



acsis

ASSOCIATION FOR A UNITED
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL
INTERVENTION - ACSIS

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

www.acsis.ro/en/



SUMMARY OF ACSIS RESULTS 2021

«The wisdom of life is simple. Act like everywhere you pass, things get better than before! »

Nicolae Iorga

In a year dominated by uncertainty and insecurity, we managed to make “the better” possible in the lives of **141 people: 88 children and 53 single mothers.**

Either we are talking about the mother whose life partner died, she being pregnant and having a 3-years-old child, or the mother who raises 3 children alone at the ages of 3 months, 3 years, 5 years, or the mother who is caring for two children, one of whom is suffering from autism spectrum disorder - we have witnessed the harsh realities of the struggles of these women with many difficulties, the inability to provide children with daily food, the inability to cover rent, utilities, with the lack of support from their family or the father of the children, with illnesses, leaving in fear of survival, of an uncertain future.

We managed to bring hope, relief and strength to these families, offering **individualized assistance and sustained support** for a limited period of time, until overcoming difficult situations, aiming to keep the children in their own family.

Whether we have been with them through counseling, unconditional positive acceptance, understanding and emotional support, support in finding a job, acquiring new skills and competencies, mentoring and self-help activities, or paying costs such as rent, utilities, qualification courses and help consisting of basic food and hygiene products - we fought next to each mother, we looked for solutions together, we supported step by step their efforts and gradually, **hope and confidence in a better future together with their children became possible.**

What gives meaning to our actions is the long-term impact of what we do, to see over the years the children remaining with their mothers, children we know directly that they could have been in an institution or on the streets, to know that we helped change their destinies.

We would like to express our gratitude towards all those who have been close to us this year: donors, sponsors, collaborators, volunteers, who have supported our actions, making possible the positive change in the lives of vulnerable children and women. Thank you!



WHO WE ARE?

THE ASSOCIATION FOR A UNITED COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL INTERVENTION- ACSIS is a non-governmental organization, non-profit, without any political or religious character, which develops programs meant to maintain the cohesion of the most vulnerable families, since 2004.



Our MISSION is sustainable development of family and community through education and specialized intervention for prevention of harmful social phenomena such as maternal abandonment, trafficking in persons or school dropouts. We achieve this through the development of education programs for a healthy life, psycho-social support, social and professional inclusion of vulnerable persons.



TARGET GROUPS

Who do we work with?

- ◆ Single-parent families being in socio-psycho-economical difficulty
- ◆ Vulnerable children, young people and adolescents



SERVICES PROVIDED:

- ◆ Social counseling
- ◆ Psychological counseling
- ◆ Information and education
- ◆ Emotional support
- ◆ Assistance and support in socio-professional integration/reintegration
- ◆ Financial/material support
- ◆ Socializing and recreational activities
- ◆ Advice on risks, consequences and ways of self-protection in front of human trafficking



PROJECTS

In 2021, within the **COUNSELING AND SUPPORT CENTER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN –ACSIS**, we developed the following projects:

- ♦ **PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES**
- ♦ **CREATIVE WORKSHOP**
- ♦ **PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



THE COUNSELING AND SUPPORT CENTER FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN – ACSIS

supports and assists the parents/potential parents in order to face with the psycho-social difficulties affecting the family relationships, in order to develop the parental competences, to prevent the child's separation from his family and supports the children when problems appear in their development.



PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES PROJECT

The aim of the project is the socio-psycho-economic support of single disadvantaged mothers from very poor communities in underprivileged areas of Bucharest, in order to keep the children in their own family.

We believe that the biological family is the best environment in which a child can grow, develop harmoniously and evolve, in a stable relationship with at least one parent. We believe that every parent is unique and every child is unique. That is why **we support children to stay in the family** through an **individualized approach** to forms of care. Each intervention plan is personalized, depending on the specific needs of the family, the ages of children, the existing resources, other factors. By providing counseling services, socio-professional integration support, emotional and material support, we aim to facilitate positive change and long-term impact on the lives of the families we work with.



PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES PROJECT

Main activities:

- ◆ Individual, social and psychological counseling: informing parents to identify their children's needs; strengthening the skills and knowledge of parents regarding the care and education of the child; counseling parents to overcome difficult situations that endanger their children's development or that pose risks of separating children from their family environment
- ◆ Group counseling: **parenting sessions, personal development sessions**
- ◆ Assistance and support for **socio-professional integration / reintegration**: job market presentation sessions, counseling in building a CV, preparation for a job interview, support in order to get a job, support in following qualification courses
- ◆ **Mentoring activities**: mediation of relationships of mutual help and solidarity between mothers who have overcome difficult life situations, with the support of the association and mothers who are going through similar situations at present
- ◆ Placing children in age-specific educational forms (kindergarten, day-care center, others)
- ◆ Support and accompaniment in obtaining social benefits
- ◆ **Monthly material support** (food and hygiene products, supplies, clothing), individualized financial support to cover costs such as rent, utilities, for a limited period of time, in order for the family to overcome the difficult situation

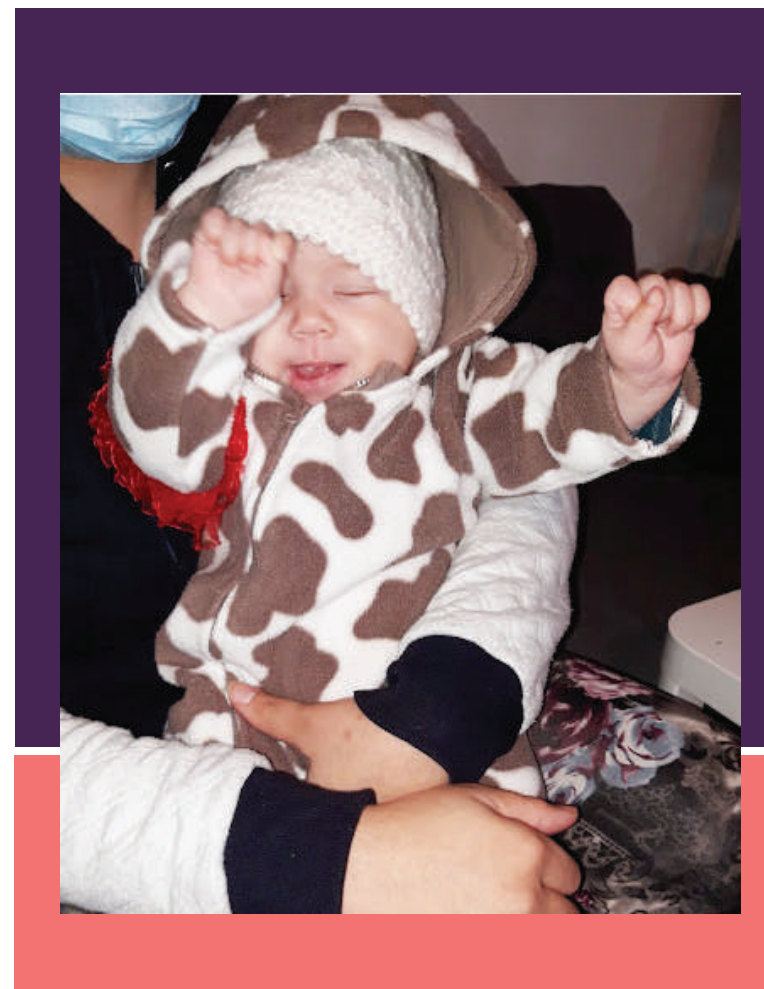




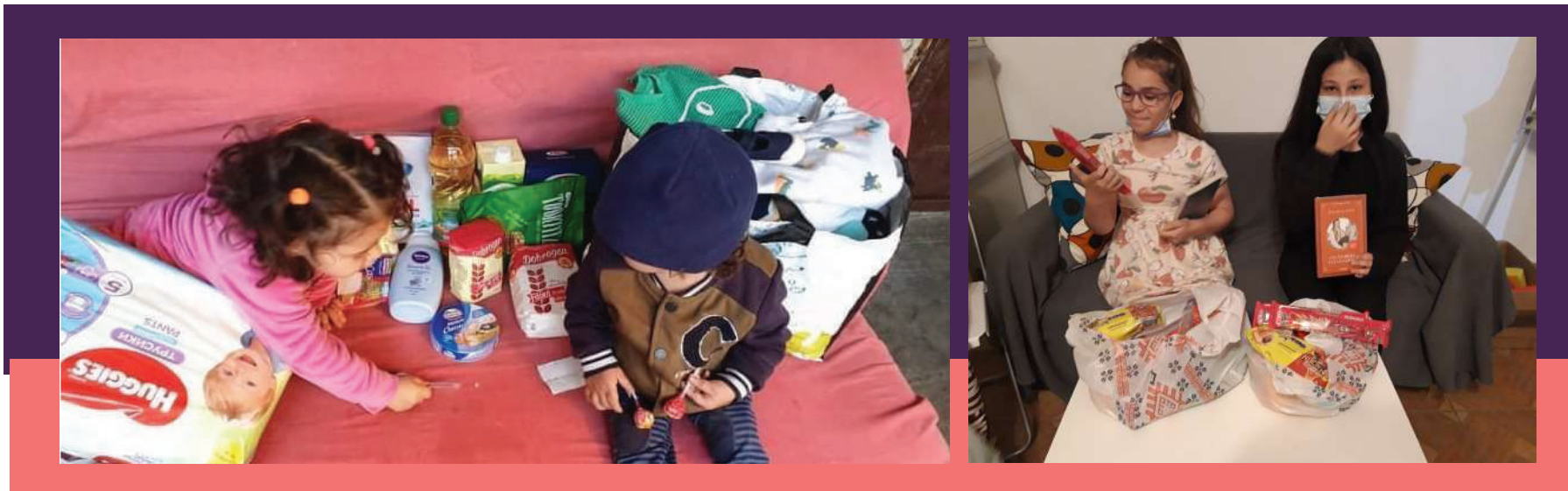
PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES PROJECT

Results:

