



Rahovec/Orahovac

Action strategy for

Roma, Egyptian and Ashkal i communities

in Rahovec/Orahovac municipal ity

2012 - 2014

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Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali
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Rahovec/Orahovac municipality
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of the authors and not necessarily
the view of Syri i Vizionit, Olof Palme Center and Rahovec/Orahovac municipality.

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Authors of this document see it as needed to explain that if in the text of this strategy haven't been included the works or activities of all the persons who have engaged in the communities that is unintentional. We also express our lament to all the ones who feel that their and their communities' requests or suggestions haven't been included as much as necessary.

Acronyms:

DRC	- Danish Refugee Council
KEK	- Kosovo Energy Corporation
PTK	- Post and Telecom of Kosovo
RTK	- Radio and Television of Kosovo
SiV	- Syri i Vizionit
SHKA	- Cultural and artistic association
KSF	- Kosovo Security Force
UNDP	- United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
ICMC	- The International Catholic Migration Commission



Supporting letter from the Mayor of Rahovec/Orahovac

Municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac has made and is making great efforts that all citizens of this municipality to feel free and equal. In this context, we have provided all our material and human support, considering that the provision of equal opportunities represents the basis of democratic and transparent society.

We encourage all people of good will who wish to assist further democratization of our society to continue with their efforts and we will be in support of this noble goal. Versatile integration in our society represents one of our continuous challenges, and we strongly support all those wishing to influence the improvement of working and life conditions of our citizens.

We also invite various local and international organizations that in cooperation with the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac to support the implementation of this strategy.

With respect
Smajl Lani



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Olof Palme International Center

The Olof Palme International Center works with international development co-operation and the forming of public opinion surrounding international political and security issues.

The Palme Center was established in 1992 by the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Trade Union Confederation (LO) and the Cooperative Union (KF). Today the Palme Center has 28 member organizations within the labour movement.

The centre works in the spirit of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, reflected by the famous quotation: "Politics is wanting something. Social Democratic politics is wanting change."

Olof Palme's conviction that common security is created by co-operation and solidarity across borders, permeates the centre's activities.

The commitment of these member organisations is the core of the centre's activities. Besides the founding organisations, they include the Workers' Educational Association, the tenants' movement, and individual trade unions. As popular movements and voluntary organisations, they are represented in all Swedish municipalities and at many workplaces. An individual cannot be a member of the Palme Center, but the member organisations together have more than three million members.

International development co-operation is concentrated on six regions: The Balkans, Eastern Europe and Russia, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and southern Africa.

The Palme Center and its member organizations are involved in approximately 450 international development projects a year. These range from civic education and organisational structure, to human rights and reconciliation projects.

The centre has a framework agreement with the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), which finances the international development projects of the member organisations. Most projects are carried out directly by the member organisations, which together with their local co-operation partners are responsible for project planning, initiation and evaluation. This helps to create very strong local ties. The centre carries out relatively few international development projects on its own, except in the Balkans.

The centre also administers the International Solidarity Fund (the I-Fund), which is the labour movement's fund for international solidarity and development co-operation. All money collected by the I-Fund is used exclusively to support trade union and political development work.

The centre is located in central Stockholm.

NGO "Syri i Vizionit"

The organization "Syri i Vizionit" officially registered as a local NGO in September 2001, but started operating as early as 1999 as a Community-Based Organization (CBO) in the city of Pejë/Pec to coordinate the publication and release of a Youth Magazine in Kosovo, with the financial support of USAID. Since inception, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" has gained in professionalism and implemented a large spectrum of multi-faced projects, proving itself as a genuine Civil Society actor in Kosovo. Throughout most recent years, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" developed numerous partnerships with a wide range of national and international organizations, municipalities and other stakeholders Kosovo-wide and in the Balkans (USAID,

IREX, DRC, CARE international, OSCE, Swiss Labour Assistance, Olof Palme Center,...)



Mission statement & Values. The NGO "Syri i Vizionit" primarily aims to promote local democracy and citizens' participation in Kosovo, in Pejë/Pec region in the first place. In its continuous efforts to enforce democratic practices, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" puts a special emphasis on the promotion of good governance, accountability, transparency and participation in multiple spheres of civic life. In practice, any project implemented by the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" seeks to establish sustainable linkages between municipal authorities and civil society actors at institutional and/or individual level.

Programmatic objectives. Since start, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" has articulated its work around specific objectives:

to develop the provision and dissemination of reliable and tested *information* to citizens

to promote *public awareness* on substantial or/and urgent societal issues among a wider public through awareness-raising actions

to equip citizens with sufficient *advocacy*, lobbying and networking skills to exercise their basic rights and challenge government institutions

Since 2003, the NGO is one of the official partners of One World Web Portal for South Eastern Europe

As of 2004, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" became an active member of the Kosovo Initiative Program (KIP)

The NGO "Syri i Vizionit" plays an active role in the field of youth networking and peace-building at regional level: in the Board of the Kosovo Youth Network for years and is a founding and active member of Pejë/Pec multiethnic youth network since 2002.

The organization takes an active part in other networking initiatives on a project basis such as the ProPeace Platform launched in Kosovo with the participation of local NGOs in 2005, the Coalition for a Clean Parliament, the Coalition for a Civilian Oversight of the Security Sector, the Coalition "Democracy In Action Elections 2007", and the Coalition for Cooperation between Civil Society and Government.



I. Drafting of the strategy

1.1 What is this strategy?

Action strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali (RAE) communities in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality (hereinafter Strategy) is a document that aims to put forward all the problems faced by the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in this municipality. It summarizes the needs and requests of these communities in localities where they live in the entire municipality, including their living problems, requests of the communities and area they live in, as well as it enunciates future orientations of the work in this community.

As such this document is a good basis for municipality, donors and communities in the future. All the problems have been included in it - divided into different sectors, possible solutions have been provided and an approximate calculation of costs has been made for actions in these communities. In this way, the Strategy consist an action and activity plan; it slots in itself needs of the municipality and communities.

Strategy has been compiled by NGO "Syri i Vizionit" from Pejë/Pec in cooperation with the communities, village representative and localities, as well as with the municipality, municipal officers for communities. The project has been funded by Olof Palme International Center.

Project in itself is a pilot project that aims to mobilize and train Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, to assist them in better advocacy in order for them to be participants of the changes in their life and decision-making. With the projects that this strategy foresees, it is thought to improve living conditions of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, communities that traditionally lived in grave economic situations and without an existential minimum, in difficult inhabitation and infrastructural conditions.

1.2 Legal framework on which the Strategy is based on

Strategy supports the Kosovo Government Strategy for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, which has been adopted in national level at the end of 2007 and it represents local basis of this strategy, which aims to improve the quality of life for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in the region.

Same as governmental document, local strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities is called upon the recommendations outing from the Agreement of Roma Decade (2005-2015) of the European Union. Strategy is in line with other international documents such as recommendations of European Council Committee of Ministers for the policy towards Roma in which affirmative approach toward this community is recommended, etc.

Since this strategy has been compiled in cooperation among the municipality, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities and other important stakeholders in this process, this document will be at the service of the municipality, to use it as needed or to transform it into a working document for the municipality in the upcoming period, or to present it before the donors that might express their interest for action in these communities.

1.3 Route followed for drafting of the Strategy

Strategy has been drafted after a year's work that NGO Syri i Vizionit (SiV) has conducted with Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, representatives of the areas inhabited with these communities, activists and community NGO's, as well as with the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac.

Initially, Syri i Vizionit visited communities in all the areas they live in, and it has collected data for the conditions and situation in which these communities live in, in order to have a better picture. Lacking previous studies, in the first phase of the project a research was conducted to see the situation in figures and concrete facts. Research has been conducted in main localities where the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live in, while it focused on the main points to find out the state of families and houses among these communities.

After this, in the largest localities of Rahovec/Orahovac municipality focus groups have been created with members of these communities, and a structure has been established with persons in the field with whom Syri i Vizionit has worked and maintained contacts during the project drafting. Focus groups initially have been created in "Lagja e Epërme" neighborhood, Krushë e Madhe and Ratkovc villages.

With these focus groups meetings were organized in each village or neighborhood, in

which have been discussed on seven defined problems. There have been seven sectors discussed on and routes of solutions have been sought: Property issues, inhabitation and informal settlements; Education and youth; Employment and economic development; Health and social issues; Antidiscrimination, security, minority rights and representation; Culture, media and information; Women rights.

After presenting the project to communities, their active participation was sought with suggestions and requests they might have, since they know best their problems and needs in their area.

Meetings were held in each locality, neighborhood and village. In such meetings their requests have been obtained, which consist the basis for drafting of the action plan. Tens of meetings were organized with the groups, but also many meetings with individuals and smaller groups, as well as with community leaders.

