ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022









Reality Check Solution

We invite you to exercise your imagination and travel to a world where your lives would have taken a different course. How would you have evolved if you were born in an isolated, extremely impoverished community, with parents, friends, and neighbors with no education? In such places, like Castelu (Constanța County) and Coroieni - Ponorata (Maramures County), where poverty is increased by exclusion due to the fact that both villages have large populations of Roma or Turkish-Roma (horahai), life challenges are extremely complex.

With over 20 years of field experience and 13 years devices. since we know these two communities, we have come to understand that the only way we can bring a real change is through an integrated long-term approach that (1) has educational support at its core, (2) covers additional social services, health, community development, and (3) involves all relevant stakeholders through support for local staff and advocacy at county and national level.

focused on integrated public services in Castelu and Ponorata. Now we look at our results with joy, when we see all the children we helped start and continue school, improve their results, and overpass their limits. We are proud to have strengthened the local interdisciplinary teams, which started to work together more efficiently, and continue to

meet regularly to solve community issues. We have also communicated to national decision makers the lessons learned at grassroots level, and we continue to work so that these become good practice models that can help all disadvantaged communities facing similar problems.

Over the past two years, we also continued our interventions to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thus, we supported hospitals in the fight against the virus, with medical and protective equipment, from surgical masks to ventilation

And since March 2022, when the war started in Ukraine, we have stood by our neighbors. We initiated a humanitarian campaign along with the authorities and our partners and came to the aid of people affected by the conflict, both those who remained in Ukraine, and the refugee families who sought shelter in our country.

We are grateful to our partners, to all our supporters, In 2021 and 2022 we implemented two big projects and, last but not least, to the children and families we worked with, for their trust in us. We have traveled a long road, which included major challenges like the pandemic and the war, but together we managed to faciltate many positive changes. We count on everyone's continued support and invite you to read in the following pages how we evolved in 2021 and 2022 and what are our plans for the future.

With gratitude,

The Reality Check Team Alina, Carmen, Iolanda, Nadia, Oana, Simona, Wolf



2021 & 2022 IN NUMBERS





441

children from Castelu and Coroieni participated to after-school classes, literacy bootcamps, personal development summer camps and sports' clubs



102

children from Castelu went to school for the first time in September 2022



300

children from Ponorata received daily a hot meal



346

girls and women attended the female hygiene and counseling sessions for breastfeeding and newborn & child care



298

parents participated in parentsteacher meetings, individual discussions and meetings with RC representatives



52

youngsters from Castelu and Coroieni formed and got involved in youth clubs



37

inhabitants from Castelu și Coroieni got involved in Local Initiative Groups



2.000

people from the two villages participated in community events: medical caravans, sports competitions, ecology and multicultural events



100

families from Ponorata received seeds and cultivated vegetable gardens



45

children from Castelu were enrolled in preschool starting September 2022



10

ermergency aid shipments were sent to Ukraine, consisting in equipped ambulances, medicine, food, clothes&shoes, and hygiene products



8.000

Ukranian refugees from five transit centers in Bucharest were helped with food and other necessary daily itmes





Community interventions and results

In 2021 and 2022, we implemented two extensive projects of integrated services (educational, social, health, community development, advocacy) in the vulnerable communities of Coroieni (Ponorata), Maramures County, and Castelu, Constanta County: *Together for a Better Future in Coroieni* and *Together for a Better Life in Castelu*. Thus, we put together and developed our previous interventions in the two communes, and offered integrated grassroots interventions, which we documented in order to recommend improvements of national public policies.

Moreover, we extended our interventions in response to external circumstances, mobilizing fast to alleviate crisis situations such as the pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

EDUCATION

We continued to provide educational incentives to the children in Ponorata, through social vouchers based on school attendance & performance and through daily hot meals. The voucher of 10 euros/month represent a small amount, but one that still makes a difference.

The daily hot meal offered to preschool and school children continued to have a huge impact on their educational journey. In the primary school, about 240 children out of 332 registered attended regularly (the school is too small for all the children and alternative solutions are not ideal for high attendance).

102 children from Castelu finally started school in September 2022, with our help - some of them were enrolled two-three years later than their peers from better-off families. We also helped enroll in kindergarten 45 children from the vulnerable community.

HEALTH

- 346 girls and women participated in feminine hygiene sessions, breastfeeding counseling, and child care classes. The girls from the community discussed with specialists about their bodies, their rights, and the decisions they can make regarding reproductive health, and learned how to take care of children.
- In Castelu, we continued health interventions and made it possible for impoverished children and their mothers to access specialist doctors or helped them purchase treatment.

