



Baseline Study on Roma Housing in the Municipality of Chair

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List of Acronyms

ESA - Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia

SSO - State Statistical Office

EIDHR - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights

LGU - Local Government Unit

PE - Public Enterprise

LLG - Local Leader Group

MoESP - Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning

MoES - Ministry of Education and Science

MoTC - Ministry of Transport and Communications

MoLSP - Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

IMCSA - Inter-municipal Center for Social Affairs

NAP - National Action Plan

UN - United Nations

UNHCHR - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

HRBA - Human Rights Based Approach

RIC - Roma Information Center

1. Introduction

This Baseline Study is part of the project “Roma Housing Rights for Sustainable Urban Development” implemented by “Habitat Macedonia” in collaboration with “Roma S.O.S.” - Prilep, “Sumnal” - Skopje (Chair) and “Cherenja” - Shtip. This project has started in December 2015 and is financed by the European Union, under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). The Project is being implemented in three municipalities: Prilep, Shtip, Chair (Skopje). The project’s aim is to strengthen the inclusion and participation of local Roma communities in social inclusion processes in the area of housing. The project will strengthen the local mechanisms for collaboration and networking, motivate participation of Roma in decision-making processes at local level, in the community development processes, urban development and social inclusion. Under the project, inter alia, is implementing the following activities:

- Establishment of Local Leader Groups (LLG) in the three municipalities;
- Mentor support for LLG during the project implementation;
- Conducting over 15 workshops and trainings at local and national level;
- Prepare and publish three baseline studies for Shtip, Prilep and Chair, that will give an overview and analysis of the housing situation and the level of urbanization in the so called Roma settlements;

Prepare a Study on the Sustainable Urban Development of Sub-standard Settlements that will analyze the status of housing and urban development, with a focus on local and national policies in the fields of housing and urbanization processes.

The general aim of this Baseline Study is to define the conditions in the housing and urbanization of Roma settlements in the municipality of Chair.

The specific objective is to determine the problems related to the housing, right to housing and access to local authorities in relation to the urban development of Roma in the aforementioned municipalities.

The basis for the development of the Baseline Study was the survey conducted in 736 families who live in the so called Roma settlements in the municipality of Chair (Topaana). During the development of the Baseline Study, a series of meetings was organized with



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citizens and responsible persons in the municipality and relevant institutions, a questionnaire was conducted and analysis of current legal solutions that regulate the housing was made. With this Baseline Study, we will try to present the current situation in this local environment and help to better understand the problems and needs of Roma community related to the housing. Moreover, the Baseline Study should serve as a basis for defining the priority needs of the local community, for mobilization of citizens and their inclusion in the decision-making processes at local level, as well as for increasing the involvement of local authorities in the housing area and sustainable urban development.

In all three municipalities where the project is being implemented, i.e. in the so called Roma settlements, a certain improvement of housing conditions has already been noticed. This is due to several factors: increased awareness of citizens regarding the housing and change of living habits of Roma community, as well as increased number of initiatives of the local government for improving the living conditions in the suburb settlements.

2. Municipality of Chair

The current municipality of Chair¹ has been established on April 15th, 2004, by the Law on Territorial Division (Official Gazette of RM no. 55/04); however, as a municipality it had been dating since April 15th 1976, when it was established according to the Law on Establishment of Municipalities in the City of Skopje and Definition of Their Areas (Official Gazette of SRM no. 8/76).

The municipality of Chair is part of the City of Skopje and its borders have been defined by the Law on the City of Skopje (Official Gazette of RM no. 55/04). The municipality spreads on 3.52 km², at an altitude of 362 meters. It is positioned centrally in relation to the territorial organization of the city and borders with the municipalities of Butel, Center and Gazi Baba.

The Skopje Valley, where the municipality is located, is one inseparable physical and geographical unit, that is, a homogeneous, natural region, surrounded by mountain massifs on all sides, clearly differentiated from the rest of the surrounding. On the right bank of the River Vardar, the following hills as micro-forms of alluvial plain are located: Gazi Baba, Kamenik, Krst, Chukov Rid, Dolni Rid, Zajchev Rid and Kale.

The position of the municipality in Skopje Valley is favorable, however, its territory is too small for the development of certain industrial zones and similar projects.

The density of population in the municipality of Chair is the main characteristic, as it is the highest compared to any other municipality in Macedonia. As a comparison, the density of population in the City of Skopje varies in different parts of the city, and on average it is 888 citizens/km², whereas in the municipality of Chair, it is 16,193 citizens/km².

According to the last Census in 2002, in the municipality of Chair there are 17,107 households with 64,773 citizens, of who 32,374 are men and 32,399 women. The municipality of Chair is among the municipalities with high birth rate and natural growth of population in the Republic of Macedonia. According to the Census, the number of Roma in the municipality is 3,500, but the representatives of the association of citizens "Sumnal" say that this number is higher. According to their estimation, in Topaana there are 750 houses populated with 4,500 - 5,000 Roma.

1 Platform for Local Economic Development of the Municipality of Chair 2015-2021, Skopje 2014, 19-22.

The majority of population in the municipality of Chair are Albanians - 50.57%, followed by: Macedonians - 24.2%, Turks - 6.9%, Roma 4.7%, and Bosnians - 4.5% and other ethnicities in much smaller percentages.

Roma population in the municipality of Chair, like in most of the municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia, is concentrated in one area of the municipality, in one or several settlements. In Chair, such kind of a settlement is Topaana.

During the last decade, in the part of the city mostly populated by Roma, several infrastructural projects were being implemented - asphaltting streets, placing blanket course of crushed stone on streets, installation of water supply and sewage network, arrangement of sidewalks, street lighting, improvement of conditions in local schools and alike. Nevertheless, there is still a need for arranging the streets, street lighting, parks and alike.

As concerns the conditions in their homes and local environment, a survey was conducted among a representative sample of seven-hundred thirty-six citizens, all of them Roma, from the entire territory populated by Roma population. Also, semi-structured interviews were carried out with representatives of the local self-government and workshops were organized with citizens of Topaana, where a special emphasis was placed on the participation of the Local Leader Group, consisting of citizens of Topaana.

3. Home and Housing

Home is where one starts from - Thomas S. Eliot said. After this, we could add the general impression that the home is the “safe place”, a place where we feel protected and surrounded by people we love and respect.

Living in a decent home enables the further human development. A number of documents, reports and declarations emphasize the fact that the housing represents a basis for the human development, as it has an impact on his/her health condition, social security, education, working and earning income, as well as on many other primary needs and rights for decent living.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the Organization of the United Nations, in Article 25 highlights that “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control”.²

Poverty and Social Exclusion of the Republic of Macedonia, “social exclusion in terms of housing is a rather complex social phenomenon strongly interrelated with other forms of social marginalization. The three primary barriers to decent housing - economic, cultural and legal, are concomitantly in relation with persons who face social exclusion on these grounds, as well as with the places of living which are marginalized due to certain social circumstances”.³

In everyday life, housing is most often linked only with the place where the individual or the family lives, without linking it with other aspects of the social and economic development, such as the health, education, economic activity, social capital, community development etc.

The problem of poor housing in the Republic of Macedonia is particularly prominent during the past years. Housing in substandard conditions, both in urban and rural areas is mainly a consequence of the long process of transition of the society, which caused impoverishment of the majority of citizens. Families whose members were capable to work lost their jobs, especially those living in cities, and despite the fact that they are owners, they are not capable to invest in maintaining their homes, or invest in construction or buying

2 Article 25(1), Universal Declaration of Human Rights, OUN, 1948, according to: <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>.

