



RED CROSS OF MONTENEGRO



RED CROSS OF MONTENEGRO STUDY ON WORK WITH VULNERABLE GROUPS

- Experience of Managing Camp Konik -
from 2003 to 2018

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FOREWORD

The publication represents the result of many years of work (from 2003 to 2018) of Red Cross of Montenegro with RE (Roma and Egyptians) population. They are the most endangered population on the territory of Montenegro that settled on the outskirts of the capital of Podgorica, particularly in the settlement Vrela Ribnička due to the war in Kosovo in the late 1990s. There was created the largest refugee camp on the territory of the Western Balkans under the name Kamp Konik from what was at that time a temporary shelter.

Camp Konik started spontaneously to form in 1998/1999 when the people of Kosovo left their territory fleeing from the conflict. During that period Montenegro opened its borders for those who needed a refuge, while a number of them also had had relatives in our country. Thus, in 1998 and 1999 the camp started to settle and already in 2000 commenced construction of barracks due to the arrival of a larger number of citizens of Kosovo. Camp Konik was built consisted of Camp Konik 1 and Camp Konik 2 with about 4,000 inhabitants.

Eighteen years later, parts of Camp Konik 1 are still there. Camp Konik 2 was closed in 2016, and most of the residents of Camp 1 moved into newly-built social housing during 2016 and 2017, with the rest of a small part of the inhabitants waiting for the construction of additional housing units for their accommodation. Until then, these families live in barracks, which have resisted winds, fires, and floods and witnessed everything that had happened in the Konik area.

Red Cross of Montenegro (RCM), a humanitarian organization with the status of an auxiliary to state bodies in humanitar-





ian activity, has been present in the field since the forming of the camp and has assisted the vulnerable population. As the executive partner of UNHCR, Red Cross of Montenegro managed Camp Konik 1 and attended to Camp Konik 2 from the second half of 2003. This publication was developed bearing in mind the huge experience that we as an organization had gained in working with the most sensitive category of population and in order to preserve that experience. The main goal of the publication is to provide insight into the knowledge and experience of RCM employees and volunteers, as well as their partners, gained over the course of these fifteen years in order to help other humanitarian workers and organizations to facilitate, easier and faster establishment of a daily life worthy of a person in a new place of residence for displaced people, but also other vulnerable groups.

Working in camps in Konik was a great challenge for our organization. By responding to this challenge, we grew and built our capacities. From the temporary provision of aid and support to one endangered population we became its first address for seeking help for most of the problems. From an organization that, it might be said, inexperienced and unpreparedly entered this complex story, we became an organization that had earned the trust not only of the residents of the Camp but also of all relevant organizations and institutions that cooperated with us in numerous activities undertaken in this area. On this path, we have gained a lot of experience and lessons learned which we would like to share with all of those working with vulnerable groups through this publication, especially if they are facing in unfamiliar situations.

For the needs of the study, the RCM hired an external consultant who organized interviews with the camp residents of the Camp, employers of RCM and representatives of state, humanitarian and other institutions and organizations that conducted programs in the Camp, including the UNHCR, the Italian Red Cross, Roma Education Fund, Refugee Care Directorate, Public Health Institute, Help-Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe eV, Law Centre, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, and the Institute for Education. We use this opportunity to thank them

all on cooperation during the Camp's work first and foremost but also on helping with the preparation of the publication.

Hereinafter you will find practices, recommendations, but also testimonials about relevant activities with the mentioned population. During the fire in Camp that took place in 2012, most of the documents were destroyed, but the memories and experience of all those who worked in Camps Konik are the best witnesses of events and activities. We hope that the publication will help and benefit to all of those who are planning to work with the most sensitive groups in society, but also that it will be a nice memory of the long-standing work of the Red Cross in the Camp Konik.

Red Cross of Montenegro

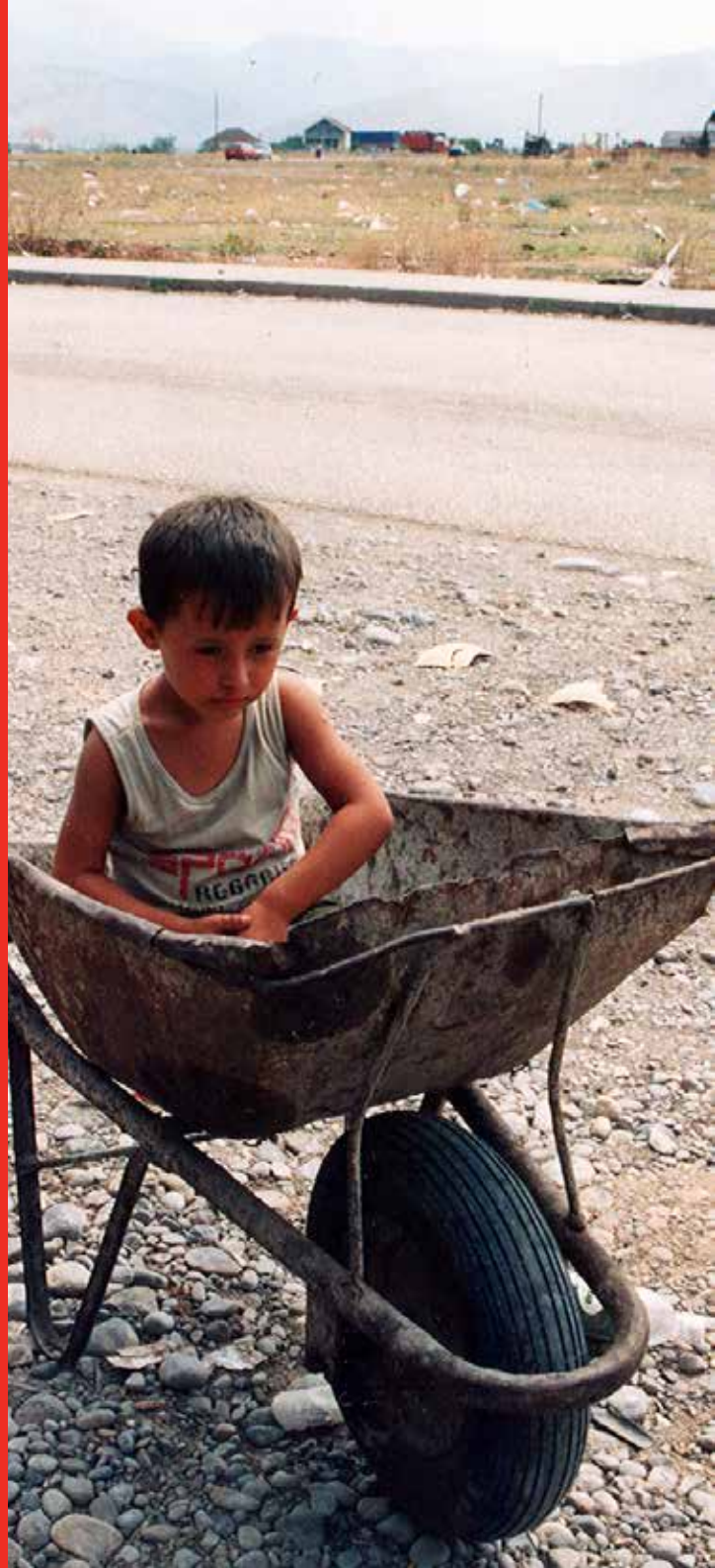
Podgorica, September 2018



SITUATION OF RE POPULATION IN MONTENEGRO

It is estimated that somewhere between 10 and 12 million of Roma live in Europe. According to the existing and available data from the census of population, households and dwellings in Montenegro, 6 251 persons declared themselves to be Roma or 1.01% of the total population. The population of Egyptians has 2 054 persons, or 0.33% of the total population, while 5 169 persons speak as Roma as their mother tongue. The largest number of Roma live in the territory of Podgorica (3 988), followed by Berane (531), Niksic (483), Bijelo Polje (334), Herceg Novi (258), and the largest number of Egyptians is in Podgorica (685), Niksic (446), Tivat (335) and Berane (170).

Aware of the fact that there is a gap between members of the Roma and Egyptian population and the rest of the population, further deepened by the arrival of a large number of refugees and displaced persons, which Roma and Egyptians cannot overcome themselves, and trying to change the existing situation with the aim of exercising the Constitution and the rights guaranteed by the legal system of Montenegro and the elimination of all forms of discrimination, in 2005, together with several other European countries (Bulgaria,



Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia), the Government of Montenegro joined the "Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015" that was launched by the World Bank and the Open Society Institute in cooperation with several other international actors.

In 2005 the Government of Montenegro adopted the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Decade, with the tendency to end the vicious circle of poverty and exclusion of Roma from the social life of Montenegro through supporting project in the fields of education, employment, housing and health care intended to be implemented by 2015. According to provisions from the Decade each year a government of one of the countries involved assumes the chairmanship of the Decade. In June 2013, Montenegro took over the chairmanship of the Decade from the Republic of Croatia, and in June 2014, it passed it over to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Given the limited nature of the Action Plan to four priority areas, by the end of 2007 the Government of Montenegro adopted the Strategy for Improving the Position of the RAE Population in Montenegro 2008-2012 followed by another called the Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2012-2016.

Montenegro has continuously supported the RE population, but changes in state status have affected the resolution of their problems. Since

gaining independence in 2006 general assessment of the regular reports on Montenegro's progress in the process of joining the European Union has been that Montenegro met all the conditions and standards that were crucial for the final accession of Montenegro to the family of European countries in timely manner. Compared to the countries of the region that are striving to become EU members, and based on objective criteria, such as the number of open and number of closed chapters, Montenegro is certainly the leader in the region. Continuous progress of Montenegro is ensured by the adoption of standards and good practices of EU countries, as well as the great efforts in strengthening institutional capacity of the system. One of the important issues and integral part of progress is the question of the way in which the state treat marginalized social groups, as well as all individuals characterized by social exclusion. Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro belong precisely to a group characterized by intense social isolation and poverty. Therefore, it is important to closely address this issue, both in the spirit of solidarity and respect for the EU standards, as well as for the fact that effective social inclusion of Roma and Egyptians the entire society strengthens as a community.

The measures and activities undertaken so far on improvement of the position of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro have resulted in very significant and visible, but not entirely sufficient positive changes. Although some results

have been achieved in the implementation of the Decade Action Plan in Montenegro, the Strategy for Improving the Position of the RAE Population in Montenegro 2008-2012 and the Strategy for Improving the Status of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2012-2016, it has been estimated that additional activities should be carried out focussed on improving the overall position of the Roma and Egyptian communities as a collective.