- ◆ **45 children** in difficulty / at risk of separation from their families remained with their mothers and receive care appropriate to their age and needs, as a result of the received support. 26 of them received psychosocial assistance and monthly material / financial support, and 19 children were supported on a one-off basis, depending on the identified needs.
- ◆ **22 disadvantaged single mothers** benefited from psycho-social counseling services, support in socio-professional integration, parental education, monthly material support (food, hygiene products, clothing) and / or financial support to overcome the difficult situation.
- ◆ **7 single mothers** with 10 children received occasional help to cover urgent needs
- ◆ **26 children** benefited from recreational and personal development activities, homework support, school supplies, in order to prevent school dropout
- ◆ **1 mother** attended and graduated a nursing qualification course



- ◆ **15 beneficiary mothers** acquired the skills needed to access a job, were assisted in building a CV and identifying a job
- ◆ **7 beneficiary mothers** have obtained and kept a job and are supported by their own resources, as a result of the sustained assistance of our team
- ◆ **4 mothers** were involved in mentoring activities - mothers who benefited from our support and overcame difficult life situations also offer help and support to mothers who are currently facing great difficulties
- ◆ **24 mothers** with 33 children received counseling and guidance on services appropriate to their needs (maternal center, counseling centers for victims of domestic violence, social canteen)