3 The National Strategy for Reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion of the Republic of Macedonia 2010 - 2020 p. 30.

new homes. Thus, most of the families in urban areas live in small flats which are overpopulated because they accommodate several generations. They have weak thermal insulation both on the walls and windows and have not been well maintained, which is the main cause of a wide range of problems related to the internal infrastructure of buildings.

According to the research of the World Bank⁴ of urban housing, substandard living conditions are causing:

- loss of physical capital due to devaluation of the home,
- impairment of social capital,
- impairment of opportunities for finding a job and economic security,
- impairment of physical and health security,
- inability to use the home as a source for generation of income.

When analyzing the housing problems, it must be viewed from two standpoints - social and individual. Nevertheless, it must also be highlighted that these two different stand points are also inter-related. When analyzing the housing from a social stand point, the following should be taken into consideration: demographic changes, quality and locations of current residential fund, construction of new flats, purchasing power of population and economic development of the community. The individual, bearing in mind his/her own needs is interested in the quality of the supply and how affordable it is.

Of course, demographic characteristics of population, including the contemporary transformation of families, family income, culture of living, age structure and size of the family are also important when defining the housing needs. Other important factors are the following: infrastructural coverage, price of utilities and security of the adjacent surrounding of the flat, protection of residential right, protection of the environment, the ensuring of which should be supported by various entities, but most of all by institutions of the system.

⁴ <http://go.worldbank.org/M0LW0G4900>.

Housing of Roma population

Housing conditions of Roma population, which is an extremely endangered category of citizens, are utterly unfavorable and represent risks for the health, social security, education and employment, thus placing this category of citizens on the margins of the society.

The report “Roma Community in the Republic of Macedonia - Conditions and Challenges in Housing and Health” highlights the following: “Roma families very often live in inappropriately built substandard homes, with no proper water supply system for drinking and sanitation; homes of Roma families are small, planned only for performing and satisfying the basic needs, with a living space of less than 5 square meters per family member in more than 50% of this population. As high as 77% of families have toilets (or outhouses) in their yards, and 58% use a tap for water supply outside of their home; furthermore, almost 10% of the Roma population do not have a water supply system for drinking water and daily hygiene. It is estimated that approximately 50% of these families still do not have an appropriate solution for the waste water from their homes”.⁵

According to the last census in the Republic of Macedonia (2002), the entire population counts approximately 2 million citizens, of whom 53,879 or 2.66% are Roma. Almost 60% of the entire population of the Republic of Macedonia live in cities. This is also typical for the Roma population, who mainly live in cities, with some minor exceptions. The census shows that 43% of Roma live in the capital, and half of them are citizens of the municipality of Shuto Orizari.

The documentation that has been developed during the ten-year work of “Habitat-Macedonia” on improving the substandard housing, highlights the following problems related to the housing of Roma in the Republic of Macedonia:

- living in illegally built houses,
- overpopulated homes, with several generations living in the same house,
- discrimination in using the right to housing,
- substandard quality of homes, which is a risk for the health and safety,
- non-citified settlements and problems related to utilities,
- insufficient number of initiatives (on national and local level) for overcoming the problems related to the housing of Roma community.

Realization of the right to housing requires active inclusion of

5 Roma Community in the Republic of Macedonia - Conditions and Challenges in Housing and Health, Milevska-Kostova Neda, Eminova Enisa, 2008.

the entire community, first of all, inclusion of national and local authorities, as well as leaders of Roma community. Mechanisms for participation of citizens in decision-making processes are insufficiently developed, as well as the capacities of citizens who do not know well their housing rights.

Living in substandard dwellings, inappropriate sanitation, ghettoization, lack of plumbing, sewage, power supply, deteriorated health conditions are frequent problems of this community.

The housing right is contained in numerous international documents which impose to the signatory countries obligations to undertake activities for improving the living conditions for all citizens in the country. This right has been globally accepted by the United Nations and other world forums, which resulted with its incorporation in a number of conventions for human rights. At the same time, the ratification of these documents reflects the readiness of the state to respect and ensure the human right for housing, thus obliging itself to recognize the right to a relevant housing standard.

The efforts of the United Nations in regard to the housing rights and urban planning are the most evident in the three conferences “Habitat” which have been organized since 1976 until present. The first “Habitat” conference (“Habitat I”) took place in Vancouver, United States of America in 1976. The outcome was the Vancouver Declaration for Human Settlements, by which governments have started to recognize the need for development of sustainable human settlements and the consequences of fast urbanization, especially in developing countries. The second “Habitat” conference (“Habitat II”) took place in Istanbul, in 1996. Its focus was on the right to appropriate housing. The adopted document imposes an obligation to the states to develop action plans, which include the obligation of the Government to help the population in resolving their housing issues. As a result of the reached agreements at the special session of the General Assembly of the UN, a “Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium” was adopted in June 2001⁶. This document has once again confirmed the commitment of states to ensure access to adequate housing, which implies healthy, safe and financially affordable housing which also includes basic utilities, traffic accessibility, opportunity for free choice, and legal security of users of flats. The third “Habitat” conference (“Habitat III”) on housing and sustainable urban development was held in October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador, and ended successfully with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. This New Urban Agenda is a document in the form of an

6 “Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium”, June 2001.

action plan, which establishes new global standard for achieving sustainable urban development throughout the world and reviews the current ways of living in cities.⁷

In the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the General comment no. 4 which refers to Article 11⁸ of this Convention, the Committee for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations, inter alia, defines the term “adequate housing” as a legal security in housing⁹.

Bearing in mind the overall transition process in the country, the modern style of living caused a number of changes not only in the housing, but also in other areas of life, which are following the contemporary trends. As mentioned in the Housing Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia (2007-2012), the transition towards market economy imposed a different valuation system, where the apartment is not only a social category, but first of all, a market category. However, it does not mean that the Republic of Macedonia, which is defined as a social state by the Constitution, will not take care of its own citizens. This commitment, which is also defined in the Constitution, must be achieved by harmonizing the legislation and institutions in charge of the housing, while at the same time continuing the privatization process of the housing stock by establishing a holder of ownership.

The Law on Housing regulates the types of facilities for housing, management of residential buildings, relations among owners of separate parts and third parties, community of owners, database of apartments, tenancy relations in housing, manner of managing and maintaining facilities, rights and obligations of the state, municipalities, municipalities in the City of Skopje and the City of Skopje in relation to the housing, inspection and management supervision and other housing related issues¹⁰ This law is particularly important for the citizens because it precisely regulates the management of residential

7 See more on: <http://unhabitat.org/>.

8 Article 11, paragraph 1 reads: “States, signatories of this Convention, recognize the right of every person and his/her family to adequate standards of living, which includes adequate food, clothing and housing, and constant improvement of living conditions. States, signatories of this Convention will undertake relevant steps for ensuring this right, recognizing that the international cooperation is of crucial importance if based on a freely express will”. (Housing Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia, 2007-2012, p. 6, MoLSP, 2007).

9 Housing is expressed in various forms, including renting public or private accommodation, joint housing, leasehold, possession, accommodation in emergencies, informal settlements, including taking over a territory or property. Regardless of the type of housing, all persons should have a certain level of security in their housing, which guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, mistreatment or other threats. (Housing Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia, 2007-2012, p. 6, MoLSP, 2007).

10 <http://www.domuvanje.org.mk/03.php> (last time visited in October 2016).

buildings and stipulates the rights and obligations for the owners of separate parts; relations among owners in a residential building, as well as between owners and third parties; defines the rights and obligations of communities of owners; rights and obligations of licensed managers of buildings and prescribes sanctions for failing to respect the legal provisions.

Issues in the area of housing at local level are part of the scope of work of a large number of institutions. According to the competences and responsibilities of the Local Government Unit, the Council and Mayor¹¹ are the key bodies in the municipalities. The local self-government is directly in charge of the local economic and urban development of the municipality. See more on the jurisdiction and competences of the municipality in Annex 1.