To give skills to communities in order for them to present their requests at best way possible, during July trainings by experts on strategy drafting and drafting project proposals were held. Meanwhile, with the community representatives it was agreed that they will prepare their documents that will be part of the strategy.

After this, joint meetings with representatives of the following areas were held: Rahoveci i Epërm, Krushë e Madhe, Ratkovc, Celinë, Xërxë, Pustaselë, Kramovik, Polluzhë, Senovc, Drenoc, Gexhë, Radosh dhe Bella Cerkvë. With these representatives it was worked chapter by chapter on the strategy drafting. Municipal representatives from the Office of communities and political entities of the communities took part in these meetings.

Strategy at its final form is based on all the collected materials from these tens of meetings with the communities and requests made particularly by each locality. It has been drafted by NGO Syri i Vizionit, while before publication it has been provided for review to community representative in each locality and to municipality.

1.4 Participants in the process of Strategy drafting

Project for drafting of action strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities has been led by NGO Syri i Vizionit from Pejë/Pec, while it has been funded by Olof Palme International Center.

Strategy at this stage is a result of joint work done during a year between Syri i Vizionit and other participants, communities, community organizations and the municipality.

Communities have been engaged actively and creatively throughout the project. Each area had its focus groups, which in series of meetings have given their suggestions and ideas. To be more active in participation, representatives of each area have also attended respective trainings of drafting of projects and advocacy. Gathered suggestions from the community representatives have been included in the draft strategy, which afterwards was analyzed again and fulfilled with supplements, suggestions and communities' requests.

The municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac was also part of the work, since it took part in the overall process, starting from the initial information acquired from the municipality, to meetings in the field, in trainings and in revision of the final strategy version.

1.4.1 Communities involvement in drafting of the Strategy

Communities have been involved in both actively and creatively throughout the project in several ways:

- Communities were directly involved in drafting of the strategy during the meetings held in areas. In each area that had a considerable number of inhabitants, several meetings were held.
- Community representatives have taken part in joint meetings of the "Joint Communities' Council" meetings held in Rahovec/Orahovac, in which was discussed about the problems according to fields set.
- During the strategy drafting were met community leaders gathered in political entities, nongovernmental organizations and other groups representing the communities.

1.4.2 Municipality involvement in drafting of the Strategy

From the very start of the projects contacts were maintained with the municipality. In the two first meetings, the Mayor was informed for the foreseen process on strategy drafting, and he took an active role to assign persons in charge for cooperation and further assistance throughout the overall process. From this point onwards, the cooperation mainly went through the Office of Communities and it was of crucial importance for Syri i Vizionit, that benefited from the experience and work conducted earlier with these communities by municipality.

Apart from assisting with its advisory role, the Office took part in most of the activities implemented throughout the project course, in the project presentation phase, further in meetings and revision of the final draft. Initial information for the field were acquired from the Rahovec/Orahovac municipal officers, while it served as basis for research conducted in the field by Syri i Vizionit. Subsequently, municipal officials have also taken part in the meetings of "Joint Steering Committee of Communities", and in trainings. Office of communities has taken active part in the meetings with village representatives, and it gave its ideas and suggestions, while contacts with municipal officers were maintained before and after these meetings, until the end of the process for strategy drafting.

The Rahovec/Orahovac municipal Office of communities has also taken part in the trainings organized throughout the project implementation.

Strategy in its draft version, before publication, was submitted to municipality, Mayor and Office of communities to give their suggestions, to fulfill or add something to the final version.

1.5 Current situation

1.5.1 Spreading of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality

Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities traditionally lived in very hard situation in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. They live in several localities, but majority mainly are orientated in a number of places: Lagja e Eperme, Krushë e Madhe, Ratkovc, Xërxë, etc. In a fewer number (meaning on the number from 3-10 families) they live in the villages of Celinë, Pustaselë, Kramovik, Polluzhë, Senovc, Drenoc and Bella Cerkvë.

In all these localities they live in vicinity with Albanian majority population and other minorities, with which can be said that during the postwar year have lived in good vicinity. When talking about areas where the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali lives it doesn't imply pure ethnic localities, but rather localities with mixed population, however in all these villages being minority communities. In almost all villages, the majority of these communities houses are close to each other, but in areas which are inhabited with Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, houses are dispersed throughout the village, and the community is little or not at all organized on ethnic basis.

During the war of 1998-1999 many members of these communities displaced from Kosovo. After the war, members of these communities mainly have returned with individual initiative. No organized returns of RAE communities took place in the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac, as it happened with the Serb community. Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities were mainly returned in organized manner from a number of European countries, as well. According to the estimate figures that the municipality possesses, in the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac currently live 750 members of these communities. After the war these communities remained concentrated in the areas of Rahovec i Epërm, Krushë e Madhe, Ratkovc, Xërxë, where the greatest part of these communities live in. Nonetheless, in this document, for the sake of comparison and for the need of enunciating the situation, the recent Kosovo census figures and the ones of the municipality and UNHCR's, same as figures that Syri i Vizionit took out of the field were used.

1.5.2 Situation in which Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live in

A part of these communities live in partially urban areas, in difficult inhabiting conditions, old houses and neighborhoods, without proper road infrastructure, canalization, etc.

Unemployment in these localities is higher than anywhere else, since very few members of these communities are employed. Families of these communities are distinguished for the life in extreme poverty. From the statistics of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 2004-2005 around 77% of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live under the minimum poverty level, while 81% were never employed. Many of them do not attend classes in schools and have little access to health services. In their localities they have unsolved property problems, unregistered properties in cadastre unit and other problems related with the land.

Their social organizing is at a very low level. They have community political subjects, but they are neither represented at the municipal level, but within these communities other organizing, such as nongovernmental organizations or organizing of youth and women, are little or not at all developed.

Many of them do not attend classes in schools and have little access to health services. In their areas they have unsolved property problems, unregistered properties in cadastre unit and other problems related with the land.

1.6 Research conducted by Syri i Vizionit for situation of these communities in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality

During February and March 2011 NGO "Syri i Vizionit" conducted a research for the situation of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. Interviews done by the researchers of NGO "Syri i Vizionit" have collected information of the situation of families from these communities and their dwelling places. Research was conducted in nine areas inhabited by members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities: Lagje e Epërme neighbourhood, Krushë të Madhe, Ratkovc, Xërxë etc. In these areas were interviewed all families, from which interviewers have taken general data and in

specific topics. Respondents replied to the questions about the number of family members, their age and gender, economic/employment situation, incomes, wealth and properties. On the questionnaires for the situation of their houses/objects during interviews were also collected data on the size of houses and living space for the families, time and conditions of reconstruction, furnishing of the houses with respective equipment, etc.

Interviewing provides a complete picture of the situation in which these communities live in. A more detailed picture was not done by any institution earlier, extracting accurate data for the communities and conditions they live in.

1.6.1 Situation of the families

One-hundred families of the following areas, "Lagja e Epërme" neighbourhood, Krusha e Madhe, Ratkovc and Xërxë were interviewed. Results have shown around 750 persons live in these villages. Out of the interviewed, it results that there are 6.27 members per family, 59% of the population in these interviewed families belong to young age – up to 24 years.

In regard to education, research has highlighted that only a small number of these communities attend schooling, particularly when it comes to higher education. There are only 8 adults that have completed secondary school, 6 males and 2 females, while there are only two with faculty degree. This negative trend of the past continues again, only three children have access to preschool/kindergarten education and institutions of this level.

Research shows also an unhandy situation as far as employment: only 11 persons between 18-65 years of age from these communities are employed while some of them occasionally manage to cover jobs for which they are paid. Low incomes that these families mainly come from social assistance (22%), and from very low amounts of money coming from Diaspora (no more than 19 percent). Out of declared monthly income amounts, it comes out that from 100 families, only 24 families have incomes lower than 100 Euros per month, and while there is no family that has over 300 Euros per month. Out of the interviewed only eight families possess motorized vehicles.

communities. Housing, property and informal settlements problems are not present in the areas where these communities live in.

Safety doesn't present an issue for the communities anywhere in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. Members of the communities have the right and safety, while they express their ethnic and religious backgrounds without any obstacle.

Due to little number of these communities' members, lack of experiences and cadres, they did not have access to media and information. Albanian media outlets covered their problems with an approach that has been entirely positive and affirmative, nonetheless they didn't ever possess a media of their own.

1.6.2 Condition of the housings

In regard to conditions of the housings, interviewing showed that during the war 44 percent of the houses have suffered different level damages (8% of the houses had category V damages) while 56% of the houses were not damaged. Most of the houses (60 percent) are one-floor, while after the war 5 houses were reconstructed. Out of the interviewed, 21% of the houses have bad construction quality. As far as building licenses, 47% declare that they do not possess one, while 45% say that they don't have urban accord in use.

