



The Challenges of the Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian community in Kosovo during the Covid-19 pandemic

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publisher:

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(transitional justice| education | peacebuilding)

<http://admovere.org/>

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printing:

Printing Press

July 2020

Prishtinë

copies: 300 copies

Research and publication supported by:

KFOS (Kosovo Foundation for Open Society)

ADMOVEVERE is a member of the University Integrity and Transparency Coalition (UITC), supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS). This research is conducted as part of the KITU program. The views expressed in this report belong to the NGO ADMOVEVERE and do not necessarily represent the views of the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), the IUTC, or the reviewers.

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Abbreviations

EARK	Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo
DE	Directorate of Education
MDE	Municipal Directorate of Education
DF	Directorate of Finance
DHSW	Directorate of Health and Social Welfare
DPSE	Directorate of Public Services and Emergencies
HEI	Higher Education Institutions
OI	Ombudsperson Institution
KFOS	Kosovo Foundation for an Open Society
UITC	University Integrity and Transparency Coalition
MA	Municipal Assembly
MPA	Ministry of Public Administration
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
MF	Ministry of Finance
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MH	Ministry of Health
KP	Kosovo Police
SEMS	Student Electronic Management System
IMSHE	Information Management System in Higher Education
UMS	University Management System
USA	United States of America
PLUSS	Primary, Lower and Upper Secondary School
EC	Emergency HQ
AI	Administrative Instruction
UP	University of Prishtina
USAID	United States Agency for International Development



Acknowledgements

We are grateful to everyone who assisted in producing this report, and first and foremost, the representatives of the municipalities of Ferizaj, Lipjan and Fushe Kosove. We would especially like to thank Bekim Ademi, Director, Health and Social Welfare, and Afrim Llabjani, Director of Education at Ferizaj municipality; Diamant Bytyqi, official spokesperson, and Lulzim Qerimi, Vice President for Communities, at Lipjan municipality; and in particular, we express our thanks to Ali Topalli, official spokesman at Fushe Kosove municipality, for his unstinting support.

In addition, we extend our thanks to Drin Haraçia, Director of the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo, for his unparalleled professionalism and to the

Kosovo Police for their conscientious response. In particular we also wish to thank Bajram Kafu Kinolli, Denur Paçaku, Driton Berisha, Gazmend Salijevec, Muhamet Arifi, Osman Osmani, and Senad Ibishi activists for the protection of the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo, for fruitful discussions and sharing valuable data relevant to our research.

Lastly, we thank the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) for providing the financial support for the research and publication of this report, Gazmend Bërlajolli for editing the report, Driton Paçaradë for the cover photograph, Envinion for the design and layout, and Printing Press for publishing this report.



Introduction

Historically, marginalised groups such as the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities always suffer more from pandemics and natural disasters. In addition to difficulties in accessing quality health care, the living conditions of these communities often increase the likelihood of infection. It is essential therefore to analyse central and local government policies to address the needs of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities at times of crisis.

The first objective of this report is to identify and analyse the measures undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, with respect to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, in order to prevent and manage the Covid-19 pandemic. To this end, we reviewed all the decisions of the Ministry of Health (MH), the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), and the Ministry of Finance (MF). Furthermore, we requested access to documents and public information from the MH, MES and MF, we analysed reports by the press and major online news portals regarding the pandemic, and we also conducted interviews with the Director of the Employment Agency in Kosovo (EARK). The lack of a response from the ministries to our requests was a major limitation to this part of our research.

The second objective of this study is to identify and analyse the measures undertaken by the municipalities of Ferizaj, Lipjan and Fushe Kosove, with respect to the Roma,

Ashkali and Egyptian communities, in order to manage and mitigate the Covid-19 pandemic. To this end, we analysed all the decisions of these three municipalities relating to the pandemic, and we also summarised all the news and press releases published on their official websites. In addition, we conducted interviews with the directors and coordinators of the municipal emergency headquarters, the deputy leaders and spokespersons of the municipalities, as well as with the directors of education, health and social welfare.

The third objective of this research is to analyse the implementation and impact of these measures on the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. For this reason we asked the Employment Agency to provide data on the number of unemployed registered nationally for the period March – June, and especially the month of April; the number of beneficiaries of Measure No.5 of the emergency fiscal package; and the number of family beneficiaries of social assistance, etc. We also collated news reports and articles on online portals regarding the situation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities during the pandemic. In addition, we interviewed representatives of the municipalities of Ferizaj, Lipjan and Fushë Kosovë regarding the affirmative measures undertaken during this period and we held discussions with representatives of organisations that advocate for the rights of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.



Current situation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community

In order to highlight the significance of affirmative measures for marginalised groups in emergency situations, such as the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, we classified the key problems which these communities have confronted in the post-war period and up to June 2020, in the following priority categories: education, employment, social welfare, health and shelter. These issues are also addressed in the Kosovo Government Strategy for the Inclusion of the Roma community in Kosovar Society (2017-2021). For this research we analysed documents and strategies drafted by the Kosovo institutions, laws adopted by the Kosovo Assembly, progress reports by the European Commission (EC) from 2005 to 2019, and in particular, reports, analysis and studies by various local and international NGOs.

Education

Since the end of the war (1999), minority communities, and especially the Roma, have suffered discrimination in access to education. Up to the declaration of

Independence in 2008, school attendance by pupils from the Roma community was extremely low at all pre-university levels, especially for girls. After the declaration of independence, the degree of inclusion of the Roma at all levels of education increased, thanks among other things to the work of local and international government and non-governmental organisations. Worthy of note in municipalities with Roma populations are the Teaching Centres, which have now been established by MES by-laws, as well as the 600 MES scholarships worth 300 Euros a year for Roma students.¹ Nonetheless, the number of Roma students registered in school remains unsatisfactory, there is a high drop-out rate, especially among girls, and a very low level of learning outcomes.

The literacy rate is much lower for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities compared to the rest of the population. Whereas about 98% of the total population of Kosovo is literate, only 73% of women and 87% of men who are Roma,

Ashkali or Egyptian can read and write.² Approximately 65% of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children attend lower secondary school across the country, but only 30% go on to attend upper secondary school.³

The number of Roma students in higher education is small, despite the fact that public universities in Kosovo have set quotas for the registration of Roma. According to the representatives of Roma Versitas, 42 students from all three communities were registered in higher educational institutions in the academic year 2018-2019, and this figure rose to 53 in the 2019-2020 academic year.⁴

The Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities confront these problems in education because of severe socio-economic conditions, a high level of unemployment, a low level of awareness among Roma parents about the importance of educating their children, a lack of qualified teachers from the ranks of their community, low levels of achievement of students in lessons (repeating years), discrimination, prejudice, verbal and physical abuse (bullying) by Albanian students and teachers in schools, child marriage, limited access to the relevant infrastructure to get to school (roads, lighting, transport), and the migration of families for economic reasons and their return to Kosovo. There are also cases when Roma children who speak Serbian do not attend lessons in Serbian schools out of fear of this causing problems with Albanians, and so on.

