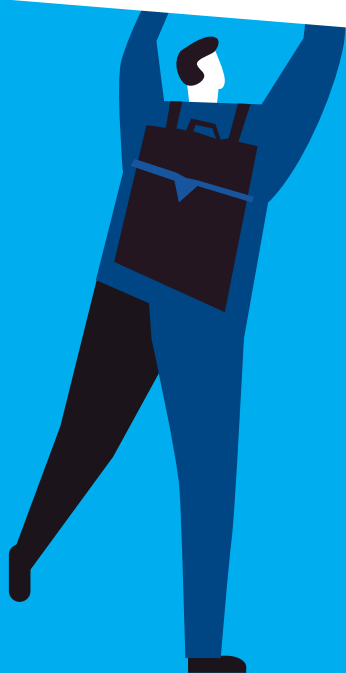


# IMPLEMENTATION OF KOSOVO EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

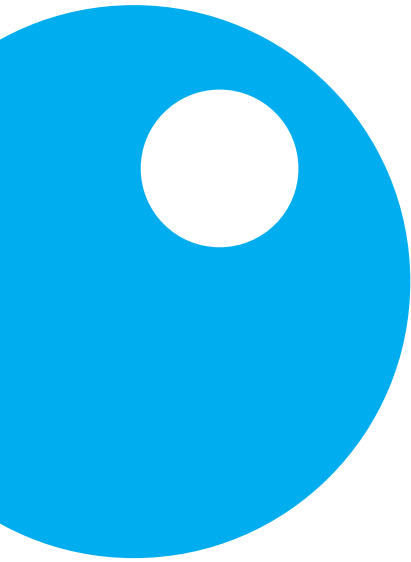


**Scholarship programs for  
Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian  
upper secondary education  
students in Kosovo**



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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- EMIS** → Education Management Information System
- KAS** → Kosovo Agency of Statistics
- KEC** → Kosovo Education Centre
- KESP** → Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021
- KFOS** → Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
- REF** → Roma Education Fund
- KOSINT** → Kosovo Integration Initiative 2020
- MEST** → Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
- MICS** → Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey on Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities

Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society  
2017 - 2021



# 1

## INTRODUCTION

According to Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021 in Kosovo, different communities are fully integrated in the education system, except for students who attend school in Serbian language. However, despite considerable efforts on the part of MEST, the EU Progress Reports for Kosovo continue to highlight the difficulties faced by children of marginalized groups, as well as different ethnic groups, and low levels of attendance particularly among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students remain a concern.

According to Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021 -Result 1.4 it is expected that through scholarships it will be achieved inclusion of children of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian lower and upper secondary education will be increased by 20%.

Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021 states that: in upper secondary education, where the participation of these communities is very low, in addition to facilitating enrolment, the possibility of providing education scholarships must be considered. In addition, gendered differences should be considered and integrated into the municipal regulations to support the enrolment and attendance of both boys and girls at both the pre-school and secondary education levels.<sup>1</sup>

In Action Plan of Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021, under 1.4.2. it is stated that: it is expected that municipalities will draft regulations to facilitate the enrolment and attendance of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in secondary education level.

Providing scholarships for the secondary school education for students of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities that have shown success in learning and that meet the requirements for years 2017-2021. In Action Plan of Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021/ Financial Cost for this activity is € 1,140,000. In Action Plan of Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021 it is stated that financing will be done through Donors.<sup>2</sup>

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1 Republic of Kosovo - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, *Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021*, Prishtina, July 2016.

2 Republic of Kosovo - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, *Action plan of Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021*, Prishtine, September 2016.

# 2

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS FOR ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN STUDENTS ATTENDING UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN KOSOVO

According to Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society in 2017, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in cooperation with international development partners and non-governmental organizations KFOS, KEC, HEKS, VoRAE, REF continued with the programme of granting scholarships to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students attending upper secondary education. At national level, 500 scholarships were granted in 2017 to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students of upper secondary schools.

