



LOCAL INITIATIVES FOR IMPROVED SOCIAL INCLUSION OF YOUNG ROMA

PROFILE

Donors: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Funding: \$ 468,938

Main Partners: local self-governments

Duration: February 2018 - December 2020

GOAL

To train and employ young Roma women and men in local self-governments and/or other governmental or non-governmental institutions at the local level.

CONTEXT

High unemployment remains one of the main reasons for lacking perspectives in Serbia, thus also a major reason for both internal and external migrations. When we consider migration to EU countries, many of the asylum seekers come from the marginalized groups, such as the Roma minority.

The living conditions of the Roma population in Serbia are, similarly to other countries of the Western Balkans, still characterized by poverty and discrimination.

The Government of the Republic of Serbia is intensifying the work of national and local institutions dealing with social inclusion of Roma, reducing their poverty and combating discrimination, as well as creating conditions for full access to human rights.

FOCUS

- To improve the lives of young Roma men and women and respond to a lack of representation of Roma in national and local institutions, while at the same time capacitating local institutions to better respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals;
- Work with local authorities to increase their commitment towards Roma inclusion by facilitating Roma employment in local institutions (Centers for Social Work, Local Economic Development Offices, Trustee Offices for refugees and displaced persons, National Employment Service branch offices, etc.);
- Advocate for the interests of Roma community at the local level, by working together with various stakeholders to achieve sustainable results.

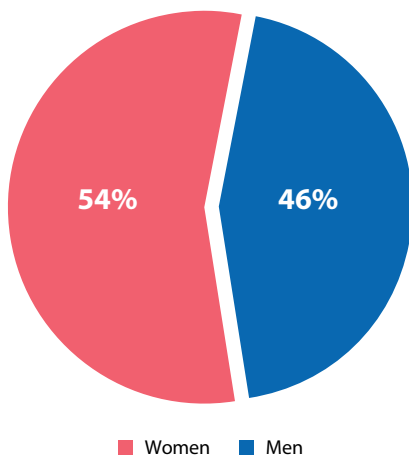


RESULTS TO DATE

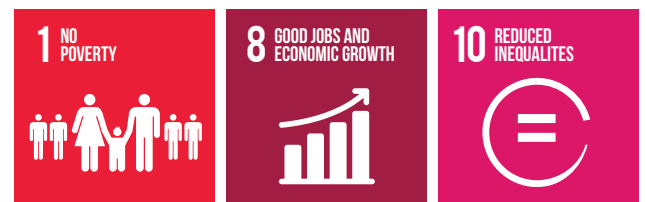
- ✓ 65 selected young Roma increased their knowledge on human rights, discrimination, legally invisible people, stateless persons, internally displaced persons and returnees; vulnerable group rights; functioning of mechanisms for social inclusion and Roma inclusion at the local level.
- ✓ Equipped with this knowledge, young Roma women and men are placed in local government institutions and local non-governmental organizations in the communities they live in so that they can contribute to, and advocate for the political, social and economic inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable populations in Serbia.
- ✓ Out of 65 UNVs engaged, 26 continued employment or got employed after the volunteering process.
- ✓ Association of young volunteers is established as a network of 65 young Roma men and women.



Program participants
(by gender)



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