Employment

Many Roma lost their jobs with the transformation from a centralised to a market economy, and the privatization of public enterprises. In general, members of this community far more than in other communities, work in the informal sector, including in work that is hazardous, precarious, temporary, part-time, in low status jobs (mostly low-skilled, manual labour) and on low pay, meanwhile Roma children continue to work. As a result, poverty rates in this community are much higher than in other communities, when compared at the national level by income per capita, and there is a continual tendency for this rate to increase.

With regard to the employment of members of ethnic minorities in the public sector, the Law on the Civil Service in Kosovo sets a minimum quota of 10% ethnic minority employment in national institutions, and at the local level, proportional representation based on the demographic composition of the local population.⁵ However, the Kosovo institutions have not managed at the local or national level to achieve proportional and fair representation of the Roma community in the civil service.

The key obstacle to employment for the Roma community derives from the overall low level of employment in Kosovo, limited qualifications because of the lack of education, discrimination, abuse, exclusion and corruption, and the absence of connections through family and friends employed or active in political parties etc. Furthermore, Roma access to employment

services and vocational training, provided by the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare (MESW) and other organizations, is limited because of the lack of sufficient information about employment offices and centres of vocational training.

The gap between the level of employment of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and other communities who live nearby is very large. Youth unemployment is extremely high: 78% of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth, aged between 18-24 years, are neither employed nor in education.⁶

Welfare

Until recently, approximately half of all Roma in Kosovo were not registered as Kosovo residents, which has prevented them from benefiting from administrative and social services. Informal settlements remain a problem as living conditions are extremely precarious. Residents of various camps for displaced persons, particularly in the north, have suffered from lead contamination.

MESW has facilitated the employment of 524 job seekers from all minority communities, including the Roma, in a positive labour market measure. But adequate measures are still lacking to address the social inclusion of specific groups, including Roma returnees.⁷

In 2018, approximately 29% more Roma families than non-Roma families, had one member who went to bed hungry. When Roma families are compared with non-Roma families in their locality, Roma

families were 17% less likely to have a bathroom in their homes; 10% less likely to access preventative health services; and Roma youth were 23% less likely to be in employment, education or training.⁸

Lack of information inhibits access to employment services and vocational training, provided by MESW and other organisations. Greater effort is required to prevent child labour and child marriage, which affects girls in particular. Some people still encounter difficulties with regard to civil documentation, often relating to their return or repatriation.

Health care

Living conditions in various locations have been extremely concerning, especially in camps contaminated by lead, because they pose a serious risk to the health of residents. Health care is not provided in an adequate manner for minority communities, especially the Roma. The Ministry of Health has approved a protocol for the examination and treatment of persons suffering lead contamination. Lead contamination levels in the region of Mitrovica remain high. Vaccine coverage in the Roma community is much lower than in other communities. Since January 2011, the Institute for Public Health has conducted a campaign to vaccinate Roma children against various illnesses.

Roma children with lead contamination continue to receive medical care. However, inadequate financial resources hinder the implementation of general health policies.

Access to public health care is free, but only covers basic needs. With only three out of ten Roma children fully immunized, vaccination coverage in the community remains worrying. The lack of information about services provided by public institutions and cases of discrimination inhibit access to health services.

Shelter

Shelter for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities is a complex issue. The majority of members of these communities live in informal settlements. Their needs for shelter are largely met by international donors. In 2018 the government allocated 2.4 million Euro to construct social housing for the Roma and Ashkali communities and other

marginalised communities.

The families of these three communities live mostly in houses or apartments that they own, but they are in poor condition, largely because of poor construction. Most houses/apartments are too small to accommodate large families, and lack bathrooms that meet minimum hygiene-sanitation standards and basic household equipment such as an electric stove, fridge, boiler, heater, washing machine, and vacuum cleaner. Shelter for these communities is also complex because of the destruction of their property during and after the war, the usurpation of property after the war, and the absence of documentation for the purchase of property from Serbs who left Kosovo, etc.

In 2018, approximately 29% more Roma families than non-Roma families, had one member who went to bed hungry. When Roma families are compared with non-Roma families in their locality, Roma families were 17% less likely to have a bathroom in their homes; 10% less likely to access preventative health services; and Roma youth were 23% less likely to be in employment, education or training



Decisions of the Government to manage the Covid-19 pandemic

Introduction

The primary goal of this publication is to identify and analyse measures undertaken by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, with regard to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, for the prevention and management of the Covid-19 pandemic. We have analysed all decisions by the government and relevant ministries: the Ministry of Health (MH), the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MES), and the Ministry of Finance and Transfers

(MF). It appears that the first decision of the first government meeting relating to the pandemic was on February 28, 2020. We also requested access to public documents in these three ministries, but only MH provided the information sought, whereas MES and MF did not respond to our request. In the following section of the report, we present all the decisions and measures undertaken by the government, which appear on the official websites of the relevant ministries.



Government decisions

Up to June 1, 2020, the official website of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo had published a total of 27 decisions relating to the prevention and management of the Covid-19 pandemic. These are decisions from government meetings and they do not include all measures and decisions by the government for the management of the pandemic situation, since many of these were taken at the level of the respective ministries.

No decision or measure taken by the government and respective ministries considers the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. With the exception of Measure No. 9 of the Fiscal Emergency Package, which promises to finance projects for these communities to a value of 2 million Euro, there is no other affirmative measure.

