

PEJË/PEC

**Action strategy for**  
**Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali**  
**communities in Pejë/Pec municipality**  
**2009 - 2011**



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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 engagements or activities of all the persons who have involved 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.

Strategy has been drafted by NGO "Syri i Vizionit" Pejë/Pec

Opinions expressed in this document present views  
of the authors and not necessarily  
the view of Syri i Vizionit, Olof Palme Center and Pejë/Pec municipality.

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# Acronyms:

DRC	- Danish Refugees Council
IRDK	- New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo
KEK	- Kosovo Energy Cooperation
PRBK	- United Roma Party of Kosova
PTK	- Post and Telecom of Kosova
PZHK	- Municipal development plan
PZHU	- Urban development plan
RTK	- Radio and Television of Kosovo
SiV	- Syri i Vizionit
SHKA	- Cultural and artistic association
TMK	- Kosovo Protection Corps
UNDP	- United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Honored,

Pejë/Pec municipality with all its structures has been committed to mobilize its resources towards establishment of a multiethnic society. Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities which have lived in this territory together with others are part of this multiethnicity and as such important of the strategy for creation of a multiethnic society.

We have committed that we will together with all towards assessment of communities' need and assisting such needs.

Creation of a living standard which will gradually be advanced to European living standard is one of our visions. This umbrella covers in itself all Pejë/Pec citizens, without any exceptions.

With respect,

Ali Berisha  
Mayor of Pejë/Pec Municipality



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	Acknowledgements
6	Acronyms
7	Preface
9	Implementers
<b>10</b>	<b>I. Drafting of the strategy</b>
11	What is this strategy?
11	Legal framework on which the Strategy is based on
11	Route followed for drafting of the Strategy
12	Participants in the process of Strategy drafting
13	Communities involvement in drafting of the Strategy
13	Municipality involvement in drafting of the Strategy
13	Current situation
13	Spreading of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Pejë/Pec municipality
14	Situation in which Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live in
14	Research conducted by Syri i Vizionit for situation of these communities in Pejë/Pec municipality
14	Situation of the families
15	Conditions of the housings
15	Access to public services
16	Approach
16	Strategy implementation
17	Difficulties in implementation of this strategy
<b>18</b>	<b>II. Initiatives and recommendations</b>
19	Introduction
20	Ownership issues, habitation and informal settlements
21	Education and youth
22	Employment and economic development
23	Health and social issues
24	Antidiscrimination, security, minority rights and representation
26	Culture, media and information
27	Women rights
<b>28</b>	<b>III. Intervention in the communities</b>
29	Introduction
30	Projects for "7 Shtatori" neighborhood
33	Projects for Zahaq/Zahac village
38	Projects for Çungur village
40	Projects for Firajë/Dardania III village
42	Projects for Vitomicë/Vitimirica village
43	Projects for Treboviq village
45	Projects for Katund i Ri village
47	Projects for Qyshk village
49	Projects for Leshan village
<b>50</b>	<b>IV. Budget</b>
51	Budget Table
<b>52</b>	<b>V. Photos</b>
53	Photos from communities' meetings



## Olof Palme 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

## 1.2 Legal framework on which the Strategy is based on

Strategy supports the Kosovo Government Strategy for Romas, Ashkalis 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, representative of the localities inhabited with these communities, activists and communities' NGO's as well as with the Pejë/Pec municipality.

Initially, Syri i Vizionit has visited communities in all the localities where they live and has collected data for the conditions and situation in which these communities live in, in order to have a better picture. In lack of previous studies, in the first phase 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 while it has been focused in main points to find out the state of families and houses among these communities.

After this, in the largest localities of Pejë/Pec municipality focus groups have been created with members of these communities and a

## 1.1 What is this strategy

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

As such this document is a good basis for municipality, donors and communities in the future. In it have been included all the problems, 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, Strategy consist an action and activity plan; it slots in itself needs of the municipality and communities.

Strategy has been drafted by NGO "Syri i Vizionit" from Pejë/Pec in cooperation with the communities, village representative and localities as well as with the municipality, municipal officials for communities. Project has been funded by Olof Palme 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 has lived in grave economic situations and without an existential minimum, in difficult inhabitation and infrastructural conditions.

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 "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Zahaq and Firajë/Dardania 3 village.

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, in neighborhoods and villages. In such meeting 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.

During this phase have been contacted also community representative in other areas of the municipality, such as in Vitomiricë/Vitomirica and Çungur villages. Representatives of these villages have taken part in the meetings of "Joint Steering Committee of Communities" with representatives of other villages. To the end of strategy drafting has also been involved Treboviq, Leshan, Katund i Ri and Qyshk villages bringing the number of localities involved localities in the process to nine.

To make the communities aware in order to most properly put forward their requests, ways of presenting and further advocating, for the representatives of the communities three trainings by experts on advocacy, strategy drafting and compilation of project proposals have been conducted.

First time (during month of August 2008) they have been skilled to identify problems in the communities they live in and to find ways of advocating until realization of their projects. In the second training, held on September 2008, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities' representatives have been equipped with skills on compilation of project proposals. While, the third training on strategy drafting, also organized during September, managed to agree with the communities'

representatives that they prepare themselves documents which will be part of the strategy.

After this, joint meetings have been organized with representatives of "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Zahaq, Firajë/Dardania 3, Vitomiricë/Vitomirica and Çungur villages with which has been worked chapter by chapter on strategy drafting. Such meetings were participated by municipality representatives and Office of Communities as well as political subjects of communities.

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

Drafting of action strategy project 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 Center. Strategy at this step is a result of joint work done during a year between Syri i Vizionit and other participants, communities, communities' organizations and municipality.

Communities have been engaged in active and creative manner at all times of the project. Each locality had its focus groups which through a series of meetings have given their suggestions and ideas. To be more active in participation, representatives of each locality 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 again was analyzed and fulfilled with supplements, suggestions and communities' requests.

Municipality of Pejë/Pec has also been 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 the review of final strategy version.

### 1.4.1 Communities involvement in drafting of the Strategy

Communities have been involved in both active and creative manner at all times of the project in several ways:

- Communities were directly involved in drafting of the strategy during the meetings held in localities. In each locality that has a considerable number of inhabitants several meetings were held.
- Communities' representatives have taken part in joint meetings of Joint Steering Committee held in Pejë/Pec in which was discussed about the problems according to fields set.
- During strategy drafting were met communities' leaders gathered in political subjects, nongovernmental organizations and other groups representing communities.

### 1.4.2 Municipality involvement in drafting of the Strategy

From the very start of the projects contacts were maintained with the municipality. Mayor in the two first meeting has been 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 project. From this onwards cooperation mainly went through Office of Communities and it was of crucial importance for Syri i Vizionit which benefited from the experience and work conducted earlier with these communities by municipality.

Apart from assisting in advisory role, Office has taken part in most of the activities implemented throughout the project flow, in the project presentation phase, further in meetings and review of the final draft. Initial information for the field were acquired from the Pejë/Pec municipal officials 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 has given its ideas and suggestions, while contacts with municipal officials have been maintained before and after these meetings, until the end of the process for strategy drafting.

Pejë/Pec municipality Office of communities has also taken part in the trainings organized throughout the project implementation. Strategy in its draft version before publication has been submitted to municipality, Mayor and Office of communities to give their suggestions, to fulfill or add something to final version.

## 1.5 Current situation

### 1.5.1 Spreading of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Pejë/Pec municipality

Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have traditionally lived in very hard situation in Pejë/Pec municipality. They live in several localities, but majority are orientated in a number of areas: "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Zahaq, Firajë/Dardania 3, Vitomiricë/Vitomirica, Qyshk, Treboviq, Çungur, Katund i Ri villages, etc. In a small number (meaning on the number from 3-10 families) they live in the villages of Lybeniq, Gllogjan, Leshan, Gorazhdec/Gorazdevac, Nabërgjan, Novosellë, Raushiq etc. 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 localities where Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali lives it doesn't imply clean ethnic localities, but rather localities with mixed population, but always this community being community within the village. Some areas, i.e., in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood most of the houses of these communities are near one to another, but in other areas such as in Vitomiricë/Vitomirica village, houses are spread throughout the village and communities are organized little or not at all in ethnic basis. In most of other villages, such as in, Leshan, Gllogjan, Lybeniq, etc. Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities compose of a very small number under the villages with overwhelming Albanian majority.

