



# **REPORT ON SAVE THE CHILDREN'S INTERVENTION IN THE CONTEXT OF SARS-COV-2 PANDEMIC**



**Salvați Copiii**  
Save the Children România

**Starting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

# SAVE THE CHILDREN'S PRIORITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC CAUSED BY SARS-COV-2, STARTING ON 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY



The immediate effect of the spread of the pandemic caused by SARS-COV-2 in Romania was the **declaration of a state of emergency (16th of March)**, a decision that led to families being isolated at home and drastic changes in the children's educational routine, by closing down all educational units. Moreover, many economic activities were suspended, which has indefinitely affected the parents' incomes and access to basic food products in this period. Since 15th of May, Romania entered into a state of alert with a series of relaxation measures which entered into force on June 15, permitting the reopening of shopping malls, fitness clubs, outdoor pools, private indoor events of no more than 20 people, and outdoor events of no more than 50 people. In June 17th, the Romanian Government decided to open the public and private kindergartens, the after school programs, the churches, the public and private offices and the commercial spaces, in compliance with social distancing health guidelines. Wearing of protective masks in closed public spaces, shops, public transportation and the workplace was mandatory, and, in Bucharest, since 20th of October, is mandatory in any open space. At 14th of September, the schools have been opened and they are operating under three scenarios: green - all pupils in classroom, yellow - half in classroom and half online and red - all pupils at home following online courses.

This exceptional situation required measures following which thousands of people having been isolated at home or in institutionalized quarantine. Until October 21st 2020, there have been confirmed **191.102 cases (out of which more than 1.500 are medical staff) and 6.065 deaths** ([update](#)). From the total number of infected people, **137.835** are recovered. Due to **a recent spike in COVID-19 cases, there are with more than 4.000 cases every day**, ten times more than what was registered during the state of emergency, and 766 severe cases under intensive therapy monitoring. 1.000.000 adults who started technical unemployment and around 200.000 who were laid off. The crisis caused by the pandemic has also led to increased prices, especially in foods (flour, sugar, oil, meat, milk and eggs), without the government being able to cap the prices or sanction the merchants who take advantage of the market unbalances with regard to supplying the population. While the 2 million Romanians who emigrated for permanent or seasonal jobs in other countries, which are currently blocked, will no longer be able to support their families in Romania, deepening their economic problems. In addition, this generalized social uncertainty and economic instability are also increased by the difficulty in forecasting the duration and intensity of the current pandemic.

Even though children are not a priority in the governmental actions, they are, in fact, extremely vulnerable in terms of access to healthcare, education and emotional health. Following the closure of kindergartens and schools, 35.7% of the Romanian children, respectively those 1,300,000 children affected by poverty and social exclusion, have suffered various hardships and their parents' isolation have deepened the educational gap between them and the other children and endangered their health or even survival. This is why Save the Children has set two great priorities for this period: **providing equipment for hospitals and ensuring complex social and educational support for vulnerable children** ([link](#)).

**In this context, Save the Children Romania has activated its own emergency intervention program for children and parents in poor communities, as well as in support for the medical staff called upon to respond to current medical emergencies!**

# SAVE THE CHILDREN'S PRIORITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC CAUSED BY SARS-COV-2



Children's safety and support for the medical staff will remain the priorities of Save the Children organization in these difficult moments for all of us. Children's wellbeing continues to be the organization's concern, while our actions will not be suspended, but transformed, adjusted to the new context and to the unprecedented problems that vulnerable families in Romania are facing. As such, we decided to provide the following in this period and in the next weeks:

- 1** **Immediate endowment of hospitals** with protective equipment, medical devices (respiratory ventilators, disinfectants) and medical consumables of immediate necessity.
- 2** **Providing nutritional, educational and emotional support for vulnerable children and their families** in Bucharest and other 18 counties.
- 3** **Providing emotional and psychological counselling for parents, by establishing a free Helpline, Family Tel 0800070009** with the support of **Digi Romania**. Every day, from Monday to Friday, between 10AM and 16PM, Save the Children's psychologists provide useful information and psychological counselling to minimize the effects of social isolation, identify risk situations and advise parents on activities appropriate to the current difficulties.

