



Republic of Kosovo

Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo- Qeveria –Vlada-Government
Zyra e Kryeministrit-Ured Premijera-Office of the Prime Minister

**REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
STRATEGY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
THE RIGHTS OF ROMA AND ASHKALI
COMMUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF
KOSOVO 2022-2026 AND OF THE ACTION
PLAN 2022-2024 FOR 2023**

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Prishtina, 2024



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Zyra për Qeverisje të Mirë/Kancelarija za Dobro Upravljanje/Office on Good Governance

Prishtina, 2024

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ADVANCEMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF ROMA AND ASHKALI
COMMUNITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO 2022-2026 AS WELL
AS OF THE ACTION PLAN 2022-2024 FOR 2023**

Prishtina, April 2024

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ABBREVIATIONS:

KAPS	Kosovo Academy for Public Safety
EARK	Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo
CRA	Civil Registration Agency
KAS	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
EU	European Union
CEB	The social development bank for Europe
MED	Municipal Education Directorate
KIPA	Kosovo Institute for Public Administration
NIPHK	National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo
MAC	Municipal Action Committee
PCSFS	Prishtina Council for Social and Family Services
LPD	Law on Protection against Discrimination
MLGA	Ministry of Local Government Administration
MESTI	Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
ALMM	Active Labor Market Measures
MCR	Ministry of Communities and Returns
MCYS	Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports
MESPI	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
MPB	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MH	Ministry of Health
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
VTC	Vocational Training Center in Kosovo

VTC	Education and Vocational Training Centers
MFMC	Main Family Medicine Centers
MFHC	Main Family Health Centers
CSW	Centers for Social Work
RCC	Regional Cooperation Council
SFCPD	Scheme for Families with Children with Permanent Disabilities
ESML	Electronic System of the Ministry of Labour
EMIS	Education Management Information System
SAS	Social Assistance Scheme
AI	Administrative Instruction
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VoRAE	Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians
WBIF	Western Balkans Investment Framework
OCA	Office of Community Affairs
OGG/OPM	Office of Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister

1. INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report has been drafted by the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister (OGG OPM) for the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo for 2022-2026 and the Action Plan for 2022-2024, including the implementation period for 2023. The Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister, according to its mandate, has an important role in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy and Action Plan. The drafting of this report was supported by the project "Roma Integration - Phase III", financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

The report presents the situation of the Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovar society through the evaluation of the implementation of the activities of the Strategy and Action Plan, for the advancement of the rights of the Roma and Ashkali communities 2022-2026 and the improvement of their educational, socio-economic, cultural and health situation.

On July 20, 2022, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, at its 89th meeting, approved the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo for 2022-2026 and the Action Plan for 2022-2024.

The Strategy aims to effectively increase the provision of opportunities, equal access and maintenance of inclusive quality education; increase equal access to stable employment and reduce poverty; improve health and increasing equal access to quality health services; increase equal access to sustainable housing, essential services and public infrastructure; and preventing and combating discrimination, racism, hate speech, hate crimes, segregation, prejudice, stereotyping, and bullying against the Roma and Ashkali communities. Among other things, its strategy and action plan aim to implement the commitments made in the Poznan Declaration, with the aim of integrating the Roma, within the EU enlargement process. The Strategy and Action Plan have also been drafted based on the EU Framework for Roma Integration, defining five action areas, addressed in the Strategy: **education, employment and social welfare, health, housing and discrimination**.

Monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan is a key issue to ensure an overview of the situation of the Roma and Ashkali communities and their relationship with Kosovo institutions in the five defined areas of the Strategy. All government institutions, central and local, in accordance with their responsibilities and legal mandate, are obliged to take necessary measures to implement the obligations set out in the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities for 2022-2026 and consequently also of the Action Plan 2022-2024. An

important part of monitoring the implementation of the Strategy is also the monitoring of the implementation of Local Action Plans (LAP).

Budget is one of the important aspects of implementing the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo for 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan for 2022-2024. With the approval of the Strategy and of the Action Plan, the institutions of Kosovo are committed to the allocation of the budget, which is based on the determinations of the Action Plan.

The 2023 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Community, 2022-2026, and of the Action Plan 2022-2024, through the reporting of data by competent institutions, reflects the status and the manner in which the Strategy and Action Plan have been implemented and the extent to which its implementation has advanced the rights of these communities.

The report aims to highlight the activities that have been undertaken and continue to be undertaken towards achieving the objectives outlined in the five areas of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo for 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan for 2022-2024, in the fields of education, employment and social welfare, health, housing, and in the field of combating discrimination. Furthermore, the purpose of this report, in addition to the evaluation conducted in five sectors based on the objectives of the Action Plan, is also related to identifying issues, challenges in the implementation of activities included in the Action Plan.

Accomplishing the purpose of this report, as well as the identified issues in this report and previous reports, may serve as a reference to pinpoint significant aspects related to the advancement of the rights of the Roma and Ashkali community in the Republic of Kosovo. The purpose of this report is also reflected in the light of the commitments of the Poznan Declaration and aims to highlight the work of Kosovo institutions towards fulfilling the commitments arising from the Poznan Declaration.

For the first time, a report on the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan 2022-2024 has been drafted for 2022, and this is the second report related to this Strategy and Action Plan. In order to clarify the purpose of the report, recommendations are also presented according to certain areas.

2. METHODOLOGY

The report on the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities follows the same structure methodology as the Strategy, providing data that identify the implementation of the Strategy in the fields of education, social welfare, health, housing, and non-discrimination.

These data are presented in the report, in narrative or quantitative form as well as in statistical form, according to the strategic objectives and specific objectives of the Strategy.

The report was drawn up on the basis of data collected from central institutions and local level institutions. For the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities 2022-2026 as well as of the Action Plan 2022-2024, data has been collected from: Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI), Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers (MFLT), Ministry of Health (MH), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), Ministry of Culture, Youth, and Sports (MCYS), Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) some of the relevant Municipalities as well as the Employment Agency in the Republic of Kosovo (EARK); in some cases some municipalities and other institutions, such as the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), Academy of Justice (AJ), Kosovo Academy for Public Safety, Kosovo Institute for Public Administration (KIPA) etc.

The data presented in this report are official data and information accepted by the institutions of Kosovo. For the drafting of the said report, no such methodology of referencing external documents or other reports has been used, due to the fact that the report is written, according to the official data reporting of competent institutions for the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan 2022-2024.

The structure of processing the collected data is built as follows:

- It has been reported for each field that is part of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, and of the Action Plan 2022-2024;
- The structure and reporting of data is linked to the strategic objectives and specific objectives of the strategy, based on the activities of the Action Plan;
- Other activities related to the objectives of the Strategy have been reported and elaborated, which have directly or indirectly influenced the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan;
- Certain recommendations have been given, mostly concerning the dimension of not meeting specific objectives or enhancing the feasibility of the Strategy and Action Plan;
- The implementation of the Strategy, along with the recommendations provided in this report, is aligned with the priorities outlined in the Declaration of Western Balkans Partners for Roma integration within the EU enlargement process or the Poznan Declaration of 2020.
- Within the methodology of drafting this report, it should be noted that most of the municipalities did not report accurate data. One of the municipalities that has reported complete data for all areas of the strategy, including statistical ones, is the municipality of Podujeva, data that have been integrated into the report.

Data collection was carried out by OGG/OPM in close collaboration with the respective institutions, where meetings and consultations were held through various forms. The data reflected in this report, as explained by the institutions excluding the Roma and Ashkali communities, also include the Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo.

3. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MEETING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF ROMA AND ASHKALI COMMUNITIES 2022-2026 AS WELL AS OF THE ACTION PLAN 2022-2024

Education

The teaching of the Romani language continues to be organized in the municipality of Prizren, respectively in four schools where 100 students have participated. For the year 2023, it has been reported that the municipality of Novoberda has arranged supplementary classes in the Romani language, with the participation of 13 students, 7 boys, and 6 girls, as well as 2 teachers. Supplementary classes for the children of the Roma and Ashkali communities was also organized by the municipality of Podujeva, where 97 children were involved, respectively 62 boys and 35 girls, as well as 4 teachers. This is crucial data for meeting the goals set out in the Poznan Declaration.

MESTI has allocated a total of 467 scholarships for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. Also, during the year 2023, 55 scholarships were allocated to members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities through the agreement between MESTI and MLGA. The mentoring for these students will be conducted by VORAE, RomaVersitas, and in cooperation with the University of Prizren "Ukshin Hoti".

In 2023, a call for funding has been announced for NGOs managing educational centers supporting students from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, contributing to educational achievement. The planned budget was valued at 200,000.00 Euros. In this call, 7 NGOs with a total of 21 learning centers benefited. Furthermore, this is crucial data for meeting the goals set out in the Poznan Declaration.

In order to combat hate speech, MESTI has begun to implement and address the issue of hate speech in school textbooks, following the issuance of the Ex Officio report of the Ombudsperson regarding this matter.

In collaboration with OSCE, a manual on Interculturalism in Education has been drawn up and, related to this, training sessions will also be organized for teachers. Among others, the following modules were designed by MESTI: Prevention of discrimination in schools; Promotion of gender

equality; Prevention of hate speech; Prevention of domestic violence; Prevention of child trafficking; Prevention of sexual harassment; Youth Initiative Program- Y Youth; Prevention of early marriages; Prevention of child labor.

Employment and Social Welfare

In 2023, a total of 57 candidates, including 21 Roma, 24 Ashkali, and 12 Egyptians, have benefited from inclusion in professional empowerment in the Education and Vocational Training Centers (VCT). The budget is not divided by communities, however, the calculated value for the persons included in the trainings has a cost of around 12,000 euros.

During the year 2023, 10 people were included in internships, including 1 Roma, 5 Ashkali, and 4 Egyptian. The budget for engaging 10 people for (6) months in internships was 10,200 euros.

One (1) million euros have been allocated for grants by the Ministry for Communities and Returns to NGOs that have projects for the employment of Roma and Ashkali communities. On the other hand, two (2) million euros from this Ministry have been allocated for small-scale farmers and startup businesses, and 111 members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have benefited from this grant.

Based on EARK data, during 2023, 104 individuals were mediated in employment, with 16 being Roma, 44 Ashkali, and 44 Egyptian. There were no reported statistics, based on the countries, respectively the sectors where the same were employed.

The relevant ministry provided through CSW foster care to all communities, including Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children. According to the Social Services database, in 2023, a total of 74 children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities were placed in kinship foster care, while 5 children were placed in alternative non-kinship foster care.

Payment was also made for the Family Scheme of children with permanent disabilities aged 1-18 years for 122 children from the Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian communities with a monthly payment of 100 Euro. By the general figure. Out of 122 beneficiary children, 38 are Roma, 62 are Ashkali, and 22 are Egyptian children. The budget spent solely on Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities for the year 2023 is 146,400.00 Euros.

In 2023, the Ministry of Justice has established and is further enhancing its collaboration with NGOs that focus on providing housing, treatment, support, and empowerment to victims of domestic violence. 81 victims sheltered in these shelters are from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

According to social assistance schemes, in 2023, a total of 2,820 beneficiary families are: 1,379 Roma families with 6,703 members, 1,002 Ashkali families with 4,494 members, and 439 Egyptian families with 2,050 members.

Health

According to the NIPHK data, in 2023, through the door-to-door campaign, 1287 families of the Roma and Ashkali communities were included for the purpose of vaccination. From these families, 5,515 children from the Roma and Ashkali communities have been involved in this process.

MFMC Ferizaj has reported that the visits were carried out, where a total of 100 members of the Roma community and 86 members of the Ashkali community participated.

The Ministry of Health has held five (5) roundtable discussions with primary level health professionals (nurses) regarding the presentation of the Law on Protection from Discrimination and the right to health as a human right protected by International Conventions. The roundtables were held in Primary Care, since the patient's first contact with the doctor is at the primary health care level.

Awareness campaigns have been organized on patient rights and accountability mechanisms for complaints from the Roma and Ashkali communities directed towards healthcare workers and community members. Regarding these tables and their holding, the Ministry of Health reports that they were held as such in three (3) municipalities, respectively in MFMC- Lipjan; MFMC – Podujeva; MFMC – Peja. The tables included 50 citizens of the Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities: leaders of NGOs of this community. Likewise, the MFMC in Peja, in cooperation with PRAK, AQH, and “Syri Vizionit”, have organized four (4) roundtables with a total of 47 participants, members of the Roma and Ashkali communities. MFMC in Obiliq has reported that it has held one (1) training of this nature and 25 people have benefited, from the ranks of the Roma and Ashkali communities.

Housing

Training sessions have been held for municipal officials on the functioning of the electronic platform, social housing database. This training is supported by RCC.

The drafting and approval of the Feasibility Study for Adequate Social Housing in the Republic of Kosovo has also been done.

MESPI has reported that several actions have been taken that result in the improvement of comfort and quality of life for the Roma and Ashkali communities, in terms of improving the existing infrastructure. An important issue in this aspect is the drafting and approval of the Feasibility Study for Affordable Housing in Kosovo.