During the war of 1998-1999 also among these communities there were many displaced from Kosovo. After the war, members of these communities mainly have returned with individual initiatives. A part has returned in organized manner from the refugee camp in Konik of Podgorica (Montenegro) to "7 Shtatori" neighborhood during 2005-2008. Return has been achieved with the project compiled by Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and "Syri i Vizionit". According to approximate figures owned by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in Pejë/Pec municipality currently live 4.169 members of these communities, more precisely 3,013 Egyptians, 1,145 Roma and 11 Ashkali. After the war they have mostly remained gathered in areas of "7 Shtatori" neighborhood and Vitomiricë/Vitomirica, where majority of these communities live in. In other villages, such as in Çungur, return has been realized in a very small scale: out of around 100 families living there before the

war, currently there are no more than 15 families. There were attempts to organize return in the village, but displaced persons have not expressed their interest for returning. Regardless of this, orientation for enabling returning for all the ones willing to should be a permanent obligation of all participants in the return process. While in Kosovo there are no official statistics of census, currently at disposal are different statistics. In this document for the sake of comparison and for the need of enunciating the situation approximate figures by UNHCR (since it is a credible institution, competent and impartial) and figures extracted in field by "Syri i Vizionit" itself have been 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 old houses and neighborhoods without proper road infrastructure, sewage system, 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 within these communities other organizing, such as nongovernmental organizations or organizing of youth and women, are little or not at all developed.

## 1.6 Research conducted by Syri i Vizionit for situation of these communities in Pejë/Pec municipality

NGO "Syri i Vizionit" during February and March 2008 has conducted a research for the situation of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Pejë/Pec 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 three largest localities inhabited by members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities: "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Dardania 3 (Firaja) and Zahaq.

In these areas were interviewed all families, from which interviewers have taken general data and in specific topics. Respondents replied on the questions about the number of family members, their age and gender, economic/employment situation, incomes, wealth and properties. Also on the questionnaires for the situation of their houses/objects during interviews were 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 gives a complete picture of the situation in which live these communities, 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

In these three localities of the municipality 122 families have been interviewed. Results have shown that in three villages live 786 persons, 387 males and 399 females. Out of the interviewed, it results that there are 6.4 members per family, 62% 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 higher education. There are only 16 adults that have completed secondary school, 11 males and 11 females, while there is also one with faculty degree. This wrong trend of the past continues again when it comes to secondary schooling: only three students continue attending municipal secondary schools: two boys and a girl. While in primary schools situation is better with 95 pupils: 52 males and 43 females. Situation in

preschools is also bad; only six children have access to preschool classes/kindergartens and other institutions of this level.

Research shows also an unhandy situation as far as employment: only ten persons between 18-65 years of age from these communities are employed while 15 of them occasionally manage to cover jobs for which they are paid. Low incomes that these families have mainly come from social assistance (71%) and from very low remittances (no more than 6 percent). Out of declared monthly income amounts it comes out that from 122 families, 65 do not have any incomes whatsoever, 49 families have incomes lower than 100 euros per month, while there is only one family has over 300 euros per month. Out of the interviewed only 12 families possess motorized vehicles.

### 1.6.2 Condition of the housings

In regard to conditions of the housings, interviewing has showed that during the war 60 percent of the houses have suffered different level damages (15% of the houses had category V damages) while 38% of the houses were not damaged. Most of the houses (82 percent) are one floor, while after the war 22 houses were reconstructed. Out of the interviewed, 42% of the houses have bad construction quality. As far as building licenses, 41% declare that do not possess one, while 43% 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. Interviewing brings out that 89% do not have landline telephones, but also that 60% use cellular phones; one in four is connected to water supply system, 38 percent are not connected to sewage system, while 35% use illegal garbage collection sites. The same as services are like, also is response to obligations: 60% of the interviewed declare that they do not pay property tax.

## 1.7 Access to public services

In localities where 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. Request for a new school in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood that will put forward in this strategy comes as a request for all inhabitants, including Albanian majority, and it is not a particular school for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, but rather is in favor of these communities that will benefit from this school.

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 far as 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 50 persons in various institutions. On representation aspect they have a representative in Pejë/Pec Municipal Assembly that came out of communities' political subjects and a MP in Kosovo Parliament, where 20 seats are guaranteed for minority communities in Kosovo.

Housing, property and informal settlements problems with which they encounter, are mainly evident in "7 Shtatori" and "Kristal" neighborhoods, since other areas do not face the same problems.

Safety doesn't present a problem for the communities anywhere in Pejë/Pec 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. For their problems has been covered much in Albanian speaking media, with an approach that has been entirely positive and affirmative, nonetheless they didn't ever possess a media of their own.

## 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 the country.

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 Pejë/Pec 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 localities 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 strategy drafting Syri i Vizionit together with the communities have tried to make approximate cost of budget implications for particular projects. This way, community requests have taken the form of mini-projects, 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 Pejë/Pec 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 for 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 officials 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

Authors of the strategy understand that all recommendations and suggestions that come out of this document cannot be achieved at once, nor within a short period of time. They remain as 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.

Authors of the strategy are also aware for 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 localities they live 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 budgets and Kosovar society are very limited, while the needs are high and requests come from all communities and from all the categories.

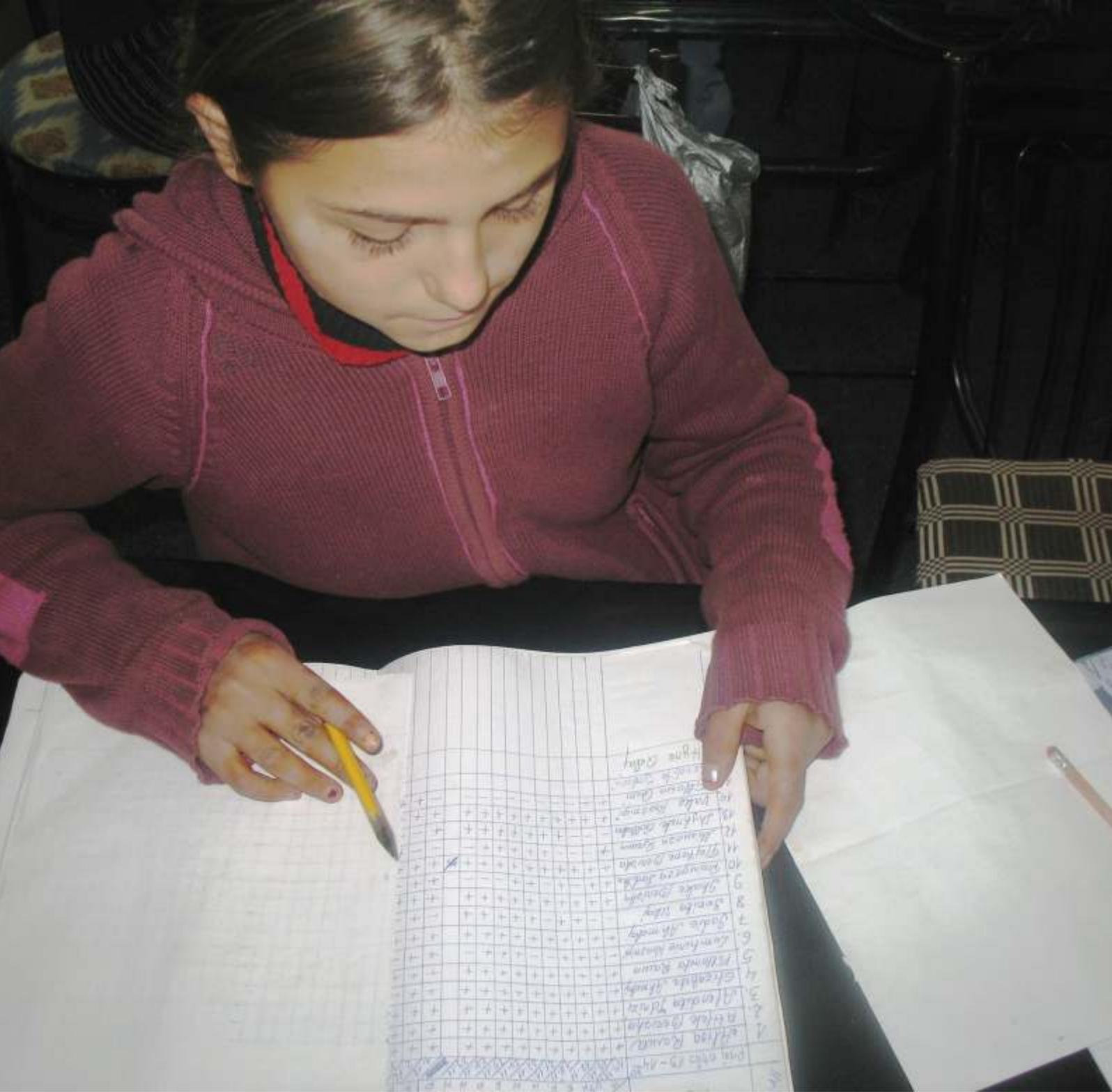
Also it is known that number of donors, where are the funds and international organizations operating in Kosovo and Pejë/Pec municipality, has decreased; therefore the possibility for supporting of communities' projects is lesser now.