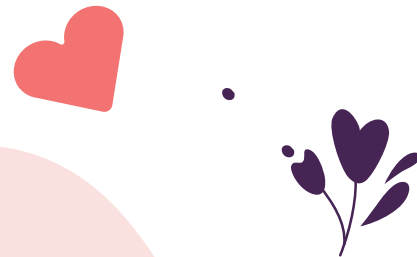


- ◆ **6 workshops** to present the labor market, support in acquiring skills needed to access a job, in building a CV, were organized in small groups, in compliance with measures to prevent diseases
- ◆ **6 workshops** were organized on personal development and parental education addressing topics such as: methods of stress management, self-care, how to communicate effectively with your child, how to accompany the child on his path of development, how to approach positively child discipline

Testimonial

« When I come to group meetings I seem to forget about my problems, I find out new things, I meet other mothers and I even made some friends. Before, I couldn't talk to anyone about the problems I was going through.»

M.S., beneficiary mother



PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROJECT

Romania **ranks first** in the top EU states as a source of victims of human traffic, according to a recent European Commission report. Traffickers have taken advantage of the Covid-19 pandemic to make significant profits and have stepped up their business. The report notes that they have changed their methods of operation and are attracting their victims online or through exploitation in private centers. This phenomenon especially affects vulnerable people. Raising awareness of risks and information increases their **self-protection** in the face of human trafficking.

In this direction, we have taken action to **prevent situations that endanger safety and increase the risk of exploitation of children and single disadvantaged mothers** integrated into our projects.





16 disadvantaged single mothers received counseling and information on the specific risks associated with the phenomenon of human trafficking, the methods used by traffickers for recruitment, consequences and **methods of self-defense** against this phenomenon.

10 mothers received counseling on the importance of **supervising the online activities of children** aged 8-18, in an age-appropriate manner, the importance of safety measures and parental control being emphasized.

15 children aged 8-18 received information on **safe internet browsing**, online safety rules.

CREATIVE WORKSHOP PROJECT

Through the Creative Workshop we set out to create a safe environment, characterized by trust, mutual respect, self-help, in which mothers feel included and supported, which provides opportunities to communicate, to be open, to share their own experiences, to learn, **to acquire basic skills in tailoring, work-related responsibilities, to carry out a meaningful work and to contribute.**

We organized, in small groups, weekly sessions where mothers, with the help of a tailoring instructor, learned to manufacture textile toys, various products associated with the holidays, decorative objects, thematic greeting cards.



CREATIVE WORKSHOP PROJECT

This year, we started a collaboration with Innocenti Foundation –Romanian Children Relief, an NGO whose projects are dedicated to sick, hospitalized children. Within the creative workshop, mothers learn to manufacture blank, stuffed, body-outline, **therapeutic dolls** which are personalized by small patients, used by this NGO’s psychologists to explain medical procedures, are offered to children and become anchors of trust and hope that everything will be ok, will accompany them to medical tests, operations, and then home.

We are very glad to be able to contribute to this sensitive project, and the mothers communicate an increased sense of contribution, compassion, purpose, it is a rewarding, meaningful work.



CREATIVE WORKSHOP PROJECT

Main results:

- ◆ **15 single mothers** at high social risk participated in the workshop activities
- ◆ **20 organized meetings**, during which the mothers learned to manufacture different products
- ◆ **over 500 products** were created as part of the activities
- ◆ **4 volunteers** were with us in this project, participating in the creation of various products.
- ◆ The products were promoted online, but also at various events: **charity fairs, exhibitions with sales in partner companies**
- ◆ The funds obtained from the capitalization of the products were used to support single beneficiary mothers (material support consisting of food, hygiene and financial support to cover the urgent needs of families)



EVENTS

"MOTHERS WHO RAISE ALONE THEIR CHILDREN NEED HELP" CAMPAIGN

We are grateful to the generous volunteers who responded to our call for support under the **ZiuaV** program, a volunteer program developed by **BRD - Groupe Société Générale** for its employees. People who have chosen to lend a helping hand to those in need have donated to us, helped us to provide monthly packages of food and basic hygiene products for the beneficiary mothers and their children, to financially support families in order to partially cover some costs such as: rent, maintenance, utilities.