Housing of Roma is defined as one of the sectoral priorities of our state. During the Roma Decade, national actions plans for housing had been developed, which in some municipalities were further developed into local action plans for housing adopted by the municipal councils. In general, these plans are focused on improving the conditions of Roma through legalization of houses built without construction permits and enhancing the infrastructure and living conditions in Roma settlements.

11 Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 5/2002, Law on Local Self-Government.

4. Housing in the Municipality of Chair (Topaana)

According to the 2002 Census, there are 53,879 Roma¹² (i.e. 2.66% of the total number of population) living in the Republic of Macedonia. According to the State Statistical Office's projections of 31.12.2015, the total population in the Republic of Macedonia is 2,071,278 citizens¹³, of whom 54,871 are Roma.

In the Municipality of Chair, there are 64,773¹⁴ citizens, of whom 4.7% (3,044) are Roma. The Municipality of Chair has adopted documents pertaining to the overall population in this municipality. The Unit for Urbanism in the Municipality of Chair mentioned the following documents as documents which include Roma, i.e. Topaana: Local Environment Action Plan (LEAP) for the Municipality of Chair (201), Platform for Local Economic Development of the Municipality of Chair (2015 - 2021), Energy Efficiency Program of the Municipality of Chair (2014 - 2016).

Unemployment is one of the biggest problems of Roma population not only in the municipality of Chair, but also in general, in the whole country. It has a direct impact on the living conditions of Roma, including the housing. The inability to earn income for living prevents the further development of the individual, the family and the community. According to the latest data from the Employment Service Agency (ESA) regarding the unemployment in Chair, a total of 2,526 unemployed people were registered by 31.12.2016, of whom 202 are Roma, and 84 are Roma women. (See Table 1 and 2 for a presentation of the level of education of unemployed Roma citizens in the Municipality of Chair and their age structure.)

12 <http://www.stat.gov.mk/publikacii/knigalX.pdf>.

13 <http://www.stat.gov.mk/OblastOpsto.aspx?id=2>.

14 Platform for Local Economic Development of the Municipality of Chair 2015-2021, Skopje 2014, 19.22.

Table 1. Level of education of unemployed Roma in the municipality of Chair¹⁵

Municipality	Total unemployed Roma		No education and primary education		Incomplete secondary education		Completed secondary education		Post-secondary education		Higher education	
	are	Women	are	Women	are	Women	are	Women	are	Women	are	Women
Chair	202	84	181	79	12	2	6	2	0	0	3	1

Table 2. Age structure of unemployed Roma in the municipality of Chair¹⁶

Municipality	15-19		20-24		25-29		30-34		35-39		40-44		45-49		50-54		55-59		60 years and older	
	are	W	are	W	are	W	are	W	are	W	are	W	are	W	are	W	are	W	are	W
Chair	4	1	9	4	19	7	21	11	21	15	38	18	29	12	20	8	20	6	14	2

As concerns the use of employment measures by Roma population, ESA's data show that in Chair, in 2016, 86 Roma applied for some of the measures from the Operational Plan of ESA, whereas contracts for use of these employment measures were concluded with 49 of them. Self-employment as a measure has not been sufficiently utilized by Roma, but on the other hand, there is an interest for the trainings organized by ESA. Also, there is general impression that they consider the social welfare as a certain source of money, and in order not to lose this benefit, their interest for the measures is rather low. One portion of unemployed Roma do not registered in the local employment centers.

The majority of Roma population in the municipality of Chair live in the settlement Topaana and Tenekje Maalo, in houses which are not built according to an urban plan. They have inappropriate infrastructure, inappropriate approaches, open storm water drain channels, inappropriate water supply and sewage network, low quality power supply and insufficient street lighting.

15 Data are obtained from the Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia through a request for access to information of public nature.

16 Data are obtained from the Employment Service Agency of the Republic of Macedonia through a request for access to information of public nature.

To present, the local self-government of the municipality of Chair has been undertaking a range of measures for improving the housing conditions and urban development, but these efforts are insufficient. The main changes in the housing were made in the area of infrastructural solutions - asphalted streets, installation of water supply and sewage and street lighting.

Legalization of illegal houses is one of priority issues related to housing of Roma. Only under the project Legalization of Housing of Roma implemented by "Habitat Macedonia", applications for a loan for legalization of their homes were filed by 106 families.

The association "Sumnal" is an active organization operating in the Roma settlement Topaana, where the target group is the Roma community. The primary mission of this association encompasses two aspects related to improvement of life of Roma in this settlement. The first one is improving the social status of Roma in the society, and the second one is creating conditions for improving the economic status of Roma in the country by increasing the opportunities for employment of young Roma. Also, increasing the economic independence of Roma women is another priority in their programs. More specifically, their activities are focused on the following:

- promotion of the positive aspects of Roma culture in the light of eliminating the prejudice and stereotypes in the Macedonian society;
- organization of active social clubs - in the municipalities of Chair and Shuto Orizari, with activities for enhancing the social life and position of old people, and their connection and activation in the family and society in general;
- enhancing the working skills of young Roma and their position on the labor market through trainings for completing or changing their qualifications.
- improving their position on the labor market and creating employment opportunities through intensive cooperation with the Employment Service Agency;
- supporting the development of professional skills of Roma women through professional trainings;
- employment mediation in cooperation with the Employment Service Agency, private employment agencies and business sector;
- strengthening the capacities of Roma women for entrepreneurial skills and knowledge for running their own businesses;
- education and fostering the small businesses as an instrument for improving the economic position of Roma in the Republic of Macedonia.

5. Methodology for the Development of the Baseline Study

Baseline Study on the Status of Roma Housing in the Municipality of Chair, in essence, is a participatory analysis, prepared via a survey of 736 citizens of the settlement Topaana, semi-structured interviews with representatives of the local self-government and regional units of relevant ministries and representatives of the civil society, consultations with the Local Leader Group (established under this project), contribution of individuals and people involved in the activities of the association of citizens “Sumnal”, use of data, opinion and analysis of published documents and alike.

The excellent cooperation with the association “Sumnal” was of crucial importance for the successful development of the Baseline Study, since it has worked on the implementation of the project, as well as with the local self-government of the municipality of Chair.

Another important factor that contributed to the successful development of this study was the involvement of representatives of the Roma community in the implementation of the survey. Namely, having completed a training, members of the Local Leader Group became the actual interviewers who visited the homes of their townsmen, and through a conversation with them, they filled in the questionnaire. This method of work contributed in acquiring higher level of knowledge about the housing, especially among the members of the Local Leader Group. They are expected to continue with their efforts to make the so called Roma settlements a decent place for living, providing opportunities for development to each individual and to the entire community. The survey among the population was conducted during August 2016 and was coordinated by the civil society organization “Sumnal” and the project manager. The survey was divided in three sections. The first section covered general data, the second section covered the situation of the home, and the third section covered the adjacent local environment.

The questionnaire included the following variables:

- number and composition of households,
- level of education,
- social and economic situation of households,
- infrastructure conditions in the adjacent surrounding.

Among the surveyed individuals, 38% were women and 62% men. Percentage of surveyed Roma living in the municipality of Chair was 24.2%. The survey was participatory and the initial findings were presented to the Local Leader Groups and involved representatives of

the local self-government, hence, their remarks and comments have been included in the recommendations.

The entire process of the survey was conducted in several phases.

5.1. Consultative Meetings

Meetings with representatives of the local-self government

We had three meetings with the advisor of the Unit for local economic development of the municipality of Chair. The meetings had the form of semi-structured interviews.

The first meeting was organized prior the beginning of all activities, with the main purpose to obtain information about the activities and documents of the municipality related to Roma population and Roma settlements, as well as to hear about the plans of the municipality referring to Roma population and the settlement where this population live.