[More information...](#)



# SAVE THE CHILDREN'S PRIORITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PANDEMIC CAUSED BY SARS-COV-2



## 1 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EMERGENCY FUND FOR HOSPITALS

**100 hospitals in Romania have activated the emergency mechanism of Save the Children Romania**, in order to cope with the unprecedented pandemic. To increase the hospitals' capacity to manage the serious cases of Covid-19, Save the Children stays in frequent contact with the doctors to make sure that our help covers the current urgent requirements and started the endowment of hospitals with equipment and emergency medical devices in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

To date, Save the Children Romania supported the medical activity within the COVID-19 pandemics, by providing **269.004 medical equipments for 55 medical units, 79 medical practitioners offices and 6.700 health professionals.**

**Photos:** medical equipment donated to County Emergency Hospital Suceava.



*„The doctors in the hospital are doing their best to care for the mothers and the children and we thank you for supporting us during these difficult moments. We feel we are not alone in this fight!”, M.D. Carmen Zaboloteanu, Mavromati Emergency County Hospital in Botosani.*

*„We wish you to know how much we appreciate the remarkable efforts Save the Children Romania is making to support the activity of the entire medical staff of our hospital and may we assure you of our highest consideration”, Dr. Bogdan Paltineanu –ICU Coordinator, Bagdasar-Arseni Hospital, Bucharest.*

07.09.2020 - **Emergency County Hospital Piatra-Neamț**: 1 pulsoximeter and 160 sensors, 1 monitor, injectomats, protection equipment (gloves, shoe covers, protection suits, safety glasses, waterproof medical suits halate).

21.08.2020 - **Slobozia Emergency Hospital**: 1 videolaringoscop.

21.08.2020 - **Constanța Emergency Hospital**: 7 injectomates.

09.07.2020 – **Emergency Department of Alessandrescu-Rusescu National Institute for Mother and Child Health (INSMC)**: modern medical equipment: medical instruments (surgery scissors and pincers, I.O. needles etc), ultrasound, ophtalmoscope, nebulizers, sets of scales, examination lamps, resuscitation ECG child mannequin and equipment for keeping medicines in sanitary conditions and for informing patients.

22.06.2020 – **Turda Hospital, Cluj county** – protection equipment: gloves, bonnets, shoe covers, protection suits, visors, safety glasses, waterproof medical suits.

22.06.2020 – **Moreni Hospital, Dâmbovița county**: protection equipment: gloves, shoe covers, bonnets, protection suits, visors, safety glasses, waterproof medical suits.

22.06.2020 - **Țândărei Hospital, Ialomița county**: protection equipment: gloves, shoe covers, bonnets, protection suits, visors, safety glasses, waterproof medical suits.

22.06.2020 - **Prof. Irinel Popescu Băilești Hospital, Dolj county**: protection equipment: gloves, protection suits, visors, shoe covers, bonnets.

22.06.2020 – **Găești Hospital, Dâmbovița county**: protection equipment: gloves, protection suits, visors, shoe covers, bonnets.

22.06.2020 – **Alexandria County Emergency Hospital, Teleorman county**: protection equipment: gloves, protection suits, visors, shoe covers, bonnets.

22.06.2020 – **Videle Hospital, Teleorman county**: protection equipment: gloves, protection suits, visors, shoe covers, bonnets.

17.06.2020 - **„Dr. Aurel Tulbure” Făgăraș Hospital**: protection equipment, 1 secretion aspirator, phototherapy lamp and glasses.

17.06.2020 – **Petroșani Emergency Hospital**: protection equipment, 1 pulsoximeter, 1 perfusor and 3 thermometers.

10.06.2020 - **County Obstetrics-Gynaecology Clinic „Cuza Vodă” Iași**: 1 high-performance ultrasound.

02.06.2020 - **Emergency Clinical Hospital for Children “Grigore Alexandrescu”- ORL Department**: 1 nose-pharyngeal-laryngeal fibroscope - the optimal standard for a complete oropharyngeal diagnosis, a light source for a clear visualisation of the vocal chords and 2 flexible nose-pharyngeal-laryngeal fibroscope, with videocamera and display, essential for the medical management of the respiratory tract (bronchoscopy).