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 their needs and routes of solutions, lack of educated cadres within the communities, etc. Communities are not organized in as much as it should, have no competitiveness of thoughts and ideas, under this municipality, apart from two political subjects 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 localities, 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 project difficulties add from the fact that of overall Kosovo unemployment in Pejë/Pec 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.

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

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 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 Pejë/Pec 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 Pejë/Pec 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 Pejë/Pec 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. In this aspect Pejë/Pec municipality in general has seven informal settlements among which are "7 Shtatori" and "Kristal" neighborhoods, where a part of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities comes from, are two informal settlements which should be turned to formal zones.

Regarding 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. In evident form this it is indicated in a part of "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, though similar problems are present also in other localities.

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. In its laid form the problem currently lays with "Kristal" neighborhood of Pejë/Pec. 28 houses of these communités have been ruined and in the years of postwar Kosovo no donor was found for them. Members of these families continue to live at their relatives and others houses in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood. At least 100 ruined houses since the war are in the village of Çungur, but their inhabitants are out of Kosovo and after

being systematized in hosting countries, they show no interest for return to Kosovo where they do not find a life perspective for the future.

### Existing initiatives:

Pejë/Pec is the first municipality in Kosovo that has drafted Ideal Urbanism and Development Plan, the only plan accepted as such by Kosovo Government.

In this town works have started on Drafting of Implementation Strategy for Urban Regulation Plan. "Zatra" locality according to Municipal Development Plan (MDP) and Urban (UDP) is the first informal settlement which in testing form has completed the process of verification and in many parts of this neighborhood it has started implementing. While in other informal settlements consisting of different communities, such as "7 Shtatori" and "Kristal", analysis of the situation has already been launched and very soon there will be a formal draft plan for urban development. Completion of the formalization plan for these zones will clarify direct work actions into these neighborhoods and would verify closer the need of inhabitants for legalization of houses and potential reconstructions in the future.

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 stage transformation of "7 Shtatori" and "Kristal" neighborhoods in urban zones.*
- *to draft urban development plan of the neighborhood, in order not to allow illegal rebuilding also 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 Pejë/Pec 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 within months of February and March 2008 in three localities with great number of these communities in the municipality: "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Zahaq and Firajë, has made known that only a small number of these communities attends schooling, particularly when it comes to higher levels. There are only 16 persons that have finished secondary school, 11 males and 5 females, while there is only one with faculty degree. Current situation is as follows: only three students attend secondary schools of the municipality, two boys and a girl. While in primary schools situation is better with 95 pupils: 52 boys and 43 girls. But, situation in preschool level is also bad; only six children have access to preschool classes/kindergartens and other institutions of this level.

Egyptian community in Pejë/Pec region has 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.

In the past, during the 80's of last century, this was a practice used in some schools of Pejë/Pec. At that time existed the cadre that was qualified for teaching Roma language (and

culture), but currently in Pejë/Pec municipality there are no respective cadres who would be able to do this. Nevertheless, the matter of cadre would be solved with respective qualification/education of a teacher, who would hold classes in the schools where Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities attend, around 7 such schools, or through hiring of 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, Pejë/Pec 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 a 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 initiative:** During 2002-2003 in "Vaso Pashë Shkodrani" primary school of Pejë/Pec intensive learning was held for members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. This form of learning organized by Ministry of Education enabled members of these communities that within a short time frame to finish in accelerated manner elementary education for the ones that due to many reasons were not involved in education process. Program had a limited time frame.

Another good example in providing relief for education of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities was the one of preschool level organized in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood of Pejë/Pec. For three years in the row, NGO "Syri i Vizionit" has managed the project for a preschool class with pupils coming from RAE communities that returned from Montenegro and Serbia between 2004 and 2008. This class each year consisted of 20 children, whereas all of them have continued after to first regular class and it was a contribution against illiteracy.

At the youth of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities of Pejë/Pec there were efforts to establish nongovernmental organizations, which although never managed to factorize, they could gather youth and create structures which would deal with organization of youth life.

### 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 Pejë/Pec 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*

## 2.4 Employment and economic development

**Situation description:** Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities living in Pejë/Pec municipality make a small community within the overall population of the municipality. Communities have 4.169 members in a municipality with around 150.000 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 50 persons. (In municipal administration and its three main sectors work 15 members of these communities, 12 in Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), 9 in police department and 9 others in Kosovo Energy Company (KEK), Water Company and Hygiene.

The remaining part is mainly unemployed. Their 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. A part of these communities' members keeps on surviving by collect ironmongeries and other recycling materials from waste, in order to sell them later.

## Existing initiatives:

A number of around 50 members from these communities already are employed in different state, municipal and regional institutions. There are 15 persons employed in the municipality (administration, education and health), 12 in KPC, 9 in police department and 9 others in KEK, Water Company and Hygiene. 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.

Good employment example was in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood where a project for return implemented by DRC and "Syri i Vizionit" which was followed by the employment component. 35 members of these communities have found a place to work within private companies of Pejë/Pec municipalities with seasonal contracts and possibility of extending the same. Apart from improvement of conditions in the family and communities, it has also impacted in overall returning and integration of these communities in the society.

## 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*

## 2.5 Health and social issues

**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.

How the real situation of communities in this regard there is no accurate research, but it is evident that members of these communities have 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. Since 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 2008, Center for Work and Social Welfare has evidenced in general 1.595 beneficiaries in Pejë/Pec municipality. Out of them 188 families with 919 members come from Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, but number of them is higher for the fact that not all have declared their ethnic background.

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 Pejë/Pec 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 five 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. The biggest project started is the sewage one in Fidanishtë neighborhood that covers a zone inhabited by thousand. This project is expected to be completed until 2010.

Ambulance in Fidanishtë neighborhood, which offers its services for inhabitants of "7 Shtatori" and Kristal neighborhoods since September 2008 offers 24 hours services for citizens.

Some of the nongovernmental organizations have implemented activities mainly courses and have distributed health care awareness materials, importance of hygiene, family planning and other issues regarding health. Such organizations include CARE International, DRC, Institute of Public Health, Syri i Vizionit, etc.