According to Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society in 2017, only 65% of children are included in the lower secondary education, (one out of five) of lower secondary school age are entirely out of school. The number of girls out of school is almost 29% in urban neighborhoods. Only half (52%) of 11 years old males are attending lower secondary school, out of which, one third (34%) are still attending primary school. Data indicate that nearly half of females (44%) of 14 years old are out of school. Likewise, data indicate that there is a positive correlation between attending school and the socio-economic status. This means that in more affluent households the proportionality of those attending lower secondary education is around 89%, whereas, with children who live in more indigent households such proportionality is 42%. Figures are even more accentuated in upper secondary education where less than one third (30%) of children of the respective age attend upper secondary education, whereas the majority of them (60%) are completely out of school. With regards to attendance of upper secondary education, huge gender differences can be observed, where 74% of girls are out of school, compared to less than half of boys (45%). As stated above, in upper secondary education a positive correlation with socio-economic status was observed, meaning that in households having larger income the proportionality of children attending upper secondary school is around 48%, whereas with children living in more indigent households it is only 8%.

Gender equality in primary school is close to 1.00, which shows that there is no difference with





regards to primary school attendance by boys and girls. The indicator, however, falls at 0.94 for lower secondary education, and even lower at 0.80 for upper secondary education, thus showing evident gender disparity. Females' disadvantage is particularly expressed in rural settlements in the upper secondary education level (0.41) indicating that there are two times more males than females in the education system.

According to Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society in 2017, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children of group-age 11-14 years old, participation in upper secondary education (grades 10-12) is 30.3%.

In the school year 2017/18, the number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in primary and lower secondary education is 5,693, which represents an increase of 2.7% compared to the school year 2016/17 when there were 5,542 children, out of which 1,276 were Roma, 3,398 Ashkali and 868 were Egyptians. The total number of students in primary and lower secondary education in public and private institutions, including Serbian institutions, in school year 2016/17 was 255,093.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Kosovo Foundation for Open Society, *Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society in 2017*, December 2017.

# 3

## SCHOLARSHIP COVERAGE FOR ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN STUDENTS ATTENDING UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN KOSOVO

According to Education Statistics in Kosova 2017-2018 - Education Management Information System, there are 156 Roma students, 156 Ashkali students 255, and 142 Egyptian students in upper secondary education in Kosovo. In total there are 553 students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities attending upper secondary education in Kosovo in Albanian, and 16 students attending upper secondary education in Serbian schools.<sup>4</sup>

In 2018, 785 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education in Kosovo responded to call for scholarships published by MEST. Out of 785 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education who have applied, 600 were awarded a scholarship and 185 were unsuccessful. In percentage it means that out of total applicants 76.4 percent were awarded and 23.6 percent were unsuccessful.<sup>5</sup>

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4 Republic of Kosovo -Ministry of Education, Science and Technology & Kosovo Agency of Statistics, *Education Statistics in Kosovo 2017/2018*, Prishtina, June 2018

5 Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018.





● **APPLICANTS COVERAGE WITH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ROMA, ASHKALI AND EGYPTIAN STUDENTS IN UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION IN KOSOVO, IN 2018**

