

Monitoring the human rights situation of Roma in Ukraine

Country report
September 2014

“This publication/report was published with the support of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). The opinions and information it contains do not necessarily reflect the policy and position of ODIHR.”



Table of contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Acknowledgements..... | 5 |
| Executive summary..... | 6 |
| Introduction | 8 |
| Methodology..... | 11 |
| 1. <i>THE OVERVIEW OF ROMA SITUATION IN UKRAINE</i> | 12 |
| 1.2 Overview of the legislation on protection of national minorities in Ukraine..... | 13 |
| 1.3 Activities of the state to ensure the rights of Roma..... | 15 |
| 1.4 Lack of civil registration documents..... | 17 |
| 1.5 Housing and living conditions..... | 19 |
| 1.6 Access to health care..... | 20 |
| 1.7 Access to education..... | 21 |
| 1.8 Access to employment..... | 22 |
| 1.9 Participation in public and political life..... | 23 |
| 2. <i>SITUATION OF ROMA IN CRIMEA</i> | 24 |
| 3. <i>DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION SINCE MID-APRIL UNTILL AUGUST 2014</i> | 28 |
| 3.1 Support provided to displaced Roma communities | 30 |
| 3.2 Lack of civil registration documents..... | 31 |
| 3.3 Housing and living conditions..... | 32 |
| 3.4 Access to healthcare..... | 34 |
| 3.5 Access to education..... | 35 |
| 3.6 Access to employment..... | 36 |
| 3.7 Threats and violence against Roma..... | 37 |
| 4. <i>CONCLUSIONS</i> | 38 |
| 5. <i>BIBLIOGRAPHY</i> | 41 |

Abbreviations and Acronyms

| | |
|-------------|---|
| ATO | Anti-terrorist operation |
| CPRSI | Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues |
| ERRC | European Roma Rights Centre |
| IDP | Internally displaced persons |
| NGO | Non-governmental organization |
| ODIHR | OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights |
| OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| UN CESCR | United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. |
| USSR | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics |
| UNFPA | United Nations Population Fund |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| UNHCR | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication presents the results of the monitoring of the human rights situation of Roma in Ukraine conducted in ten regions of Ukraine. The monitoring was carried out by the International Charitable Organization "Roma Women's Fund" Chirikli with the support of ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

The publication reflects an impact of recent changes in the country on the security situation of Roma (including the cases when people had to move because of security threats or other reasons), on the access to social services (access to social assistance, pensions or other welfare schemes) and health services. The information was collected from Roma and Romani women in Donetsk, Luhansk, Odessa, Kharkiv, Crimea, Kherson, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Kyiv and Korosten.

The International Charitable Organization "Roma Women Fund "Chiricli" would like to thank the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

We would like to also express appreciation to organizations, partners and individuals who were involved in conducting the monitoring including:

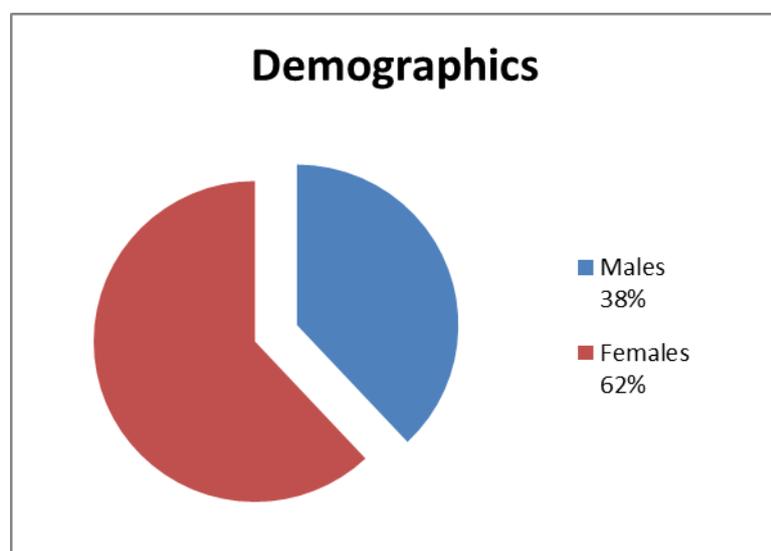
Mrs Jujuna Duduchava, Ms Natalia Varakuta, Mr Ivanenko Yuriy, Mrs Darina Horvat, Mr Mykola Urchenko, Mr Robert Kaldaras, Mrs Janna Klimenko, Ms Elena Marchuk, Mr Mykolaj Burlutskij and Mrs Valentina Zolotarenko.

The ICO "Roma Women Fund "Chiricli" also wishes to thank all of the Romani and non-Romani individuals who agreed to be interviewed and take part in the focus groups.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The events that took place from November 2013 and the subsequent conflict in the East of Ukraine, gave rise to serious concerns about human rights violations. The number of Roma communities becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs) has increased dramatically since the beginning of June 2014. UNHCR estimates that in early August 2014 the number of registered internally displaced people (IDP) was over 117,000 persons. There is a high discrepancy in numbers because of the large amount of people who refuse to register as IDPs. Many IDPs also refrain from registering for fear of persecution or lack of passports and birth certificates.

No accurate data is available about the number of internally displaced Roma, but according to Roma non-governmental organizations and Roma health mediators there are 9000 displaced Roma, predominantly women and children from urban and rural areas of the East of Ukraine.



Male 38% Female 62% ¹

The cities that Roma IDPs have moved from are as follows: Lunacharsk, Sverdlovsk, Yenakievo, Krasnyi Lyman, Perevalsk, Balbasovka, Shchastie, Krasnyi Luch, Stahanov, Antratsyt, Makiivka, Luhansk, Kramatorsk and Donetsk. The main regions or cities which the Roma IDPs have moved to: Kharkiv region, Odessa region, Zhytomir region, Kyivv region and Poltava region.

Assistance to displaced Roma comes predominantly from volunteer groups, Roma NGOs, Roma churches and Ukrainian regional authorities. International assistance to internally displaced Roma remains modest. We received a number of complaints from Roma who remained in the Eastern regions that they had not received any assistance or humanitarian help from the local authorities or

¹ "Chiricli" report Monitoring of Human Rights Situation of Roma in Ukraine conducted in Donetsk, Luhansk, Odesa, Kharkiv, AR Crimea, Kherson, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Kiev, Korosten from July 2014- August 2014.

volunteer groups. *For example*, the Romani woman from Sverdlovsk, Luhansk region told our researcher that the Roma community did not even have water and for 3 months never received any humanitarian assistance². 80 displaced Roma people from Kharkiv region informed our researcher that most of the assistance and accommodation was provided by local Roma NGO and the Roma mediators³.

Direct experience of violence, including violence against women and perception of imminent threat was the main reason why many Roma people decided to leave their home regions. Only the most important items were brought along.

At the time they were interviewed, most internally displaced Roma from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions expressed their intention to return home as soon as the security situation allows. They did not have the information about the state of their homes. The interviewed Roma expressed their concern because of the current situation and approaching winter. 130 interviewed women were not able to receive child benefits and did not have any source of income. Our researches interviewed 2 Roma families originally from Donetsk region that fled to Kharkiv and had to take their children to urgent care as they got sick. They informed our researcher that, having no passports, birth certificates and money the children could not get medical treatment. The restoration of health care facilities and registration procedures set-up for Roma communities are essential.

The results of the conducted monitoring shows that about 525 interviewed Roma were not aware of the assistance schemes available for them and didn't know where to find information about shelters, and other types of assistance.

² Interview with a 58 year-old Roma woman originally from Sverdlovsk, now internally displaced in Kharkiv, 19.07.2014.

³ Interview done during the focus group in Kharkiv and Merefa, Roma originally from Donetsk region now internally displaced to Kharkiv region.

INTRODUCTION

According to 2001 official census,⁴ there are 47 587 Roma living in Ukraine, although according to unofficial statistics, the real number of Roma living in Ukraine is much higher, from 100 000 to 400 000 Roma.⁵ Roma live dispersed all over Ukraine. According to the estimations of Roma NGOs, the biggest Roma settlements are in Odessa (about 15 000 Roma) and Zakarpattia (about 40 000 Roma).

While the human rights situation in Ukraine is generally quite complex,⁶ the situation of the Roma community is of particular concern. Roma in Ukraine face direct and indirect discrimination in all spheres of life⁷, as well as are subjected to hearing anti-Roma speeches from elected officials and hate speech against Roma in mass media⁸. Available data, often collected by civil society organisations, indicate that many Roma communities in Ukraine live in conditions of extreme poverty, often in segregated settlements with little or no access to services such as the education system, healthcare system and other essential services. Lack of personal identification documents and house registration documents are fundamental barriers for Roma in access to education, employment and health care.

Many Roma communities in Ukraine live in conditions of extreme poverty without clean water, heating or electricity. As a result the health status of a large number of Roma is worse than that of a comparable segment of the non-Roma community.

In order to address the vulnerable position of the Roma communities in Ukraine, in 2013, the Government of Ukraine adopted the Strategy for the Protection and Integration of Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society until 2020 (the Strategy)⁹ and the National Action Plan (the NAP) on the Implementation of the Strategy.¹⁰

In December 2013 the Cabinet of Ministers issued an order to the effect that regional administrations have to develop Regional Action Plans with indicators and budget lines. However, regional administrations are facing problems in this regard as they lack reliable data about the number of Roma in their regions, and they also lack knowledge on which indicators to use.

⁴ State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, All-Ukrainian Population Census, available at: <http://2001.ukrcensus.gov.ua/eng/>.

