

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT FOR ROMA AND EGYPTIANS

A booster for social inclusion project



EUROPEAN UNION



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRIE
MINISTRIA E MIRËQENIES
SOCIALE DHE RINISË



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

ESERE

Project duration

January 2016

December 2018

Geographic coverage

Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra & Berat



Background

Roma and Egyptian communities are among the poorest, most marginalized and socially excluded groups in Albania. Studies show that the level of poverty among Roma is twice as high as the majority population. Low level of educational attainment, high unemployment rate, low monthly incomes, extreme living conditions and direct and indirect barriers in accessing public services are indicators that prevail in the majority of Roma and Egyptians.

PROJECT INTERVENTION

The "Economic and Social Empowerment for Roma and Egyptians-a booster for social inclusion" project is a multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder EU funded intervention that works to promote the economic and social empowerment of Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania focusing in the municipalities of Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra and Berat.

The project relies on the Roma and Egyptian community led development as well close partnership with central and local authorities in the targeted areas. The project supports the Government of Albania in its efforts to achieve the objectives set forth in the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians, 2016-2020, while promoting respect for human rights, gender mainstreaming and intercultural dialogue, as prerequisites for the country's EU accession.

PILLARS OF INTERVENTIONS

Employment and entrepreneurship support

Community Led Local Development for Roma and Egyptian Inclusion

Improved Access to Basic Services

Support the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians (2016-2020) at National, Regional and Local Level

TARGETS

Skills, employability and entrepreneurship opportunities for Roma and Egyptians mapped locally

5 employment promotion programmes targeting approximately 250 Roma and Egyptians piloted in Tirana, Durrës, Shkodra and Berat

The National Employment Service offices provided with **a new set of skills on employment counselling and referral**

Basic literacy, life skills training vocational curricula developed, and approximately 38 Roma and Egyptians will benefit

5 employment mediators/coach for employment will be facilitated within National Employment Offices

Municipalities supported **to design Local Action Plans on Roma and Egyptians Inclusion**

20 self-help activities and initiatives related to human rights, education, sports, arts and intercultural events supported locally

Capacities of Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) strengthened through training and coaching, followed by 20 grants of 5,000-15,000 EUR each

12 infrastructure upgrading projects identified by community members and agreed upon with municipalities (75,000 EUR each)

'Packages' of integrated community based social services based on family approach piloted to improve access of Roma and Egyptians to civil registration, social, health, and education services

Models for inclusive education and disaggregation supported through Schools as Community Centers

Approximately **23 public servants trained on Behavioral Change model** to improve attitudes towards Roma and Egyptians

The electronic data collection system "ROMALB" on the indicators of the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians (2016-2020) improved and made operational; approximately 100 focal points at the national and local level trained to better coordinate and monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians.

STATISTICS

CENSUS 2011 IDENTIFIED 8,300 ROMA AND 3,368 EGYPTIANS, WHILE OTHER ESTIMATIONS COUNT BETWEEN **18,276¹ AND 120,000² ROMA AND OVER 200,000³ EGYPTIANS.**

EDUCATION

55% OF ROMA AND 93% OF EGYPTIAN CHILDREN (6 TO 9 YEARS OLD) ARE ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL. 96% OF THE ROMA GIRLS AND 68% OF THE ROMA BOYS (AT 16 YRS) HAVE DROPPED OUT FROM SCHOOL.⁴

EMPLOYMENT

LESS THAN A QUARTER OF ROMA AND EGYPTIANS ARE EMPLOYED, AND THE GENDER INEQUALITY IS EVEN MORE DEPRESSING: ONLY 15% OF ROMA WOMEN AND 13% OF EGYPTIAN WOMEN ARE EMPLOYED.⁵

INCOME

THE INCOME FOR ABOUT 48% OF ROMA FAMILIES IS **LESS THAN ALL 10,000/MONTH** (APPROXIMATELY EUR 70).⁶

HOUSING

15% OF THE ROMA HOUSEHOLDS LIVE IN A NON-CONVENTIONAL HOUSING.⁷

LIFE EXPECTANCY

ROMA DIE ON AVERAGE **AT LEAST 10 YEARS YOUNGER THAN** NON-ROMA AND HAVE HIGHER RATES OF INFANT MORTALITY.⁸

THE SOCIAL BENEFITS

ECONOMIC AID, DISABILITY, UNEMPLOYMENT REPRESENTED ABOUT **13.1 % OF THE ROMA FAMILY BUDGET AND 24 % OF AN EGYPTIAN FAMILY.**⁹

Footnotes

1 Open Society Foundation in Albania (OSFA), Roma Census Study of Albania Communities, April 2014, http://www.osfa.al/sites/default/files/roma_census_albanian.pdf. This figure belongs only to the Roma that live in concentrated areas.

2 Estimate provided by the Roma Association "Amarodrom" quoted in the World Bank report Roma and Egyptians in Albania: From Social Exclusion to Social Inclusion, prepared by Hermine De Soto, Sabine Beddies and Ilir Gedeshi, 2005, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/7313/32181.pdf?sequence=1>, p. xxiv.

3 Estimate provided by Vllazerimi NGO

4 INSTAT and UNDP, Roma and Egyptians in Albania: a socio-demographic and economic profile based on the 2011 census, Albania, 2015

5 Ibid

6 Ibid

7 Ibid

8 European Commission, Roma Health Report: Health Status of the Roma Population and Monitoring of Data Collection in the Member States of the European Union, April 2014, http://ec.europa.eu/health/social_determinants/docs/2014_roma_health_report_en.pdf, p. 37

9 INSTAT and UNDP, Roma and Egyptians in Albania: a socio-demographic and economic profile based on the 2011 census, Albania, 2015

Pillar 1

Employment and Entrepreneurship Support

Inequality between Roma and Egyptians and majority population in the job market, especially for women, is significant in Albania. Interventions of this work package aim to support Roma and Egyptians' inclusion in active employment programmes, education and vocational training opportunities and in governmental institutions, intending to activate communities' productive potential and to support integration in the labour market.

Pillar 2

Community Led Local Development for Roma and Egyptian Inclusion

Roma and Egyptians in the intervention municipalities will become key actors in local development. Support will be extended to Roma and Egyptian community members, civil society organizations and activists to work in partnership with local administration and implement practical policies on Roma and Egyptian inclusion. Roma and Egyptian local communities in Tirane, Durrës Shkodra and Berat will be mobilized into Community Counselling Forums (CCFs) to prioritize local needs and implement development initiatives (e.g. self-help activities related to education, health, protection from discrimination, and promotion of human rights.) in close partnership with local authorities. Municipalities will be supported to design Local Action Plans on Roma and Egyptians Inclusion, while Roma and Egyptian civil society organizations will be supported through capacity building and grant schemes on local development initiatives.

Pillar 3

Improved Access to Basic Services

Roma and Egyptians are less likely to meet the eligibility criteria for basic and social services because of the lack of personal documents or a formal residence transfer, illiteracy or challenges to complete the application forms, highly complicated procedures, possession of ownership on lands they do not possess de facto, etc. The project will support Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health and municipalities to improve access of Roma and Egyptians to basic equitable, inclusive and decentralised services, including education, health, social care and civil registration. A programme on communication for behaviour change model will be established to influence attitudes and behaviours of public servants at national and local level.

Pillar 4

Support the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians (2016-2020) at National, Regional and Local Level

At the national and local level, the project will seek to strengthen the capacity of the government to monitor implementation of the National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians in the Republic of Albania 2016-2020.