

The Romanian contribution to the Millennium Development Goals

Reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represents one of the main priorities of the Romanian policy for international development. A considerable amount of our national ODA budget for 2007 was spent for contribution to multilateral organizations involved in the efforts of reaching the MDGs. By the end of 2008, we envisage to allocate more than 25% of the ODA budget for the reach of the MDGs through different international channels and regional initiatives.

As a new donor and an EU member, Romania supports all the efforts of the international community towards bringing MDGs back on track and is actively involved in the EU efforts to speed up this process. In this regard, Romania will contribute to the translation into practice of the EU Agenda for Action on MDGs.

Bearing in mind the importance of a joint approach of the international community towards reaching the MDGs, Romania has committed to play an active role in a number of new initiatives, in particular that of the UN Secretary-General for the MDGs in Africa and the British initiative, "Call to Action" on MDGs. The EU-Africa Partnership on the MDGs, adopted at the Lisbon Summit, also provides a new framework for dialogue and joint action.

Given the significant measures taken during the last years to reach the MDGs and its recent transition experience, Romania has learnt valuable lessons regarding the cooperation between government, international organizations, civil society and private sector, which we are willing to share with our partner countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently trying to engage representatives of civil society and private sector in the support of the MDGs efforts and in raising the awareness of the public opinion on these issues.

Education

- ✓ Romania will contribute to the implementation of the EU Agenda for Action on MDGs and the EU-Africa Partnership on the MDGs.
- ✓ This will be done through bilateral cooperation, but also through international organizations and new initiatives as *Education for All Fast Track Initiative*. A substantial amount of Romanian funds was channelled through Education for All Fast Track Initiative in 2007 (300,000 euro) and more funds will be made available in the following years.
- ✓ At the same time, a national program was set up, named after the Romanian playwright Eugen Ionescu, meant to offer scholarships to students and researchers from Francophone Countries.
- ✓ Romania intends to allocate significant funds for programs designed to allow for the education and social integration of children of Roma origin and for marginalised children, in general.

Health

- ✓ Romania will strive to bring its support to reaching the EU collective target as set out in the EU Agenda for Action.

- ✓ Romania will also continue the financial contribution to new initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and will make efforts to increase our bilateral and multilateral assistance aimed at reaching the MDGs in the partner countries.
- ✓ In 2007, Romania provided 300,000 euro to the *Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria* and will continue its support in the following years.
- ✓ Romania has allotted 40,000 euro for financing an UNFPA project in the Republic of Moldova aimed to support the efforts of the Government of this country to promote increased access to basic health services, with an emphasis on reproductive health and family planning in the communities inhabited primarily by Roma.
- ✓ Another UNFPA project financed by a Romanian contribution of 40,000 euro will develop a model of Roma integration in society, based on the Romanian experience. Health is a priority area of intervention, alongside with education, employment and housing.

Poverty

- ✓ The World Food Programme is one of the main UN destinations of the Romanian funds aimed to fight hunger and poverty. The funds allocated in 2008 are in an amount of 200,000 euro (150,000 euro for Afganistan and 50,000 euro for Georgia).
- ✓ An amount of 80,000 euro will be soon transferred to UNHCR for a project aimed to provide dignified housing and livelihoods solutions for refugees in collective centres in Serbia.
- ✓ The total contribution in 2007 and 2008 to UNICEF is in an amount of 150,000 euro.

Sustainable Development

- ✓ The issues related to climate change are a constant priority of the national policy for international development cooperation. Romania allotted 100,000 euro in 2008 for the activities related to the Framework Convention on Climate Changes and will continue to give due importance to this issue.