relevance of the involvement of civil society and international organizations in the Strategy coordination and implementation process, and in view of being more transparent, continued the coordination activities also with civil society, international organizations and contact points in the ministries.

Also, the Office of Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister, pursuant to obligations and activities deriving from the Strategy and Action Plan, with a better cooperation and coordination both between institutions and civil society working and supporting this process, has organized sectorial meetings. Sectorial meetings have been organized for each sector individually, thus creating an environment for fruitful discussions between NGOs and Kosovo institutions, and identifying the needs for interventions for achieving results aimed in the Action Plan and better cooperation between institutions and NGOs in the future. Meetings enabled a more detailed discussion with regards to the implementation of Strategy and Action Plan in sectorial fields.

4.3 Sectorial meetings with contact points and civil society

According to coordination mandate of the Office for Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister, several meetings with the NGOs of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities were organized.

Meetings with the civil society have served through sharing of information, enhancing cooperation and coordination both between institutions as well as with the civil society, for a more effective implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan.

Meetings have been organized every two months as follows:

In **FEBRUARY, 21 FEBRUARY 2018**, Seminar of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities - Current situation and after 2015 – policies and commitments of the Government of Kosovo”

In **MAY**, 4 sectorial meetings by sectors as follows: 24 May on Housing, 24 May on Health, 25 May on Employment, 23 May on Education.

In **SEPTEMBER**, 21 September 2018, the forum with the topic on “Dialogue with the public – Implementation of Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021 – implementation and priority measures for 2017-2018,

In **NOVEMBER**, 4 sectorial meetings by sectors as follows: 19 November on Education, 20 November on Health, 22 November on Employment, and 26 November on Housing.

4.4 COORDINATION AND COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 21.02.2018, the Office of Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister, in cooperation with the European Commission Office, organized the seminar with the topic "Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities - Current situation and after 2015 - policies and commitments of the Government of Kosovo", attended by the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Chief of European Commission and Coordinator of Roma Policy - Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR).

The seminar is organized every two years and the last was organized in February 2018 and aimed at discussing and defining the achievements and commitments on 2018-2020 policies and priorities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The seminar was attended by the central level officials, municipal officials, and civil society. The seminar has resulted with conclusions where Kosovo institutions assume the responsibility for their implementation. OGG/OPM drafts every year the annual report for the implementation of conclusions.

The conclusions of the seminar held on 21 February 2018 were drafted in March 2018 and sent to the European Commission for finalization. Conclusions finalized by the European Commission were received on 10.10.2018. Office of Good Governance / Office of Prime Minister disseminated the document to the responsible stakeholders in Kosovo institutions in November, assuming the responsibility for implementation.

Reporting on conclusions for 2017; In 2018, the Office of Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister drafted the annual report for 2017 on implementation of conclusions of seminar for inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities organized on 11 October 2015. The report includes data on the activities foreseen for implementing the seminar conclusions drafted by the OGG / OPM in cooperation with the European Commission. Data on report were provided by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Local Government Administration and the Ministry of Public Administration.

KOSOVO - PARTICIPATION IN ROMA INTEGRATION 2020

Kosovo participated actively in the Roma Integration 2020 activity funded by the European Commission and Open Society Foundations and implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council in partnership with the government of the enlargement region.

Two meetings were held in Prishtina, organized by National Roma contact point, with the Roma Integration 2020 Action Team, on 03 May and 30 August 2018. Both meetings included

responsible government officials from the institutions implementing Roma integration policies in the areas of Education, Employment, Housing, Health and Civil Registration. Kosovo Agency of Statistics and the Ministry of Finance were also present. In both meetings was discussed Kosovo's progress in implementing the Roma integration policy as well as the activities under the Action for Roma Integration 2020 and the obligations the government took over to implement the action and Roma integration policy.

On 21 February 2018, with the EU Delegation, the Government of Kosovo organized a Roma Seminar. The recommendations of the National Platform for Roma Integration in Kosovo, 2017, organized on 17 October 2017 with Roma Integration 2020, served as a starting point discussing operational conclusions. The 2018 National Platform was held on 21 September. Both National Platforms were used to present the Kosovo Government's annual report on the implementation of the Roma Integration Policy and to discuss the challenges and the way forward with all relevant stakeholders, including institutions and civil society. In this sense, the Government of Kosovo prepared and submitted to the Regional Cooperation Council the annual report for 2017. Since this annual report is in line with EU reporting requirements, the Government of Kosovo is looking for a way to present the same standard reporting in its internal reporting.

Kosovo Contact Point for Roma participated actively in the Task Force on Roma Integration 2020 organized on 04 December 2018 and in the consultative meeting on the proposed Regional Declaration on Roma Integration and EU Accession, organized by the Government of Northern Macedonia, one day before, on 3 December. The Roma Contact Point affirmed the willingness of the Government of Kosovo, namely the Prime Minister of Kosovo, to support and sign the Regional Declaration and has sent constructive comments to advance the content of the document. During the Working Group meeting, the amended Rules of Procedure were adopted, the second phase of Roma Integration 2019-2021 Action was introduced and the Guidelines for Roma Responsive Budgeting were adopted, in addition to regular discussions on progress and future activities.

A Kosovo government delegation participated in the four Regional Conferences organized within the Action for Roma Integration 2020:

- "Addressing Discrimination and Anti-Gypsism in the Enlargement Region", Berlin, 13-14 February;
- "Holistic Approach to Housing for Roma in the Enlargement Region", Bar, 30 May - 01 June;
- "Innovative Approaches to Employment of Roma", Budapest, 10-11 December;

The Government of Kosovo had 5-7 representatives in all conferences. Unfortunately, Kosovo's delegation was hampered to participate in the Regional Conference "Economic dependence of Roma Women: Challenges and Early Causes", organized in Belgrade on 31 October. The Government of Serbia did not give any justification for such a decision.

The Government of Kosovo participated together with the Roma Contact Point and a representative from the Ministry of Finance in the Regional Working Group on Roma Responsive Budgeting. The Working Group convened in Vienna on 26 April 2018, in Bucharest on 3 July 2018 and in Rome on 08 November 2018 and as a result, it prepared the Guidelines for Roma Responsive Budgeting, adopted by the Roma Integration 2020 Task Force. The guidelines will be piloted in 2019.

With the support of the Roma Integration 2020, the National Roma Contact Point participated in several events at EU level:

- EU Roma week, 2018, Brussels, 09-12 April;
- "Inclusion of Roma – where we stand and where we are heading to" at the conference organized by the Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union Council, Sofia, 28 May;
- European Platform for Roma Inclusion "Reintegration into the Western Balkans: Returnees' perspective with special attention to Roma community", Brussels, 08-09 October.

ROMACTED

ROMACTED programme of the Council of Europe in 'Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level'.

ROMACTED, "Promoting good governance and Roma empowerment at local level", is a joint regional program between the European Union (DG NEAR) and the Council of Europe. The beneficiary municipalities of the ROMACTED program in Kosovo are: Gjakova, Graçanica, Mitrovica South, Lipjan, Fushë Kosova, Ferizaj, Istog and municipality of Obiliq. The implementation of the programme in Kosovo has started in October 2017 and will be finalized in April 2020.

ROMACTED results from past experiences of ROMED and ROMACT programmes of the Council of Europe. The experience will reflect on the adaption of these methodologies and activities for each beneficiary country in order to adapt to the policy cycle, dynamics and reality of each municipality, thus bringing an additional contribution to the existing policies and practices for an effective and more comprehensive functioning.

ROMACTED aims to contribute to the engagement of local authorities to integrate Roma specific measures/ dimensions into local policies, budgets and the delivery of public services on their agenda by increasing the participation of Roma citizens in the designing, implementation and monitoring of those policies and projects. As a result of the programme implementation, it is expected that the participating municipalities will remain with consolidated characteristics to continue to serve the needs of the Roma population, such as sustainable local action plans and one-stop shops that facilitate Roma access to public services.

During the implementation of the ROMACTED program, it has been noted that local action plans for inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (2018-2022) as well as some of the community needs identified by ROMACTED correspond and are similar in context. This, in turn, has revived local action plans in the respective municipalities, thus giving an opportunity for some activities to be considered for implementation by the beneficiary municipalities of the ROMACTED program.

Roma Education Fund

Roma Education Fund – the project “Increasing the access and participation of Roma children to quality early childhood development and primary education”

The project is implemented by three NGOs in Kosovo; Kosovo Education Centre – KEC, Voice of Roma- Ashkali and Egyptians, **Roma Versitas Kosovo**.

The project consists of three parts, (see in the following) two parts of the project covering the whole of Kosovo and implemented by Voice of Roma - Ashkali and Egyptians and Roma Versitas Kosovo a part of the project covers only the municipality of Prizren by Kosovo Education Centre - KEC. The project has started to be implemented on 10.01.2018 and will be finalized on 30.06.2019. The total budget of the project is 111.511.00 Euros.

1. The project is implemented in cooperation with the municipalities from **Kosovo Education Centre – KEC** and aims at improving the ECHD results and school readiness for the first and second grade of disadvantaged Roma children from six neighbourhoods of age 4-6 and 6-8 attending schools by improving parents’ parental skills, strengthening the relationship between parents and parents in preschool and school institutions, by expanding access to integrated ECHD services and enhancing the quality of teaching and learning. 150 children and 115 primary students as well as their parents are the beneficiary for the period of three years. The budget spent is 37.361.00 euros.

2. The project is implemented in cooperation with the municipalities from **Voice of Roma-Ashkali and Egyptians** and it aims at improving the academic performance and employability of Roma students of the secondary school, as part of increasing educational opportunities for Roma students and youth. In addition, the project has been designed in a way to ensure a bridge between secondary and tertiary education, and between the secondary education and labour market. The proposed project will further contribute to the development of the Scholarship Program and Mentoring the National Secondary School, while the number of scholarships awarded to secondary school students will increase from 500 to 600. Currently, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in partnership with VoRAE with the support of REF, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) / HEKS manages and implements a National Secondary School Scholarship and Mentoring Program. 125 secondary school

students are direct beneficiaries over a period of three years. The project will be implemented in municipalities inhabited mainly by the Roma community. Budget spent is 60.535.00 euros.

3. The project is implemented in cooperation with the municipalities from **Roma Versitas Kosovo** and addresses the transition of Roma from secondary to tertiary education through effective campaigning, merit-based scholarship support through mentoring and teaching program, vocational education / courses and life-long training to increase their employability through trainings to build their soft skills, Roma students and employment companies, visits to partner employers, and facilitating opportunities for working experience. The project has also identified the qualified group of Roma secondary school graduates and will facilitate their involvement in the work. The project will ensure the participation of all relevant state and international agencies and prove that there is no overlap with other programs. Direct beneficiaries are up to 7 university students and graduates. Budget spent is 13.615.00 euros.

4.5 Other cross-cutting issues

Communities in Kosovo enjoy the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed to all citizens by the national legal framework of the Republic of Kosovo as well as additional rights, enabling them to preserve their identity and culture and fully integrate into Kosovo society. Office for Community Affairs (OCA) mission is to contribute to the coordination of the Government's efforts to implement the national legal framework on community rights and to ensure that government policies and adequate actions meet the needs and interests of communities.

Office for Community Affairs, on annual basis, allocates funds for the manifestation of the national days of the communities, in this case for the Roma community has been allocated an amount of 12 000 Euros and for the Ashkali community 12 000 Euros. In addition, the Office for Community Affairs allocates additional funds to other organizations (NGOs) wishing to celebrate their days. The Office has also allocated a budget for financing education, curing, solving the social problems of the Roma and Ashkali communities.

Office of the Prime Minister / Office for Community Affairs (OPM / OCA), in cooperation with the Norway office, announces a call for "Internship program to the public institutions at local and central level", for the students of the last year basic and masters studies and for the graduates of the basic and masters studies from the non-majority communities (in accordance with applicable laws of Kosovo), to help the professional development of these communities in Kosovo.

Professional development is a serious investment and therefore, this area is defined as a clear goal referring to the respective strategic priority of the OCA. This program will enable the members of non-majority communities to gain professional experience in order to facilitate them to find sustainable work in the future. OCA, also, wants to promote an increased participation of non-majority communities in public institutions. Within this program, members

of the Roma and Ashkali community have been systemized at the central and local level and have attended internship for 6 months where they received salaries of 150 euros. After completing the program, they also obtained the certificates, and had the opportunities to attend two trainings (courses). 1. Knowing Kosovo institutions and getting acquainted with the laws in force. 2. Knowledge of Albanian and Serbian language.

Regarding 2019, the Office for Community Affairs has financially supported the manifestation of Roma and Ashkali community day. The call for internship program has been announced, the commission is drafting the test and Roma and Ashkali Community will be admitted in this round of the program.

The Office for Community Affairs is ready any time to offer assistance to all communities living and operating in the Republic of Kosovo.

Consultative Council for Communities

In 2018, new members of the Consultative Council for Communities with a two (2) years mandate have been elected.

During the period of thirty (30) days to apply for membership in the Council, the following organizations and individual candidates have applied from Roma and Ashkali communities.

Roma community - NGO

NGO Roma in Action, NGO Romano Anglunipe, NGO Multi-ethnic Culture of Kosovo.

Individual candidate - one (1).

In total three (3) representative organizations from Roma community, with two (2) candidates each and one (1) independent candidate proposed.

The nomination session with representative organizations of the Roma community was held on 27 July 2018, and candidates Emrah Cermjani and Ridvan Gashi, were nominated and then appointed by the President, as Council members, with a two (2) years mandate.

Mr Emrah Cermjani, was selected member in the working group for language affairs, while Mr Ridvan Gashi, member and vice-chair of the working group for education, where both of these working groups function within the Council.

Ashkali community - NGO

NGO Social Development Movement, NGO Union of Youth Enlightened Future

Individual candidates - two (2).

In total two (2) representative organizations from Ashkali community, with two (2) candidates each and two (2) independent candidates proposed.

The nomination session with representative organizations of the Ashkali community was held on 27 July 2018, and candidates Qerim Emini and Gyltene Osmani, were nominated and then appointed by the President, as Council members, with a two (2) years mandate.