The second meeting was held prior the implementation of the questionnaire, in order to find out what the actual situation is in relation to the process of legalization and the cooperation between the municipality and civil society organizations.

The third meeting was held after the implementation of the questionnaire and its analysis. At this meeting, data and answers were obtained regarding the citizens' interests, stemming from the analysis of the questionnaire, which are necessary for the final analysis.

Meetings with LLG (Local Leader Group)

The Local Leader Group worked on the implementation of the questionnaire. We had three meetings with them.

The first meeting was just to meet the group and to get an overall impression about its commitments and information about the territory where the questionnaire was to be implemented.

The second meeting was prior the implementation of the questionnaire. The aim of the meeting was to discuss about the training and the manner of conducting the survey.

The third meeting was after the implementation of the questionnaire with the aim of obtaining information from the LLG members about the process of implementing the questionnaire, the response of population, problems and comments during the survey.

The Local Leader Group is a non-formal body of the Roma community which participates in the process of identification of local priorities in the area of housing and works on their integration in development strategies on national and local level through their training, field research and advocating their needs before the local government, i.e. decision-makers.

The Local Leader Group is a link between the planning processes on local and national level in the light of realization of housing right of Roma population and overall fight against poverty.

The Local Leader Group established direct cooperation with the aforementioned representatives of LGU by their inclusion in workshops and meetings, with the aim of heaving constructive discussion about potential solutions and overcoming the problems of Roma community.

During the establishment of the Local Leader Group, three key criteria were taken into consideration for achieving proportional representation by gender, age and place of living. Identified persons are active and well-known in the Roma community in Chair, that is, they have a prior experience in similar activities implemented by the association “Sumnal”.

Meetings with local population and representatives of civil society organizations

Meetings and interviews were organized with the local population in order to obtain more data and information. The responses were similar to the responses in the questionnaire, but also other issues were addressed so as to make a comparison between the results from the survey and the interviews.

Also, meetings were organized with representatives of the association “Sumnal”, which contributed to obtain relevant information and determine the situation of Roma community in the municipality, the activities of CSOs in relation to improvement of living conditions, presentation of the experiences from the cooperation with the local government and other public institutions.

5.2. Analysis of Documents

A number of legal document adopted by the Assembly and Government of the Republic of Macedonia were analyzed, as well as local documents adopted by the municipal council. The following documents were analyzed: Roma Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia 2005-2015; Housing Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia

2007-2012; Action Plan for Implementation of the Housing Strategy 2007-2012; National Action Plans for: education; health; employment (2005-2015); Local Action Plans for Housing; Local Action Plan for Employment of Roma 2012-2015; Local Action Plan for Health of Roma Population; Laws on: housing; social care; financing the local government units; acting upon illegally constructed object; subsidizing credits for purchase of house/flat; territorial organization.

5.3. Survey

The questionnaire was developed by the team hired for making the analysis in cooperation with “Habitat Macedonia” and “Roma S.O.S.”, according to project’s needs. The questionnaire was prepared and implemented after the first meetings with LGU and LLG in the three municipalities.

The research was conducted by way of a site survey - interview “face to face” in households in Topaana, where Roma population lives, during August 2016, on a sample of 736 respondents, by trained persons from the Local Leader Group. The research was conducted on an eligible sample bearing in mind that only Roma households were covered¹⁷.

The questionnaire for determining the housing conditions consists of 3 sections and 43 questions in total. The first sections contains 6 questions pertaining to demographic data about the respondent (age, gender, education, place of living). The second section contains 25 questions pertaining to the conditions in the respondent’s home and they help to analyze the social and economic status of the family, the physical condition of the dwelling (number of rooms, windows and alike), access to services such as water supply, sewage, waste collection and access to power supply grid. The third section of the questionnaire contains 12 questions pertaining to the living conditions in the community. These questions analyze the condition of roads, access to institutions, green areas, as well as the potential threats in the place of living in relation to the housing.

Prior the implementation of the questionnaire, a pilot-testing was conducted in order to check its applicability. That is, to check

¹⁷ For the purposes of this analysis, the term “household” was defined according to the definition used by the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia: Household is any family or other community of persons who state that they live together and jointly spend their income for basic living needs (housing, food etc.) whether or not all members are permanently located in the place where the household is settled or some of them temporarily stays in another place, i.e. abroad, for working, studying or other reasons, where the stay abroad is no longer than 1 year.

whether the questions were clear enough, what the opinion of citizens was about it and how much time was needed for its implementation. The pilot-testing was carried out by individuals from the Local Leader Group.

Analysis of questionnaire

Analysis of the questionnaire and entering of data in the database was carried out by the team hired for the development of the analysis. The team analyzed only the primary responses to the questions, not making any cross analysis or comparison, i.e. it did not determine the dependent relations among them. The analysis was only a presentation of obtained data, not making any additional statistical processing. The presentation of data in percentages is presented in 22 Graphs.

Development of the Baseline Study

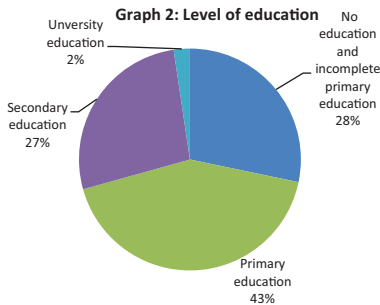
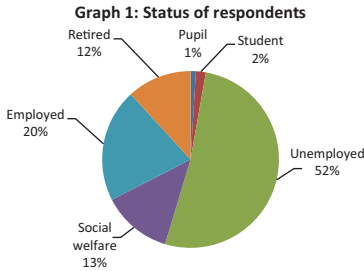
The development of the Baseline Study actually includes all prior steps. However, the actual writing of the analysis is a description of the conditions in the municipality through the description of the settlement - the community, population in the municipality, ethnic map, employment, education, followed by a comparison with the data on national level, and of course, separately for the Roma population, description of the landscape and infrastructure in the municipality and settlements, characteristics of homes and alike. The Baseline Study contains the results of the implemented questionnaire and ends with conclusions and recommendations.

5.4. Presentation of the Baseline Study on the Housing and Urban Development of Roma Population in Topaana - the Municipality of Chair

This meeting was attended by representatives of organizations which are implementing the project, "Habitat Macedonia" and "Sumnal", the Local Leader Group which implemented the questionnaire, representatives of the Center for Civil Initiative which developed the analysis, and representatives of the local self-government unit Chair. The presentation of the analysis was followed by a discussion upon it. This meeting ended with a range of recommendations directed towards competent institutions.

6. Survey Findings

6.1. Structure of Respondents



Out of all the respondents, 62% were men, and 38% were women, whereas the average age was 42 years.

As concerns the status of respondents, 13% are beneficiaries of social welfare, 3% are still in the process of completing their education - pupils and students, 52% are unemployed, 20% employed and 12% retired.

According to level of education, 28% have no education at all or have not completed primary education, 43% are with primary education, 27% with secondary education and 2% with higher education.

According to the status and education of respondents,

majority of them have low level of education or have no education at all, they are beneficiaries of social welfare and unemployed.

According to the information from the association of citizens “Sumnal” that operates in the area of education on the territory of Topaana, continuous efforts are being made to include all children in primary and secondary education from the age of 5 until 18. However, there is a very small number of those who enroll to university. “Sumnal” through its projects and activities works on education of illiterate population.

According to the number of family members in Chair, the average Roma family consists of five family members (4.73).