Policia 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 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 lack of official census accurate number of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities' members in Pejë/Pec municipality is not known. According to data that UNHCR possesses in Pejë/Pec municipality there are 4.169 members of these communities, but figures changes 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 difference in employment compared to Bosniacs and Serbs, which are fewer in number compared to Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. Though the number of Serbs is half the number coming from Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, they are not equal regarding employment in state institutions: out of 1.306 living in Pejë/Pec municipality (according to UNHCR), 32 of them are employed in municipality, while Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities with 4.169 members have only 15 of them employed in the municipality. Bosniacs with 4.130 members in the municipality have 116 of them employed in municipal services. Official languages of Pejë/Pec municipality are both Serbian and Bosniac, but not also Roma.

Distinction with other minority communities is also in return process and houses reconstruction. During the five last years of return development in Pejë/Pec from governmental projects and other foreign donors for Serbs have been reconstructed around 200 houses and return has taken place in four Pejë/Pec villages. For Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities only an organized return project has been implemented (in two phases) in "7 Shtatori" where 35 houses have been reconstructed.

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, Ashkali and Egyptian 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 subject 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 Kosova (PRBK), a Roma political subject. IRDK has one counselor in Pejë/Pec Municipal Assembly won directly by the citizens' votes and an MP in Kosovo Parliament, who won not according to the votes but based on Kosovo Constitution which guarantees representation of minority communities.

### Existing initiatives:

Pejë/Pec municipality has a number of these communities' members in its three budget sectors: administration, education and health work 15 members of these communities. 12 others are employed in KPC, 9 in police department and 9 others in PTK services, Water Company and Hygiene, which brings the number of 36 employees and that is a positive change compared with the past.

In Kosovo higher educations have also been opened 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.

Minority representation in Kosovo Parliament 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 Pejë/Pec Municipal Assembly there is one deputy Mayor coming from these communities. Assembly has two Committees which are foreseen to deal with minority problems: Communities Committee and Committee for Intermediation in which minorities have majority of members. While, under municipal

governance there are two offices dealing with communities: Office of Communities and Office of Return, where have been employed representatives of the communities. Municipal Assembly divides 11 percent of its annual budget for minority communities.

### Recommendations for further 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*

## 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 community in many things is 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 Pejë/Pec 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 medias 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 Pejë/Pec 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.

During 2008 efforts were undertaken to launch an informative program in Roma language within local radio station "Radio Peja", which expressed its readiness to provide a certain broadcast period at the disposal of communities for daily news, the same as they run their program in Serbian and Bosniac languages. Though at present there is no cadre for it, a program in this radio station should be an objective to cover need for Roma information. The problem appears in the fact that there are no cadres who would translate from Albanian into Roma language, or who would know to read them, while it is a fact that most of the community members do not understand the language.

### 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*
- *to finance employment of a journalist in Radio Peja who would translate, edit and read news 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:**

"Syri i Vizionit" has held courses on women professional skills offering women of these communities knowledge on tailoring, hairdressing, computer and other courses. These courses were held in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood while they lasted for six months. Also, for women of these communities were held courses on reproductive health, family planning, hygiene and other similar ones. Similar projects were also implemented from other nongovernmental organizations. Women's' Wellness Center offers support and shelter for women of these community which have been subjected to violence.



# 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 Pejë/Pec 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.

In this way communities' requests have taken the shape of mini projects, in which according to a joint model have been determined some requests such as approximate costs, goals and objectives, beneficiaries, etc. 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 nine main localities, those villages where the request of communities can be articulated and addressed before the donors.

### 3.2 "7 Shtatori" neighborhood

"7 Shtatori" neighborhood is an urban space which lays in the northwestern part of town. It is a neighborhood inhabited with mixed communities in which live around 1.290 families while around 40% of the inhabitants belong to Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. The vast majority of this neighborhood is considered an informal settlement.

"7 Shtatori" neighborhood is one of the areas with most extreme poverty and other problems with which are faced Roma and Egyptian communities.

Among main problems in this neighborhood are the ones of informal settlements, education, health and unemployment, at the same as problem with infrastructure that is highly emphasized. Neighborhood is also tackled by the illiteracy phenomenon, whereas 70% of aged members coming from Roma and Egyptian communities are illiterate, therefore possibility of education for communities of the neighborhood is very difficult.

Project Title: Reconstruction of primary school in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Pejë/Pec

Sector: Education

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2009)

Place: "7 Shtatori" Pejë/Pec

Budget: 450.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to create better learning conditions for pupils of all the communities living in the neighborhood, which are Albanians, Egyptian, Roma, Bosniacs and Gorani. Apart from impacting in integration of all the communities, in particular to children, which will attend it, this school impacts on illiteracy eradication that is in very high level within Roma and Egyptians in the neighborhood.

Objectives:

- Creation of better conditions for education
- Fight against illiteracy
- Integration of Roma and Egyptian communities
- Safety of children/pupils in traffic

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of the neighborhood, pupils of which take a long rout to get to nearest school "Xhemal Kada". Particular beneficiaries are Roma and Egyptian communities that live in this area and have high level of illiteracy, which through opening of a nearby school would have greater possibilities to inclusion in it. Since in the school, apart from regular learning process, other activities can be organized for extra beneficiaries would also be youth and women of these communities.

Approach:

According to this project a primary school for the levels of I-IX would be reconstructed. School is thought to be two-floor, with 10 do 12 classrooms, teacher's room, four necessary cabinets: informatics, physics, chemistry and biology. It also should contain its library and sports hall.

Apart from regular learning process in the school, for young members of Roma and Egyptian communities that have floundered from education, or that have left school entirely, intensive learning would be taught.

Project Title: Repair and asphaltation of the road in "7 Shtatori"

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 6 months (starting from 2009)

Place: "7 Shtatori" Pejë/Pec

Budget: 70.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improvement of infrastructural conditions by repairing and asphaltation of the road, whereas better conditions will be created for inhabitants of this neighborhood.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of this area
- Regular attendance in primary school (Xhemal Kada) from pupils of this neighborhood.
- Nondiscrimination of neighborhood inhabitants because of their economic conditions

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project would be all inhabitants of this neighborhood, in particular Roma and Egyptian communities and other inhabitants which due to poor conditions couldn't participate in road asphaltation, which has been repaired only in the part where inhabitants had the possibility to participate.

Approach:

As per the project idea road will be repaired for all the communities living in the neighborhood; it would be one kilometer long and 2.5 meters wide. This road simultaneously will create way to better conditions for neighborhood inhabitants and children that attend their classes in "Xhemal Kada" primary school. Movement of all inhabitants will be easier and like until now, the ones that had possibility to pay for participation had the road, while other part of inhabitants remained without a road.

Project Title: School support for pupils of secondary schools in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Pejë/Pec

Sector: Education

Timeframe: 16 months (starting from 2009)

Place: "7 Shtatori" Pejë/Pec

Budget: 8.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims that pupils coming from Roma and Egyptian communities in primary schools to be better prepared and give better results in learning. Most of these children are weak in their learning because their parents aren't educated at all, even without elementary education.

Objectives:

- Creation of conditions for offering pupils additional learning hours
- Better results of pupils in schools
- Integration of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all pupils that frequent primary schools, mainly "Xhemal Kada" school, whose parents don't have the possibility to support their children to give better results due to no education at all or low education. Simultaneously other beneficiaries are all member of Roma and Egyptian communities of "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, children in particular, which still do not belong to the age for registration in regular school. These children will have the opportunity from the beginning of school year to show results in learning by working with them additional hours.

Approach:

With this project will be assisted children of communities to have greater successes in school and life in general. Idea of this project deals more with creation of a working space with pupils, possibility of engaging two teacher that would work permanently with children, every day from two to three additional hours to complete obligations which under normal circumstances would be completed at home.

Project Title: Health education in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Pejë/Pec

Sector: Health and social issues

Timeframe: 9 months (starting from 2009)

Place: "7 Shtatori" Pejë/Pec

Budget: 8.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to make Roma and Egyptian communities aware on prevention of contagious diseases and family hygiene. Since within these communities exist many diseases, practices should be created for healthier and cleaner life in the family.