While, CEB-Bank approved the request for a low-interest loan of 25.0 million Euros for co-funding the Adequate Social Housing Project. After several years of work, on January 25, 2024, this credit agreement was signed, aiming to improve the quality of life of the Roma and Ashkali communities. In 2024, the ratification of the international agreement is expected by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. This action in the fulfillment of the Strategy and Action Plan is very important, in terms of fulfilling the provisions emerging from the Poznan Declaration, for resolving the housing issue for the Roma and Ashkali communities.

Furthermore, WBIF has been awarded the Technical Assistance Grant of 2.08 million Euros. Implementation of cooperation with Technical Assistance 11 (IPF 11) for the Adequate Social Housing Program. Furthermore, this project is expected to impact the improvement of the quality of life of the Roma and Ashkali communities.

MESPI after accepting the Feasibility Study for Adequate Social Housing for Kosovo, which was financed by the Council of Europe Development Bank/Italian Fund for Innovative Projects and implemented by UN-Habitat. This study served as a basis for the alignment and revision of the Draft Law on Social and Affordable Housing with its concepts and recommendations. To address the following requirements, in April 2023 the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI) requested the support of UN-Habitat for technical support in the revision and finalization of this law. Consequently, UN-Habitat provided a technical team, including specialists in spatial and urban planning, a legal expert and an international housing advisor: Besnike Koçani, Spatial and Urban Planning Advisor, Alma Pacarizi, Spatial and Urban Planning Associate, Qerkin Berisha, Legal Expert and Matthias Nohn, International Housing Advisor.

With the support of the UN-Habitat technical team and working group, MESPI reviewed the initial draft prepared by the working group, which also included previous comments and suggestions from UN-Habitat, serving as the basis for formulating a new draft in accordance with the feasibility study. This draft was presented and refined during a workshop organized with the support of UN-Habitat during the period of May 17 to 19, 2023. All workshop participants provided valuable suggestions, comments and remarks. Upon completion of this workshop, it has been sent for final comments by MESPI to all participants. Following, the working group together with the Housing Division and the Legal Office of the MESPI have made the final review of this draft law, and have opened it for public consultations. It should be noted that this draft law contains four (4) Programs: the program for social housing, the program for the development of adequate neighborhoods, the program for the reconstruction and renovation of houses, and the program for affordable housing, as well as other programs related to housing planning and urbanism that are considered of public interest, including targeted groups such as the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. It is expected to be submitted to the Government in June 2024.

In terms of fulfilling this objective, the reconstruction and renovation of houses in Northern Kosovo, for families whose homes were damaged during the 1998/99 period and the realization of

reconstruction, renovation, and rentals for repatriated families constitute an achievement, in 2023, in terms of fulfilling housing field objectives, in line with the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, and of the Action Plan 2022-2024.

Protection from Discrimination

Within the framework of anti-discrimination field, a very important and crucial achievement, for the year 2023, is the success of the technical group, mandated to protect the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities from discrimination. Within the technical group, the National Platform for the protection from discrimination of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, has successfully addressed over ten (10) cases of discrimination throughout the year 2023.

For the first time, within the framework of this platform, the protection from discrimination of the members of these communities as well as the protection of discrimination has been successfully addressed by a court ruling.

The success of the National Platform for Protection from Discrimination, for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, in combating discrimination, has successfully achieved an objective of the Poznan Declaration, to establish a specific mechanism addressing cases of discrimination.

4. PROGRESS BASED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE INCLUSION OF ROMA AND ASHKALI COMMUNITIES IN KOSOVAR SOCIETY 2017-2021

4.1 Activities, achievements, challenges, and recommendations

4.1.1 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

One of the strategic objectives, in the field of education related to the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan 2022-2024, is **the effective increase of providing equal access and successful participation in inclusive quality education for the Roma and Ashkali communities**. This objective includes three specific objectives, for the fulfillment of which concrete actions have been taken by MESTI and other competent institutions.

The specific objectives for implementing the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, and the of the Action Plan 2022-2024, in the field of education are:

1. Raising awareness and promoting the importance of education and inclusion of Roma and Ashkali children at all levels of education and all relevant;
2. Improving the academic performance of Roma and Ashkali students through specialized complementary programs and affirmative action measures in education;
3. Combating discrimination, racism, stigmatization, hate speech, hate violence and bullying; in schools and promoting the culture and history of the Roma and Ashkali communities.

The implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan 2022-2024, in the education sector will be addressed in terms of specific objectives related to the Action Plan and activities in the Action Plan, within the framework of the Strategy. As for the specific objective related to combating discrimination, it will be reflected in a separate section of this report.

Strategic objective 1: Effective promotion of opportunity, equal access, and successful implementation of inclusive quality education for Roma and Ashkali communities and Action Plan activities

Within the framework of strategic objective 1, the action plan has foreseen 11 specific activities and actions, which have been fulfilled and for which concrete actions have been taken in

implementing its activities. While, for the implementation of the activities, within the framework of this objective, four (4) information sessions were organized with the parents of the communities about the facilities offered by AI 03/2022 on the Inclusion of Children in Preschool Institutions, with the aim of informing about the rights that these communities have to register in preschool institutions. Sessions have been held in 3 municipalities, namely: Fushe Kosova, Gjakova, and Ferizaj. 14 children from the Ashkali community and 2 Roma have benefited from the administrative guidance for facilitating the registration of children in higher education in the municipality of Podujeva.

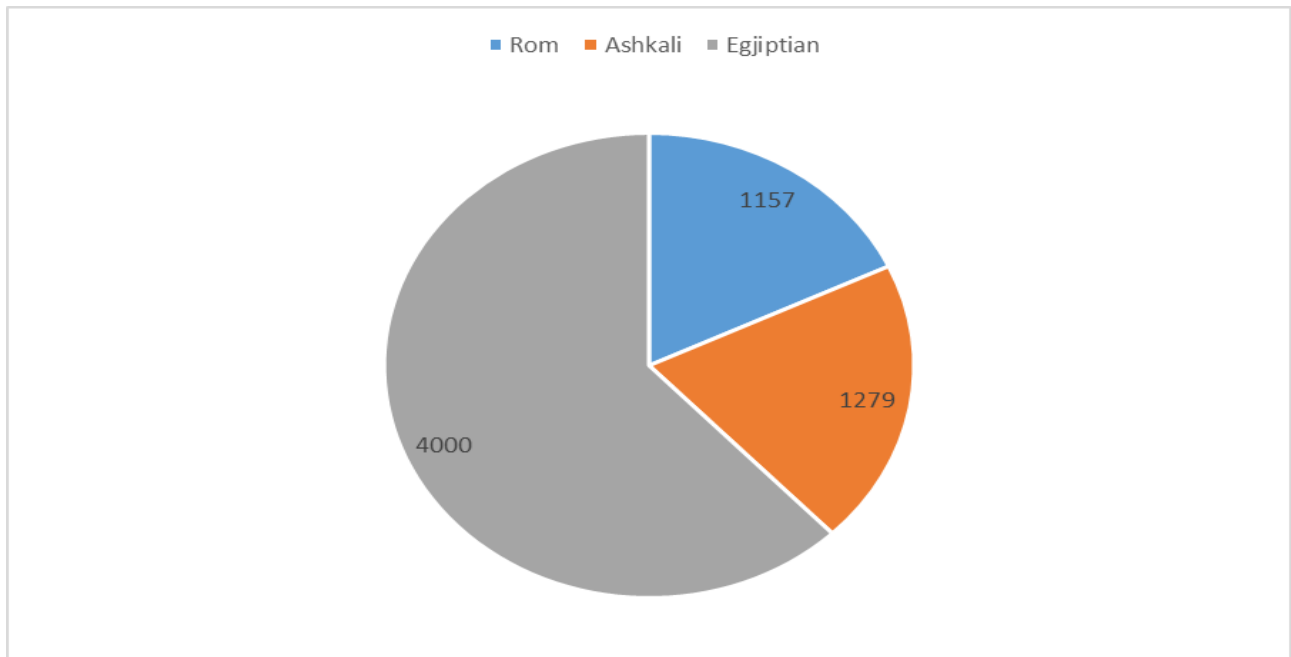
According to EMIS-MESTI, the data recorded in the academic year 2023/2024 include specific gender indicators for most of the basic data such as student enrollment;

2023-2024

Number of Roma students,	1,157
Number of Ashkali students	1,279
Number of Egyptian students:	4,000

Total: 6436

Table: According to EMIS-MESTI, the data recorded in the academic year 2023/2024



- **Subsidizing payments for kindergartens to increase the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali children in new kindergartens to be built in the municipalities with the highest concentration of the communities concerned**

Based on the information provided by the MEDs regarding the subsidization of children from Roma communities, there doesn't seem to have been any requests for subsidizing children from Roma and Ashkali communities. As a result, this activity, within the framework of strategic objective 1, in the field of education, has not yielded concrete results in terms of achievement.

- **Capacity building or institutional support to Teams for Prevention and Response to Dropout and Non-Enrollment in School (TPRDNES) in implementing action plans to prevent school dropout and non-enrollment in all municipalities**

Regarding the prevention and response to school dropout, MESTI has continued to support municipalities in the implementation of policies. In this regard, MESTI has supported the operation of teams and the drafting of municipal plans for 15 municipalities, as well as continuously offering specific recommendations for identified cases, in terms of prevention and dropout in schools. Regarding the completion of this activity, MESTI has offered several modules as follows: **Prevention of Discrimination in Schools; Promotion of Gender Equality; Prevention of Hate Speech; Prevention of Domestic Violence; Prevention of Child Trafficking; Module 9. Prevention of Sexual Harassment; Youth Initiative Program - The Youth and Prevention of Early Marriages; Module 12. Prevention of Child Labour.** MESTI is continuing to promote these modules in various municipalities and schools. It has been reported that in the municipality of Podujeva, 4 capacity-building trainings were organized for teams to prevent dropouts and non-enrollment.

Nxënësit Rom, Ashkalinjë dhe Egjiptianë sipas nivele, viti shkollor 2023/24.

Niveli	Ashkalinjë			Romë			Egjiptianë			Gjithsej		
	M	F	Gj	M	F	Gj	M	F	Gj	M	F	Gj
Arsimi parashk./parafill. (mosha 0-<6)	92	92	184	53	41	94	37	28	65	182	161	343
Fillor/ mesem i ulët	1883	1778	3661	543	482	1025	511	543	1054	2937	2803	5740
I mesem i lartë	98	57	155	14	24	38	85	75	160	197	156	353
Gjithsej	2073	1927	4000	610	547	1157	633	646	1279	3316	3120	6436

Nxënës braktisës, në gjysmëvjetorin I (parë), 2023/24

Klasë	Ashkalinjë			Romë			Egjiptianë			Gjithsej		
	M	F	Gj	M	F	Gj	M	F	Gj	M	F	Gj
Kl. 1-9	7	15	22	14	0	14	8	6	14	29	21	50
Kl. 10-12	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	3	4
Gjithsej	8	16	24	14	1	15	8	7	15	30	24	54

- **Expansion of the organization of additional teaching of the Romani language in 4 municipalities**

The teaching of the Romani language continues to be organized in the municipality of Prizren, respectively in four schools where 100 students have participated. For the year 2023, it has been reported that the municipality of Novoberda has arranged supplementary classes in the Romani language, with the participation of 13 students, 7 boys, and 6 girls, as well as 2 teachers. Supplementary classes for the children of the Roma and Ashkali communities was also organized by the municipality of Podujeva, where 97 children were involved, respectively 62 boys and 35 girls, as well as 4 teachers.

- **Award of 500 scholarships per year for Roma and Ashkali students attending high school, amounting to € 300 per school year (including the Egyptian community)**

The scholarship program is a process that is planned and carried out every school year since 2014, so this school year 2023/2024, like in previous years, the scholarship program has continued. Initially, the scholarship competition has been announced for this school year for high school students from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. MESTI has planned 500 scholarships - 150,000 euros while 467 students have benefited for the academic year 2023/24.

Scholarship recipients in 2023/2024

No.	Recipients	Roma		Ashkali		Egyptian			
		F	M	F	M	F	M		
	467	46	31	99	103	99	89		

Also, during the year 2023, 55 scholarships were allocated to members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities through the agreement between MESTI and MLGA. The mentoring for these students will be conducted by VORAE, RomaVersitas, and in cooperation with the University of Prizren "Ukshin Hoti".

- **Mentoring 50 students from the Roma and Ashkali communities**

Based on information provided by MESTI, mentoring of students from community groups is conducted by the NGO Roma Versitas Kosovo. According to the reports from the municipalities, in addition to the data accepted by MESTI, it turns out that 20 individuals from the Ashkali community, 2 from the Egyptian community, and 5 from the Roma community have benefited from mentoring in the municipality of Podujeva.

- **Research on the educational needs of adults from the Roma and Ashkali communities**

Adult education or non-formal education is organized by schools depending on the requests that have been submitted, however, MESTI did not have data on such a thing.

- **Promotion of education and vocational training opportunities (promotional materials), organization of awareness-raising campaigns as part of career orientation for 9th grade students.**

In 2023, the planning was done in cooperation with Save the Children. Regarding this activity, in 2024 the implementation of the project “Empowering Vulnerable Communities in Kosovo, through Better and Equal Access to the Labor Market” will begin, which aims to support the Roma

and Ashkali communities in education and professional skills development, as well as students in grades 6-9 for career guidance.

