

**A COMPLETE LACK OF SOCIAL RESOURCES IS  
ENDAGERING THE LIVES OF TUBERCULOSIS  
SUFFERERS IN ROMANIA TODAY.**



**Join us today to help combat discrimination  
of Tuberculosis sufferers and their families in Romania**

**The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation – NL**

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● Romania, which has repeatedly the highest rates of Tuberculosis in Europe year after year despite being a member of the European community is a Country where there is simply no social support for the ones who contract TB today.



Being unable to gain the vital social support that tuberculosis sufferers deserve ultimately results in death for far too many people who succumb to tuberculosis despite the fact TB is perfectly curable illness in the vast majority of cases diagnosed.

In **2012** will be at least **1500 deaths** attributed to Tuberculosis in Romania. Multi drug resistant Tuberculosis along with extra drug resistant Tuberculosis is also higher in Romania than anywhere else in the European Union.

# Why is this?

- It seems almost suicidal and irresponsible that a person who is diagnosed with Tuberculosis simply gets up out of their bed and leaves the TB Hospital to suddenly go home when they are still ill with Tuberculosis and undergoing drug therapy to cure them.
- **Why would they take such an action?**
- Its not because the patient suffering from Tuberculosis isn't receiving good professional and correct treatment in the Hospital as Romania follows the World Health Organisation guidelines on 'DOTS' TB treatment, the same as in the UK and most European Countries.
- 'DOTS' is a direct observed therapy treatment course with high success if the full course of treatment advised by the medical specialist is followed and a healthier lifestyle is applied by the patient on going home again.

# Families of TB patients are left to go hungry

- TB patients renounce life-saving treatment and leave Hospitals because in Romania there is simply no social back up for the family of the Tuberculosis sufferer and even worse if the sick one is the family bread-winner.
- Who will feed the family left behind when a patient with TB is hospitalized for a long period?
- **Answer is in Romania – NO ONE.**
- TB patients don't want to go home and know they are still very ill, but do so simply to do a days work so that the family can eat that day again and the next day and so on.

- **For certain the sick one with Tuberculosis wants to get better, to go home cured and go back to their work again so they have a salary to feed and raise their family upon, but this chance is denied them by an uncaring state.**
- **In Romania one must work to earn funds to feed the family even the basic food items a growing family needs daily as there is no simply social back up from the state.**



- **We now have in Romania a serious situation of TB patients upping and leaving their sick beds and going home often to do hard manual labour in the fields with hand hoes so they can earn some funds to feed their family.**

# The result is often a death sentence

- **Very soon the patient further succumbs to the TB already inside their bodies and falls gravely ill again. This time though their life is in danger as the original TB drug therapy treatment is now of no use as the TB in their bodies has become resistant and they now have a more serious TB illness of either extra drug resistant Tuberculosis or more serious still multi drug resistant Tuberculosis.**
- **On re-admission to the TB Hospital medical specialist fight to save the life, but even with the best efforts its often simply too late and another innocent TB sufferer dies needlessly.**

# We advocate for changes.....

- The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation – NL is a member of the World Health Organisation housed '**STOP TB partnership**' and we advocate for the Romanian Government, via its social and financial ministries to act now without further waiting to put forward a plan of action that includes a analysis of each TB suffers family financial circumstances and accord as a priority social support to allow TB sufferers to continue their full course of treatment without fear of their family starving because of a lack of basic food funds whilst they are in Hospital.
- **Drug therapy by the best medical specialist in Romania is only a part of reducing the TB phenomena within the Country.**
- A TB patient requires as well as specialist drug therapy which is free for TB sufferers must also adhere to a change of lifestyle and diet.
- A diet rich in vitamins and natural minerals the body requires are part of getting well also for the Tuberculosis sufferer is well beyond the means of the average family living on less than 100 Euro per month.

# Food coupons for TB recovery

- We at the Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation–NL appeal for a small state allowance to be set up via the Social ministry with finance ministry approval for the first full year to be paid to TB patients once they leave the hospital to go home again to their families specifically for required diet purposes.



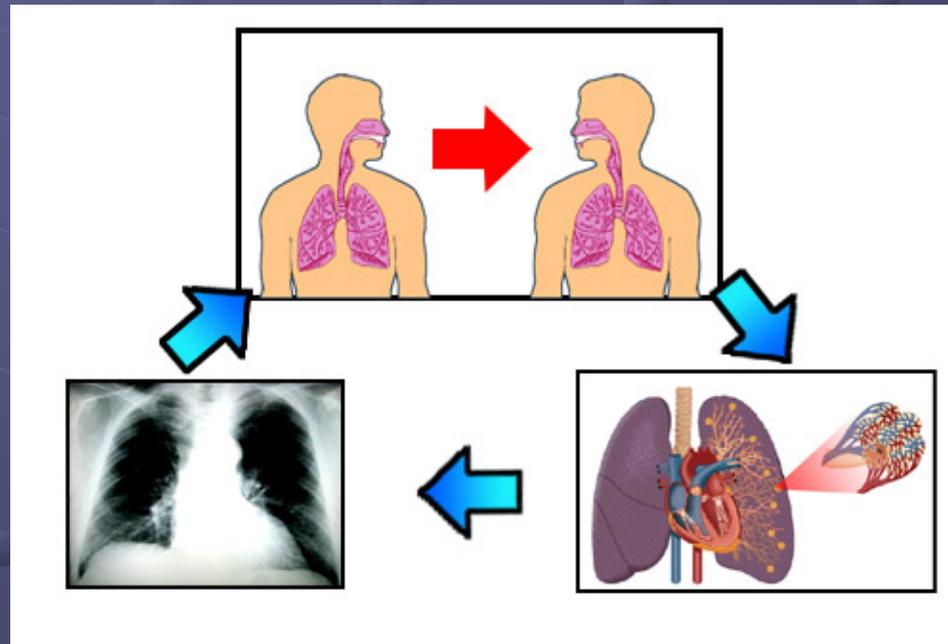
- This may be the form of coupons in which only certain foods can be purchased.

