



# Annual Report 2006



**Salvați Copiii**  
Save the Children Romania



**Camelia  
Iordache**  
President



**Gabriela  
Alexandrescu**  
Executive  
President

## Children's rights are our everyday concern

In 2006, Salvați Copiii celebrated 16 years of activity in Romania and 9 years since it has become a member of the world's largest independent global movement that fights for children's rights, **International Save the Children Alliance**.

For the first time in the history of the organization, we have joined the efforts of the Alliance that will support the access to quality education for 8 million children from 40 conflict-affected countries during the period 2006-2010 through the campaign **"Rewrite the Future"**. Salvați Copiii, in collaboration with Battalion 2 Infantry "Călugăreni" and the Ministry of National Defence succeeded to send school supplies, beds, drinking water and toys for 400 children from Southern Afghanistan, Zabul province.

2006 was a year when over **3,500 children were affected by the disastrous floods**. Salvați Copiii was close to them and to their families in Chiselet, Stancea and Spantov (Călărași County) and in Rast (Dolj County). All Salvați Copiii team members and many volunteers were involved in providing the emergency basic things, emotional and social counselling, educational programmes for pre-school and school-aged children. The organization also supported the rehabilitation and equipped the school in Rast and the kindergartens in Călărași County, giving them the opportunity to continue the education process.

In October 2006, the UN Special Rapporteur presented the **United Nations Study on Violence against Children** in a plenary session. The fact that Salvați Copiii was represented there by specialists and children from Romania was an acknowledgement of its activity both as concerns legal changes and the ongoing efforts to train the specialists working with children and parents themselves in order to acquire skills to educate their children without using violence.

**"Equal chances to education"** is a long-run programme, but it is also a creed of the team and children we are working with. In 2006, the access to education was ensured for 800 children who were obliged to work instead of going to school. Our organization can do this because it has developed an outstanding and effective partnership with renowned companies that invest in the present and the future of the country.

**In Iași, Craiova, Timișoara, Târgu Mureș, Brașov, Hunedoara, Suceava, Galați, Mangalia, Vaslui, Pitești, Târgoviște, Piatra Neamț, Reșița și București**, our organization worked in education, social, health care and legal assistance, counselling and therapy with over **68,000** children. Together with Salvați Copiii active members and the personnel, the young volunteers were a valuable element, contributing with their energy, their willingness to achieve social justice and their initiatives.

For all the joy of being able to produce a change for good in children's destinies, **we would like to thank to our partners, members, volunteers, funding organizations and sponsors.**

**Camelia Iordache**, President

**Gabriela Alexandrescu**, Executive President



**Salvați Copiii România** is a national non-governmental organisation of public utility based on the volunteer activity of its members. Established in 1990, the organisation currently has local branches in 14 counties and Bucharest, over 6,000 members and benefits from the volunteer activity of over 800 persons, most of them young people.

**Our vision** is a world where all the rights of the child are respected.

Salvați Copiii România works for:

- a world which respects and values each child;
- a world which listens to children and learns;
- a world where all children have hope and opportunity;
- a world where all children are protected from any type of violence, abuse and exploitation.

**Salvați Copiii's mission** is to promote and fight for children's rights as per the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**The International Save the Children Alliance** is the world's largest independent global movement that fights for children's rights. It has 28 member organisations and implements programmes in over 120 countries. Salvați Copiii Romania has become an active member of the International Save the Children Alliance since 1997, being the only organisation from South-Eastern Europe taking action within this body.

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# We also have rights

The general objective of the programme for promoting children's rights is to give to children and youth the opportunity to get actively involved in the society. The activities within this programme consist of interactive training sessions through peer-education method, activities for children and long-life training courses for teachers.

## WORKSHOPS AND DEBATE GROUPS

The training sessions in schools were carried out by 200 young volunteers and 50 counsellors trained on children's rights. For the primary education, the interactive classes on children's rights included approximately 9,000 children.

Starting with 2006, Salvați Copiii has been carrying out a pilot project in 10 schools in Bucharest **Children's Rights Club**. Within these clubs, children are trained and encouraged to initiate and carry out actions and projects to promote and support children's rights in their schools or communities.

## LONG-LIFE TRAINING COURSE "CHILDREN'S RIGHTS" FOR TEACHERS

Accredited by the **National Training Centre for the Teachers in Pre-University Education**, the course comprises ten modules that are coordinated by a team of six training specialists and it is useful to the teachers in their professional training. The aim of the course is to acquire key competences in knowing and promoting children's rights in order to contribute to the change of the mentalities and social behaviours related to the child, to build and develop children's responsibility and the civic spirit.

## "CHILD RIGHTS" CONTEST

The "Child Rights" contest was the outcome of a school year in which training sessions and actions on children's rights were carried out in Bucharest and Salvați Copiii local branches. The schools where the organization's volunteers or teachers carried out the programme **"We also have rights"** participated in the contest by achieving small projects on children's rights. The most important award of the contest was the participation in the Children's Annual Meeting held in Arbanasi Camp (Buzau County). The winners were representatives of 18 schools (14 schools from Salvați Copiii local branches and 4 schools from Bucharest).

## CHILDREN'S NATIONAL FORUM

The forum emphasizes the importance of consultation with children and children's participation in any matter related to their rights and interests. The event brought together children and authorities and gave them the opportunity to have a dialogue and formulate concrete proposals.

In 2006, the Forum had as a theme **"Violence against children"** and it was held on 2-3 June 2006. It brought together 70 children and teenagers from all Salvați Copiii local branches. The first day of the Forum was dedicated to the exchange of experience and to the formulation of the messages and recommendations for the authorities. The conclusions of the debates on the violence in family, schools, institutions and media were presented during the second day, at the meeting with the representatives of the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights, National Agency for Family Protection, Ministry of Education and Research, National Council of Students and the General Inspectorate of Police.

## Children's Annual Meeting "PROMOTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS" Arbanasi, June 2006

90 children from Bucharest and other 14 counties participated in the Children's Annual Meeting. The participants were winners of the **"Child Rights"** contest, beneficiaries of Salvați Copiii programmes, children involved in the activities carried out in the framework of these programmes on a volunteer basis. Children and their teachers participated in interactive workshops on themes as children's rights, education and leisure time, education for health, violence against children, cultural, artistic and sports activities and contests organized by themselves.

**CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL**, held on 14 December 2006, an event with tradition, reunited 253 children from 23 schools in Bucharest, placement centres, educational centres for economically exploited children, refugee children and included artistic moments, a costumes contest. The carnival was presented by the Santa Claus himself who brought presents to the children.

**Publications:** UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 3,000 copies, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child a version for children -10,000 copies.



# Participation and community involvement

Participation is one of the fundamental principles in promoting and respecting children's rights. This principle is included in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the strategy proposed by the European Commission, in national legislation on the rights of the child and the one on volunteering. In 2006, 800 volunteers actively involved in *Salvați Copiii* programmes, being encouraged to participate in activities and to materialize their own ideas in projects coordinated by themselves. The projects carried out at national level included 18,000 children.

## SELECTION AND TRAINING SESSIONS FOR THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

- The campaign „**Be a Superhero**” aimed at promoting the volunteering-based activities among the teenagers from schools and high schools. 450 teenagers from Bucharest and Suceava, Brașov, Hunedoara, Dolj, Constanța, Timis and Iași were selected and trained and then they became volunteers in different programmes.

## CAMPAIGNS AND DEBATES

- “**Get involved in combating begging**” on 12 June - 40 volunteers carried out the information and awareness raising campaign on the worst forms of child labour, together with the representatives of the authorities in the child protection field.
- In the framework of the campaign „The sea, our only addiction”, 50 volunteers informed the teenagers who were on holidays to the seaside on the risks of drug abuse.
- On 19 November, “**The day of child abuse prevention**”, *Salvați Copiii* volunteers, supported by the actor Mihai Răzut, performed a play on the violation of the children's rights on the stage of the Romanian Radio Hall. This event was followed by a debate where children and young people, public persons, representatives of the authorities and specialists in the field of children's rights participated in.
- 60 volunteers informed the public during the fundraising campaign for the economically exploited children launched by CORA Hypermarket - „**The Month of Open Hearts**”, carried out in partnership with ILO-IPEC.
- 67 volunteers participated in the **Volunteers' Annual Meeting** where the activities carried out by the volunteers during the year were presented and evaluated and the plans for 2007 were discussed.



Oana Aramă answered to the questions asked by other children and young people from Europe.

- In the framework of the programme regarding the emergency assistance on medium term, 35 volunteers from Bucharest and Dolj local branch carried out educational activities for the children affected by floods from Călărași (Chiselet, Spanțov and Rast).
- The **Day against the Violence upon Children**, 5 June - the volunteers debated the problem of violence in schools and high schools in Bucharest and Hunedoara, Mureș and Brașov counties. Street campaigns were also organized.
- 60 volunteers from Bucharest, Mureș, Timiș and Iași participated in the campaign for sensitizing the public on the occasion of the International Day of Missing Children.
- 85 volunteers from Bucharest, Mureș and Hunedoara got involved in the information campaign targeting citizens regarding the redirecting of 2% out of the income tax for the non-governmental organizations.
- During the **Volunteering Week**, event that reunited over 30 non-governmental organizations, 35 volunteers from Bucharest, Târgu Mureș and Brașov offered information to the interested persons about the programmes carried out by *Salvați Copiii*.

## INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

- **The United Nations Study on Violence Against Children.** The meeting of the Children and Young People Group (New York) reunited representatives of children and youth involved in nine regional consultations. Ioana Barbu, a volunteer with *Salvați Copiii* Romania, participated in the activities related to the inclusion of the children's and young people's recommendations in the Report for the United Nations Study, involvement in the Report launching and identifying the next steps in addressing violence against children. The study was launched on 11th October 2006, in New York.
- **The workshop “Changing POWER”** (Stockholm) brought together young people from Save the Children youth organizations from Europe, Asia, Africa and America. Three Romanian volunteers presented examples of good practices and participated in debates on youth involvement.
- **The international consultation on children's and young people's participation in the European area** (Brussels) aimed at citizens' involvement in the community environment and their relation with the European institutions. Together with other four European teenagers, Oana Aramă from Romania represented the European teenagers' interests in a debate with the Vice-President of the European Commission, Ms. Margot Wallström, that can be accessed until November 2007 at [http://www.managenergy.tv/me\\_portal/com/1744/1745/index\\_player.html](http://www.managenergy.tv/me_portal/com/1744/1745/index_player.html)

# Information and research

## INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Monitoring children's rights is the first step in addressing children's problems because it facilitates their identification, the determination of the causes and the consequences of the phenomena in discussion and represents at the same time a very useful instrument in putting pressure at the level of governmental institutions in order to adapt their policies to the children's current priorities.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITIES

Being structured according to the target groups (representatives of authorities, non-governmental organizations, children, students, teachers, parents, the public at large), the activities of the centre aim at reaching a high level of information by all those who may contribute to the promotion and protection of children's rights at local, national and international levels.

In 2006, the centre aimed at developing activities for monitoring children's rights at national level by establishing a monitoring network including 22 non-governmental organizations, as well as a group of 20 children and young volunteers or beneficiaries of the social services. At the same time, the campaign to promote the access to a quality education continued.



### “MONITORING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS GROUP” PROJECT

Having as a general objective to enhance the capacity of the non-governmental organizations from Romania to monitor the observance of children's rights, the project was carried out during the period December 2005 - October 2006 with funding from the European Commission within the Programme Strengthening the Civil Society in Romania. Meetings of the partner organizations were held, the data requested from the public institutions, studies and researches of the non-governmental organizations, reports of several international organizations, publications and articles in the media were analyzed. At national level, questionnaires were applied to 1,545 students from urban and rural areas, eight focus-groups were organized (70 participants) and 40 interviews were conducted with specialists, parents and children in difficult circumstances. The processed was the backbone of the following publications:

#### I. The report “Situation of Respecting Children's Rights in Romania”

This report briefly shows that, even though important evolutions took place as concerns the legislation on the rights of the child, the lack of a unitary interpretation, the lack of qualified personnel, the bureaucracy and the insufficient resources made difficult the adequate enforcement of the law. Consequently, significant gaps are noticed regarding the observance of children's rights, particularly referring to the trafficking in human beings, the inadequate assistance for disabled children, discrimination against Roma and children with HIV/AIDS.

#### II. Research Report „ Students' Opinions on the Importance and Observance of Children's Rights in Romania”

The majority of the interviewed students consider that, at present, their rights are respected in a high and very high degree, except for the children's possibility to establish organizations to represent their interests, which accounted for 43%. It is noticed a more reduced knowledge of the children's rights in case of the students who live in rural areas. As concerns the students' information about the school counsellors, 35% do not know or did not hear about the existence of the school counsellors. Moreover, among the students who mentioned about the presence of the counsellor in the school, 75% have never benefited from the school counselling services.

#### III. Practical guide for monitoring children's rights

The experience accumulated in the framework of the project “Monitoring Children's Rights Group” was synthesized and transposed into a practical guide, a useful instrument to those who are interested in analyzing the situation of the rights of the child.

### GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION - 2006

The campaign promoted the slogan “Each child needs a teacher!” emphasizing the necessity to guarantee a quality education for all children and, first of all, provide the needed



number of qualified and motivated teachers. Over 9,000 children and young people and 500 teachers from 22 counties and Bucharest participated in activities and prepared students' and teachers' files.

**"Politicians go back to school"** During the period 15-19 May, teachers and students from 15 schools and educational centres had a dialogue with politicians and representatives of the local authorities. Over 60 politicians and local leaders participated in these activities, received students' and teachers' files and signed commitments for supporting the necessary actions so that all children have equal access to quality education provided by teachers with an adequate qualification.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES

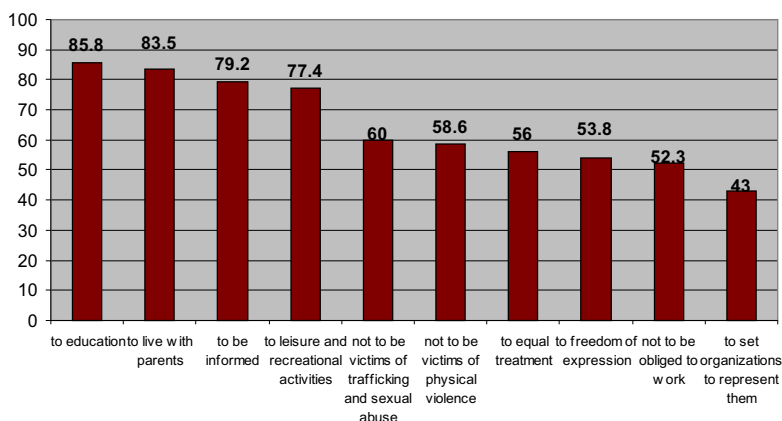
- about 9,000 children and 500 teachers were involved in the campaign for providing a quality education;

- over 1,600 children participated in conducting the research (applied or answered the questionnaires, participated in focus-groups and interviews, processed questionnaires in the data base);
- 13 children participated in the focus-groups to set up a portal on children's rights and 10 children participated in the ideas contest for a producing a poster to promote the Centre;
- Answers to over 100 requests related to the situation of the rights of the child were formulated.

#### Publications

- "Situation of Respecting Children's Rights in Romania"
- "Practical Guide for Monitoring Children's Rights"
- "Students' Opinions on the Importance and Observance of Children's Rights in Romania"
- E-newsletter „Info Child Rights"
- Newsletter „Monitor Child Rights"
- Buletinul informativ „Monitor Drepturile Copilului"

Rights respected in a high and very high degree (%)



# Education for health

## DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

The Education for Health programme carried out by Salvati Copiii was also expanded in 2006 to schools from rural communities. The general objective is to reduce the risk behaviour of the teenagers aged between 12 and 25 years through a correct information on the effects of the substance abuse, sexual behaviour through their education with a view to adopt a responsible attitude on a long run.

### OUTCOMES

- 8,150 children and young people from 135 school units were trained in the framework of the training sessions held in 7 cities/towns and 100 rural communities;
- 208 young volunteers from Bucharest and 6 counties were trained and involved in organizing educational activities in schools, providing to their peers information regarding the risks of legal and illegal drug abuse, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, contraception methods, discrimination of the persons at risk, especially those affected by HIV/AIDS;
- information provided to 977 teachers who have the role to disseminate the information during the tutor's classes and regular meetings with parents;
- information provided to 1,617 parents with the support of schools that made available the meeting rooms for these meetings and encouraged the parents to participate in a higher weight;
- 1,600 persons were informed regarding the risks of the illegal and legal drug abuse during the street campaigns carried out in Bucharest;
- Organization of interactive activities on health themes for 100 children who were on holidays in the camp from 2 May resort;
- Organization of drawing contests on the theme of the access to health of all children;
- 35 representatives of the county authorities from Ilfov, Caraş-Severin, Constanţa, Hunedoara, Timiş, Iaşi and Neamţ participated in a workshop organized with the view to involve

more and more institutions in promoting the adoption by young people of a lifestyle which involves minimum risks for their health;

- Collaboration with the authorities and school units to support the organization of information points on sexually transmitted infections and drug abuse prevention in Neamţ and Timiş.

### PUBLICATIONS

- Educational Notebook for grades II - IV and V-VIII, 4,000 copies,
- Brochure for parents **"The Drugs: You and Your Child"**, 5,000 copies,
- Educational brochure **"The Drugs- The Big Cheating"** - 3,000 copies, a multimedia CD in 2,500 copies,
- Educational brochure **"It's Time to Be Honest"** 3,000 copies,
- A sets of leaflets on the theme of substance abuse (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, heroine, ecstasy) 6,000 copies
- TV and radio spots and on-line banner **"You can quit drugs if you let the others help you!"**,
- Information and promotion materials for the campaign **"The sea, our only addiction"** (posters, leaflets, stickers, t-shirts, caps, rucksacks, newsletter),
- The Educator Manual, in partnership with ARAS **"Prevention of drug abuse, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases"**



## CAMPAIGNS TO PREVENT DRUG ABUSE AMONG YOUTH

### The campaign "The Sea, our only addiction"

Between 27 July and 20 August, 50 trained volunteers provided information to 10,000 adolescents and youth about the risks they are exposed to as a result of legal and illegal drug abuse. The information was provided during direct discussions on the beach, at the information point, during the sports competitions, the thematic post card type contests or those organized at the radio station VOX Costineşti. Direct debates took place with 5,000 adolescents and youth and 500 adults/parents.

The youth were offered an alternative to the drug abuse: the sports. 520 youth were involved in the football and volleyball contests organized by two volunteers and Physical Education teachers.

### The media campaign "You can quit drugs if you let the others help you!"

Carried out during the period April-October, the campaign consisted of a TV and a radio spot broadcasting, publication of ad prints in newspapers and magazines and banners display on the Internet. The campaign message addressed mainly to persons direct affected by the drug abuse:

young drug addicts and their families.

As a result of the TV spot broadcasting on 11 channels with a national coverage, the campaign message was watched by 6,840,000 persons (at least once), 4,620,000 persons (at least twice), and 3,167,000 persons (at least three times). As a result of the monitoring process, 990 broadcasts were reported. The radio spot accounted for 643 broadcasts on 4 radio stations, the message being heard at least once by over 5 million persons. The campaign message was made known through the Internet and the written press.





Young volunteers in campaign

## SUPPORT FOR HIV POSITIVE CHILDREN – HIV/AIDS PREVENTION IN INSTITUTIONS

There are adolescents in institutions who have not been integrated in the public school system and do not benefit from education for health sessions. Their vulnerability comes precisely from the fact that they live in institutions where they interact and they rely only on the educators, doctors, nurses or the director only. The contact with very few persons creates at institutionalized children/adolescents a big need of affection and care that often leads to the adoption of an unprotected sexual behaviour and to an early start of the sexual life.

Salvați Copiii Romania develops programmes for the **children infected with HIV** from protection centres, natural and foster families. The activities carried out targeted both children and those involved in their protection (medical personnel and other specialists who work with HIV positive children, natural or foster families).

