

## Inter-Agency Coordination

Moldova

<b>Meeting subject:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Roma Task Force
<b>Time &amp; location:</b>	15 April 2022, Testemiteanu 6 RAC
<b>Chaired by:</b>	Richelle Haines, Child Protection Officer UNHCR, Olga Bitca, Protection Associate
<b>Participants:</b>	OHCHR, CDA, Acted, Plan International, IsraAID, International Federation of the Red Cross, Association of the Roma Women, administration of the RAC representatives, consultant GIZ, advisor of the Prime minister on Human Rights, Coalition Roma Voices, National Association of Roma Community Mediators, Roma activist and Academic representative, as well as several Roma refugees, women, and men from the RAC

### AGENDA

- Welcome
- Presentations
- Facilitated discussion
- Conclusions
- Visit of the RAC

AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1	<p><a href="#">Welcome</a></p> <p>UNHCR welcomed the participants and presented the agenda of the meeting.</p>
2	<p><a href="#">Presentations</a></p> <p>Each participant presented him/herself and were briefed on the updated statistics of the RAC:</p> <p>On the 1<sup>st</sup> visit to the RAC, on 8 April, 137 persons were in the RAC, from which Roma – 104, Ukrainians – 26 and Azeri -3. Women – 44, Men – 30, Children -63.</p>

