



SITUATION AND NEEDS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS



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METHODOLOGY

The last Assessment of the Needs of Internally Displaced Persons was conducted in 2011. The data were collected by the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia which was commissioned by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Commissariat for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia in the period October - November 2010. The data were processed and analysed by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (*JIPS*). The sample included 2,006 households or 8,335 internally displaced persons.

According to the results, 45.2% of the surveyed households or 22,886 households (97,286 persons) were in need of the total number of IDPs in the Republic of Serbia.

In the course of 2013, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration established a record of all internally displaced persons in need in cooperation with the trustees for refugees. The record was made on the basis of the data collected by trustees by surveying families on the territory of their municipality in line with the UNHCR Vulnerability Criteria (attached hereto). The records include basic information about households and members thereof, social vulnerability and the expressed need to improve the living conditions. The records are constantly updated and now include 17,287 internally displaced households or 71,779 persons in need.

Establishment of these records opened up the possibility of comparing the data with the existing record of housing solutions of internally displaced persons and the existing studies. This ensured an overview of the achievements made in providing assistance to the persons in need of improvement of housing conditions in displacement and the funds allocated to them by the Republic of Serbia from the budget, the donor and EU Pre-Accession Assistance and the funds of local governments.

The results of this analysis will inform the strategic directions in programming future activities related to improvement of the living conditions of internally displaced persons and identification of their specific needs and their scope.

BACKGROUND

As a result of dissolution of former SFRY and the ensuing conflicts of the '90s of the last century, more than 800,000 refugees from the former republics and more than 200,000 internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija sought refuge in the Republic of Serbia. The 2000 Registration of Internally Displaced Persons in Serbia registered 186,000 persons outside the territory of KiM. The outflow continued after 1999. The Unilateral Declaration of Independence of Kosovo in February 2008 contributed to increasing the fear and uncertainty of internally displaced persons with respect to resolving their basic livelihood needs. In 2016, the estimated total number of inhabitants in the Republic of Serbia was just over 7 million (7,076,372) of which 203,140 IDPs (2,7%) were registered.

The Republic of Serbia set up mechanisms at central and local levels to implement all of the types of programmes in support of internally displaced persons in the country. Thanks to the system of development of local action plans, local governments have been taking part in resolving the needs of internally displaced persons since 2008. Numerous programmes provided for in the strategic frameworks funded by the EU, UN agencies the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the governments of foreign countries have been implemented in the previous period. Local action plans are strategic and action documents containing an overview of the needs on the territories of local governments and the funds required for resolution of housing and other needs of refugees and internally displaced persons. The project *Support to Improvement of Living Conditions of Forced Migrants and Closure of Collective Centres* within the IPA 2012 is aimed at closure of collective centres and support to local action plans in local government units in Serbia. The implementation of closure of collective centres' component is ongoing. According to the plan, all the five collective centres (55 refugees, 122 internally displaced persons) in the Republic of Serbia without Kosovo and Metohija and eight (46 persons and 307 internally displaced persons) in Kosovo and Metohija are to be closed by end 2017 totalling 530 persons in 13 collective centres. The planned closure of collective centres is conducted in line with the first National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons adopted in 2002. A total of 375 collective centres were closed since 2002 and solutions were provided for 9,326 persons accommodated therein.

A continued political commitment of the Republic of Serbia to ensure adequate living conditions and durable solutions for internally displaced persons is reflected in adoption of the Law on Migration Management as well as in revision of the National Strategy for Resolving the Problems of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons 2015-2020, by allocation of significant budget funds for care and improvement of situation of IDPs, fundraising among donors as well as regular putting of the IDP problems high on the political agenda of all relevant fora discussing durable solutions of their problems. The Strategy follows the previously defined albeit outstanding necessary objectives and measures of the Republic of Serbia.

In 2012, the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration passed a Decision on Establishment of Incentives to Conduct Measures and Activities required for achievement of the established objectives of migration management in local governments. The Programme includes incentives, measures and activities needed to implement the established plans, the funds required for implementation of the measures and activities in local governments, the criteria for their allocation and participation in the Programme.

When planning and implementing budget and donor funding, the Commissariat is careful to target the local government units with a higher concentration of internally displaced persons on their

territories. The budget funds of the Republic of Serbia are earmarked for economic empowerment of the socially vulnerable internally displaced families.

Improvement of the housing of internally displaced persons while in displacement is conducted by:

- provision of assistance for improvement of the housing conditions through distribution of construction materials for the completion of the initiated construction works or rehabilitation of poor housing owned by IDPs;
- assistance in purchase of village houses with gardens;
- assistance in purchase and construction of prefabricated houses;
- provision of units within the programme of social housing in supportive environment and rented units;
- provision of assistance to resolve the problems of internally displaced persons residing in the so called informal collective centres.

The annual Programme is adopted for each year. In 2016, this Decision provided for RSD 330 million which were spent on improvement of the living conditions of internally displaced persons while in displacement.

With respect to durable solutions (as provided for in the Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs), both return and integration must be given an opportunity. The Republic of Serbia is investing considerable efforts to create adequate conditions for return. However, notwithstanding the measures implemented, a small number of internally displaced persons returned to Kosovo and Metohija due to absence of safety and possibilities to exercise the fundamental human rights. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Framework for Durable Solutions for IDPs, the Republic of Serbia is committed to ensuring standards for achievement of durable solutions such as safety and security, adequate living standards and access to the sources of income. Since restitution of housing and land, being the key preconditions for achievement of durable solutions, remains elusive for the vast majority of persons, no conditions have practically been created for the internally displaced persons to make a free decision on whether to return or to integrate and thus to decide on their best durable solution. While waiting for achievement of standards such as respect of the acquired rights, access to property and other rights, being the inherent components of durable solutions in the places of origin, the Republic of Serbia is ensuring life in dignity and the possibility for these persons to enjoy their rights in displacement and is conducting programmes to improve their living conditions.

The Commissariat for Refugees and Migration publishes public calls for funding of the programmes of the civil society and associations relevant to the refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees on the basis of readmission agreements several times a year. The programmes selected for financing include the components: media campaigns to raise awareness of refugees and internally displaced persons aiming at their social integration, information dissemination about the mechanisms of exercise of rights at their disposal and reviewing the needs of the beneficiary population.

MAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF IDP HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED

According to the data collected by the Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, 17,287 internally displaced households or 71,779 persons in need live in Serbia.

The majority of the families resides in urban areas in Western Serbia and Šumadija, and the smallest number settled in Vojvodina as indicated in the Assessment conducted five years ago. Belgrade and the larger cities are preferred for better opportunities of employment, access to health care, education. The rest settled in other parts of Serbia most often due to family links and a large number of persons originating from Kosovo and Metohija who had moved to these areas in the past.

The average age of the persons in need is 39.14 which is somewhat different from the data of the previous Assessment. A potential explanation of that is that the larger families were already provided for, as well as that the modern families opt to have a smaller number of children. The majority of the population is aged 19-59 (51.55%), although persons over 60 constitute a large part (23.15). The number of women and men is approximately the same (49.21% and 50.79%).

The average size of internally displaced households in need is 4.15 and the percentage of households with five or more members is almost 29%. Here we take note of the drop in size of average households because it was the families with a larger number of children that were prioritized in assistance for improvement of the living conditions. Nevertheless, there is still a high percentage of large families in need on several basis. This will be discussed in detail.

The data indicate that the majority of this population is in the active age group of 19-59. Almost one third of the internally displaced persons has no employment. More than 75% of households have a monthly income of less than USD 300 (approximately RSD 33,000), and the average monthly income of households amounts to USD 182 or USD 43,71 (approximately RSD 4,800) per member of household. As expected, these data have not changed significantly in the period since the previous Assessment, having in mind the economic situation in the country, reduction of salaries and pensions as well as lay-offs in the public sector and the ban on employment therein.

Regretfully, the number of persons who have not completed primary education remains high – almost 9%. Compared with the results of the 2011 Assessment, a drop of these persons is noted with the rise in the number of persons with university education. This is evidence of a positive trend in understanding the necessity to continue schooling and acquire education.

With respect to the housing and property situation of internally displaced persons in need, 9,74% of families own their housing, 41.43% of families rent it and almost 44% of the families still live with relatives and friends.

A total of 5,500 families who have property not suitable for housing, rent housing or live with relatives and friends. Their problems would be resolved through distribution of construction material packages.

Today, the internally displaced persons in need prefer construction material packages - almost 40% of the families. The preferred option for 11% of the families are prefabricated houses, for 12.60% of the families are village houses, 11% of them opt for rented housing and some 10% for social housing in supportive environment (SHSE). Less than 1% of them opt for accommodation in social welfare institutions.

Of the total number of households who own housing unsuitable for living, 68% are asking for construction material to complete the construction they initiated or to rehabilitate the unsuitable housing they possess. Of the total number of households, 5.11% live in the spaces not intended for residence, and 44.5% of the households have less than 15m² per member. A total of 9.8% do not have a bathroom.

These parameters have not changed significantly which indicates that the families in need require a faster and more efficient assistance in order to achieve minimum conditions for a normal life.

Regretfully, the situation with respect to their property in KiM has not improved since the previous Assessment and thus could not have contributed to their exit from the vicious circle of vulnerability and poverty either by returning to KiM or repossessing their property and selling it. More will be said about that in the following pages. With respect to the physical condition of housing, more than one half of owners stated their housing was destroyed – 56.55%, while the level of damages of 11.25% to the property is high thus rendering the property uninhabitable.

Relative to the earlier research into the number of potential returnees, a significant drop of the willingness of these persons to return to KiM is noted. One fifth of the households in need stated their wish to return in the 2011 Assessment. The main reasons for the limited returns, as stated by the IDPs, are insecurity and limited freedom of movement, uncertain future for their children, livelihood and employment opportunities.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

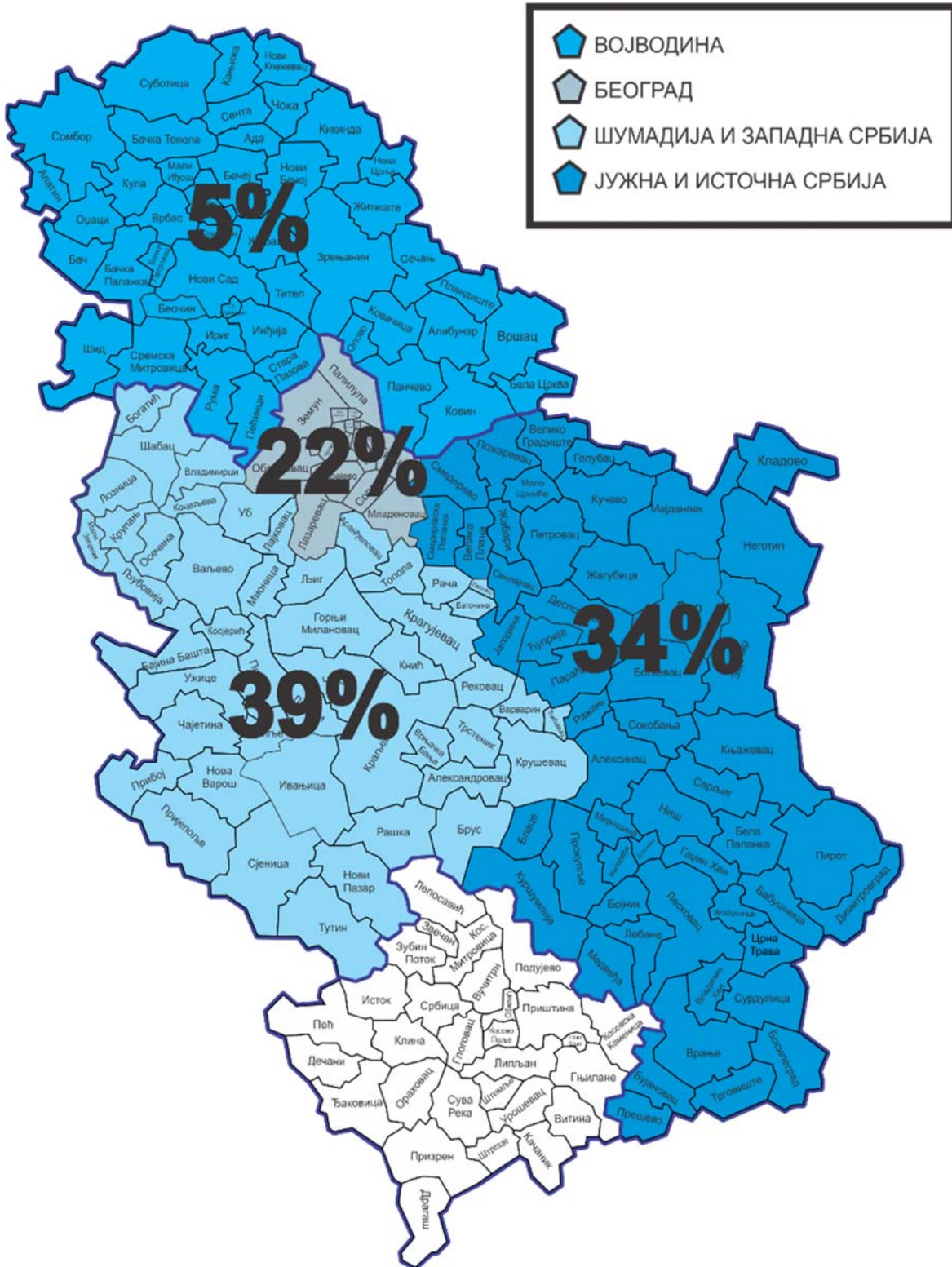
1. GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF IDPS IN NEED

Table 1. Geographic distribution of IDPs

REGION	NO. OF IDP FAMILIES	
Belgrade	3,719	21.51%
Vojvodina	878	5.08%
Šumadija and Western Serbia	6,825	39.48%
Southern and Eastern Serbia	5,865	33.93%
TOTAL	17,287	100.00%

The majority of displaced persons from KiM settled in Central and Southern Serbia, with a small number, of Roma mostly, having proceeded to Vojvodina. There were several migratory waves. The average IDP household moved three times after displacement from KiM. The second wave of migration generally meant a move from smaller into bigger cities.