Given that the position of members of this population is still uneven in many areas and that in order to improve the socio-economic situation it was necessary to set specific aims for each area concerning Roma and Egyptians, to develop adequate indicators and basic guidelines for monitoring progress over the time. The Government of Montenegro drafted a new Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians from 2016 to 2020, leaning on the previous two and redefining national priorities, implementation and overtaking special measures according to changed social and political circumstances, progress made and further challenges in the process of inclusion and improvement of the socio-economic situation of Roma and Egyptians.





CREATION OF CAMP KONIK

The history of the camp is linked to 1998 and 1999. Then, after the outbreak and escalation of the conflict in Kosovo, over 4,000 members of the Roma and Egyptian populations sought refuge in Montenegro and settled on the outskirts of Podgorica - Vrela Ribnicka. The joint action of municipal and state institutions, the UNHCR, Red Cross of Montenegro and other humanitarian organizations, a tent settlement was created for urgent care of these people. After that, the Italian humanitarian organization Intersos in cooperation with local and state partners, UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations built Camp Konik 1 with shelters for accommodation and necessary

infrastructure, such as sanitary blocks, premises for joint educational and social activities, warehouse, trails for moving between barracks, etc. According to the same model, humanitarian organization World Vision, built Konik 2 in the vicinity. During 2003, both organizations withdrew from this area and Red Cross of Montenegro took over administration of these camps.

The management of the Konik Camp was a very complex project, which realization required continuous monitoring of the needs and problems this population was faced by on a daily basis. In order to make the most intensive communication, the Red Cross of Montenegro Office was set up in

Camp with a complete management team. This greatly improved the cooperation and trust of this population, alleviated prejudices and improved the speed and quality of resolving problems of vital importance for the daily lives of these displaced persons. The management team being directly in the Camp had positive and negative effects: good for the camp residents in terms of feeling that someone was constantly looking after them, and bad for the users, because they may have relied too heavily on the help of our organization in some crucial situations, often attacking our employees if something was not according to their opinions.

The image of the camp was changing from year to year - from the tent settlement, through the barracks, and then to the container accommodation, which a few years later was turned into quality housing units. At the beginning of the Camp itself, the capital gave way to the land where tents were first erected for accommodating of about 4,000 people, and then barracks were built, as a temporary, two-year solution for accommodation of the refugees. In that period, the first strategic



document related to RE persons in our country involved the return of refugees to the country of origin or a third country, which indicates that the Camp was physically not planned as a permanent solution for accommodation. However, the situation changed from year to year, in political and physical terms, but not in geographical terms since the inhabitants continued to live in the area where they originally settled.

A lot of people stayed in this area, small number went to third countries or returned to Kosovo, and in 2018 1,840 (352 families) remained to live and work in Montenegro. With the total population of the MRH worked and collaborated in the past fifteen years, helping them to get education, access to regular health care system, access to certain rights, status, to be educated in order to qualify for employment, to obtain certain documents or move to new, better apartments.

There are clear conclusions and recommendations of our organization on everything that was done in the previous period, in the sphere of education, health, social inclusion, legal status, return to the country of origin or housing.





SOCIAL INCLUSION SUPPORT

So far undertaken measures and activities with the purpose of improvement of Roma and Egyptians' position resulted in significant and evident, but not entirely positive changes. Although application of Action plan for Implementation of Decade of Roma Inclusion, Strategy for Improving the Position of RAE Population in Montenegro 2008-2012 and Strategy for Improving the Position of Roma and Egyptians gave certain positive results, expected steps forward the improvement of overall position of RE community as collective have, however, missed out.

Since the position of members of this population is still uneven in many areas, and that because of achieving the improvement of the socio-economic situation need to be set concrete goals for each area that relates to Roma and Egyptians and developed adequate indicators and baselines for monitoring the progress over time, the Government of Montenegro decided to prepare the new Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians 2016 - 2020 (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy), which builds on the previous two, redefining national priorities, methods of implementation and taking special measures in accordance with the changed social and political circumstances, achieved progress and further challenges in the process of inclusion and improvement of socio-economic position of Roma and Egyptians. This Strategy was created also because of the fact that the previous Strategy and its implementation was set until 2016 so it was necessary to make an evaluation of all the achievements of the previous and approach the strategic planning of new/old objectives for the next period.

The Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2016 - 2020

Many institutions and organizations in Montenegro are actively involved in improving the position of the RE population in Montenegro. Although much has been done, many problems remain unresolved. Red Cross of Montenegro has been trying to help the RE population in Montenegro in many ways. All these activities had the ultimate goal social inclusion of the RE population in the Montenegrin society, as most members of this population selected Montenegro to live in (a small number of members of this population returned to Kosovo or went to “third countries”). Thus, the issue of social inclusion of Roma cannot be taken without having in mind other areas of action, as all of them sought to strengthen the RE population, to improve its socio-economic status and to be granted access to all rights like other Montenegrin citizens. Therefore, success in social inclusion can be monitored and measured through activities in the following areas defined by the Strategy: housing; education; health; employment; legal status; social status and family protection; culture, identity and access to information. Our organization played a very important role in all these activities and had significantly contributed to the improvement of the position of the RE population in Montenegro.

Housing - Red Cross of Montenegro participated in all processes of solving housing issues of this population - our teams conducted accurate record of residents and kept records of the status of all families and individuals. Through a project of Management of the Camp Konik we tried to help





ensuring better living conditions – starting from the time this population lived in tents, barracks and containers, all the way to the apartments. Decent living conditions are a prerequisite for better daily functioning, so we worked actively on dealing with this issue with all relevant institutions. Parallel to this, we worked with families to prepare them for greater responsibilities of maintaining living space that came with new accommodation.

Education - Red Cross of Montenegro devoted perhaps most attention to this segment of the work, because we were of the opinion that investing in education of this population was the most sustainable solution, which would later help their easier employment and a better socio-economic position. Educational activities

for the different age categories of this population were organized - from workshops for preschool children, through the organization of schooling of children in elementary schools, to external literacy, supplementary classes, and assistance in homework activities. The activities we organized were tailored to the current situation and possibilities. Certainly the most important steps made were those in the field of education, which contributed to better social inclusion - inclusion of these children into a regular education system. In this way, befriended with their peers and spend a significant part of their time outside the usual environment. Through informal aspects of education we tried to organize youth clubs for adolescents, where they gained additional knowledge and skills through educational meetings with our volunteers. Education for older

members of this population was also organized.

Health - On health education, the Red Cross continued to work with all members of this population - from the youngest in preschool who acquired basic knowledge on health and hygiene to women and working with them at the Family Centre, where reproductive health was mainly addressed. It is important that these persons were granted access to health care rights and preventive and other examinations were organised regularly.

Employment - Although the Red Cross has no direct responsibility for this issue, we were trying to make our contribution. First of all, this area of activity is related to education, so we also provided training for older members of the RE group that could enable them to find work easier - for men training in crafts, for women sewing, knitting, jewellery making and crafts.

Legal status - Resolving legal status and obtaining the necessary documents is a prerequisite

for all other rights to be exercised and for one to be able to function. Thus, we worked actively in this field with other relevant institutions and directly with the members of the RE population - providing relevant information, helping to acquiring documents and so on.

Social status and family protection - Family is the most important cell of any society, and its proper functioning should be enabled in every community. In this respect, Roma families were very much involved in the prevention of domestic violence, human trafficking, begging and early marriages.

Culture, Identity and Information - Every culture, including the Roma, has its specifics that need to be nurtured. So we tried to remind members of the RE population to nurture their culture and identity, while at the same time affecting the wider population to respect them.

There is more about all these particular areas of our activities in the study. Here we just wanted





to remind ourselves briefly of all that we did to ensure a better social inclusion of the RE population into Montenegrin society. What we have learned on this path and what are our recommendations, read below. We remind you that all these recommendations relate also to other vulnerable groups we work with.

1. Active participation in all relevant working groups and development of strategic documents

It is important to have representatives of relevant organizations who work directly with the end-users and who are familiar with their problems and the real situation in the process of making important strategic documents and decisions. Thus decisions will be more realistic and more applicable. So make sure you follow these processes and actively participate in them.

2. Be aware of your mandate and work accordingly. At the same time be aware of the mandates of other organisations and institutions so you could refer your users to them

No organization, even the Red Cross, is not competent to address all the problems of the target group they work with. So it is important users to know what you are competent for and how you can help them. Also, they need to know what other organizations and institutions are they can turn to if needed. If you are in the position you can also provide them with information to whom they can address on certain issues.

3. Actively cooperate with other relevant parties

Because of the fact that you are not competent for all matters, since we all have limited capacities and defined mandates, there must be active co-operation among the relevant entities involved in working with the target group. This cooperation implies exchange of information, joint activities, multisectoral and multidisciplinary approach to solving problems, etc.

4. Organise aimed at bringing communities closer

It is never easy for community that is new in a society and that needs to fit in. On the other hand, society is often ready to condemn something it

does not know well. So try your best to organise as many activities aimed at bringing them together - for example, football tournaments, picnics, barbecues ... Any kind of activity that community members you are trying to help to integrate and members of a community where the former community integrates. Only when they get to know each other better and closer prejudice and discrimination will decrease.

5. Endorse affirmative examples from the community you work with

Often the society is prepared to treat all members of a community in the same way, in line





with prejudices. It is forgotten that we all are humans, and that they can be good and bad, and that other divisions are not valid. So, make sure to present more affirmatively members of the community you are helping to integrate into society - present some good students, athletes, humanitarians, prominent in their work. You can do this through the media or in some other way

6. Constantly empower members of the community you work with – do not do for them what they can do themselves

Helping a community for a long time bears a risk that community in question would become used to it and would expect you to do everything for it. First of all, you will not be in a position to always help. On the other hand, it is better for members of the community to learn that some things do for themselves, because at some point

they will have to do it, and that will make them more responsible members of the society. It is always helpful to make good cooperation with prominent members of the community, in our case sector leaders, community assistants or to establish the so-called council of elderly male members where it would be necessary to develop a culture of dialogue and peaceful resolution of possible misunderstandings or problems in the community

7. Organise as much as possible activities that take place outside of community's residential area

Sometimes community that you help is too focused on the place where they stay and run their activities. In this way they are being socially isolated without the opportunity to get to know the society, and it does not give

the opportunity to this society to get to know them better. Organize community events and social gatherings with other members, but also outside of their place of residence - for example: excursions to other cities in order to get to know the country where they live; visiting the cinema or the theatre and other events in their surroundings ... In this way, they become more socially active and aware surroundings and the opportunities they have. It is important that key activities for community members are organized in such a way that they have constant contact with the members of the society in which they are being integrated - for example, children to attend regular schools, and not classes dedicated to members of their community only.