1. The first decision of the Government of Kosovo regarding the prevention of Covid-19 pandemic was taken on February 28, 2020. According to this decision, the Ministry of Health allocated 400,000 euros for the prevention of possible emergency situations.⁹
2. On March 10, 2020, the MH's readiness plan and action plan to prevent Covid-19 was approved.¹⁰
3. On March 11, 2020, the MH request to undertake 11 measures in order to prevent Covid-19 was approved. Most significant among these measures were: the interruption of education; temporary suspension of air and land travel from high and medium-risk countries; self-quarantine for all entering Kosovo from high and medium-risk countries; and work stoppage after 23.00 for restaurants, cafes, nightclubs, and swimming pools.¹¹
4. On March 13, 2020, 13 measures were taken after confirming the first cases of Covid-19. Urban and inter-urban transport was prohibited, and on March 16, all air travel was banned, except military and emergency flights.¹²
5. On March 18, 2020, the Student Dormitory Center was designated as a quarantine location and was managed by the MH until the cessation of the state of emergency declared by the Government of Kosovo.¹³

6. On March 23, 2020, the government approved the MH proposal to take additional measures to prevent Covid-19. From March 24, the movement of citizens and vehicles was prohibited during the hours 10.00-16.00 and 20.00-06.00. The movement of more than two people together was also prohibited.¹⁴
7. On March 26, 2020, the interruption of education of all levels, and in public and private institutions continued.¹⁵
8. On March 30, 2020, the Emergency Fiscal Package was approved, which contained 15 measures amounting to over 170 million euros. This package intended to address the economic problems caused by pandemics, including actions and interventions aimed at helping citizens in those roles and functions harmed by the pandemic (as beneficiaries of social schemes by the state, consumers, employees, tenants or employers).¹⁶
9. On April 8, 2020, the MH was authorized to set a new timetable for movement in each municipality.¹⁷
10. On April 23, 2020, the MH request for the transfer of funds totalling 820 thousand euros was approved.¹⁸
11. On May 27, 2020, the Student Dormitory Center and the Centre for Foreigners in Vranidoll was closed as a quarantine location. A decision was taken that all persons entering Kosovo should self-isolate for 14 days.¹⁹
12. On May 31, 2020, a decision was taken to relax measures. The most significant changes were reopening public and private nursery schools for children; preparing the ninth grade achievement examination; organizing the twelfth grade graduation examination; allowing higher education institutions to hold examinations; opening land borders; opening bars, restaurants, shopping malls and cafeterias.²⁰

Out of a total of 27 decisions of the Government of Kosovo on the management of Covid-19 pandemic, only one decision relates to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.



Decisions of the Ministry of Education and Science during the Covid-19 pandemic

On March 11, 2020, in the meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, and at the proposal of the MH, it was decided to suspend public and private education at all levels. As a consequence of circumstances created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the MES started to organise remote lessons. For the purpose of this research, we analysed all decisions relating to education during the pandemic, from March 12 to June 1, 2020.

On the MES official website, the publications section contains all the instructions and documents relating to remote learning and the measures undertaken. In addition, the e-lessons section has a link to the official MES channel on YouTube, where it is possible to find all lessons and lectures for classes 109.

The MES website has published six instructions, eight hours of lessons online,

as well as an explanatory document on how to use the Zoom platform. However, no document contains any specific measures for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Only two of these documents are translated into Serbian and Turkish: *the Instruction on the evaluation of pupils during remote learning and the Decision on the duties and obligations of providing remote learning*.

Decisions

1. The Decision on the duties and responsibilities for the implementation of remote learning for grades 1-12 was taken on March 30, 2020. It defines the duties and responsibilities of the Municipal Directorates of Education (MDE), school principals, caregivers, teachers, parents and students. Learning occurs online through various social platforms, such as Meet, Zoom and Google Classroom.²¹

2. The Instruction for Municipal Directorates of Education on the implementation of online teaching for high schools, vocational high schools and professional qualification centres , was taken on March 30, 2020. This instruction regulates the remote learning process for upper secondary level, high schools and vocational schools.²²
3. The Instruction for the implementation of remote learning for students with special needs was taken on April 14, 2020. The Inclusive Education Division within the Ministry of Education and Science was tasked with coordinating remote learning, in cooperation with the MDEs and Resource Centres. The latter are institutions specialised in providing professional support to students with special needs.²³
4. The Instruction for the evaluation of pre-university students during remote learning was taken on April 24, 2020.²⁴
5. The Instruction for the 2020 state graduation exam was taken on May 28, 2020. The state graduation exam will be held on July 4, 2020, and all candidates who meet the conditions set by the Law on the State Graduation Exam have to take the exam.²⁵

University of Prishtina teaching process

With regard to higher education, the University of Prishtina (UP) began remote teaching on March 16, 2020. The university's official website reveals that in the period March 16 - June 1, 2020, student participation in lectures was low. A total of 72 students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are enrolled at UP. Online lessons were attended by 61 students from these communities.²⁶



Decisions of the Ministry of Finance during the Covid-19 pandemic

The MF website has a section on Economic-Financial Measures and this is divided into four sub-sections: documents and decisions, measures, frequently asked questions and application forms. For the purpose of this research, we reviewed all the decisions and measures on the MF website which relate to the prevention and management of Covid-19.

Documents and decisions

1. On April 16, 2020 a decision was taken to operationalize Measure No. 15 of the Emergency Fiscal Package. Measure No. 15 provides monthly assistance of 130 euros for the period April-June 2020. Beneficiaries are families without any members employed in the public or private sector, and who are also officially registered as unemployed.²⁷
2. An announcement for food store workers was issued on April 20, 2020. It specified the application of Measure No.7 (an additional 100 euros for employees of food stores,

bakeries and pharmacies) from the Emergency Fiscal Package.²⁸

The Operational Plan for the Emergency Fiscal Package entered into force on April 27, 2020 and included 15 measures in total.²⁹

Measure 1: A double payment for all beneficiaries on social welfare (April-May 2020), including the payment for March.

Measure 2: A supplement of 30 euros (April-May 2020) for all beneficiaries of social and pension schemes who receive a monthly salary of less than 100 euros, provided that they are only beneficiaries of one scheme.

Measure 3: Financial support for trading companies (the trading company is interpreted broadly to include all employers):

- a. Covering monthly salary expenses for employees to the amount of 170 euros, for the months of April-May

2020. Beneficiaries of this measure are all trading companies that as a result of the emergency situation and due to Government decisions have been forced to stop their activities.

The employee can benefit if her or she was on the payroll for February 2020.

- b. A subsidy for rent for small and medium-sized business up to 50% of the value of the rent for the months of April and May 2020.
- c. Covering the value of pension contributions for wages in connection to the measures undertaken for April-May 2020.

Measure 4: Guarantee of interest-free lending to public enterprises that face difficulties as a result of the situation created, until December 31, 2020

Measure 5: Financial support for municipalities to a value of 10 million euros. The priority is the municipalities that are most affected by the pandemic.

Measure 6: Monthly salary supplement (April-May 2020), to the amount of 300 euros for front-line workers who are directly exposed to the risk of infection. These workers include medical staff (doctors and nurses), police officers, guards, firefighters, KSF staff, quarantine workers, workers at the Student Centre, labour inspectors, tax

administration officials, customs officers, market inspectors, officials of relevant municipal inspectorates, inspectorates of occupational health.