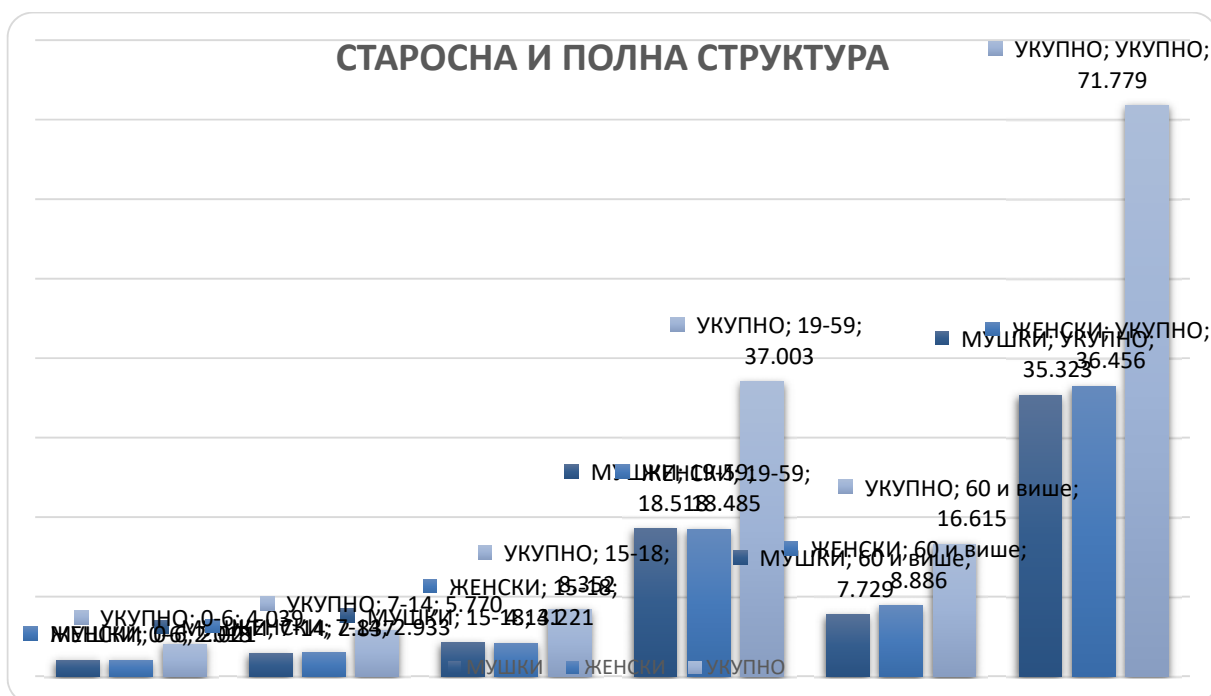


2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

2.1 AGE AND GENDER STRUCTURE

Table 2.1 Age and gender structure

AGE	GENDER				TOTAL	
	MALE		FEMALE			
0-6	2,018	2.81%	2,021	2.82%	4,039	5.63%
7-14	2,837	3.95%	2,933	4.09%	5,770	8.04%
15-18	4,221	5.88%	4,131	5.76%	8,352	11.64%
19-59	18,518	25.80%	18,485	25.75%	37,003	51.55%
60 +	7,729	10.77%	8,886	12.38%	16,615	23.15%
TOTAL	35,323	49.21%	36,456	50.79%	71,779	100.00%



The average age of internally displaced persons in need is 39.14 - somewhat lower than the average of the domicile population – 42.7 (men 41.3 and women 44.1). The majority are in the age cohort 19-59 (51.55%), although a big part are also persons over 60 (23.15%). The ratio of women and men is approximately the same (49.21% and 50.79% respectively).

Such an age structure is affected by a high share of Roma population as well as a higher birth rate among the families from Kosovo and Metohija relative to the average in the whole of Serbia.

Compared to the 2011 Assessment, the average age has changed which indicates that the most vulnerable families with a high number of children have been provided for in the meantime and that the number of heads of households over 60 has increased. More than 65% of the internally displaced persons in need are at the work age.

The average age of total IDP population is 37.19.

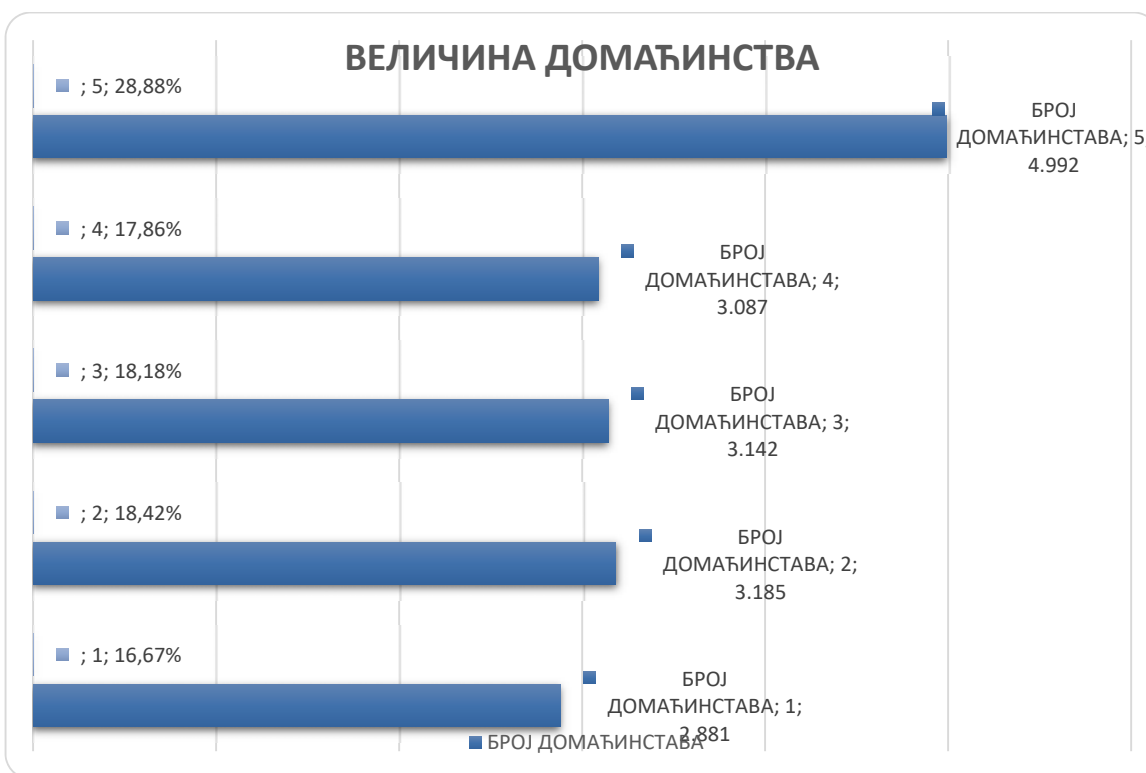
Serbia is one of the demographically oldest countries in the world with 1,250,316 inhabitants over 65, comprising 17.4% of the total population. Ageing of the population is primarily a consequence of the changes in the natural mobility of the population and migrations – decrease of young and able-bodied population as well as increase of dependent population.

2.2 SIZE OF HOUSEHOLDS

The size of households is one of the key factors in planning of housing solutions by improvement of the housing conditions of IDPs in need. The average size of IDP households in need is 4.15 which is somewhat lower in percentages than in the last Assessment of the Needs of IDPs. The share of single-headed or one-member households is below 17%, but the share of households with 5 or more members is almost 29%, which calls for special attention in programming of future activities related to improvement of housing conditions. One must take into account the fact that these are the households with many children who live in multi-generational families traditionally.

Table 2.2 Household size

NO. OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	
1	2,881	16.67%
2	3,185	18.42%
3	3,142	18.18%
4	3,087	17.86%
5	4,992	28.88%
TOTAL	17,287	100.00%

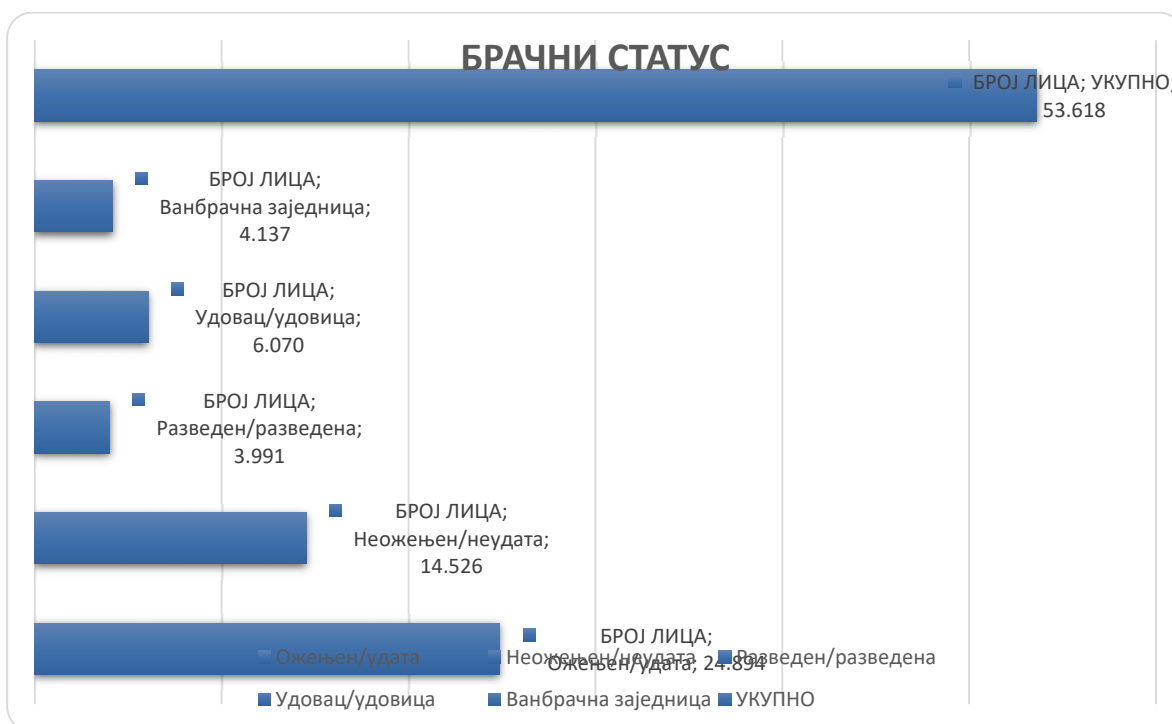


2.3 MARITAL STATUS *

Table 2.3 Marital status

MARITAL STATUS	NO. OF PERSONS	
Married	24,894	46.43%
Single	14,526	27.09%
Divorced	3,991	7.44%
Widowed	6,070	11.32%
Common law marriage	4,137	7.72%
TOTAL	53,618	100.00%

