



TV

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## ADRIANA AND SORIN: TWO ROMA CHILDREN

### VIDEO

SORIN AT HOME WITH FAMILY

SORIN'S BROTHER PLAYS  
ACCORDION

SORIN PLAYS FOOTBALL

SORIN LOOKING AT FAMILY  
PHOTO

SORIN DOES HOMEWORK /  
GRANDMOTHER IN KITCHEN

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

12 year-old Sorin lives in a crowded apartment in the outskirts of Bucharest. He is an ethnic Roma, the name given to gipsies in Romania. (10)

Despite being part of Europe's largest minority, Sorin often feels excluded. Stereotype and prejudice affect people's perceptions of the Roma. (10)

SORIN: (Romanian) **M**

*"Often when we want to play with children that are not Roma, they run away, they don't let us play with them, they avoid us."* (7.5)

#### NARRATION

Sorin misses terribly his parents who were convicted for dealing drugs. During their absence, Sorin was raised by his grandmother, Maria Tudor. All the adults in the family are unemployed and to make ends meet, she works at a flower shop at nights. (17.5)

MARIA TUDOR, SORIN'S  
GRANDMOTHER, ON CAMERA

MARIA TUDOR: (Romanian)     **F**  
*"We have no other source of income apart from  
my pension and the little I earn at the flower shop."*  
(4)

BUCHAREST / POOR HOUSING

NARRATION  
Some Roma have managed to integrate into their  
societies but many here in Romania live  
marginalized lives due to pervasive widespread  
poverty and low levels of schooling. Poverty rates  
for them are more than twice the national average.  
But education is rapidly becoming a force for  
change. (18.5)

ADRIANA ON CAMERA

ADRIANA: (Romanian)     **F**  
*"If my father can support me I would like to go to  
college."* (3)

ADRIANA READS FOR CHILDREN,  
WHILE MOTHER COOKS

NARRATION  
10-year old Adriana knows exactly what she wants  
to be when she grows up. (4)

ADRIANA ON CAMERA

ADRIANA: (Romanian)     **F**  
*"I want to be a teacher."* (2)

ADRIANA READS

NARRATION  
She is already practicing her teaching skills with  
her younger cousins. But they are not Adriana's  
only pupils. She is also teaching her mother to  
read and write. (10)

## VILLAGE WOMEN

The majority of Roma women above 45 are illiterate. This includes Adriana's mother, Maria. (5.5)

MARIA PITTIGOI, ADRIANA'S MOTHER, ON CAMERA

MARIA PITTIGOI: (Romanian)      **F**  
*"It's like being blind. I do not know how to read, I am ignorant of many things. It feels like my eyes are permanently closed."* (7.5)

ADRIANA TEACHES MARIA TO READ AND WRITE

NARRATION  
But slowly Maria is opening her eyes to the world. She has received the gift of literacy and she is learning fast. (7)

ROMA MEDIATORS GO INTO HOMES, TALK TO LOCAL ROMA WOMEN

Nobody knows for sure how many ethnic Roma there are in Romania. Estimates vary from 500 thousand to 2.5 million. Accurate population estimates are difficult because of infrequent data collection, their mobility, and reluctance to register as Roma in censuses for fear of being stigmatized. (20)

SORIN GETS READY TO GO TO SCHOOL AND WALKS OUT

On this day, Sorin gets ready for a classroom discussion on inter-ethnic relations. An articulate child, he's been thinking about his future and the kind of world he would like to see as an adult. (12.5)

SORIN WALKS TO SCHOOL

SORIN: (Romanian)      **M**  
*"I would like to change the world when I grow up,*

*to make it better and more equal, with not so many poor people and a few rich ones. And for people not to judge others by their differences.” (10)*

NARRATION

SORIN’S CLASSROOM

At this UN supported school, seventy percent of the 400 pupils are ethnic Roma. According to the children there are no major problems between them here. (11)

SORIN: (Romanian) **M**

SORIN ON CAMERA

*“There is no difference between us. There is really no reason why I shouldn’t have friends who are not Roma.” (6)*

NARRATION

CLASSROOM

Here at Sorin’s school and elsewhere there is hope that life for ethnic Roma will be better in the future. (6)

ADRIANA AND MOTHER GO TO  
ROMA CENTER

The future has arrived for Adriana and Maria. At this UN supported Roma Community Centre, mother and daughter are moving up to the next step. (8.5)

MOTHER AND DAUGHTER LEARN  
TO USE COMPUTER

They are both learning how to use computers. The family is now saving money to acquire their own. Education has made mother and daughter even closer to one another. Both Adriana and Sorin know that they’re lucky. (13)

BUCHAREST STREETS / BOY  
WITH DOG

A large of number of Roma kids still remain outside the educational system. This child's family cannot afford to send him to school and he supplements his parent's meagre income begging in the streets of downtown Bucharest. He wishes he was elsewhere. (15)

ROMA BOY ON CAMERA

ROMA BOY: (Romanian) **M**  
*"I would like to be in school but I don't have books..."* (3)

ROMA CHILDREN PLAY

NARRATION  
Romanian Constitution stipulates equality for all its citizens regardless of ethnicity, but it will take decades for attitudes to change and for living standards to improve for all the Roma population in Romania. (12)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.