- **Organizing adult literacy programs (50 participants) from Roma and Ashkali communities**

The organization of literacy programs takes place in Pristina, but there is no reported information about the number of participants. This activity is carried out based on individual or group requests at the municipal level. Activities and literacy programs have been organized, benefiting 27 members of the Roma and Ashkali communities in the municipality of Podujeva.

- **Increasing the involvement of members of the Roma and Ashkali communities in vocational training programs (consults with vocational education)**

In 2023, as mentioned earlier, the planning has been completed and in cooperation with Save the Children, the implementation of the project “Empowering Vulnerable Communities in Kosovo, through Better and Equal Access to the Labor Market” is set to begin in 2024, with the goal of supporting Roma and Ashkali communities in vocational education. This has been emphasized above. 19 members of the Roma and Ashkali communities for the municipality of Podujeva are included in the professional training programs.

- **Provision of school materials for students from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities for social cases in compulsory education**

MESTI for the school year 2023/2024 has reimbursed parents with financial means to provide textbooks and learning tools for grades 1-5 and 6-9, for students in compulsory education. For grades 1-5, 50 euros per student have been reimbursed, and for grades 6-9, 30 euros per learning tools have been reimbursed. In this case, children from the Roma and Ashkali communities have also benefited.

Specific objective 1: Awareness and promotion of the importance of education and inclusion of children from Roma and Ashkali communities at all levels of education and by all relevant actors and activities of the action plan

Within the framework of specific objective 1, the implementation plan has foreseen five (5) specific activities and actions, which have been completed and for which concrete actions have been taken in implementing the activities of the action plan:

- **Support for the registration of 20 learning centers**

So far, there are a total of 52 registered learning centers. As of December 2023, around 21 learning centers have started to apply for re-registration, which will be reviewed by the registration commission of MESTI. While, 4 learning centers for the Roma and Ashkali communities in the municipality of Podujeva have been supported.

- **Support for 30 registered learning centers based on administrative instruction**

According to Administrative Instruction 19/2018 on the Establishment and Functioning of Learning Centers, MESTI under Article 13 (Financing and Budget), point 2.1 plans the annual budget to support approved programs of educational centers. Based on this AI MESTI- Division for Community Education, as of 2021, has started implementing Article 13 point 2.1 for the funding of NGOs. Respectively for the year 2023 has announced a call for funding of NGOs that run educational centers supporting students from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, contributing to educational achievement. The planned budget was valued at 200,000.00 Euros. In this call, 7 NGOs with a total of 21 learning centers benefited.

- **Revision of existing Romani language curricula and drafting of new Romani language textbooks**

According to the data from MESTI, this process has not yet started because it was planned to start in 2024 with the support of the Council of Europe (CoE) with the new four (4) year project. There is not yet a precise date for when this project will start exactly.

- **Organizing awareness-raising campaigns for Roma and Ashkali parents regarding the importance and opportunities of early childhood education (15 municipalities, annually)**

4 informative sessions have been organized with parents from the communities on the benefits offered by the AI on the Inclusion of Children in Preschool Institutions, aiming to inform about the rights of Roma and Ashkali communities in preschool institutions. Sessions have been held in 3 municipalities such as: Fushe Kosova, Gjakova, and Ferizaj.

- **Ensuring the position of mediators in education in at least 7 municipalities with the highest concentration of Roma and Ashkali communities, in order to reduce non-enrollment and drop-out and raise awareness of the importance of education and anti-discrimination**

For the implementation of this activity, in addition to the aspects mentioned above, no specific statistical data has been reported, demonstrating the actions taken to reduce non-enrollment and dropout rates in schools.

Specific objective 2: Improving the academic performance of Roma and Ashkali students through specialized complementary programs and affirmative action measures in education

This specific objective is achieved based on two (2) specific actions defined in the action plan, for the implementation of which the following actions have been taken.

- **Revision/supplement to the textbooks of the Society and the environment through the approach of including the cultural and historical dimensions of non-majority communities, in order to eliminate exclusive and discriminatory language and replace it with the language of inclusion.**

MESTI has supported research on the language used in school textbooks. The Ombudsman Institution (OI) has carried out and published the Ex-officio report on the language used in the textbooks of lower secondary education, in August 2023. In this OI report, it was found that the texts are not discriminatory. Furthermore, OI has addressed the notification email to MESTI that the same research will continue for the texts of grades 10, 11, and 12.

- **Preparation of materials and texts that can be divided into separate modules for the history and culture of the Roma and Ashkali communities in elective subjects (up to the review of relevant school texts).**

In collaboration with OSCE, a handbook on Interculturalism in Education has been drawn up, and training sessions will be organized for teachers. Among other things, these modules have also been designed by MESTI: Prevention of discrimination in schools; Promotion of gender equality; Prevention of hate speech; Prevention of domestic violence; Prevention of child trafficking; Prevention of sexual harassment; Youth Initiative Program- Y Youth; Prevention of early marriages; Prevention of child labor.

4.1.1.1 Recommendations for the implementation of the strategy in the field of education

- Measures will be taken to subsidize payments for nurseries and kindergartens for children of Roma and Ashkali communities.
- It is recommended to conduct a more comprehensive study of the educational needs of adults in the Roma and Ashkali communities.
- MESTI should take action according to their competences, to start reviewing the educational programs in the Romani language.
- Further measures should be implemented to decrease school dropout rates for children from Roma and Ashkali communities, at both the central and local levels. These actions would also help meet the Poznan Declaration's stipulations, in order to increase the enrollment and completion rate for the Roma and Ashkali communities to 50%.
- Central and local institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, as part of fulfilling strategic and specific objectives along with action plan activities, are required to take steps to meet the provisions of the Poznan Declaration for increasing Roma enrollment in primary education by 90%; Increasing Roma completion rates in primary education by 90%, with a focus on preventing school dropouts.

4.2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY IN THE FIELD OF EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL WELFARE

The field of employment and social welfare within the strategy for advancing the rights of the Roma and Ashkali communities consists of one strategic objective and three (3) specific objectives. The strategic objective of this field is to increase equal access to sustainable employment and reduce poverty of Roma and Ashkali communities, while the specific objectives are:

1. Improving access to equal participation in the labour market by systematizing members of the Roma and Ashkali communities into municipal employment offices and vocational training;
2. Increasing participation and opportunities in employment through sensitization of employers and members of the Roma and Ashkali communities, as well as incentive measures for employers;
3. Involvement of Roma and Ashkali communities in employment in central and local public institutions, according to quotas established by law.

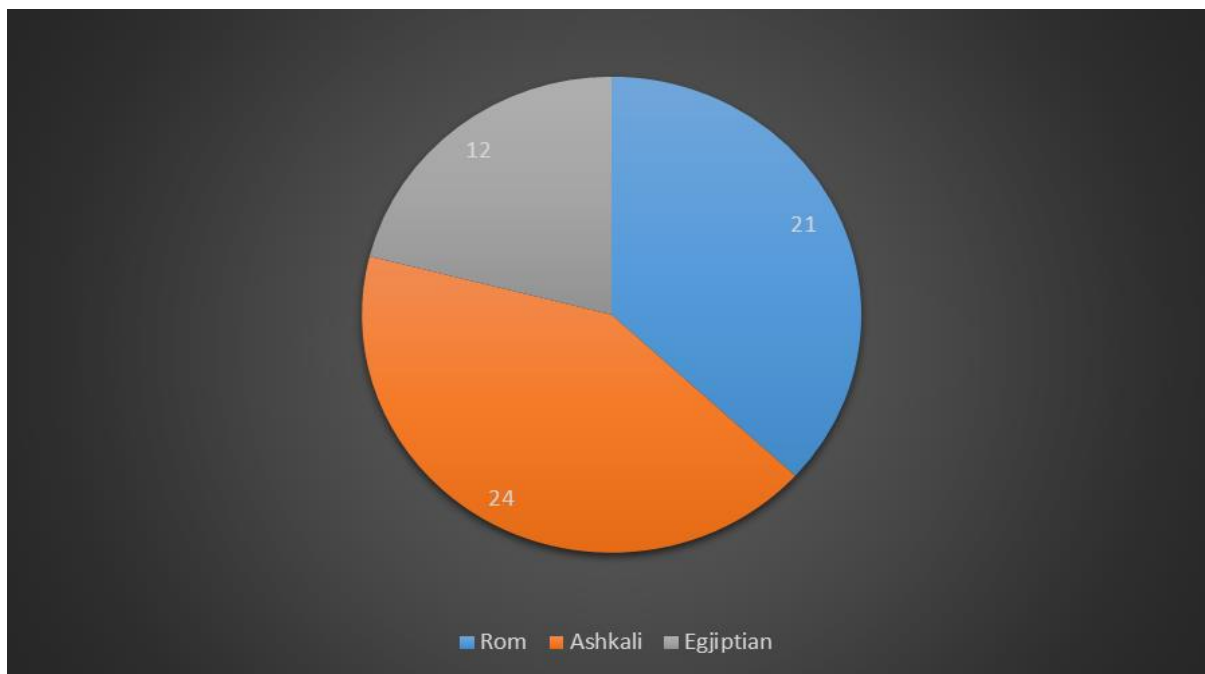
Strategic objective 1: Promotion of equal access to sustainable employment and reduction of poverty among Roma and Ashkali communities

Specific objective 1: Improving equal access to the labor market through the integration of Roma and Ashkali community members into municipal employment offices and vocational training programs, as well as the activities of the social welfare action plan

The first specific objective has eight (8) action plan activities that have served the implementation of the strategic and specific objective in the field of social welfare, in terms of strategy implementation, for the advancement of the rights of Roma and Ashkali communities, 202-2024 and of the action plan 2022-2024.

- **Encouraging registration and participation in vocational training according to the needs of the labour market**

In 2023, a total of 57 candidates, including 21 Roma, 24 Ashkali, and 12 Egyptians, have benefited from inclusion in professional empowerment in the Education and Vocational Training Centers (VCT). The budget is not divided by communities, however, the calculated value for the persons included in the trainings has a cost of around 12,000 euros.



- **Analysis of the impact of subsidies on long-term employment of Roma and Ashkali communities in the private sector**

During 2023, 23 individuals are included in the active labor force; wage subsidy, among them 5 Roma, 6 Ashkali, and 12 Egyptian. The budget for engaging 23 people for six (6) months in wage subsidy is 23,460.00 Euros.

- **Engagement of Roma and Ashkali community members in practice at central and local level institutions. 8 (2 Roma, 6 Ashkali) candidates x150)**

Throughout 2023, 10 individuals participated in active labor measures; internships, including 1 Roma, 5 Ashkali, and 4 Egyptian individuals. The budget for engaging 10 people for (6) months in internships is 10,200 euros.

- **Engagement of Roma and Ashkali community members in on-the-job training (cost per candidate 3x170)**

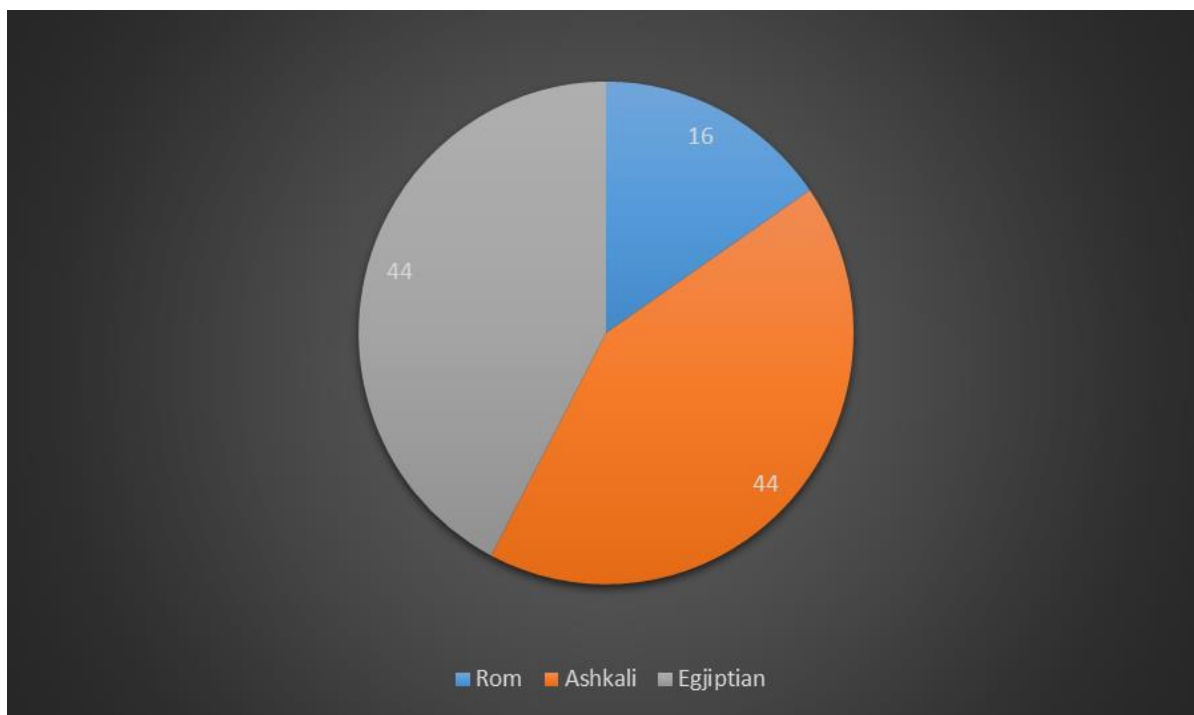
18 members of the Roma and Ashkali community are engaged in job training in the Municipality of Podujeva. In this aspect, there have been no other reports.