Measure 7: A supplement of 100 euros per month (April-May 2020), for workers in grocery stores, bakeries and pharmacies.

Measure 8: Monthly assistance of 130 euros (April-June 2020), for citizens who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic.

Measure 9: Supporting initiatives and projects aimed at improving the lives of non-majority communities severely affected by Covid-19. This measure will be implemented by the Office of the Prime Minister, respectively the Office for Communities, in consultation with the Municipalities and the Red Cross. The focus of this measure is the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Measure 10: Guaranteeing financial liquidity for micro-enterprises and the self-employed up to 10 thousand euros, for a period of 24 months.

Measure 11: Increasing the budget for grants and subsidies for the Ministry of Agriculture.

Measure 12: Increasing the budget for grants and subsidies for the Ministry of Culture.

Measure 13: Supporting exporters after the end of the emergency situation.

Measure 14: Financial support for trading companies that register employees with an employment contract of at least one year during the emergency period. This assistance is to the amount of 130 euros per month for two months after the registration date.

Measure 15: Payment of social assistance (April-June 2020) to the amount of 130 euros per month for citizens in severe social deprivation.

Measures

1. A temporary instruction for the application of measures to prevent and combat Covid-19 in public and private institutions was issued on May 5, 2020. According to this instruction, public and private institutions should develop special protocols for the implementation of measures to prevent and combat the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace.³⁰
2. On May 4, 2020, a decision was made to enter the first phase of relaxing measures, which include: freedom of movement for citizens (three hours a day), resumption of work in the construction and real estate sector, trade in vehicles (in part), retail trade (in part), repair of items and equipment, as well as consular staff offices (with essential staff lists).³¹



Decisions of the Ministry of Health during the Covid-19 pandemic

All decisions and measures of the Ministry of Health (MH) for the management and prevention of the Covid-19 pandemic are published on the ministry's official website in the Coronavirus Announcements section. The section contains only one decision related to the pandemic, and the remainder are press releases issued by the MH since the beginning of the pandemic as well as a document with the schedules of the on-duty pharmacies. For the purpose of this research, we also reviewed the news items published on the official website of the MH.

As of June 1, 2020, the number of those tested for Covid-19 in the Republic of Kosovo was 14,968, the number of deaths 30, the number of those cured 873 and the number of active cases 210. Neither the Ministry of Health nor the National Institute for Public Health (NIPH) have data on the number of those tested, cured, dead or active cases among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The response from the municipalities of Fushe Kosove, Lipjan and Ferizaj, was the same: they had no data.

On March 23, 2020, the Government approved the MH proposal to take additional measures to prevent Covid-19. From March 24, the movement of citizens and vehicles was prohibited between the hours of 10.00-16.00 and 20.00-06.00. The movement of more than two people together was also banned. However, on March 31, 2020, the Constitutional Court found that the restriction of fundamental rights and freedoms could only be done by a law of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. Given the emergency situation, the Court stated that its decision would take effect on April 13, 2020.³²

On April 15, 2020, the decision to prevent and eliminate the contagious disease Covid-19 in the territory of the municipalities of Kosovo entered into force. New measures governing movement for the municipalities of Kosovo came into force in separate decisions. These measures were valid until May 4, 2020. The decisions also provided for financial sanctions for administrative offenses by natural and legal persons.³³

Executive Summary - Social and Environmental Management Framework for the Reaction to Covid-19 by the Kosovo Health Project.³⁴ The Government of Kosovo sent a letter to the World Bank on March 24, 2020, requesting the postponement of the closing date of the existing Kosovo Health Project (KHS), and the reallocation of 3.7 million euros to be used for emergency Covid-19 needs. Measure No. 4 adds new components to the KHS in order to address the need for an emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic, to provide necessary medical supplies, beds, the reorganization of health institutions, and testing and quarantine areas

News

The MH received 3.6 tonnes of PPE for health care personnel from UNICEF:

- 36,200 gloves
- 33,600 surgical masks
- 2,700 padded masks
- 1,000 protective overalls
- 8,960 overcoats
- 2,800 protective aprons

The UNICEF office in Kosovo has entered into a partnership with the Kosovo Red Cross and municipal authorities to distribute 12,000 family hygiene packages to the families most in need. Food and hygiene packages have also been distributed to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as well as to Serb-populated municipalities in Kosovo.

On April 8, 2020, the first contingent

of professional protective equipment and medical equipment from Turkey arrived in Pristina. It contained protective masks, gloves, clothing for health personnel, and tests and equipment such as respirators, defibrillators, pulse oximeters, etc., for health personnel dealing with Covid-19.

On March 13, 2020, the Minister of Health, Arben Vitia, stated at a press conference that 79 new cases of Covid-19 had been confirmed. This was the day with the largest number of cases between the start of the pandemic and up to June 1, 2020.

On 23 April 2020 the third UNICEF shipment of medical supplies arrived in Prishtina. It contained 8,960 surgical coats, 2,680 FFP2 / N95 masks and 33,600 surgical masks as assistance from the Luxembourg Government. To date UNICEF has provided 36,200 gloves, 68,544 surgical masks, 5,380 FFP2 / N95 masks, 1,000 protective overalls, 51,460 surgical gowns and 2,934 protective aprons, 81 infrared clinical thermometers, all in support of the pandemic response and for all communities living in Kosovo.

On 30 April, Minister Arben Vitia announced the decision to relax the measures.

The first phase began on May 4 with plans to continue until May 18. During this period, the schedule of freedom of movement was extended from 1.5 to 3 hours in total, with two rotations, morning and afternoon. The following parts of the economy were opened:

construction and real estate; vehicle trade (in part); retail trade (in part); repair of personal items and equipment; and consular offices (with essential staff lists)

The second phase began on May 18 and continued until June 1. It included allowing the movement of citizens based on the epidemiological situation, retail trade (fully), hairdressers and curling salons, physiotherapists and dentists, green market, rail transport, urban and interurban transport (with special permits), call centres (essential staff) as well as the opening of museums and galleries. A decision was made to allow dentists to restart work³⁵ and a decision was taken to allow physiotherapists to work,³⁶ respecting the Temporary Instruction. The

training of the super league teams of the Football Federation of Kosovo was allowed to restart³⁷. The Football Federation was instructed to implement the Temporary Instruction for the remainder of the championship.

