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ROMA ACTION



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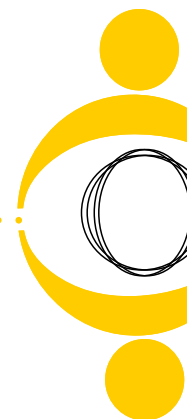
Roma Action (RA) project successfully completed

After successful project implementation, all the activities foreseen in the contract between the EU (IPA 2013) and HWA in partnership with ASB and Kali Sara - RIC organizations, have been completed. The project provided social inclusion for 140 Roma families in nine municipalities/cities and Brčko District BiH: cities of Tuzla, Zenica and Bijeljina, municipalities of Gračanica, Zavidovići, Kakanj, Banovići and Modriča, and Brčko District BiH.

An integrated approach to solution of social inclusion of Roma, including housing, infrastructure rehabilitation and construction, economic sustainability measures and awareness raising on rights, with participation of all relevant government and non-governmental organizations, proved to be the best and applicable to all future projects.

Roma Action

2015 - 2018



Handover ceremony of a building with 18 apartments in Brčko
H.E. Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark – Head of EU Delegation to BiH, Siniša Milić – Mayor of Brčko District BiH and Stefan Fritz - Director of Hilfswerk Austria International

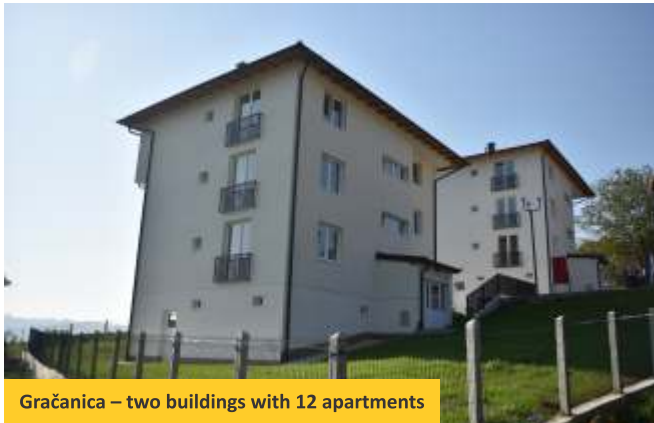
Project partners



ROMA ACTION 2015 - 2018

The project that provided support to vulnerable Roma families in areas affected by floods through provision of housing units and socio-economic measures was funded by the European Union in the amount of 2.5 million euros, and co-financed by local authorities in the amount of 640.000 KM. Within the project 140 residential units for Roma families were built or renovated in 9 targeted municipalities in BiH. 68 housing units were constructed according to the model of social housing, and a total of 72 residential units were reconstructed. The project was implemented by Hilfswerk Austria International, in partnership with Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V (ASB) and Kali Sara-RIC.

In addition to co-financing, local administrations actively participated in the project implementation in all targeted locations, and provided land for construction, necessary permits and infrastructure connections.



Project partners



They said about the project and support to the Roma population ...

Ambassador **Lars-Gunnar Wigemark**, Head of the EU Delegation to BiH and EU Special Representative in BiH:

The objects constructed through the Roma Action project are part of a much larger Programme, which includes local communities throughout BiH. Construction of houses for Roma families, just like for any other family, is the foundation of integration into society. If you do not have a home, you cannot provide education for your children, it's difficult to maintain a job and it is more difficult to integrate into the society and become a real citizen that contributes to the society. For full integration of the Roma population into society other aspects also require attention, such as education, employment and health.

Stefan Fritz, Director of Hilfswerk Austria International (HWA):

I would like to wish all the best to beneficiaries in their new flats. HWA is actively involved in supporting the social inclusion of Roma families through the construction or renovation of housing units and economic empowerment, and we will continue similar activities in BiH. I invite international donors and local authorities to maintain this type of support and continue to invest in socio-economic integration and a better future of the socially vulnerable population.

Suzana Jašarević, Director of Hilfswerk Austria International for BiH:

Thanks to the EU funds and local co-financing 140 Roma families in 9 communities in BiH have significantly improved their lives. Key steps have been made, from the former homelessness to the current tenancy in a modern apartment through the social housing system, which is an excellent starting point for a decent inclusive social life.



Kakanj – before RA project

ROMA ACTION project in Kakanj, Varda settlement, was implemented in two phases, within which two buildings with a total of 16 apartments were constructed. Prior to the intervention Roma families lived in extremely difficult conditions, in ruined and poor barracks, which had a harmful effect on their health.

Through the RA project 16 Roma families in Kakanj have got to use well-built modern housing units, as well as basic home appliances.



Kakanj – after RA project



Project partners



Action Plan of Bosnia and Herzegovina for solving Roma issues in the areas of employment, housing and health care 2017 - 2020 was adopted

Based on the complex activities (thematic working groups with MHHR BiH, workshops, thematic roundtables) and analysis conducted or coordinated by the partner association Kali Sara-RIC within the project, the BiH Council of Ministers adopted in July 2017 the Decision on the adoption of the Action Plan of BiH to address Roma issues in the areas of employment, housing and health care 2017 - 2020, in total value of around 24.2 million KM.

The aim of the Action Plan is to improve the institutional capacities for Roma issues, to improve the employment and self-employment of Roma, to improve the living conditions of Roma population and to improve the availability and quality of their health care.

Measures of socio-economic sustainability

In addition to housing, HWA paid special attention to individual measures of socio-economic sustainability for project beneficiaries, and based on the needs and possibilities, a total of 104 grants were awarded, including agricultural machinery, small business startup tools, and basic home appliances.



Achieved results

140 Roma families in 9 selected locations moved into renovated and newly constructed housing units, which significantly improved their living conditions and socio-economic inclusion in project locations affected by floods.

Improved economic sustainability of 104 Roma families by ensuring the necessary measures for recovery after floods.

Increased awareness of equal opportunities for social integration through enrolment in civil registers, education of children, young people and targeted Roma families through interactive workshops.

Support provided for thematic working groups at the state level in 4 sectors related to Roma in order to prepare proposals for addressing current Roma issues in BiH through the Action Plan 2017 - 2020, which was finally adopted by the BiH Council of Ministers.

With the completion of the Roma Action both phases, social inclusion for 289 Roma families was provided, 18 buildings with 135 apartments were built according to the model of social housing, 154 housing units were reconstructed, 250 emergency flood relief packages and 116 grants were delivered within the framework of sustainability measures, infrastructure related to the locations of housing units was renewed or built. The project directly affected the improvement of living conditions for more than 2.300 persons.



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