



**2017**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



**Salvați Copiii**  
Save the Children România



**CHILDREN AND YOUNGSTERS BENEFIT  
FROM SPECIAL PROTECTION AND  
ASSISTANCE IN FULFILLING THEIR RIGHTS  
(Romanian Constitution, art. 49 (1))**



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*Eva\*, a 2-year old girl, and her mother are in the care of the family physician, Save the Children providing, through its nurses, nutritional support and accompanying them to the physician whenever necessary.*

*\*the name is fictitious*

*Photo cover 1:*

*At the home of a family with 7 minor children, of whom 3 in a placement center, the social worker from Save the Children team, Armaşu Ionela Camelia, is holding the youngest. Parents are given food, and children are registered with the family physician.*





## Dear friends,

2017 was a year with many challenges for Save the Children, but, due to the support of the partner companies and an increasing number of individuals, collaborators and volunteers who understood the importance of social engagement, as well as a dedicated team, we have turned these challenges into beautiful achievements, measured in successful school years or better protection of the lives of children.

With the help of our partners, we have handled the challenges through complex, integrated actions, which targeted lasting transformations. Thus, we equipped 40 maternities, we facilitated access to health, by developing the multi-disciplinary support network, for 7,000 mothers and pregnant women in rural areas from 14 counties, while also monitoring the healthcare provided to newborns and children, and working closely with specialists and decision-makers to improve the public policies and services in the field.

Given that education is still the primary solution for a strong and functional society and, implicitly, a better life for everyone, we supported 5,000 children through School After School, A Second Chance and Summer Kindergartens programs and developed **educational programs and trainings on the rights of the child, expressing personal opinions and participation for 195,208 children.**

We also invested in the protection of children against any form of violence, abuse or neglect, working with 3,000 children and 2,400 parents, through counselling and positive education services, 6,500 children and their parents who left abroad to work, specialists and representatives of the authorities.

## We thank all our supporters and volunteers for their trust and support!

We are convinced that, together, we can be increasingly stronger for the children and make sure that no child is left behind and they benefit from all their rights.

Gabriela Alexandrescu  
Executive President

Mihai Gafencu  
President

Children we've reached

**255.318**

**Lives saved - 12.000**

provision of state-of-the-art medical equipment, information and support for mothers and pregnant women.

**Education - 48.244**

pre-school education (Summer kindergartens), school education ("A Second Chance", "School after School"), health education.

**Protection - 38.805**

protection against violence, protection of children with parents abroad and refugee children, online protection, medical protection.

**Information - 156.269**

information on the rights of the child and encouraging children's participation.

Specialists	Parents
<b>27.945</b>	<b>46.542</b>

Incomes (Euro)  
**5.958.524**



**2017**  
**OUR STORY**  
**IN NUMBERS**



Photo: Eduard Oti

## VISION

Save the Children's vision is a world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

## MISSION

Save the Children's mission is to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

## VALUES

Accountability, Ambition,  
Collaboration, Creativity, Integrity

## Values we believe in

### Accountability

We take personal responsibility for using our resources efficiently, achieving measurable results, and being accountable to supporters, partners and, most of all, children.

### Ambition

We are demanding of ourselves and our colleagues, set high goals and are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for children.

### Collaboration

We respect and value each other, thrive on our diversity, and work with partners to leverage our global strength in making a difference for children.

### Creativity

We are open to new ideas, embrace change, and take disciplined risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children.

### Integrity

We aspire to live to the highest standards of personal honesty and behaviour; we never compromise our reputation and always act in the best interests of children.



## 6 key results in 2017

Together with the volunteers, donors, supporters and the staff of the organization, in 2017 we continued our efforts to provide proper resources and quality services for children in vulnerable situations.

### **ACQUISITION OF STATE-OF-THE-ART MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FOR MATERNITIES**

Save the Children invested, in 2017, over **EUR 813,000** in the acquisition of **129 state-of-the-art medical equipment for 40 maternities and neonatal units** (incubators, radiant warmers, pulse oximeters, ventilators, vital signs monitors, phototherapy lamps) in Bucharest and 30 counties. Since the start of the program (2012), 34,000 children have been saved.

### **THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GALA OF THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival, the guests donated, to support the right of vulnerable children to go to school, a record amount: EUR 673,700. Bids were placed, by the companies who undertook to

actively support the educational campaigns, on 30 trees designed and donated by famous Romanian designers. The funds collected will be used to finance “School after School” programs, which include approx. 4,500 disadvantaged children.

### **CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN-NEW DEPUTY OF THE PEOPLE'S OMBUDSMAN, SPECIALIZED IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

The establishment of the Children's Ombudsman in Romania was a major objective of our organization, pursued, ever since 2001, in public events on the matter and submission of legislative proposals in 2011, 2013 and 2016. The alternative reports of Save the Children, submitted periodically to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (1993, 2002,



”

Save the Children does one other wonderful thing, besides concrete and consistent intervention: it teaches us how to help. The mechanism to redirect 2% of the income tax is within reach for each of us, and Save the Children knows how to convert this percentage into lives saved.

**Amalia Năstase,**  
Save the Children Ambassador

2008 and 2016) were followed by recommendations to the Romanian State to establish the Children's Ombudsman. Law no.9/2018 to amend Law no. 35/1997 regarding the organization and functioning of the People's Ombudsman, created **a separate field - defence, protection and promotion of the rights of the child - coordinated by a deputy of the People's Ombudsman, called the Children's Ombudsman.**

#### **MASSIVE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN THE 2017 EDITION OF THE GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION (GCE)**

According to the information received from 845 participating educational units, the 2017 edition of the GCE, developed under the slogan "Together for education!", was attended by 184,803 persons (156,269 school and pre-school pupils, 10,145 teachers, 16,489 parents and 1,900 guests). Compared to the previous edition, the number of participating schools was by 200 higher, while the number of participants increased by over 40,000.

#### **SET-UP AND EQUIPMENT OF FRIENDLY SPACES FOR ACTIVITIES WITH ASYLUM-SEEKING CHILDREN, REFUGEES OR CHILDREN WITH SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION LIVING ON THE TERRITORY OF ROMANIA**

Such spaces, generically called "Children's Rooms", have been set up in 5 of the Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum-Seekers that are under the coordination of the General Immigration Inspectorate. In 2 of them, we established spaces to provide optimum care for newborns and small infants. Moreover, in Bucharest Accommodation Center, an outdoor playground was set up to provide the children with the safety and freedom of movement they needed.

#### **NATIONAL CAMPAIGN "STOP THE BULLYING OR ELIMINATE BREAKS"**

The campaign aimed at sounding the alarm and addressing a request to the decision-making authorities so as to take urgent measures that would allow the pupils to enjoy their breaks at school, without fearing that they would be bullied and humiliated. The campaign was reflected in over 220 materials in the written media, TV, online, and has an actual website and a dedicated Facebook page. The prevention of bullying is an old concern of Save the Children Romania, the organization drawing up in 2016 the first national study on the characteristics and consequences of the phenomenon on the development of the child.

# SINCE 2012, WE HAVE SAVED 34,000 CHILDREN

Since the beginning of the program, Save the Children Romania has invested EUR 3.120.000 in equipping the maternities. In the picture, the radiant warmer with resuscitation unit donated in 2017 to the maternity in the Emergency County Hospital Sibiu.

The rate of infant mortality



● Romania ● European mean

source – INS/Eurostat

# Lives saved

In the period 2012-2017, we acquired 393 pieces of medical equipment for 78 healthcare units throughout the country. Thus, we contributed to the rescue and optimal treatment of more than 34,000 babies.

## EQUIPMENT FOR MATERNITIES

In 2017, Save the Children Romania invested over **EUR 813,000** in equipping 40 maternities and neonatal units from: Alba-Iulia, Arad, Bacău, Baia-Mare, Bârlad, Bicăz, Botoșani, Brașov, Bucharest, Buftea, Buzău, Caracal, Caransebeș, Călărași, Craiova, Deva, Drobeta Turnu Severin, Gura Humorului, Iași, Mangalia, Oradea, Pitești, Rădăuți, Râmnicu-Vâlcea, Reșița, Roman, Satu Mare, Sibiu, Târgoviște, Târgu-Mureș, Târgu-Neamț, Timișoara, Tulcea, Zalău.

## SPECIALIZED SUPPORT FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

With the contribution of the local teams, **7,250 beneficiaries** were supported, of whom 4,000 children (1,100 younger than 1 year), 750 pregnant women (170 younger than 18 years), and 2,500 mothers (230 minors) from rural disadvantaged communities, through information and material support - food, nutritive supplements, transport to medical care. The mothers' interest in registering the children with a family physician has increased (all children currently have a family physician), as well as the interest of pregnant women to perform the recommended medical checks (the percentage of women undergoing gynecological checks has increased from 47.8% to approx. 80%), as well as the percentage of vaccinated children (from 75.9% to approx. 95%). **4,000 adolescents and parents** attended educational sessions for reproduction health, delivered by trained volunteers.

Following the campaign "Smile Romania", developed by Save the Children with the support of GSK Romania, 642 children aged between 7 and 13 years from Vaslui (Oșești, Cioatele and Negrești) and Botoșani (Balta Arsă, Unțeni, Corni and Havârna) counties benefited from dental consultations and free-of-charge dental treatments. During the three years of implementation, EUR 40,000 were invested.

## ROADSHOW OF PREGNANT WOMEN

In the fourth edition of the Roadshow of Pregnant Women, Save the Children went to Dolj County, in Breasta, Plenița and Sadova villages, where pregnant women were informed on birth control, labour readiness, breastfeeding and child nutrition and benefited from full prenatal consultations, with the support of volunteer healthcare professionals.

## TRAINING OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

With the support of Carol Davila Bucharest Medicine and Pharmacy University, Save the Children organized 3 advanced masterclasses, in February, June and December, on risk gestations and labour interventions, held by Prof. Dr. Jacky Nizard, elected president of European Board and College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University Pierre et Marie Curie Paris and Dr. Ilinca Gussi, head of works, primary physician, for 200 healthcare professionals in over 15 medical units from Bucharest and the South of the country. Moreover, Prof. Dr. Jacky Nizard and Dr. Ilinca Gussi held a session about cardiac diseases during pregnancy at the National Cardiology Congress in September.

## PRENATAL EDUCATION

Through the project "**ABC – Learning about children. Parents' school**", a project developed by **Baby Care Association** with the support of Save the Children Romania, 1,200 parents attended prenatal education sessions organized on a monthly basis at Sibiu Emergency County Clinical Hospital. We launched the Breastfeeding Brochure, distributed to the maternities equipped and in the disadvantaged communities where we work.

**Partners for life:** Dorna, Fondation Carrefour, GSK Romania, Libris.ro, Banvit Foods, Cora, Gefco, Ministry of Health, Romanian Association of Neonatology, Independent Midwives Association of Romania, Dr. I. Cantacuzino Clinical Hospital, Directorates of public health, General directorates of social assistance and child protection.

## PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL ISSUES

The 104 lung TB patients (children and parents), diagnosed following medical investigation among 207 persons who live in the street suspected of having tuberculosis, received social services, psychological counselling and material support (social coupons), and their treatment has been under constant supervision in collaboration with healthcare units. 25 peer-to-peer educators facilitated a communication between persons without shelter and the project team. **1,089 homeless persons** (children and youngsters) were informed on tuberculosis, and 65 experts from institutions working with this target group participated in training classes.

**Partners:** „Marius Nasta” Pneumophtisiology Institute, pneumophtisiology hospitals in Bucharest, Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation.



# PRE-SCHOOL FOR VULNERABLE

Save the Children organizes each year Summer kindergartens to contribute to providing equal chances when it comes to access to education for children from disadvantaged categories by enhancing their readiness for school.

Save the Children has been developing pre-school and school inclusion programs for children from disadvantaged environments ever since 1999. The summer kindergartens, organized annually, are a way by which the children from poor communities, mostly of Roma ethnic group, are drawn to school, helped to integrate into the education system and fill in the gaps created by the lack of pre-school education. In this

way, school dropout rates decrease, and parents understand better the need of education for the future of their children.

Although the rate of enrollment into the pre-school education system reported by our authorities (Ministry of Labour) is of 81%, the European data on the actual participation at this essential stage in a child's education indicates, for Romania, a percentage of only 52%.

## IMPACT

Without having the experience of kindergarten, 75% Roma children abandon school before graduating from the primary classes. After attending the summer pre-school program, more than 80% of the children successfully graduated the 4<sup>th</sup> grade.

For the pre-school children from Jilava, the Summer Kindergarten has come with many games, songs and cheerfulness. At the end of the 8 weeks, they are looking forward to the beginning of school, as the experience of kindergarten was wonderful and full of surprises. They were introduced to numbers and letters, stories and coloring books. Education can be interesting and fun. The more important as it was their only contact with education so far. But the first step was made on this path.



# EDUCATION CHILDREN

The experience of Save the Children showed that participating for two months in summer kindergarten generated a significant positive effect on keeping the children from vulnerable groups into school.

## RESULTS

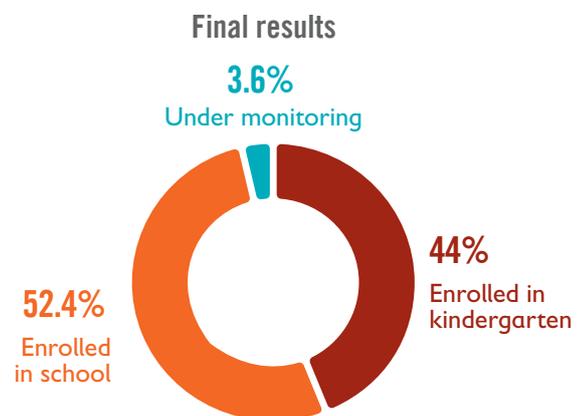
Since the first summer kindergartens in 1999, over **7,500 children** were included in the pre-school education program. In 2017, 30 summer training groups were organized in Bucharest and in Argeş, Braşov, Caraş-Severin, Călăraşi, Cluj, Constanţa, Dâmboviţa, Dolj, Hunedoara, Iaşi, Ilfov, Mureş, Neamţ, Olt, Teleorman, Timiş and Vrancea counties, offering **direct services to 605 children** that were never enlisted in the pre-school education system or registered sporadic attendance. 239 parents participated in children’s activities, becoming familiar with the educational environment



I was not able to write my whole life, but my child learned the letters over one summer. The Summer kindergarten worked miracles with him. One day, he will also teach me to write and read.