- **Allocation of amounts for the Roma and Ashkali communities from the Self-employment / Start-up Grants Fund, with a focus on women's empowerment in business and employment (grant quota for the Roma and Ashkali communities 30%, cost per candidate of 3,000€)**

One (1) million euros have been allocated for grants by the Ministry for Communities and Returns to NGOs that have projects for the employment of Roma and Ashkali communities. On the other hand, two (2) million euros from this Ministry have been allocated for small-scale farmers and startup businesses, and 111 members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have benefited from this grant.

Increasing employment of the Roma and Ashkali communities through employment mediation

Based on EARK data, during 2023, 104 individuals were mediated in employment, with 16 being Roma, 44 Ashkali, and 44 Egyptian.



- **Awareness-raising campaign for the provision of employment services through EMIS, Employment Management Information System through campaigns, leaflets, TV programs and cooperation with CSW that can guide users of social schemes to register as active job seekers**

In cooperation with representative associations of the Roma and Ashkali communities, members of these communities have been informed and encouraged to participate and benefit from the active labor market services and measures implemented by EARK. No specific statistics have been reported on the fulfillment of this strategic and specific objective 1, except for the Municipality of Podujeva, where 12 members of the Roma and Ashkali community are included.

- **Organization of informative meetings with representatives of the Roma and Ashkali communities**

According to EARK data, for vocational training, VoRAE has organized informative meetings in rural areas for the inclusion of community members in training in VTC.

- **Evaluation on the current situation and employment potential between the Roma and Ashkali communities in the relevant municipalities**

EARK and other reported institutions have not highlighted any data related to the employment potential among the Roma and Ashkali communities. At the municipal level, 4 of these types of training have been reported in the Municipality of Podujeva.

Specific objective 2: Increasing participation and opportunities in employment through sensitization of employers and members of the Roma and Ashkali communities, as well as incentive measures for employers

- **Capacity building among social workers on the importance of combating discrimination, ensuring equal treatment, and providing sustainable solutions for beneficiaries in Social Services in the 7 regions of Kosovo**

In 2023, PCSFS, which is mandated with the development of social workers, professional providers of family social services, supported by Non-Governmental Organizations KCRT and Save the Children, has carried out training programs with 6 modules. Training in all regions of Kosovo. The modules are offered based on the NQA criteria, including the candidate evaluation process for each module.

Throughout 2023, a total of 473 providers of social and family services from the public and non-governmental sector have been trained with 6 training modules without distinction of ethnicity, for all social workers in Kosovo. It should be noted that all the beneficiaries were not from the Roma and Ashkali communities. The planned budget specifically for the Roma, Ashkali communities is 3000 euros.

- **Financial support for Roma and Ashkali communities through inclusion in social welfare schemes**

Concrete actions have been taken to carry out this activity, such as: Development of the program for two foster cares: kinship foster care, alternative non-kinship foster care, as well as under the SFCPD scheme.

The relevant ministry provided through CSW foster care to all communities, including Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children. According to the Social Services database, in 2023, a total of 74 children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities were placed in kinship foster care, while 5 children were placed in alternative non-kinship foster care.

Out of a total of 74 children, 21 are Roma, 30 Ashkali, 23 Egyptian, the monthly payment is 150 euros per child. While in the alternative non-kinship foster care, 5 children of the Roma community are housed and the monthly payment for these children, during 2023, was 350 euros per month. In the same situation is alternative non-relative foster care, which paid 250 euros per month until June. From June on 2023, the payment increased to 350 euros per month. The total budget spent is 18.500 euros.

The budget allocated solely for the Roma and Ashkali community, in kinship foster care, is determined in the action plan of the strategy, while the budget spent during the year 2023 is 114.700 euros, as by June, 74 children in kinship foster care have been paid 100 euros per month, and starting from June, the payment has increased to 150 euros.

Payment was also made for the family scheme of children with permanent disabilities aged 1-18 years for 122 children from the Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian communities with a monthly payment of 100 Euro. The total number of beneficiaries is 122 children, of which 38 are Roma children, 62 are Ashkali, and 22 are Egyptian children. The budget spent solely on Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities for the year 2023 is 146.400 euros.

- **Informing and raising community awareness through various campaigns (TV, brochures, communication with community officials) about opportunities and types of social services**

At every CSW and relevant institution, there are informative brochures for the provision of social services, as well as for the rights of beneficiaries in social assistance, social services, and all social categories and forms of protection for citizens in social need for all communities, especially for the Romani, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. The budget allocated only for the Roma and Ashkali communities is 3000 euros.

- **Providing institutional care services for communities**

Based on the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Communities, the placement/housing of persons without family care in residential housing in community institutions and houses, consists of providing 24-hour services including: shelter, food, clothing, provision of health services, accommodation and all other services assessed as necessary for elderly and disabled persons, mental retardation.

Within the framework of this action, 24-hour residential services have been provided for the elderly and people with disabilities by the Special Institute of Shtime, the Elderly Home in Pristina, and thirteen (13) Community Homes spread across the municipalities of Kosovo. Over 275 residents from all communities regardless of ethnicity have benefited from these residential services. From the Roma community, 8 residents have benefited, 7 in residential institutions for people with disabilities, with mental disabilities, and 1 (one) in the elderly home, while from the Ashkali, Egyptian community there have been no beneficiaries for the year 2023. The budget spent on these individuals, related to this activity, is 96.000 euros.

- **Support to NGOs licensed by the relevant ministry in providing family and social services to Roma and Ashkali communities**

For the year 2023, the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities did not have Licensed Non-Governmental Organizations providing family social services due to their non-application for licensing. The planned budget only for the Roma, Ashkali communities related to this activity for the year 2023 was 100.000 euros, while there has been no spent budget, due to the lack of licensed non-governmental organizations to provide social and family services.

- **Signing of 10 MoUs between NGOs and shelters to strengthen cooperation and rehabilitation of children and women from Roma and Ashkali communities, victims of domestic violence**

During the year 2023, the Ministry of Justice has made agreements for cooperation and contracts for the purchase of services for the protection and shelter of victims of domestic violence with all shelters at the national and regional levels. All these shelters during the year 2023 have housed and provided necessary services to victims of family violence of all ages from all communities living in Kosovo.

In 2023, the Ministry of Justice has established and is further enhancing its collaboration with NGOs that focus on providing housing, treatment, support, and empowerment to victims of domestic violence. 81 victims sheltered in these shelters are from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

- **Provision of social assistance to Roma and Ashkali community families through the social assistance scheme,**

The social assistance scheme is managed by Social Work Centers, the decision-making in the selection of cases by the CSW while budget assurance by the MFLT. In 2023, 2.820 families with 12.247 family members have benefited from the Social Assistance Scheme by Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities for the year 2023.

Throughout 2023, a total of 2.820 beneficiary families were accounted for: 1.379 Roma families consisting of 6.703 members, 1.002 Ashkali families with 4.494 members, and 439 Egyptian families with 2.050 members.

The planned budget for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities for this action is 5.000.000 euros, while the budget spent for the year 2023 is 4.844.280 euros.

- **Provision of emergency assistance for Roma and Ashkali community members**

In 2023, 2.820 families from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have benefited from subsidies to pay off their electricity debt as well as from Social Assistance Schemes.

MFLT/DSFP and CSW provide exceptional assistance to families that are beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Scheme and other families that meet the criteria outlined in the Administrative

Instruction on exceptional assistance in exceptional circumstances, such as funeral ceremonies for family members, home damage caused by fire, earthquake or flood. The benefit amount for these families from this scheme ranges from 100 euros to 300 euros and is provided only once a year for the same need/request.

A total of 19 families from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities benefited from this Scheme in 2023. The budget allocated only for the Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian communities is 10.000 euros per year, while the budget spent is 4.750 euros,

- **Organization of regular roundtables meetings for the management of assistance (RTMA) in the management of cases of children at medium or high risk.**

In relation to this activity, social service professionals set up multidisciplinary tables and work together with schools, police, and courts. Prosecutor's Office, mental health centers, state shelters, NGO-Center for the Protection of Women and Children, probation service, family work for family reunification. The purpose of the meetings is to protect the best interests of the children and adults that fall under their mandate. The protection of children's and adults' interests by the Guardianship Authority in the competent CSW at the national level, whose mandate is to protect them, is implemented in accordance with the current legislation.

7.1.3. Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in employment in central and local public institutions, according to quotas set by law

With the approval of the Law on Public Officials, progress has been made in terms of the employment of the Roma and Ashkali communities in public institutions. The Regulation on the Admission of Public Officials was approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on 27.10.2023. Article 13.4 of this regulation enables the announcement of the contest only for the inter-represented communities. It is reported that the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo has requested that by the end of January 2024 ten (10) job positions be identified, which will be announced for the communities.

From the reported data, it should be noted that currently the communities in the KSF are represented by 182 soldiers or 4.3%. Out of all community members, 40 are from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, respectively 27 Ashkali, 10 Egyptian, and 3 Roma.

4.2.1. Recommendations on implementing the strategy in the field of employment and social welfare

- Advocacy and other measures should be taken to increase the participation of the Roma and Ashkali communities on-the-job training, and this can be done through a more enhanced inter-institutional cooperation with civil society.

- Concrete measures should be taken to achieve strategic and specific objective 1, to include women from the Roma and Ashkali communities in business, through support and grants for startup businesses.
- Concrete measures should be taken for the inclusion of members of the Roma and Ashkali communities, as well as Egyptians, in vocational education, with the aim of integrating them into the labor market, benefiting from the VTC programs.
- Central and local institutions should consider giving priority, in an affirmative manner, to the employment of members of the Roma and Ashkali communities in the public sector.
- There should be commitment and coordination of institutions as well as community members, so that Non-Governmental Organizations are licensed by the ranks of the Roma and Ashkali communities to offer social and family services.

4.3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH

The implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan, 2022-2024, in the field of health, for the year 2023, is assessed based on the strategic and specific objectives. Within this field as part of the strategy, a strategic objective and three specific objectives are outlined.

Strategic objective in the field of health is the improvement of the health of Roma and Ashkali community members and the increase of equal access to quality health services. While, the specific objectives are:

1. Improving access to quality healthcare services for members of the Roma and Ashkali communities;
2. Improving the health of Roma and Ashkali community members through health awareness and promotion;
3. Improving the quality of healthcare services, through raising awareness of public health staff for equal treatment and elimination of discrimination against Roma and Ashkali communities.
4. Strategic Objective: Improving the health of members of the Roma and Ashkali communities and increasing equal access to quality health services.

Strategic objective 1: Improving access to quality healthcare services for members of the Roma and Ashkali communities

Specific objective 1: Improving the health of members of the Roma and Ashkali communities through awareness and health promotion, as well as action plan activities in the field of health

- **Survey on health status and satisfaction with receiving health services from Roma and Ashkali communities**

From the data reported by the MH, it results that the research has been carried out and NIPHK has sent the data to KAS for the realization of this research.

MFMC - Ferizaj has reported that a satisfaction survey on the provision of healthcare services to all patients has been conducted, without dividing them by communities, including minority communities, Roma, and Ashkali.

- **Provision of mobile mammography services, (5 municipalities, annually, 30 days per municipality) (fuel, materials, electricity, food).**

MFMC Fushe Kosova has reported that 6 mammograms were performed for women of the Roma and Ashkali community.

Activities in the provision of static mammography services have been implemented by the Ferizaj MFMC, where a total of 15 Roma women and 25 women from the Ashkali community have benefited.

MFMC Obiliq has reported that in cooperation with DHSW Prishtina, patients from the Municipality of Obiliq were instructed for mammography at MFMC Prishtina. Regarding the number of performed mammograms, data from MFMC Prishtina have not been reported.

No other reporting has been received from other MFMCs regarding the provision of mammography services.

Women from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have also been involved in the Breast Cancer campaign and in the campaign to promote the Administrative Instruction for Property Registration on Behalf of Both Spouses, in the municipality of Fushe Kosova.

- **Conducting home visits for mothers and children, as well as for other vulnerable groups. (2000 visits)**

MFMC - Fushe Kosova; MFMC - Podujeva; MFMC - Mitrovica; MFMC - Peja and NIPHK have reported that the following have been performed in total: 648 visits for mother and children aged 0-3 years. These data are not disaggregated by ethnicity.

MFMC Ferizaj has reported that the visits were carried out, where a total of 100 members of the Roma community and 86 members of the Ashkali community participated. While a total of 3833 visits were reported.