27.05.2020 - **County Emergency Clinical Hospital Cluj-Napoca - Neonatology Section I**: 1 neonatal ventilator, 2.000 gloves, 1.000 bonnets, 50 protection suits, 2.100 masks, 100 visors, 1.000 hospital scrubs, 3.000 chloramine tablets, 24 l disinfectants; **Secția neonatologie II**: 2.000 gloves, 1.000 bonnets, 50 protection suits, 2.100 masks, 100 visors, 100 visiting suits, 3.000 chloramine tablets, 24 l disinfectants; **Secția ORL**: 1 air purifier, 1.000 gloves, 200 bonnets, 100 protection suits, 100 masks, 50 visors, 100 shoe covers, 100 visiting suits, 150 waterproof medical suits, 50 hospital scrubs, 50 safety glasses.

20.05.2020 - **Focșani County Emergency Hospital „Sf. Pantelimon”, Vrancea**: 1 fiber optic laryngoscope, 25 no touch thermometers, protection equipment (gloves, masks, bonnets, shoe covers) and disinfectants.

08.05.2020 - **Maternity Polizu**: 1.000 3-layers masks, 10.000 gloves, 210 protection suits, 100 long shoe covers, 1.000 visitors suits, 15.000 chloramine tablets, 15 no touch thermometers; **County Emergency**

**Hospital „Sf. Pantelimon”:** 50 FFP2 masks, 25 medical suits, 1 complete control CPR unit; **Emergency University Hospital in Bucharest:** 8C-RS convex transducer; **Cantacuzino Maternity Bucharest:** 38 medical suits, gloves 8 packages, 2.200 masks, 10 no touch thermometers; **Clinical Hospital for Children Dr. Victor Gomoiu:** 15 no touch thermometers; **Maternity Giulești:** 10 termometre no touch; **Clinical Hospital Filantropia:** 5 no touch thermometers; **Clinical Hospital Malaxa:** 5 no touch thermometers; **Dental Emergency Center for Children Bucharest:** ULV Fogger Biospray, air disinfectant OXIDICE AIR b (5L).

28.04.2020 - **Institute for Cardiovascular Disease and Transplant in Târgu Mureș:** protection equipment (500 FFP2 masks, 6.500 three-fold masks, 100 visors, 10.000 medical gloves, 2.500 visiting suits, 4.000 surgical suits, 420 protection suits, 50 disposable shoe covers, 3.000 Chloramine tablets, 40 l disinfectant, Septol, 20 l ecological detergent). Floor washing machine BD 38/12 C Bp Pack, Floor washing machine BD 43/25 C Bp Pack. Steam cleaner, Ultrasound with two transducers, with scanning and processing technologies incorporated.

23.04.2020 – **Focșani County Emergency Hospital „Sf. Pantelimon”, Vrancea:** 6.000 medical gloves; **Petroșani Emergency Hospital, Hunedoara:** 6.000 medical gloves; **Fălticeni Hospital, Suceava:** 6.000 medical gloves; **Alexandria County Emergency Hospital:** 6.000 medical gloves; **Bucharest University Emergency Hospital:** 6.000 medical gloves.

14.04.2020 - **Emergency Clinical Hospital for Children Brașov:** 1 respiratory ventilator, 1 high level disinfectant equipment for surfaces/medical tools/aeromicroflora; **County Emergency Clinical Hospital Arad:** surgical gloves, protection masks, face shields, protective gowns, disinfectants.

11.04.2020 - **Emergency Clinical Hospital „Bagdasar-Arseni”:** repair of 10 Dräger respiratory ventilators necessary for the Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Therapy.

10.04.2020 – **Neamț County Hospital:** washing machine for the medical equipment

09.04.2020 - **Municipal Hospital Sebeș, Alba:** 1 incubator for transport and protection equipments for doctors; **Emergency Hospital Zalău, Sălaj:** 2 injectomats, ventilator kits and protection equipments; **HOSPICE Casa Speranței:** protection equipment – 2000 gloves, 1000 disposable shoe covers, 1000 medical caps, 500 protection suits, 2500 medical masks, 100 visors, 50 protection glasses.

08.04.2020- **“Dr. Aristide Serfioti” Emergency Military Hospital Galați:** 3000 medical masks; **“Sf. Pantelimon” Emergency County Hospital Focșani:** 2000 medical masks.