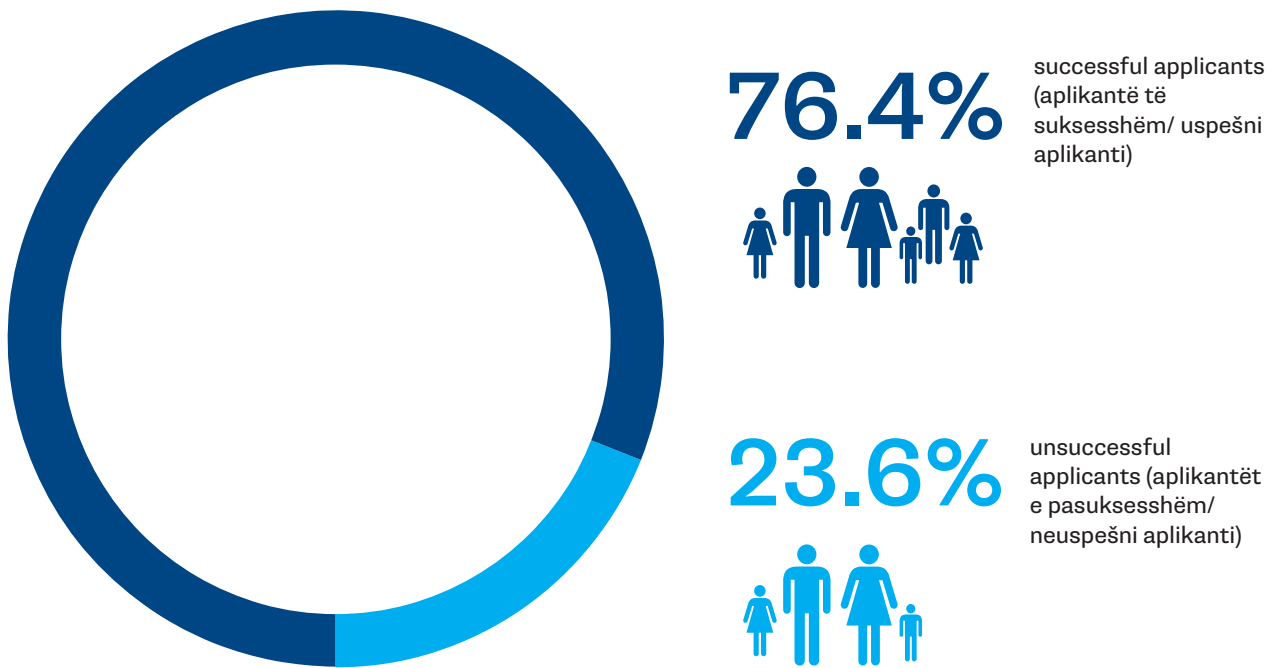


Figure 1<sup>6</sup>

6 Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018.

4

## SOCIAL STATUS AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Out of 600 scholarship winners 313 were female and 287 were male. In percentage 52 percent of scholarships were awarded to female students and 47.2 percent were awarded to male students.

Out of the 785 applicants 357 were female students and 428 were male students. In percentage 87.6 percent of female applicants have been successful. Successful male applicants were 67 percent of total applicants.

### ● GENDER OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

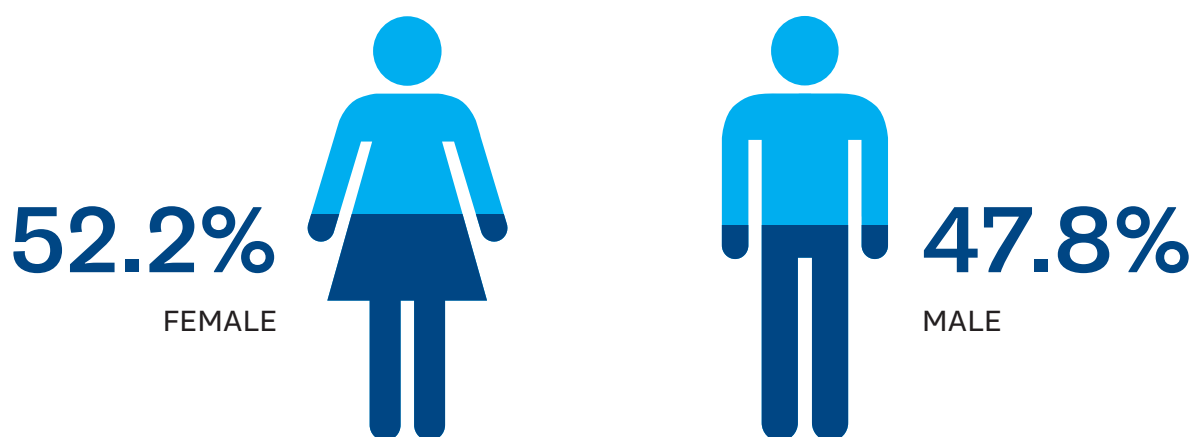


Figure 2<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018.



