

Roma Task Force

Meeting Details

24.01.2024 - Next meeting planned for 23 Feb. 2024

10.00 am

"Roma Voice" Coalition

INTERSOS

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Agenda

Agenda:

1. Challenges and achievements for 2023
2. Participatory planning for RTF in 2024
3. Update on the modification proposal of TP reglementation
4. Outcomes of the PA 2023
5. Interdependence between legal status and UNHCR financial assistance

Participants			
<i>IOM</i>	<i>NRC</i>	<i>WeWorld</i>	<i>Roma Voice Coalition</i>
<i>UNHCR</i>	<i>INTERSOS</i>	<i>General Inspectorate for</i>	<i>Roma Women Platform</i>
<i>Ministry of Education and</i>	<i>ICRC</i>	<i>Migration</i>	<i>Romni</i>
<i>Research</i>	<i>IGM</i>	<i>HelpAge</i>	<i>National Roma Center</i>
<i>CWS</i>	<i>Ministry of Health</i>	<i>Ministry of Labour and</i>	<i>Porojan Association</i>
<i>UN Women</i>		<i>Social Protection</i>	<i>UNICEF</i>

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion
<p>1. Challenges and achievements for 2023/</p> <p>2. Participatory planning for RTF in 2024</p> <p>Cristina Sîrbu INTERSOS</p>	<p>Cristina Sîrbu, newly appointed co-chair of the Task Force on behalf of Intersos Moldova, welcomed everybody, presented the Agenda of the meeting and asked everybody to introduce themselves.</p> <p>The main achievements of the RTF were highlighted, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amare Amala: Roma Culture Week - a series of events that took place from April 1 to 8, 2023, organized with the cooperation of 25 organizations and that reached more than 1,600 people in 10 districts of Moldova, with more than 20 events; - The development of the Roma mapping, an exercise led by UNHCR in cooperation with Intersos Moldova and Roma Voice Coalition in June, July, 2023, which helped understand where the Roma refugees were living and what were their main needs. It was suggested for the exercise to be repeated periodically in order to have data on which to base the RTF's members' interventions; - Inclusion of Roma refugees in the school system, the numbers are not very big (7 children as per

Ion Bucur
National Roma
Center

Cristina Sîrbu
INTERSOS

report of the Ministry of Education and Research) but considering the particularity of the community, every person that is included in the school system is a great victory;

- The registration of all eligible Roma refugees living in formal RACs for temporary protection;
- The organization of sessions on sexual and reproductive health, menstrual hygiene and other health promotion topics, which is a very important topic when it is spoken about the Roma community, particularly because it is known that the conditions sometimes in the refugee accommodation centers are not the best even if we try as much as we can;

Ion Bucur mentioned that the main needs of Refugees are clothing, food, and rental program support, and cash assistance and suggested focusing less on mental health and psychological assistance.

A participatory process was done to identify what the members of the RTF believed the main achievements and challenges were last year, and what should be the priorities for intervention during 2024. The results are highlighted below.

Mentimeter

What went well in 2023? / Ce a fost bine în 2023?
18 responses



What could be done better in 2024? / Ce am putea face mai bine în 2024?

11 responses



What should be prioritized in 2024? / Ce ar trebui prioritizat în 2024?

19 responses



Cristina Sîrbu highlighted the needs that have to be improved: increase the cooperativity, having a more powerful connection with governmental institution, internal services mapping and referral pathways.

The RTF members were asked together to identify what should be prioritized in 2024. A draft of Priorities list, including concrete actions, was concluded as follows:

1. Establishment of cooperation mechanism between RTF and state institutions - including MoU signed
2. Replicating the mechanism of cooperation of EDU WG with other sub-working groups.
3. Roma mapping replicated 2 times this year and to identify resources + to focus on needs
4. Health (Intersos as a leading organization in this regard)
5. Sessions with parents to fight school absenteeism and for teachers about tolerance and anti-discrimination (to be added in the Workplan of Education&RTF).

Marin Alla
Roma Voice
Coalition

Marin Alla mentioned that RTF is a place where Roma issues are shown up along with the solutions for the issues. Mr. Alla expressed the need to continue the efforts to enroll Roma children into the local schools. To place children according to their age, and to have catch-up classes. To give the opportunity to Roma people from Ukraine to be independent and to ensure their living by themselves. Mr. Alla suggested to have at each priority list activity - a list the organizations that will be in charge and take responsibility for a specific activity (to match priority and the leading organizations).

Elena Sîrbu
ROMNI Platform

Elena Sîrbu suggested making some changes then making the Roma mapping exercise, namely to include the location of Roma refugees along with the needs disaggregated by age and gender. Mrs. Sîrbu added that there is a need to have a common and well defined strategy to redress the basic needs of Roma.

Scarlett Hawkins
NRC

Scarlett Hawkins agreed with the need to ensure that Roma-led organizations are supported and are able to remain sustainable, and to ensure that they are supported throughout the year. Additionally, talking about NRC, she mentioned establishing some minimum standards for consideration of Roma needs in their programming the same way it is done for age, gender, disability, and disaggregation. NRC could be prompted to think and commit to specific actions that support Roma communities in their own programming.

