



Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
Date	12.08.2022- Next meeting on 09.09.2022
Time	10.00 am
Chair	Olga Bitca, Protection Associate, UNHCR, Elena Sirbu, Roma Voice Coalition,
Reporting	Olga Bitca, Protection Associate, UNHCR
Email	bitca@unhcr.org , vocearomilor@gmail.com
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome and announcements2. Progress so far in meeting the needs of Roma refugees, Marin Alla presentation3. What remains to be done and challenges, Marin Alla presentation4. Other questions	
Participants	



<i>Crisis Center</i>	<i>UNDP</i>	<i>CRS</i>	<i>Biblio sans Frontières</i>
<i>US Embassy</i>	<i>ACTED</i>	<i>IsraAID</i>	<i>Coalition Roma Voice</i>
<i>OSCE mission Moldova</i>	<i>NRC</i>	<i>Internews</i>	<i>Roma Women Platform Romni</i>
<i>UNFPA</i>	<i>INTERSOS</i>	<i>Word Vision</i>	<i>European Roma Rights Center</i>
<i>IOM</i>	<i>Plan International</i>	<i>WeWorld</i>	<i>National Roma Center</i>
<i>UNAIDS</i>	<i>Oxfam</i>	<i>Clear Global</i>	
<i>UNHCR</i>	<i>IRC</i>	<i>CWS</i>	

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Agenda Point 1</p> <p>Welcome and announcements</p> <p>Olga Bitca, Protection Associate UNHCR bitca@unhcr.org</p>	<p>The Roma task Force co-chair welcomed participants, thanked them for their presence and encouraged participants to make proposals for the agenda, especially at the item other questions. The agenda was agreed</p> <p>The UNHCR specialist on antitrafficking, Martina Bogdeva, invited the participants, especially the frontline workers, to report any suspected cases of trafficking in persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CCPT (Centre for combatting human trafficking, Ministry of Interior) – hotline (24/7) : 022 254 998/ 0674 07 614 - Prosecutor’s office – hotline: 069 99 9021 (anti-trafficking@procuratura.md) - La Strada hotline (NGO) – 0800 77 777/ from outside +373 22 23 33 09 	<p>Agenda agreed by the participants.</p> <p>Several updates provided.</p> <p>Members agreed to cooperate for the trainings</p>



<p>Trafficking in person announcement,</p> <p>Martina Bogdeva, Antitraficking specialist UNHCR, bogdeva@unhcr.org</p>	<p>- Centre of Assistance and protection of victims of trafficking and violence (men/ women): 022 92 71 94 / 022 92 71 74</p> <p>- Ministry of Interior, Bureau of migration and asylum : Tel: +373 22 27 22</p> <p>- Police/Emergency – 112</p> <p>She also informed about her availability to provide any trainings on trafficking in person, even to small groups of Roma representatives as frontline workers, for Roma Community Mediators and Roma NGOs.</p>	<p>Information to share by UNHCR on the small grants</p>
<p>IOM announcement</p> <p>Ersilia Apreda, eapreda@iom.int</p>	<p>The IOM representative, Ersilia Apreda, confirmed the support on antitrafficking for the training of at least 70 managers of the RACs. The priority of the inclusion and non-discrimination subjects to be added and mentioned that during such trainings, the managers informed that not all the RACs are working with mediators and its important to work with mediators as risks of trafficking are still high, also in the country of destination, such as Poland and important stakeholders from several countries of destination were informed on this point.</p> <p>The UNHCR co-chair added that it was noticed that Roma communities of refugees are rather reporting protection cases related to perpetrators outside their community, also more protection cases are reported to women Roma Community mediators, so they need to be trained on the antitrafficking. Also, more mediators for Roma refugees requested in different locations and that different international organizations are considering hiring more mediators.</p> <p>IOM representative confirmed that hiring more mediators is under consideration, also asked if cases of Roma refugees from Russia are known, UNHCR answered that several</p>	