On May 28, 2020, the MH announced new measures. A new timetable for individuals was set for each municipality. Traffic was stopped from 21.00 to 05.00. The third phase decisions on the relaxation of measures were as follows: the movement of citizens based on the epidemiological situation, urban and interurban transport, taxis, gastronomy in general, exams in higher education, graduation and achievement examinations, opening of cinemas and theatres, and selective opening of sports activities.



The Employment Agency

For the needs of this research, we met and conducted an interview with the Director of the Employment Agency (EARK), Mr. Drin Haraçia.³⁸ The aim was to establish a clear picture of the socio-economic consequences caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, using data from the agency, focusing on the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the municipalities of Ferizaj, Lipjan and Fushe Kosove. The following are the employment statistics before and after the pandemic:

- As of May 21, 2020, the total number of jobseekers registered with the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo was 162,952, of which 73,803 were women and 89,149 men.
 - Before the outbreak of the pandemic, about 365,000 people were employed, 80,000 of whom were in the public sector. During April and May 2020, about 9 people were employed.
 - During April 2020, 32,377 people were registered as unemployed, of which 14,849 were women and 17,528 were men.
- This statistic for the number of people registered as unemployed during April 2020 relates to the start of implementation of the Emergency Fiscal Package. In order to benefit from its measures, people were required to register and formalise their situation. In order to take advantage of the measures, many unemployed people registered at the EARK, which would not have happened if the Emergency Package for the pandemic situation had not been created.
- The number of unemployed persons from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the municipalities of Fushe Kosove, Lipjan and Ferizaj from January 1, 2020 to March 13, 2020 (before the Covid-19 pandemic) was:

Ferizaj: Roma 44, Ashkali 809, Egyptian 3;

Lipjan: Roma 47, Ashkali 296, Egyptian 1;

Fushë Kosovë: Roma 80, Ashkali 698, Egyptian 33.

- The number registered as unemployed in April 2020 in the three municipalities were:

Ferizaj: Roma 3, Ashkali 88, Egyptian 5;

Lipjan: Roma 17, Ashkali 69, Egyptian 0;

Fushë Kosovë: Roma 2, Ashkali 13, Egyptian 3.

From the EARK statistics for April 2020 it is clear that the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have not been sufficiently informed about the Emergency Fiscal Package, and in particular, about the possibility of benefiting from Measure No. 15. According to the International Labor Organisation, the unemployment rate in these communities is 35,³⁹ and so, the number of unemployed registered during April 2020 should be much higher. In order to benefit from Measure No. 15 (assistance of 130 euros for families who have no income from the state budget or the private sector) a person initially had to register as unemployed.



Kosovo Police - implementation of restrictive measures

Given the state of emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the consequent restrictions on freedom of movement, traffic and other economic restrictions, we considered it important to include information from the law enforcement agencies. To this end, we sent a request for access to public documents to the Kosovo Police (KP) in Prishtina, Ferizaj, Lipjan and Fushe Kosove.⁴⁰ The following is a summary of data on the implementation of restrictive measures and other relevant issues, during the pandemic:

- The number of cases of domestic violence reported to the Kosovo Police for the period March-May 2020 was:
 1. March 2020: 169 cases, in custody 67 persons,
 2. April 2020: 167 cases, in custody 85 persons,
 3. May 2020: 174 cases, in custody 77 persons.
- During March, April and May 2020 there was an increase in reporting of cases of domestic violence compared to the same period one year earlier:
 1. March 2020, 169 cases were reported, whereas in March 2019, 124 cases were reported;
 2. April 2020, 167 cases were reported, whereas in April 2019, 138 cases were reported;
 3. May 2020, 174 cases were reported, whereas in May 2019, 141 cases were reported.
- The number of cases of domestic violence reported in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities for March 2020 was 10 cases, in April, 12 cases and in May, 10 cases

Fushë Kosovë				
	Total		Number of persons from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities	
	Number of arrests	Number of fines	Number of arrests	Number of fines
March	9 persons escorted to the station (not arrested)	0	0	0
April	44 persons escorted to the station (not arrested)	17	3 persons escorted to the station (not arrested)	0
May	12 persons escorted to the station (not arrested)	190	0	13
Total	65 persons escorted to the station	207	3 persons escorted to the station	13

Lipjan				
	Total		Number of persons from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities	
	Number of arrests	Number of fines	Number of arrests	Number of fines
March	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	0	0
May	1	0	1	0
Total	1	0	1	0

Ferizaj				
	Total		Number of persons from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities	
	Number of arrests	Number of fines	Number of arrests	Number of fines
March	15	0	0	0
April	51	0	0	0
May	11	0	1	0
Total	77	0	1	0

In April 2020, with the beginning of the restriction of movement and traffic, there was a significant increase in arrests or escorts to the police station, compared to March 2020, except in the municipality of Lipjan. In May 2020 there was a large increase in fines, imposed as a result of non-compliance with government measures on free movement, compared to

March and April 2020. In the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, 13 fines were imposed in the municipality of Fushe Kosove. The number of arrests is small. During the Covid-19 pandemic, in Fushë Kosovë there were three cases of escorts to the police station, in the municipality of Lipjan only 1 person was arrested, and in Ferizaj there were no cases.



Municipal measures to manage the Covid-19 pandemic

The second purpose of this research is to identify and review the measures taken by the municipalities of Ferizaj, Lipjan and Fushe Kosove, with regard to managing and mitigating the consequences of Covid-19 pandemic with special focus on the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. To achieve this, we researched the official websites of the three municipalities, reviewing all the news, announcements and decisions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. We also held meetings with representatives of the emergency headquarters of the three municipalities, as well as conducting

interviews and questionnaires with the relevant directors and emergency HQ coordinators. The project covers the period starting March 13 - when the first case of Covid-19 was recorded - and ends on June 1, 2020, and it provides a comprehensive analysis of government and municipal actions, with focus on the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community throughout this period. Despite the emergency situation, the municipalities involved in our research have responded to us in record time, meeting us and providing us with all the required information.



Municipality of Ferizaj

On March 21, 2020, the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in the village of Bibaj in the municipality of Ferizaj. From the beginning of the pandemic until June 1, 2020, 600 citizens have been tested in the municipality of Ferizaj. Of these, 141 were positive, 130 were cured, 2 died and 9 were still active. In the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, only 2 people were tested (members of the Ashkali community), none were infected and there were no deaths.