### OUTCOMES

- 600 children from the institutions (out of which 160 HIV positive children) were informed on the ways of transmission of the HIV virus, the protection means and the universal precaution measures against the HIV transmission.
- 57 specialists from 22 child protection institutions from Constanța, Sibiu, Giurgiu

and Hunedoara participated in the training course on "Prevention of sexually transmitted infections among children from protection centres".

- 160 HIV positive children included in the programme were encouraged to participate in activities aiming to facilitate their social integration (trips, shows on St. Nicolas day, films, performance of a play).
- The HIV positive children from Dâmbovița County and their caregivers received psychological counselling at the Counselling Centre accredited in this county.
- 238 volunteers were informed on promoting the rights of the HIV/AIDS affected persons, the STI prevention, HIV infection prevention, promotion of the right to education of the HIV positive

### ROXANA HOUSE

Roxana House is an alternative to children's institutionalization for six HIV positive children by ensuring a secure and emotional family environment by the specialized personnel. Children are enrolled in the mainstream education.

Children made in their house yard a greenhouse where they grow vegetables for the own use and flowers for making flowers arrangements. They participated in educational-leisure time activities together with other children (preparing cards for 1st and 8th March, decorations for Easter and Christmas, going to the theatre and on a camp in Costinești, walking out in town, preparing the costumes for the Children's Carnival) and received ongoing psychological counselling.

children. For the third consecutive year, the volunteers marked the World Day of Fighting against HIV/AIDS by holding several information sessions in schools called The Lesson for Life.

Together with the partner organizations, Salvați Copiii participated in carrying out awareness raising activities on the situations of discrimination faced frequently by the HIV positive persons: "The Concert Love Runs Free" and "The Human Ribbon".

# Counselling for abused, neglected and trafficked children

Every year, hundreds of children pass through a traumatizing event related to their own sexuality and, at national level, 84% of children are subject to physical and humiliating punishments.

In 2006, Salvați Copiii continued the prevention, psychotherapy and social intervention project for child victims of abuse and exploitation in five counselling centres in Bucharest, Iași, Suceava, Târgu Mureș and Timișoara. The **counselling centres** provided: 1. rehabilitation through psychotherapy, social assistance and reintegration of the child victims of abuse in the family institutions, as well as of child victims of trafficking, 2. abuse and trafficking prevention through educational and information programmes in schools for children, teachers and parents, and 3. lobby and advocacy for legal changes.

## DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- child victims of abuse and trafficking;
- parents of the children who suffered different types abuse;
- specialists working with children;
- volunteers: high school and university students.

## OUTCOMES

- cases that benefited from rehabilitation and counselling: 222 cases of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, 30 cases of neglect, 28 cases of trafficking, 131 cases of other behavioural disorders, 119 cases of counselling for parents in order to correct inadequate behaviours towards children, 30 psychological assessments for suspicion of abuse in Luduș, 10 in Suceava and 4 in Bucharest, therapy for a child offender.
- 339 specialists and 1,580 children informed on the consequences of abuse and exploitation.
- 230 specialists trained in the assessment and rehabilitation of the child victim of the sexual abuse.

## THE CAMPAIGN "BEATING DOES NOT COME FROM HEAVEN!"

In 2006, Salvați Copiii re-launched the campaign against the violence upon the children "Beating does not come from heaven!" during the press conference organized in partnership with the Romanian Parliament on 1st June, with the participation of personalities of the political, cultural life and media. During this event, participants signed the manifesto against violence upon the children and a draft law was presented to set the day of 5th June as "The day against the violence upon the child in Romania". In December 2006, the Romanian Parliament passed this law. In order to mark this day, debates and drawing exhibitions were organized at national level by Salvați Copiii

specialists with the participation of 1,237 teachers, 1,656 parents, 67 school counsellors and 10,677 children.

In the framework of the campaign, the following activities were carried out:

- Prevention programmes/training courses for 1,138 teachers, 705 parents, 177 school counsellors, 74 educators and school masters, 72 proximity policemen, 1,977 children;
- The national camp "Promoting Children's Rights" had the same theme: the violence against children;
- The launching of the summary UN Study on Violence against Children on 11 October in order to inform the public opinion on the event in New York;
- On 22 November, on the occasion of "The day of child abuse prevention" (19 November) and "The Day of Children's Rights" (20 November) a public debate on "Violence against Children" was organized in Bucharest. The radio broadcasted debate organized in collaboration with the Romanian National Radio was preceded by a play created and performed by children and young people, Salvați Copiii volunteers. 131 children, 15 Salvați Copiii volunteers and 26 representatives of the public and political life participated in.



# Trafficking and exploitation

As it comes out from the data provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), children account for 25% of the total number of repatriated persons who were victims of trafficking. Many studies revealed that poverty, school drop out and children's involvement in income generating activities considerably increase the risk of being trafficked.

## „STUDY ON CHILDREN'S SEXUAL EXPLOITATION”

The study had in view to point out the factors that determine or favour children's (girls') involvement in sexual exploitation, the consequences of children's sexual exploitation and to formulate recommendations for a legislation to prevent children's involvement in prostitution and to create mechanisms for social reintegration of the sexually exploited children. The study combined quantitative and qualitative research conducted in Bucharest that allowed formulating conclusions and recommendations that could contribute to combating the phenomenon as well as to child protection.

## PREVENTION ACTIVITIES AND SPECIFIC INTERVENTION FOR THE GROUPS AT RISK

- Literacy courses for children who dropped out from school or haven't been enrolled in school (48 children) and catch up courses for children at risk to drop out from school (100 children in Giurgiu and 97 in Bucharest);
- Tuition;

• In Hunedoara, Argeş, Galaţi, Braşov, Timiş, Constanţa, Mureş, Reşiţa, Dolj, Suceava local branches, press conferences, street campaigns, round tables and public debates, plays, workshops and a contest of artistic creations were organized. 285 teachers, 255 parents, 91 teachers and school counsellors, 6,443 children, 286 volunteers, 17 media representatives, 19 public personalities and 214 specialists participated in these activities.

- Life skills training;
- Purchase of teaching and educational materials for 100 children who attend the Youth Centres in Giurgiu County);
- Extracurricular activities (sports competitions, visits to museums or to the zoo);
- Awareness raising activities on child labour and trafficking in children through information programmes in communities and educational centres.

In order to enhance the capacity of the local authorities and communities to address trafficking issue, a work meeting with local representatives from Argeş, Calarasi and Giurgiu Counties was organized, as well as a training course on the right to protection of the child victim of trafficking for sexual exploitation that aimed at the inter-institutional cooperation between different networks.



## Research on Vulnerability to Trafficking

The research had in view to understand the link between the factors that increase vulnerability to trafficking, their action at individual, family and community levels and understanding the mechanisms of the trafficking in children, including children's perspective. Another objective was to find out what are the assistance mechanisms for preventing and eliminating the vulnerability to trafficking.

In order to select the communities (29 May - 9 June), meetings of the

consultative groups in Giurgiu, Tulcea, Hunedoara and Timişoara were organized. The groups are formed of representatives of the Directorate General for Combating Organized Crime and Anti-Drug, Directorates General for Social Assistance and Child Protection, School Inspectorates, Employment Agencies.

The field research started in July 2006 and was finalized in October 2006. The national research report will be launched at the same time with the regional report in June 2007.

# Services for victims of trafficking in human beings

Implemented with the support of the International Labour Office International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC), the project started in April 2005 and was completed in May 2006. The objectives were to prevent re-trafficking, rehabilitation and long-term reintegration of children/youth victims of trafficking by improving the quality of the services provided in Iasi, Botosani, Giurgiu Counties and Bucharest.

## OUTCOMES

- 120 specialists (from Iasi, Botosani, Giurgiu and Bucharest) have a deep understanding of the worst forms of child labour and an enhanced capacity to globally approach these issues;
- The “**Training Manual for the Specialists Providing Psychosocial Counselling for the Child Victims of Trafficking for Labour and Sexual Exploitation**”;
- 1,000 brochures for persons in difficult circumstances, including information about vocational training courses and finding a job;
- A National Workshop for 25 participants from Bucharest, Giurgiu, Iasi and Botosani to present the emerging Good Practices identified in the framework of the project on the rehabilitation of child victims of trafficking.

Good Practices presented and discussed: activities related to cases in collaboration with the Transit Centres for child victims of trafficking referral, assistance and monitoring; counselling and representing child victims of trafficking at the prosecution bodies and in court; non-formal education as a support in children's school reintegration; enhancing the local capacity of intervention in cases of trafficking in children and other worst forms of child labour; Mobile School an educational programme for information and prevention; information and awareness raising in the communities with children at risk to be trafficked; the theatre a way to sensitize the youth on the risks of trafficking in human beings.

- 237 children (140 girls and 97 boys) benefited from the project interventions. As a result of this project, 119 children (31 boys and 88 girls) were withdrawn from trafficking for labour or sexual exploitation and 118 children (66 boys and 52 girls) were included in the prevention programmes.
- 16 young people attended vocational training courses, out of which 6 succeeded to get a job.

In 2006, Salvați Copiii focused more on the legal assistance provided to the victims of trafficking in human beings. The experience acquired in this field was also shared during the national and international conferences on legal assistance, as follows: Malmö, Sweden, January 2006; Bucharest, February 2006; Chisinau, December 2006. Participants (lawyers, judges and prosecutors) discussed about the problems encountered related to the legal assistance for the victims, the way the states can cooperate in preventing and combating this phenomenon.

## The Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism

The Code of Conduct, an initiative of ECPAT Sweden (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking), is a set of six criteria initially elaborated by a group of Scandinavian tour-operators with the support of the Council of Ministers of Scandinavian Countries and the World Trade Organization (WTO). At present, 250 signatories (hotel chains, professional associations, tour-operators) from 23 countries adopted this document.

In line with the programmes to combat trafficking, exploitation, child abuse and neglect, Salvați Copiii, an affiliated member of ECPAT network, in partnership with the Ministry of Administration and Interior Institute for Research and Crime Prevention, Romanian Hotels Industry Federation and the National Travel Agencies Association, implemented this project in Romania with the financial support of OSCE and Austrian Development Agency through the NGO “Respect” Austria. The originality of the project also consists of the direct involvement of the private sector in the implementation of a project in partnership with a non-governmental organization.

