



ACTION PLAN OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR ADDRESSING ROMA ISSUES IN THE FIELDS OF EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE 2017 - 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

The Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for addressing the issues of Roma in BiH¹ (hereinafter called ‘Strategy’) was adopted in 2005, in the context of the obligations of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 - 2015 and the European Union Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020. The validity of the previous Revised Action Plan 2013 - 2016², which followed the initial Action Plan³, had lapsed, and thus there was a need to develop a new Action Plan. The Action Plan 2017 - 2020 covers the areas of employment, housing and health care. It specifies activities and tasks that Bosnia and Herzegovina are going to implement, in accordance with the actual needs and available financial and other capacities. Education is addressed by a Special Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the educational needs of Roma, revised and adopted in 2010 by the Council of Ministers of BiH (hereinafter called ‘CoMBH’), and proposed by the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH (MHRR).

The legal framework and provisions for the protection of the rights of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina consist of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina⁴, the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities of the Federation of BiH, the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities of Republika Srpska, the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities of Brcko District of BiH and the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination in BiH. The procedure for the adoption of a strategic platform

¹ Available at: http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/ljudska_prava/Odbor_za_Rome/Strategija%20BIH%20za%20rjesavanje%20PROBLEMA%20Roma.pdf

² Available at: http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/ljudska_prava/Odbor_za_Rome/Revidirani%20Akcioni%20plan%20Bosne%20i%20Hercegovine%20o%20obrazovnim%20potrebama%20Roma.pdf

³ Available at:

http://www.mhrr.gov.ba/ljudska_prava/Odbor_za_Rome/Akcioni%20plan%20za%20rje%C5%A1avanje%20problema%20Roma%20u%20oblastima%20zapo%C5%A1javanja,%20stambenog%20zbrinjavanja%20i%20zdravstvene%20za%C5%A1tite.pdf

⁴ Available at: http://www.mpr.gov.ba/biblioteka/USTAV_BOSNE_I_HERCEGOVINE_bos.pdf

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for addressing the issues of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina is in progress at present. Of importance are also other laws in the areas of employment, housing, health care and social protection, which are, depending on the constitutional jurisdiction, adopted at the level of the entities Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in the cantons and Brcko District of BiH.

In 2002, Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities⁵, with which it has committed itself to work on the fulfilment of the principles set out in the Convention by means of an active policy, laws and regulations and other acts. Shortly thereafter, in 2003, the Law on the Protection of Rights of Members of National Minorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina⁶ was adopted. Thus, the status of the Roma as a minority was recognised, along with the other minorities, which guarantees the protection of the rights which are especially important for minorities, particularly in the fields of history, culture, customs, tradition, language, alphabet, education, religious freedom and others.

The Law on Prohibition of Discrimination of Bosnia and Herzegovina⁷, adopted in 2009 and amended in 2016, establishes a system for combating discrimination in accordance with European standards. The law prohibits discrimination on all grounds and in all areas, everywhere. The active policy for solving the problems of the Roma minority started in 2002 when the Council of Ministers of BiH appointed an advisory and coordinating body, namely, the Roma Committee.

In 2005, in accordance with the proposal by the MHRH to the Council of Ministers of BiH, the CoMBH adopted the *Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Addressing Roma Issues* (hereinafter called 'Strategy'). The strategy establishes neither a time frame for implementation nor monitoring and implementation indicators, and therefore it is applicable in the long term and contains the basic principles for gradual improvement of the situation of the Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the details of implementation are regulated by action plans.

In 2005, a joint document of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 - 2015 (hereinafter called 'the Roma Decade') was approved by several EU member states and countries with pre-accession status, and Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted and signed it in mid 2008. In this way, Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthened its cooperation with international organisations, such as the Council of Europe, OSCE, UNHCR, UNICEF, and others, for improving the situation of Roma. With regard to the Roma Decade, Bosnia and Herzegovina was assessed as successful in the fields of provision of Roma housing and registering of Roma needs. Bosnia and Herzegovina chaired the Roma Decade in its last year, starting from June 2014 until the end of 2015. The process of the Roma Decade is continued and complemented by the project Roma Integration 2020, funded by the European Union and the Open Society Foundation, which follows the European Union Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (EU Framework), and is implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council, in which Bosnia and Herzegovina is also participating.

The practice of harmonising the existing laws and policies of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the laws and policies of the European Union in the areas of prohibition of discrimination⁸, the fundamental rights of freedom of movement of people and the rights of the child,⁹ as well as in the

⁵ Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016800c12ff>

⁶ Available at: <http://bhric.ba/dokumenti/BHS%20%20Zakon%20o%20manjinama.pdf>

⁷ Available at: <https://advokat-prnjavorac.com/zakoni/Zakon-o-zabrani-diskriminacije-u-BiH.pdf>

⁸ Information on the EU legal framework in relation to non-discrimination is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/law/index_en.htm

area of social policy, in accordance with the values set out in the revised European Social Charter¹⁰ and other European legal sources, also represents a part of the legal framework for this action plan.

Indicators on Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The basic indicators essential for the planning of Roma needs are based on the process of recording these needs in 2010, during which the MHRR¹¹, in cooperation with social service centres and Roma associations, have recorded 17,500 Roma. This process was based on recording the needs of Roma families and cannot be interpreted as a complete indicator of the number of Roma living in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Taking into consideration the fact that the census does not provide information on how many persons declared themselves as belonging to the Roma national minority, the assessment provided by the municipalities and Roma associations has been relied upon, and thus the assumption is that the number of Roma living in Bosnia and Herzegovina is as much as double the estimate (between 35,000 and 45,000).

According to data from 2014 provided by the OSCE mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the total number of Roma living in the country is 35,644 and comprising 7,225 families. The number of families without adequate housing is 2,837, out of which 736 families are homeless.¹²

In order to collect comprehensive and usable data about Roma, and as it is necessary to determine the realistic needs of Roma for the following four-year period (2017-2020), the MHRR sent out data requests to 71 local communities in which representatives of the Roma community live in greater or lesser numbers. Based on questionnaires filled out by 31 local communities, the MHRR has obtained data that currently around 4,650 Roma families live in these communities, and that 729 require provision of adequate housing.

As regards the area of health care coverage of Roma, data has been obtained from 23 local communities in the Federation of BiH, according to which 867 Roma do not have any health insurance, while 416 Roma belonging to the categories of children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities are also not covered by health insurance. In Republika Srpska, all persons are covered by health insurance, with the exception of persons older than 65 who are not covered by health insurance on another basis.

