



ROMA HOUSING FACTSHEET

ALBANIA

This Factsheet presents a profile of the country based on the UNDP/World Bank/EC1 regional Roma survey 2011, country specific data from “Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptians Communities in Albania” 2012 and “Roma Housing Policies and Practices”³ background study

According to the Socioeconomic household questionnaires with Roma and Egyptians, 2011, more than 38 percent of Roma and 45 percent of Egyptian families live in old houses, while 21 percent of Roma and 11 percent of Egyptian families live in shacks. Many of these households do not have potable water, toilettes and sewages within their houses. Infrastructure, especially near the Roma settlements, is characterized by unpaved roads or roads in bad conditions.

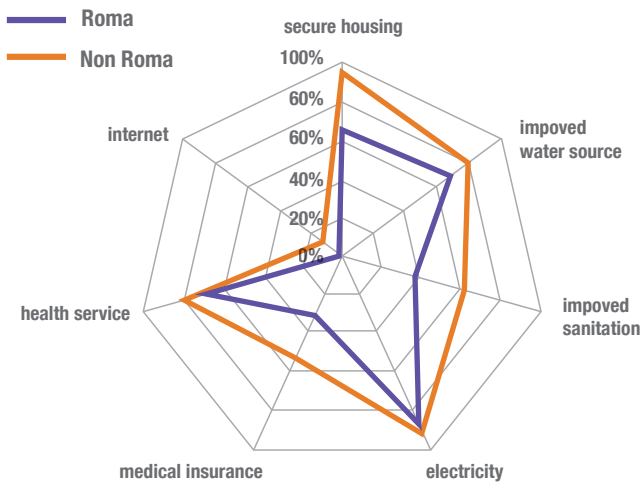
Roma are mostly affected by inadequate housing in particular the quality, size and adequacy of space per household member, own a bed per person, irregular waste collection. 36% of Roma live in ruined houses or slums. Average square meter per household

member for Roma household is 11.58 almost two times lower than standard in non-Roma household (21.07m²). Further, only 58% of Roma households have a bed for each household member (88% of non-Roma). 26% of Roma households reported irregularities in waste collection. Ownership of dwelling is not reported as an issue as 82% of Roma owns a dwelling and 92% of non-Roma.

The majority of the interviewed Roma (38.4%) live in old housing or shacks (20.8%) with single (66.3%) or composite households (27.5%). They self-declare themselves as owners of their housing (80.6%), and about 10.8% declare to rent their housing. In terms of dwelling conditions, there is an almost equal division between those who have toilettes within the dwelling (34%) and those who have the toilettes outside of their dwellings (37.4%). A similar situation is seen in regards to drinking water, although a higher majority of the interviewed report to have drinking water inside the dwelling (61.2%), there is a substantial percentage that report to not have drinking water inside the household (38.8%). In terms of sewage, 56.6% of the interviewed report positively, while 43.4% report to not have sewage in their dwelling. The vast majority of the interviewed Roma get electric energy (82%), while 94.8% report to not have a telephone.

Since most of the interviewed Roma declare to own their housing, the majority of them declare to have not applied for social housing. Only 14.3% declare to have applied for social housing and a mere 1.5% report to have benefited from social housing. The main division of the reasons why they have not applied for social housing is between lack of information (46.2%) and not being in need (35.8%).

Furthermore, 98% of Roma lives in household that are materially deprived (86% of non-Roma) while 96% lives in households that are severely materially deprived (79% of non-Roma). As further presented in Figure 6 and 7, significant portion of Roma are deprived of basic services and basic household amenities when compared to their non-Roma neighbors.



	Roma	Non-Roma		Roma	Non-Roma
Access to secure housing	64%	93%	Access to medical insurance	32%	54%
Access to improved water source	70%	82%	Access to health services	73%	85%
Access to improved sanitation	39%	66%	Access to internet	3%	12%
Access to electricity	93%	96%			

¹ “The Housing Situation of Roma Communities- Regional Roma Survey 2011” – The report analyzes housing-related data from the 2011 regional Roma survey conducted by UNDP, the World Bank, and European Commission in the EU member states, in twelve countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. <http://www.scribd.com/doc/154052894/The-housing-situation-of-Roma-communities>

² “The Need Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptians in Albania, 2012” is carried out by UNDP Albania through Center for Social and Economic studies, CESS, and is based in research, quantity, and quality techniques. These techniques include: (i) a review of the existing literature; (ii) a socioeconomic survey (Socioeconomic Household questionnaires with Roma and Egyptians, includes 1,200 surveys door to door of Roma households in all settlements and 1,200 surveys with Egyptian households”), (iii) semi-open interviews with Roma and Egyptians; Focus group discussions; <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/roma-needs-assessment-report/>

³ Roma Housing Policies and Practices in Albania:

<http://www.al.undp.org/content/dam/albania/docs/misc/Housing%20Policies%20and%20Practice%20for%20Roma%20in%20Albania>

A study commissioned by UNDP Albania in the framework of Regional support facility for improving stakeholders capacity for progress on Roma Inclusion funded by SDC and OSI.

