



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005 - 2015

PROGRESS REPORT 2010

GOVERNMENT OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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1. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND EVALUATION OF ROMA INTEGRATION POLICY

Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 -2015 on 4th September 2008. In 2009 was the first year of implementation of the Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Roma Issues in the fields of employment, housing and health care, adopted in July 2008.

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the responsible authority to deal with Roma and other minority issues, decided to plan in the state budget 1.500.000 EUR each year. The same amount was planned in 2009 and 2010.

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted decision on allocation of funds for Roma issues in 2010, in the following way:

1. For Roma housing.....1.000.000 EUR
2. For Roma employment..... 350.000 EUR
3. For Roma health care..... 100.000 EUR
4. For data base for registration of Roma needs 50,000 EUR

2. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF HOUSING

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina planned in the state budget for 2010 the same amount for Roma housing (1.000.000 EUR), as it was planned in 2009.

As per the decision of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1.000.000 EUR was allocated for Roma housing, as it follows:

- 1) For Roma housing in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cca 626.600 EUR;
- 2) For Roma housing in Republic Srpska, cca. 313.400 EUR;
- 3) For Roma housing in Brčko district, cca. 60.000 EUR.

The Federation Ministry for Spatial Planning joined their means in the amount of 150.000 EUR. The projects are based on co-financing, including funds on the state level, local level and funds of local and international organizations as implementers of the projects.

In order to receive more Roma housing projects, that will meet all criteria, the Ministry organized regional workshops and trained local authorities and NGOs how to prepare the projects. Priority was given to construction of Roma houses, reconstruction and improvement of living conditions and infrastructure. The state Roma housing projects are intended for the most vulnerable Roma families.

The Public Call for Roma housing projects for 2010 was announced in June 2010 and lasted for a month. The Commission on selection of the projects received 41 project proposals and 34 met all requested criteria. It was possible to provide the budget funds for 13 Roma housing projects in 2010, and their realization has been ongoing and will be continued in 2011.

Based on approved Roma housing projects in 2009, realization of the projects was continued in 2010 and total results of the Roma housing projects of 2009 were:

- 212 Roma housing units constructed or reconstructed,
- 85 Roma families were beneficiaries of infrastructure projects.

Roma representatives participated in selection process and independent monitoring, as well as members of commissions for selection of Roma beneficiaries on local level. Cooperation with Roma representatives on local level, i.e. in Roma settlements was very satisfactory and many Roma helped in construction and reconstruction in order to speed up the implementation of the projects. The Ministry has been constantly monitoring implementation of Roma housing projects and participated commissions of selection of Roma beneficiaries, as observers. Roma representatives are independent monitors.

In this way Bosnia and Herzegovina established a system for Roma housing projects each year. The Public Call will be announced in June 2011 again and it will be repeated each year.

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina is still looking for finding better solution for Roma homeless people.

3. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina allocated 350.000 EUR for Roma employment, as it follows:

- 1) For Roma employment in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cca 220.000 EUR;
- 2) For Roma employment in Republic Srpska, cca.110.000 EUR;
- 3) For Roma employment in Brčko district, cca. 20.000 EUR.

The Ministry signed Memorandum of understandings with institutions for employment in the Federation of BiH, Republic Srpska and Brčko district. Realization was done as per signed memorandums. The means were used mainly for self-employment and for covering costs of Roma employment with companies that showed an interest.

4. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF HEALTH

As per the decision of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, 100.000 EUR was allocated for Roma health care, as it follows:

- 1) For Roma health care in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cca 62.600 EUR;
- 2) For Roma health care in Republic Srpska, cca. 31.400 EUR;
- 3) For Roma health care in Brčko district, cca. 6.000 EUR.

The Ministry signed Memorandum of understandings with institutions for health care in the Federation of BiH, Republic Srpska and Brčko district. Realization was done as per signed memorandums. Final report will be delivered to the Ministry in 2011. 119 Roma representatives were employed from the funds in 2009, while results of Roma employment in 2010 will be reported in June 2011.

5. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION

In 2009, the Ministry started revision of the Action Plan on Roma Education, because Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Action Plan in 2004. Activities on revision of the Action Plan on Roma education were continued in 2010. There were organized public sessions and some suggestions and amendments were included. The revised Action Plan on Roma Education was adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina in July 2010.

Based on conclusions made by the Council of Ministers the Minister of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH has appointed a team of experts for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan. The team of experts was consisted of all local competent authorities and the state level ministries, including two Roma representatives. The Action Plan was published and printed in 2010, but realization will be continued in 2011.

Registration of Roma needs

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina started registration process of Roma and their needs in November 2009 and it was finished in February 2010. The registration was done in order to plan better further activities regarding implementation of the Action Plans. According to the last census in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1991, only about 8.000 Roma declared themselves as Roma. All information from the field stated that there were more Roma and that was the reason the Ministry for human Rights and Refugees prepared program of registration and organized trainings for Roma representatives and Social Welfare Centers. 10 operation teams were formed in the field and each team was consisted of Roma

representatives on local level and representatives of Social Welfare Centers, who did the registration in each Roma settlement. Representatives of the social welfare centers filled in the forms for registration and Roma representatives assisted them. In this way, 237 persons were engaged.

The Ministry formed the Central team for the registration and it was consisted of experts who monitored the registration process and visited 10 operation teams in the field on regular basis.

Additionally, 11 Roma independent monitors were engaged and were supported by SIDA agency. The registration process was finished in February 2010 and each team leader made a report and delivered the questionnaires to the Central team. A copy stayed with the Social welfare centers and the registration process continued to be opened for each Roma returnee family or other Roma who missed the chance to be registered. In 2010, the registration data were included in the central data base. The Ministry signed an agreement with 33 Social welfare centers and they were delivered technical equipment (computers). Special attention was paid to data protection, according to the Law on data protection. Registration of Roma needs was useful for better planning of activities and funds.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARD IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL

- A great success was made in all Roma issues in the last two years, since BiH joined the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015.
- The authorities started to plan budget means on all levels, especially the state level ministry, each year.
- Taking into consideration that the Action Plans were developed on provisional statistic data on Roma and their needs and that the Ministry did the registration process last year, it was decided to start with revision process of the Action Plans. The revision will start in September 2011.
- The revision will help to include more indicators and evaluation in order to measure progress.
- More Roma on local level were included in the process of implementation of the Action Plans and it contributed to better raising awareness among Roma in the field.