

Empowering the Vulnerable Communities in Albania: Support to the Implementation of the National Strategy for Improving Roma Living Conditions

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Evaluation recommendation 1. Legislation for civil registration

1.1 The project should assist in better application/interpretation of legislation related to civil registration of vulnerable Roma and Egyptian unregistered individuals.

Management response:

The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation and agree on the importance of being thoroughly informed about legislations with regard to civil registration. Noted that some of the civil registration cases identified were very complex. Also government has improved law on child registration. Still there remain difficult cases which may not register due to various reasons such as limited coordination, poor interpretation/application of law. We wish to mention that the project did prepare a concept note analyzing the challenges related to civil registration and proposing concrete steps to address this issue with involvement of relevant actors.

Key action (s)	Time frame	Responsible unit (s)	Tracking	
			Comments	status
Better coordination among various institutions including local governments, courts, line ministries, etc.	2010 – 2013	MOLSAEO, Local governments, UN	In the framework of the One UN joint programme on Empowering the Vulnerable Local Communities	Started in June 2010

Better interpretation of law/procedures based on the principle “in the best interest of the child”	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above
<p>Evaluation recommendation 2 Building capacity for participatory consultations, negotiations and mediations</p> <p>2.1 The EVC project should help local stakeholders, and in particular local governments, in adopting participatory consultations, negotiations and mediations, in achieving consensus regarding priorities and needs in cases where interests of many stakeholders are different with those of Roma Communities.</p> <p>2.2 The project should assist the Roma Community representatives to actively take part throughout the debating and design of regional social policies, namely the designing of Regional Social Care Plan. In order to achieve this, the project should build and strengthen the capacities of CBO in relation to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designing social policies addressing the Roma community problems 2. Defining priorities 3. Lobbying in order to introduce and include the issues of Roma community in the agendas of wider communities and policymakers 4. Lobbying to sensitize strong society actors and figures to support the Roma community causes especially in relation to bias and discrimination. 				
<p>Management response:</p> <p>2.1 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation. Please note that the project supported communities to implement their own development plans and facilitated communication between CBOs and respective public authorities and institutions. While participation in addressing local development needs has been helping certain Roma communities, many are still facing elementary problems (no housing, no income, begging, no identification/registration documents) refraining them from any active participation in local decision-making processes.</p> <p>2.2 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO partially accept. While agreeing in principle of the importance of active participation of Roma community in designing social policies, it shall be noted that the project involved from the start representatives of local governments in all social mobilization and needs prioritizations processes to ensure the sustainability of the CBOs and the maintenance of the participatory planning. Heads of quarters/villages (appointed by local governments) have been present in all meetings and trainings organized with CBO members. In a series of workshops with representatives of local governments and selected community members, it was noted that CBOs are an effective mean of community participation and agreed on their role as counseling groups for all local</p>				

decision-making. Further it strengthened the commitment on the part of the heads of quarters/villages to take a facilitating role for the establishment and implementation of the community-based organizations.

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			Comments	status
maintaining social mobilization of communities and participatory planning with involvement of LG representatives in the Joint Programme EVLC	2010 -2013	UN	Best practices are extended in Durres, in addition to Tirana, Fier and Elbasan	Started in June 2010
Evaluation recommendation 3 Better coordination with institutions responsible for the implementation of the strategy in the areas of social services and social inclusion and local capacity building				
<p>3.1 Coordinate better the work with other agencies responsible for the implementation of the strategy in the areas of social services and social inclusion such as Department for Social Protection that are recently established in most of the Regional Councils.</p> <p>3.2 The project should continue to assist local governments, specially Regional Councils in three Regions (Department of Social Services) in building local capacities, to draft policies for decision-making with Roma community participation, to distribute rationally limited financial and material resources, as well as to formulate the action plan for intervention, considering Roma Community's social and economic issues.</p>				
Management response:				
<p>3.1 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation. The set up Regional Coordination Committees on Roma at regional level greatly improved the communications and coordination among the different institutions. Members are heads of each sectorial directorate, local governments as well as Roma NGOs. The committees operate under the leadership of Regional Councils. The Committee has the task of overseeing and coordinating the implementation of sectorial measures by local authorities.</p> <p>3.2 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation and continue to assist local governments especially Regional Councils.</p>				
Key action (s)	Time frame	Responsible unit (s)	Tracking	

			Comments	status
Facilitate the Regional Coordination Committees that will partner with the Technical Secretariat for Roma and monitor the implementation of the National Action Plan	2010-2013	UN, MoLSAEO	EVLC will regularly assist Technical Secretariat for Roma to organize the RCCs which meet quarterly	Second meeting of RCCs in planned by Dec 2010
Organize training sessions on minority rights and intercultural education for local and central government representative in partnership with the Training Institute of Public Administration and specialized trainers	2010-2013	UN, TIPA	Through EVLC	Planned for early 2011
Evaluation recommendation 4. Extending project partnerships and coordination of funding opportunities 4.1 There should be done more efforts to involved possible stakeholders such as private companies and NPO in the project activities. 4.2 A better coordination of funding opportunities is needed, which would take into account the needs and priorities formulated by Roma community as well as those outlined in this report. 4. 3 We recommend cooperation with organizations and foundations that operate in the Regions, as related to formulating, organizing and financing employment programmes. 4.4 The EVC project should adopt new incentives to encourage and facilitate the employment or self-employment such as micro grants 4.5 The project should establish strong links with other non public programmes that aim at the employment of marginalised people such as “Youth empowerment through community development- a World Bank project ” operating in Tirana and Durrës Districts, Swiss contact etc				

Management response:

4.1 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation. It is noted that the project assisted the network of the Roma Craftsmen to organize the cultural fair, which is an integral part of the festivities for the International Roma Day. To further strengthen the network of Roma craftsmen and help them market their products, a brochure containing photos and craftsmen contact information has been prepared and disseminated to the public.