An emergency HQ was set up on March 21 to prevent and manage the situation created by the pandemic. The Municipal Assembly held two extraordinary meetings, on April 2 and May 8, 2020. At the first meeting, it was decided to allocate 200 thousand euros for the prevention and management of the pandemic. The funds were allocated for the supply of food and hygiene packages for

families in severe economic deprivation, disinfection of public spaces, supply of materials and medical equipment, as well as other needs that could result from the pandemic.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, all public institutions, school and pre-school institutions, sports gyms, religious buildings, squares and city streets, as well as village streets were disinfected. 52 mosques were disinfected, the police station and cars, apartment blocks, the town's main streets and neighbourhoods were all disinfected 30 times. The Sallahane neighbourhood, Halit Ibishi, as well as the villages of Zaskok and Dubrava were disinfected, and these are neighbourhoods with a higher concentration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

5,000 food and hygienic packages were distributed, of which 1,600 paid for from the

From the beginning of the pandemic until June 1, 2020, 600 citizens have been tested in the municipality of Ferizaj. Of these, 141 were positive, 130 were cured, 2 died and 9 were still active

municipal budget. A total of 1,200 food and hygiene packages were distributed to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as well as the Serb community in Babush. The municipality of Ferizaj received numerous and various donations during the pandemic. Assistance provided included: 31 laptops, about 50 tablets, over 3000 food and hygiene packages, over 6000 masks, 200 disinfectants, 200 caps, 2 oxygenating devices and a delivery of medical equipment worth 4000 euros.

According to interviews with Mr. Afrim Llabjani,⁴¹ Director of Education, and Mr. Bekim Ademi, Director of Health and Social Welfare, and also the Coordinator of the Emergency HQ of Ferizaj, the delivery of remote learning has gone quite well.⁴² Despite many challenges, 94% of primary school students and 91% of upper secondary school students participated in remote learning. A total of 1,500 students of all levels were not involved in the learning process, due to economic conditions and a lack of technological equipment.

The participation in online learning by Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students is

concerning. At the pre-primary level, out of a total of 55 students, 48 did not attend classes; at the primary level (grades 1-5), out of 382 students, 195 did not attend classes; at the lower secondary level (grades 6-9), out of 284 students, 147 did not attend classes; at the upper secondary level (grades 10-12), out of 107 students, 35 did not attend the class. In total, out of 828 students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, 425 or 51% did not attend classes remotely. Out of a total of 1,500 students who did not participate in the teaching process, 28% are students from these minority communities. There are no regular teachers from the Roma, Ashkali or Egyptian communities at any of the different levels of education. There are only three teachers engaged in additional teaching.

960 citizens are beneficiaries of social assistance, of which 249 are Ashkali and 9 are Roma. The municipality of Ferizaj states that it has not received financial assistance from the government, or from the MH and MF. They say they have not yet benefited from the Emergency Fiscal Package. They have only received a delivery of medical supplies and equipment.



Municipality of Lipjan

On March 19, 2020, the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in the village of Janjevo in the municipality of Lipjan. From the beginning of the pandemic until June 1, 2020, over 100 citizens have been tested in the municipality of Lipjan. Of these, 27 were positive, 17 were cured, and 10 were still active. There were no cases in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and we have no data on the number of people tested.

On March 23, 2020, the first extraordinary meeting of the Municipal Assembly was held, on which occasion 170 thousand euros were allocated for the prevention and management of the Covid-19 pandemic. The funds were allocated for the supply of food and hygiene packages for families in severe

economic deprivation, for the disinfection of public spaces, the distribution of medical supplies and equipment, as well as for other needs resulting from the pandemic. During this period, two other sessions of the MA were held. On April 2, 2020, an emergency HQ was established to manage the emergency situation, headed by the Mayor, Mr. Imri Ahmeti.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, all public institutions, school and preschool facilities, city streets and village streets, the town square and religious buildings have been disinfected, and a disinfection station was set up at the entrance of the Family Healthcare Centre (FHC). The villages of Janjevo, Slovi and Gadime were also disinfected, and they have a larger concentration of the Roma, Ashkali and

From the beginning of the pandemic until June 1, 2020, over 100 citizens have been tested in the municipality of Lipjan. Of these, 27 were positive, 17 were cured, and 10 were still active

Egyptian communities. The Municipality of Lipjan was supplied with some much-needed equipment for the FHC, such as oxygenation equipment, defibrillators and ECG equipment.

About 5,000 food and hygiene packages were distributed, of which 2,000 (40%) were dedicated to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. By a decision of the Mayor, Mr. Imri Ahmeti, 23 children without parental care were each provided with 300 euros. The municipality of Lipjan also received numerous and various donations from local and international non-governmental organizations, local businesses and individuals. In total, during this period, the Municipality received over 2000 food and hygiene packages, 600 masks and medical supplies worth 2000 euros.

According to the interviews conducted with the Vice President of the communities, Lulzim Qerimi, and the Director of Education, Elmaze Behluli, the remote learning process has gone well.⁴³ But the same cannot be said for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students. At the primary and lower secondary level, out of 441 students, 115 or 26% did not attend classes, while at the upper secondary level, out of 30 students, 19 or 63% of the students from these communities did not attend classes.

The municipality of Lipjan states they have not yet received financial assistance from the government, the MH or MF and they have not yet benefited from the Emergency Fiscal Package. They only received medical supplies at the Family Health Centres (FHCs).



Municipality of Fushë Kosovë

On March 30, 2020, the first case of Covid-19 was confirmed in the Municipality of Fushe Kosove. From the beginning of the pandemic until June 1, 2020, a total of 194 citizens have been tested in this municipality. Of these, 8 were positive, but all were cured. There were no cases among the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and we have no data on the number of people tested.

On March 30, 2020, a meeting of the Municipal Assembly was held, in which 404,000 euros were allocated for the prevention and management of Covid-19 pandemic. The funds were allocated for the supply of food and hygiene packages, disinfection of public spaces, as well as for medical materials and equipment. On March 18, 2020, the emergency HQ was established to manage the emergency

situation and it was headed by the Mayor, Burim Berisha. Within the HQ, a sub-HQ was activated for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, led by the Vice President for Communities, Mr. Qerim Gara.

From the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, all public institutions, sports centres, businesses, religious buildings, city streets, all village streets, as well as apartment blocks were disinfected. Waste was removed from neighbourhoods 028 and 029. On April 27, 2020, the second phase of disinfection continued. On June 1, all school and preschool facilities were disinfected.

2700 food packages, 1500 hygienic packages, 150 packages of dairy products and 35,000 kg of flour were distributed. Starting from April 21, 100 food packages were distributed daily to families in need.

From the beginning of the pandemic until June 1, 2020, a total of 194 citizens have been tested in this municipality. Of these, 8 were positive, but all were cured

The municipality received donations from local and international non-governmental organizations, humanitarian associations and local businesses. Donations given included flour, food and hygiene packages, masks, gloves and disinfectants.