In total, MFMC Obiliq has reported that 475 visits have been conducted at this institution, while 83 citizens from the Roma community have benefited.

On the other hand, MFMC Peja has reported that a total of 760 visits have been conducted for the completion of this activity, however, in the home visit log, there was no ethnic division, according to the communities including the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities

Specific objective 2: Improving the quality of healthcare services, through raising awareness of public health staff for equal treatment and elimination of discrimination against Roma and Ashkali communities.

- **Encouraging Roma and Ashkali families to follow vaccination schedules regularly**

MFMC Gjilan, through the support of the Balkan Sunflower organization, has made door-to-door visits to vaccinate children of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. In this process, ten (10) children from these communities have been involved, as others vaccinate their children in the parallel Serbian healthcare system.

According to the NIPHK data, in 2023, through the door-to-door campaign, 1287 families of the Roma and Ashkali communities were included for the purpose of vaccination. From these families, 5,515 children from the Roma and Ashkali communities have been involved in this process.

According to the MFMC Obiliq, 118 Roma have been reported to have benefited from the vaccination campaign, while the MFMC Peja reported that this number for the year 2023 has reached 154 individuals, members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

- **Inclusion of a representative of the Roma and/or Ashkali communities in the Patient Council - in the respective municipalities**

According to the data reported for this activity, it results that the MFMC in Lipjan have established the Patients' Council and that within this council a member from the Roma and Ashkali communities participates. Similar situations have also arisen in the MFMC in Rahovec, and in the process of forming this Council, two other MFMCs are also involved, with the participation of members from the Roma and Ashkali communities.

- **Awareness lecture on health promotion and prevention of chronic and infectious diseases, nutrition, (15 municipalities annually)**

According to the results reported by MH, NIPHK held 20 lectures in fulfillment of this activity. The total number of participants was 218 (138 men and 80 women).

Meanwhile, it has been reported that lectures on fulfilling this activity have been held by the MFMCs of Gjilan, Fushe Kosova, Podujeva, and Ferizaj. Meanwhile, the MFMC Podujeva also held a roundtable discussion.

On the other hand, MFMC Ferizaj is reported to have held 4 lectures on the importance of vaccinating children, where 20 members from the Roma community and 60 from the Ashkali

community participated. Likewise, the MFMC Peja has also organized in cooperation with “Syri i Vizionit” and AQH where 4 lectures were held.

- **Awareness tables on the consequences of early marriages and births, family planning and STIs, menopause, uterine/cervical cancer (10 municipalities annually)**

Events like these and activities that coincide with the completion of this activity have been organized by the MFMC in Gjilan, where tables and lectures have taken place; MFMC in Fushe Kosova have conducted lectures, as highlighted above; MFMC in Mitrovica have conducted a total of 5 tables with 120 participants while NIPHK has stated that it has conducted 5 tables. The lectures and roundtables in fulfillment of this activity were held by the Ferizaj MFMC, where a total of 10 members of the Roma community and 30 members of the Ashkali community participated.

It was also reported that the lecture was also held by the MFMC in Obiliq, where 40 members of the Roma community participated, in total 3 lectures and tables.

- **Organization of coordination meetings between the Ministry of Health, donors and NGOs dealing with health activities. (2 annual meetings)**

Regarding the fulfillment of this activity, MFMC Fushe Kosova has held a total of 4 meetings of this nature. MH has also held regular meetings with NGOs and donors regarding the implementation of this activity.

- **Distribution of informational material on family planning and reproductive health (6000 leaflets, 1000 posters + translations, and 500 and 100 copies in the Romani language)**

In order to fulfill this activity, for specific objective 2, MH reported that the Health Education Commission at NIPHK has reviewed and approved the materials, while distribution has been done by donors and primary health care - data provided by NIPHK. Alongside this, MFMC Obiliq has reported that 400 pieces of informational material have been distributed.

- **Awareness-raising campaign on the importance of regular immunization (distribution of leaflets and organization of mobile teams)**

As mentioned above, during the year 2023, 5515 families from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities were visited door-to-door to identify unvaccinated children. According to the completion of this activity, MFMC Fushe Kosova reported that they have set up 3 tables and 40 people from the Roma and Ashkali communities have benefited. Meanwhile, MH has reported that the MFMC Obiliq held five (5) discussions, where 102 Roma participated.

- **Translation of awareness-raising promotional materials into the Romani language**

MH has not had any concrete data proving that the translation of promotional materials has been done, in raising awareness in the Romani language, in the field of health. As a result, this activity throughout the year 2023, does not turn out to have been fulfilled.

Specific objective 3: Improving the quality of healthcare services, through raising awareness of public health staff for equal treatment and elimination of discrimination against Roma and Ashkali communities.

- **Providing training for the healthcare professional staff to prevent discrimination in the provision of medical services, (20 municipalities) (trainer, transportation, materials, food)**

The Ministry of Health has held five (5) roundtable discussions with primary level health professionals (nurses) regarding the presentation of the Law on Protection from Discrimination and the right to health as a human right protected by International Conventions. The roundtables were held in Primary Care, since the patient's first contact with the doctor is at the primary health care level.

Furthermore, these tables have also been held at the level of MFMCs, such as: MFMC – Lipjan; MFMC – Rahovec; MFMC– Istog; MFMC–Fushe Kosova; MFMC–Obiliq. MH reports that the tables included 80 health professionals in vocational training: head nurses and nurses. In these tables, participants have requested that this presentation on this topic continues in all Communes so that a larger number is involved in these types of trainings as it is an important topic in their daily work.

Concerning the quantity of tables needed for this task, it is noted that MFMC Peja organized four (4) tables with 10 participants each, whereas MFMC Obiliq conducted 6 training sessions on this subject, benefiting 70 individuals.

- **Organizing initiatives to raise awareness of patients' rights and mechanisms responsible for complaints from Roma and Ashkali communities to health professionals and community members**

MH states that roundtable discussions have been conducted with the Roma and Ashkali communities, with the participation of citizens from these communities. The topics that have dominated these tables have been: presenting the law on protection against discrimination, the right to appeal, and the right to health as a human right protected by the Constitution and International Convention.

Regarding these tables and their holding, the Ministry of Health reports that they were held as such in three (3) municipalities, respectively in MFMC- Lipjan; MFMC – Podujeva; MFMC – Peja. The tables included 50 citizens of the Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities: leaders of NGOs of this community. Likewise, the MFMC in Peja, in cooperation with PRAK, AQH, and “Syri Vizionit”, have organized four (4) roundtables with a total of 47 participants, members of the Roma

and Ashkali communities. MFMC in Obiliq has reported that it has held one (1) training of this nature and 25 people have benefited, from the ranks of the Roma and Ashkali communities.

4.3.1 Recommendations for the implementation of the strategy in the field of health

1. Carry out an in-depth study on satisfaction in accessing healthcare services.
2. In the case of home visits, also citizens based on ethnicity should be recorded in the evidence of the MFMC.
3. Actions should be taken to ensure healthcare security for 95% of Roma community members, in accordance with the provisions of the Poznan Declaration.
4. The patients' council shall be established in all MFMC and members of the Roma and Ashkali communities should be included within it. Competent institutions are encouraged to report on this outcome, aiming to achieve specific objective 2.
5. Implement measures and enhance the provision of educational lectures, targeting the Roma and Ashkali communities, to raise health awareness and prevent chronic infectious diseases, reaching up to 15 municipalities annually.
6. Throughout all municipalities, MFMCs shall conduct more frequent awareness sessions on the consequences of early marriages and early pregnancies, family planning and STIs, menopause, cervical/uterine cancer, with the goal of reaching up to 10 municipalities annually.
7. Central and local institutions, in coordination with donors and civil society, should take concrete steps to translate awareness-raising materials into the Romani language, focusing on the field of health.
8. MH and other relevant institutions, in cooperation with donors, in order to support the Roma and Ashkali communities, shall hold more training for the professional health staff, to ensure non-discrimination and equal treatment of Roma and Ashkali communities, in order to achieve specific objective 3.

4.4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING

The field of housing is a specific issue of the implementation report of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Romani and Ashkali communities, 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan 2024-2026. For the implementation of activities in the housing sector and the fulfillment of the respective Strategy and Action Plan, strategic and specific objectives have been set.

The defined strategic objective in the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026 is:

1. Increasing equal access to sustainable housing, 109 essential services, and public infrastructure for Roma and Ashkali communities.

While for the fulfillment of the strategic objective, in the field of housing, within the framework of the strategy, the following specific objectives are also foreseen:

1. Ensuring sustainability and determining concrete steps to systematically improve housing conditions for the Roma and Ashkali communities.
2. Awareness and consciousness of Romani and Ashkali community members in solving housing issues.
3. Increasing the comfort and quality of life for Roma and Ashkali communities by enhancing existing infrastructure and accompanying infrastructure for better access to essential services.
4. Equal access and improvement of quality housing services for Roma and Ashkali communities, through raising awareness of responsible public staff for housing programs.
5. Formalization of informal settlements of Roma and Ashkali communities through the revision of the existing urban plans and concrete inclusion in the new urban plans as well as offering alternatives for the reorganization of existing settlements.
6. Equal access to essential services, including water, sanitation, waste collection services, and combating spatial segregation as a cause of environmental discrimination in the housing field.

Throughout 2023, concrete actions have been reported by the MESPI and municipalities consisting of fulfilling specific objectives, in line with the Strategy for Advancing the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, and of the Action Plan 2022-2024.

Specific objective 1: Ensuring sustainability and determining concrete steps to systematically improve housing conditions for the Roma and Ashkali communities.

Within the framework of this objective, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI), within its competences, has taken concrete steps to create a fair and sustainable social housing system for all citizens, including:

Signing the agreement with the CEB, which provides the necessary resources for the implementation of the project. The components of this project consist of certain sub-projects such as the improvement, conversion and construction of social housing, as well as the renovation of individual houses for poor families.

Within this objective, it is also important to encourage cooperation and participation of municipalities play a key role and for this purpose a grant has been provided by WBIF for Technical Assistance to support the implementation of the Adequate Social Housing Project

Regarding ensuring sustainability and specific determination to systematically improve the housing conditions for the Roma and Ashkali communities, the state of the three-year housing programs in the municipalities of Kosovo is also important. According to the statistics of the first six-month period of 2023, 17 municipalities have had a three-year housing plan; 7 municipalities have had this plan expired; 3 municipalities have been found to have the plan in draft and being prepared as well as 10 municipalities have not drafted this plan at all.

According to Law on Housing Financing Specific Programs, the municipalities are responsible for drafting programs for the three (3) year period equally for all communities in the municipality. For their implementation, according to the Law on Financing of special housing programs must be reported by March 31 of the following year. However, according to the MESPI data, very few municipalities report on the implementation of projects within the framework of the three-year housing programs.

Gjendja e programeve trevjeçare te banimit ne komunat e Kosoves 12.06.2023				
nr.	Me afat kohor	Te skaduar	Draft	Nuk e kane te hartuar
1	Deçan 2022-2025	Hani i Elezit	Viti	Dragash
2	Fushë Kosovë 2022-2024	Kamenicë	Novobërdë	Junik
3	Istog 2022-2026	Malishevë	Suharekë	Kllokot
4	Podujevë 2023-2025	Pejë		Leposaviq
5	Obiliq 2022-2025	Vushtrri		Mamush
6	Mitrovicë e Jugut 2022-2024	Prizren		Mitrovicë e Veriut
7	Klinë 2022-2025	Shtërpçë		Partesh
8	Rahovec 2022-2024			Prishtinë
9	Kaçanik 2022-2024			Zubin Potok
10	Gjakovë 2021-2023			Zveçan
11	Graçanica 2022-2025			
12	Skenderaj 2021- 2023			
13	Ferizaj			
14	Shtime			
15	Gjilan 2023-2025			
16	Lipjan 2023-2025			
17	Glllogoc 2023-2025			
		Gjendja e Programeve trevjeçare të banimit në Komunat e Kosovës		
		17 Programe trevjeçare te banimit me afat kohor		
		7 Programe trevjeçare te banimit te skaduar		
		3 Programe trevjeçare te banimit ne pritje (draft)		
		10 Programe trevjeçare te banimit komuna nuk kane te hartuar		

Specific objective 2: Awareness and consciousness of Romani and Ashkali community members in solving housing issues

Self-awareness and consciousness of members of the Roma and Ashkali communities in addressing housing issues is an important objective of the Strategy for the Advancement of Roma

and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026. MESPI, has reported that in relation to this specific objectives, among others:

Training sessions have been held for municipal officials on the functioning of the electronic platform, social housing database. This training is supported by RCC.

Furthermore, the drafting and approval of the Feasibility Study for Adequate Social Housing, in the Republic of Kosovo, has been done. The following recommendations emerged from the Feasibility Study:

- There is a clear lack of effectiveness and coordination by national/local authorities, which leaves beneficiaries uninformed of social housing opportunities and without adequate support.
- The current Social Housing buildings are in poor condition and are in urgent need of renovations. Regular monitoring and maintenance is almost non-existent, with unclear segregation of responsibilities, staff and allocated budgets.
- Three (3) year housing programs are not regularly prepared by municipalities and are not reported to the MESPI. Each municipality must appoint at least one officer who will deal with all social housing needs and applications.
- There is a need for a better local data management system to collect, maintain, and analyze applicant data for housing, and to better meet their requirements.
- More funding is needed in this sector, supported by clear development plans and programs. 95% of municipalities highlighted finances as the biggest obstacle to the functioning or development of the social housing sector.