⁹ COM (2011) 60, EU Agenda for the rights of the child, available at: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/children/docs/com_2011_60_en.pdf

¹⁰ Available at: <http://www.refworld.org/pdfid/3ae6b3678.pdf>

¹¹ From November 2009 to March 2010, the MHRR conducted a comprehensive research of the Roma needs and established a continuous system of recording of Roma needs (ERPBIH)

¹² Special report on the position of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014

In the area of employment, the employment institutes of the entities and Brcko District of BiH have reported that currently they have 3,141 persons recorded who have declared themselves as Roma while registering.

These records and other surveys¹³ indicate that the Roma are the most vulnerable national minority by all social parameters. It is also important to note that Roma live almost everywhere throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, in 71 units of local self-government, out of which the number of Roma is significant in 30 of them.

Position of Roma in the Communities

The results of the recording (2010) and of the survey conducted by the MHRR supported by the Agency for Statistics of BiH and UNICEF (MICS 4) on multiple indicators on the situation of Roma children and women (2012), show that the Roma population and individuals, the family as a whole, and even settlements, are subject to social exclusion to a much higher degree than the other population, and most Roma families are on the fringes of society.¹⁴ The high degree of social exclusion prevents most Roma families from participating in the economic, social and cultural spheres. This situation results in poverty and absence of basic possibilities for education and employment. Furthermore, this reduces their possibilities to earn income and participate in social networks or other activities in the community.

The situation of the Roma community has significantly improved in the recent years due to the implementation of the Strategy and the supporting action plans. Roma are involved in this process through Roma non-governmental organisations and Roma communities, and they operate institutionally through the activities of the Roma Committee belonging to the Council of Ministers of BiH and through their representatives in the councils of national minorities at different government levels.

In the period covered by the Action Plan and the Revised Action Plan (2009 - 2016, with the exception of 2011, when no budget at state level was adopted), the Council of Ministers of BiH allocated funds in the total amount of **BAM 19,522,000.00** to be implemented for solving Roma issues in the areas of employment, housing and health care. The implementation of the allocated funds has given rise to the results as specified below.

As part of the implementation of the funds allocated for employment and self-employment (BAM 4,777,000.00), **688 Roma** went through programmes for co-financing employment and self-employment. The employment and self-employment procedure was implemented through

¹³ Surveys conducted by OSCE-a, Save the Children Norway, UNICEF, UNHCR

¹⁴ Bosnia and Herzegovina – Roma Survey – Monitoring the situation of children and women –Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2011-2012 (MICS 4), UNICEF

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entity-level employment institutes and the Employment Institute of Brcko District of BiH. All Roma who went through this type of co-financing had been registered with the employment institutes, where they had to be duly registered declaring themselves as Roma. After the one-year period of co-financing expired, over 95% of the Roma were dismissed and registered with the employment institutes again. Only a small number stayed permanently employed, which depended on the employer's will or on the sustainability of the self-employment project. Analyses conducted so far show that the area of employment is extremely important, and it is set as a priority in this action plan. In accordance with the recorded needs, as well as with the funds available, co-financing of **628 Roma** is planned through this programme in the period from 2017 to 2020.

In the last eight years, a total of BAM 13,023,000.00 was allocated to housing, from which **782 buildings** for Roma families were constructed or reconstructed, which means that around **3,900 Roma** or approximately **13%** of the total Roma population were provided with housing. Roma housing was taken care of through local communities and international and domestic Roma non-governmental organisations. In order to provide for a more efficient and transparent spending of these grant funds, the MHRR has been partnering only with local communities in the last two years. In the past period, the Roma housing project has also included IPA funds (EUR 5,000,000), as well as a smaller amount of funds from NGOs and local communities, which is mostly reflected in administrative support, communal infrastructure and allocation of construction sites.

Up to now BAM 1,722,000 has been spent on health care for the Roma population. According to data from competent institutions and Roma NGOs, 934 Roma are registered in the health care system in the Federation of BiH. Educational and preventive health care programmes, awareness raising programmes on the significance of health care, education programmes for parents on the significance of immunisation and immunisation of Roma children, as well as education programmes on reproductive health and motherhood, were conducted. Also, preventive programmes, such as screening for specific diseases (cervical cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer, prostate cancer) were conducted.

Despite the fact that the past eight years have yielded significant results with reference to the improvement of the living conditions for Roma, we can conclude that the representatives of this population group in BiH continue to be in difficult economic and social situations, having low income, being mostly unemployed and without housing. Thus, in the future period covered by this Action Plan, there is a need to continue constantly allocating funds in order to improve living conditions and solve the basic problems the Roma are facing in all three categories covered by this Action Plan – employment, housing and health care.

Action Measures for the Period 2017 - 2020

The Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Addressing Roma Issues in the Fields of Employment, Housing and Health Care 2017 - 2020 (hereinafter called 'AP') was developed based on the actual situation of the Roma minority in all three areas covered by the AP, the above stated legal framework, as well as on the results of the implementation of the Revised Action Plan for the period 2013 - 2016 (report for 2013, 2014 and 2015).

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The recommendations issued to Bosnia and Herzegovina by the EU¹⁵ are also taken into account, as well as the EU Framework which recommends that the states need to:

- Establish national goals for Roma integration to bridge the gap between Roma and the general population, including primarily access to education, employment, health care and housing of Roma;
- Map the socially disadvantaged micro-regions or segregated settlements;
- Regularly allocate funds in their budgets, which will be complemented by international funds and EU funds;
- Establish effective methods of monitoring;
- Ensure close cooperation with Roma representatives at local and regional level;
- Revise the action plans in accordance with the stated principles and ensure the coordinating role of Roma representatives.

With this approach, Bosnia and Herzegovina continues its efforts in the integration of Roma at state, local and regional levels. It also needs to be highlighted that, having in mind gender equality, women and men have the same rights both in the development and the implementation of the Action Plan. It supports the continued engagement and active involvement of Roma men and women in all phases of the implementation of individual tasks of the Action Plan, in accordance with their education level. Special priority, particularly in the area of employment, will be given to young qualified persons registered with the employment institutes.

For the development of the AP, the MHRR established four working groups, namely, for employment, for housing, for health care, and a review working group. The working groups are composed of representatives of institutions and Roma non-governmental organisations. In addition, a questionnaire for the Roma non-governmental organisations and other entities representing the interests of this national minority was developed and distributed. Nine meetings of the working groups and eleven consultative meetings were held. The text of the AP was developed based on the collected data and recorded needs, and subsequently presented to all registered Roma associations and institutions. Four public discussions on the AP were held, and the AP was also posted on the MHRR web site, aiming to ensure transparency of the activities and obtain comments and suggestions on the proposed text of the AP, in order to improve the same. At the beginning of November 2016, a seminar was held with consultants and members of all working groups, at which the text of the AP was methodologically and substantially finalised.