01.04.2020 - **“Sfantul Ioan cel Nou” Emergency County Hospital in Suceava:** 1 respiratory ventilator, 4 syringe pumps and protective equipment (surgical gloves, protection masks, face shields, protective gowns, disposable hair covers, disposable shoe covers and 375 kg of top-level disinfectants for surfaces/medical equipment and air microflora);

30.03.2020 - **“Grigore Alexandrescu” Emergency Clinic Hospital for Children:** 1 performing ventilator;

26.03.2020 - **Emergency University Hospital in Bucharest:** 1 respiratory ventilator; **Cantacuzino Maternity in Bucharest:** 25 protective medical kits; **Emergency Clinical Hospital in Sibiu:** 25 protective medical kits; **County Hospital in Reșița:** 25 protective medical kits; **Mavromati Emergency County Hospital in Botosani:** 1 respiratory ventilator;

25.03.2020 – **Sf. Parascheva Infectious Diseases Clinical Hospital in Iași:** protection equipment for the medical staff/patients, biocides, Covid 19 testing kits.

23.03.2020 - **Bucur Maternity within Sf. Ioan Emergency Clinic Hospital in Bucharest:** 2 incubators, 1 performing ventilator and 25 protective kits;

17.03.2020 - **Alessandrescu-Rusescu National Institute for Mother and Child Health in Bucharest – pediatric department (INSMC):** start of the expansion and modernization works and provision of equipment for the emergency department for children.

- **Saint Mary Children's Hospital in Iași** – *non-invasive cerebral oximeter Fore Sight Elite*
- **Emergency County Hospital Obstetrics-Gynaecology Clinic 2 Târgu Mureș**: *100 protective gowns*
- **Câmpulung Moldovenesc Hospital, Suceava**: *protection equipment*
- **Gura Humorului Hospital**: *protection equipment*
- **Rădăuți Hospital**: *protection equipment*
- **Family Centre "Visătorii" in Fundu Moldovei**: *protection equipment*
- **„Louis Țurcanu” Emergency Children's Hospital in Timișoara**: *4 disinfecting gates, 420 protective gowns, protection equipment*
- **Timiș County Hospital**: *haemodialysis reverse osmosis mobile device*
- **Odobescu Maternity in Timișoara**: *protection equipment*
- **Medical Center "Cristian Șerban" Buziaș, Timiș**: *protection equipment*
- **79 medical practitioners offices** in Suceava county (Suceava, Ilișești, Dolhești, Voitinel, Ciprian Porumbescu, Șcheia, Pătrăuți, Moara, Bosanci, Adâncata, Sf. Ilie, Salcea și Ostra) and Timiș County: *protection kits, medicine, hygiene products and disinfectants.*

**SUPPORTERS.** Save the Children Romania has created the Emergency Fund for Hospitals. Total funds in the amount are **EUR 955.604**, due mainly to the solidarity of the following companies: **Catena Pharmacies, Kaufland Romania, Oriflame, BCR, GSK, Garanti BBVA Group, Penny Market Romania, Libris.ro, Pfizer, Kimberly-Clark, Alliance Healthcare România, National Syndicate in Education „Spiru Haret”, “RO Club Maraton” Association, Gurghiu Commune and DPD Romania.** Of this amount, EUR 133.287 comes from donations from individuals who wanted to support the doctors' effort. By the end of 2020, **20 intensive therapy, neonatology and pediatrics sections, neonatologie și pediatrie**, there will be equipped **with more than 4.700 medical facilities, worth Euro 400.000, in order to save 5.000 children's lives.** VWi will equip the following medical units: Clinical Emergency Hospital for Children "Grigore Alexandrescu", Neonatal Intensive Therapy and ORL, Emergency University Hospital from Bucharest, Emergency Clinical Hospital "Sfântul Pantelimon", Oradea Clinical Hospital of Obstetrics-Gynecology, Clinical Hospital Filantropia Craiova, County Emergency Hospital Arad, County Emergency Clinical Hospital Târgu Mureș, Institute for Cardiovascular Disease and Transplant in Târgu Mureș, Emergency Hospital Tulcea, Hunedoara Hospital Spitalul "Alexandru Simionescu", County Emergency Hospital Alexandria.