Out of 600 scholarship winners, 209 were Roma, 196 Egyptian and 195 Ashkali. In percentage 34.9 percent of scholarships were awarded to Roma students, 32.6 percent to Ashkali and 23.5 percent were awarded to Egyptian students.

Out of the 785 applicants 266 were Roma, 257 Egyptian and 262 Ashkali. In percentage 78.5 of Roma applicants were successful 76.2 percent of Egyptians applicants were successful followed by 74.4 percent of Ashkali applicants who were successful

**● ETHNICITY OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**



Figure 3<sup>8</sup>

8 Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018

Out of 600 scholarship winners, 253 live in urban settlements and 347 live in rural settlements. In percentage 57.9 percent of scholarships were awarded to students living in rural areas and 42.1 percent to students living in urban areas.

Out of the 785 applicants 364 live in urban settlements and 421 live in rural settlements.

In percentage 69.5 of applicants living in urban areas were successful compared to 82.4 of applicants living in rural areas who were successful.

● **URBAN VS RURAL SETTLEMENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**



Figure 4<sup>9</sup>

9 Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018



Majority of scholarships were awarded to students living in Gjakova/ Djakovica, Prizren, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Istog/ Istok. Only these four municipalities make 50.1 percent of the total scholarship awarded

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS BY MUNICIPALITIES

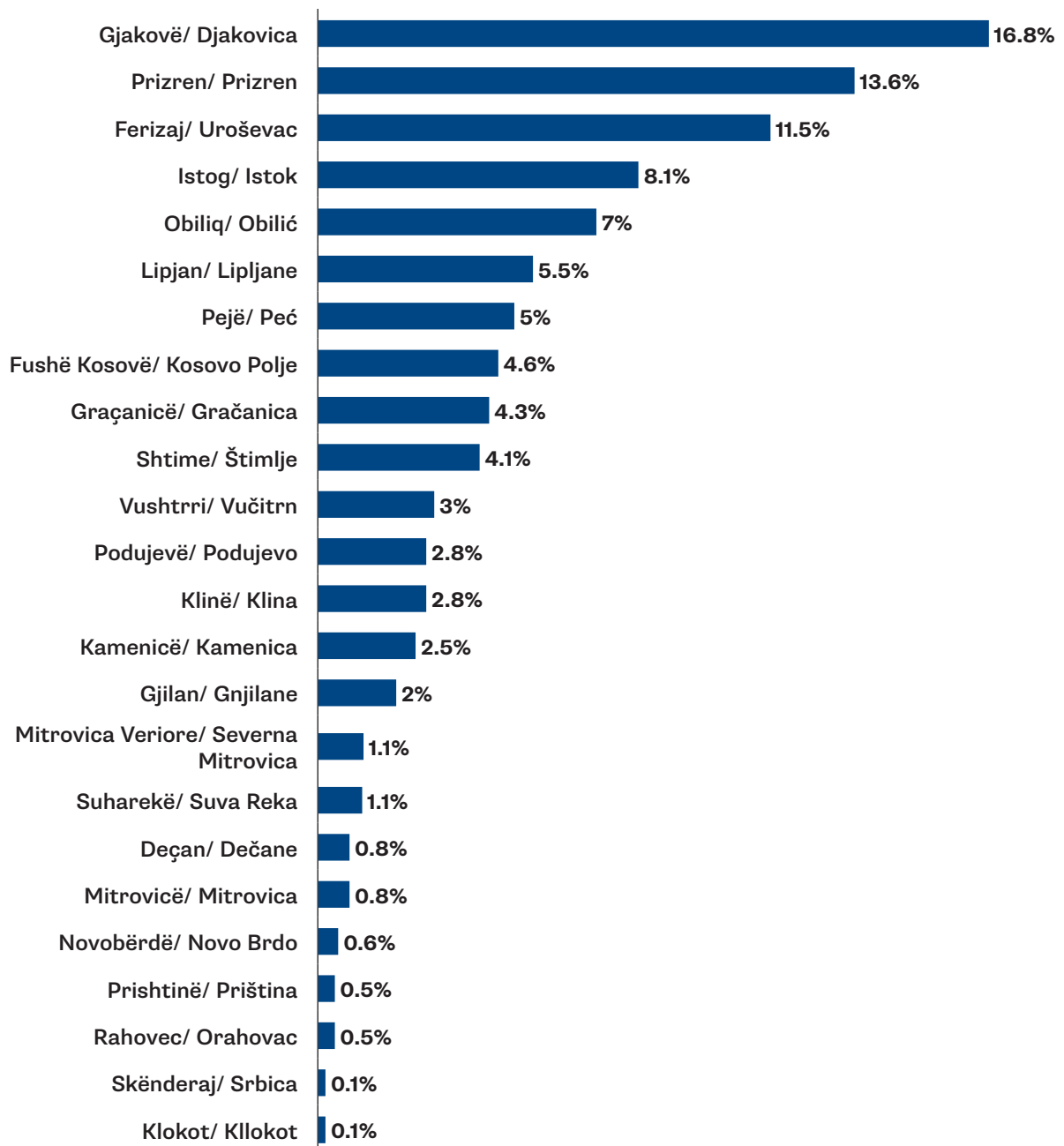




Figure 5<sup>10</sup>

10 Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018

In the table below are shown in detail number of applicants versus number of scholarships awarded for each municipality

		
<b>MUNICIPALITY</b>	<b>NO. OF APPLICANTS</b>	<b>NO. OF SCHOLARSHIPS</b>
Gjakovë/ Djakovica	135	101
Prizren/ Prizren	110	82
Ferizaj/ Uroševac	87	69
Istog/ Istok	59	49
Obiliq/ Obilić	54	42
Lipjan/ Lipljane	44	33
Pejë/ Peć	36	30
Fushë Kosovë/ Kosovo Polje	46	28
Graçanicë/ Gračanica	33	26
Shtime/ Štimlje	31	25
Vushtrri/ Vuçitrn	20	18
Podujevë/ Podujevo	30	17
Klinë/ Klina	26	17
Kamenicë/ Kamenica	15	15
Gjilan/ Gnjilane	13	12
Mitrovica Veriore/ Severna Mitrovica	8	7
Suharekë/ Suva Reka	8	7
Deçan/ Deçane	7	5
Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica	7	5
Novobërdë/ Novo Brdo	4	4
Prishtinë/ Priština	4	3
Rahovec/ Orahovac	6	3
Skënderaj/ Srbica	1	1
Klokot/ Kllokot	1	1



Family status of scholarship winners is as following: 93.8 percent live with both parent, 5.7 percent lives with only one parent and 0.5 live without both parents. Out of the 785 applicants 746 live with both parents, 36 live without one of the parent and 3 applicants live without both of the parents. In percentage 75.4 percent of those living with both parents have got the scholarships, 94.4% of students living without one of the parents got the scholarship and 100% of those living without both of the parents got the scholarship.

