



Semi-annual Progress Report

Semi-annual Progress Report No.: 1

Contract Number: 8285-00/2015
Title of the Intervention: For Active Inclusion & Rights of Roma Women in the Western Balkans (FAIR II) Förderung der sozialen Einbeziehung & Rechte von Romafrauen am Westbalkan
Project Period: 1.11.2015-31.10.2018

Reporting period:

Reporting period: 1.11.2015-30.6.2016	Report submitted on (date):
Due date: 31.8.2016	31.8.2016

The answer to all questions must cover the reporting period as specified above. The report must be completed and signed by the contact person of the Contractor. The information provided in this technical report must correspond to the financial information provided in the financial report. Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.

ADA will reject any incomplete reports.

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Summary of the progress of the intervention

CARE believes that - by empowering Roma women to adequately address different aspects and levels of priority needs identified, their position in society will improve. Further, by forming and strengthening partnerships and cooperation across the geographical areas and themes, their voice will be heard more clearly and their relevance will increase. The intervention logic is also based on CARE's women's empowerment impact statement with three domains of change: 1. Enhanced participation and decision-making, 2. Reduced violence against women and 3. Strong social movements engaging men.

The project's **overall objective** is Improved socioeconomic situation of Roma women/households in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in the target localities.

The **project purpose** is focused on Roma women NGO's capacities being strengthened to address national and European level strategies and interventions related to Romani women's rights and social inclusion of Roma communities.

CARE and its partners intend to accomplish this by implementing a wide range of activities leading towards tangible change at the individual, local and national levels with the involvement of civil society organizations and government representatives and institutions reflected in the following four mutually reinforcing **expected results (ER)**:

ER1: Roma women and girls are empowered to exercise their rights to education, health and to life free of violence through targeted community-level assistance;

ER2: Local inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms involving CSO and institutional stakeholders are established and strengthened to support the social inclusion of Roma communities;

ER3: National networks of Roma and non-Roma women organizations are capacitated to influence and monitor implementation of policies related to Roma women's rights and gender equality on local and national levels and actively engage into accountability mechanisms;

ER4: Targeted Roma women organizations are strengthened to become active players in networking on regional and European level with Roma and non-Roma peer organizations and relevant institutions.

This project FAIR II is a continuation of FAIR project, implemented for three years and also funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation, which ended February 28, 2015, in same project countries with the same project partners.

The baseline assessment will be done during the next reporting period, after selection of sub-grantee organizations, locations and all beneficiaries.

The inception phase started with a **strategic workshop** with partners during which the project's activity plan and timeframe have been reviewed, financial guidelines overviewed and future steps agreed on. Building upon the past results support and inclusion and cooperation with **National networks/coalitions of Roma and non-Roma women organizations** in the project have been discussed. Partner organizations overviewed and consulted other Roma and non-Roma organizations included in the previous FAIR project and some adjustments have been made in structure of national coalitions; CARE and its main partners will cooperate with the best performing and strongest partner NGOs that are able to deliver the highest level of impact for our target group, Roma children, women and communities (ER1).

The three main project partners submitted their project proposals according to which institutional grant contracts were signed and financial support allocated; reporting forms and monitoring tables for tracking main indicators were shared with the partners.

Fourteen Roma and non-Roma organizations are included in FAIR II project from all three project countries as members of national coalitions committed to improve policies and awareness on needs and challenges Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are facing. They were participants of a workshop held in Ruma, aiming to discuss the project (impact and the best possible options in achieving them). In order to include all organizations which, will be included and targeted via FAIR II, the same workshop was used to introduce **impact measurement tools**; the community score card (CSC) and the most significant change methods (MSC) as well as other important documents regarding compliance of reporting and implementation.

ER1: Seven organizations were awarded sub-grants under ER1 and they will implement the projects in collaboration with five other coalition/network members **in 11 localities** reaching and impacting Roma men, women, children and youth making positive changes and improving their lives in the field of **education, health, legal and social assistance**. Partner organizations have a long lasting experience in this field and years of cooperation with other stakeholders and institutions. Mainly on prevention of gender based violence; assisting youth to enrol and attend schools and preventing them from dropping out; providing a second chance for those, who already dropped out; cooperation with parents; usage of participatory community based forum theatre. An important aspect of the work in the past which continues to be critical in this project phase has been the **cooperation with public service providers**, such as schools, centers for social work, municipalities, police departments, to join forces and leverage experiences in assisting vulnerable communities, specifically women and children. Often civil society organizations are key to mediate between local authorities and Roma households, as there often is an institutional discrimination prevailing, thus giving voice to their concerns. A detailed description of the local context based interventions will be presented in the next report.

Roma communities often have been neglected by governments as discrimination or lack of knowledge prevails about proven approaches of social inclusion policies. To act as bridges in these communities **9 Roma mediators** will be engaged in our 11 target localities (ER1). CARE organized training for 15 individuals to be able to approach a bigger pool of applicants. Their engagement will start in September 2016.

ER 2: As the structures on local level are key for delivering social, educational and health services and support in a coordinated manner in RAE communities, the project will in addition to supporting local NGOs (ER1) rely on the so called **inter-sectoral commissions, local coordination mechanism** formed during the former FAIR I project and developed further under this action. These coordination bodies involve the above mentioned actors; schools, municipal representatives, health providers, police, civil society members, that come together to discuss challenges, joint actions and coordination needed. Under the FAIR II project these inter-sectoral commissions will be supported, stronger cooperation enhanced and their operations evaluated. To fulfil this aims, an initial assessment was made to track the status quo on the extent of coordination on the local level¹. The assessment first indicated that in some cases the local authorities had to be convinced of the advantages of participating in the local coordination mechanisms, but the project works towards strengthening the cooperation and if feasible formalizing it. In Montenegro six Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been already signed with local authorities and in BiH the process has been initiated.

¹ The following towns were covered: Nikšić, Podgorica and Berane (Montenegro); Visoko, Bijeljina, Prnjavor and Tuzla (BiH); Šabac, Kruševac, Požeravac and Belgrade with four municipalities (Čukarica, Zemun, Zvezdara i Lazarevac) in Serbia.

Not only our main project partners have continued their advocacy efforts and involvement in development of policy documents in their countries that have the potential to affect the lives of RAE communities. In Bosnia and Herzegovina four local Action Plans have been developed through CARE's EU funded project „Active Participation of Roma Inclusion“. Also the revision of the existing National Action Plans has been initiated by the Roma Board, a Government advisory body that includes - as a result of the FAIR I project - Roma women activist members.

Serbia and Montenegro adopted Strategies for Social Inclusion of Roma starting with 2016. The implementation of this document in the Republic of Serbia will be slow for this year since the Action plan for implementation of the Strategy has not yet been adopted due to national and local elections. Other strategic documents, (Serbia: Strategy for Gender Equality and Action Plan (AP) for 2016-2017, LAP in Kruševac and Lazarevac, AP for negotiation chapter 23 for EU integration) both on local and national level, have been developed and adopted and project or coalition organizations were included in their development.

