

2025

ANNUAL WORK REPORT OF THE
ASSOCIATION „BOLJA BUDUĆNOST“ TUZLA



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1. Introduction

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

we are pleased to present you with the annual report on the work of the Roma Women's Association "Bolja budućnost" of the city of Tuzla for the past year. In this report, we summarize our activities, projects and achievements, and provide insight into all the efforts we have made to improve the life of the community we support.

The past year has been full of challenges, but also significant successes. Through various projects, education, campaigns and initiatives, we have empowered women and youth, promoted inclusion and equality, but most importantly, we have managed to respond to the specific needs of our beneficiaries. All of this would not have been possible without the support of our partners, donors, associates, members, our families and all those who share our vision and mission.

This report is an opportunity to present the results of our activities, but also to thank everyone who supported, inspired and accompanied us on our journey. With new energy and enthusiasm and with the aim of contributing even more to the community, we continue our work in the coming year.

Respectfully,

Indira Bajramović, Director

Roma Women's Association "Bolja Budućnost" of the City of Tuzla

Tuzla, January 2026.



Photograph: National Roundtable, "Transformative Education: Empowering Marginalized Women and Girls for a Better Future"; October 2025

2. A brief overview of annual activities and achievements

In 2025, the Roma population in Bosnia and Herzegovina faces significant challenges in the area of social inclusion, including limited access to education, employment, housing, healthcare and protection from discrimination. Roma women are particularly marginalized, due to a combination of systemic barriers and a lack of comprehensive institutional support.

We actively participated in the development of the new *Action Plan for the Social Inclusion of Roma for the period 2026–2030*, as well as in the *Operational Plan of the Council of Europe*, contributing through research findings, recommendations and practical suggestions. We also participated in numerous workshops, seminars and trainings, thereby expanding the capacities of the association and strengthening our advocacy activities.

We actively participated in work meetings with institutions, Agency for Gender Equality, the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, the OSCE Mission and the EU Delegation, where we exchanged experiences, presented our work and *contributed to the creation of policies for the protection of rights and social inclusion of Roma women and men*.

We are especially proud of the projects that *contribute to direct support to the community*. In cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH and the Tuzla Health Center, we provided a heart ultrasound machine for use by the wider community, including Roma citizens.

We also contributed to the creation of the publication *“Roma Identity, History and Culture”*, the materials of which will be included in the curriculum in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton in order to reduce prejudice and discrimination against Roma.

As part of the “Right to a Future” project, with support of the European Union and partner organizations, *we trained 11 young peer educators from Roma communities*. They implemented more than 200 workshops and campaigns in different local communities, empowering young people and strengthening their leadership, communication and facilitation skills.

We are a significant part of the joint “Gender Equality Accelerator” program implemented by UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP, which focuses on ending violence against women and girls, economic empowerment and increasing women’s participation in leadership. Through this program, more than 120 participants worked to strengthen the coordination of the protection system and women's empowerment.

In addition, our work included cooperation with embassies, international organizations and other partners, ensuring the visibility and recognition of our contribution to improving the position of the Roma community, especially Roma women, and strengthening social inclusion in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. The year 2025 in numbers

Health and social interventions



Total number of beneficiaries: 168



Activities: expert reports, personal documents, medication, preventive examinations, educational workshops, food packages, psychological and laboratory examinations

Community activities: disinfection, disinfestation and distribution of hygiene packages



Total number of beneficiaries: 650



Educational workshops: 120 (97 women, 23 men)



Preventive examinations: 130 (30 beneficiaries received medication)



Hygiene packages: 100, covering 400 beneficiaries

Peer education and youth campaigns



Total number of beneficiaries: 451



Peer education: 288 young people
148 girls, 140 boys



Campaigns: 163 participants
Tuzla, Visoko, Dobož, Kakanj

Beneficiaries who visited the office

Total beneficiaries: 359 (267 women, 92 men)



Meetings and institutional cooperation



Meetings with institutions: 62 participants (55 women, 7 men)



