

2024

REPORT on the work of the Association of Roma women "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla



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For the Publisher:

Indira Bajramović

Text Prepared and Edited by:

Larisa Kovačević

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Contact:

Hadži Hasan age Pašića bb, 75000 Tuzla, B&H

Phone/Fax: +387 35 298 001

E-mail: info@bolja-buducnost.org

Facebook: [boljabuducnost.1](https://www.facebook.com/boljabuducnost.1)

Instagram: [bolja_buducnost](https://www.instagram.com/bolja_buducnost)

Twitter: [Boljabuducnost1](https://twitter.com/Boljabuducnost1)

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1. Introduction

Dear members, collaborators, donors, and friends of our association,

It is with great pleasure that we present the annual report on the work of our association, in which we summarize the achievements, activities, and projects we have implemented over the past year. This report provides a detailed overview of our work, highlights key projects and initiatives, and emphasizes our commitment to improving the quality of life of the community we serve.

The year behind us was filled with challenges, but also numerous successes. Through various activities, campaigns, and projects, we aimed to address the needs of our beneficiaries, promote inclusion and equality, and empower the most vulnerable members of society. The success of our activities would not have been possible without the support of numerous partners, donors, and all those who contributed to our mission.

Through this report, we aim not only to present the results of our efforts but also to express our gratitude to all those who have supported, inspired, and motivated us. Our journey continues, with even greater enthusiasm and dedication for the year ahead.

Respectfully,

*Indira Bajramović, Director
Association of Roma Women “Bolja budućnost” Tuzla*

Tuzla, January 2025

2. Brief overview of annual activities and achievements

Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina face numerous challenges, including discrimination, social exclusion, and limited access to basic rights such as education, employment, and healthcare. Despite the existence of legal frameworks for the protection of their rights, the practical implementation of these laws is often lacking, which contributes to their marginalized position. Continuous efforts from all social actors are needed to ensure equality and better living conditions for the Roma community.

The support of our donors plays a key role in enabling the implementation of our projects and activities. Thanks to their support, we can reach the most vulnerable members of the community and provide them with essential assistance and resources. Without this support, our work in improving the quality of life and protecting the rights of Roma men and women would not be possible.

In 2024, our association implemented 12 projects thanks to the support of domestic and international donors. The projects addressed key issues within the community, with a special focus on the prevention of gender-based violence and providing protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable members of society. Through educational activities and direct support, we worked on preventing arranged child marriages and underage marriages, offering a safe environment and support for children and their families.

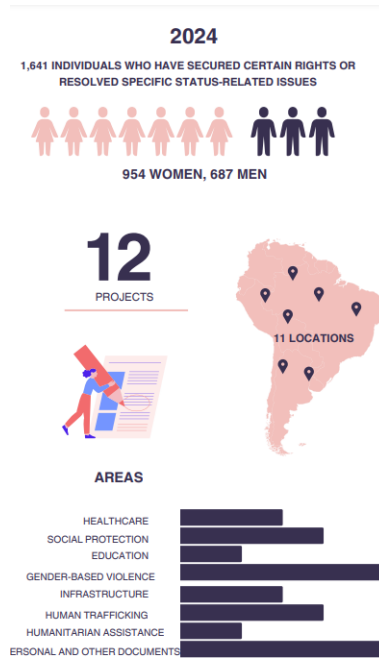
In addition, we dedicated significant attention to research activities to better understand the needs and challenges faced by the Roma community. These activities allowed us to develop more targeted programs and initiatives. Through the commemoration and celebration of important dates and holidays, we worked on preserving and promoting the cultural identity of Roma men and women, strengthening the sense of community and pride within the community.

In the field of social protection and health initiatives, we provided direct assistance to the most vulnerable members of the community, enabling them better access to basic rights and services. A total of 5,043 participants took part in our projects and activities throughout the year. Through awareness-raising campaigns, the fight against discrimination, and direct assistance in Roma communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, the engagement of cultural mediators was of crucial importance. As a result of these efforts, 1,641 members of the Roma community now have resolved certain status-related issues in various areas.