ER3: Apart from their engagement in the development of strategic policy documents, our coalition partners are activist organizations engaged in raising awareness through different activities throughout the year. During this reporting period they were actively involved in the **Month of Roma Women Activism**, which is a very important period for the organizations, during which they organize marches, meetings, workshops, street actions etc. In order to pave the way for this result area, CARE facilitated meetings of Roma women networks in order to define the details for advocacy and awareness raising related actions and goals that shall be achieved and supported by a sub-granting scheme. CARE also takes the lead in assessing the needs and capacities of the networks/coalitions and provides targeted support to them, so they can act effectively in monitoring local and national policies and to get engaged in European advocacy networks (ER4).

The assessment of national networks/coalitions of Roma and non-Roma organisations was finalized by external experts. Strategic and action plans have been created. CARE supported this process through workshops organized in B&H and Serbia.

ER4: CARE continues to strengthen the capacities of Roma women networks in order to improve their organizational skills. For this purpose CARE introduced two new participatory M&E methods; the **Community Score Card (CSC)** and the **Most Significant Change Methods (MSC)** which enable the participation of projects' target groups and stakeholders to monitor and provide feedback on progress, changes and results based on qualitative data. The project lead by CARE's Regional Gender Advisor will provide mentoring in applying these methods.

Project partners continuously get involved with other donors, international organizations passing on their experiences and speaking about position of Roma in their respective countries. For further sharing of experiences and bringing the FAIR agenda on the European level, the Roma women network Phenjelipe was approached for cooperation; building upon this in the following period these activities will be intensified. In terms of the project's visibility, promotional materials has been developed and distributed to the organizations and project's details and activities are known to the public through CARE's webpage.

Detailed description of the project progress

Initial phase of the project

The project team have completed key tasks of the inception phase in cooperation with our partners. A Strategic planning workshop for the project has been organized and held on January 15-17, 2016 at Trebević, near Sarajevo with two representatives from each main partner organization and five representatives of CARE (Regional Director, Regional Gender Program Coordinator, member of finance department, Project team). During this workshop participants went through the FAIR project evaluation, coordinated to prepare for the baseline study and received an update to the binding financial procedures. The workshop resulted in development of an activity plan for the whole project, but particularly for the first project year.

Through FAIR I Coalitions were established with other Roma and non – Roma organizations in order to jointly advocate for the rights of the Roma and Egyptian communities and to join forces to mainstream this mission towards the majority population. At the strategic workshop some revisions were made in light of the past lessons learned, so with our partners we agreed that following structures will continue under this action (*for details please see Table 6*):

B&H: To avoid parallel informal coalitions/networks Better Future in cooperation with other previous coalition members has decided to implement FAIR II through Women Roma Network “Success” and to include non-Roma organizations into the activities and efforts.

Serbia: Based on the areas of engagement of FAIR II project, the Serbian coalition consists of 4 organizations, including BIBIJA. They are active in areas of education, health and prevention of violence against women in families and partner relationships.

Montenegro: Coalition members recognized a need for bigger involvement of public institutions, thus the coalition is now expanded to include also representatives of Institute for Public Health.

Table 6: Overview of CBOs forming Coalition/Network supported by FAIR II

Country	Local partner in lead	Coalition member Roma CSO - locality	Coalition member Non-Roma CSO/Public Institution
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Better Future	“Better future” - Tuzla	Citizens Association for the Promotion of Education of Roma OTAHARIN - Bjeljina
		“Roma girl” - Prnjavor	Foundation CURE - Sarajevo
		Center for Mothers “Hope” - Kakanj	
		Center for Mothers “Consolation” - Zenica	
		“Roma Youth” - Vitez	
		Youth Roma Initiative “Be My Friend” - Visoko	
		Snježana Vasić - Sarajevo	
		Hava Ramić - Bosanska Krupa	
Montenegro	Center for Roma Initiatives	Center for Roma Initiatives - Nikšić	Police Department - Nikšić
		Women REA Network FIRST - Podgorica - Nikšić – Berane – Ulcinj – Herceg Novi	Center for Social Work - Nikšić
		NGO Rose - Berane	Institute for Public Health

			- Podgorica
			MNE Women's Lobby - Podgorica
Serbia	Bibija	Bibija - Belgrade	Law Scanner - Belgrade
		Romani cikna - Kruševac	
		Roma Women's Center Veliki Crljeni - Lazarevac	

Note: In B&H in order to avoid duplication of structures Roma Women Network will be used/supported with some joint non-Roma organizations

Output 1: Roma women and girls are empowered to exercise their rights to education, health and to life free of violence through targeted community-level assistance;

Field level activities prepared in the framework of a comprehensive sub-granting scheme: In order to prepare for the implementation in Roma and Egyptian communities, relevant civil society organisations were invited for a workshop, where they were introduced to the possibility of applying for grants. Several of these CSOs are our long-term partners. The prepared grant scheme takes into consideration the need for intensive and long-term local involvement to achieve sustainable results in the field of education, school drop-outs, women's rights, domestic violence, early marriage and cooperation with public and civil society service providers. Thus CARE will grant 7 field level sub-grants to experienced CSOs that proved successful in achieving lasting results for Roma children, women and men and will be supported by CARE and our main coordinating partners in each country.

19 participants, representatives of **14 organizations** from BiH, Serbia and Montenegro participated at the **Proposal Development Meeting** held in Ruma, Republic of Serbia on 3 – 5 March, 2016. During this workshop CBOs were introduced with the objective of the FAIR II project specifically under ER1. They were involved in group and individual exercises to embark on collective planning on how to achieve results in local communities and to identify local allies. Thus CARE supported potential grantees already in a preparation phase with technical assistance, so that the proposals reflect the biggest impact on the ground. The implementation will be done by individual organisations or by several CSOs in partnership focusing on their areas of interests/field(s) of engagement and aligned to the objectives under FAIR II. This workshop also improved organizational development and built capacities of CBOs (*Please see ER4*).

In order to mainstream the expertise on **men engagement** from the project “Boys and Men as Allies in Violence Prevention and Gender Transformation in the Western Balkans – Young Men Initiative” (YMI) one member of the YMI's project team participated at the workshop to pave the way for synergies between these two projects. This will be leveraged for instance when training peer educators (planned for the next reporting period) and organising social campaigns.

As part of the envisaged grant scheme a **Public Call for proposals** was published in May which was opened for all organizations that participated in the planning workshop. A three party commission, consisting of the Gender Equality Program Coordinator, Project Manager and Officer provided additional comments for improvement of project proposals taking into consideration the local context.

The Grant recipients are the following organisations:

- **B&H:** Better Future and Otaharin;

- **Serbia:** BIBIJA, Romani Cikna and Law Scanner;
- **Montenegro:** CRI and Montenegrin Women's Lobby.

The National coalitions/networks negotiated and agreed on cooperation with each sub-grantee, thus the projects will reach several Roma communities in different municipalities. Therefore, community actions will be implemented through **seven grants, eleven organizations, twelve locations** in which actions will cover **forty-eight municipalities, settlements and schools** (18 Primary schools and 7 High schools). (*please see Annex 11*).

Field level activities of the main project partners:

In Serbia Bibija has been active to reach Roma women in the local communities: Through project "Early marriages: violation of rights of Roma women" implemented in six Roma settlements in Belgrade BIBIJA held 36 informative and educational workshops for Roma women on topic of prevention of early marriages, also life stories of 110 Roma women (aged from 15-56) have been collected and published².

