



Republika e Kosovës

Република Косово / Republic of Kosovo

Qeveria / Влада / Governme

*Ministria për Komunitete dhe Kthim / Министарство за заједнице и повратак /
Ministry of Communities and Return*

**THE REPORT OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
MINISTRY FOR COMMUNITIES AND RETURN
FOR THE PAST 100 DAYS**

February – May 2020

MAY 2020

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Executive Overview

The Ministry for Communities and Return, which in a new composition of the Government of Kosovo during the term of Prime Minister Mr. Albin Kurti continued to be chaired by Dalibor Jevtić, has taken all necessary steps to continue those past activities aimed at creating conditions for sustainable return, protection, integration and community development.

It is important to note that the Ministry for Communities and Return made its full contribution to the drafting, and later to the implementation of the Government Program 2020-2023. Minister Jevtić, although a representative of the Serbian List, who was not part of the agreement called the Coalition Agreement which formed the Government, made his personal contribution to building trust with the Prime Minister and colleagues of other line ministries. In short, experience and constructiveness in building a better future were dominated by prejudices and obstacles that stood in the way of building mutual trust with legitimate Serb representatives in Kosovo. It is worth mentioning the cooperation and constructive messages of the Minister of Health, Arben Vitia, and the Minister for Communities and Return, Dalibor Jevtić, during the pandemic of the Corona virus, which has encountered positive reactions from domestic public and international factors. Cooperation between the two ministers and their shared message to members of the Serb community contributed to building the much-needed trust in joint action against the spread of the virus during pandemic times. The initiated meeting of the Ministers of Health of Kosovo and Serbia with the mediation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs had an equally good effect in building a policy of cooperation in the fight against coronavirus, where the Minister for Communities and Return of Dalibor Jevtic participated in active mode.

The Ministry for Communities and Return implemented in time all Government decisions taken in order to spend budget funds during pandemics, implementing new austerity measures, protection during pandemics and more.

Furthermore, the Ministry for Communities and Return, through its ongoing institutional approach and efficient services, taking into account international standards and best practices, has continued to implement activities aimed at building mutual trust, providing equal opportunities. for all communities living in Kosovo.

Specifically, as a government body, we were among the first to draft, approve and now implement the *Protection and Assistance Program for Vulnerable Residents during the Covid-19 pandemic*, thanks to which we quickly reached out to those most affected. At a time when normal life was impossible due to the imposition of measures to protect against the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, food aid packages, hygiene and medicine were sent to the most vulnerable groups of

citizens such as: returning to the environment remote and isolated, vulnerable residents of collective centers, the elderly, people with disabilities, vulnerable populations, single parents, non-majority communities, including Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Bosniaks, Gorani and Albanians in the north of Kosovo.

Thanks to the good and efficient coordination with the Ministry of Health, Customs and the Kosovo Police, we have enabled the departure and return from Serbia of the most difficult patients who have health insurance in Serbia and enjoy free health care there. In extremely difficult times, we have enabled the delivery of the necessary medicines (insulin and medicines for the chronically ill) from Serbia for the insured persons of the Serbian health system, and above all for the returnees from the Serbian community in Kosovo, who may 'get these medicines for free in Serbia. This was a concrete step forward in building trust between the Serb community and Kosovo's institutions. In a difficult and extraordinary work environment, in cooperation with international partners and the European Union Office, we have initiated the continuation of the process of reintegration and return of displaced persons, approving the construction of 62 houses in the initial phase.

The activities undertaken by the Ministry for Communities and Return in the first 100 days of the Government created a good treatment and a pleasant environment for further work. However, the prevalence of Covid-19 pandemic prevalence, the measures taken were an additional obstacle to the fulfillment of strategic goals.

THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF 100 DAYS OF WORK OF THE MINISTRY FOR COMMUNITIES AND RETURN

1. Sustainable return and integration

Under current legislation, the Ministry for Communities and Return promotes and implements activities that protect the rights of communities and their members, including the right to return, creating conditions for the sustainable return of internally displaced persons and refugees.