849 people were beneficiaries of social assistance, of whom 490 or 57.7% were from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Remote learning took place in all schools, from March 23, 2020. The participation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in online learning was satisfactory; however, the participation

of school staff and students in the learning process was not recorded numerically. The municipality received assistance from the MES and from the non-governmental organization, Balkan Sunflowers, including technological equipment (laptops and tablets).

The municipality of Fushë Kosovë states that it has not yet received any financial assistance from the central government or the Emergency Fiscal Package. It has only received supplies of consumables for the Family Medicine Centre. The Municipality claims that a total of 1270 citizens have applied for Measure No. 15 of the Emergency Fiscal Package.⁴⁴



The view of experts and activists of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian rights

In order to have a more complete picture of the situation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, caused by the health emergency, as well as to evaluate more widely the work of government and local institutions, we had meetings and conducted interviews with experts and activists for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community rights.

All interviewees without exception agreed that in general the emergency situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic had been managed quite professionally. Senad Ibishi of the Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (VoRAE) stated that despite criticism of the legitimacy of the measures, the central government and particularly the Ministry of Health, had successfully prevented the Covid-19 pandemic. Denur Paçaku, a civil society activist⁴⁵ stated that despite criticism of the legitimacy of the measures, the central government and particularly the Ministry of Health, had successfully prevented the Covid-19 pandemic. Denur Paçaku, a civil

society activist,⁴⁶ attributed the success in managing the situation to the engagement of civil society organizations.

However, with regard to the management of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, it is a different story. Gazmend Salijevic⁴⁷ activist and expert on ethnic minority issues said that the emergency situation highlighted the structural problems in society and the failure of the state to improve and integrate non-majority communities.

In general, the conclusion to be drawn from the interviews is that the management of Covid-19, was carried out more by non-governmental organizations, humanitarian associations and volunteer activists than by central institutions. With the exception of the municipalities of Lipjan, Fushë Kosovë and Ferizaj, the municipalities failed to address the needs of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

According to Senad Ibishi, these communities did not receive the necessary institutional support, sometimes being excluded from the provision of food and hygiene packages that were distributed locally. According to Driton Berisha from the Roma Education Fund (REF)⁴⁸, voluntary activism together with emergency sub-HQs, especially in Fushe Kosove, were effective in addressing the needs of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The interviewees were also dissatisfied with the Government's announcement of April 23, 2020 of financial support for non-governmental organizations dealing with the protection, improvement and promotion of the rights of minority

communities in the Republic of Kosovo. Senad Ibishi claims that the selection process had multiple faults, as the criteria for the selection of NGOs were not respected. Driton Berisha said that experienced organizations in the field of protection and advocacy for the rights of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities did not benefit. Gazmend Salijevic was the harshest critic, arguing that you can't get a grant without knowing someone in government.

Few organizations dealing with the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are on the list of beneficiaries. Many of the beneficiary organizations are affiliated with the Serbian List and have received grants due to its influence. Muhamet

The interviewees were also dissatisfied with the Government's announcement of April 23, 2020 of financial support for non-governmental organizations dealing with the protection, improvement and promotion of the rights of minority communities in the Republic of Kosovo

Arifi from Balkan Sunflowers⁴⁹ said that the government has not done anything concrete for the communities. He noted that Measure No. 9, which provided for the allocation of 2 million euros, had not yet been implemented. He was also critical of the organizations selected on the preliminary list. Artist and activist Bajram Kinolli⁵⁰ made the same point regarding Measure No. 9. According to him, based on the names of the beneficiary organizations, announced in the preliminary list, it is clear that the selection criteria were not respected.

Participation in education during the Covid-19 pandemic is concerning. Due to poverty and a lack of technological equipment, members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities found

it impossible to attend school remotely. Senad Ibishi states that they provided technological equipment to enable Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students to attend online classes, with charitable donations, and the support of municipalities and foreign embassies accredited in Kosovo. But Driton Berisha argues that the lack of ability to attend remote classes will have a significant impact on the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, further increasing the number of those who drop out of school. Osman Osmani, from BRO “Nevo Concepti”⁵¹ states that 20-40% of students from the community have not been involved in online learning at all. Osmani thinks that the political representatives of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have failed to represent their interests and concerns.



Conclusions

- Up to June 1, 2020, approximately 14,968 people had been tested for Covid-19 in the Republic of Kosovo and there were 30 deaths, 873 cured and 210 active cases of corona virus.
- On March 21, 2020, the first case of Covid-19 in the Municipality of Ferizaj was confirmed. As of June 1, 2020, 600 citizens had been tested in this municipality. Of these, 141 tested positive, 130 were cured, 2 died and 9 were still active. In the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, only 2 were tested (members of the Ashkali community), and there were no people who were infected or had died.
- On March 19, 2020, the first case of Covid-19 in the Municipality of Lipjan was confirmed. By June 1, 2020, over 100 citizens had been tested in this municipality. Of these, 27 were positive, 17 were cured, and 10 were still active. There were no cases reported in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and we have no data on the total number of people tested in these communities.
- On March 30, 2020, the first case of Covid-19 in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë was confirmed. By June 1, 2020, a total of 194 citizens had been tested in this municipality. Of these, 8 were positive, but all were cured. There were no cases in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and we have no data on the number of people tested in these communities.
- Out of a total of 27 decisions of the Government of Kosovo on the management of Covid-19 pandemic, only one decision relates to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

- The Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health have no data on the prevalence and management of the Covid-19 pandemic in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.
- The Ministry of Education and Science did not take into account the needs of students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities when it began organizing remote learning. Lack of internet access and lack of technological equipment (laptops, tablets) influenced the low participation in education of students from these communities.
- In the Municipality of Ferizaj, out of 828 students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, 425 or 51% did not attend classes remotely. Out of a total of 1,500 students who did not attend classes, 28% were students from the community. There are no regular teachers from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities at any levels of education in this municipality. There are only three teachers engaged in additional teaching.
- In the municipality of Lipjan, at the primary and secondary level, out of a total of 441 students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, 115 or 26% of these students did not attend classes, while at the upper secondary level, out of a total of 30 students, 19 or 63% did not attend classes.
- In the municipality of Fushe Kosove, remote learning has been implemented in all schools since March 23, 2020. However, participation in online teaching by school staff and students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities has not been recorded numerically.
- Experts and activists for the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have criticized the allocation of grants for the financial support of non-governmental organizations dealing with the protection, improvement and promotion of the rights of minority communities in the Republic of Kosovo. The preliminary list of grant recipients shows that the Government's selection criteria of April 23, 2020 have not been respected, as there are few organizations dealing with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.
- Local representatives of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the municipalities of Ferizaj, Fushë Kosovë and Lipjan have borne the burden of alleviating the situation caused by the pandemic in the community, together with non-governmental and humanitarian organisations.