EDUCATION IN NUMBERS

- 441 children (223 from Castelu and 218 from Coroieni) participated to *After-school classes*, literacy and personal development bootcamps, football and volley-ball clubs, and 28 of them went in a summer education through adventure camp in Straja.
- 52 youngsters (18 from Castelu and 34 from Coroieni) formed and got involved in youth clubs
- 11 young adults from Coroieni participated to literacy classes.
- 298 parents (95 in Castelu and 203 in Coroieni) participated to PTA meetings and individual discussions.
- In Ponorata, we continued to offer monthly scholarships to kids going to highschool.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- In Ponorata, two environmental clean-up events were held with community participation. We organized two medical caravans with the help of the Caravana cu Medici Association, in Castelu, and one with the support of Die Johanniter organization from Germany, in Coroieni. We also organized four Relays for Education, as well as community events on the theme of multiculturalism.
- In Ponorata, we provided families with seeds to grow their own vegetable gardens, and provided Christmas packages to all families and children.

SOCIAL SERVICES

We encouraged a structured way of working for the local integrated team from the city hall and

school - social workers, community health assistants, school mediators, and school principals.

With the local teams, we identified 60 vulnerable families (30 in each community), and worked on personalized intervention plans for each family to facilitate their access to services (identity documents, health, education, etc.), according to their needs.

ADVOCACY

- We meticulously documented field challenges, and consulted with local, county and national authorities on ways to assist communities in solving their problems.
- We conducted several case studies, and by the end of 2022, we submitted recommendations to the authorities, in order to improve public policies.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NUMBERS

- 37 inhabitants (22 from Castelu and 15 from Coroieni) were involved in Local Initiative Groups, learned to work in a team, to identify community problems and to communicate with authorities to find solutions.
- 3 women from the two communities were hired in the projects.
- 11 community events attebded by 2.000 inhabitants (1.300 from Castelu and 700 from Coroieni, some came to more than one event).







TOGETHER FOR UKRAINE

In 2022, the lives of millions of people were shaken by war, experiencing moments of maximum vulnerability. Together and with the support of our partners, we responded promptly and stood by both the refugees in the transit centers in District 2 of Bucharest, and the people remaining in the conflict zone.

With our partners, we organised 10 transports to Ukraine with food and hygiene products, medicines, and equipped ambulances. We also stood by Ukrainian refugee families who sought shelter in our country: we supported five transit centers in Bucharest, which housed over 8,000 people (nearly 3,000 of them children) with food, consumables, hygiene products, furniture, and appliances, reimbursed medication prescriptions, and provided support for basic needs to Ukrainian volunteers who fled the war, but chose to stay in Romania to help in this crisis. Also, in Bucharest, we supported a day center established by several women from Ukraine, for mothers and children who came from the war zone and lived in private apartments.

COVID-19

2020 was an atypical year, forcing us to reevaluate our priorities and interventions in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2021 and 2022, Reality Check continued its traditional anti-poverty programs, while also helping hospitals and institutions deal better with the pandemic, by providing them medical apparatus and protective equipment.

TRAINING SESSIONS

In January 2022, we organized a workshop for NGO professionals, where we discussed how to look at data and how to use the results they have to demonstrate the impact of their projects and convince authorities, sponsors, or the public to support their work. Participants were involved in designing data-based advocacy campaigns for their topics of interests.



You are invited to watch two short films presenting our work and the main results in the two years:

1: The Power of Education:

2: Together for a better future in vulnerable communities:







What we do and where

The Reality Check team has been supporting the **HEALTH** poor communities from Coroieni (Ponorâta) and Castelu for over 10 and 5 years, respectively, and is committed to continuing these efforts in the long term. In 2023, we sustained our integrated interventions (education, social services, health, community development, advocacy) with the goal of enhancing the living conditions of vulnerable families and improving the prospects for children to have a better future than their parents.

All our interventions are built around access to quality formal and non-formal education for very poor children. Our approach also incorporates a significant component of integrated social support, enabling parents to address situations that significantly impact their quality of life - such as health issues, inadequate food, lack of identity documents, social marginalization etc.

Through our activities, we facilitate the engagement of county and national authorities in developing practical and applied measures that can solve or prevent these types of problems in all impoverished communities.