⁵ Figures taken from a document prepared by the Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Division, available at http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/romatravellers/default_en.asp.

⁶ OHCHR Report on the human rights situation in Ukrain. 15 December 2014

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/UA/OHCHR_eighth_report_on_Ukraine.pdf

⁷ See the report of the Roma mediators <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/biblioteka/item/43-romskimedychni-poserednyky-v-ukraini-dosiahnennia-vyklyky-mozhlyvosti>. The ERRC report on access to quality education <http://www.errc.org/article/romani-children-face-problems-in-accessing-quality-educationin-ukraine/2977>

⁸ <https://news.pn/ru/public/108048> ; <http://lviv-udar.com/archives/7772>

⁹ Decree of the President of Ukraine, No 201 of 8 April 2013, available at <http://www.president.gov.ua/ru/documents/15628.html>.

¹⁰ News item about the approval of the National Action Plan available at http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/ru/publish/article?art_id=246670769.

The ERRC and “Chiricli” have repeatedly raised a number of issues in relation to the National Action Plan:

- The Strategy and the NAP have been developed with insufficient participation of Roma representatives.
- The NAP does not foresee any budget responsibilities and allocations.
- The NAP lacks concrete targets in many areas, and does not outline indicators for successful monitoring of its implementation.
- As of yet, no nation-wide monitoring mechanisms have been created.

These shortcomings make it difficult to implement and monitor the possible implementation of the plan or even to review and adjust the policies.

The Roma Women Fund “Chiricli” has organised and conducted numerous high level meetings¹¹ with the national and local authorities to discuss the National Roma Action Plan and its implementation¹². Since May 2014 Ukraine joint CoE/EC program “ROMED-2”¹³ is implemented in 5 regions of Ukraine: Odesa, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Zakarpattia and Kirovohrad, Community Action Groups and Municipality Working Groups on Roma issues were established. This helped to organise consultations with the local Roma NGOs, communities and regional/city administrations. Municipality working groups on Roma issues were approved by the orders of the Heads of the regional/city administrations.

Since February 2014, the Roma Women Fund “Chiricli” was receiving information about the incidents of violence and threats directed against Romani individuals and communities in different regions of Ukraine. Only in February 2014, 17 Roma became victims of anti-Roma incidents in Kyiv region.

Based on the reports “Chiricli” received from the Roma communities, it was evident that some groups targeted Roma to aggravate the relations between the Roma and the majority ethnic group. In this context, the “Roma Council of Ukraine”, together with “Chiricli” made public statements regarding the incidents of violence and intimidation directed against Roma communities. Later, in April 2014, the ERRC, International Renaissance Foundation and

¹¹ see the information about the round table discussion on Strategy on the Protection and Integration of Roma national minority into Ukrainian society up to 2020, conducted on 21 August 2013 <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/2-zasidannia-kruhloho-stolu> ;

¹² The round table discussion on Integration of Roma into Ukrainian society, conducted in Lviv on 06 November 2014 <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/70-u-lvovi-vidbuvsia-kruhlyi-stil-shchodo-intehratsii-romskoi-spilnoty-u-suspilstvo> ; The trainings for social workers and state officials on Implementation of the Roma Strategy, conducted during the period from October – December 2014. 56 participants were trained. <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/69-treninhy-na-temu-stratehii-sotsialnoho-zakhystu-ta-intehratsii-v-ukrainske-suspilstvo-romskoi-natsionalnoi-menshyny-na-period-do-2020-roku>; The round table discussion on implementation of the Roma Strategy, conducted in Kirovograd on 1 June 2014. <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/33-kirovohradska-miska-rada-vidbulosia-zasidannia-kruhloho-stolu-shchodo-zakhystu-ta-intehratsii-v-ukrainske-suspilstvo-romskoi-natsionalnoi-menshyny>

¹³ Launching the ROMED-2 program in Ukraine, 21-22 May 2014 <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/28-zakhid-prysviachenyi-pryiednanniu-ukrainy-do-prohramy-romed2>

Chiricli published the Joint Statement on Violence against Roma in Ukraine¹⁴, which attracted the attention of international organizations and the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. On 2 July, 2014 the OSCE Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti issues conducted the meeting¹⁵ with the Roma NGOs representatives and Roma mediators with the goal of gathering information about the current situation of the internally displaced Roma, to find out about the main problems and needs of displaced Roma, as well as to accumulate the resources of stakeholders to assist the Roma migrants. In August 2014 ODIHR published the “Situation Assessment Report on Roma in Ukraine and the Impact of the Current Crisis¹⁶”. This report is a unique source of information on this topic. On 25 September 2014, a special side event “The Situation of Roma in the Current Crisis Situation in Ukraine” was organized by the ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues in the framework of the 2014 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting¹⁷. The side event gave an opportunity to present the key findings of the study on the human rights situation of Roma and particularly Roma women in Ukraine.

While “Chiricli” received information through its Roma mediator¹⁸ network about the incidents or the situation in the communities. The information was often not reported to the international community. The reason for not reporting the data to the international community was the fear of the Roma communities that this information can be discovered by the separatists and used against other Roma. According to the information received from our local partners and the mediators, “Chiricli” observed the aggravation of the situation since mid-April, particularly in the Eastern part of Ukraine. With the support of ODIHR CPRSI “Chiricli” conducted a monitoring to obtain field data about the impact of the recent critical changes on the situation of Roma in the Autonomous Republic (AR) of Crimea, Odessa, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Kyiv, Korosten, Zhytomir and Cherkasy.

¹⁴ Joint Statement on Violence Against Roma in Ukraine <http://www.errc.org/article/joint-statement-on-violence-against-roma-in-ukraine/4278>

¹⁵ The meeting of CPRS with the Roma NGOs and mediators. Kiev, 2 July 2014 <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/novini/item/54-vstrecha-romskikh-organizatsij-s-miryam-karoli>

¹⁶ See the report <http://www.osce.org/odihr/124494>

¹⁷ The side event was conducted on 25 September 2014 in Warsaw <http://www.osce.org/odihr/124548>

¹⁸ The Roma health and social mediators program <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/biblioteka/item/43-romski-medychni-poserednyky-v-ukraini-dosiahnennia-vyklyky-mozhlyvosti>

METHODOLOGY

The objective of the report is to inform the international community and national actors about the specific needs and human rights situation of Roma, with the goal of ensuring adequate assistance and protection of Roma.

In order to gather information for the report, Chiricli, in co-operation with ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, prepared a questionnaire focusing on the impact of the recent developments on the security situation of Roma (including the cases when people had to move because of security threats or other reasons), on the access to social services (access to social assistance, pensions or other welfare schemes) and health services. The questionnaire includes the following thematic sections: general data, housing; access to health care, access to employment, access to education, domestic violence; participation in public and political life.

The report incorporates information gathered through the consultations with the local Roma NGOs and local authorities; monitoring visits to AR Crimea, Odessa, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Kyiv, Korosten, Zhytomir and Cherkasy; focus groups and individual interviews of displaced Roma and local Roma.

Because of the dangerous security situation in Luhansk region the researcher was not able to go there. The information about the Roma who remained in Luhansk and the region was collected by the Roma mediator.

The report also includes the information received from Roma NGOs, Roma mediators and local authorities. The report contains information from ODIHR reports and reports of international organizations.

In total 840 (32.2% women and 67.8% men) Roma were interviewed in AR Crimea, Odessa, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Kyiv, Korosten, Zhytomir, Luhansk and Cherkasy. Out of 840 interviewed Roma 49% were displaced from the Eastern regions of Ukraine.

429 Roma participated in the focus groups out of which 43.2% were women and 56.8% were men.

7 consultations were conducted with the representatives of city administration in AR Crimea, Odessa, Kharkiv, Kherson, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Kyiv and Cherkasy. The consultations were conducted with several Roma NGOs: “Roma Legal Centre” in Odessa, Roma women NGO “Miriclya” in Donetsk, International Roma NGO “Ketane” and “All-Ukrainian Roma Council” in Kherson; regional Roma NGO “Ternipe” in Lviv and the regional Roma NGO “Chachimo” in Kharkiv.

The first part of the report briefly describes the overview of Roma situation. The second part of the report gives information about the internally displaced Roma

situation based on the interviews and focus groups with the IDPs from the regions of Ukraine.

1. THE OVERVIEW OF ROMA SITUATION IN UKRAINE

Roma in Ukraine face discrimination and social exclusion every day. Available data, often collected by civil society organisations, indicates that many Romani communities in Ukraine live in conditions of extreme poverty, often in segregated settlements with little or no access to services such as the education system, healthcare system and other essential services.

Population density varies throughout the country, but the largest concentrations of Roma according to the estimates of local Roma NGOs and the Roma health and social mediators live in Zakarpattia (about 45.000), Odessa (about 20.000) and Kharkiv (about 18. 000) regions.

According to the 2001 official census, Roma live in the regions of Zakarpattia (14.004), Donetsk (4.106), Dnipropetrovsk (4.067), Odessa (4.035), Kharkiv (2.325), Luhansk (2.284), and AR Crimean (1.896)¹⁹.

According to the estimations of the Council of Europe, the number of Roma in Ukraine varies from 120.000 to 400.000²⁰ The discrepancy between official and unofficial data can be explained by the partial lack of documents in Roma and fear of persecution on the basis of their ethnic origin.

Lack of personal identification documents and house registration documents are fundamental barriers for Roma in access to education, employment and health care. According to the Roma health mediators reports 20670 Roma do not have personal identification documents.