In this regard, in the framework of the project "Return and Reintegration in Kosovo, Phase 5" (EU - RRK 5), which the Ministry for Communities and Return co-finances with the European Union Office in Kosovo, and which is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 11 municipalities, the electronic session of the Project Steering Committee was held **and the construction of 62 houses for returnees and displaced persons was approved.** The implementing partner IOM, despite the restrictive measures caused by the Covid-19

pandemic, is implementing procedures to start building the mentioned houses. In the following period, the approval of additional requirements for the construction of houses is expected.

2. "Life must win" - the action of distributing aid packages during the pandemic

The global coronavirus infection pandemic (COVID-19) began in China, in its province of Wuhan, on December 8, 2019. Kosovo first faced coronavirus on March 13, 2020, when the National Institute of Public Health reported that two patients were infected. from the virus. Aware of the fact that we are facing a pandemic, which has a tendency to spread rapidly, where it leaves unpredictable consequences, we had to oppose it together, in harmony and selfless help to each other, but also to oneself because it is the only way to cope with this world-class crisis. The central and local administrations have introduced safeguards, which are common at the time of pandemics and emergencies: traffic bans at certain time intervals, rallies bans, school and other public facilities, quarantine openings, etc. The measures taken to protect against the spread of Covid-19 pandemic have further prevented normal life in Kosovo.

The pandemic crisis has further affected the most vulnerable groups in Kosovo: returnees in isolated areas, vulnerable PHIs located in collective centers, vulnerable social groups, single parents, the elderly and the sick, people with disabilities limited, members of non-majority communities in municipalities and others.

More than ever, people need to make sure that their government officials are responding urgently, responsibly and decisively to mitigate the social and economic consequences of the crisis by ensuring full transparency of their activities through comprehensive strategies to help more vulnerable.

The Ministry for Communities and Return, in accordance with its mandate and in response to the times of the pandemic crisis, has drafted a *Program for the protection and assistance to the most vulnerable during the pandemic of the Covid-19 virus in Kosovo*. Part of this program was related to the action under the motto "**Life must win**", during which 606 families were helped in two phases with food and hygiene packages.

Similarly, based on the project "Return and Reintegration in Kosovo (RRK5), Phase 5", the Ministry for Communities and Return in cooperation with the European Union Office in Kosovo co-financed the supply and distribution of food and hygiene packages for 253 returned families, mainly from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

It is important to note that in the critical times of the pandemic, thanks to the aforementioned actions, food and hygiene packages were successfully distributed to 856 families

in 31 municipalities, of which 3,374 residents benefited directly **(46.6% Serbs and 53.4% others) - Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Albanians, Bosnians, Gorani and Turks)**. These are mainly vulnerable categories of the population: returnees in isolated areas, vulnerable displaced persons located in collective centers, vulnerable social categories of the population, unemployed, single parents, the elderly and the sick, persons with disabilities limited, members of non-majority communities in municipalities and others.

We are proud to emphasize that this assistance has reached the most vulnerable and isolated in Kosovo. For example, in northern Kosovo, our packages reached out to isolated members of the Albanian community in the municipalities of Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok, Leposaviç/Leposavić and Zvečan/Zvečan.

3. The Skopje process

In 2014, the Ministry for Communities and Return launched a regional initiative with the support of the OSCE and UNHCR, all with the aim of finding lasting solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo. Since then, relevant institutions from Prishtina/Priština, Belgrade, Shkup/Skopje and Podgorica/Podgorica have met regularly through a regional process, better known as the "Skopje Process".

The Minister for Communities and Return, the OSCE Ambassador to Kosovo and the Head of the UNHCR Mission in Kosovo held a meeting via video conference and agreed **to continue the Skopje process through technical working groups and high-level forums with relevant actors from Prishtina/Priština, Belgrade, Shkup/Skopje and Podgorica/Podgorica.**