Collaboration with the media played a significant role in achieving visibility for our activities. Through media presence, we managed to reach a wider audience, raise awareness about important social issues, and showcase positive examples from the Roma community. Internally, we worked on strengthening organizational capacities, revised and adopted new regulations, and established new partnerships and collaborations. These changes significantly improved our operational performance and allowed us to respond more efficiently to the needs of our beneficiaries, enhancing the quality of their lives and providing support on their path to integration into society.

3. 2024 in numbers

Throughout 2024, our work focused on providing support and resolving status-related issues for 1,641 individuals. Beneficiaries have accessed their rights in key areas such as healthcare, social protection, education, gender-based violence, and human trafficking. These activities were made possible through the implementation of 12 projects that contributed to improving the quality of life for our beneficiaries.



Through the organization of 76 events, we reached 5,043 individuals (2,773 women and 2,270 men), providing them with the opportunity to be informed, educated, and actively involved in the promotion of human rights. Additionally, our association actively participated in 49 events organized by other organizations, institutions, and agencies, further strengthening our network of partners and expanding the reach of our activities.



This dynamic and engaged approach has resulted in significant achievements and contributions to the advancement of human rights and the fight against discrimination in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

4. Overview of key projects implemented in 2024

Through the implementation of our projects, we not only contribute to legislative changes but also provide direct support to Roma in realizing their rights and resolving their status-related issues. Our goal is to enable them to fully exercise the rights guaranteed to them by national and international legislation. Throughout 2024, our association continued to implement a wide range of projects and activities at the local, national, and regional levels. The projects focused on three key areas: human rights, socio-economic initiatives, and advocacy. We successfully implemented 12 projects that contributed to building a more inclusive society, one that respects diversity and provides fair opportunities for all members of the Roma community.

Institutional support for the Roma women's association "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla

Institutional development of the Roma women's association "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla is a key component in strengthening the organization's capacities and empowering the fight for the rights of Roma women, who face challenges in realizing their rights, while also raising the visibility of the Roma women's activist movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This development has been made possible by significant support from the OAK Foundation, which provided resources for strengthening organizational capacities and implementing the following program activities within the grant support.

Human rights program with a focus on the rights of Roma women:

- 1.1. Our association regularly informs the management structure and membership about all activities and projects, encouraging continuous exchange of opinions to ensure that programs align with the needs of the beneficiaries.
- 1.2. The involvement of our members in the implementation of activities and project development has become dynamic, improving the exchange of information and strengthening collective engagement.
- 1.3. We actively raise awareness about the cultural heritage of the Roma community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, contributing to greater tolerance, reducing prejudices towards Roma and promoting respect for their human rights.

Socio-economic program:

- 2.1. We provided targeted support to Roma women, girls, and women at the community and individual level, empowering them to achieve their rights to education, health, a life free from violence, and gender equality.
- 2.2. We increased the employability of Roma through the women's cooperative, enabling them to market services and products, and achieving a certain level of self-sustainability.

Advocacy and political participation:

- 3.1. We have established a broader network for our association at the national and regional levels, creating collaborations with organizations, associations, foundations, and institutions with a similar focus.
- 3.2. We have increased the visibility of Romani women's issues through participation in regional and national events significant for women and national minorities, thus actively contributing to political participation and the affirmation of the Roma community's interests.