* only adults



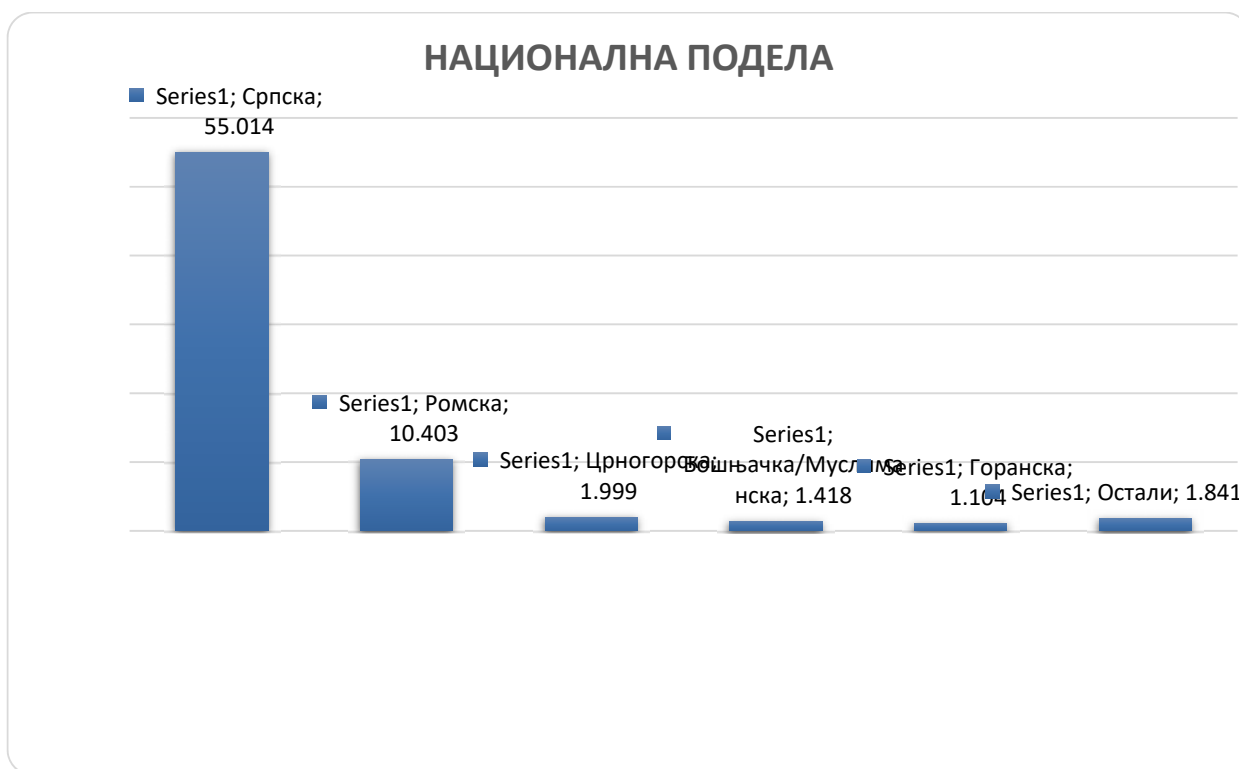
Among the adult internally displaced persons, 46.4% are married, 27.9% are single and 7.72% live in common law marriages. There are some 11% widowed persons. When ensuring improvement of the housing conditions of the persons in need, families are prioritized. In view of the high number of persons in need, the rulebooks followed by the municipal Beneficiary Selection Committees allow for families with more members and more minor children to be better ranked and thus, to obtain swifter assistance.

There are 1,240 single parent families which is 7.17% of the total number of households in need. The number of children in them is 2,485. The share of single-headed elderly households is 7.59 %.

2.4 ETHNIC AFFILIATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN NEED

Table 2.4 Ethnic distribution

ETHNIC AFFILIATION		
Serbs	55,014	76.64%
Roma	10,403	14.49%
Montenegrin	1,999	2.78%
Bosniak/Muslim	1,418	1.98%
Gorani	1,104	1.54%
Other	1,841	2.56%
TOTAL	71,779	100.00%



The ethnic composition of internally displaced persons in need is relatively homogenous as one entity prevails – the Serbs who comprise 76.7 %, and Roma comprising 14.5 %. These are followed by Montenegrins, Bosniaks-Muslims, Gorani in a far lesser share.

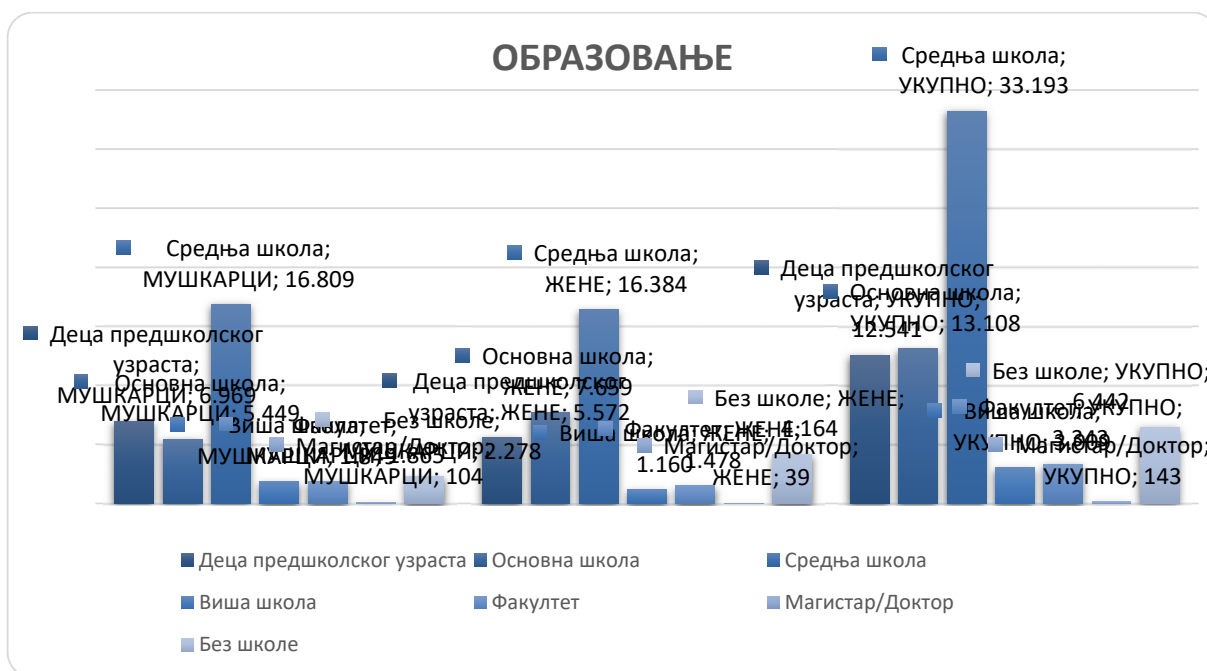
The share of Roma among the internally displaced population in need (14.5) is significantly higher than that of Roma in the total population of the Republic of Serbia (2.14%), as well as of the share of Roma in total internally displaced population (10.5%).

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, the citizens are not obliged to state their ethnic affiliation (Article 47). The response to the questions about ethnic affiliation for children under 15 is given by parents or guardians.

2.5 EDUCATION

Table 2.5 Education

EDUCATION	MEN		WOMEN		TOTAL	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Preschool	6,969	9.71%	5,572	7.76%	12,541	17.47%
Primary school	5,449	7.59%	7,659	10.67%	13,108	18.26%
Secondary school	16,809	23.42%	16,384	22.83%	33,193	46.24%
College	1,849	2.58%	1,160	1.62%	3,009	4.19%
University	1,865	2.60%	1,478	2.06%	3,343	4.66%
M.A./PhD	104	0.14%	39	0.05%	143	0.20%
No education	2,278	3.17%	4,164	5.80%	6,442	8.97%
TOTAL	35,323	49.21%	36,456	50.79%	71,779	100.00%



Almost 6,500 IDPs in need have not completed primary education. The share of women among them is higher (64.64,%). Persons who have not completed primary school are mostly the elderly (over 60). The data largely correspond to the findings of the 2011 Assessment of the Needs of IDPs, with a notable decrease of the number of persons without primary education and increase of the persons with university education. This decrease represents a positive trend which is expected to continue. Contributing to the high number of uneducated persons is a high percentage of Roma population who traditionally attend schools in smaller numbers.

3. FINANCIAL SITUATION OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

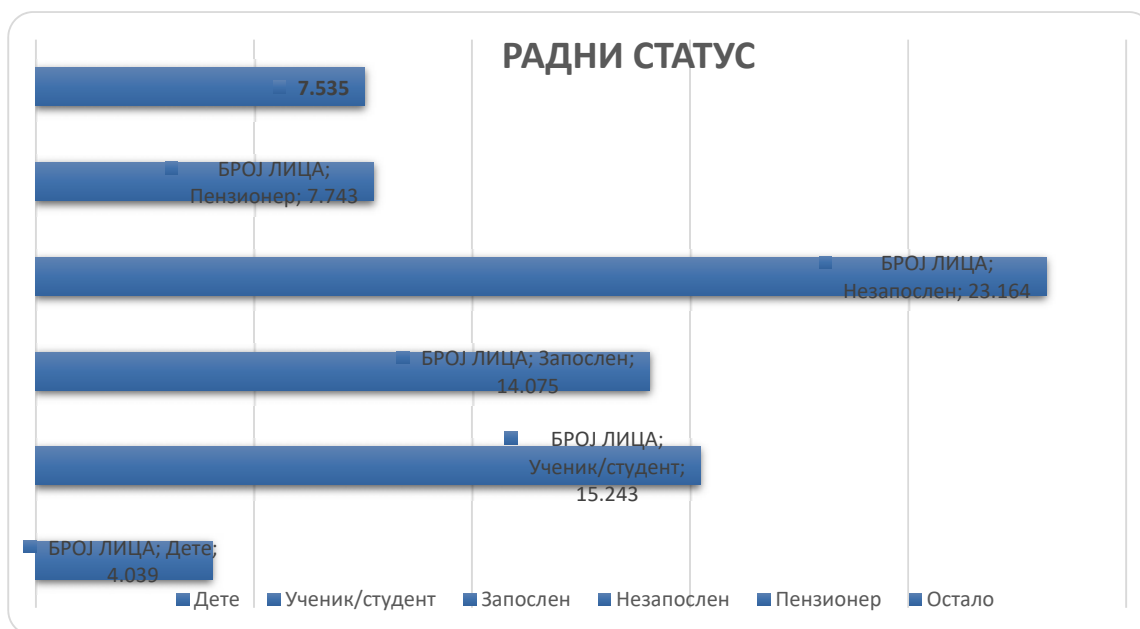
3.1 EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Table 3.1 Employment status

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	NO. OF PERSONS	
Child	4,039	5.63%
Student	15,243	21.23%
Employed	14,075	19.60%
Unemployed	23,164	32.26%
Pensioner	7,743	10.78%
Other	7,535	10.49%
TOTAL	71,799	100.00%

The main indicator of vulnerability of internally displaced persons is a high unemployment rate. Almost 30% of internally displaced persons have no employment at all. Compared to the domicile population where the unemployment rate is in the realm of 20%, one may conclude that the situation of IDPs is significantly worse. The share of the unemployed among the IDPs is 32.26%. Of the total IDPs in need, less than 20% are employed.

