

Roma Task Force

Meeting Details			
22.03.2024 - <i>Next meeting planned for 26nd of April 2024</i>			
10.00 am			
“Roma Voice” Coalition INTERSOS			
allamarin7@yahoo.com liaison.moldova@intersos.org			
Agenda			
Agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amare Amala: Roma Culture Week 2024 - Update and Next steps 2. Changes to Temporary Protection - Information from IGM 3. Update on RAC Testimonișanu 6 4. Presentation of the preliminary version of the Action Plan in the field of Education 5. AoB 			
Participants			
<i>Secretariat of the State Commission for Migration and Asylum, MIA</i> <i>INTERSOS</i> <i>Tarna Rom</i>	<i>IOM</i> <i>US Embassy</i> <i>Roma Voice Coalition</i> <i>UNHCR</i>	<i>UNICEF</i> <i>REACH</i> <i>General Inspectorate for Migration</i> <i>Norwegian Refugee Council</i>	<i>WeWorld</i> <i>CWS</i> <i>ROMNI</i> <i>Porojan Association</i>

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion
<p>1. Amare Amala: Roma Culture Week 2024- Update and Next steps</p>	<p>Cristina Sîrbu, co-chair of the Task Force on behalf of INTERSOS Moldova, welcomed everybody, presented the Agenda of the meeting.</p>
<p>Cristina Sîrbu Co-Chair Roma Task Force INTERSOS</p>	<p>Cristina Sîrbu discussed plans for the upcoming Roma Week activities, which aim to educate about Roma history culture, and conditions while addressing discrimination issues. Scheduled for April 8th to April 13th, the week will feature more than 36 activities spread across six days. The events, including round tables, exhibitions, concerts, and educational initiatives, target various districts in Moldova, aiming for a decentralized approach to reach a broader audience and increase social cohesion. Collaboration with multiple organizations and support from governmental bodies are key to the success of these endeavors.</p>
<p>Sorina Pînzaru UNHCR</p>	<p>Sorina Pînzaru announced plans for a regional conference on Roma issues scheduled for April 11th and 12th. Organized in collaboration with various entities including the Roma Task Force and governmental offices, the conference aims to address topics such as statelessness, education, child protection, and gender equality. Attendees will include representatives from Ukraine, Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, and Germany, facilitating networking and knowledge exchange among Roma mediators and stakeholders.</p>
<p>Cristina Sîrbu Co-Chair Roma Task Force INTERSOS</p>	<p>On April 12th, a meeting by the Minister of Education and Research will tackle educational challenges of Roma children in Vulcănești village, focusing on enrollment. On April 13th, a closing event includes a fair and Roma music concert by the Moldovan National Youth Orchestra, marking the end of the week's activities. Cristina Sîrbu emphasized collaboration with the Ministry to ensure child safety, urging coordinated efforts to maximize impact and address challenges sensitively.</p>
<p>Fede Bagolin Gender Protection WeWorld</p>	<p>Fede Bagolin said that they will be actively participating in the events as soon as they receive the schedule. Their team is eager to attend the March on Monday and offer their community center in Chișinău for space if needed. Additionally, WeWorld can provide human resources, including educators and programs, to support the initiatives.</p>

<p>Parlui Grațîela Main Specialist General Inspectorate for Migration</p>	<p>Grațîela Parlui acknowledges the initiative's merit but notes a significant issue: recently, in RAC Testimițeanu 6, 11 cases of measles were reported among Roma residents. She suggests consulting with the Ministry of Health or an epidemiologist, given the quarantine imposed since 20.02.2024. The situation is dire, necessitating involvement from the National Public Security Agency.</p> <p>Cristina expresses gratitude and confirms that this topic is indeed on the agenda. There will be consultations with relevant authorities to determine actions for minimizing cases.</p>
<p>2. Changes to Temporary Protection-Information from IGM</p> <p>Parlui Grațîela Main Specialist General Inspectorate for Migration</p> <p>Valentina Ungureanu Secretariat of the Migration and Asylum Commission within the Ministry of Internal Affairs</p>	<p>On February 28th, amendments to the government resolution extended temporary protection for Ukrainian displaced persons until March 1st, 2025. Their identity documents are automatically extended until 2025, removing the need for IGM office visits. The 45-day rule was abolished, enabling unrestricted travel. However, travelers from Ukraine now need valid documents. The Ministry of Internal Affairs will be able to verify the addresses declared by the beneficiaries of TP. Beneficiaries access financial aid, medical services, and employment support. Ungureanu Valentina raised concerns over Ukrainian citizens' obligations and single-entry requirements, noting Moldovan border challenges. Ukraine's free renewal centers ease access to European territory.</p> <p>Ungureanu Valentina emphasized that many Ukrainian refugees are inclined to leave. The requirement for beneficiaries to be present at declared locations is standard protocol for Moldovan authorities, irrespective of nationality. To address concerns of “tourism,” financial aid will be based on legal residency status in Moldova. Discussions with the Ministry of Health have led to subsidized medical benefits for refugees. Moldova’s customs code now allows beneficiaries to retain vehicles for personal use for 12 months. Only 1309 individuals were employed in the workforce by the end of February, prompting the need to urge partners to discourage illegal work.</p>

Cristina Sîrbu
Co-Chair Roma
Task Force
INTERSOS

Cristina Sîrbu asked if the extension of expired documents is possible only within Ukraine or if it can also be extended at the embassy in Chisinau.