As far as municipal services there is a limited access for families of these communities. The interviewing brought out that 85% does not have landline telephones, but also that 80% of them use cellular phones; 98% are connected to water supply system, 89 % are not connected to canalization system, while 80% use illegal garbage collection sites. The same as services are like also is response to obligations: 42% of the interviewed declare that they do not pay property tax.

1.7 Access to public services

In areas that Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live there are joint services with majority communities in regard to most of their matters. They attend classes in schools with Albanian majority, in mixed classes where classes are held in Albanian language, a language very well known for young members of these communities and they don't encounter language obstacles to attend their classes.

Health services are provided to them in the same manner as to majority population and in this regard Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have the same services as major Albanian population. As to social services members of these communities enjoy the same conditions as the all other citizens of Kosovo. In regard to employment in municipal and state institutions, communities have around 12 persons in various institutions.

On the representation aspect, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities do not have any representative of their own in Rahovec/Orahovac Municipal Assembly, but their political entity has representatives at the MA committees for communities, where they present demands and needs of these

1.8 Approach

Strategy approached communities in affirmative manner. Aim of this strategy is to affirm positive action towards communities, in reconcilability with European orientations for actions with these communities as well as with policies of Kosovo Government toward minority communities in Kosovo.

From the formal point, problems of the communities' strategy approached in two ways: with overall approach and according to particular localities. First approach has to do with requests and problems dealing with the communities in general whenever they live within Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. At this point, it deals with topics which are not related with the locality, but are rather joint needs for each and everyone. Here come to surface requests for learning Roma language, information, political representation, campaign for health awareness, etc.

Strategy is supported on the debates with communities focusing on seven main topics considered as most important for communities:

- 1 Houses, property issues, informal settlements
- 2 Education and youth
- 3 Employment and economic development
- 4 Health and social issues
- 5 Antidiscrimination, security, rights of minorities and representation
- 6 Culture, media and information
- 7 Women rights

Taking into account that security matter and another one in the list were not considered to be of any particular difficulty, in this regard less efforts were paid, focusing on other sectors where it was thought that contribution can be greater for communities themselves.

Approach to different areas has to do with particular projects. The most frequent in this aspect are the projects dealing with infrastructure, road infrastructure projects, drinking water, canalization, agriculture, etc. In this part of the strategy drafting Syri i Vizionit together with the communities tried to make approximate cost of budget implications for particular projects. By doing this, the communities' requests have taken the form of community initiatives, in which, according to a joint model have been determined some

requests such as approximate cost, objectives and goals, beneficiaries, etc. These data were considered as a first reflection to make possible presentation before the municipality and donors and to measure financial engagement possibility.

1.9 Strategy implementation

This document is addressed to all institutions, organizations and the ones interested to work with Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. However, at first place Strategy has been drafted to be at the disposal of the municipality and communities, for planning needs, intervention in these communities and to be at the disposal of donors.

Strategy at its drafted form offers to Office of communities a reflection of situation in the field, communities' requests and gives suggestions for projects and possible ways of development and investment in the upcoming period. It can be used by municipal officers in the meetings with donors that might see the part where they can get involved to assist both the municipality and communities.

With determination of requests/projects Strategy gives also an approximate of intervention costs, therefore it presents a good indicator of needs and budget implications for the municipality itself or donors, in order for them to be able to measure their possibilities and engagement in these communities.

It is a document at disposal notably for the communities themselves, their representatives, either in political institution or civil society to request projects and to develop the communities. It is an important document that reflects overall situation of their communities, possibilities and perspectives.

1.10 Difficulties in implementation of this strategy

Author of the strategy understands that all recommendations and suggestions that come out of this document cannot be achieved at once, or within a short period of time. They remain permanent orientations for institutions and society in a mid-term and long-term period. However, some of the requests according to sectors and some of the projects distinct on the urgency needed to intervene on them. Priority in this aspect appears the need for intervention in health and social sectors, urbanization and housings, human rights and antidiscrimination – women and children in particular. These require urgent intervention, while other sectors are also as much important and with need to act as soon as possible on them.

Author of the strategy is aware of difficulties that will impact in implementation of this strategy. Main difficulties in these cases are lack of financial means for fulfillment and realization of needs that these communities have. Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in the areas they live in need great change starting from the infrastructure and lifestyle to change of approach and way that institutions and society deals with them. Real possibility of local and central institutions, budget and Kosovar society are very limited, while the needs are high and requests come from all communities and from all the categories.

It is also known that number of donors, where are the funds and international organizations operating in Kosovo and Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, has decreased; therefore the possibility for supporting of communities' projects is lesser now.

Another difficulty is by communities themselves, their economic and social situation, lack of development, lack of cultural elite that would lead these communities to identify its needs and routes of solutions, lack of educated cadres within the communities, etc. Communities are not organized as much as they should, there is no competitiveness of thoughts and ideas under this municipality, apart from two political entities there is almost no other form of action. Even in the cases when there were attempts to establish nongovernmental organizations or other similar groupings, they didn't manage to get an important role in communities' lives.

Another difficulty in this aspect represents the fact that communities are spread into different areas, which quite often are far from each other, in smaller communities that rarely exceed the number of ten families per village. In this manner communication and intercommunion among communities is little, and possibility of joint organizing is lesser too. As far as employment projects difficulties add from the fact that of overall Kosovo unemployment in Rahovec/Orahovac is at the highest rate, number of new jobs that might open is very small and thus it makes inclusion of these communities' members in employment projects.

The ultimate difficulty that should be mentioned is the fact that Strategy is not obligatory in the sense that it doesn't have a body in charge that would implement this document. In this regard institutions and donors decide themselves for the form and how much they will fulfill recommendations coming out of this document. Syri i Vizionit encourages institutions to use this document to the largest extent and to fulfill as much requests as possible coming out of it.



II. Initiatives and Recommendations

2.1 Introduction

Strategy approaches the communities in two ways: with overall approach and according to particular localities. First approach has to do with requests and problems dealing with the communities in general whenever they live within Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. At this point, it deals with topics which are not related with the locality, but are rather joint needs for each and everyone. Here come to surface requests for learning Roma language, information, political representation, campaign for health awareness, etc. out of which benefit all communities in every locality, including smaller localities in which there are only some families.

Strategy is supported on the debates with communities focusing on seven main topics considered as most important for communities. Selection of these topics came out of the work that Government has done in preparation of the strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities during 2007. The topics include:

1. Houses, property issues, informal settlements
2. Education and youth
3. Employment and economic development
4. Health and social issues
5. Antidiscrimination, security, rights of minorities and representation
6. Culture, media and information
7. Women rights

As a matter of fact in most of the cases, problems encountered by Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities are general, for all communities, so it is not a matter of problems belonging only to Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. In most cases with the same problems is encountered also the majority Albanian community itself, such as the matter of informal settlements, lack of living infrastructure, not the best health services, lack of social support, etc. But there are also problems which are specific for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities such as the matters of culture and information, and to a certain extent education and gender equality also.

Taking into account that security matter and another one in the list were not considered to be of any particular difficulty in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, in this regard less efforts were paid in the Strategy, focusing on other sectors where it was thought that contribution can be greater for communities themselves.

2.2 Ownership issues, habitation and informal settlements

Situation description: Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality at the largest extent lives in communion with Albanian majority and other communities. For this reason, matter of habitation for RAE communities in this municipality is laid together with all other communities. Among RAE communities which reside in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, the greatest part of them lives in town, namely in Lagja Rahovec i Epërm and the other part in villages of Krushë e Madhe, Ratkovc, Drenoc, Polluzhë, Xerxë, Celinë, Bella Cerkvë, Senovc, Pustoselë and Kramovikë.

As far as property registrations, houses and dwelling places, problems in these communities is also the same as with other communities. In a far past, transactions were bases on oral agreements and they were not registered in municipal cadastre and for this matter many of the citizens do not have their properties registered. It is talked mainly for transactions that were done in the period between 50's and 80's of last century. For this matter, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, due to higher illiteracy rate, maybe has the problem more emphasized than others.

Problems are presents also with equipment of citizens with identification documents. There are persons that were never registered in civil office, there is no documentation and as a consequence they do not posses any identification documents. This was a problem in the past, but it also present now in particular with children that are born out of hospital premises.

Homeless problem for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities is a problem that traditionally is related with lifestyle of a part of these communities that were always without any shelter or in old houses with low building qualities. This is particularly an issue in Rahoveci i Epërm neighborhood and Ratkovc. However, similar problems also exist in other villages inhabited by these communities. As a consequence of houses damaging during the war, lack of dwelling places a part of these communities live out of Kosovo. They have settled in hosting countries and show no interest for return to Kosovo, where they do not see a future life perspective.

