



## ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS OF PERSONS WITHOUT DOCUMENTS AND ACCESS TO RIGHTS



VAŠA PRAVA BiH  
Legal Aid Network

11 – 12 APRIL 2012, SKOPJE, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



# Civil society can strengthen democracy and develop values of democratic life:

tolerance, moderation, compromise, and respect for opposing points of view.

- help to inform the public about important public issues
- can provide forums for debating public policies that affect the interests of different groups or of society at large
- establish a dialogue with relevant government ministries and agencies



# About us

The association **Vaša prava Bosnia and Herzegovina** is a local, non-governmental and non-profit organisation with its headquarters in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Association **Vaša prava BiH** represents the largest free legal aid provider and one of the largest non-governmental organisation in the region.

Since 1996 the Association has provided aid to more than 450,000 refugees, returnees, displaced persons, minority groups, and vulnerable groups of domicile population in the legal matters such as:

property repossession, social, economic and cultural rights, discrimination in access to employment, utilities, education, and social welfare, as well as, other human rights guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other international legal instruments.



**VAŠA PRAVA BiH**  
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[www.vasaprava.org](http://www.vasaprava.org)



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



## Sarajevo

Lukavica, Hrasnica centar, Ilijaš, Kiseljak, Olovo, Sokolac, Pale, Pale/Prača, Rakovica centar, Hadžići, Tarčin/Pazarić i Kakanj

## Mostar

Prozor/Rama, Konjic, Jablanica, Grude/Dubrava Centar, Čapljina, Ljubuški, Nevesinje, Salakovac centar, Stolac i Vitez

## Tuzla

Brčko Distrikt, Lukavac, Gradačac, Živinice, Banovići, Srebrenik, Kladanj, Doboju Istok i Petrovac

## Banja Luka

K. Dubica, S. Most i N. Grad, Bihać, B. Krupa, V. Kladaša, Ključ, Gradiška, Prijedor, Derventa, Prnjavor, Doboju, Kostajnica



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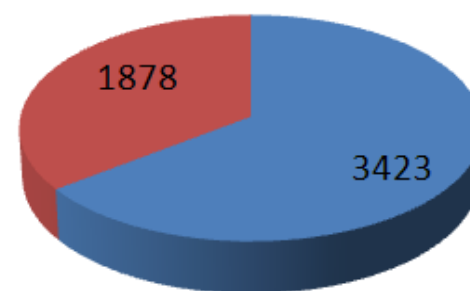
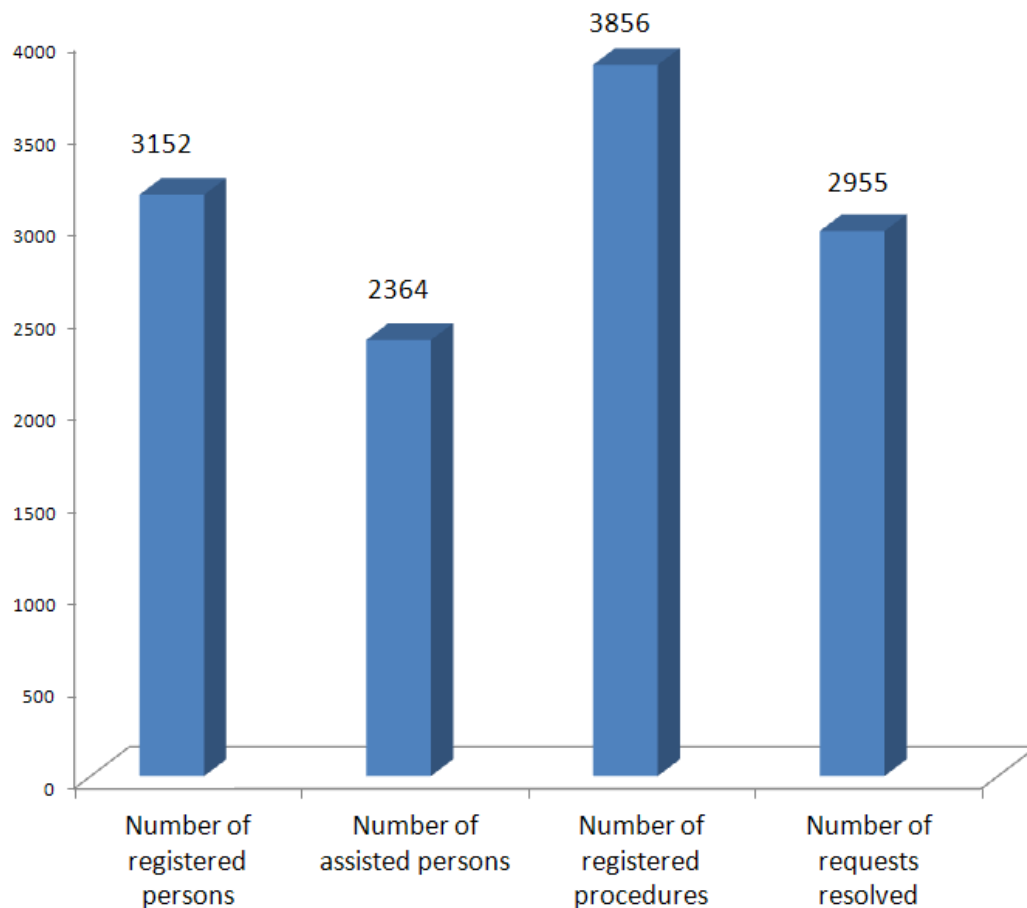
# Decade of Roma inclusion 2005 – 2015