Objectives:

- Creation of better conditions for healthy life
- Increase of elementary knowledge for gaining of positive practices on health and prevention of contagious diseases
- Awareness of communities for prevention of negative practices and phenomenon in society
- Information about the ways of requesting health services and primary medical care.

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries of this project are Roma and Egyptian communities, respectively men, women, youth and children groups which will be part of trainings and lectures that will be conducted for them, in order to be able of having healthier and greater hygiene, since communities in the neighborhood face with numerous problems and serious contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis.

Approach:

According to this project trainings and seminars will be organized for Roma and Egyptian communities in general, including men, women, youth and children. Trainings will be conducted on prevention of contagious and dangerous diseases, personal/family hygiene, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, family planning and other trainings of the kind which would help communities to have better and healthier life. Under this project would be involved also a medical staff plus 3 persons who would make visits into communities' houses.

### 3.3 Zahaq Village

Zahaq village is located in the eastern part of Pejë/Pec town. It is seven kilometers from town and has around 200 houses with over 2.000 inhabitants.

Village is inhabited with 30 families of Roma and Egyptian communities. Vast majority of the village works on agriculture as the only benefit to hold their families.

Problems with which inhabitants of the village face are lack of drinking water (water supply system) as well as sewage. They get supplied with water from wells that are not allowed for drinking, which presents a permanent threat for diseases among inhabitants.

Unemployment remains as the top priority problem of this village, number of employed persons is very low and inhabitants live in deep poverty mainly, surviving with social assistance.

Lack of working equipment for agriculture makes that many village inhabitants not to work their lands and not to create incomes for their families.

Youth education is very low since in the village exists only primary school, while to continue further education they need to travel to Pejë/Pec town. As a result of grave economic conditions many young people don't attend secondary schooling.

Project Title: Building of a cooperative and equipment with agricultural work tools

Sector: Economic Development and Employment

Timeframe: 16 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 80.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to impact on agriculture development and improvement of economic situation through investments in agriculture. It also aims cooperation and capacity building of farmers to work their agricultural land.

Objectives:

- Economic development through agriculture
- Opening of new jobs
- Insemination of spaces with agricultural cultures
- Support of farmers with equipment for processing of land

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Zahaq village coming from all the communities, in particular greatest beneficiaries are Roma and Egyptian communities, since they lack most equipment for land processing. This will also impact in relief for working the land, will increase productivity of the village with different agricultural cultures, arboriculture in particular.

Approach:

According to this project would be built a 100 square meters space at the village center. Space is thought to have a garage of 40 square meters, where would be stored work equipment and different seeds, an office for the cooperative coordinator with 12 square meters and a bathroom of six square meters. This space will offer better conditions for work within the cooperative and better services for farmers of this village.

Project Title: Road asphaltation in Zahaq

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 13 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 250.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims improvement of infrastructural conditions in Zahaq village. This road would offer possibilities to inhabitants for a better access to Zahaq village center.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions of inhabitants in this village.
- Creation of the better conditions for regular attendance of the primary school by pupils of this village.
- Creation of better conditions for performing agriculture works for inhabitants.

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants that live in this village, including Albanian, Roma and Egyptian communities as well as secondary school pupils that attend it.

Approach:

Under this project would be enabled asphaltation off the road 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. Road that will be asphalted is three kilometers long and four meters wide. Asphaltation of the road is the best solution for the road problem and inhabitants of this village.

Project Title: Accession of the village in water supply system

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 12months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 50.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to offer inhabitants of the Zahaq village drinking water, since this village uses wells as main source of water supply which is not allowed to be consumed. Supplying inhabitants with drinking water from town water system will impact also in safeguarding of inhabitants health.

Objectives:

- Accession of the vil l age in town's water supply system
- Providing of drinking water for inhabitants
- Better supplying on village inhabitants with drinking water
- Providing of drinking water for pupils of secondary school

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Zahaq villages as well as pupils of primary school, since drinking water is missing in these premises too. Repairing of the water system will impact on improvement of living conditions of village inhabitants and in their health.

Approach:

According to this project water system will be brought from town to village center with a length of 8 kilometers, later will start its networking in village neighborhoods, in village school and ambulance. Simultaneously inhabitants of Zahaq village will have the opportunity of getting supplied with drinking water, since the vast majority of them do not have drinking water, apart from different wells.

Project Title: Repairing of the football field

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 3 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 9.000 €

Project goal:

To encourage village youth to practice sports and to enable them a sports field which existed earlier. Repairing of the football field would impact in sports' capacity buildings in rural areas also in cooperation among village youth with the one operating in Pejë/Pec town.

Objectives:

- Opening of sportive fields in rural areas also
- Better conditions for youth to practice football
- Advancement of sport in rural areas

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are young persons of Roma, Egyptian and other communities which are engaged in football. Another beneficiary is the village school, since 500 pupils of this school would practice their activities in this sports field.

Approach:

According to this project girdles of the sports field will be built in a length of 50 meters and 30 meters width. Sports field will also be marked and doors will be placed. The object that serves as the dressing room for sportists should be renovated, an object consisting two rooms and a hallway.

Project Title: Youth activation in Zahaq village

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 4 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 50.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to create better conditions for village youth that get engaged in various cultural activities. At the same time project encourages Roma and Egyptian youth to get engaged in different cultural activities as well. Simultaneously it will assist village school in organizing and presentation of various cultural manifestations.

Objectives:

- Functioning of House of Culture
- Organizing of youth in various cultural groups

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Zahaq village, in particular young people of the village, while pupils of primary school will simultaneously be beneficiaries. Having implemented it youth of the village will not need to travel to town in order to get engaged in a cultural activity. Different youth groups will be advanced through different dancing, acting and other courses.

Approach:

According to this project walls of the existing object will be renovated from inside and outside: windows will be installed with iron bars as security measures, flooring and ceiling will be redone, installation of electric system will be installed in the premises and other required materials for its functioning. To functionalize it in the best form and to create possibilities for this space to be usable, some additional minor equipment are required for implementation of activities within it.

Project Title: Reconstruction of an underpass in Zahaq village

Sector: Security

Timeframe: 14 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 90.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to create security for all inhabitants, primarily for primary school pupils, by reconstruction of an underpass in Pejë/Pec Prishtinë/Pristina highway which divides Zahaq village.

Objectives:

- Increase of security level in traffic for all inhabitants of Zahaq village
- Creation of living conditions and decrease of traffic victims

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Zahaq village as well as the inhabitants of Ramun, Llabjan, Lutogllavë and Nakëll villages, whose children attend primary school of the village. Direct beneficiary is the school since its pupils will no longer feel endangered when crossing the street to attend school classes. This project will impact also in traffic security, since with its underpass reconstruction there will be no more victims from crossing the street.

Approach:

According to this project a modern underpass would be reconstructed, with a length of 10 and width of two meters. In both its ends staircases for entry and exit will be built. Within it enlightenment will be put to offer better conditions for pupils and inhabitants while they pass through it.

Project Title: Emancipation of women through professional courses

Sector: Women rights

Timeframe: 14 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 8.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to help in women self-support and employment through professional courses on tailoring and hairdressing as well as by offering different trainings on reproductive health. Aim is to impact on housewives that in the future to open their businesses and get employed somewhere, which would help on their advancement in society.

Objectives:

- Increase of housewife women in society
- Women employment

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are women between 18 and 45 years of age coming from Albanian, Roma and Egyptian communities. Most of the village women are housewives and with offering of these courses they would create incomes for their families, by working as tailors or in women beauty saloons.

Approach:

According to this project, a space would be taken for rent that would serve as the place for organizing of these courses. Courses would be organized in two phases, three months for each course and it would include 50 village women on shifts. In order to launch the tailoring course 10 tailoring machines would be bought for it and additional equipment for the other course, respectively hairdressing.

Project Title: Placement of garbage containers

Sector: Health and environment

Timeframe: 4 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zahaq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 3.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to create a cleaner environment in the village, to protect health of the village inhabitants as well as to make them aware on protection of living environment.