In Romania, the Code of Conduct was officially adopted during a round table organized in May 2005.

The first signatories Sofitel and Golden Tulip Hotels, Romanian Hotels Industry Federation and National Travel Agencies Association committed themselves to adopt and implement the six criteria of the Code in their current activity.

Salvați Copiii Romania organized three training sessions for the personnel of Sofitel Hotel, two round tables with the participation of the national authorities, hotels and education institutions in tourism, an information campaign to promote the project among tourists and hotels in four seaside resorts. 5,000 tourists and the personnel of 50 hotels and tourist villas received information materials (posters and leaflets) and discussed with Salvați Copiii representatives. The campaign was followed by a technical seminar for the representatives of the hotels from seaside resorts held by a foreign lecturer, a member of the organizing Committee of the Code of Conduct.

# ISCA Regional project to address trafficking in children

The International Save the Children Alliance started in 2005 a regional project to prevent trafficking in children. The project is implemented in seven countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania, Kosovo, Serbia, and Montenegro. In Romania, the project is implemented in Bucharest and three local branches (Timisoara, Galati and Iasi) for a three-year period beginning with October 2005.



## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The project aims at contributing to an enhanced protection of the rights of the children who were victims of trafficking and of the children at risk to be trafficked and has the following specific objectives:

- Reduce the vulnerability of children at risk to be trafficked through prevention activities;
- Identification and referral to the protection system of a higher number of children who were victims of trafficking in order to be provided with immediate protection services;
- Reintegration in the society of a higher number of child victims of trafficking.

## LOCATIONS

The program was developed in Bucharest, Timișoara, Galați and Iași, for a period of 3 years, starting with October 2005.

## OUTCOMES

In order to reduce the vulnerability of children at risk to be trafficked through prevention activities, community mechanisms to reduce the risk to trafficking and improve the behaviours that lead to a higher vulnerability to trafficking of the children and families were established and supported through:

- Identification of child protection mechanisms at local and national levels;
- Setting up and supporting the running of nine work-groups one meeting with local representatives from Timișoara, Deva, Argeș, Călărași and Giurgiu, Galați;
- Organizing the training course: The rights and Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation - Timișoara, 4 - 5 December 2006;

The prevention course had in view to train the specialists from the institutions with responsibilities in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, as well as to strengthen cooperation between the inter-institutional networks established in three counties: Timiș, Dolj and Hunedoara.

Other prevention activities: 30 volunteers, students at the Faculty of Social Work and Psychology from Bucharest were trained during four training sessions and received information about trafficking, causes and consequences of trafficking, victim's profile, psychological and social intervention, legislation, child protection institutions.

Under the second objective, psychosocial assistance was provided to 5 victims of trafficking in Iași, while in Bucharest, 2 girls who were victims of sexual exploitation received psychosocial assistance (school reintegration and vocational training courses).

The Code of Conduct contains the following 6 criteria:

- to establish a corporate ethical policy against commercial sexual exploitation of children,
- to train the personnel in the country of origin and travel destinations,
- to introduce clauses in contracts with suppliers, stating a common repudiation of sexual exploitation of children,
- to provide information to travelers through catalogues, brochures, in-flight films, ticket-slips, websites, etc.,
- to provide information to local 'key persons' at destinations,
- to report annually.

# Activities by



Timișoara - "Soul Friends"

Filiala Neamț a desfășurat **sesiuni de informare** în rândul tinerilor din mediul rural privind prevenirea consumului de droguri și a BTS-urilor, inclusiv HIV/SIDA. Au fost implicate școli și 100 de cadre didactice, 1865 de elevi și 930 de părinți fiind beneficiarii activităților educative. A fost organizat un concurs de desene și afișe pe tema prevenirii consumului de droguri și a respectării drepturilor copiilor, la Șc. Gârcina, Șc. Piatra Șoimului, Șc. Petricani, Centrul de Servicii Comunitare „Elena Doamna” Piatra Neamț.

Hunedoara local branch continued the activities carried out in the **Day Care Centre in Petrila** aiming at providing psychological counselling, material, social and educational support for abused, neglected, maltreated children and children in crisis situations. It had in view children's integration in their families and society, prevention of school drop out and family abandonment. 150 children from 62 de families benefited from the services provided by the Centre (educational, psychosocial activities and material support).

In the framework of the campaign **“The Day of Action against Violence upon Children”** a presentation of children's non-violence messages, a march of the volunteers and a press conference were organized on 11 October in Piața Trandafirilor (Roses Square) in Tg-Mureș. Local authorities, NGOs, the community Police and media participated in the events. On Christmas, volunteers of the local branch together with the members of Mugurelul folklore group from Sâncraiu de Mureș visited the penitentiary in Targu Mures where they presented an artistic programme and a Christmas carols for the minors there.

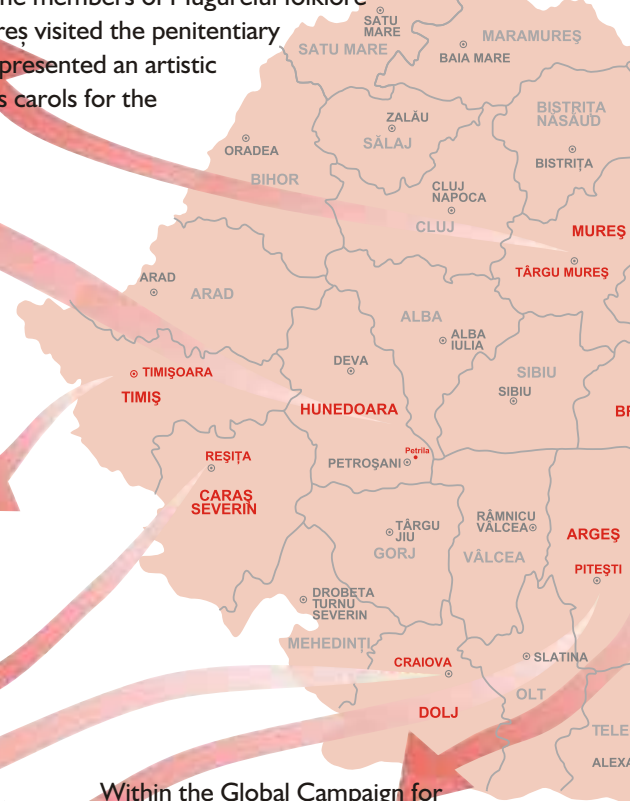
Timiș local branch carried out the projects **“Diagnosis and psychological intervention in the villages affected by floods in Western part of Romania”**, **“Soul Friends”** and the Regional Project for preventing trafficking in children **“Response to the Trafficking in Children in South-Eastern Europe”**. In the framework of the project for prevention of trafficking in children, a research on the vulnerability to trafficking was conducted in Timișoara within the Emergency Reception Service for Street Children and in Orăștie (Hunedoara County), at the Placement Centre. Prevention activities through information and awareness raising sessions were carried out in schools. “Soul Friends” project started in 1996 and due to its success it is also implemented today. The beneficiaries of this project are over 20 children with Down syndrome from Timișoara.

A successful project for Caraș-Severin local branch was **“Soul Ties urban-rural partnership”**, carried out together with School no. 2 from Reșița, Mircea Eliade High School and Dalboset School. 600 children and 40 teachers were involved in. The objectives were to know and experience the Romanian traditions, draft a magazine including literary works of the students from partner schools, and encourage children to express their opinions.

Dolj local branch implemented the project **“Social Support for HIV/AIDS children”**. The 100 children included in the project were provided with foodstuffs, fruits, vitamins, hepatoprotectors, individual use objects, disinfectants, etc. Both families and the medical staff from Victor Babeș Hospital acknowledged that the project contributed much to improve the health condition of the children. They know they are not alone anymore and the very often visits and the gifts sent by the sponsors from Norway encourage them very much.

The branch in Pitesti, in collaboration with the County Police Inspectorate and the mass-media, implemented the project **“Let's Expel Violence”** that aimed at combating violence in schools. Volunteers conducted training courses for selected teachers and students from Zinca Golescu High School, I.C. Bratianu High School and Alexandru Odobescu National College. A photo exhibition on the subject **“It's Not Violence That Makes Us Stronger”** was also organized.

Within the Global Campaign for Education carried out in 2006 with the message **“Each child needs a teacher”**, the volunteers of Brașov local branch organized debates in schools and high schools. Participants were teachers, students and personalities of the political and cultural life from Brașov. The Day against Violence upon Children included information activities in schools and high schools. Interactive classes and debates on violence against children and violence in general were organized and 122 children were informed about all these aspects.



# the local branches

One of the programmes with a considerable impact was the **“Counselling for the child victim of abuse and trafficking”**. The counselling rooms are based in Suceava, Rădăuți and Fălticeni and provide treatment and psychosocial rehabilitation for the children who suffered a type of abuse and their families. In 2006, 183 children and 49 parents benefited from therapy and counselling. The programme is carried out in collaboration with the General Department for Social Assistance and Child Protection, Department for Public Health, County Police Inspectorate, County School Inspectorate, the Court of Law and the Tribunal in Suceava.

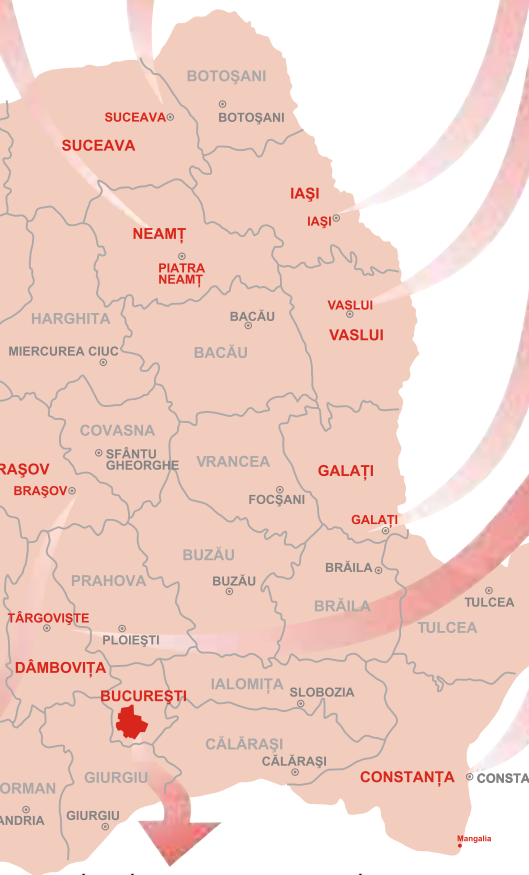
In 2006, Iași local branch continued to provide psychosocial, social and health care assistance, social and educational rehabilitation and support for economically exploited children. 109 children received social and/or psycho-pedagogical assistance services and material support. In the framework of the project, activities are carried out in the educational centre, but also in the street through a **Mobile School**, an educational instrument technically and pedagogically adapted to the reality of the economically exploited children, by means of which children are taught to read, write, count and be aware of the risks they may face in the streets.