Mr Qerim Emini, was selected member in the working group on social affairs and employment, and working group on legislation, while Mrs Gyltene Osmani, was selected member in the working group on education within the Council.

The process of selecting the representatives of these two (2) communities has been conducted in a regular and democratic manner, without any complaint during the process, thereby enabling them to be represented in the Council, as defined in the Council Statute and the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities and their Members in the Republic of Kosovo.

Other funded projects for Roma and Ashkali communities

In order to improve the situation of Egyptian community, the Office of the Prime Minister, has drafted and implemented a project entitled "Improving Socio-Economic Conditions of the Egyptian Community" worth 120,000 euros. The first phase of the project was implemented in March and April. At this stage, emergency services have been distributed to relieve the difficult socio-economic situation, especially for those in difficult living conditions while facing the winter. The second phase of the project was implemented in October, November 2018, with the implementation of the second phase of the project, providing for the relief of the difficult situation of the Egyptian community through self-employment support.

1348 families benefit from the first phase of the project, while 8 persons benefit in the second phase of the project.

The budget of project by phases is as follows; first phase of project is 95,986 euros, second phase of project is 24,013.20: in total 120,000 euros.

The Office of Prime Minister has supported two NGOs of Croatian and Montenegrin communities through the public call at an amount of 40.000 euros.

Returnees, displaced persons and communities stabilization

Ministry of Communities and Returns (MCC) during the reporting period has continued to provide financial support for the initiatives on return and re-integration. Construction of houses is a clear example of MCC's on-going efforts to help accommodate returnees of different communities by providing decent living conditions that will then have positive subsequent effects on other aspects of their lives such as employment, health, education etc.

During the period January - December 2018, according to UNHCR data in Kosovo, 89 families /327 displaced individuals in the countries in the region have returned and integrated in their settlements in Kosovo.

Projects for returnees

During the reporting period, through the implementation of the MCC planned activities, EU support through the project "Return and reintegration in Kosovo - fifth phase" as well as joint projects with other international partners, the MCC assisted returnees with the construction of 218 houses, of which the majority has been finalized while a small number of the houses is being finalized. The coordinated assistance distribution has been made to stabilize the returned families and vulnerable families from minority communities through harmonized packages (furniture, white technique and food) to all owners of the houses and vulnerable families in Kosovo.

26 infrastructural projects throughout Kosovo are being implemented by the end of year as follows (roads, schools, kindergartens, religious facilities, cultural centres, health facilities, sports facilities etc.).

A total of 14 'go-and see' visits have been organized with a participation of a total 165 families of displaced persons and 12 'go-and-inform' visits where 202 displaced families in the region have been visited.

Adoption of a Regulation on the Return of Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo in January 2018 has approved the Regulation on the Return of Displaced Persons and Durable Solutions, which aims at creating the necessary conditions for achieving sustainable solutions for displaced persons within Kosovo and the region, as well as defining the responsibilities of competent decision-making and enforcement bodies, procedures and criteria for assistance. Provisions of this Regulation shall be implemented by all competent bodies in the process of return of displaced persons in accordance with international human rights standards applicable in Kosovo, ethnic, religious, gender and racial equality, freedom of movement, property rights and best interest of children, as well as freedom from discrimination shall be applied throughout the process of returns and reintegration of displaced persons.

Community Stabilization Project

The MCR has helped various communities across Kosovo through civil society. With citizens' initiatives, The MCR has funded 63 project-related projects in the fields of education, health, culture, sport, agriculture, religious manifestations and many other areas of importance for the quality of life of citizens with a view to promoting, stabilizing and reintegrating communities, durable return, strengthening economic sustainability, promoting dialogue, tolerance and coexistence in the Republic of Kosovo.

During this period, the MCR has provided with construction material 475 families from returnees and communities, for their stabilization, reintegration and durability. This form of community assistance enabled families who did not have the financial means to reconstruct their home, to create the conditions for a better life.

Beneficiaries of this type of assistance are socially vulnerable families throughout Kosovo, from all regions, which necessarily had to be reconstructed. **Project: "The EU-Community Stabilization programme phase III"**

Through the EU Program for Stabilization of Communities, phase three (EU-CSP III), a program funded by the European Union and the Ministry of Communities and Returns, managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo and implemented by the International Organization for Migration which provides the needs of non-majority communities to generate income and improve their living conditions. Assistance is provided through the provision of grants and technical support to new enterprises and existing small enterprises as well as community improvement initiatives.

Through these actions, the program aims to improve the conditions for members of non-majority communities in Kosovo and to encourage displaced persons who wish to return.

From the beginning of implementation from 2016 until now, the EU-CSP III program has implemented a total of 258 projects.

Generally implemented projects have created over 450 jobs (full-time, part-time and secure positions for existing positions). Over 40% of supported businesses have been vulnerable groups in terms of development among non-majority communities (women, young people, people with disabilities, and returnees from non-majority communities).

Project "Support to the Closure of Collective Centers" in MA Shterpce

The supporting project for the closure of collective centres in MA Shterpce during this period continued implementation of the project through DRC as the implementer of the project for the construction of 5 residential buildings and construction of 4 individual houses in the municipality of Shterpce, for the benefit families residing in these collective centres, up to this period, about 75% of the works have been completed and according to the dynamic plan the construction works should be completed by 2019.

Skopje Process - Inter-institutional Initiative on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons from Kosovo

A regional process necessary for supporting durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo to facilitate durable solutions, including both returns and local integration of displaced persons from Kosovo, through the identification of issues and joint actions to find solutions.

In 2014, the OSCE and UNHCR supported the Ministry for Communities and Returns (MCR) to launch a regional process devoted to finding durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo.

The relevant institutions from Pristina, Belgrade, Skopje and Podgorica regularly convene through this regional process which has come to be known as the 'Skopje Process'. Through a High-Level Forum established through the process, high-level politicians meet on a yearly basis to agree on proposals made by the Technical Working Group established to develop and

implement solutions for these displaced persons. The leading responsible institutions for this process in Kosovo is the Ministry for Communities and Returns (MCR) as its duties include the development of policies, as well as the promotion and implementation of legislation for the promotion and protection of the rights of communities and their members, including the right to return.

The documents describe the actions to be undertaken in each thematic area ('Security, Dialogue and Reintegration', 'Property Rights', 'Personal Documentation', 'Data, Management' and 'Solutions Planning') to be implemented by participating institutions. Technical Working Groups of the Skopje Process ('Security, Dialogue and Reintegration', 'Property Rights', 'Personal Documentation', 'Data, Management' and 'Solutions Planning'). These working groups consist of representatives from relevant Kosovo institutions and convene on a regular basis with the aim of implementing the action points. The IWGs held 19 meetings during 2017 and 5 during 2018.

Challenge

- KAS, through surveys, continuously collects various data on socio-economic issues for the entire population of Kosovo. However, data reported by KAS almost always present the situation of population in entirety, and are not disaggregated by community (nationality). On the other hand, line ministries (e.g. MEST, MLSW, etc.) in certain cases collect and process data based on communities. When monitoring the implementation of public policies (e.g. Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society 2017-2021), it is very important to have information disaggregated by municipality and will enable the **definition of strategic indicators**.

Recommendation

- KAS through its collected data shall enable generation and reporting of data for each community individually. Also, KAS and line ministries should increase cooperation in sharing information collected through various surveys and calculation/issuance of various indicators for each community.

5 SECTOR REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR INCLUSION OF ROMA AND ASHKALI COMMUNITIES IN THE KOSOVO SOCIETY 2017 – 2021

5.1 EDUCATION

MEST is committed to creating conditions for quality education for all communities at all levels of education in their native language.

Community Education in Kosovo is included in MEST education policy documents not only as a right but also as a basis for individual development and understanding of diversity as well as the promotion and respect of human rights in general.

Education also has special importance for its contribution to the stabilization and normalization of social relations. Moreover, at the individual level, education is a key area in the overall integration of communities in Kosovo. Education is the main component having an impact in every field of life, for a more dignified life. In particular, the education issue is crucial for improving the socio-economic situation of Roma and Ashkali Communities, and their inclusion in various fields of society.

The priority of the Government of Kosovo, namely the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, is the education of communities, with a special emphasis on the education of Roma and Ashkali Communities. Despite policies issued by MEST, the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities is still not at the desired level.

Outcome 1.1 Participation of Roma and Ashkali community members in education has been improved

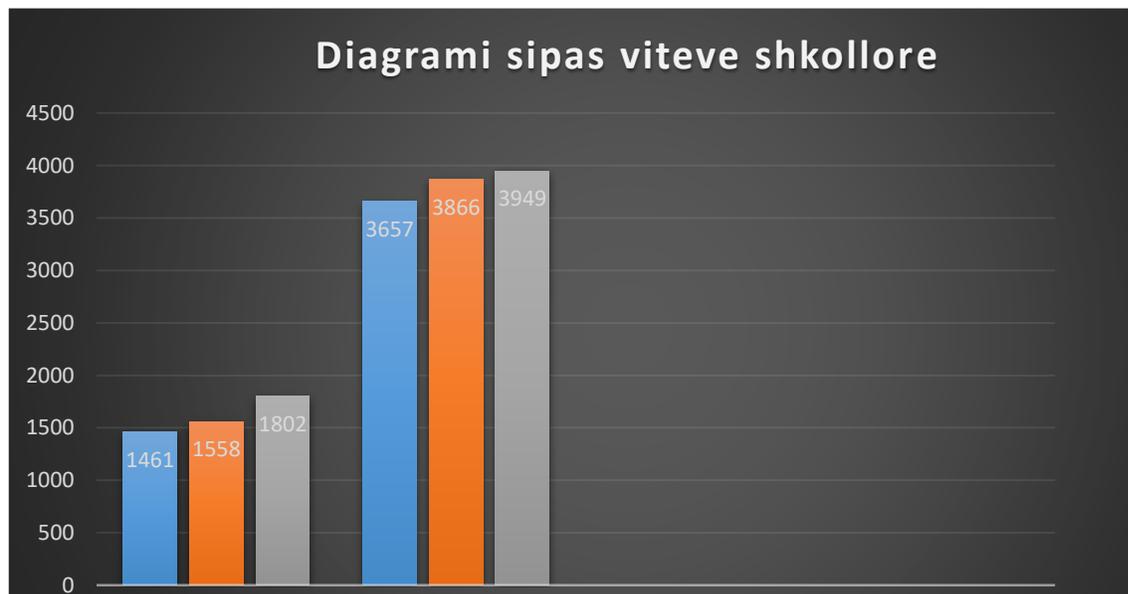
With regards to the support of pre-school programmes in learning centres, MEST issued the Administrative Instruction No. 12/2017 on the Establishment and Functioning of Learning Centres, the Administrative Instruction, revised and redrafted following the public discussion on the online platform, was approved with No. 19/2018 on 07.12.2018. This AI includes Level 0 – pre-primary education; Level 1 – primary education and Level 2 – lower secondary education. According to this AI, learning centres should be licensed by MEST. No learning centre has applied so far for licensing in MEST since the entry into force of this AI.

For the purpose of raising the level of education, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students each year have facilitations for registration in grade 10, in vocational schools and gymnasiums despite success in primary school and results in the national test of achievement. MEST in cooperation with the MED enables facilitation of registration of these communities.

Table : *Number of students by ethnicity and school levels for the academic year 2017/2018*

Level	Ashkali	Roma
Pre-school education (g. 0-<5)	0	10
Pre-primary education (g. 5-<6)	256	103
Primary/secondary education	3218	1733
Upper secondary education	255	156

TOTAL	3729	2002
Total	5731	



The number of students attending school levels 2016/17 is in total: Roma 2002, Ashkali 3729. Below the charts and tables show the number of students by the academic year 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-2018. According to the EMIS data, there is an increase in the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali students in pre-university in the academic year 2017/2018. As shown in the diagram, the inclusion of children of Roma and Ashkali communities every year marks an increase. In particular, it is welcomed the fact that, according to data, the inclusion of girls in schools every year is increasing.

As it reported in the previous report for 2017, MEST has drafted legal infrastructure, manuals and guidelines for Prevention of Abandonment and Non-Registration at School ². It has formed prevention and response teams towards abandonment and non-registration at school. These teams are from the central level - MEST - MED - Schools. In 2018, two action plans were drafted, where the budget was approved and allocated, and an action plan was monitored.

School abandonment from Roma and Ashkali communities continued in 2017/2018. Unfortunately, despite various and numerous policies that have been undertaken, the school abandonment out of children from Roma and Ashkali communities has continued in the academic year 2017/2018.

² For more detailed information, see the First Report on the Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society 2017–2021

Table: Students by ethnicity, 2018/19, total

Level	Ashkali			Roma			Total		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Preschool and pre-primary (age 0-<6)	122	126	248	68	64	132	240	221	461
Primary and lower secondary	1750	1689	3439	810	699	1509	3004	2791	5795
Upper secondary	151	111	262	98	63	161	342	241	583

Table: Students who abandoned school during the academic year 2017/18

Level	Ashkali			Roma			Total		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Primary and lower secondary (g. 1 – 9)	26	28	54	12	2	14	41	33	74
Upper secondary (g. 10 – 12)	0	0	0	2	1	3	13	1	14
Total	26	28	54	14	3	17	54	34	88

MEST as each year also in the academic year 2017/2018 has continued with the stimulation of students of Ashkali and Roma communities with scholarships.

MEST in cooperation with donors provide financial support to Roma and Ashkali communities' students.

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) for the academic year 2016/2017 in cooperation with all donors such as:

MEST in cooperation with partner REF, KFOS (EUSIMRAES2), VORAE - HEKS for the academic year 2017/2018, has allocated 405 scholarships for high school students for Roma and Ashkali communities.

Roma	98 boys,	111 girls	Total	209
Ashkali	93 boys,	103 girls	Total	196

MEST, in the academic year 2017/2018 provided free textbooks for grades 1-5 and this academic year (2018/2019) provided free textbooks from grades 1-9, for all students.

MEST has provided free textbooks for all students of all communities in compulsory education (grades 1-9)

4951 students of compulsory education (grades 1-9) of Roma and Ashkali communities have been provided with textbooks and learning material for the academic year 2017/2018. Beneficiaries were **3218 Ashkali, 1733 Roma**.