According to a survey of social and health mediators, housing conditions of Roma population remains in critical condition. Almost 60% of families are in need of better housing or at least repair of their homes. The majority of Roma families live in damaged houses with **2-3 families** in one room, about **9000 people in 5 regions of Ukraine** are not registered, according to mediators' data²¹.

¹⁹ State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, *All-Ukrainian Population Census 2001*: <http://2001.ukrcensus.gov.ua/rus/results/general/nationality/>

²⁰ Human rights in Ukraine <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1362647447>

²¹ Report Roma social and health mediators in Ukraine: achievements, challenges and opportunities <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/en/library/item/73-roma-social-and-health-mediators-in-ukraine-achievements-challenges-and-opportunities>

Social and health mediators analyzed the state of the employment of the Roma population in the 12 regions of Ukraine²² and reported that most of the Roma suffer from mass unemployment. Roma, for various reasons, are unable to receive benefits and bank loans on equal grounds with the general population. Many Roma have seasonal jobs or migrate for work to regions. A lot of Roma also have to either beg or settle for odd jobs.

According to the European Roma Rights Centre, the majority of Roma children do not finish school and / or even leave school illiterate²³. According to the results of research of the Roma population, in certain cases the high number of people with incomplete secondary school education is related to early marriages²⁴. However, it is important to note that Romani girls in pursuing their education face such barriers as poverty and lower expectations of community or family members regarding the education of the girls. The Roma boys, on the other hand, normally can finish secondary school and even get higher education.

1.2 Overview of the legislation on protection of national minorities in Ukraine

Ukraine has undertaken international legal obligations in the field of integration of Roma into Ukrainian society. In particular, the country has ratified several international, conventions and charters, including the following:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- The Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- European Convention on Human Rights
- The European Social Charter (revised)
- The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities
- The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Recommendations and resolutions of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe member states - Recommendation Rec (2001) 17 and Rec (2005) 4 on improving the economic and employment situation of Roma and nomads in Europe.

²² Odesa, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Donetsk, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Kharkov , Kiev, Luhansk, AR Crimea, and Kirovohrad.

²³ ERRC // Ukraine: Information about country 2011-2012. — Budapest, 2012.
<http://www.errc.org/cms/upload/file/ukraine-country-profile-2011-2012.pdf>

²⁴ UNFPA research on early marriages <http://www.chirikli.com.ua/index.php/ua/biblioteka/item/45-dytiachyi-shliub>

- Rec (2008) 5 on state policies on Roma and nomads in Europe, №1557 (2002) on the legal situation of Roma in Europe, №1924 (2010) on the situation of Roma in Europe and relevant activities of the Council of Europe.

A separate Recommendation Rec (2006) 10 on July 12, 2006 dedicated to the obligation of states to ensure the best possible access of Roma to services in health.

In 2003 the OSCE adopted the "Action Plan to improve the Roma and Sinti situation in the OSCE region". The plan includes provisions relating to education culture, social status, employment, property rights, health and many other areas of concern.

In October 2010 the member states of the Council of Europe signed the Strasbourg Declaration after the high-level meeting on the situation of Roma It contains the list of corresponding priorities and actions of the Council of Europe.

The international community and international organizations (UN, Council of Europe, OSCE and the European Union) all emphasize the importance of effective and organic integration methods - "social inclusion" of citizen-representatives of the national minorities into public social and political life.

The protection of national minorities, the implementation of the principle of equal rights and non-discrimination in Ukraine are guaranteed by the Constitution of Ukraine (Articles 11, 24, 26, 35, 37) and national legislation (Law of Ukraine "On National Minorities in Ukraine", "On Local Government in Ukraine", "On Legal Status of Foreigners", "On Provision of Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men", "On Preventing and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine", "On Foundations of Social Protection of the Disabled in Ukraine", etc.).

On 28 September 2012 the Parliament passed the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention and Combating Discrimination in Ukraine" (with amendments made in accordance with the Law No.1263-VII as of 05/13/2014, BD, 2014, No. 27, Art. No. 915)²⁵.

Nevertheless, the experts point out the imperfection of this law to combat discrimination and unequal treatment²⁶. Although the law offers definitions of "direct discrimination" and "indirect discrimination"; there are no specific provisions against discrimination. At the same time, Ukrainian administrative and criminal law does not prescribe any liability specific types of responsibility for it²⁷. According to Ukrainian and international experts, the main problem of Ukrainian anti-discrimination law is the lack of clear

²⁵ <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/5207-17>

²⁶

²⁷ See also <http://helsinki.org.ua/index.php?id=1398048871>

mechanism for its implementation and lack of provisions concerning liability for discrimination.

Unfortunately, the acting law does not set an alternative to criminal liability for discrimination and thus put the issue to Article 161 CPU. This leads to the impossibility of practical implementation of the provisions of the Law. Ukraine lacks systematic approach to combating discrimination.

1.3. Activities of the state to ensure the rights of Roma

In 2003 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the first comprehensive document on Roma - Program of Social and Spiritual Resurgence of Roma in Ukraine until 2006, measures which was aimed at the definition of the step by step process to create the conditions for meeting ethnic, social, and cultural needs of the Roma population. The State budget did not provide funds for its implementation and the program was not implemented successfully. The State Committee for National Minorities and Religions was the Ukrainian organization responsible for national minorities' issues, including Roma issues. In December 2010, the President of Ukraine signed a decree dismissing the Committee and downgrading it to a Department within the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

In early 2013, the President of Ukraine signed a Decree on “Protection and Integration of Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society until 2020”²⁸

(The Strategy) The strategy was developed by the Ministry of Culture to with the goal of implementing Paragraph 15 of the Protocol No.9 of the meeting of the Coordination Centre to implement actions concerning the liberalization of the EU visa regime for Ukraine starting from 19 April 2012

The Strategy defines the main objectives in the areas of legal protection of Roma, social security and employment, enhancing the level of education, health care, improved living conditions and meeting the cultural and information needs of Roma. The Strategy was followed by the adoption of a “National Action Plan” (NAP) in September 2013²⁹.

The adoption of this strategy and the recognition of the complex problems that exist among the Roma population is a major step for Ukraine. However, the adoption of the document will not solve these problems. The Roma civil society representatives said that they need concrete measures that can improve the situation of Roma in Ukraine.

²⁸ Signed and approved by the President of Ukraine on 8 April 2013

<http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/201/2013>

²⁹ <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/701-2013-%D1%80>

In August 2013 in Kiev the coalition of Roma organizations in cooperation with International "Renaissance" Foundation organized a roundtable "Discussion of the draft of the National Action plan to implement the Strategy of social protection and integration of Roma people into Ukrainian society by 2020". The meeting was attended by 60 participants, representatives of all relevant Ministries, the International Organization for Migration, UN Office in Ukraine, the US Embassy in Ukraine, the Delegation of European Commission to Ukraine, the World Health Organization in Ukraine, Bureau of Interethnic Relations (Moldova) and Roma NGOs from different regions of Ukraine. The alternative reports on the implementation of the Strategy were presented by the Roma Council Ukraine and ICO "Chiricli." Roma representatives noted that the Strategy and the NAP Action Plan includes the statistics obtained in the census of 2001, i.e. 13 years ago.

The Roma NGOs highlighted another problem: the measures set up in the NAP do not take into account the specificity of the Roma population tendency to migrate, the lack of identification documents of the large section of the Roma, etc.). The participants of the round table discussed the need for the introduction of simplified algorithms for obtaining identification documents for the Roma population for at least a limited period. The main concern of the Roma civil society representatives is that the Strategy and NAP have been developed without the participation of Roma representatives. The NAP does not have the budget allocations and does not outline indicators for its successful implementation. Very serious shortcoming in the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan is the lack of coordination between the ministries responsible for the implementation of certain areas.

In December 2013 the Cabinet of Ministers issued an order stipulating that regional administrations have to develop Regional Action Plans with indicators and budget lines. However, regional administrations are facing problems in this regard as they lack reliable data about the number of Roma in their regions, and they also lack shared understanding of which indicators to use.

Due to the events in eastern Ukraine, the government's ability to implement the NAP was very limited. The local budgets that had to allocate money for the implementation of the regional action plans were reduced.

Among the positive changes that have occurred since 2013, we can mention the appearance of the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers as of 11 September 2013 No.701-r "On Approval of the Action Plan Concerning the Implementation of the Strategy for Protection and Integration of Roma National Minority into Ukrainian Society for the Period until 2010"³⁰. Many regional administrations³¹

³⁰ Order of the Cabinet of Ministers on 11 September 2013 p. №701-p
http://zakon.nau.ua/doc/?doc_id=793549

³¹ The working group on implementation of the regional action plans were established in Odesa, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Kirovohrad, Cherkasy, Zolotonosha, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia regions.

have established working groups which include representatives of local departments, representatives of Roma organizations and Roma mediators. For the first time in many years, the meetings with the representatives of Roma organizations and regional administrations were held and the needs of the Roma population were taken into account during the development of regional action plans. Such meetings were held in Cherkasy, Odesa, Volyn, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Zakarpattia, Luhansk, Kirovohrad and other regions of Ukraine.

It is important to note that, despite the difficult political situation in the country, the implementation of the Action Plan continues; moreover, the Cabinet issued an order for development of regional action plans.

This gives hope that Ukraine will pursue the fulfilment of its commitments to improve the situation of Roma community.

In June 2014, despite the difficult situation in the country, a new position of **Government Commissioner for Ethnic Policy**³² was created within the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. The question of the rights of vulnerable groups (including Roma) in Ukraine, combating discrimination and intolerance are always in the focus of the professional interests of the **Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights**³³.