**M. P. /**

The mother of a child enrolled in the summer kindergarten



and having, thus, an increased trust towards the educational system. 30 members of the teaching staff attended the training course organized before the start of the summer training activities.

Following their participation in the training groups, the children who subsequently enrolled in school or kindergarten, according to their age, managed to adapt to the educational environment, obtaining good school results and improving their social skills which enabled them to interact with teachers and classmates. **More than 2,400 people** – children, parents, teachers, members of the communities – were informed about the importance of early education.

# Prevention of school dropout and integration of children in schools

## SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

The school dropout prevention program is addressed to children in dropout risk and their parents, who live in disadvantaged communities. The program consists in organizing “School after School” school readiness activities, as well as interaction, social, psychological and legal counseling, provision of material support (food, school supplies, hygiene products), based on the needs of the families.

**3,475 children** participated in the educational activities held by the members of the teaching staff in the program and also benefited, alongside their parents, from social and legal services. **3,170 parents** participated in regular meetings for information and social counselling organized in the educational centres.

## “A SECOND CHANCE”

“A Second Chance” school integration/reintegration program is addressed to children who have never been registered with the educational system or dropped out of school and exceeded the schooling

age, by providing educational and social services for children and their families.

Results: **225 children** were part of the program in 2017. In addition to the school readiness services meant to help children catch up with subject matters, social and legal services were also provided, as well as material support consisting in food products, school supplies and hygiene products depending on the need identified, to children and 176 parents.

To date, **21,692 children participated in the “School after School” program and 3,948 children in the “A Second Chance” program.**

## PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION:

Kaufland Romania, Selgros Cash & Carry, Carrefour, H&M Conscious Foundation, Dorna, Cora, Catena, BCR, Interbrands, Cofco International, Globalworth, Lidl, ANPDCA, Ministry of National Education, General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, Bucharest School Inspectorate, county school inspectorates, schools.

# Education for health

In 2017, Save the Children initiated, with the support of Kaufland Romania, a pilot project meant to support the development of a school culture for the promotion of the child’s physical and emotional health, as well as protection against any violent behaviour.

The main activities consisted in developing and piloting a modular information program for children and youngsters, structured into

four themed modules: sexual education, nutrition and sports, prevention of consumption (alcohol, tobacco, drugs), prevention of violence and promotion of positive relations (emotional health of the children).

The project activities were implemented in 146 educational units from 32 localities, from the urban and rural area, for **14,850 pupils aged between 6 and 18 years**. Prior to the information activities, a training was held in February where 44 members of the implementation team developed the skills necessary to implement the educational program. To deliver the informative sessions, 4 kits were developed for the facilitators, related to each themed module and 15 informative materials (brochures), the materials being submitted with the Ministry of National Education for endorsement purposes. In September, in Predeal, the **Health Camp** was organized for 50 children and young volunteers.



### SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

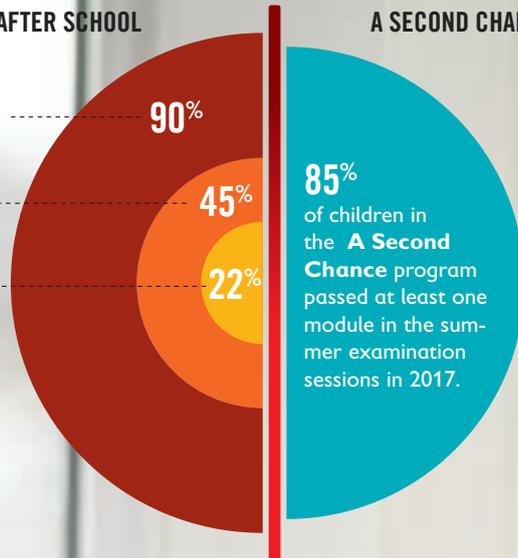
90% of children registered progress in the school year 2016-2017

45% obtained good and very good results

22% of them received school awards

### A SECOND CHANCE

85% of children in the **A Second Chance** program passed at least one module in the summer examination sessions in 2017.



# QUALITY SCHOOL EDUCATION

## INFORMATION AND TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS

*Bogdan is 8 years old and comes from a family of 5 children. In the first year of school, he found it very difficult to cope with all the requests. At the recommendation of his teacher, he was enrolled in the School after School program developed by Save the Children, and his school results exceeded his parents' expectations.*

Over **5,000 children and youngsters**, indirect beneficiaries, participated in the information and awareness-raising actions on the right of the child to education. A vocational training course was organized for 25 Roma school mediators in view

of facilitating access to education for children from disadvantaged environments, particularly Roma. 159 members of the teaching staff and social workers were trained to provide quality services to children from disadvantaged environments.



# PROTECTION AND EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN LEFT HOME ALONE

## IMPACT

73% of the children have improved their school results, 84% of them have improved their emotional abilities, 84% their social skills, while 75% their independent life skills, after participating in the activities part of the program.

*Cosmina lives with her grandmother and younger sister, her parents having left to Germany. She has not seen either of them for a long time. After being included in the Save the Children program, where she interacts with many children, Cosmina has improved her emotional state and behaviour, significantly affected by the separation from her parents.*

# Protection of children with parents working abroad

The program ensuring the protection of the children with parents working abroad is aimed at reducing the negative impact associated with the migration of parents for children left home alone.

The program is aimed at providing direct outreach services and phone and online counselling to children and their representatives, on the one hand, as well as by improving the capacity of the institutions to address the needs of this vulnerable category of children accordingly, on the other hand.

## DIRECT SERVICES

The activities were carried out as part of **17 local programs** developed in Pitești, Bucharest, Reșița, Mangalia, Târgoviște (2 programs), Craiova, Petrila, Timișoara, Brașov, Piatra-Neamț, Suceava, Iași, Negrești, Lupeni, Sighișoara and Târgu Mureș cities and consisted in the provision of social and psychological support to overcome the period of separation from parents, school support and interaction. **944 children and 626 parents and representatives of the children** benefited from counselling and direct support (educational, psychological and social). Since the beginning of the program, **6,500 children and 4,500 legal representatives** benefited from the services.

## THE INFORMATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN / PHONE AND ONLINE COUNSELLING SERVICE (HELP-LINE 0800.070.040 and the platform [www.copiisinguriacasa.ro](http://www.copiisinguriacasa.ro))

The information campaign for parents with regard to their obligations upon leaving the country, in view of appointing a legal representative of the child, and the risks the children are subject to when they leave to work abroad has continued through the mass-media, by organizing local roadshows, in Bucharest and 13 counties, distributing informative materials at border checkpoints. Informative materials were sent to DGASPCs and ISJs, to be further distributed to the Public Social Assistance Services and schools. With the local roadshows, we organized information activities in 345 localities, both in rural and urban areas, where more than **23,412 persons participated (14,038 parents, 4,000 children, 5,374 members of the teaching staff and representatives of local authorities)**.

Save the Children specialists offered, through the phone and online counselling line, legal, psychological and social counselling for children with parents gone abroad, as well as for persons who reported various cases of abuse, failure to fulfill parental obligations, children going through the placement procedure.

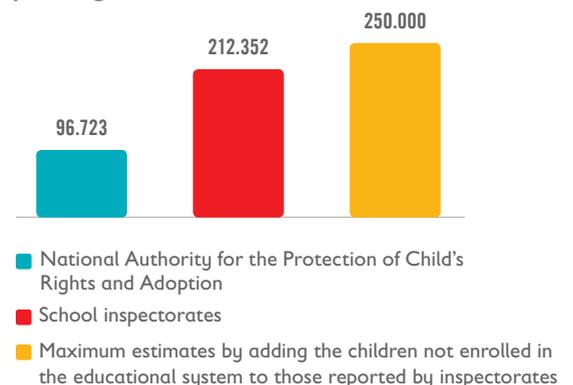
## STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

5 regional debates and a national conference were organized in Suceava, Brașov, Craiova, Târgoviște, Constanța and Bucharest, where **508 specialists** in the field of social assistance, education, courts of law and other relevant institutions participated.

A new set of methodological recommendations was delivered in the territory on the procedure of temporary delegation of parenting authority, taking over the conclusions of the Inter-institutional Work Group for children with parents gone abroad, created by the Presidential Administration.

**PARTNERS:** The Velux Foundations, Metropolitan Life, Transilvania Bank, RCS&RDS, Presidential Administration, ANPDCA, General Directorates of Social Assistance and Child Protection, public social assistance services, county school inspectorates, Radio România Actualități, Radio România Internațional, Radio România București, schools.

Statistics on the situation of children with parents gone abroad



## Support services for child and family

Save the Children provides full psychological appraisal and counselling services to children and families as part of the community centres, by implementing specialized prevention and outreach programs.

Save the Children created 5 counselling centres: 4 counselling centres for parents (in Iași, Timișoara, Târgu-Mureș and Suceava) and the Emotional and Behaviour Education Centre for Children CEECC (Bucharest).

### OUTREACH AND PROTECTION

As part of the specialized services, **3,164 children** were appraised and benefited from therapeutic intervention such as counselling/ individual psychological therapy, as well as group intervention; **2,497 parents** were also integrated in parental education programs. We provided appraisal, early intervention, treatment, psychoeducation, group therapy, direct intervention in the family and school for parents and children at risk of developing emotional and behavioural conditions. In the pre-school and primary school system, educators, parents and children benefited from psychological and educational programs to facilitate the children's adjustment to kindergarten, development of social and emotional skills, acquisition of competences and skills necessary for the transition to school, early management of aggressive behaviours. Since 2009, **42,764 children and parents** have benefited from psycho-therapeutic interventions.

### PREVENTION OF BULLYING

A major focus was put on programs meant to prevent the occurrence of bullying behaviours among children, in the educational environment. At the request of 11 schools and high-schools from Bucharest,



# PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST VIOLENCE

Iași, Suceava, Mureș and Timiș, programs were implemented to prevent the bullying behaviour among pupils, according to the methodology developed as part of the European project "Introducing a child participatory approach in prevention of bullying in school settings": workshops with **837 children**; training of **123 members of the teaching staff**, based on the manual developed; 13 workshops with **372 parents** to recognize bullying behaviours (victim, aggressor) among their children. Furthermore, 43 specialists from DGASPC Suceava were trained.

Following this undertaking, the national campaign „Stop Bullying or eliminate breaks” was launched on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

### IMPACT

Following the trainings, more than **70%** of the participating members of the teaching staff requested additional information on: developing children's interaction skills, methods to facilitate school inclusion and techniques of positive discipline in the classroom.



### Threat of physical violence and/or humiliation

1 child of 6 was repeatedly beaten by another child. 

1 child of 4 was humiliated in front of the colleagues. 

1 of 3 children is excluded from the group of colleagues. 

4 of 5 children say they witnessed a situation where a child was humiliated by another child. 

## Protection of children affected by trafficking

### PARTNERS

IKEA Foundation;  
BCR– Commercial Bank of Romania;  
School Inspectorate of Bucharest Municipality;  
Psychiatric Hospital“ Al. Obregia” –  
Psychiatric Clinic for children and teenagers;  
Bucharest Municipality Centre for Support and Educational Resources; ANITP

In 2017 a new partnership agreement was concluded with the National Agency against Human Trafficking (ANITP) on developing joint activities to prevent children trafficking and strengthen the capacity of the centers for the victims of human trafficking.

A network of professionals was established at national level to appraise and intervene in cases of children victims of sexual abuse. In March, a training course was organized for 30 persons, specialists from the child protection system and representatives of courts of law.

### INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

In order to draw the attention on the high number of volunteer disappearances among children and teenagers, Save the Children organized an information and awareness campaign for pupils, parents and teaching staff, during the “Different School” week, under the aegis of May 25<sup>th</sup>, the International Day of Missing Children. The teams of Save the Children volunteers and specialists carried out activities with more than **1,200 pupils** and 44 form masters from 22 schools and high-schools and **262 parents**. The efforts of the organization aimed at increasing the awareness on the risk situations when children and teenagers without support can take decisions with a major negative impact on their safety and life.

# Protection of refugee and asylum-seeking children

In order to support the children seeking asylum and beneficiaries of international protection, as well as their families, Save the Children Organization is rolling out a complex project within the Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum Seekers that are under the coordination of the General Immigration Directorate.

In 2017, there were approximately 5,000 applications for asylum filed in Romania, the highest number so far, since Romania ratified the **Convention relating to the status of refugees (1991)**. Moreover, in comparison with the previous years, in the period August-November 2017, 538 persons, of whom 216 children, entered the country by the Black Sea.

In response to this situation, Save the Children program is aimed at facilitating the access of refugee and asylum-seeking children to social rights, as well as health and education and their integration into the Romanian society, by providing integrated services, adapted to the specific needs of children and their families.

## EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

In 2017, Save the Children Organization provided educational and social services for **1,600 children and 1,300 adults seeking**

## IMPACT

Due to the investments in the infrastructure works in the 5 Regional Centres for Accommodation and Procedures for Asylum Seekers, the children and young migrants are provided friendly and accessible spaces, being thus supported in the process of learning Romanian, doing their homework, as well as carrying out leisure and interaction activities. Moreover, young mothers have access to clean spaces and benefit from proper equipment to care for the newborns.

**asylum and beneficiaries of international protection**, within the Accommodation and Procedures Centres from **Bucharest, Galați, Giurgiu, Rădăuți, Șomcuta Mare and Timișoara**. The children were provided material support, social counselling, educational services and leisure activities, support to enroll in educational units, based on their needs. The adults benefited from counselling and support so as to know the rights/obligations related to their status, accommodation requirements in the regional centres, to have access to social aids and medical services, find jobs.

The beneficiaries' countries of origin were: Irak, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Iran, Somalia, Algeria, Pakistan, Turkey, Palestine, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Congo, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Guinea, Cameroon, Rwanda, Myanmar, Sudan, Gambia and Zimbabwe.

## CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES

To improve the reception conditions, Save the Children set up and equipped friendly spaces dedicated to the activities with children, generically called the "Children's rooms" in 5 of the Regional Centres, while in 2 of them, it set up spaces for optimal care of newborns and small infants. Moreover, an outdoor playground was set up in Bucharest Accommodation Centre.

## PARTNERS

Save the Children UK, General Immigration Inspectorate (IGI), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Jesuit Refugee Service in Romania (JRS).