The Roma Committee is responsible for systematic coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Addressing Roma Issues in the Fields of Employment, Housing and Health Care 2017 - 2020. The following strategic goals are determined in accordance with the tasks of this Action Plan:

¹⁵ European Commission seminar from June 2015

STRATEGIC GOALS

Strategic goal 1: Strengthening of current institutional capacities

Strategic goal 2: Improvement of the employability and employment of Roma

Strategic goal 3: Improvement of housing conditions of the Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Strategic goal 4: Improvement, availability and quality of health care for members of the Roma population

With a view to implementing and executing the tasks from all four strategic goals, and in accordance with the information presented in regard to the Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Addressing Roma Issues in the Fields of Employment, Housing and Health Care 2017 - 2020, the content of the Action Plan has been agreed and is presented in five parts:

- I. Introduction**
- II. Strengthening of institutional capacities**
- III. Activities by area**

IV. Financing of planned activities

V. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the implementation of the AP

II. STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES

In the past period, Bosnia and Herzegovina has established several institutional mechanisms, i.e., bodies responsible for issues of national minorities. For the Roma, which is the most numerous and vulnerable national minority, the Roma Committee has been established as an advisory body belonging to the CoMBH. The aforementioned bodies have been established under the legislative and executive branch of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The following bodies have been established under the legislative branch of government at the level of BiH and the entities:

- **National Minorities Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH:** as an advisory body providing opinions, advice and suggestions to the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH on all issues related to national minorities in BiH.
- **National Minorities Council of Republika Srpska:** as a special advisory body of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska providing opinions and suggestions on all issues related to national minorities.
- **National Minorities Council of the Federation of BiH:** as an advisory body of the Parliament of the Federation of BiH.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has, in addition to the parliamentary and coordinating bodies at the level of the CoMBH, also ensured the participation of other executive levels of government, which are responsible for the implementation of the AP within the scope of their jurisdiction. The key actors have also been identified in the Strategy for Addressing the Issues of Roma in BiH adopted in 2005.

The most important actors for the implementation of the Action Plan are the Council of Ministers of BiH, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, the Ministry of Security of BiH, the Ministry of Justice of BiH, the Gender Equality Agency of BiH, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH, the Directorate of European Integration of BiH, the Labour and Employment Agency of BiH, the Government of the Federation of BiH, the Government of Republika Srpska, and the Government of Brcko District of BiH. Representatives of these institutions are also members of the Roma Committee belonging to the Council of Ministers of BiH.

Once the decision to join the Decade was made, the Council of Ministers of BiH tasked the MHRR with coordinating the implementation of the strategic goals, measures and activities from the previous Revised Action Plan 2013 - 2016.

Fulfilling its allocated role, the **Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH** initiated and guided activities in the process of developing action plans, and continuously monitored and reported on the activities of the Decade and other activities related to the promotion and protection of human rights of the minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of the MHRR, a *Department for Protection of Rights and Cooperation*

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with National and Other Minorities has been established, which is responsible for providing professional, administrative and operational support, and especially for implementing activities related to monitoring, promotion and protection of rights of the Roma as they are the most vulnerable and numerous national minority.

One of the most significant activities of this Department is reporting on the implementation of action plans. This activity includes collection of all required data, evaluation, analysis and reporting and cooperation with other government bodies at all levels in BiH, as well as with local and international NGOs, which is also an obligation arising from this action plan.

For the purpose of implementing various expert activities and when required and possible, the MHRR also establishes interdepartmental expert groups, which are tasked with data collection, development of expert and analytical materials, participation in the development of action plans and all other programmes, and the production of project or analytical-informative documents, in accordance with the requirements and goals of the Action Plan for Roma in BiH.

Depending on their jurisdiction, other state-level, entity-level and cantonal ministries and institutions in charge of employment, housing and health care were also involved in the development of the AP.

The following ministries and institutions play particularly important roles in the development and direct implementation of the AP:

- a) for the area of employment: the Federation Employment Institute, the Employment Institute of Republika Srpska and the Employment Institute of Brcko District of BiH;
- b) for the area of health care: the Institute for Public Health of the Federation of BiH, the Institute for Public Health of Republika Srpska, the Department for Health and Other Services of the Government of Brcko District of BiH, as well as the competent entity-level ministries in charge of health care;
- c) for the area of housing: local communities, social services centres (SSC), and in terms of coordination and/or implementation the Ministry of Physical Planning of the Federation of BiH and the Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of Republika Srpska, as well as the Department for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing and the Department for Physical Planning and Property Related Affairs of the Government of Brcko District of BiH.

With regard to procedures as part of institutional mechanisms, the MHRR drafts and proposes the issuance of various decisions to the CoMBH or only issues decisions, instructions and other official documents aiming at ensuring the implementation of activities planned through the Action Plan, such as:

- a) Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on the selection of the Roma Committee;
- b) Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on the criteria for allocation of grant funds for solving issues of Roma in the areas of housing, employment and health care;
- c) Decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on the criteria for allocation of grant funds to Roma non-governmental organisations;

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- d) Decision of the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH on the establishment of working groups for monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan by areas;
- e) Decisions on establishing commissions for selecting beneficiaries of grant funds, etc.

In the period from 2013 to 2016, the MHRR has signed cooperation agreements with 57 social services centres in local communities with the highest numbers of Roma. Based on data collected during the recording process, a database (database of Roma needs, *ERP*) has been established and put into operation. All data collected while recording Roma and the needs of Roma families have been transferred to new databases which are located in the social services centres (hereinafter called 'SSC'). In the upcoming period, the MHRR is going to sign cooperation agreements with the remaining social services centres.

In addition to the competent institutions involved in the development of the AP, the Roma representatives also played a significant role. They were also directly involved in the coordination and proposing of measures for the AP at 24 meetings and public debates, which were held in local communities throughout BiH and in cooperation with Roma associations and Roma resource centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the past period, **Roma associations** had various types of involvement in the implementation of the former Revised Action Plan for Roma in BiH, depending on the subject area and capacities of the associations. In order to ensure comprehensive involvement of the Roma sector in all implementation phases, including the review process, the MHRR provided grant funds for supporting Roma associations every year. These funds are allocated to the best project selected through a public tender.

