

International Volunteer Day

On December 5, 2018, within the EDI 2 project, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the International Volunteer Day 2018 was celebrated in Termokiss. The volunteers and staff of three partner organizations (Balkan Sunflowers, The Ideas Partnership, Play International) were invited to the cocktail where they had the opportunity to play various games (card games, darts and ping-pong), interact with one another and also participate in the karaoke session.

This cocktail was organized to celebrate the valuable contribution of our volunteers to our work with Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Bosnian and Croatian communities in three different municipalities in Kosovo, and to promote volunteering in Kosovo. Partner organizations highly appreciate the work of more than 100 local and international volunteers who help us each day in our mission to improve the lives of children and families with whom we work.



Roundtable on "Provision of health services by QKMF compared to the change of the number of inhabitants in Fushe Kosove"

On 12 December, Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo (BSFK) and Main Family Medicine Center (QKMF) in Fushë Kosovë organized in Pristina the round table on "Providing health services by QKMF compared to the change of the number of inhabitants in Fushë Kosovë".

Participants were representatives from: Division for Primary Health Care from the Ministry of Health, Directorate of Health and Social Welfare (Fushe Kosovo), Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Communities and Return, Director of QKMF together with Head of Medical Services and Head of Family Medical Services, Officer of the Office of Labor and Social Welfare, Chairman of the Physicians Union in Fushë Kosovë, implementing partner from NGOs, and the donor Solidar Suisse Kosova, as well as representatives from the Youth Club in Fushë Kosovë.

During the round table was discussed the provision of medical services since 2010 to date. QKMF and BSFK presented findings from statistics which show that the number of medical visits in 2017 compared to 2010 increased by 67%. On the other hand, the provision of medical services has risen to 114%.

Based on the population census in 2011 in Fushë Kosovë in 2011 there were 34827 inhabitants.

If we get the average increase of two percentages, we can estimate that the number of inhabitants in Fushë Kosovë municipality has increased from 34827 to 66379 inhabitants.

Municipality of Fushë Kosovë is allowed to employ 104 health workers since 2011. This number has not changed since 2011, although the number of inhabitants has increased from 67% to 114% since 2011.

The participants agreed to work together to accomplish the following recommendations:

- Increase the number of medical staff
- Improve the infrastructure
- Refreshing of medical devices
- Provision of an autoambulance
- Provision of adequate equipment for specialist services
- Structure of cooperation between actors

different operating in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë.



Denied education - reportage realized by KTV for students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

Although children want to be equal with other children and attend classes with their peers, the harsh economic conditions make it impossible for the family to send their children to school and at the same time to survive the children are obliged to sell cans.

Another reason why children do not go to school is the lack of documentation.

Another problem is the abandonment of school by students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. During 2017, according to MEST 228 have abandoned primary education for various reasons. Mr. Ali Topalli, a spokesman for the municipality of Fushë Kosovë, says that the educational system in Fushë Kosovë is open and the same for all communities. As for abandonment, he says that in Fushë Kosovë there are two separate classes for children who have dropped out of school and returned. Although there are still abandonment by the students of these communities, Topalli says there is improvement.

Balkan Sunflowers Learning Centers Program Manager Mr. Samir Shahini explains the reasons for abandoning school in Kosovo, with special emphasis on Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali children, for the Cosmo Emission in Kohavision. Mr. Shahini emphasizes that school is more abandoned by female students. Furthermore, Mr. Shahini thinks that the main reason for abandonment of school is the unequal treatment of others and ethnic discrimination. Also, a reason is the social and family factor, where parents do not push and motivate children to attend the school due to their lack of information on the importance of learning. There are cases that there is risk in school premises, where children are abused or even bullied. The great disadvantage is that discrimination occurs even by the teachers themselves in the classes.

Director of the school "Selman Riza" Mrs. Remzije Bugujevci, says that parents of children are not interested in attending school attendance, and this causes a problem as there are many children's absences. According to her, abandonment of the school is mostly due to poor economic conditions, so the school cooperates with NGO mediators to inform them that there are missing children and try to get back to school.

Mr. Rinor Qehaja, says raising awareness to these communities should be higher on the importance of education, and this should be done institutionally, to be a priority of MEST-government. The best practice is to involve children in education since pre-school education.

In conclusion, all children should enjoy at least elementary education as foreseen in the Kosovo Constitution.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdEyxbaZ2A0&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2Aa34Iariep->



Visit to Janjeva of the Lipjan Municipality Officers

During December, TIP had a chance to welcome in their center in Janjeva, Mr. Lulzim Qerimi, Deputy Mayor for Communities in the Municipality of Lipjan, as well as Mr. Bekim Shabani, Director of Culture, Youth and Sports in this municipality. They were welcomed by the center coordinator in Janjeva, Shkëlqim Bahtiri, and kindergarten teacher Majlinda Krasniqi, who informed them about their work in Janjeva and the commitment that TIP has continued to provide education and health opportunities for all communities who live there. TIP Center in Janjeva offers free daily activities for pre-school children, extracurricular activities for children up to 15 years of age, literacy classes for mothers, health classes etc.



