



Results-Assessment Form for Mid-Term and Final Project Evaluations/Reviews

Title of project/programme (please, spell out): For Active Inclusion and Rights of Roma Women in the Western Balkans - FAIR II			
Contract Period of project/programme: 1 November 2015 – 3 October 2018			
ADC number of project/programme: 8285-00/2015			
Name of project/programme partner: CARE Austria/CARE International Balkans			
Country and Region of project/programme : Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro – Balkans			
Budget of this project/programme: EUR 1.100.000			
Name of evaluation company (spell out) and names of evaluators: Internal CARE International Balkans Evaluation (Regional Gender Program Coordinator)			
Date of completion of evaluation/review: November 15, 2017			
a) Evaluation/review managed by ADA/ADC Coordination Office b) Evaluation managed by project partner: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
a) Mid-Term Evaluation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b) Final Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> c) Mid-Term Review <input type="checkbox"/> d) FinalReview <input type="checkbox"/>			
Others: please, specify:			
Project Outcome as per the Logframe Matrix:			
Roma women NGO's capacities are strengthened to address national and European level strategies and interventions related to Romani women's rights and social inclusion of Roma communities.			
For Final Evaluation/Review¹: Project Outcome: To what extent has the project already achieved its outcome(s) according to the Logframe Matrix? Please, tick appropriate box			
Outcome(s) was/were:			
Fully achieved:	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
Please, also explain your assessment: What exactly was achieved and why? If not achieved, why not? (Please, consider description of outcome and relevant indicators)			

¹Please, only fill in in case this is a final project evaluation/review.



For Mid-Term Evaluation/Review²: Project Outcome: To what extent do you think the project will most likely achieve its outcome(s) according to the Logframe Matrix Please, tick appropriate box

Outcome(s) will most likely be:

Fully achieved:	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
X			

Assessment Explained as per relevant Indicators:

Based on the achievements reached during the first 23 months of the project implementation by CARE and it's partners, it is fair to assume that the project outcome will be fully achieved as elaborated below. However, it is crucial to note that Roma women partner organizations will still need a continued support, financial and technical support, in order to further build their individual and organizational capacities as well as contribute significantly to national and international policy implementation monitoring, strengthening the established regional and Europe level partnerships – leading toward a movement building around Roma women rights and voice.

FAIR II Outcome: Roma women NGO's capacities are strengthened to address national and European level strategies and interventions related to Roma women's rights and social inclusion of Roma communities.

Indicator 1:

Number of functional links established by targeted Roma women organizations with other civil society actors and networks on the European level & Indicator 2:

Number of joint policy and public awareness initiatives developed and implemented.

Activities related to these indicators are planned to be fully implemented in the 3rd project year; the preparation and planning has already been well underway while the mid-term evaluation report was being developed.

Indicator 3:

At least 3 shadow reports on Roma women's position produced for each target country (CEDAW/ Istanbul Convention implementation/ EU Progress Report) and 1 national project of relevant topic per country granted by government or international community

3a) Bosnia and Herzegovina: Indira Bajramovic on behalf of the key partner Roma Women NGO Better Future is included into the marginalized women working group for "Alternative **CEDAW**³ Report development" . **Serbia: CEDAW** –Bibija: Data collection; report development; presenting the report findings to the Committee; **EU Progress Report** –Bibija: Intervention presentation to the EU Delegation in Belgrade and Brussels; **CoE Framework Convention on National Minority Rights** – Bibija: Data collection; report development; presenting the report findings to the Committee; **Montenegro: CEDAW:** Fana Delija and Fatima Naza (CRI), provided comments on and recommendations for the improvement of the government report – the report was finished and presented.

² Please, only fill in case this is a mid-term evaluation/review.