The **Roma Committee** belonging to the Council of Ministers of BiH has been established by means of a Decision issued by the Council of Ministers of BiH as the advisory body responsible for:

- a) systematic monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan for Addressing Roma Issues in the fields of Employment, Housing and Health Care and the Revised Action Plan on the Educational Needs of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- b) issuing operational plans and proposing measures for an improved Action Plan implementation;
- c) through its representatives, initiating activities to ensure funds in the budgets of the institutions at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entities for the needs of the Action Plan implementation;
- d) monitoring the spending of funds allocated to the implementation of the Action Plan in all three areas in the budgets of the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the entities, as well as the implementation dynamics;
- e) involvement in making contacts with potential donors and other stakeholders interested in providing funds for the Action Plan implementation;
- f) establishing permanent or temporary commissions and expert groups, especially with reference to the Action Plan implementation, for the purpose of arriving at valid opinions, conclusions and recommendations;

g) establishing a system for monitoring the implementation of planned activities for Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and monitoring the methodology of spending donor and budgetary funds allocated to the Action Plan implementation.

Based on the Decision on the Establishment of the Roma Committee, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH provides the Committee with technical and professional support. The Committee submits reports on their work to the Council of Ministers of BiH through this ministry, with which a unitary institutional mechanism is established which ensures better horizontal and vertical communication and coordination and contributes to an improved implementation of action plans.

Based on the information presented above, a set of strategic goals aimed at strengthening current institutional capacities has been formulated and is presented below.

Strategic goal 1: Strengthening of current institutional capacities

The strategic goal 1 is implemented by executing the following programme activities:

Programme 1: Capacity strengthening at the level of BiH

Programme 2: Improving cooperation with Roma associations and donors

Programme 3: Improving regional cooperation and cooperation with international organisations

Programme 4: Developing local action plans and implementation thereof at the local level

I) Institutional structure

ADVISORY MANDATE:

National Minorities Council of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH
 National Minorities Council of the Parliament of the Federation of BiH
 National Minorities Council of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska

DECISION-MAKING MANDATE:

Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina – 1st level
 Roma Committee – 2nd level - one representative each from:
 Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH – 3rd level
 Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH
 Ministry of Security of BiH
 Ministry of Justice of BiH
 Ministry of Finance and Treasury of BiH
 Gender Equality Agency of BiH
 Labour and Employment Agency of BiH
 Directorate for European Integration of BiH
 Government of the Federation of BiH
 Government of Republika Srpska
 Government of Brcko District of BiH
 Roma associations of Canton Sarajevo
 Roma associations of Zenica-Doboj Canton
 Roma associations of Una-Sana Canton
 Roma associations of Tuzla Canton
 Roma associations of Central Bosnia Canton
 Roma associations of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton
 Roma associations from the Banja Luka region
 Roma associations from the Doboj region
 Roma associations from the Bijeljina region
 Roma associations from Brcko District of BiH
 Roma women's network

The Roma Committee was established by decision of the Council of Ministers of BiH on October 29, 2012

During the implementation of the plans and the composition of the Roma Committee may vary.

IMPLEMENTATION MANDATE:

Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH – 3rd level of decision-making (executive)

- Coordinating function
- Budget management according to established criteria
- Establishment of expert groups/bodies and management thereof
- Implementation monitoring
- Cooperation with partners

Department for Protection of Rights and Cooperation with National and Other Minorities

- Professional support
- Administrative support
- Operational support
- Data collection

IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS (GRANT IMPLEMENTERS)

Employment:

- Federation Employment Institute
- Employment Institute of Republika Srpska
- Employment Institute of Brcko District of BiH

Housing:

- Local self-government units (LSU)
- Social services centres
- Ministry of Physical Planning of the Federation of BiH
- Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology of RS
- Department for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing and the Department for Physical Planning and Property Related Affairs of the Government of Brcko District of BiH

Health care:

- Ministry of Health, Solidarity Fund and Institute for Public Health of FBiH
- Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Institute for Public Health of RS
- Department for Health and Other Services of the Government of Brcko District of BiH

District of BiH

II) Institutional Capacity Strengthening Plan

Strategic goal:	Strengthening of current institutional capacities									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	Average per year:	267,750	205,500	154,500
Effect indicator	% of AP implementation	0	85%	85%	85%	85%	(Minimum 85% of planned per year)			
Funds			480,000	593,000	749,000	689,000	2,511,000	1,060,100	822,000	628,900
Programme 1:	Capacity strengthening at the level of BiH									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	% of implemented budget for AP	0	85%	85%	85%	85%	(Minimum 85% of planned per year)			
Funds			188,000	148,000	148,000	148,000	632,000	551,100	0	80,900
1.1.	Strengthening of the capacities of the MHRR by employment of one person of Romani nationality									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# person	0	1	1	1	1	(Funded separately from the grant for the Action plan)			
Funds			21,600	21,600	21,600	21,600	86,400	86,400	0	0
1.2.	Operation of the Roma Committee and its commissions as per priority areas: employment, housing, health care									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Accepted proposals	4	4	4	4	4	(Funded separately from the grant for the Action plan)			
Funds			30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	120,000	120,000	0	0

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1.3.	Operation of the expert, administrative and operational team within the MHRR for implementation of the Action Plan									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	(Funded separately from the grant for the Action Plan)			
Performance indic.	# Output documents	4	4	4	4	4	(Contract for grant implementation for the Action Plan)			
Funds			86,400	86,400	86,400	86,400	345,600	345,600	0	0
1.4.	Establishment of a system for addressing the issues of Roma without documents (monitoring system, analysis, referral to procedures, etc.)									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	% Roma without documents	3.75%	3.00%	2.00%	1.00%	0.50%				
Funds			50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	80,000	0	0	80,000

Programme 2:	<i>Improving cooperation with Roma associations and donors</i>									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	% Contract implementation	0	80%	80%	80%	80%				
Funds			70,000	67,000	67,000	67,000	271,000	132,000	0	139,000
2.1.	Establishment of a database of Roma associations and annual regional meetings									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Meetings	0	4	4	4	4				
Funds			7,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	19,000	0	0	19,000
2.2.	4 regional protocols for cooperation of the Council of Ministers of BiH and Roma associations (regional institutional support)									