Assemblies and meetings of the Women's Roma Network: 64 participants (52 women, 12 men)



Total: 126 participants

Focus groups and trainings

Focus groups (CERV): 34 participants (27 women, 7 men)



Training on the topic of the Roma Holocaust: 25 participants (18 women, 7 men)



Educational sessions and Program E



Educational sessions: 100 participants



Program E: 33 participants



Community Score Card: 25 participants (20 women, 5 men) + 7 team members and 7 institutional/community representatives

National Roundtable "Transformative Education"



25 participants
from ministries, the
Center for Social
Work, the police
and NGOs

Global Fund for Women project



Total number of
beneficiaries: 398 (328
women, 70 men)

MIT team – intervention team



Recorded: 213 individuals (151 women, 62 men)



Children: 27 (18 female, 9 male)



Shelter accommodation: 8 children (4 female, 4 male)

Total number of beneficiaries of all activities: ~ 4.469

The exact number of beneficiaries who visited the office in the past year is very difficult to determine, given that interventions are carried out daily, while other regular activities of the Association are also being carried out.

Of course, as we have done since the founding of the Association, our doors remain open to all beneficiaries.

4. Overview of key projects realized in the year 2025

During 2025, Association of Roma Women "Bolja budućnost" implemented a number of significant projects aimed at improving the position of Roma men and Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, strengthening social inclusion, gender equality and the protection of human rights. The projects covered a wide range of areas - from the prevention of violence and early marriages, youth empowerment, health care, to the preservation of Roma identity and strengthening the capacities of institutions and communities.

Institutional support to the Roma women's Association "Bolja budućnost"

Project: Institutional support to the Roma Women's Association "Bolja budućnost" of the city of Tuzla - OAK Foundation

Description: The project aimed to strengthen the capacities of the Association, empower members and beneficiaries, and advocate for the rights of Roma women through activities in the field of human rights, socio-economic empowerment, and political participation.

Implemented activities and results: Human rights program with focus on Roma women's rights: strengthening the involvement of members in the activities of the Association and harmonizing program goals with the needs of beneficiaries.

Socio-economic program: empowering Roma women and Roma men through assistance at the community and individual levels to realize their rights to education, health, a life free from violence and gender equality.

Advocacy and political participation: increasing the visibility of the association's projects and activities, strengthening networking at the national and regional levels; establishing coordination mechanisms to support social inclusion of Roma communities.

Self-care" workshop: enabled staff and volunteers to dedicate themselves to their own well-being and quality of work through activities focused on self-care.

Progress in the integration of Roma men and Roma women as progress for BiH on its path to the EU

The advocacy project focuses on state and local institutions, as well as EU institutions and international partners, with the aim of improving the position of Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Activities include advocacy, monitoring and research in partnership with Roma and non-Roma women's organizations and other strategic civil society organizations.

Based on previous analyses and sources, *the Network members defined key priorities and developed the Advocacy Strategy of the Roma Women's Network "Success" (2024–2027), which provides a framework for improving the rights of Roma women within the framework of BiH and EU policies.*

In May 2025, a representative of the Association "Bolja budućnost" participated in meetings in Brussels with the DG ENEST team of the European Commission and representatives of the European Union for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Key topics included *the current political situation in the Federation of BiH, violence against women, access of Roma women to services and safe houses, establishment of centers for victims of sexual violence.* During the meetings, *the formulation of a new Action Plan for Social Inclusion of Roma Men and Women 2026–2030* was also highlighted, with particular emphasis on the lack of political participation of Roma women at the state and federal levels.



Support for the work of the Network

During 2025, the lead organization Roma Women's Network "Uspjeh" continued to strengthen the capacity and visibility of the network as a key mechanism for advocating for the rights of Roma women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Activities are focused on improving the organizational capacities of the network members, their networking, joint planning and implementation of advocacy initiatives.

Through continuous cooperation with member organizations from Kakanj, Visoko, Prnjavor and Dobož, we improved their knowledge and skills in the field of public advocacy, local mobilization, and participation in policy-making processes. Within the framework of Program E, with the support of CARE, peer education activities, empowerment of young Roma women and workshops for the development of leadership skills and activism in the community were implemented.