1.4. Lack of civil registration documents

One of the main problems faced by the Roma population in Ukraine is the lack of passports and birth certificates. This includes people who lived in the USSR until 1990, and those who then moved from one Soviet Socialist Republic to another.

ERRC and Chiricli research in the recent years has identified lack of personal identification documents as a significant problem for Roma in many parts of Ukraine. The ERRC has worked with communities in Odessa region since 2011, assisting Roma in application for personal documents. In three communities between 30% and 40% of Roma reported that they lack at least one of the documents which are necessary in order to access a range of services.

The Roma are facing the following obstacles, relating to the lack of documents:

- The problem of delivering children at home
- The lack of birth certificates
- No personal or family housing
- Lack of the registration and the occupants registry of a house
- Lack of education and understanding of the importance of IDs
- Lack of funds to pay for relevant documents and to pay a fine

³² Order #164 On Government Commissionaire on Ethno- National Policy
<http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/164-2014-%D0%BF>

³³ The official website of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights
<http://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/ua/page/secretariat/history/>

- Illegal Roma settlements (“tabors”) or houses

There are several reasons why Roma lack particular documents; some missed deadlines for exchanging documents following the collapse of the Soviet Union and were not aware that such deadlines existed; some did not have documents during the Soviet period and now cannot prove their place and date of birth, or their length of residence in Ukraine; some had lost personal documents and were unable to replace them. Another serious problem that people face while obtaining passports is registration at place of residence, which makes it impossible for Roma living in illegal settlements to obtain passports.

However, according to official instruction for receiving passport, the lack of registration should never be a reason for refusal to issue a passport. The Roma mediators working in 12 regions of Ukraine informed “Chiricli” that they never had one single case when someone was issued a passport in the absence of residents’ registration.

In 2012-2013 Roma mediators helped 6783 Romani individuals to get registration, 2052 - to receive birth certificates, and 1246 - to receive their internal passport/national identity document. 102 individuals were also helped to receive a pension and 82 to receive disability allowance.³⁴ The mediators worked in close cooperation with the Centres of Family and Youth Issues as well as with the Centres of Registration of Homeless People. The latter helped 6789 Roma to obtain the temporary resident registrations, however not all the Centres of Registration of Homeless People were open for co-operation.

Obtaining of civil registration documents in Ukraine is regulated by the Family Code³⁵ of Ukraine, the Law of State Registration of Acts of Civil Status³⁶ which both say that the registration of birth certificate should be issued following the application by parents or in case when it is not possible, the registration of birth can be performed by the relatives or representatives of the medical institution where the baby was born. Otherwise the birth certificate can be obtained through the court procedure, three witnesses are necessary to confirm the identity of the person. Without support of NGOs in doing so, this process can be particularly complex and expensive.

Low levels of literacy make it difficult for some people to perform the complex bureaucratic procedures necessary for receiving the documents; and, as is outlined in the report of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights to the CESCR, there are issues with employees of relevant state bodies,

³⁴ Field research and interviews carried out by Chiricli in 2013.

³⁵ Family Code of Ukraine <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2947-14>

³⁶ Law on State Registration of Acts of Civil Status <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2398-17>

who require Roma to hand in additional documents which are not foreseen by the current regulations³⁷.

Lack of identification documents prevents anyone from exercising almost all social and economic rights (for employment, education, medical care, social assistance and pension). The absence of a child's birth certificate in practice deprives him or her of the right to education, which precludes his/her further socialization and social integration and makes it impossible to receive higher education and to find a job. Education is the main link in the integration of Roma.

Women who have no documents cannot obtain birth certificates for their children and cannot receive child benefits, which is in some cases one of the main financial resources for women.

1.5. Housing and living conditions

Housing standards and security of tenure are both major problems for Roma in Ukraine³⁸. As outlined above in relation to personal documents, Roma often lack the necessary documents in relation to housing and so are at risk of eviction. Roma may lack documents to show proof of ownership of their housing, despite having lived in this housing for several years. Roma may also lack proof of ownership of the land on which their housing is situated. The document acquisition process in relation to land and housing is not only time-consuming and complex, but can also potentially be expensive. The living conditions vary from region to region but in most cases it's substandard.

According to the information gathered through Roma mediators about 11,000 Romani individuals across eight regions are not officially registered at any address, and so lack this important personal document and are at risk of eviction.

In July 2013 the ERRC and Chiricli documented a situation in Khust, Zakarpattia region in which over 300 people, many of them children, were threatened with eviction if they did not vacate the land on which they were living. Representatives of the municipality threatened to begin legal action against the families if they did not move. The families were offered no suitable alternative accommodation; authorities suggested that they could move to a nearby settlement which is already extremely overcrowded. These families have

³⁷ The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)³⁷ and Chiricli³⁷ written comments concerning Ukraine for consideration by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) at its 52nd Session from 28th April to 23rd May 2014.

³⁸ The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)³⁸ and Chiricli³⁸ written comments concerning Ukraine for consideration by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) at its 52nd Session from 28th April to 23rd May 2014

been living on this land for approximately five years. They did not have proof of ownership of the land but have tried to legalise their dwellings in the past.

The Roma settlements are not equipped with centralized water supply and sanitation. For example in Beregovo, Zakarpatska oblast, an illegal Roma settlement accommodates about 5000 Roma. They live in houses without electricity and water or in tents. In Kyiv there are 2 big Roma settlements in which people live in deplorable conditions. One of the settlements is located in Holiiv district, on a former dump, which contained radioactive substances dangerous to human health. Each Romani family that came to this settlement has at least 3 children. The nearest place where they can get water is a 40-minute walk away. The local population opposed Roma using the public transport, so that Roma had to go by foot to get the water. Therefore, the children and adults had to use the water from sewage, which was on the territory of the camp. This settlement was subjected to eviction.

1.6. Access to health care

The problem of access to health care is often caused by the lack of documents, identification and registration and the lack of funds to pay for medical services and purchase of medicines. The Ukrainian Constitution guarantees medical care free of charge³⁹, but in reality it is almost impossible to obtain medical services for free. In addition, there is mistrust of Roma in official medical institutions and the fear of stigma and discrimination by health workers is common. For some Roma who do not speak either Ukrainian or Russian, the language barrier is a problem. Such cases were mentioned by the Roma mediators from Zakarpattia and Odessa region.

In describing health condition of the Roma population, it is impossible not to draw attention to their social status, as health problems are often associated with poor nutrition, poor quality of drinking water and unacceptable living conditions.

For women the situation is complicated by the fact that Roma women can traditionally only be treated by female doctors. For Romani women lack of documents can become a serious obstacle for receiving treatment in maternity clinics. They can accept the Romani women without documents, but the hospitals are then unable to register the birth of a child officially due to the lack of documents⁴⁰. Another serious problem for Romani women is breast cancer. We had a number of focus groups in Roma communities and found out that most women who went through breast surgery, kept this secret even from their own families. It was found that breast cancer is a big taboo in the communities.

³⁹ Constitution of Ukraine, note 2, Article 49

⁴⁰ This information was gathered from the Roma health mediators, working in 12 regions of Ukraine.

In terms of healthcare, Roma appear to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Ukraine. Particular attention should be paid to addressing discrimination against Roma, including multiple forms of discrimination, in all areas of life.

1.7. Access to education

The main reason for the low school attendance of Roma children is very low level of economic security of families and the low motivation to provide education to all children. There are cases where Roma children refuse to go to school because of the bad attitude of other children in the class. During the winter, some children do not go to school because of the lack of warm clothing and shoes.

Although education is free in accordance with the Law on Education⁴¹, many schools require an unofficial monthly contribution from parents to cover running costs; for poorer Romani parents this monthly contribution is unaffordable. Some settlements are situated far from schools; children have to walk about 30-40 min., in some cases. For instance, in Kyivska oblast children have to walk from one village to another every day. Romani students who attempt to enrol in integrated schools are often refused without clear reason and it is evident that these schools limit the number of Romani students that they accept.

After assessing the situation in 12 regions of Ukraine, we have identified the following issues in relation to school attendance by Roma children:

| Direct Discrimination | Lack of understanding | Lack of funds |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By Teachers• By Students• By School Officials | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By Roma parents• In the Value of schooling• Early marriages | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unofficial contribution• Due to lack of documentation |

- Direct discrimination against Roma children, by the teachers or students at schools / pre-school education establishments.
- Roma parents' lack of understanding of the importance of attending school and the value of education for their children.

⁴¹ The Law on Education, available at: <http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1060-12>

- Lack of funds to pay for pre-school education/ school. Unofficial monthly contribution from parents to cover school running costs.
- Remoteness of schools from Roma settlements, lack of school buses.
- Lack of identification documents and medical cards.
- Early marriages

Educational segregation of Romani children also exists in Ukraine and can take place in several forms. According to the ERRC research⁴², Roma and non-Roma children may study in the same schools but it often happens, that non-Romani children sit in separate classrooms, or, if Romani and non-Romani children are placed in the same classroom, Romani children are located separately within the classroom

Despite the fact that the number of young Roma enrolled in universities has increased in 2014⁴³, the educational level of Roma remains the lowest in Ukraine.

1.8. Access to employment

In 2013 Roma mediators started to monitor the situation regarding employment for Roma in 12 regions and preliminary results show that the majority of Roma face mass unemployment. Of 1456 Romani individuals who participated in this monitoring, only 217, or 14.9%, had full-time employment. For many Roma only seasonal work or informal work is available.