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Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Active regional networks	0	4	4	4	4				
Funds			60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	240,000	120,000	0	120,000
2.3.	Raising funds from donors for the AP implementation (projects, programmes, donor conferences)									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	% Raised funds	0	80%	80%	80%	80	(Out of the total planned budget from donors per year)			
Funds			3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	12,000	0	0
Programme 3:	<i>Improving regional cooperation and cooperation with international organisations</i>									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	# Good practices	2	5	5	5	5	(Learned and promoted)			
Funds			6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	24,000	6,000	0	18,000
3.1.	Holding operational meetings with international organisations involved in the AP implementation									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Meetings	1	1	1	1	1				
Funds			3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	12,000	6,000	0	6,000
3.2.	Participation at regional meetings of Roma Integration 2020 (1 Task Force, 2 Regional Workshop)									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
	# Implemented decisions	2	3	3	3	3	(Implementation of regional decisions in BiH)			

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Performance indic.											
Funds			3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000		12,000	0	0	12,000

Programme 4:	<i>Developing local action plans and implementation thereof at the local level</i>										
Responsible inst.		Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x					
Results indicator	% of AP users per LSU	18%	25%	30%	35%	40%	(In at least 30 municipalities, integral approach recommended)				
Funds			216,000	372,000	528,000	468,000	1,584,000	371,000	822,000	391,000	
4.1.	Employment of Roma coordinators/mediators in the most adequate institution at local level (implementation and monitoring of the measures)										
Responsible inst.	LSU	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x					
Performance indic.	# Persons	0	10	20	30	30	(The funds can be planned also from the AP for employment)				
Funds			156,000	312,000	468,000	468,000	1,404,000	341,000	702,000	361,000	
4.2.	Mapping of needs at local community level										
Responsible inst.	LSU	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x						
Performance indic.	# LSU	57	10	20	30	0					
Funds			30,000	30,000	30,000		90,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	
4.3.	Development and adoption of local action plans and accompanying funding projects										
Responsible inst.	LSU	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x						
Performance indic.	# LSU	2	10	10	10						
Funds			30,000	30,000	30,000		90,000	0	90,000	0	

III. ACTIVITIES BY AREA

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Improvement of the employability and employment of Roma

The strategic goal 2 is implemented by executing the following programme activities:

Programme 1: Programmes for supporting Roma employment

Programme 2: Programme for education, additional qualifications, (re)qualification of Roma registered as unemployed with employment institutes

Looking back at the implementation of past action plans, it is evident that at state-level funds are being allocated for employment and self-employment of Roma. These funds are implemented through the employment institutes, while the institutes have not allocated any funds for these purposes so far. The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Federation of BiH allocates funds for employment of Roma and these funds are transferred to the Federation Employment Institute. The only activities that were fully implemented in the past period are programmes for employment and self-employment of Roma, which are implemented through signed memorandums of understanding between the institutes and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH. The employment institutes do not have a defined methodology and system of conducting training aimed at sourcing for jobs and interviews, and this aspect needs to be addressed in the upcoming period. The employment institutes offer the option of acquiring knowledge about entrepreneurship to the Roma people registered with the institute who apply for funds for supporting self-employment schemes, which can be realised through the Information, Counselling and the Training Centre. No significant results have been achieved in the field of amending the legal regulations.

Data on Roma employment in the period from 2009 to 2016 shows that **BAM 4,777,000.00** was allocated to employment and self-employment projects, whereby **688 persons** were users of these funds. According to data obtained from the employment institutes, **2,645 Roma** are registered as unemployed and need to be covered by employment and self-employment programmes in the upcoming strategic period. The issues the employment institutes were facing when implementing these programmes are low qualifications of registered unemployed Roma, unpreparedness and lack of knowledge and skills required to manage independent work among applicants for funds for self-employment, low interest among employers to employ Roma, absence of coordination with local government bodies to facilitate the beginning of self-employment through support in the registration and issuance of permits, etc. In the upcoming period, the approach to Roma employment will require innovation in order to ensure sustainability of these projects in a more efficient manner.

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Strategic goal :	Improvement of the employability and employment of Roma										
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x	Average per year:	721,142	448,808	154,900	
Effect indicator	# Employed	101	157	157	157	157					
Effect indicator	# Employable	0	386	424	424	424					
Funds			210,000	1,163,200	1,163,200	1,163,200	5,299,400	2,884,567	1,795,233	619,600	
Programme 1:	Programmes for supporting Roma employment										
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x	(Coordination with partners: LSU, Roma associations)				
Results indicator	# Service users	101	157	157	157	157	(Target housing service users)				
Funds			901,000	886,000	886,000	886,000	3,559,000	2,800,000	544,000	215,000	
1.1.	Developing efficient programmes for employment of Roma at three employment institutes										
Responsible inst.	MHRR, partners	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x								
Performance indic.	# Programmes	0	3	0	0	0					
Funds			15,000	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	
1.2.	Incentive for employment and self-employment										
Responsible inst.	Employment institutes	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x	(Annually: 54 persons x BAM 8,000 subsidised employment)				
Performance indic.	# Service users	101	107	107	107	107	(Annually: 53 persons x BAM 6,000 self-employment)				
Funds		700,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	3,700,000	2,466,667	1,233,333	0	
	Involving Roma in public works programmes										

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1.3.											
Responsible inst.	LSU in cooperation with employment institutes	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x					
Performance indic.	# Service users	0	30	30	30	30	(Financing from the budget for general policies)				
Funds			36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000	144,000	0	144,000	0	
1.4.	Financial support for establishing of cooperatives and other forms of association of Roma (and non-Roma) in entrepreneurship										
Responsible inst.	Competent entity-level ministries and departments of the Government of Brcko District of BiH and LSU in cooperation with employment institutes	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x					
Performance indic.	# Roma service users	0	20	20	20	20					
Funds			100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	400,000	100,000	100,000	200,000	

Programme 2:	<i>Programme for education, additional qualifications, (re)qualification of Roma registered as unemployed with employment institutes</i>										
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x					
Results indicator	# Service users	0	386	424	424	424					
Funds			208,800	277,200	277,200	277,200	1,040,400	317,900	317,900	404,600	
2.1.	Encouraging Roma to register with employment institutes (campaigns includes brochures and meetings in the community)										
Responsible inst.	Employment institutes, Roma associations	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors	
Time frame			x	x	x	x					
Performance indic.	# Service users	0	150	150	150	150	(Roma at the age of 15-64)				
Funds			15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	60,000	0	0	60,000	
2.2.	Additional qualifications, (re)qualifications of Roma for known employers (combined with adult education)										

