- Mapping and Education
- Roma Task Force

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- Photo: Ion Duminica

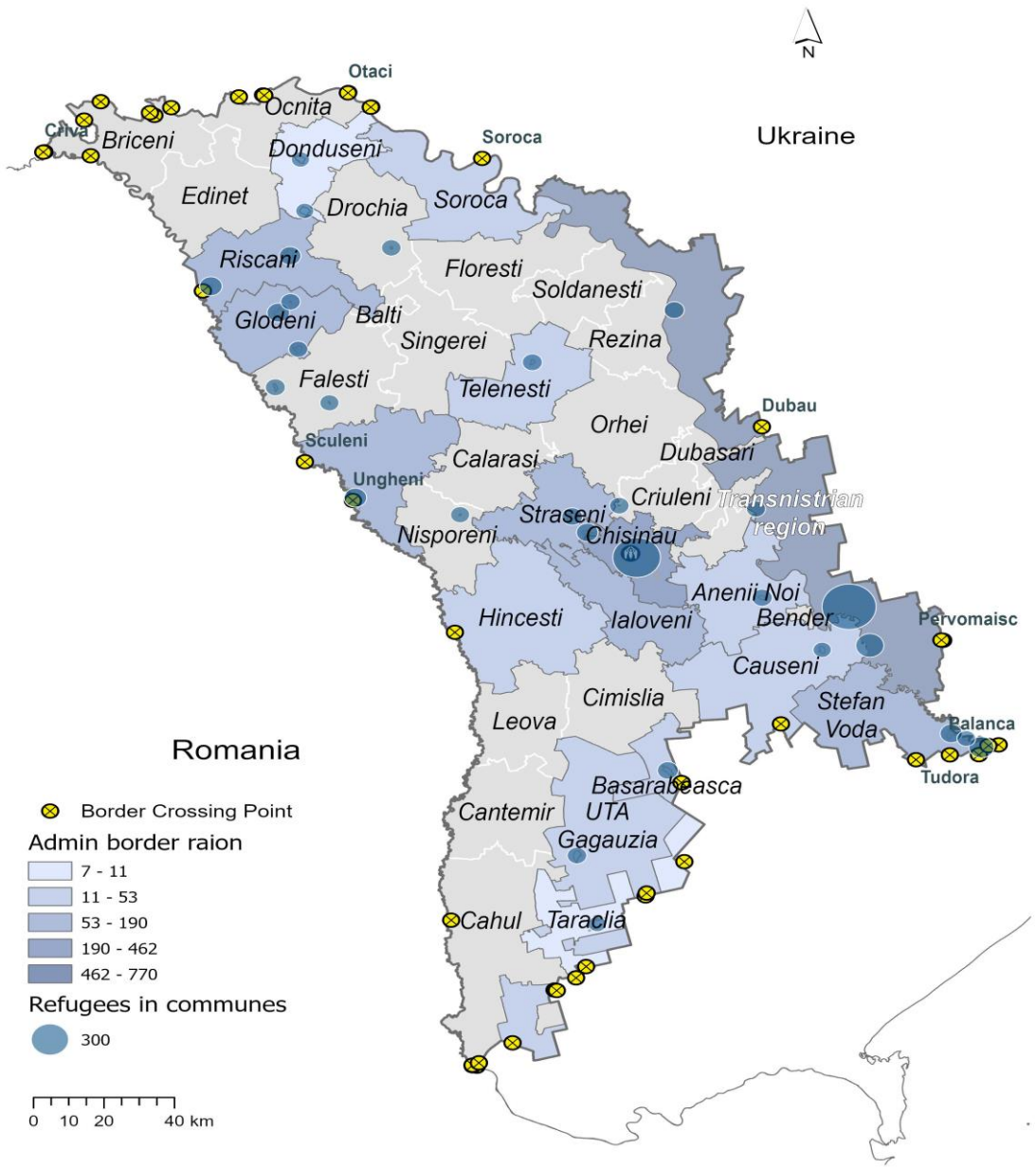
The entire society, from volunteers to mass media was engaged in a less positive reception and attitude toward Roma refugees, or even provided a hate speech

- Some of the Internews and RTF recommendations

- **It`s important to inform and report internally and externally without reinforcing prejudices and stereotypes**
- **Refugees are human beings in big destress, use the empathy and avoid the scandal motivation/scope of the subject**
- **Roma refugees are not an homogeneous group, they are very different**
- **If refuse of the interview, accept it and ask authorization for the image of the children**
- **To provide more positive human stories, more often and with more protagonists who disclose their Roma identity.**

Mapping of the Roma refugees, stage 1:

- Localized in person over 2100 Roma refugees,
- accommodated in RACs
- host communities
- and privately accommodated
- both banks of the river Dniester
- with the involvement of several entities and mediators



- Image: UNHCR for Roma Task Force

RTF mapping of the Roma refugees in Moldova:

Estimation of over 3000 Roma refugees, up to 4000 refugees in Moldova, both banks of the river Dniester, many stakeholders agree on the estimation

Localized in person over 2100 Roma refugees accommodated in RACs, host communities and privately accommodated, both banks of the river Dniester with the involvement of several entities and mediators.