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	<p>On the day of the visit: 180 persons, from which Roma – 105, Azeri – 47, Ukrainians – 23, Turkmenistan citizen – 4 and Russian citizen – 1.</p>
3	<p><b>Facilitated discussion</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><p>1. Director of the RAC, Victor Girlea, administrator of the University buildings for the Moldova State University, presented the context of the reopening of the previously disaffected study building, some improvements operated to the accommodation conditions and the statistic of the RAC. Some further improvements on the accommodation were introduced too: 2 TV set to be installed, a contract concluded on the laundry washing and possibly one more child safe space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.</p><p>An issue presented by him was that the personnel, but especially for the cleaning was assigned to several buildings at once. Concerning his person, he precised that is not present all day on the RAC but is coming 2—3 times per day. Not enough volunteers present on the site and other needs he proposed to cover with the resources of the humanitarian organizations, if possible, according to an assessment of needs, such as: 2 fridges, 2 microwaves and at least 2 electrical big kettles.</p></li><li><p>2. Elena Sirbu, President of the Association of the Roma Women, presented her activity of assisting Roma refugees, as well as other refugees. Since the 25<sup>th</sup> February was volunteering at MoldExpo, then Manej, as well as other Roma communities, especially in Chisinau area, but also on the left bank of Dniester river. She assessed and addressed not only the needs of refugees, but also the actions and the attitude of the administration and noted separated cases of racism, but especially the systemic discrimination and racism. She considers it the major reason of the situation of the Roma in the RAC Testimiteanu 6 – poor conditions compared to other communities and RACs.</p><p>Concerning resources, no big donors, only one small grant and some donors from diaspora, thus, at least 400 Roma families were assisted: transport to Ukrainian Consulate, information and legal assistance, documentation, socio-economic assistance, accommodation assured for 2 Roma families, some support for medical cases.</p><p>One issue on the assistance is that for undocumented Roma is difficult to prove the date of arrival to Moldova. And another one is that many are calling to ask where the cash assistance is after 2 weeks of waiting it. She asked for the support of the international humanitarian organizations for the humanitarian assistance.</p></li><li><p>3. Angelina, Woman Roma refugee reported the absence of the diversity of the food, especially for children. Thanked for the good security and all the persons working at the RAC. Concerning integration of the children in the educational system she answered that people want to travel further. Two issues pointed out during discussion, is that is quite cold in the RAC and that there is an absence of the community leaders.</p></li></ol>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="491 199 1908 264">4. Piotr, Man Roma refugee reported as main problems around 100 undocumented persons and the absence of the community leaders.</li><li data-bbox="491 313 1908 378">5. Valeriu Caldararu, National Association of Roma Community Mediators, asked about the issues and claims before this meeting, several participants informed him.</li><li data-bbox="491 427 1908 1076">6. Ecaterina Lutisina, Administrative representant, Consultant from GIZ at the Crisis Centre, informed on a security problem with 3 intruders claiming being accommodated at the Centre who were handled only with the intervention of the security representants of the special forces Fulger, present since several weeks at the RAC. She also reminded that previously where no showers, no breakfast and no washing machines, no dining room, no access to sanitary and hygiene products, now that being solved, she agrees that the diversity of the food is insufficient and that she already reported that. But the rules of the food security are severe, and they are playing an important role in the prevention of the intoxications, having recently less intoxications, for example, the food is available only 1 hour to be kept in the recipient, forbidden to be taken in the rooms. But the issue claimed by her, Elena Sirbu and the refugees is that the rule of the feeding schedule, difficult to follow, as a part of the persons are waking up much later. Ecaterina answered that 2 hours for a breakfast in the morning seems sufficient, that children waked up at 23-00 and at 3 am seem not appropriate to her. Elena Sirbu noted that a Roma community mediator is also needed for the parenting issues, to inform and educate parents. During discussion Ecaterina also stated that she ordered beds to the Government, but 180 pillows and sheets and lingerie still needed. Also, there is a need of more volunteers, some from Moldova for peace were supposed to come on that day. Concerning toys, many of them were taken to the children room and she was praising for daily activities for the children, divided by age.</li><li data-bbox="491 1125 1908 1304">7. Ion Duminica, Roma Rights activist and Roma Studies Academic, pointed out on the segregation as the main problem and the root of all present problem, this vision of the problem by the Government. The solution is to relocate people to other RACs in order to disrup the segregation and to have better accommodation conditions. Another solution could be a Roma representative at the Crisis Centre, but it was refused. He found unacceptable conditions of accommodation at Manej RAC.</li><li data-bbox="491 1352 1908 1417">8. Nicolae Radita, Advisor of the Prime-minister on Human Rights, enhanced on the importance of respecting the Government Rules of the RACs. He praised the good mobilization of the Roma community and agreed that the RAC</li></ol>
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	<p>must be adapted to all the needs of the accommodated persons. Also he pointed out some differences with other centres: more person accommodated, more men present, compared to other RACs. As a priority besides more washing machines, TVsets or fridges, for him are activities for children divided by age and a supplementary safe children space. Other priorities are documentation issues and safety. He will continue the discussion with Mr. Efras about the management of the Centre, as well as with the military represents who are now in the charge. The transportation of the refugees to the countries of the destination will continue.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Conclusions</b></li></ul> <p>3 major concerns concerning the RAC were expressed by most of the participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Roma and Azeri ethnic minorities racism and segregation concerning accommodation conceptual decision</li><li>2. Accommodation issues which might be solved with the intermediate of a Roma community mediator.</li><li>3. The situation of children, especially the child friendly spaces(s) and age related activities.</li></ol> <p>The participants agreed upon several points: regular weekly meetings of the task force, a cochairing by UNHCR and a representative of the Coalition Roma Voice and enhancing multilateral and bilateral coordination to improve the conditions of the RAC, including and especially the continuation and the creation of new child safe spaces and activities divided by type and age for children. Some demands for humanitarian and medical assistance will also be under consideration by the participants.</p> <p><b>Other actions:</b></p> <p>Convened and implemented after the meeting of the referral of medical cases concerning Roma refugees per general and those accommodated at the RAC Testemiteanu 6.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Visit of the RAC premises</b></li></ul>

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ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1	Biweekly meetings	Participants	Recurring	15 April
2	Sharing information for the Roma task Force meetings	UNHCR	18 April	15 April
3	Bilateral meetings and collaboration	Participants	Recurring	15 April
4	Referring medical cases (mapping of existent services)	UNHCR	22 April	15 April