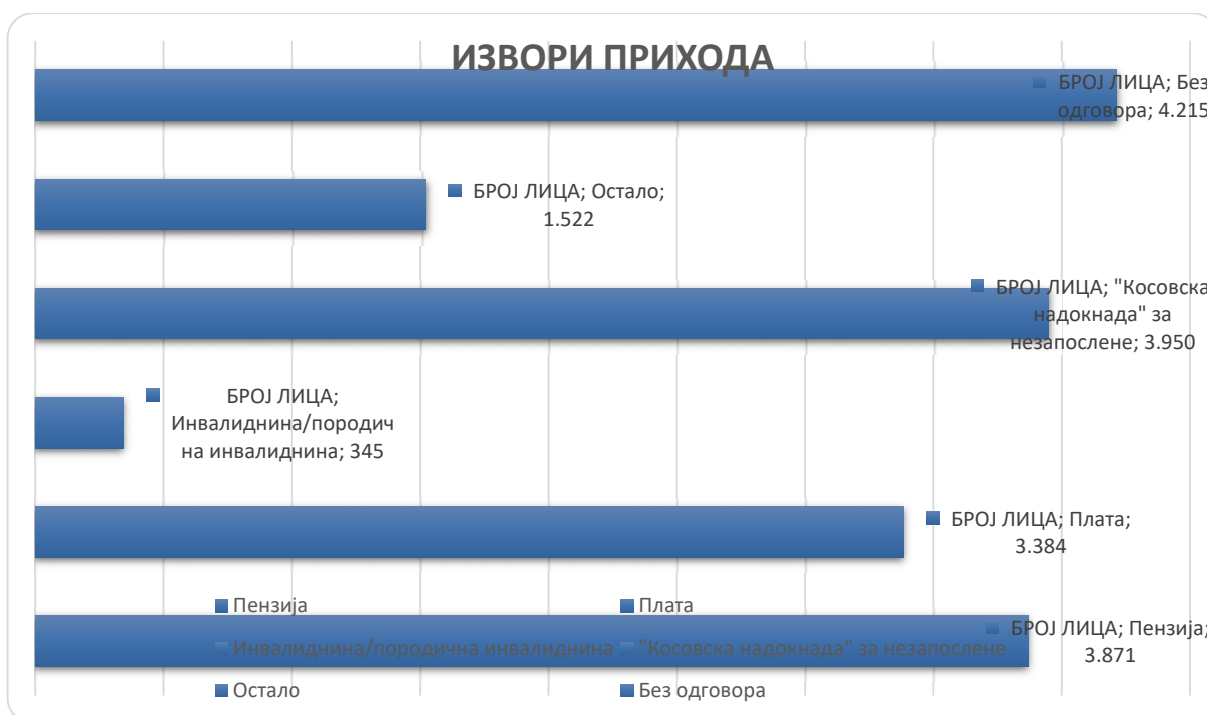
It is worth noting that women in this population are traditionally housewives and stay at home to take care of households, children and families, as well as that the families in rural areas engage in agriculture and thus generate income. Both categories are registered as unemployed.



3.2 PERSONAL AND OTHER INCOME

Table 3.2.1 Sources of income

SOURCE OF INCOME	NO. OF PERSONS	
Pension	3,871	22.39%
Salary	3,384	19.58%
Disability allowance/ disability allowance for families	345	2.00%
"Kosovo allowance" for the unemployed	3,950	22.85%
Other	1,522	8.80%
N/A	4,215	24.38%
TOTAL	17,287	100.00%

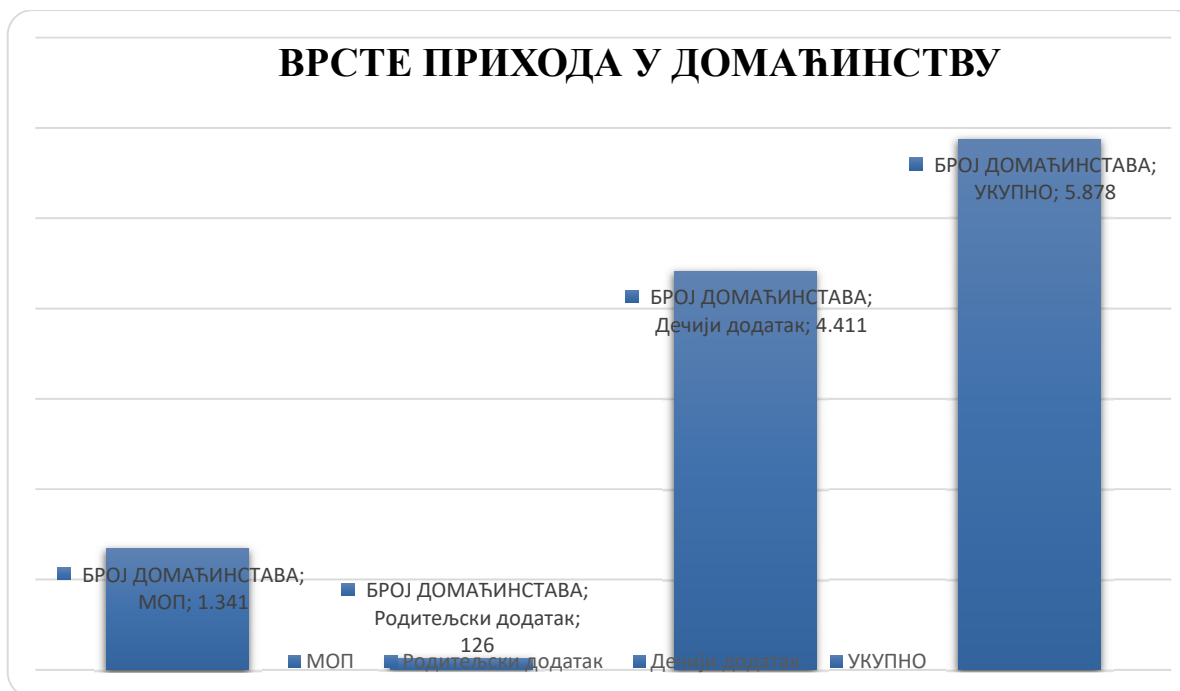


The most frequent source of income of the internally displaced persons in need is the so called "Kosovo allowance" for persons who lost their jobs due to displacement (3,950 persons), salaries (3,384 persons) and pensions (3,871 persons). Many of them do not hold permanent jobs but work on temporary jobs in the gray economy - which has not been eliminated regretfully - and are probably registered as "other".

With respect to the families who receive the Kosovo allowance, the key assumption is that they do work informally in order to protect their right to the above mentioned allowance.

Table 3.2.2 Types of social welfare assistance

TYPES OF SOCIAL WELFARE ASSISTANCE	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	
	Family financial assistance	1,341
Parental benefit	126	2.14%
Child allowance	4,411	75.04%
TOTAL	5,878	100.00%



The displaced, being citizens of the Republic of Serbia, may access various forms of social welfare assistance provided by the State. The right to assistance was exercised by 34% of the households in need. The 2011 Assessment indicated that 39% of the families exercised this right. Access to social welfare services is very important for this category of persons. In addition to the above mentioned personal income, a certain number of households - 5,878 receive payments on the basis of social vulnerability. The most frequent among them is child allowance received by 4,411 families.

In order for the families to receive one of the forms of social welfare assistance, they need to fulfill the legally prescribed conditions and obtain a number of necessary documents. The new Law on Temporary and Habitual Residence and the entry of newborns into the birth registries has facilitated issuance of personal documents and thus access to social welfare assistance.

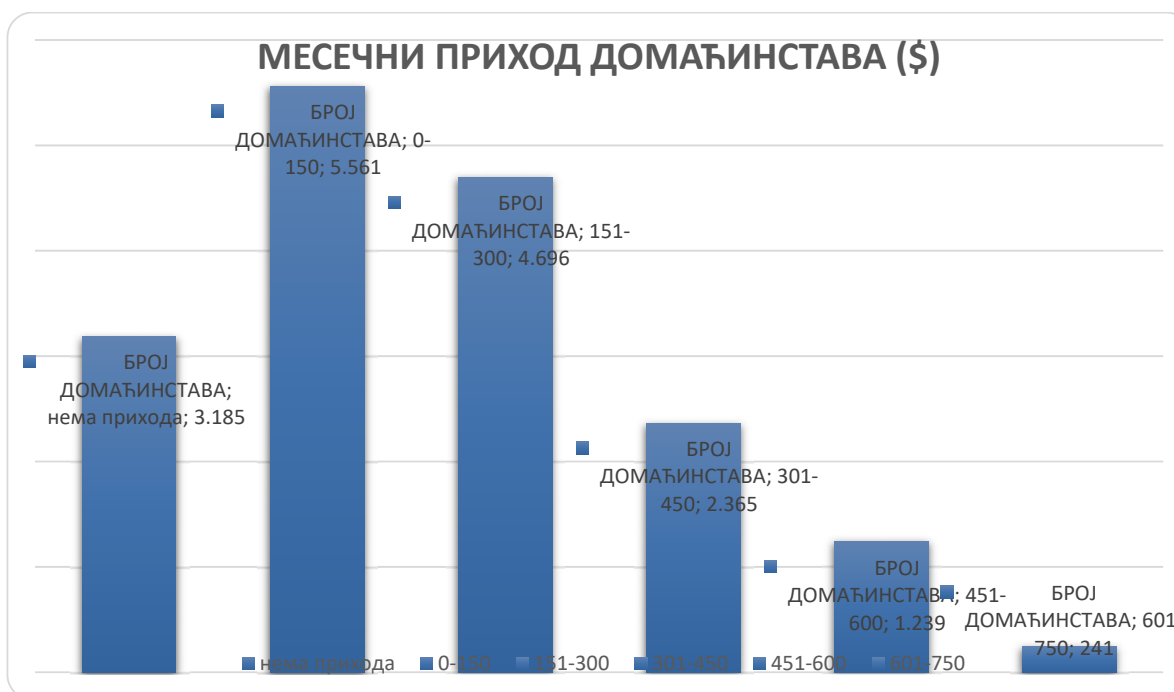
The changes in the legal framework governing issuance of personal documents and residence allowed for facilitated access to personal documents. The Republic Serbia passed changes and amendments of the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure allowing persons at risk of statelessness to be registered in birth registries and obtain the necessary certificates in simplified procedures. Until the Law on Legal Assistance is adopted, the services will be provided through legal aid projects implemented by the civil society organisations. Introduction of the system of free legal aid will ensure

a higher level of legal safety and facilitate access to personal documents through procedures set out in the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure intended to eliminate “legally invisible persons“ by entry into birth registries and provision of personal documents.

The access to social welfare services is an important indicator of the level of information among the internally displaced persons about the possibilities offered to them, as well as of the awareness of the social welfare institutions being the instances they can turn to for help. The displaced persons, being Serbian citizens, may register for various forms of social welfare assistance provided by the state and local governments.

Table 3.2.3 Monthly household income

MONTHLY INCOME (\$)	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	
No income	3,185	18.42%
0-150	5,561	32.17%
151-300	4,696	27.16%
301-450	2,365	13.68%
451-600	1,239	7.16%
601-750	241	1.39%
TOTAL	17,287	100.00%



More than 75% of IDP households in need have total monthly income below USD 300 (approximately RSD 33,000). The average monthly household income is USD 182 or USD 43,71

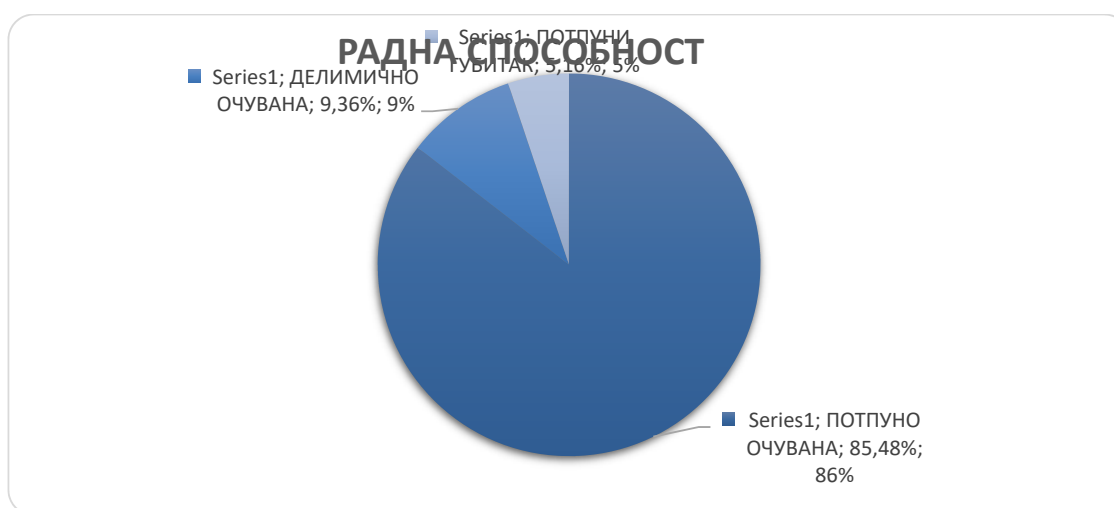
(approximately RSD 4,800) per member of family. These data have not changed significantly since the 2011 Assessment which was to be expected having in mind the economic situation in the country, decrease of salaries and pensions, lay-offs in the public sector and ban on employment therein. The fact that more than 18% of the families have no income at all is disturbing as it is an indicator of their extremely difficult situation. The stated sum of payments for this entire population speaks that these are the persons at the verge of subsistence, whose incomes cannot secure their minimum livelihood. The high percentage of persons without income is affected by the high number of Roma in need (14.49%) characterized by the high unemployment rate.