In 2025, the network further strengthened its advocacy work through joint campaigns, analyses, and policy documents, drawing the attention of decision-makers to the key obstacles and needs of Roma women. Throughout the year, our contribution to the network included:

- raising awareness and public information about the position of Roma women,
- strengthening leadership, especially among young Roma women,
- active advocacy towards institutions at the local and state levels.

With this work, the Roma Women's Network "Uspjeh" was further strengthened and positioned as a relevant factor in the field of gender equality and the rights of Roma women in BiH in 2025.



Photograph: Members of the Roma Women's Network "Uspjeh" – July 2025, Sarajevo

Discrimination Mapping – Research into the manifestations of discrimination against vulnerable groups in BiH

During 2025, the project "Discrimination Mapping- Research into the manifestations of discrimination against vulnerable groups in BiH", funded by the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina was successfully implemented in seven cities: Tuzla, Visoko, Kakanj, Travnik, Vukosavlje, Doboј and Bijeljina. The project aimed to identify and analyze various forms of discrimination faced by vulnerable groups, including minorities, people with disabilities, women and other marginalized communities.

Through a combination of quantitative and qualitative research, seven interviewers were engaged who were trained to collect data through structured questionnaires. The sample included 700 respondents, with an equal representation of both genders, which enabled a comprehensive overview of the problem of discrimination and the challenges faced by vulnerable groups.

The results of the research were analyzed and presented in a comprehensive report, which contains specific recommendations for relevant institutions, policy makers and non-governmental organizations. The data collected through the project provides the basis for the development of effective policies and measures to reduce discrimination in society, and contributes to the advancement of rights of vulnerable groups and changes in social norms and policies.

This project significantly contributed to the creation of a more just and inclusive society for all.

Health for All: Improving the Health Care of Roma Men and Women in Tuzla

During 2025, the Association "Bolja budućnost" implemented a health support project for the Roma community in Tuzla, in close cooperation with the public Health Center Dr. Mustafa Šehović from the city of Tuzla. The aim of the project was to improve the health and hygiene conditions of the Roma population, and to increase awareness about the prevention of infectious and non-infectious diseases, oral health, and sexual and reproductive health.



Photograph on the left: Oral health workshop held on May 19, 2025, in the Kiseljak Community Center



Photograph on the right: Workshop "Improving Sexual Health and Family Planning" held on June 9, 2025 at the Kiseljak Community Center

Key activities and results:

Educational workshops: 6 workshops were implemented in the Roma communities of Kiseljak and Tuzla (Crvene Njive, Krojčica, Pasci and Šićki Bord settlements), in cooperation with the Tuzla public Health Center and the Association's educators.

Access to preventive examinations: 2 mediators encouraged 130 community members to attend the workshops and undergo preventive examinations; 30 beneficiaries were provided with medication after the examination.

Improvement of diagnostic capacities: Purchase of the ultrasound device for the heart in the public Tuzla Health Center enabled timely diagnostics of cardiovascular diseases for more than 5,000 citizens of Tuzla, including around 500 members of the Roma community.

Hygiene conditions: 100 hygiene packages were distributed. Disinfection, disinfestation and deratization were carried out in 41 households, which reduced the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

Project impact: The project empowered the Roma community through education and engagement of mediators, improved integration into the local health system, and contributed to improving health and hygiene standards in the community.

Right to a future

In 2025, we continued the implementation of the project "Right to a Future" in partnership with the Krila nade Foundation from Sarajevo and the Women's Roma Network "Uspjeh".

