Join on Zoom

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

HUNGARY

REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM – ROMA INCLUSION

Ipoly utca, Budapest, May 5

Co-Hosted with:

ROMA VERSITAS

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Mr. Sztojka Attila, Government Commissioner for Roma Relations

Mr. Roland Schilling, UNHCR Representative for Central Europe

Agenda

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

PART 1 **Local Landscape of Roma Inclusion in Hungary**	▪ **Needs and Vulnerabilities of Roma Refugees in Hungary (Romaversitas)** ▪ **Response strategies:** - **Dr. György Benedek, Legal Officer; Office of the Ombudsman;** - **Ms. Beata Bislim Olahova, Advisor on Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR** - **Mr. Pavel Dan Doghi, European Commission, Roma Strategy Framework** ▪ **Discussion**
PART 2 **Best Practices and Lessons learnt on Mainstreaming Roma Inclusion in the Refugee Response**	▪ **Presentation of draft key lessons learned and recommendations** from consultations with Roma refugees, Roma-Led Organizations and within the RCF ▪ **Discussion and exchange of best practices**
AoB	

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

PART 1 LOCAL LANDSCAPE OF ROMA INCLUSION IN HUNGARY:

Overview of Needs and Vulnerabilities of Roma Refugees in Hungary (Romaversitas)

Response strategies

Discussion

ROMA VERSITAS

OVERVIEW OF NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF ROMA REFUGEES IN HUNGARY (ROMAVERSITAS)

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ROMA VERSITAS

Legal and administrative issues

- Lack of updated and comprehensive data on refugees
- Complicated administrative processes for dual citizens
- Financial benefits under the TP insufficient to cover basic needs

Gender-based risk factors and vulnerabilities

- Gender-based discrimination, sexist social norms, early marriage practices, and limited educational and employment opportunities for Transcarpathian Romani refugee women
- Displacement and uncertainty further exacerbate the vulnerability of Romani women

OVERVIEW OF NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF ROMA REFUGEES IN HUNGARY (ROMAVERSITAS)

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ROMA VERSITAS

Issues in education

- **Romani refugee children have complex pre-existing educational disadvantages:** educational segregation in Transcarpathia, the lack of basic needs to access schooling, complex mental and health issues creates high rates of early dropouts and illiteracy
- **Difficult coordination between local and national institutions and a lack of harmonization between education and asylum laws** can lead to their unaddressed needs and struggles

Issues in housing

- **Romani families are housed in institutional settings,** typically consisting of homeless shelters, temporary shelters for families, summer camp houses, and workers' dormitories, which **are not suitable for long-term housing**
- Romani refugee families often **lack the financial means to rent independently and face discrimination in the private housing market**

OVERVIEW OF NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES OF ROMA REFUGEES IN HUNGARY (ROMAVERSITAS)

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ROMA VERSITAS

Employment

- **Romani refugee men typically had work opportunities in Hungary before the war in construction and heavy industries**
- **However, these jobs are insecure and often lack labor protection:** they are vulnerable to exploitation, unexpected downsizing, and physical harm
- **Women face more difficulties in finding work** due to their care responsibilities for children and lack of education
- **The lack of decent jobs and financial stability makes it challenging for Romani refugees to move out of institutional housing**

Health and mental health

- **High rates of serious health complications and untreated psychosocial conditions** among Romani families due to scarce access to health services in Ukraine
- **Access to healthcare in the Hungarian system is also difficult,** especially for those without support, due to complicated administrative processes
- Dual citizens are particularly vulnerable

RESPONSE STRATEGIES

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

- Dr. György Benedek, Legal Officer; Office of the Ombudsman
- Ms. Beata Bislim Olahova, Advisor on Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE/ODIHR (Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights)
- Mr. Pavel Dan Doghi, European Commission, Roma Strategy Framework
- Discussion

ROMA VERSITAS

REFUGEE COORDINATIPON FORUM
INCLUSION of ROMA REFUGEES in HUNGARY

UNHCR Auditorium

2023. május 5.

dr. Benedek György
Alapvető Jogok Biztosának Hivatala

Ukrajna elleni orosz agresszió

Az ombudsman hozzáállása

- cselekvés a kezdetektől fogva,
- elkötelezettség az emberi jogok védelme iránt,
- aktív szolidaritás,
- segíteni és támogatni a háború minden áldozatát, a menekülő embereket, családokat.