The families who receive more than USD 600 per month (1.39%) are mainly multi-generational and large (6 and more members) within one household where two or more members generate some kind of income. However, when the total income is distributed to all the dependant members, they remain in the category of households in need because the relative at-risk-of-poverty line in the Republic of Serbia is RSD 14,920 (*official data of SORS*). These are also the households who do not have a durable housing solution and are unable to solve this problem by themselves.

3.3 WORK ABILITY (FOR PERSONS OVER 15 AND UNDER 65) *

Since the majority of internally displaced persons in need have full work ability, it is important to take adequate measures to increase the level of employment in order for them to become self-sustainable.

Certainly, one must bear in mind that the unemployment rate in Serbia is relatively high - around 19.2% for the total population and just over 14% for the work able population.



The 2011 Assessment shows the activity rate of the displaced persons at the level of the entire sample to be 67.7%, and 70.2% among the persons in need. The employment rate of the persons in need is 28.5%, and the unemployment rate is 39%, which is less favourable than among the total IDP population and far less favourable than among the domicile population with the employment rate of 37.7%, and the unemployment rate of 19.2%.

The projection shows that 6,024 income packages for unemployed IDPs in need and 4,361 for employed IDPs in need are needed in order to empower them and ensure their self-reliance.

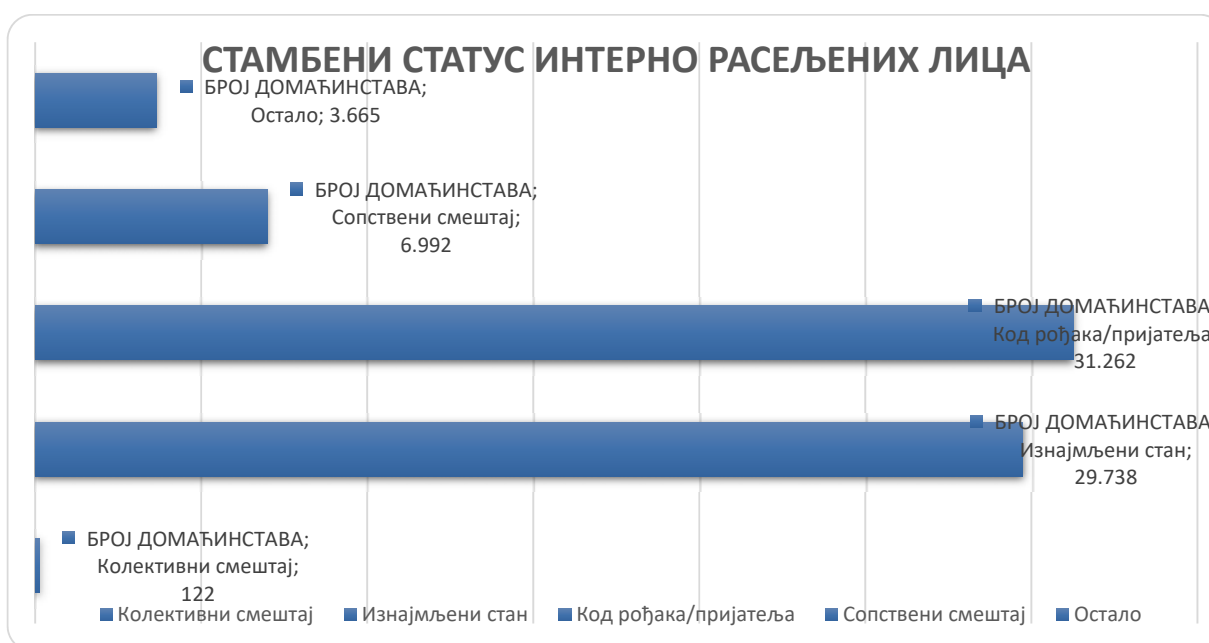
It is worth noting here that these packages are intended for agriculture, animal husbandry, fruit growing, wood and metal processing machinery in the rural areas. In urban areas, these packages usually represent assistance for starting small businesses (tinsmith workshops, hairdressers and beauty parlours, vehicles for transport of raw materials, etc.).

* The information about work ability is not documented but assessed based on statement.

3.4 HOUSING STATUS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Table 3.4 Housing status of internally displaced persons

HOUSEHOLD HOUSING STATUS	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	
Collective accommodation	122	0.17%
Rented apartment	29,738	41.43%
With relatives /friends	31,262	43.55%
Private apartment	6,992	9.74%
Other	3,665	5.11%
TOTAL	71,779	100.00%



According to the record of the needs of IDPs, 40% of the total number of internally displaced households in need is asking for construction material to complete the initiated construction or rehabilitate uninhabitable houses and make them inhabitable.

According to the type of current accommodation, the distribution indicates that the majority of internally displaced persons in need live with relatives and friends (43.5%), and rented housing units (41.4%). Almost 10% of this population owns housing in which they live.

The persons who live with relatives and friends and in rented units (some 5,500 families), and who own uninhabitable real estate, ask for construction material assistance in order to achieve a durable housing solution.

A total of 5.11% of IDP households in need reside in spaces not intended for housing.

3.5 IDPS IN COLLECTIVE CENTRES

Pursuant to the plan, all the collective centres on the territory of the Republic of Serbia without Kosovo and Metohija should be closed in the course of 2017. Currently there are five collective centres (55 refugees, 122 internally displaced persons) on the territory of the Republic of Serbia without Kosovo and Metohija. There are eight collective centres (46 refugees and 307 internally displaced persons) on the territory of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija which totals 530 persons in 13 collective centres. The centres will be closed by implementation of the project "Support to Improvement of the Living Conditions of Forced Migrants and Closure of Collective Centres" within the framework of IPA 2012.

Since 2002, 375 collective centres were closed and 9,326 persons accommodated therein were provided a solution.

We note that the programmes of improvement of living conditions of IDPs are supported by allocation of income-generation funds with a view to economic empowerment of the families.

Table 3.5.1 IDPs in collective centres

DISTRICT	MUNICIPALITY	CENTRE	NO. OF IDPS	NO. OF REFUGEES
South -Banat	Pančevo	CENTAR TO	20	2
Mačva	Šabac	VARNA OOCK	0	42
Pirot	Bela Palanka	HOTEL ES AND REMIZIJANA	11	11
Pčinja	Bujanovac	STARA CIGLANA	39	0
Pčinja	Bujanovac	"SALVATORE"	52	0
TOTAL			122	55

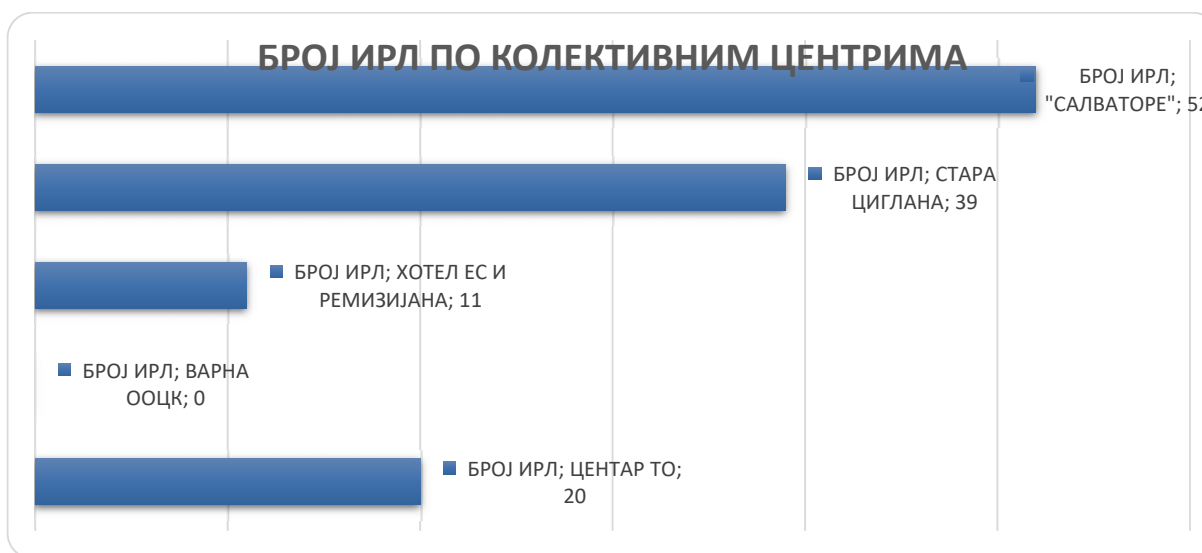
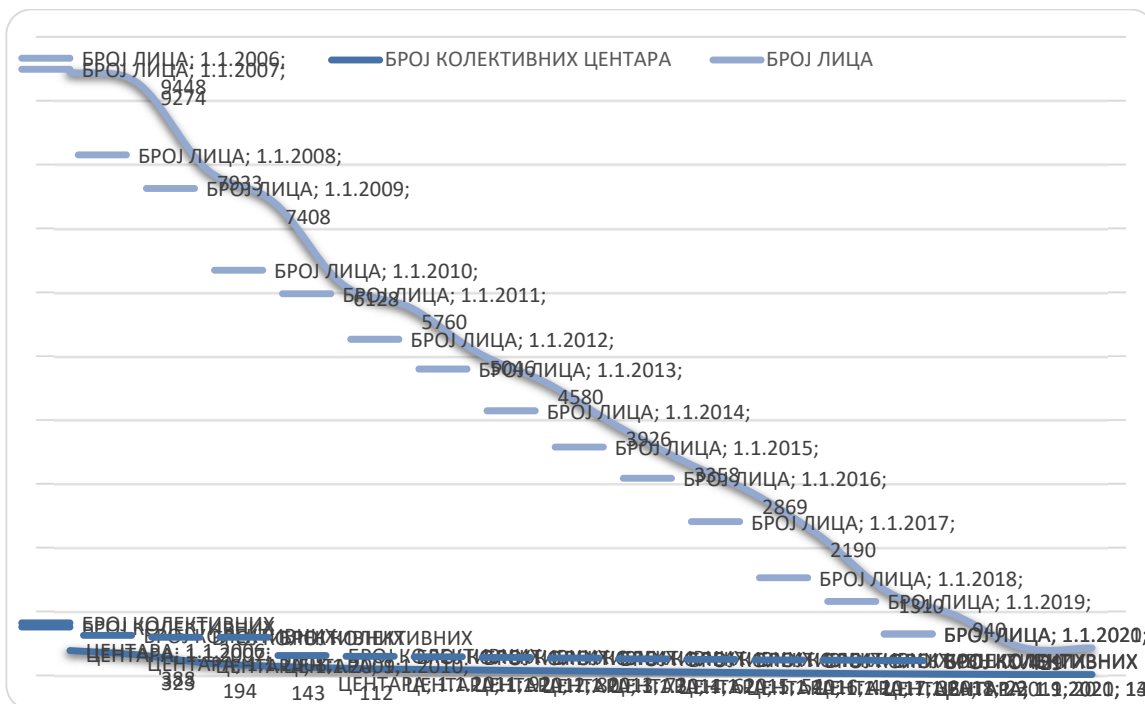


Table 3.5.2 Decrease of the number of collective centres by year

DATE	NO. OF COLLECTIVE CENTRES	NO. OF IDPS
1/1/2002	388	9448
1/1/2003	323	9274
1/1/2004	194	7933
1/1/2005	143	7408
1/1/2006	112	6128
1/1/2007	92	5760
1/1/2008	80	5046
1/1/2009	73	4580
1/1/2010	62	3926
1/1/2011	54	3358
1/1/2012	41	2869
1/1/2013	33	2190
1/1/2014	23	1310
1/1/2015	20	940
1/1/2016	14	431
1/1/2017	13	429



