

Roma Education Fund

Bank Contact:	Anush Bezhanya, / 202-473-7171
Responsible Sector and Bank Unit:	ECA - HDN
Recipient Agency:	Roma Education Fund (REF)
Web Address:	http://romaeducationfund.hu/
Financial Arrangements for FY09 (Amount in US \$ Million)	
Total Budget:	11.00
DGF Funding Request:	1.00
DGF Percentage:	9%
Objectives and Expected Outcomes	
The REF objective is to help the Central and Easter European countries to close the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non Roma population, including desegregation of educational systems.	
Main Components	
1. Grants/Projects; 2. Policy Development and Technical Assistance; 3. Communication and Knowledge Sharing; 4. Reimbursable Grants for EU Funded Programs; and 5. Scholarship Program.	
Performance Indicators	
<p>REF has developed a set of monitoring indicators for each of programs it finances. The indicators have been approved by the REF board in December 2007 and the REF has started collecting the information on these indicators as of January 2008. The detailed indicators are available upon request. The REF is using two sets of indicators to monitor the progress: (i) outcome indicators; and (ii) process and performance indicators. These are summarized below:</p> <p>Outcome indicators: (i) Number/ Percentage of the Roma children age 3-7 taking part in pre-school education projects financed by the REF; (ii) Estimated number/percentage of Roma children age 7-18 targeted by the REF programs for prevention of early school leaving. (iii) Upper secondary completion rates of young Roma people (ISCED 3A, 3B, 3C, 4C, 4A); (iv) Estimated number of Roma children supported by the REF project who graduated tertiary education; (v) Number of Roma parents participating and improving their relationship with the school as a result of REF projects; (vi) Ratio of Roma children in the ethnically mixed schools increased due to REF financed projects.</p> <p>Process/Performance Indicators:</p> <p>Component 1 Indicators - Grants/Projects (a) Amount of resources committed (US\$); (b) Amount of resources disbursed (US\$); (c) Number of Roma children as direct beneficiaries; and (d) Number of projects supported. Component 2 Indicators - Policy Development and Technical Assistance (a) Number of country assessments/strategies approved; (b) Number on meetings with high officials of governments where REF is working, (c) Number of research studies with international impact. Component 3 Indicators – Communication and Knowledge Sharing. (a) Number of conferences held and organized and number of participants; (b) Number of publication done and disseminated; (c) Number of documents translated in national language and disseminated; (d) Number of successful local and international court cases prepared with the REF advice; (e) Number of conference where REF staff or managers are invited to make presentations; (f) Number of national or international level newspaper and magazine mention REF as sources. Component 4 Indicators - Reimbursable Grants for EU Funded Programs. (a) Amounts of resources disbursed (US\$); (b) Amounts of resources received from EU by applicants; (c) Number of Roma children beneficiaries; (d) Number of grants made Component 5 Indicators - Scholarship Program. (a) Number of students supported; (b) Number of students successfully graduating; (c) Administration costs as % of total.</p>	

Progress and Achievements

In short period of time (3 years) the REF has made good progress and has achieved some good results: **1. Institutional development.** REF developed into efficient institution with 20 staff (70% Roma). Established transparent and accountable structure with 9 person Board of Directors making decisions; developed clear operational guidelines available on the REF website <http://www.romaeducationfund.org/>; put in place comprehensive M&E system supported by MIS. REF is one of the most leveraged foundations created by the Bank (average DGF leverage ratio 10%). It made progress toward objective of becoming a clearing house for best practice on Roma education issues and has been successful advocating for the right policies. Recent adoption of school desegregation policy by Bulgarian government which was developed based on the 10 REF pilot projects is clear demonstration of success. However there are still many countries practicing discriminative policies toward Roma minority. **2. Operational development.** REF has financed about 70 projects in 14 countries under 5 programs: (i) demand driven grants to improve education for Roma and support policy changes; (ii) policy development and TA program; (iii) communication and advocacy program; (iv) reimbursable grants to NGOs to access EU structural funds; and (v) Roma scholarship program. The last two programs are not funded out of DGF. 10 country policy assessments have been completed; active policy dialogue with the governments is under way; 8 new policy studies have been initiated in 2007, including impact of CCTs on the education of Roma children in Hungary, Slovakia and Romania; evaluation of after school support program in Hungary; impact of affirmative action for access to secondary and tertiary education in Romania; impact of placing Roma children in special schools in Slovakia etc. About 20,000 Roma children living in 500 municipalities directly benefit from REF operations. 1,000 Roma students benefited from scholarships provided by REF and study in European universities.

Partners

Open Society Institute (OSI), private foundation, Network of European Foundations, private foundation, Council of Europe Development Bank, Multilateral, Canadian International Development Agency, CIDA, Canada, Department for International Development, DFID, UK, Development Corporation Ireland, Ireland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Finance, Slovenia, Netherland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Sweden, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland, Hellenic AID, Greece, German Government, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Spain, Government of Hungary, Government of Romania, Putumayo World Music, private company, Remembrance and Future Fund, private foundation, Other donors, and World Bank Community Connection Fund.

Governance and Management

The REF consists of a Swiss and a Hungarian Foundation, each of which is overseen by a separate Governing Board. The Swiss Foundation's Governing Board is responsible for the overview of the REF's general operations and the approval of grants and projects. In accordance with the statutes and by-laws of the REF, the Swiss Foundation's Governing Board consists of up to nine members. The Swiss Foundation's Governing Board meets regularly, four times a year. The board's members mutually agree on the appointment of one member as Chair. The Chair organizes the Swiss Foundation's Governing Board meetings and proposes their agenda in consultation with the REF Director. The primary responsibilities of the Swiss Foundation's Governing Board are as follows: (A) Setting the REF's policies; (B) Approval and amendment, as necessary, of the REF's operations guidelines, and internal policies; (C) Selection of the REF's Director; (D) Approval of the REF's annual budgets; (E) Approval of the REF's annual financial audits; (F) Resolution of issues confronting the REF, as necessary; AN (G) Approval of projects and programs.

Exit Strategy

FY11 will be the last year of DGF Window Two funding.