



Protection, Roma Task Force

Meeting Details			
Date	1 July 2022		
Time	13.30		
Chair	Olga Bitca, Protection Associate UNHCR		
Reporting	Olga Bitca, Protection Associate UNHCR		
Email	bitca@unhcr.org		
Agenda			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and announcements 2. Presentation new members of the Roma Task Force 3. Terms of Reference 4. Mapping of Roma refugees 5. Updates from Roma Community Mediators and Members 6. Gaps in financing Roma refugees' projects and ethical issues 			
Information collection and relevant links			
Link to operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784			
Participants			
Government of the Republic of Moldova, Joint Crisis Management Centre Roma Community Mediator, IsraAID,	Council of Europe, German Embassy, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF, European Roma Rights Centre	Association of the Roma Women, Coalition Roma Voices, IRC, INTERSOS, OXFAM, We World,	ACTED, INTERNEWS, Moldova for Peace, Roma activist and Academic representative.



Summary of discussions and agreements / action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements / Actions
Welcome and announcements	The TF chair welcomed the participants and presented the agenda of the meeting.	Send inputs for the Terms of Reference of RTF Responsible: participants Deadline: 22 June Status: 1 July
Presentations of the new members of the Roma Task Force	The TF chair presented Natalia Kropivka, UNHCR Protection Officer, and invited new participants to present themselves. IRC's Balkans Project Manager presented a new project in the region 'Refugee Information in Central Europe' to be implemented in Moldova, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary, which will gather information including on provision of services to refugees. Internews' Field Officer and ACTED's Site Management presented themselves. Representatives of the German Embassy in Moldova introduced themselves and informed the meeting that from 2,100 accepted refugees, already 895 had been transferred to Germany with focus on the most vulnerable, Roma included.	Mapping Roma Refugees and electronical mapping Responsible: All relevant entities and UNHCR Deadline: recurring Status: 1 July 2022
Terms of reference approval	The Join Management Crisis Centre representative shared feedback on the proposed Terms of Reference. In general, they are found relevant; however, certain inputs might be necessary in the light of the recent activities concerning Roma refugees. The Crisis Centre will return the document with their inputs and comments. The TF chair informed the participants that the final version of the Terms of Reference would be circulated and online consultation available. Members will be requested to provide their inputs within the requested deadline.	
Mapping of Roma refugees	The TF chair presented a Roma refugees' mapping document containing comments on the recent interventions. Such mapping is an important tool allowing forums better allocation of the available resources, identifying needs and better coordination. The participants discussed which type of information was to be made available to the public. The National Roma Centre representative informed the participants that the project in progress did not	



	<p>include any electronic mapping. UNHCR suggested supporting with its Information Management capacity to develop electronic mapping of the Roma refugees and that technically it was possible. The appointed Roma Community mediator proposed to organize a meeting about mapping of Roma refugees and to discuss better coordination and allocation of resources of the relevant entities. Participants agreed on the electronic mapping, which could be made public and on the meeting of relevant organizations.</p>	
Updates from Roma Community Mediators and organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marin Alla, the appointed Roma Community Mediator, announced an improvement of the situation at Testemiteanu-6 RAC and presented several results:• Three managers at the RAC will be contracted with new contracts and one month's probation;• Accommodation of refugees upon a signed request;• Finishing the adjustments of the statistics of the accommodated persons;• The accommodation of persons of Roma ethnicity suspended at Testemiteanu; active actions of accommodating them in other centres;• An improved dialogue observed in the RACs which are accepting Roma refugees. Further actions will be concentrated on three pillars as: accommodation, meals, access to quality services;• On activities for children, the Child Safe Space is open and available for child protection activities with children and their caregivers, according to a schedule.• An Orange Space will also be opened in another room, without overlapping activities;• On children's preparation for the academic year 2022-23, an initial evaluation of children and their necessities is necessary. There is also a need for guidance from the Ministry of Education, with guidance for better integration of these children;• The respect of the RAC regulation will be improved via implementation of the eviction procedures as of the following week, as the safety and public order must be assured;• Several cases related to reported incidents are under investigation by the police;	



- On the improvement of access to medical services, a first-aid medical kit.

On the needs of Roma refugees, he reported that clothes for the summer for women and children are necessary, among the most acute and immediate needs.

Organizing activities outside the RACs like excursions for children and young persons may help to facilitate local integration.

Roma Activist and Academic representative reminded participants on the necessity of the adaptation of the Testemiteanu-6 RAC to winter conditions. Marin Alla answered that the evaluations of the building were at the final stage and that a decision would be taken in the upcoming days.

- Elena Sirbu, the co-chair of the Roma Task Force confirmed the improvement of the situation at Testemiteanu-6 RAC, but she reiterated the point about the adjustments to be made for the winter period. She said that, in her estimation, some 40,000 Roma refugees from Ukraine had crossed Moldova and that around 2,000 estimated Roma refugees could be localized at different locations in Moldova, accommodated in RACs, community and privately. At the present, the financial situation of the privately accommodated groups is more difficult, especially of the group accommodated at Vadul lui Voda and certain groups might require accommodation in the RACs. She recently concentrated her monitoring efforts on the community and privately accommodated Roma refugees but would like to report the situation and concerns of the Glodeni lyceum RAC. First, safety and security concerns, after complaints made, another person hired to assure the security. Second, alimentary security of babies, as no adapted baby powder milk available. Third, no medication, not even first-aid medication, available in RAC and according to the administration of Glodeni, no available funds for such medication. On the needs she stated that clothes for women and children and baby powder milk were necessary.



	<p>Human Rights Adviser of the Prime minister of Moldova reported that certain financial issues of the Vadul lui Voda accommodated group had been solved and enhanced the importance of the mechanisms and principles of accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Victoria Luca, Roma Awareness Foundation representative, supported by NRC, had since 5 May 2022 made legal consultations with 700 Roma refugees, mainly in five locations: Ribnita, Tiraspol, Bender, Camenca and Slobozia. She considers the so-called official statistics of the left bank Dniesteras not completely correct, as not including the 30% of undocumented refugees.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gaps in financing Roma refugees' projects and ethical issues Roma Task Force co-chair, Elena Sirbu, said that about some had observed or reported to her ethical gaps concerning certain humanitarian actors, local and international, especially about taking and disseminating photos of Roma children and women or making unrealistic promises to Roma communities. The TF chair pointed out that one of the proposed measures could be the continuation of training on the ethical principles in humanitarian missions, especially for the administration of the RACs and any person in the contact with the refugees.	