The Living Standards of Roma

Country Status

December 2012

General findings

In the 19 municipalities covered by the survey, in the areas in which they live, Roma constitute 88% of the neighborhood. This limits their interaction with other communities.

The Roma are a relatively young population: 30% are aged 0–14 compared to 11% of the whole population.

55% of Roma live in older houses in relatively good condition, 24% in ruined houses or slums, compared with 5% of non-Roma, and only 25% in new houses.

87% of Roma households own their dwellings while 4% rent accommodation.

82% of Roma reported financial difficulties in affording a week's holiday away from home each year; and

57% in affording a car.

Half of Roma households report that at least one member went to bed hungry in the past month.

87% of Roma households report depending upon only one source of income.

53% of Roma households reported having trouble affording to keep their dwellings warm.

91% of Roma households without any source of income, the head of the household has no education beyond primary school.

Of those Roma households that have received an income in the past month, the average amount received was 10,268 MKD, compared to an average income of 19,997 MKD amongst non-Roma households surveyed in the same neighborhoods—a difference of almost 50%.

55% of Roma households suffer ‘severe material deprivation’, compared to 65.9% of non-Roma households in the same neighborhoods.

43% of Roma households reported having trouble affording to eat meat or proteins regularly.

91% of Roma households reported depending upon only one source of income.

The material deprivation rate is an indicator adopted by the EU Social Protection Committee which expresses people’s ability to afford items considered to be desirable or even necessary for an adequate standard of living. It measures the percentage of the population that cannot afford at least three of the following nine items:

- rent, mortgage or utility bills
- adequate home heating
- unexpected expenses
- a washing machine
- to eat meat or proteins regularly
- a holiday
- a car
- a telephone
- a television set
- a holiday
- a telephone

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Standards of living

Structure of Roma households by basic amenities in dwellings

- Electricity supply 95%
- Piped water inside the dwelling 87%
- Connection to public sewerage / waste water tank 82%
- Kitchen inside 75%
- Electricity inside 69%
- Toilet in the house 61%
- Shower / bath room inside 54%
- Connection to public sewerage / waste water tank 85%
- Piped water inside the dwelling 76%
- Kitchen inside 68%
- Electricity inside 62%
- Toilet in the house 60%
- Shower / bath room inside 44%

Difficulties to afford

- TV: 66%
- Phone or mobile: 57%
- Electric supply: 93%
- Piped water inside the dwelling: 89%
- Warm dwelling: 88%
- Car: 91%
- Unexpected expenses: 82%
- Eating meat every second day: 53%
- To eat meat or proteins regularly: 62%
- A holiday: 56%
- A washing machine: 44%
- A car: 30%
- A telephone: 43%

Key findings

- Of Roma households suffering severe material deprivation, compared to 65.9% of non-Roma households in the same neighborhoods.
- Of Roma households reported having trouble affording to keep their dwellings warm.
- Of Roma households reported having trouble affording to eat meat or proteins regularly.
- Of Roma households reported having no source of income in the month prior to the survey.
- Of Roma households without any source of income, the head of the household has no education beyond primary school.

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Roma households that live with only one source of income

**KEY FINDINGS**

- 53% of Roma households have only one source of income. For 19% of the households, social assistance is the only source of income.

- 87% of working-age Roma have education below secondary school level, compared with 45.5% of non-Roma in the same neighbourhoods.

- 72% of Roma children aged between six and nine have never attended kindergarten, compared to 52% of the non-Roma population of this age group.

- 49.3% of Roma aged 15-64 years are unemployed, compared to 32.2% of the total population (LFS '10).*

- Approximately 1 in 3 employed Roma has a steady job with a legal contract, a pension and health insurance.

- Of Roma women aged 15-64 years, 7 in 10 are unemployed, compared to 32.5% of the total population (LFS '10).*

- Romas children are reported to be attending primary school. The number of children aged seven to eleven enrolled at school appears to have decreased recently.

- Of working-age Roma, 21 out of every 100 have completed tertiary education, compared with 33% of the total working population.

- Of employed Roma, 64.6% have completed some form of secondary education, compared with 54 out of 100 employed persons in the total population.

- Of Roma households in which children do not attend primary school, and 48.7% of households in which children do not attend secondary school cite the costs of schooling as the main reason for non-attendance. (A significant proportion of those households in which children do not attend secondary school reported that the children were 'sufficiently educated'.)

- Of Roma females, 72.6% are enrolled in primary schools. The national average for female pupils is 91.2%. For secondary schools, 30.3% of Roma females are enrolled, as compared to the national average of 70.4%.

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* In Roma survey 2011 data on unemployment are based on self-reporting of respondents on their employment activities at the time of survey (in 2011), Labour Force Survey 2010 (LFS '10) considers information collected during the whole year, and provides estimated average for 2010.