Az alapvető jogok biztosának tevékenysége

- 2022. március elejétől **ideiglenes területi iroda** nyitása az érintett határszakasz közelében (Záhony, Beregsurány településeken), ahol a biztos munkatársai személyesen működnek közre az azonnali segítségnyújtásban, például az ügyintézésben, jogi tanácsadásban,
- a **Hivatal honlapján, illetve közösségi oldalán** rendszeresen frissülő információkkal biztosítják a háború elől menekülők tájékozódását magyar, ukrán és angol nyelven.
- 2022 márciusában a biztos és munkatársai számos alkalommal **látogattak el a magyar–ukrán határra**, az ott található településekre, egyeztettek a helyi szervekkel, szervezetekkel. A biztos a menekülők számára információs pontként a Debreceni és a Miskolci Területi Irodát jelölte ki

Az alapvető jogok biztosának tevékenysége

- 2022. március 29-én a **BOK Sportcsarnokban** is **információs pontot** nyitott a Hivatal, ahol a munkatársak a Kormány által létesített humanitárius tranzitponton is folyamatosan segíteni tudják az ügyintézésben, jogi tanácsadásban a hozzájuk fordulókat, illetve ezen a helyszínen is közreműködnek a humanitárius segítségnyújtásban.
- A biztos és a Hivatal munkatársai az Ukrajna felől a háború miatt a határon átlépő menekülők számára nyitva álló szolgáltatási rendszer intézményeit érintő **vizsgálatok keretében 2022 márciusában számos helyszínt kerestek** fel a határ közelében:
- **Tiszabecs és Beregsurány**: az iskolák szerepe a menekültek ellátását illetően
- **Barabás**: egészségügyi ellátás; az önkéntes orvosok munkája

Az alapvető jogok biztosának tevékenysége

- **Lónya és Vásárosnamény**: idős és fogyatékossággal élő emberek ellátása / a menekülők átmeneti ellátása.
- **Nyíregyháza**: egyetem , rektor: menekült egyetemisták helyzete / két, fogyatékossággal élő személyeket ellátó otthon a menekülők ellátásának terveivel
- **Uszka, Tiszakóród, Milota települések**: tapasztalatok a védelmi bizottságok, illetve az általános menekültügyi feladatok tekintetében. Ezek olyan hátrányos helyzetű, határ menti kistelepülések, ahol nem volt külön civil, egyházi, állami segítőpont, viszont vannak menekültek, akiket el kell látni.
- **Mátészalka**: gyermekotthon látogatása / menekülő családok elhelyezési körülményei, a kísérő nélküli kiskorú gyermekek befogadása az intézményben

A nemzetiségi ombudsmanhelyettes tevékenysége

- A biztoshelyettes a háború kezdete óta kiemelten fontosnak tartotta a Magyarországra menekülő **ukrán és ukrajnai roma** személyek, családok támogatását és a felmerülő problémák megoldását.

- 2022-ben és 2023-ban ezért számos alkalommal egyeztetett az **ukrán nemzetiségi szószóló**val, az **Országos Ukrán Önkormányzattal**, a **Belügyminisztérium** vezetőivel, a **roma közösség országos és helyi vezetőivel**, valamint a segítő tevékenységet végző **civil szervezetekkel**.

- **Helyszíni látogatásai** közül szakmai és szimbolikus értéke miatt is kiemelkedő volt Langerné Victor Katalin akkori helyettes államtitkárral és Sztojka Attila kormánybiztossal tett körút, amelynek keretében három Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg megyei településre látogattak el. **Nábrádban, Berkeszen és Záhonyban** az Ukrajnából menekülő roma személyek helyzetét – így különösen szociális, lakhatási, egészségügyi igényeiket – valamint az őket segítő ellátásokat és kihívásokat összetettségükben is megismerhette.

A nemzetiségi ombudsmanhelyettes tevékenysége

- Az érintettekkel való beszélgetések, a szakmai találkozók, valamint a civil partnerektől érkező jelzések nyomán feltárt problémák, illetve akut kihívások kezelése érdekében a nemzetiségi biztoshelyettes folyamatosan egyeztet a **Kormány romaügyekért felelős vezetőivel**, a migrációs helyzet akut kezelésén fáradozó **civil és a karitatív szervezetekkel** is, valamint megkereste az **érintett szakigazgatási szerveket**.

- A 2022. év második felében **új problémák, új élethelyzetek** megoldása került a középpontba: a tartósan hazánkban maradó menekült családok **életkörülményeinek rendezése**, a megfelelő, folyamatos **lakhatás** és **munkalehetőség** megtalálása, valamint a gyermekek **nevelési-oktatási** szükségleteinek kielégítése.