8. When needed engage mediators from the community you work with

It is sometimes not easy for the community itself to be integrated to society. For this, it takes time, and sometimes there are objective obstacles, such as, for example, language, and sometimes even cultural differences. However, there are always active members of the community who can help you to overcome these obstacles. Engage them to become mediators in your work. They can do this through professional, but also through volunteer engagement.

9. Work with all members of the community

In some communities we are involved with, men play a more dominant role, and sometimes we unconsciously develop activities aimed at

empowering them. However, we need to work in with all members of the community, because everyone has equal rights to our help and support, and everyone needs to be empowered to be active members of society

10. Implement participatory approach

Remember to include them in all the decision-making processes that concern the community you work with. They know the best what their needs and problems are. On the other hand, they will feel respected and ready to engage more in solving certain problems.

11. Work with general population

When you want to help a community to integrate into a society, it is very important to actively work with members of that society, which is often inclined to condemn and discriminate against those who (not yet) belong to it. On the other hand, if you too focussed on helping the new community you work with, your regular users may feel neglected. So do not neglect your regular activities.

12. Prevent juvenile marriages

It often happens that vulnerable groups attribute many of their bad habits to their cultural heritage, that is, traditions and customs. Unfortunately, one of them is an increasingly frequent occurrence of juvenile marriages, in which girls are either "promised" to someone, or they choose to leave the family and leave school or simply escape under the influence of emotions. In the village

where the RCM worked, often it would occur that a girl would elope from home with the chosen one, after which the so-called “arranges” would take place between two families on how much money girl’s family would receive in exchange for the bride’s hand. In a way, this could be interpreted as a kind of trade. In order to avoid these or similar phenomena, it is necessary to work continually with parents, grandparents, and young people at risk, and inform them of the consequences of this phenomenon, especially the poor impact on education and the future employment of girls. In this regard, girls’ workshops should also be organized more often in order to avoid being on the street, which can later lead to juvenile marriages, begging and similar bad phenomena

13. Endorse positive examples from the tradition and suppress incidents often attributed to the same tradition

In order to preserve the identity of vulnerable communities and cultural heritage, it is necessary to organize lectures on topics of culture and tradition, with special emphasis on positive examples. Also, special attention should be paid to raising the awareness of older members of the target population, the importance of education for younger generations and their participation in a regular education system in order to gain better qualifications for future employment. In particular, it must be discussed the elderlies about their impact on young people and how important it is for them to create conditions for a better future for the coming generations, change attitudes and customs.

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Arifa Bezjaku (pseudonym), resident of Camp Konik:

“It meant everything to me. Because doctors came here, students came, they talk about everything, about all the diseases. Through this workshop I enrolled in school, externally, and I do manual work. I finished elementary school externally. And now I started the sewing school. Today is the third time for me. Milka included me here. Excursions are great! I did not know some cities because we did not have the opportunity to go, you know like family. And with Milka we went to many cities. Now I just want to do something, have my salary, and then it’s okay for me. I mean, maybe I sometimes want to get married. But I think it’s still too early. I think girls who are young, marry in the age of thirteen, twelve years. Young people get married - and that’s what I think they need to understand: why they should not do it? To be underage. To marry - there is a lot of time for that.”

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The background image shows two men standing in front of a white truck with a large red cross on its side. The man on the left is wearing a blue beanie and a dark jacket. The man on the right is wearing a blue jacket with a red collar and is smiling. The truck is parked outdoors, and there are some boxes and bags in the foreground.

SUPPORT TO SOLVING LEGAL STATUS

Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians who fled Kosovo during 1998 and 1999 were registered as internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Commissariat for Displaced Persons of the Republic of Montenegro or today to the Directorate for the Care of Refugees. They held the IDP status for more than a decade, although Montenegro in 2006 renewed its state independence - which in practice meant that these were no longer internally displaced persons. As a consequence of the omission of IDPs from relevant legal acts, they practically could not legally enter labour market. Similarly, new software in the field of health care, designed to improve the efficiency and quality of service, did not include IDP as a separate category - which practically prevented them from accessing public health protection as other citizens of Montenegro (Strategy 2005. pg. 5-6, Strategy 2011. pg. 4). The possibility of regulating the legal status of former internally displaced persons was opened in 2009. Then, the Government of Montenegro, in cooperation with UNHCR and the EU Delegation to Montenegro, adopted an Action Plan for durable solutions of issues regarding displaced persons from the former Yugoslav republics and internally displaced persons from Kosovo residing in Montenegro. The Action Plan provided mechanisms for privileged access to the status of foreigners with permanent residence in the country thanks to DP and IDP. This status gave them access to the same rights that the citizens of Montenegro had, except the right to vote and the right to be elected to political office. In line with the Action Plan, this status change became possible thanks to the adoption of the Law on Amendments to the Foreigners Law in October 2009. "(Strategy 2011 p.4-5). During 2010, the Strategy of the Government of Montenegro for the durable solution of the problems of the people from Camp Konik implied two options: first, integration - for which the regulation of legal status in Montenegro was necessary step and another - voluntary return to Kosovo



Red Cross of Montenegro worked actively on promoting needs and providing legal assistance in obtaining personal documents, which are a precondition for access to many other rights. The mechanisms for privileged access to the status of foreigner with permanent or temporary residence in Montenegro included the organization of collective and individual visits to Kosovo, where state and international institutions, as well as the Red Cross of Montenegro, jointly assisted the camp residents to obtain the necessary documents in order to regulate their legal status. Later on, the Ministry of Interior (Mol) of Montenegro and the Ministry of the Interior of Kosovo organized visits to mobile police teams directly in the camp area.

the status was the end of 2013, in order to check who and what documents were missing, in May 2014, RCM conducted a comprehensive survey for the needs of development of social cards of each individual where we, in addition to data collected records on what documents they had obtained by that time. A total of 420 families or 2,150 members were surveyed and the results really called for an emergency action. Only 267 inhabitants of this community had the status of a foreigner with permanent residence (or 12.8% of respondents) and 223 inhabitants (10.3%) did not have any documents, which meant a complex and slow procedure of subsequent enrolment. About 1,650 inhabitants (about 76%) had to obtain one or more documents in Kosovo or Serbia. These data were an alarm

for us, but also for the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Directorate for the care of refugees, UNHCR, OSCE and other institutions to help and accelerate the process of obtaining documents in a synchronized action.

The first activity aimed at obtaining personal documents was the organization of visits to Kosovo, because for the most of people the main obstacle in obtaining documents was a financial expenses i.e. travel and taxes. As the experience with bus visits showed that the process of obtaining documents was slow, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, 15 missions of the mobile teams of the MUP of Kosovo were organised. The purpose of these visits was to issue the necessary personal documents, which they would later need to apply for the status in Montenegro. For the purpose of better socialisation, continuous work with this population, the RCM team worked daily to raise awareness about the importance of registration and had direct contact with users and implemented a door-to-door campaign to promote the importance of obtaining documents.

Today, out of a total of 352 families or 1,840 members, 15 families or 42 members waiting for documents from Kosovo, subsequent enrolment in birth registry books, while the remaining regulated their status in some way (Table)

Table: Legal Status of Camp Konik Residents

Date of inquiry on position of documents	Number inquired	Status of foreigner with permanent residency in MNE	Status of foreigner with temporary residency in MNE	Without documents	Number of individuals received documents necessary for submitting the request	One or more documents needed for submitting request for temporary or permanent residency
2013	2183	267	0	1650	0	266
2014	2150	226	375	215	570	764
2015	1617	317	0	215	140	519
2016	1908	552	21	185	41	416
2017. godina	1889	1006	37	174	192	10

Source: RCM reports on legal status of residents of Camp Konia

Recommendations:

1. Continuous work on obtaining documents and finding the best modality

Since the possession of documents is a prerequisite for the exercise of other rights, it is necessary to work continuously solving this problem. Depending on the situation, you need to find the best way to resolve this issue. As stated in the example of the work with the Roma population, one of the good ways was to establish mobile teams (who would visit the settlement where users live, collect necessary information on the spot and the rest for obtaining documents)

2. Good cooperation with relevant authorities

Various institutions are responsible for the process of obtaining documents and they need to be included, both in the country in which the beneficiaries we assist are located, as well as in the country from which they came. The cooperation is necessary in order for these cases to be solved more easily and quickly, since they often are administratively complicated. On the other hand, cooperation is necessary in order not to overlap the activities carried out by different entities.

3. Conduct necessary inquiries

In order to solve any problem, one with the documents included, there must be a real insight

into the situation - what number of users has or does not have the appropriate documents, what their needs are, etc., in order to know what number of them need which kind of support.

4. Mind the privacy of the user and maintain his trust

The work on solving the legal status of the user requires a great deal of information about the user, so during the whole process any possibility of misuse of them must be excluded. This is a prerequisite for maintaining trust of the user, which is needed for provision of necessary information in order to solve the problem of documents.

5. Monitoring legislations

Legislation relevant to this and other areas is often changing and it is necessary to monitor it in order to adequately address the problems.

6. Informing

Sometimes legal preconditions for resolving documents are complicated, so it is good to organize info-sessions or other types of events, in order to explain to users all necessary steps they need to implement in order to obtain documents. It is necessary to continuously share the information with the users when the status of their documents is in question.

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Željko Šofranac, Directorate for the Care of Refugees:

"Montenegro, like any ordinary country, wants to know who is in its territory. One cannot live there illegally. If we had used legal mechanisms strictly, many would have been expelled! Let's say we come to Konik: 'Do you have any papers?' - 'I do not have.' - 'So go over the border!' We had that humanitarian attitude. We gave deadlines, then we came into contact with Kosovo, with the OEBS and UNHCR, and we have given the [displaced persons] deadlines to present the papers they had from Kosovo. If they had not had personal card and citizenship, we went to Kosovo to request for them. Excerpt from the book of births, and citizenship and passport as a crucial document. That was a huge job. Mobile teams from the Kosovo MUP came here in Konik, to record these people. Now there may have been some small number [with unresolved legal status], I do not know why. This is a statistical error, which will also be solved. It is probably the problem of Kosovo that needs to be solved. Because Montenegro cannot issue papers if a person was born in Kosovo."