Administrative Instruction 09/2016 - The application of affirmative measures and quotes for enrolment of students from non-majority communities in Public Universities, applies every academic year from the adoption of this AI. MEST for the academic year 2017/2018 has allocated 62 scholarships for students of all communities.

GIZ and VoRAE provided financial support to 150 non-beneficiary scholarship students, with half a scholarship for the academic year 2017/2018. This support was provided to upper secondary education students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

In Kosovo Universities there are a total of 636 students of registered communities - 2017/2018.

Table: Roma and Ashkali communities' students registered in the academic year 2017/2018

Universities of Kosovo	Roma	Ashkali
University of Prishtina -“Hasan Prishtina” - Bachelor	5	9
University of Peja “Haxhi Zeka” - Bachelor	1	
University of Mitrovica “Isa Boletini”		
University of Prizren “Ukshin Hoti”	3	4

University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj		18
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"	2	3
TOTAL	11	34

Table: *Students enrolled in Master's degree in the academic year 2017/2018*

University	Rom	Ashkali	Total Registered
University of Prishtina - A total of 22 students on Master	1	2	3
Student Centre - 39 communities students	10	1	11

During the academic year 2017/2018 students registered from Roma and Ashkali communities are Roma 11, Ashkali 34 - a total of 45 students. Compared to the previous year 2016/2017 it can be observed a very large increase from 12 to 34, while from the Roma community it can be observed as much as a decrease from 23 to 11.

Table: *The number of returned students, 2017/2018*

Pre-university education	Roma	Ashkali
Number of returned and systematized students in the learning process	14	57

MEST in cooperation with KFOS (EUSIMRAES2) and VoRAE (Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians) have trained 50 mentors/tutors. This activity aims to provide support to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary schools. This second module training was organized in the academic year 2017/2018.

From mentoring and tutoring in the academic year 2017/2018, about 200 children with learning disabilities from Roma and Ashkali communities have benefited. This activity continues in the academic year 2018/2019.

Outcome 1.2 Performance of pupils and students of Roma and Ashkali communities has improved

Learning Centres are spaces in which complementary learning and other educational activities are provided for all children/students in need.

The role of learning centres is to provide support programs with complementary learning including the physical, cognitive, emotional and social development of children/students, while the main objectives are to reduce the dropout rate and increase the quality of education while the main objectives are to decrease the abandonment rate and to increase the quality of education.

The need for learning centres has emerged as a result of the challenges faced by Roma and Ashkali communities, which include high levels of unemployment, poverty, illiteracy and lack of equal opportunities. Although the Government, various international and national organizations have undertaken various initiatives that have contributed to the improvement of the standard of life of these three communities, a very important issue or a great concern has remained the education of these communities. Therefore, learning centres are focused on students and their specific needs, with the active participation of parents and also teachers in school environments.

According to VoRAE NGO data, one of the organizations implementing the curriculum program, the work of learning centres has been assessed as a significant contributor to preventing school abandonment, increasing attendance and improving performance in Albanian/Serbian Language and Mathematics. The parents and the regular class teachers were the ones who positively assessed the work of the learning centres. It should also be noted that the participation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in primary and lower secondary education at the state level is 65%, while in the places where the learning centres operate, the participation of children is 85%. While the level of participation in upper secondary education at the state level is 30%, whereas where the learning centres operate, participation is 65%

To date, 80 Learning Centres have been established in Kosovo, in which there are 5,278 students of different communities, with particular emphasis on the students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Kosovo Parliament at the end of December 2018, at the second hearing, voted to allocate a budget of 500,000 euros to the learning centres.

According to the curricula and texts approved by MEST, additional classes for learning the first level of the Roma language is provided in Prizren.

If there are requests, additional language lessons can be provided for Roma languages in other municipalities as well.

MEST has monitored the organization of additional classes for Roma language and culture for Roma community students, according to their interest and requirements. Teaching during the school year 2017/2018 was organized in Prizren, in four primary schools; because in other municipalities there were no interested.

MEST has organized the "8th of April - Roma Day" with several activities. Roundtables and other cultural activities

MEST has organized a Roundtable on the Day of Roma Language on November 5, 2018.

Training for Roma language teachers was organized; for the use of curricula and texts of Roma language and culture.

Outcome 1.3 - Stakeholders are made aware of helping the education of members of Roma and Ashkali communities

Parents' awareness of timely enrolment and school attendance with a particular focus on girls is of great importance. With this aim to raise parents' awareness of MEST, 3 awareness campaigns in this framework were organized with various activities for the awareness of the parents of Roma and Ashkali communities on the importance of timely enrolment and attendance at school, with particular focus on girls. In cooperation with DAP, in these activities, manuals have been prepared for the importance of early childhood and also television spots about the importance of preschool education. DAP and DAK have also published a TV spot where children of these communities have also participated.

MEST has organized a career guidance week.

MEST has prepared brochures/leaflets for the career guidance week; the leaflet contained the high schools of the Republic of Kosovo, with existing directions and profiles, and these leaflets were distributed in schools. Also after these leaflets were distributed in schools, several schools were visited in two municipalities where discussions were conducted with ninth grade (9) students of Roma and Ashkali communities regarding the continuation of upper secondary education and the contents and purpose of the leaflet were presented.

MEST with the support of OSCE has drafted the Guidelines to promote inter-ethnic dialogue and community-based contacts, where the signing and continuation of other activities foreseen with this document is expected.

5.1.1 Challenges

1. Limited budget
2. There is still a number of Roma and Ashkali students who have problems using the Albanian language;
3. Learning Centres still continue to function with the support of NGOs;
4. Learning Centres have a lack of budget for their proper functionalization;
5. There is a small number of Roma and Ashkali communities who are illiterate;
6. The small number of children who are involved in the pre-school and kindergarten system;
7. Students who attend the parallel system have difficulty after completing their education.

5.1.2 Recommendations

1. It is necessary to allocate more budget from MEST;
2. MEST should organize Albanian language courses for students of Roma and Ashkali communities who have problems in using the Albanian language;
3. The Learning Centres need to be institutionalized;
4. There should be a budget allocated to the functioning of the Learning Centres because there is a lack of budget for their functionalization;
5. Classes should be organized for representatives of Roma and Ashkali communities, especially for women who are not illiterate;
6. The number of children in kindergartens and pre-primary education should increase;
7. There should be a choice for children attending school on the parallel system.

5.2 EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

Kosovo continues to face a poor economic situation. Unemployment is a widespread phenomenon even in the majority population, although Kosovo has a young population.

Roma and Ashkali communities are the poorest communities living in Kosovo. The high unemployment rate is the main cause of poverty.

Employment is the main factor in having a good socio-economic status. Adequate non-qualification for the labour market and lack of education, although constantly policies are undertaken to prepare for the labour market Roma and Ashkali communities, which remain the most vulnerable in Kosovo. Girls belonging to Roma and Ashkali communities still remain in a difficult position.

EMPLOYMENT

Outcome 2.1 - The level of employment of Roma and Ashkali communities is improved

MLSW/EARK compiles reports on regular data on the benefit of members of these communities from services and Active labour market policies (ALMPs).

Table: Data according to ALMPs extracted from the EMIS database of the declared Roma and Ashkali communities for 2018

	Roma	Ashkali	Total Roma and Ashkali	Roma women	Ashkali women	Total Roma and Ashkali women
Interns	3	10	13	0	4	4
Wage subsidies	2	8	10	0	2	2
Public works	1	4	5	0	0	0
On-the-job training	9	14	25	2	8	10
Self-employment	7	19	26	2	2	4
Total Active Labour Market Measures	22	55	77	4	16	10

Table: Summary of ALMM data, including vocational training and employment services in 2018

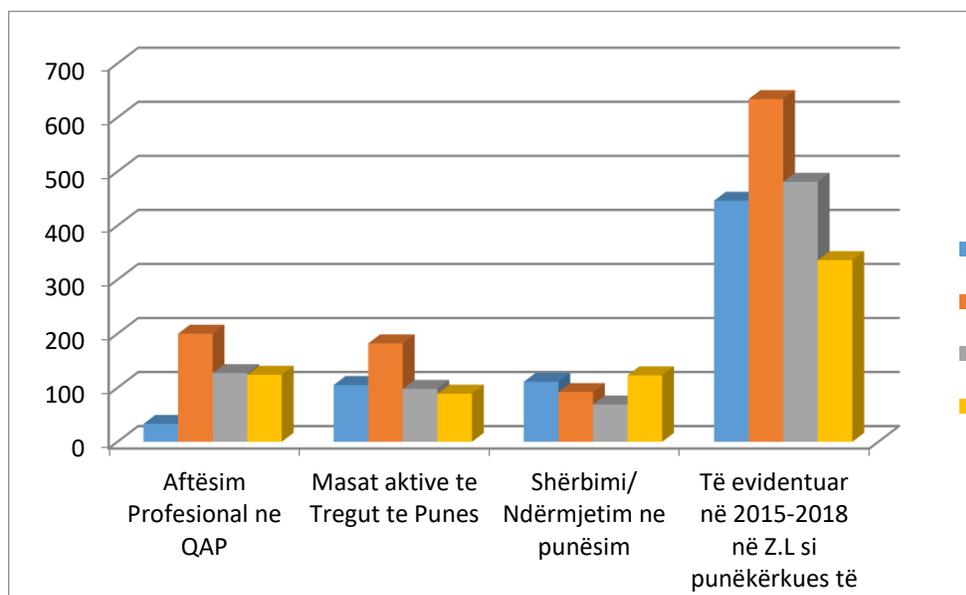
	Roma	Ashkali	Total Roma and Ashkali	Roma women	Ashkali women	Total Roma and Ashkali women
Vocational training at VTC	26	60	86	11	25	36
Active Labour Market Measures	22	55	77	4	16	20
Service/mediation in Employment	38	40	87	5	9	14
Total measures - including training/mediation service	86	155	241	20	50	70
Active jobseekers recorded in Employment Offices	1764	2655	4419	782	969	1751
New jobseekers recorded in Employment	187	136	323	86	53	139



Table: Indicate the inclusion of the declared members of Roma and Ashkali communities in services/ALMM by years 2015-2018 based on EMIS data,

Measures/services	2015	2016	2017	2018
Vocational training at VTC	33	200	127	124
Active Labour Market Measures	105	182	98	89
Service/mediation in Employment	111	92	69	123
New jobseekers recorded in Employment Offices in 2015-2018	446	634	481	336

Table: Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in employment measures, including vocational training from 2015 to 2016-2017-2018



The Chart indicates that there is sustainability in involving Roma and Ashkali communities in employment measures, including vocational training. Trends over the years reflect a comparison indicating that in 2016 there was a significant increase in the inclusion of these communities in comparison with the previous year and even better than in the following year. The main reason behind greater inclusion in 2016 is the better functioning of specific programs, leading to better results, such as the inter-institutional agreement on the integration of returnees, a special program involving 100 members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities under the 'on-the-job training in companies' measure, transformations in the institution in 2017 with the establishment of the EARK, etc. In 2018, as can be seen, there is a decrease in the number of job seekers compared to the past 3 years. Additionally, there is an increase in service/mediation employment rates compared to the last three years. While in active labour market measures and Vocational Training in VTCs stays stable for the last four years.

In 2018, the provision of training services continued in (7) VTCs with the provision of free training courses with an average duration of 3 months and specific self-employment training (40 lessons) for job seekers and unemployed registered at municipal employment offices aimed at preparing them for the labour markets.

Vocational Training at VTC; during 2018, 124 jobseekers from Roma and Ashkali communities were involved in vocational training programs.

According to information from VTC reports, jobseekers from Roma and Ashkali communities attended training in the following 20 out of total 30 qualification trainings provided in VTCs: welding, woodwork, installation of water supply, wiring, construction, kitchen, waiter, administrative assistant, accounting, business administration, hairdressing & makeup, milk processing, fruit and vegetable processing, micro and small enterprise management, tailor and training program for self-employment. These VTC activities are funded by the MLSW budget. Based on a general expenditure calculation, the cost of training services for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities amounted to around EUR 15,000.00.

Active Labour Market Measures (ALMM) is implemented by the EARK, supported by donors UNDP and GIZ. In 2018, 89 jobseekers from Roma and Ashkali communities benefited from ALMMs. The budget spent on ALMMs for these communities amounted to EUR 138,200.00.

Employment mediation as an activity of employment services is carried out by employment office advisors through labour market research and employers' offers. In 2018, 123 jobseekers from Roma and Ashkali communities benefited from employment mediation.

According to data provided by MAP-DCSA, employees in central institutions (civil service), October-December 2018 of Roma and Ashkali communities are in total 15; Roma 12; by percentage 0.11%, Ashkali 3, by percentage 0.003%. The data show that the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in central institutions remains low.

The recruitment of employment advisers from RAE communities in the municipalities with the largest number of job seekers from these communities has not been realized because even when there is a public vacancy for these positions, there is usually no interest from these communities. In addition, recruitment is based on open vacancy and the recruitment procedures are regulated by law, i.e. they prevent favouritism towards anyone.

The ILO project "Promoting decent work opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth in Kosovo" in cooperation with employment offices and other stakeholders at the municipal level in 2018 conducted a research to find out how young Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women and men (employed/unemployed) perceive the challenges and opportunities of employment in three selected Kosovo municipalities; Gjakova, Fushe Kosova and Gracanica. Also from this project is published the Resource Guide "Promoting decent work opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth in Kosovo" in local languages.

In the framework of regional visits and conferences, exchanges of experiences regarding affirmative measures to stimulate employment are done. In recent years, the active labour market measures of wage subsidies and self-employment have been strengthened in Kosovo, involving a considerable number of members of the communities.

Under the ALMMs of on-the-job training and wage subsidies, which are implemented in cooperation with UNDP, the quota of community involvement is 10%, while in other measures including vocational training; communities are categorized under priority groups for inclusion.

The SIMP electronic system contains data that enables the needs assessment and measurement of the performance achieved in all services and ALMMs that are carried out within the EARK/MLSW. SIMP electronic system/database provides an opportunity for designing needs analysis and effectiveness of ALMM services.