Center for Roma Initiatives (CRI) in Montenegro has been active with missions on combating and preventing violence. By June 30, 2016 CRI worked on four cases connected to domestic violence (three cases), arranged marriage and education (one case). Upon being informed of each case, CRI, has taken appropriate measures of reporting the perpetrators to the Police Unit in Nikšić. In one case of domestic violence the violator has been arrested and interrogated by the Police while in two other cases there were no repercussions since the victims did not want to report their husbands. In a case of arranged marriage two coalition members (the police department and the Center for Social Work) undertook joint actions of placing a victim of arranged marriage in a safe house. By additional efforts of CRI this girl has been re-enrolled in school and her progress has been closely monitored.

Output 2: Local inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms established and strengthened to support the social inclusion of Roma communities;

A coordinated approach of civil society and public stakeholders is key to ensure sustainable improvements in RAE communities via inclusive measures in the field of education, health, employment and gender mainstreaming. Accountability of the public sector institutions is another key objective for the sustainability of the interventions. Therefore CARE enhances the coordination of local actors, such as schools, Centers of social work, health services, police, gender centers, local CSOs and supports the creation of inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms. These have the potential to monitor the needs and challenges in RAE communities and enable exchange of good practice approaches. By enhancing multi-stakeholder coordination, CARE takes into consideration each national and local context. In order to better address these structures and provide more targeted support, an assessment of the existing local coordination mechanisms has been initiated and finalized. An English translation will be available in the next reporting period.

The **Assessment of the existing inter-sectoral committees** was within the competence of main partner organizations for which they engaged experts:

During FAIR I project in **B&H** inter-sectoral commissions were established in Tuzla, Prnjavor, Bijeljina and Visoko. The assessment recommended for the next two years: activating the work of commissions, organizing regular meetings, providing capacity building and sharing best-practices, strengthening cooperation between public institutions and Roma organizations, introduction of regular reporting and of a systematic, planned work.

² <http://www.bibija.org.rs/vesti/88-pre-rani-brakovi-zivotne-price-romkinja>

The process of formalization of cooperation through Inter-Sectoral Commissions is ongoing through organization of meetings and advocacy efforts with representatives of the *Ministry of Health of Tuzla Canton, Ministry of work, social policy and return of Tuzla Canton, Institute for public health of Tuzla Canton, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tuzla Canton* emphasizing importance of formalization of cooperation through a Memorandums of Understanding which would assist main project partner in B&H to easier gather information from the targeted institutions and enhances the swiftness of reactions in assisting Roma communities.

In **Republic of Serbia** BIBIJA finalized mapping of needs of local mechanisms in four towns: Šabac, Kruševac, Požeravac and in four municipalities in Belgrade (Čukarica, Zemun, Zvezdara i Lazarevac). The conducted assessment concluded that local authorities are not showing sufficient amount of will to improve the position of Roma communities located in their territories. Even though legislation is in place, assessed local mechanisms do not periodically report on their work and implementation of Action Plans. Main issue that needs to be addressed is the methodology of harmonization of budgets and planning of activities.

In Montenegro **CRI** has increased its activities for formalization of a Coalition partnership which resulted in signing of six MoUs with the Center for Social Work and Police Department of Nikšić, Institute for Public Health, Women RAE Network First and Montenegrin Women's Lobby. One MoU was also signed with the International Police Association based in Podgorica, strengthening their collaboration on social integration of Roma and Egyptian women and children. These MoUs will strengthen the cooperation and exchange among coalition members, to better serve the target communities.

The above described mechanisms will be enhanced and actively utilized also in the context of ER1, when the implementation in local communities via sub-grants will be initiated.

The work of CBOs in identified localities by sub-grants will be supported by the **employment of nine mediators as of September 1, 2016**. CARE provided training for fifteen mediators in Banja Koviljača from June 27-30, 2016 improving their communication skills and skills for a comprehensive community work. Mediators will be employed by the main project partners but directly working in the localities and in close cooperation with CBOs implementing ER1. During the training, potential mediators who have a personal experience acting as mediator in Serbia were introduced.³

ER3: National networks of Roma and non-Roma women organizations are capacitated to influence and monitor implementation of policies related to Roma women's rights and gender equality on local and national levels and actively engage into accountability mechanisms;

National coalitions of Roma and non-Roma women organizations were established and/or supported by CARE in order to strengthen advocacy efforts on the national level and to enhance the ability of our partner organisations to influence public policies. For better understanding of capacities of organizations and their collaboration within Coalitions/Networks in this reporting period an **Assessment of national networks/coalitions has been initiated and finalised in this reporting period by external experts**. All experts recommended for these informal networks/coalitions to be stronger formalized. Nevertheless the legislation in the region recognizes only the legal form of an NGO for this purpose. Formalization would cause the loss of value/identity of the member organisations and extra costs which will be difficult to cover. Whilst as informal network/coalition the capacities and resources of members are used to influence positive changes in public policies.

For **B&H network** a workshop has been held in order to facilitate this process at which 13 persons participated with participation of one CARE representative. The process has been explained and a questionnaire developed. The workshop was held in Sarajevo, 26 – 28 Feb-

³ <http://care-balkan.org/index.php?otvori=novosti&prikazi=548>

ruary, 2016. During this joint activity, priorities were discussed as well activities on prevention of GBV, increase of visibility of Roma women activism planned. Apart from the assessment, a Strategic plan for 2016 – 2019 has been developed.

The assessment indicated that Roma NGOs, in order to professionalize and to become builders of a Roma movement, need:

- A stable core staff of good quality and willingness and openness for change and development.
- Ownership for the concept of movement building and an intrinsically belief in the importance of a grassroots Roma movement.
- A long term investment and support. Bringing the organizations to a higher level is a slow process which needs structural support taking the local context into account.
- There is always the danger that the involved leaders start to compete for positions and resources. That is the why the networks need “core organizations” which can act as a Secretariat, driving and neutral force for creating trust and common agendas. When a Secretariat is in place, as it is now in the Network, there is need for further support by other members.
- For grassroots leaders it is difficult to bring the Network to a higher professional level and to make it sustainable. For this, leaders are needed with a higher education and used to work in a professional situation.
- There is also a need to engage more youth into the organizations and Network per se. Young people have a better understanding of the importance of networks and movement building.

The Strategic plan 2016 – 2019 has following main aims: permanent capacity building WRN "Success", enhancing financial sustainability, development and improvement of partnership structure, enhanced political participation of Roma women, joint advocacy activities, preservation of Roma tradition, language and culture, research.

Due to lack of official data on Roma children in schools, members of the network agreed on **gathering data on education of Roma** since 2013 to 2016, to create a data base including information on the real number of children in schools, high schools and drop outs.