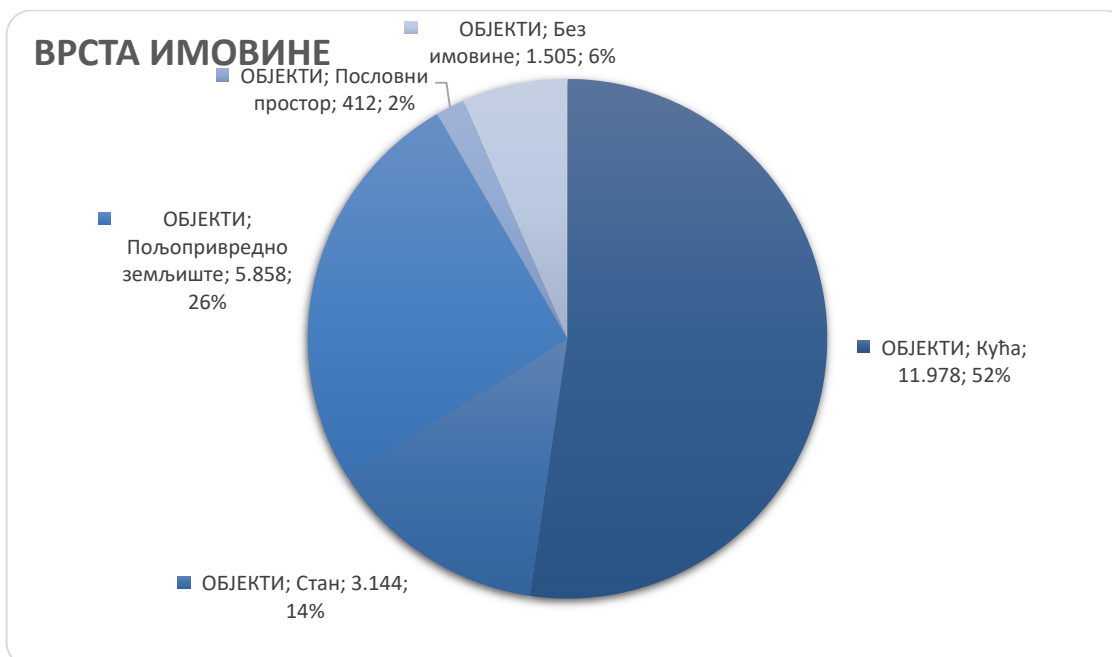
4. PROPERTY IN KOSOVO AND METOHIJA

4.1 TYPE OF PROPERTY

Persons in need in Kosovo and Metohija have more than 21,000 properties. Only 1,505 households did not own any property on the territory of KiM. The inhabitants in the rural areas mostly had houses and adjoining structures as well as hectares of agricultural land. The families who came from urban areas mostly owned apartments. The number of families who owned business premises that generated income is not negligible.

Table 4.1 Type of property

TYPE OF PROPERTY	HOUSING
House	11,978
Apartment	3,144
Agricultural land	5,858
Business premises	412
No property	1,505
TOTAL	22,897



4.2 STATUS OF PROPERTY

The current status of property and housing owned by internally displaced persons in need in KiM is extremely bad. The property is either usurped or vacant, destroyed, damaged or looted for the most part and 10% of the owners have no information about the condition thereof.

With respect to the current property status, as many as 22% of households are unable to dispose of it for being usurped although 30% of the owners are in possession thereof. It is mostly because of the security that the owners cannot use it. This refers most often to the repossessed property that was looted again in the meantime.

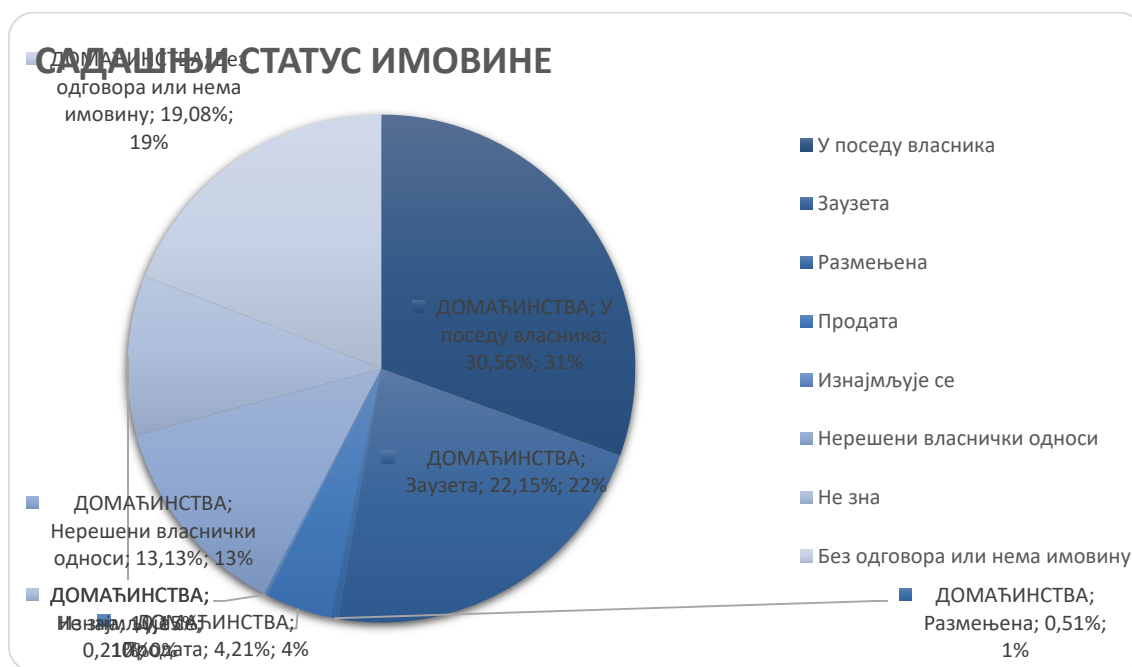
Regretfully, sustainable return of the families wishing to return has not been ensured still today. Even though all the displaced persons have the right to repossess their property that was illegally taken away from them or to receive a fair compensation in case repossession is not possible, these persons cannot repossess their property without the adequate support and international protection in the procedures of property restitution.

The IDPs who lived in state or public ownership apartments face a series of problems. According to the decisions of the Kosovo Property Agency (KPA), the majority of them still have the right to use the subject apartments that have been usurped by the illegal owners. Hectares of agricultural land have been usurped and the owners, returnees or the internally displaced cannot repossess them.

According to the statistical data of the Kosovo Property Agency, 84% of the total number of property claims refer to agricultural land. The biggest percentage of the land is illegally cultivated by the unauthorised persons and the KPA itself confirms in its reports that it is very difficult to force the illegal owners pay the rent that would be sent to the owners.

Table 4.2 Property status

CURRENT STATUS OF PROPERTY	HOUSEHOLDS
In possession of legal owner	30.56%
Usurped	22.15%
Exchanged	0.51%
Sold	4.21%
Being rented	0.21%
Unresolved property relations	13.13%
Does not know	10.15%
No answer or no property	19.08%



4.3 PHYSICAL STATUS OF PROPERTY

With respect to the physical condition of housing, more than one half of owners – 56.55%, stated their houses had been destroyed, 11.25% of the property suffered high degree damages and is consequently uninhabitable.

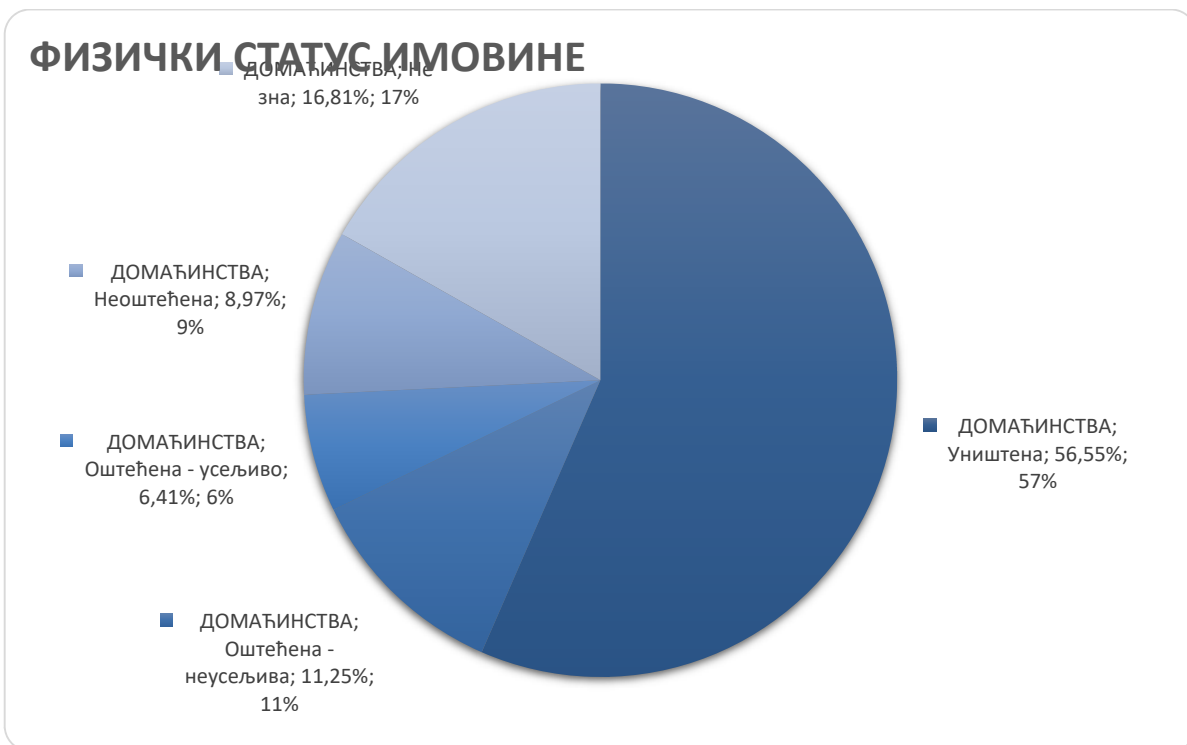
The courts in Kosovo and Metohija have received more than 19,000 compensation claims. However, the majority of these courts have declined jurisdiction or refused to receive the claims.

The provisional institutions have assumed the responsibility to rehabilitate the damaged houses and compensate for the damaged property after the events of 17 March 2004. Most of the damaged houses were not reconstructed and the expelled persons have not returned. In total 1,500 claims for the damaged property have been submitted to the courts in Kosovo since 17 March 2004.

A significant number of IDPs have sent their claims for compensation of physical damages or illegal use of subject property to the Kosovo Property Agency also.

Table 4.3. Physical status of property

PHYSICAL STATUS OF PROPERTY	HOUSEHOLDS
Destroyed	56.55%
Damaged - uninhabitable	11.25%
Damaged - habitable	6.41%
Undamaged	8.97%
Does not know	16.81%



Over the past years, the owners have submitted claims for reconstruction of the damaged property to the provisional institutions in Kosovo and Metohija, international organisations, the Ministry/Office for Kosovo and Metohija, international and national non-governmental organisations as well as to local governments. The majority of these remain unanswered. That many IDPs have problems in submitting the claims due to unresolved property relations is a well known fact.

5. RETURN

Sustainable return is voluntary, safe and dignified return with access enabled to all the acquired rights through respect and consistent implementation of the internationally recognized standards.

Full and objective information about return should be ensured, as well as freedom of movement, securing safety of person and property, return of property to the legal owners, reconstruction of the damaged and destroyed property, an expedient and simple access to documents.