In March 2018, a new Regulation on ALMMs has been adopted, which governs the functioning of the measures that have been applied earlier and the functioning of the new measures related to the combined training by VTCs and companies. This will be a good opportunity in the future for greater involvement in this component, which will benefit all communities.

The MAFRD has opened a Call for Applications for subsidies in livestock, beekeeping, wheat cultivation, and these subsidies are dedicated to all farmers of the Republic of Kosovo without discrimination and will be granted by complying with all the criteria. The respective subsidies are aimed to increase the incomes of farmers and the rural population, to improve the living standards and conditions and to increase competitiveness. The amount of subsidies for 2018 for all applicants that met the criteria was:

- Direct payments and projects for agriculture and rural development; the total amount was € 43,637.32.
- Capital Development Projects; the total amount was 2,733,504.52 €

- Professional Services Projects, the total amount was 417,261.78 €.

Human Rights Unit - MAFRD has carried out activities with Roma and Ashkali communities, in total in 6 different workshops, where Roma and Ashkali communities are beneficiaries. For these activities, € 570.000 was allocated, from which 150 participants from this community and others benefited.

Despite all this commitment, the participation of this community is still unsatisfactory.

According to 2018 data from the Kosovo Forest Agency (KFA), two Memorandums of Understanding have been signed with MLSW.

MoU between MAFRD and MLSW with no.13/2018 dated 15.01.2018, whereby were engaged

160 employees for the period 1 April - 31 October 2018 for silvicultural purposes, maintenance of forested facilities, replacement of failed seedlings, extinction of fires in Kosovo forests and other activities in forests of interest to KFA. 71 contractors were paid by KFA and the amount of funds was 142,693.00, as well as from MLSW were paid 89 contractors in the amount of 155,750.00 € and the total amount was 298,389.00 €.

Annex I - Cooperation Agreement between MAFRD and MLSW with protocol no. 2800 of 12.11.2018

195 employees for the period 15 November 2018 - 15 January 2019, for silvicultural purposes, maintenance of forested facilities, replacement of failed seedlings, extinction of fires in Kosovo forests and other activities in forests of interest to KFA. 71 contractors were paid by KFA and the amount of funds was 40,400.00, as well as from MLSW were paid 124 contractors in the amount of 62,000 € and the total amount was 102,000 €.

MoU between MAFRD and MLSW with the EC-17/18 dated 16.01.2018

10 employees were engaged for the period 01 March 2018-30 November 2018, for production of seedlings at the Kosovo Forest Institute, in the amount of € 33,750.00.

We emphasize that five (5) other Capital Investments projects implemented for 2018 in KFA, contracted companies have engaged a considerable number of employees, but their ethnicity is not known because the ethnicity is not questioned in the employment form.

SOCIAL WELFARE

(Social Welfare and Social Assistance)

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) has been committed since its foundation and continues to be committed to developing a social protection system in order to assist all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo who are in social need, regardless of age, gender, nationality and religious affiliation.

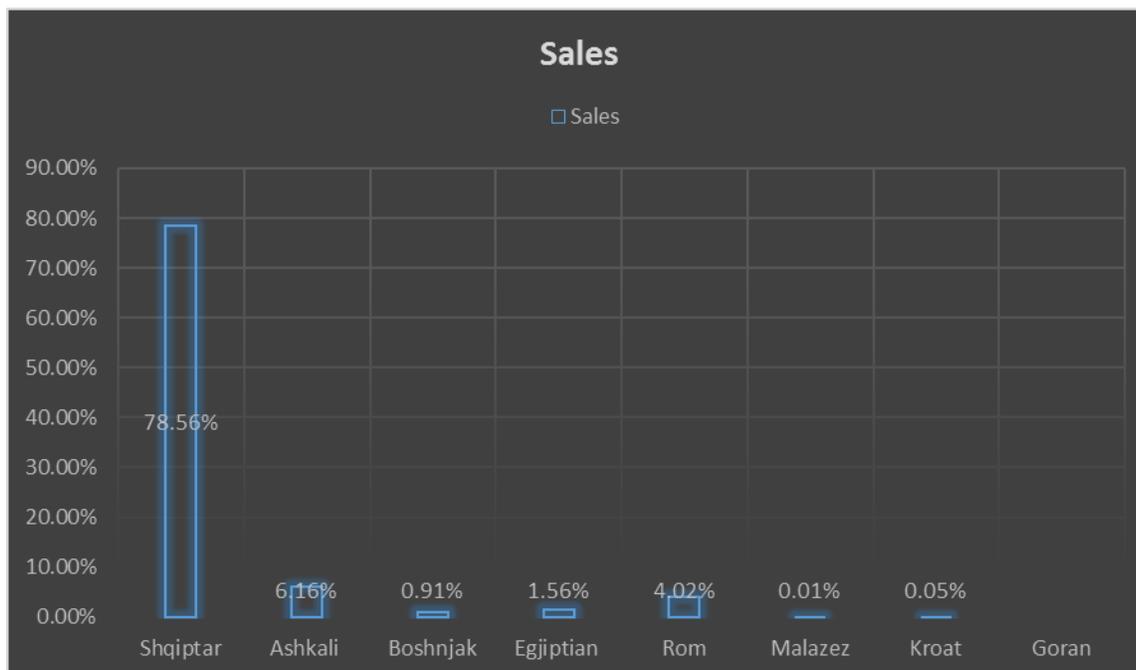
The families and individuals in need are protected through the main social protection programs, which are focused on the realization of the benefits and services presented in the existing schemes. These programs are: the support program for poor families, implemented through the Social Assistance Scheme (SAS); the support program for families with children with special needs, implemented through the Support Scheme for Families with Children with Permanent Disabilities of 1-18 years; the program of children without parental care and abandoned children, through two forms of Family Sheltering, Family Sheltering with Relatives and Family Housing other than Relatives; the support program for victims of domestic violence through contracting and purchasing services to NGOs; the program of providing residential services for elderly and disabled people, by providing 24-hour services in residential institutions.

During 2018, the Social Assistance Scheme benefited 2.376 Roma and Ashkali families from which 965 families were Roma or 4.08% of total SAS beneficiary families and 1,414 Ashkali families or 5.92%. The budget spent for December for all communities is: **578,585.00 Euros for Roma and Ashkali communities were spent for December 2018, 274,510.00 Euros.** While for the entire 2018 from the Social Assistance Scheme for Roma and Ashkali communities, € **3,706,932.50**

Table 1.1: National structure of households in SAS, December 2018

Nationality	No. of households	%	No. of members	%	Amount	%
Albanian	19602	74.61%	82586	79.84%	2,118,380.00	78.56%
Serbian	1414	5.92%	6836	6.61%	166,015.00	6.16%
Roma	262	0.99%	856	0.83%	24,442.50	0.91%
Ashkali	354	1.50%	1712	1.66%	41,965.00	1.56%
Egyptian	168	0.64%	463	0.45%	14,855.00	0.55%
Turkish	16	0.06%	41	0.04%	1,325.00	0.05%
Bosnian	4	0.01%	9	0.01%	337.50	0.01%
Montenegrin	965	4.08%	4312	4.17%	108,495.00	4.02%
Croatian	2422	11.74%	6176	5.97%	208,012.50	7.71%
Gorani	64	0.17%	244	0.23%	6,685.00	0.23%
Other	74	0.28%	213	0.21%	6,452.50	0.24%
TOTAL:	25345		103437		2,696,965.00	

Table: *The national structure of families in the SAS, December 2018, in the diagram form*



In the first part of 2017, a Memorandum on the exemption from payment of electricity was made for the beneficiary families of the Social Assistance Scheme for the year 2017. Out of this Memorandum, 2,733 families of Roma and Ashkali communities have benefited. Out of this total, 965 families were Roma community, 1,414 Ashkali community and 354 Egyptian communities. Each family is subsidized on average by 270 KWh or 11.27 € per month, or 135 € per year.

For each family applying to benefit from the Social Assistance Scheme, the Form for calculating material and non-material goods, as well as quantifiable and non-quantifiable revenues, shall be filled out by the manager of the SWC's subject where the family applies. This form includes the size, structure and socio-economic conditions in which the family lives. Thus, families applying and re-applying for social assistance are assessed based on the socio-economic status and in accordance with the applicable legal and sub-legal acts.

Each family applying and replying for social assistance is visited by the SWC team, which consists of three members, one of which is necessary to be the case manager. Field visits by this team are carried out at least every 6 and 12 months.

Beneficiary families of the Social Assistance Scheme may be provided with additional financial support only in an extraordinary situation. The Single Social Assistance Scheme is provided to individuals or families for a current, extraordinary but not continuous need such as: funeral expenses of family members, damage and destruction of the household caused by elemental disasters (fire, earthquake and flood) for loss of documentation along with recent money and

other extraordinary needs. In 2018, 20 families of Roma and Ashkali communities benefited from this Scheme, or 9% of the total beneficiaries. The amount given under this Scheme is EUR 100.00 to EUR 300.00 and is given only once a year for the same need.

Children with special needs are identified through the Scheme for Families with Children with Permanent Disabilities of 1-18 years (FCPD), where during this year 2018 of this scheme has benefited 25 children of the Roma community, 42 children of the community Ashkali and 12 Egyptian children. Thus, the total number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children who benefited from this scheme during 2018 is 79 children, who received an amount of EUR 100.00 per month.

The budget spent for this scheme for 2018 for all communities is € 222,900.00 for December, while for the whole 2018 it is € 2,973,200.

Table: *National Framework of Beneficiary Children of the FCPD Scheme, December 2018*

Nationality	No. of children	%	Amount of funds
Albanian	1,980	89.76%	200,300.00 €
Serbian	104	4.71%	10,400.00 €
Roma	25	1.13%	2,500.00 €
Ashkali	42	1.9%	4,200.00 €
Egyptian	12	0.54%	1,200.00 €
Bosnian	15	0.68%	1,500.00 €
Muslim	8	0.36%	800.00 €
Croatian	1	0.05%	100.00 €
Turkish	9	0.41%	900.00 €
Gorani	8	0.36%	800.00 €
Other	2	0.09%	200.00 €
TOTAL:	2,206	100.00	222,900.00 €

Thus, in 2018, the financial support to families with children with special needs was provided through the Scheme for Families with Children with Permanent Disabilities of 1-18 years (FCPD).

Based on the data of the Social Services, during 2018, 48 children were accommodated in family shelter, out of which 15 children benefited from the Roma community, 28 children from the Ashkali community, and 5 Egyptians, who were compensated by EUR 100 per month.

Category: Victims of Domestic Violence

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, respectively the Department of Social and Family Policy this year has continued financial support for non-governmental organizations that provide services to victims of domestic violence in the process of social protection and their reintegration.

Table: *NGOs, Shelters for victims of domestic violence*

no	NGO-shelter	Children	Adults	Female	Male	Local	National	Nationality	Total
1.	NGO,,QMGF " Prishtina	30	25	17	13	54	1	Albanian 48 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian .6 Slovenian 1	55
2.	NGO,,Liria" Gjilan	35	50	57	28	85	0	Albanian 83 Bosnian 1 Roma 1	85
3.	NGO, ,,Shtëpia Ime" Ferizaj	35	39	66	8	74	2	Albanian 69 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian 3 German 2	74
4.	NGO,,QSGF- P" Prizren	21	23	35	9	44	0	Albanian 44	44
5.	NGO, ,,Shtëpia e Sigurt" Gjakova	29	46	62	13	75	0	Albanian 60 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian 14 Turkish 1	75
6.	NGO,,QMG" Peja	29	32	52	9	61	0	Albanian 52 RAE 6 Bosnian 3	61
7.	NGO,,QMGF " Mitrovica	32	28	44	16	55	5	Albanian 52 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian .3 Albanian 2. German 3	60
	Total	211	243	333	96	448	8	Albanian 408 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian 33 Bosnian 4 Turkish 1 German 2 Slovenian 1	454

Whereas, the State Shelters during 2018 has sheltered seventeen (17) Trafficking Victims, of whom ten (10) VoTs were potential and seven (7) victims of trafficking. At high risk were three (3) while at medium risk fourteen (14).

According to origin and gender, were:

- National 12
- International 5
- Adults 3 + (one of the victims of trafficking was a mother of a 3 year old)
- Minors 14

Under the influence of narcotic substances were four (4).

During 2018, in residential accommodation in two major institutions: the House of Elderly without Family Care in Prishtina (HEFC), the Special Institute in Shtime (SISH) and the Community-Based Child Housing in Shtime, have 11 clients were established, all of the Roma community, who have received services and have been under 24 hours care.

See the tables below:

Table 1.4: Gender and National Structure of Clients in HEFC - Prishtina, December 2018

Nationality	Albanian		Serbian		Muslim		Croatian		Roma		Hungarian		Turkish		Total:
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
No. of clients	28	28	0	5	1	5	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	70

Table 1.5: Gender and National Structure of Clients in SISH - Shtime, December 2018

Nationality	Albanian		Serbian		Muslim		Gorani		Roma		Hungarian		Turkish		Total:
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
No. of clients	19	20	12	3	1	0	1	0	7	1	3	0	0	0	67

Table 1.6: Gender and National Structure of Clients at the House of Children - Shtime, December 2018

Nationality	Albanian		Serbian		Muslim		Croatian		Roma		Hungarian		Turkish		Total:
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
No. of clients	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	10

The Ministry of Internal Affairs / Department for Reintegration for the period January - September 2018, has continued to provide services to Roma and Ashkali communities for their

reintegration into Kosovo society. According to MIA data, during 2018 has provided various services to 727 Roma and Ashkali communities; Roma 323, Ashkali 414. The budget spent is € 330.809.00. Detailed services are provided in the table.