Support for the informal Roma women's network „Uspjeh“

In 2024, our association dedicated special attention to strengthening the Roma women's sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through our work, we supported the activities of the first Roma women's network in B&H, which focuses on mobilizing resources for lobbying, advocacy, and initiating initiatives that promote greater participation of Roma women in public and political life. The informal Roma women's network "Uspjeh" maintained its recognized status, becoming a model of a successful and effective network with strong Roma women organizations. Our main goal was to improve the quality of work of Roma women's organizations, both in terms of working with the Roma community and in their relationships with government institutions. We achieved this through cooperation, the exchange of experiences and ideas, and the implementation of joint activities and projects. We utilized resources and knowledge within the network to conduct analyses, research, and develop documents, and together we carried out advocacy campaigns, drawing attention to the importance of improving the status and rights of Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



In line with tradition, in 2024, we conducted the campaign "A Month of Roma women's Activism." The campaign began on March 8th, International women's day, and lasted until April 8th, which is celebrated as World Roma day. During the campaign, in Tuzla, Kakanj, Visoko, Dobo, Travnik, and Prnjavor, we sent a message that violence, child/arranged marriages, racial discrimination, the invisibility of Roma children in education, and social exclusion should not be tolerated or correlated with Roma tradition, culture, and customs, as these are clear violations of human rights.

"Progress in the integration of Roma men and women as Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress on the path to the EU"

As part of the regional program that uses advocacy as a key tool for achieving gender equality in the EU accession process, our goal is to improve the integration of Roma women and advance issues that are important for women from the Roma community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to ensure their visibility and participation in the EU membership negotiation process. This program is being implemented in close collaboration with the informal Roma women's network "Uspjeh," which plays a key role in creating space for the inclusion of Roma women in political and social processes.

The project activities are focused on building capacity and strengthening the existing structures within the Roma women's network, through the implementation of a series of research activities that enable a better understanding of the needs and challenges faced by Roma women. Additionally, we are working on developing policies that reflect the specific needs and interests of Roma women, with a special emphasis on their socio-economic, educational, and health aspects.

The informal Roma women's network "Uspjeh," as part of this project, has created and adopted an Advocacy strategy for the improvement of the position of Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU for the period 2024-2025. This strategic document defines specific activities aimed at improving political participation, education, employment, social and healthcare services, as well as preserving the cultural identity of Roma women. The goal of the strategy is to reduce prejudice and stereotypes against the Roma national minority, with a particular focus on gender equality at the national and EU levels.



For general support of advocacy activities aimed at achieving a better position for Roma women.

Our association, with the grant support provided by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, actively contributes to improving the living conditions and rights of Roma men and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through collaboration with various organizations and institutions at the local and national levels, our work aims to raise awareness and provide support on key issues affecting national minorities, with a special focus on the rights and needs of Roma women.

Through the funds we received from this grant, we direct our support specifically to Roma men and women, helping them resolve various status-related issues, such as access to health insurance, social protection, and providing essential information and assistance in their daily lives. Given that many members of the Roma community are insufficiently informed, face educational barriers, and some have not even completed their schooling, our support has a significant impact on their lives and contributes to improving their everyday situation. This assistance specifically includes help with completing forms and documentation necessary to secure their basic rights. Through this grant, our goal is to be a source of support and resources that will help improve the quality of life for Roma families and contribute to creating better conditions for their daily functioning.



"Rights for all: awareness and advocacy campaign for human rights protection and combating discrimination"

The project "Rights for all: awareness and advocacy campaign for human rights protection and combating discrimination," supported by the Ministry of human rights and refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has had a significant impact on raising awareness about human rights within the broader society. Through direct fieldwork, the project provided quality access to fundamental human rights in eight cities and municipalities: Tuzla, Kakanj, Visoko, Travnik, Prnjavor, Vukosavlje, Modriča, and Doboj. The activities were carried out in collaboration with the members of the informal Roma women's network "Uspjeh" in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