Objectives:

- ? Placement of the garbage containers
- Creation of a healthier and cleaner society through protection of environment and hygiene
- Cleaning of the illegal garbage dumpsites
- Offering of better services for environment protection.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Zahaq coming from different communities. With placement of containers level of hygiene in the village will be increased and better living conditions would be created in particular in health aspect, since with placement of containers garbage would be removed from village streets and illegal dumpsites.

Approach:

According to this project 20 containers would be placed into different village neighborhoods, illegal dumpsites would be cleaned from the garbage created by villagers themselves. Public Service Company would be engaged for weekly cleaning of containers and garbage removal.

### 3.4 Çungur village

Çungur village is mainly populated in Roma and Egyptian communities. In it live around 12 Egyptian and three Roma community families. Çungur is a very specific village since before the conflict of 1999 it was inhabited with a large number of families, respectively with 105 Roma and Egyptian community houses, while now it is 70% ruined and not reconstructed at all. Apart of not being reconstructed, most of the families have been displaced in various European countries.

Problems faced by this village are numerous: unemployment is emphasized at the highest level; inhabitants live from primitive agriculture and social assistance. Infrastructure of the village is at the worst situation, streets are damaged, they have no drinking water while they get supplied with it from unsafe wells, lack of electrical network and many other problems hinder lives of Çungur village inhabitants.

Project Title: Reconstruction of electrical network in Çungur/Treboviq villages

Sector: Economic development/Employment

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Çungur, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 40.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve current situation of the electrical network and stable supply with qualitative electrical power for two villages inhabited with a number of Egyptian and Roma community families.

Objectives:

- Creation of better living conditions in the village
- Improvement of the current situation with electricity from electrical network
- Prevention of dangers for inhabitants by any fatality from the bad electrical network

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Çungur village and a part of Treboviq village, including Egyptian and Roma families though simultaneously beneficiaries would be Albanian community living in the area as well as other inhabitants that might return in the future.

Approach:

According to this project would be enabled improvement of the current electrical network, since the entire existing network is laid in different tree bodies, there is no regular electrical power which represent a danger for inhabitants of this village. Under this project would be build also a new electric station in the first concrete pillar that would help improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of this zone mainly populated with Egyptian and Roma communities.

Project Title: Building of a mini farm  
Sector: Economic development/Employment  
Timeframe: 10 months (starting from 2009)  
Place: Çungur, Pejë/Pec  
Budget: 31.900 €

Project goal:

Project aims to impact on farming development and improvement of existing economic conditions through empowerment of village farmers.

Objectives:

- Farmers empowerment through a mini-farm
- Opening of new jobs
- Collection of milk and its distribution in sale points
- Support with cows and other equipment for better functioning of mini-farm.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Çungur village, mainly coming from Egyptian and Roma communities. At the same time this project would create better living conditions based on the fact that village communities mainly live from farming, agriculture and social assistance.

Approach:

According to this project a mini-farm would be built which would be equipped with 13 cows and 13 calves, one refrigerator for collection and conservation of milk, two milking equipment, one wheat insemination equipment and other necessary ones for functioning of this mini-farm. At the same time inhabitants of the village have offered its personal assistance, some equipment for functioning of this mini-farm and provided at disposal 8 hectares of land.

Project Title: Repairing of the roads in Çungur village  
Sector: Infrastructure  
Timeframe: 4 months (starting from 2009)  
Place: Çungur, Pejë/Pec  
Budget: 6.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve infrastructural conditions for Çungur village, repairing of the road that connects with Treboviq, Katund i Ri and Trestenik with gravel.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for communities of this area
- Regular attendance of primary school by pupils
- Increase of security level for pupils in the traffic
- Connection of other villages with this one
- Creation of better conditions for sustainable return in this village

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries of this project are Çungur village Roma and Egyptian communities and other villages surrounding it.

Approach:

According to the project ideas road that connects villages will be laid. It will be laid with gravel to assist in improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of this village and surrounding ones. Road will be laid in a length of two kilometers long and three meters wide. Inhabitants will have the possibility for easier movement since the road is much damaged, in particular during rain and snowfalls seasons.

### 3.5 Firajë village / Dardania III

Firajë village is mainly inhabited with Roma and Egyptian communities. It is located inside of Gorazhdec/Gorazdevac village, which in vast majority is populated with Serbs. In this village live approximately 100 inhabitants coming from Roma and Egyptian communities.

Though Firajë village is where occasional return is taking place, members of these communities face with a series of problem such as economic development and employment, since only a small number of village inhabitants are employed in public and private institutions.

Vast majority of Roma and Egyptian families from Firajë village live from social assistance, while the other part mainly live from remittances of their family members. In this village also are present different problems and needs in infrastructure, education and health.

Project Title: Opening of Youth Center and equipment with computers

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 6 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Firajë / Dardania III-Pejë/Pec

Budget: 27.700 €

Project goal:

Project aims to offers better conditions for Roma and Egyptian communities' youth and to advance them in the field of informatics through organizing of courses. Project also makes integration of these communities in society and develops their skills on information technology.

Objectives:

- Opening of Youth Center and empowerment of communities' youth
- Youth capacity building on information technology
- Offering of the space for youth to get engaged in different activities

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are Roma and Egyptian youth, village and society in general, since these young people do not have skills on working with computer. In the future village youth will have it easier to access in society and will possess more potential for finding a job. With opening of this Center will benefit also young people of Gorazhdec/Gorazdevac and Poçestë villages.

Approach:

According to this project a Youth Center will be opened, which will be equipped with five computers, tables and chairs and it will enable welfare of computer courses. For all the age groups, three months professional course into two levels - pre-basic and basic in Microsoft Word and Excel will be offered, as an elementary and necessary skill for village youth.

Project Title: Building of a mini-farm in Firajë village

Sector: Economic development / Employment

Timeframe: 16 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Firajë / Dardania III-Pejë/Pec

Budget: 36.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to impact on improvement of economic situation for families of Roma and Egyptian communities.

Objectives:

- Creation of the conditions for opening of new jobs
- Milk gathering and its distribution into sale points
- Support with cows and other equipment for better functioning of mini-farm.
- Sustainability for returned families and positive impact in returning of displaced families

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Roma and Egyptian communities of Firajë. It will enable them improvement of economic conditions and employment for some families and persons that will have the opportunity to work in the farm.

Approach:

According to this project a mini-farm would be built in Firajë village. As part of it has been thought that farm is equipped with a number of cows and other necessary equipment for functioning of this mini-farm. Three persons will be employed under the project, which at the same time will be managing it, while collected milk will be sent to sale points of different businesses. At the same time families of these two communities will benefit from milk sale.

### 3.6 Vitomiricë/Vitimirica village

Vitomiricë/Vitimirica is one of the largest spreading villages by space and by the number of inhabitants living in it. It is surrounded with the Llazoviq neighborhood near Pejë/Pec town, Cigë, Brestovik, Novosellë and Radavci villages.

Inhabitants mainly get engaged in agriculture because of its fertile land and its watering infrastructure is satisfactory. Village has a House of Culture with adequate space where often get organized various cultural and artistic programs, particularly in Bosniac language, has a number of mini factories for processing of gassed juices, processing and sale of furniture and other private firms.

Within the village are located large spaces of privatized lands from ex-agricultural cooperative that are huge resources for agricultural investments, food processing and other entrepreneurship opportunities. It also has an organized marketplace at the center of the village as well as a police station with around police officers mainly coming from Bosniac community. Village also possesses a family medicine ambulance as well as a primary school. Road infrastructure situation doesn't present a major problem for inhabitants of this village.

Project Title: Supplying Vitomiricë/Vitimirica village with garbage containers

Sector: Health, environment

Timeframe: 5 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Vitomiricë/Vitimirica, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 3.500 €

Project goal:

Project aims to create a cleaner environment and better life for inhabitants of this village as well as their health protection. Project also aims to make inhabitants aware of protection of living environment.