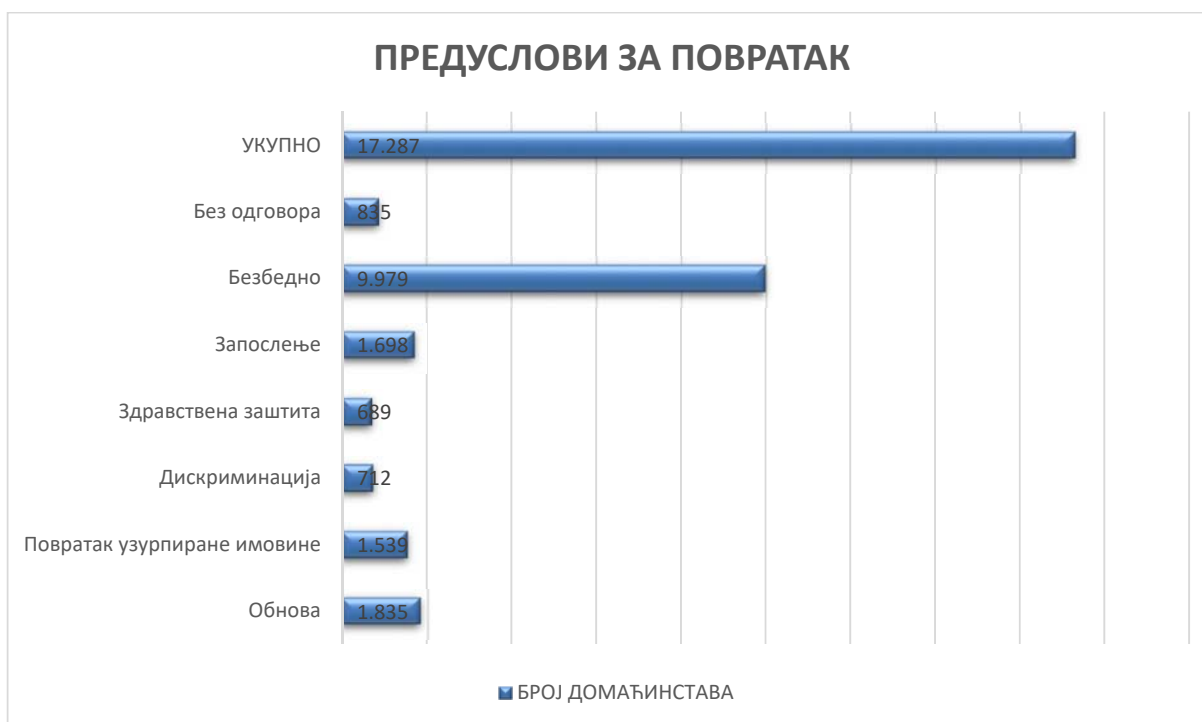
The provisional institutions in KiM have allowed for the already existing segregation in the society to deepen additionally with thousands of members of minority communities remaining displaced.

Since freedom of choice between return and local integration is the key principle laid out in all the international documents related to the problems of displaced populations, sadly the IDPs from Kosovo and Metohija are unable to make that choice due to the lack of the conditions for it. Less than 5% of the total IDP population have returned to KiM, one of the reasons being that the international community was unable to secure sustainable return of non-Albanian population in line with the obligations it assumed.

For years, IDPs living on the territory of Serbia proper have been offered various return programmes, but these are unsustainable for the most part as the majority of these persons leave the reconstructed houses again due to pressures or insecurity.

Table 5.1 Preconditions for return

PRECONDITIONS FOR RETURN	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	
Reconstruction	1,835	10.61%
Repossession of property	1,539	8.90%
Discrimination	712	4.12%
Health care	689	3.99%
Employment	1,698	9.82%
Security	9,979	57.73%
N/A	835	4.83%
TOTAL	17,287	100.00%



The results clearly prove that security is the key precondition for return into the place of origin and 58% of the surveyed households believe that it is not in place, resulting in an extremely limited number of returnees throughout all these years. Returnees are concerned for their own and the safety of their families. Returnees and IDPs move within the boundaries of their enclaves or places of residence and consider the urban areas the least safe.

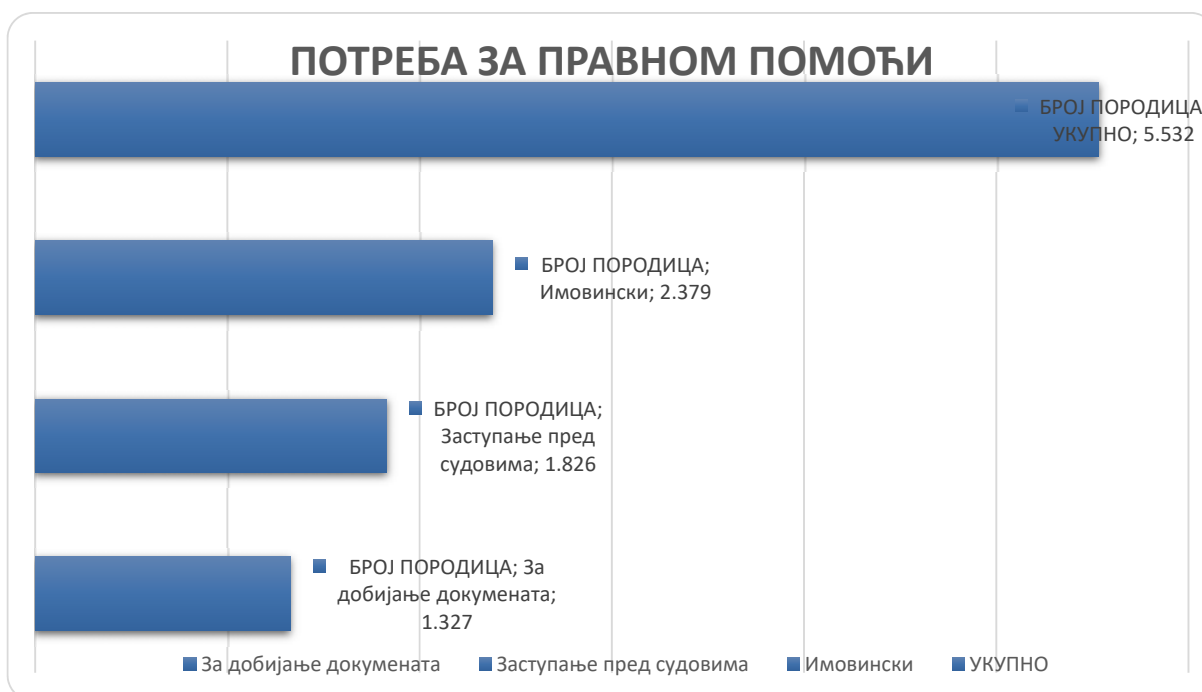
Almost 10% of the persons in need state repossession of property as the precondition for return. With respect to the current property status, as many as 22% of the households cannot dispose of it for being usurped. Even the property that had been returned to its legal owners who could not use it for security reasons, was looted again in the meantime.

Reconstruction as a precondition of return is stated by 10.6% of the families in need. With reference to the physical condition of houses, more than one half of the owners – 56.55% - stated their houses had been destroyed while 11.25% of the property suffered high degree damages and is uninhabitable.

Almost 10% of the families mention the possibility of employment as an important precondition for return, which contributes to economic security. The problems related to discrimination that returnees are exposed to and the health care issues should not be neglected.

Table 5.2 Need for legal assistance

NEED FOR SOME FORM OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE	NO. OF FAMILIES	
To obtain documents	1,327	23.99%
Representation in courts	1,826	33.01%
Property	2,379	43.00%
TOTAL	5,532	100.00%



When the internally displaced persons in need were asked whether they need legal assistance to exercise their rights in Kosovo and Metohija, 5,532 (32%) families stated they believed they did, and 75% of them stated they needed legal assistance in the form of representation before the courts and resolution of property issues in KiM.

6. PREFERRED DURABLE SOLUTION

Over the past 17 years, the Republic of Serbia, with the assistance of international community has taken enormous measures and activities related to reception and care of internally displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija and ensuring adequate living conditions. Strategic and legal framework have been established as well as the institutions for implementation of the programmes of support to this population.

In all, 4,316 different housing solutions (housing units, plots and construction material for new construction, packages of construction material to complete the started housing construction, village houses) have been secured.

- 546 village houses were purchased;
- 208 prefabricated houses (the programme started in 2008) were allocated;
- 3152 construction material packages were distributed;
- 89 housing units were constructed;
- 321 units within the programme of social housing in supportive environment were allocated;
- some 18,000 persons have received a housing solution through the housing programmes.

The funds for improvement of the housing conditions of internally displaced persons were partly secured from the budget of the Republic of Serbia, partly from the budget of local governments which mostly spent them on providing infrastructure, different European Union-funded programmes, UN agencies and international organisations as well as foreign governments. Significant funds have been earmarked through EU Pre-Accession Instrument.

More than 40% of the households still need support in the form of construction material packages despite many years of provision thereof.

The reason is to be found in the fact that one of the criteria for receiving this form of assistance is legalised construction, that the land on which the property is built is located in the zone planned for individual housing construction and that the legalisation process has been initiated. After entry into force of the new Law on Planning and Construction and the Law on Legalisation it is realistic to expect that a significant number of owners of these houses will now be eligible for the programmes of construction material distribution in order to finish the construction they have started.

The need for construction material was mostly expressed by those residing in Smederevska Palanka, Smederevo, Kraljevo, Kuršumlja, Prokuplje and Kragujevac - 36% of the total number of requirements for this type of assistance. These are mostly the families who started building houses and who need construction material to finish them or who have bought the houses that need to be rehabilitated.

More than 50% of 1,897 families who wish to resolve their housing problems by obtaining a housing unit live in Belgrade, followed by Kraljevo and Kragujevac. The families who opt for this kind of accommodation in big urban areas originate mostly from urban areas in Kosovo and Metohija

and used to have their own apartments in the places of previous habitual residence. These families opt for a housing solution in cities for bigger employment opportunities, education of children, etc.

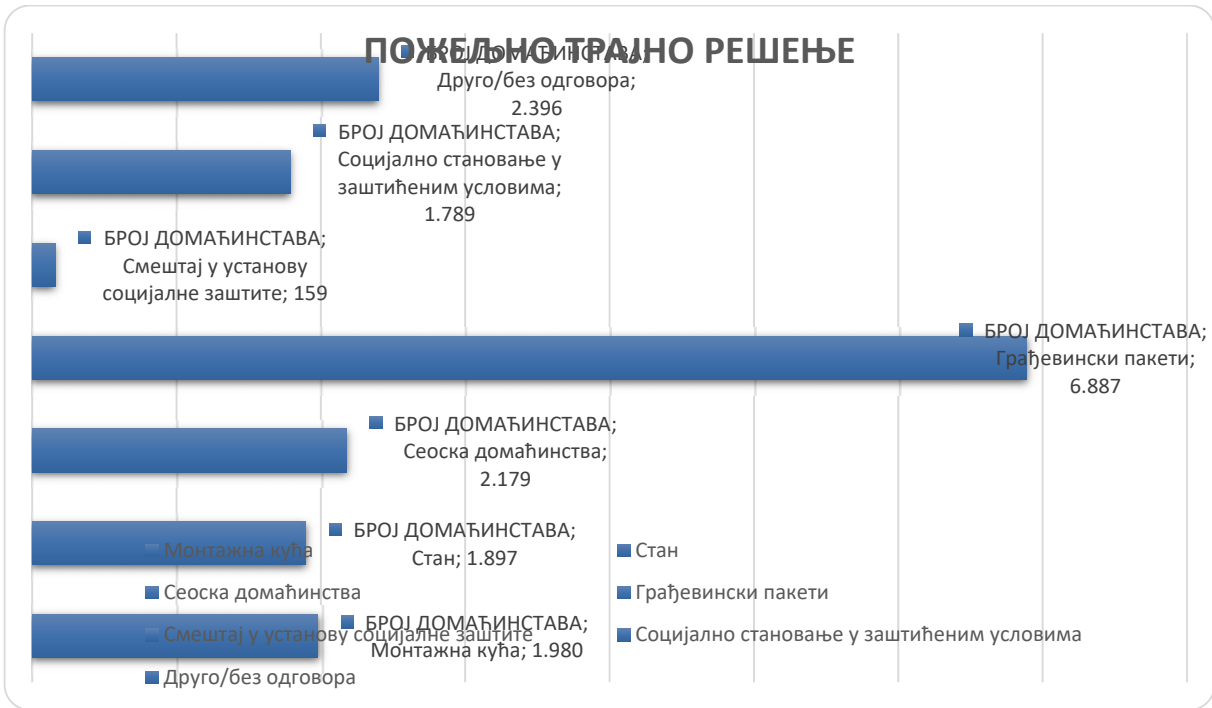
Village houses are a preferred option for families in need living in the area of Novi Sad, Kuršumlja, Prokuplje and Kragujevac (35%), and these are mainly rural population who wish to engage in agricultural production.

The families who live in Smederevo, Bujanovac, Kraljevo, Prokuplje - 32% of them, have expressed a wish to have a prefabricated house.

Just below 1% of the households opt for accommodation in social welfare institutions.

Table 6 Preferred durable solution

PREFERRED DURABLE SOLUTION	NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS	
Prefabricated house	1,980	11.45%
Apartment	1,897	10.97%
Village house	2,179	12.60%
Construction material	6,887	39.84%
Accommodation in social welfare institution	159	0.92%
Social housing in supportive environment	1,789	10.35%
Other - N/A	2,396	13.86%
TOTAL	17,287	100.00%



7. ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS OF IDP ROMA IN SERBIA

The displaced persons, members of RAE community (Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians), represent a particularly vulnerable category. The internally displaced population consists of some 22,000 Roma. The changes of the legal framework governing issuance of personal documents and residence have allowed for a facilitated access to documentation. The Republic of Serbia adopted the changes and amendments of the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure facilitating registration into birth registries and issuance of the necessary certificates to the persons at risk of statelessness. The introduction of the system of free legal aid will ensure a higher level of legal safety and facilitated access to personal documents through procedures set down in the Law on Non-Contentious Procedure designed to eradicate the phenomenon of “legally invisible persons“ by entry into birth registries and securing documentation.