In **Montenegro** based on the suggestion of CRI, the assessment had a focus on Women's RAE network "FIRST". In order to maintain this network, which is important for present and future work and for enhancing cooperation among women Roma organizations, this suggestion was supported. The assessment identified multiple obstacles: unclear division of roles, lack of management skills and resources for running the network and lack of office space. Based on the assessment, CRI took steps in change of the management structure of the network. A new plan of activities has been created and implemented timely;

Future planned activities are:

- Strengthening the capacities of network members.
- Creating an advocacy strategy.
- Establishment of regular information exchange with similar networks from the region.
- Raising awareness of relevant stakeholders for proper implementation of the Strategy for improvement of position of Roma and Egyptians.
- Establishment of a strategy for network financing.
- Within the project “Joint combat of gender-based violence and arranged children marriages in Roma and Egyptian communities in Montenegro” implemented by CRI with support of OAK foundation, 20.000 USD has been allocated for the work of the network “FIRST” creating conditions for independence and higher efficiency through capacity building.

Assessment and Strategic plan has been finalized for Roma Women Network of Republic of Serbia. The network consists of thirty women Roma organizations and activists. Issues causing obstacles in work of the network recognized by the assessment are in political-legal

(change of government) and economic context (unemployment and growing poverty). Following objectives were agreed under the strategic plan 2016-2020:

- Changing gender patterns within the Roma family and community.
- Reduction of stereotypes, prejudices, discrimination and violence against Roma women.
- Impact on public policies, especially those relating to European integration.
- Improving the rights of minorities and women and Capacity building of the members.

Assessment also recognized the strengths of the Serbian network as they organized 600 workshops, produced 2 alternative reports on the human rights of Roma women in Serbia CEDAW and influenced improvements on Strategy for improvement of status of Roma men and women. Members of the network have been recognized by the Coordination Body for Gender Equality in Serbia, as they participated in development of their Action Plan.

Activities concluded by the FAIR II networks/coalitions in the reporting period

In order to improve the situation of Roma men and women in their countries, partner and coalition members participated in development of important policies on local and most importantly on national level.

Thus BIBIJA and coalition members in **Serbia** were included in the development of three important national strategic documents:

- Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma men and women in Republic of Serbia 2016 – 2025,
- Strategy for Gender Equality and following National Action Plan for 2016 – 2017.
- Advocacy for inclusion of Roma women issues in the Action plan for Action Plan for Chapter 23 for EU Integration Bibija together with League of Roma⁴ have been working on the chapters related to fundamental rights (Chapter 23) for the past two years; in this reporting period BIBIJA commented the draft of the AP two times and 60% of the comments have been accepted and included in the document.

In Lazarevac, our coalition member is involved in the revision of LAP for Roma. In Kruševac, also with participation of our coalition member, a new Strategy for the Improvement of the Status of Roma and an Action plan from 2015 to 2020 was developed.

In **B&H** the Roma Strategy and the development of new Action Plans is foreseen. Better Future is in process of preparation for this upcoming task, in coordination with the Agency for Gender Equality of B&H.

In **Montenegro** CRI participated in development of Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2016 – 2020.

Women Roma organizations, our partners and the affiliated Coalition/Network members continue organizing activities on awareness raising of Roma issues with special focus on Roma women, ongoing discrimination and importance of inclusion of Roma women in public and political life:

B&H:

Under the campaign “Equality for all” (March 8 – April 8) - which has been organized five years in row by Women Roma Network “Success” - partner organization Better Future organized seven street actions, two meetings with representatives of institutions and one Roma community meeting. The International Roma day was celebrated by Better Future on April 7, with participation of representatives of public institutions, local and international NGOs and in cooperation with the primary school “Mejdan” Tuzla presenting Roma traditions and culture.

⁴ <https://www.ligaroma.org.rs/en/>

In order to increase visibility of the needs and challenges that Roma women and communities are facing, other Roma organizations that are members of the FAIR II network organized: Five street actions, three Roma community meetings, twenty – two meetings with institutions, one Forum Theater, one photo exhibition, eight workshops with Roma women, one conference, Day of Health and three markings the World Day of the Roma men and women. These activities were organized in Visoko, Prnjavor, Kakanj, Bijeljina, Vitez, Sarajevo and Zenica which were covered by 32 media events.

Serbia:

As part of the campaign of Month of Roma Women Activism, project partners organized 2 events:

- BIBIJA organized 10 workshops in 10 Roma settlements for 230 Roma women on public activities, wherein Roma women can participate within the following period and that are related to the new Roma Integration strategy.
- Two meetings: a) with Commissioner for the Protection of Equality and her associates on discrimination which affects Roma women and b) with representatives of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, the Commission for Gender Equality of the municipality Zvezdara, the Protector of Citizens and several members of the Serbian network of new the Roma strategy.
- March on the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 8. This march has been organized by Women in black linking all women organizations.
- March against racism, organized by Roma Association Novi Bečej on March 21, 2016.

Montenegro:

CRI together with Institute for Public Health on March 7, 2016 organized street actions and **lectures on reproductive health** in three Roma settlements. There is a strong opposition on this topic, but a handful of Roma men were positive about the message. This creates potentials for next steps on including male role models as part of the effort to **engage Roma and Egyptian men** stronger for gender equality. Two additional campaigns will be organized during 16 days of Roma activism.

On April 8, 2016 CRI organized a **forum theatre performance** called "Equality for all" on the main square of Podgorica, where 35 young Roma and Egyptian students participated. Three main messages were presented by the play: 1) "Equal rights to education for everyone", 2) "Children's arranged marriage is stronger than laws, let's find a solution! Combat Children's arranged marriages!" and 3) "Protect children who beg, children do not belong on the street".

As a support of main project partners towards coalition members, Better Future, has supported Roma Association "Roma Girl – Romani Ćej" in writing a motivation letter for the involvement into the Commission for Employment of Roma by the Institute for Employment of Republic of Srpska. BIBIJA has been leading the process of agreeing on obligations and duties with regards to coalitions and sessions with topics on grant activity planning. CRI supported the NGO "Rose" with interest letter writing for OAK foundation and mentoring of women REA network "FIRST" with conclusion of accounts and writing request towards the Ministry of Internal Affairs for change of management of the network. Also, partner organizations supported other coalition organizations from their respective countries in project proposal writing for CARE's sub-granting scheme.

Monitoring of policies: On the local level, there is also a continued effort to influence local policies by the members of our affiliated Coalition/networks. As a result this year the City of Tuzla allocated 20.000 Euros for "Aid to Roma population" (in previous years these funds were allocated for implementation of AP for Roma). Better Future together with other Roma organizations proposed the allocation of these funds to education activities for Roma women

and men or for social programs (employment and health). The suggestion has not included housing, because international organizations already implement projects in the area of housing, which are funded by EU. This request process is still ongoing and the final decision is up to the institution. Better Future has also been invited by the Association "Children of Earth" to participate in the development of an Action plan for Social Inclusion of Tuzla City for 2017 – 2018.

Output 4: Targeted Roma women organizations are strengthened to become active players in networking on regional and European level with Roma and non-Roma peer organizations and relevant institutions

As part of these results area FAIR II national coalitions or selected member organisation will be networking with other regional and European level networks and relevant institutions. In the following project period, the project team will take more intensified actions in researching and connecting project organizations with international stakeholders.

The project aims to liaise closely with the **European Romani women network Phenjalipe** and/or IRWN (the International Roma Women's Network) – these two networks have started the process of uniting into one. CARE is in the process of establishing closer contact with the informal Phenjalipe network.