Vaslui local branch organized **information caravans in rural areas**, TV and radio broadcasts, street campaigns in order to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. Activities mostly targeted the border areas, such as Huși and those with an increased vulnerability as Murgeni, Dumești and Băcești areas. This project was implemented in collaboration with Border Police in Huși, County Police Inspectorate, General Department for Social Assistance and Child Protection, Probation Service, Vaslui Court of Law and the County School Inspectorate.

A fundraising **campaign for children** in placement centres from rural areas and very poor families was initiated by the volunteers and coordinators. The campaign was carried out in kindergartens and schools in Galați by volunteers and teachers. Different things were collected (school supplies, clothing, toys) for about 250 children.

The Counselling Centre **“Cuore, Child Heart”** from Târgoviște aimed at developing skills for an independent life for HIV positive children. In 2006, 40 HIV positive children were the beneficiaries of social and recreational activities, material support (foodstuffs, toys and clothing) and counselling services with a view to develop a positive self-image, increase their self-confidence and accept the diagnosis.

In 2006, Constanța local branch was actively involved in carrying out the anti-drug campaign **“The sea, our only addiction”** by holding education for health classes in schools and direct information activities among the young people at the seaside (Mangalia, 2 Mai, Vama Veche).



As it happens every year, the Christmas Tree Festival that children, youngsters and adults looked forward to in December was preceded by daily shows organized in partnership with City Mall during which children sang carols. A second art gallery for children was organized. The gallery, entitled **“The Disorder of Silence”**, included a thematic drawing competition for preschool children that was won by Kindergarten no. 73 from Bucharest.



Iași - The Mobile School

# Protection and education

## SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR CHILD LABOURERS - EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

According to the National Report on Children's Activities, published in 2004 by the National Institute for Statistics, about 70,000 children from urban and rural areas were involved in the worst forms of child labour. It is estimated that about 5,000 children work in the streets in Bucharest and some other cities (Iași, Constanța, Timișoara, Brașov, Craiova, Galați, Bacău, Ploiești, Brăila).

### EDUCATIONAL CENTRES

Salvați Copiii Romania continued the educational and social programme for economically exploited children in the educational centres from Bucharest (Mareșal Averescu and School no. 71) and Iași, as well as the monitoring and financial support of the centres established in 2004 and 2005 through National Interest Programmes and programmes of the General Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection in Bucharest - Sector 6, Dolj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Mureș and Vrancea counties. The programmes in the counties were supported by providing nutritional support for children, school supplies, clothing and footwear, medicines and hygiene products as per children's individual needs, support for recreational activities with children and by covering the salaries of the specialized personnel. A new educational programme aiming at preventing school drop out started in Reșița, at School no. 10.

### DIRECT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

In 2006, social and educational services were provided to 744 children and their parents.

- 600 children benefited from educational programmes and social services in the educational centres run by the organization in Bucharest (Mareșal Averescu and School no. 71), Iași and Reșița;
- 144 children received support through provision of services and complementary activities to those carried out by the General Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection in the educational centres Speranța - Bucharest Sector 6, Dolj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Mureș and Vrancea counties;
- 50 families received legal counselling, press support being also asked in this respect;
- 120 information sessions on HIV and other STIs were held for 386 children within the second phase of the programme

### OBJECTIVES

The programme aims at providing direct support to children and their families (educational services, social services, psychological counselling and facilitating the access to health care services), strengthening the capacity of the partner institutions to provide services to the target group and sensitizing the public on the causes and consequences of child labour. Activities with children include the following components:

**Educational component** - catch up courses in line with the school curriculum for 1st to 4th grades, additional assistance for the 1st to 8th grades (children who combine school and work) and pre-school education activities.

**Social component** - social assistance activities, psychological counselling, health care assistance, legal counselling with a view to benefit from all the entitlements as per law.

**“Preventing HIV/AIDS transmission among street children and Roma communities”** funded by the Global Fund for Combating HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria.

Children involved in the programme participated in recreational activities during the school year and the summer holidays: camps, trips (Arbănași Buzău County, Slănic Prahova, Costinești, Bucșoaia Suceava County, Bran), shows, visits to museums, sports events.

### CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

68 specialists (social workers, psychologists, doctors, teachers) from the partner institutions were trained on methods and intervention techniques in the work with child labourers, social work and psychological counselling for the target group, psycho-medical aspects in the framework of a USAID-World Learning programme.

Salvați Copiii is a member of the Intersectoral County Teams for prevention and combating child labour established in Bucharest, in Sectors 1, 2, 4 and 5.

### INFORMATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

On the **World Day Against Child Labour**, a campaign to combat begging was carried out in order to provide information on the real causes and the social and legal consequences of children's exploitation by involving them in begging; an appeal





to the citizens for an active involvement in protecting these children by informing the authorities about the cases of children obliged to beg was also launched. 97 persons (social workers from Salvați Copiii and the partner General Departments for Social Assistance and Child Protection, volunteer and children integrated in the Educational Centre Mareșal Averescu) were involved in and about 19,000 persons from 14 districts in Bucharest were contacted. 20,000 flyers, 500 posters, 100 t-shirts and 200 badges with the message “**Get involved in combating begging**” were produced.

### RESEARCH

A Rapid Assessment of Child Labour in Rural Areas was conducted in 2006. The study presents both parents' and children's perceptions as concerns child labour, as well as the perceptions of the authorities and an explanatory comprehensive model related to the specific characteristics of child labour in rural areas and the consequences upon children's future development.

### THE CAMPAIGN “MONTH OF OPEN HEARTS”

Cora Hypermarket together with Salvați Copiii and ILO-IPEC organized on 1-31 Mai 2006 the second edition of the campaign “**Month of Open Hearts**” aiming to provide support for 200 children at risk to drop out from school or who dropped out from school. The amount raised as a result of this initiative was

of over 180,000 RON. Funds will be used to purchase foodstuffs, clothing, school supplies, but also to organize educational and extracurricular activities for 200 children from Salvați Copiii educational centres. During the campaign, any person coming





Social enquiry in one of the communities children come from

to the Cora hypermarkets in Pantelimon or Lujerului could buy a key locker for 1 RON or a puppets house for 16 RON from the cash desks or from one of the 68 Salvați Copiii volunteers who provided information on how this contribution will reach the less favoured children.

#### Funding agencies

The Festival of Christmas Trees, Global Fund for Combating HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, USAID - World Learning, Cora Hypermarket, Save the Children Finland, ILO-IPEC, Embassy of Germany.

## Rewrite the future! Global Campaign for Education for children in conflict-affected countries

Special events were organized in 70 countries by the International Save the Children Alliance on 12 September 2006. This global campaign was supported by governments, United Nations, Council of Europe and European Commission high officials.

The initiative in Romania consisted of a meeting organized by Salvați Copiii with Romanian journalists with experience in the conflict-affected countries and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Administration and Interior and of the organizations from the United Nations System. Participants made known the problem of the children in these areas, as well as the way Romania will be involved in the implementation of humanitarian programmes.

As a follow-up of the commitment made on 12 September, Salvați Copiii Romania raised the necessary funds to

purchase school supplies for one school year for 300 children from villages from Southern Afghanistan.

#### Florin's story

After his parents broke up when Florin was only two years old, he and his brother were left in their mother's care. She was their only support since their father died several years later. Due to the economic problems encountered and the family instability, the two boys did not benefit from any schooling. Family income consists of the money earned by their mother as a cleaner at a block of flats. Last winter, the family used the windows wooden frames thrown away by people in order to heat their place.

Florin came to Salvați Copiii together with his mother after hearing from his neighbours that there is a centre for children who have never been to school. Social workers were surprised to find out that, although Florin was 16 years of age, he had never been to school and he wanted to attend the primary education classes at the Educational Centre.

The educational programme started by learning the graphic signs before dealing with the letters. The progress made by Florin in one year was very high. He succeeded to complete two grades, now being enrolled in the 3rd grade within the "Second Chance" Programme. He hopes to complete soon primary education in order to be able to enrol in lower secondary education. Florin also participates in the recreational and socializing activities organized by the centre. His elder brother, who is 20 years old, also attends the classes.



School in Afghanistan

# Roma children's rights

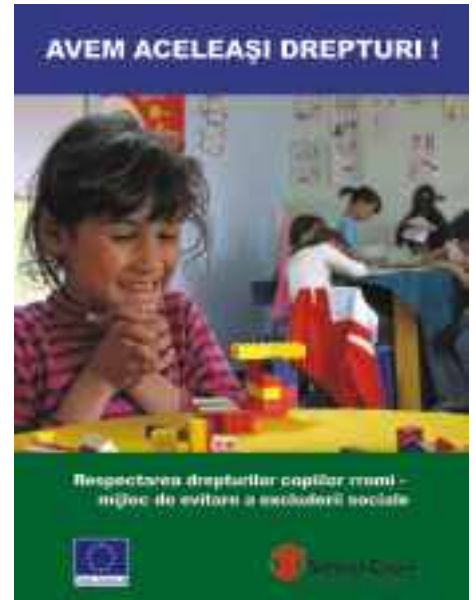
At the national census conducted in 2002, 530,000 Roma ethnics were registered in Romania. According to other estimations, there are about 1.5-2 million Roma. This is the only group whose birth rate is of 5 children per woman compared to 1.8 at national level. 43% of the Roma people are aged under 16 years. Over 60% live in extreme or severe poverty. More and more families cannot afford to send their children to school and to the kindergarten. Only 20% of Roma children receive pre-school education. The number of those who graduated primary education (4 grades) decreased in 10 years by 2% and the percentage of those with no schooling increased by 10%. Between the census conducted in 1992 and the one in 2002, the number of the illiterates among Roma increased from 57,100 persons to 104,737 persons.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project aims at ensuring equal opportunities for children who will be enrolled in the first grade, a non-discriminatory environment in schools, children's education for democracy and inter-ethnic tolerance, changing the mentalities towards Roma by going through several stages: knowledge, understanding, appreciation, acceptance and respect.