In June 2016, UNHCR published a study “Persons at Risk of Statelessness in Serbia” assessing the progress made in the period 2010-2015. The research showed a significant drop in the share of persons without basic personal documents among the Roma in Serbia. Compared to 2010 when the share was 6.8%, it is now 3.9%.

The solutions for internally displaced Roma from Kosovo and Metohija, many of whom do not plan to return, are being implemented through programmes for improvement of the living conditions of IDPs including Roma. In the 2011 research, 8.8% of IDP Roma stated their wish to return to KiM. This percentage has dropped significantly and is now 2.4%. This is a consequence of their fear from discrimination upon return, security situation and potentially better living conditions in Serbia (S. Cvejić, ”Assessment of the Needs of IDP Roma in Serbia“ 2014).

With respect to closure of informal collective centres, budget and donor funds were ensured in 2015 to relocate the Roma from three substandard Roma settlements predominantly inhabited by IDP Roma: Blaževo in Novi Pazar, Stari Kostolac in Požarevac and Južna obilaznica in Kragujevac.

As mentioned above and evidenced by numerous surveys, Roma IDPs are in a very difficult situation and live in far worse conditions than the majority population. They are even worse of than the domicile Roma in Serbia.

Today there are 1,465 Roma IDP families in need, or 10,403 persons in Serbia.

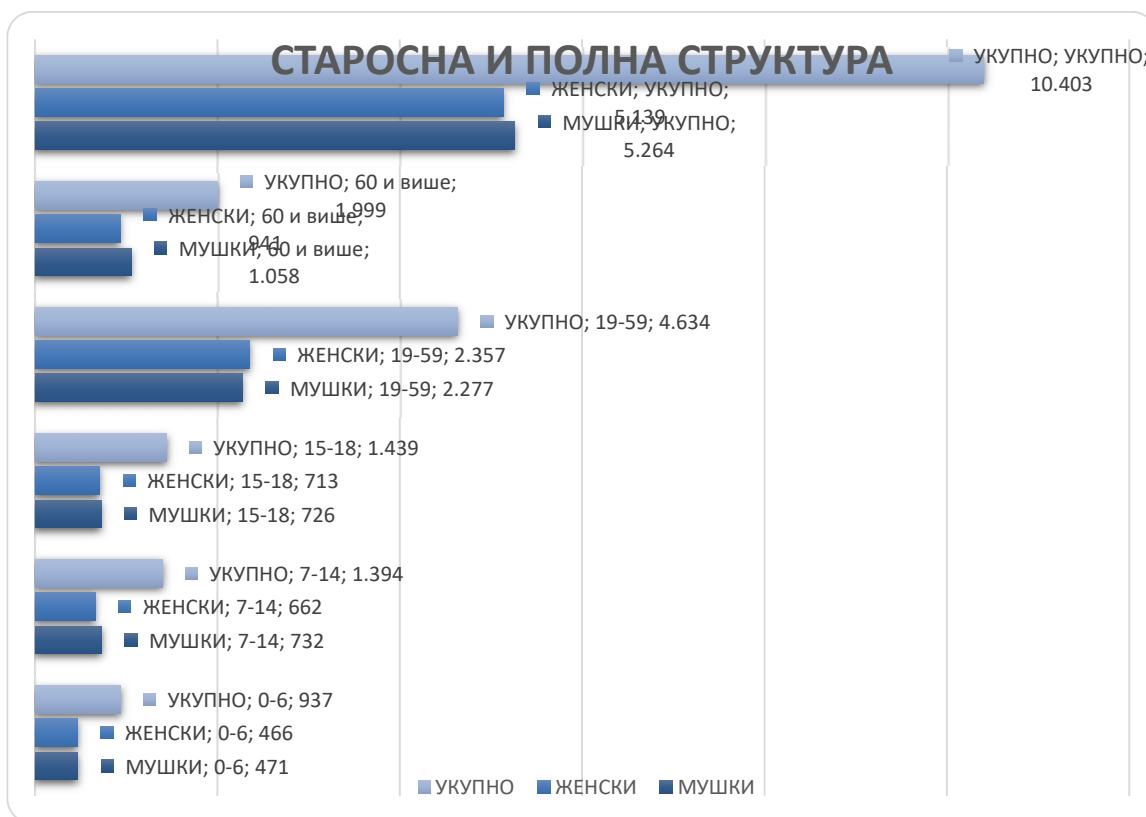
The majority of the displaced persons from KiM settled in Central and Southern Serbia, with a smaller number, mostly Roma, in Vojvodina. In general, IDP Roma tend to follow the territorial distribution of domicile Roma. Interestingly, Roma represent as many as 45.3% of the displaced persons in Vojvodina. This may be explained by higher potential for the usual Roma income-generating activities (agriculture, collection and trade of secondary raw materials, etc.) in the areas such as Novi Sad with 27.4% IDP Roma settled, Belgrade (28.7%) and Zrenjanin (9.1%).

7.1 AGE AND GENDER STRUCTURE

Table 7.1 Age and gender structure of Roma IDPs in Serbia

AGE	GENDER				TOTAL	
	MALE		FEMALE			
0-6	471	4.53%	466	4.48%	937	9.01%
7-14	732	7.04%	662	6.36%	1,394	13.40%
15-18	726	6.98%	713	6.85%	1,439	13.83%
19-59	2,277	21.89%	2,357	22.66%	4,634	44.54%
60 +	1,058	10.17%	941	9.05%	1,999	19.22%
TOTAL	5,264	50.60%	5,139	49.40%	10,403	100.00%

The average age of IDP Roma in need is 33.29. The above table shows that men represent just over 50% of the total number of IDP Roma in need (50.62%). The biggest number of persons are in the age cohort 19-59, meaning they are at the work age. Notably, the children of IDP Roma in need aged 0-6 constitute 23.2% of the total IDP of children population in need. Also, 24.2% of the total internally displaced population in need are children aged 7-14.



7.2 SIZE OF HOUSEHOLDS

The average size of Roma households in need is 7.1 members which is considerably higher than the average non-Roma IDPs in need – 4.15 members, as compared to the average size of domicile households in the Republic of Serbia which is almost 3. Among the internally displaced Roma in need, households with seven and more members are the most numerous, with young members – children – being predominant. There are almost no single-headed households as the Roma households traditionally live together in multi-generational families.

7.3 EDUCATION

A high percentage of Roma certainly contributes to the large number of IDPs without primary education. They are characterised by high illiteracy rates, and the tendency for smaller number of them to attend schools and attain the adequate level of education that would ensure better access to employment opportunities. The percentage of internally displaced Roma in need without primary school or with no school at all is almost 54% as compared to 57% in 2011. Only 32 % of IDP Roma completed primary school. These values have a significant impact on the unemployment rate.

7.4 FINANCIAL STATUS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED ROMA AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Internally displaced Roma are the most vulnerable group in the Republic of Serbia. Having low income, these households are extremely poor. The unemployment rate among the internally displaced Roma is high, one of the reasons being the above mentioned low level of education. They are mostly working in informal sector and in temporary jobs, traditionally engage in collecting scrap and professions not favoured by domicile population. Only a minute percentage of them engages in another profession.

A large proportion of the internally displaced Roma families are dependants, due to the high share of children in the households. The unemployment rate is in the realm of 80% relative to the total number of able bodied persons, and the employment rate is around 10%.

It was already mentioned that all the displaced persons, being the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, are entitled to different forms of social welfare assistance. The key sources of income among the internally displaced Roma in need are various forms of social benefits provided by the State or local governments. The share of internally displaced Roma households receiving some kind of social welfare assistance is 66% i.e. significantly higher than the share of internally displaced non-Roma families in need (30%).

The majority of Roma households receive child allowance (72%), as well as financial assistance for low income families (MOP) (31, 1%).

The findings in this respect have not changed significantly since the 2011 Assessment. Social vulnerability of internally displaced Roma is extremely high as 87% receive less than RSD 20,000/month, and nearly 50% live under the poverty line with less than RSD 10,000/month. Taking

into account the above, the average household with 7.1 members and the number of dependants such as pre-school and school children and the elderly, we arrive at the high share of households unable to fulfil their basic needs. There results in their inability to invest in improvement of living conditions, failure to pay the accrued utilities and obligations and therefore to poor living conditions.

7.5 HOUSING STATUS

The majority of IDP Roma households in need (more than 90%) live in structures lacking elementary conditions for a normal life and functioning. They often lack water connections, bathrooms, or are not intended for housing. These are often auxiliary buildings, garages or substandard facilities. They mostly live in facilities they do not own, and a very small number of them (90 persons) live in the remaining collective centres. Also, a large number of this population owns illegally built structures so they do not possess the necessary permits and the documentation required to apply for construction material assistance.

As already said, most of the IDP Roma families in need live in multi-generational households. The average size of household is 7.1 members and they have less than 10m² per member of household. Due to their extremely poor economic situation, and faced by numerous difficulties in providing for basic livelihood they cannot afford to invest into housing.

As they cannot solve their housing problems by themselves, and as their successful social integration is impossible without community assistance, housing solutions may be found in programmes of social housing in supportive environment targeting the most vulnerable groups in Serbia that the internally displaced Roma in need are among. In the 2014 Research (S. Cvejić), the majority of respondents opted for village houses with gardens (45%) and for social housing in supportive environment (40%).

FUTURE PRIORITIES, GUIDELINES AND ACTIVITIES

- Continued care of the most vulnerable categories, persons and communities including the persons accommodated in collective centres until adequate durable solutions are found;
- Development of programmes of durable housing and economic solutions, including the available budget, donor and IPA funds;
- Ensure full and objective information on return, secure freedom of movement, security of person and property; repossession of property by legal owners; reconstruction of damaged and destroyed property; allow for efficient and simple access to issuance of documentation;
- Ensure additional sources of funding since the available funds, reduction of UNHCR budget and the ever growing disinterest of bilateral donors indicate that support is not proportionate to the existing needs;
- Update local action plans regularly so that they correspond to the situation in the field;
- Continue passing Decisions on Defining the Incentives for Implementation of Measures and Activities necessary to achieve the defined objectives in the domain of migration management in local government units;
- Involve the internally displaced persons in other housing projects implemented on the territory of the Republic of Serbia;
- Make an inventory of all the locations where IDP Roma live illegally and without the basic living conditions;
- A higher level of legal security and access to the acquired rights would be secured through continued provision of free legal aid;
- Continue collecting data in the field and updating the existing information;
- Coordinate activities of all the stakeholders, including the civil sector, that are engaged in providing solutions.

8. UNHCR VULNERABILITY CRITERIA

The persons fulfilling one or more below stated vulnerability should be prioritized by the assistance programmes provided they have not benefitted a durable solution thus far.

1. Households whose income is below the poverty line.
2. Households living in undignified conditions (without running water, electricity, sanitary conditions).
3. Mental disability: an adult or a child who is mentally impaired by illness, injury or wounds which hinders the normal day to day activity and needs to be addressed to allow the person to function.
4. Physical disability: an adult or a child who is physically impaired by illness, injury or wounds which hinders the normal day to day activity and needs to be addressed to allow the person to function.
5. Individuals in need of care and treatment of a medical doctor with conditions that may affect the identification of a durable solution.
6. Single parents: one parent with one or more children, all of whom are under the age of 18.
7. Elderly persons (or a couple) who live without family support: male or female, 60 years of age or older, who live in poverty and without family support.
8. Women at risk: women (single mothers, widows, etc.) faced with protection risks particular to their gender, as well as survivors of family violence.
9. Children or adolescents at risk: a child or an adolescent (under the age of 18 living with parent/caregiver) who is especially at risk (does not attend school, child with special educational needs, child in conflict with the law, minor spouse, etc.).
10. Unaccompanied minors: a child or an adolescent under 18 who is currently not under the care of either parent or other previous legal or customary primary caregiver.
11. Persons not falling into the other categories but who have specific needs within the particular context (e.g. survivors of torture or violence, including family violence and SGBV – whether in the country of origin, during flight or in country of asylum, members of a particular ethnic or religious group, former POWs, etc.).

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