Valentina Ungureanu
Secretariat of the
Migration and
Asylum
Commission within
the Ministry of
Internal Affairs

Valentina Ungureanu expressed uncertainty in this regard, as at the embassy, only new documents can be processed so the validity can be renewed within Ukraine.

Cristina Sîrbu
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Cristina Sîrbu asked for the cost of issuing a new document.

Parlui Grațîela
Main Specialist
General
Inspectorate for
Migration

Parlui Grațîela answered that she doesn't have exact information, but the average cost is around 30-50 euros.

Cristina Sîrbu
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Ms. Sîrbu asked about the access to medication and medical consultations for refugees from Ukraine.

<p>Parlui Grațîela Main Specialist General Inspectorate for Migration</p>	<p>Until now, the services provided remain unchanged. The Ministry of Health will, within one month after the adoption of the government resolution amendment, approve the list of medications available to beneficiaries.</p>
<p>Serghei Zubco Legal specialist IOM</p>	<p>Mr. Zubco asked where the beneficiary needs to submit the documents in case they move from one city to another.</p>
<p>Parlui Grațîela Main Specialist General Inspectorate for Migration</p>	<p>Parlui Grațîela replied that the beneficiary is required to report to the IGM within 10 days to submit an additional request.</p>
<p>Serghei Zubco Legal specialist IOM</p>	<p>Mr. Zubco asked where the beneficiary needs to submit the documents in case they move from one city to another.</p>
<p>Parlui Grațîela Main Specialist General Inspectorate for Migration</p>	<p>Parlui Grațîela responded that the beneficiary can submit the documents in the city they moved to.</p>

<p>3. Update on RAC Testimonișanu 6</p> <p>Andreea Cuisana Shelter officer UNHCR</p> <p>Cristina Sîrbu Co-Chair Roma Task Force INTERSOS</p> <p>Andreea Cuisana Shelter officer UNHCR</p>	<p>Andrea Cuisana provided updates on the current situation, stating that as of March 21, there are 11 confirmed cases and 6 suspected cases of illness. Out of these, 10 individuals have been discharged, including 8 children and 2 adults while 7 people, consisting of 2 adults and 5 children, remain hospitalized. Currently, there are 149 people accommodated in the facility under a 21-day quarantine, with Carabinieri providing security. Health services are available through a nurse on weekdays, and collaboration with family doctors and public health agencies is ongoing. A protocol has been established in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the National Agency of Public Health. Discussions are underway regarding vaccination requirements for newcomers and the provision of essential supplies during the quarantine period. Service providers have been informed of the situation, and efforts are being made to address the residents' needs.</p> <p>Ms. Sirbu emphasized the importance of vaccination, particularly among individuals arriving from Ukraine. She urged members of the Roma Task Force to disseminate information on symptoms, prevention, and vaccination through their communication channels. She suggested integrating health promotion sessions into protection activities and shared resources available on the websites of WHO, CDC, Moldovan Ministry of Health, and National Agency for Public Health. Additionally, she mentioned the availability of health-related information on the "Be Healthy" telegram channel and offered to provide verified information to support vaccination efforts.</p> <p>In addition, WHO is collaborating closely with the Ministry of Health and the National Agency of Public Health to ensure accurate information dissemination. They provided data on the number of affected individuals. For any inquiries or concerns related to health, it's recommended to contact the health working group for further assistance and clarification.</p>
<p>4. Presentation of the preliminary version of the Action Plan in the field of Education</p> <p>Cristina Sîrbu Co-Chair Roma Task Force INTERSOS</p>	<p>Last year, we started drafting an action-oriented note on Roma refugee children's education. It emphasizes holistic support, parental involvement, and inclusive school environments. Coordination among stakeholders is crucial, along with alignment with existing programs. We're keen to move from concept to action and extend this approach to child protection initiatives.</p>

<p>Casey O’Neill CWS</p> <p>Cristina Sîrbu Co-Chair Roma Task Force INTERSOS</p>	<p>Casey O’Neill inquired about the sectors in which people expressed interest in the survey, seeking an update on the information provided previously. She requested further details beyond the breakdown of interests noted in the previous meeting's minutes.</p> <p>Cristina Sîrbu discussed the decentralized approach of the Roma Task Force, initiated through a planning session to identify key sectors of interest, including child protection, education, legal capacity strengthening, health, and labor. Members were invited to indicate their preferences for involvement. While progress has been made in education and child protection, further discussions are needed to determine the next steps in each sector due to varying levels of organizational involvement.</p>
<p>Cristina Sîrbu Co-Chair Roma Task Force 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>