4.2 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation. Effective implementation of the Strategy/Action Plan for Roma requires line ministries to allocate the necessary funds. The project made efforts to ensure that each line ministry considers the cost-estimate of the relevant foreseen measures when preparing their respective mid-term budgets. Yet, this exercise would require the commitment of the inter-ministerial committee (deputy-minister level) which is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Strategy/Action Plan. The role of this body needs also to be further strengthened.

4.3 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation. The project negotiated with public vocational training centers to adjust the curricula as per the Roma/Egyptian trainees' needs and capacities. We also offered training to staff of public vocational centers and Employment Offices to help them improve their services towards vulnerable communities and offer such services based on a human rights approach.

4.4 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation and will continue to encourage and facilitate the employment or self-employment.

4.5 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation and agree that establishing strong links with other non-public programmes that support employment of marginalized people is important.

Key action (s)	Time frame	Responsible unit (s)	Tracking	
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Consultation with professional associations and chambers of industry to identify, review and validate the feasibility of potential incentives for accommodating minorities in the private sector	2010-2013	UN, MoLSAEO	Integrated into the EVLC activities	Expected to start within 2011
Consultation with Roma civil society on the new UN country programme and new	2010-2013	UN	Continual consultation will	First workshop held on 6 October 2010

interventions/activities in support of Roma/Egyptian communities			be maintained with Roma civil society	
Raise awareness and build capacities for regular life-stream income and facilitate employability of trained Roma people in partnership with the government, employment offices and the private sector	2010-2013	UN, MoLSAEO	Integrated into the EVLC activities	Expected to start within 2010
Profile the target groups (in the communities) and conduct a rapid assessment of the labour market-tailored to the specifics of Roma	Same as above	Save as above	The assessment will also identify any potential micro-credit scheme	Expected to start in early 2011
Partnering with other programmes focusing on employment of marginalized groups	Same as above	Same as above	Potential partners to be identified in the assessment	Expected to start in early 2011
Evaluation recommendation 5. Roma Handicraft network, product development skills and marketing strategies With regard to the Roma craftsmen it is recommended to strengthen their network and link them with institutions and organizations that would enhance their product development skills as well as marketing strategies and opportunities. The EVC should develop activities that promote Roma handicrafts and traditional works.				
Management response: The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation. It is noted that the craftsmen need more knowledge about product development and marketing their products.				
Key action (s)	Time frame	Responsible unit (s)	Tracking	
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Strengthening the network of Roma craftsmen through organization of fairs	2010-2013	UN, MoLSAEO, MoTCYS	Integrated in the EVLC activities	Planned to start in early 2011
Training Roma craftsmen in product	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above	Same as above

development and marketing as well as partnering them with other professional associations				
Evaluation recommendation 6. Looking forward 6.1 The project team should identify components of the project that have great potential for further development, but also interventions that need to change radically or even phase out. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The organization of information and awareness campaign for better familiarization with the legal framework, facilitative policies and employment programmes. b. Institutionalization of cooperation with organization that have powerful networks for informing groups in need. 6.2 The staff should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Create new inspiring meeting space for community in order to make them able to work together, to understand each others, to find ways of improving their life. Communication between different groups from the Roma community need to be better managed. d. Involve different and balanced top-down and bottom up perspectives For the next phase of the project, I would recommend to carry out a need assessment in order to have a clear picture of the areas previously the intervention. e. Create ownership in terms of greater responsibility of the community and individuals for specific tasks 				
Management response: 6.1 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO partially accept the recommendation. While agreeing in principle of the importance of information sharing and awareness rising, it shall be noted that social inclusion of vulnerable minority groups has been at the core of this project. 6.2 The UNV, UNDP and MOLSAEO accept the recommendation. We agree that active participation will thrive in a trustworthy and respecting environment. The project successfully entered in the Roma/Egyptian neighbourhoods with the invaluable role of the UNV Community Exchange Workers being Roma and Egyptian representatives from the communities resulting in strong impact with regard to trust, respect and engagement of the community and is highly valued by the Roma communities and the local government.				
Key action (s)	Time frame	Responsible unit (s)	Tracking	
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Conduct feasibility study/survey on Roma	2010	UN, MoLSAEO	Community	Expected to finalize

and Egyptian communities for selecting the community areas and specific interventions			policing has already been introduced in the EVLC. However, the survey will identify components which need to further develop or phase out	within mid of 2011
Conduct capacity needs and trainings assessment of Roma/Egyptian NGOs	2010-2011	UN,	Integrated into the EVLC activities	
Develop and implement a training programme for Roma/Egyptian NGOs as per the findings of the capacity needs	2011	Same as above	Same as above	
Support Roma/Egyptian NGOs to implement small community projects and partner with community and professional organizations	2011 - 2013	Same as above	This would help a more balanced involvement of community counseling groups and Roma/Egyptian NGOs	