Specific objective 3: Increasing the comfort and quality of life for Roma and Ashkali communities by enhancing existing infrastructure and accompanying infrastructure for better access to essential services

MESPI has reported that several actions have been taken that result in the improvement of comfort and quality of life for the Roma and Ashkali communities, in terms of improving the existing infrastructure.

While, CEB-Bank approved the request for a low-interest loan of 25.0 million Euros for co-funding the Adequate Social Housing Project. After many years of work, on January 25, 2024, this credit agreement was signed, aiming to improve the quality of life of the Roma and Ashkali communities. In 2024, the ratification of the international agreement is expected by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo.

As mentioned above, the Grant for Technical Assistance of 2.08 million Euros has been won from WBIF. Implementation of cooperation with Technical Assistance 11 (IPF 11) for the Adequate Social Housing Program. Furthermore, this project is expected to impact the improvement of the quality of life of the Roma and Ashkali communities.

In terms of achieving this objective, the reconstruction and renovation of houses in Northern Kosovo, for families whose homes were damaged during the 1998/99 period, and the implementation of reconstruction and renovation. Also, housing units for repatriated families constitute an achievement, in 2023, in terms of achieving the objectives of the housing sector, in line with the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, and of the Action Plan 2022-2024.

An important issue in this aspect is the drafting and approval of the Feasibility Study for Affordable Housing in Kosovo.

Specific objective 4: Equal access and improvement of quality housing services for Roma and Ashkali communities, through raising awareness of responsible public staff for housing programs

Equal access and improvement of quality housing services are very important through raising public staff awareness responsible for housing programs.

However, according to the MESPI reports, in terms of this objective, a neglect of municipalities has been noticed in reporting on the fulfillment of the three (3) year special housing programs.

This neglect of reporting cannot provide a full perspective for equal access to services in the field of housing, considering that a number of issues are municipal competences.

Throughout 2023, in addition to the highlighted achievements above, there has been no significant progress regarding the issue of the Roma and Ashkali community residing in informal settlements that could be legalized. This is also an important priority of the Poznan Declaration. Overall, in this respect, there have been slow steps that need to be taken into account continuously, by central institutions, respectively MESPI and municipalities of Kosovo.

4.4.1 Recommendations for the implementation of the strategy in the field of housing

1. MESPI shall undertake concrete actions within its powers to improve the housing conditions of the Roma and Ashkali communities.
2. The municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo shall draw up three (3) year housing programs, because in June 2023, it turned out that 20 municipalities did not have this plan at all.
3. The recommendations from the Feasibility Study for Adequate Social Housing in the Republic of Kosovo, reported by MESPI, are to be treated as a priority.

4. It is recommended that the MESPI as a central institution, but also the municipalities of Kosovo, prioritize the fulfillment of the obligations from the Poznan Declaration, in order to legalize the settlements of the Roma and Ashkali communities.
5. It is recommended to have a more sustainable coordination between the central and local level, aiming at implementing projects in the housing field.
6. To prepare the manual for adequate social housing, for the project of adequate social housing.
7. Establish the project management unit for adequate social housing as well as the implementation unit at the local level.

4.5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY IN COMBATING DISCRIMINATION

In order to implement the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Communities, the fight against discrimination is of particular importance for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

In order to fulfill the strategic and specific objectives, the competent institutions, especially the OGG/OPM, have taken significant actions, with the aim of combating discrimination.

Strategic objective, as defined in the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, and of the Action Plan 2022-2024 is:

1. The prevention and combating of discrimination, racism, hate speech, hate crimes, segregation, prejudices, stereotypes, and bullying.

While specific objectives, consisting of achieving strategic objectives, related to combating discrimination, for Roma and Ashkali communities are:

1. Systematic fight against discrimination and racism through the development and implementation of comprehensive policies at all stages and levels of policies, programs and projects;
2. Reducing the incidence of racism and discrimination and increasing the quality of life for the Roma and Ashkali communities in a systematic way through the development of the legislative proposal for equality, participation, inclusion and combating racism and discrimination;
3. Increasing accountability and punishment for perpetrators of discrimination and raising awareness among members of the Roma and Ashkali communities about the importance and ways of reporting cases of discrimination, racism, harassment, hate speech, and bullying;
4. Increasing the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities through raising awareness and consciousness among the public and officials about racism and anti-discrimination towards

Roma and Ashkali communities as well as promoting the history and cultures of Roma and Ashkali communities;

5. Supporting and advancing the work of the Technical Group for Protection from Discrimination of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities, established by the Government, to address complaints from members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities regarding discrimination against them, as well as to carry out activities to raise public awareness of the prevention of discrimination against members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

There is no doubt that one of the most successful projects, in combating discrimination aimed at protecting Roma and Ashkali communities, in terms of achieving strategic and specific objectives, has been the work of the Technical Group for Protection against Discrimination of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities as well as the National Platform for the Protection against Discrimination of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities. Moreover, the development and implementation of this strategy, in terms of combating discrimination, should be linked to the work of the technical group and the National Platform.

4.6. The Technical Working Group for Protection from Discrimination against the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities as a mechanism for combating discrimination, in terms of fulfilling the objectives of the strategy

The technical group for protection against discrimination for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities was established by the decision of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, as an institutional mechanism, to address cases and fight discrimination against these communities, on all the bases that the legislation enables applicable. Among other things, this group undertook to address all complaints to protect the members of these communities from discrimination. Moreover, in the Constitution and LPD, the technical group aims to implement the Declaration of Western Balkans Partners on Roma Integration, within the framework of the European Union enlargement process.

The Technical Working Group for Protection from Discrimination towards the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities is operating in accordance with the Prime Minister's Decision dated 11.09.2020 - No. 138/2020 on the Establishment of the Technical Working Group for Protection from Discrimination of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities.

The purpose of establishing the Technical Working Group is to implement the responsibilities arising under the Declaration of the Western Balkan Partners for the Integration of Roma in the course of the European Union enlargement process.

The main activity of the Technical Group is the Protection of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities from Discrimination. The composition of the technical group includes

representatives of the institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, such as representatives of the relevant ministries; two (2) representatives from the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination/Office of the Prime Minister; Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (KPC); Consultative Council for Communities (CCPC); Ombusperson Institution (OI); Director of VoRAE etc. Later, taking into account the needs, the composition of the technical group was changed and other partners, including TDhK, became part of it. The Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities, and Anti-Discrimination/The Office of the Prime Minister leads the technical group and heads the secretariat of this group.

In order to implement its mandate, the Technical Group and the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination/Office of the Prime Minister as the secretariat of this group, have established the National Platform for Protection from Discrimination for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities. This platform is serving as an alternative mechanism for combating discrimination for these communities and as a mechanism that implements the mandate of the Technical Group, according to the Prime Minister's decision to establish the latter.

Over the course of 2021, 2022, 2023, the Technical Group conducted 8 (eight) meetings to tackle issues concerning the protection of the Romani, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities from discrimination.

At the technical group meetings, in addition to members, other civil society organizations are also invited according to the decision on establishment, except for VoRAE, which is part of the decision. TDhK and other civil society organizations that defend the rights of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are part of the regular meetings of the Technical Group.

For the smooth functioning, as mentioned above, the work of the Technical Group is organized by the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination/Office of the Prime Minister, and this group, including platforms, is supported by a professional staff (experts and administrators) who are supported by the UNDP. The legal expert within the Technical Group, analyzes and follows the cases that are reported on the platform, as well as drafts the letters for addressing these cases to the competent institutions. The legal expert also drafts concrete recommendations for the Technical Group.

Of the cases handled by the professional team supporting the Technical Group and the Platform, 2 of them were reported to the Technical Group, and 5 of them to the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination/Office of Prime Minister, during 2019, while the Technical Group has not yet been established. Since the launch of the Platform, 34 new cases have been submitted directly to the platform. This shows that the Platform has had a significant effect on activating the Technical Group and completing the fulfillment of its mandate. After the launch of the platform, the cases reported in 2020 to the Technical Group and in 2019 to

the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination/Office of the Prime Minister have been registered and handled by the platform and this has increased the total number of cases on the platform to 41, until December 1, 2023.

The Technical Working Group also functioned properly during 2023, where two meetings were organized on 07.02.2023 and 11.07.2023. During the meetings, the work of the National Platform for Reporting Cases of Discrimination against the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities has been evaluated, as well as the reported cases on the Platform and the functioning of the Platform, enhancing the efficiency of the Platform for its users.

Reported cases on the National Platform for Protection from Discrimination for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities are being received and processed continuously by the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister, and for this purpose, they are contacting the individuals who have submitted the cases and the responsible institutions to review and evaluate citizens' complaints. For the smooth operation of the Platform and the selection of reported cases on the Platform, the Technical Group in its meetings has discussed and coordinated the process among the institutions responsible for handling the selection of cases, where the cases are addressed to the responsible institutions either through written correspondence or by contacting and meeting with the relevant officials.

4.6.1. National Platform for Reporting Cases of Discrimination against Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities as a mechanism of the technical group, aiming to combat discrimination in line with the implementation of the strategy and provisions of the Poznan Declaration

Reviewing citizens' complaints on the National Platform for Reporting Cases of Discrimination against the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities, for this purpose the complainants are continuously contacted on the Platform where they are assisted with advice and drafting letters until their submission to the responsible institutions for reviewing and evaluating citizens' complaints. The testing around this Platform started on May 1, 2022, while its official launch took place on June 22, 2022.

The cases reported on the platform since the beginning of its work have been handled according to a work methodology that follows the logic of the competent institutions according to LPD and institutions that are determined by special laws. All cases in institutions have been handled by the professional team of the platform and have been addressed by the technical group, led by the Office for Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Anti-Discrimination / Office of the Prime Minister.

Upon reporting, the platform, according to the rules set by the technical group, has analyzed the case and prepared an analytical report for each case, providing recommendations, including the institutions to which the case should be addressed. The professional team of the platform and the technical group initially addressed all cases to the institutions where the discrimination occurred,

in order to prevent them, as well as to other competent institutions for combating discrimination according to the LPD.

In the framework of inter-institutional cooperation, in some cases there has been a satisfactory efficiency in the handling of cases by some of the institutions. One such example can be mentioned the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), which professionally handled the cases addressed by the platform. Furthermore, in the case of discrimination against children in a school in the municipality of Prizren, the platform has received a prompt response, within 24 hours, from the Municipal Education Directorate, regarding the handling of the case and the prevention of discrimination.

Furthermore, in cases of discrimination that have occurred in the Municipality of Fushe Kosova, although the platform team has taken immediate actions, a delay has been noticed in receiving responses from the Municipality of Fushe Kosova, and the responses received have not been adequate and have not clarified the issues raised by the platform team.

Regarding the reported cases to the Ombudsperson, even though the requests for treatment have been accepted since April 2023, the platform team and technical group have not received responses regarding these cases even though the 6-month deadline for investigating the case has passed, as stipulated in the Ombudsperson`s working regulations.

Meanwhile, the procedure for handling cases by the Court is evident, although it is a legal obligation according to LPD, Article 16.9 to be treated with priority, such action has not been taken.

The Inspectorate of Education, in addressing the discrimination that occurred in the Municipality of Fushe Kosova, responded promptly, informing the platform for taking action regarding the case and issuing a report with recommendations concerning the reported case. According to the status of cases, in relation to their handling, besides cases closed and completed by the platform or finalized by a decision of the Institutions, there are also cases that are reported anonymously or are under treatment by institutions.

The following table reflects the state of interinstitutional cooperation in managing reported cases on the platform for 17 months of its operation, respectively until November 15, 2023.

Case handled according to the institution and procedural status of case processing in the period June 2022-November 2023

The institution handling the case	Number	The procedure/status of the case being handled
Ombudsperson	1	Handled ex officio report on 18.11.2023 ¹

¹A similar case has also been addressed by the Platform and the same has been presented to the Ombudsperson.

Ombudsperson	1	No report or recommendation
Ombudsperson and the Education Inspectorate	1	There is no decision from the inspectorate or the Ombudsperson.
Basic Court in Prishtina	1	There is still no first instance decision.
Basic Court in Prishtina	1	Indirect discrimination has been confirmed by a court ruling.
Education Inspectorate and Ombudsperson	1	It is being processed and there is no final decision yet.
Municipality of Fushe Kosova	1	Awaiting decision/response.
Municipality of Prizren/Directorate of Education	1	Case closed/prevention of discrimination.
Ministry of Internal Affairs/Civil Registration Agency	4	Closed/no discrimination.
Kosovo Police/Prishtina	2	In the investigation procedure.
State Prosecutor	1	In handling the criminal report.
University of Gjakova	1	Handled by the University.
Processing by the platform.	2	Collecting and analyzing information and facts.
Cases registered on the platform	21	The cases were only registered and did not result as discriminatory, due to the lack of information reported on the platform, according to the clarifications given in the report.
39 CASES		

4.7. Recommendations in the field of combating discrimination

1. The need for enhanced coordination between civil society and institutions to promote reporting of discrimination.
2. It is recommended to undertake campaigns for a more emphasized promotion of the Technical Group for the Rights of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, with the aim of fulfilling the commitments arising from the Poznan Declaration.
3. Advocacy actions should be taken to promote the broader implementation of the National Platform for the Protection against Discrimination of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.
4. It is recommended that competent institutions undertake more advocacy campaigns to raise awareness among Roma and Ashkali communities in reporting cases of discrimination.