<p>Ion Bucur National Roma Center</p>	<p>Ion Bucur underlined the need to work with parents when it is talked about schooling. He also added that there are schools which refused to enroll Roma refugee children. Mr. Ion Bucur also mentioned the need of capacity building of mediators, as they have to know where to go to fill out certain documents. He also mentioned the need to teach adults interested in being employed in the field of work (training how to make a CV, an E-mail) in order to give them a qualification.</p>
<p>Cristina Sirbu INTERSOS</p>	<p>Cristina Sirbu continued with a solution for the future, a formula to work would be to assess what each organization is interested in and then have sectoral meetings with the organizations that are interested and can act in a specific subject, including in these meetings the representatives of the Governmental relevant institutions, the UN agencies, the local organizations, the international organizations, focusing on the specific issues and creating an action plan for each sector, to be implemented by the institutions active in the sector. And then when RTF members gather at RTF monthly meetings to speak about what has been done and what are the results of the past month activity.</p>
<p>Marco Buono INTERSOS</p>	<p>Marco Buono reminded that RTF is a place where we address the emergency issues as in RM there is an emergency situation. All the organizations involved in the RTF, particularly the international ones, are emergency organizations. However, he mentioned that the topics discussed in the RTF are needs of Roma refugees which go beyond the emergency. As a way to address these issues, he suggested that, since the existing emergency situation brings a lot of attention on the humanitarian need of local organizations, international organizations, of UN, the government, even international donors, it can be a chance to link this attention to issues that are not necessarily emergency issues, trying to bring resources as well.</p>
<p>Ivan Duminica Ministry of Education</p>	<p>Ivan Duminica highlighted the need of doing training not only for refugee parents but also for local ones who have children of school age but are not enrolled in schools aiming to combat school absenteeism. In schools that do not receive Roma - could be organized tolerance and non-discrimination trainings for school administration and staff. These types of training are listed and also included in the National Action Plan for support of Roma people 2022-2025. Also he mentioned the possibility of including Roma Week activities in schools through the decision of the Minister of Education and Research.</p>
	<p>Elena Buleac, coming from the health sector, added that it is necessary to identify Roma specific</p>

<p>Elena Buleac Ministry of Health</p> <p>Cristina Sirbu INTERSOS</p> <p>Sabina Sandu Protection Officer UNHCR</p>	<p>needs and problems and to continue informing Roma ethnic group of the services they can benefit from in the Republic of Moldova, especially in regards to medical assistance. She also highlighted that there is a need to examine the mechanism of information on rights and obligations and ensure that the message arrives to the community and is understood. Mrs. Buleac advised to include health institutions in offering training to refugees.</p> <p>Cristina Sirbu mentioned that communication is an aspect which has not been mentioned in the priorities, but which is extremely relevant. Therefore, this has been added to the priorities for this year.</p> <p>Sabina Sandu confirmed that the refugees report that there are difficulties in accessing medical services. Here, the connection between the legal status of the person on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and the level of access to social services of education and health is essential.</p>
<p>3. Update on the modification proposal of TP reglementation</p> <p>Sabina Sandu Protection Officer UNHCR</p>	<p>Sabina Sandu mentioned that the biggest problem facing the refugees at the moment is documenting and obtaining a legal status and the legality of their presence in the country. There are still undocumented people, as a result they do not have legal status in the Republic of Moldova. The state of emergency is no longer there, it has been ended by the government. We have already had TP for a year. On Wednesday the meeting of the State Commission for Migration and Asylum took place, during which the representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and the General Inspectorate for Migration announced the existence of a new project aimed at amending the government's decision regarding the temporary protection offered to refugees from Ukraine. The Legalization of stay in the Republic of Moldova is possible not only through applying to TP but also through asylum or stateless status requests. Only the existence of a legal status ensures rights on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>From now on, the cash assistance (financial aid) will be provided only to people who have legalised their stay and obtained a legal status..</p> <p>The project of modifications to the TP reglementations includes cancelling the term of allowing maximum 45 cumulative days outside the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>Additionally, it includes a provision related to movable goods, related to automobiles, it is proposed that automobiles have the right of residence in the Republic of Moldova for 2 years with the possibility</p>

<p>Cristina Sîrbu INTERSOS</p>	<p>of extending the term. Regarding employment - the possibility of using the patent for services (beauty, childcare, etc.) for refugees was proposed, with fewer administrative rigors and impediments.</p> <p>According to the latest data of the General Inspectorate for Migration, at the moment there are approximately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 38,874 refugees who are in the process of obtaining PT. -30317 have already obtained PT, of which 9008 are children. <p>The number of asylum applications has increased in the last two years.</p> <p>There is the order of the Ministry of Health by which the refugees will benefit from a family doctor.No financial support will be provided for citizens with dual citizenship.</p> <p>Cristina Sîrbu added that some more modifications suggested for TP are the automatic extension of the TP status for those who have already obtained it, until March 1, 2025. At the same time, she asked the members of the RTF to revise the modifications related to the entry in the Republic of Moldova only with valid documents and if it comprises risks towards the Roma Community.</p>
<p>Cristina Sîrbu INTERSOS</p>	<p>Cristina Sîrbu wrapped up the meeting, thanked everybody for their active participation and expressed hope to have all the decision makers present at this meeting - participating in all the further RTF meetings.</p>