Existing initiatives:

Rahovec/Orahovac has drafted the municipal development for 2011-2020, and out this plan will be drafted projects for different areas of this municipality that will impact on living conditions of inhabitants of this municipality, including Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. At the same time it would verify closer the need of inhabitants for legalization of houses and potential reconstructions in the future.

As part of this plan, "Rahoveci i Epërm" neighbourhood, where the vast majority of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities live in this municipality have benefited in infrastructure, such as in road repairs, canalization and sewage, drinking water, lightening of some streets, etc.

A very low number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities of Rahovec/Orahovac benefited from the post-war houses reconstruction projects. Most of the houses were built for them as part of the balancing of projects for return of Serbs, nonetheless five houses were also built for these communities. These houses were built in different time periods by organization that have operated and are still operable in the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac, such as UNHCR, ICMC and DRC, same as the Ministry for return and reintegration of communities.

In regard to registration and equipment with identification cards for unregistered persons, an international organization, Civil Rights Program Kosovo - CRPK, is implementing a project which deals with solution of these cases. CRPK is an international organization that deals with registration of Roma and Egyptians members which haven't been registered. Their activities are laid also in Pejë/Pec, where they have an office at the service of these communities.

Recommendations for further actions:

- ? *to complete to the earliest time the Rahovec/Orahovac urban development plan, in order to prevent illegal building in the future, based on the urban plan, existing buildings to legalize or to be ruined.*
- ? *during this process a new registration of properties should be made and their recording in cadastre, according to the existing legislation in force.*
- ? *to involve in the project of social building members of these communities which do not have property/house for living.*
- ? *to look at the possibility for donation of building plots for these members of communities that do not have property to build their house*

2.3 Education and youth

Situation description: Pupils of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities attend their classes in Albanian language on joint schools of Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. They are integrated in regular classes together with pupils of Albanian majority population and other communities. Due to low level of awareness, grave economic situation and other reasons, however many Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali children remain out of schools, some of them getting divided from their parents at a very young age. Though according to Kosovo laws in force nine-year education is obligatory, a great part of parents do not send their children at all in school or take them out before finishing primary education. Afterwards these children are used for work or other activities for holding their families.

As far as education, a research conducted in March and April this year (2011) in three localities with great number of these communities in the municipality ("Rahovec i Epërm" neighbourhood, Krushë e Madhe and Ratkovc) brought out that only a small number of these communities' children attend education, particularly when it comes for higher classes. There are a very small number of students who attend secondary schools, while only two of them finished university. Situation in primary schools is better. During the academic year 2010/2011 there are 217 members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities who attend primary and secondary schooling in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. However, situation at the preschool education is really bad, since number of children attending them is really insignificant, while kindergartens are almost not attended at all by any of the RAE children.

Egyptian community in Rahovec/Orahovac region uses Albanian language as their mother tongue therefore its members do not face language obstacles, while Roma community has its old language, Roma language. However this community at home, in daily communication uses Albanian language. The number of young members of Roma community is very little that knows more than a few words in Roma language. In this aspect, regarding their education usage of Albanian language schools does not present a difficulty. But, representatives of this community require that for the sake of protection of language heritage and for the needs of identity and heritage development of the community itself in the future to insert the subject of Roma language in schools of this community. Lack of respective cadre would be solved with qualification of a teacher, who would keep his

classes in schools attended by Roma children, or with hiring a teacher from other regions. An issue raised as the need for education of this community is the one for catch-up classes. Since a great part of the communities is illiterate, pupils, particularly the one of lower classes face learning problems. These children have parents that do not know to read and write and this is assessed to be one the reasons for low results, since they have no support at home to understand tasks and homework. For this matter organizing of catch-up classes for these pupils is considered necessary for improvement of their results.

Also for youth and pupils of these communities could be organized intensive learning classes. We are talking about the one that have passed the age to start attending classes in primary schools that didn't do so. For them would be enabled a fast learning process with reduced programs, in order to finish within a short time period required elementary schooling. This kind of learning would also in eradication of illiteracy within these communities.

Same as with Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, Rahovec/Orahovac also does not have a proper organizing. Some nongovernmental subjects of these communities haven't taken initiatives for youth activities. Within political subjects of these communities there is no organizing or presence of youth component.

Since the vast majority or RAE communities live in extreme poverty a great burden to hold the family falls on youth which very often are used by their families at early age to work and support the family. They are parted from school without finishing even elementary education. As a consequence possibility of these youngsters to get education, but also an elementary cultural formations are quite small or do not exist at all. They are not included in any kind of cultural, sportive or recreational activities.

Existing initiatives:

In Rahovec/Orahovac municipality schools were involved a good number of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities students and local authorities have shown readiness to engage them in greatest number possible.

A number of nongovernmental organizations worked with these communities to raise their awareness on education, as well as increase of awareness on negative phenomena (drugs, smoking, begging, etc.) Organizations such as "Hareja" of Rahovec/Orahovac, "Promokom" of Gjakovë/Djakovica and "Iniciativa 6" of Prizren have developed different projects to eradicate illiteracy within these communities in the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac. Activities that these organizations have implemented in this municipality involved different age groups of both genders, holding them different courses and trainings on awareness increase of these communities on education, development of family economy, the rights they should enjoy and their inclusion in decision-making processes. Simultaneously, these organizations have also provided assistance with clothes and food for social cases within the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Among the young people of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities there was a certain interest to establish nongovernmental organizations, which although never managed to empower, they achieved to bring the youth together and create structures that would deal with organizing of youth life. Certain informal groups of young people are operable in "Rahovec i Epërm" neighborhood. These groups mainly focus in musical activities, but also show interest for other sectors.

Recommendations for further actions:

- ? *to seek ways for including Roma language in curriculums of some municipal schools for Roma pupils and others that express desire for it. Here is included also support (financing) for qualification of the cadre that would teach Roma language and for procuring or publishing books on learning Roma language and culture*
- ? *to organize catch-up classes for pupils of these communities.*
- ? *intensive learning for the pupils that haven't been included in education process*
- ? *to allocate specific quotas in secondary professional schools of Rahovec/Orahovac in order to guarantee acceptance of these communities into schools*
- ? *to be worked with teachers and pupils in order to have equal treatment for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali pupils into schools*
- ? *to involve youth in cultural and sportive activities*
- ? *to fund projects for organizing and empowerment of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali youth, starting from youth organization, sports clubs, etc.*
- ? *to have fellowships for education of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali students*
- ? *To provide transport for students of rural areas who face difficulties to attend secondary school because of transport and economic conditions.*

2.4 Employment and economic development

Situation description: Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities living in municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac make a small community within the overall population of the municipality. Communities have roughly 750 members in a municipality with around 55.053 inhabitants. Number of the persons working is not very high, since not only these communities, but the whole region faces with high unemployment and a good part of the municipality population lives in hard living conditions and poverty. According to data collected by "Syri i Vizionit" from the situation in the field it results that in state institutions work a number of around 12 persons. (In municipal administration work two persons, and in education and health five each).

The remaining part is mainly unemployed, but during spring, summer and fall they manage to do seasonal work mainly in viniculture at the wine company "Stone Castle", or to another private owner who deals with cultivation of various agriculture works. This happens because the vast majority of these communities do not possess workable land where they would be able to generate incomes for their families. Nonetheless, most of these families live in extreme poverty under minimal surviving conditions, without much perspective.

The reasons why this situation is such are numerous. They come from previous years and a position in which these communities weren't well-organized and didn't know to present and address their requests. Reason is low awareness, lack of stronger organizing and a more inferior positioning towards other communities. Also, based on the factual situation it is evident that respective cadre is missing, but even when there are qualified cadres, they do not have much work. Among these communities there are no initiative takers in private sector, which would create possibilities for employment or self-support. This comes also from the reason that a part of this population does not have their properties, doesn't have jobs (wages) and as an outcome doesn't have access to banks and chances for getting loans to start businesses. In the past, a good part of these communities worked to support themselves with professions which were inherited crafts in these communities. They were engaged as blacksmiths, coachmen, ironmongery sellers, cultivators and sellers of horses, etc., professions which have lost their importance and do not offer many opportunities.

2.5 Health and social issues

Existing initiatives:

A number of around 22 members from these communities already are employed in different state, municipal and regional institutions. There are 12 persons employed in the municipality (administration, education and health). This presents a good basis for a start and has brought down the taboo regarding these communities' employment, which in the near past were rarely any employed in state sector.

However, there was support from different donors to provide them machinery or equipment for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as it was the case in some other municipalities of Kosovo. Many of these families dealt with craftsmanship, but unavailable to secure work equipment, they could not return to their old crafts which would secure them incomes for their families.

