

**Area-Based Interventions for making the most of EU Fund for Sustainable Housing and Inclusion of disadvantaged Roma
in pilot areas in Romania & across the border to Serbia, Macedonia and Turkey**

Brief project results

The second phase of the project (July 2013- May 2014) was built on the results of the assessment of community resources and needs¹ made (July 2012 – February 2013) and on development processes initiated in the preparatory phase.

The outcomes of the project are:

- Interventions which are tailored to the needs of the communities identified in the preparatory phase were designed
- Potential partners and funding sources were identified to support interventions; communication channels and partnerships were built
- Services development was supported and new projects were generated
- The process of empowerment and participation of communities is enhanced in planning and carrying out interventions
- Communication and stable, trustful relationship between community members and coaches is in continuous building process
- Preparation of the community members for soliciting services is ongoing
- Contribution to elaboration of the Social Inclusion Chapter of the Cluj Napoca Development Strategy 2014-2020 was given and Draft outline for Desegregation Action Plan was elaborated
- Institutional and financial sustainability of the initiated actions was ensured

The coordinated social interventions which were carried out in the frame of the development process have followed two dimensions:

- the short term interventions are based on the Urgent Needs Plan and are built upon the inputs of the four communities
- medium and long term interventions were partly initiated by submitting projects and by drafting programmatic documents

The **Urgent Needs Plan's** major aim is to improve basic life conditions and access to basic public services in situation of deep deprivation. The focus was put on education and health.

In regard of education two directions of actions were identified:

- prevention of school drop-out for those enrolled to school

¹ The evaluation process was completed through a participatory research and community facilitation

- preparations for school enrollment for those not yet enrolled to school

For prevention of school drop-out the most important steps were:

- ensuring school transportation for facilitating the physical access to school (provided by the public transport company and paid by the Municipality)
- ensuring support services for children by offering food and after school activities for 90 children from Pata Rat in Traian Darjan School, which is attended by the most of the children from Pata Rat area (implemented in partnership by Social and Medical Directorate of the Municipality and Diakonia Foundation, United Way Foundation)

The preparations for school enrollment for those not enrolled yet to school is take place in the **Mobile Unit** which was created as a special service to respond to the complex needs of the most disadvantaged families and children from the Garbage dump. The Mobile Unit has been designed with the primary scope to provide safety for the children whose parents are working on the Garbage dump, and prepare their social skills necessary for school enrollment.

The Mobile Unit presently hosts 20-30 children every day who participate in educational and leisure activities and get food. The children are brought from their homes to the Mobile Unit (approx. 500 m distance) by the staff and the volunteers. Every weekend the volunteers organize activities in the unit and trips to the city (to cinema, to puppet show, to multimedia library etc.) for the children.

The services are provided by Fundatia pentru Dezvoltarea Popoarelor and are financed by the Municipality and Small Steps Foundation. The volunteer group is coordinated by the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work of the University of Babeş Bolyai.

The Social and Medical Directorate is started to keep an information desk in the Unit, providing information and counselling once a week for people from the landfill on issues like ID papers, social protection rights etc.

The Mobile Unit is also a place for community meetings.

In regard of improving of health condition the Mobile Unit hosts a doctor once a week who see people who don't have health insurance and are not entitled to access mainstream health care services (service provide by Fundatia pentru Dezvoltarea Popoarelor financed by Cosmote Foundation).

A nutrition program is provided for mothers and infants (below 3 years) in the Mobile Unit where a doctor offers counselling for the mothers in feeding and baby care once a week, parents have the possibility to feed and make bath for the babies. The program provide diapers and milk powder and possibility to prepare milk in a hygienic environment. An educator and social worker work with the mothers and the older children, siblings. The service financed by Small Steps Foundation.

Project generation²

In the project's lifetime 15 projects are under implementation in Pata Rat in the field of education, employment, health care and security. Part of the projects were initiated and facilitated by the local UNDP team, through building partnerships and collaboration.

4 large projects are submitted for funding in area of housing, employment, social services and human capacity building.

Institutional capacity building and sustainability

Establishment of the Center for Coordination of Social Inclusion in Cluj Metropolitan Area (CCSI-CMA) was proposed to the Mayorship and a project was submitted for sustaining the Center. Currently the project is under evaluation.

The CCSI-CMA will be responsible for coordination of and partly caring out the 'soft' measures needed for the social inclusion of highly disadvantaged families from Pata Rat. The CCSI-CMA would therefore have the following tasks:

- Preparation of and methodological support for new inclusive development projects in the next programmatic period of EU Structural Funds aiming at social inclusion of disadvantaged groups, among them the vulnerable Roma communities.
- Coordination of social inclusion measures through creating and developing institutional networks in the field of inclusive education, health care, community security, social housing, which aim to support mainstream public services in responding adequately to the special needs of the most disadvantaged groups, including the Roma;
- Community coaching and facilitation in Pata Rat for ensuring the preparation of full participation and democratic representation of the marginalized communities in the development process and of the smooth implementation of the resettlement and rehousing process, in cooperation with the targeted population;
- Supporting policy development and developing methodological guidelines in social inclusion, providing training for professionals;

Programmatic documents³

The local UNDP team was part of the working team which elaborated the proposal „Cluj Inclusive City”, chapter which is part of the Cluj Napoca Development Strategy 2014-2020. Consultation of the draft document was conducted in Pata Rat.

² See the Annex 1

³ See the Annex 2

Draft Outline of Desegregation and Social Inclusion for Pata Rat 2014-2020 was elaborated and will be proposed for adoption to the Local Council after adoption of the Cluj Napoca Development Strategy 2014-2020.

Community coaching⁴

Community members were prepared to access public services through introducing of service providers in the communities and supporting the process of trust building between professionals and community members. This process was led also for families from the garbage dump in order to support their children's attendance to the Mobile Unit.

Community members were prepared to represent the community needs in relation to different public institutions. Focus was paid to Community Association of the Roma from Coastei (CARC) in order to sustain the organizational development process. Institutional partnership was facilitated between the CARC and Social and Medical Directorate, thus the community organizing efforts done voluntarily by the NGO was recognized as a public value by the Municipality. The new project submitted for funding has as implementing partner the NGO.

Targeted actions responding to specific needs - from community mobilization (such as cleaning, reparations, organizing the usage of the public toilets) to support groups, conflict resolution and crisis intervention - were initiated.

Consultation on building services was made in order to find out how public services can respond the best to the specific needs of the communities.

⁴ See Annex 3