From 2008 several complementary projects provided free legal assistance to vulnerable groups with focus on Roma population in 3 key areas

- Civil registrations and access to basic rights
  - Prevention and reduction of statelessness
  - Obtainment of identity documents and documents confirming civil status
- Feb 2008 – July 09 – EC - UNHCR - “Social inclusion and access to Human Rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in the Western Balkans”
- July 2009 – Oct. 2011- “Social inclusion and regional support to marginalised communities – EU – UNHCR – Vaša prava BiH
- Feb 2009 – Oct. 11 – “Legal Aid for 1000 Roma” – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – UNHCR – Vaša prava BiH
- Jan. 2012 – Jan. 2012 – UNHCR - “Stateless Programme”

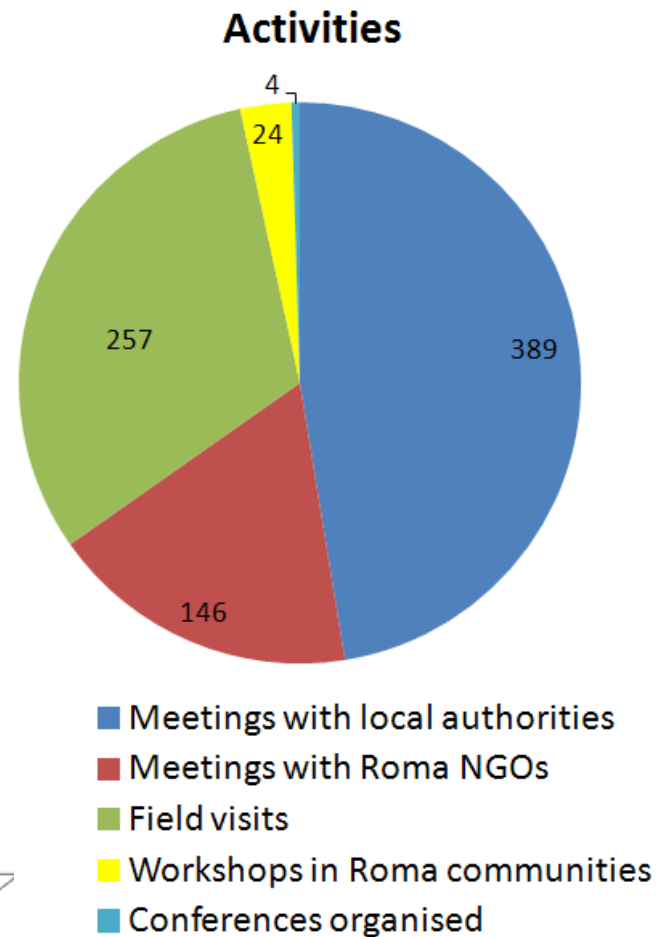
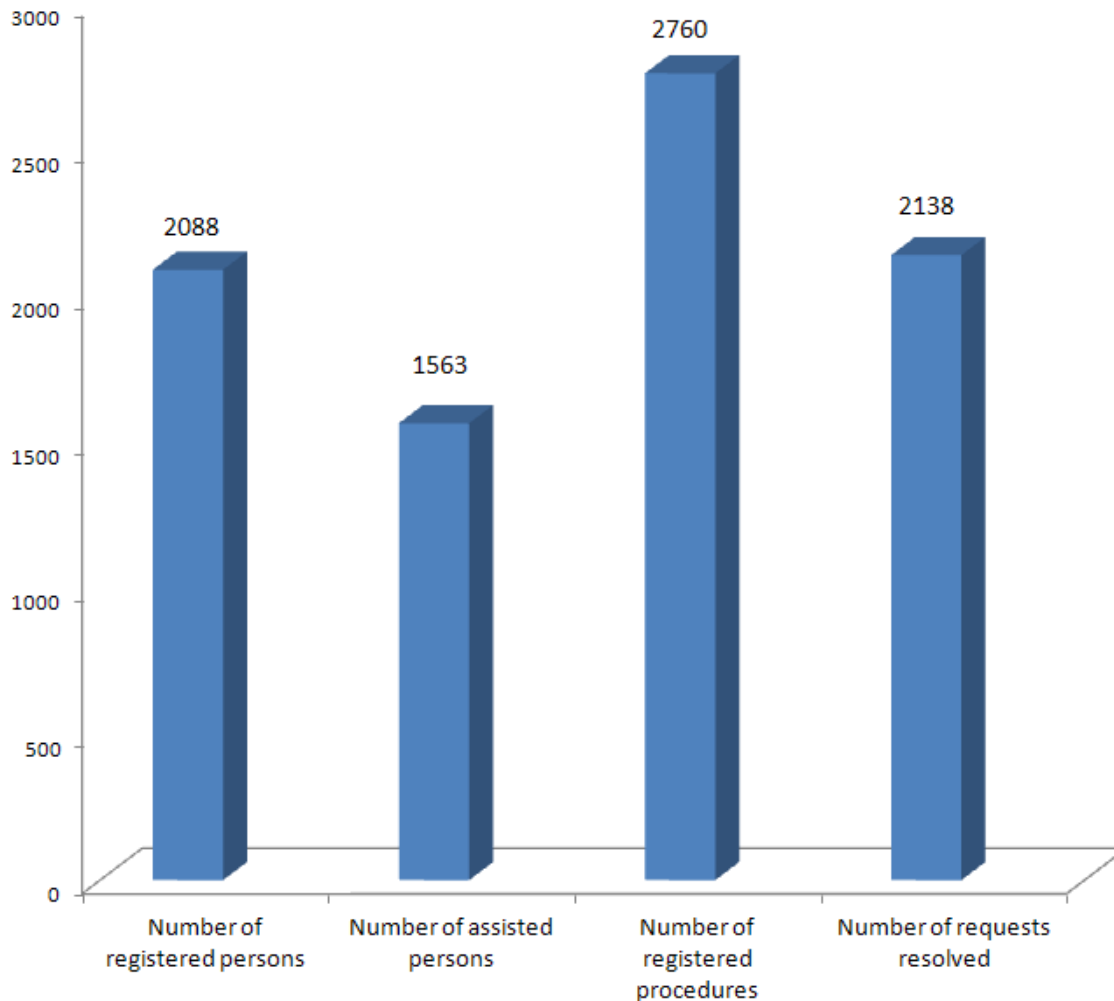