Project partners continue to cooperate with international organizations, donors and important international institutions, thus BIBIJA has been preparing for a meeting with the EU Delegation. In cooperation with the League of Roma our partner has been involved in drafting the Shadow EU Progress report of Serbia for 2016, as well as the CEDAW related shadow report.

As a part of the feedback process of the CEDAW in Montenegro, CRI is currently actively involved.

Better Future held a meeting on March 7, 2016 including representatives of the Council of Europe regarding the status of Roma men and women in BiH on specific cases of discrimination against Roma as well as on the next steps to update the NAP. A representative of Better Future participates in the working group for development of the CEDAW shadow report in the area related to the status of marginalized women.

In Serbia, BIBIJA was included by UNICEF in the development of their yearly report on their work as well as planning future activities.

While working on the project itself the project manager (PM) has attended events organized by CARE and other organizations:

- November 11-13, 2015 CARE through the initiative focused on inclusion of boys and men in promotion of gender equality and addressing all forms of violence organized international conference „Fatherhood and equal engagement of fathers in parenthood in the Balkans: practice, policies and researches“ promoting best practices and policies supporting fathers and guardians to be actively included in all aspects of child care and family life.
- PM and Better Future representative participated at the book presentation “Wendepunkt – empowerment, emancipation, participation of Roma women” containing stories of 25 Roma women from the Western Balkans. The presentation was organized by Romane Romnja and it was held in Berlin, on November 27, 2015. Both of them were speakers at the presentation during which they had an opportunity to meet representative of EC and other women from informal women Roma network Phenjalipe and IRWIN.

Background/ context (update)

The **Decade for Roma Inclusion - launched in 2005** - has been concluded last year with only very modest results reached. The efforts formulated under the Decade will continue to be funded mainly within the context of IPA 2020 projects for countries of the Western Balkans. The **Regional Council for Cooperation (RCC)** will have a lead in funds management. The regional initiative „Roma Integration 2020“ is financed by the EU and the Open Society Foundation with 1,8 million Euros and shall be covered from the Belgrade office of RCC. **It causes concerns for the civil society however that there is lack of information on the planned disbursement scheme.** The project team closely follows up on any further information in this regards.

Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Bosnia and Herzegovina is comprised of two entities, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), with mostly Bosniaks and Croats, the Republika Srpska (RS) with mostly Serbs and the Brčko District a multi-ethnic self-governing administrative unit. Roma form one of the biggest group of the 17 national minorities living in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2013, after twenty-two years, the Agency for Statistics of B&H conducted a census, but the National Assembly of the Republic of Srpska rejected the adopted methodology for data processing. Nevertheless, the data of the census has been published, but has not been confirmed as official for the following reasons; the census only acknowledges three constitutive nationalities (Bosniaks, Croats and Serbs) and all other groups are considered as “others”.

Table 1: Population of B&H by nationality, census 2013⁵

Territory	Sex	Total	Ethnicity/Nationality					
			Bosniaks	Croats	Serbs	Does not declare	Others	Unknown
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	TOTAL	3.531.159	1.769.592	544.780	1.086.733	27.055	96.539	6.460
	M	1.732.270	867.492	267.789	534.030	11.503	48.294	3.162
	F	1.798.889	902.100	276.991	552.703	15.552	48.245	3.298

Despite the prevailing system, before the census Roma NGOs made efforts to raise awareness of Roma population and underlining the importance of indicating their ethnicity as it is assumed that a large number of Roma declared themselves as Bosniaks due to the discrimination they fear to face otherwise.

During the previous census, in 1991, only 8.000 declared themselves as Roma, but reports from the field indicated much larger numbers. Taking this fact in consideration in 2010 the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (MHRR) of BiH began to build their own database of Roma and their needs. This data set counts 17.000 individuals, but the process of data gathering has been questioned by NGOs since the registration in Roma communities was done during the day when most of Roma are not present in their homes. According to **NGO estimates there are around 30-40.000 of Roma in B&H.**

The distorted statistics can worsen the position of Roma population in B&H. Recently funds dedicated by the government for Roma Inclusion have decreased in 2016 by approx. 315.000

⁵ Agency for Statistics of B&H

Euros. These funds are now re-allocated to refugees, single mothers, disabled and other national minorities.

In post-war B&H Roma population faces a number of difficulties in access to fundamental human rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Apart from existence of the legal framework pertaining to national minorities and gender equality Roma, especially Roma women, continue to have limited access to health care, social protection and employment and are left behind in the education system. Speaking of **access to health of Roma** NGO actors indicate that **around 65%⁶ of them are not in the health care system, and most of them women in childbearing age and children.**

The Employment Bureau of Federation of BiH does not have records on the number of employed Roma in the FBiH, given that there is no jurisdiction for the monitoring and management of such records. In 2011 the Consortium consisting of the World Bank, UNDP and the Fundamental Rights Agency conducted a comprehensive **Regional Roma Survey** covering issues of socio-economic concern and of access to fundamental rights. When comparing localities, where Roma live next to non-Roma residents the survey came to a conclusion that the employment rate of Roma aged 15-64 years is only 19% (men 32%, women 5%) compared to 35% of their local non-Roma neighbours. The informal employment incidence is a striking 81% in case of Roma and 22% in case of the majority population.

Institutional and public policy background: In BiH drawing on the experience of the Roma Decade's implementation, members of the **Roma Board at the Council of Ministers⁷** on a Session held on September 8, 2015 have unanimously reached the conclusion that the Decade process of Roma Inclusion is to be continued with a long-term perspective and formalized for at least the coming 10 years.

National level policies: The Board has already launched the initiative for development of a new **Strategy for Addressing Roma Inclusion**, since the current is not gender sensitive nor it is acceptable for Roma population. There is still no exact information on when this initiative is to be started.

According to the schedule of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH and the Council of Ministers for year 2016 a revision of the **Action Plans in areas of health, employment, housing and education for 2017-2020 is foreseen.** There will be three expert working groups, where also representative Roma NGOs will participate.

Local Action Plans of Roma inclusion: Through CARE's EU funded project „Active Participation of Roma Inclusion“ designed to enhance cooperation between Roma representatives and representatives of institutions on local levels four Local Action Plans have been designed and adopted in Travnik, Donji Vakuf, Prnjavor and Bijeljina. There is also a declared interest of local authorities for development of LAP in Tuzla.

Republic of Serbia:

According to the **census** in 2011 in Republic of Serbia there were 147.604⁸ people who declared themselves as Roma, which represent 2,1% of the total population of Republic of Serbia. Data on socio-economic status of Roma are collected only sporadically and with the ex-

⁶ According the UNDP-World Bank Roma Regional survey 70% have indicated having insurance, but a critical 68% have no access to drugs.

⁷ Roma Board at the Council of Ministers is the highest body in B&H involving Roma. It consists of of 22 members (11 Roma members and 11 representatives of institutions) and the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees provides expert and technical support to the Board. The Board has been established in 2002 and it is an advisory and coordinating body.

