

DREAM TO GROW



HIGHSCHOOL



PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOL



UNIVERSITY/
GRADUATION



PRESCHOOL/
KINDERGARTEN



JOB/
EMPLOYMENT

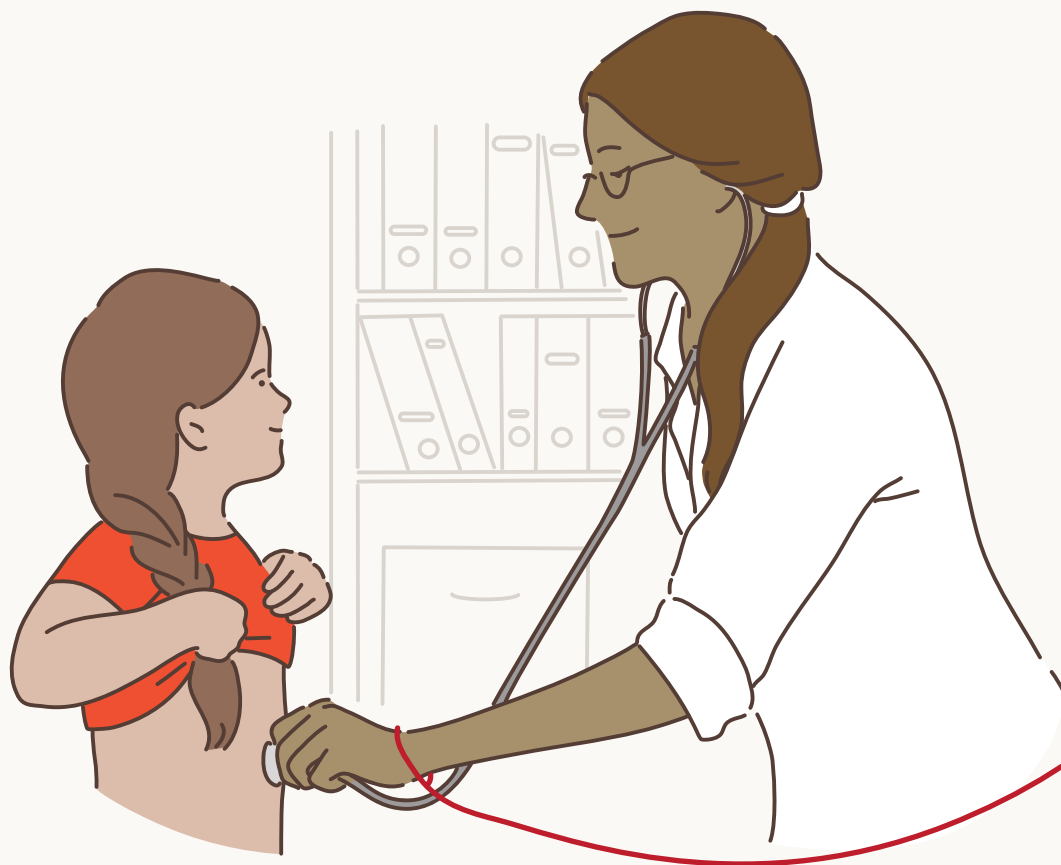


SEVDA'S
STORY

I am Sevda from Bulgaria. Starting with where I am now, and going back to my early years, I will walk you through my journey to become the person I am today. I will share notable moments in my life – exploring the events that made me strong and introducing you to the individuals who supported me throughout the many challenges I faced on my journey. **I am proud to be Roma, of who I am now, and of my dream to grow.**

Currently, I am a nurse in a hospital. I am also a new mother.

ONLY **23%**
OF ROMA ADULTS
ARE EMPLOYED



At the age of 22, I graduated from the Medical University in Sofia with a bachelor's degree in Nursing. I was the first person in my family to graduate from university. I received a scholarship from the Roma Education Fund (REF), which helped me through my studies.

During my time in university, I also volunteered in the largest Roma community in Sofia.

**65% OF
YOUNG ROMA ARE
NOT IN EDUCATION,
EMPLOYMENT,
OR TRAINING,
COMPARED WITH
19%
OF GENERAL
POPULATION**



As a teenager, I attended a professional high school. I was the only Roma student in my class. My family moved from my home village to a city nearby so I could receive a quality high school education. My parents found jobs there to support my siblings and me in our studies.



THE ENROLMENT RATE OF YOUNG
ROMA IN HIGH SCHOOL IS

57% COMPARED TO **87%**
OF THE GENERAL POPULATION



THE ENROLMENT
RATE OF ROMA
PUPILS IN
COMPULSORY
SCHOOL IS

93%
COMPARED TO
95% OF
THE GENERAL
POPULATION
ENROLMENT



60% OF
ROMA CHILDREN
ATTEND SCHOOLS
WHERE MOST
OR ALL OF THE
STUDENTS ARE
ROMA

My primary school was small, and my classmates were predominately Roma children.

I was lucky enough to receive exceptional support from the teachers during my first years of school. One of my teachers recognized my potential and worked with me outside of regular class times. She told me about the financial support provided to students by the Roma Education Fund.

66% OF
ROMA CHILDREN
PARTICIPATE IN
EARLY EDUCATION
COMPARED TO
84% OF
THE GENERAL
POPULATION



During my childhood, I dreamed of becoming a nurse with a white apron. I wanted to help people in my small village. My aunt, a nurse, inspired me. She had a significant impact on me from a young age.

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE TWO PILOT VISITING PROGRAMS IN BULGARIA INITIATED BY UNICEF AND TRUST FOR SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION (TSA). THE NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM, IMPLEMENTED BY TSA, IS TARGETING HOME VISITING SERVICES FOR DISADVANTAGED FIRST-TIME MOTHERS FROM PREGNANCY THROUGH THE CHILD'S SECOND YEAR. BOTH PROGRAMS AIM TO BE ADOPTED AS A GOVERNMENTAL POLICY.

Before I was born, my parents did not have access to prenatal services. They sought advice from older community members.

When I was a baby, there were no home visiting programs. My parents were mainly supported by my aunt, a nurse, who helped them provide my siblings and me with nurturing care.



THE ROMA EARLY YEARS NETWORK (REYN BULGARIA) SEEKS TO OFFER POSITIVE ROLE MODELS IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT, TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION, TO MORE EFFECTIVELY INTEGRATE HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD, EMPHASIZING ON NUTRITION, AND TO POOL ADVOCACY EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT WITH A FOCUS ON IMPROVING ACCESS, QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE IN THIS AREA FOR ROMA CHILDREN.

The logo for Trust for Social Achievement features three horizontal, wavy purple lines on the left side, resembling a stylized flag or waves. To the right of these lines, the words "TRUST FOR SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENT" are written in a bold, dark purple, sans-serif font, stacked in three lines.

TRUST FOR SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENT

TSA is dedicated to helping people reach their full potential. We work to create opportunities for disadvantaged groups, with a focus on the Roma, 72% of whom currently live below the poverty line.

We are a grant-making, nongovernmental organization dedicated to reducing poverty and decreasing achievement gaps. Toward this end, we support activities in four program areas: First Foundations, Early Learning and Care, Educational Achieve-

ment and Family Economic Success.

As a pioneer and an incubator for new approaches and ideas, TSA tests how best to tackle deeply rooted achievement gaps. Achieving scale and sustainability will take time and cooperation. This is why TSA values partnership and the creation of networks and coalitions of like-minded allies.

Together, we can make a difference!

The data presented in this infographic are the result of research and monitoring done by REYN Bulgaria and its hosting organization TSA – Trust for Social Achievements.