³ **CEDAW:** The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations

3b) One of the results of FAIR II project, namely supporting the key partners through institutional grants is related to their financial sustainability through donor/funding diversification. The three key partners are trying hard to get institutional support from other donors, but it is not easy. In case it happens, the institutional support budget with CARE gets checked and changed accordingly. There is a total of **18 projects** (3 from the government sources, 2 from other local/national sources and 13 from international organizations) of relevant focus, that are (although shorter and of smaller funding amounts) contributing to the impact FAIR II is working toward, granted to key partner organizations since the project start:

Project Outputs: To what extent has the project already achieved its outputs⁴ according to the Logframe Matrix ? Please, tick appropriate boxes

Output 1

Roma women and girls are empowered to exercise their rights to education, health and to life free of violence through targeted community-level assistance

Output was:

Fully achieved:	Almost achieved: X	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Assessment per Indicators:

1.1. *By year one 7 Roma CBOs in 3 countries lead and coordinate implementation of grant initiatives according to submitted work-plans and budgets, in formal partnership with other Roma and non-Roma CBOs and/or government institutions, addressing access to quality education, health services and/or gender based violence in Roma communities*

- The contracts were signed and grants awarded to seven organizations for implementing seven 32-month long community/sub-grants by a total of eleven organizations in partnership on national levels (2 in BiH and 2 Montenegro and 3 in Serbia):

1.2. *From the 600 primary and/or secondary school Roma students (at least 50% are girls) receiving assistance, at least 90% stay at school (at least 50% are girls); & 1.3. % of increase of Roma children enrolment/ successful finishing primary and secondary school year (gender disaggregated data over 2 years, baseline-end-line for comparison and analysis);*

- So far 475 Roma/Egyptian children were assisted by partners; about 50% being girls, with school books and school supplies (school year 2016/17), the new data will be collected and reported in the next progress report and the evaluation.
- Partners are working in 17 schools (10 in BiH, 3 in Serbia and 4 in Montenegro) and the targeted schools have more than 10.000 students, thereof over 1.800 or 17% Roma since not all the partners are able to get official data from schools, gender disaggregated data for the RAE primary and secondary students attending and dropping out, it is hard to establish the exact number and % of the girls at this point but it is safe to say that the ratio is being considered wherever possible.

1.4. *From the 30 adult Roma women enrolled in primary or secondary education or a course/training at least 90% (or 27) successfully complete the training and/or receive a certificate;*

- The progress is reflected in the fact that so far a total of 14 Roma/Egyptian women have successfully finished school or a course: 2 in Montenegro have finished a certified beautician course and have opened their business; in Serbia, in the town of Lazarevac, 5 women finished a hairdressing training and 7 finished their primary education. In BiH, partners are addressing administrative limitations to engage in this project segment.

⁴ In case there are more than three outputs, please, add them.

1.5. At least 300 Roma women access public health services and get examined (general or reproductive health related) in the target localities;

- Almost 600 Roma/Egyptian women have been reached in three countries so far (the majority of 524 in BiH, which is over 36% of their target set for Tuzla and Prnjavor regions) through educational workshops on health related issues (from raising awareness about the importance of regular check ups in order to remove a stigma on gynaecological and mammography exams) and obtaining health cards/insurance (10 women) and actual exams (221).

1.6. % of increase of registered GBV related cases and reduced prevalence of violence in the target localities focusing on GBV interventions (baseline and end-line data collected for comparison and analysis);*

- Montenegro – 20 cases, 13 cases of domestic violence and 2 child and forced marriages in Niksic and 5 in Podgorica. In Serbia, Lazarevac - 14 cases of domestic violence registered in 2017. In BiH Better Future and the partners conducted a research on the incident of reporting domestic violence in the project locations (Tuzla, Prnjavor, Sarajevo, Vukosavlje). A total of 800 Roma men and women were surveyed and the incident of reporting violence to the officials is 41.4% which is a significant increase compared to the data of 2010, where the finding ranged from 5-30%. This talks in the favor of Roma men and women being more informed and aware of what is acceptable and what not, as well as on possible sanctions.