Aleksandar Čađenović, UNHCR

... We managed to make it possible for the Mol of Montenegro and the Mol of Kosovo to co-operate by bringing teams from Kosovo to visit Koniku and throughout Montenegro and interview their citizens, so by the time they came again they would get their documents. From the extract from the book of birth or as they call it - extracts - this was a document, a certificate telling you information of place and birth of parents, to the citizenship and personal identity card and passport from Kosovo, so that these people can complete their requests for the status of foreigner and obtain them without any problems. So far, we have had 15 or 16 such visits and almost 1,000 to 1,200 people have been helped. So they did not have to go 3-4 times to Kosovo, but we did that instead of them. Then there were ongoing campaigns since 2009, which motivated these persons to collect documents, submit requests and thus regulate status in Montenegro if they wanted to stay. Because the law is clear, if they did not submit it by the deadline, and the deadline was 31st December 2014, they would be illegally in Montenegro. So we went from door to door, not only through the camp but through Montenegro to visit those persons and to see those who had not submitted, why they had not submitted, what were problems, were they still in Montenegro, whether they had died unfortunately, or did not want to regulate or otherwise regulated their status. Therefore, we cannot say that there was no way for everyone, including the most vulnerable, to submit documents for this new status. And indeed we did not have but the very small number of people who appeared after the expiration of this deadline reporting that they had not submitted the request.

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SUPPORTING EDUCATION

As the years go by and in the desire to help the full integration of RE people in Montenegro, the Red Cross of Montenegro initiated the idea of enrolling children into a regular education system, bearing in mind the presence of general illiteracy in Konik. When the RCM team started working with the RE population, after the first distribution of humanitarian aid, it was discovered that almost 90% of the heads of families were elementally illiterate. This fact prompted the efforts aimed at involvement of RE children in the regular education system, regardless of the unresolved legal status. In Montenegro, RE persons can exercise all rights like all citizens of Montenegro, except for the right to vote, which automatically

initiated the process of designing a strategy for enrolling children in school. Primary education in our country is compulsory and free, so legal precondition for involving children in educational flows was present; however, besides children who were 7 years of age at that time and ready to enrol in the school, a large number of children up to 15 years of age who had never attended a school before appeared. As the total number of children at that time was too great for B.V. school. Podgoričanin, which was also the closest to the refugee camp, Red Cross of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, came to the idea of opening the classes of the Primary School Bozidar Vukovic-Podgoricanin

in Camp Konik 2 (104 children were enrolled in 1 class 2004). Satellite classroom, or more precisely the school in the camp, provided elementary education from the first to the fourth grade for all children from Konik 1 and 2 camps until 2015. At that time, the Italian Red Cross provided premises, UNICEF furniture, while the RCM was responsible for the collection of textbooks and school supplies, but also provided meals to children who were then enrolled as well as many generations afterwards. The children from the camp who continued their education after the fourth grade, attended the classes at the B. V. Podgoricanin Primary School, located in a relative vicinity of the camp. From school year 2008/2009 in cooperation with the Red Cross of Montenegro, the Ministry of Education and Sports was working to eliminate segregation in the education of children from Camp Konik. Thus, the children from Camp Konik were enrolled in city schools i.e. attended classes outside the camp, together with other children from Podgorica. In the first year, 20 children were enrolled in 4 city schools, after which each year the number was growing. Today, 461 RE children are students in 8 city schools and attend classes from the 1st to the 9th grade.

Ministry of Education provided free textbooks for students up to the 3rd grade, transport to city schools, as well as additional trainings for teachers. In addition to supporting mandatory primary education, Red Cross of Montenegro implemented and supported a number of other educational activities aimed at the residents of the camp - preparatory kindergarten, open playgrounds, parent meetings, literacy classes for adolescents, assistance in homework assignments, schools in nature, workshops of the Youth Club for Adolescents, workshops of the Family Centre for Women, adult literacy, training for auxiliary craft professions, etc.





Statistical data on education:

Number of children attended the school in 2003: 0	Number of children attend- ed the school in 2004: 104	Number of children attended the school in 2018: 461
Number of elementary schools attended by RE children in 2003: 0	Number of elementary schools attended by RE children in 2004: 1 segregated class	Number of elementary schools attended by RE children in 2018: 8 municipal schools
Number of children attended pre-school game-rooms in 2002: 25	Number of children attend- ed pre-school game-rooms in 2018: 90-100	Total number of children attend- ed pre-school game-rooms in period 2002-2018 (app.): 1.920
Number of students that be- came literate outside regular schooling in 2003: 0	Number of students com- pleted external elementary school in period 2006- 2018: 40	Number of students completed at least 1 grade of external ele- mentary school: 68
Number of RE older than 18 par- ticipating in literacy programme: 37	Number of RE older than 18 completing literacy pro- gramme: 28	Number of RE older than 18 completing crafts programme for apprentice: 41
Number of students in second- ary schools: 9	Number of students in Uni- versity: 2	

Recommendations:

1. Working with parents and informing them regularly on importance of the education of their children

According to the experience of RCM the core activity and the first step on the way to adequate and quality education of RE children was the contact with parents. In order to ensure the enrolment of children into the regular education system but also the quality of their education, it is necessary to talk with parents first, constantly informing them about enrolment procedures, children's immunization, benefits for the entire family would once the child has finished the school. The RCM team recognised the importance of this activity at the very beginning, so parents or guardians of children were regularly gathered for this purpose, first to build confidence and later to link them to schools in which their children attend classes. The change in awareness on the importance of education for the future of their children was in fact the most important activity of our organization.

2. Cooperation with relevant institutions (Ministry of Education, Bureau for Education Services, schools) in order to provide long-term and sustainable solutions to children in education system, their teachers and parents a

In order to create adequate sustainable and applicable national-level plans for the implementation of inclusive education, close cooperation with the line

ministry should be maintained and in return help to implement inclusive education at the national level. Since the very beginning of the implementation of activities with RE children, RCM has received a lot of support and active participation from the Ministry of Education that provided transport from camp to all city schools and back for children, as well as free textbooks for children up to 3rd grade.

3. Early child development – enrolment of children in education activities (playroom workshops or preschool activities) with the aim of preparing them for enrolment to formal education system.

In order for children to adapt to work in the group to empower, educate, socialize and overcome the language barrier it is necessary to work with them as early as possible. RCM, with the support of the Danish Red Cross, have carried out activities on preparing children for entering the regular education system in the Camp itself since 2002. Unfortunately, conditions were not created for children to integrate and move away from everyday environment in this early period of life. However RCM hired professional teachers and assistants from the community to work with children age three to six and organized activities in a room that was adapted for working with children, and later, after the fire in 2012, RCM moved these activities to the container compound. In order to stimulate the physical development



of the child, RCM along with donations provided meals and milk every working day, and in order to help children building the habit of maintaining personal hygiene, RCM provided hygienic sets on quarterly basis. In addition to regular activities, music lessons were organised for the children in order to reduce the language barrier through play as well as regular visits to city kindergartens for the purpose of socialising with domicile children

4. Sensitise teachers and education workers to work with children coming from vulnerable groups through trainings on prevention from discrimination, and organise home visits of teachers to families of the children

In dealing with schools attended by vulnerable children efforts were made on prevention of discrimination both by parents and by teaching staff. Multi-annual work of the RCM showed that children were not actual discriminators or, if they were, discrimination was a result of an external influence. To counter this phenomenon, the RCM often organized and hosted visits of teachers to children in the Camp, where the teachers had the opportunity to meet children's parents, talk about everyday problems, see the conditions of living and briefly experience the life of their students. Bearing in mind that parents most often were not able to attend parental meetings in city schools, due to the lack of regular income and inability to pay, these visits proved to be very useful for both parties - both parents and teachers, and in the end for children. As time progressed education workers had more understanding for children from the

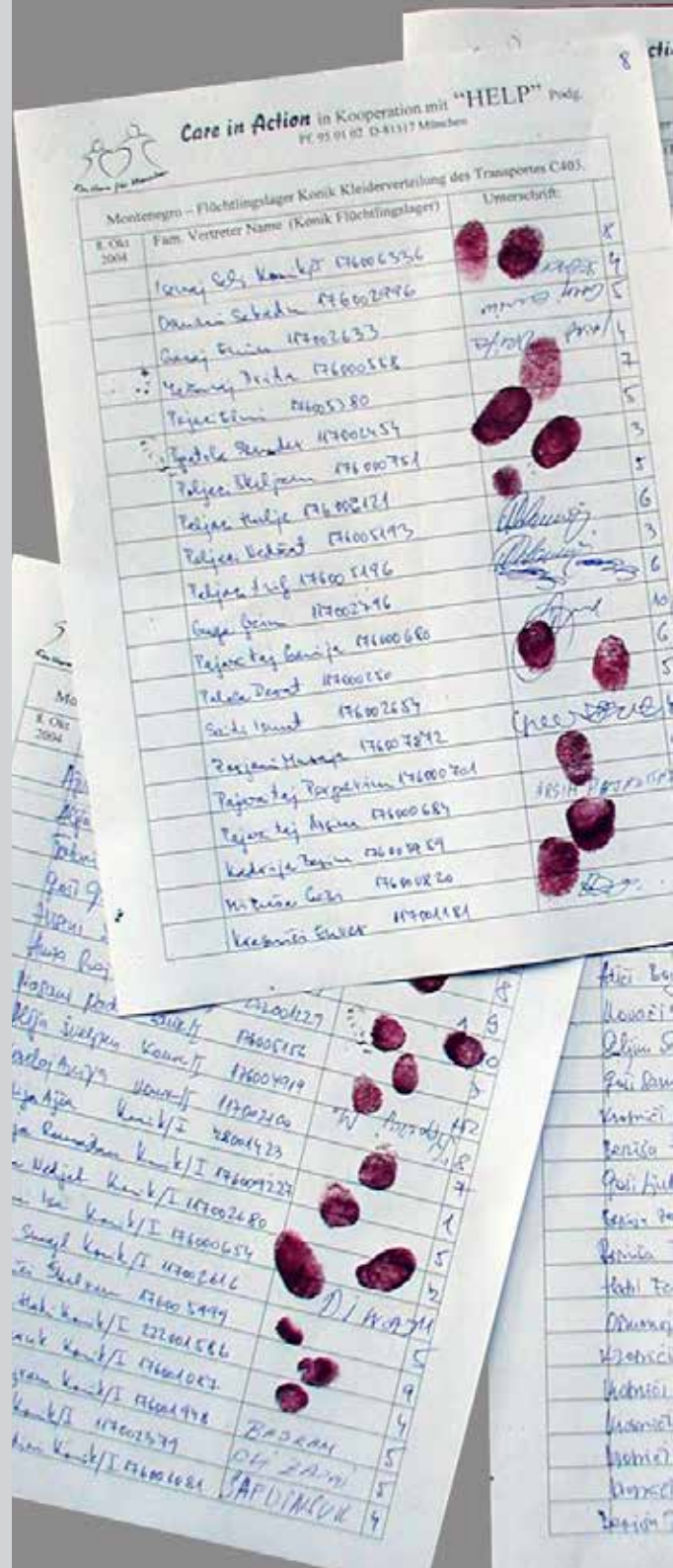
camp and that they were more often meeting them to help in extracurricular activities.

