



Hope & Homes for Children



**Our vision is a world in which children
no longer suffer institutional care**

Honorary President
Princess Marina Sturdza

Ambassadors
Amalia Enache
Alexandru Tomescu

Regional Director
Central and Southern Europe
Stefan Darabus, Ph.D.

National Director
Otto Sestak

Spokesperson
Dragos Bucurenci



Hope & Homes
for Children

“For the past **18 years** we have been putting locks on the iron doors of mammoth-sized institutions from the child protection system in Romania, and we have been offering each child a family life. This year we are celebrating more than **18 years of reform**; we are celebrating the closing down of **52 old-type institutions**, **5,542 children** saved from institutionalisation, **23,570 children** who remained with their families due to our prevention programmes. And these numbers are growing as we speak.”

Stefan Darabus, Ph.D.

Regional Director, Central and Southern Europe,
Hope and Homes for Children



Hope and Homes for Children



- **We are a global organisation** active since 1994. Our head office is in the UK.
- **Our vision** is one of a world where no child should suffer the nightmare of institutionalisation.
- **Our mission** is to be the catalyst of global eradication of institutionalisation for children. And we are on the right track.
- **We believe** that all children have the right to grow up in a family environment.

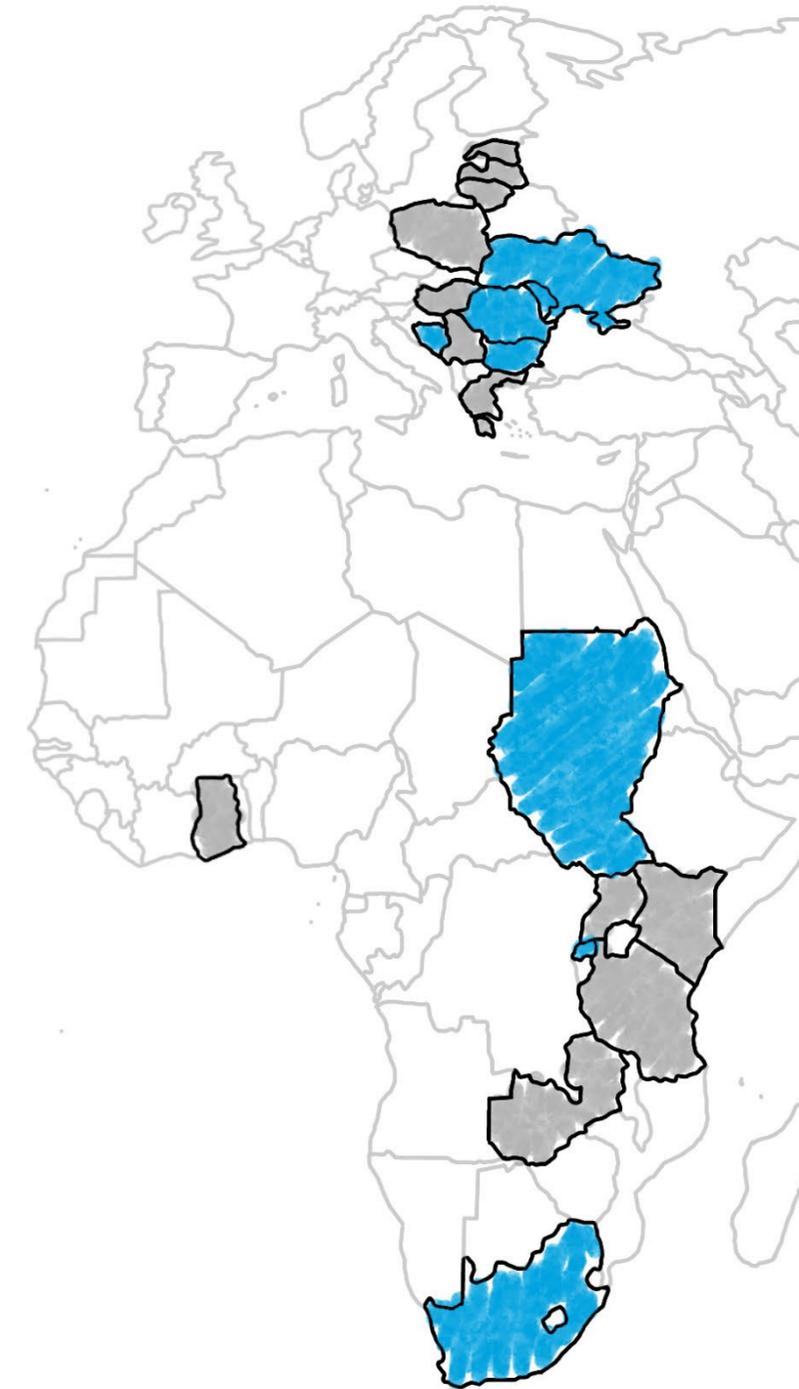
Countries Where We Develop Projects

Through HHC Organisations

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Moldova
- Romania
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Ukraine

Through Partner Organisations

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| ● Argentina | ● Latvia |
| ● Chile | ● Lithuania |
| ● Cuba | ● Mexico |
| ● Ecuador | ● Panama |
| ● Estonia | ● Paraguay |
| ● Ghana | ● Poland |
| ● Greece | ● Serbia |
| ● Guatemala | ● Tanzania |
| ● Haiti | ● Uganda |
| ● Hungary | ● Uruguay |
| ● Kenya | ● Zambia |





In 2000

There were more than 100,000 children in Romania who had been **abandoned in orphanages.** Hope and Homes for Children Romania has played a significant part in reducing this number.