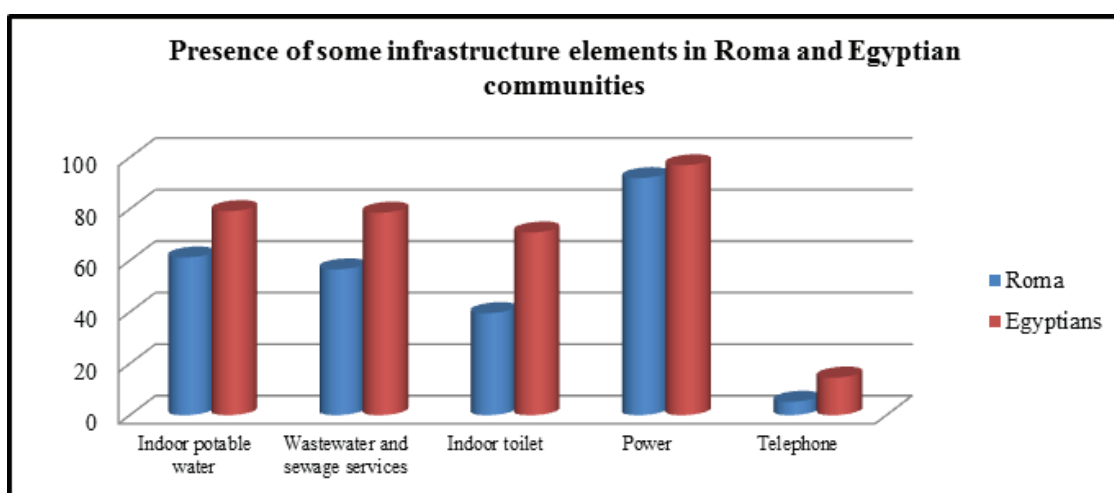
Informal Roma Settlements

Most of Roma communities live in informal settlements. The NHA survey of 2006 showed that only 4.3% of Roma families owned the land on their housing, 87% had occupied private land (subject to property restitution) and for the rest the housing was located on public land. Such finding indicates that generally the Roma live with insecurity of tenure, especially those located on private land, in vicinity of cities that are subject to development. A significant part of these families live in shacks or improvised huts with no access to basic housing conditions.

Lack of indoor water and sanitation

A UNDP survey conducted in 2012 by the Centre of Economic and Social Studies (CESS) showed that lack of indoor water and sanitation is typical for the Roma settlements. Close to 38.8% of Roma population do not have indoor running water while 43.4% have no toilets at homes. The number of people who say they have indoor toilet facilities and those who have outdoor toilets is almost equal (34% and 37.4% respectively). The situation with access to potable water is similar; although a large number of respondents say they have access to potable water at home (61.2%), there is still a considerably large number who say they don't (38.8%). As regards access to wastewater services, 56.6% of the respondents say they are connected to the sewage network while 43.4% report they are not. Lack of water and sanitation is the main source for infective diseases and high child mortality rates

Presence of infrastructure services in Roma and Egyptian communities



Source: 2011 Roma and Egyptian Social Economic Survey

Unhealthy and unsafe living conditions

The same study revealed that over 38 per cent of Roma families live in old decrepit buildings and 21 per cent live in shacks built with plastics, metal panels or makeshift tents. Unhealthy living conditions contribute to physical and mental disorders, reflected mostly in respiratory diseases, depression and aggressive conduct. For example, incidences of asthma and lung diseases are 3 times higher in Roma than non-Roma population. The same ratio stands also for the incidence of anxiety and depression. Furthermore, the Roma are plagued by unsafe living conditions, due to location in some cases, close to riverbanks. Roma families living in these areas are threatened by flooding and risk for their life, not to mention the risks from diseases that can be spread because of flooding.