- A biztoshelyettes a Nemzetközi Migrációs Szervezet (IOM), az ENSZ Menekültügyi Főbiztosa (UNHCR), az ENSZ Gyermekalapja (UNICEF) és a Gyermekjogi Civil Koalíció szakértő munkatársaival szoros együttműködésben kezdett el dolgozni a visszásságok, elsősorban az Ukrajnából menekült roma gyermekek oktatási helyzetének feltárása és megoldása érdekében.

A nemzetiségi ombudsmanhelyettes tevékenysége

Problématérkép

a hazánkba érkező roma származású ukrajnai menekültek:

minden szempontból fokozottan sérülékeny csoport

Kihívások:

- lakhatás
- munkaerő-piaci lehetőségek
- oktatáshoz való hozzáférés

Okok:

- magukkal már eleve hozott súlyos hátrányok
- társadalmi előítéletek Magyarországon

A menekült családok gyermekeinek oktatási integrációját nehezítő tényezők:

- az intézményrendszer felkészületlensége,
- a trauma-tudatos megközelítés hiánya,
- kulturális és szocializációs különbségek,
- megfelelően motivált és támogatott szakemberek hiánya,
- megfelelően koordinált állami fellépés hiánya.

Elérhetőségek

Alapvető Jogok Biztosának Hivatala

a nemzetiségek jogainak védelmét ellátó biztoshelyettes
(nemzetiségi ombudsmanhelyettes) titkársága

Cím: 1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa u. 9-11.

Tel: 06 1 475 7284

Fax: 06 1 269 3542

E-mail: nemzetiseg.info@ajbh.hu

Honlap: www.nemzetisegijogok.hu

Refugee Coordination Forum on Inclusion of Roma Refugees in Hungary

5 May 2023

Beata Bislim Olahova
Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues
OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

OSCE ODIHR

Mandate of ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI)

by the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area

- Mandates ODIHR, among others, to observe, monitor and analyse the human rights situation of Roma and Sinti during crisis and post-crisis situations, and co-operate with relevant authorities to ensure protection of Roma communities at risk.
- Given its mandate and in view of the armed conflict in Ukraine, ODIHR carried out human rights monitoring efforts targeting Roma affected by the conflict, including refugees who fled to countries neighbouring Ukraine.

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

The monitoring activities

- were conducted throughout 2022 and covered six participating States such as the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.
- ODIHR has engaged six national Roma human defenders from the respective countries to monitor, document, and verify information and facts as regards allegations of discrimination and unequal treatment towards Ukrainian Roma refugees. ODIHR maintains its monitoring activities also during 2023.

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

The identified concerns are

- Ukrainian Roma refugees experienced discriminatory instances throughout all stages of their efforts to secure refuge in neighbouring countries.
- Anti-Roma attitudes remain the key motivation behind the obstacles faced by Ukrainian Roma refugees.
- Roma were more likely to be hosted in substandard and segregated settings and received lower quality services than other refugees.

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

The identified concerns are

- Some legislative provisions were interpreted and applied in a way that had an indirect discriminatory impact on Roma refugees.
- Intersectional discriminatory experiences place Roma women refugees at a higher risk of human trafficking, violence and exploitation.
- Roma civil society faced significant difficulties in their efforts to provide help, including humanitarian, to Roma refugees. There were reported situations when mainstream humanitarian and civil society entities avoided to ensure aid to Roma.

Recommendations to relevant authorities

• To develop and put in place national mechanisms for monitoring the situation of Roma refugees in reception countries and to facilitate the reporting of cases of discrimination, hate incidents and crimes, as well as other forms of intolerance toward Roma refugees.

• To ensure proper investigation and no impunity for cases involving discrimination and other forms of unequal treatment of Roma refugees in line with domestic legislation. Relevant authorities should provide adequate compensation and counselling to Roma refugees who have fallen victim to discrimination.

•

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

Recommendations to relevant authorities

- To ensure that any activity or measure is adequately informed of gender, age and other characteristics of the Roma refugee flows as well as the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by Roma women and children.
- To provide support to Roma and pro-Roma civil society already in the field rendering assistance to Roma refugees.

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

Related ODIHR activities in 2022

- In May 2022, ODIHR organized a thematic meeting of the International Roma Contact Group where civil society discussed the key challenges faced by Roma refugees and internally displaced people.
- In June 2022, ODIHR organized a thematic meeting of the Informal Contact Group on Roma of the Intergovernmental Organisations with participation of FRA, EC, CoE, and UNHCR. Participants elaborated on their efforts to address the issues Roma refugees and internally displaced people.