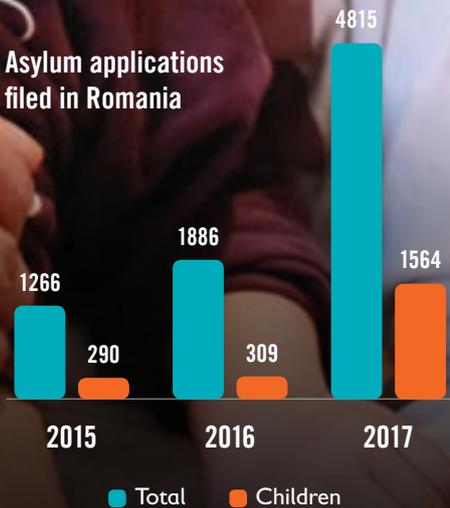




The Hussein family, who includes Lavin and Leyla, \*arrived to the Centre from Rădăuți at the beginning of 2017, eagerly wanting to find the peace they totally lack even now in their home country, Syria. Save the Children provided the family with material assistance (clothes and food), while efforts were made to enroll the two children in the pre-school and school system.

\*names are fictitious.

Asylum applications filed in Romania



# INTERNET CLASS – the most interactive class

The Internet Class program, funded by the European Commission, is a unique project implemented in Romania and the main promoter of Online safety for children. Save the Children has been a member of the European network Insafe since 2008 and of the Inhope network since 2015.

## COMPONENTS

The project is developed based on three components:

1. Activities of awareness and promotion of a safer internet for children, involving more than **300,000 children** and **80,000 adults** (2008-2017);
2. A counselling line (**Helpline**) **ctrl\_AJUTOR**, for any issues and harmful content encountered on the Internet, through which more than **6,100 cases were reported** (2008-2017);
3. A report line (**Hotline**) **esc\_ABUZ**, to report illegal content found on Romanian webpages, through which **4,342 web addresses with illegal content** were reported over the past 2 years.

All information on the activities part of the project, as well as the support resources are available on the project promotion website [www.oradenet.ro](http://www.oradenet.ro).

## RESULTS 2017

**Awareness activities.** In celebration of the Internet Safety Day, on February 7<sup>th</sup>, the national competition with the theme “**No hatred, with tolerance**”, was organized, with the participation of **239 schools** and **25,000 persons** (15,000 children and 10,000 members of the teaching staff). Also in February, a **conference to draw attention on the increasing number of notifications related to child pornography on Romanian servers** was organized. Specialists in the child protection and education field, journalists, representatives of Interpol, Europol, Ministry of Interior, ANPDCA participated. The information was covered by the mass media in over 30 articles and reports.

June marked the launch of the online campaign **#FaraUraPeNet (No hatred on the Internet)**, with the support of 7 ambassadors, artists and TV stars – Alina Eremia, Andrei Leonte, Liviu Teodorescu, Ana Baniciu, Ami, Mircea Eremia, Zmenta.

**Counselling line ctrl\_AJUTOR.** The counselling line continued to come to the aid of children and young persons, reporting a number of 973 cases to which our experts found fast solutions. The most frequently reported cases were submitted by adolescents who experienced cyberbullying and situations related to personal data – whether abuse or protection methods and requests of technical information.

**Reporting line esc\_ABUZ.** The helpline for reporting illegal content worked due to a collaboration protocol concluded with the General Inspectorate of Romanian Police and ANPDCA. Our dispatch operators received and examined 2,455 types of signalled content, of which 1,602 cases of images picturing child pornography.



## PARTNERS

Ministry of Communications and Information Society, National Authority for the Administration and Regulation in Communications, General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption (ANPDCA), Ministry of National Education, Orange Foundation, OMV Petrom.



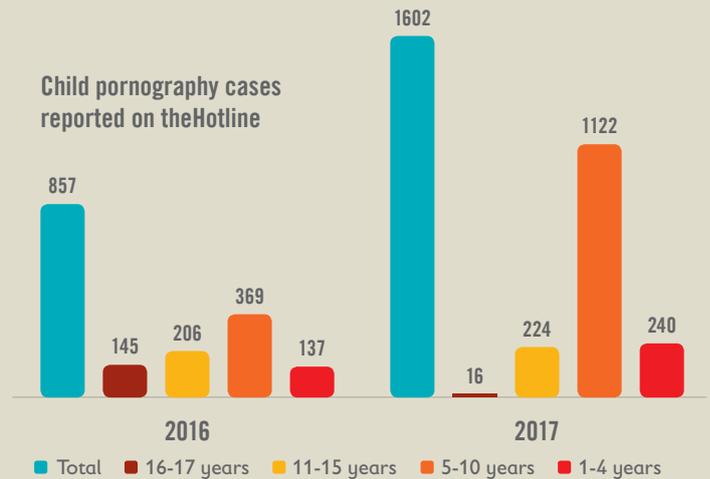
## IMPACT

More than **1,000 children** and adolescents throughout the country participated in the creative competition part of the campaign #FărăUrăPeNet (No hatred on the Internet).

The public actions carried out nationwide by the participants in the competition *No hatred, with tolerance* were covered by hundreds of materials in the local media.

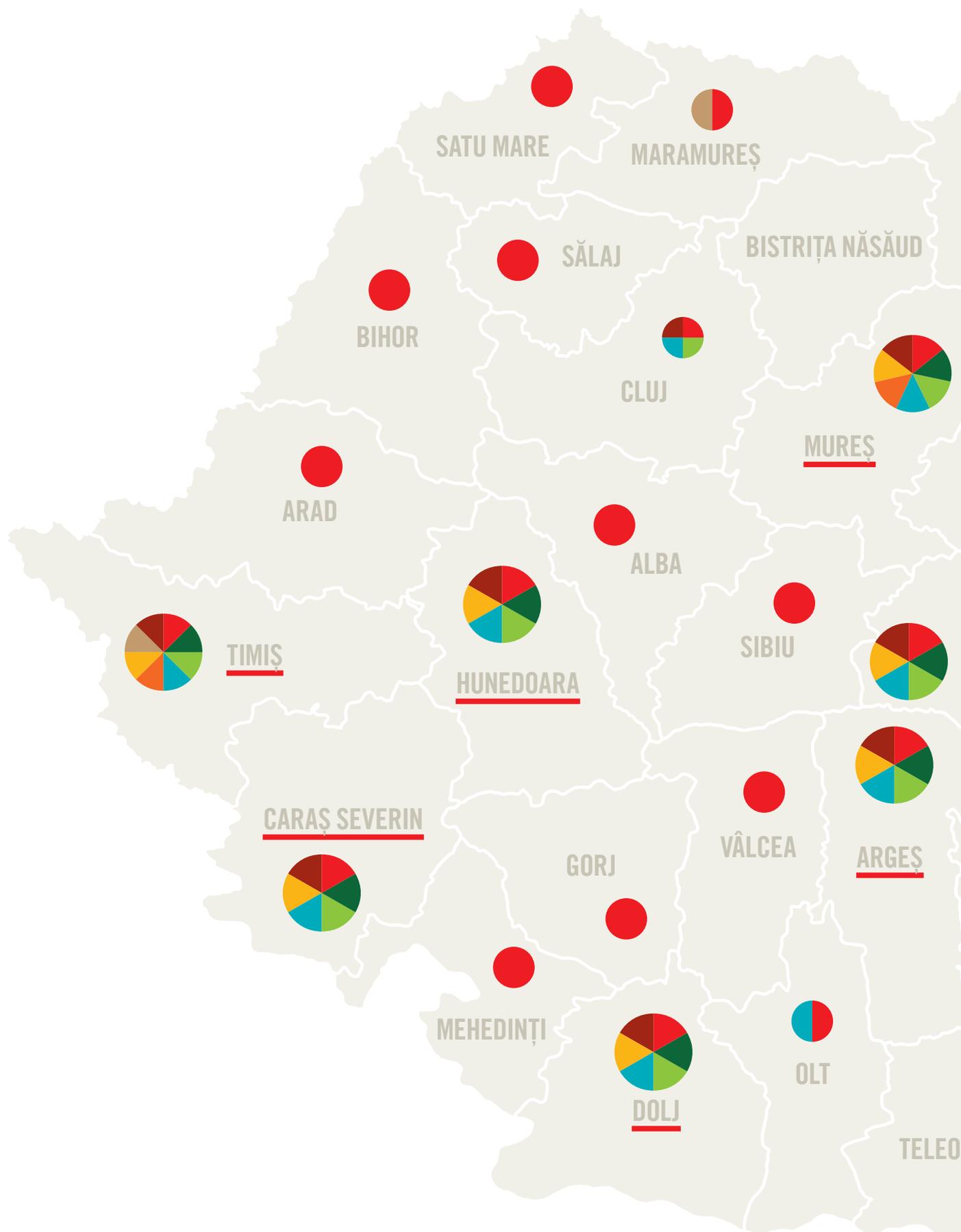
**4,800 members of the teaching staff and specialists** expressed interest in carrying out activities as volunteer facilitators.

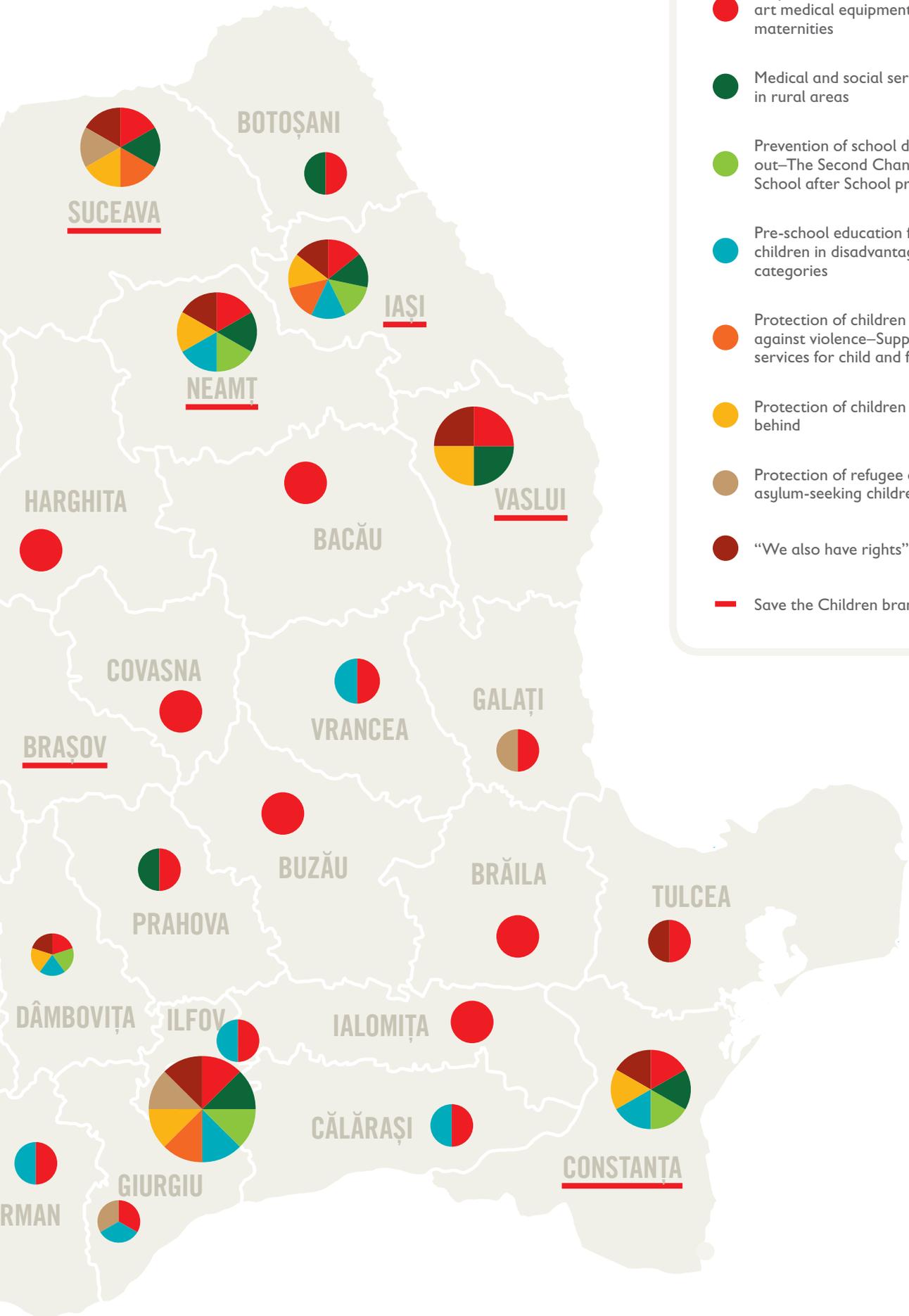
Child pornography cases reported on the Hotline



**SAFER INTERNET  
FOR CHILDREN**

# GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF SAVE THE CHILDREN PROGRAMS





- Acquisition of state-of-the-art medical equipment for maternities
- Medical and social services in rural areas
- Prevention of school drop-out–The Second Chance and School after School programs
- Pre-school education for children in disadvantaged categories
- Protection of children against violence–Support services for child and family
- Protection of children left behind
- Protection of refugee and asylum-seeking children
- "We also have rights"
- Save the Children branch



## Global Campaign for Education

In 2017, the Global Campaign for Education was carried out under the slogan “Together for education!”, to remind the public opinion and the authorities about the importance of education for the development of each child, as well as of the society as a whole.

The campaign is a movement of the civil society, the aim of which is to combat the global crisis in the field of education. Our mission is to monitor how states take measures to ensure the universal right to free-of-charge and quality public education.

In Romania, the Global Campaign for Education is coordinated by Save the Children, being supported and promoted by a coalition formed of: National Council of Students, Bucharest Municipality Centre of Resources and Educational Assistance, World Vision Romania, Roma Education Fund Romania, “Step by Step” Centre for Education and Professional Development, National Federation of the Parents’ Association, Together

Agency, European Centre for the Rights of Children with Disabilities, OvidiuRo Association, Federation of Free Trade Unions in Education. The activities of the 2017 edition benefited from the support of the Ministry of National Education.

According to the information received from 845 participating educational units, the 2017 edition of the GCE was attended by **184,803** persons (156,269 pupils and pre-school children, 10,145 members of the teaching staff, 16,489 parents and 1,900 guests). Compared to the previous edition, the number of participating schools increased by 200, while the number of participants increased by more than 40,000.



# CHILDREN'S NATIONAL FORUM (6-8 June)

The Children's National Forum, the 17<sup>th</sup> edition, was meant to empower children to achieve and manage an analysis process and debate certain serious issues (educational poverty, education for health, bullying and cyberbullying) which the Romanian children face in the family, in the community or at their school. The children's needs related to guaranteeing quality education and health were discussed by more than 80 children, in two days, as part of 3 themed workshops.