## Civil registration and basic rights total data – period 01 July 2009 – 31 December 2011

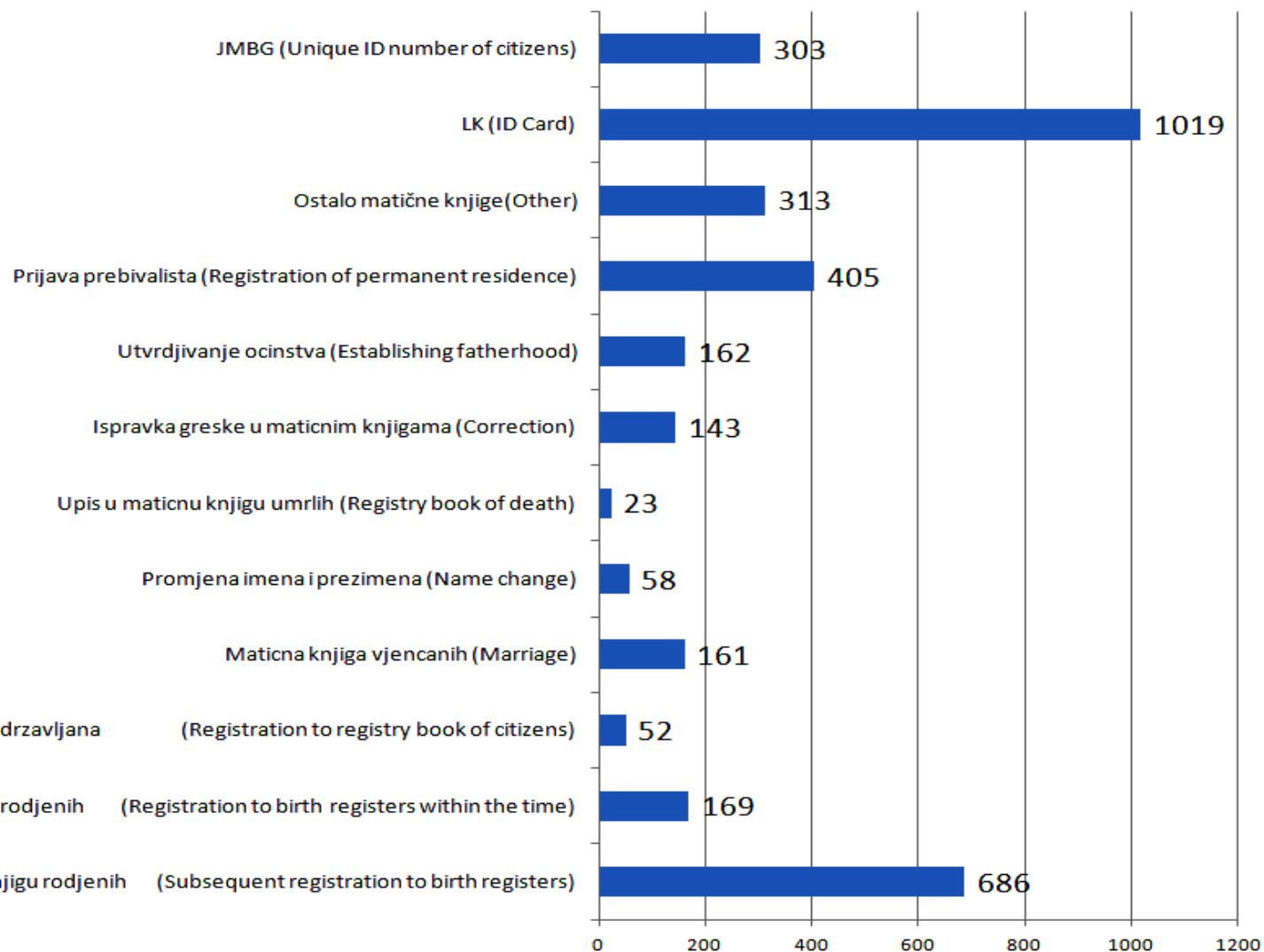


■ Documents for civil registration  
■ Documents for basic rights

## Civil registration data – period 01 July 2009 – 31 December 2011



## Civil status cases – period 01 July 2009 – 31 December 2011





# In country activities

1

**Advocacy on changes of current legislation and introduction and changes in upcoming legislation regarding Civil status in order to adopt more effective and easier access to rights and resolving status issues with vulnerable population groups.**

- 1. Participation in draft of the new Law on Birth Registry in Federation BiH (Zakona o matičnim knjigama Federacije BiH)**
  - Administrative tax removal was included in the draft document of the Law
- 2. Changes and comments were communicated to Parliamentary Assembly of BiH regarding Law on Registration of Permanent Residency**
- 3. VP participated on a steering group with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and provided Parliamentary Assembly with changes and comments for the BiH Citizenship Law. Regarding this Law VP participated jointly with the ministry on number of round tables and public hearings.**

# In country activities

2

- VP is signatory on coordination body and multilateral agreement with the State Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, all (relevant) Federal ministries (e.g Labour and Social Policy), Republic of Srpska and Brčko district, Centres for Social Work in effort to establish the database, maintenance regarding needs on Roma population/families in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- MoU's signed with 110 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Over 40 workshops, trainings and advisory meetings organised by VP for our partners, government officials and stakeholders (internal affairs, Centres for Social Work) involved in Civil Registration.
- MoU's and agreements in place with Roma NGO's and other NGO's in the county (e.g. BHWI The Bosnian Women's Initiative)
- Joint activities – workshops in communities, round tables, awareness raising and info campaigns re Civil registration.
- Work with Roma mediators and partners re civil registration issues and psychosocial *support*.



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# Thank you!



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