One of the key activities was the creation and distribution of 400 copies of the "Guide to Exercising Rights," through which citizens were informed about their human rights, practical steps to assert them, and how to become more engaged and active in human rights protection. Additionally, the involvement of 7 mediators allowed assistance to 75 individuals in exercising their rights and resolving status-related issues. The project also included the implementation of 18 street actions on significant dates, such as International Women's Day, International day for the elimination of racial discrimination, and World Roma day. The street actions, held in Tuzla, Kakanj, Visoko, Travnik, Dobo, and Prnjavor, contributed to raising awareness among citizens about human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As part of this project, together with the Ministry of human rights and refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the OSCE Mission in Sarajevo, we marked World Roma day. This significant date served as an opportunity to raise awareness about the position and rights of Roma, as well as to highlight achievements and challenges in human rights. Through joint activities and partnership cooperation, we contributed to increasing the visibility and recognition of the importance of improving the social position and human rights of the Roma community in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Promotion and preservation of the culture, tradition, and customs of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Roma community in Bosnia and Herzegovina has a long and rich history spanning over 650 years. Despite this, the community's significant cultural and historical heritage is often misunderstood or overlooked, both within the Roma community itself and in the broader society. In many cases, even members of the Roma community have limited knowledge of their own heritage and rarely engage in preserving their cultural values. This phenomenon can be attributed to processes of assimilation, struggles for survival, and other influencing factors. Our association, in partnership with the members of the informal Roma women's network "Uspjeh," is engaged in finding resources and implementing activities aimed at marking and celebrating significant dates and holidays important to the Roma community. These activities are carried out with the goal of preserving the rich history, culture, traditions, and customs of Roma.

As part of the project, we aimed to gather the perspective of members of the Roma community regarding their knowledge and attitudes towards preserving Roma heritage. As part of this project, a survey was conducted with the goal of better understanding the attitudes, level of knowledge, and practices of Roma community members related to the preservation of their culture and traditions. The results of the research and the report with all key findings are available on the association's website, in the "Publications" section at the web address: www.bolja-buducnost.org.

Right to the future

In 2024, we began the implementation of the "Right to the future" grant in partnership with the “Krila Nade” Foundation from Sarajevo, with the involvement of the Roma women's network "Uspjeh." This project, implemented by CARE International with support from the European Union, aims to improve the rights and position of young Roma men and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina through various activities focused on raising awareness, training, and providing support to communities. This project is based on the following objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of four local Roma civil society organizations, which now can conduct interactive workshops with young girls and boys in Roma communities. These workshops cover themes such as gender, identity, healthy relationships, sexual and reproductive health, rights, and decision-making skills, using the CARE-tested Program E model.
- Improving the understanding of roles and responsibilities in recognizing, preventing, and responding to the risks of child arranged and underage marriages among civil society organizations, the media, schools, and other key stakeholders.
- Raising awareness and enhancing the skills of local and national authorities and other interested parties to adequately prevent and ensure better access to services for Roma and other marginalized girls and their families in dealing with gender-based violence, human trafficking, and child arranged and underage marriages.



Strengthening Roma non-governmental organizations in the prevention and fight against human trafficking

The project "Strengthening Roma non-governmental organizations in the prevention and fight against human trafficking," supported through the USAID/Inspire human rights protection support program, focuses on enhancing the intersectional approach of institutions in addressing human trafficking issues, with the active involvement of Roma non-governmental organizations in the referral mechanism process. We are implementing this project in partnership with the Association "Zemlja djece u BiH".

Key activities of the project include:

- ✓ Advocacy campaigns: Aim to improve the understanding of representatives from relevant institutions about the various forms of human trafficking. These campaigns emphasize the need to overcome stereotypes that associate human trafficking with Roma traditions or customary law.
- ✓ Enhancement of prevention systems: The project promotes joint action by all relevant institutions in the prevention of human trafficking, with a special focus on labor exploitation and arranged underage marriages.
- ✓ Empowerment of the Roma community: Through education, members of the Roma community are empowered to recognize the dangers of human trafficking, actively contribute to prevention, reduce vulnerability, and respond effectively to potential cases.

The project is being implemented in Kakanj, Travnik, Sanski Most, and Donji Vakuf. As part of the project, research was conducted on the forms of human trafficking to which the Roma community is particularly vulnerable. The results of this research is available on the website www.bolja-buducnost.org in the publications section. Additionally, thematic TV programs were recorded and broadcast on FACE TV, TV Kakanj, and RTV Sana, increasing public awareness of this issue.