On the last day of the event, 8 delegations of children presented the document with recommendations to the following authorities: Senate, Chamber of Deputies, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public Finance,

Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, Ministry of European Affairs, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption. Improving the school infrastructure, full reimbursement of transport costs for pupils and supplementation of the number of school counsellors and physicians, together with introducing classes of education for health into the curriculum are just some of the recommendations submitted.

*"Some of the issues notified by the children were known within the ministry, but, when it is presented by them, who are directly targeted, the information has a different weight",* Minister of Education, Pavel Năstase, declared during the dialogue with the children's delegation.

## "WE ALSO HAVE RIGHTS"

The program is aimed at informing children with a view to raising awareness on their rights and responsibilities through peer-to-peer education in agreement with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and foster their participation in programs and social actions. More than **8,750 children from 110 schools** participated in Bucharest and the organization's subsidiaries in informative sessions on their rights and responsibilities, held based on a facilitation guide for the 200 volunteers, drawn up by the General Secretariat team.

## COUNSELLING AND LEGAL AID

**1,000 children and 2,500 adults** benefited from social counselling and legal aid services, with a view to obtaining ID, social benefits and provisions, the enforcement of special protection measures, settlement of accommodation issues, conclusion of work contracts.

**PARTNERS:** Ministry of National Education, National Council of Students, Bucharest Municipality Centre of Resources and Educational Assistance, World Vision Romania, Roma Education Fund Romania, "Step by Step" Centre for Education and Professional Development, National Federation of the Parents' Association, Together Agency, European Centre for the Rights of Children with Disabilities, OvidiuRo Association, Federation of Free Trade Unions in Education, Attorneys' Association for Dialogue and Solidarity, county school inspectorates, schools and high schools.

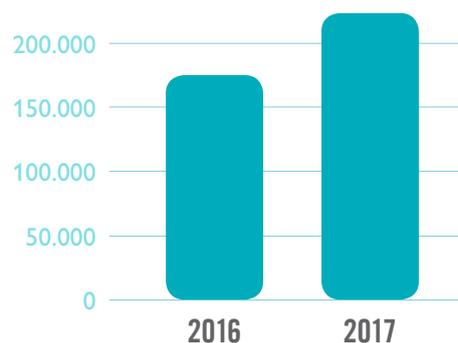
## TALE

The **TALE** project was meant to train attorneys representing/assisting children in legal procedures concerning the international tools that promote and protect children's rights, with focus on practical elements, addressed from a children's rights perspective. **4 online training modules** were provided to 145 professionals representing or assisting children in legal procedures.

## "YOUR OPINION IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT"

As part of a national campaign, the **International Children's Rights Day, November 20<sup>th</sup>**, was marked by sessions aimed at the promotion of the rights of the child, carried out by **830 members of the teaching staff for 23,320 pupils from 225 schools**. The rights referred to by the children as being most important include the right to education, to life and to family, while the right to free expression is indicated as being the least respected, both at home and in schools. In order to being respected their rights, the children want changes – to spend more time with parents and communicate with them openly.

Global Campaign for Education participants





## Stop bullying or eliminate breaks!

Within 10 minutes, a child can lose confidence in him/herself and in others, with consequences on emotional development and social integration. These are the 10 minutes of break, when one in four children from the Romanian schools falls victim of bullying, repeatedly.

Exclusion from the group, threats and/or humiliation, physical violence and destruction of personal items, ban of interacting with another colleague, spread of denigrating rumours are specific *bullying* behaviours the Romanian children frequently see in the school setting.

These are the reasons why Save the Children launched the campaign “**Stop bullying or eliminate breaks!**”, with a view to preventing a widespread phenomenon, which the educational institutions do not identify, do not manage, under the circumstances in which, in Romania, only 38% of schools have a school counsellor, specifically in the urban area.

At European level, Romania ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the top of the 42 countries where the phenomenon was investigated, according to a report of the World Health Organization

(WHO), with 17% of 11-year old children admitting having aggressed other pupils at least three times in the previous month, the percentage of 13-, respectively 15-year old pupils being 23%. The latest data, for the school year 2014-2015, speak of **18,783 cases of violence** at national level.

The measures to combat and prevent the phenomenon include: increase of the schools' capacity of response in situations involving bullying among pupils; promotion of positive and efficient measures for the socio-emotional education of children, in the spirit of values such as tolerance, respect, protection and courage; promotion of clear intervention procedures and policies in a bullying situation, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education.

## IMPACT

The campaign was awarded at the Forbes for Kids Gala, for the best educational campaign of the year.

The top post on the FB page [#DesființațiRecreațiile](https://www.facebook.com/desfiintati_recreatiile/) [www.facebook.com/desfiintati\\_recreatiile/](https://www.facebook.com/desfiintati_recreatiile/) of December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 had a reach of 220,000 persons, with more than 63,000 views.



## “It is more important what you leave behind than what you send back!”

### IMPACT

More than **105,000** persons from **950** localities were informed through local roadshows.

We drew up and provided the local authorities, in partnership with the Presidential Administration and the National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption, with Guidelines for the identification, monitoring and protection of children with parents abroad.

The multiannual campaign for information and awareness on the legal obligations of parents upon leaving the country and the effects of their leaving on children was developed on several levels: through the mass-media (TV, radio), online, local roadshows, distribution of information materials to the relevant public institutions, border-crossing points and outside of the country, Romanian consulates and embassies, organization of wide-scope debates with professionals.

In addressing the issue of children whose parents work abroad, Save the Children has focused, in addition to creating services that meet the needs of these children, on legally regulating children's protection appropriately. Following the lobby and advocacy activities of Save the Children, the legal framework regulating the field was improved in 2013, by introducing in Law 272/2004 on the

protection and promotion of children's rights, a separate section for the protection of children with parents working abroad. The program was extended by creating a counselling and information service, in 2015, unique at the national level - the Help-Line **0800.070.040** and online platform [www.copiisinguriacasa.ro](http://www.copiisinguriacasa.ro), which includes dedicated articles, as well as a section where questions can be addressed to Save the Children specialists. Through the helpline, available from Monday to Friday between 9:30 and 17:30 and free-of-charge in Romania, from any landline or mobile phone network, a legal counsellor and a psychologist provide advice on legal and psycho-social issues to parents and children affected by economic migration, to persons in the care of whom children have been left, to specialists and other persons interested. **4,544 calls and messages** were answered through the counselling service.



Photo: Camelia Iordache

# RESEARCH REPORTS

## ADDITIONAL REPORTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

As part of the Universal Periodic Review – UPR Mechanism, Save the Children submitted an individual report regarding the topics of concern and the status of the implementation of the recommendations previously undertaken by the Romanian State with respect to children’s rights. The report covered major topics such as non-discrimination, right to health, right to education, allocation of necessary resources and children’s poverty. Moreover, together with ECPAT, a special additional report on sexual exploitation of children in Romania was submitted.

Last but not least, together with Romanian NGOs, our organization contributed to the submission of a third additional report concerning aspects related to the right to health (TB, HIV/AIDS, drug consumption, reproductive health).

## REVIEW OF THE SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY AND REFER ABUSE UPON CHILDREN YOUNGER THAN 11 YEARS

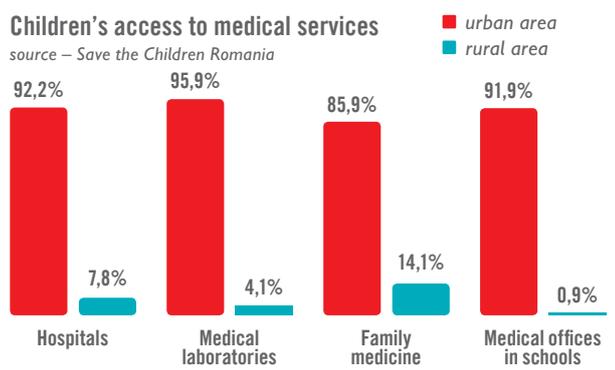
The qualitative social research “Review of the system to identify and refer abuse upon children younger than 11 years” was drawn up. The study emphasizes the general way in which people relate to the phenomenon of abuse, neglect or exploitation of children younger than 11 years and highlights the patterns in which the specialists involved in combating the phenomenon relate to it, understand it or consider the different dimensions of abuse as being more relevant for the Romanian society.

By describing the “route” of a child victim of violence, the research showed: the primary environment where abuse occurs is the family, in

Following the observations submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Save the Children’s additional reports, the Romanian authorities admitted, in the final evaluation sent to the UN, that respecting and promoting children’s rights – especially the right to education and health – is the challenge that **Romania is still facing in ensuring human rights.**

### Children’s access to medical services

source – Save the Children Romania



### Use of corporal punishment in Romanian families

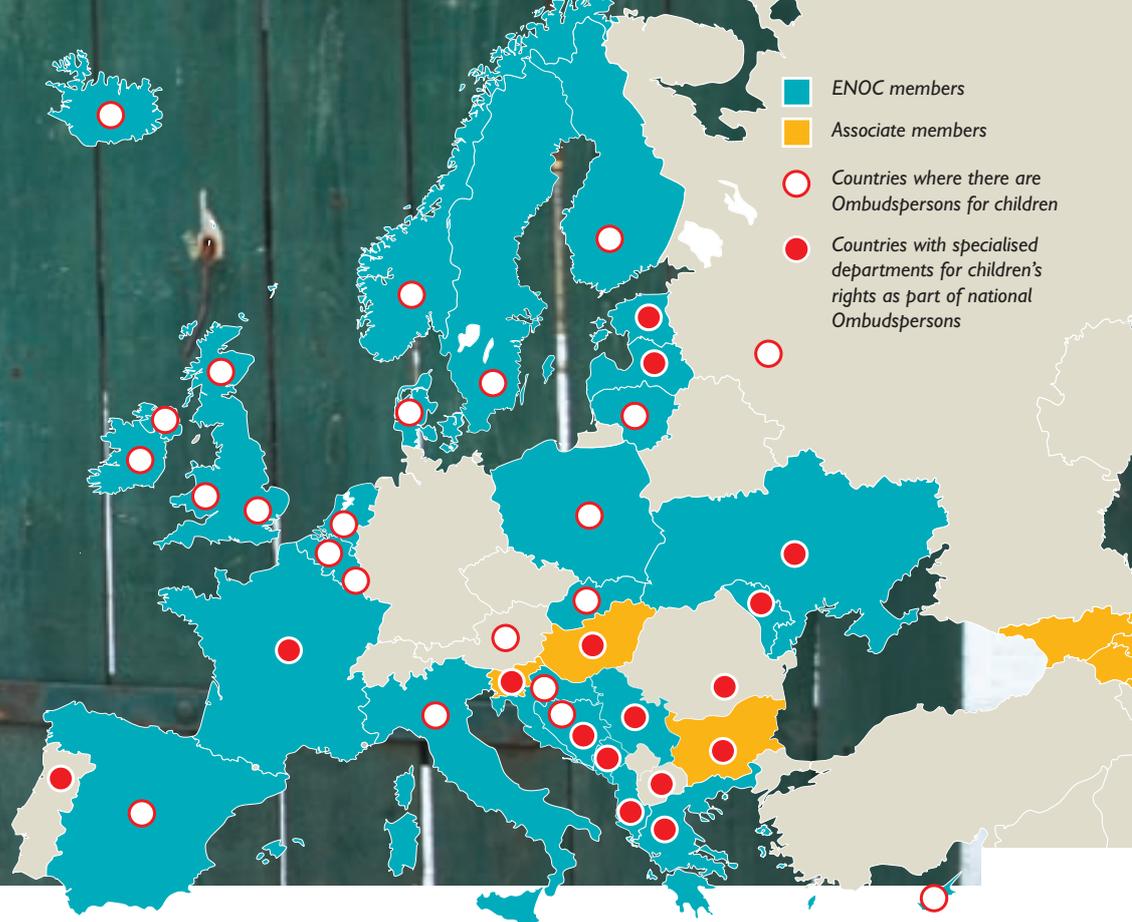
source – Save the Children Romania

**63%** of children were physically abused by their parents.

**18%** of children say they were beaten at home by stick, belt or other blunt objects.

**38%** of parents admit having used corporal punishment in disciplining their children.

**20%** of parents consider that corporal punishments are useful in educating their children.



### European Network of Ombudspersons for Children (ENOC)

Of all the indicators pursued in the “Stolen childhoods” report, **child mortality and adolescent births are the most concerning.** Our country is among the European countries with the highest number of deaths of children under 5 (11.1 to thousand - 2015), while 34 in 1,000 adolescents between 15 and 19 years are mothers.

school the teachers do not consider the abuses a child falls victim to as being a violation of the law and of his/her rights, but justified disciplinary methods; family physicians/paediatricians do not have information about the legal obligation to notify the authorities about any suspicion of abuse upon a child in their medical care.

The full research report will be launched, in partnership with Bucharest Court of Law, during the first part of 2018.

#### STOLEN CHILDHOODS REPORT

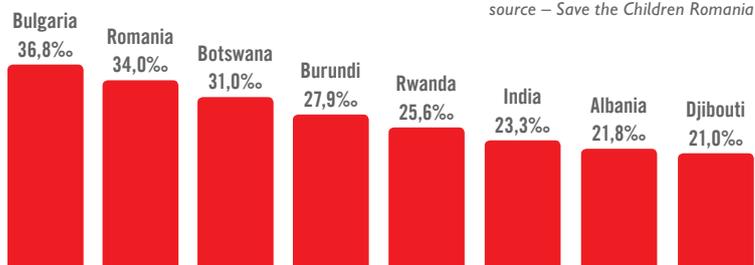
The report **Stolen childhoods – global index** (172 states, including Romania) is an analysis of the following indicators used to measure

„the end of childhood”: under-5 mortality, malnutrition that stunts growth, out-of-school children, child labour, early marriage, adolescent births, displacement by conflict and child homicide. Romania ranks 52<sup>nd</sup>, being classified in the second category – “some children lose their childhood”, which includes also countries such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan, China, Oman, Montenegro, Lebanon, Tunisia, Bulgaria, Mauritius, Jordan, Tonga, Barbados, Turkey, Algeria or Sri Lanka. Among the EU members, only Romania and Bulgaria failed to rank among the 37 countries with high or very high scores in terms of health, nutrition, education and protection of children.

#### CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN – A PRIORITY TO ROMANIA

This special report reviews the Children's Ombudsman institution, as a constitutional instrument of protection and promotion of children's rights, characterized by specific competences, independence, transparency and accessibility. The review addresses various perspectives: general principles, social roles and functions of the institution, institutional evolution internationally, national legislative initiatives, relevant international institutions, best practices, description of the People's Ombudsman in Romania, etc.