Today

There are still 7,790 children in institutions in Romania, living behind closed walls.



Major Programmes



1 Closing down institutions: moving children into families.

2 Reforming the child protection system: transforming the legislation in Romania and the service infrastructure.

3 Preventing the separation of children from their families.

4 Reintegrating children back with their families.

5 Auditing the child protection system: research analysis and reform.

6 Integrating young people leaving the child protection system: support for independent life.

7 Training and technical assistance: training the staff in the child protection system.



Type of Programme

Results

Institutions for children closed down

52 institutions

Social services developed (Small Group Homes, Mother and Baby Units, Day Centres, Emergency Reception Centres, Counselling Centres)

112 services

Children supported to leave institutions

5,542 children

Children whose institutionalisation was prevented

23,570 children

Children from institutions reintegrated with their families

714 children

Young people supported to begin independent life

774 young people

Children who benefited from the social services developed

2,815 children

Families who received counselling in the services developed

776 families

Members of staff from the child protection system trained by HHC

7,164 staff members

TOTAL NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES

35,074 children



Family Reintegration

Up to the age of 10, they are watching the door. They tell stories about their mothers; some are true, others are imagined.

Up to the age of 15, they want to **hurt their parents with their indifference**, but the parents are always absent.

Around the age of 18, and then for the rest of their lives, they want to return home.

The happiest projects are those whereby children from institutions return to their real families.



714 children returned home, to their real families

774 young people were supported to begin independent life



“Nothing is more important for the children than to know that their families want them back. And, in many cases, they would take them back **if they knew the children still existed**. Once abandoned, the children are lost in the old system. The first thing we do is look for their real parents.”

Camelia Arba

Social Worker, has been with Hope and Homes for Children Romania for 12 years

Preventing Abandonment

Every nine hours a child is abandoned in the hospital.

Sounds frightening, doesn't it?

It's better than ten years ago, when a baby was abandoned every two hours.

We make huge efforts to tackle the causes first, and then the effects.

Through our programmes to prevent child abandonment, we try to plug the hole through which these children enter the system.



We have supported **2,795 families** to overcome crisis situations

We opened **2 Mother and Baby Units** and **7 Day Centres**

23,570 children remained with their families

“In maternity wards, with dozens of abandoned children, there is a **gut-wrenching silence**. And not because the beds are empty; the babies never cry, they never call for anyone, because **no one ever goes to them.**”

Florina Cretar

Social Worker, has been with Hope and Homes for Children Romania for 10 years



Small Group Homes

In a Small Group Home live a maximum of 10-12 children.

The homes are always on an ordinary street, perfectly integrated into the community. The children have friends on their street and they go to school together. The homes have a yard and the children are involved in household activities, just like in a family.



We opened
**99 Small Group
Homes**

1,188 children
live today like in a family
with many siblings



“I met Mircea in an institution for children with special needs. He was crouched in a corner and he was playing with his hands. **He would never look me in the eyes** or talk to me. We were going to move him into a small group home. Honestly, I didn’t think the change would have a major impact on him. However, a year after having been moved into the home, **Mircea was a different person.** He talks to me, he looks me in the eyes, he takes my hand and shows me his room and his bed. In a piggy bank, he is saving the money to buy his dream red car.”

Stefan Darabus

Regional Director, Central and Southern Europe,
Hope and Homes for Children

Training Programmes

The training programmes started in 2002, when Hope and Homes for Children Romania began to **train the staff in the institutions that were being closed**, which was a unique situation in Romania at that point.

Since 2002, Hope and Homes for Children Romania has become a provider of such services, and now it offers programmes both for direct care staff and for service managers.



7,164 professionals
participated in training
programmes

8,023 children
benefited from
better services

“We become better through learning. This is most obvious when working with children.

The aim of our training programmes is this: to help adults be there for the children in their care.”

Otto Sestak

National Director,
Hope and Homes for Children Romania



Objectives



1 To develop a National Plan to prevent the separation of children from their families.

2 To initiate a national programme for training managers in the child protection system and members of staff directly involved in caring for the children.

3 To continue the process of influencing the development of policies in the field of child protection and the legislation, in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly.

4 To implement reform programmes and to organise national conferences and seminars to accelerate the reform process.

Estimated Impact 2016-2022

7,790 children will leave target institutions

20,700 children will be prevented from institutionalisation

240 managers will complete the training programme

2,300 staff members will receive training

21,387 children from already existing alternative services will receive better quality services





Our Objective

To eradicate all old-type institutions for children in Romania by 2022.



Hope & Homes
for Children



Hope & Homes
for Children

Contact

Head Office

Bd. Bucuresti 2A
Baia Mare , 430281 Maramures

Tel: +4 0731 497 402
Tel: +4 0722 111 HHC (442)
Fax: +4 0362 80 55 44

office@hhc.ro

Fundraising and Communications Department

Str. Tache Ionescu 5, Apt. 1
Sector 1, 010352 Bucharest

Tel.: +4 031 108 66 79
fundraising@hhc.ro

hhc.ro
[fb.com/hhcromania](https://www.facebook.com/hhcromania)
twitter.com/hhcromania

Hope and Homes for Children Romania is the Romanian branch of Hope and Homes for Children.