Objective:

- To create a healthier and cleaner society through protection of environment and hygiene.
- Offering of better services for fulfillment of obligations towards public institutions (Public Hygiene)

Beneficiaries:

Vitomiricë/Vitimirica village inhabitants coming from Roma and Egyptian communities that live in neighborhood with other communities, including the Bosniacs. Biggest beneficiaries will be communities' children who do are not aware of risks they are exposed to from different diseases coming out of polluted environment.

Approach:

According to this project garbage containers will be placed in a number of village spaces, in particular in the ones populated by Roma and Egyptian communities. At the same time, Roma and Egyptian communities will be made aware on environment protection and creation of better hygienic conditions. Public Hygiene Service will also be engaged for regular emptying of containers.

### 3.7 Treboviq village

Treboviq village lays in the northeastern part of Pejë/Pec town, in a distance of around 10 kilometers from the town. Village is mainly populated with Albanian and Egyptian community members. Out of 300 village houses, 100 belong to Egyptian community.

Village has its own primary school. Many young people after finishing secondary schools, in lack of financial means cannot continue further studies since from the economic development aspect village is very poor. Its inhabitants mainly work on agriculture as the only source of incomes for survival.

Village faces problems with infrastructure; there is no sewage system while damaged road creates a lot of problems for its inhabitants, particularly during rain and snowfalls. Absence of garbage containers creates an additional problem and very necessary to be solved.

Inhabitants of the village conduct their health services in Vitomiricë/Vitimirica village, distanced four kilometers away as well as in Çungur village ambulance, around three kilometers from the village. This village also lacks recreational centers for youth, such as building of a Youth Center where its young members would get engaged in different recreational activities.

Project Title: Road asphaltation

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 10 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Treboviq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 100.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to offer better conditions for Egyptian community of Treboviq village. Road asphaltation will create better conditions for school attendance of their children, since school is located around one kilometer from their neighborhood. This road would also connect Trebovic inhabitants with the ones of Katundi i Ri village and Pejë/Pec-Mitrovicë/Mitrovica highway at the same time with local road Pejë/Pec-Trestenik.

Objectives:

- Village road asphaltation
- Better conditions for village inhabitants and children
- Easier access to town and better public service

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Treboviq village, since the road connects it with other villages and highways creating better conditions for completion of daily duties, in particular to children who walk every day to school.

Approach:

According to this project road of one kilometer length and four meters wide will be asphalted as well sidewalks will be settled. At the same time will be possible connections with asphalted roads of other villages surrounding Treboviq.

Project Title: Reconstruction of sewage system for Treboviq village

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 5 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Treboviq, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 100.000 €

Project goal:

To offer better conditions for Egyptian and Albanian inhabitants as well as to solve problem of sewage and excrements waters. Village has its water supply system, but lack collective sewage system where they would be emptied and connect to general one that would impact in protection of their health.

Objectives:

- ? Creation of better living conditions for communities and reconstruction of village sewage system
- Connection of all houses in the town's sewage system
- Protection of inhabitants lives from sewage odor.

Beneficiaries:

Treboviq inhabitants in general and Egyptian community in particular that still hasn't solved the sewage problem. With channeling of sewage inhabitants health will be protected with children in particular from potential infections from sewage odor.

Approach:

According to this project opening of the ditches will start at the beginning of the village and continue towards its center where it will be branched in to directions. Ditch length will be around three kilometers long and it will be laid in all village parts, connecting individual sewage with the general sewage network.

### 3.8 Katundi i Ri village

Katundi i Ri is a village mainly inhabited with Albanian and Egyptian communities, where approximately 70% come from Albanian community and the remaining 30 % come from Egyptian community. Katundi i Ri faces with many problems shared by all its inhabitants. Its greatest problems are infrastructural. There is no sewage system while village inhabitants use only septic tanks in the ground.

Inhabitants also face with economic and great unemployment problem. Most of the families are dependant on physical work while some other families live of remittances from Western countries.

Another emphasized problem in the village is lack of education. Problem is particularly emphasized among pupils that finish primary school and need to continue further education. Secondary schooling is very difficult for them because of grave economic conditions since to achieve it they have to travel to Pejë/Pec town.

Village inhabitants conduct their health services in Vitomiricë/Vitimirica village which is located near. Children of the village also attend the primary school located in Vitomiricë/Vitimirica.

Project Title: Communities professionalism through professional courses

Sector: Employment

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Katundi i Ri Vitomiricë/Vitimirica Novosellë, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 18.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims professionalization of Roma and Egyptian communities through professional courses on tailoring.

Objectives:

- Communities' professional ization through adequate and professional tailoring courses.
- Awareness of communities for determining their profession.
- Capacity building of communities through courses and trainings on tailoring.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all groups (women, men and youth) between 18 and 40 years of age. At the same time direct beneficiaries will be women which have more dispositions for this field. Project beneficiaries will simultaneously be Roma and Egyptian communities' members from Novosellë and Vitomiricë/Vitimirica villages, taking into account that it is a need for all the three villages located one near to the other.

Approach:

According to the project, for implementation of this professional course that impact positively in the communities, House of Culture space in Vitomiricë/Vitimirica will be used. It has been foreseen that two groups with different schedules will be attending it. It should be invested in creating of conditions for implementation of the course with tailoring machines and other materials needed for its successful completion.

Project Title: Reconstruction of textile factory

Sector: Economic Development / Employment

Timeframe: 20 months (starting from 2010)

Place: Katundi i Ri, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 200.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to impact on improvement of economic development and decreasing of unemployment among Roma and Egyptian communities.

Objectives:

- Improvement of economic conditions in Vitomiricë/Vitomirica, Katundi i Ri and Novosellë villages through employment of communities in this factory.
- Community empowerment through employment and creation of better conditions for economic independence of families.
- Communities' members attending the tailoring course have advantages for employment in this factory.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are Egyptian and Roma communities from Vitomiricë/Vitomirica, Katundi i Ri and Novosellë/Villages. At the same, advantages in this project have all the groups that have successfully attended the professional tailoring course.

Approach:

According to this project a small-scale textile factory would be built to impact in improvement of economic conditions of Roma and Egyptian communities coming from Vitomiricë/Vitomirica, Katundi i Ri and Novosellë villages. In order for this factory to function proper it should have management staff and high quality equipment that suits the needs for these services. Idea of the fabric is to mainly deal with textile aiming to export it abroad and locally in order to be in the position to cover obligations towards employees.

Project Title: Providing transport for pupils

Sector: Education and youth

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Katundi i Ri Vitomiricë/Vitomirica

Budget: 15.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to offer better transport conditions for students of Vitomiricë/Vitomirica and Katundi i Ri villages that need to travel daily to Pejë/Pec to attend secondary school education.

Objectives:

- Ensuring of a bus for students transport
- Increase of students attending education from these villages
- Offering of the opportunity to continue secondary education

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are young people or students of these two villages, coming from Egyptian and Roma communities as well as Albanian and Bosniac ones. Ensuring of a bus for transporting of these students will impact on increasing the number of these communities' students in town's secondary schools. It will advance the communities in general, while with education these young people will have it easier to integrate in Kosovar society. Students will gain further knowledge that will also in eradication of illiteracy among their parents and simultaneously creating them better conditions for getting employed.

Approach:

According to this project a bus will be provided which will transport students of these two villages from village to school. This bus will have four routes a day sending students in morning shift and the afternoon shift in all secondary schools where they attend.

### 3.9 Qyshk Village

Qyshk is a village mainly inhabited with Albanian and Egyptian communities, where approximately 80% come from Albanian community and the remaining 20 % come from Egyptian community. Qyshk faces with many problems shared by all its inhabitants, such as economic development, unemployment and many other problems. Its greatest problems are infrastructural. There is no sewage system while village inhabitants use only septic tanks in the ground.

Inhabitants also face with economic and great unemployment problem. Most of the families are dependant on physical work while some other families live of remittances from Western countries.