Rate of births among adolescents between 15 and 19 years of age  
source – Save the Children Romania





**HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT THAT  
A GOOD WORD INSTEAD OF A CRUEL ONE  
CAN SAVE US?**



*Ionuț, volunteer*

## Children and young persons - important partners

The National Volunteering Centre is a support department for the organization's programs, where volunteers can be actively involved.

### RESULTS

**2,000 volunteers** were active in the Save the Children activities and events. As part of the General Secretariat, 323 volunteers were engaged in activities for children, such as: promotion of the rights of the child and healthy behaviours among pupils (children's rights, education for health, traffic education) – 59 volunteers; recreational-educational activities for vulnerable children – 127 volunteers, fundraising campaigns – 117 volunteers, events – 144 volunteers, and other activities (workshops, meetings, sessions) – 94 volunteers.

### NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING GALA

The finalists of the 2017 National Volunteering Gala, organized by VOLUM Federation, included, like in every year, Save the Children volunteers: Andreea Scioșteanu (General Secretariat), Sorina Olaru, Teodora Roman and Maria Chiara de Siano (Dolj subsidiary).

### WHAT DO THE VOLUNTEERS SAY ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT?

**1. Networking.** The Save the Children team of volunteers is mostly made of young people who become best friends.

**2. Interaction with children.** The volunteers' days are nicer when accompanied by the energy and cheerfulness of kids, as they always make sure to make volunteering an unforgettable experience.

**3. Professional experience.** According to the Volunteering Law, any volunteering activity can be considered as professional experience. The volunteers have the right to documents and recommendations helping them to find a job, obtain a scholarship or access to a university abroad.

**4. Personal development.** Communication, team work, initiative-taking, problem-solving and time management are only some of the benefits of volunteering.

**5. Super-heroes in the society.** Volunteering means more than giving your time, energy and knowledge to someone who needs support. It means feeling useful, being a role-model for the people around you and, particularly, for the children, being aware of what happens around you and getting involved.

### IMPACT

In 2017, through the direct involvement of 2,000 volunteers, **66,700 hours of activity** were carried out to the benefit of the children included in Save the Children programs.

**BE THE CHANGE  
YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD,  
DARE TO MAKE THE FIRST STEP  
AND GET INVOLVED!**



*Elena, volunteer*



## Advocacy

### **THE ALTERNATIVE REPORT FOR UN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child provided the Romanian Government with its conclusions and recommendations, which take over to a great extent the observations included by Save the Children in its alternative report with respect to the state of enforcement of the children's rights in Romania, drawn up and presented before the Committee in Geneva.

### **NATIONAL CONFERENCE "CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN – A PRIORITY FOR ROMANIA"**

Considering that the establishment of the Children's Ombudsman institution is a natural follow-up on the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the expression of a European attitude with regard to respecting the child's best interest unequivocally, Save the Children readdressed, as part of a national conference, legal and ethic arguments, to both the public authorities and civil society, with a view to advancing the establishment process.

### **CHILD POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

In March, Save the Children hosted the meeting of the **Working Group of Save the Children Europe concerning child poverty**. Advocacy and documentation priorities with respect to child poverty were established and the impact of the launch of the 2016 joint study on material and educational poverty of children in Europe was reviewed. The foundation was laid for an institutional dialogue (ANPDCA and the Ministry of European Affairs) with a view to including this topic as a priority on the agenda of Romania's future Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

### **PARTNERSHIP – MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION**

A framework partnership was concluded with the Ministry of National Education for a period of 4 years, meant to implement in partnership several educational programs of Save the Children: School after School, A Second Chance, Education and protection for children with parents working abroad, Internet Class, the Global Campaign for Education, We also have rights, Education for health, Early education for all children, Training of parents and teachers to the benefit of children, Prevention of bullying behaviours in the school setting.

## ONLINE

The Facebook page of Save the Children has brought together a community of 885,544 followers, keeping the first position in the Facebrands top, under Nonprofit category.

In 2017, [www.salvaticopiii.ro](http://www.salvaticopiii.ro) registered 395,966 visits, 296,685 unique visitors and 693,724 views. Compared to 2016, the visits and unique visitors increased by 16%, while views increased by 2%.



# SAVE THE CHILDREN EVENTS THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES

The 2017 edition of the Festival of Christmas Trees raised EUR 673,700 in the auction for 30 Christmas trees specially designed for this event, from raffle tickets and sponsorships, to support social inclusion of 4,500 children from underprivileged communities. The amount obtained is a record of the 17 editions organized so far.

Over the years, Save the Children obtained, by means of the Festival of Christmas Trees, nearly **4,000,000 Euro** and managed, thus, to actively support 28,195 children: 6,556 children participated in Summer Kindergartens, 18,008 children were included in the School after School program, and 3,631 children were supported through the Second Chance program.

*“The Festival of Christmas Trees is not only a charitable event, but has gradually become a pole of engagement and collective assumption of good deeds. It is wonderful to see how, together, adding one good deed to another, how we like to say it, the children from vulnerable settings manage to stay in school and, thus, integrate socially. Designers, companies, volunteers, journalists, we thank them all for having understood that each of them is part of the change for good. Special thanks to Andreea Esca, Andreea Raicu, as well as the two performing groups: Radio Children Choir, conducted by Mr. Voicu Popescu and SONG Group, all involved pro bono” – Gabriela Alexandrescu, Executive President Save the Children Romania.*

The highest amount bid, **100,000 Euro**, was for a **Christmas Tree created by CRESC Studio & Teilor and purchased by Lidl**. *“It is a reward for our work, we have put our souls into this project and this is seen in the elements highlighted: purity, life, ecosystem, soul, but the true reward is that we were able to contribute to keeping these wonderful children in school” - designers from CRESC Studio & Teilor.*

One of the most coveted Christmas Trees, made with carefulness and joy by **Omid Ghannadi & Dr. Elena Cristian**, came with a novelty, the designer promising on the spot another identical Christmas tree for the second bidder, so that the total amount raised was 48,000 Euro. The buyers were Kaufland Romania and Algabeth.

**Save the Children Tree**, made by designer Ștefania Mircea with Save the Children volunteers, was purchased for **58,000 Euro**. The tree is made of puzzle pieces and mirrors, suggesting the miracle of stories, as well as the joy of construction, because the stories a child learns in school are actually constructing his/her world.



The committee in charge with the organization of the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival of Christmas Trees was made of: **Amalia Năstase, Andreea Raicu, Corina Bârlădeanu, Cornel Ilie, Florentina Tararache, Jean Paul Bottcher, Laura Coroianu, Liviu Sfrijia, Tereza Munteanu and Gabriela Alexandrescu.**

”

**A child without a school is an individual drama. In Romania, 110,000 children between 7 and 14 years of age should have been integrated in the primary or secondary cycle of education.**

## **The 30 Christmas Trees were created by the following designers:**

Doina Levintza, Stephan Pelger & Collective, Mihaela Glăvan, Omid Ghannadi & Dr. Elena Cristian, Ana Wagner, Anca Lungu, with the support of Universkin & Romtexim – arh. Răzvan Ichim, Zenya Atelier & Joomay, by Carmen Vornicelu, Dhaniel Nora, Anca Fetcu Lupu, with the support of Atelier 13, Carmen Ormenișan, M. Marquise, Dorin Negrău, Roman Octav, supported by Craftex, CRESC Studio & Teilor, Nicu Bocancea, supported by Iris Flower Shop, Andreea Tincu, Adela Pârveu & George Istrătescu, with the support of Sephora, Alexandra Abraham & Mihai Toma, CRISTALLINI & Simona Opriș, Bogdana Grapă, with the support of Libris.ro, Lucia Olaru, Art Safari, Roxana Stoian, Pastelle pour Femme & Roton, Andreea Berecleanu & Naturici.ro, Răzvan Ciobanu & Tria Alfa, with the support of Club Med, Ștefan Crețu & Awake Festival, Veronica Schmidt & Michael Schmidt Foundation, Simona Semen & the Romanian Police, Marina Aristotel, with the support of AVRA Aesthetic Institute, Ștefania Mircea & Save the Children.

## **Partners of the 2017 Gala:**

**Diamond Sponsors** – Catena, Globalworth

**Platinum Sponsors** – Carrefour, DP World, Fortech, IC Group, Kaufland Romania, Stage Expert

**Gold Sponsors** – Agro-Est, BCR, Dorna, Romanian Business Consult

**Silver Sponsors** – Altius, Ariston, BASF, BDG, Canah, Clifford Chance Badea, Environ, High Tech Systems & Software, International Alexander, Maresi Foodbroker, Mercedes-Benz, Metropolitan Life, One United Properties, Oscar Downstream, Porsche Bank, Renault, Secom, Sky XS AirCargo, Tezyo, by Otter Distribution, Ubisoft.

**Buyers of the trees** - Lidl, Kaufland Romania, Catena, Carrefour, Globalworth, Romanian Business Consult, BCR, Algabeth Com, Camelia Șucu, Rompetrol, Cosmos Mobile, Cushman Echinox, Club Med, Emagic Live, Dorna, Holban Iulius.

**Special thanks to:** AFMF, Alexandra Abraham, Andreea Tincu, Atelier Zenya, AVRA – Aesthetic Institute, AZAY, BDG Import, Beautik Haute Parfumerie, Bien Savvy, Bobbi Brown, Bon Bijou Jewelry, Brunch Sheraton, CAJU by Joseph Hadad, Canah, Careless Beauty, Cartier Romania, Centrul Shakti, Club Med, Collective, CONSIGLIERI, Country Spa, CRISTALLINI, Darphin, DAVINO, Dent Estet, Depozitarul Central, Dorin Negrău, Edelweiss Center-Dance Studio, Editura Humanitas, Elena Perseil, Elmiplant, Emagic, Eventures, Evian, Fabrica de Cafea, Fudge, GETT'S, Hadar Chalet, Hotel Epoque, Hotel Iaki, I regali di Francesca, IBD Beauty, Joseph by Joseph Hadad, L'Atelier-l'art culinaire Restaurant, Laura8, L'Erbolario Sensiblu, Lia Essentials, Love Love, Lucia Olaru, LURE Studio, MAIOCCI, Meli Melo, Mercedes-Benz, Nomasvello Calea Victoriei, OBSIDIAN | Jewelry With Intention, OPI, Orologeria GALT, PadelMania, Purezza, Purple Flowers, Professional Brands, ArtROTARY - Rotary Club Cișmigiu, S.T. Dupont, Sephora, SIKA ROMANIA, Simbio, SKEYNDOR, Sport Couture, Sport Loft, Stejarii Country Club, Stephan Pelger, THAIco Spa, TNT BROTHERS, TopLine, TRUE, TTS Group, Wella Professionals, Wild Olive | African Artisans, Wunderman.

# Involvement of subsidiaries

Save the Children Romania has subsidiaries in 12 counties and in Bucharest, which act as a catalyser of resources and social services available at local level, by engaging members and rallying volunteers.



## ARGEŞ

The program for children left home alone after their parents' economic migration continued in Argeş subsidiary, 40 children benefiting from educational support and psychological counselling and participating in various interaction and spare-time activities. The volunteers helped the children overcome the period of separation from parents. In parallel, the connection with the parents was maintained, the communication with them being visibly improved. An impactful project was the information and counselling of children on education for health, following which 2,000 pupils from Piteşti, Mioveni, Topoloveni and neighbouring communes acquired knowledge and skills for a healthier life style. Moreover, 156 children aged 0-5 years and 133 young mothers and pregnant women were supported for

a healthier life: support to enrol with the family physician, nutritive supplements, basic food, medicines, formula for the children, counselling, based on needs.

**Partners:** Argeş County School Inspectorate (ISJ), Argeş County Council, DGASPC Argeş, Piteşti Municipality Social Assistance Directorate, Argeş County Police Inspectorate, Argeş Gendarmerie Inspectorate, Piteşti Mayoralty, National Agency against Human Trafficking - Piteşti Regional Centre, "Support for Life" Association, Piteşti University - Faculty of Educational Sciences, "Ion C. Brătianu" Piteşti National College, "Ion Cantacuzino" Piteşti Theoretical High-School, "Zinca Golescu" Piteşti National College, "Maria Teiuleanu" Piteşti Economic College, „Nicolae Simonide” Piteşti, „Ion Minulescu” Piteşti, „Nicolae Bălcescu” Piteşti, „Marin Preda” Piteşti, „Alexandru Davila” Piteşti, „Matei Basarab” Piteşti, „Tudor Musatescu” Piteşti, „Nicolae Iorga” Piteşti, „Adrian Păunescu” Piteşti, „Mihai Eminescu” Piteşti, „George Topârceanu” Mioveni, „Marin Sorescu” Mioveni, Vultureşti – Argeş, Hârtieşti – Argeş, Slătioarele – Băbana – Argeş Gymnasium Schools, „Valea Mare” Ştefăneşti – Argeş Special School, “Sfânta Filoftea” – Ştefăneşti – Argeş Inclusive Education Centre, GPP no. 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 19 Piteşti, GPN no. 5, 21 Piteşti; GPN no. 2 Curtea de Argeş, Costeşti, Băbana, Slătioare, “Children’s Universe” Piteşti Kindergarten, Aşchiuţă Theatre for Children, Alexandru Davila Piteşti Theatre, Piteşti Cultural Centre.

**Sponsors:** Argeş County Council, Piteşti Mayoralty, Termo Calor Confort, GSK Romania, Vivo Mall – Piteşti, Cinema Trivale, Attorney Dumitru Diana Letiţia, Tudor Vladimirescu Gymnasium – School no. 2 Piteşti, G.P.P. “Primii Paşi” Piteşti, Hurduc Mihai, Mohora Ionuţ Rey, Radic Star, Alvimar Travel Company.

## BRAŞOV

The subsidiary's actions addressed prevention of dropout, protection of home-alone children, education for health and promotion of children's rights. 49 children with parents working abroad benefited from specialised support and 32 children from disadvantaged environments were supported through the educational School after School program.

**Partners:** “Dr. I. A. Sbârcea” Clinical Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, “Nicolae Orghidan” Schools no. 1 and no. 9, “Johannes Honterus” Theoretical High School, Braşov Mayoralty, Braşov County Police Inspectorate, Braşov Local Community Public Service on Persons Registration, Braşov DGASPC, Braşov Clinical Paediatric Hospital, Braşov Social Services Directorate, Braşov County Council, Braşov County Employment County Agency, Braşov Independent Transport Authority (RAT), Braşov Fosterage Authority, Braşov County Centre for Resources and Educational Assistance, Viştea de Jos Gymnasium School, Transilvania Radio Television, Kindergarten no. 21.