<p>CBP announcement</p> <p>Natalia Kropivka, Protection Officer UNHCR</p> <p>kropivka@unhcr.org</p>	<p>cases were known, at least 3 in June, but some of them at the end had Moldavian and Ukrainian citizenship.</p> <p>ACTED representative invited for collaboration for the training of the managers in September 2022.</p> <p>The UNHCR Protection Officer, Natalia Kropivka, announced the launch of a support up to 5000 USD to NGOs and initiatives groups to bring together the host communities and the refugees and enhance peaceful coexistence and social cohesion in order to strengthen the protection in the interior of the groups.</p> <p>Such examples of submission can be events, classes of Romanian, women clubs, activities for teenagers organized by local NGOs or initiatives groups. The template will be shared with the participants, but salaries will not be covered.</p>	
<p>Agenda Point 2</p> <p>Progress so far in meeting the needs of Roma refugees</p> <p>Marin Alla Consultant Crisis Center, Roma</p>	<p>The Joint Crisis Management Center consultant, Roma Community Mediator, Marin Alla, presented the an general overview of the achieved progress since the 1st June:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. On 2 June a letter was circulated to all managers of the RACS on the correct reception and accommodation of the Roma refugees. At this day still some incidents might occur, for example in two recent cases, but interventions are effectuated, managers are informed on the correct procedure of the reception and accommodation and cases are followed-up. But another task is to ensure better accommodation conditions and services for the received Roma refugees.	<p>Participants informed on the activities of the appointed Roma Community Mediator</p>



<p>Refugees Community Mediator</p> <p>Marin Alla marinalla444@gmail.com</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Modifications in the management of the Testemiteanu 6, as new contracts signed with 3 persons with clear terms of reference.3. The WASH system, other infrastructure improvements to the RACs, especially at Testemiteanu 6 will start soon: 6 showers at each floor, washing machines at each floor, the connection to hot water and sanitation to be ensured inside of the building.4. Water filters are already procured but will be installed on each floor at the end of the works of renovation and winterization.5. Training sessions for the personnel on the use of the new machines and devices.6. The Join Crisis Management Center assumed a changed in the attitude to Roma refugees, but also refugees as a group, via more communication on this subject.7. Mediation sessions with the Roma parents were organized and will continue, as they are reluctant to enroll their children to school.8. Winterization process in the functional placement centers to adapt and upgrade the accommodation conditions to the winter period.9. The situation of accommodating all Roma in one or another RAC is in the past, but from the part of some RACs several complaints can be received on the conditions of accommodation or tensions with the host communities. So, the work on the reception and accommodation of all ethnicities in all the RACs is continuing in a framework of mediation, openness and transparent, including for the partners, but it's a longue process.10. A Training is prepared for the managers of the RACs.	
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<p>Agenda Point 3</p> <p>What remains to do and challenges</p> <p>Marin Alla marinalla444@gmail.com</p>	<p>The Joint Crisis Management Center consultant, Marin Alla, presented the remained engagements and challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The improvement of the infrastructure operated by ACTED.2. To continue the work on the improving the reception of Roma refugees.3. To continue the work on improving the accommodation conditions and services for Roma refugees.4. Training for the managers of the RACs, including the aspect of crisis management, and crises communication.5. Privately accommodated Roma refugees, also called Informal RACs is a challenge. At least two cases are known when their landlords are profiting from the financial assistance of certain organizations, but also of the Roma refugees and the protection issues is also because the landlords are imposing certain condition for the Roma refugees, including prohibition of the reporting of the irregularities, in exchange of the continuation of the accommodation. He encouraged such cases to be reported and to redirect Roma refugees for the accredited RACs, as over 3000 places are available, big groups will be separated into families, smaller groups and accommodated into different RACs. <p>The chair of the meeting confirmed the challenge of the privately accommodated big groups, as well as the single men remain an issue, as a range of protection cases are related to them and enhanced on the importance of the training of all staff in contact with refugees on GBV and CP, also antitrafficking notions and their reporting.</p>	<p>Invitation for the privately accommodated Roma refugees to consider the accommodation in the accredited RACs.</p>
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<p>Agenda Point 4 Discussion</p>	<p>The Clear Global representative, Anca Soldubanu, asked about the languages and the audio format used in the communication with Roma refugees, several participants answered. The UNHCR representative answered that several languages are used during the field visits, but mediators are using the Romani, different dialects of the Romani, at least 2, that why is preferable to include mediators in the communication with Roma refugees.</p> <p>The Roma Voice Coalition representative, the cochair of the Roma Task Force, Elena Sirbu, answered that Romani is the mother tongue or the Roma refugees, the best tool to communicate with, as the use of the Romani means trust first of all. She also reminded that Ukrainian Roma refugees are using many Romani dialects and presents differences on the culture, language, traditions, and religious confession too, for example, some Roma refugees are muslim.</p> <p>On the audio format she answered that it is a good practice since several years, as dedied radio channels or programs in Romani are produced and broadcasted in Moldova, also it is one of the best way to bring the information to the Roma community. At the end she enhanced on the importance to include in any research Roma experts.</p> <p>The IRC representative, Milika Vasilijic, enhanced on the importance to include in any process and decision persons of their concern. An IRC project on the information provision will be launched in August and will include an information needs assessment. IRC will coordinate with Internews and other organizations and Roma representatives in order to complement the activities of the project.</p> <p>The Internews representative, Marianna Prysiazhniuk informed that contacts already were established with Clear Global, IRC and Elena Sirbu, the project being at the stage of the Key Expert Interviews.</p>	<p>Delegation of the Roma Task represnetatives to the AAP and Education Task Forces.</p> <p>Finalizing the mapping exercise with the contribution of several stakeholders.</p> <p>Some issues still require attention and action.</p>
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The UNHCR representative, Natalia Kropivka, suggested to bring the discussion on the information to provide to Roma refugees into the AAP Task Force with meetings every 2nd Friday, also because partners, members of the Task force can help with the dissemination of the information. The invitation and the link will be shared.