1.7. 600 Roma men gain better understanding and demonstrate equitable attitudes and behaviours on gender equality;

- As per the partners updated tables/baseline-mid-term surveys, 310 were reached in Montenegro, 150 in Serbia and the BiH number of 838, includes also Roma men reached through not only educational workshops but also through mediator assistance in communities and the research on incidents of domestic violence in Roma communities conducted in four project target locations in late 2016.

1.8. From the 18 young Roma men trained as community peer educators on GBV, health, gender equality, at least 80% work as community peer educators;

- As per the partners' initial small grant plans and Baseline data, 34 peer educators were supposed to be trained on GBV, health and gender equality. So far, 26 young men and women (8 girls and 18 boys) have been trained and are working in 17 locations in three countries.

Output 2

Local inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms involving CSO and institutional stakeholders are established and strengthened to support the social inclusion of Roma communities;

Output 2 was:

Fully achieved:	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved: X	Not achieved:
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Assessment per Indicators:

2.1. Roma CBOs from ER1 trained to better coordinate with key local stakeholders and to promote best practices based on lessons learnt from current and earlier initiatives; & 2.3. Duty bearers' capacities to adequately respond to the needs of Roma communities and specifically girls and women increased through increased awareness and participation in project activities and inter-sectoral committees; 2.2 Best practices presented to key local stakeholders, including government, and promoted by trained Roma NGOs at least in two events annually; 2.4. Number and type of solved cases as a result of inter-sectoral committees (ISC) established and action plans developed in at least 9 localities with the participation of local CBOs, schools, health and social service providers and police departments;

- The inter multi-sectoral groups/commissions are established or re-established and functional in Tuzla and Prnjavor and Visoko in (BiH), in Berane in Montenegro and the Niksic Coalition is functioning as an inter-sectoral group as well. All have signed MoUs and the basic working routine of regular meetings and information exchange has been established. The Coalition has a newly developed four year strategy, Tuzla an action plan.

2.5. From the 15 community mediators trained, at least 60% (9) assume their role as coordinators in the fields of education, health and GBV interventions;

- A total of 15 community mediators have been trained and 9 (6F/3M) have successfully finished the training and are working in their communities as so called 'general practitioners', as opposed to the practice so far many other international organizations have mediators cover a specific field only, or even for a specific target group only. During the first year over 12.000 services were provided to over 900 people in 46 locations. Mainly relating to help with accessing health services, obtaining documents and financial aid, registering with the social welfare system, monitoring school attendance and liaising between school and parents.

2.6. Of the 9 primary and secondary schools, social and health service providers, police departments in 9 Roma communities participating in multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms, 100% implement at least two gender and Roma-responsive actions in their respective institutions;

- Although not called like that but still functioning as a multi-sectoral group, is the Montenegrin Niksic Coalition that has initiated the forming of a working group with representatives of the Niksic Municipality and two other Roma NGOs, the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and the primary school in order to develop a Local Action Plan on Roma and Egyptian social inclusion. The Municipality is bankrupt (due to the former President and Deputy who embezzled over 40 mil. EUR and is in prison), and not able to invest in any activities outside of the basic service provision. The interviewed Municipal representatives were thrilled with how this working group of 10 people worked hard and enthusiastically on putting together this LAP with Roma women specific needs stated, which is going to be adopted before the end of the year and officially starts as of January 2018 for the next 4 years.

Output 3

National networks of Roma and non-Roma women organizations are capacitated to influence and monitor implementation of policies related to Roma women's rights and gender equality on local and national levels and actively engage into accountability mechanisms;

Output 3 was:

Fully achieved:	Almost achieved: X	Partially achieved:	Not achieved:
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Assessment per Indicators:

3.1 As a result of strengthened capacities of members of the Roma women national networks or Coalitions by 9 generic and/or issue based trainings, members are called upon by e.g. local government, national government, commissions, committees, international donors, other non-Roma projects etc. for technical advice and input;& 3.3. Strategies/annual action plans and sustainability plans in each target country developed for each network/coalition targeted by the project;

- All the FAIR II related Roma women networks/coalitions established during the first FAIR I phase and confirmed in the Baseline are existent and functional.