Preservation of Roma culture and tradition

As part of the project "Preservation of Roma culture and tradition," supported by the Tuzla Community Foundation, two key activities were implemented:

- Community cleanup: This activity involved cleaning the area designated for the celebration of Aliđun. Held on August 3, 2024, it ensured a clean and organized environment for the main event.
- Aliđun celebration: The central part of the project took place on August 5, on the plateau in front of the Kiseljak spring. Visitors had the opportunity to experience a traditional Roma custom and taste traditional Roma dishes. This event fostered connections between the Roma and the broader community, promoting understanding, acceptance of diversity, and reducing prejudice.



Promotion and realization of rights for socially vulnerable groups

The implementation of the project titled "Promotion and realization of rights for socially vulnerable groups," supported by the Tuzla City Administration, has achieved significant results in ensuring access to social and healthcare protection, particularly for Roma women and men, as well as other marginalized groups.

The implementation has brought the following results:

- Through educational workshops and campaigns targeting Roma women and men, there was a significant increase in awareness about their rights.
- A successful partnership was established with representatives of the City of Tuzla and local institutions, enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of services for Roma and other marginalized groups.

After the activities of the project were implemented from June 1 to October 31, 2024, a total of 75 beneficiaries were identified and included in which:

- For 1 beneficiary, expenses were covered to initiate the process for a medical examination at the Institute for medical expertise in Tuzla.
- For 1 beneficiary, expenses were covered paid for obtaining personal documents.
- For 26 beneficiaries, necessary medications were provided after medical examinations for both women and men, ensuring access to further medical services at healthcare institutions.
- For 1 child, an orthopedic aid was purchased following an injury.
- For 11 female beneficiaries, preventive gynecological exams were provided (Pap test with colposcopy, gynecological examination, and gynecological ultrasound), and 1 female beneficiary underwent HPV typing due to a need for testing that could not be done at UKC Tuzla due to a shortage of reagents.
- For 2 young girls, preventive examinations were conducted to help them understand the importance of regular check-ups from an early age and to overcome fear and shame of doctors.
- 3 men underwent prostate exams, and prostate tumor markers were tested. One beneficiary was referred to further treatment.

The celebration of the Roma holiday Đurđevdan

With the support of the Tourist Community Tuzla, this year, for the first time, we celebrated the Roma holiday at Freedom square in Tuzla. The event was an opportunity to showcase the rich Roma tradition and culture through various activities. Visitors had the chance to enjoy live music, which created a joyful atmosphere in the square. Traditional Roma attire was also presented, bringing the authentic culture of Roma men and women to life. A special segment featured the tasting of Roma delicacies, which delighted the attendees.

Citizens and visitors, including families with children, actively participated in the celebration, contributing to the connection between the Roma community and the wider society. Members of the informal Roma women's network "Uspjeh" also joined the celebration, lending their support to the preservation and promotion of Roma culture through their presence.

This event was exceptionally important as it promoted mutual understanding, acceptance of diversity, and the reduction of prejudice. By organizing such an event, the city of Tuzla demonstrated that it recognizes and values the Roma community's contribution to preserving cultural heritage. The celebration received media coverage, which further enhanced its significance. This event marked a step forward towards inclusion and greater visibility of the Roma community in public life. We plan to make such celebrations a tradition, with even greater support from the local community and institutions.



Trainings on issues concerning Roma women through the Roma women's network

Through a grant supported by the joint program of the Council of Europe and the European Union, ROMACTED, we implemented a series of trainings on issues concerning Roma women. The workshop topics addressed the challenges faced by Roma women, including prejudices, stereotypes, Roma culture, early marriages, and sexual and reproductive health, with the aim of improving the social inclusion of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of these activities was to empower Roma women, raise awareness of the challenges they face, and promote active participation in local communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The workshop participants, who were primarily women and girls, increased their awareness of the importance of education for their children to reduce discrimination and stereotypes against the Roma population. Additionally, their knowledge about the prevention of child marriages was significantly enhanced.

