

PRESS RELEASE



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Roma resettlement and housing and inclusion programme in Pata Rat is needed

Bucharest, July 13, 2012: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP Romania) expresses concern about the precarious living conditions of Roma communities in the Pata Rât district in the Cluj Metropolitan Area.

The inhabitants of the small community of Pata Rât are mostly unemployed and make a living by doing small jobs and recycling waste. The children often cling to garbage trucks as they enter the site so they might have first pickings from the truck's load. On Sunday, a tragic incident occurred on the Pata Rât waste dump. An 11-year-old girl died after being hit by a garbage truck.

“UNDP staff and project personnel engaged with local authorities and partners in Cluj, would like to express their condolences to the parents and relatives of A.L. We urge all concerned to take necessary measures to ensure that children in Pata Rât are no longer exposed to such life threatening situations” declared Parviz Fartash, UNDP Resident Representative a.i.

The subsequent plans for further resettlement are needed and require concerted efforts by the authorities for more integrated, participatory planning and a sustainable housing and inclusion program for the city of Cluj-Napoca.

The practical experience of UNDP in working with Roma communities at the local level underlines the need for integrated area-based approaches that address Roma inclusion issues from different angles. The current UNDP-supported pilot initiative in Cluj aims to strengthen the organizational capacity and development skills of local stakeholders to address the needs of Roma communities through integrated local development.

Roma families frequently settle down wherever they can, building shelters often too tiny for large families. They require more ready access to housing facilities, health care, education and employment. They also need to live in greater safety and security.