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Responsible inst.	Employment institutes, adult education institutions	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	(Or percentage according to the strategic goal)			
Performance indic.	# Service users	0	58	77	77	77				
Funds			139,200	184,800	184,800	184,800	693,600	231,200	231,200	231,200
2.3.	Adult education and professional qualifications									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, Institute for Adult Education of RS, adult education institutions in cooperation with employment institutes	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Service users	0	58	77	77	77				
Funds			69,600	92,400	92,400	92,400	346,800	86,700	86,700	173,400
2.4.	Training of Roma for sourcing jobs and starting their own business									
Responsible inst.	Employment institutes	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	(Financing from the budget for general policies)			
Performance indic.	# Service users	0	120	120	120	120				
Funds			1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	4,800	0	4,800	0

Strategic goal 3: Improvement of housing conditions of the Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The strategic goal 3 is implemented by executing the following programme activities:

Programme 1: Legalisation of housing units in informal settlements populated by Roma

Programme 2: Construction of social housing units for Roma (collective/individual buildings)

Programme 3: Improving housing conditions in the housing units occupied by Roma

Although it is very difficult and too complex to grade all areas and issues the Roma are facing (health care, employment, housing and education), one can still claim that the root cause for all other issues is housing, i.e., the roof over one's head. In the past period, Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved significant and visible results in this most significant area.

In the period from 2009 to 2016 (with the exception of 2011, when no budget at state level was adopted), a total of 782 buildings for Roma housing was built and reconstructed. Therefore, if one multiplies the number of built and reconstructed buildings by 5, which is the average number of members of a Roma family, it can be concluded that around 4,000 members of the Roma population were provided with housing in this period, which makes 15% of the Roma population in BiH.

The construction and renovation of Roma housing buildings was implemented using funds from the MHRR, IPA funds and funds from international non-governmental organisations (CARITAS Switzerland, Hilfswerk Austria, World Vision, Care International and others). With this in mind, the funds to be allocated in the upcoming period need to be similar to the amounts allocated in the past, in order to be able to facilitate to a significant extent this most important need of the Roma, and to reduce the number of families without roofs over their heads to a minimum. Considering the fact that building one Roma house in accordance with the applicable regulations costs BAM 25,000 on average, available funds in the amount of BAM 2,500,000.00 (BAM 1,000,000 from the MHRR, BAM 1,250,000 IPA funds and BAM 250,000 from the local community and other donors) on an annual basis can cover the construction and reconstruction of 100 housing units and the reconstruction of 40 buildings owned by Roma.

Although the plan for the next four years according to this Action Plan is to build and reconstruct additional **560** housing units for the same number of Roma families, the problem of finding a permanent solution for the housing issue of Roma in BiH would only be solved partially.

In the course of the implementation of the previous Action Plan and the Revised Action Plan, the housing issue was addressed through projects aimed at improvement of the infrastructure in settlements populated by Roma. Thus, roads leading to Roma houses were constructed in Trebinje, Lopare, Čapljina, Ključ, Zenica and Srbac. Furthermore, access roads leading to Roma settlements were constructed (e.g., in Bugojno, Mostar, Kakanj, Visoko), which had a significant impact on the improvement of housing conditions of Roma. As a part of this Action Plan, and in accordance with activities planned through local action plans, it is also possible to allocate a part of the funds to funding the construction of

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common areas in cooperation with other actors. These would be used as venues of various social, sports and cultural events, applying an integral approach, since the common areas would be used by all citizens.

Due to negligent behaviour on the part of some irresponsible Roma and Roma families who were covered by the housing programme in certain Roma settlements, housing units, common spaces and courtyards of buildings were damaged (through accumulation of secondary raw materials, failure to comply with the house rules, use of open flames, by creating noise, improper parking of a large number of often damaged vehicles), as was the case in the settlements Mrakovo near Ilijaš, Osenik in the municipality Hadžići, and in Reljevo in the municipality Novi Grad in Sarajevo. In order to prevent such negative situations, the Action Plan includes the organisation and implementation of regular education programmes on the topics of housing rights and culture of living, especially for Roma families who are just moving in and do not have experience in collective housing, while education will also be required for Roma families who fail to comply with the house rules and tend to violate basic rules of housing, including the obligation of paying utility bills. The goal of this measure is to improve the quality of housing and to provide for the proper use and maintenance of allocated housing units.

Analysis of the implementation of the previous Revised Action Plan reveals the weaknesses and failures as regards the implementation of activities, which includes the failure to establish teams for mapping illegal Roma settlements and illegally built individual housing units. Also, the situation in the entire territory of BiH in this respect was not identified by the end of 2016, nor was a database of illegal Roma settlements and individual housing units lacking construction documentation established.

In addition, although there is no record of any decisions being issued to subsidise legalisation of illegally built individual housing units under more favourable conditions, nevertheless the number of legalised housing units has increased. Almost all municipalities offer free legal assistance for solving housing issues of Roma, whereby all 31 surveyed municipalities responded that they do offer free legal assistance.

In order to continue activities in the upcoming four-year period, Roma households without housing, with special emphasis on homeless Roma, need to be recorded and a list compiled of the potential users of the social housing programme.

Different government bodies at all levels and, especially, local communities, also need to continue working on finding and allocating land for building social housing units and housing units for the Roma population.

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Strategic goal:	Improvement of housing conditions of the Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	Average per year:	1,747,500	142,500	1,867,500
Effect indicator	# Families	700	210	230	230	230	(With fully resolved housing issue)			
Funds			3,950,000	3,760,000	3,760,000	3,560,000	15,030,000	4,000,000	570,000	10,460,000
Programme 1:	Legalisation of housing units in informal settlements populated by Roma									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	# Families	0	0	20	20	20	(With completed legalisation, not including families with conditions for legalisation)			
Funds			800,000	610,000	610,000	410,000	2,430,000	90,000	570,000	1,770,000
1.1.	Mapping of illegal Roma settlements and illegally built individual housing units and determining the condition of the space									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x							
Performance indic.	% Territory	0	95%				(Establishing of GIS system, data collection and entry)			
Funds			600,000	0	0	0	600,000			600,000
1.2.	Developing programme plans for legalisation or relocation of Roma housing settlements in the local communities									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x					
Performance indic.	# LSU	0	5	5	5		(Development of all required urban development plans for the settlements)			
Funds			200,000	200,000	200,000	0	600,000	50,000	200,000	350,000
1.3.	Implementation of infrastructure projects for improving urban and construction housing conditions									
Responsible inst.	LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
				x	x	x				

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Time frame										
Performance indic.	# Implemented projects	0	0	5	5	5				
Funds		0	250,000	250,000	250,000		750,000	20,000	250,000	480,000
1.4.	Legalisation of housing units according to spatial plans (direct assistance to the families in the legalisation)									
Responsible inst.	LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame				x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Families	0	0	20	20	20	(With legalised buildings)			
Funds		0	160,000	160,000	160,000		480,000	20,000	120,000	340,000