**SOCIAL STATUS OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

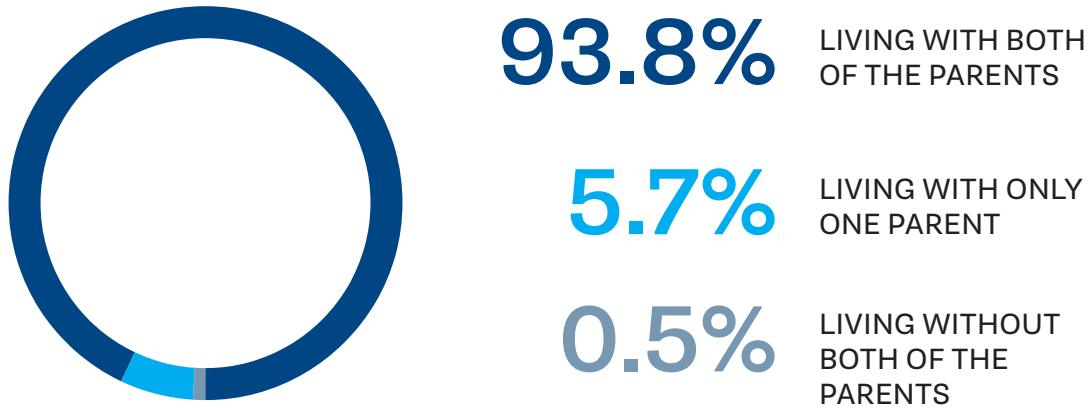


Figure 6<sup>11</sup>

Out of 600 students, 505 of them live in families where both parents are unemployed, 84 live in families where one of the parents is employed and 11 live in families where both parents are employed. In percentage it is as following: 84.1 percent families have both parent unemployed, 14 percent have one parent employed and 1.9 of students have both parents employed.

**FINANCIAL STATUS OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

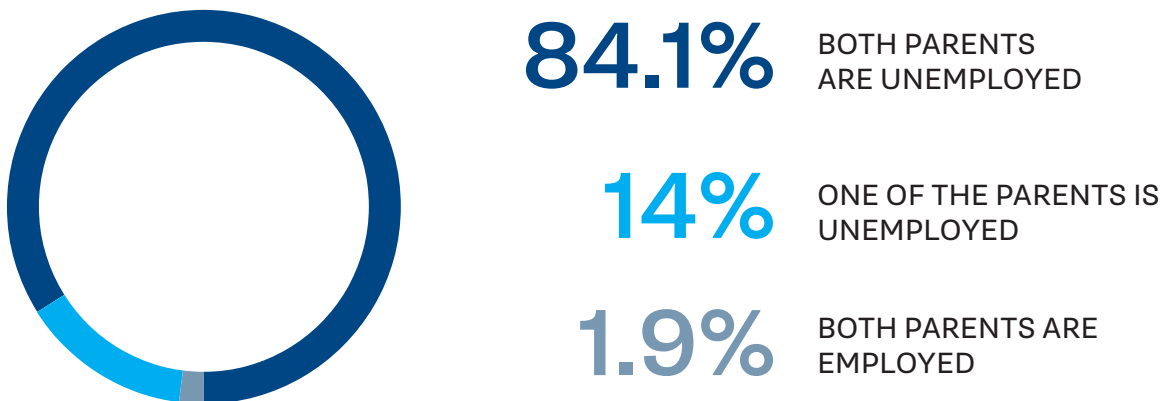


Figure 7<sup>12</sup>

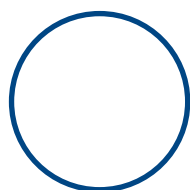
<sup>11</sup> Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018

<sup>12</sup> Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018

# 5

## CONCLUSIONS

- Current scholarship program lead by MEST and supported by KFOS, VoRAE, HEKS, REF is meeting the objective set in KESP 2017-2021 for inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education. In year 2018, 785 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education in Kosovo responded to call for scholarships published by MEST. Out of 785 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education who have applied, 600 were awarded a scholarship. In percentage it means that out of total applicants 76.4 percent received a scholarship.
- Gender balance has been ensured leading to 52 percent of scholarships being awarded to female students.
- Each Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian scholarship student in upper secondary education receives 30 euro per month, 300 euro per year. Stakeholder report that this financial support to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education has had impact in reducing school dropouts.
- The scholarship support to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education reaches the value of 180,000.00 euro per year. The program led by MEST and supported by donors has resulted to be very effective. The program has started in 2014/2015 and is still active
- Stakeholders and donor are in favor of that such a program should continue in upcoming years as well.



## REFERENCES

1. Republic of Kosovo - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021, Prishtina, July 2016.
2. Republic of Kosovo - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Action plan of Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021, Prishtine, September 2016.
3. Kosovo Foundation for Open Society, Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society in 2017, December 2017.
4. Republic of Kosovo -Ministry of Education, Science and Technology & Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Education Statistics in Kosovo 2017/2018, Prishtina, June 2018
5. Raw data has been provided by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society -KFOS, October, 2018.