3.2. Number of newly drafted/adopted national strategies/action plans reflecting gender and Roma inclusion as a result of FAIR II partner engagement;

- A total of 11 initiatives/active participation in the three countries has taken place in since the project start: In Montenegro (4 in total, 3 national and 1 on local level); In BiH (2 on national

level) Better Future took part in the new development of the Roma Strategy and Action Plan addressing Roma issues. In Serbia (5 in total, 3 national and 2 on local level. The Bibija team successfully advocated for the inclusion of Roma issues in the Action Plan for Chapter 23 for the EU accession (related to fundamental rights), out of two sets of comments submitted, in partnership with the League of Roma in Serbia, about 60% have been accepted.

3.4. FAIR II partners engage in at least 9 awareness raising/public events and a video is produced for a project level campaign (International Roma Day, 16 Days of Activism etc.);

At the moment, the FAIR II partners are working on the plan for this year 16 Days of Activism Campaign that will be marked first of all by the 9 Roma women presenting issues Roma women in the Balkans are facing in the EU Parliament. In the year 2016/2017 the FAIR II partners implemented a total of 50 different activities during international events/campaign activities:

3.5.# of Roma women/organizations represented in national-level advisory, policy or decision-making bodies; There have been some slight changes in comparison to the Baseline data (please see the Baseline detailed table on pages 26/27/28 of the FAIR II Baseline Report):

In BiH: 'Be my Friend' from Visoko representative became a member of the Municipal Commission for Youth and Gender Equality (Local level, a decision making body) + 'Better Future' representatives became a member of the national level advisory in nature - Coalition for Joint Action –directed for an Improvement of the lives of the Roma population and their integration into the society)

3.6. Number of local Round Tables and citizen consultations specifically addressing concrete measures towards increasing gender and Roma inclusion &3.7. Number of municipality action plans/budgets reflecting Roma and gender responsiveness

- Numerous activities, like meetings and 3 formal round table discussions were organized by the partners and Roma grassroots organisations, in cooperation and with the support of the multi-sectoral groups/committees;
- So far there are two Local Action Plans (LAP) where the FAIR II partners took part in revising and providing recommendations (Lazarevac) and in the direct development (LAP Niksic).

Output 4

Targeted Roma women organizations are strengthened to become active players in networking on regional and European level with Roma and non-Roma peer organizations and relevant institutions

Output 4 was:

Fully achieved:	Almost achieved:	Partially achieved: X	Not achieved:
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Assessment per Indicators:

4.1. Number of partner organizations from the target countries represented in the informal European Roma women network Phenjalipe and contributing to its Strategy and Action Plan implementation (dis-aggregated by country);

- So far a total of 7 events were held, where the FAIR II Roma women/partners presented the status of the Roma women in their respective counties.

4.2. # of European level events (conferences, meetings) in which Roma women from the target countries present and report at on the national and/or regional status and socio-economic situation of Roma

women; & 4.3. Number of Roma women/organizations/network members participating in study tours to EU institutions or a European Roma women network to enhance peer learning from other networks and institutions and exchange experiences; (target: 20 in two study tours

- 9 FAIR II Roma women are going to visit the EU Parliament in November 2017 where they will present on safety, Child Marriage, Roma women political participation and thereby also mark the start of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign. Five of these Roma women will also take part in the invite-only conference organized by the EU Fundamental Rights Colloquium, which is happening from 20-21 November, with a focus on Women's rights.