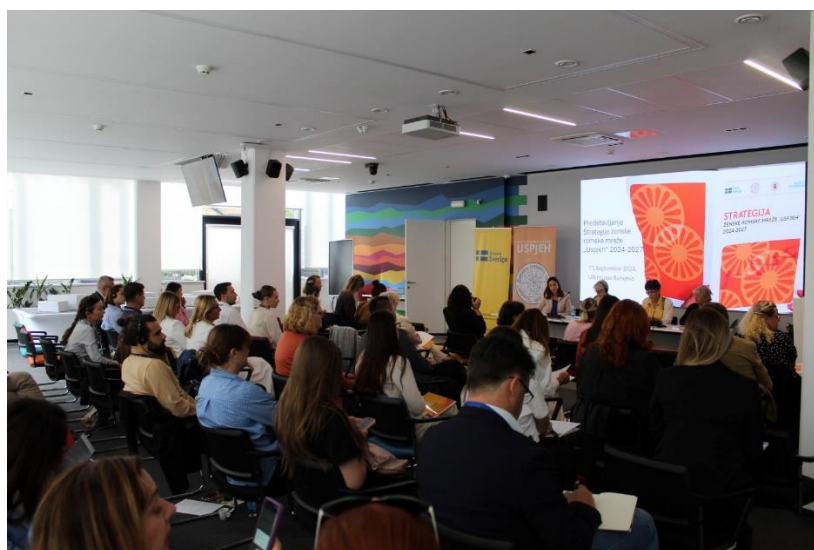
5. Other activities of the association

Our association, together with its members and the members of the Roma women's network "Uspjeh," participated in the commemoration and paid tribute to the Roma victims of the Holocaust at the "Donja Gradina" memorial site. The International Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day is observed on August 2nd, in memory of the mass executions of Roma during World War II in concentration camps. Donja Gradina, one of the largest execution sites in the former Yugoslavia, was an integral part of the Jasenovac concentration camp during World War II. It is estimated that 40,000 Roma were killed there. The victims were subjected to brutal conditions, torture, and executions without mercy. The activities marking August 2nd were supported by the OAK Foundation and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



On September 11, 2024, a presentation of the Roma women's network "Uspjeh" Strategy for the period 2024-2027 took place at the UN House in Sarajevo, prepared with the support of the Embassy of Sweden in Sarajevo and UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Roma women's network "Uspjeh" BiH, as an informal network of women's associations and activists, has achieved significant results in supporting Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The network has emerged as an important actor in the Roma community, advocating diligently for the improvement of the human rights protection of Roma women, with a particular focus on combating domestic and everyday violence, economic exploitation, begging, human trafficking, and other forms of marginalization.

The Strategy for the period 2024-2027 is based on an assessment of the current situation, in line with the BiH Action Plan for the Social inclusion of Roma for the period 2021-2025. Its priorities include improving the protection of human rights, empowering Roma women, and improving access to social services, with the goal of initiating positive changes within their communities.



In collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Tuzla, we marked November 6, 2024, as World Roma language day. This event emphasized the importance of preserving the Roma language and culture, highlighting achievements such as the introduction of the Romani language into the educational process of Tuzla Canton. Attendees had the opportunity to hear inspiring examples from the Roma association "Kali Sara" from Croatia and enjoy a cultural program presented by students from the "Ismet Mujezinović" Gymnasium in Tuzla. The event was supported by representatives from the Ministry of human rights and refugees of B&H, cantonal ministries, international organizations, and members of the Roma community. The aim of the event was to remind everyone of the importance of preserving the Roma language as a crucial part of the Roma community's identity.