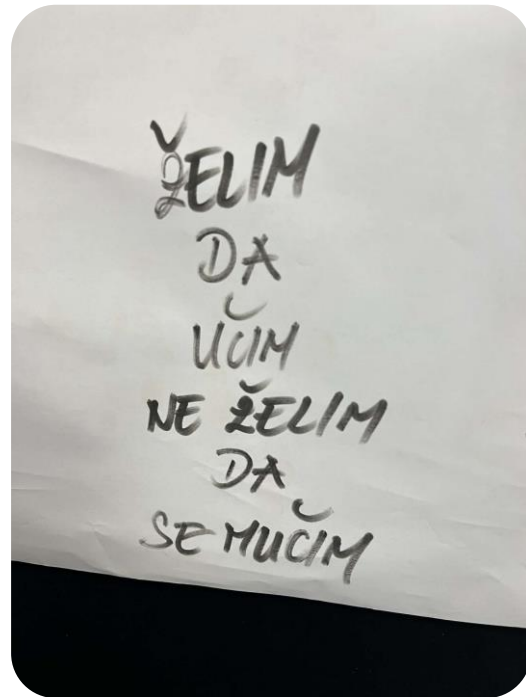
The project trained 11 peer educators, who conducted a total of 225 peer education sessions in Tuzla, Kakanj, Prnjavor, Visoko and Doboj. The workshops were interactive and covered the topics of gender, identity, healthy relationships, sexual and reproductive health, rights and decision-making skills, using the CARE-tested Program E model.

Photographs: Campaign in five cities of BiH, "I don't want marriage, I want a book!"





Photograph: Training for peer educators



Photographs: Young Hairdressers Competition held on December 27, 2025

The project contributed to strengthening the capacity of local Roma organizations to conduct trainings, raise awareness among schools, media and local authorities about the risks of child arranged and underage marriages, and improving access to services for Roma and other marginalized girls.

These activities empowered young people to recognize and respond to gender-based violence, human trafficking and discrimination, and contributed to strengthening support networks within communities.

The project "Right to a Future" is funded by the European Union and implemented by CARE International with the Roma Women's Association "Bolja budućnost" from Tuzla and the "Kрила nade" Foundation from Sarajevo, with the support of Action Deutschland Hilft.

Strengthening Roma NGOs in preventing and combating human trafficking

The implemented project activities are advocacy meetings with representatives of institutions at locations in Travnik, Kakanj, Donji Vakuf and Sanski Most with the aim of forming MIT teams at project locations and transferring good practices from the Tuzla MIT team.

During 2024, a study was conducted on human trafficking in Roma communities, the results of which show that project locations where social work centers and police representatives cooperate with representatives of the Roma community and visit the community have a lower percentage of child arranged marriages. The results show that a large number of respondents explicitly support the ban on child marriages, in the municipality of Kakanj 58%, in Gornji Vakuf 74%, in Travnik 76%, in Sanski Most 71%, and there is a high representation of those who believe that the frequency of child marriages should be reduced.

Project activities are supported within the USAID/INSPIRE Human Rights Protection Program.

Activities were suspended following the decision of US President Donald Trump to suspend all forms of US foreign aid. After the suspension of project activities, thanks to our advocacy activities and our partner organization „Zemlja djece in BiH“, MIT teams were formed in Kakanj, Travnik and Donji Vakuf, and we expect them to be formed in Sanski Most as well.



Photograph: Travnik 16.01.2025. One of the workshops dedicated to strengthening the Roma community in the fight against human trafficking

Promoting and exercising rights for socially vulnerable categories

After the implementation of project activities in the period 01.06–31.10.2025., a total of 81 beneficiaries in the field were identified and included. Beneficiaries were provided with support in various areas of health care, access to personal documents, social rights and capacity building through educational activities in the community.

A meeting was held with representatives of relevant institutions, including the Tuzla Social Work Center, the Tuzla City Council Gender Equality Commission, representatives of the Tuzla Ministry of Internal Affairs and representatives of the Tuzla Public Health Institute. The focus was on exchanging information, strengthening cooperation and considering the possibility of systematically introducing benefits in the form of paying fees for socially vulnerable persons at the city and cantonal levels.

The activities were supported by the City of Tuzla within the call for Grants for the implementation of the Local Action Plan for Roma of the City of Tuzla.

