

“Leave No One Behind” Programme in Albania

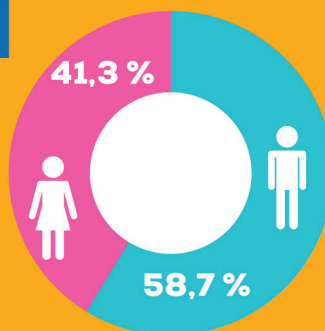
A Rapid Needs Assessment on the COVID-19 crisis on Roma and Egyptian Communities in Fieri, Kruja and Lezha

COVID-19 spread out in Albania exposed the inequalities and exclusion of Roma and Egyptian (R&E) communities from accessing economic and financial resources as well as social services, either because of their economic and social status or because of other factors that make them one of the most vulnerable target of the pandemic crisis.

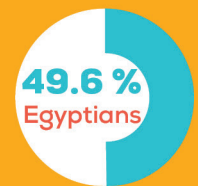
The situation of R&E communities during pandemic exposed the many challenges of public and non-public institutions to plan for and deliver services that meet the needs of R&E communities. It also exposed the life-threatening vulnerabilities caused by poverty, poor infrastructure in their settlements, poor dwellings, domestic violence etc.

Sample Households details

The findings are based on a survey, conducted by UNDP and “Help for Children” Foundation in the framework of “Leave No One Behind (LNB)” a UN Joint Programme supported by the Swiss Government, with **262** households of R&E in Fieri, Kruja (Fushë Kruja) and Lezha.



Respondents represent both ethnicities almost equally.



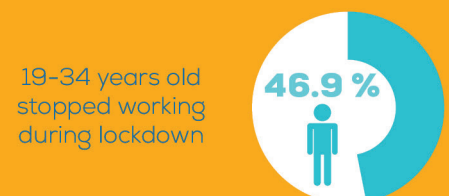
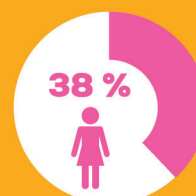
Employment

The most affected R&E community group by the pandemic and the lockdown are individuals with risky and unstable labor conditions, mainly working informally. RNA accounted for as informal, around **70%** of employed R&E people.

67% of respondents have lost their jobs during the lockdown and have not recuperated it after the crisis.



100% of young people interviewed reported that lockdown had disrupted their life and work activities. The COVID-19 crisis and lockdown expose youngsters to inequalities and exacerbates their situation with regard to employment.



Incomes

Household income has been decreased, particularly among R&E people working in informal arrangements. Being mostly informal in the market economy employees or self-employers from the R&E communities lost the opportunity to access the economic support ensured by measures taken by the government (especially war payment).

Nine out of ten R&E families did not have enough money to cover basic food during the lockdown.

81 % of them reported that they did not fully meet the needs for hygiene supplies such as face masks and disinfectants as instructed by health authorities.

Incomes are increased for

11% of HH

Incomes are decreased for

88% of HH

Education

Education of R&E children has not been disrupted for majority of them.

Although the parents reported that their children attended the school, many of them report struggling with supporting home learning. 85,4% of the parents reported they failed to support their children with devices necessary for remote learning.

Nearly half of parents are dissatisfied with their child's progress and development since lockdown. Many children are bored, lack motivation and parents are worried that their education has been set back. Parents do not believe that children have learned well during the remote learning as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

students attended remote learning at a rate of



80-85%

through TV



66.2%

through Mobiles



42.4%

Transfers and social services

Around 70% of the respondents reported they did not access emergency assistance provided by the government, especially war payment due to their economic activities' informal status. Number of families provided with social services by the project were higher than those covered with social transfers by local government.



Domestic violence

19 % of respondents reported that domestic violence has been increased in the lockdown as a consequence of financial and social stress.

Respondents reported that domestic violence has been increased in the lockdown with



19 %

Knowledge, attitudes and practices of R&E communities to COVID 19

Looking ahead to the next months, adults are worried about being able to pay for sanitary means costs and having enough masks, gloves and sanitizers.

82 %



of respondents held positive attitudes toward measures taken by the government

87.8 %



of households reported that they practise proper hand hygiene

73.2 %



of households reported that they avoid crowds and family events