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

- In 2022, ODIHR carried out a human rights monitoring initiative to examine to what extent Roma refugees are treated in a non-discriminatory manner according to the international standards. In this respect, ODIHR engaged with five Roma human rights defenders from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia who conducted human rights monitoring (open source reseach, interviewing) covering the timeframe 24 February to 1 August.

- In November 2022, ODIHR conducted human rights monitoring visit in Uzhhorod, Ukraine to identify and document various types of human rights abuses which targeted Roma populations since 24 February 2022. ODIHR gathered first-hand information from 20 Roma individuals (10 female, 10 male) who have survived and witnessed violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and /or have been subjected to discriminatory and unequal treatment by various parties.

ODIHR activities in 2023

- Monitoring the Human Rights Situation of Ukrainian Roma Refugees in Nine OSCE Participating States. This initiative covers neighbouring countries such as Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland (countries covered in 2022 initiative), and explores the monitoring scope for Baltic countries.

The activity is aimed at investigating arising human rights challenges and persisting concerns in relation to Ukrainian Roma refugees in the respective countries as well as to examine the measures put in place by authorities to address the discriminatory practices identified.

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

ODIHR activities in 2023

- Monitoring the Human Rights Situation of Roma People Affected by the Armed Conflict in Ukraine. The initiative is aimed at building the capacity of Roma human rights defenders from Ukraine to investigate the human rights situation of Roma in view of the ongoing armed conflict in Ukraine.

The activity is intended to elaborate on issues identified during 2022 monitoring mission as well as to explore violations of international humanitarian and human rights law in respect to Roma communities.

OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
OSCE ODIHR

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Thank you!

Beata Bislim Olahova

Beata.BislimOlahova@odihr.pl

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

ODIHR

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

PART 2

BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNT FOR MAINSTREAMING ROMA INCLUSION IN THE REFUGEE RESPONSE

Presentation of draft key lessons learned and recommendations from consultations with Roma refugees, Roma-Led Organizations and within the RCF

Discussion

ROMA VERSITAS

[DRAFT] KEY LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONSULTATIONS WITH ROMA REFUGEES – Draft for discussion

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

10 KEY AREAS

- Discrimination
- Data
- Socio-Economic Inclusion
- Protection
- Gender Empowerment
- Housing
- Child Protection
- Community Empowerment
- Health and MHPSS

1. **Actively counteract discrimination**, by means of education, positive examples, awareness-raising campaigns, integrating anti-discrimination principles into humanitarian work, effective monitoring, and accessible reporting mechanisms.

2. Protection: equal access to protection and assistance

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

- **Meaningful access to TP and associated rights**, incl. Roma refugees without proper documentation or facing barriers to accessing temporary protection.
- **Tailored awareness-raising campaigns** (in Romani/Hungarian) on TP status and procedures for Roma refugees and persons at risk of statelessness.
- **Access to justice** for victims of discrimination and **legal aid** to Romani refugees (e.g. in public administration procedures), considering literacy and information gap.
- **Capacity building for** service providers, incl. public administration staff, on specific needs by Romani refugees.
- **Focal points** at registration points specifically supporting Romani families and preventing discriminatory practices.
- **Access to specialized services** for Romani refugees with disabilities, and UASC children and support other vulnerable families.
- Employ **Romani professionals as cultural mediators** by service providers and in community centers.

3. / 4. Socio-Economic Inclusion : Promoting access to education and employment

Education [Aim of Integrated education in the long run, rather than separate educational settings and engaging community mediators/representatives of the Roma community to facilitate access to education]

- **Catch-up/after-school programs** to reduce the educational gap for Romani refugees for a smooth transition to mainstream classes and **other extracurricular activities and cultural** events by schools for integration/social cohesion.
- **Address early dropouts** through monitoring, prevention and support activities, including the provision of material support (school transportation, educational materials, clothing, and hygiene kits).
- **Sensitize school staff on cultural diversity/inclusivity in schools.**
- **Timely address segregation, bullying, and harassment** in education through cultural mediation/ sensitizing school staff.
- **Awareness for Romani parents and caregivers on benefits and opportunities (and responsibilities) of education** and **basic literacy initiatives** at the community level for Romani mothers, to improve literacy skills and support their children's education.