Recommendations for further actions:

- ? *institutions with finances from Kosovo budget to employ members of these communities within them*
- ? *in particular members of these communities should be employed in projects concerning them*
- ? *to support farm projects and mini-businesses which would be run by members of these communities*
- ? *to support agriculture development in the village zones in which these communities have properties*

Situation description: Members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have joint health services with other communities in their localities. Mainly, in each locality there are ambulances that conduct basic services for all citizens of Kosovo.

There is no accurate research which could present the real situation of the communities in this regard, but it is evident that members of these communities face with emphasized health problems. A part of them die at very young age, babies and children mortality is high and noticeable health problems.

In localities inhabited by Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, houses are under the general living conditions. Many of them live in conditions which do not fulfill no inhabitation conditions, supplying with healthy food for some of them is not satisfactory, a large number of them do not have the possibility to have completed bathrooms nor sewage canals, particularly in villages, since the sewage issue was resolved in town. Because a great majority live in extreme poverty, they have no adequate food; many times they feed themselves with things found or given that can be very harmful. All these impact on human health and beginning of diseases. A number of children are born out of hospital facilities, while babies and children are not vaccinated. Medical checks are not regular as an outcome of proper health education of parents coming from these communities.

As far as social services it should be taken into account that Kosovar society doesn't offer much in social policies. Small number of the ones that benefit from this assistance comes from the fact that benefiting criteria are very strict and rare are the ones that can match them. In November 2011, the Center for Work and Social Welfare has evidenced 30 families with over 100 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities' members who get social assistance.

One of the most worrisome occurrences of society today is the one of young beggars coming from these communities. Children, mainly up to 10 years of age, wander the streets of town seeking alms. Occurrence as such is very worrisome for the fact that these children spend a part of their childhood being used by adults, which in most cases are their parents, are forced to leave schools, wander the streets not wearing properly, without proper health care seeking alms in streets and shops. Furthermore, a part of parents use these children immediately after they come to

life taking them to the streets when they seek alms, or leaving these babies laying on the sidewalks in inhuman conditions waiting for alms by people passing by. Local and central institutions, together with the Center for Social Work and police should create and implement policies for giving an end to such occurrences of child use in inhuman manner for children, a part of which from the very early age face with this bitter human fate.

Existing initiatives:

Municipality together with donors during last ten years has implemented tens of infrastructural projects for improvement of living conditions including roads, drinking water systems, sewages, etc. in all localities inhabited by these communities, which have impacted in the quality of life for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities.

Improvement of infrastructure conditions, particularly in "Rahovec i Epërm" neighbourhood, where the greatest part of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities live in the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac has increased the level of hygiene in the neighbourhood and has created better living conditions.

Municipal health centers provide their services to members of these communities without any distinctions in each area they live in.

The Police in cooperation with international organizations at all times organize actions from removing children seeking alms off the streets, while at the same time is worked with parents to prevent using little children for seeking alms.

Recommendations for further actions:

- ? *to make a complete research for health situation within these communities.*
- ? *to increase medical visits in localities inhabited by communities.*
- ? *to monitor vaccination situation and to vaccinate children which haven't done so*
- ? *to distribute preventive tools for free, medicines against contagious diseases, awareness materials on the importance of hygiene*
- ? *to support NGO projects for communities that deal with health*
- ? *to build and implement policies for prevention of children usage for seeking alms and to undertake measures against parents that practice it*

2.6 Antidiscrimination, security, minority rights and representation

Situation description: In June this year (2011) was held the census, family households and houses in Kosovo by the Bureau of Statistics. According to preliminary data of this Bureau, out of 55.053 residents that the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac has, 700 residents belong to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. However, figures change because this population is on the move and changes their living space, therefore there is no accurate number of these communities. They live in poverty with very low incomes and few employment opportunities or private entrepreneurship, mainly not involved in social life. For a long period they have faced with society negative opinions for their lifestyle, poverty and social status as well as prejudices that came in lack of education, cultural formation, nomad life and conditions they lived by these communities. With the position they once had, earlier it was impossible their inclusion in administration or in other job positions. Though today almost in all institutions are employed persons from these communities. With all this change for the better of these communities, nonetheless they have requests for more employments.

Their unequal position is particularly felt in comparison with other minority communities. We talk about for a huge distinction in employment that existed in the past compared Serb community, which although is half the number of RAE communities, benefits more from employment. Another distinction among minority community is also made when it comes to the return process and houses reconstruction. Twelve years after the end of the war in Kosovo, there was no organized return for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, although its members were displaced in different places abroad Kosovo and within it. Throughout these years, only five houses were built to these communities

Discrimination is sometimes felt also during offering of state public services, from the employed persons in these institutions or in daily life. It happens that doctors do not treat the same way patient coming from these communities, quite often due to their hygiene, due to poverty they are in, or because they don't give them money. Or there are cases such as when teachers don't put Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali pupils in separate tables

or when the parents do not want their children to sit in the same table with pupils coming from these communities.

As far political representation of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, they are represented by two political entities that mainly gather members of these communities: New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo (IRDK) which in its program has engagement for situation of Egyptian community in Kosovo and United Roma Party of Kosovo (PRBK), a Roma political subject, which due to dispersion of votes does not have any councilor at Rahovec/Orahovac municipal assembly, while they are only represented in the committee for communities where there are three members from these communities.

Existing initiatives:

The Rahovec/Orahovac municipality has a number of these communities' members in its three budget sectors: administration, education and health work 12 members of these communities.

In Kosovo higher education has also been provided possibilities for enrollment of students from these communities. Apart from the same competition as all other students, Prishtinë/Pristina University also divides specific quota for members of these communities in each of its faculties, to guarantee higher education. At least three students from these communities attend their studies in Prishtinë/Pristina and Pejë/Pec universities.

Minority representation in the Kosovo Assembly is foreseen with Kosovo Constitution. According to the Constitution for Egyptian community at least a seat is allocated in Kosovo Parliament where 100 seats for MP's are won through votes while 20 other are reserved for minorities.

In the municipal assembly of Rahovec/Orahovac there is one committee to treat problems of minority communities - Communities Committee – where the minorities compose majority of the members. While, under municipal governance there are two offices dealing with communities: Office of Communities and Office of Return. Until 2009, the municipal assembly allocated a specific annual budget for minority communities, however now the municipal budget is managed by the Mayor and it hasn't a specific budget for the Office of Communities.

Recommendations for future actions:

- ? *on cases of employment according to national basis to see and have as a basis a kind of percentage, not to happen that one minority is favored and other ones neglected.*
- ? *recommendation for educational institutions to work with their cadre to prevent distinction cases among pupils in classes.*
- ? *to continue with reservation of seats for minority communities' representation in municipal and central bodies according to the "positive discrimination" principle*
- ? *Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities to have their representatives in the office of communities and return*

2.7 Culture, media and information

Situation description: Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have their national identities. While Roma community has a more separate and emphasized identity, Egyptian communities in many things are common with Albanian majority community. Egyptian community has Albanian as its mother tongue, same national wears and flag. Roma community has its language, its national wears and Roma national flag.

Roma language according to data of some studies and history has some centuries that it has been used in Kosovo. It is part of the language that this community speaks in other countries of the world. But in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, the greatest number of members of this community, in particular young generations do not know it at all or not it very little. In this way, it slowly is risking to disappear among members of this community, since it is known only by elderly persons. To protect this inherited part of Roma identity, learning of Roma language is one of the interests for this community. This would be achievable by inserting it in curriculum for region schools or two hours a week for learning of Roma language. Teaching initially would be organized for all pupils of one school together, no matter their levels, while it would be covered with a teacher, who according to a schedule would travel from one school to the other during the whole week.

In case this is not achieved, than an additional course out school would be needed in which learning of Roma language would take place with the same engagements as laid above.

Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities also have their cultural heritage, known Roma folklore. In the past there were good examples or artists' representation and of this culture but nowadays there are no efforts at all for preserving and further development of this cultural inheritance. Currently there is no institution, organization or association that would deal with communities' culture and while other communities always get funds, assistance and subventions for development and preservation of their cultural identity, these (RAE) communities haven't ever benefited in this aspect from governmental or donor funds. As a matter of fact until not even the communities were ready to present and argument such a request. Therefore establishment of a kind of body (Cultural and Artistic Association or Center of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali culture) could play the role of a coordinator of cultural life. Such body would motivate youth to learn and further keep this heritage which includes songs,

dances and traditional wears of these communities.

In regard to information of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities get informed from the news provided from the ones in Albanian and other minority languages. From the language aspect this doesn't present a problem for them, since these communities themselves use as first language the Albanian one, but the problem is that in those media are few shows or news regarding the situation of these communities. Currently Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities do not have a medium of their own in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. Public broadcaster of Kosovo, RTK, has an informative and entertainment show once a week.