5. Undertaking more concrete actions is also recommended to combat hate speech, for the Roma and Ashkali communities.

5. ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE / OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN COMMUNITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY OBJECTIVES-FEBRUARY-APRIL 2023

The approval of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities 2022-2026 and of its Action Plan 2022-2024 on 20.07.2022 by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo represents a continuity of policies for building a multi-ethnic society and creating a state of equal citizens, which will guarantee the rights of each citizen, civic freedoms, and equality of all citizens. This Strategy aims to fill the gap between the Roma and Ashkali communities, including but not limited to the following areas: education, employment and social welfare, health, housing and discrimination.

The first monitoring of the Strategy and Action Plan was done through the drafting of the Annual Report on the implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan for 2022, which was published in February 2023.

5.2. Sectorial meeting organization with contact points at the Ministry and civil society working with and supporting the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities

At the sectorial meeting organized with the institutions of Kosovo and civil society of the Romani, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities or working with these communities, the presentation of the Report for the year 2022 on the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Romani and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo 2022-2026 and the Action Plan 2022-2024 drafted by the Office for Good Governance/Office of the Prime Minister was made. The meeting also served to discuss the current situation of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the 5 sectors included in the Strategy and Action Plan. The meeting was organized by the Office for Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister in cooperation with the Voice of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians KOSINT project on 13.04.2023.

Present at the meeting were the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology and Innovation, the Ministry of Finance, Labour, and Transfers (Employment Agency), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, the Ministry of Local Government Administration, the Statistical Agency, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Gender Equality Agency, the Kosovo

Police, as well as civil society organizations working with and supporting the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

5.3. Inter-institutional team for encouraging and promoting employment for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo

The Inter-Institutional Team for the Promotion and Advancement of Employment for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities in the Republic of Kosovo, established by Government Decision No. 6/81 dated 01.06.2022, continued its operation in 2023 based on the Rules of Procedure of the inter-institutional team for the promotion and advancement of employment for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo and its Work Plan with the aim of promoting and advancing the employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities and achieving the employment quota of members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo, as defined in the Constitution, Law No. 06/L - 114 on Public Officials, and relevant legislation in force in the Republic of Kosovo.

It is also necessary to highlight that the establishment of this mechanism was also a requirement of the Declaration of the Western Balkans Partners for the integration of the Roma in the course of the European Union enlargement process (5 July 2019), known as the Poznan Declaration.

In the meetings of the Interinstitutional Team with the Correctional Service and 6 other institutions such as the police, forensic service, firefighters, emergency management, and customs that are part of the Public Safety Academy in Vushtrri have expressed great interest in increasing the number of employees and promoting the employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. As a result, the activities of the Kosovo Police and the Ministry of Defense can be presented.

Kosovo Police has carried out activities and initiatives to promote and employ the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in Kosovo, so in the 58th generation of the Kosovo Police, 9 individuals from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have been employed; Roma - 2 women, Ashkali - 3 men, Egyptian - 1 woman and 3 men.

Ministry of Defense organized an Open Day at their 7 barracks on November 27 (KSF Day). Open Day was open to all, but we will work to ensure participation from a wide range of communities aged 16 and above.

Superpuna platform has been launched by the Government of Kosovo to assist the private sector in creating new job opportunities for young people aged 18-25. The government subsidy will be at the level of 264 Euro/month, for 6 consecutive months, while the employer may add even more to this amount. The Work Team has contributed to promoting this platform as much as possible

to encourage young people aged 18-25 from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities to apply for vacant positions within the platform: <https://superpuna.rks-gov.net>

This government initiative will contribute to the employment of young people from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, especially in the private sector as mentioned above.

Other activities carried out by the Inter-Institutional Team for the promotion and advancement of employment for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo are as follows:

Conference "Encouragement and Promotion of Employment in Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities" at the local level; Employment is a fundamental issue for improving the socio-economic situation, affecting every aspect of life. Therefore **the encouragement and promotion of employment policies at the local level is key to achieving a proper implementation of these policies throughout Kosovo.** Consequently, the conference organized on May 24, 2023 aimed to present the policies undertaken by the Government of Kosovo for the employment of the Roma and Ashkali communities and to encourage and promote local employment by exchanging the best practices of municipalities for the employment of Roma and Ashkali communities. The conference has been organized in cooperation with the Good Governance Office/Office of the Prime Minister (OGG/OPM) in partnership with the ROMACTED II Program for Promoting Good Governance and Empowering Roma at the Local Level, a joint program between the European Union (DG NEAR) and the Council of Europe.

Conference- Drafting and presentation of Recommended Policies for the advancement and increase of employment of members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the education sector; At the conference, "Recommended Policies for the Advancement and Increase of Employment of Members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities in the Education Sector" were presented, along with the findings and recommendations for the employment of graduates from these communities in the education sector, and the conference brought together representatives from the Interinstitutional Team for the promotion and advancement of employment for Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Republic of Kosovo and supporting institutions at the central and local levels as well as representatives of civil society organizations.

The conference has been organized by the Office for Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister in cooperation with the KRAEEYN network (Kosovar Network for Early Childhood of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities), which operates within the framework of the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) and is supported by REYN (Roma, Early Years Network) and ISSA (International Step by Step Association) on March 1, 2023.

Workshop for the employment of graduates from the communities of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian in the education sector; The workshop for the employment of graduates from the communities of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian in the education sector is organized within the project KRAEEYN / Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in March 2023.

As a result of the workshop, the OGG/OPM met with representatives of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, where they discussed the opening of a column for the university education of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the HEIMS electronic data system, which could serve the extraction of statistics of students of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Organizing a conference on the Promotion and Support of Employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities at the Local Level; OGG/OPM in cooperation with the ROMACTED project of the Council of Europe organized the conference on the theme "Promotion and Support of Employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities," in May 2024. During the conference, the policies carried out by the Government of Kosovo for the employment of the Roma and Ashkali communities were presented, as well as the encouragement and promotion of employment at the local level by sharing the best practices of municipalities for the employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

5.4. Technical Working Group for the Coordination of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Kosovo institutions continue to pay special attention to ensuring equal rights for all its citizens without discrimination through the constitution and legal framework of Kosovo and through the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

Based on the request sent by the Council of Europe for final comments on the Opinion of the 5th cycle, the final comments were sent to UNMIK on 16.05.2023 after consulting all institutions of Kosovo.

The Government of Kosovo has evaluated the division of the draft Opinion of the 5th cycle of the Advisory Committee of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the inclusion of comments from Kosovo's institutions in the draft Opinion of the 5th cycle by the Advisory Committee, which are prepared with dedication and great importance by Kosovo's institutions. It is more important to note that for the first time the draft opinion has been shared with the government of Kosovo for comments by the Advisory Committee of the Council of Europe.

The Technical Working Group for the Coordination of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities met on 16.05.2023 in order to discuss the 5th final Opinion on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by the Council of Europe and the activities that are intended to be carried out for the implementation of these recommendations in 2023.

5.5. Establishment of mechanisms at the municipal level/Municipal Action Committees, aiming to implement the strategy and action plan

For the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo 2022-2026 and the Action Plan 2022-2024 at the municipal level, Municipal Action Committees have been established by municipalities through a letter addressed by the Office for Good Governance / Office of the Prime Minister via the Ministry of Local Government Administration on 16.01.2023. All municipalities with a larger population of Roma and Ashkali communities have responded to the letter by establishing Municipal Action Committees, a total of 20 municipalities.

Municipal Action Committees have been established in the municipalities; 1. Rahovec, 2. Prishtina, 3. Podujeva, 4. Novoberda, 5. Ferizaj, 6. Lipjan, 7. Kamenica, 8. Vushtrri, 9. Gjakova, 10. Istog, 11. Obiliq, 12. Prizren, 13. Deçan, 14. Klina, 15. Peja, 16. Fushe Kosova, 17. Gracanica, 18. Stime, 19. Suhareka, 20. Gjilan.

Municipal Action Committees have been established to achieve the goal of effective implementation, monitoring, and evaluation at the municipal level of the strategy, as the strategy envisages a series of measures to be implemented in all municipalities with a larger population of Roma and Ashkali communities.

The implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo 2022-2026 and the of Action Plan 2022-2024 is one of the key elements, such as adequate monitoring and reporting for implementation at the municipal level and vertical coordination between the Government and municipal level institutions.

As stated, this Strategy and Action Plan foresees a series of activities to be implemented at the municipal level directly by line ministries in close cooperation and coordination with municipal leadership.

Municipal Action Committees, as a mechanism for implementing the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, is responsible for drafting Local Action Plans to achieve the goal of implementing, monitoring the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan. Regarding the drafting of the local action plan, for the year 2023, the statistics are presented as follows:

There are 4 Municipalities with approved Local Action Plans:

1. Rahovec,
2. Prishtina,
3. Podujeva,
4. Novoberda.

Draft Local Action Plan that has not yet been approved includes 8 Municipalities:

1. Ferizaj,
2. Lipjan,
3. Kamenica,
4. Vushtrri,
5. Gjakova,
6. Istog,
7. Obiliq,
8. Prizren,
9. Gjilan

The municipalities that have not drafted it are a total of 10:

1. South Mitrovica,
2. North Mitrovica,
3. Leposaviq,
4. Deçan,
5. Klina,
6. Peja,
7. Fushe Kosova,
8. Gracanica,
9. Shtime,
10. Suhareka.

An important dimension for the implementation of Local Action Plans is their budgeting. Municipalities that have approved the Local Action Plan have allocated a budget for its implementation as follows:

- Novobërda 47,670.00 Euros
- Prishtina From 202,809.20 Euros 188,090.20 Euros from the municipality's budget
- Rahovec 81,620 Euros

Municipalities that have drafted the Local Action Plan and have not yet approved it have budgeted as follows:

- Vushtrri 43,634.40 Euros

- Gjakova 965,900.00 Euros
- Lipjan received 51,500 euros from the municipality budget, out of 34,300.

	Municipality	MAC	Established date	LAP Approval /Status	LAP Period	LAP Budget
1.	Ferizaj	Yes	30.01.23	The draft has not been approved	2023-2026	No
2.	Gjilan	Yes	22.02.23	The draft has not been approved	2023-2026	No
3.	Kamenica	Yes	24.02.23	The draft has not been approved	2024-2026	No
4.	Novoberda	Yes	23.02.23	Approved	2023-2026	€47,670
5.	South Mitrovica	No	N/A	No		No
6.	North Mitrovica	No	N/A	No		No
7.	Leposavic	No	N/A	No		No
8.	Podujeva	Yes	28.02.23	Approved	2023-2026	0
9.	Vushtrri	Yes	08.02.23	The draft has not been approved	2024-2026	The estimated budget is €43,634.40
10.	Deçan	Yes	16.02.23	No		No
11.	Gjakova	Yes	01.03.23	The draft has not been approved	2024-2026	The estimated budget is €965,900.00
12.	Istog	Yes	20.02.23	The draft has not been approved	2024-2027	No
13.	Klina	Yes	13.02.23	No		No
14.	Peja	Yes	25.01.23	No		No
15.	Fushe Kosova	Yes	27.09.23	No		No
16.	Gracanica	Yes	08.06.23	No		No
17.	Lipjan	Yes	16.02.23	The draft has not been approved	2024-2026	From €51,500, €34,300 from the municipal budget

18.	Obiliq	Yes	19.01.23	The draft has not been approved		N/A
19.	Prishtina	Yes	30.03.23	Approved	2023-2026	From €202,809,20, €188,059,20 from the municipal budget
20.	Shtime	Yes	20.02.23	No		No
21.	Prizren	Yes	08.02.23	The draft has not been approved		No
22.	Rahovec	Yes	23.01.23	Approved	2023-2025	€81,620
23.	Suhareka	Yes	26.01.23	No		No

Table: Municipal Action Committee (MAC) and drafting and approval of local Action Plans - February 2024

9.4.1. Raising the capacities of members of the Municipal Action Committee

With the support of the OSCE, OGG/OPM has conducted trainings in 5 regions of Kosovo. The training aimed at enhancing the capacities of local officials for monitoring the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities 2022-2026 and its Action Plan 2023-2026. During the training, the monitoring tables designed by OGG/OPM and the practices for using them were presented.

Altogether, 8 municipal events covering 21 municipalities with 160 participants (47 of whom are women) and (1) central level event gathering 14 participants (11 of them women). Data collection is a key segment for reporting, so training is also focused on data collection methods.