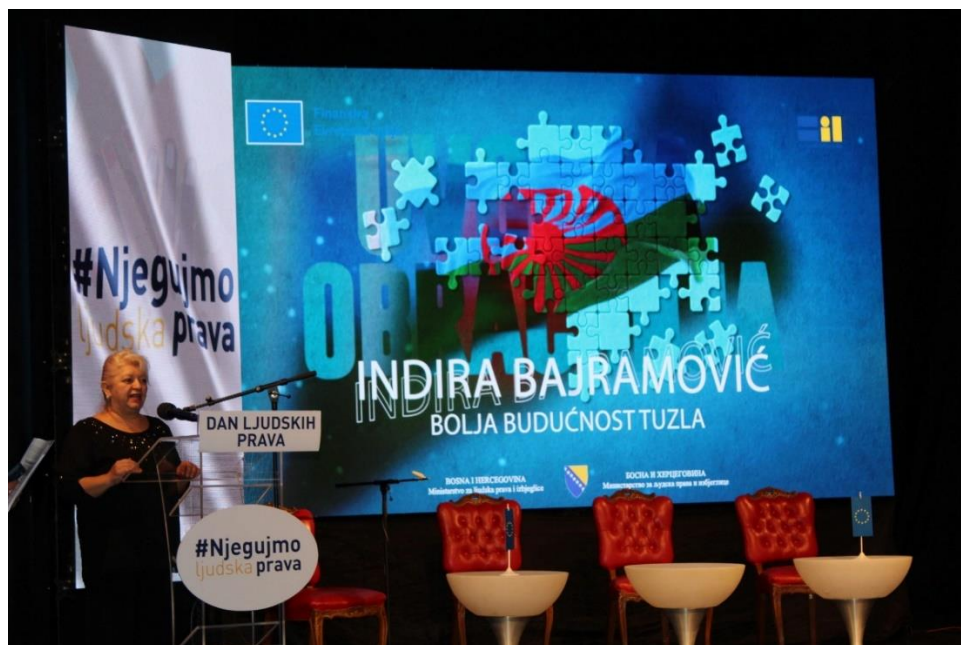


Thanks to the generous support and donation from Pomozi.ba, our association successfully organized the distribution of school supplies for Roma students. The distribution of school supplies for Roma children in primary and secondary schools is of great significance, as it allows children from Roma families to have better access to education and overcome obstacles that may arise due to financial difficulties.



Our association in partnership with the Roma women's network "Uspjeh" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, actively participated in the international campaign of 16 Days of activism against gender-based violence. The campaign began on November 25th (International Day for the elimination of violence against women) and ran until December 10th (International Human Rights Day). Members of the Roma women's network "Uspjeh" from Tuzla, Visoko, Doboj, Travnik, and Prnjavor carried out various activities as part of the campaign, including street actions on significant dates.

On December 10th, 2024, the International Human Rights Day was successfully celebrated at the National Theater Tuzla. The event was organized by the Ministry for human rights and refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Gender equality agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in collaboration with IC Lotos, with technical assistance from the "EU for Inclusion in BiH" project. Under the slogan "Our rights, our future, today," the event focused on promoting human rights, with a particular emphasis on the position of vulnerable social groups, such as persons with disabilities and members of the Roma community. The program included a panel discussion where representatives of vulnerable groups shared their experiences regarding challenges and opportunities in various social spheres. Strong messages were further reinforced by artistic performances: "Hands speak" by the Lotos Information Center and "Circle without a dot" by Aida Vehabović and Fatima Karajčić.



On December 27th, 2024, we brought joy to our youngest members with New Year's gift packages. A heartfelt thank you to our donors who made this possible: members of Divna Yoga, employees of the OSCE Mission in Tuzla, Selo Mira Kinderzukunft RWS Turija, our dear friend Alma Suljić, attorneys Habibi Suljetović and Azra Hodžić, attorney Selmir Subašić, internal medicine technician Sead Suljić, World Vision Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the City of Tuzla.