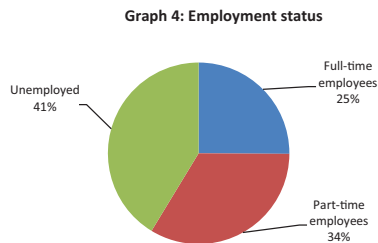
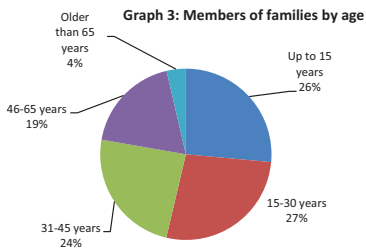
The survey results show that 49% are female, and 51% are male members of the family.

Of the respondents, 59% are members of a family consisting of parents and children, 33% are members of a broader family, i.e.

families where grandmother, grandfather, uncles and aunts live together with the parents and children, 3% are single parents, 3% are several families living together and 2% are only married couples.

According to their age, young people at the age 15 - 30 are the most numerous in the families - 27%, followed by children by the age of 15 - 26%, 24% consist the age group from 31 to 45, 19% the age group from 46 to 65, whereas the least of all are the members of families older than 65 - 4%. In the families with population capable to work, the biggest portion 41% are unemployed, 34% work only occasionally, and 25% are employed on regular basis.

Roma are significantly younger population relative to the majority of population in countries where they live (European countries). A total of 25-30% of Roma are below the age of 15, compared to the average of majority of populations, which is 10%. Also, demographic data show that Roma population in the Republic of Macedonia, on average, is younger than the average age in the country. Due to the different birth and mortality rate relative to the national average, Roma children have greater share than older people in their own ethnic group. It is evident that the birth rate among Roma population is twice higher than the average in the country, but so is the mortality rate among Roma children, which is twice higher than in other ethnic groups.¹⁸



6.2. Home Conditions

The purpose of questions in the second section of the questionnaire was to determine the home conditions from financial point of view, the living conditions and alike.

¹⁸ Analysis of Roma Situation in Gostivar, p. 7, “Habitat Macedonia”, Skopje 2012.

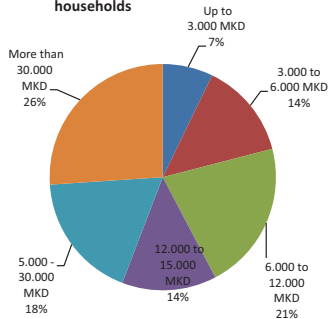
Family income

The majority of respondents 41% are unemployed, 25% are regularly employed, and 34% work occasionally.

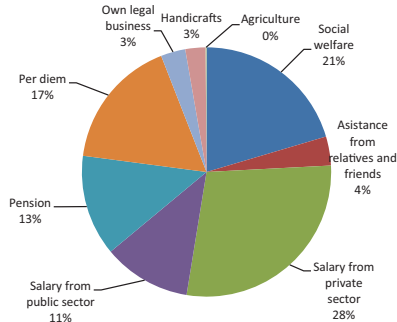
The highest percentage of respondents are citizens whose family income is higher than 30,000 denars - 26%, 7% are those with income up to 3,000 denars per month, 14% have income between 3,000 and 6,000 denars, 21% between 6,000 to 12,000 denars, 14% of respondents earn between 12,000 to 15,000 denars per month and 18% of respondents earn 15,000 to 30,000 denars. The type of income among respondents is the following: 28% earn their salary by working in the private sector, 21% receive social welfare, 24% earn their salary by working in the public sector, 17% from per diem, 3% from handicrafts, 3% have their own legal business and 4% receive assistance from relatives and friends. These data point to the fact that the biggest portion of family income comes from private companies, per diem and salaries from the public sector, and 1/5 from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

The impression of representatives of the civil society organization "Sumnal" is that the percentage of unemployed is higher and they earn their income mostly by collecting plastic and scrap iron.

Graph 5: Monthly income in the households



Graph 6: Type of income in families

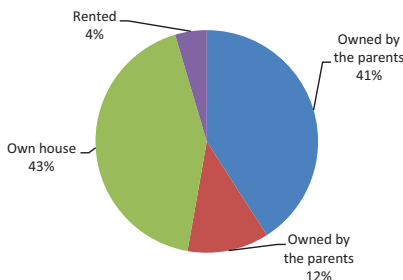


Types of dwellings

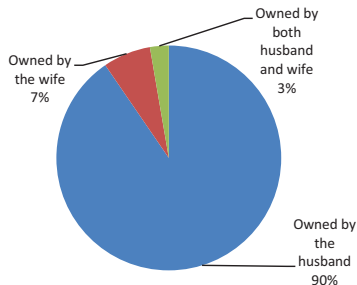
Almost all of the respondents, or 96% say they live in a house, 2% in a flat and 2% live in a temporary dwelling.

As concerns the ownership of homes where they live, in 90% of respondents, the owner is the husband, 7% the wife, and in only 3% of respondents, both the husband and wife are owners of their homes. 43% of respondents live in their own homes, 41% live in

Graph 7: Home ownership



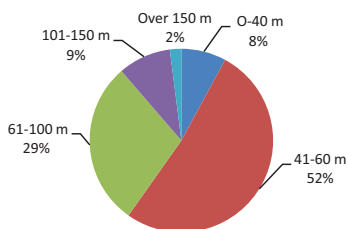
Graph 7.1: Differentiation by gender



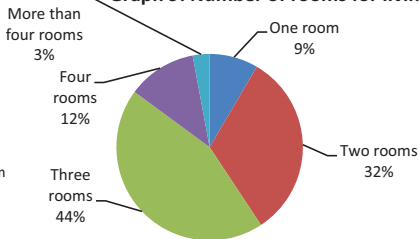
homes owned by their parents, 12% live in homes owned by other members of the family and 4% live in rented flats. These data show that in the Roma community in Chair, still according to the tradition, owners are either the husbands or their parents. The positive side of this picture is that only 4% of them live in rented homes, whereas the remaining ones live in homes owned by a family member. The most important thing is that Roma have their own homes.

Almost half of the respondents live in homes of approximately 50 square meters, consisting mainly of two or three rooms. While thirty percent live in homes of size from 61 to 100 square meters, 8% live in homes of up to forty square meters, 9% in 101-150 square meters, and only 2% of respondents live in homes bigger than 150 square meters. This information shows that Roma community live in homes consisting of two or three rooms with size of approximately fifty square meters.

Graph 8: Size of dwellings

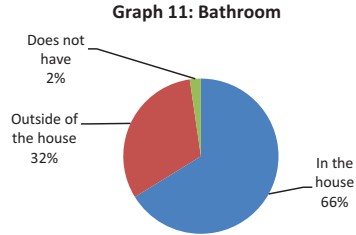
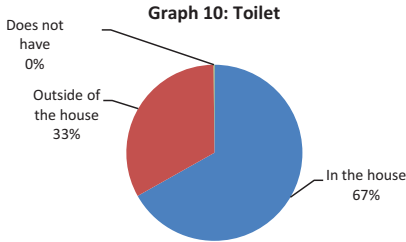


Graph 9: Number of rooms for living



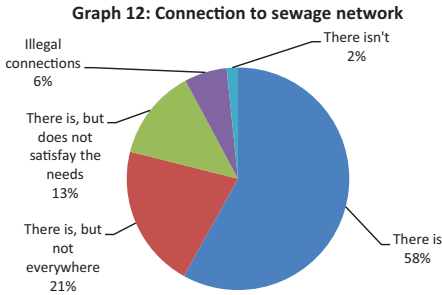
The most problematic premises for the citizens living in these settlements are the toilets, bathrooms and kitchens. They all have toilets, but only 67% of respondents have toilets in their houses, whereas 33% still have toilets in their yards. As concerns the bathrooms, 66% have a bathroom in their house, 32% have a bathroom outside of their house and 2% have no bathroom at all. 58% of respondents

have a kitchen located in the same area with the living room, 39% have a kitchen separate from other rooms, and 3% have no kitchen at all.