**Sponsors:** Esprit Group, Raiffeisen Bank, 123 Travel, Gloria Hotels, Mr. Peter Company, Elmas Braşov.

## CARAŞ-SEVERIN

In 2017, Caraş-Severin subsidiary continued its actions to enforce the right to life, protection, education and participation for as many children as possible. Educational services were provided to 120 children from underprivileged communities, while 410 children with parents working abroad were helped to cope with the period of separation from parents. Other 5,470 children were involved in protection programs and informative activities. In addition to the children, the programs comprised more than 200 members of the teaching staff and other experts and over 400 parents. The team of the subsidiary benefited from the support of more than 50 volunteers.

**Partners:** Caraş-Severin County Centre for Resources and Educational Assistance, Caraş-Severin County School Inspectorate, DGASPC Caraş-Severin, Reşiţa Mayoralty, Caraş-Severin County Council, Caraş-Severin Public Health Directorate, Reşiţa County Hospital, Caransebeş Municipal Hospital, Caraş-Severin County Police Inspectorate, Reşiţa West Theatre, Rotary Club Reşiţa, Gymnasium Schools no. 2 Reşiţa, no. 7 Reşiţa, no. 8 Reşiţa, no. 9 Reşiţa, Sabin Păuţa Reşiţa Arts High School, Traian Lalescu Reşiţa National College, Mircea Eliade Reşiţa National College, Riky Priki Reşiţa Kindergarten, Kindergarten P.N. Prichindelul Reşiţa.

**Media partners:** Radio Romania Reșița, Banat TV, Știri Caraș-Severin, Express de Banat, Argument.

## CONSTANȚA

68 children from disadvantaged communities benefited from educational and social support. The parents' interest in children's education has increased, and the children's results were more than encouraging. In the day-care centre within School 1 Mangalia, 64 home-alone children following their parents leaving abroad to work benefited from a need-specific intervention program. The multi-disciplinary team provided the children and the persons they were cared by with psychological, educational and social support services. At the same time, a regional debate was organized, regarding legal aspects and good practices of intervention for the protection of this particular vulnerable category of children. The debate brought together interdisciplinary specialists, both from county and local levels, rural areas, as well, from Constanța, Tulcea, Brăila and Galați counties. Last, but not least, informative sessions for a healthy life were held in schools and kindergartens, in the urban and rural areas alike.

**Partners:** Mayorality of the Municipality of Mangalia, DGASPC Constanța, Constanța County School Inspectorate, kindergartens, schools and high schools from Mangalia and Constanța.

**Sponsors:** Selgros Cash & Carry.

## DOLJ

Following the activities conducted – regional debates, informative roadshows, integrated specialised services and advocacy actions, significant progress was made regarding the knowledge and enforcement of the legislation for the protection of home-alone children following the economic migration of parents. 3,376 pupils, 1147 experts and 312 caregivers participated in the awareness actions on the issue of home-alone children. The complex specialised services, provided for 91 children and parents/legal representatives, have become a best practice example.

**Partners:** Dolj County School Inspectorate, DGASPC Dolj, Dolj Teachers' Resource Center, Dolj County Police Inspectorate, CJRAE Dolj, Filantropia Hospital, Dolj County Hospital, Dolj County Council, schools.

**Sponsors:** Europeca Hotel, Parc Sweet Shop, Selgros Cash & Carry.

## HUNEDOARA

The subsidiary provided sustained support for 140 children from the Day-care Centre for children from families in difficulty from Petrila. With the program for the protection and education of children affected by parents' migration for work abroad, 120 children and parents/next of kin were helped in the centres from Petrila and Lupeni. The contact with the village world was one with many challenges and results: 200 children aged between 1 and 5, 100 mothers and 27 pregnant women were supported through complex medical-social services and nutritional support in order to have access to better health, while 100 pre-schoolers and 700 pupils attended informative sessions for a healthy lifestyle. With the support of Hunedoara County Council, 50 children were provided a warm meal every day in the period June-December 2017 and school supplies, 75 children enjoyed three educational-recreational camps in Straja resort and 20 award-winning children enjoyed the sun at the Black Sea.

**Partners:** Petrila Local Public Social Assistance Service, Constantin Brâncuși Petrila Technical College, DGASPC Hunedoara, Hunedoara County Police Inspectorate, Local Police of Petrila, Hunedoara Territorial Labour Inspectorate, Mihai Eminescu Petroșani National College, Carmen Sylva Petroșani Informatics National College, Caritas Social Assistance Alba Iulia, Deva Episcopacy, Sfinții Apostoli Petru și Pavel Parish, I.D. Sârbu Petrila Gymnasium School, Dragomir Hurmuzescu Energetic Technical College, Hermes Petroșani Economic College, Mircea Eliade Lupeni Theoretical High-School, I.G. Duca Petroșani Gymnasium School, I.D. Sârbu Petrila school.

**Sponsors:** Hunedoara County Council, Zona D Petroșani, Insemex Petroșani Free Union, Iulian Transfor Petrila, San Montan Association, Selgros Alba Iulia, Metro Deva, Artima Deva, Artima Simeria, Artima Alba Iulia, Comexim Lupeni.

## IAȘI

Within the Counselling Centre for Child and Family, 240 children and more than 800 parents benefited from psychotherapy and counselling sessions, parental education and social assistance. More than 2,000 persons were engaged in the bullying prevention campaign.

92 children in difficulty and at risk of dropout, who attend the Educational Centres of Save the Children Iași Association, benefited from complex educational catch-up and social services. Following the activities, 31 children at risk of criminality were taken off

the streets and enrolled/re-enrolled in school and at least 30 parents learned to apply educational rules also for the brothers of the children involved in the project. Moreover, the school readiness activities for the children who exceeded the school age to attend mainstream, respectively pre-school education were also continued. The actions in support of children from vulnerable groups were continued, with the so-called **Mobile School**, a unique model in Romania for school integration/reintegration, by which interventions were made, through psycho-social-educational activities, in underprivileged communities of Șes Bahlui and the ghettos from Cantemir area, and the so-called regional class – education with reduced attendance – primary cycle within “Alexandru Vlahuță” Iași school.

There were also activities conducted with a view to developing leadership skills among children from disadvantaged environments. Thus, 15 children from “Bucium” Centre of Excellence attended public events and specialised communication and leadership training sessions.

**Partners:** “Ion Neculce” Iași, “Alexandru Vlahuță” Iași, no.10 „Gh. I. Brătianu” Iași, “Petru Anghel” Probota, “Ruși” Belcești, Golăiești „Constantin Erbiceanu” - Erbiceni commune, “Nicolae Iorga” Buhalnița – Ceplenița commune, “Dimitrie Sturza” Popești, “Axinte Uricariul” Scînteia Gymnasium Schools, “Nicolae Bălăuță” Șcheia - Iași Technological High School, “Lascăr Rosetti” Răducăneni - Iași Theoretical High School, “Horia Stamatin” Bogdănești - Vaslui, Barboși, Hoceni – Vaslui Gymnasium Schools, Iași Community Assistance Directorate, Iași Mayorality, Iași County School Inspectorate, DGASPC Neamț, DGASPC Bacău, DGASPC Botoșani, DGASPC Vaslui, DGASPC Suceava, DGASPC Iași, Iași Public Health Directorate, police inspectorates from Neamț, Botoșani, Vaslui, Suceava and Iași counties, mayoralties of Scînteia - Iași, Probota - Iași, Șcheia - Iași, Răducăneni - Iași, Popești - Iași, Belcești - Iași, Erbiceni - Iași, Drăgu-șeni - Iași, Ceplenița - Iași, Mironeasa - Iași, Botoșani Local Public Social Assistance Service, “Vasile Alecsandri” Iași National Theatre, World Vision Foundation – Iași and Vaslui, FONSS – Federation of Non-governmental Organizations for Social Services, AREAS Suceava Association, Bună Ziua Copii din Romania Bârlad Association, International Coaching Federation, Romania subsidiary, Palas Mall Iași, Auchan, Felicia Iași Shopping Centre, Wiron, Celebro, Ageo EVENTS, Ines Rocks, Children's Palace, Iași National Romanian Opera, Papilio Flowers, Aviso, Voluntary Ambulance Service, Leontin

Păun, Felix Aftene, Alina Avram, Alexandru David, Romanian Plastic Artists Union Iași branch, Mihaela Iacob, Dance Sensation, Dana Huguenu Make-up artist, Vision-Hope for Life Germany Association, Romfour – public transport, Total Gaz, Jassy Jazz Orchestra and Emil Bizgă, Quasar Dance, Samdam Romania.

**Financers, Sponsors:** Iași Mayorality, Rotary Club Iași Copou, Swiss-Romanian Cooperation Program, Euro-Kras Trading, Iași Community Foundation, Streetaware, Streetwise, Prima Car, Quatro Grup Distribution, Nemacord, TRW Airbag System Roman, Iris, Interlux, BIOS Plant, Tehnolux, Ardealul Pharmacy, ELFEROM PLUS, Rolproiect, Evesicran Com, Stefy Farm, Valro Trade, ONIMAR, Rezervor Service, Euromarchet Impex, Clima Therm Center, PANIFCOM, KOSAROM, Conex Distribution, Gaodavi, Transparenta, PATISGAL, Sevenode, Cuptorul Moldo- vencei, Austria Juice Romania, Siorom, Inatech, Locality, Kosarom, WINK, World Class, Aqua Carpatica, Perla Slănic Hotel, Blanca, Traian Restaurant, Plopii Fără Soț Restaurant, Cotnari, Saria, Trans Gigel, Bucium, Gustul Natural, Temariti.ro, Top Kids, Hoinar Events, Soft and Grace, Ambra Sign, Zenna, Chotronette, Cabina ZOOM, Veggies, Panere, MMD Group, Ford ATI Motors Holding Iași, Vision for You, Film Event, Sporul, Simba, Dainty, Viorica, Thundra, Tulip, Tymbark, ValePutna, Speed Fit, Atelier Aerial, Cuibul Verde, Lovely Vanity, Media Global Company, Arcadia Hospitals and Medical Centres, PIM, Pohh Shop, Lex Copy Center, CRESCENTO, WIRON, Cake Expert, Chotronette, Papucei, Vogel Shop, Atelier Alina Avram, Happy Friday, Andra Andreescu, Constantine Rena-kossy, EDITA Studio, The item, Antante, Bow ties by Rodica, Cai verzi pe pereți, Kihikiha, Madame Bijoux, Iutta, Atelierele Cris, Lady Magpie, Atelierele Hărniciei, Parlor, Cristina Mureșan Toth, Spîrleanu Mădălina, Andra Badea, MARIE NOUVELLE DESIGN, Artesis, Anda Ansheen, Ungureanu Dan, Iulia Burlac, Shop Alice-Dolls, Inamorata, Lure Studio, Maria Batea, Vinca, Zenna.

## MUREȘ

More than 260 children and parents participated in over 1,520 appraisal and counselling sessions provided by the specialists of the **Parental Counselling Centre** on issues related to anxiety, depression, disruptive behaviour disorders, behavioural issues, school difficulties, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. 94 specialists in the field of child education benefited from training activities on the importance of providing a positive learning environment that focuses on the development of emotional and social skills in pre-school years, competences required for good adjustment in school. As part of the centre for children with parents working abroad from Târgu-

Mureș, social, psychological and educational support services were provided to 57 children. In addition to direct services provided to children and their parents/next of kin, 87 awareness and information meetings were organised on the issue of children left home alone following the economic migration of parents, among the experts and community members from 77 localities from Mureș County, with the participation of 1,842 persons. Last, but not least, with the help of the volunteers, informative sessions were organised in schools, on the topic of children's rights, to the benefit of 2,836 pupils.

**Partners:** Mureș County Council, DGASPC Mureș, Mureș County School Inspectorate, IESR Mureș, Mureș County Police Inspectorate, DSP Mureș, Tîrgu Mureș Mayorality, Mureș School Medicine Association, Mureș County Library, "Alexandru Papiu Ilarian" Tg-Mureș National College, "Transilvania" Economic College, "Unirea" National College, "Liviu Rebreanu", "Serafim Duicu", "Romulus Guga", "Mihai Viteazu", „Bernady Gyorgy” Tg-Mureș Gymnasium Schools, Szasz Adalbert Sports High School, Gurghiu Forestry College, Tg-Mureș Art High School, Mureș County Centre for Resources and Educational Assistance, Kindergarten PP no. 12, "Sf. Gheorghe" Sângeorgiu de Pădure Technological High School, Ibănești Gymnasium School, Gurghiu Forestry College, gymnasium schools no. 1 from Luduș and "Ioan Vlăduțiu" from Luduș, Luduș Technological High School, Public Service of Social Assistance within Deda Mayorality, Dumbrăvioara Technological High School – Structura Ernei, Sânger Gymnasium School, "Nicolae Iorga" Cluj-Napoca School, "Dimitrie Cantemir" University – Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences, Promenada Mall Tg-Mureș.

**Media partners:** Antena 1 Tg-Mureș, Stii TV, TVR Tg-Mureș, TTM, Radio SON, Kiss FM, Rock FM, Magic FM, Radio Tg-Mureș, DAReghin TV, Erdely TV.

**Sponsors:** Selgros Cash & Carry, Darina Retail network, PKD Grup.

## NEAMȚ

The projects developed were aimed at the knowledge and enforcement of the rights of the child, education for health, protection of children with parents working abroad and education of children at risk of dropout. More than 1,500 children, 470 parents and 175 specialists were comprised in the subsidiary's programs.

Informative sessions were organised for pregnant women, young mothers and adolescents in the communities of Săbăoani and Bahna, with a view to undertaking the periodical medical check, nursing and feeding the newborn appropriately and prevention of unwanted early pregnancies. 73 children from 0 to 5 years old benefited from food and vitamins, 28 pregnant women from counselling and

company to the physician, 90 parents and young persons from information on reproductive health. Following the activities, the number of non-monitored pregnancies decreased by 30% and the number of periodical medical checks and vaccinations increased by 45%, respectively 40%. Moreover, more than 1,000 children from 15 schools, with the participation of 45 members of the teaching staff, were informed for a healthy lifestyle.

For the protection of children left home alone after the economic migration of parents, educational support and interaction sessions were organised, as well as social and psychological counselling services for 80 children and 40 next of kin/parents.