As for women, they have little or no possibility of official employment because of the lack of appropriate education, experience or documents⁴⁴. Employers can also discriminate against Romani women on the basis of their gender. For this reason, most of the Roma are self-employed, earning money by selling goods, collecting scrap metal; create bands for performances on request, fortune-telling or begging.

According to Roma NGOs information, only about 30% of the Roma population in Ukraine are employed. Although one of the Roma Strategy tasks is to improve access of Roma to employment, the State Employment Centre did not develop any programmes aimed at improving the employability and skills of Roma.

⁴² p.7 http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/ERRC_Ukraine45.pdf

⁴³ The Roma Education Fund approved 106 scholarships for Ukrainian students in 2014. Among them, 40 students are Romani girls.

⁴⁴ Written comments of ERRC and Chiricli for consideration by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at its 45th session.

1.9. Participation in public and political life

Unfortunately, the participation of Roma in public and political life is very low because of the lack of proper identification documents, low level of education and experience. In 2010 Chiricli with the support of ODIHR implemented a project on raising awareness of the rights to vote among Roma communities in Odeska and Zakarpatska oblasts. The focus groups in the framework of the project showed that Roma have limited awareness of their rights to vote and to be elected, as well as about the electoral process. However, due to implementation of the project in these two regions, 10 Roma representatives participated in the local elections, and 6 of them were elected as local Council's deputies. Unfortunately, there are no Romani women among elected local deputies, but in Donetsk, Zhytomir, Kyiv and Odesa, Romani women are function as members of the Public Councils of the regional administrations.

There are no official data available on the level of participation of Roma in elections as voters. However, according to Roma mediators, most Roma from 12 regions of Ukraine, do not actively participate in elections. One of the reasons of such inactivity is mistrust into having influence on political situation.

2. THE SITUATION OF ROMA IN CRIMEA

During March 2014, Russia carried out the annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol. Some Roma groups tried to leave Crimea and moved to Kherson, but they were not able to find accommodation, jobs and integrate into the life of the cities of their temporary residence. They had to come back and adjust to the life in Crimea with new laws and realities⁴⁵. The Roma were not persecuted during the annexation, but people from the community tried to stay in the community and houses. It also led to changes of gender roles in the families. Women were the ones who were able to get out of the community and feed the family. *“I do not allow my son and husband to get out of house. They can be arrested by the police or taken away by armed people. Also no one in our family has documents⁴⁶”*.

According to the Law of Ukraine "On Protection of Rights and Freedoms of Citizens and Legal Regime for the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine⁴⁷" the Crimean peninsula is considered a temporary occupied territory due to Russian occupation.

Upon the “Chiricli” request for information on the situation of Roma living in the Republic of Crimea on 8.15.2014, we received the following information⁴⁸:

“The National Committee on International Relations and Affairs of Deported Citizens of Crimea (as of February 2014) has developed a draft Resolution “On Approval of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea policies and integration into Ukrainian society Roma national minority for the period up to 2020” which was submitted to the Council of Ministers of Crimea in March 2014, but for obvious reasons, was not adopted.

Since Crimean Roma do not live in the settlements, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Ministry of Social Policy do not have information about the problems of Roma in Crimea. In the Republican Committee on International Relations and Affairs of the Deported Citizens of Crimea (now - the State Committee on Affairs of International Relations and Deported Citizens of the Republic of Crimea by the Council of Ministers on 06.27.2014, the LCD. No 159) we were informed that

⁴⁵ According to the information of the Roma mediators and NGOs, about 4000 Roma live in AR Crimea. Thus, in response to a request for information to the State Committee for international relations and deported citizens of the Republic of Crimea from 08.13.2014, we received the information: only 1890 of Roma nationality live in Crimea.

⁴⁶ Interview of Romani woman, age 43. v. Voinka, 22 July 2014

⁴⁷ Law of Ukraine on the Legal Regime on the Temporarily Occupied Territory of Ukraine and Ukraine’s Policy towards Russia’s Occupation of Crimea <http://india.mfa.gov.ua/en/press-center/notices/2381-zakon-ukrajini-pro-zabezpechennya-prav-i-svobod-gromadyan-ta-pravovij-rezhim-na-timchasovo-okupovanih-teritoriji-ukrajini>

⁴⁸ The information received from The National Committee on International Relations and Affairs of deported citizens of Crimea.

during 2013-2014 they did not receive any appeals from the citizens of Roma regarding the issue of passports.

However, in accordance with the results of our monitoring report, we have found out that during 3 months **only 4 Roma** were able to receive new passports.

“I spent hours and days, going from one office to another, trying to get the information and then submit my documents. And I am educated; can you imagine how difficult it is for uneducated people⁴⁹?”

During our monitoring visit we have identified 49 Roma without documents (passports and birth certificates). Out of 147 interviewed Roma, 35 still have old USSR passports and could not get Ukrainian passports.

“Maybe it will be easier to get Russian passport now, but I don’t have any information about the procedure and where to go⁵⁰”

According to the interviewed Roma, the biggest problem they faced was dealings with the police. Out of 147 interviewed Roma, 80 people complained about different cases of police officers detaining young Roma women, holding them in the police station and waiting until the parents bring money.

“I went out of my house, the police officer stopped me just 4 min. away from my house and asked whether I have documents with me. I said that I just got out of home and can go back and bring the passport. The police officer was very rude with me, grabbed my hand and insulted me. All the Roma living in the same street tried to defend me; they surrounded the car and asked to release me. But he didn’t want to do that. Then someone called to Roma mediator and the situation was resolved⁵¹”.

In all the visited places⁵² Roma live in isolated settlements, in Simferopol through, people live dispersed. Most of the houses are without electricity and water, isolated from the majority of the population. 5 to 14 people live in one house. Very poor families live in one or 2 rooms, the number of people can be from 7 to 12 people in one room. None of the interviewed Roma receive any housing subsidies.

The employment situation is difficult for Roma in AR Crimea. Roma earn money by resell clothing, collecting scrap metal or begging. In the absence of documents and permanent place of registration, they are not able to receive social assistance for children. Out of about 40 interviewed people only 2 interviewed Roma have private businesses. Those Roma who had private enterprises had to develop business with Russia as they could not carry it on with Ukraine. *“I had my business with different regions in Ukraine, now I have*

⁴⁹ Interview of Roma man, age 38, Simferopol 21 July 2014

⁵⁰ Interview of Romani woman, age 62, Dzhankoj, 22 July 2014

⁵¹ Interview of Roma woman, age 43, Simferopol 21 July 2014

⁵² v. Voinka, Krasnoperekops, Dzhankoj, Oktyabrskoe and Simferopol

*to start it from scratch with Russia. I have 4 children and have to adjust to the new situation.*⁵³”

The annexation had bad impact on the Roma employment and business development. Roma don't have a chance to be involved in seasonal work. In some cases families do not have money even for basic food, 10 families complained about this. *“I don't know how we will live; I am not able to buy food for my family. Meat is not affordable for us*⁵⁴” The rest survived only on the basic food and cannot afford to buy meat for their children.

147 interviewed Roma said they have access to basic health services, but this system does not cover the cost of medication and treatment. With their livelihoods disrupted, many cannot afford to buy the necessary medication. 15 Roma women said they were not able to buy medication for their children and tried to treat children using alternative medicine. 8 Roma women said they do not go to visit a doctor; even if they have serious health problems. The main problem the Roma face in Crimea is that they don't have Russian passports and basic medical insurance.

According to the document "On Approval of the Recommendations to the Executive Authorities of the Russian Federation and Local Authorities on Work with the Gypsy Population"⁵⁵ the Crimean authorities are planning to collect the following information:



⁵³ Interview of Roma man, age 38, Simferopol 21 July 2014

⁵⁴ Interview of Romani woman, age 46, Dzhankoj, 23 July 2014

⁵⁵ <http://iprosoft.ru/docs?nd=499061875&tab=0>

During our meetings with the Roma communities, we asked whether they know about this document, unfortunately, people did not have any information about these Recommendations. Even Crimean Roma mediators are not familiar with this document.

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITUATION SINCE MID-APRIL UNTIL AUGUST 2014

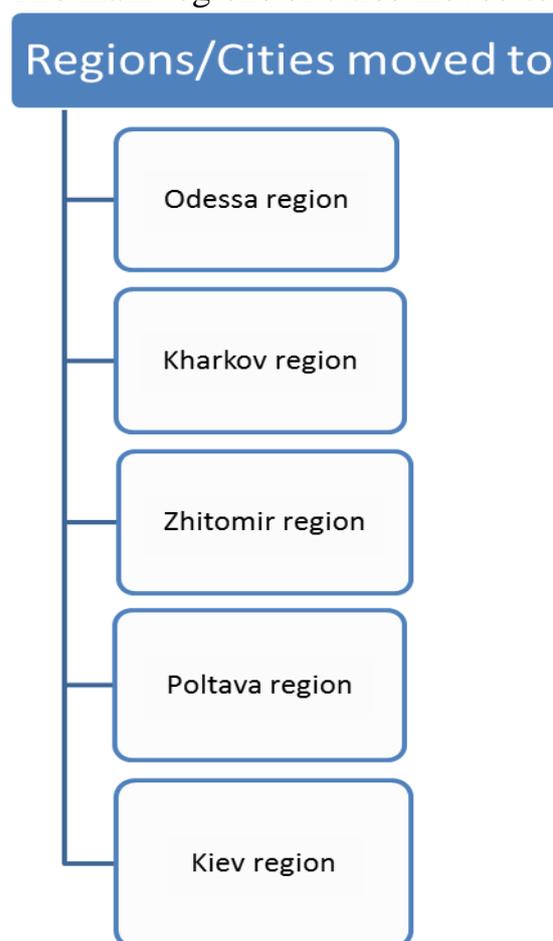
On 14 April 2014, the acting interim President Turchinov signed the Decree # 405/2014 on the commencement of an anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in the Eastern Ukraine. The subsequent conflict in the East of Ukraine, gave rise to serious concerns about human rights violations. Displacement of Roma communities as internally displaced persons (IDPs) has increased dramatically since the beginning of June 2014. There is no accurate data available about the number of displaced Roma, but according to Roma non-governmental organizations and Roma health mediators there are 9000 displaced Roma, predominantly women and children from urban and rural areas from the East of Ukraine.