# **Employment discrimination must end for former TB patients.**

- **Few will employ or re employ a former Tuberculosis sufferer in Romania, despite the fact that once cured they are as well as the next person. This is because of a sheer fright of TB, which is also still seen as a illness of the poor families.**
- **Marginalised Rroma have no chance either if former TB sufferers of re-employment.**
- **Tuberculosis is curable and once a person is cured and following a revised healthier lifestyle there is no reason why they should be discriminated against on employment or any other grounds.**
- **Changes in attitudes must be a part of TB awareness!**

- The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation–NL appeals for understanding and awareness on the subject of Tuberculosis, plus points out that TB is NOT simply an illness of the poor people.

- There are many from the upper classes not only in Romania, but all over Europe who have contacted TB which is passed simply from an infected person to a non infected person via the air breathed between them.



# The hard fact is that Tuberculosis can affect anyone no matter what colour, creed or race.

- Tuberculosis has no borders and can be passed from Country to Country via international travellers, many whom don't realise they are infected as TB can lie dormant within the human body only to explode into fully inflectional Tuberculosis when the bodies resistance takes a tumble.



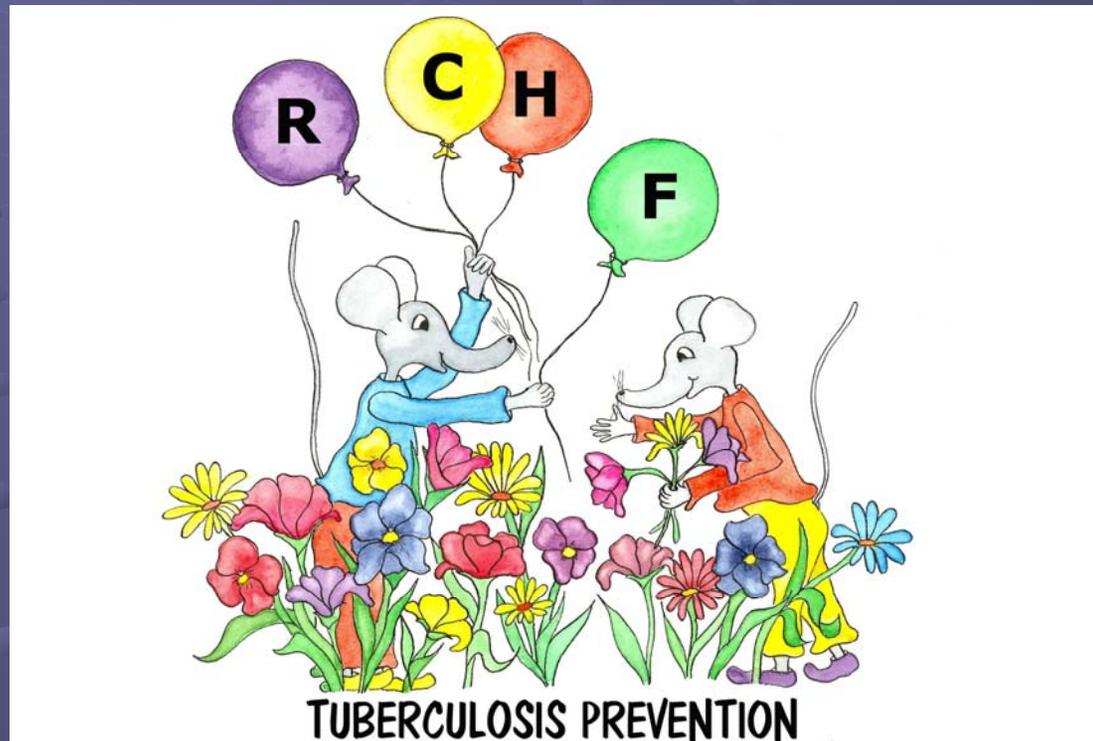
- The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation - NL produced a Cross Border TB patient card 2 years ago and appeals for more cross border vigilance regarding Tuberculosis and traveller awareness campaigns.

# Research funds for TB required

- **More research funds NEED URGENTLY in Romania to be made available to bring new TB drugs that will cure TB infection faster than those at present. (We note it is many years since any new TB drug was introduced!)**
- **Shorter treatment times will help families recover from the added effects of Tuberculosis.**
- **The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation – NL appeals to the Romanian Ministry of Health to set up and fund a Tuberculosis Centre of Excellence and scientific study in North East Romania (where there are huge amounts of TB yearly) to allow experts in Romania the opportunity to address the massive Tuberculosis problem faced by the nation yearly.**

# This document was prepared by

'The Romanian Children's Humanitarian Foundation –NL' which works voluntarily in for many years in Romania to help bring awareness in the domain of Tuberculosis prevention and education.



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