Another emphasized problem in the village is lack of health education. Problem is particularly emphasized among women of communities living in the area. Qyshk and its surrounding villages; Bllagajë and Pavlan do not have an ambulance where they can conduct health services. Such services they need to conduct in Pejë/Pec town, which is few kilometers away.

Project Title: Health education

Sector: Health

Timeframe: 10 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Qyshk / Bllagajë / Pavlan, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 12.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims increasing awareness among Roma and Egyptian communities in regard to prevention of contagious diseases and family hygiene such promoting healthy and clean life in the family

Objectives:

- Creation of better conditions for a healthier life
- Increase of basic knowledge level for practicing of positive behaviors in favor of health and prevention of contagious diseases
- Communities' awareness for prevention of negative behavior and phenomenon in society
- Information of citizens with procedures of requesting health services in primary health care.

Beneficiaries:

Direct beneficiaries of this project are Roma and Egyptian communities. Women will be particularly direct since they will be part of the trainings and seminars that will be offered for these communities. Such trainings will offer them guidance for healthy living and greater hygiene, since these communities face with numerous problems, such as dangerous diseases.

Approach:

According to this project trainings and seminars will be organized for women of Roma and Egyptian communities. Trainings will be conducted on prevention of contagious and dangerous diseases, personal/family hygiene, prevention of unwanted pregnancies, family planning and other trainings of the kind which would help communities to have better and healthier life.

Project Title: Youth activation through professional courses and activities

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 18 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Qyshk / Bllagajë / Pavlan, Pejë/Pec

Budget: 35.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to activate communities' youth through building of a Youth Center for the three villages.

Objectives:

- Building of Youth Center and activation of youth through it.
- Professionalization of youth through adequate professional courses in different fields.
- Awareness of youth for determination of their professions.
- Capacity building of youth through different course in various professional fields.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project will be youth of Egyptian and Roma communities, not excluding Albanian community that lives in the area. Beneficiaries will also be all inhabitants who will have the opportunity to attend different course on skills and various professional fields.

Approach:

According to this project a Youth Center would be built for use by young people of three villages: Qyshk, Bllagajë and Pavlan. Idea of the project is that under this Center to be organized different courses on electricity field or other professional ones, which would impact positively in activation of youth and decrease of unemployment. Since with these courses young people have the possibility of practicing private jobs it would at the same time in decrease their emigration towards Western countries.

### 3.10 Leshan Village

Leshan village is laid in eastern part of Pejê/Pec town. It is located 13 kilometers away from the town. Village is inhabited with over 200 families, out of which 35 belong to Roma and Egyptian communities. It faces numerous problems, both in economy and infrastructure.

A very great problem for Roma and Egyptian communities in the village remains grave economic situation, but also infrastructure, drinking water, sewage and waste.

Village has its primary school which is attended by its pupils as well as the ambulance which provides health services for patients of the village.

Out of the 25 Roma and Egyptian families living in the village, vast majority of their members are elderly persons, since youth have migrated abroad.

Another village problem remains non-development of agriculture due to lack of agricultural equipment, though it offers very good conditions for it.

Project Title: Supplying of villages with a tractor and following agricultural equipment

Sector: Agriculture / Development

Timeframe: 3 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Leshan, Pejê/Pec

Budget: 40.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to assist inhabitants of this village with land processing through providing them relief in insemination of field with different agricultural cultures. This will impact also in development of agriculture in rural areas as well as in improvement of village Roma and Egyptian communities' economic situation

Objectives:

- Supplying with a collective tractor with all following agricultural equipment
- Organizing of these communities to get engaged in agriculture development
- Improvement of economic situation through creating incomes from agricultural cultures
- Relief in land process with working equipment.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are members of Roma and Egyptian communities, since they have no equipment for land processing though most of them have more than a hectare of it. With supplying land processing equipment they will manage to inseminate their fields with agricultural cultures that later can be sent to marketplaces thus creating incomes for their families.

Approach:

According to this project, a tractor will be procured with all its following equipment needed for agriculture. It will be at the disposal of all inhabitants. A person will be selected to be in charge of the tractor and equipment as well as to coordinate farmers works as far as land processing with it.

# IV. Budget



# Budget

Nr.	Description	Quantity	Timeframe	EURO	Total in EURO
1	<i>Education and Youth</i>				612,700.00
1.1	<i>"7 Shtatori" neighborhood</i>				458,000.00
1.1.1	Reconstruction of primary school in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Pejë/Pec	1	12	37,500.00	450,000.00
1.1.2	Education support for primary school pupils in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood	1	16	500.00	8,000.00
1.2	<i>Zahaq Village</i>				59,000.00
1.2.1	Football field repair	1	3	3,000.00	9,000.00
1.2.2	Youth activation in Zahaq village	1	4	12,500.00	50,000.00
1.3	<i>Firajë / Dardania III Village</i>				27,700.00
1.3.1	Opening of Youth Center and equipment with computers	1	6	4,617	27,700.00
1.4	<i>"Katundi i Ri" Village</i>				33,000.00
1.4.1	Communities' professionalism through professional course	1	12	1,500.00	18,000.00
1.4.2	Supplying of transport for students	1	12	1,250.00	15,000.00
1.5	<i>Qyshk Village</i>				35,000.00
1.5.1	Youth activation through activities and professional courses	1	18	1,944.44	35,000.00
2	<i>Employment and economic development</i>				1,003,900.00
2.1	<i>"7 Shtatori" neighborhood</i>				70,000.00
2.1.1	Road repair and asphaltation in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood	1	6	11,666.67	70,000.00
2.2	<i>Zahaq Village</i>				380,000.00
2.2.1	Building of cooperative and equipment with agricultural equipment	1	16	5,000.00	80,000.00
2.2.2	Zahaq road asphaltation	1	13	19,230.77	250,000.00
2.2.3	Connection of the village to water supply system	1	12	4,166.67	50,000.00
2.3	<i>Cungur Village</i>				77,900.00
2.3.1	Reconstruction of electrical network in Cungur/Trebovig villages	1	12	3,333.33	40,000.00
2.3.2	Building of mini-farm	1	10	3,190.00	31,900.00
2.3.3	Road repair within Cungur village	1	4	1,500.00	6,000.00
2.4	<i>Firajë / Dardania III Village</i>				36,000.00
2.4.1	Building of mini-farm in Firajë village	1	16	2,250.00	36,000.00
2.5	<i>Trebovig Village</i>				200,000.00
2.5.1	Road asphaltation	1	10	10,000.00	100,000.00
2.5.2	Sewage repair for Trebovig village	1	5	20,000.00	100,000.00
2.6	<i>"Katundi i Ri" village</i>				200,000.00
2.6.1	Building of textile factory	1	20	10,000.00	200,000.00
2.7	<i>Leshan Village</i>				40,000.00
2.7.1	Supplying of village with tractor and following agricultural equipment	1	3	13,333.33	40,000.00
3	<i>Health and social issues</i>				26,500.00
3.1	<i>"7 Shtatori" neighborhood</i>				8,000.00
3.1.1	Health education in "7 Shtatori" neighborhood, Pejë/Pec	1	9	888.89	8,000.00
3.2	<i>Zahaq Village</i>				3,000.00
3.2.1	Placement of garbage containers	1	4	750.00	3,000.00
3.3	<i>Vitomiricë/Vitomirica Village</i>				3,500.00
3.3.1	Supplying with garbage container for Vitomiricë/Vitomirica village	1	5	700.00	3,500.00
3.4	<i>Qyshk Village</i>				12,000.00
3.4.1	Health education	1	10	1,200.00	12,000.00
4	<i>Antidiscrimination, security, minority rights and representation</i>				90,000.00
4.1	<i>Zahaq Village</i>				90,000.00
4.1.1	Reconstruction of underpass in Zahaq village	1	14	6,428.57	90,000.00
5	<i>Women rights</i>				8,000.00
5.1	<i>Zahaq Village</i>				8,000.00
5.1.1	Emancipation of women through professional courses	1	14	571.43	8,000.00
					0.00
	Overall total (1+2+3+4+5)				1,741,100.00

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