Table: *Services provided by the Department for Reintegration for the period January – September 2018*

No	Services provided by the Reintegration Department for the period of year 2018		Roma	Ashkali	Egyptian	Beneficiaries of Local and International Organizations have not declared their nationality	Budget spent	Remarks
1	Transport to the municipality of origin	Persons	126	149	43	110	5,454 €	These expenditures reflect the beneficiaries by DRRP, not by NIOs.
2	Temporary accommodation (7 days) at the Accommodation Centre and prepared meals (served)	Persons	28	12	/	/	1,304 €	Average expenditures.
3	Food and hygiene packages	persons	/	/	/	72		On this scheme, it is reported the number of beneficiaries from the NIO
4	Rental Accommodation for up to 12 months	Persons	68	93	21	/	69,010 €	Average expenditures.
5	Winter assistance package (wood for heating)	Persons	59	83	31	4	34,600 €	These expenditures reflect the beneficiaries by DRRP, not by NIOs.
6	Health care package	persons	/	2	/	30	153 €	Average expenditures.
7	House reconstruction/construction	family/ individual	/	/	/	16	64,426 €	These expenditures reflect DRRP beneficiary families for decisions approved from previous years, but technical receipts and budget

								expenditures were realized during 2018.
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8	House Furniture/inventory	family	7	17	4	20	55,612 €	These expenditures reflect beneficiary families from DRRP for decisions approved from past years and this year.
9	Self-employment (business financing)	family/individual	5	18	6	57	75,600 €	These expenditures reflect the beneficiary persons of DRRP- UNDP and of NIO.
10	Employment mediation	Persons	2	5	2	133	14,960 €	These expenditures reflect the beneficiary persons of DRRP- UNDP and of NIO.
11	On -the-job training	persons	7	11	1	4	9,690 €	These expenditures reflect the beneficiary persons of DRRP- UNDP and of NIO.

Explanation: at the number of beneficiaries according to national and international organizations (NIOs), budget expenditures have not been calculated but only the number of beneficiaries, according to their reporting, has been reflected.

5.2.1 Challenges for the employment sector

- failure to declare ethnicity of a considerable number of people, which according to the field information, the majority are from these communities, disables the real reflection of inclusion because the persons who do not declare their ethnicity are registered in the 'others' group in EMIS. Likewise, the law does not favour ethnic groups in open competitions for recruitment of employment advisers.

5.2.2 Recommendations for the employment sector

- The main activities that would affect the achievement of the objectives of the strategy include: Finding supporting donors and better cooperation with the civil society in organizing information campaigns for communities on the benefits of activism and participation in vocational training programs,
- ALMM and other services that promote employment, the support of language learning programs (for the Roma community), the organization of courses for literacy and simple mathematical equations that would enable the fulfilment of the enrolment criterion in order for a greater number of candidates to be included in the ALMM, including vocational training.

5.3 HEALTH

MoH has allocated 50,000.00 Euros for capital investments to support the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in promoting and accessing health services.

Healthcare for Roma and Ashkali communities continues to be a sensitive issue, although there is an improvement in receiving health services, better awareness by the Roma and Ashkali community. In general, due to lack of education, insufficient promotion and a poor social and economic status of these communities there is still no good condition for this community. The Ministry of Health has taken some measures to improve the health status of these communities, but it still continues to be of concern. Roma and Ashkali communities do not make proper health checks, also due to inadequate health education and a poor economic and social condition they have a lack of access to use health services.

Hygiene in Roma and Ashkali communities is poor. Immunization of children of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities is still at an unsatisfactory level, although there have been improvements in vaccination in recent years, as per vaccination in 2018, 7786 children have been vaccinated according to the data from the National Institute of Public Health, in relation to the health of women regarding the activity of breast cancer screening, mobile mammography examination, during the year, a total of 730 women of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian

community have been examined, whereby we have a slight increase in reporting compared to the previous year, but we still cannot say that we are satisfied.

Field program MFMC - Gjakova with the NGO - AHED; MFMC - Lipjan with the NGO - POLIS AND KOPF "Health for all" with the topics of diabetes, diarrhoea, hypertension, they were held in schools, in Family Medicine Centres with citizens of these communities.

MFMC -Gjakova, out of all activities implemented, a raised awareness of the communities was managed to be achieved, based on the results achieved, 365 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children were vaccinated on field, and during October (Month of awareness-raising for breast cancer prevention), we have conducted 176 mammographic recordings, this as a result of health education and promotion through lectures held in the community.

MFMC -Gjilan reports that currently, the health situation of this community is at a satisfactory level, patients from this community are visited in the closest FMCs, at the same time, immunisation-vaccination teams have vaccinated the children of this community regularly, and their condition is under control, like in all others.

MFMC - Lipjan notes that communities are very active with their representatives in the community scorecard with focus groups, activity sponsored by the AQH project and implemented by the NGO "POLIS".

Seeing the poor situation of this community, the Ministry of Health has conducted visits to families, organized awareness-raising campaigns for immunisation, health education and promotion, etc.

According to the data from the National Institute of Public Health, for 2018, 7786 children of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community have been vaccinated.

21 campaigns for the purpose of raising the awareness for carrying out immunisation have been held.

Special attention has been paid to the review of data and indicators deriving from health institutions, taking into account the problems in the functioning and inclusion of data within the Health Information System.

The database on the health status and access to the health system of the three communities has been advanced during 2016. Now the ethnicity can also be entered in this database, and the data on the health status can be browsed separately for each community.

Table: *Visits registered in the HSS application which have received health services in the database, provided by HIS - for 2018*

Cases	Ethnicity
634	Ashkali

2148	Bosnian
696	Roma
6930	Serbian
1050426	Albanians
45494	Others
1486	Turkish

The Ministry of Health, during 2018, in order to improve the health status of the community, has cooperated and financially supported 4 Non-Governmental Organizations dealing with activities in integrating Roma and Ashkali communities in the health component and has supported with the amount of EUR **41,278.76**.

Outcome 3.1: Improved access to health services for members of Roma and Ashkali communities

Taking into account that these communities, due to insufficient health education and poor social financial status, we are not satisfied with their awareness, or sufficient access to health services but they still do not perform regular health checks, therefore, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with Health Institutions, has conducted home visits with mobile teams. Importance was given to the health of women, mothers and children, 730 women were examined with mobile mammograms during 2018.

Out of these activities, it was managed to raise the awareness of communities, based on the results achieved, 7786 children of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community were vaccinated, and during October (Month of awareness-raising for preventing breast cancer), one of the Municipalities reported that it mobilized the women of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community, 176 recordings were carried out in this municipality, this as a result of health education and promotion, and the municipalities reported that they have priorities regarding chronic diseases, provision of health services on a daily basis is one of the priorities.

Some municipalities point out that they have very good cooperation with NGOs that engage in health activities for inclusion in health services.

While 2792 home visits were conducted through mobile teams in municipalities where the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities live, with health professionals.

Outcome 3.2: Improved behaviour of and health practices for members of Roma and Ashkali communities

Roma and Ashkali communities have had a weaker access to the health system. This has resulted in a weaker health, especially in vulnerable groups such as women and children. If

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities did not hesitate to visit the doctor on time, it would contribute to eliminating the diseases.

Adequate health controls and vaccination of children, as a disease protection measure, would have a positive impact on improving the health status. In order to achieve this objective, the Ministry of Health, in conformity to its policies, Health Strategy and Action Plan 2017-2021, has conducted home visits to families and schools, it has trained the staff to work with communities, in some municipalities there is better integration, such as in MFMC - Gjilan, at the Roma and Ashkali community, the immunologic situation and other diseases are at the appropriate level due to their better integration in all institutions, as well as in the provision of health services.

As a priority of the Ministry of Health, official data reported on the vaccination of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children for years are as follows; Immunization of children has increased compared to the previous year, 7786 children have been vaccinated, 21 campaigns for raising the awareness of the community for vaccination of children have been held, 10 roundtables on the importance of sanitary hygiene conditions, 423 medical staff were trained.

10 roundtables on education for the importance of hygiene-sanitary conditions have been organized.

The advancement of preventive capacities of the staff in primary care has been done through the organization of training to the staff /health professionals, the number of staff trained is 423.

Outcome 3.3: A healthy environment is created for the population of Roma and Ashkali communities

For many years Kosovo institutions have taken concrete actions to overcome the poor condition, since the appearance of lead in blood among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. For years, the MoH supplied with a medical device - Biochemistry Analyzer - for measuring the presence of lead in blood and other equipment, which facilitated the provision of health services to this community, and which facilitated a lot the work of this institution and other medical devices were purchased for MFMC - Obiliq, Fushe Kosova, Gjakova, Podujeva, Klina, etc.

The Ministry of Health has purchased medical equipment with the budget planned of 50.000.00 Euros for supporting the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community in 2018, and supplied the family medicine centres which have a larger number of residents belonging to these communities.

5.3.1 Challenges

1. Mitrovica - migration of participants of the Roma community to the northern part, inability to access medical documents.

2. Lower response to the involvement of immunization.
3. MFMC Mitrovica - irregular supply with medications and consumables from the Essential Medicines List for this community for financial reasons, inadequate health education, especially at the youth, there should be a regular and adequate supply of medication.
4. Involvement of the community in health education sessions in cooperation with NGOs and stakeholders through MHD in cooperation with the Municipality office.
5. Insufficient training for professional development of the healthcare staff
6. Insufficient cooperation with all institutions and stakeholders for improving the health status of the Roma community
7. Insufficient knowledge about education, prevention and promotion by the community.

5.3.2 Recommendations

1. Additional budget for health education and promotion should be provided.
2. Better cooperation with all stakeholders is needed for awareness-raising on health education and promotion.
3. Better reporting to the database within HIS - MoH.
4. Regular supply of the Essential Medicines List.
5. Organize home visits for immunization, systematic student visits, campaigns for health promotion.
6. There is a need for continuous training for professional development of the healthcare staff.
7. There should be cooperation with all institutions and stakeholders for improving the health status of the community, especially the Roma community.
8. Organize preventive activities and health education
9. Ethnicity should also be written in medical protocols
10. Greater cooperation with MoH, DHSW, NGOs
11. Increase the number of containers; remove this as it is not a competence of the MoH.

12. Work more with communities on health education concerning maintenance of hygiene.
13. Conduct home visits by mobile health teams to check the presence of lead in blood as this community is not aware and does not go for doing blood analysis for checking the presence of lead in blood.
14. The unit for measuring lead presence in blood should be regularly equipped with medication from consumables.

5.4 HOUSING

Housing is a right safeguarded by international legislation for a dignified life, social, health and economic well-being. The Kosovo Government continues to implement its policies, based on its legislation, to ensure better living conditions for these two communities. The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) of the Government of Kosovo is mandated to draft inclusive policies that will help to improve the operational and institutional capacity building of municipalities and the Ministry in order to provide social housing units to help vulnerable groups and repatriated persons returned from Western Europe countries and to support the reform in the housing sector. As a result of measures taken by Kosovo's policies to overcome this challenge, there has been noted a great achievement by mitigating the problem such as the closure of camps and construction of social housing, reconstruction and renovation of individual houses where Kosovo's central and local institutions, international and non-governmental organizations operated. MESP, Department of Spatial Planning, Construction and Housing, Housing Division (DSPCH), is the line ministry mandated to regulate the field of housing and is responsible for preparation of housing laws as well as for the support of social housing programs.

In 2010, the Government of Kosovo has adopted a legislation setting the ground for sustainable development of the social housing system. In practice, the level of enforcement of new regulations that include a number of sub-legal acts defining in detail the key definitions is low. At the same time, the housing market is not mature and despite the considerable volume of housing construction in larger municipalities, housing for many reasons is still not affordable for most of the population.

The lack of proper coordination resulted in having no accurate data in this area regarding the requirements and needs for institutional support. After the establishment of the database in 2017, MESP is conducting training in municipalities to place all data of the requests in the electronic platform, whereby it will also be managed by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, which will be functional for all Kosovo municipalities. One of the actions was

that MESP requested that from all municipalities be one official from each responsible municipality for the management of this electronic platform, which through this project has been funded through MESP and the European Commission and has been implemented through the NGO Development Together, which will be functionalized in 2018 throughout municipalities, where all the requests and achievements for solving the social housing problem will be recorded.

Outcome 4.1. Needs of community members for adequate housing and social housing have been identified

Pursuant to the legislation in force in Kosovo, the Law no. 03/L-164 on Housing Financing Specific Programs, where it is stated “The aim of this law is to create possibilities for a sustainable housing for the families or individuals that are not in such economical state to endure the offers of free market of dwelling and determination on providing and using ways of financial means for the development of housing specific programs” and for the implementation of the Housing component of the Strategy and Action Plan, - a policy to identify the problem and providing solutions to the issue of housing challenges - the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has undertaken activities to implement strategic objectives.

By the time the report was being drafted, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning has identified **962** families that do not have adequate housing conditions. The identified number of families that do not have adequate housing conditions has been identified by designing three-year residential programs in **27** municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo. In Kosovo, out of them, **8 programs** are in force (Decan, Fushe Kosove, Kacanik, Lipjan, Malisheva, South Mitrovica, Peja, Shtime), while **13 programs** have expired (Ferizaj, Gjakova, Gracanica, Hani i Elezit, Kamenica, Klina, Obiliq, Podujeva, Rahovec and Vushtrria) and **6 are draft programs** (Gjilan, Novoberde, Prishtina, Ranillug, Suhareka and Vitia).

So far, during 2018, 4 three-year housing programs have been drafted, which are in the municipalities of Decan, Fushe Kosova, Kacanik and Peja.

Regarding the status of the three-year housing programs (TYHP) in municipalities for 2018, you can find the local level report on the second part at the housing part.

MESP and MIA have an agreement that housing projects be implemented in MESP. MESP has funded projects on the basis of criteria defined in the Regulation GRK No. 04/2016 on Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and Reintegration Program Management, providing support for house reconstruction and renovation as well as home furniture.

However, the condition of housing sustainability has not been successfully met yet, because an efficient financing mechanism, social housing provision, as well as sustainable housing management capacities need to be established, in order to increase affordable housing options for low-income repatriates and other vulnerable families.

Regarding the setting of priorities for families in need for inclusion in the social housing programme, the priority lists for social housing have not been drafted yet.