Inability to access social housing programmes

Reports show that Roma may not be able to access low-cost housing and mortgage interest subsidy programmes. This is mostly due to:

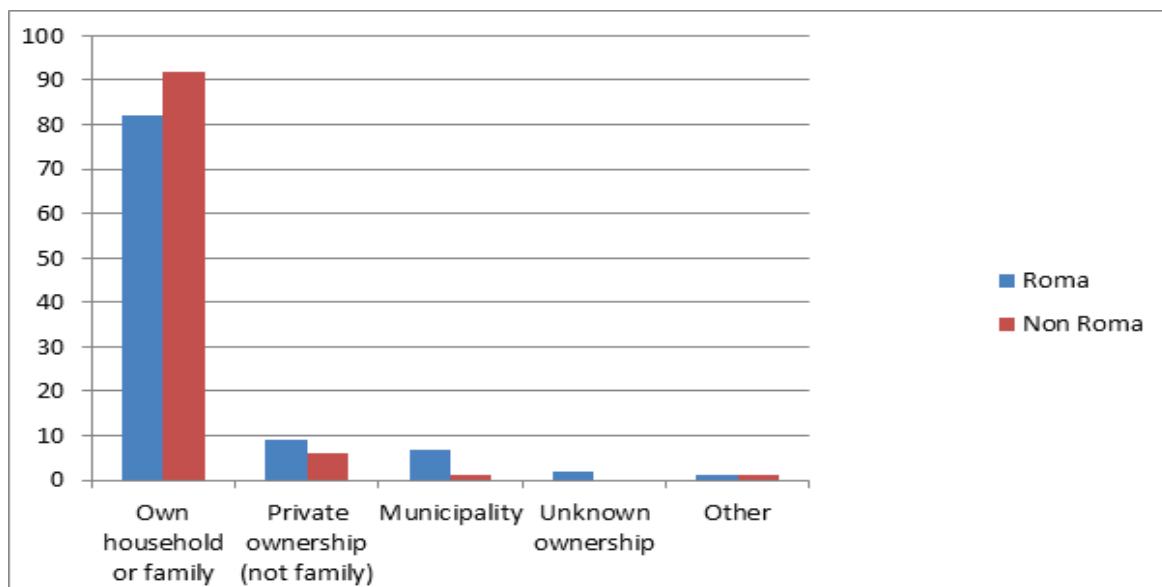
- Roma do not receive additional points in the selection criteria for being Roma and even if they do, there is not any document that they can provide to prove that;
- Roma cannot prove their income, since generally they are not formally employed;
- They do not earn at such levels to afford paying a rent or paying back a subsidized loan;
- Most or some of them are not registered in the civil registries of local government where they actually reside for years;
- They lack information about public policies and also often the required documentation for applying to social housing programs. This is particularly the case with those Roma living in informality and in risk of eviction, which are not able to follow the required procedures;
- Location is not taken into account when deciding for housing solutions for Roma, which are not willing to move to an area without easy access to waste bins and/or begging.

Regional Overview of Roma Housing situation

The UNDP/WB/EC survey was conducted in May-July 2011 on a random sample of Roma and non-Roma households living in areas with higher density (or concentration) of Roma populations in the EU Member States of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and the non-EU Member States of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova and Serbia. In each of the countries, approximately 750 Roma households and approximately 350 non-Roma households living in proximity were interviewed

Below are the results of the survey in Albania as regards the questions on housing situation.

