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Health & Education are vital priorities Romania needs to address

The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation supports health and education projects that directly benefit the Romanian people. In the last 25 years since the end of communism the political elite of the Country has fatally overlooked these 2 vital parts of any modern society. The result is the premature deaths of many tens of thousands of innocent people who were unable to be treated in a medical system that has for many decades failed to modernize and likewise multiple generations of children who have failed to meet modern day educational standards because of an antiquated and well out of date educational system. Both these vital parts of society in Romania not only suffer from crunch under funding year after year but corruption within the system also thereby making any gains almost impossible to date.

A few weeks ago a new Government headed by Dacian Ciolos was sworn into office. The government is not a government elected by the people, but imposed upon them by the President after the Ponta government resigned. It is quiet unbelievable but a fact that until at least the 15th of December this new government will not have any policies in place and no one knows what their plans are for next year. The uncertainty again places health and education at a standstill along with other vital public domains likewise who have no idea what their future policy to adhere to will be. The actual website of the Government only names its ministers, but gives no further information about cabinet policies, hardly a step in the right direction for the future and I doubt that these will appear to the public anyway until after the New Year holidays as within the week of the 15th December also the political class take their winter holiday leave until January.

In the meantime the population continues to suffer unnecessary hardships in many areas of daily life including in healthcare and education.

Hard facts in health & education that need urgently addressing in Romania

Year after year Romania has the highest number of people infected with Tuberculosis of which many die innocently of what is a perfectly curable illness. TB hospitals are in the largest part unfit for the actual purpose of treating TB infected patients, small-overcrowded wards, lack of staff, lack of medication and lack of latest diagnostic techniques. All of the above leaves highly qualified doctors struggling to overcome the massive influx of patients weekly in hospitals and affects overall recovery times and patient progress.

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Monthly the numbers of people infected with HIV rises within the country along with the high number of people who suffer from COPD respiratory illnesses, diabetes, chronic liver disease and a rise in mental illness in recent years. To combat all of this not only are new hospitals that at least provide European standards of care are required but also much, much more after 25 years of health service neglect!

The Country lacks a public health prevention educational plan and this is a major failure that affects each member of the population directly. Until now NGO's like RCHF have bravely tried to fill the gap by producing from kindly donated foreign funds basic educational material that allows the public to learn with ease about serious illness like Tuberculosis, HIV-Aids and even a basic Hygiene book as poor hygiene standards are the basis of many illnesses, but much more is required at national government level to address the population on these serious health issues that claim lives prematurely each year of Romanian people.

Many doctors have left the country in recent years to work abroad not only because of the higher salaries, but because in western hospitals they have a chance to practice in modern conditions and have a range of medical equipment that Romanian should have but has failed miserably to acquire for many years at their disposal. The result now is within many hospitals in Romania an acute shortage of doctors at all ranks within the system, further affecting patient care overall in an already broken health system.

In education it is vital to be in a position to offer each child the best possible educational standard for its future. Well-educated children become tomorrow's leaders and here Romania has failed to invest in its future.

There is a clear 2-tier education system within the Country, neither of which produces educational standards that will benefit a child in its later years at any level.

Rural children who account for at least half of all Romanian children are the worst off. Each year there are countless kindergartens and schools that have no heating in the sub zero winters, still have no running water on tap or flush toilets and this directly affects hygiene standards. Manuals are often years out of date as are the teaching methods deployed within them. Millions of schools have no fire safety certificate and many also have no public health certificate, but are open daily putting children at risk in an emergency. In one school just last week emergency ambulances were called to take many children to hospital after they drank milk given to them in school that was infected.

Thousands of teaching staff are untrained and the whole education system is top heavy with regulations that do not benefit the child directly.

Many a rural child fails even to finish its full term of school years and ends up unqualified and doomed to a lifetime of hard labor or years without work and a life of poverty. For even the brightest child in the rural villages a possibility to go on to say university is beyond their possibilities no matter how clever they are, as their parents simply have not the financial means to send them to a town university or pay the high accommodation costs for their child. Their full potential in this way is therefore never realized!

In the towns and Cities the educational standards are better than in the villages, but again lack modern day standards in so many schools. Many schools again are sub standard and fail both fire and health certification, but again are open daily in term time. School holidays last far too long in the summer break with many a child breaking up for summer vacation in mid June and not returning until the start of the autumn term in mid September and here vital weeks of educational time are lost. In my view 4 – 6 weeks maximum is sufficient for a summer holiday break for any child!

Though school buses have been provided in many urban areas in recent years many areas still lack this vital transport for children. In Dorohoi town for instance children who have to go to school in nearby Sendriceni have to go by public transport that cost their parents weekly and we help via Wings of Angels in cases of hardship and there are many in hardship and unseen poverty in Dorohoi.

In the last year we at RCHF have distributed thousands of very high quality basic educational books and educational cards along with teacher manuals in Suceava County kindergartens. These book with the latest educational methods as used in Europe are produced by Miriam Charmant in The Netherlands and we are delighted to help get as many of these products known as Timmie Mouse products out to children, thus offering them an added chance of a real start in their early education.

Products that directly benefit children in education should be jumped at by the Romanian Education minister, but in Romania I doubt he will show interest as the education department is top heavy with old outdated regulations and practices that clearly in the last 25 years have not benefited the majority of students, the proof being the extremely high number of unqualified school leavers year after year!

Our resources are limited as an NGO and I understand next year will probably be even more limited as we gain no Romanian or EU grants but rely on public support, however no matter what happens I assure you that Health and Education will remain a top priority for RCHF in 2016.



Children in kindergartens in Suceava County of Romanian with new easy learning Timmie books





Many thousands of kinder children are now benefiting from their FREELY donated Timmie books delivered weekly by RCHF



Archbishop Robu at the collective memorial to those who died.

Avoidable deaths at collective club

In November a nightclub fire in a club that had no fire certificate but was known to the ISU fire authorities claimed the life of 60 young people.

Our deepest condolences go to all who lost a loved one in this avoidable tragedy in Bucharest.

Breaking the Poverty Barrier another untouched goal in Romania

A recent report confirmed what those of us who work to help the poor and marginalized already know when it stated that since Romania joined the EU poverty has actually risen, not fallen. Poverty used to be mainly in rural areas but now is abundant in urban areas too. There are many who sleep rough with no home at risk of server illness, disease and abuse from people who have no moral standards. Drug use amongst the homeless is high in Romania too. Consumer prices for essential services like water, gas, electricity and state taxes have all risen so high that in many families once these are paid even in a salary earner family there is insufficient left for meals and here children and pensioners suffer the worst.

In Rural families many live simply from day to day as there is no work in most of these huge areas that once produced the nations wealth in agriculture in the communist times as all has been sold off and disbanded. Thousands still have no mains services in their small dwellings as simply cannot afford such ad in many other cases these services are simply still not available. As a Charity we help were we can our social families and this support with food aid amongst other items helps keep the families head above water, but there are many we simply cannot reach and its high time the Government addressed poverty in Romania with measures that actually help people stay afloat!



The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation works voluntary to bring a better standard of life to some of the most needy families in Europe today in Romania a Country full of warm and wonderful people who for generations have suffered at the hands of rulers who have failed to bring the Country forward after communism. This has resulted in extreme hardship for far to many people and in 2016 we will again help as many as we can get to helping with what small funds we have to hand

If you want to support with a donation as a private person or a corporate donation please contact us via email at stichting_rchf@yahoo.com .

We take this opportunity to wish all our friends and supporters a Very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with joy and good health!