A local newspaper which primarily would be published once or twice a month would cover also the need for information. Such newspaper would launch with a very limited number of pages, out of which 60 to 80 percent would be in Albanian language, the language which is used by communities. But in these pages would be written about the topics of these communities lives. The other part, approximately one fourth of the pages would summarize such content in Roma language impacting further in spreading of this language.

Apart of information, a medium in Roma language would also impact in increasing of connections and communications within communities' members.

Existing initiatives:

In public broadcaster of Kosovo, RTK, there is a weekly show in Roma language that serves to a certain point in affirmation of Roma language and culture. Show also gives information for community lives and developments occurring among them, important events and developments such creating a linking space between Roma in Kosovo.

Recommendations for further actions:

- ? *to support establishment of a Cultural and Artistic Association (or of another cultural body) that would work on preservation of folklore heritage of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities*
- ? *to allocate a budget for protection of heritage of these communities the same way municipal and central funds are allocated for heritage of other communities*
- ? *to include Roma language into schools*
- ? *to support opening of a newspaper in Roma language*

Recommendation for further actions:

- ? *to create as much spaces as possible for education of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali women,*
- ? *to organize courses for women, illiteracy courses, qualifying them on tailoring, hairdressing, etc.*
- ? *to hold constant medical visits in which would be talked about family planning, women, in particular girls of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities to explain their rights in order for them to be able to face their parents regarding decisions they take for marriage at young age*
- ? *to create employment opportunities*

2.8 Women rights

Situation description: As far as position of women in Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities there is no specific research that shows it, but there is space to doubt that their position is very hard within the family and society. Being a woman and a member of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities she in some way is faced with double discrimination.

Families of these communities mainly are patriarchal functioning in that way where women are not offered much space, while being without school education, poor and without any economic support she has no possibility to fight for more rights in decision-making within the family. Situation is particularly difficult for girls of these communities, a good part of which are stopped from school at a very young age. These girls from their young age are forced to work and support the family. A particular problem is marriage of these girls at very young age. They as minors are very often married without their approval, often selling them in exchange for money. As a consequence of marriages at young age they become mothers at young age too. This is followed with many births during lifetime which come as lack of health education, family planning, and etc. which make the life of these women even harder.

Existing initiatives:

There was no organization within the community, but there were a number of nongovernmental organizations that have worked for these communities in empowering women and youth. Organizations that have earlier implemented their various activities with these communities were the local Rahovec/Orahovac organizations, "Iniciativa 6" of Prizreni and "Promokom" of Gjakovë/Djakovica. These organizations held trainings on health and educations, while there also were different courses with youth and women, such as tailoring, hairdressing and other courses.



III. Intervention in the communities

3.1 Introduction

This part of the strategy deals with approach into different localities, with specific projects within neighborhoods and villages of Rahovec/Orahovac municipality. The most frequent ones are infrastructural, road infrastructure, drinking water systems, sewages, agriculture, etc.

In this part, during drafting of the strategy together with the communities, SiV has tried to make approximate calculation of budget implication for specific projects.

By doing this the communities' requests have taken the shape of mini projects. According to a joint model, some requests such as approximate costs, goals and objectives, beneficiaries, etc have been determined. These data have been considered as a first reflection before municipality and donors to weigh possibility of financial engagement.

Implementation of these projects smoothes most evident problems in communities which appear initially at the areas where they live, but don't solve problems generally regarding the communities, therefore this third part of the strategy should be seen as addendum to of the second where recommendations are given.

In this projects' list have been included seven main localities, those villages where the request of communities can be articulated and addressed to donors.

3.6 Xërxë village

The village of Xërxë is located 10 kilometers away from Rahovec/Orahovac town and it extends in the entrance of the road to Rahovec/Orahovac, alongside the Gjakovë/Djakovica – Prizren highway. The village has 200 houses; out of them 40 belong to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Inhabitants of this village mainly get their incomes from agriculture, some working as hampers, while very few families of these communities get social assistance, since the application criteria disallow them this right.

Education of youth is not satisfactory since only the primary school exists in the village, while to continue secondary education they need to travel to Rahovec/Orahovac town. Due to very vague economic conditions many young people are forced to abandon the secondary education.

The village faces with different problems, such as the ones in infrastructure, health, education and employment. The most emphasized problems are the ones related to the village road, which is severely damaged and bad electric power supply network. Another problem is lack of the channel for land irrigation, which would help them in development of different cultures of agriculture that inhabitants of this village deal with. Youth activities also lack in the village. These activities are necessary for them after completion of their secondary school to get engaged on certain activities besides the agriculture works, by which they support their families to secure incomes from agriculture. At the same time, there is a great number of females which haven't finished even the primary education, and they need to be provided with professional courses (tailoring, hairdressing, etc.) that would create better employment opportunities for women of these communities and their integration into society.

Project Title: Repair of the channel for irrigation of agricultural lands

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 2 years (starting from 2012)

Place: Xërxë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 30.000 €

Project goal:

The project aims to provide inhabitants of Xërxë village with conditions for irrigation of agricultural lands, since the vast majority of these inhabitants live and create incomes for their families from agriculture.

Objectives:

- Repair of the channel for irrigation of agricultural lands for inhabitants of Xërxë village
- Creation of better conditions for farmers that deal with agricultural work
- A better opportunity for inhabitants to create more satisfactory incomes for their families from agriculture

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Xërxë village, in particular the ones that deal with agricultural works in this village.

Approach:

According to this project, the irrigation channel for agricultural lands will be repaired, which will be extended throughout the village and it will have a length of two kilometers. Repair of this channel will solve a big problem with which inhabitants of this village face with, who cannot irrigate their lands appropriately lacking this channel and water for irrigation of their agricultural lands.

Project Title: Women emancipation through professional courses

Sector: Women Rights

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2012)

Place: Xërxë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 12.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to assist in women independence and their employment through professional courses in tailoring and hairdressing, as well as in providing different courses on reproductive health.

Objectives:

- Promotion of housewife position into society
- Creation of better conditions for Xërxë village women
- Creation of possibilities for employment of Egyptian women
- Creation of best practices for women of Xërxë village

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are women between 18 and 45 years of age from Egyptian and Albanian communities. Most of Xërxë village women are housewives, and with provision of these courses they will manage to create incomes for their families, working in the future as tailors or other jobs.

Approach:

According to this project, a building will be rented to serve as a space for conducting these courses. Courses will be conducted into two stages – three months per course, and will include a great number of village women with shifts. Ten sewing machines and other hairdressing equipment will be procured for the course start.

Project Title: Opening of Communities' Center

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 2 years (starting from 2012)

Place: Xërxë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 30.000 €

Project goal:

Aim of this project is to provide better conditions for young people of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as well as to advance youth these communities through organizing different courses.

Objectives:

- Building of the Youth Center and empowering of communities' youth
- Building of youth capacities through different courses
- Providing of space for these young people to get engaged in different social and cultural activities

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all Egyptian community youth in particular, as well as other communities living in this village. Beneficiaries of this project will be all inhabitants living in this area where this Center will also serve them for other meetings of the village or other important activities for the inhabitants.

Approach:

According to this project, a Youth Center will be built. It will be equipped with computers, tables and chairs, thus it will enable holding of different courses, including the computer course. This Center will also be used for other cultural activities of interest to village inhabitants.

Project Title: Building of the mini-farm and its empowerment

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 3 years (starting from 2012)

Place: Xërxë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 100.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to impact on development of farming, as well as on improvement of economic situation through investments in farming.

Objectives:

- Economic development through farming
- Opening of new jobs
- Support to village farmers and their empowerment

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Xërxë village from all the communities. Direct beneficiaries will be families of the employed, which will be able to create family incomes from their engagement in the mini-farm.

Approach:

According to this project, a 450 square meters object will be built. The building is envisaged to have a garage of 40 square meters where the work equipment will be stored; an office for cooperative coordinator with 12 square meters, as well as six square meters bathroom that will provide good working conditions within the mini-farm. At the same time, 20 cows and 10 calves should be bought under this farm, while procurement of a tractor with all following equipment is needed to provide relief in farming works. The milk produced will be transferred to proper milk collection points where it will be sold to create incomes for inhabitants and maintenance of the mini farm.

Project Title: Road repair with brick stones in Xërxë village

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2012)

Place: Xërxë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 20.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve the infrastructural conditions for inhabitants of Xërxë village.

Objectives:

- Improving of conditions for all inhabitants living in this village.
- Creation of better conditions for students who attend their classes within and out of the village
- Creation of better conditions for agriculture works of the inhabitants.

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of the village, including all communities will benefit. Beneficiaries will also be students of this village who travel out of the village to attend their classes.