⁸ Census of Population, Households and Apartments 2011, Volume 7: Economic activity, National Bureau of Statistics, Belgrade, 2013, page 10-11

ception of the Regional Roma survey with a poor methodology. The study “Roma in Serbia”⁹ speaks clearly about the differences that occur between vulnerable ethnic communities and the overall national level of social development. This difference ultimately determine the social status of the society, or certain ethnic groups in it¹⁰. The **unemployment rate** among Roma is assessed to be between 50-59% (from that women 82%), which is significantly above the national average of 22,4%. The economic marginalization is noticeable by data indicating that more than one-quarter (27,6%) of the total number of Roma households have their income through social benefits. In terms of access to **health** 66% of Roma claimed not having access to essential drugs in the Regional Roma survey.

In terms of **education**, MICS 5¹¹ indicates that only 80% of children from Roma settlements attended primary school (98% in the general population) and only 18% (compared to the 48% majority population in similar localities) attended pre-school education. As for their enrolment only 69% of Roma children started the first grade of primary school on time (in the general population 97%) and only 64% of Roma children complete primary school (in the general population 93%). This indicates a critical problem of labour market inclusion as only 22% of children of Roma origin attend secondary schools (in the general population this indicator reaches 89%). A particular problem is the drop out of girls due to patriarchal norms prevailing. The percentage of illiterate population in the total Roma population who are older than nine years old is 15.1%, which is way above the national average of 2%. To sum up the disturbing data are also evident when assessing the **education level reached**: over one third of Roma – 34,2% have not completed primary school; the share of Roma with secondary education was 11.5%, and with high education only 0.7%.

At this moment a **pre-election campaign** is ongoing on the local, national and provincial levels. In practice this means that all institutions are in technical mandate¹² starting from March 2016, thus laws and strategic documents are not adopted in this period. Polls indicate that the balance of political power will remain unchanged, however, individuals who carry out the duties of ministers, state secretaries, assistants will almost certainly change. In this sense, it is difficult to undertake advocacy activities, because the current decision-makers will be replaced.

National level policies: Taken into consideration that in the context of the EU integration of Republic of Serbia progress on Roma inclusion has a high priority, based on the request of the European Union, in March 2016 **the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women in Republic of Serbia 2016 – 2025**¹³ was adopted. The Strategy has been developed by an expert group together with an inter-ministerial group, where BIBIJA, our main partner was also participating. The aim is to intensify work of institutions on national and local level regarding social inclusion of Roma men and women and combat discrimination. The new Strategy has **5 target areas: Education, Health, Employment, Housing, Social Protection while Gender Equality and Cultural Identity are cross cutting topics**. Even though gender equality should be a part of every document, **measures related to gender have not been successfully incorporated** besides attempting to introduce gender language

9 Study „Roma in Serbia – between anvil, poverty an hammer of discrimination“, author Božidar Jakšić, Most Art, March 2016

10 Radovanović, Knežević

11 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of women and children in Serbia in 2014 and the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of Women and Children in Roma settlements in Serbia in 2014, National Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF, 2014

12 Institutions have the power to mainting and upkeep every day obligations, but have no power of making any decision.

13 <http://www.minrzs.gov.rs/cir/aktuelno/item/4874-strategiju-za-socijalno-ukljucivanje-roma-i-romkinja-u-republici-srbiji-za-period-od-2016-do-2025-godine>

and some minor measures (mostly in the areas of education and health policy). The novelty brought by the new Strategy relates to the focus placed on the local level. For now we know that the mechanisms for monitoring and collecting data will improve - gender sensitive statistics will be set up, which is a good start, but it is only a basic step to promote gender equality. BIBIJA will seek to influence the creation of indicators, but will primarily focus efforts related to the budget creation. The related action plan is yet to be prepared.

Besides the Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women in Republic of Serbia 2016 – 2025, the **Strategy for Gender Equality and accompanying National Action Plan for 2016 – 2017 has been adopted**. BIBIJA participated also in the design of this document. Unfortunately, **neither of these two documents assesses the situation of Roma women** (except that the Roma are mentioned in the enumeration of vulnerable groups) nor proposes concrete measures to improve the situation of Roma women in certain areas – there are two measures aimed at them, namely: *2.1.4. Support for young and teenage mothers and 2.3.4. To promote female social entrepreneurship in rural and urban areas - initiative for determination of quotas for women in programs for funding and incentives for social enterprises, particularly for women belonging to vulnerable groups*. Important measure for this project is: *2.2.4. To ensure the participation of women, including members of vulnerable groups and/or their representative organizations, in the process of creating, implementing and monitoring of policies at all levels and in all fields*. Strategic documents in other sectors (in the area of employment and social protection) mention the Roma community only declaratively (and some women in particular), but do not list any concrete measures and activities for implementation.

Local Action Plans (LAPs): At this moment out of 164 municipalities about 70 municipalities have adopted LAP which are mainly focusing on 4 priority areas. Unfortunately, most of the LAPs are not budgeted. Out of 70 LAPs only 14¹⁴ have a special area on “status of women”, which is also the least budgeted one. Measures related to health and reproductive health have received the highest budget allocation. 20 municipalities used IPA 2012 funds in total amounting to 5 million Euros, which were invested in the development of local initiatives based on mobile teams consisting of pedagogical assistants, Roma health mediators, local Roma coordinators and representatives of Centers for Social Work and Employment Service. The practice is that once a strategic document is budgeted it remains budgeted in the next year. The decision on who is implementing LAPs is quite often brought through public calls for application with projects by NGOs which is not considered a good practice, since implementation of LAPs should be mainstreamed and not implemented through projects. LAPs are still dependent on short-term projects and donors.

Situation on LAPs in towns in which coalition members are registered and active:

Kruševac adopted a new Strategy for Improvement of Status of Roma 2015 – 2020 and an Action plan for its implementation. The AP does not include any special measures for Roma women, and it is oriented on areas of education, employment, housing and health of Roma population. Only some of the activities are budgeted.

Lazarevac is currently revising its LAP with its 7 areas, including status of Roma women. Considering that election campaign is ongoing it is most probable that the new local government will continue with the revision.

¹⁴ Bibija – Women's Roma Center which has been actively involved in advocating development of LAPs in Serbia. Also, their activities are focused on women's rights in general with special focus on Roma women.

Belgrade has 17 city municipalities out of which in 7 biggest municipalities live the majority of the Roma population. These 7 city municipalities adopted strategic documents that have the aim of improving the status of Roma communities. Status of women is included in three of them (Zvezdara, Lazarevac, Barajevo).

In all of these cities coalition partners are actively included in design of these strategic documents.

Montenegro:

According to the current and available data from the census in Montenegro¹⁵ 8.305 Roma and Egyptians live in Montenegro of which 6.251 declared as Roma (1.01% of the total population) and 2.054 as (0.33% of the total population of Montenegro). The largest number of Roma is living in the territory of Podgorica (3988), then in Berane (531), Nikšić (483), Bijelo Polje (334), Herceg Novi (258), while the largest number of Egyptians is living in Podgorica (685), Nikšić (446), Tivat (335) and in Berane (170).