4.4. Number of experts/representatives from 10 European countries participating in the FAIR II regional conference (disaggregated by female/male representatives from national governments and EU institutions, Target: 60); & 4.5. Number of resolutions/statements endorsed by regional/international events channelled to high-level governance bodies (national governments, EU, RCC and similar)

- The partner organization from Bijeljina, Otaharin, was awarded the second year in a row with the EU first prize for Integrating Roma in the Western Balkan countries.
- A one-day regional conference on Safety & Security of Roma Women in the Balkans was held in October 2017, with over 78 guests and participants coming from 8 countries of the region and the EU, (14 government institutions were represented there as well as 37 local and international NGOs). The process of reviewing and commenting recommendations identified there is ongoing. It will be promoted publicly and shared with the relevant government bodies/institutions through meetings and events and will serve as a basis for action. The operationalization of the Recommendations and next steps will be monitored and reported on in more details in the next progress/annual report.

Impact/Beneficiaries:

How many women, men, girls, boys and people in total have already benefited from this project directly and indirectly? Please, explain

In the period November 1, 2015 – September 30, 2017 a total of **12.883** people have already benefited **directly** from the project activities, **more than 58% or 7.555 being Roma/Egyptian women and girls** (for more details please see the table below). Indirectly, 38.600 people have been reached, 25.100 women and 13.500 men.

Total number of individual beneficiaries through all grants												
Type of grant	Total # of services/ events	RAE		RAE children		Non RAE		Non RAE children		Undecided		Total:
		F	M	Girls	Boys	F	M	Girls	Boys	F	M	
Institut. Services	1.650	827	178	305	241	2	-	-	-	-	-	1.553
CARE -EDUC	22	74	51	-	-	83	25	-	-	-	-	233
MEDIATORS in Communit	3.013	1.356	487	613	428	2	-	-	-	-	-	2.886
GRANTS Communit	69	3.331	857	1.034	1.304	337	101	380	274	17	9	7.644
Other Grants to Partners	31	374	20	21	15	33	19	47	35	2	1	567
TOTAL	4.647	5.962	1.593	1.973	1.988	457	145	427	309	19	10	12.883

What exactly has already changed in the lives of women, men, girls, boys and/or institutions from this project? Please, explain:

As a result of talking to a total of 55 people (35 female or 63% and 20 male of 36,4% and 17 of them also filling out an anonymous survey), representing partners, other NGO and government representative as well as beneficiaries, it is safe to say that the Roma Women NGOs/project partners and other stakeholders report about:

- Increased capacities, sustainability, visibility and recognition due to a three year comprehensive project that includes all the crucial components: Institutional support + Community Grants + Technical Assistance + a Regional Component, which is seen as CARE's special trait when compared to other international implementing organizations/agencies.
- Empowered grass root organizations, mediators and peer educators - mainly young Roma girls and boys who are passionate about what they do, raised self-confidence and an improved role and reputation within their families and communities.
- Institution representatives, members of multi-sectoral working groups or coalitions reporting about having eye opening experiences and new insights as a result of engagement.
- A decrease of the drop out rate in primary schools (for example not one case of drop out recorded in the town of Berane, Montenegro since the project start and the mediator engagement).
- The introduction of engaging men and boys program/methodology – the test phase has proved to be extremely successful in the peer-approach and the thematic focus.
- Another example of the success and positive change in the lives of two young Roma women that can directly and fully be assigned to FAIR II are the cases of Mija Bajra and Brendona Kreyezu 18/19 years old who have finished a certified beautician course in a private agency through the projects 'adult Roma women education leading toward increased employability potential' and are working on opening their business.

Which positive and/or negative effects/impacts in terms of gender can be possibly be attributed to the project? Please, explain:

Since the Do no harm principle has been considered from the planning and design phase on, all the activities are being conducted having in mind that none of the Roma women engagement should cause her any kind of trouble at home (like increased aggressive behavior or violence from a husband for example due to her taking part in a workshop). Furthermore, all the activities are being planned having the safety and security aspects within or outside the settlements, like avoiding activities in the evening and organizing transportation, in mind. There have been no complaints filed so far in this regards whatsoever.