Programme 2:	Construction of social housing units for Roma (collective/individual buildings)									
Responsible inst.	MHRR	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	# Families		70	70	70	70	(That were granted social housing units)			
Funds			1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	7,000,000	2,000,000	0	5,000,000
2.1.	Construction of private housing units for Roma and instructions on the usage of the units									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Families		30	30	30	30	(That were granted social housing units)			
Funds			750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	3,000,000	1,000,000	0	2,000,000
2.2.	Construction of social housing units for Roma at locations provided by the LSU and instructions on the usage of the units									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Families		40	40	40	40				

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Funds			1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	1,000,000	0	3,000,000
Programme 3.	<i>Improving housing conditions in the housing units occupied by Roma</i>									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	# Families		140	140	140	140				
Funds			1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	5,600,000	1,910,000	0	3,690,000
3.1.	Reconstruction of buildings owned by Roma									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Families		40	40	40	40				
Funds			400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	1,600,000	400,000	0	1,200,000
3.2.	Reconstruction of buildings for accommodation of Roma (existing social and potential buildings for social housing)									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, LSU, RNGO, governments	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Families		100	100	100	100				
Funds			1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	1,510,000	0	2,490,000

Strategic goal 4: Improvement, availability and quality of health care for members of the Roma population

The strategic goal 4 is implemented by executing the following programme activities:

Programme 1: Roma mediators in health care

Programme 2: Ensuring access to health care in the Federation of BiH

Programme 3: Preventive health care

Programme 4: Health education and awareness raising

By implementing numerous international documents which Bosnia and Herzegovina has accessed and/or ratified in the past, and also by issuing the EU Integration Strategy of BiH and the Strategy of BiH for Addressing the Issues of Roma, the commitment has been made to protect national minorities in all areas, including also in the area of health care.

All documents listed above, as well as the results from surveys conducted so far (and especially the Analysis of the Implementation of the State-Level Programme for Addressing the Issues of Roma from September 2016, which has resulted from the activities of the “ROMA ACTION“ project), indicate that the Roma are facing issues with access to health care and that they live in adverse conditions which consequently lead to a poor health condition. Having considered these factors, in addressing Roma issues in the area of health care, this Action Plan is going to focus on ensuring access to health care, continuous work on health care, disease prevention and awareness raising, with special emphasis on the vulnerable categories, that is, Roma women and children.

Particular emphasis should be focused on the need to initiate amendments to the Law on Health Insurance of the Federation of BiH. In this regard, the possibility should be considered to repeal the illogical and unjust provisions on the time-limit for registration with the employment institute, thus enabling all unemployed persons registering with the employment institutes to become insured and be granted the right to health insurance.

The strategic goal “Improvement of health care for members of the Roma national minority“ from the former Action Plan and Revised Action Plan of BiH on Roma health care needs was implemented under two programme activities:

Programme 1: Ensuring access to health care

Programme 2: Prevention and education

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In the period from 2009 to 2015, a total of **BAM 1,292,000.00** was allocated to health care of Roma (and the amount of **BAM 430,000.00** was planned for 2016). The allocated funds for health care of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina are implemented by the competent institutions based on memorandums of understanding arrived at for the implementation of the Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for Addressing Roma Issues in the Field of Health Care between the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH and the Institute for Public Health of the Federation of BiH, the Institute for Public Health of Republika Srpska and the Government of Brcko District, Department for Health and Other Services of the Brcko District of BiH.

Furthermore, the Government of the Federation of BiH, through the Federation Ministry of Health, allocated funds in the amount of BAM 180,000.00 for health insurance of Roma for 2013, 2014 and 2015. This was based on decisions made with regard to the adoption of the expenditure programme, 'Current transfer to other levels of government – for health care of Roma for the Federation of BiH', which includes criteria for the distribution of funds. The Government of Tuzla Canton also allocates certain funds to this purpose.

The majority of planned activities for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 were implemented in the field in local Roma communities resulting in considerable advancement and improvement of health care of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Significant progress has especially been made in introducing numerous Roma families into the health care system in the Federation of BiH (2013 - 2016 through funds from the MHRR, social service centres and cantonal ministries of education). Out of a total of around 4,000 uninsured persons, **934** have been introduced into the health care system of FBiH. Substantial progress has also been made in the field of education of the Roma population on how to exercise their right to health care, raising awareness about the significance of health care in the Roma community, immunisation of Roma children, reproductive health and motherhood, education of the Roma non-governmental sector in the local communities in this field, as well as in the implementation of prevention programmes – screening for specific diseases (cervical cancer, breast cancer, colon cancer) in Roma communities.

According to data from health care institutes and the Roma NGOs, these programmes and activities will need to cover additional **3,141 Roma** in the upcoming strategic period. Also, there are around **3,700 Roma families** in need of some type of service in this field, which will enable them to have better living conditions.

The Action Plan 2017 - 2020 takes into account the needs of the Roma communities and the positive experiences of other countries taking part in the Decade. The Action Plan is supposed to be realistic, enforceable and cover all priorities of the Roma.

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Strategic goal :	Improvement, availability and quality of health care for members of the Roma population									
Responsible inst.		Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	Average per year:	260,333	150,083	117,083
Effect indicator	# Service users		8,550	11,550	16,550	16,550				
Funds			327,500	488,500	654,500	639,500	2,110,000	1,041,333	600,333	468,333
Programme 1:	Roma mediators in health care									
Responsible inst.	MHRR, health care institutions	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	# Service users	0	2,500	5,000	7,500	75,000	(Number of users of various services provided by mediators)			
Funds			167,000	328,000	494,000	479,000	1,468,000	702,000	351,000	415,000
1.1.	Establishing criteria for selection of Roma mediators in health care and employment of Roma mediators									
Responsible inst.	MHRR and health care institutions	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Persons	0	10	20	30	30	(There are 40 who are not formally in health care institutions)			
Funds		0	156,000	312,000	468,000	468,000	1,404,000	702,000	351,000	351,000
1.2.	Development and adoption of training programmes for Roma mediators									
Responsible inst.	MHRR and health care institutions	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Programmes	0	1	1	1	1				
Funds			1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,000	0	0	4,000
1.3.	Education of mediators in health care									
Responsible inst.	MHRR and health care institutions	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
				x	x	x				