In addition to the toilet and bathroom, the number of windows is also a problem because not all rooms in the respondents' homes have windows. Namely, 70% of respondents have rooms in all rooms, whereas the rest of them have some rooms without windows.

Water supply and sewage



The biggest part of Topaana has a good water supply and sewage network, but there is one part of the settlement which still has problems with this issue.

According to the survey, 58% of the local community is connected to sewage network, 21%

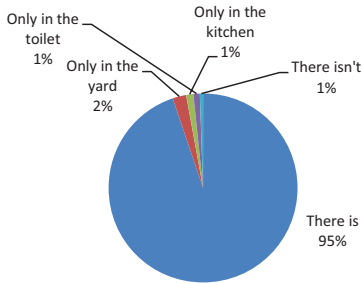
of respondents say there is a connection to sewage network, but not everywhere, 13% say that it does not meet the needs and 2% say that there is no sewage network.

About 88% of respondents say that they have a connection to the sewage network in their home, 4% do not have a connection and 8% have a connection to the sewage network only up to their yard.

According to the survey, 86% say that there is a water supply system in the local community, 11% say that there is, but not everywhere, 2% that it does not satisfy the needs, and 1% say that are illegally connected.

As concerns the water supply network, 95% are connected in

Graph 13: Connection to water supply



their homes, 1% are not connected to it, whereas the remaining respondents are not connected everywhere in their homes, but either in their yard, or in their kitchen, or only in their toilet. As concerns how regular the drinking water supply is, 76% say they have regular water supply, 10% say not

regular, and the remaining ones say that there are interruptions in the water supply.

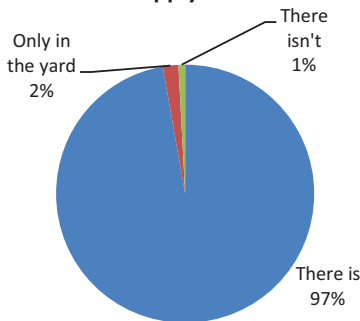
According to citizens' opinion, the sewage is a problem that should be resolved in their settlement as the highest priority. The sewage network in the settlement Topaana was built from citizens' funds and it is incomplete. In some places there are still open storm water drain channels flowing through the settlement. They think that it needs to be improved.

Representatives of the local self-government inform that an initial project should be designed for complete construction of a sewage network in the entire settlement and that they have to apply for funds to the Ministry of Transport and Communications or the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in order to implement the project.

Citizens are more satisfied with the water supply than with the sewage network and its functionality.

Power supply

Graph 14: Connection to power supply



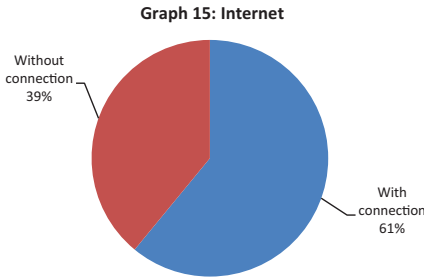
This settlement is completely covered with power supply network. According to the survey, 87% of citizens say that there is power supply in their local community, 10% say that there is, but not everywhere and 3% say that it does not meet their needs.

As concerns the individual power supply, 95% of respondents say they have power supply in their homes, 2% have only in their yard and 1% have no power supply at all.

Regarding the use of domestic appliances, 65% of respondents say they use all the appliances in their home, 2.5% did not answer this question and 32.5% of respondents say they use some, most often two of the listed domestic appliances. The most frequently used domestic appliances according to the survey are the refrigerator and TV, and the least used is the vacuum cleaner.¹⁹

Regarding the heating, they organize their heating on an individual basis, and the highest percentage of them 62% use hard fuels such as wood, coal, pellets, whereas the rest of them electricity and gas. The majority of citizens have individual heating and only a small number use collective heating.

Internet



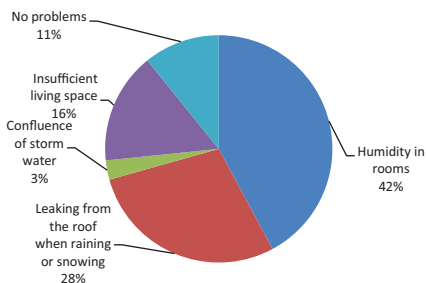
Nowadays, the Internet in the world is most often used for communication, information and lately also for shopping, payment, education and alike. Sixty percent of respondents say that they have and use the Internet, and 39% percent say they do not have access to Internet. These numbers point to the fact that in Topaana, the Internet is available and that the number of users is not small. It is estimated that the younger population is the biggest user of the Internet. The Internet is most often used via cable operators, but nowadays more and more via mobile phones.

Floor and furniture

The floor and furniture are still a problem for a certain number of families. Namely, 39% of them have laminate as a floor, 28% cement, 24% parquet, and 9% earth. Sixty-six percent of respondents have sufficient furniture in their home, 1% have extra furniture, whereas the remaining 9% do not have sufficient furniture in their home.

¹⁹ The respondents were given a multiple choice to answer.

Graph 16: Most frequent risks in homes



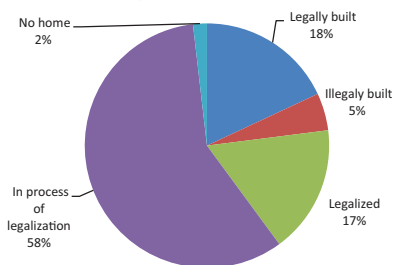
The most frequent problems in regard to the home infrastructure are the humidity in their rooms - 42%, leaking from the roof - 28% and the small living space - 16%.

The type of floor, pieces of furniture and problems in Roma homes reveal that the majority of families have good floors, and sufficient

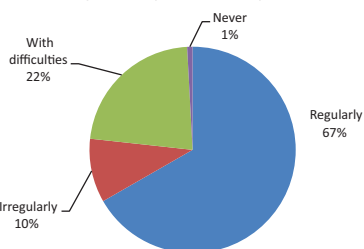
furniture, but also problems with the humidity in their homes. The problems are most often a consequence of the economic status of families.

It must be noted that in this settlement, construction of new houses and reconstruction of existing ones have been taking place during the past few years. According to the survey, 52% of the respondents replied that they built extensions or reconstructed the existing houses, and 48% did not undertake such activities. To the question whether they used loans, 86% replied negatively and 14% positively. Out of those who did not use a loan, 32% did not want to take a loan, 12% did not get an approval for a loan, and 56% were unemployed and did not apply for a loan.

Graph 17: Home status



Graph 18: Payment of utility bills



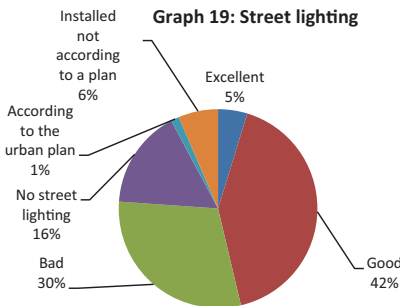
According to data obtained during this survey, the biggest number of homes in Topaana will become legal very soon. Namely, 18% live legally built houses, 17% have legalized them, and 58% are still in a process of legalization. A small number of respondents, that is, 5% live in illegal homes, and 2% do not have their own home, which means that this percentage (2%) is equal to the number of citizens who said that they live in rented homes.

According to the information from the association of citizens “Sumnal”, approximately 300 objects have been legalized to present.

Payment of utility bills corresponds to the data regarding the amount of monthly income. Thus, only 1% of respondents say that they never pay their utility bills, and the rest of them pay their utility bills as follows: 67% pay them regularly, 22% have difficulties paying them and 10% pay them irregularly.