Since all of the project implementers are long time activists and come from the Roma/Egyptian communities or still live in the Roma settlements, this sensitive issue is an integral part of each activity.

If applicable, which institutions have benefitted from this project/programme and how?

First of all, these are individuals representing local and national level government institutions included as stakeholders in the project, in particular:

- Police Advisor and the Chief of the Niksic Police Department for the Prevention of Domestic Violence as a member of the Montenegrin Coalition has reported on several occasions how the cooperation with CRI has positively impacted his life and work.
- The Serbian Deputy Ombudswoman reported that she has become more sensitive and genuinely engaged in pushing for Roma women issues to be put on the Agenda wherever possible since she started collaborating with Bibija and is being exposed to Roma women living conditions and problems they are facing.
- In Tuzla, BiH, the police officers and the medical doctor, members of the multi-sectoral group agreed that the close and continuous cooperation with Better Future and the FAIR II opportunity to visit Montenegro and see how their Coalition is working, has raised their motivation in

terms of working more concretely on solving cases, rather than meeting and discussing general issues.

Secondly, there are local and national-level working groups with different Ministries and Departments that benefit from FAIR II partners and taking active part in them - providing input for Strategies, Action Plans etc. (for example: Municipality of Niksic in Montenegro - benefitting from FAIR II since CARE's partner the Center for Roma Initiatives, initiated the development of a Local Action Plan –LAP for Roma and Egyptian and funded the work of the group.)

Mainstreaming cross-cutting issues:

Gender: To what extent was gender mainstreaming included in the project? To what extent were the recommendations - if any- from the ADA internal gender-assessment considered and implemented?

As per ADC's principles, the very essence of this project is empowering women and girls and engaging men and boys in gender equality and giving women a voice, responding thereby to the ADC/OECD gender marker scoring, level 2, since the project promotes gender equality as its principal goal. Based on CARE's gender marker, this project is gender transformative since it addresses the changing of norms, attitudes and behaviors of all the involved participants. A gender lens was used to assess each project aspect, assessing the specifics of issues and needs of both Roma women/girls and men/boys and that has been considered since the planning phase, during the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation (gender sensitive indicators were set and the progress monitored and reported against them, by collecting gender disaggregated data and human interest stories describing changes that happen in lives of people affected by the project).

Environment: To what extent was environmental mainstreaming included in the project? To what extent were the recommendations - if any- from the ADA internal environment-assessment considered and implemented?

Based on the Environmental Integration Checklist as an Annex to the proposal, there was no impact assessment required due to the nature of the project. However, CARE and the partners are fully aware of the need to be responsible toward our environment and uses every opportunity to include it into everyday organizations' life and project activities. From paper recycling to activities happening during the day light whenever possible. Environment friendly and responsible behavior is also briefly addressed as a part of the training on life style and hygiene.

Which positive and/or negative effects/impacts in terms of environment can be possibly be attributed to the project? Please, explain

N/A

Social Standards: To what extent were the social standards monitored by relevant partners? Have any issues emerged? Please, explain

CARE's way of working reflects ADA's Social Standard principles since the project is about empowering marginalized, minority women and girls and challenging discriminatory attitudes and behaviors of Roma men and the majority population. Participation and inclusion are also integral aspects, sine all the partners and grass root representatives have been involved from the planning phase and their suggestions on specific needs per target group or certain location/activity have been considered. Through regular email/Skype/phone communication and monitoring visits and reporting CARE ensures transparency and accountability towards the population it serves and the demand is the same for the implementing partners.

Overall/Other Comments:

Key recommendations and next steps/ways of addressing them, that refer to task to be done until the rest of the project as well as those that are already being identified as ideas for the next project phase are being described and presented in the separate Management Response Format, as suggested by ADA.

The full Mid-Term Evaluation Report is going to be shared after the feed-back for this document received in order to make improvements before sharing the final Report draft for review.