

## Roma Holocaust Survivors - Humanitarian and Social Programmes (RHS-HSP)

---

During the Nazi era, Roma people were systemically and ruthlessly persecuted. The material evidence and witness accounts for the atrocities committed against Roma are abundant and the facts confirming their plight are well documented and publicly recognized. In addition to the estimated 130,000 to 280,000 Roma across Eastern and Central Europe who perished during the period of the Nazi regime, the rest of the Roma population was subjected to gross human rights violations and exposed to dire humanitarian situation.

Despite national and international efforts, the marginalization and discrimination of Roma communities and individuals remains pervasive. While most of the efforts to tackle Roma marginalization and discrimination are directed at improving social inclusion of youth and children through enhancing employment opportunities and education, very little attention and funding is allocated to supporting the elderly Roma population. IOM programs to support Roma Holocaust Survivors fill this gap in a meaningful and tangible way.

IOM is overseeing the implementation of the Roma Holocaust Survivors Humanitarian and Social Program (RHS-HSP), which addresses the immediate humanitarian and social needs of more than 8,000 Roma Holocaust survivors living on the territory of Serbia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

RHS-HSP represents a programmatic extension of the IOM efforts to provide recognition, humanitarian support and collective reparations to Roma people

in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe since 2003. Between 2003 and 2014 IOM provided variety of benefits to more than 95,000 beneficiaries in 14 countries.

The ongoing project follows the same operational model established in 2003 whereby IOM is responsible for overall project design, administration and monitoring while several local NGOs in Serbia, FYROM and BiH close to the Roma communities implement the activities.<sup>1</sup>

IOM Roma Holocaust Survivors Programmes focus on addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable elderly Roma, such as provision of food and clothing packages, hygienic items, winter assistance items, legal assistance, healthcare, home care and socialization events and facilities.

IOM's decade-long engagement to provide recognition and redress to Roma Holocaust Survivors represents one of the largest efforts to provide humanitarian support in lieu of collective reparations and represents a successful model which can be adjusted and applied to other similar contexts and circumstances.

For more information, kindly contact [lpr@iom.int](mailto:lpr@iom.int)

---

<sup>1</sup> The latest phase of the project (since 2013) has included the participation of the Association for Roma Community Development in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre, the Italian Consortium of Solidarity and the Roma Support Center in Serbia and Romalen in Bosnia and Herzegovina.