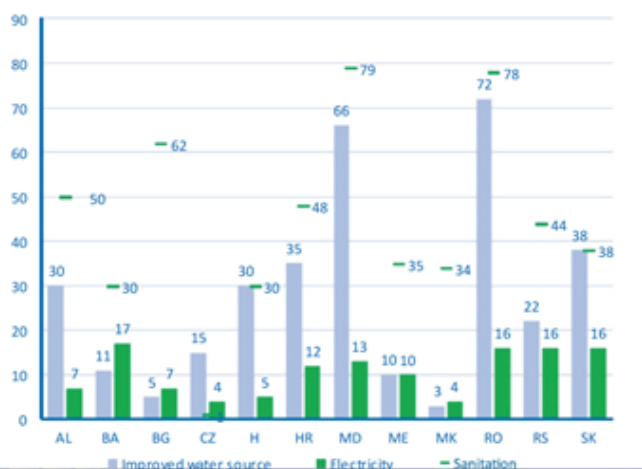
Dwelling ownership of Roma in Albania



Source: UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011

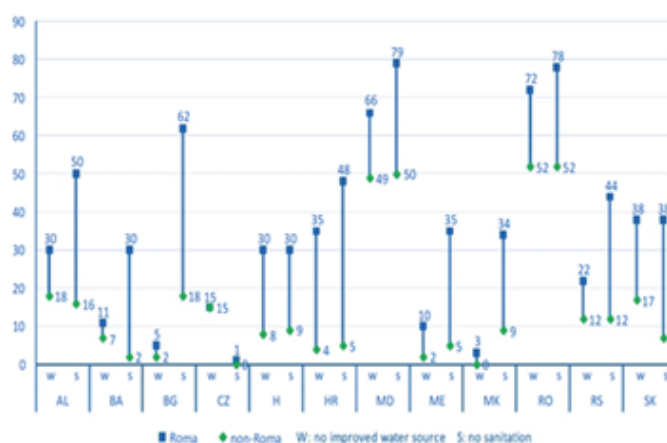
Since the same methodological principles were used in conducting the UNDP regional survey in 2004 and the UNDP/WB/EC 2011 survey, comparisons were drawn to establish whether any progress has taken place with regards to basic housing indicators. A presentation of the key findings of the survey follows.

Roma households without improved water source, sanitation and electricity (%)

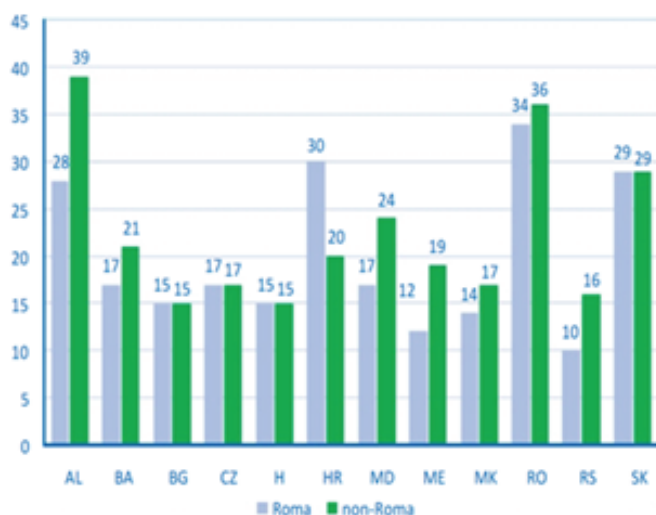


Source: UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011

Households without access to improved water sources and sanitation (%)

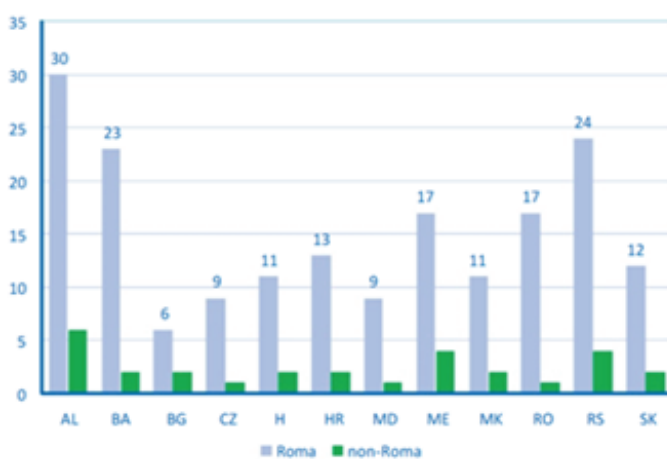


Neighborhood improvement

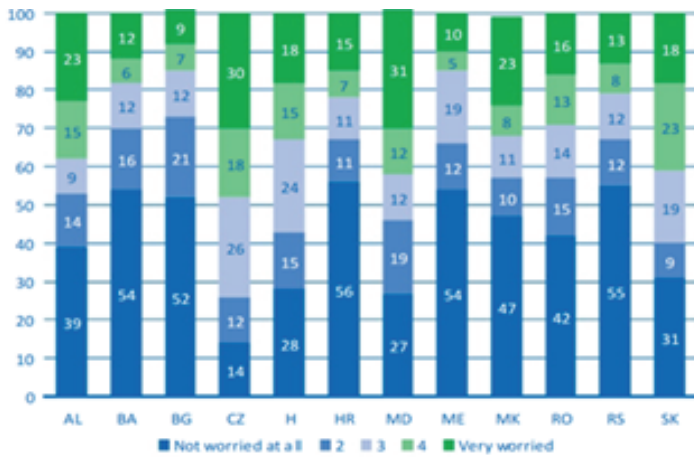


Source: UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011

Interiors characterized as "very bad" (%)