Approach:

Under this project would be enabled repair of the road with brick stones within the village, where the road has been much damaged. In particular during autumn and winter time there are no conditions for movement in this road, since many muddy ravines are created making it impossible for villages to finish their agricultural works and making students' attendance to school difficult. The road planned to be laid with brick stones is two kilometers long and six meters wide.

Project Title: Provision of transport means for Xërxë village students

Sector: Education, Safety

Timeframe: 2 years (starting from 2012)

Place: Xërxë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 18.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to provide better education conditions for Xërxë village students, who, in order to attend secondary school need to travel over 15 kilometers per day on foot from the village to Rahovec/Orahovac town.

Objectives:

- Provision of a mini-bus for transporting to school and back
- Increase of secondary school students from this village
- Regular school attendance from students of this village and Egyptian community.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project will be all Xërxë village inhabitants, respectively students of Egyptian and Roma communities, who cannot afford paying transport in order to attend their school in Rahovec/Orahovac town. With provision of transport to these young people their security to go to school and likelihood for their further studies will also be increased.

Approach:

The project envisages provision of an autobus or a mini-bus that will transport village students to Rahovec/Orahovac schools and back. This bus will have four lines a day; in the morning and in the afternoon shift.

Project Title: Electric network repair

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 10 months (starting from 2012)

Place: Xërxë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 50. 000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to supply residents of the neighborhood with electric power, providing them a normal life.

Objectives:

- Supplying with qualitative electric power for neighborhood residents
- Repair of the electric network and improvement of electric power supply
- Prevention of risks and damages caused by the existing network

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of the project will be all neighborhood residents that are supplied with electric power, since at present they are supplied very vaguely.

Approach:

According to the idea of this project, the existing electric network will be repaired, namely new electric power pillars will be placed. Xërxë village is continuously facing with the insufficient electric power supply problem. At the same time, the existing network represent risks for village inhabitants, since the pillars have been placed there many years earlier and they are no longer usable.

Qifllak village

Qifllak village is located 25 kilometers away from the Rahovec/Orahovac town. Only four Egyptian and Ashkali communities' families live in this village, while the others are members of the Albanian community. Inhabitants of this village mainly live with agricultural incomes, but they lack machinery to do the land and get more incomes from this. Some of them survive by working as hampers, while very few families of these communities enjoy the social assistance, since the application criteria disallow them this right.

Education of youth is not satisfactory, since only the primary school exists in the village, while to continue secondary education they need to travel to Rahovec/Orahovac town. Due to very vague economic conditions many young people are forced to abandon the secondary education.

The village faces various problems, including the ones in infrastructure, education and unemployment. The most emphasized problems are related to lack of a channel for waters flooding after the atmospheric falls, where during rain and snowfalls, since tens of houses get flooded thus endangering the lives and properties of inhabitants of this village. This makes the lives of inhabitants of this village even more difficult, not only for Egyptian community, but also to Albanian majority community members.

Project Title: Provision of community with agricultural equipment

Sector: Economic Development

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2012)

Place: Qifllak, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 60.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to impact on agricultural development in rural areas, as well as in improvement of economic situation of Roma and Egyptian communities of this village.

Objectives:

- Provision of collective agricultural equipment for agriculture development
- Organizing of this community to engage in agriculture development
- Improving of economic situation through creating incomes from agriculture products
- Relief in insemination of agricultural land
- Creation of better conditions for Qifllak village community

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries of this project will be Roma and Egyptian communities', taking into account that they do not possess any agricultural equipment. With provision of this equipment, they will manage to inseminate their fields with different agricultural cultures and create incomes for their families through selling these products in local markets.

Approach:

This project envisages procurement of agricultural equipment such as tractors and other following equipment needed for agriculture work. The idea of this project is that provided equipment remains under collective possession and be used by all village inhabitants equally. In order for this approach to function properly and equally, it is envisaged that a number of persons will be put in charge of maintaining this equipment.

Project Title: Reconstruction of sewage and atmospheric falls' channels

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2012)

Place: Qifllak, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 70.000 €

Project goal:

The project aims to create better living conditions for inhabitants of Qifllak village, in particular to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Objectives:

- Reconstruction of sewage and atmospheric falls' channels for inhabitants of Qifllak village
- Greater safety for inhabitants of this village from potential floods that are caused during atmospheric falls.
- Creation of better conditions for inhabitants of Qifllak village.

Beneficiaries:

Egyptian community families that have constantly being endangered by sewage waters and potential floods that usually occur after falls, during autumn and winter time in particular, will benefit from this project.

Approach:

Sewage system and atmospheric falls' channels will be repaired with this project. The channel will be 13 kilometers long and other inhabitants of this area will be connected to it. The project will at the same time prevent the risks of constant floods that occur in this village due to falls and inadequate infrastructure.

Sinovc village

Sinovc village is located 10 kilometers away from the Rahovec/Orahovac town. Only ten Egyptian and Ashkali communities' families live in this village, while the others are members of the Albanian community. Inhabitants of this village mainly live with agricultural incomes, but they lack machinery to do the land and get more incomes from this. Some of them survive by working as hampers, while very few families of these communities enjoy the social assistance, since the application criteria disallow them this right.

Education of youth is not satisfactory, since only the primary school exists in the village, while to continue secondary education they need to travel to Rahovec/Orahovac town. Due to very vague economic conditions many young people are forced to abandon the secondary education.

The village faces various problems, including the ones in infrastructure, education and employment. The most emphasized problems are related to lack of sewage in two neighborhoods of the village, lack of a drinking water supply system, missing health services, and to get these services they need to travel to Drenoc village health center. Another problem is that cemeteries lack the fence and very often they get damaged by animals.

Project Title: Water supply network repair in Sinovc village

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 2 years (starting from 2012)

Place: Sinovc, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 40.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to solve the problem with drinking water supply for inhabitants of this village.

Objectives:

- Regular supply with drinking water for each family in the village
- Increase and deepening of credibility toward local institutions and among different ethnic groups living in the village
- Creation of better living conditions for village inhabitants, including all communities.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project will be all Sinovc village inhabitants, including all communities living in this village.

Approach:

According to this project, the issue of drinking water for inhabitants of this neighborhood would be solved, by repairing the water supply network. Local inhabitants do not have even the basic living conditions such as the drinking water, while most of them use water from different wells that might also cause risks to their health and lives. The idea of this project is that residents of this neighborhood to be included in regular water supply in the village

Project Title: Road repair at Sinovc village

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2012)

Place: Sinovc, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 3.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve infrastructural conditions in the village of Sinovc. It aims to lay the road within the village, which also includes the Egyptian community, with brick stones.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for Sinovc village inhabitants.
- Improvement of the village infrastructure
- Easier movement of inhabitants from the village to town

Beneficiaries:

All Egyptian community members living in this village will benefit from it.

Approach:

According to this project idea, the road of 500 meters length and three meters wide will be laid with brick stones. Better living conditions for Egyptian community inhabitants will be created, while they will have better opportunities to attend their classes.

Gexhë village

Gexhë village is located 20 kilometers away from the Rahovec/Orahovac town. Only three Egyptian and Ashkali communities' families live in this village, while the others are members of the Albanian community.

Inhabitants of this village mainly live with agricultural incomes, some of them working as hampers, while very few families of these communities enjoy the social assistance, since the application criteria disallow them this right.

Education of youth is not satisfactory, since only the primary school exists in the village, while to continue secondary education they need to travel to Rahovec/Orahovac town. Due to very vague economic conditions many young people are forced to abandon the secondary education.

The village faces many problems, including the infrastructural, educational, unemployment and health ones. The most significant problems are related to lack of a sewage system and repair of a channel for atmospheric water that drown their properties. Another problem for inhabitants of this village remains the lack of a health center. In order to get their health services they need to travel to Ratkovic village center.

Project Title: Sewage reconstruction in Gexhë village

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2012)

Place: Gexhë, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 15.000 €

Project goal:

To offer better living conditions to Egyptian inhabitants of the village, and to solve the problem with sewage, fecal and atmospheric waters in the village.

Objectives:

- Creation of better living condition for the community through connecting them to regular sewage system
- Connection of all community families to sewage system
- Protection of residents health from smells of sewage waters

Beneficiaries:

Project beneficiaries will include all members of the area where the Egyptian community lives. They have set this project as one of their top priorities, taking into account the risks that these inhabitants are subjected to from atmospheric falls that fled families of these communities due to their bad infrastructure conditions.

Approach:

According to this project, Egyptian families' households will be connected to the village sewage system. With channeling of sewage, protection of health of all residents will be provided, particularly children's health from potential infections from sewage smelling, while risks from atmospheric falls will be avoided.