**Partners:** DGASPC Neamț, Roman Mayorality – Duties and Fees Directorate, Tg. Neamț Mayorality – Duties and Fees Directorate, Roman Municipal Hospital, Neamț County Police Inspectorate, Neamț School Inspectorate, Neamț Public Health Directorate, school units from Piatra Neamț, Roman, Tg. Neamț and localities Bahna, Reditu, Bahna and Săbăoani Mayoralties.

**Sponsors:** Rocom Central Piatra Neamț, Roman Mayorality – Duties and Fees Directorate, Tg. Neamț Mayorality – Duties and Fees Directorate, Roman Municipal Hospital, Tg. Neamț Hospital, Zf Group – TRW Airbag Systems – Roman, Mirapam Girov, Roxival Grup Piatra Neamț, Divind-El Dorado Piatra Neamț, Apetrei Nicolai Piatra Neamț, Lucia Pan Prod Piatra Neamț, D&D Eurototal Office - Piatra Neamț, Geneva Shop - Tg. Neamț, Lenamar Ezytex Piatra Neamț.

## SUCEAVA

In the **Parental Counselling Centre from Suceava** 125 children and parents were supported, as part of 1,599 appraisal and counselling sessions, with a view to developing emotional and behavioural competences, respectively parental strategies of discipline and reduction of physical and emotional abuses upon children. Save the Children team also held training sessions for experts, for better intervention in cases such as ADHD, violent behaviour, depression or anxiety.

The information and education campaigns among young women, pregnant women and mothers from disadvantaged communities continued, in order to ensure good health and prevent mortality/morbidity among children younger than 5 years, 491 children being included in the program. Actions were carried out to facilitate non-discriminatory access to medical services, informative sessions on education for health in schools from the underprivileged communities. The project addressing the health of children younger than 5 years was generously supported by the members of the community by

participating in the **Suceava Citadel Marathon** on September 16th, 2017 – 278 participants, respectively **the Event 1000 km cycled in 48h**, on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, with the involvement of cyclists Constantin Lucațar and Mihai Cervinschi.

As part of the education for health program, more than 2,800 children were informed, with a view to making them accountable for a healthy life style.

**Partners:** Shopping City Suceava, Oana Maria Pharmacy, Selgros Cash & Carry Suceava, County School Inspectorates of Suceava and Botoșani, Suceava County Police Inspectorate, DGASPC Suceava and Botoșani, Suceava County Centre for Resources and Educational Assistance, Mayoralties of Suceava, Rădăuți, Dorohoi, Moldovița, Siret, National Agency against Human Trafficking – Suceava Centre, Suceava Anti-Drug Centre for Prevention, Assessment and Counselling, Public Health Directorates of Suceava and Botoșani, Association of Family Doctors / Private Practices Family Physicians / Psychiatrists, schools and high schools from Suceava and Botoșani.

**Partners media:** Monitorul de Suceava, Crai Nou, Intermedia TV, Bucovina TV, NEst TV, Plus TV, Radio Top, Viva FM, Radio AS, NewsBucovina, Suceava News.

**Sponsors and donors:** General Construct, Inter-Conti Com, Rulexim, I.I. Cornel Manaz, Strong MND Corporation, Sedcomlibris, Grup NBM Comany, Lidana Com, Shopping City Suceava, Intermedia Television, Roumasports, Carrefour Romania, Auchan Romania, Assist Software, Farm Oana Maria Pharmacy, Decathlon, Coca-Cola HBC Romania, Recrex.

## TIMIȘ

In 2017, Timișoara subsidiary continued to implement the education, protection and advocacy projects addressed to children at risk of dropout, children victims of

violence, children from underprivileged communities (from both urban and rural environments), children whose parents went to work abroad, by working with both children and their families, as well as experts (members of the teaching staff, school therapists etc.). Thus, throughout 2017, the subsidiary comprised in its programs and campaigns 2,500 children, 1,500 parents and more than 500 experts, 3,504 persons from 92 localities from Timiș County were informed about the procedure for delegation of parental authority if the parent goes to work abroad, 99 informative sessions being conducted, with the participation of 470 experts, 2,130 parents and 491 children. The subsidiary's projects focused on school education, through the Educational Centres (opened in Timișoara within schools 1, 11 and 25), individual and group counselling services and parenting services as part of the **Parental Counselling Centre**, support for home-alone children and activities dedicated to young persons with disabilities, through "Hearty Friends". All activities were conducted with the invaluable support of the volunteers.

**Partners:** DGASPC Timiș, Timiș County School Inspectorate, Timiș County Police Inspectorate, Rudolf Walther Timișoara Foundation, CJRAE Timiș, A.I.E.S.E.C. Timișoara, Casa Adam Muller Guttenbrunn Timișoara, Lindenfeld Association, Quick Lunch, Gymnasium Schools no. 1, 2, 18, 27 and 30 Timișoara, "William Shakespeare" Timișoara Theoretical High School, "Dimitrie Leonida" Timișoara Technical College, Liebling Gymnasium School, Kindergartens PP no. 20, 29, "Primii Pași" and "Ladybird" from Timișoara, Wendy Kids Timișoara Association, Minimundus Timișoara Association.

**Sponsors:** Smithfield Ferme, Delphi Packard Romania, Fornetti, Maresi Food-broker, Unifiedpost, Macchine per caffe

espresso- MCE, Fflexik Auto- mation, Ebig Management, Ferico, Proline Nutrition, DM Drogerie Markt, Selgros Cash & Carry, Bega Turism, Kinderzukunft-Rudolf Walther Timișoara Foundation.

## VASLUI

An impactful program at the level of Vaslui County was the one dedicated to the health of mothers/pregnant women and children between 0 and 5 years of age from disadvantaged rural communities, 643 children, 94 pregnant women and 518 mothers benefiting from support and information.

Moreover, 191 parents and adolescents participated in informative sessions on a healthy life style. Interventions were made based on specific needs identified and aimed inclusively at assuming parental responsibility, positive discipline measures, cleaning of the living space, accessing social, medical or educational services. The program for the protection of children left home alone following the economic migration of parents continued, with a major awareness and information component among the population and experts at local level on the procedure of delegation of parental authority and the problems of this vulnerable category of children.

**Partners:** Vaslui County School Inspectorate, Vaslui County Police Inspectorate, Vaslui County Centre for Resources and Educational Assistance, 86 kindergartens, gymnasium schools and high schools, mayoralties, local councils, Vaslui County Council, DGASPC Vaslui, Vaslui County Anti-drug Agency, family physicians, Vaslui County Hospital.

**Media partners:** Monitorul de Vaslui, Vremea nouă, Obiectiv de Vaslui, Smile FM Vaslui, Antena Satelor București.

**Sponsors:** Balsam Negrești Pharmacy, Horvica Negrești, Cally Negrești, DC Comercial Negrești.





Photo: Eduard Oti



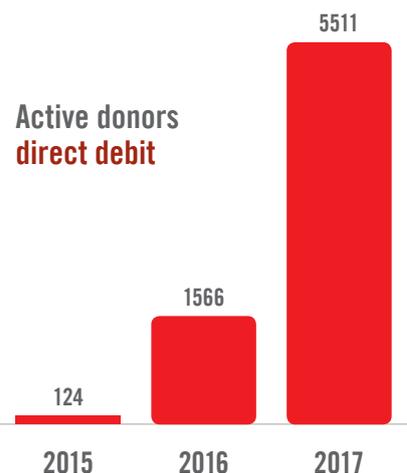
**DONATE FOR CHILDREN**



More than 100,000 Ron was raised by Save the Children team, at the Bucharest semi-marathon, by the 200 runners. The money was used to equip Bucur maternity from Bucharest with a radiant warmer with resuscitation module.

### DIRECT DEBIT

The Debit Direct donations are a form of repetitive and constant donation, by which the donor commits to pay a fixed amount on a monthly basis, through the bank account. Save the Children, attracted, since the beginning of the program, in October 2014, and up to the end of 2017, more than **7,200 active donors** whom the fundraisers met in **Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Timișoara and Iași**. Thanks to the donors, important sums of money contributed to equipping the maternities with performing medical equipment.



### 2% CAMPAIGN

Every year, Save the Children is rolling out the fundraising campaign addressing individuals, to **redirect 2% of the income tax**. A great share of the funds raised by Save the Children to equip the maternities from Romania comes from the 2% Campaign. Anyone who achieved incomes from salaries/pensions in the previous year can contribute through this campaign, by filling in **form 230** on [www.salvaticopiii.ro/doilasuta](http://www.salvaticopiii.ro/doilasuta).

### ONLINE

Periodical support, through online donations, of Save the Children projects is very important, these donations contributing to the sustainability of the organization's projects. Whether it is education, health or protection, Save the Children is constantly carrying out impactful activities for the community, paying a special attention to children from disadvantaged environments.

### SPORT EVENTS

Bucharest semi-marathon is a successful example of the participation of Save the Children team in sport events. With the contribution of more than **200 volunteers** who ran in May in this event, we managed to raise the funds necessary to buy a radiant warmer with resuscitation module for Bucur maternity. We enjoyed the support of both individuals and companies.

### SMS 8844 WITH THE TEXT SALVEZ (SAVE)

A simple method to monthly support the Save the Children program to equip the maternities with medical equipment is by means of the SMS donation mechanism. It is the easiest way to support a charitable cause, by sending a **SMS worth 2 Euro at 8844 with the text SALVEZ (SAVE)**.



# 2017 Financial report

THE ACTIVITY OF SAVE THE CHILDREN IS CONDUCTED AT THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES  
**TOTAL REVENUES**  
**5.958.524 Euro**



**SUBSIDIARIES**  
**672.587 EURO**  
**(11%)**

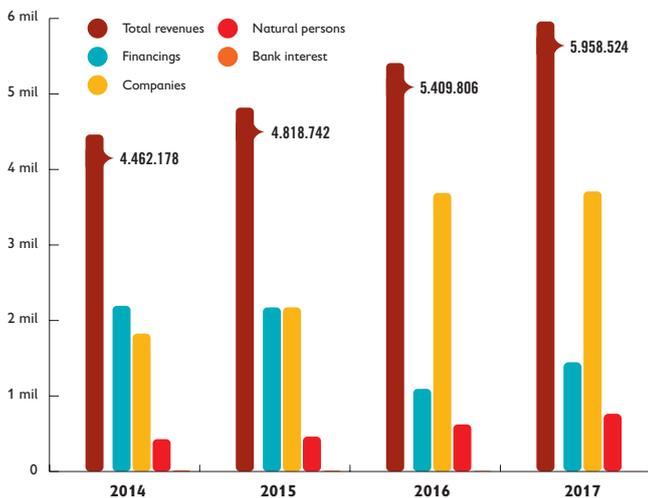
## PROGRAMS EXPENDITURES

<b>CHILD HEALTH AND NUTRITION</b>	<b>1.348.212 EUR</b>
<b>PROMOTING AND ENSURING THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION</b>	<b>1.325.838 EUR</b>
Access to education for children from disadvantaged settings	1.115.543
Educational integration of refugee and asylum-seeking children	170.295
Pre-school education for children from disadvantaged categories	40.000
<b>ENSURING CHILDREN'S RIGHT TO PROTECTION</b>	<b>1.201.907 EUR</b>
Protection of children against violence and economic exploitation	492.651
Protection of home-alone children	352.588
Children's protection on the Internet – Internet Class program	191.412
Support for children/young persons living on the street identified with TB	120.256
Protection of children against HIV/AIDS	45.000
<b>PROMOTION AND ENFORCEMENT OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS</b>	<b>205.878 EUR</b>

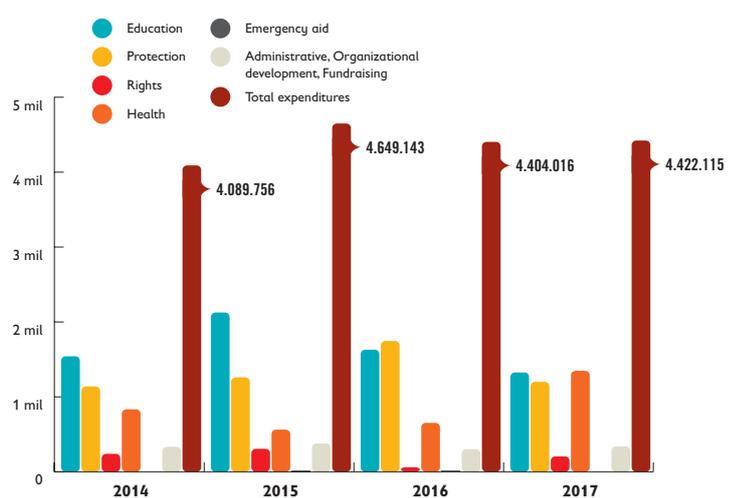
TOTAL FUNDS - EUR	5.958.524	%
Not-for-profit organizations from the country and abroad and international bodies	2.896.449	49%
Contributions, donations, sponsorships	2.946.736	49%
State institutions	78.378	1%
Bank interests	36.961	1%

EXPENSES - EUR	4.422.115	%
Programs	4.081.835	93%
Organizational development	58.473	1%
Administration	124.089	3%
Fundraising and communication	157.718	3%

2014-2017 REVENUES (EURO)



2014-2017 EXPENDITURES (EURO)



# Partnerships for children

We thank all our partners, who support Save the Children causes and understand the importance of mobilization and joint efforts, so that the children in Romania can have a better future. We trust and still count on your support! There is still much to do for the children.

## IKEA Foundation

It is a valuable partner of Save the Children initiatives of reducing the discrimination against the most vulnerable categories of children and of ensuring their harmonious psychological, emotional and educational development. With the support of IKEA Foundation, we have developed complex educational and mental health services for children at risk, carrying out, at the same time, trainings for parents and specialists and awareness raising campaigns on the negative consequences of stigma and discrimination.

## The Velux Foundations

The Danish foundation is financially supporting the program for children with parents working abroad, rolled up by means of 17 local services, where children benefit from psychological counseling and School after School educational activities.

## Lidl

It supports the educational programs of Save the Children, providing, through its contribution, access to quality education and a better future for children from the disadvantaged communities. Every year, by participating in the Festival of Christmas Trees, Lidl is a trustworthy partner and an example of social engagement.

## Romanian Commercial Bank

It is a traditional partner, financially supporting, every year, the educational activities for children from the disadvantaged communities, by sponsoring the Festival of Christmas Trees, with a view to ensuring access to quality education for all children.