Global Fund for women

The Roma Women's Association "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla continued to improve the position of Roma women through research and campaigns against child and arranged marriages. We raised awareness in the community and supported the relevant institutions in responding to this problem. The organization contributes to the women's movement and the gender justice movement through awareness-raising, leadership development, policy advocacy and strengthening coalitions.

In September 2025, meetings were held with members of the Roma Women's Network to strengthen the network and connect communities. The Global Fund for Women grant contributed to the visibility of the organization, strengthening capacities and implementing programs tailored to the needs of the community. We increased Roma women's access to education, healthcare and economic resources, and supported the development of women's leadership in communities. We continuously work to change social norms, gender equality and strengthen the rights of marginalized women.

Infohouse Foundation: "Economic Empowerment of Roma Women"

The project was implemented in the city of Tuzla, with a focus on the Roma community in Kiseljak. We supported two of our beneficiaries who come from vulnerable communities, one of whom completed her secondary education and received a professional qualification in cosmetics, while the other beneficiary is a final year student at the Mixed Secondary School in Tuzla, majoring in hairdressing.

We supported the beneficiaries with materials and equipment for work so that they could provide hairdressing and beautician services in their communities for Roma women and other women from the community who cannot afford these services. This assistance really meant a lot because they continued to work from home, and one of them uses the equipment in her internship at the salon, and states that it improved her work during the internship.

The project is implemented by Fondacija@Infohouse with the financial support of JT INTERNATIONAL AD SENTA.





Photographs: Workshop in the Kiseljak Community Center held on January 10, 2025.

Youth support

21 young people (13 girls and 8 boys) were directly involved in the project, while more than 300 people were indirectly involved through sharing of acquired information among peers. The Association has been working for years to promote Roma culture and to preserve identity, which contributes to the wider reach of these activities.



Photographs: Workshop with young people – Public Institution Middle Medical School Tuzla - December 2025

Cooperation with institutions and international organizations is stable and supports quality implementation of projects. The school where the project was implemented expressed great satisfaction with the workshops, emphasizing that we are the first organization to bring this kind of content to students. The willingness to continue cooperation has been shown, and the association remains available for future activities.

5. Other activities of the association

Marking important dates in 2025

During 2025, with the financial support of the City of Tuzla and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, we carried out several important activities related to marking significant dates for the Roma community.

Commemoration of August 2 - Holocaust Remembrance Day – Samudaripen

We organized a trip to Donja Gradina to honor the victims of the Holocaust - Samudaripen. We realized the visit together with members of the Women's Roma Network, our members and youth. During the visit, we visited the place of the suffering, and laid wreaths and flowers.



Photograph: Commemoration in Uštica, Republic of Croatia – August 2025

In previous years, we have visited other important places of remembrance, such as Auschwitz and Uštica, while this year we continued the tradition of visiting Donja Gradina, which we have been doing for 13 years. Representatives of our Association also attended the commemoration in Uštica, Republic of Croatia.



Photograph: Commemoration in Donja Gradina 2025

Celebrating November 5 - World Roma Language Day

For the last 10 years we have celebrated World Roma Language Day. This year, due to the tragic event that happened on November 4, 2025. in Tuzla, the planned activities were canceled and the activity Celebrating November 5 - World Day of the Roma Language was not realized.

Support for education

As we did years ago, in this school year of 2025, we distributed school supplies for a total of 80 students (44 boys and 36 girls) who regularly attend primary and secondary schools in the City of Tuzla. In addition to school supplies, which include pencils, crayons, backpacks and similar necessities, we also supported the students by purchasing monthly bus tickets, as well as clothes and shoes. These activities were realized within the framework of the support system for our beneficiaries and as part of prevention of dropping out of primary and secondary education. These are children from families who are in dire need of educational support.

With this activity, we tried to facilitate their school process, provide them with motivation to be more successful, and encourage their commitment to learning and achieving better results. Distribution of these supplies is an important form of support that directly contributes to their educational success and strengthens equal opportunities for all children.