The data from Municipalities for “Outcome 4.2. There is increased awareness of the members of Roma and Ashkali communities for active participation in solving housing problems” the report can be seen in the part of the municipal level report

Outcome 4.3: Significant progress towards solving the housing problem for members of the Roma and Ashkali communities

MESP, the Municipalities and the NGOs identifying the urgent needs of Roma and Ashkali communities carried out the following:

- MESP, in the project for reconstruction of house in own parcel, the works for reconstruction of two (2) houses have been completed, for the repatriated families from European Union countries (Kajtaz Rexhepaj in the village of Krusheva e Madhe - Klina and Reshat Hamza in Rahovec). The funds for reconstruction of the two houses (75 m² and 45 m²) amount to 31,594.50 €. Also, renovated and reconstructed houses for 9 families have been supplied with furniture (2 Roma, 5 Ashkali and 2 Egyptian families). The amount of furniture was 10,855.00 €. MESP investments for 2018 are 42,449.50 €.
- The municipality, together with the NGO-VoRAE, in 2018, are carrying out the renovation of 72 houses in the municipality of Fushe Kosova, Klina, Lipjan and Prizren. Financing is joint and reaches the amount of 223,615.00 €. Out of this amount, the Government of Kosovo invested as follows: Municipality of Fushe Kosova 70,000.00 €, Municipality of Klina 15,000.00 €, Municipality of Lipjan 21,000.00 € and Municipality of Prizren 20,000.00 € and the amount of donor funds for the NGO VoRAE was in a value of 97,615.00 €. By community, these houses were divided as follows: 6 Roma, 47 Ashkali, 8 Egyptian families and 11 families of other communities (Albanian and Bosnian),

In MESP, a Draft Law on Social Housing has been drafted, which has gone through all the steps of the drafting of the law according to the Government Regulation: preliminary consultation, meeting of the Collegium of Legal Officers, public consultation, review of comments by institutions, Statement of compliance by the Ministry of European Integration and it was subject to revision by the Ministry of Finance due to the financial implications of the law.

5.4.1 Challenges

- Failure to approve the draft Law on Social Housing, which has a financial implication and should be approved by the Ministry of Finance.
- Following the rent support of the repatriated persons for the period 6+6 months, for the provision of sustainable repatriation of families in Kosovo, according to the Regulation (GRK) no. 04/2016 on Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and Management of the Reintegration Program,

the Municipalities are not able to further support the families according to the applicable Law, due to financial shortages.

- According to legal responsibility (Law on Housing Financing Specific Programs) Municipalities have the responsibility to draft three-year housing programs in all Municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo. In order to obtain the right data, all three-year housing programs are required to be compiled and data on households that do not have adequate housing conditions in the Republic of Kosovo will be identified. One of the fulfilments of the duties of the law is the creation of social housing data, which is being implemented in 2017-2018.

5.4.2 Recommendations

- Drafting social housing needs at the local level and recording cases at the central level database;
- The completion of all three-year housing programs in all the municipalities of Kosovo, as well as the functionalization of the housing database at the local and central level will assist the continuation of more sustainable policies for all communities.
- Appointment of housing officials from the municipal level for the implementation of three-year housing programs;
- Central-level housing-related policies should monitor the municipal level through three-year housing programs, providing non-discriminatory access to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities;
- Increasing institutional coordination and cooperation between central and local government, donor community and civil society on housing issues;
- The Ministry of Finance should allocate budget funds for three-year housing programs, especially for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities;
- Strengthening the quality control mechanisms of housing units (monitoring implementation/execution and delivery).
- Supporting non-governmental organizations from donors to support and improve the housing situation for Roma and Ashkali communities.

6 REPORT ON LOCAL LEVEL

This report is the second report for the local level. Office of Good Governance/ Office of the Prime Minister, mandated to monitor the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo society 2017-2021 has conducted local level monitoring. Monitoring has been done through drafting of the one-year report by providing data from the local and central level. The second part of the annual report for implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo society 2017-2021 presents an assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan, especially at the local level. This current situation presents challenges for data collection as well as implementation of the activities of the Action Plan.

The report is aimed at providing a clear and concrete overview for implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo society 2017-2021 at the local level. From the report data, 18 municipalities have been summarized. For this purpose, the report presents an overview of the situation of Roma and Ashkali communities in eighteen municipalities of Kosovo as follows:

Prishtina, Prizren, Podujeva, Rahovec, Ferizaj, Fushe Kosova, Gjakova, Gjilan, Lipjan, Mitrovica, Obiliq, Suhareka, Shtime, Gracanice, Rahovec, Vushtrria, Klina, Istog

In addition to the data provided for the activities undertaken by municipalities on the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021, the challenges and recommendations were presented in the report as well. The challenges are defined by the obstacles to achieving the fulfilment of activities or to achieve the outcome of the action plan objectives. Based on the challenges defined in the report, recommendations have been made to overcome these challenges at the local level.

While the municipalities of Dragash, Kacanik, North Mitrovica and Hani i Elezit responded that they do not have members of Roma and Ashkali communities.

6.1 Methodology

Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan at the local level was done by following different forms, information provided by the local level through the fulfilment of monitoring matrices, visits to municipalities and by providing information at the central level.

1. Monitoring Framework, information is provided by the local level through supplementing the monitoring framework,
2. Visits to municipalities,
3. Filling-up of questionnaires; through its questionnaires, MLGA provided field information for concrete areas such as education, employment and social welfare, health and housing,
4. Central level; information was also provided from the central level through the databases of ministries

Local level report has been drafted through the analysis of data provided either directly in the field or through questionnaires or through the monitoring frameworks, and from ministries.

Each sector presented in this report has its own specifics and based on this report, it has been drafted with quantitative and qualitative data. It includes statistics from the field and from ministry databases.

During visits conducted on the field, it has been observed that Municipal Community Offices have a better position in municipalities and a clearer mandate to implement the Strategy and Action Plan, and have a sufficient authority to treat issues that are relevant for this Strategy compared to previous years or better said, in the first Strategy and Action Plan. They also commit a budget, in many municipalities, it is noticed that the budget is not sufficient.

6.2 Coordination and monitoring mechanisms at the local level

Municipal Action Committee

Implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan at the local level requires better coordination, monitoring and also better co-operation and coordination between the central and local level. To achieve this purpose, a strengthening of the local level has been foreseen through the establishment of municipal action committees.

Within the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo society (2017-2021), the establishment of Municipal Action Committees has been foreseen. According to this strategy, the purpose of establishment of these committees is: "Monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo society (2017-2021)". In addition to monitoring, MACs will also serve as a local support structure for coordinating activities with the Office of the Prime

Minister/Office of Good Governance within the process of implementing and monitoring the strategy. According to the Terms of Reference prepared by the OGG/OPM based on the Strategy and Action Plan, the mandate of MACs, the manner of establishment of Municipal Action Committees and the composition of Municipal Action Committees are defined in detail.

According to the Strategy and Action Plan, MACs are foreseen to be established in each municipality where Roma and Ashkali communities live. Municipal Action Committees are established by decision of the Mayor, whereas the manner of selection of the members is done through: a. Appointment of members coming from the ranks of local authorities, and b. Public vacancy for selection of representatives of civil society organizations.

Municipal Action Committees will have a composition of eleven (11) members, seven (7) of whom come from the ranks of local authorities (directorates, municipal offices) and four (4) representatives of civil society organisations focused on the problem of Roma and Ashkali communities.³

On the other hand, two of the four members of civil society organisations should be representatives of international organisations working towards the improvement of the status of Roma and Ashkali community members. The Municipal Action Committee will be led by the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor.⁴

After submitting the request for establishing mechanisms, i.e. "Municipal Action Committees" through MLGA - to Mayors on 04.10.2017, the municipalities expressed the interest and with suppleness, in 2018, undertook concrete activities for the establishment of these mechanisms.

Municipalities have drafted Action Plans at the local level and have established mechanisms such as "Municipal Action Committees" in order to have better coordination, ownership, communication and monitoring at the local - central level in the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo society 2017-2021. The establishment of these mechanisms was done with the support of OGG/OPM and KEEN and VoRAE project.

³ Members of Municipal Action Committees from municipal authorities will be the directors of these municipal directorates:

1. Director of the Municipal Education Directorate; 2. Director of the Municipal Directorate for Social Welfare and Health; 3. Director of the Municipal Housing Directorate;

Four other municipal officials who will be members of these communities are:

1. Municipal Official for Communities and Returns, 2. Municipal Official for Human Rights; 3. Gender Equality Official, as well as 4. Municipal Finance Official

⁴ NGO selection criteria are set out in terms of reference

In total, 16 municipalities - that have a larger number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community inhabitants - have drafted the action plans at the local level and have established "Municipal Action Committees" mechanisms.

These municipalities are: Lipjan, Ferizaj, Mitrovica, Vushtrria, Shtime, Suhareka, Prishtina, Gracanica, Obiliq, Istog, Gjakova, Prizren, Gjilan, Klina, F. Kosovo, Podujeva, Rahovec.

Municipal Action Communities have been provided with the key document "Coordination mechanisms for implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo society (2017-2021)" which included "Terms of reference for the work of focal points and Municipal Action Committees" by OGG/OPM, whereby the responsibilities, duties and procedures of the work of each of these mechanisms are specified.

7 SECTOR REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR INCLUSION OF ROMA AND ASHKALI COMMUNITIES IN THE KOSOVO SOCIETY, 2017 – 2021

7.1 Education

Education as a key element for each sector - the data for this sector are collected with special care. The report presents data collected from 18 municipalities. In addition, for the purpose of collecting general data, with the aim of comparing and analysing them, data from the central level institution have been taken into account - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, respectively from the new data collection system, Education Management Information System (EMIS). As a result, the Office of Statistics within the Planning and Analysis Office of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology was also contacted for the purpose of obtaining additional information on education in municipalities.

Pupils attending parallel education are not included in this report, for example, in Mitrovica there is a large number of students attending parallel education; 50 students in preschool education, 240 in primary and secondary schools.

According to the reporting of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and data from the Education Management Information System (EMIS) in the preschool system, there is a total of 1190 children, 27 are of the communities living in Kosovo, while 23 children are of the Roma and Ashkali communities, the data show that 96.8% are Albanians, while 2.2% are other ethnic groups. Out of this 1.9% are from Roma and Ashkali communities.

In all municipalities of Kosovo, there are a total of 15 Roma children, 1 Ashkali child in the preschool system.

Table. *Number of pre-school students by ethnicity*

Age/Grade	Number of children / students by ethnicity										
	Albanians	Serb	Turkish	Bosnian	Gorani	Ashkali	Roma	Egyptian	Croatian	Other...	Total
Gr. 5-6 preschool-kindergarten.	1,163	0	2	1	0	1	15	7	0	1	1,190

In the preschool system, there is a total of 22.721 children, 355 children are of Roma and Ashkali communities, the data show that 95.8% are Albanians, whereas 4.2% are other ethnic groups. Out of this, 1.56% are from Roma and Ashkali communities.

In all municipalities of Kosovo, there is a total of 99 Roma children, 256 Ashkali children in the preschool system.

Out of 99 Roma children, there are 28 in Gjakova, 1 in Istog, 13 in Kamenica, 4 in Klina, 3 in Lipjan, 19 in Peja, 2 in Podujeva, 1 in Prishtina, 21 in Prizren, 6 in Rahovec

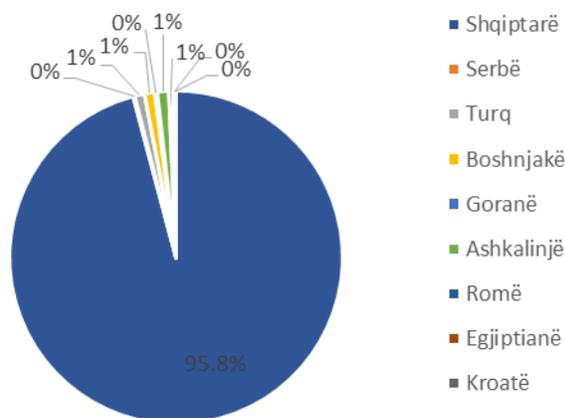
Out of 256 Ashkali children, there are 4 in Decan, 63 in Ferizaj, 48 in Gjakova, 9 in Istog, 36 in Lipjan, 2 in Mitrovica, 21 in Obiliq, 4 in Peja, 11 in Podujeva, 5 in Prishtina, 15 in Prizren, 4 in Rahovec, 17 in Shtime, 8 in Suhareka.

Table. *Number of children by ethnicity in pre-primary education*

Municipality	Ashkali	Roma	Total
Decan	4	0	4
Dragash	0	0	
Ferizaj	63	0	63
FusheKosova	0	0	
Gjakova	48	28	76
Gjilan	0	0	
Glogovc	0	0	
Hani i Elezit	0	0	
Istog	9	1	10
Junik	0	0	
Kacanik	0	0	
Kamenica	0	13	13
Klina	9	4	13
Leposaviq	0	0	
Lipjan	36	3	39
Malisheva	0	0	
Mamusha	0	0	
Mitrovica	2	1	3
Novoberde	0	0	
Obiliq	21	0	21

Peja	4	19	23
Podujeva	11	2	13
Prishtina	5	1	6
Prizren	15	21	36
Rahovec	4	6	10
Shterpce	0	0	
Shtime	17	0	17
Skenderaj	0	0	
Suhareka	8	0	8
Vitia	0	0	
Vushtrria	0	0	
Zubin Potok	0	0	
Zvecan	0	0	
Klllokot	0	0	
Total	256	99	355

Chart. Number of children in pre-primary education by ethnicity in % sf 24



In primary and lower secondary education, the total number of students is 240.782, 11.048 are from communities, 4951 are from Roma and Ashkali communities, the data show that 95.4% are Albanians, while 4.6% are other ethnic groups. Out of this, 2.06% are from the Roma and Ashkali communities.

In all municipalities of Kosovo, there is a total of 1733 Roma students, 3218 Ashkali students in the primary and lower secondary education system.