Employment

- **Gender-sensitive labor initiatives**/ vocational training/skills development adapted to specific needs of Romani women heads of household / youth and adults.
- **Address discrimination/exploitation at the workplace** (incl. legal aid), to ensure access to social security schemes, to partner with employers, local businesses, labor unions in recruitment for job fairs, networking events.
- **Counseling for job search, resume building, and interview preparation.**
- **Prevent risks of labor exploitation or trafficking** for the purpose of labor exploitation by raising awareness, among the refugee communities, about the rights and services available.

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

5. Housing: Facilitate long-term inclusion of Romani refugees by providing pathways out of institutional housing into (supported) independent housing + Provide safe/stable housing, address challenges such as inadequate housing conditions, homelessness, and difficulty finding affordable housing.

- **Counteract segregation in collective shelters**
- **Prevent forced evictions without alternative housing arrangements**.
- **Raise awareness** among authorities, particularly municipalities and local governments, on **adequate housing** for Romani refugees.
- Ensure access to **private accommodation schemes**.

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

6. Community empowerment: empower Romani refugees and Roma-led organizations (engage and provide funds to) as part of the response

- Ensure **Romani participation** in the project cycle (design, development, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation) of programs and initiatives that impact their communities.
- **Leadership training**, opportunities for civic engagement, and community involvement.
- **Connect Romani refugees with the host community** and facilitate exchange between Romani refugees/local Roma communities through community events/ networking opportunities.
- **Celebrate Roma culture and traditions** by organizing cultural events and exchanges between Roma refugees and host communities.
- **Employ local Roma experts as community mediators/social workers**, to foster cultural integration of refugees.
- **Address language barriers** by providing language support to Roma refugees, such as language classes and translation services.

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

7. Gender empowerment: Address cultural barriers that perpetuate gender inequality.

- **Effective protection** with focus on prevention/mitigation/response to **human trafficking**, and sexual and labor exploitation, including forced begging, forced/exploitative/sham marriages (tailored women, youth, and children)
- **Comprehensive GBV case management** (response and remedial actions), in particular access to justice for Romani GBV survivors (e.g. domestic violence) and.
- Meaningful **access to sexual and reproductive health services**, including family planning, maternal care, and information on sexual health and rights for women and girls.
- **Sensitization** on women's rights and protection mechanisms in place for survivors.
- **Gender-specific programs promoting access to jobs that can be combined with care duties, and equal access to education and training opportunities for women (e.g. childcare support).**

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

8. Child Protection: Strengthen child protection systems through **community engagement** and address the root causes of child protection risks among Romani refugee children (including poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion)

- Ensure access to birth registration and identity documents **to prevent the risk of statelessness**.
- **Tailored CP strategies** with focus on abuse, neglect, and exploitation (with technical support)
- **Early childhood education and care**, e.g. after-school support, nursery/preschool programs and other education programs, e.g. .g. scholarships, mentorship programs.
- **Quality services for children** (safe and secure accommodation, education, healthcare, family and child welfare services, including social services for families, and mental health support)
- **Promote the participation of Romani refugee children** in decision-making processes and apply their rights to express their views and have these views considered.

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

9. **Health/MHPSS**: quality support provided to Romani refugees in need who have experienced violence, discrimination marginalization, and trauma/stress linked to the conflict before/during their flight.

- **Address discrimination** in accessing good-quality healthcare.
- **Sensitize healthcare workers to the specific needs** of the Romani population.
- Address mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs among Romani refugees through **targeted programs that promote well-being, address trauma, and support mental health challenges**.
- Provide **vaccination access for Romani children**.

ROMA VERSITAS

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

10. Research and Analysis : Publicly available databases on Romani refugee figures and systematic monitoring of refugees' situations are essential for planning services to meet different needs

- Collect and compile information on protection and access to services through **community outreach** in Budapest and other counties (FGD with ADG lens; roundtable, consultations, etc.)
- Set up accessible **Complaint and Feedback mechanisms**
- **Tailored need assessments, data collection** round tables, and other forms of dialogue to identify the needs of Romani refugees impacted by the conflict.
- **Transnational cooperation with humanitarian actors in the Transcarpathia region of Ukraine** to effectively address the challenges and opportunities arising from the transnational mobility of Roma.

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ROMA VERSITAS

THANK YOU

Lorenzo Leonelli, Leonelli@unhcr.org

Boglarka Fedorko, fedorko.bogi@romaversitas.hu

Lilla Eredics, eredics.lilla@romaversitas.hu