Overall transited the country over 45 000 Roma refugees, according to certain stakeholders

Particular situation of the privately accommodated big groups of Roma, e.g. Vadul lui Voda, Vatra

Privately accommodated – paying, renting for accommodation to a private owner. If poor conditions as legal and WASH precarity, doubled wages, high prices for the services, end of the resources, the arrangement might not work so well.

Outcome 1: Enhanced Mediation and continuation of the arrangement, very often verbal, considering Roma group

Outcome 2: Very often if advanced conflict and multiple precarity, relocation to RACs in smaller groups or privately accommodated with better arrangements and conditions.

The particular situation of the Roma refugees group is due to the multiple vulnerabilities of their precondition before arriving to Moldova

- Other ethnic minorities might have a similar precondition, our work might include them.
- Photo: CNN

Education of Roma children, some findings from the participatory Assessment:

1. The main source of information is another person, a Roma refugee, a refugee or a local Roma mediator, activist, member of a family etc. Better is informed the Key informant, as the mediator, better are informed the Roma refugees.

2. The majority of the participants, adults and children answered that they are illeterate.

3. Some of the children, especially teen girls, answered that they frequented Roma separated schools in the Odessa Region, but can not write and read, even if they want a lot to learn

4. Some women answered that school and education is forbidden for Roma women and girls. Others disagreed with this statement, even if part of the same group.

Good practices and cases of Roma children education

Resume of identified good practices and cases:

1. **After several sessions of mediation, 8, then 12 Roma children enrolled in schools and Testemiteanu 6 RAC, but needs of transportation, educational materials, NFI partially covered.**
2. **Lack of transportation for mediators**
3. **Illiterate disabled teen, accelerated education program necessary**
4. **Illiterate adults, accelerated education program necessary**

Glodeni: 85 % of refugee children are enrolled, but NFI still necessary.
Still many Roma children stopped going to school and need more mediation, as they were enrolled without a mediator:
In October 13 Roma children enrolled into schools, only 2 frequented, then 8.
Another mediator on the location: 16 Roma children enrolled, zero at school on 16.11.

Roma Community Mediators are facilitating access to services, including medical and educational

Ex : 10 adults employed and 12 Roma children enrolled in school at Testemiteanu 6 RAC, following mediation session

- More here:

https://www.facebook.com/unhcrmoldova/photos/a.126402760770359/5455795511164364/

Key activities -1

- More envolvement with the North and left bank of the river Dniester, especially with the Community Mediators, Ngos and initiave grous, refugee leaders, as well
- To reinforce the capacity of local Roma NGOs and initiative groups, especially in the line with the implementation of the Temporary Protection
- Training for the Community Mediators, activists, refugee leaders, in the line with the implementation of the Temporary Protection
- Accelerated programs of education for illiterate children; targeted outreach is required to ensure that Roma children are in school and learning.

Key activities - 2

- Community projects to enhance cohesion, integration and peaceful cohabitation
- Vocational training and employment integration via UNHCR partners
- Transitional accommodation as an advocacy action or some cases in test
- Adapted written, audio and video materials - into different dialects of Romani and other languages
- To improve the case management concerning referrals to other working groups, organizations
- Tarna Rom 10 months project via RRP 2023, capacity building in education for Chisinau, Basarabeasca, Anenii Noi, Edinet, Glodeni, Ialoveni, Criuleni, Stefan Voda, Ungheni.

Multiple particular vulnerabilities of the Roma group -1

Psychosocial distress due to displacement, lack of schooling, separation from family aggravated by differences of language, culture, religious cults and traditions, even among the Roma refugees, as the group is not homogenous

Lack of accessible information and no informative materials in Romani language

Lack of access to services as administrative, police and medical, due to lack of trust into the authorities and lack of accessible information

Total or partial lack of documentation

Lack of electronic devices and/or digitalization

Multiple particular vulnerabilities of the Roma group -2

- Lower enrolment into schools, higher dropouts during major crisis as Covid and refugee crisis;
- Higher illiteracy rates among Roma children and adults;
- Family separation resulting in heightened care burden on women and UASC;
- Risks of violence, abuse and exploitation including child labour and physical discipline might be increased for the Roma group;
- Specific risks for girls including gender-based violence, sexual abuse and exploitation, and trafficking are increased for the Roma group;
- In the case of multiple vulnerabilities cumulated as Roma children with special needs and insufficient medical care.

Particular Information needs

- Roma refugees are the most important information source
- Trust is heavily influenced by the information carriers
- Unavailability of information in their mother tongue
- Illiteracy as an obstacle to receiving written information.
- Digital access is shared
- Roma refugees in private accommodation are mostly more disconnected from the information relevant to them.
- Low access to TV or Radio prevent Roma refugees from accessing information provided through the media.
- Recommendations provided by Internews, Women Platform ROMNI and CRS will be followd up with the AAP Task Force

Good practices
Roma Task Force

- Joint meetings and field visits with various stakeholders
- Employment of at least 3 Roma Community Mediators and other spec.
- Enhanced collaboration on solving difficult medical and legal cases
- Collaboration for humanitarian needs
- Better coordination of the Child protection partners

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THANK YOU !