Based on the research of the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights from 2016, 77% of Roma and Egyptians live in segregated settlements, predominantly in the three municipalities, namely Podgorica (57% of Roma and Egyptian), Nikšić (11 %) and Berane (9%). When it comes to housing conditions, the data show that about 60% of households live in inadequate housing (30% in the barracks and 37% in provisory objects). When it comes to household equipment, data show that only 47% of households have a bathroom, 81,7% have electricity, and 39% sewerage. Illegality is a big problem in the settlements in terms of property ownership and employment.

From the three countries the worst results are reached in Montenegro in terms of primary school enrolment (only 51% of RAE children). From those in the system only 20% (boys) and 12% (girls) finish actually primary school. 7% complete secondary school¹⁶.

National level policies: The policies of Montenegro, in some extent, recognize the importance of continuation of work which contributes to social integration of Roma and Egyptian population, which is confirmed by the development of the **Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro 2016 – 2020**. (adopted during the first quarter of year 2016). The Strategy includes the following **areas: Housing, Education, Health, Legal Status, Employment, Social Status and Family Protection and Culture, Language and Identity**. The new Strategy does not recognize domestic violence as an individual area, but it is part of the section Social Status and Family Protection. For implementation of the Strategy and Action Plans the following institutions are responsible: Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Work and Social Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Employment Institute of Montenegro, Directorate for Refugees, Community of Municipalities, Office for Fight Against Trafficking in Human Beings. Community of Municipalities (local governments), Roma Council and non-governmental organizations will participate in activity implementation.

Local Action Plans: In 2014 **seven municipalities** (Herceg Novi, Berane, Bijelo Polje 2013 – 2017, Ulcinj, Tivat and Kotor) **adopted Local Action Plans for Roma and Egyptians**. Local representatives of Roma and Egyptian population participated in development of these local policies. **Nikšić municipality does not have LAP**, since the previous one expired in year 2015. A follow up is however expected.

¹⁵ Monstat, 2011

¹⁶ UNICEF, June 2013

Stakeholder analysis

The FAIR II project is targeting 14 Roma and non-Roma organizations/institutions included in national coalitions that are advocacy networks that promote rights of Roma communities. The project will support them through joint regional activities focused on personal and organizational capacity building and mentoring and part of them will be participating in the field level interventions that target Roma communities in 11 localities. Their participation enables them to apply for grants in communities: **B&H**: Citizen's Association Youth Roma Initiative "Be my Friend" - Visoko, Association "Life of Roma" – Sarajevo, Association "Roma Girl – Romani Čej" – Prnjavor, Associations "Otaharin" and "Roma women", both from Bijeljina); **Republic of Serbia**: Law Scanner - Belgrade, Romani Cikna – Kruševac, Women Roma Center Veliki Crljani - Lazarevac and **Montenegro**: Police Department Nikšić, Montenegrin Women's Lobby - Podgorica, Rose – Berane, Network PRVA; Public Health Institute).

Three Roma women NGOs, Association of Roma Women "Better future" Tuzla city from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Roma Women Centre Bibija from Republic of Serbia and Centre of Roma Initiatives (CRI) from Montenegro are the **main local partner organizations**. They have been selected due to the excellent cooperation in previous projects and due to their experiences in working with communities and with authorities on all levels as well as their involvement in existing Romani women CSO networks; these organizations were partners in the previous FAIR project.

For this reporting period, the main partner organizations in collaboration with members of coalitions and networks provided direct assistance and support to the 389 Roma men, women, youth and children through direct support and assistance in solving their life problems (informative, legal, health, humanitarian) who directly reached partner organizations in their offices.

Target groups of main project partners that will participate in local coordination mechanisms (ER2) and advocacy activities (ER3):

B&H: International level: / **State level:** / **Cantonal level:** Ministry of Justice and Administration of Tuzla Canton; Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Tuzla Canton; Ministry of Internal Affairs of Tuzla Canton; Employment Bureau TK; The Ministry of Health TK; The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy TK; Public Health Institute TK. **Local level:** Center of Social Work Tuzla; City of Tuzla; PS Međan Tuzla; JU OŠ Međan Tuzla; JU OŠ Podrinje Tuzla; PS Podrinje Tuzla; An informal network of female Roma "Success";.

Serbia: International level: / **State level:** / **Local level:** City Belgrade Commission for Gender Equality of city's municipality Zvezdara; Belgrade City Health Council; City of Belgrade-Secretariat for Social Welfare; City Municipality Lazarevac - advice local community Veliki Crljeni.

Montenegro: International level: Commission for Gender Equality at Parliament of Montenegro, Institute for Public Health Podgorica (team for support to RAE population). **Local level:** Center for Social Work Nikšić, Police Department Nikšić, Nikšić municipality.

Stakeholders of main project partners:

B&H: International level: Romane Romnja Berlin; ROWNI Italy; Swiss Embassy in BiH; Council of Europe; The US Embassy in Sarajevo; OSCE Mission to BiH; Embassy of France. **State level:** Agency for Gender Equality of BiH; Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees BiH; Parliament Assembly of BiH; Ministry of Security of BiH. **Cantonal level:** Employment Institute of Tuzla Canton, Ministry of Health of Tuzla Canton, Ministry for Work and Social Policy of Tuzla Canton. **Local level:** Association - Tuzla, Helsinki Parliament of Citizens of Banja

Luka, Center for Info – legal aid Zvornik; Roma association Euro Rom Tuzla; Tuzla Community Foundation; NGO Coalition Equality for all in BiH.

Serbia: International level: EU Delegation in Republic of Serbia; UNICEF; UN; WOMEN; UNFPA. **State level:** Office for Human and Minority Rights of Government of Republic of Serbia; Office for Cooperation with Civil Society of Republic of Serbia; National Office for Employment; Commissioner for Protection of Equality; Protector of Citizens, Ombudsman; Commission of National Assembly of Republic of Serbia for Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality. **Local level:** Belgrade City, Secretariat for Social Protection.

Montenegro: International level: Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Institute for Public Health Podgorica (team for support to RAE population). **Local level:** Nikšić municipality, Electro distribution Nikšić.

Table 2: Total number of individuals/beneficiaries reached by all three main partners

Total number of individual beneficiaries to whom services provided through institutional grants										
Type of services	Total # of services	RAE		RAE children		Non RAE		Non RAE children		Total:
		F	M	Girls	Boys	F	M	Girls	Boys	
	#									
Services - health	5	5								5
Services - legal advisory	64	69	34							103
Services - copies, writing requests etc.	50	50	55	4	9					118
Registration in birth register	1			1						1
Aquiring personal documents	23	23								23
*	50			31	19					50
*	19			9	10					19
Humanitarian activities	1			34	36					70
SUB-TOTALS:	213	147	89	79	74	0	0	0	0	389
SUB-TOTALS F+M:			236		153					
Total # of indirect beneficiaries			Total # of direct beneficiaries		389					
Sub-Total ethnicity		Total RAE		389		Total non RAE				
Sub-Total by gender/adults		Total women		147		Total men		89		
Sub-Total by gender/adults		Total girls		79		Total boys		74		
Sub-Total F-M by gender		Total female		226		Total male		163		
Sub-Total by age group		Total adults		236		Total children		153		

For details per country please see **Annex 3**

Table 3: Total number of individual participants reached through organized activities by three main partners