The distribution of New Year's gift packages for children holds great significance as it symbolizes care and attention toward the youngest, especially those from socially vulnerable and marginalized communities. This gesture not only brings joy and happiness to children but also provides them with a sense of equality and inclusion in society, particularly during the holiday season when everyone is surrounded by care and attention. Moreover, the distribution of gift packages serves as an opportunity to strengthen community unity and solidarity and to foster positive relationships within the community, supported by donors and organizations dedicated to improving the living conditions of children.



6. Overview of adopted and revised strategic documents

In this section of the report, we will highlight activities related to the revision of the existing and adoption of new key strategic documents, regulations, and plans that have significantly contributed to improving the work of our association. These documents lay a solid foundation for more efficient management, increase transparency, and strengthen our organizational structure. During 2024, we adopted Procedures for the System of allocation of shared costs, which enable a fair and clear distribution of resources within the organization. We revised and adopted the Cash management policy and the accounting policies regulations, thereby improving our financial management. Additionally, the Procedure for the flow of financial documentation introduced standardized steps for handling financial documents. Furthermore, we adopted the revised financial operations policy, which provides clear guidelines for managing financial resources, and the Conflict of interest to ensure integrity and impartiality in our work. The Procedures for reporting and addressing irregularities and Protecting whistleblowers have further ensured mechanisms to safeguard integrity and encourage reporting of potential irregularities.

At the strategic level, we adopted the Strategic plan of the association for the period 2024–2027 and the organizational budget for the period 2024–2026, which set the guidelines for the further development and priorities of the association. The organizational budget ensures the stability and sustainability of our activities. These documents play a key role in ensuring the continuous improvement of our work and the achievement of the association's goals.

As part of the project "Strengthening Roma non-governmental organizations in the prevention and fight against human trafficking," supported through the USAID/Inspire human rights support program, our association underwent a detailed assessment of organizational capacities and performance. The outcome of this assessment is exceptionally significant – we were awarded the KULT POP Certificate with a score of 5.63.



This certificate confirms that our association meets high standards of organizational operations and represents a significant step forward in our development. It enables us to further enhance our capacities through defined standards, ensure more efficient work with beneficiaries, and contribute to community development and the empowerment of marginalized groups.

7. Partnerships and cooperation

We believe that our activities represent an important pillar of support within the local community, and our strength comes from cooperation with various stakeholders. Donors, partners, networks, institutions, and the media play a key role in supporting and developing the activities of our association, which focuses on improving the lives of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The financial support for our projects in 2024 from the following donors: the Ministry for human rights and refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the joint program of the Council of Europe and the European Union ROMACTED, the OAK Foundation, Kvinna till Kvinna, CARE International, UN Women, the City of Tuzla, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Tuzla Community Foundation, and the Tuzla City Tourist Community, has enabled us to implement activities that directly impact the improvement of the quality of life for members of the Roma community, with an emphasis on Roma women.

The cooperation with local and national authorities, educational institutions, organizations, networks, and civil society organizations that we had throughout 2024 has facilitated our work in preserving fundamental human rights, with a special focus on marginalized groups of citizens.

Media support has played a significant role in raising awareness about the challenges and obstacles faced by the Roma population, with a particular focus on Roma women. Through active collaboration with local and national media, we achieved a total of 56 media appearances that reported on our activities and accomplishments. Through media contributions, we succeeded in informing the public about the key issues and needs of the Roma community, as well as the concrete steps we are taking to improve their situation. We extend our gratitude to all the donors who provided us with financial support, partners with whom we shared resources and expertise, networks that connected us to similar initiatives, institutions that recognized us, and the media who helped spread our story.

A special thank you goes to our community—Roma women, families, and individuals who have been pillars of support and drivers of positive change. Thank you for your support, trust, and collective effort.

COMMITMENT, PERSISTENCE, DETERMINATION
A BETTER FUTURE FOR A BETTER LIFE