Direct experience of violence, including violence against women and perception of imminent threat was the main reason why many Roma people decided to leave their home regions. Only the most important items were brought along.

The cities that Roma IDPs moved from:



The main regions or cities moved to:



According to Roma NGOs information about 5000 Roma are reluctant to register, fearing consequences, such as confiscation of their property by the police or other authorities. Some fear detention and mistreatment for no reason.

About 2500 Roma would like to register, but cannot do so because they lack the necessary documentation such as passports, identity cards and health records. About 1500 people lacked formal education and no prospect of acquiring any form of education due to their displacement.

Problems of IDPs are a new phenomenon for the Ukrainian society that is why the response to the problems of displaced persons is vague. The results of the "Assessment of the needs of women and the elderly IDPs" conducted by O. Yaremenko Ukrainian Institute for Social Studies showed that Ukrainian population believe that;

- *IDPs should return to their homes as soon as possible (81.0%)*⁵⁶.
- *I am in difficult conditions because of my IDP status 34.2%*

The situation with a large number of internally displaced Roma from the Eastern regions of Ukraine it remains very difficult. The local population was not ready to see such a big number of Roma in their cities or villages and local residents express their concern about large number of Roma. For example in Peryaslav-Khmelnytskyi region, village X, the Head of the village Council sent the police-officer to check on the displaced Roma every day. After one week of such visits the family decided to leave this village⁵⁷. In June 2014, another 4 families of 55 members (25 adults and 30 children) from Slaviansk, Donetsk oblast, arrived to Kyivska oblast, village Novi Petrivtsi. After several days of hosting Roma in the village, the Head of the Village Council insisted that Roma families have to move to Kyiv, explaining this in a way that Kyiv is a big city with better opportunities. The Head of the Village Council even provided the mini bus for transportation of the people. The result was that people lived in Kyiv park in tents for about one week. One of the displaced Roma said that his wife was killed: *"My wife was killed in Slaviansk. She went to the store and was shot accidentally. I came to Kyiv together with the children. I have seven children"*⁵⁸.

In August 2014, 50 Roma families arrived to Kharkiv and lived inside the train station for 3 days. The local population living in the area were afraid to leave the houses because they knew that 50 "Gypsies" live inside the train station⁵⁹.

The Roma population tried to avoid conflicts with the local population. But from time to time incidents happened between Roma and non-Roma⁶⁰, or even between Roma. According to the local Roma NGOs, local Roma communities and Roma mediators, the negative attitude towards Roma intensified since the crisis started.

⁵⁶ The study was conducted December 29 2014 to January 12, 2015 in 16 regions of Ukraine by Ukrainian Institute of Social Studies named Yaremenko Aleksandra from e. Interviewed 1,000 people.

⁵⁷ The Roma family was interviewed in Pereyaslav- Khmelnytskyi on 30 June. The family originally from Donetsk region, now live in Kiev region.

⁵⁸ Article about the Roma families living in the park <http://kiev.segodnya.ua/kpeople/romy-bezhency-530467.html>

⁵⁹ The information was received from the Roma mediator living in Kharkov.

⁶⁰ The information from the Roma mediators in Zaporozhie, Kharkov, Odesa, and the Roma NGO in Zhitomir.

Since March 2014, Chiricli provided a number of reports to international organizations about the threats and attacks on Roma in Ukraine⁶¹. The incidents happened in different parts of Ukraine.

Some important positive developments happened after the ODIHR meeting with the Roma civil society representatives and Roma mediators⁶². As a result of the meeting the Roma NGOs and the Roma mediators established a co-ordination group to facilitate the assistance to displaced Roma. In addition, after the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) attended the meeting, the WHO made a decision to include Chiricli as a local partner for the provision of health services. Chiricli was also invited to participate in OCHA meetings, UN clusters on security, shelter, health and gender violence. Also, due to the ODIHR visit to Ukraine, the UNHCR has included the special needs of Roma communities into their assessments on displaced persons⁶³.

3.1. Support provided to displaced Roma communities

During the process of conducting the monitoring assessment, 411 internally displaced Roma informed us that they have been leaving their homes since March 2014. The first 10% displaced Roma families moved to Lviv region. The assistance in this region was provided by the local Roma NGO “Ternipe”. In order to help displaced Roma, the NGO established good co-operation with the local Department on Social Issues, UNHCR and UNICEF and charity organization “Caritas”. Only 10 Roma families agreed to register as internally displaced persons in order to have access to assistance programs. The Roma mediator said that 31 families did not want to register, as they were afraid of stigmatization⁶⁴.

“We don’t know what this people want to do with our documents. We want to get back home, what if the information will appear there?” said displaced Roma to our researcher⁶⁵.

The Roma mediators from Kharkiv raised their concerns that the authorities were not eager to provide assistance to displaced Roma, instead the assistance was provided by the Roma NGO, Roma church, Ukrainian Red Cross Society and the volunteer organization “Station Kharkov”. Kharkiv accepted the biggest number of Roma IDPs, at the time of the monitoring visit there were 3000 displaced Roma in Kharkiv. Out of 125 interviewed Roma, only 36% were registered as IDPs. 11.2% pregnant women were able to attend medical

⁶¹ The ODIHR Situation Assessment Report On Roma in Ukraine and the Impact of the Current Crisis. August 2014, p.28.

⁶² The meeting was held on 2 July 2014 in Kiev.

⁶³ The ODIHR Situation Assessment Report On Roma in Ukraine and the Impact of the Current Crisis. August 2014, p.35

⁶⁴ Interview was made by the researcher in August 2014 in Lviv.

⁶⁵ Interview was made by the researcher in August in Lviv. The Roma man lived in Donetsk, during the interview lived in Lviv.

checkups and to be registered in local women center. One single mother said to the researcher that she was treated badly by the local officials: *“They are not providing any assistance; I am spending hours in corridors waiting for a meeting and no one wants to talk to me. The day they found the time for me, they treated me like a dog”*⁶⁶.

Assistance to Roma IDPs in Ukraine has mostly been provided by Roma civil society organizations and private donors. 82.8% interviewed displaced Roma raised criticism towards what they perceived to be lack of interest by the central government in their difficult situation. *“Nobody cares about us; so far we have not received any help from the government. We don’t have money even for basic food”*⁶⁷.

The Roma NGOs and churches provided assistance, and they were responsible for providing humanitarian assistance such as food and accommodation. According to our monitoring report the Roma mediators assisted 411 IDPs to be registered as IDPs, and 73.9% displaced Roma were accommodated due to assistance of the Roma NGOs or mediators. The NGOs and churches also helped people to leave their home regions by arranging transportation. The Roma mediator from Luhansk, helped to evacuate and accommodate 130 Roma. Another mediator in Makeevka organized the evacuation of 20 Roma families.

3.2. Lack of civil registration documents

According to the Roma NGOs information, close to 5000 displaced Roma are not registered as internally displaced persons, as they are afraid of the consequences, such as the confiscation of their property by the police or other authorities. About 2500 Roma would like to register, but so far were not able to do so because they have no passports.

Due to the complicated procedure of re-registration of social benefits for children for internally displaced persons, 31.7% Romani women were not able to re-register to receive social benefits for children. 4% women, lost their documents, because of the military operations in their cities, social departments did not work and that is why it was not possible to restore at least part of the documents. During our visits to Kharkiv and Cherkasy displaced Romani women said that the representatives of social services had very negative attitude to Roma. *“They told me, why you came here? Go back to your Kramatorsk”*⁶⁸!

Representatives of social services did not realize that women could not return to the ATO area to collect the necessary certificates in order to re-register the social benefits for children. For 31.7% women who could not re-register to

⁶⁶ Interview was made by the researcher in Kharkov, on 15 July 2014

⁶⁷ The focus group was conducted in Kherson in June 2014. 40 people attended the focus group.

⁶⁸ Interview of Romani woman, age 27, Cherkassy

receive these social benefits, all hope was lost for receiving necessary money to feed their children.

Out of 411 interviewed displaced Roma, only 51.1% were registered as IDPs. 12.3% interviewed men said that they did not want to register because they were afraid of being taken to fight in the ATO area. The Roma IDPs who were not registered with the local authorities were not eligible for state assistance to IDPs. This has prevented them from accessing any available social services, employment opportunities, accommodation, education, medical services.

It is also important to mention, that volunteer groups and Roma NGOs provided humanitarian assistance and accommodation to displaced people without requesting any documents and registration.

3.3. Housing and living conditions

The displaced Roma experienced serious difficulties in finding accommodation. The local authorities did not have any possibility to accommodate Roma, for example, Cherkasy, Odessa and Kyiv regional administrations informed us that they do not have any vacant accommodations for IDPs. At the same time the local population was not ready to provide rooms or empty houses for the Roma. Many displaced Roma were accommodated in local Roma communities.