Individual # of participants at different activities organized by 3 project partners						
Type of activity	# of activity	# of participants		# of institutions	# of NGOs	Total:
		F	M			
	#			#	#	
Educational workshops/seminars	22	295	101	20	12	396
Round tables	1	16	55	8	20	71
Meetings	21	57	20	31	14	77
Trainings	0	0	0	0	0	0
Street actions	9	412	18	2	2	430
Coalition meetings - coordinator's role	0	0	0	0	0	0
Network meetings - coordinator's role	8	57	12	0	25	69
Coalition meetings - through project	1	3	1	1	1	4
Association meeting assembly	0	0	0	0	0	0
Additional	4	227	179	0	1	406

Total number of indirect beneficiaries	0	0	0	0	0	0
Events:	66	1.067	386	62	75	1.453
Total persons	1.453					
Total institutions:	62					
Total NGOs:	75					

For details per country please see **Annex 4**

Table 4: Total number of individuals reached by CARE

Total number of individuals CARE workshops						
Type of services	Total # of services	RAE		Non RAE		Total:
		F	M	F	M	
Workshops	8	49	8	24	5	86

For details please see **Annex 5**

Monitoring results

Please refer to Annex 1 for the detailed description of the quantitative and qualitative dimension of the achievement of outcome and outputs.

As mentioned under ER1 the **Strategic planning workshop** gathered 19 representatives from 14 partner organizations from all three project countries (in Ruma, Republic of Serbia, 5 – 6 March, 2016). During this workshop participants gained knowledge on two important tools for participatory impact/outcome assessment: the methodology of **Community Score Card** and **Most significant change techniques** were introduced and they have been advised to use them within their organizations. Documents with these tools have been distributed to participants in English; one of the tools, Community Score Card, will be translated in local language and re-distributed. Both tools are participatory M&E methods that have the aim of including the beneficiaries into the monitoring of the activities implemented and thus receiving feedback and enhancing organisational learning for CARE and implementing partners.

In terms of general monitoring and follow up, the project team provides support to partners, frequently by e-mail and phone communication, but also visiting them in their offices or participating at their events (*please see Annex 9*).

Monitoring activities by the project team have occurred. Apart from developing progress reports for institutional grants, monitoring tables have been introduced to partner organizations. This monitoring tool has previously been introduced during FAIR I with which project partners have had some difficulties with. These tables were discussed and explained, but further support is needed.

The CARE project team has visited partner organizations and followed their activities. On the other hand the Project partners monitor the coalition/network member organizations' activities through regular meetings, analysis of accomplished results compared to planned activities.

Visibility

Visibility and project materials have been designed, printed and distributed to 3 main partners: 4 roll-up banners, 10 flags, 50 USBs, 400 project brochures out of which 100 of them in English language (*please see Annex 10*). CARE regularly updates its website with news on the actual project activities¹⁷. The ADC visibility guidelines are adhered to when implementing visibility actions.

In April project partners in Serbia and Montenegro¹⁸ organized press conferences in their respective countries presenting projects and issues that the project is tackling. Press conference in BiH will be organized in the following period to present the project together with sub-grants awarded to B&H Coalition partners.

Table 5: Partner organizations' media events

MEDIA			
Country	B&H	Serbia	Montenegro
Press conferences		1	1
TV	5	2	2
Radio	2		2
Newspaper articles		2	5
Web articles	12	3	4
Total media per country	19	8	12
Total media	39		

Lessons learned and perspectives

Regardless of good planning and assumptions reality is that our partners work in an environment in which volatile political changes demand flexibility; new appointed officials in local authorities could mean better or on contrary no understanding and support for Roma issues. In Serbia elections were held in 04-05/2016, in B&H local elections are due in October and at the same time in Montenegro parliamentary elections will be held. The project similarly as earlier actively reaches out to new appointed officials and bridges over to continue to build on the advocacy efforts.

Former experience indicates that some coalition/network partners even though having extensive capacities for field work in Roma communities often lack knowledge in long-term planning and writing long-term project proposals. This is systematically dealt with in the planning phase and via a targeted mentoring.

During awareness raising and street actions on reproductive health (which included distribution of free contraceptives by CRI in Montenegro) our partner has learned that there is a significant opposition from within the Roma communities. The new component of men engagement is therefore well placed to counter the resentments and to pilot the involvement of male role models into the implementation.

¹⁷ <http://care-balkan.org/index.php?otvori=novosti&prikazi=539>

¹⁸ <http://care-balkan.org/index.php?otvori=novosti&prikazi=542>

Finances

Our partner in Serbia plans on spending available budget as planned. But as they have acquired additional funding they requested to reallocate resources from the budget line for office rent to new IT equipment that serves the needs of better and more flexible field work and data gathering.

The project planned to purchase a project vehicle, which has been done according to CARE and ADC procurement guidelines. To ensure unobstructed future implementation of the project actions, relevant tax authorities were approached to obtain notification on the VAT related prevailing rules and the contract has been translated for these purposes.

Treatment of value added tax (VAT):

B&H: In case of CARE for all invoices VAT can be returned within 2 years; for the project partner VAT can be returned for invoices over 200,00 BAM, thus as per regulation VAT will be excluded from the financial report.

Serbia: On January 27, 2016 the Ministry of Finance has offered their opinion on VAT deduction for donated funds which states that CARE as sub-implementing partner has a right for VAT deduction whilst Bibija, the partner has no such possibility (*please see Annex 6*). As per the Ministry of Finance, VAT deduction is a right of the implementing and sub-implementing partners; in this case CARE Austria acts as implementing and CARE Balkans as sub-implementing partner. Invoices for all activities organized and paid by CARE have been VAT exempted since the start of the project. There is a written confirmation that Bibija our partner can not be tax exempted. Translation of the, above mentioned, opinion has been provided in English.

Montenegro: On December 11, 2015 Ministry of Finance of Montenegro has issued their opinion on the treatment of VAT (*please see Annex 7*), which was submitted together with other documents to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integrations (*please see Annex 8*). The latter issued on January 13, 2016 a Certificate of confirmation based on which CARE has the right to deduct VAT from invoice(s) which are to be submitted, together with VAT deduction request to Ministry of Work and Social Welfare before their payment. Due to this complicated procedure some of the invoices cannot be VAT deductible in practice (small bills which are to be paid at spot: parking, supermarkets, etc.). Project partner, CRI, has submitted its contract and documents to undergo the same procedure as CARE.

Annexes of the progress report

Annex 1: Filled in matrix with the detailed description of the achievement of outcome and outputs indicators measured against baseline and target values and reflecting the quantitative and qualitative dimension of the achievement

Annex 2: Detailed planning (action plan) and budget for the following reporting period (project year)

Annex 3: Monitoring table, services

Annex 4: Monitoring table, activities

Annex 5: Organized trainings and events by CARE

Annex 6: Opinion of the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Serbia, English language

Annex 7: VAT opinion by Ministry of finance and Customs, Montenegro

Annex 8: VAT opinion by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Montenegro

Annex 9: Monitoring activities by CARE

Annex 10: Project brochure in English

Annex 11: Detail information on grants

Annex 12: Meetings held, ER4

Annex 13: Photos