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Time frame										
Performance indic.	# Persons	0	15	25	10					
Funds		10,000	15,000	25,000	10,000	60,000	0	0	60,000	
Programme 2: Ensuring access to health care in the Federation of BiH										
Responsible inst.		Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	# Insured persons		50	50	50	50	(The number of persons not insured is 5,286)			
Funds			48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	192,000	96,000	96,000	0
2.1. Allocation of intervention funds for financing health care rights of uninsured Roma at cantonal and FBiH levels										
Responsible inst.	MHRR and mediators	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Insured persons	?	50	50	50	50	(Children, senior citizens, unregistered persons, unemployed persons are a priority)			
Funds			48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	192,000	96,000	96,000	0

Programme 3: Preventive health care										
Responsible inst.	Mediators, health care institutions	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Results indicator	# Service users		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500				
Funds			90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	360,000	153,333	153,333	53,333
3.1. Preventive health checks for specific diseases (cervical cancer, breast cancer and colon cancer, prostate cancer)										
Responsible inst.	Health care institutions (possibility to engage mediators)	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				

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Performance indic.	# Service users	40	500	500	500	500				
Funds			40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	160,000	53,333	53,333	53,333
3.2.	Supervision/implementation of general and specific measures for the spreading of infectious diseases in Roma communities									
Responsible inst.	Inspection bodies, health care institutions	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	(Sanitary-technical waste, water, ddd)			
Performance indic.	# Settlements	5	10	10	10	10	(Assessment of 100 beneficiaries per settlement)			
Funds			50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	0
Programme 4.	Health education and awareness raising									
Responsible inst.	Health care institutions (possibility to engage mediators)	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x	(Budget for development and printing of info materials)			
Results indicator	# Service users		4500	5000	7500	7500	(Education is delivered by mediators and medical personnel)			
Funds			22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	90,000	90,000	0	0
4.1.	Education on sexual and reproductive health									
Responsible inst.	Health care institutions (possibility to engage mediators)	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Service users		1500	1,500	1,500	1,500				
Funds			7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	30,000	30,000	0	0
4.2.	Education on general health, infectious diseases and addictive diseases									
Responsible inst.	Health care institutions (possibility to engage mediators)	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Service users		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500				
Funds			7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	30,000	30,000	0	0
	Education on how to exercise the right to health care									

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4.3.										
Responsible inst.	Health care institutions (possibility to engage mediators)	Baseline	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Time frame			x	x	x	x				
Performance indic.	# Service users		1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500				
Funds			7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	30,000	30,000	0	0

IV. FINANCING OF THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES

			2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
Strategic goal :	Institutional strengthening									
Funds			480,000	593,000	749,000	689,000	2,511,000	1,060,100	822,000	628,900
Programme 1:	Capacity strengthening at the level of BiH									
Funds			188,000	148,000	148,000	148,000	632,000	551,100	0	80,900
Programme 2:	Improving cooperation with Roma associations and donors									
Funds			70,000	67,000	67,000	67,000	271,000	132,000	0	139,000
Programme 3:	Improving regional cooperation and cooperation with international organisations									
Funds			6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	24,000	6,000	0	18,000
Programme 4:	Developing local action plans and implementation thereof at the local level									
Funds			216,000	372,000	528,000	468,000	1,584,000	371,000	822,000	391,000
Strategic goal :	Employment									
Funds			1,109,800	1,163,200	1,163,200	1,163,200	4,599,400	3,117,900	861,900	619,600
Programme 1:	Programmes for supporting Roma employment									
Funds			901,000	886,000	886,000	886,000	3,559,000	2,800,000	544,000	215,000
Programme 2:	Programme for education, additional qualifications, (re)qualification of Roma registered as unemployed with employment institutes									
Funds			208,800	277,200	277,200	277,200	1,040,400	317,900	317,900	404,600

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Strategic goal :	Housing									
Funds			3,950,000	3,760,000	3,760,000	3,560,000	15,030,000	4,000,000	570,000	10,460,000
Programme 1:	<i>Initiate the development of regulatory plans in order to legalise informal settlements populated by Roma</i>									
Funds			800,000	610,000	610,000	410,000	2,430,000	90,000	570,000	1,770,000
Programme 2:	<i>Construction of social housing units for Roma (collective/individual buildings)</i>									
Funds			1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	1,750,000	7,000,000	2,000,000	0	5,000,000
Programme 3:	<i>Improving housing conditions in the housing units occupied by Roma</i>									
Funds			1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000	5,600,000	1,910,000	0	3,690,000
Strategic goal :	Health care									
Funds			327,500	488,500	654,500	639,500	2,110,000	1,041,333	600,333	468,333
Programme 1:	<i>Roma mediators in health care</i>									
Funds			167,000	328,000	494,000	479,000	1,468,000	702,000	351,000	415,000
Programme 2:	<i>Ensuring access to health care in the Federation of BiH</i>									
Funds			48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000	192,000	96,000	96,000	0
Programme 3:	<i>Preventive health care</i>									
Funds			90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	360,000	153,333	153,333	53,333
Programme 4:	<i>Health education and awareness raising</i>									
Funds			22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500	90,000	90,000	0	0
			2017	2018	2019	2020	Total budget	BiH	Entities/LSU	Donors
TOTAL FUNDS			5,867,300	6,004,700	6,326,700	6,051,700	24,250,400	9,230,233	2,854,234	12,176,833
AVERAGE PER YEAR							6,062,600	2,307,558	713,558	3,044,208

V. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH is the key institution that collects, systematises, updates and analyses data on the implementation of the activities from this Action Plan.

Data are collected based on the reporting of the institutions that implement grants, including Roma associations, as well as from local coordinators and informal mediators in health care.

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH shall specify in the grant transfer contracts all segments required for the implementation of the activities from the Action Plan and the data based on which progress of the activities can be monitored and reported, and accordingly, also the degree of implementation of the strategic goals.

Implementation is monitored continuously throughout the year, and the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH analyses the data and develops reports.

After the reports are discussed at the session of the Roma Committee, they are approved by the respective governments of the entities and of Brcko District of BiH, after which they are submitted to the Council of Ministers of BiH for adoption.

In addition to data on progress made towards meeting the strategic goals of the Action Plan by defined indicators, the report also contains data on the implementation of the planned budget, including data on raised donor funds and funds from other institutions.

The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees will take into account the **Regional Framework for Monitoring the Progress of Roma Integration (the format for reporting on the annual implementation of the public policies referring to Roma integration of the participating countries)** and will make the necessary effort, to cover to the maximum possible extent, the collection of relevant official statistical data on the impact of policies on the situation of Roma.

The forms for monitoring the progress are attached to this document.