Out of 411 interviewed displaced Roma only 29.2% received accommodation from the local authorities. For example: in Kharkiv region, the city of Volchansk, 10 Roma families were provided with places in the dormitory. In Zhytomir, 15 Roma families had the possibility to live in a private hotel. The accommodation expenses were covered by the city administration.

According to Roma mediators and Roma NGOs the Roma IDPs have experienced difficulties in finding accommodation in Odesa, Lviv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Kharkiv, Kyiv, AR Crimea, and Kirovohrad. Some families had to live at the train station, for example, in Odesa⁶⁹ 12 people lived at the train station for 6 days; in Kyiv a family of 10 people lived at the train station for 4 days⁷⁰. In Kharkiv, the 50 Roma lived at the train station for several days⁷¹.

Or in some other cases Roma families lived in the parks or along the river. For example, an interviewed Roma woman said: *“Our family of 17 people was*

⁶⁹ August 2011 Chiricli received a phone call from Odessa regional administration with the request to accommodate 12 Roma who spent 4 days at the train station.

⁷⁰ The information was provided by the City Social Centre in August 2014.

⁷¹ The information received from the local Roma NGO, end of August 2014.

found by the Roma mediator in the forest, not far from the metro station “Prolitarska”. I have a 2 month old baby. We lived in a small tent; we didn’t have water or food. The nights were cold and I worried about my children”⁷².

Another interviewed family of 19 people, 10 adults and 9 children, was found by the mediators in the park (district HTZ), *“We lived 4 days without any means of support”*. They received help from the Roma church.

Because of difficult living conditions of displaced Roma and a cold summer many children got seriously ill and require medical help. In Kharkiv: 6 children were taken to the hospital, 1 man died from pneumonia⁷³.

In July we received the information from the Roma mediators of Odesa, Zhytomir and Zaporizhzhia, that non-Roma IDPs did not want to be settled together with displaced Roma.

At the time the report was compiled all interviewed displaced Roma did not know whether it would be possible for them to get back to their houses and regions. Those families that were not able to find accommodation and adjust to the new life conditions decided to go back to the ATO area, although the situation was dangerous⁷⁴.

We have interviewed the Roma who decided to stay in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. *“We don’t have any money and a place to move to, so we have decided to stay and protect our house”⁷⁵*. One Roma from Luhansk region said that she could not leave the city because she has 2 disabled relatives and it is not possible to transport them. *“I have to stay here and care about them, although we don’t have any water and bread, but still I cannot leave them. During the attacks I also cannot take them out of the house”⁷⁶*.

The living conditions of those who remained in the ATO area were extremely difficult. People did not have water, food, electricity. *“From time to time we stay for 5 days without water”* said the Romani women interviewed in Makiivka.

⁷² Interview made by the researcher of Romani woman, 39 year-old. Originally from Kramatorsk, during the interview lived in Kharkov

⁷³ According to the information from the Roma mediator, July 2014.

⁷⁴ The information was provided by the Roma mediators, approximate number of Roma who moved back to ATO area was about 2000 people.

⁷⁵ Interview of Romani woman, 51 year-old. Makeevka,

⁷⁶ Interview of Roma man, 46 year-old. Sverlovsk.

3.4. Access to health care

79.8 % interviewed Roma said that they had access to basic health services, but they could not afford to buy medication and pass additional medical tests. 9.1% Roma women and 12.5% men said they were not able to buy medication for their children. During one of the focus groups 15 women said that they could not find money to make the necessary surgeries for children.

7 interviewed Roma (4 men and 3 women) said they had to take a credit at the bank to make the surgeries for their family members, but with the crisis situation in the country they are not able to repay the credit.

10 Roma women said they did not go to the doctor; even though they have serious reproductive health problems, because they do not have enough money to pay for medical treatment and to buy medication. 25.6% Interviewed Roma men said they only went to the doctor the case of very serious illness. For example, one Roma man said *“I go to see the doctor, only when I feel that I am dying. What point is there in going, I don’t have money for treatment”⁷⁷*.

During our monitoring visit to Uzhgorod the local Roma community informed us that very often the emergency physicians do not come to the settlements. They said that during April and May 2014, there were 2 cases when the emergency medical phone service did not want to register phone calls from the Roma and did not provide health services.

Lack of the documents can become a serious obstacle for Romani women when going to maternity clinics. Our Roma mediator in Kirovohrad informed us that the doctors did not want to accept pregnant Romani women. During the year, the mediator was coming with the women to the hospital and registered them giving the person data of the mediator’s passport and home address. In this way she gave the opportunity to Romani women to get the inquiry from the hospital about the child birth.

During the focus group discussions with the Romani women in Zakarpattia, Kyiv region, Makiivka and Lviv, 85 women expressed their concerns about the breast cancer and gynecological diseases. They said that they did not feel comfortable to speak about these diseases with their family members and even didn’t inform them about the surgeries they had.

The displacement resulted in increased vulnerability of Roma to diseases. 310 interviewed displaced Roma did not have money to buy necessary medications.

⁷⁷ Interview of Roma man, 45 year-old. Kirovohrad. June 2014.

People informed us that their children had serious physiological trauma and could not sleep. They reported that 45 children were not able to sleep and were afraid of all loud noises⁷⁸.

During our visits to Zhytomir and Kharkiv, we found mothers who tried to find money for the surgery and chemotherapy for their children. The children were diagnosed with cancer just a few days after they left the ATO area. Unfortunately, the families did not have any money for the treatment of their children. During our research we have identified 15 cases when displaced families were not able to provide medical treatment to their children because of the lack of financial resources and passports.

Pregnant women who remained at the ATO should be the reason for serious concern. They did not receive medical examination and did not know where they would be able to give birth to their children.

3.5. Access to education

We conducted focus groups in Odessa, Zakarpattia, Lviv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Luhansk, AR Crimea, and Kirovohrad. As a result we have learnt that 600 (400 boys and 200 girls) children enrolled in schools but did not attend them regularly.

Roma families searched for better income and travelled to other regions, taking children with them. *“We did not have any chance to earn money here, and had to move to Kyiv. We could not leave our children here to die from hunger⁷⁹”* said one of the interviewed Roma women.

In other cases, children did not attend schools because they did not have proper clothes and shoes. *“My son does not have any nice clothes; he said that he is shy to go to school, because children laugh at him⁸⁰”*.

In winter time the school attendance is very low, because the families do not have enough money to buy winter clothes.

In the West of Ukraine, children are enrolled in Roma schools (segregated schools) because they are situated next to Roma settlements.

In other regions most of the children are enrolled into mainstream schools. 18 people mentioned the cases when school directors did not want to accept Roma children. One of the interviewed women told us *“In the end of August we went to school to enroll my son into primary school. The school director told us that they did not have free places and advised us to go to the Roma School⁸¹”*.

⁷⁸ The information received from 50 Romani women during the focus groups in Kharkiv, Odessa and Makeevka.

⁷⁹ Interview of Roma woman, 35 year old. Originally from Sverdlovsk, now displaced to Kiev.

⁸⁰ Interview of Roma woman, 42 year-old. The interview made by the researcher in Zhitomir, in August 2014

⁸¹ Interview of Romani woman, 31 year-old. Interview done by the researcher in Uzhgorod

The monitoring results showed that out of 270 interviewed women 80% have incomplete secondary education and in 26% cases it was related to early marriages. In the case of the 570 men, 60% men had incomplete secondary education. In comparison to the 2001 official census⁸² we estimate that in all regions of Ukraine there are about 15.4% illiterate women and 5% illiterate men per 1000 of Ukrainian population.

The monitoring was conducted during the summer time that is why we were not able to collect the information about the number of children of displaced Roma who will go to school. However, at the end of August, the displaced Roma families didn't have information about whether their children will be able to enroll into school or not. Only 10 families tried to enroll their children into schools and only in 4 cases it was successful, as the schools didn't have enough places for all displaced children.

3.6. Access to employment

588 interviewed Roma (54.5% women and 45.6% men) suffer from unemployment due to the lack of proper education, experience or passports. In the absence of documents and place of permanent registration, they are not able to receive social assistance for children.

Out of about 840 interviewed people only 6% interviewed Roma had private businesses. In Donetsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Cherkasy, Zakarpattia, Zhytomir and Odesa Roma are trying to register as private entrepreneurs for selling goods, as this is one of the main sources of their income. In most cases women are doing this work. If they are registered as private entrepreneurs they pay 5% profit tax + 482 grn. (43 Euro) deductions to the pension fund. There is a problem of obtaining market stalls, people have to rent a place to sell their goods and in most cases they are getting bad places (located far from the centre of the market). In some cases the directors of the markets create "Roma trade rows".

The interviewed Roma family in Lviv informed our researcher that 5 families lost their trading places, 2 years ago, as the price for a market stall increased and became unaffordable for them. Another family from Donetsk informed our researcher during the focus group discussion that since May 2014 the separatists forced 3 Roma families from Donetsk and Makiivka⁸³ to re-register their business on separatists' names.

⁸² <http://2001.ukrcensus.gov.ua/rus/results/general/education/>

⁸³ The focus group that was conducted in Makeevka. 28 July 2014

The economic crisis in Ukraine had bad impact on employment opportunities. This situation affected local business, people stopped offering seasonal work. This situation has affected the Roma people, making it almost impossible to earn money. 85% of Roma IDPs said that most of the time they don't have money even for basic food; children do not have enough food every day.

3.7. Threats and violence against Roma

“Chiricli” received reports of incidents of violence against Roma in Ukraine since February 2014, and since that time the amount of information about the incidents has increased. The detailed information about the types of incidents was reported and mentioned in the ODIHR Situation Report on Roma in Ukraine. The report also included the assessment of the impact of the current crisis⁸⁴.