## PROJECT PRESENTATION

Children from kindergartens in Plenița (Dolj), Valea Bădenilor (Argeș), Glina (Ilfov) and Mangalia were included in the project **"First Steps - pre-school education for less favoured children"**. They were provided with school supplies and books, a daily snack and a summer camp from the funds provided by Lubricants UK. The democracy and tolerance camp for children from these localities participated was a good school for applying the principle of equal rights. The project **"Respecting Roma Children's Rights a means to avoid social exclusion"** funded by PHARE and implemented in five communities with a numerous Roma population (Glina/Ilfov, Coltău/Maramureș, Balta Arsă /Corni /Botoșani, Calvini/Buzău and Mangalia) was finalized with a research report that assessed children's situation eight years after the first research in these communities. It was concluded that, although a National Strategy for the Improvement of Roma Situation was adopted, the changes cannot be perceived at root level, respectively in Roma



families. A research on the "Legal Justification for a Child Ombudsman" was also conducted within this project.

## DIRECT BENEFICIARIES

- 90 Roma children and other less favoured categories in the 4 kindergartens
- 250 children from five communities
- 100 parents who received counselling
- 35 teaching staff

## PUBLICATIONS

The publications produced in the framework of this project contributed to the education in order to know about and understand the ethnic diversity in schools:

- **"History and Roma traditions"**
- **"Methodological Guide for Multicultural Education"**
- Poster **"We have the same rights"**

# Integration of the refugee and separated children

The refugee children in Romania who came either with their families or by themselves are a very vulnerable category. Through this project, Salvați Copiii has taken action to facilitate the adaptation of the refugee children to a new world, a new culture and their integration in the Romanian society. Both educational and recreational activities allowing them to affirm their own identity, the cultural values, but also enlarging their horizon through the knowledge about and adaptation to the Romanian reality play an essential role in the reintegration process.

The beneficiaries of the programme were 63 refugee children and 27 parents. Children are supported to integrate in the Romanian education system, their school attendance being monitored. Parents received counselling in order to support children's school attendance, while children benefit from additional catch up classes. Joint recreational activities were

organized with Romanian children, as well as shows, drawing exhibitions, visits to museums, going to the theatre, camps.

In 2006, Salvați Copiii continued to be the partner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the

implementation of the activities targeting refugee children.



Issuance of the philatelic series "Social integration seen by children"

## ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT:

- Participation of the young refugees and separated children in different activities: organizing shows, campaigns and workshops for different events The International Women's Day (8 March), International Day against Racial Discrimination (21 March), Child's International Day (1 June), Environment Day (5 June), World Day of the Refugees (20 June);
- 19 refugee children and 3 members of the Diversity Club prepared an artistic performance for the children affected by floods in Rast (Dolj), on the Child's Day (modern and traditional dance, drawings, face painting workshops);
- On the World Day of the Refugees (20 June), 11 refugee children participated in sports contests, 15 presented traditional and modern dances at the party organized by UNHCR, and an exhibition of drawings and objects made by children was organized at the Cultural Centre of the Ministry of Administration and Interior;
- Participation of the refugee children in the contest organized by Romfilatelia, finalized by the issuance of a philatelic series (two stamps and one envelope with the drawings made by refugee children) that was distributed throughout Europe on Europe Day;
- Organization of drawing and objects exhibitions at the Cultural Centre of the Ministry of Administration and Interior to launch the campaign on children's rights "Rewrite the future" at City Mall and at UN house;
- Salvați Copiii continued in 2006 to organize the Diversity Club with a view to promote friendship between Romanian and refugee children by means of culture, customs and traditions. Workshops on modern and oriental dances, the art of oriental beauty, Turkish language, practical skills, painting and theatre were organized for 32 Romanian children, 21 refugee children and 6 teachers;
- Salvați Copiii organized training courses for the staff of the General Department for Child Protection in Sector 2 of Bucharest who can become curators for the separated children;
- Participation in anti-trafficking seminars (two seminars per month) that aimed at informing children on the risks of the trafficking in human beings.



# Support for children affected by floods

Salvați Copiii intervention in the difficult situation the people affected by the floods in April 2006 faced had mainly in view to provide emergency support for over 3,500 children from the families affected by floods from Dolj, Călărași, Caraș-Severin, Bistrița Năsăud, Gorj and Suceava counties. In order to complement the activities carried out to overcome the traumatizing consequences produced by floods, a medium and long-run project was developed in order to ensure children's access to education. The activities had in view to establish a permanent contact with the Mayors in order to provide the utilities in the camps for the people affected by floods (available land for houses, drinking water, public lightening and access roads) and to assess the situation of the kindergartens and schools from Chiselet and Spanțov (Călărași County) and Rast (Dolj County). In order to be able to carry out all these actions, the partners from Sweden and Norway of the International Save the Children Alliance, Unicredit Bank Romania and Romanian Office of American Express provided financial support. Furthermore, Salvați Copiii benefited from the expertise of a specialist for emergency situations from Swedish Save the Children.

## REHABILITATION OF THE SCHOOL IN RAST

Dolj local branch had an important contribution in carrying out the support campaign through a continuous assessment of the situation of the persons affected by floods, monitoring the delivery of foodstuffs, medicines, hygiene and sanitary products to the families in the camps and by administering the rehabilitation of the school in Rast.

In August 2006, Salvați Copiii started the rehabilitation works at the ground floor of the school in Rast which was completely destroyed by floods. Beginning with 15 September, Salvați Copiii provided for over 400 children from the locality an adequate environment to continue schooling. The ground floor was rehabilitated by replacing the destroyed floor with new wooden floor, painting the walls and the ceilings, fixing tiles and purchasing furniture for the classrooms and other



spaces in school. The rehabilitation works for the school in Rast were also supported by the local Mayor's Office and by the Ministry of Education and Research.

## EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN CĂLĂRASI COUNTY

The intervention in the localities Spanțov (Stancea and Clinciu villages) and Chiselet had as objectives to provide nutritional and medical support, psychological counselling, an educational programme for all children and social support for families.

Three kindergartens were established in each of the three camps for the persons affected by floods and they were equipped with the necessary school supplies and toys. Educators were hired for the period July-October. Salvați Copiii volunteers and psychologists teams went to the camp in Chiselet for three weeks (3-28 July) for the psychosocial assessment and to provide counselling to the children and families affected by floods.

As concerns the kindergartens in the localities, Salvați Copiii was also involved in rehabilitating and equipping them and also by getting the approval of the County School Inspectorate to extend them by forming new groups of children and hiring additional personnel.



# Lobby și advocacy

Salvați Copiii is a member of:

- The Executive Group of the High Level Group for the Romanian Children
- National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour
- National Committee Anti-AIDS
- College for the Consultation with Associations
- Working Sub-Group for the Coordination of the Activity for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Children
- Inter-Ministerial Working Group for the Coordination and Evaluation of the Activity for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- Working Group within the Romanian Adoptions Office

In order to ensure programmes development, Salvați Copiii Romania has established partnerships with the Romanian Government, OSCE, International Labour Office – International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour, International Organization for Migration, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Delegation of the European Commission to Romania, International Save the Children Alliance, USAID and others.

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

After receiving the approval to include the Children's Rights subject in the syllabus, as an optional subject for the 6th grade, the training course, the teacher's manual and student's notebook were accredited by the National Council for Long-Life Professional Training. Teachers will get 11 teaching points after attending the whole course.

Salvați Copiii, Youth for Youth Foundation and ARAS (Romanian Anti-AIDS Association) proposed to introduce in the syllabus the Education for Health subject for the 2nd to 12th grades. Salvați Copiii elaborated the manual **"Not all that flies is edible"** – for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades and student's notebooks **"Drug abuse prevention"** – for the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades and 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades, which were approved by the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and Research.

## THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP FOR THE ROMANIAN CHILDREN

Salvați Copiii Romania and Hope and Homes Foundation elaborated under the aegis of the High Level Group a **Manual on Procedures for Social and Professional Insertion of the Youth who Leave the Child Protection System**. The manual was sent to all the institutions with responsibilities in this field as a follow-up of their contribution to the elaboration of the National Strategy for Social Integration of the Youth who Leave the Child Protection System (2006-2008).

## FACILITATE REDIRECTING OF 2% OUT OF THE TAX ON INCOME

As a result of the recommendations made in the research conducted by Daedalus Consulting for Salvați Copiii, the seminar **"Much easier for the 2%"** was organized in partnership with ARC and the press trust Ringier Romania at the premises of the Ministry of Public Finance. This event aimed at debating the simplification of the procedure

for redirecting 2% out of the tax on income, as well as increasing the transparency in reporting on the collected amounts and the way they are spent by the beneficiaries – the non-profit entities. As a follow-up of this meeting, the Ministry of Public Finance decided to give up to the compulsory request to attach a copy of the fiscal form to the Form 230 and to make public the amounts collected for every beneficiary organization, not only per each county.

## ACCESS OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO STRUCTURAL FUNDS

Within the NGO Coalition for Structural Funds, Salvați Copiii was involved in the debates organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Finance and Ministry of Environment aiming at recognizing the eligibility of the NGOs as applicants for structural funds, reducing the share of co-funding for both NGOs and local authorities and providing clarifications on how the management structures for the funds are running.

