



TV

# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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## ROMANIA: THE LOST ORPHANS

### VIDEO

YOUNG PEOPLE PLAY BOARD  
GAME

ORPHANS IN HOUSE / DOING  
LAUNDRY AND COOKING

ROSALIA ON CAMERA

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Life has not been fun and games for these orphans. They grew up in institutions with few resources. At 18, they were set out in the world with many challenges and no skills. But now, luck is smiling on them. (13.5")

In this group house they renovated and run with help from a small World Bank grant, young men and women learn what it's like to live in a home. They are taught the things parents usually show their children: how to do laundry and to cook. They have a year to become adults with the help of den mother, guardian angel and therapist Rosalia. (19.5")

ROSALIA CADAR: (Romanian) F

*"They don't have a lot of common sense. It's hard for most people to imagine how much they lack."*  
(5")

CRISTINA WORKS IN PACKING  
FACTORY

NARRATION

Rosalia persuaded this company to hire Cristina. Although Romania has anti-discrimination laws, it can be hard for someone with disabilities to find work. And the orphans have to work: there are no state handouts for them. (13.5")

She is one of the lucky ones helped through a small World Bank grant. Every year five thousand Romanian orphans turn 18 and, overnight, must fend for themselves. Many wind up on the streets. (11.5")

CRISTINA IN STREET /  
CRISTINA AND VIOLETA ENTER  
APARTMENT

Cristina has left the group house and moved in with Violeta – a friend since they were nine together in the orphanage. (7")

CRISTINA AND VIOLETA SHOW  
THEIR APARTMENT

VIOLETA: (English) **F**  
*"Here is the kitchen, where I cook"* (2")

CRISTINA: (English) **F**  
*"Here is my bed."* (1.5")

NARRATION

Having a home and a job is exciting. (2.5")

CRISTINA ON CAMERA

CRISTINA: (Romanian) **F**  
*"I work the end of the line. I also keep a log and help the machinist, and I stick labels."* (4.6")

NARRATION

VIOLETA ON BED

But their dreams are modest. (1.5")

VIOLETA ON CAMERA

VIOLETA: (English) **F**

*"It's OK my life. I'm happy here in my house and everything is OK." (5")*

GINO MOPS, DOES DISHES AND  
CLEANS

NARRATION

Gino wants more than anything to have her own place. After leaving the orphanage, she ended up on the streets, pregnant. Because orphans Gino's age did not receive much love or attention when they were small, a programme now exists to help mothers like her bond with their children. So when her son Julian was born, the pair lived in a center that kept them together. But when Julian turned two, they were turned out and left to their own devices. (27")

GINO WALKS IN STREET

GINO KICKS BALL WITH SON

GINO GAL LENICI: (Romanian) **F**

GINO ON CAMERA

*"When I don't have my own place, I feel like crying. I don't like my son being homeless." (5")*

NARRATION

GINO WITH SON

Gino had no choice: Julian is in an orphanage – the same one she was in at 13. Her son can't live in the group house, and she can't yet feed two mouths. Romanian orphanages have undergone radical reform since Gino's day, and her son is well cared for, but she wants to be with him. (18.3")

GINO GAL LENICI: (Romanian) **F**

GINO ON CAMERA

*"I want to raise him, wash his clothes, and cook for him, take him to kindergarten, to school, and I want him to learn English." (6.8")*

NARRATION

GINO WALKS OUT OF  
ORPHANAGE

She has a year to prove she can take care of  
herself and her son. (4")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Stephanie Slewka for  
the United Nations. (4)