6.3. Local Environments

In addition to giving answers regarding their homes, the citizens also expressed their opinion regarding the local environment where they live. Living conditions include both the home conditions and condition of the immediate environment, i.e. local environment. Since the immediate environment is under the direct jurisdiction of the local self-government, we will make a cross-cutting of answers to questions with the statements of interviewed representatives of the local self-government.



Almost half of them think that there is a good lighting in their local environment, whereas the remaining ones think it is not good 30%, not well planned 6% or that there is no street lighting 16%.

As concerns the street lighting, representatives of the association of citizens “Sumnal” said that there was

a need for improving the infrastructure of street lighting, especially in relation to the power supply grid.

The local self-government thinks that the street lighting is on a satisfactory level, but there is still room for its improvement. The street lighting can be improved by installing approximately twenty additional street lights, in order to cover the entire settlement, especially the area with illegal dwellings. The municipality has also adopted a Program for energy efficiency on the territory of the entire municipality, which also includes the street lighting, that is, proper selection of light bulbs.

As concerns the streets and their infrastructure, a smaller group

of citizens - 6% think that they are built according to the urban plan, whereas a larger group - 27% think that the streets are illegally constructed, 21% say that they are asphalted, 13% say that a blanket course of crushed stone is placed on streets and 33% say that the streets are unpaved.

The local self-government informs that during the previous period, a certain number of sidewalks were built, but in their opinion, there is still a need for improving and arranging the lanes in the settlements by placing asphalt or paving bricks, which is planned to be done by the municipality in the near future.

The majority of respondents think that there are no parks, or there are insufficient parks or that the existing parks are in a bad condition, and only ten percent think that the parks are in a good condition.

The obtained replies are such because of the fact that there is insufficient space for building parks and planting greenery. However, the representatives of the local self-government say that the internal area of the existing playground could be improved and better arranged, as well as the area around it (fence, lighting, benches etc.)

The public enterprise “Komunalna higijena” according to its annual operational program, have provided full scope of services to all citizens in the settlement, in compliance with its technical capacities and possibilities. Even though there is a need for improvement of their services, due to the small space, they are not able to increase the scope of services.

The association of citizens “Sumnal” got the impression from the meetings with citizens that the waste collection should be done more frequently.

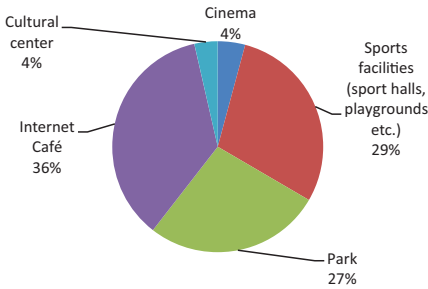
A larger number of respondents 62% are not satisfied with the waste collection and said that in some parts of the settlement, the waste was collected once a week, and in other parts, several times a week. Frequently, small dumps can be seen on the main street in Topaana and at the local playgrounds, which after a certain period are set on fire by neglectful citizens, thus reducing the quality of air in the settlement.

As concerns the cleaning of streets in Topaana, one-third of respondents are satisfied, and two-thirds are not satisfied.

According to the information from the local self-government, the public enterprises “Parkovi i zelenilo” and “Patishta i ulici”, according to their annual operational program, provide the full scope of their services to all citizens in the settlement according to their technical possibilities and capacities.

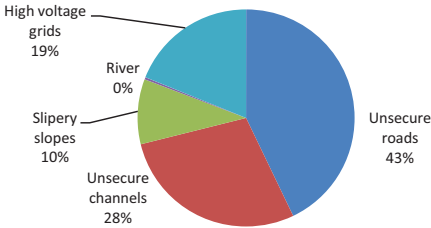
According to the survey, in the area of Topaana populated by Roma population there are all types of facilities and institutions nec-

Graph 20: Locations for recreation and leisure



essary for normal living - primary school, secondary school, kindergarten, outpatient clinic, green market, shops, pharmacy and banks. The following facilities were mentioned as places for recreation and leisure most frequently used by the local population: sport facilities - 29%, park - 27%, internet cafe - 36%, cultural center - 4% and cinema - 4%.

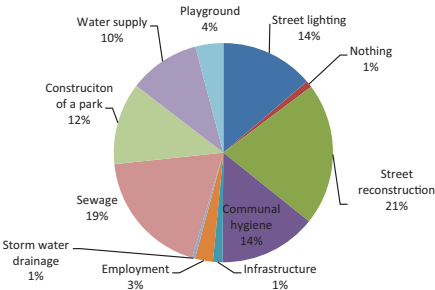
Graph 21: Objects that endanger the safety



This is how the respondents assess the distance of education and health institutions: 77% think that their school is far up to 10 minutes' walk, i.e. no further than 2 km, 22% think it is far up to 10 to 30 minutes' walk, and 1% think that it is far more than 30 minutes' walk from their home.

Health institutions are far from 10 to 30 minutes' walk to half of the respondents, and to the other half only 10 minutes' walk from their home,

Graph 22: What would you change



To the question how they assess the living conditions in relation to the infrastructure, the majority of respondents 38% replied average, 34% poor, 23% excellent and good and 5% insufficient.

Areas and objects that endanger the safety of citizens of Topaana are the road, channel and high-voltage power lines.

To the question: What would you change in your environment? half of the respondents said that they would change the street infrastructure, such as, asphaltting the streets and construction of sewage and water supply network. One-third would improve the hygiene and

parks, and 14% would improve the street lighting.

In addition to the individual communication with citizens of Topaana, the municipality of Chair also cooperates with the local community and association of citizens “Sumnal”, which operates in this area. As partners, they worked on implementation of a number of projects defined in strategic documents of the municipality, in particular with the association of citizens “Sumnal”, in the field of education.

The findings regarding the housing conditions and urbanization of Roma settlements in the municipality of Chair by members of the local community, representatives of the local self-government, and project partners are summarized in the conclusions and recommendations which are a constituent part of this Baseline Study.

7. Conclusions

- 1. Settlement.** Topaana is a Roma settlement located in the municipality of Chair which characterizes with unplanned infrastructure, no green areas and insufficient places for leisure and recreation. In 2007, the municipality of Chair developed a General Urban Plan (GUP) for Topaana, but only a small portion of it has been implemented in practice to present.
- 2. Young people are the predominant population.** Roma families in Topaana mainly consist of five members who live in a household of parents and children. This is a young population, mainly unemployed persons with completed primary education. The income of 26% of respondents is over 30,000 denars, whereas the income of 21% ranges from 6,000 to 12,000 denars. There is also a significant percentage of families 39% whose income comes from a salary, that is, salary from the public sector - 11%, private sector - 28%, and users of social welfare - 21%.
- 3. Own dwellings.** A high percentage of respondents or 43% live in their own homes, 41% live in homes owned by their parents and only 4% in rented houses. Homes are mainly owned by male members of the family (husband or parent).
- 4. Legalization.** According to data obtained during this survey, the biggest number of homes in Topaana are in a procedure for legalization. Namely, 18% live in legally built houses, 17% have legalized them, and 58% are still in a process of legalization. A small percentage of respondents or 5% live in illegal houses, and 2% have no home at all.
- 5. Humidity is the biggest problem in their homes.** The most frequent problems in regard to the home infrastructure are the humidity in their rooms - 42%, leaking from the roof - 28% and the small living space 16%.
- 6. Toilets and bathrooms in homes.** There is still a big number of families who do not have toilets and bathrooms in their homes. The obtained data show that 67% of respondents have a toilet in their house, whereas 33% have a toilet outside of their house. As concerns the bathroom, 66% respondents have a bathroom in their house, and 32% have a bathroom outside of their house.
- 7. Water supply, sewage and power supply.** A total of 99% of the respondents have water supply and power supply in their homes, and 96% are connected to the sewage network.