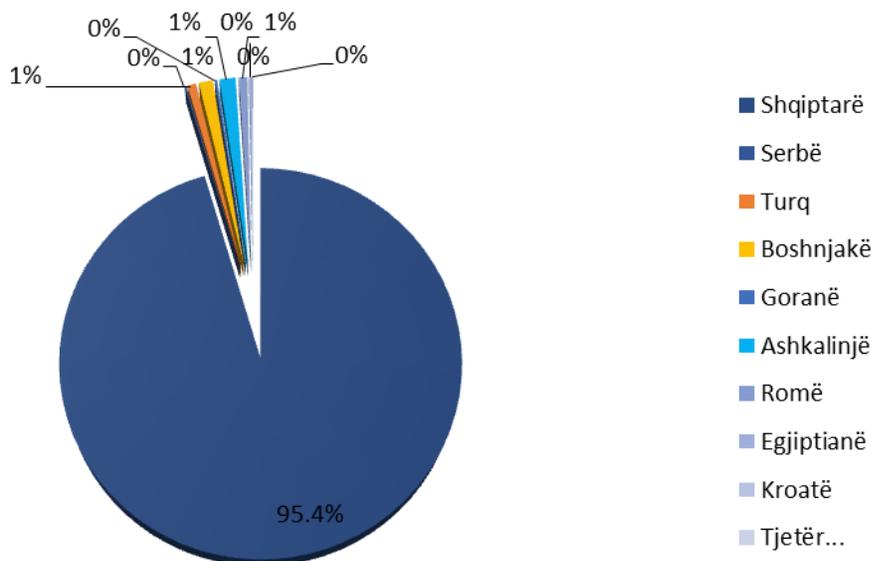
Out of 1733 Roma children, there are 2 in Decan, 1 in Ferizaj, 8 in Fushe Kosove, 629 in Gjakova, 1 in Gjilan, 19 in Istog, 158 in Kamenica, 62 in Klina, 354 in Lipjan, 2 in Malisheva, 52 in Mitrovica, 136 in Obiliq, 43 in Peja, 125 in Podujeva, 65 in Prishtina, 244 in Prizren, 25 in Rahovec, 129 in Shtime, 4 in Skenderaj, 104 in Suhareka, 2 in Vitia, 8 in Vushtrria.

Out of 3218 Ashkali children, there are 59 in Decan, 621 in Ferizaj, 495 in Fushe Kosova, 524 in Gjakova, 61 in Istog, 165 in Klina, 44 in Lipjan, 3 in Malisheva, 4 in Mitrovica, 338 in Peja, 7 in Podujeva, 6 in Prishtina, 373 in Prizren, 70 in Rahovec, 2 in Shtime, 6 in Suhareka.

Table. *Number of students by ethnicity in primary and lower secondary education*

Municipality	Ashkali	Roma	Total
Decan	59	2	61
Dragash	0	0	
Ferizaj	621	1	622
Fushe Kosove	495	8	503
Gjakova	524	629	1153
Gjilan	0	1	1
Glllogovc	0	0	
Hani i Elezit	0	0	
Istog	61	19	80
Junik	0	0	
Kacanik	0	0	
Kamenica	0	158	158
Klina	165	62	227
Leposaviq	0	0	
Lipjan	354	44	398
Malisheva	2	3	5
Mamusha	0	0	
Mitrovica	52	4	56
Novoberde	0	0	
Obiliq	136	0	136
Peja	43	338	381
Podujeva	125	7	132
Prishtina	65	6	71
Prizren	244	373	617
Rahovec	25	70	95
Shterpce	0	0	
Shtime	129	2	131
Skenderaj	4	0	4
Suhareka	104	6	110
Vitia	2	0	2
Vushtrria	8	0	8
Zubin Potok	0	0	
Zvecan	0	0	
Klllokot	0	0	
Total	3,218	1,733	4951

Chart. Number of students in primary and lower secondary education by ethnicity in% sf 26



In **upper secondary education**, the total number of students is 86.813, 2120 are from communities, while 411 are from Roma and Ashkali communities, the data show that 97.5% are Albanians, while 2.4% are other ethnic groups. Out of this 0.47% are from Roma and Ashkali communities.

In all municipalities of Kosovo, there is a total of 255 Roma students and 156 Ashkali students in primary and lower secondary education.

Out of 255 Roma children, by municipality: Ferizaj 1, F. Kosove 1, Gjakova 64, Kamenica 21, Klina 4, Malisheva 1, Mitrovica 1, Peja 3, Prishtina 1, Prizren 54, Shtime 5.

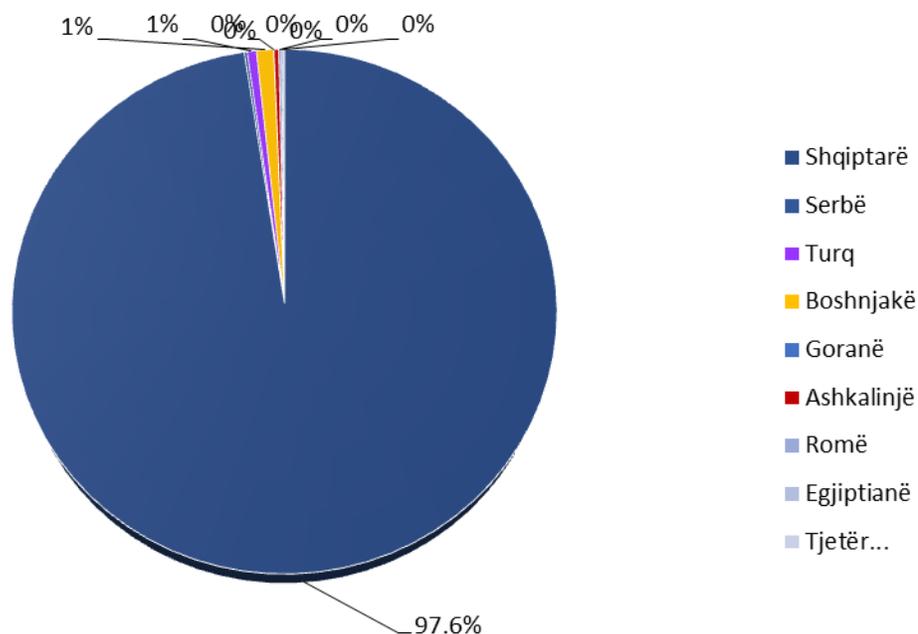
Out of 156 Ashkali children in total, by municipality: Decan 4, Ferizaj 71, F. Kosove 38, Gjakova 50, Istog 2, Klina 7, Lipjan 41, Malisheva 1, Obiliq 7, Peja 2, Podujeva 21, Prizren 5, Rahovec 2, Shtime 4.

Table. Number of students by ethnicity in upper secondary education

Municipality	Ashkali	Roma	Total
Decan	4	0	4
Dragash	0	0	0
Ferizaj	71	1	72

Fushe Kosove	38	1	39
Gjakova	50	64	114
Gjilan	0	0	0
Gllgovc	0	0	0
Hani i Elezit	0	0	0
Istog	2	0	2
Junik	0	0	0
Kacanik	0	0	0
Kamenica	0	21	21
Klina	7	4	11
Leposaviq	0	0	0
Lipjan	41	0	41
Malisheva	1	1	2
Mamusha	0	0	0
Mitrovica	0	1	1
Novoberde	0	0	0
Obiliq	7	0	7
Peja	2	3	5
Podujeva	21	0	21
Prishtina	0	1	1
Prizren	5	54	59
Rahovec	2	0	2
Shterpce	0	0	0
Shtime	4	5	9
Skenderaj	0	0	0
Suhareka	0	0	0
Vitia	0	0	0
Vushtrria	0	0	0
Zubin Potok	0	0	0
Zvecan	0	0	0
Klllokot	0	0	0
Total	255	156	411

Chart. Number of students in upper secondary education by ethnicity in%



The total number of teachers is 23,281. 663 are teachers from communities living in Kosovo, while only 15 of them are from Roma and Ashkali communities, 97.2% are Albanians, while 2.8% are other ethnic groups, 0.06% are from Roma and Ashkali communities.

By municipality, the number of teachers from the Roma community is 1 in Ferizaj, 1 in Klina, 1 in Rahovec.

From the Ashkali community, there are 2 in Gjilan, 1 in Kamenica, 1 in Klina, 5 in Prizren, 1 in Shtime, 1 in Suhareka, 1 in Vushtrria.

In higher education, the number of students of Roma and Ashkali communities enrolled in the academic year 2017/2018 is 35 in total, 11 Roma, 24 Ashkali.

From the data from 12 municipalities, the number of students from the three communities attending studies is as follows: Klina 5, Mitrovica 4, Obiliq 2, Prishtina 2, Prizren 63, Rahovec 1, Suhareka 3, Ferizaj 8, F. Kosove 36, Shtime 5, Vushtrria 2, Lipjan 15, 146 in total.

School dropout is a continuous phenomenon in addition to the economic situation, frequent displacements of these communities also have an impact on dropout. Due to the reason that dropouts and returns to school occur continuously, it is very difficult to define the number of dropouts, because they are constantly changing. In many municipalities, this phenomenon is

being successfully fought, especially by OCRs, to return students back to school. In Obiliq 20 have dropped out but 10 have returned, in Prizren 95 have dropped out and 50 have returned, in Rahovec 5 have dropped out, all of them returned, in Suhareka 1 dropped out but returned, in Shtime 5 dropped out, 4 returned to school, in Ferizaj 20 dropped out and in F. Kosove 7.

According to EMIS, the number of dropout in primary and lower secondary education from the Ashkali community is 26 male, 28 female, and 12 male, 2 female from the Roma community, the total number is 74.

Scholarships are an aid to continuing upper secondary education. In addition to the 500 scholarships given by MEST, out of the scholarships given by 14 municipalities, scholarships given by municipalities are 17 in Klina, 100 in Obiliq, 81 in Prizren, 2 in Suhareka, 2 in F. Kosove, 17 in Gjilan, 2019 in total.

All students from grades 1 to 8 in primary school have been provided with books free of charge; where the beneficiaries are 3,218 Roma students, 1,733 Roma students, 4951 students in total.

According to the data of the municipality of Gjilan, for secondary education, it has organized transport for students in both directions because secondary schools are in the parallel system in the surrounding villages.

Also, it should be stated that participation of children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in primary and lower secondary education at state level is 65%, while in places where education centres operate, participation of children is 85%. While the level of participation in upper secondary education at state level is 30%, in places where education centres operate, participation is 65%.

To date, in Kosovo, there are 80 Education Centres established, whereby 5,278 students of different communities participate, with particular emphasis on Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. These education centres operate in 16 municipalities, 5 in Lipjan, 5 in Suhareka, 3 in Shtime, 4 in Podujeva, 8 in Peja, 12 in Gjakova, 4 in Mitrovica, 2 in Ferizaj, 12 in Prizren, 2 in Prishtina, 2 in Vushtrria, 3 in Istog, 2 in Klina, 1 in Fushe Kosova, 1 in Gracanica and 3 in Obiliq. There are 8 organisations that implement the Education Centre program, 20 centres from the NGO VoRAE, 2 centres from Idea Partnership, 18 centres from Terre de hommes, 1 centre from Roma and Ashkali documentation center, 10 centres from Syri i Vizionit, 5 centres from the NGO Bethany Christian Services, 18 centres from Nevo Koncepti, 6 centres from Balkan Sunflowers Kosova.

Below you can find the education centres by municipality and the number of students of Roma and Ashkali communities in these education centres divided by gender, provided by the implementing centres of the program in education centres.

Table: *Education centres by municipality and the number of students of Roma and Ashkali communities in these education centres*

Municipality	City / Village	Total number of children in EC.	Number of male children	Number of female children
Lipjan	Lipjan	50	21	29
Lipjan	Magure	36	13	23
Lipjan	Medvec	37	16	21
Lipjan	Gadime	52	24	28
Lipjan	Janjeve	35	19	16
Shtime	Gjyrkovc	50	28	22
Shtime	Voinovc	36	23	13
Ferizaj	Ferizaj	48	27	21
Suhareke	Suhareke	50	16	34
Suhareke	Gelanc	54	24	30
Rahovec	Ratkoc	32	16	16
Obiliq	Obiliq	27	14	13
Podujeve	Podujeve/ Ali Ajeti	58		
Podujeve	Podujeve/ Ibrahim Rugova	55	25	30
Gjilan	Gjilan	42	22	20
Kamenice	Berivojce	34	15	19
Gracanice	Preoce	60	24	36
Novoberde	Bostane	21	10	11
Vushtri	Preluzhe	47	27	20
Lipjan	Janjeve	149		
Fushe Kosov	Fushe kosov	354		
Peje	Qyshk	20	6	14
Peje	Poceste	23	12	11
Peje	Treboviq	23	9	14
Gjakove	Gjakove	20	8	12
Gjakove	Gjakove	20	3	17
Mitrovice	Mitrovice	23	11	12
Mitrovice	Mitrovice	20	16	4
Mitrovice	Mitrovice	20	11	9
Ferizaj	Ferizaj	23	13	10
Ferizaj	Ferizaj	25	18	7
Kline	Budisalc	24	9	15
Prizren	Prizren	30	17	13
Prishtine	Prishtine	23	15	8
Prishtine	Prishtine	25	12	13

Podujeve	Podujeve	28	19	9
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Podujeva	Podujeva	23	18	5
Vushtrria	Vushtrria	18	10	8
Vushtrria	Vushtrria	25	11	14
Mitrovica	Mitrovica	283	138	145
Peja	"7Shtatori" - Peja	97	44	53
Peja	"7 Shtatori" - Vitomirica	53	26	27
Istog	Gurrakoc	48	26	22
Istog	Srbobran	40	15	25
Peja	Cigë	25	12	13
Peja	Zahaq	25	17	8
Peja	Kliqin	24	16	8
Klina	Klina	29	16	13
Klina	Klina	31	9	22
Istog	Zallq	26	15	11
Gjakova	Gjakova/ suburb of Brekoc	195	126	81
Gjakova	Gjakova/ suburb of Dardani	83	41	42
Gjakova	Skivjan village	57	30	27
Gjakova	Planqor village	23	10	13
Gjakova	Hereq village	44	27	17
Prizren	Prizren	24	11	13
Prizren	Prizren	31	15	16
Prizren	Prizren	29	9	20
Prizren	Prizren	15	6	9
Prizren	Prizren	38	17	21
Prizren	Prizren	37	19	18
Prizren	Prizren	40	16	24
Prizren	Landovica	47	23	24
Gjakova	Brekoce	47	24	23
Gjakova	Gjakova	52	20	32
Gjakova	Rogove	74	43	31
Gjakova	Gjakova	44	19	25
Prizren	Prizren	37	16	21
Gjakova	Gjakova	59	33	26
Suhareka	Gelance	37	20	17
Suhareka	Leshane, Terne	20	11	9
Prizren	Prizren	35	17	18
Prizren	Pirana	40	21	19

Suhareka	Suhareka	75		
Fushe Kosova	Fushe Kosova	446		
Gracanica	Gracanica	104		
Shtime	Shtime	620		
Obilic	Plemetina	103		
Obilic	Plemetina	111		
Obilic	Plemetina	290		
		5278		

7.2 EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

According to information from MLSW reports, the Employment Agency for Professional Training at the local level for Roma and Ashkali communities training in the following 20 out of total 30 qualification trainings provided in VTCs; welding, woodwork, installation of water supply, wiring, construction, kitchen, waiter, administrative assistant, accounting, business administration, hairdressing & makeup, milk processing, fruit and vegetable processing, ICT, bakeries, pastries, tailor and training program for self-employment according to information from VTC reports. The budget spent is about 15,000 euros.