5. Motivate parents and children by providing textbooks and learning aids, transport and meal

One of the main obstacles, among others, in the process of formal education of children living in poverty is the lack of funds for the procurement of textbooks, necessary school supplies, meals, clothing and footwear, but also transport from a place where they live to school and back. During the work of the RCM with the mentioned population, the most common excuse for parents who did not send regular children to school was precisely the lack of money for necessary requirements for the education of children. In order to provide the necessary support to children who wanted to attend schools, as well as their parents, RCM had organized distribution of clothing and footwear, hygiene items, school supplies and meals for all children who were currently in the regular education system. The Ministry of Education regularly provided textbooks and transport to the mentioned children, from Camp to city schools and back.

6. Provide enrolment of children in city schools and free stay in kindergartens

Early development of a child is the most important segment in the development of the skills, habits, knowledge of every child, and is especially important in the field of integration of children who are not domicile and require additional work and motivation in order to overcome certain barriers. Within their playrooms, the RCM worked on their socialization with children from 3 to 6 years every working day in order to contribute to their better integration into Montenegrin society later





on. As a follow-up, children were helped to enrol in a regular education system constantly coordinating among the RCM team, the Ministry of Education, Bureau for Educations Services, parents, schools and Health Centres. The enrolment of children into the regular education system was the only possible and feasible by combined efforts of all these actors.

7. Engage community assistants who will regularly monitor the progress of children in the education system, inform parents, school, but also suppress the leaving of regular education

In order to ensure the timely exchange of information among schools and parents and regular monitoring of children, especially in working with closed and isolated groups within the society, it is

necessary to engage an assistant from the same community recognized by children and parents and trusted, but also open and collaborative with the relevant institutions. A community assistant must, of course, meet certain criteria and have a certain degree of education in order to be suitable for the position mentioned. In the framework of its programs, the RCM recognized the importance of the role of assistant and engaged several times trusted persons to perform the work in accordance with the procedures. The assistant actually represents an important, and in some situations, a key link between the community and the institutions of the system. He or she is the one who conveys and delivers information. In the work with the RE population, it turned out that the assistant is sometimes necessary in the classroom as well, not only on the way from home to school.

Therefore, it is important to do standardisation of the program for RE education assistant, but also in all other areas where assistance to vulnerable groups is necessary.

8. Prevent children from leaving formal education by introducing sanctions for parents who do not allow children to attend school or motivate them to enter early marriages or begging

Through the acquired experience of the RCM, it has been shown that it is not always enough to help children enrol in a regular educational system, but they need to be empowered to stay and complete the entire process of formal education. As poverty is the main obstacle to the development of all segments of the lives of vulnerable groups, due to this but also the tradition and customs, in a certain period of life of young people the occurrence of leaving regular education becomes evident. The youth, by their own will or under the influence of their parents, leave school for earning money on the street (begging or collecting secondary raw materials), entering an early, illicit or contractual marriage, or simply taking care of the younger siblings. In order to suppress or prevent these phenomena, it is also necessary to work with parents, children and the eldest ones in an environment that, due to tradition or customs, may have the greatest influence on decision-making related to dropping out of school. On this occasion, it is necessary to organise workshops for children (music, art, dramaturgy, computer workshops, sports activities, visits to cultural and historical

sites ...), day-care so they would not live on the streets, counselling centres for parents and older decision-makers in communities, but also in cooperation with institutions, find certain models of sanctioning those who encourage child begging and early marriages.

9. Provide the possibility of extra-curricular measures in schools or in communities, such as additional classes of language, computer training, assistance in homework, school in nature...

In order to support the education of children, motivate children and parents, especially those who are not literate and unable to help their children, extra-curricular activities should be organized for children like the above. In addition to raising the level of education of children, assistance is provided in their socialisation as they have the opportunity to socialise with domicile children, exchange experiences, knowledge, but also create a competitive spirit.

10. Provide the opportunity for adolescents without formal education to gain education externally

It happens often that those who are no longer in adequate age group for primary school later realise that the education is needed for employment purposes. For those older than 15 years, the RCM provided the possibility of external school exams. In cooperation with one of the secondary vocational schools, adolescents were allowed to take final exams, where within one academic year they were given the opportunity

to complete two grades of elementary school and thereby gain better qualifications for future employment. In the past years, the RCM hired a professional teacher who worked continuously, for several years in a row, teaching adolescents for three months after which they had the opportunity to take final exams. This activity proved to be very useful, especially for those who later became community assistants, after which they obtained necessary requirement for continuing secondary education as well as for the youth that regularly finished elementary school

11. Organise supplemental vocational training required by employers for older members

The elderly members of the vulnerable population, who wished to subsequently continue education, were given the opportunity to participate in the training for functional literacy, which lasted four months, after which they could continue their training for crafts. In cooperation with the Vocational Adult Education Centre, licensed programs for assistant craftsmen (hairstylist, painter, hygienist, car mechanic, vulcanizer, gyp-

sum worker, ceramist, etc.) were created, which RE women and men went through during the three-month training, after which they had the opportunity to obtain better qualifications for future employment or to start a business independently. In RCM practice, these trainings were very useful to end-users, but it was very important to keep their attention as well as bring the group to the final tests, especially women who had more home responsibilities. Some of them have been given the opportunity to apply for the tools they need to work and thereby create self-employment opportunities to RCMs and other partner organizations. The recommendation for this activity would certainly be, after training, to help people register at Employment agency, but also to get closer contact with employers. Employers also need to be further sensitized and motivated to hire members of vulnerable groups, especially taking into account the benefits and deductions they receive when hiring members of vulnerable populations (reduction of taxes and contributions for employees).





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Mevljud Jasaraj (pseudonym), resident of Camp Konik:

„It is important for me because I was illiterate. It is said – like parents, like children. Because if the parents are illiterate so will the children. Thank God, I am literate now. And thanks to God, if he permits, I will have my children schooled and myself a bit more – because learning never stops.

It is important for me because if I travel somewhere at least I will know where I am travelling to, to know how to behave towards others. Because school means educating for the others. Because when one goes to school one has to behave, not to treat the other badly. If I saw a friend somewhere, and it has been over fifteen years since I went to school with my friend, we would greet each other and say: „How are you my friend, we used to go to school together”

My sister completed elementary school and now she will study for hairdresser. It makes my heart warm when family, and not just family, the whole Europe, when he going to school. Because the most of us when we were here for the apartments, the most of us was illiterate. Only finger! And that is a shame, adult and using finger. My wife is illiterate but she can read and write by herself. Because one can do it by internet, by computer, from home (to study)”

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SUPPORT TO HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT

One of the key segments of the development of each individual is the care of one's own and family health. When the RCM took care of the management of Kamp Konik, the health situation could be curtailed as insufficient information about the residents about not only how to take care of health, but also how to recognize certain diseases. Displaced persons, in addition to all other rights, also had the right to health care: first, primary and secondary, while the tertiary form of health care was achieved much later. During the period when they were not

legally able to achieve a tertiary form of health care, RCM, in cooperation with their partners, provided them with orthopedic supplies, rehabilitation treatments, etc. From August 1999 to 2014, there were two outpatient clinics in the Konik Camp, and pediatric surgery, while in the past years there was a gynecological clinic. The Clinic in Konik Camp opened the Health Center Podgorica in cooperation with UNHCR. Ambulances in the Camp were closed after virtually all residents entered the public health care system of Montenegro, that is, after they



registered with the selected general practitioner in the health centers of Podgorica. Transition to the public health care system became possible when their legal status was regulated. Through the workshops of the Family Center, the Red Cross of Montenegro has been working on improving the health of the residents of the Camp for more than ten years, as well as improving the health itself. In cooperation with the Institute of Public Health and UNHCR, the Red Cross of Montenegro provided support to the work of the outpatient clinic; organized workshops on reproductive health, family planning and general health preservation; supported various free examinations and the like. In addition, the Montenegrin Red Cross monitored the process of transition to the public health care system and actively worked to reduce racial discrimination and intolerance towards Camp residents. Thus, following RCM's initiative to integrate the RE into the part of the health care system, and after announcing the Health Center that the planned closure of the outpatient clinic in the Konik area, the RCM has conducted extensive research to determine the level of health care that RE people use in Camp, and the findings were the following:



Survey on health care access, year 2014

1.797 residents interviewed

No. of residents with health care booklet: 565				No. of residents with displaced person health card: 963				No. of residents that have lost their booklet/ card: 269			
Has selected doctor	93	Has no selected doctor	175	Has selected doctor	64	Has no selected doctor	467	Has selected doctor	12	Has no selected doctor	162
Has selected pediatrician (children up to 15 years)	168	Has no selected pedi- atrician (children up to 15 years)	129	Has selected pediatrician (children up to 15 years)	78	Has no selected pediatrician (children up to 15 years)	354	Has select- ed pedi- atrician (children up to 15 years)	11	Has no selected pediatrician (children up to 15 years)	84

Survey on health care access, year 2017

1.830 residents interviewed

No. of residents with health care booklet: 1.830		No. of residents with displaced person health card: 0		Residents who got the health booklet, but never picked it up: 29	
Has selected doctor	1.011	Has selected doctor	0	Has selected doctor	20
Has selected pediatrician (children up to 15 years)	801	Has selected pediatrician (children up to 15 years)	0	Has selected pediatrician (children up to 15 years)	9



After the withdrawal of the Konik outpatient clinics, all members of the vulnerable population were given the opportunity to choose their general practitioner, most often in the health care post nearby, in order to avoid additional travel expenses. All those who managed to regulate their status in Montenegro received all legal rights in the field of health and disease prevention, so that the recommendations in this activity were the following:

1. Enable vulnerable groups to receive all the necessary health care in medical institutions

Through its experience, the RCM has come to the conclusion that vulnerable groups need all possible assistance in exercising the right to health care, but does not recommend that medical facilities and employees be mobilized for these needs, and that medical care is provided in

facilities that are intended to protect all domicile citizens. This recommendation is a two-way goal for interaction with other citizens and integration, but also allows vulnerable groups to organize themselves and find the best way for their own and the health of their families.