However, this sewage network has not been constructed according to a plan, because it was financed by the citizens themselves, and in certain areas of the settlement, there are still open storm water drain channels. Most of the families possess the basic electric appliances in their households.

8. **Streets.** Citizens wish the conditions of streets in Topaana to be improved, that is 21% of respondents say that the streets are asphalted, 16% say that a blanket course of crushed stone was placed on streets and 33% say that streets are unpaved. To the question what they would change, 21% of respondents said that they would improve the street infrastructure.
9. **Hygiene in the settlement.** According to obtained data, 62% of population is not satisfied with the waste collection and hygiene on streets. Namely, small dumps are frequently created on the main street in the settlement, which are then set on fire by neglectful citizens.
10. **Street lighting.** Almost half of them think that there is a good lighting in their local environment, whereas the remaining ones think it is not good 30%, not well planned 6% or that there is no street lighting 16%. The local self-government thinks that the street lighting could be improved by installing additional street lights in order to cover the whole settlements and illuminate particularly the area of illegal houses.
11. **Parks.** The majority of respondents think that there are no parks, there are insufficient number of parks or that the parks are in a bad condition. The obtained replies are such because in their opinion, there is insufficient space for building parks and planting greenery. However, the representatives of the local self-government say that the internal area of the existing playground could be improved and better arranged, as well as the area around it (fence, lighting, benches etc.)

Recommendations stemming from the Participatory Evaluation held on 01st December 2016, in Skopje

1. Conclusion of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the municipality of Chair and the Local Leader Group of Topaana. This memorandum will strengthen the cooperation between the Local Leader Group and municipality of Chair in the light of meeting the needs of citizens related to their housing rights and urbanization. Also, this memorandum will foster the greater involvement of local population in the decision-making processes on local level.
2. Development of a new GUP for the settlement Topaana, in consultations with the local population so as to respond to their needs in terms of their access to basic utility services and sustainable urban development.
3. Connection of all families to the sewage network. Recommendation for the Local Leader Group to address the municipality of Chair for obtaining assistance in preparing a request for reconstruction of the sewage network.
4. Placing asphalt on streets in the neighborhood called “Chicago” in order to improve the quality of movement of citizens in this area.
5. Recommendation for providing favorable financial instruments through which the population will be able to renovate their homes and provide decent homes to their families. Namely 2% of respondents said that they did not have a bathroom and 3% did not have a kitchen.
6. Construction of an appropriate bus station for the line number 20. Citizens are currently getting on the bus directly from the street which represents an increased risk for accidents.
7. More frequent waste collection and cleaning of streets, as well as timely clearing of small dumps from streets. This also implies increasing the awareness among citizens of Topaana, in order to be more careful with the waste dumping.
8. Installation of street lights in the entire settlement, which will contribute for safer movement of citizens during the evening hours.
9. Construction of a decent playground in the settlement Topaana equipped with appropriate equipment and a pos-

sibility for making it a closed playground for easier maintenance, because there is insufficient space for recreation and sports.

10. Development of a Local Action Plan for Housing of Roma in the Municipality of Chair, which will reflect the objectives of the National Action Plan for Housing of Roma 2016 - 2020, where priority should be given to local priorities identified by the Local Leader Group established under the project “Right to Housing of Roma for Sustainable Urban Development”.

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Annex 1. Competences of the Municipal Council and the Mayor

Pursuant to Article 32 of the Law on the Local Government, (1) the Council is a representative body of citizens which decides under the competences of the municipality. (2) For reviewing questions and determining proposals in a certain area, the council may establish permanent or temporary committees consisting of representatives from the council. (3) The composition and manner of election of members of committees referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article are regulated by a statute. (4) The composition of committees referred to in paragraph (2) of this Article should be in compliance with the proportional representations of political parties in the council.

Article 36 of the Law on Local Self-Government - The Council adopts the statute of the municipality and other regulations; 2. Adopts the budget of the municipality and annual account of the municipality. 3. Determines the amount of own sources of revenues for financing the municipality, within the scope defined by law; 4. Establishes public services within the competences of the municipality and supervise their work; 5. Appoints members in managing boards of public services; 6. Adopts operational programs and financial plans for financing the public services established by the municipality; 7. Adopts the reports for implementation of the budget and annual accounts of the municipality; 8. Makes decisions for issuing licenses for performing activities of public interest and local importance, in compliance with the law; 9. Adopts reports on the conducted work and annual accounts of public services, established by the committee; 10. Decides about the manner of working with the property of the municipality; 11. Decides about the manner of performing financial control of the municipality's budget, in compliance with the law; 12. Selects the person to manage the regional unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the municipality, in compliance with the law; 13. Reviews and adopts the annual report for public security of municipal area, and delivers it to the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Ombudsman; 14. May give recommendations to a person on managerial position in the regional unit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the area of public security and traffic safety and 15. It performs other activities stipulated by law.

The Mayor, on the other hand, is directly responsible for implementation of policies defined by the Council, however, he is also authorized to initiate adoption of certain regulations by the Council. The Law on Local Self-Government, or more precisely Article 50

stipulated his/her competences.

Article 50 Competences of the Mayor (1) The Mayor: 1. Represents and acts on behalf of the municipality; 2. Controls the legality of Council's regulations; 3. Publishes Council's regulations in the official journal of the municipality; 4. Ensures the enforcement of Council's decisions, 5. Ensures the performance of activities delegated to the municipality by law; 6. Initiates and proposes adoption of regulations that fall within the competency of the Council; 7. Proposes the annual budget and annual balance sheet of the budget of the municipality; Executes the budget of the municipality; 9. Elects managers of public services established by the municipality, on the basis of a public job announcement; 10. Regularly informs the Council on the performance of his/her competences in accordance with the statute; 11. Resolves administrative matters regarding the rights, duties and interests of legal entities and natural persons in accordance with the law; 12. Adopts a regulation for organizational structure and job positions in the municipal administration; 13. Manages the municipal administration; 14. Decides on employment, rights, duties and responsibilities of employees in municipal administration, unless otherwise stipulated by law; Ensures proper and legal use, maintenance and protection of municipal property, in compliance with the law and statute and 16. Performs other activities stipulated by the law and statute. (2) The Mayor may authorize a responsible official of the municipality to take on the proceeding and to make decisions in administrative matters, as well as to sign acts.

Annex 2. Persons involved in preparing the Baseline Study on Roma housing in municipality of Chair

Members of the Local Leader Group within the project “Roma Housing Rights for Sustainable Urban Development” in Chair

- Jashar Jusufovski
- Redjep Belgizar
- Ridvan Mamut
- Alen Jankovski
- Sebastijan Amet
- Ahmet Bajram
- Djemail Kurtishev
- Ersin Ali
- Gabriel Bajram
- Elena Neshovska
- Adem Sait
- Haras Amet
- Ismail Musa
- Mendiks Bekir
- Sebjastijan Bajram

Representatives from Local government from Chair

- Sasha Maksimovski – Advisor for Local economic development
- Emir Sever – Information technologies

Representatives from the Center for Civic Initiative of Prilep

- Goce Todoroski - Executive Director
- Marina Gjorgjioska Kitanoska - Deputy Director for Programs
- Igor Tasevski - Program Coordinator

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For the publisher:

Zoran Kostov
Executive director
“Habitat for Humanity Macedonia”

Editor:

Liljana Alceva
Deputy Director for Program
“Habitat for Humanity Macedonia”

Support Team:

Sasha Maksimovski – Advisor for Local economic development
in municipality of Chair
Aleksandra Savevska - Project coordinator, “Habitat for Humanity Macedonia”

Project:

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Photography by:

Kalina Sejfula

Author:

Center for Civic Initiative of Prilep

Lectured by:

Violeta Tancheva – Zlateva

Translated by:

Sashenka Gramatova - Ljuben

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