

### Selected Findings:

- 63.3% of children were born in Ireland.
- 52.2% of children are Irish citizens.
- 70% of respondents had been living in Ireland for five years or more; 14% for 15 years or more.

The impact of a lack of employment, not having the right to reside and not being habitually resident was highlighted throughout the research. This acts as a block to any ongoing financial support (including child benefit); social housing supports (including homeless supports); and employment training supports, such as community employment. This creates a vicious cycle where those in most need of employment and other supports cannot access them. It can also impact access to medical cards whereby people cannot prove their means. It impacts on access to education where families struggle with the finances needed to support children in school.

### Discrimination:

- Respondents reported high rates of feeling discriminated against – accessing accommodation (93.3%); social protection (84.3%).
- 81.1% of respondents reported having felt discriminated against in the street /public setting - women were identified as particularly vulnerable to racist abuse.
- 77.5% of respondents reported being stopped by An Garda Síochána for ID.

### Poverty:

#### 0-20% of respondents (approx.)

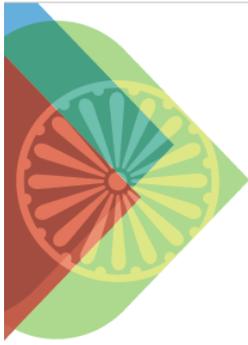
- No kitchen (12.4%); No cooker (9.6%); No fridge (13.5%).
- Sometimes without food, gas, water and/or electricity.
- Overcrowded and poor quality accommodation – reports of rats and damp.
- Begging as a source of income (17.6%) and no income (14%).
- Service providers reported cases of malnutrition in young Roma children.

#### 0-60% of respondents (approx.)

- Children gone to school hungry (25%).
- Not always enough food (49.5%).
- Not always enough fuel (46.2%).
- Not enough money for books and uniforms (57.5%).
- Respondents did not have access to a GP (39%).
- Respondents did not have a medical card (50%).

### Employment and Social Protection:

- 16.7% of respondents reported that they are in employment.
- 25.5% of adults in households were reported as not having the right to reside<sup>i</sup> and 25.7% were reported as not being habitually resident.<sup>ii</sup>
- Of respondents who applied for social protection 48.1% were not successful.



### Selected Recommendations:

- Enhance humanitarian responses for Roma families living in extreme poverty to ensure that adults and children are not living without food and basic accommodation facilities.
- Develop national Roma training and employment actions in the follow areas:
  - A. Undertake targeted training to support labour market activation of Roma in key areas, for example, Roma community workers and professional Roma translators.
  - B. Support training programmes for Roma who are not habitually resident.
- Provide support to Roma in ensuring documentation for social protection applications.
- Review the legislative and policy restrictions that impact on the provision of medical cards for Roma with no income.
- Take effective measures to tackle anti-Roma discrimination and racism with a priority focus on Roma women.
- Introduce a standardised ethnic identifier using the human rights framework in routine administrative systems and in the Census.

### Selected Quotes:

“A family came to me with a very sick baby. They are sharing a flat with someone else and when I visited the flat I saw that they have no cooker, kettle or microwave. They have a small fridge and they go into another flat to cook. The only furniture they have is a small table, a chair and one bed with a single mattress. There is no water in the bathroom. They have no money. The father begs and has been arrested several times.” **Reported by a health care provider.**

“I am very unhappy and poor... I feel helpless. When I do not feel in good health, I’m not going to the doctor because I have no medical card.” **25 year old Roma man.**

“I would not dress in Roma [now] because we get treated badly, followed, and discriminated against.” **Young Roma woman.**

“Hard life. Very hard but I don’t know what to do, where to go, I am hopeless, please help me, help me, help the Roma.” **32 year old Roma man.**

“This is my home. I would not consider anywhere else home, I grew up here.” **21 year old Roma woman.**

<sup>i</sup> Under the European Directive 2004/38/ EC all EU citizens have a right of residence without restriction for three months. After this they must be workers or self-employed in the member state; have sufficient resources for themselves and their families so as not to become a ‘burden’ on the social assistance system of the host state and have comprehensive sickness insurance cover; or are enrolled at a private or public establishment for study purposes (Article 7).

<sup>ii</sup> Establishing a right to reside is a prerequisite to meeting the habitual residence condition which a person must meet in order to access non-contributory benefits, including child benefit, job seekers allowance and access to some employment and training supports. Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005, s. 246(4), as inserted by the Social Welfare & Pensions Act 2007, s.30.