2. Engage community assistants to work on community health awareness and connect beneficiaries with relevant institutions

In order to achieve a more adequate link between the communities in which vulnerable groups and institutions of the system live, more specifically in this case, the health institution recommends the engagement of community assistants who have previously been trained to work in this area and who possess relevant information necessary to the final beneficiaries. Assistants must have a good knowledge of the language of their

community and the language of their country of residence in order to assist in the right way to those who do not know the language of their country in which they live. Additionally, assistants have the task of following the whole process of individual cases, so that each individual who needs the appropriate medical care will bring the treatment to the very end.

3. Organize continuously raising awareness and informing residents, especially women, about health and disease prevention

Through the experience of our organization, as one of the key and most important activities with the vulnerable population, continuous work with women from community - girls, future mothers, mothers and grandmothers has been shown. Women, as a family pillar, must be empowered and have all the necessary information for the health of themselves and their families. Women's empowerment, through disease prevention workshops, proved to be the best organized activity that has permanently brought about a shift in the development of awareness not only of regular members, but of complete families whose members they are. Women first need to create a pleasant, relaxing atmosphere, a place where they feel safe and free, and after that, gain trust in the Red Cross workers. It is recommended to organize workshops of this type as often as possible, in order to get the habit of women to come, gather and exchange information among them. In order to communicate health information, the RCM has cooperated with the Institute of Public Health, which comes

directly to the Camp several times a month and organizes preventive workshops and preventive examinations for women. Through this activity, all necessary support was provided to women who had once been delivering babies in the barracks and who did not have adequate medical care when it comes to starting up a family. The RCM, through coordinated activities with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, managed to provide assistance to all women who needed medical assistance.

4. Organize joint preventive examinations

To achieve close cooperation with the relevant institutions, in this case, the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Public Health, the Health Center, the Medical Faculty and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, is necessary in order to provide full services to final beneficiaries, such as vulnerable groups. Through their budgetary resources, these institutions allocate a part of the funds for disease prevention activities, so it is recommended that they are co-ordinated in order to provide the necessary care to beneficiaries who are most often unable to afford to go to a doctor or to have a private doctor's examination.

5. Anti-discriminatory seminars and sensitization training for health workers

During the long-term work of the RCM team on health empowerment of vulnerable groups, there has been a two-fold reaction of the system's employees to vulnerable groups - most of them treated with great respect the members of the RE population, while one smaller, yet significant,

part of the workers, has treated the same group with prejudice and discriminatory treatment. In order to sensitize employees in relevant institutions, who need to provide services to vulnerable groups, it is necessary to work continuously, organize information sessions and trainings for

field workers. It is recommended that the expert team of psychologists and anthropologists creates a plan of work with the aforementioned representatives of institutions in order to sensitize them and suppress discriminatory behavior towards them.

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Milka Žižić, MRC on starting to work with RE women:

“In order to start a workshop, I wanted to start with some ten women. At that time, there were 240-250 families in the camp, with approximately 1270 people. Only Camp 1, without Camp 2. It could be expected that at the beginning there are 10 women who are willing to come on their own. But suddenly, 30 women appeared at the workshop. They came to see what it would be like. They came to the door, so they asked: ‘What is this here?’ I let it go for a while, because I could not start to work differently. And after a while, I started to make a selection. I remember it like today. It was raining; the kindergarten was not working that day. Since that day was a workshop day for me, they thought I would distribute soap. And then there were 50 women. 50 women! I fell in among them like someone threw me from Mars! Then I thought and at one point said, ‘Let’s all calm down’. To explain some things to them. I saw that I had to make some cuts to get started. I told them that everything in their life that they need - whether it’s a disease, whether it’s a matter of birth, whether it’s papers, whether it’s a family problem, a disagreement with a husband, a disagreement with a neighborhood - for any problem that a woman has, can come to the workshop to talk about it. If she does not want to talk in front of the other women, she can share the problem with me in person. And I will try to help this family and help this woman. Because many problems they will not be able to solve on their own, they will have to ask some institution for help. Let them start from the Red Cross, and the Red Cross will be the one who will help them as much as possible. It was a cut for all the questions in the camp. And so for the families and for my camp work to this day. I started to gain their trust as of that moment.

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Agima Ljaljević, the Public Health Institute of Montenegro:

"The Public Health Institute has been involved in the camp since the arrival of the RAE population in Montenegro. We worked on vaccination, monitoring the hygienic and sanitary conditions in which this population lives, as well as what we did from the Center for Health Promotion: we carried out health education activities. In addition, we also organized other colleagues from the Clinical Center, from other health institutions, to work on health education, to enlighten, to educate the camp residents. I think we have significantly influenced the quality of their lives. We were in charge of monitoring the risk factors that affect their health, and we went on a daily basis at the beginning. At that time, we followed completely all the risk factors that affected their health: water supply, waste disposal, solid waste disposal, as well as all other risk factors that could affect their health. In the future, younger children should be included as much as possible. The more they cover them with different kinds of programs ... The most important thing is that we have brought women to us in the Clinical Center. No women at that time thought of giving birth at the Clinical Center. Today, the situation is such that they all do. This is our great progress. Also, we were in a position to treat a woman with sterility - which now has four children. We did not treat her, of course, but we have provided her with contact with doctors specialists."

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SUPPORT TO HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The inhabitants of the Konik region who escaped from Kosovo after they settled in the suburb of Vrela ribnička, passed through several forms of accommodation: upon their arrival in Montenegro, refugees were placed in tents (1998-1999), then temporarily settled in wooden shacks (2000-2012), after a devastating fire, the housing was provided in metal containers (2012), and in the end with residential buildings (from 2017 onwards) as part of the Regional Housing Program.

During 1998 and 1999, several thousand Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians from Kosovo lived in tents, cardboard and similar facilities at the Vrelah Rib-

nica. In August 1999, the Italian humanitarian organization Intersos erected a tent settlement; On December 4, 1999, a strong northern wind broke down this tent settlement. At the end of March 2000, moving into the wooden barracks started by Intersos in Camp 1. In Camp 2, the barracks were set up by WorldVision, an American humanitarian organization. In 2005, the German humanitarian organization Help, with the donations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, built a residential building for the accommodation of 22 displaced RE families. The residential building is known as the "German House" and is located near the camp

Konik. Wooden shacks were designed and made for short-term use, for about two years. However, they were used in the Konik camp for the next 12 years, until 2012. The prolonged use, and poor and incorrectly used electrical installations have caused frequent fires. RCM disposes of information on fires in 2001, 2007, 2008, two fires in 2009, and one in 2011. In 2012, there was a huge fire that burnt 27 barracks in which 155 families were housed. The Red Cross of Montenegro, the Army of Montenegro, the relevant city and state institutions reacted quickly and professionally, extinguished the fire and set up 150 tents. Nobody lost his life, but about 800 people were left without a roof over their heads. In November 2012, the state institutions of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Red Cross of Montenegro, UNHCR and other organizations, bought and installed 215 metal containers as a temporary solution to accommodate some of the people whose barracks were burned in the fire. In 2014, the US Embassy donated about 100 metal containers as temporary accommodation for the rest of the camp's residents.

In 2010, the European Union defined the closure



of Camp Konik as one of the seven priorities that Montenegro must resolve before it can begin accession negotiations with the EU. The Montenegrin authorities then undertook a series of steps necessary to close the camp. One of these steps was the construction of social housing - more than 16 new residential buildings located opposite to Kamp Konik. The Montenegrin Government and the Municipality of Podgorica donated the land, and the European Commission financed the construction of buildings through the Regional Housing Program. Four residential buildings were built in 2015 and the residents of Kamp Konik 2 moved into them in 2016. In 2017, the construction of twelve new buildings in which the residents of Camp Konik 1. have been built are completed. Another 50 families from the so called abc sector (housing in the shacks) is waiting for the move into new buildings that are in the process of construction.



The area of the Camp is divided into several special units: Camp Konik 1, Camp Konik 2 (now the former Camp after being closed by the transfer of its residents to new housing units in the camp areas) German house, Private accommodation and, now, new housing units built within two major projects - the Regional Housing Program (17 housing units) and the IPA program (5 housing units).

Current situation

After the accommodation in the barracks the first object built on the territory of the Camp was the so-called German house. At the time, 22 Roma families have moved in. Now there are 18 families or 112 inhabitants in the apartments.

After the decision to shut down Camp 2, residential buildings were built, so-called IPA buildings that currently house 46 families or 232 inhabitants.

After that, housing units were built within the Regional Housing Program, which houses 121 families or 673 inhabitants. Currently, 254 inhabitants living in 52 containers are waiting for the construction of the remaining 5 social housing buildings.

Right after taking over the camp in August 2003, when the Roma were placed in wooden shacks, RCM recognized the problems and risks of their accommodation.

Due to the materials from which they were built and the proximity between them, as well as the upgrading of existing structures, there was a great possibility of fire. The procurement of fire extinguishers, which were distributed to sector leaders and other camp residents, was immediately launched.

Due to the upgrading of facilities, the camp was closed for eventual access of fire fighting vehicles, so in cooperation with the inhabitants, the



opening of the so-called fire routes began. At the same time, the work on repairing hydrants that existed in the Camp and were devastated took place. Leaflets on how to act in the event of a fire were produced.

The big problem at that time was the hygiene in the camp. In order to prevent the possibility of infection, together with the sector leaders, collective campaigns for clearing the Camp were organized, and when this was not possible, the communal services were also engaged. In addition, campsite hygiene was emphasized at the women's workshops. The sanitary connections were constantly being repaired in order to function properly, as well as to maintain the sewage network permanently. This problem followed us until the closing of the Camp.

The problem that followed us since arriving at Camp was a problem with the barracks that were worn out. In the beginning we paid for the repairs and in time we trained the camp residents to repair the barracks themselves and we provided them with material.

During our stay in the Camp, we had regular meetings with the sector leaders in which we resolved the current problems. Immediately after our arrival, we divided the Camp by sectors and enabled the residents to identify the sector-leaders among themselves. In addition, they were given the opportunity to come to the Red Cross office at any time and to report a possible problem. This type of cooperation has helped us a lot in the realization of our project because we, despite our constant fieldwork, had first-hand information, that is, from the inhabitants themselves.