## AN EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR ACCREDITATION AND MONITORING OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES

Salvați Copiii participated in the debates organized by the Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family as well as to those organized by the local authorities on the accreditation procedure and the role of the new institutions established: Social Observer, Social Inspection and the National Payments Agency, as a result of the reform in the field of social services. Salvați Copiii called the attention of the local authorities and the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity on the difficult procedure for the accreditation system, its incoherence and on the lack of an effective mechanism to monitor the implementation of the social services.

## RESPECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS FOR THE CHILD WHO COMMITTED A CRIMINAL OFFENCE

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice, Salvați Copiii proposed to set up a work group that would analyze how children who committed a criminal act are protected by the law and the institutions in charge. As a result of a series of meetings and debates, it was proposed to elaborate a guide of good practices in the field of juvenile delinquency for the specialists from the institutions in charge.

## RESEARCH ON LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCE LEGISLATION

Salvați Copiii is a partner of the Civil Society Development Foundation in the project Strengthening the capacity of social NGOs on advocacy initiatives and conducted a legal research on the way the local budget is constituted, but also on the way money is allocated to the social services at local level. Salvați Copiii advocated to enhance the capacity of the NGOs to provide social services because this would lead to the creation of a market of social services.



# Well-to-do people make the world better!

## THE FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS TREES 2006

The first edition of the Festival of Christmas Trees in Romania took place in 2001 and in a few years it has become one of the well-known fundraising events, a real attraction of the winter social calendar. Considered as a magic event, the Festival of Christmas Trees has become a tradition during the period before Christmas that reunites outstanding representatives of the companies, press, political and cultural life concerned to support the fundraising for the activities carried out for children. The most important outcomes as a result of fundraising are: books for the school libraries, day care centres for the economically exploited children in Bucharest and Iași, school reintegration programmes and programmes for the elimination of child labour.

The Festival of Christmas Trees is supported by the diplomatic and business communities reunited in a Honorary Board. Among the personalities and companies supporting this project are: **Mr. Liviu Sfrija**, General Manager Henkel Romania; **Mrs. Ileana Pescariu**, Managing Partner Publicis Dialog; **Mrs. Veronica Savanciuc**, President Lowe & Partners, IAA Romania; **Mr. Pierre Poupard**, UNICEF Representative for Romania; **Mr. Patrick Gelin**, Director General BRD - Groupe Société Générale; **Mrs. Rodica Moise**, National Programme Manager ILO-IPEC Romania; **Mrs. Corina Bârlădeanu**, Director 2activePR; **Mr. Dan Moraru**, CEO BBDO Group Romania; **Mrs. Tereza Munteanu**, General Manager Y&R; **Mrs. Mihaela Geoana**, President "Renașterea" Foundation; **Mr. Andi Moisescu**.

The designers involved in creating the Christmas Trees for auction were: Agnes Toma, Alexandru Ghilduș, Beau Monde, Ingrid Vlasov, Ericsson Telecommunications, Irina Marinescu, Junior Achievement România, Larisa Claru, Lena Criveanu, Leon Mocanu, Oxette, Razvan Ciobanu, Rita Mureșan, Togo Design, Veuve Clicquot&ID Sarrieri and Wilhelmina Artz. Benefiting from the experience in 2005 when their Christmas

Tree had a big success, the volunteers and children involved in Salvați Copiii programmes also created a Christmas Tree.

The gala evening of the Christmas Trees Festival was held on 5 December 2006, at Grand Hotel Marriott. Andi Moisescu, the traditional host of the gala evening led with stateliness and elegance a successful auction that succeeded to raise the highest amount ever during the Festival, together with stars as Mihaela Rădulescu, Ilie Năstase, Loredana Groza, Dana Războiu, Venera Arapu, Marius Vintilă and his family, Oana Cuzino, Florin Chilian, Ovidiu Buta or Corina Bârlădeanu who presented the story of every Christmas tree. One novelty was the anthem of the festival composed by Marius Moga and sung by Simplu together with the children beneficiaries of Salvați Copiii programmes. Marius Moga also created two Christmas trees made up of diapasons and gave them as presents to the children.

The amount raised as a result of the auction of the 17 Christmas Trees was EUR 272,500. An amount of EUR 6,100 was raised from the raffle ticket sale, where attractive awards were donated by different sponsors, while other EUR 59,600 was raised from donations made before the event. The total amount raised was EUR 338,200. The record of the auction was held by the Christmas Tree created by Togo Design, which was sold for EUR 36,000 to Henkel, Class Mob, **Mr. Marius Ivan** and McCann Erickson. The tree created by the volunteers and children from Salvați Copiii programmes was very successful and was sold for EUR 35,000 to McCann Erickson.

The main sponsors of the 2006 edition were **Artima** and **Henkel Bautechnik**. Together with them, there were also involved: Ericsson Telecommunications, Rolex, JW Marriott Grand Hotel, ApaNova, American Express, Avon, BRD Groupe Société Générale, Cosmote, Dufa, Germanos, Motorola, Ultex, Artvista. Over 40 companies supported this event with products and services.

The materials used for the event were edited and printed with the support of Proximity and Best Print. The media partners were: Cotidianul, Beau Monde, Monden, Bani Noștri, Business Magazin, Ziarul Financiar, Story, Gândul, Pro Tv Magazin.

With the funds raised, Salvați Copiii will continue to implement the social reintegration programme for child labourers. Two new educational centres will be opened in Timișoara and Brașov. 800 children will benefit from the services provided within the educational project.



# Financial report 2006

		AMOUNT (EUR)
<b>I. INCOMES</b>		<b>1,732,649</b>
1	Save the Children Sweden	351,729
2	Delegation of the European Commission in Romania	201,534
3	The Festival of Christmas Trees 2005/ 2006	189,093
4	Collecting boxes and 2 % of the tax on global income	134,950
5	Global Fund for Combating HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria	123,510
6	International Save the Children Alliance	69,996
7	USAID / World Learning	68,252
8	Membership fees, donations, sponsorships	66,811
9	Hypermarket CORA	51,714
10	Save the Children Norway	47,543
11	Foundation "Tucker's Friends" USA	37,849
12	Individuals from Norway	31,162
13	Save the Children Austria	29,814
14	Save the Children Finland	28,584
15	International Labour Office International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (ILO-IPEC)	26,882
16	National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights	23,590
17	Henkel România	20,045
18	Ringier România Evenimentul Zilei	18,771
19	O.S.C.E.	18,126
20	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	16,883
21	Local Authorities	25,049
22	European Organisation Child Help - UK	15,341
23	Save the Children UK	14,651
24	Asociația "Alternativa Sociale"	10,622
25	ECPAT	10,467
26	Other incomes	39,123
27	VAT reimbursement	44,791
28	Bank interests	15,767

		AMOUNT (EUR)
<b>II EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>1,704,619</b>
<b>A. PROJECTS</b>		<b>1,470,882</b>
1	Education for children in difficult circumstances	728,720
2	Specialized services for children victims of trafficking and abuse	310,978
3	Promoting UN Convention through Child and youth participation	124,477
4	Support for the victims of the floods	109,950
5	Centre of Information, Documentation and Research on the Rights of the Child	102,508
6	Petrila Day Care Centre	94,249
<b>B. INFORMATION - COMMUNICATION</b>		<b>75,618</b>
<b>C. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>		<b>55,513</b>
<b>D. FUNDRAISING</b>		<b>65,983</b>
<b>E. ADMINISTRATION</b>		<b>36,623</b>

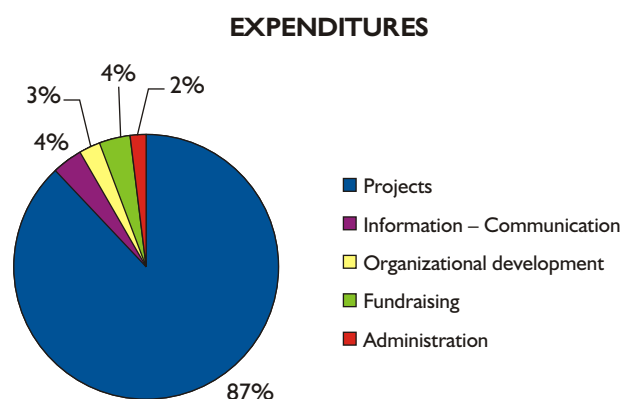
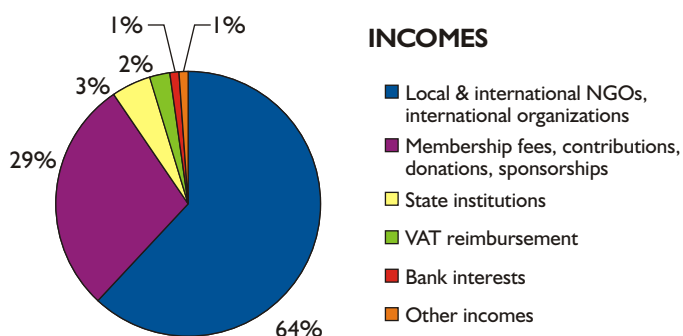
**I. INCOMES: 1,732,649 EUR, out of which:**

Non-profit organizations from the country and abroad and international organizations	1,104,902	64 %
Membership fees, contributions, donations, sponsorships	512,546	29 %
State institutions	48,639	3 %
VAT reimbursement	44,791	2 %
Bank interests	15,767	1 %
Other incomes	6,004	1 %

**II. EXPENDITURES: 1,704,619 EUR, out of which:**

A. PROJECTS	1,470,882	87 %
B. INFORMATION-COMMUNICATION	75,618	4 %
C. ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	55,513	3 %
D. FUNDRAISING	65,983	4 %
E. ADMINISTRATION	36,623	2 %

In 2006, 50,824 EURO were obtained in kind (products and services).





