

Together for a Prosperous Community

Goals

Establish sustainable mechanisms for community mobilization.

Develop capacities of Roma communities to plan, finance, and implement solutions to their development priorities.

Duration

February 2022–February 2026

Total Funding

\$1,531,310

Implementing Partners

Institute for Research and Policy Analysis Romalítico in collaboration with Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative and Romaversitas

Key Counterparts

Twenty municipal governments
Civil society organizations
Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Ministry of Local Self Government
Minister without portfolio in charge of integration and implementation of the Roma decade

Contact

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CHALLENGES

The mobilization of people and resources to address priority issues consistently emerges as a pressing need in Roma communities. Roma remain the most marginalized ethnic group in North Macedonia. Many government strategies and programs aimed at addressing various Roma issues have not produced the expected positive effects on Roma lives. Roma primarily live in segregated communities often lacking the basic infrastructure for quality life, such as paved roads, electricity, water supply, and sewage systems.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This activity is part of USAID North Macedonia's Local Works initiative through which USAID empowers local actors to take the lead in identifying and addressing development challenges in their own communities. Specifically, the activity supports Roma communities in North Macedonia to implement community actions and initiatives. A variety of local stakeholders partner to identify and prioritize initiatives including citizens, private businesses, local governments, civil society organizations, local leaders, national government institutions, influential community members, Roma diaspora, youth, women, and other formal and informal citizen groups.

Through training, mentoring, and education, the activity equips community stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to plan, develop, and mobilize resources for local initiatives that improve the living standards and prosperity of Roma communities. This program is coordinated through eight regional resource offices covering 20 municipalities: Shuto Orizari, Chair, Gjorche Petrov, Tetovo, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Kochani, Vinica, Berovo, Radovish, Strumica, Prilep, Bitola, Veles, Shtip, Negotino, Gradsko, Delcevo, Pehcevo and Kichevo.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Improved inclusion of the Roma community in North Macedonia's society.
- Improved economic security and growth.
- Increased citizen engagement in social and economic opportunities.
- Increased local governments' responsiveness and accountability to citizens.

KEY RESULTS

Sustainable Development

Over the activity lifecycle, partners have completed 58 local actions in 17 municipalities impacting more than 20,000 people. Stakeholders reconstructed eight public buildings, paved and reconstructed around 3.8 km of pathways and streets, completed five environment actions that engaged more than 350 volunteers, renovated seven sewage networks with a total length of 750 meters, and installed 2.5 km of public lights with solar power throughout Roma neighborhoods.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Eight local resource offices were established to serve as community centers wherein **Roma citizens** and key **stakeholders** have increased opportunities to get together and discuss local issues.

The activity has established business, alumni, and diaspora **networks**. Members are taking an active role in planning, **funding**, and implementing community actions.

The activity finalized an online crowdfunding **platform** as a tool to increase financial **participation** among **citizens** in country and **diaspora**.

Of 58 completed actions, **15** are self-implemented initiatives, inspired by the **Local Works Model**.

Consulting Preparation

Fifty individuals were equipped with knowledge and skills to support the development and implementation of locally led actions and initiatives. They serve as consultants for business, alumni, and diaspora networks, helping identify community priorities initiate stakeholder meetings, plan community actions, generate resources, and implement solutions at the local level.



Resource Mobilization

The activity has generated more than **\$300,000** through resource mobilization.



\$220,000 from institutions
\$30,000 through community participation
\$30,000 from NGOs
\$8,000 from businesses
\$12,000 from other sources