Exchange experience with the organization Help the Life



Staff members from several organizations from Kosovo, including Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo, The Ideas Partnership, and Play International, have been part of the study tour at the Help the Life Association in Tirana, Albania.

EDI 2 staff exchanged best practices and experiences regarding the inclusion and provision of equal opportunities for people with special needs in our centers. This visit was realized within the EDI 2 project, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA).

Improvement of housing conditions for vulnerable groups in four municipalities of Kosovo

During 2018, VoRAE successfully completed a project to improve housing conditions for 72 families of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities as well as other vulnerable groups in four municipalities such as Lipjan, Klina, Fushë Kosovë and Prizren.

During the year in these municipalities are constructed houses of four models with living space 60m², 42m², 27m² and bath max. 5m² from the foundation, as well as renovations in other parts of the houses that are realized in cooperation with the benefiting families.

Implementation of this program by VoRAE has been made possible in cooperation with our partners and donors from HEKS and SDC, Beneficiary Municipalities, as well as with the professional support from Switzerland's consulting firm SKAT.

It is very important to note that the program is cost-effective.

This means that the program is done in close collaboration with the project beneficiary who is the owner of the existing house /land.

The project to improve the housing conditions will continue to implemented during 2019 in 4 municipalities which are ready to co-operate / co-fund the VoRAE program.



Advocacy campaign in Cigë village

Pejë / 19 December. Identifying, addressing and seeking opportunities to solve the primary needs of families - was the purpose of today's advocacy meeting with the families of the various communities of the village of Ciga, the representative of the territorial community and the teachers of the school of this village. This was the completing of advocacy campaigns cycle of the year with the community.

It is worth mentioning that in the framework of the project "Supporting in Integration and Empowerment for Roma, Egyptians and Ashkali Returnees through Development of Capacities in Primary Education in Kosovo" implemented by Syri i Vizionit and supported by GIZ, during 2018 there were conducted 18 advocacy campaigns with the community through which more than 300 people were participants, mainly from Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. The overall aim of these campaigns is to improve the overall social and economic opportunities and conditions of the communities living in the 6 localities in which the project is being developed, with particular emphasis on the educational and teaching aspect of children and their families.

With the engagement of families, children, school teachers, local government officials and representatives of civil society organizations, the main needs and problems of the social, educational and economic spheres of the communities and primary schools of the 6 different localities of the municipality Peja, Klina and Istog. Thus, as a consequence different efforts and resources have been activated for their solution, primarily with the help of local and public institutions as well as other stakeholders involved in this process.

Medical check-ups in the community

13 December 2018 in the neighborhood of 7 September in Peja, the Vision Eye within the project "PROSPECT +" has organized medical checks on families of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. These medical examinations are aimed at raising awareness of community families for health care and more frequent health visits to family medicine centers. In addition to measuring blood pressure and sugar level, there are also given medical advice on seasonal flu prevention.



Roundtable on the implementation of the Strategy in Klina

On December 21 in Klina, a roundtable on the implementation of the Strategy for the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovo society was organized. With the participation of the Director of Education of the Municipality of Klina, the official from the Municipal Office for Returns and Communities, the directors and teachers of the elementary schools "Ismet Raci" and "Motrat Qiriazhi" as well as the officials of the Center for Social Work, was discussed about the progress in implementation of the Strategy in the territory of the municipality of Klina, specifically in the education and social sectors.



Universal Day of Children

RADC organized an artistic program for the Universal Children's Day. The program was presented with almost 60 children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and 10 children from other minority communities (Bosniaks and Turks) performing various works such as poetry, songs, dance and even drama scenes!

This artistic program was held at the Cultural Center "Rexhep Mitrovica" in Mitrovica, while present was the Deputy Mayor of Mitrovica, Faruk Muja, together with the OSCE and DRC representatives.



Preventing school dropouts

The Nevo Concept in cooperation with municipal assembly officials in Suhareka have been contacted for a case involving school dropouts from children of a family, so the Nevo Concept together with the DKA conducted field visits.



Therefore, on 21.12.2018 in the municipality of Suhareka, Nevo Concept staff in cooperation with municipal assembly officials in Suhareka visited the family in connection with preventing children from dropping out of school.

Also, interviews have taken place and together with the parent is talked about the benefits and why the child should continue to attend the lessons properly.

This activity is realized within the project PROSPEKT +, funded by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) with the support of the German Government and the German Foundation Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie (KKS). The project is implemented in the municipality of Suhareka and aims to contribute to alleviating poverty and realizing the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.