The UNFPA representative, Abandokht Sarkarati, asked if a Roma representative was include into the Transitional Accommodation Task Force, the answer was affirmative.

Academic representative and Roma rights activists, Ion Duminica, asked several questions on why public local representatives are not aware about the assistance they can get to the Roma refugees; about the mapping of Roma refugees; on the renovation and deconcentration of the Testemiteanu 6 RAC, on the enrolling to schools of the Roma refugees children, or the case of the Loganesti village is proving that the presence of the stereotypes and prejudices of the children is the absence of the formal education on tolerance, inclusion, Roma history and culture; on the privately accommodated Roma refugees; and on the Covid cases in the RACs.

The cochair of the Roma Task Force, UNHCR representative answered that the mapping of the Roma refugees is ongoing, the Kobo tool consultation was finalized and some feedbacks received will be integrated or remediated later. On the education, a study is ongoing and some preparatory actions, especially with the temporary protection possibly to be activated. Concerning cases as Loganesti or Glodeni, at Glodeni the situation is ameliorated and followed-up after a field visit and at Loganesti many entities visited and documented, but UNHCR invited the Ombudsperson office to document a final aspect of this specific protection case. On the Covid cases, as previously informed, in several RACs several cases were documented, but without further spreading as medical protocols enacted.

The Joint Crisis Management Center consultant, Roma Community Mediator, Marin Alla, answered that two priorities on the reception of the Roma refugees, as well as the local



Roma community need to be mentioned: the community of the Roma refugees to be informed and educated on their rights and responsibilities and the host communities to understand the vulnerabilities of the Roma group, instead on reacting negatively to them.

On the remaining concentration of the Roma refugees at Testemiteanu 6 that it is due to several causes such as: the RAC allows the accommodation of big families of Roma or one family recently accommodated at Testemiteanu 6 has 17 children or international standards are requiring to not separate 1st and 2nd degree family members, several families are presenting protection issues, such as health, documentation, certain families were accommodated in other RACs, but returned to Testemiteanu 6. After discussions, the greenline accepted this principle.

The Roma Voice Coalition representative, the cochair of the Roma Task Force, Elena Sirbu, Enhanced on the importance to not separate Roma families, as international principle of several conventions, but at least 2 cases of separation during the accommodation process were reported to her. Also she expressed the regret that a negative attitude toward Roma refugees is persisting and can lead to tensions among refugees and with the host communities. A separate require the situation of the privately accommodated Roma refugees, for instant, Vadul lui Voda location, as a part decided to accommodate for the coming winter into RACs, due to lack of resources and these big groups of extended families are also composed of 1st and 2nd degree family members.



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

Information collection and relevant links

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

Mapping of the Roma refugees tool: <https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/MORmqck5>

If necessary, feel free to add extra rows in the matrix above.