Vocational training by region based on ethnicity 2018

Mitrovica	Roma 0,	Ashkali 1 female	
Peja	Roma 1 female, 8 males, total 9,	Ashkali 4 females	8 males total 12
Gjakova	Roma 0	Ashkali	1 male
Prizren	Roma 5 females, 5 males, total 10,	Ashkali	1 male
Prishtinë	Roma 1	Ashkali 17 females,	11 males
Ferizaj	Roma 0	Ashkali	11 males
Gjilan	Roma 0	Ashkali 0	

Roma and Ashkali communities have not sufficiently used these vocational trainings. Especially in this regard, it can be seen that the number of females is much lower than the benefits of vocational training. A total of 73 persons attended vocational training, 28 females and 45 males.

The data provided by the monitoring of 19 municipalities and the report compiled by these visits from MLGA show an overview of employment in Public Institutions for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Below you can find no. of employees at local level.

At present, the employment is the main and most difficult problem faced by the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians communities. Based on actual data, the number of jobseekers registered at the Regional Employment Centers or Municipal Employment Offices from these communities is as follows:

Out of the total number of 2169 jobseekers from all communities, in Fushe Kosova 63 Roma and 597 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 3161 jobseekers from all communities, in Glllogofc 2 Roma and 0 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 1704 jobseekers from all communities in Graçanica, 231 Roma and 10 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 3294 jobseekers from all communities, in Lipjan 47 Roma and 331 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 780 jobseekers from all communities in Novobërde, 5 Roma and 0 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 1624 jobseekers from all communities, in Obiliq 167 Roma and 81 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 4334 jobseekers from all communities, in Podujeva 6 Roma and 89 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 7545 jobseekers from all communities in Prishtina, 14 Roma and 89 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 1815 jobseekers from all communities, in Dragash 0 Roma 0 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 2777 jobseekers from all communities in Malisheva, 6 Roma and 1 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 70 jobseekers from all communities, in Mamusha 5 Roma and 1 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 4008 jobseekers from all communities in Suhareka, 8 Roma and 53 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 9188 jobseekers from all communities, in Prizren 486 Roma 106 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 1946 jobseekers from all communities in Istog, 1 Roma and 25 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 2706 jobseekers from all communities, in Klina 31 Roma and 39 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 6210 jobseekers from all communities in Peja, 174 Roma and 75 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 2111 jobseekers from all communities, in Decan 3 Roma 9 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 5632 jobseekers from all communities in Gjakova, 131 Roma and 158 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 567 jobseekers from all communities, in Junik 0 Roma and 0 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 1774 jobseekers from all communities in Rahovec, 16 Roma and 44 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 1669 jobseekers from all communities in Leposavic, 13 Roma 0 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 5725 jobseekers from all communities in Mitrovica, 194 Roma and 189 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 2340 jobseekers from all communities in Skenderaj, 0 Roma and 0 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 4366 jobseekers from all communities in Vushtrria, 22 Roma and 24 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 678 jobseekers from all communities in Zubin Potok, 2 Roma 0 Ashkali are employed.

Out of the total number of 649 jobseekers from all communities in Zveqan, 8 Roma and 0 Ashkali are employed.

According to data from the Ministry of Public Administration at the local level a total of 139 employees are employed at following institutions; in education 42 Roma, 55 Ashkali, in administration 9 Roma, 16 Ashkali, in health 12 Roma, 5 Ashkali. Below you can see employees based on municipalities. In technical services are employed 7 Roma, 9 Ashkali; In total 16

Table: *No. of employees of Roma and Ashkali communities in the municipalities, MPA 2018*

Municipalities	No. of employees of Roma and Ashkali communities in the municipalities					
	Administration		Education		Health	
	Roma	Ashkali	Roma	Ashkali	Roma	Ashkali
1.DEQAN+						
2.DRAGASH						

3.FERIZAJ+	1	6	1	5		1	
4.F.KOSOVË+	2	4	2				
5.GLLOGOVC							
6.GJAKOVË-			13	12			
7.GJILAN+	1		4		1		
8. ISTOG+							
9. KAÇANIKU							
10. KAMENICË	1		2		2		
11. KLINË+		1		4		1	
12.LYPJAN+?		1	1	1		1	
13. MALISHEVË+				1			
14. MITROVICË+							
15. MITROVICA.V							
16. NOVOBËRDË							
17. OBILIQ+	1			7			
18. PEJË+	1	1	2				
19.PODUJEVË				3			
20.PRISHTINË		1					
21.PRIZREN	1	1	13	7	3		
22.RAHOVEC+			3	3	1		
23.SKËNDERAJ							
24.SUHAREKË				5			
25.SHTERPCA							
26.SHTIME		1		5		2	
27.VITI+							
28.VUSHTRRI-				2			
29. HANI I ELEZIT							
30. MAMUSHË+	1						
31. JUNIKU+							
32. KLLOKOT							
33. PARTESH			0	0			
34. RANILLUGE							
35. GRAQANICE -					5		
37. LEPOSAVIQ			1				
38. ZUBIN POTOK							
39. ZVEQAN							
TOTAL	9	16	42	55	12	5	

7.3 Health

Healthcare is a very important sector where awareness campaigns are conducted on the importance of health. According to data in municipalities, the access of Roma and Ashkali communities to health services is highly satisfactory. According to the data provided by HIS - for 2018 visits registered of Roma and Ashkali communities and as "Others" in HSRS application that have received health services are 634 Ashkali and 696 Roma and as others or who did not want to declare 45494.

In reports compiled during field visits for all municipalities, it has been noted that the situation of Roma and Ashkali communities does not have any barriers or segments to use health services and is increasing awareness of the use of health services every year. The poor economic situation of these communities affects the improvement of the use of health services.

Out of 18 municipalities visited, campaigns for immunization was organised in 13 municipalities. According to the data from the municipality that have been held for immunization are Fushe Kosovo, Istog, Klina, Mitrovica, Podujeva, Prizren, Rahovec, Suhareka, Gjakova, Lipjan, Obiliq, Vushtrri, Gracanica, Gjilan.

According to data from the National Institute of Public Health for 2018 all over Kosovo, 7786 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children were vaccinated and 21 campaigns were conducted for the purpose of raising awareness for the realization of immunization.

As for the realization of home visits with health professionals through mobile teams in the municipalities, involving the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, a total of 2792 visits were carried out.

Also during October (Month of awareness for breast cancer prevention) in Kosovo were conducted 176 mammographic screening, as a result of promotion and health education through lectures held in the community. During 2018, 730 women with mobile mammograms were examined.

In all municipalities there were no complaints of discrimination.

In all municipalities it is reported that there are no barriers or segments to use health services. According to the data of the municipality of Gjilan, the Kosovo Health Institutions have access to the same as other communities, community members that are in the protection of social care and children do not pay participation. All operational requirements and necessary treatments for children and community members are provided at the Gjilan hospital without any distinction and division for all.

MFMC -Lipjan emphasizes that Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are informed with the services of the PHC and the rights of the patient.

MFMC -OBILIQ - the number of trained staff is 90 as well as the MFMC within the CDP program within the year has organized 20 seminars with different topics aimed at advancing the professional skills of the working staff.

MFMC - Podujeva based on data from the services provided by the communities in question we find that the current situation is at the right level according to the health care and community statistics report.

MFMC - Ferizaj has held lectures for community students attending 80 students under lectured topics of healthy nutrition and oral hygiene.

According to field monitoring, it is noticed that in some municipalities the underground health system is used. However, those using the underground system can also use health services of Kosovo institutions without any problems. As in the municipality of Gjilan in their reports they stressed that members of the Roma community use health services in both health systems, have no barriers and segments in this segment. Laboratory Analysis Departments can also provide services in analysis depending on the need.

Gjilan villages that have a health centres and operate according to the underground system and community members and children to use health services because they have a health booklet and use the same for free.

7.4 HOUSING

The housing issue is another problem for Roma and Ashkali communities. The Government of Kosovo has over the years taken seriously the issue of housing where it has undertaken various activities for solving this issue. The closure of the three camps was a great success, while housing construction was carried out by MESP, MLSW, MCR, Office of the Prime Minister / Office of Community Affairs, international and non-governmental organizations have had many activities on this issue. But the main challenge when drafting reports was the lack of information gathering on the ground. There was no data on the number of constructed houses and this still remains a challenge to have accurate field statistics in this area.

Ministry for Communities and Returns has undertaken projects to stabilize communities. Information on this project can be found in this section in section 4 Coordination and Monitoring of the Strategy - Other inter-sectorial issues (pg. 20, 21, 22).

According to the data from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning until the time the report is prepared, the report identified 962 families that do not have adequate housing conditions. The identification number of families that do not have adequate housing conditions has been identified by designing three-year residential programs across 27 municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo. In Kosovo, **8 programs** are in force (Deçan, Fushe Kosova, Kaçanik, Lipjan, Malisheva, South Mitrovica, Peja, Shtime), while **13 programs** have expired (Ferizaj, Gjakova, Graçanica, Hani i Elezit, Kamenica, Klina, Obiliq, Podujeva, Rahovec and Vushtrri) and **6 programs** are drafted (Gjilan, Novobërda, Prishtina, Ranillug, Suhareka and Vitia)

So far, during 2018, four three-year housing programs drafted in the municipalities of Deçan, Fushe Kosova, Kaçanik and Peja.

Through the project "Housing is the basic human right" implemented jointly by the Ministry with the non-governmental organization Development Together (DT), it was supported to draft the program in 10 municipalities.

Table: Status of Three-Year Housing Programs (TYHP) in Municipalities 2018

STATUS OF THREE-YEAR HOUSING PROGRAMS (TYHP) IN MUNICIPALITIES 2018			
No.	Municipality	Three-Year Program of the Municipality	Number of Requests form Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma
1	Deçan	2018-2021	553
2	Dragash		
3	Ferizaj	2014-2016	1
4	Fushe Kosova	2014-2016	1
		2018-2020	6
5	Gjakova	2014-2016	/
6	Gjilan	Draft / pending	/
7	Gllgovc (Drenas)		/
8	Gracanica	2014-2016	/
9	Elez Han	2014-2016	/
10	Istog		/
11	Junik		/
12	Kaçanik	2018-2021	/
13	Kamenica	2013-2015	20
14	Klina	2013-2016	46
15	Klokot		/
16	Leposavic		/
17	Lipjan	2013-2015	/
		2016-2019	100

18	Malisheva	2017-2020	1
19	Mamusha		
20	South Mitrovica	2016-2019	23
21	North Mitrovica		
22	Novobërda	Draft / pending	
23	Obiliq	2015-2017	150
24	Partesh		
25	Peja	2018-2021	13
26	Podujeva	2015-2017	5
27	Prishtina	Draft / pending	
28	Prizren		
29	Rahovec	2013-2015	26
30	Ranillug	Draft / pending	/
31	Shterpce	2014-2016	8
32	Shtime	2017-2019	5
33	Skenderaj		
34	Suhareka	Draft / pending	
35	Vitia	Draft / pending	
36	Vushtrria	2015-2017	4
37	Zubin Potok		
38	Zveçan		
Total number of requests			962

TYHP- Marking Legend	No
TYHP in force	8
TYHP has not been drafted	13
TYHP has expired	12
TYHP draft	6

The challenges

Monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the involvement of Roma and Ashkali communities at the local level indicates that there are specific difficulties that have hampered the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan at the local level. The main obstacles are:

- Insufficient co-ordination and communication between the MOCRs and relevant departments in the municipalities.

- Failure of Municipal Action Committees to operate in several municipalities.
- Lack of knowledge on the responsibilities of the Municipal Action Committee in several municipalities.
- Insufficient budget at local level.
- Insufficient budget of Municipal Offices for Communities at Local Level for implementation of Strategy and Action Plan for Roma and Ashkali Communities Involvement in Kosovar Society 2017-2021.
- Very low number of children from Roma and Ashkali communities in pre-school education at the municipal level.
- Lack of knowledge of Roma and Ashkali communities to prepare for access to the labour market.
- Low number of employees in the public sector.

Recommendations

- Make the Municipal Action Committees operational in the municipalities where they did not operate.
- Strengthening and Capacity Building of Municipal Action Committees, in particular of Coordinators of the Municipal Action Committees.
- Ensure sufficient financial budget in municipalities for the proper implementation of activities foreseen in the Strategy Action Plan.
- Ensure sufficient budget for Municipal Offices for Communities in municipalities for proper implementation of activities foreseen in the Strategy Action Plan.
- Experiences and best practices identified at the local level are taken into consideration and used in other municipalities as well.
- Identify possible affirmative measures (e.g., tariff exemption) to support the inclusion of children from Roma and Ashkali communities in pre-school education at the municipal level.
- Make more effort to increase the knowledge and capacities of Roma and Ashkali communities in order to increase their opportunities.

- Increase efforts to recruit members of Roma and Ashkali communities in institutions.