**Photo:** complete renovation and endowment for Emergency Department of Alexandrescu - Rusescu National Institute for Mother and Child Health (INSMC).

## 2 CONTINUATION OF EDUCATIONAL AND PROTECTION ACTIVITIES FOR 10.000 VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Save the Children has intensified its efforts to support and protect social beneficiaries, by replacing most of the direct activities with remote ones and focusing on guaranteeing the access to education and emergency material support for children and their parents from 18 counties of the country. Moreover, the representatives of Save the Children are directly engaged in supporting the beneficiaries in urgent situations, in compliance with the requirements and recommendations of the local authorities on preventing the spread of SARS-CoV-2, aiming the following activities for **10.000 children (children from social-economic disadvantaged areas, children whose parents work abroad, refugee/asylum-seeking children, pregnant women and mothers with young children)**:

- 1. Day-to-day phone monitoring of children and families' situation** by the local communities' teams of social workers, psychologists and educators.
- 2. Ensuring the necessary foods, basic necessities, hygiene products and disinfectants.**
- 3. Providing the educational support** online/by phone to children, in small groups or individually, using the phone/PC/tablets. Books, educational materials and games are distributed, to support the families in organizing activities. To provide access to online education we purchased 3.500 tablets with SIM cards and educational software for 4.000 children living in families at risk of poverty and social exclusion. We provided specific training for 200 teachers in order to be able to continue their pupils' online education. On a daily basis, through #SALVEZCUPOVESTI 2.000 children receive food.
- 4. Development of remedial education** during the summer for children whose access to education has been suspended during quarantine. 4.000 children have been included in 127 groups of remedial education, taking into consideration all sanitation rules. Activities: intensive education to cover the educational gaps accrued during the pandemics; health education; digital training for a proper use of the communication; nonformal education, art activities, learning through play and, in cooperation with competent institutions, carrying out scientific experiments, financial education etc.; outdoor activities, small trips.
- 4. Psychological and social counseling** (online/by phone) to children and parents across the country and abroad (the so-called "red areas"), including for anxiety and panic management, compliance with the measures that help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and daily organization of children activities, etc. The mothers of newborns or young children are further provided advice on child care, as well as disease prevention in general.
- 5. Addressing the competent authorities**, in order to facilitate emergency social-medical assistance.



### Our results:

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**8.000 children and 5.400 families received the support of the organization and the target group will increase in the next period of time. 4.000 of these children will be able to use tablets for their online courses derulate online provided by welltrained teachers.**

The activities for these children are supported from donations from companies and legal entities for the encouragement of which Save the Children launched the campaign #SALVEZCUPOVESTI by engaging Romanian influencers (see next page).

**Photo:** distributing foods and other basic necessities in poor communities.



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Photo: **Andree Esca**, the most appreciated news presenter – anchor of the TV station **PRO TV** and her daughter **Alexia Eram**.

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## ESTABLISHMENT OF A **FREE HELPLINE** FOR THE EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS

The psychological counselling/parental education activities – contacting children and parents and online/ phone counselling by psychologists, are aimed at helping parents to overcome the problems they are facing (issues related to anxiety and panic management, the need to comply with the measures that prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the daily organization of children activities in conditions of isolation, general aspects related to parental education, etc. are addressed). If possible, sheets, useful information, etc. are electronically sent to children/parents.

Every day, from Monday to Friday, between 11 AM and 7 PM, by using a free phone number provided by Digi<sup>1</sup>, **Family Tel 0800070009, 16 psychologists provide useful information and psychological counselling** to reduce the effects of social isolation, identify risk situations and guide parents towards activities appropriate to the current difficulties.

With their support, on the website [www.salvaticopiii.ro](http://www.salvaticopiii.ro), we have made available recommendations and access to educational resources and means to stimulate the spending of daily quality time with children, which is more necessary than ever in this period. The articles answer questions such as: “How do we explain to anxious children about the Coronavirus?”, “We are not going to school. What can we do with the children at home?”, “How can we tell whether the children are affected?” or “How do we cope with fear in this period?”

<sup>1</sup> 1Free of charge on the territory of Romania, in any landline and mobile phone network.



[Recommendations for parents](#)

[Educational resources  
for parents](#)