The recommendations that the Red Cross team wants to share with other organizations that are planning to deal with vulnerable groups in the area of housing are as follows:

1. Organize training and information of residents, before moving in, about their rights and obligations

Before moving into buildings or any other collective accommodation facilities, it is necessary to organize training for beneficiaries in order to be timely informed about their rights and obligations. The Red Cross of Montenegro was a member of the commission that was responsible for the selection of priority beneficiaries for the new accommodation, after which, in cooperation with some NGOs, organized the information of the camp residents about their rights and obligations when it comes to moving into new housing units.

2. After moving into housing, it is necessary to conduct regular visits to families and facilities in which they live

Through the experience of the Red Cross team, it has been shown that following the migration of beneficiaries to any type of accommodation, it is necessary, especially at later stages, to organize regular visits to families and to check whether housing facilities are in acceptable condition after moving in. In addition to regular monitoring, it is recommended to select the managers of objects, with whom information meetings would be organized regularly and which would be responsible for the care of the facilities.

3. Collective accommodation should be built from less inflammable materials

When constructing facilities planned for temporary accommodation in emergency situations, it is necessary to plan for buildings to be built of less inflammable materials, and that the space between the facilities is sufficient for normal access to fire fighting vehicles. It should also be noted that a sufficient number of hydrants are placed near such facilities. It is also recommended to distribute a sufficient number of fire extinguishers to the beneficiaries of collective accommodation in order to ensure in every possible way the prevention of additional emergency situations, which must be preceded by the training of the inhabitants for the use of the mentioned devices.

4. Organize training for residents of collective accommodation in order to prepare and maintain common facilities

Immediately after moving into temporary facilities, workshops for beneficiaries should be organized where they are to be trained for maintaining and performing small repairs on their residential buildings with the supervision of an expert, and primarily to take care of sanitary connections, toilets, common kitchens and the like.

5. Build housing units within the settlement where the domicile population lives

In order to socialize all those who are not native to the country where they live, it is necessary to place residents on several locations, among the domicile population, in order to avoid segregation and ghettoization. In order to integrate the vulnerable groups better, adopt the cultural

determinants of the country in which they live and socialize in an adequate way, the accommodation capacities need to be distributed in several different locations, which will also contribute to the reduction of discriminatory differences on both sides, both the domicile and the newly arrived population.

6. Prepare for emergency situations (winds, fires, floods)

Bearing in mind that temporary accommodation facilities are often unable to withstand natural disasters or emergency situations, in order to prepare the population for adequate activities, preparatory trainings for residents of collective accommodation should be organized.



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Antonela Stanić (a pseudonym), a resident of Camp Konik:

“When we arrived for 7-8 months we lived in tents. Can you imagine, 7-8 months, in the winter, the wind blows strong around here. It’s easier when it’s snowing. When it blows and rains. It’s chaos. When we got this barrack, it was like we got a palace. But there were 3 families in that barrack. In one barrack, in two rooms, all together. My mother-in-law, father-in-law, me, my sister-in-law, my husband, and my son were in one room. In one room. And in the other room was my sister-in-law, brother-in-law, with three children. And imagine how it is, when you have no place to bathe. Or you have to go to the toilet. And you bathe in cold water. We were very happy, but then it was pretty cold. When you say the camp, I think of the worst thing in my life that happened to me. I’ve lived for 17 years in the camp and experienced the most awful things in life. I lost my child because of the lack of proper living conditions. Heavy jobs and everything. And then the baby that I was carrying got sick. I lost the little one there. You never get enough of money and children. Some say, ‘You have five, six, so why being sad for this one?’ And nobody can take the place of another. Then I lost my mother-in-law, I lost my father-in-law. He had an accident in Stari aerodrom. And then the fire, the biggest one, I lost everything there. It is so hard ... we have to go through the garbage and all that. But if you already have a whole house to clean and wash, and you have no conditions, you have no water. Then you have to be there for hours, waiting in that line [for water]. God forbid that something happens. That a child burns inside or something. Then I have nothing to live for anymore. So I turned all my love and strength on them, on the children.

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DISTRIBUTION OF HUMANITARIAN AID

Displaced from Kosovo residing in Montenegro belong to the socially most vulnerable category of population. From the first days of their arrival, the RCM, through its various forms of assistance, independently or in cooperation with numerous international humanitarian organizations and state local institutions, provides assistance to

the beneficiaries in order to improve the quality of life.

From 2000 to 2006, regular distribution was organized for all residents of the Camp in food, hygiene, clothing, footwear and household equipment. Since the last re-registration that



took place in 2009, the residents started to co-operate more with the Center for Social Work with the help of the RCM. When they acquired the right to the foreigner's ID, they were also given the opportunity to apply for social rights and services.



In the last few years distributions have been organized once or twice a year, however, there are also a few families that are still unable to exercise the right to social services due to the lack of adequate personal documents, which are difficult to obtain from the country of origin. The most common problem is the condition for the renewal of the application documents every 9 months, which implies additional material costs to families or individuals who are not employed.



From the very beginning of the stay in Montenegro, the Red Cross visited vulnerable families in order to evaluate the most urgent cases and provide necessary assistance to families in the form of food, hygiene, clothing, footwear, medicine, furniture, bedding, school supplies and similar. Special attention is paid to older women and single mothers providing them with social and psychological support.

The Red Cross of Montenegro, in accordance with the needs of the inhabitants, applied to the donors, provided all possible humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable population in the country and carried out the distribution.



Based on previous experience, the recommendations in the part of providing humanitarian assistance are as follows:

1. **Constantly be in touch with vulnerable target groups in order to identify real needs of the population in a timely manner**

In order to provide relevant support to vulnerable persons, the Red Cross team daily communicated with vulnerable groups from the Camp area and analyzed the real needs of the population. The help that was regularly distributed to the beneficiaries mainly included basic food items, hygiene items, clothing and footwear, furniture, and sometimes larger items such as kitchen utilities, furniture, beds, bedding, etc. A special recommendation for the humanitarian aid segment refers to realistic estimating of beneficiary needs, bearing in mind that beneficiaries often ask for items that they already have and that are not really necessary for them, and which they would sell later on.

2. **Distribute aid to endangered target groups solely on the basis of real needs and try to provide sufficient quantities for each family or individual**

Through the activities of the Red Cross, it has been shown that certain times require different types of assistance to the beneficiaries, and accordingly, with their real needs, humanitarian aid should be distributed. It is especially important to provide sufficient quantities of assistance for everyone, as some families or individuals would not feel outcasted or even more endangered.

3. **Create criteria on the basis of which humanitarian aid is distributed**

For the fair and adequate distribution of humanitarian aid, it is necessary to create criteria on the basis of which humanitarian aid is distributed. Criteria are created in accordance with the type of assistance that beneficiaries are receiving. The distribution is done by the team of the Red Cross, not by individuals.

4. **Regularly update the beneficiary lists**

In order to achieve a 100% coverage of all target groups and beneficiaries who need assistance, teams working with vulnerable groups must regularly update the recipient database.

5. **Provide funds for the procurement of humanitarian aid**



The biggest problem in the field of humanitarian aid is the provision of funds for the procurement of innocuous items. Every humanitarian organization that provides support to vulnerable groups, in addition to the long-term, seeks to provide immediate assistance, especially if the real need for it exists. The recommendation for this kind of activity would certainly be a suggestion that it is necessary to constantly lobby and advocate

for vulnerable groups and regularly inform stakeholders about the current state and needs of the vulnerable population.

6. Distribute assistance equally to everyone

In order to support vulnerable groups belonging both to domicile and displaced populations, it is necessary to take into account that the assistance is distributed equally to all vulnerable groups.



Table: Distribution of humanitarian aid

Year	Food	Hygiene	Clothing, footwear and home supplies	School set	Baby-packages	Daily meals for children	New Year's (Christmas) present boxes
2003	1.500 kg	500 kg	1.000 kg				
2004	11.045 kg	700 kg	1.255 kg				
2005	29.000 kg	700 kg	1.300 kg				
2006	17.255 kg	730 kg	3.015 kg	340	210 pcs.	170 pcs	170 boxes
2007	1.043 kg	1.331 kg	1.626 kg	696		398 pcs	398 boxes
2008	2.948 kg	8.000 kg	2.552 kg	450	56 pcs	290 pcs	450 boxes
2009	1.936 kg	500 kg	3.300 kg	496	102 pcs	208 pcs	498 boxes
2010	21.782 kg	11.600 kg	14.618 kg	1012		222 pcs	506 boxes
2011	6.898 kg	1.599 kg	540 kg	533		163 pcs	537 boxes
2012	48.000,8 kg	3.756 kg	5.700 kg	1.066		162 pcs	531 boxes
2013	5.124,1 kg	216 kg	1.659 kg	1.066		172 pcs	552 boxes
2014	16.964,05 kg	3.400 kg	2.635,95 kg	631		176 pcs	401 boxes
2015	14.233,1 kg	3.604 kg	16.162,9 kg	631	45 pcs	172 pcs	371 boxes
2016	275,8 kg	805 kg	1.405 kg	631		176 pcs	331 boxes
2017	356 kg	1.130 kg	1.180 kg			96 pcs	190 boxes
Total:	178.360,85 kg	38.571 kg	57.948.85 kg	7.552 sets	413 pcs	428.800 meals total	4.935 boxes

Note: According to the data from progress reports and distribution lists for period 2003-2017 Red Cross of Montenegro distributed approximately 275 tons of humanitarian aid in food, hygiene products, clothing, shoes and home supplies (blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets etc.). Having in mind that

the most of Red Cross of Montenegro' documentation was lost in fire 2012 this overview does not cover all distributions.

In addition to these distributions many other distribution were organised in the reporting period like those of orthopaedic aids, 70 plastic films, 300 pallets, 40 stalls, sewing machines, many collection campaigns were organized as well etc.

All the above mentioned distributions were supported by international and local donors such as: UNHCR, Danish and Italian Red Cross, European Commission, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Help, MPDL, US and United Arab Emirates embassies, organisations: ADRA, LDS Charities, International Women Association, Montenegro Rotary Clubs, Turkish Red Crescent etc.

Within the part of the assistance related to the support to the housing of RE persons, Red Cross of Montenegro, with the help of several donors, has done the following: 4 greenhouses of 850 m² were built for farming vegetables, 5,220 m² of roof covering was replaced and repaired, regular maintenance of power supply, water supply and canalisation network of the Camps, reconstruction and painting of 75 metal doors on sanitary facilities, adaptation of 13 residential units (repairs of floors, replacement of windows and doors, ceilings, etc.), purchase of material for repair of roofs of about 1,000 m², drainage system to prevent flooding was constructed as well.