Distribution of New Year's packages

During 2025, we successfully realized the traditional distribution of New Year's packages for children, an activity that we have been carrying out for a number of years. Thanks to the support of World Vision in BiH and the Tuzla City Administration, we provided and distributed 150 packages to the youngest members from our community.

This activity brought joy and holiday spirit to the children, and allowed them to feel the attention, support and warmth of the community. Our goal is to provide them with moments of happiness and support families for whom this type of help means a lot.



Photograph: Distribution of New Year's packages to beneficiaries

Celebrating 25 years of the Roma Women's Association "Bolja budućnost"

This year, the Roma Women's Association "Bolja budućnost" of the city of Tuzla marked 25 years of dedication, effort and action for a better tomorrow!

Every year, every step and every success is part of a joint story filled with people, not numbers - lives, not projects.

We would like to thank everyone who was part of this important moment, everyone who believes in the changes we create together, as well as those who have supported us all these years.

Your presence, support and engagement make us stronger and motivate us to continue working towards achieving common goals.

We continuously strengthen our own capacities, in order to provide the best possible services to our beneficiaries.

We continue to build a better future together!



Photographs: 25 years of dedication, effort and action for a better tomorrow!

6. Partnerships and collaborations

Highlights:

In March 2025, a meeting with the new **Ambassador of the OSCE Mission in BiH, together with representatives of the Roma Women's Network "Uspjeh"**. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of preserving the language, culture and identity of the Roma population, as well as the visibility of Roma women in political and social participation.

In September, representatives of the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** visited, with whom we entered the phase of preparing a new project proposal for the upcoming period.

In December 2025, a visit by the **representative of the EU Delegation from Brussels, Marta Garcia Fidalgo**, who spoke with members and beneficiaries of our organization, as well as visited the Roma community in Tuzla, providing insight into daily challenges and plans for the future.

These activities further strengthened cooperation with institutional and international partners, increased the visibility of the Association's work, and improved the inclusion and empowerment of the Roma community.

Projects aimed at direct community support

Heart ultrasound machine

In cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH and the Tuzla Health Center, an ultrasound machine was provided for use by the wider community, including Roma citizens.

Publication "Roma identity, history and culture"

Director Bajramović participated in the development of a publication that will be used in schooling in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, with the aim of reducing prejudice and discrimination against Roma.

Project "Right to a Future"

With the support of the EU and partner organizations, 11 young peer educators from Roma communities were trained, who realized over 225 workshops and campaigns in local communities. Program E contributed to strengthening the leadership, communication and facilitation skills of young people, and their active inclusion in the community.

Joint program "Gender Equality Accelerator"

Focused on combating violence against women and girls, for economic empowerment, and increasing women's participation in leadership. Through the program, more than 120 participants worked to strengthen the coordination of the protection system and empower women.

National Roundtable – "Transformative Education"

In October 2025, a national roundtable entitled "Transformative Education: Empowering Marginalized Women and Girls for a Better Future" was held in Tuzla.

The event was organized as part of the "Right to a Future" project, funded by the European Union in BiH, and implemented by CARE International, the Roma Women's Association "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla and the "Kрила nade" Foundation from Sarajevo, with the support of Action Deutschland Hilfe. The project is dedicated to strengthening the voices of Roma women in political and decision-making processes, combating inequality and empowering Roma communities – especially young women and girls – through the development of relevant skills and tools for sustainable development.

The roundtable brought together human rights experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations, institutions and decision-makers to jointly improve the prevention and fight against human trafficking in Roma communities. 25 representatives of relevant ministries at the cantonal level, the Center for Social Work, the police administration, and representatives of non-governmental organizations operating in the Tuzla Canton participated. A special focus was on education as a preventive factor, with an emphasis on the development of Roma students, especially Roma girls.



Photograph: National Roundtable, "Transformative Education: Empowering Marginalized Women and Girls for a Better Future"; October 2025

This event further strengthened cooperation between institutions and the civil sector, promoting a transformative approach to education and empowerment of marginalized women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