The training is dedicated to members of the Municipal Action Committees for coordinating the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Republic of Kosovo for the years 2022-2026 and its Action Plan for the years 2022-2024.

The trainings carried out are as follows:

- Gjilan Region (Kamenica, Gjilan, Novoberda) March 6, 2023.
- Mitrovica Region (Vushtrri, Podujeva, Mitrovica and Skenderaj) March 7, 2023.
- Ferizaj Region (Ferizaj, Shtime) March 10, 2023.
- Istog Region (Istog, Klina) March 14, 2023.
- Peja Region (Peja, Deçan, Gjakova) March 15, 2023.
- Prishtina Region (Obiliq, Lipjan) May 2, 2023.
- Prishtina Region (Gracanica, Prishtina, Fushe Kosova) May 8, 2023.

- Central level training May 12, 2023.

10. OPENING OF THE ROMANI LANGUAGE MINI LIBRARY

Mr. Albin Kurti, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, inaugurated the opening of the Romani language mini-library at OGG/OPM premises, accompanied by deputies from the Roma community, Deputy Minister Emilia Rexhepi, Minister Arbërie Nagavci, and high-ranking officials and representatives of civil society from the Roma communities. The opening of the Romani Language Library took place on 05.04.2023 with the aim of marking Roma Day, as a sign of promotion and respect for the Roma tradition and culture, which have special importance and value in Kosovar society. The mini-library will become a symbol for the young people of the Roma communities, for lighting their way to a better future.

Furthermore, this activity marks an important step in achieving the spirit and specific strategic objectives of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026 and the Action Plan 2022-2024.

11. WESTERN BALKAN SUMMIT AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The Western Balkans Summit against Racial Discrimination was held on November 1-2, 2023. The opening ceremony was held on November 1, 2023 marking the beginning of this important event. The opening was made by the President of Kosovo Mrs. Vjosa Osmani and the Prime Minister of Kosovo Mr. Albin Kurti. Following this, the following sessions took place on November 2, 2023, with the speech of Prime Minister Albin Kurti marking the beginning of the second day of the Western Balkans Summit against Racial Discrimination. Prime Minister Kurti has expressed the commitment of the Government of Kosovo to continue the fight against racial discrimination.

Under the slogan "United in Diversity," the objectives of the Summit include:

- Raising awareness about the negative effects of racial discrimination and its impact on society.
- Identifying and addressing the root causes of racial discrimination.
- Discussing effective strategies to combat racial discrimination.
- Providing a platform for sharing best practices and experiences.
- Establishing a platform for discussion and teamwork among participants.
- Strengthening networks of individuals and organizations dedicated to preventing and addressing racial discrimination.

The summit was organized under the leadership of the Office of the Prime Minister - Republic of Kosovo with the support of Terre des Hommes Mission in Kosovo, Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians and HEKS Foundation, within the project - Social Justice for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Hosting this summit has marked a significant step towards fulfilling the Strategy for the Advancement the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Communities, 2022-2026, and of the Action Plan 2022-2024.

12. OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF THE ROMA AND ASHKALI COMMUNITIES, 2022-2026 AND OF THE ACTION PLAN 2022-2024, WHICH ARE DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY RELATED TO THE AREAS AND OBJECTIVES OF STRATEGY

In addition to the activities outlined in the above section, according to the fields of the Strategy and Action Plan, central and local institutions have also undertaken other activities that directly affect the implementation areas and objectives of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Communities 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan 2022-2024.

Thus, CRA in cooperation with various actors to facilitate the registration of civil status for the persons in question, during 2023, has taken the following steps: In 2023, supplementations and amendments were made in the legislative field, resulting in the drafting of the Law on Civil Status. Now the Draft Law on Civil Status has been approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and is expected to be in the legislative plan in 2024. While, key concerns raised by CSD and CRA regarding the Roma and Ashkali communities include: home deliveries; lack of parental registration in the civil registry; intergenerational lack of parental registration; limited parental communication/cooperation, particularly from mothers, parental desertion, especially by mothers; births outside Kosovo and their failure to be recorded in the civil registry by the state/country of birth; return through the readmission process for individuals over 18 whose parents are unregistered in the civil registry.

Academy of Justice in the Training Program for 2023, within the framework of Training for the Protection of Human Rights. Three (3) of the trainings have focused on combating discrimination and racism, which include the following topics: 1. ECHR as well as the national legal framework in cases of discrimination and the relationship with other laws focusing on the Labor Law and the Law, on Contested Procedure 2. Material and procedural aspects of the Law on Protection from Discrimination and challenges in its implementation, 3. Hate crimes. The beneficiaries of these trainings have been: judges, prosecutors, professional collaborators, and legal officers from courts and prosecutor's offices.

During the year 2023, KIPA organized the training course "Community Rights in Kosovo". In these activities, 24 participants have been trained, 10 from the central level and 14 from the local level, from the ranks of the Roma and Ashkali communities. Training has been organized for 4 days.

MCYS has distributed grants and supported NGOs from the Roma and Ashkali communities. Based on the final data according to the final results of public calls in 2023: Art and Culture (first competition); Art and Culture (second competition); Cultural mobility; Publishing book-purchase-magazine-author; announced by DC/MCYS for the year 2023, for the financial support of cultural project proposals, a total of 18 (eighteen) projects have been financially supported from the field of art and culture (cultural heritage) for NGOs and Individuals. The amount for subsidizing projects for the year 2023 (NGOs and Individuals) is: 101,700.00 € (one hundred and one thousand seven hundred euros). Eighteen (18) non-governmental organizations, from among the Roma and Ashkali communities, have benefited from these grants and project funding.

In the course of 2023, the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) has also carried out several activities that signify the implementation of the strategy and contribute to assessing the progress of the rights of the Roma and Ashkali communities. Thus, in cooperation with the Office of the Prime Minister, within the framework of the '**Open Day**' event, we have organized the visit of hundreds of visitors from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities to the barracks of the Kosovo Security Force in Pristina, Ferizaj, Istog, and Gjilan.

Furthermore, following the flooding situation in January 2023, the KSF teams along with the Minister have visited the families affected from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, and at the same time they have been supported with food packages, hygiene products, and shelter tents.

As part of the awareness campaign for students on explosive hazardous materials, professional demining teams in the KSF have conducted lectures in schools with the largest number of students from communities in Ferizaj, Fushe Kosova, Prizren, Mamusha, and Dragash, the majority of these students being from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

Similarly, in 2023, the KSF recruited 11 young soldiers from their communities, including 4 Ashkali, 1 Roma, and 1 Egyptian. This component proves the presence of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in public institutions. Following this, at the request of the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, the Ministry of Defense has identified 10 free positions for public officials in the Ministry of Defense with the aim of achieving 10% representation of non-majority communities according to Law No. 08/L-197 on Public Officials (LPO).

It should be emphasized that currently the communities in the KSF are represented by 182 soldiers or expressed as a percentage 4.3%. Out of all community members, 40 are from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, respectively 27 Ashkali, 10 Egyptian, and 3 Roma.

About 500 young people, mainly from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, participated in the celebration of the KSF day. This Activity has been carried out in support of the Office for Community Affairs.

During the year 2023, the Kosovo Academy for Public Security (KAPS) in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, has organized the Information Day for communities "with about 100 participants and the purpose of this activity was to recognize and facilitate the recruitment policies of communities in Public Security Agencies such as Kosovo Police, Kosovo Police Inspectorate, Emergency Management Agency, Kosovo Customs, Kosovo Correctional Service and Kosovo Probation Service.

Based on the Action Plan for the Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovar Society - 2022-2026, the situation is reported as satisfactory, with KAPS being assigned responsibility. Only in specific training sessions for the year 2023, a total of 52 officials have benefited, in topics related to law enforcement.

The Office for Community Affairs publishes a bi-weekly bulletin for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. This bulletin is sent to 900 organizations and community activists, in Albanian, Serbian, and Romani languages.

Three (3) students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have benefited from government funding for International Business College Mitrovica.

In the municipality of Fushe Kosove, within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, two meetings were organized with the communities: Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, one meeting was held with women and one meeting with young people, informative materials were distributed: brochures, pens, bags, calendars, stickers, leaflets with the motto: TODAY AND EVERY DAY, activities are carried out in cooperation with the Local Anti-Violence Mechanism. Based on the Law on Protection from Discrimination, Article 25, the municipality has launched the Platform for Human Rights on the municipality's website. In order to promote the Law on Protection from Discrimination, we have held informative meetings with the citizens, distributed 13 ROLL UP banners in Neighborhood 029, and organized two informative meetings.

An important issue, in terms of the Strategy and Action Plan, is also the reintegration of Roma and Ashkali communities, which are presented in the table below.

NDIHMJA DHE MBËSHËTETJA NË SKEMAT PËR RIINTEGRIM SIPAS PËRKATËSISË ETNIKE (PËR KOMUNITETET ROMË, ASHKALI DHE EGJIPTIAN) PËR VITIN 2023

Sqarim: Një vendim i aprovuar nga organet vendimmarrës i një personi apo familje të rripranuar (riatdhesuar) mund të jetë përfutës i dy e më shumë skemave për Riintegrim.

Nr	Shërbimet e ofruara nga Buxheti i Riintegrit, Institucionet Vendore dhe Organizatat Ndërkombëtare që mbështesin procesin e riintegrit		Përkatësia Etnike					
			Romë	Kosto mesatare e shpenzimeve	Ashkali	Kosto mesatare e shpenzimeve	Egjiptian	Kosto mesatare e shpenzimeve
1	Transport deri në komunën e origjinës	persona	9	489 €	25	1,359 €	/	/ €
2	Akomodimi i përkohshëm (7 ditor) në Qendrën e Akomodimit dhe ushqim i përgatitur (servuar)	persona	2	150 €	9	675 €	/	/ €
3	Pako ushqimore dhe higjienike dhe materiale (me një e më shumë furnizime)	persona	25	2,120 €	38	3,222 €	10	848 €
4	Akomodim me qera deri në 12 muaj (6 deri 12 muaj shfrytëzimi)	persona	52	45 188 €	60	52 140 €	20	17 380 €
5	Pakoja e ndihmës për dimër (dru për ngrohje)	familje	4	900 €	1	225 €	/	/ €
6	Vetëpunësim (financimi i biznesit)	persona	/	/	/	/	/	/
7	Trajnim në Punë	persona	/	/	/	/	/	/

Sqarim: Kemi të dhëna statistikore të pranuar nga institucionet vendore dhe organizatat ndërkombëtare që janë pranuar pa specifika përcjellëse si përkatësia etnike, andaj numri i personave të riatdhesuar nga këto komunitete mund të jetë më i madh. Shërbimet e ofruara në tabelë janë të paraqitura si kosto mesatare e shpenzimeve për person, të riatdhesuarit i pranojnë këto shërbime me specifika të ndryshme, varësisht nga rasti.

13. CONCLUSION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN, IN LIGHT OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE POZNAN DECLARATION

Overall, from the reported data on the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali Community 2022-2026 and of the Action Plan 2022-2024, it is observed that there has been progress and attention towards advancing the rights of these communities in Kosovo, based on the provisions of the Poznan Declaration, aiming at the integration of Roma.

There is no doubt that the conclusions, regarding the fulfillment of the objectives of the Strategy and the activities of the Action Plan, should be viewed, in terms of their measurement, with the provisions of the Poznan Declaration.

Concerning the rise in the employment rate of the Roma and Ashkali communities in the public sector, as outlined in the Poznan Declaration, it is important to highlight that in 2023, there has been a notable progress following the adoption of the Law on Public Officials and the Regulation on Public Officials' Employment, which establishes employment quotas for communities in the Republic of Kosovo and guaranteed positions in the public sector.

Regarding housing, based on the provisions of the Poznan Declaration, the Government of Kosovo, respectively the MFLT, have signed an international agreement, which is expected to be ratified in 2024, aimed at ensuring the housing of Roma and Ashkali communities, and in this context, this international agreement, reported by MESPI, is expected to significantly fulfill the provisions of the Poznan Declaration.

On the topic of education, Kosovo's institutions, particularly MESTI and local bodies, have made significant efforts to integrate Roma and Ashkali individuals, aiming to secure the educational process, alternative learning, or minimize school dropouts. Nevertheless, it is crucial to persist with rigorous work in the years ahead to decrease school abandonment rates and boost enrollment to 90% in primary education and 50% in secondary education.

The Ministry of Health and other subordinate institutions have continued to strongly support the implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Rights of the Roma and Ashkali communities, even in 2023. However, work remains to be done in drafting specific laws, aiming to cover health insurance.

In the field of anti-discrimination, significant steps have been taken in 2023. Addressing the cases by the Technical Group and the National Platform for the Protection from Discrimination of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, has effectively ensured protection against discrimination of these communities at a high level, as determined by the Poznan Declaration. In 2023, for the first time, within the reported cases in the Technical Group, protection against

discrimination of members of the Romani, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities has been achieved by a court ruling. While, National Platform, during 2023, has successfully addressed over ten (10) cases related to non-discrimination.