

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Situation analysis and draft recommendations

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- **Situation Analysis Summary:** Service delivery gaps are evident within existing institutional mechanisms – and this is identified in all five of key areas of intervention.
- A common cross-sectoral issue, especially in BiH administrative structure with multiple government layers, remain lack of coordination, capacity, and resources among the institutions responsible for implementation of Roma inclusion policies and actions. While Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees is a head institution mandated with Roma questions, actual implementation is conducted through lower level line ministries – who then report back to Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees. This vertical coordination remains weak.

- Given that BiH Roma Strategy does not clearly define objectives, targets, a set of concrete actions, responsibilities, budget and a monitoring framework, (Action Plan partly defines all these parameters), there should be a stronger legal basis/laws that would support mandating budget resources in line with strategic priorities for Roma questions.

Policy Level Recommendations: One of the most important things to target is the Roma budget planning and preparation, following expenditure, and monitoring and reporting – linking it to Roma policy. In order to enhance mechanisms for effective implementation of existing programs, including service delivery, as well as newly identified programs within Roma Action Plan, two existing laws can be amended:

- The Law on Rights of National Minorities in BiH (Roma being the biggest national minority) can be amended so that it specifically states that budget resources can be awarded to specific minority group when high degree of social exclusion and inequalities are noted. This Law would allow budget funds for active measures for specific Roma questions. This Law would then be referenced by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees when asking for budget funds within budget user requests.

- The State Aid Law of BiH that regulates conditions for assigning, controlling, implementing and the return of misused budget funds within BiH, needs to be amended to clearly define coordinating roles between national government and all other lower government levels – when it comes to budget implementation and monitoring. The Law should spell out the functional relations between various structures when it comes to coordination of implementation of budget funds – where various governments/institutions are necessary in order to implement specific active measure – as is the case with Roma questions. This would significantly improve vertical coordination – which is essential for implementation and monitoring of Roma issues.

- **Additional Recommendations:**

- *Capacity Building with Practical Examples:* Ministry of Finance and Treasury staff underwent program budgeting training, but the capacities that link policy and budgets remain weak, especially when it comes to targeted knowledge such as Roma questions.
- Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees staff also had program budgeting training, but capacities in both, developing results-based budget proposals, as well as monitoring of implementation and its linkages with process of setting strategic priorities and corresponding action plans remain weak.

- There is a serious gap when it comes to measuring impact against strategic goals and priorities, and this is a challenge when it comes to planning upcoming interventions.
 - For example, when preparing next year's budget (or mid-term budget 1+2), there is no information about the actual impact achieved compared to defined strategic priorities – which means there is no input for adequate program planning and development.
 - Also, given that multiple levels of governments are involved in Roma budgeting implementation, the actual funds do not reach the implementing institutions (for example at cantonal or LG level) until fall of the current fiscal year, which means that any timely reporting as input for next year/mid-term planning is impossible.