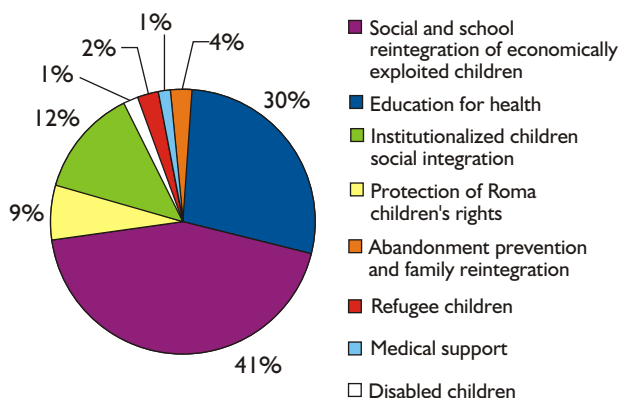
## EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES:

**728,720 EUR**, out of which:

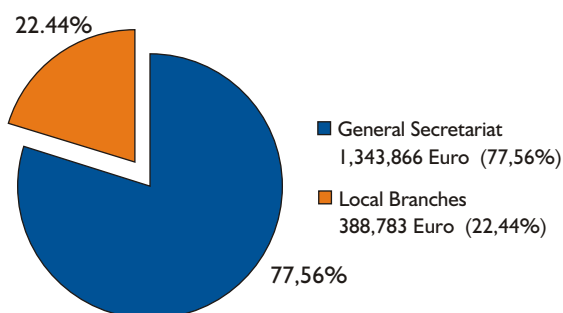
1. Social and school reintegration of working street children	296,003	41%
2. HIV positive children / Education for health	220,021	30%
3. Institutionalized children - Social integration, vocational training	93,253	12%
4. Protection of Roma Children's rights	68,363	9%
5. Abandonment prevention and family reintegration	26,461	4%
6. Refugee children	17,939	2%
7. Medical support	5,091	1%
8. Disabled children	1,589	1%



### Education for children in difficult circumstances



### Total funds Salvați Copiii România



#### REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE reporting SAVE THE CHILDREN's financial and accounting activity in 2006 of Save the Children Romania

The undersigned Mircea Bînză and Nicolae Petrescu, authorized auditors of Save the Children Romania, have performed an auditing of the accounting records and trial balances for the financial year ended on 31 December 2006.

Save the Children Romania, a non-governmental, non-profit, not utility (PNUJ) association, has been active in Romania since 1990 and has local branches in 18 counties. It promotes and defends children's rights according to the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Romania in 1989.

Our audit was conducted by examining on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts from the reports and accounting records of Save the Children Romania. We have also assessed the accounting principles used and the income and expenditure accounts, and we consider that the conditions stipulated in the financing agreements were respected and that they are in accordance with the legal accounting-financial stipulations operating in Romania regarding non-lucrative non-governmental organizations.

In our opinion, the information included in the Annual Financial Report is correct and complete and does not reflect accurately the financial and accounting situation for 2006.

Auditing Committee

*Mircea Bînză*

Mircea Bînză



Executive President

*Gabriela Alexandrescu*

Economic Director

*Maria Nicolae*





[www.salvaticopiii.ro](http://www.salvaticopiii.ro)

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Salvați Copiii Team – General Secretariat

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Ștefania Ionița**

**Programmes Director  
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**Coordinator of the abused, neglected  
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Georgeta Păunescu**

**Coordinator of the reintegration  
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**Coordinator of the Roma children and  
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**Coordinator of the legal  
assistance programme  
Ana Maria Cârstea**

**Centre of Information,  
Documentation and Research  
on Child Rights  
Ana Bălan / Mihaela Manole**

**Salvați Copiii team thanks to all its volunteers, partners, sponsors and donors.**

” BRD - Groupe Société Générale appreciates the efforts made by Salvați Copiii to improve the situation of disadvantaged children in Romania. Assuming the quality of citizen of the community, our bank has joined, since 2002, the social responsibility initiatives promoted by Salvați Copiii within a partnership that proved its effectiveness and value for the society. ”



Adela Pascu, Secretary General of  
BRD-Groupe Société Générale

## Partners

National Authority for the Protection of Child Rights, Swedish Save the Children, Save the Children Finland, Delegation of the European Commission to Romania, International Save the Children Alliance, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Health and Public Health Departments, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Administration and Interior / General Inspectorate of the Border Police, Passports Directorate, Ministry of Public Function, UNIDEA Foundation, Ministry of Labour, Social Solidarity and Family, Labour Inspection, "Tucker's Friends" Foundation U.S., ILO-IPEC, IOM, "Leonardo da Vinci" – Delegation of the European Commission Brussels, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Romanian National Council for Refugees, National Office for Refugees – Ministry of Administration and Interior, Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants, Organization of the Refugee Women in Romania, USAID / World Learning, Save the Children Austria, Smurfit Charitable Foundation Monaco, Henkel Romania, Global March Against Child Labour, Save the Children Denmark, Save the Children Italy, Open Society Foundation East-East Program, UNICEF, Community Development Agency "Împreună" (Together), National Authority for Disabled Persons, Social Alternatives Association, US Embassy, Manni Tesse Foundation, Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, Open Society Foundation, ECPAT (Netherlands & France), Romanian Fund for Social Development, Federation of the NGOs Active in Child Protection, European Council for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Romanian Association Anti-AIDS, Health Aid Romania, ProChild, Caritas Catholic Solidarity Association, "Zâmbete de copii" (Children's Smiles) Association Galați, Neghiniță Association Dambovița, Junior Achievement, Youth for Youth Foundation, Princess Margarita of Romania Foundation, Global Campaign for Education, EUROTIN, International Social Service – Italian Branch, Directorate General for Combating Organized Crime and Anti-Drug, National Agency Anti-Drug, Departments for Child Protection in Sectors 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 of Bucharest, County Departments for Child Protection in Iași, Botoșani, Bacău, Sibiu, Sălaj, Alba, Bihor, Vaslui, Dolj, Argeș, Dâmbovița, Brașov, Arad, Cluj, Giurgiu, Vrancea, Hunedoara, Satu Mare, Bistrița-Năsăud, Maramureș Neamț, Suceava, Galați, Timiș, Mureș, Harghita, Covasna, Caraș-Severin, County Police Inspectorates, National Confederation of Romanian Employers, Town Hall Petrila, School Group "Voievodul Mircea" Târgoviște, National Art Museum in Bucharest, National Agency for Camps and School Tourism, National Children's Palace in Bucharest, County Agencies for Employment, School Inspectorates, schools.

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## **GENERAL SECRETARIAT - BUCHAREST**

Intr. Stefan Furtună 3, Sector 1, 010899 - Bucharest, Romania

Tel: +40 21 316 61 76, fax: +40 21 312 44 86

e-mail: rosc@salvaticopiii.ro / www.salvaticopiii.ro

Banca Comerciala Româna, Sucursala Plevnei

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## **ARGEŞ**

President: Dumitra Sima

Str. Eroilor nr. 4 - 6, 110417 - Piteşti

tel: +40 744 360 912, fax +40 248 21 21 66

e-mail: arges@salvaticopiii.ro

## **BRAŞOV**

President: Elena Iordache

Str. Carpaţilor nr. 89, et. 2, 500269 - Braşov

tel: +40 744 360 911

e-mail: brasov@salvaticopiii.ro

## **BUCUREŞTI**

President: Rebeca Grosu

Str. Berzei nr. 7, et. 1, cam. 7, Sector 1, 010251 - Bucureşti

tel. +40 744 360 9 21, tel./fax: +40 21 310 45 87

e-mail: bucuresti@salvaticopiii.ro

## **CARAŞ-SEVERIN**

President: Măriuşa Simionescu

Piaţa 1 Decembrie 1918 nr. 7, etaj 1, 320067 - Reşiţa

tel: +40 744 360 910, tel./fax: +40 255 211 127

e-mail: caras-severin@salvaticopiii.ro

## **CONSTANŢA**

President: Elena Alexe

Str. T.S. Săveanu, nr. 1, 905500 - Mangalia

tel. +40 744 360 908, tel/fax: +40 241 753 411,

e-mail: constanta@salvaticopiii.ro

## **DOLJ**

President: Cornelia Pasăre

Str. Mihai Viteazu, nr. 12, 200417 Craiova

tel. +40 744 360 918 tel./fax: +40 251 419 391

e-mail: dolj@salvaticopiii.ro

## **GALAŢI**

President: Nona Rapotan

Str. Alexandru I. Cuza 45, 800010 - Galaţi

tel. +40 741 144 947, tel/fax: +40 236 466 343

e-mail: galati@salvaticopiii.ro

**President:** Camelia Iordache

**Vicepresident:** Mihai Gafencu

**Executive President:** Gabriela Alexandrescu

## **HUNEDOARA**

President: Valeria Popescu

Cartier 8 Martie, 335800 - Petrila

tel. +40 742 103 751, tel/fax: +40 254 550 618

e-mail: hunedoara@salvaticopiii.ro

## **IAŞI**

President: Gabriela Irimescu

Stradela Canta nr. 3, 700527 - Iaşi

tel: +40 726 687 014, tel./fax: +40 232 219 986

e-mail: iasi@salvaticopiii.ro

## **MUREŞ**

President: Ana Chirteş

Str. Victor Babeş nr. 11, 540097 - Târgu Mureş

tel: +40 745 580 545, fax: +40 265 218 210

e-mail: mures@salvaticopiii.ro

## **NEAMŢ**

President: Mihaela Ignatovici

Alexandru cel Bun 27, 610065 - Piatra Neamţ

tel: +40 742 103 752, fax: +40 233 213 525

e-mail: neamt@salvaticopiii.ro

## **SUCEAVA**

President: Camelia Iordache

Str. George Enescu 11, bl. 9A, ap.11, 720197 - Suceava

tel. +40 744 360 919, tel/fax: +40 230 530 801,

e-mail: suceava@salvaticopiii.ro

## **DÂMBOVIŢA**

Education for Health Programmes

Str. B-dul Carol I, nr. 70 - Târgovişte

Tel/fax: 0245 213 799

e-mail: dambovita@salvaticopiii.ro

## **TIMIŞ**

President: Mihai Gafencu

Calea Şagului nr. 102-104, 300516 - Timişoara

tel. +40 744 820 491, tel/fax: +40 256 492 107

e-mail: timis@salvaticopiii.ro

## **VASLUI**

President: Vasile Mariciuc

Str. 1 Decembrie nr. 3, 735200 - Negreşti

tel. +40 744 690 917, tel/fax: +40 235 457 582

e-mail: vaslui@salvaticopiii.ro



**Salvați Copiii**  
Save the Children Romania