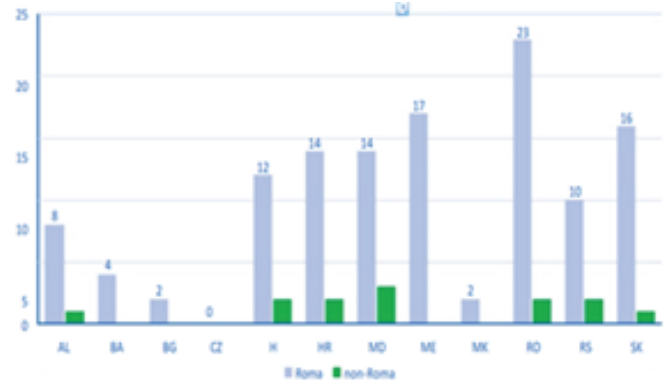


Roma perception of eviction threat (%)

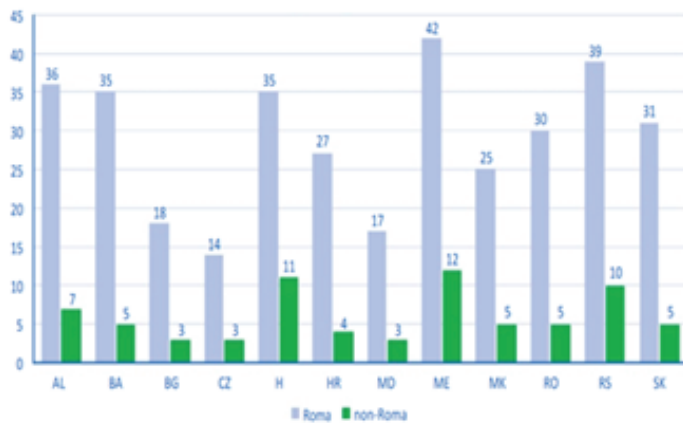


Source: UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011

Households facing multiple habitability deprivation (in %)

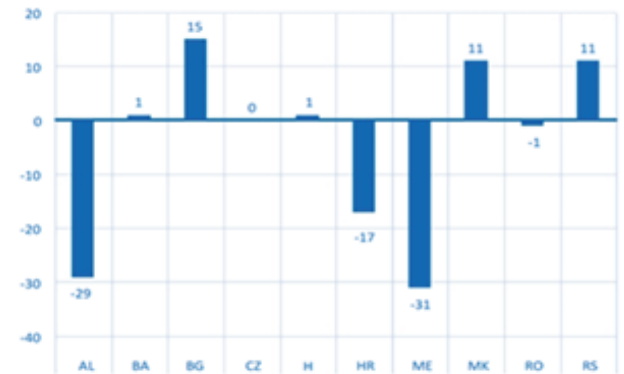


Insecure housing conditions (in %)

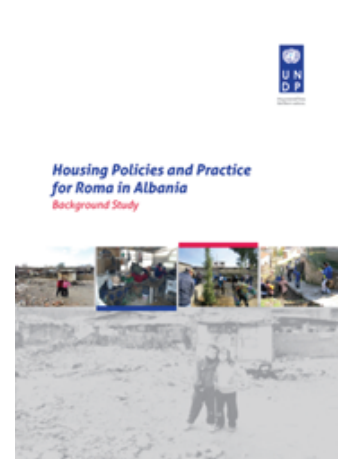
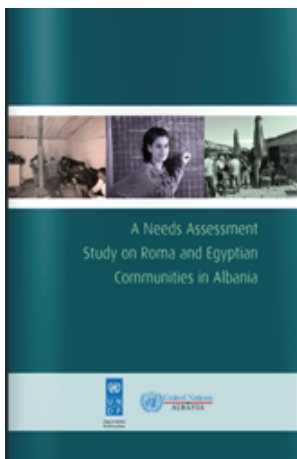


Source: UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011

Progress in eliminating insecure housing 2004-2011



Source: UNDP survey 2004 and UNDP/WB/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011



- <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/roma-needs-assessment-report/>
- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/154052819/Policy-brief-Roma-housing>
- <http://www.scribd.com/doc/154052894/The-housing-situation-of-Roma-communities>
- <http://www.al.undp.org/content/albania/en/home/library/poverty/housing-policies-and-practice-for-roma-in-albania/>



Empowered lives. Resilient nations.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Cooperation Office Albania
Zyra e Bashkëpunimit Zviceran në Shqipëri