

THE ART OF SURVIVAL

COPING STRATEGIES

of persons that are or ought to be users of the social protection system



USING SOUP KITCHEN

If it was not for this soup kitchen, I would die of hunger. I eat in the kitchen everyday besides weekends. I don't even have the card for the kitchen but they let me eat. You, my child, do not know what suffering is.

Ibrahim, does not receive social assistance



PRODUCING OWN FOOD

I have two pigs. I feed them, clean them, and prepare food for them. I earn some extra money when forest fruits are in season. With that money I can buy something and be like the other people, and not completely poor.

Živka, social assistance and pension recipient, person with disability



HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS/ DONATIONS

We got a donation of flour recently, luckily. My partner got it. Now, there is only 25 kilos left, no more. Hopefully God will look down on us.

Ajša, social assistance discontinued



ASSISTANCE FROM FAMILY, NEIGHBOURS OR COMMUNITY

My sister and her husband help me a lot. They give me wood for heating. My sister has never asked anything from me, even though I live in a house that belongs to her as well.

Safet, person with disability, social assistance recipient

If it wasn't for the people, I wouldn't have anything to wear! When I go to the center of the city, I feel so embarrassed. I don't remember the last time that I ate meat. Only when it is holiday and people give a piece to me.

Jelka, social assistance recipient



SELLING OR EXCHANGING

If I get something I do not need, I trade it for medical equipment I need. I sold almost everything from the house during the first year, even the copper pipes.

Lejla, only her husband receives social assistance due to his condition (vigil coma)



BORROWING

To tell you honestly, I borrow money and when social assistance is paid then I do not buy flour, oil, sugar - I lower the portions so that I can return borrowed money. And I repeat that every month.

Adnan, social assistance recipient



ADDITIONAL WORK

If someone calls me, I clean so that I can afford more things for my child. It's really hard. The assistance is paid later in the month; it is difficult to wait that long.

Esma, social assistance recipient