During the focus groups meetings conducted in Makiivka, Khakriv, Odesa and Zhytomir the displaced Roma informed us about the cases of threats and violence against women, children and men in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

30 of the interviewed said that they were threatened and forced to participate in illegal “referendum” in Donetsk⁸⁵.

21 men⁸⁶ said that under penalty of death, they were forced to work for separatists, to dig trenches. 10 people were forced to fight on the side of the separatists. Those who did not want to work were brutally beaten or threatened that their families will be killed.

Unfortunately in the ATO area the cases of violence against women, including Romani women increased since May 2014. During our monitoring visits we were informed about 7 cases of rape of Romani women and one case of rape of a Romani girl⁸⁷.

Another case happened in Donetsk: *“I saw that my granddaughter was fighting with 2 soldiers. They were beating her and wanted to rape. I had no time to think of what I was doing, I just took the gun and started shooting. The soldiers ran away, they were very young”*⁸⁸.

All the above-mentioned cases were not investigated.

⁸⁴ ODIHR Situation Report on Roma in Ukraine <http://www.osce.org/odihr/124494> p. 28

⁸⁵ Information was received during the focus groups with the displaced Roma in Khakrov

⁸⁶ Information was received during the focus groups with the displaced Roma in Makeevka, Khakrov, Odessa and Zhitomir

⁸⁷ According to our Roma mediator the 7 year old girl was raped and shot dead together with her mother and grandmother in Antracid, in the end of October 2014.

⁸⁸ Interview of Roma man, 69 year old, interviewed in Kiev, originally from Donetsk. June 2014.

CONCLUSIONS

The national legislation in Ukraine guarantees that Roma have the same rights and freedoms as all national minorities. In practice, however, the situation of Roma in Ukraine remains problematic. In comparison to other national minorities, Roma are the most vulnerable and socially disadvantaged group. The main challenges faced by Roma include the lack of personal documents, difficulties in accessing quality medical and social services, access to quality education and, as a result, high level of unemployment, inadequate housing conditions and multiple cases of discrimination of women and youth. Negative attitude towards Roma persists within society, while there is limited recognition of the discrimination Roma face in many areas of life.

The situation of Roma in Ukraine differs from region to region. There is no comprehensive and accurate data available on the number of Roma in Ukraine and their socio-economic situation. The official number of Roma in Ukraine is 10 times less than the number according to non-official data. That created some obstacles in development of quantitative and qualitative indicators for concrete measures. The Strategy and NAP, adopted by the government of Ukraine recognized the need to address the situation of Roma through the development of specific policies; however the documents do not provide strategic objectives, clear indicators, a budget or effective mechanisms for their implementation and evaluation. Moreover Roma were not involved or consulted in drafting of the Strategy or the NAP.

Recent political developments in Ukraine have further negatively affected the situation of Roma, in particular, of those displaced from Crimea and the Eastern Ukraine. The monitoring results show that, while Roma are generally in a vulnerable position even in times of stability, in times of crisis they are exceedingly vulnerable. Romani women are particularly vulnerable among the displaced, especially when they are pregnant or have to take care of their children.

According to the monitoring results, about 9000 Roma people had to leave their houses in the East of Ukraine since the crisis started. With the arrival of internally displaced Roma from the Eastern regions to other regions of Ukraine the negative attitude towards Roma intensified. About 55.6% displaced Roma interviewed by “Chiricli” were not registered as IDPs fearing consequences, such as confiscation of their property by the police or other authorities. Some fear detention and mistreatment for no reason and lack of necessary documentation such as passports and residents’ registration in the ATO area. Non-registered IDPs could not receive social assistance, child benefits or pension from the state and experienced difficulties in re-registration of their documents.

That is why the assistance to Roma IDPs in Ukraine has mostly been from Roma civil society organizations and private donors.

In this context it is important to ensure the ability of displaced Roma to access adequate accommodation, social and medical assistance. The situation requires concentration of resources and coordination between government institutions, international organizations and NGOs.

Recommendations

To the Ukrainian national and regional authorities and NGOs

- To create an Inter-governmental Council for coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Strategy and the NAP.
- To review and amend the NAP and regional Action Plans in close consultation with Roma civil society and in line with the international standards (with clear measures, results and indicators).
- To organize consultations with the international human rights organizations on the revised NAP.
- To conduct regional thematic visits on education, employment, housing and health, civil registration documents and, in particular, passports and birth certificates, Romani women's and youth issues.
- To collect comprehensive gender disaggregated official data on the number of Roma in Ukraine as well as on their socio-economic situation in cooperation with Roma NGOs if necessary.
- To build trust and understanding between the police, local and national authorities and Roma, through providing training programmers on anti-discrimination, mediation, conducting awareness-raising campaigns like DOSTA!, Roma Pride or other.

With regards to internally displaced Roma in Ukraine.

Recommendations

To the Ukrainian authorities, civil society and inter-governmental groups who provide assistance;

- It is important to provide proper information to IDPs, including Roma displaced persons, about the procedure for obtaining a certificate of registration as an IDP and its practical value.

- There is a serious need for continuous updates of the database of available premises for accommodation of IDPs, such as www.vpo.gov.ua, with the goal of providing adequate accommodation to IDPs.
- To develop and implement the state (grant) programs to provide IDPs with temporary or permanent housing.
- To develop and implement comprehensive programs to support IDPs in employment, including small business development and employment support in case of mobility, as well as promote community service for IDPs.

In order to support Roma IDPs it is also necessary:

- To create favorable conditions for enabling the improvement of professional orientation / retraining of Roma IDPs;
- to promote comprehensive socialization of Roma IDPs in new regions;
- to create a special Coordination Board within the Ministry of Social Policy with participation of the representatives of civil society, including Roma NGO representatives, in order to address the urgent issues of IDPs (including development and implementation of measures aimed at combating and preventing discrimination against IDPs);
- to recognize the particularly vulnerable situation of Roma internally displaced persons;
- to ensure access to quality education of Roma displaced children;
- to include Roma civil society and community representatives in consultations and needs assessments on the protection of displaced persons and ensure their active participation in outreach to their communities.

The development of two types of programs for IDPs, including Roma IDPs, is needed:

- To develop the programs for IDPs who want to stay in the regions of their temporary residence.
- To develop the programs for those who remained in the ATO area.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Council of Europe, European Commission Against Racism, Report on Ukraine (fourth monitoring circle), CRI(2012)6, adopted on 8 December 2011.
- Council of Europe, Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Third Opinion on Ukraine, adopted on 22 March 2012.
- Council of Europe, Committee of Ministers' Resolution CM/ResCMN(2013)8 on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities by Ukraine, adopted on 18 December 2013.
- “Chiricli” research “The problems of the Roma population”. February 2014.
- European Roma Rights Centre statement on Ukraine of 28 May 2013.
- European Roma Rights Centre submission to UN Human Right Committee on Ukraine, June 2013.
- European Roma Rights Centre submission to UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on Ukraine, March 2014.
- European Roma Rights Centre submission to UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its 45th session.
- European Roma Rights Centre submission on the occasion of the Revision of the European Neighborhood Policy 2011 Action Plan by the Ukrainian Government.
- European Roma Rights Centre Country Profile of Ukraine.
- European Roma Rights Centre, “Ukrainian Police Must Stop Targeting Roma,” 20 October 2011.
- European Commission, Forth Report on the implementation by Ukraine of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalization, Brussels, COM(2014) 336 final, 27 May 2014.
- International Renaissance Foundation, Ромські медичні посередники в Україні: досягнення, виклики, можливості [Roma health mediators: achievements, challenges, opportunities], 2014.

- Kharkiv Institute for Social Researches / Group of authors, Roma rights protection in Law-enforcement activities in Ukraine, 2013.
- Office of the Ukrainian Parliamentarian Commissionaire on Human Rights, Submission to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, March 2014.
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine, published on 15 April 2014.
- OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights/ High Commissioner on National Minorities, Joint Report on Human Rights and Minority Rights Situation in Ukraine, The Hague/Warsaw, May 2014.
- ODIHR Situation Assessment Report On Roma in Ukraine and the Impact of the Current Crisis. August 2014.
- Office of the Ukrainian Parliamentarian Commissionaire on Human Rights, Annual Report on the Human Rights for 2013.
- OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Election Observation Mission, Final Report on 25 May Early Presidential Election in Ukraine, 30 June 2014, Warsaw.
- OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, Daily Report of 7 June 2014.
- OHCHR Report on the human rights situation in Ukraine. 15 December 2014.
- ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues meeting with the Roma NGOs and mediators. Kiev, 2 July 2014.
- Round table discussion on Strategy on the Protection and Integration of Roma national minority into Ukrainian society up to 2020, conducted on 21 August 2013.
- Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union -2012 human rights organizations report “ПРАВА ЛЮДИНИ В УКРАЇНІ 2012. ДОПОВІДІ ПРАВОЗАХИСНИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ”.

- UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Concluding observations on Ukraine, CEDAW/C/UKR/CO/7*, 5 February 2010.
- UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Concluding Observations on Ukraine, CERD/C/UKR/CO/19-21, 14 September 2011.
- UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Statement following the official visit to Ukraine – 7 to 14 April 2014, 16 April 2014.
- United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, Profiling and Needs Assessment of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) 21 July 2014.
- United Nations population Fund, Research on early marriages “Україна. Дитячий шлюб”.
- World Health Organization office in Ukraine, Assessment on Roma Health Impact and Response in Ukraine.