3.6 Dobidol village

Dobidol village is located 18 kilometers away from Rahovec/Orahovac town. It has around 100 houses, six of them of Egyptian and Ashkali communities. Inhabitants of this village mainly live with agricultural incomes, some of them working as hampers, while very few families of these communities enjoy the social assistance, since the application criteria disallow them this right.

Education of youth is not satisfactory, since only the primary school exists in the village, while to continue secondary education they need to travel to Rahovec/Orahovac town. Due to very vague economic conditions many young people are forced to abandon the secondary education.

The village faces various problems, including the ones in infrastructure, education and unemployment. The most emphasized problems are related to lack of sewage system and of a channel for waters flooding after the atmospheric falls, where during rain and snowfalls tens of houses get flooded, thus endangering the lives and properties of inhabitants of this village. This makes the lives of inhabitants of this village even more difficult, not only for Egyptian community, but also to Albanian majority community members.

Project Title: Sewage reconstruction in Dobidol village

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2012)

Place: Dobidol, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 10.000 €

Project goal:

The goal of this project is to provide better conditions for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities living in this village.

Objectives:

- Creation of better living condition for the communities through reconstruction of sewage for this village and its connecting to regular sewage system
- Increase of health safety level for inhabitants of this area from different diseases that come as an outcome of sewage waters and their smelling.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are Dobidol village inhabitants, in particular the Egyptian community, who faces this phenomenon for a long time. This problem at the same time jeopardizes the health of these inhabitants due to their bad infrastructure conditions.

Approach:

Based on this project, Egyptian families' households will be connected to the village sewage system. At the same time, the sewage and atmospheric falls' channels will be repaired. The idea of this project is to prevent damages that are being caused to these families due to missing sewage and atmospheric falls' channels.

5 Rahoveci i Epërm neighborhood

Rahoveci i Epërm is a neighborhood of Rahovec/Orahovac town. It is inhabited with mixed communities – Albanian, Serbs, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali. The greatest number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities of Rahovec/Orahovac municipality lives in this neighborhood. According to the data that office of communities possesses, around 450 members of RAE communities live in this neighborhood.

Among the main problems in this area are the ones related to economic development and extreme unemployment, education and health. Generally, all inhabitants of this neighborhood face with difficult economic conditions. Most of the inhabitants live from collecting and selling scrap metals, some of them working as hampers in different business. Another part of inhabitants lives from social assistance, pension, but there are also the ones who survive with the remittances from their family members living abroad. As far as other services, such as health and education, the communities get these services in Rahovec/Orahovac, while university is education is more problematic due to difficult economic conditions in these communities.

Project Title: Reconstruction of mini chicken farm in Rahoveci i Epërm neighborhood

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 3 years (starting from 2012)

Place: Rahoveci i Epërm neighborhood, Rahovec/Orahovac

Budget: 100.000 €

Project goal:

The goal of this project to foster joint work between communities to soften unemployment and development of these communities through joint work that will bring them family incomes to create minimal conditions for a better life of these communities.

Objectives:

- Creation of conditions for opening new jobs
- Accumulation of products and their distribution into selling points
- Support to supply with chicken and other equipment for good functioning of the mini farm.
- Community development and sustainable integration through the economic development and their employment
- Creation of family incomes through joint work that impacts in economic development of these communities.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project will be families of all the communities living in this neighborhood. At the same time, they will benefit from employment in this farm and create family incomes through it.

Approach:

According to this project, a mini chicken farm will be built for inhabitants of this neighborhood. To revive the economic situation of these communities any little, they consider that to soften this much emphasized problem in communities is to start with building of a mini chicken farm that will be common for all inhabitants of this part of Rahovec/Orahovac municipality.

Project Title: Lightening the road

Duration: 2 years (starting on 2012)

Location: Neighborhood "Rahoveci i Epërm" Rahovec

Budget: 30.000 €

Project aim:

Project aims to create a security for the residents of this neighborhood by providing them a bigger safety in movement during late night hours.

Objectives:

- Lightening the road
- Placing the lightening system in electricity poles in the neighborhood
- Bigger safety in movement during late night hours

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali community residents that live in this neighborhood, which is the only neighborhood in that part where lacks the road lightening. With the placement of the lightening system the residents of this neighborhood will be able to move freely in late night hours.

Approach:

Initially will be made the field verification for determining the placement of the lightening and after the visit finishes and the location is set the lights will be placed in the neighborhood. The lightening system will be placed along the road and by that providing a bigger safety for this community.

Ratkovc village

Ratkovc village is located around 15 kilometers away from the Rahovec/Orahovac town. This village is inhabited with mixed communities. Around 20 percent of its inhabitants belong to Egyptian community, while 80 percent are of the Albanian community. This village is among the ones with extreme poverty, a phenomenon that impacts on the Egyptian community who faces this problem every day more, since they do not possess working land to do agricultural works. Instead, they work as hampers when there is work, or with collection and selling of scrap metals. One of the greatest problems in this village is the repair of sewage system in the neighborhood inhabited by the Egyptian community, followed by unemployment, education, lack of an electric power station that would secure them sufficient power supply, lack of a youth center of communities' center that would offer opportunities of youth activation in different activities, etc. Education of youth is very low, taking into account that there is only a primary school in the village. To attend secondary education they need to travel to Rahovec/Orahovac town. Having their bad economic conditions in mind, many young people are forced to abandon the secondary education. A good part of them are not entitled to social assistance due to difficult criteria to be met and constant refusal by institutions to provide them this assistance. Among them there are also the ones who live with remittances sent by their families living abroad.

Project title: Repairing of wastewater sewage

Duration: 1 year (starting from 2012)

Location: village Ratkovc, Rahovec

Budget: 10 000 €

Project aim:

Aim of the project is the repair of wastewater sewage in the neighborhood where the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali community live by creating better conditions for this community resident so they can live healthier.

Objectives:

- Repair of wastewater sewage
- Attachment of the neighborhoods sewage network with the villages sewage network
- Creating better conditions for residents

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali community residents that live in this neighborhood as with the repair of the wastewater sewage in this neighborhood will be prevented different epidemics which may come as a result of the infiltration of wastewater into the neighborhood roads.

Approach:

Initially will be made the opening of the damaged sewage and the damaged network will be removed and then the new wastewater sewage system will be placed with concrete pipes that will be placed in a nearly 1000 meters of length until the connection of this area with the villages sewage network.

IV. Budget



Budget

Nr.	Description	Quantity	Time	Euro	Total in EURO
1	<i>Education and Youth</i>				48,000.00
1.1	<i>Village Xerxe</i>				48,000.00
1.1.1	Opening the center for communities	1	24	1,250.00	30,000.00
1.1.2	Providing the transport for pupils of Xerxe village	1	24	750.00	18,000.00
2	<i>Employment and economic development</i>				538,000.00
2.1	<i>Village Xerxe</i>				200,000.00
2.1.1	Regulation of the canal for irrigation of agricultural lands	1	24	1,250.00	30,000.00
2.1.2	Construction of the mini farm and its empowerment	1	36	2,777.78	100,000.00
2.1.3	Regulation of the road with cubes in Xerxe village	1	12	1,666.67	20,000.00
2.1.4	Repair of electrical network	1	10	5,000.00	50,000.00
2.2	<i>Village Qifllak</i>				130,000.00
2.2.1	Supplying the community with agricultural equipment	1	12	5,000.00	60,000.00
2.2.2	Repair of the wastewater sewage and atmospheric ones	1	12	5,833.33	70,000.00
2.3	<i>Village Sinovc</i>				43,000.00
2.3.1	Regulation of water supply for the village	1	24	1,666.67	40,000.00
2.3.2	Regulation of the road within the village	1	12	250.00	3,000.00
2.4	<i>Village Gexhe</i>				15,000.00
2.4.1	Regulation of sewage	1	12	1,250.00	15,000.00
2.5	<i>Village Dobidol</i>				10,000.00
2.5.1	Regulation of sewage	1	12	833.33	10,000.00
2.6	<i>Upper Neighborhood of Rahovec</i>				130,000.00
2.6.1	Construction of chicken mini farm	1	36	2,777.78	100,000.00
2.6.2	Lightening the road	1	24	1,250.00	30,000.00
2.7	<i>Village Ratkovc</i>				10,000.00
2.7.1	Repair of the wastewater sewage	1	12	833.33	10,000.00
3	<i>Women rights</i>				12,000.00
3.1	<i>Village Xerxe</i>				12,000.00
3.1.1	Emancipation of women through professional courses	1	12	1,000.00	12,000.00
	Overall Total (1+2+3+4+5+6)				598,000.00

Budget forecasting in this financial overview is referred only to the third part, intervention in with project in communities. Part two, under which fall initiatives and recommendation hasn't been budgeted, because strategy authors believe that such recommendation remain permanent orientations for work with the communities.

V. Photos