- The municipality of Fushë Kosovë is the only one to establish an emergency sub-HQ for communities, led by Qerim Gara, Deputy Mayor for Communities. The municipality of Lipjan delegated Lulzim Qerimi, Deputy Mayor for Communities, to manage the Covid-19 pandemic in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The municipality of Ferizaj did not assign responsibility to a specific person to deal with minority communities.
- According to the data from the Statistics Agency, during April 2020, approximately 32,377 citizens were newly registered as unemployed. This high figure is related to the start of the implementation of the Emergency Fiscal Package.
- The Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities were not adequately informed about Measure No.15 of the Emergency Fiscal Package, which provides social assistance to citizens in severe economic deprivation, for the period April-June 2020, to the amount of 130 euros per month. A key indicator for this conclusion is the lack of registration of members of these communities as unemployed in employment centres. There were just 3 Roma, 88 Ashkali and 5 Egyptians who registered as unemployed in April 2020 in Ferizaj; 17 Roma, 69 Ashkali and no Egyptians in Lipjan; while there were 2 Roma, 13 Ashkali and 3 Egyptians in Fushe Kosove.
- During March, April and May 2020 there was an increase in the reporting of cases of domestic violence compared to the previous year. In March 2020, 169 cases were reported, compared to 124 cases in March 2019; in April 2020, 167 cases were reported, compared to 138 cases in April 2019; in May 2020, 174 cases were reported, compared to 141 cases in May 2019.
- The number of domestic violence cases reported in the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities during 2020, was 10 cases in March, 12 cases in April and 10 cases in May.
- In April 2020, with the start of movement restrictions in the municipality of Ferizaj and Fushë Kosovë there was a significant increase in arrests or escorts to the police station, compared to March. In the Municipality of Fushe Kosove, in March, 9 people were escorted to the police station in March, whereas this increased to 44 in May. In the municipality of Ferizaj, 15 people were escorted to the police station in April, and this had increased to 51 cases in May. There was only one arrest in the Municipality of Lipjan in May.
- In March and April 2020, in the municipality of Fushe Kosove, 17 fines were imposed as a result of non-compliance with government's measures to restrict movement. In May there was an enormous increase to 197 fines. There were no

finances imposed in the municipalities of Ferizaj and Lipjan during March, April and May.

- In Fushe Kosove, three citizens from these communities were escorted to the police station in April. In the municipality of Lipjan, a citizen was arrested in May, while in the municipality of Ferizaj there were no cases.
- From the beginning of the pandemic until June 1, 2020, the Municipality of Ferizaj has distributed 5000 food and hygiene packages, of which 1600 were paid for by the municipal budget. A total of 1,200 food and hygiene packages were distributed to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, not to mention the Serb community in Babush.
- The Municipality of Lipjan has distributed about 5,000 food and hygiene packages, of which 2,000 (40%) were dedicated to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. By a decision of the Mayor, Imri Ahmeti, 23 children without parental care were supported each with 300 euros.
- The Municipality of Fushë Kosovë has distributed 2,700 food packages, 1,500 hygienic packages, 150 packages of dairy products and 35,000 kg of flour. Since April 21, it has distributed 100 food packages to families in need every day.



Endnotes

- 1 Progress Report 2019, page 31, available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhoodenlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-kosovo-report.pdf>
- 2 International Labor Organisation, “Perspectives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth on the opportunities and challenges for decent work in Kosovo”, 2018, p. 19, available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-budapest/documents/publication/wcms_648879.pdf
- 3 Ibid, p. 20.
- 4 OSCE “Overview of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian of Kosovo”, 2020, p.5, available at: https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/c/c/443590_2.pdf
- 5 Law on the Civil Service of the Republic of Kosovo, 25 June 2010, p. 5, available at: <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=2679>
- 6 International Labor Organisation, “Perspectives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth on the opportunities and challenges for decent work in Kosovo”, 2018, p. 18, available at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-budapest/documents/publication/wcms_648879.pdf
- 7 Progress Report 2010, p.36, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhoodenlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2010/package/ks_rapport_2010_en.pdf
- 8 International Labor Organisation, “Perspectives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth on the opportunities and challenges for decent work in Kosovo”, 2018, p. 16, available

at: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-buda-pest/documents/publication/wcms_648879.pdf

- 9 See Decision No. 07/04 available at: <https://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Vendimet-e-Mbledhjes-s%C3%AB-4-t%C3%AB-t%C3%AB-Qeveris%C3%AB-s%C3%AB-Republik%C3%ABs-s%C3%AB-Kosov%C3%ABs-2020.pdf>
- 10 See Decision No. 04/06 available at: <https://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Vendimet-e-Mbledhjes-s%C3%AB-6-t%C3%AB-t%C3%AB-Qeveris%C3%AB-s%C3%AB-Republik%C3%ABs-s%C3%AB-Kosov%C3%ABs-2020.pdf>
- 11 See Decision No. 01/07 available at: <https://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Vendimet-e-Mbledhjes-s%C3%AB-7-t%C3%AB-t%C3%AB-Qeveris%C3%AB-s%C3%AB-Republik%C3%ABs-s%C3%AB-Kosov%C3%ABs-2020.pdf>
- 12 See Decision No. 01/09 available at: <https://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Scan-14-Mar-2020.pdf>
- 13 See Decision No. 01/13 available at: <https://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Vendim-i-Mbledhjes-s%C3%AB-13-t%C3%AB-t%C3%AB-Qeveris%C3%AB-s%C3%AB-Republik%C3%ABs-s%C3%AB-Kosov%C3%ABs.pdf>
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Katalogimi në botim - (CIP)
Biblioteka Kombëtare e Kosovës "Pjetër Bogdani"

316.342(=214.58:496.51)"2020"(048.8)

Sfidat e komunitetit rom, ashkali dhe egjiptian në Kosovë
gjatë pandemisë Covid - 19 / ky raport u hartua nga:
Aulonë Memeti, Durim Jasharaj. - Prishtinë : Admovere, 2020
. - 52 f.; 21 cm.

1.Memeti, Aulonë 2. Jasharaj, Durim

ISBN 978-9951-9012-0-8

ISBN 978-9951-9012-0-8