## Dorna

It joined Save the Children Organization in supporting the child mortality reduction program – Every Child Matters. Through the campaign initiated by Dorna “**Care for children**”, in the period 2013-2017, **50 maternities** from Romania were equipped with 86 pieces of specialized equipment required for the medical care of premature babies.

## Cora Sun Plaza

It supported, through the “Open Hearts Month” program, over 2,200 children from disadvantaged communities. For two years, it has supported, by means of the same campaign, the maternity equipping program.

## GSK Romania

It is a trustworthy supporter of Save the Children Organization in its work in the communities, by providing free-of-charge dental consultations and treatments for children from underprivileged settings.

## Romanian Business Consult

It supports the education of vulnerable children included in the A Second Chance, School after School and Summer Kindergartens programs. Thanks to the financial support provided, by sponsoring the Festival of Christmas Trees, the children manage to (re) integrate in school and not drop out, receiving, thus, the chance to a better future.

## OMV Petrom

Petrom sustains the program for the promotion of a safer internet among children in rural areas. Due to its support, children from Dolj, Gorj and Giurgiu counties participated in information sessions and competitions regarding the online safety.

## H & M Conscious Foundation

It has supported, since 2015, the dropout prevention programs in Bucharest, Reșița, Craiova, Târgu-Mureș and Timișoara.

## Kaufland Romania

The company has understood the importance of supporting the “School after School” and “A Second Chance” programs for children from vulnerable groups and is constantly involved in financially supporting the education for health programs.

## Catena

It is one of the most important supporters of the educational programs, by sponsoring the Festival of Christmas Trees. Catena supports approximately 1,000 children in enforcing their right to quality education.

## Selgros Cash & Carry

It is one of the oldest supporters of Save the Children. By setting up donation boxes, ever since the opening of the first store, in 2001, at cash registers, Selgros Cash & Carry has supported more than 5,000 children from disadvantaged communities.

## Carrefour Foundation

It supports the child mortality reduction program - Every Child Matters through the Maternal & Children Health program. Moreover, it contributes to improving the health and nutritional status of pregnant women, mothers and children younger than 5 years from the disadvantaged communities.

## Orange Foundation

It financially supports the program for children's online safety and Logopedia project, the objective of which is to increase the level of identification and use of sounds and spoken language among 300 children with hearing impairments.

## Libris.ro

It joined the child mortality reduction program of Save the Children in December 2014, and thanks to the partnership with them, we equipped 7 maternities from Romania with performing equipment.

## Banvit

It has been supporting the child mortality reduction program of Save the Children since 2015 and, together with them, we equipped the maternities from Slobozia and Buzău.

## Interbrands

It has been supporting the school dropout programs from Bucharest since 2016, the children receiving school supplies and books.

## Gefco

It joined the child mortality reduction program in 2016, contributing to equipping the maternities from Bucharest: Bucur Maternity and “Grigore Alexandrescu” Hospital Maternity.

## KPMG

It had provided pro bono the audit of the organization since 2010, giving us, thus, the chance to invest the organization's funds in programs for children. With its support, KPMG is joining the companies which understood the importance of social responsibility and which are examples to follow in terms of engagement in changing the society we live in.

# SUPPORTERS OF SAVE THE CHILDREN PROGRAMS

## SPONSORS OF THE 2017 FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES

### DIAMOND SPONSORS



### PLATINUM SPONSORS



### GOLD SPONSORS



### SILVER SPONSORS



### MEDIUM AND LONG TERM SUPPORTERS OF SAVE THE CHILDREN PROGRAMS



HEALTH • HYGIENE • HOME



## SPONSORS WITH AMOUNTS OVER 50,000 EURO

Banvit Foods, BCR, Carrefour, Catena, Dorna, Globalworth, Kaufland Romania, Libris.ro, Lidl

## SPONSORS WITH AMOUNTS BETWEEN 10,000 EURO AND 50,000 EURO

Algabeth Com, Ariston, Artesans Del Sucre, Transilvania Bank, Casagrande-Stana Anton Bailiff, Camelia Şucu, Cardif Assurance Risques Divers, Constanţa South Container Terminal, Cora, Cosmetics Oriflame Romania, Credit Gold & GF 2003, Deutek, Deutsche Leasing Romania IFN, Farmaceutica Argeşfarm, Fildas Trading, Fortech, Orange Foundation, Auchan Foundation, Gefco, Generali Romania, Hulea Horia, IC Group Sourcing Romania, Interbrands Marketing Distribution, Marius Căprilă, OMV Petrom Gas, Otter Distribution, PP Distributors Romania, Reckitt Benckiser, Romanian Business Consult, Rompetrol, Downstream, Selgros Cash & Carry, UK Online Giving Foundation, United Shipping Agency, Vaillant Group Romania, Vox Carrier, Water Systems International.

## SPONSORS WITH AMOUNTS LOWER THAN 10,000 EURO

Adalco Group, Administration of the Navigable Canals, Adtrade Consulting, Agroconcept Impex, Agro-Est Muntenia, Air BP Sales Romania, Air Systems, Aka Automotiv, Alexral Consult, Almera International, Altius, Altours, Ancroma Prod, Anghel Residence Imob, Anomis, Arafarm Mediplus, Aralis Consulting, Areon Impex, Arges, Art Chemicals, Arual Starting, Asociatia Environ, AT Kearney Management Consulting, Automobile Bavaria, Băneasa Developments, Barcan Leonard Gabriel, BASF, BDG Import, Belladonna, Benning Power Electronics Rom, Biadrin Impex, Bimmer Service, Blupart, BRD Asset Management, Bright Distribution, Bucharest Running Club, Cami Comexim, Canah, Charities Aid Foundation, Cmu Regina Maria Foundation, Codrina, Comerpan, Comfruct, Computing Approach, Concept Consult & Prospect, Concept Kitchen, Conex Distribution, Confort V.B., Confortex, Connect Romania, Consiglieri Fashion Group, Construct Perom, Convex, Corfa Andra, Cos 2000 Distribution, Cosmos Mobile, Crescendo International, Cris Garden, Crislar Giva, Cruc Prodcum, Culturaft Cultural Association, Dainet, Damifarm, Datanet Systems, Davero International, Daz Activ, DBH ROM Distribution, Delcar International, Delphi Diesel Systems Romania, Delphi Electric, Denemeyer Associates, Dental Profile 2000, Depozitarul Central, Develop & Support Management, Dinamic, Davino, Districom Compres, Domarom Star, Dutchmed, ECDL Romania, Echinox Property Services, Edco One Confort, Edil Lift, Electrica, Electromec, Elixdan Prod Com Impex, Emagic Concerts, Eryza Proiect, Essilor Romania, Euromont, Eurosilo, Eurovet Logistics, Eusign, Everest Advertising, Evital Farm, Exact Tours, F64 Studio, Farcaş Alin Cristian, Farmacia Ardealul, FF Group Romania, FIN-ECO, FM Group Cosmetics, Romanian Rural Credit Guarantee Fund, Gerocossen, Gerom International Prodimex, Getimrom Instal, GSK Romania, Global Plast, GP Contaf, 1 Măgurele Kindergarten, Gromat-Tim, Hadar Nature Resort, Hansa Flex Romania, Happy Cruises, Hawle H, Hightech System Software, Horticom Impex, Hotel Central, Humangest Group, I Regali Di Francesca, Iris Flower Shop, Impex Apollo, Impulse Romania, Ina International, Interactiv Service, International Alexander, Interreleu, Intertek Industry Services Romania, Ii Benu Dumitru, Ii Mina Ion Nelu, Ii Picu Ion, Ii Soisun Vasile, Intro, Iuliana Iancu, Iulius Cătălin Holban, Ivagri, Kantar Millward Brown, KG Rulmenti Impex, Komarom Trade Invest, Lavmi Perla, Libisoft, Lift Systems, Logia Global Translations, MG Farm, Maiocci, Maleo, Maresi Foodbroker, Max Edilitar, Maxim Casa, Media Concept Store, Medialine Eurotrade, Mediapost Hitmail, Melspring Romania, Mercedes-Benz Romania, Metagalax, Metropolitan Life, Mico Electro, Mida Soft Business, Monbat Recycling, Mondial Voyages, Montana MG Transport, Motoboom, Multi Game, Nautilus Prodim, Neoplan Consult Design, Niko Auto Com, Nios Distribution, NNC Global Innovative Services, Nordic Fastfood Distribution, Oltconf International, Omnitech Industrial Machines, One Herastrau Park Residence, Optimed, Orange Romania, Oscar Downstream, Păun Alina Sînziana, Pebor Impex, Pensiunea Nuferilor, Plexi Met, Porsche, Paflora Impex, Porexim, Producţie Garo, Proiect Consulting, Purezza, Prima Car, Primula, Pro Refrigeration Team, Proenerg, Prolibris, Prosper Divers, PSG Com, Qube Net, Raiffeissen Bank, Regency Company, Renovatio Mobility, Rewe Romania, RTC Proffice Experience, Rodesco Agriculture, Rom East Star, Romda Maritime Commercial Company, Romkatel, Ropeco Bucureşti, Roschiwal, Sarmis, SCA Leroy & Asociaţii, Secom, Selcar International, Sepa Trade, Sephora Cosmetics Romania, Seta Machinery Supplier, Setico, Sevara Fashion, Sincron, Suntime Events, Shopmania Net, SIF Moldova, Sika Romania, Sildor Prod, Simen, Sky XS AirCargo, Sly Nutritia, Smith & Smith, SMS Highway, Snick Ambalaje & Consumabile, SO & SO 2000 Impex, SCPA Toacse Iavolschi & Associates, Soimul, SPTrans Rapid, Romanian Business School Foundation, SSAB AG, Stil Aura, Terapia, Total Control, Techteam, Telekom Romania

Communications, Textil Land, Timişoara Chamber of Notaries, Topaz Construct, Total Electric Co, Transport Trade Services, Travel Tech, Tuboscope Vetco GMBH Celle Germania, TVM Construct Metal, UPC, Velineo, Verasys International, Vivo Verde, Vlacov, Voievod, Winland, Wyzcom, Wild Olive African Artisans, Zenya Atelier.

## FINANCERS

IKEA Foundation & Save the Children Sweden, Save the Children UK, The Velux Foundations, H & M Conscious Foundation & Save the Children Sweden, Fondation Carrefour, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through Romanian Angel Appeal Foundation, European Commission – Safer Internet, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors & MetLife Foundation, Cofco International, Save the Children Austria, Association of Jesuit Refugee Service In Romania, Save the Children Italy, Progettomondo Mlal Onlus.

## SPECIAL THANKS

**Cristian China-Birta, Prinţesa Urbană, Mămica Urbană, Anca Serea, Marius Matache, Mihaela Ivan, Ana Maria Mitruş, Oana Tache, Lucian Mândruţă, Simona Tache.**

## PARTNERS OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Ministry of National Education, National Authority for the Protection of the Rights of the Child and Adoption, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and Social Justice, Ministry of Communication and Information Society, Ministry of Justice, Communication Regulatory Authority, Bondoc & Associates, Romanian Neonatology Association, Association of Independent Midwives in Romania, Bucharest School Inspectorate, County School Inspectorates, General Directorates for Social Assistance and Child Protection, Public Social Assistance Services, General Inspectorate of Romanian Police, “Al. Obregia” Psychiatric Hospital – Psychiatric Clinic for children and teenagers, Bucharest Centre for Assistance and Educational Resources, National Agency against Human Trafficking (ANITP), General Inspectorate for Immigration IGI/DAI, Association of Jesuit Refugee Service in Romania (JRS), International Organization for Migration (OIM), Terre des Hommes, RCS&RDS, Orange Foundation, National Students’ Council, World Vision Romania, Roma Education Fund Romania, “Step by Step” Centre for Education and Professional Development, National Federation of Parents’ Associations, Together Agency, European Centre for the Rights of Children with Disabilities, OvidiuRo Association, Federation of Free Trade Unions in Education, Attorneys’ Association for Dialogue and Solidarity.





# Awards granted to Save the Children

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## 2017 CIVIL SOCIETY GALA

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** in *Programs* category for the Festival of Christmas Trees.

**2<sup>nd</sup> prize** in *Defence of individual and collective rights* category for the program Protection and education for children with parents working abroad.

**3<sup>rd</sup> prize** in *Defence of individual and collective rights* category for the Internet Class program.

## VALUES OF ROMANIA GALA/ FORBES/ CAPITAL REVIEW

The Executive President of Save the Children organization, Gabriela Alexandrescu, was among the laureates of **Biz** Review (“Values of Romania, Romanian Excellence Gala”), of **Capital** Review (“Top Most successful women in Romania”) and **Forbes** magazine (“Top 50 Most influential women in Romania”).

## FORBES FOR KIDS GALA

As part of the event, special awards were given for the social campaigns for children who made a name for parents. Save the Children Organization was awarded the *Forbes Special Award* for the campaign “Stop Bullying or eliminate breaks”.

## PEOPLE FOR PEOPLE GALA

**Best sponsorship project of a SME – Libris.ro** for the project “A gesture for life – Libris supports the maternities from Romania – 2017”.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD GALA

**1<sup>st</sup> prize** for the 2017 Mobile Kids project supported by Mercedes-Benz Romania.

Diana\* is 11 and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The beginning of school came later for her than other children; the death of her parents, the social and material issues caused this delay. But her ambition and everyday after-school work, with the teacher from Save the Children Educational Center, have led to amazing results: she reads fluently, calculates very well, reading becoming one of her passions.

\*name is fictitious.

## The financial statements of Save the Children Organization on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 were audited pro bono by KPMG Audit SRL

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“The figures in this financial report are extracted from the financial statements of Save the Children Organization, on December 31, 2017, for the financial year concluded at that date.

The financial statements were audited by KPMG Audit SRL which expressed an opinion without reservation upon them in its report on April 20th, 2018. More information can be found in the complete financial analysis and in the independent auditor’s report.”

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**Executive President:**

**Gabriela Alexandrescu**

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BCR Bank Plevnei Branch,

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Save the Children Romania is a public utility organization, whose mission is to guarantee equal chance for all children, irrespective of the environment they come from, by using its own expertise, as well as through lobby and advocacy activities on decision makers and mobilizing leaders of civil society.

Save the Children has been promoting the rights of the child for 28 years, as per the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. More than 1,750,000 children were included in educational, protection and medical-social assistance programs, to stimulate their participation in actions aimed at promoting and acknowledging their rights.

Save the Children Romania is a member of Save the Children International, the largest global organization promoting the rights of children, comprising 30 members and conducting programs in more than 120 countries.