Lecture on prejudices and stereotypes

On December 18, in the Suhareka municipality assembly, lectures on prejudices and stereotypes were held.

In the activity were included high school students and primary school students of the municipality of Suhareka, and part of this activity were also children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The purpose of the activity was to eliminate and prevent prejudices and stereotypes for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children.

In the framework of the project "Promoting Intergration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in the Municipality of Suhareka has been held a lecture in cooperation with the Directorate of Culture Youth and Sports in Suhareka and OSCE.



Workshop on "Gender Based violence and Domestic Violence"

On December 18, 2018, a workshop was held on gender-based violence and domestic violence with young people and representatives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities from the Municipality of Decan.

This activity is part of the project "Raising awareness for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth on legal mechanisms against gender-based violence and prevention of GBV phenomena" in the municipalities of Istog, Peja, Klina and Decan, of the which is realized by Equality Commitment Program - E4E, funded by the United States Agency for International Development - USAID and implemented by the Advocacy Training and Resource Center – ATRC.



Lectures on children's rights and domestic-based violence

On December 11, 2018, the lecture on children's rights and domestic based violence was held in SHF.M.U "Ismet Raci" and SHF.M.U "Motrat Qiriazhi" in the Municipality of Klina.

This project is implemented by RROGRAEK with the E4E Equity Commitment Program, funded by the US State-USID Agency, and supported by the Training, Advocacy and Resources Center – ATRC.



"Community Scoreboard"

On 10 December 2018, a face-to-face meeting of the fourth stage of the "Community Scoreboard" process was held on SHF.M.U. "Anton Z. Cajupi" Mitrovica. In this meeting, an action plan for its realization of activities in 2019 was established. This activity was realized within the project "Social Mobilization of Social Accountability" in partnership with Save the Children and funded by SPL.



"Early Marriages"

On 06 December 2018, a meeting was held with NGOs and municipal mechanisms, on the topic of "Early Marriages". The meeting was organized in the wake of "16 Day Activities against Violence against Women", within the project 'Preventing Early Marriages of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities. This meeting was implemented by RROGRAEK, supported by UN Women and funded by the EU.



"ICT education for young people"

On 21 and 22 December 2018, Gjakova and Shtime started the first activities of the project "ICT Education for Ashkali, Egyptian and Romani youth", where we presented the project to the youth of the village of Gjurakoc-Shtime and discussed the use of the internet properly and the importance of using Microsoft office software.

The young people welcome the project and stressed that it was very necessary for our young people to be involved in such a project.

The project is implemented by the NGO BRAN - The Youth Union of the Future Enlightened and supported by the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.



Gratitude for BRAN NGO from the Municipality of Ferizaj

On December 31, 2018, in Ferizaj, the NGO BRAN, received an acknowledgment from Mrs. Xhemile Murati-Shabani - Director of Culture, Youth and Sports in the Municipality of Ferizaj.

The gratitude was shared by DKRS for the engagement, co-operation and development of youth and cultural activities of the BRAN NGO during 2018.

BRAN believes that with the support of our partners and our engagement, in 2019 we will develop even more youth, sports and cultural activities for young people of all communities in the Ferizaj region and beyond.

BRAN highly values staff work, members and their volunteers and all the co-workers for their contribution this year because without their help and support they would not achieve these successes as an organization.



Distribution of gifts for the new year

On December 20, 2018 in Podujeva, within the project "Improving access and (re) integration into basic education for migrant and returnee children and families", funded by GIZ CDBE and implemented by TDH, with the occasion of end of year holidays, about 20 children of the Additional Learning Classes at the Primary School "Enver Maloku" in Podujeva municipality visited their friends and acquaintances from the Autism Center in Podujeva to whom they distributed the new year's gifts prepared by them. They have spent two days preparing the gifts for their peers full of love and diligence.

Moreover, children of this class organized for their parents a festive program prepared in advance, at the end of which they also received gifts from this project.



Increase the capacities of professionals in the field of child protection

On December 13, 2018 in Prishtina, within the framework of the "Safe Network for Child Protection - Phase III" project, funded by the MEDICOR Foundation implemented by Terre des hommes in Kosovo (Tdh), with the aim of increasing the capacities of professionals in the field of protection of child, a Workshop was organized with: Working Paper Use: Child Protection Cross Sectional Work (TMR) in the Dragash, Novoherda, Klllokot, Malisheva and Mamush municipalities". Participants were professionals from Institutions such as: Social Work Center from Center for Work Social CSW, Officer from Municipal Directorate of Education MED, Officer from Kosovo Police, Officer from Communities Office and Return MCO.

This workshop was facilitated by Agron Seferi and Naim Bilalli, Case Manager at Tdh.