In the framework of educational activities 904 children were provided a stay in the Solidarity House in Sutomore as a part of the school in nature.

In addition to the aforementioned distributions, Red Cross of Montenegro provided logistical support to all major aid distributions, carried out by other organisations and institutions

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Gzim Kabaši (pseudonym), resident of Konik Camp:

"I would only recommend that they come to visit people, see how they live and what the conditions are. Nothing else. Because when they come, when they see ... It's different when you see with your own eyes how people live, than when someone else sends you some video or footage. I can now, for example, make recordings - to go to a family that has fine conditions, and perhaps another family that is close to it, wants to have the same conditions, but can not, because there is nothing. If I work somewhere, if I receive a salary - I can buy everything I need. But if he does not, he can not. First I would say: they come to visit people. To see what conditions people have, even though they moved into the buildings. Most people have no conditions. There are many who sleep hungry, thirsty, have nothing to eat. We go out to containers, so people threaten us. You're threatening us. Why? And secondly: I would tell those people from Europe - who were engaged in all of that, who helped us - to gather, to have a meeting in the camp, where everyone from the camp would come. To answer everybody that everyone talks about his pains what he suffered, and what he survived, to tell everyone. Again thank them, who were engaged, who gave the budget and the money. I do not know how much money Europe has given to build these buildings. First of all, I would like to thank all these people who were engaged in this, if it wasn't for them, not even these buildings would be still in the camp. If necessary, I will also help, I will call all people. We can make invitations, to put on every building. Each building can have its own term. For example, at ten, eleven - that this meeting is taken place and every man says what he suffered. "

Mensut Krpuljević, MRC:

"I've always at least tried and I told my people: 'It's better to let someone cheat us than to sin our soul'. It was difficult to distinguish, at least in the beginning, who was really endangered and who was not. Later, when we entered a bit into their psychology, when we took a peek into their lives, into their families, then we could be more or less sure who told the truth, and who did not tell the truth. "

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SUPPORT TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Government of Montenegro guarantees that the return of I/DPs to their countries of origin is based on principles of voluntary return and respect of dignity.

The total number of returnees from Montenegro to Kosovo since the end of the conflict was at a low level.

Since 2001, not more than 1,300 displaced persons, mostly members of the RE population, have returned to Kosovo through organized return programs, out of which 94 persons returned in 2008, 161 persons in 2009, 177 in 2010. Although spontaneous returns are difficult to measure, they do not seem to have been significant. In order to ensure that IDPs have access to all information on the status and possibilities of exercising their rights in the country of origin and make the right decision on the best permanent solution, the Government of Montenegro has taken an active role in organizing cross-border activities between Montenegro and Kosovo, such as informative visits. The Government of Montenegro signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Kosovo regarding voluntary return in 2011 with a goal to facilitate return for persons, mostly RE population, who do not own land, but expressed their will to return, but whose return was disabled by lack of land and housing solutions. The Government of Montenegro has assisted the initiatives of local authorities to assist in the return of interested displaced persons, in particular RAE from Camp Konik.

In the field of voluntary return of displaced persons, the Red Cross of Montenegro provided logistical support and was physically close to the beneficiaries, made interviews with beneficiaries, collected and sent data to the UNHCR offices in Montenegro and Kosovo. During 2014-2015, voluntary return to Kosovo for 21 families or 103 members from the area of Vrela ribnička (Konik



1 Camp, Konik 2 Camp, German Building and the Private accommodation) was organized by the Danish Refugee Council, the UNHCR, the Administration for the Care of Refugees and the Red Cross of Montenegro. The following year (2016), 32 families or 115 inhabitants from Konik 2 camp and Private Accommodation were returned to Kosovo. After the return of these families to their home country, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, in cooperation with the RCM team in the Camp, organized the demolition of the barracks that remained after the departure of the mentioned families to Kosovo, followed by the closure of Camp Konik 2.

During 2017, the RCM team from Camp Konik, together with the Danish Council, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, the Administration for the Care of Refugees and UNHCR, was actively involved in the preparation and implementation of voluntary return to Kosovo, resulting in 5 families returning to the country of origin or 22 members from Camp Konik and Private Accommodation.

Although not many families chose this option for their future life, it had to exist as an option for them, and the competent institutions tried to fulfill all the prerequisites to provide logistical and other support for implementation.



Recommendations:

1. Continuous communication with the beneficiaries about the possibilities of their return to the country of origin

In order to successfully complete the return process, mutual trust between organizations and returnees is necessary in order to obtain precise and accurate information forwarded to the country of origin. From experience in working with returnees, the information that is very important as a precondition for return is whether the person really wants to return or has some other goal, whether there is a sense of fear of returning to the country of origin, whether it has or does not have property in the country of return, etc.



2. Organizing "go-see" visits

Visits are made depending on the number of interested displaced persons. First, applications are collected, followed by the preparation of a list of potential candidates. Visits usually last from two to three days. The first day is a visit to the property of displaced persons. On the second day, the displaced have a chance to meet with the representatives of the municipality. The purpose of these visits was to provide the right information to displaced persons and to assist with decision-making on return.

3. Good preparation of interested beneficiaries for return

Predict the user what can be expected in the country of origin when returning. It is very important that the beneficiary himself assesses whether

the country of origin will provide a better life for him and his family, so it is necessary to show him what conditions he can count on. On the other hand, despite the great desire of the population to return to their home country, interviewing the family, filling out the form on their data, organizing a visit to the place where they want to return, opportunities to talk to neighbors where they should return (visit "go-and-see"), It often happened that the family on the day of departure gives up on return. The reason for this was that sometimes there was distrust and fear from the beneficiaries whether they would be accepted into the country of origin or would experience a similar fate that they are reluctant to remember. That's why constant conversations

with the family by psychologists and social workers are necessary for a successful return.

4. Continuation of the initiated process

If, for example, children begin the education process in the country where they are, they should be allowed to continue with the same education in the country of origin, upon return. Thus, schools can be provided with information on the status of formal education in which children are located. The same applies to older beneficiaries, as well as other areas of importance for their better functioning - recommendations from the employer, if they worked somewhere; certificates of completed training; documents available, etc.



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Jelena Dubak Darmanović, MRC:

"There is a serious number of families who have returned to Kosovo. Of course, the return had to be safe, secure, that it was their will and that it was sustainable. These were three conditions of return: it is safe, it is their will and this return is sustainable. What does sustainable mean? That when they return there, they still have some conditions that can provide them with some dignified life, to have some minimum living conditions. First, there was no clear vision of the state to resolve this issue. Secondly, there were no funds, because they were not small funds. Until then, it is simply not the system itself - bearing in mind that this is happening in parallel with the transition in society, economic instability of the country, a large number of refugees, a large number of displaced persons, a large number of socially vulnerable population, a domicile [population] who is left without jobs, factories that have been shut down. So you do not have only this community you care about, but you have another bigger [group] of this community that is socially vulnerable, only that it is spread all over Montenegro. So it was a serious problem for the state - how to permanently solve these issues in a quality manner. Frankly, the EU - which supported some projects there - slowly began to press the system to find some permanent solutions. I must say that it was necessary to work with the community at Konik as well, because they were not that ready. "

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HISTORY OF RED CROSS OF MONTENEGRO

Very important information about the Red Cross of Montenegro is the fact that in 1875 it became the first Red Cross Society in the Balkans, and the 22nd in the world. The beginnings of our national society date back to 1875 and the events in Herzegovina, known as the Nevesinje Rebel. A large number of refugees had to leave their homes and came to Montenegro, which was even smaller and poorer at the time. At a secret meeting with the Herzegovinian chiefs held at Lovcen, on July 26, 1875, Prince Nikola agreed to provide assistance to rebels. The same year in August, a Committee for assistance to the Herzegovinian victims was formed in Montenegro and had seven members. The first president of the board was Ilarion Roganovic. Immediately after its establishment, the Committee calls on foreign doctors to come to Montenegro and organize hospitals in Grahovo, Župa Nikšićka, Drobnjaci, Šavnik and Andrijevica. The first official data on the population that had defected from the Turkish territory was published in the gazette "Glas Crnogorca" on October 25, 1875. According to these data, (two months from the beginning of the uprising) in Montenegro there were 47,207 refugees. According to official data, published in the Montenegrin annual "Orlić" for 1875, there were 10,818 families in Montenegro, with 62,496 members. By ratification of the Geneva Convention on the Wounded 17 (November 29, 1875), Montenegro became the 22nd member of the International Red Cross Movement. The International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, in December 1875, sends its delegation - a mission

to Montenegro, instructing her how to help the newly founded Red Cross Society.

Main activities of Red Cross of Montenegro are:

DISSEMINATION - Spreading of knowledge about international humanitarian law and the basic principles of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent.

HEALTH AND CARE:

First aid - organization and implementation of first aid training.

Voluntary donation of blood - activities on motivation, gathering of donors and promotion of voluntary donation of blood.

Disease prevention - organization of educational activities aimed at preventing HIV / AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases.

SOCIAL WELFARE:

Care for the elderly - alleviating problems, reducing vulnerability and providing basic needs for the elderly, single and ill persons.

Psycho-social support - providing support to vulnerable groups (homeless people, asylum seekers...) through various forms of work tailored to the needs of the group.

Projects dedicated to the RE (Roma, Egyptians) population - socialization, social and health care, education.

Anti-trafficking activities - preventive and educational activities to raise awareness of the problem of trafficking in human beings.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT - The Red Cross of Montenegro provides a fast and efficient response to all kinds of natural and other disasters.

Water Rescue - as part of the preparation for the operation in accidents, is carried out for the needs of safety on the sea beaches and bathing areas.

Rescue at landscaped ski resorts - it's about forming a well-trained and equipped rescue team on regulated ski slopes.

TRACING SERVICE AND RESTORING FAMILY LINKS - Carrying out activities for informing and searching for victims of war, natural and other disasters, families separated by migration.

YOUTH AND YOUNGSTERS - Young people are the driving force of the organization of the Red Cross of Montenegro, so we are continuously working on their recruitment and education, and they are the carriers of all activities in the organization.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - The goal of the Red Cross of Montenegro is to improve and develop its organization by developing cooperation with other national societies and other partners, and at the same time fulfilling its mission.

For more information please visit official web-site of Red Cross of Montenegro www.ckcg.me

