



## WE ARE

Co-funded by the European Union and the Roma Education Fund (as the implementer), the "Increasing Education and Employment Opportunities for Roma Youth in Western Balkans" project aspires to improve Roma students' continuous education and transition to employment with the active collaboration with authorities and local civil society organizations.

The Roma Education Fund (REF) is an international non-governmental organization, which provides grants and scholarships to entities and Roma individuals who share its belief in inclusive education, leading towards employment, as well as in the quality of educational outcomes. <https://www.romaeducationfund.org/about-us/>

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Roma Education Fund has relocated 88,176 EUR from the budget of the "EU Regional Action for Increasing Education and Employment Opportunities for Roma Youth in Western Balkans and Turkey" (RARE project) in an emergency response to Covid-19 crisis. The relocations are equal to 48,6 % of the total grant budget for the school year 2019/20 in all 7 project countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey).

### THE CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED BY THE PROJECT TEAMS THROUGH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**Uncertain daily access to tablets, computers, or mobile phone**



**Lack of TV sets and stable electricity flow in the households of the Roma beneficiaries**

**Roma students struggle to find places to study and learn at home**

**Sharing devices with their siblings**

**Roma parents had to become much more responsible in guiding and contributing to their children's educational outcomes**

**Losing connection with teachers and classmates**

### THE STEERED RELOCATIONS TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF THE TARGETED COMMUNITIES ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THREE STRINGS:

# 1

**HUMANITARIAN AID** (whether first aid packages, or food, protective masks, protective gloves, hygienic packages and medicines, etc.) provided



In Albania to  
**120 families**  
with children in pre-school age

In Bosnia and Herzegovina to  
**152 children and students and 25 parents**

In North Macedonia to  
**210 preschool children**

In Serbia to  
**215 families**  
of primary school students

In Kosovo to  
**220 students-beneficiaries and their families**

In Kosovo  
**500 individuals**  
received masks and gloves

# 2

**EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND TECHNOLOGY FOR ONLINE LEARNING**



**2 tablets**  
were provided to tertiary education students in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In North Macedonia:  
**170 primary education students**  
were provided with tablets

**134 students**  
were secured with internet vouchers

**210 preschoolers**  
were secured with educational materials

In Kosovo  
**20 tablets**  
were provided to secondary school students

In Montenegro  
**60 tablets**  
were distributed to 40 high school students in final grades and 20 pupils in eighth and ninth grades of primary schools. The national Telecom company offered 60 SIM cards with 30 GB of internet per month for free for the period of two months

In Serbia  
**132 primary school beneficiaries**  
received educational support through tutoring

In Turkey  
**16 beneficiaries**  
received educational support through tutoring

# 3

**RAISING AWARENESS, ESTABLISHING CALL CENTERS AND LOGISTICAL HELP**



Cultivating community support mediators, who monitor the situation of the COVID-19, inform Roma families and intervene with the local authorities to assist the Roma people and respond accordingly to their needs;

In Albania  
**3 community support mediators for preschoolers**  
**4 community support mediators for secondary schoolers**  
**4 online health mediators**  
were involved during the crisis

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project staff, mentors, tutors and toy librarians and mediators **contributed in-human** during the pandemic situation

**Covid-19 Crisis Call center ran in North Macedonia**

It provided information and awareness-raising to Roma communities related to Covid-19 crisis.

**4 online community support mediators for pre-school children**

**17 online community support mediators for the primary school students**

**3 parental facilitators**

**41 secondary school students-volunteers delivered logistical and technical support**

**9 tertiary education interns offered professional medical support, received or forwarded calls, and organized the call center team.**

In Kosovo  
**3 online mediators**  
for secondary school students were involved during the pandemic

In Serbia  
**10 community mediators and 5 learning support assistants**  
were active during the crisis



A secondary school student in Montenegro received a tablet and a free SIM card with 30 GB of internet for the next two months secured by NGO "YoungRoma" under the project "Improving primary education - first step towards quality secondary education" (EU Regional Action for Roma Education).



The boy Gafur Sulejmani is 3rd grader at the primary school "Naim Frasheri" in Tetovo. Gafur undergoes online Maths classes with mentor.

### TOTAL NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES SUPPORTED BY THE EMERGENCY ALLOCATIONS

## Albania

**325**  
children and students of age 0-23 and 243 parents

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

**149**  
children and students of age 3-36 and 147 parents

## North Macedonia

**403**  
children and students and over 1000 Roma parents

## Kosovo

**74** children and students  
**141** parents

## Montenegro

**60** students

## Serbia

**10** students  
**215** families