EDUCATION

school and kindergarten enrollment campaigns: 45 children enrolled

support for attendance and academic progress in Coroieni: daily meals for 300 children conditional on attendance and results for 99 children (grades I-IV), scholarships for 11 high school students families

sports education: footbal and voleyball clubs for 70 children (Castelu)

literacy bootcamps for 69 children (30 in Castelu, 39 in Coroieni)

personal develompent summer camps for 28 children (14 in Castelu, 14 in Coroieni)

PTA meetings with over 100 parents

classes for girls and women: sexual and health education, breastfeeding and toddler care: 30 women from Castelu participated to toddler care classes

transportation to doctor appointments, or treatment for over 50 children

pediatric medical caravans: 150 children from Castelu were examined by specialists



managed 10 medical emergencies

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

community events that bring together residents of different ethnicities and social classes: The Education Relay in Coroieni, equipped backpacks, clothing and footwear (Ponorata), sanitary and food products (Ponorata and Castelu)

consolidation of Local Initiative Groups (GIL) locals discuss common problems and seek solutions alongside authorities

SOCIAL SERVICES

collaboration with integrated local teams (kindergarten and grades I-IV), social vouchers (social workers, community health assistant, school mediator) to solve serious problems of vulnerable

ADVOCACY

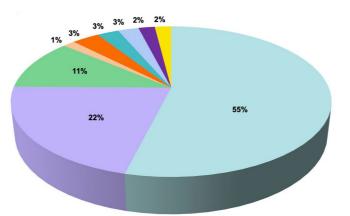
engaging local, county, and national authorities to solve local problems

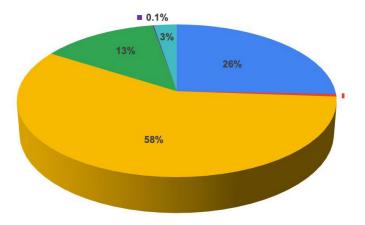






Thank you to all our supporters! We hope you will continue to be our partners!





Income 2021	EUR0
Sponsorship and in-kind donations - Covid*	374.635
EFTA FMO (Active Citizens Fund)	148.414
Kaufland Romania	76.555
Autoklass Center	10.056
Romstal Imex	5.029
Other companies**	22.729
Individual donations	18.271
The Alex Fund	17.359
Edficobildung Für Jedes Kind	13.699
TOTAL	686.748

Expenses 2021	EUR0
Educational programs in communities	143.937
Health in communities	3.159
Social and community development	74.996
Communication and advocacy	604
General expenses (fundraising, administrative, taxes)	14.733
COVID Support	325.466
TOTAL	562.895

Main Donors:











Local Partners: Coroieni City Hall, Coroieni Secondary School Castelu City Hall, Castelu Secondary School

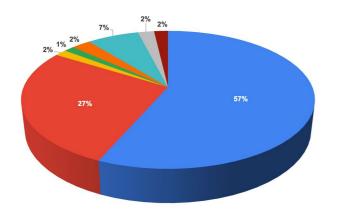


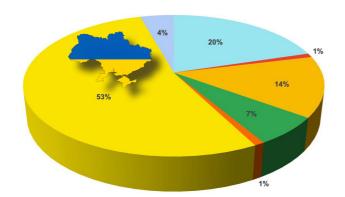
^{*}Sponsorships and in-kind donations - Covid: Autoklass Center, Romstal Imex, Valrom Industry

^{**}Other companies: JYSK Romania, United Media Services, Gemius Research, Up Romania, Umbrella In Colours, E-Dea Works, UK Online Giving Foundation, Syndex Consulting, Vitrans



Thank you to all our supporters! We hope you will continue to be our partners!





Income 2022	EUR0
Together for Ukraine*	553.834
EFTA FMO (Active Citizens Fund)	267.862
Romstal Imex	15.050
Kaufland Romania	13.194
Other companies**	24.277
Individual donations	66.910
The Alex Fund	20.776
Edficobildung Für Jedes Kind	17.914
Covid donations	1.066
TOTAL	980.882

Expenses 2022	EUR0
Educational programs in communities	188.266
Health in communities and COVID support	8.425
Social and community development	128.940
Communication and advocacy	8.668
General expenses (fundraising, administrative, taxes)	59.847
Emergency transports (equipped ambulances, medicine, food, clothes, etc.)	495.058
Refugees Centers	40.031
TOTAL	929.234

*Together for Ukraine: Autoklass Center, Romstal Imex, Valrom Industry, I.O.S. Software Solutions, Alexander Karsten Samwer, Irritec S.P.A., Yevgen Muntyan, OvidiuRO Association, Uponor, Niko Auto Com, Fondital Spa, Kompotech, Tecnovivo Gaz Aparate, Luxor Spa, Ske Solar Inverters, Varem Spa M.G Group Italy Spa, Ekotermal OOD, Afriso, Demm Rubinetteria, Kludi Romania, Tecnital, M&E Technic Concept, Bipral

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Main donors:













Local Partners: Coroieni City Hall, Coroieni Secondary School Castelu City Hall, Castelu Secondary School









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