"DONATE KILOGRAMS FOR A GOOD CAUSE!" CAMPAIGN

Kilostop Nutrition Clinic supports our actions to prevent the separation of children from their families. During the “Donate kilograms for a good cause!” Campaign, for every kilogram lost by its patients, the clinic donates 2 lei to humanitarian organizations, ACSIS being one of them.



Starting in 2019, **Kilostop Junior Clinic**, the only nutrition clinic for children and adolescents in Romania, has joined the campaign, and children and adolescents facing eating disorders, patients of the clinic, can also help a child remain with his mother!

"SUPPORTING DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN" CAMPAIGN

Implantology Clinic Dr. Lorelei Nassar, sponsor and constant partner over the years of our association, runs the Campaign "**Support disadvantaged children**" through which, for each intervention, a percentage of the proceeds are directed to the benefit of children supported by ACSIS. The clinic also offers free dental treatment for children integrated into our programs.

This year we were happy to have Dr. Lorelei Nassar with us, in a workshop with the beneficiary mothers. We talked about life experiences, about resilience - how we can always manage to recover and start over, about children's education, and especially about **the inner strength** that helps us to find a path and meaning in life, despite unfavorable contexts.



EVENTS

We were present at several fairs and events, with products created by beneficiary mothers:

- ◆ **Martișor Fair** organized by the "'Dimitrie Gusti" National Village Museum
- ◆ **Unstuff Gifting - Christmas Fair** with gift-experiences, organized by Random Space
- ◆ **The event "Flowers come with sun and sun with flowers!"** at the "Dimitrie Gusti" National Village Museum



OTHER ACTIVITIES

ART - THERAPY

We were grateful to have a volunteer therapist with us this year, who came to support the mothers and children in our programs, offering **individual Art Therapy sessions** and group sessions dedicated to personal development.

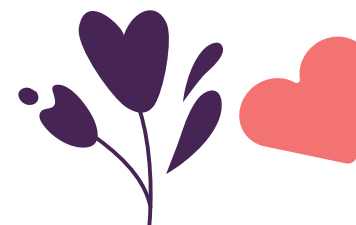
During the sessions, the beneficiaries were encouraged to express themselves freely through drawing / painting, they were able to discover new perspectives on reality, they were able to know themselves better and to develop ways to deal with stressful situations.



JUNE 1'st - CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S DAY

We organized a meeting for children with the theme "What I want to be when I grow up. I believe in my dreams!". We talked about what profession we choose, what dreams we have for the future, we visualized ourselves enjoying their fulfillment. We emphasized the importance of perseverance, self-confidence, the attention we pay and with which we invest our goals.

We then enjoyed the games, with pizza, good cheer and gifts!





SANTA CLAUS AT ACSIS

brought beautiful gifts for the little ones and for the big ones!





Our warm THANKS

goes to all the wonderful, generous people who have joined our cause – funders, sponsors, volunteers, partners – for the extremely valuable contribution of energy, time, abilities and resources who made our projects possible!

FUNDERS AND SPONSORS



Associated Trust Company NA

Derzelas Pax S.R.L.

CONTRIBUTE WITH US, SUPPORT A CHILD TO GROW UP WITH HIS MOTHER!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Individuals

- ◆ Access <https://acsis.ro/en/donate-online/> and donate via PayPal
- ◆ Order and purchase products created within the ACSIS creative workshop
- ◆ Talk about us and inspire other people to contribute to our cause

Legal entities

- ◆ Organize internal campaigns to involve employees for the benefit of our cause





THANK YOU!

**For additional information, you can write to us here: acsis@acsis.ro
Association for a United Community and Social Intervention - ACSIS**

Address:

215 Calea Moșilor, Block 21, Entrance B, Apartment 37,
District 2, Bucharest, Romania, CP 020864

Tax code: 16392636

IBAN RON: RO33 RZBR 0000 0600 0471 7200

IBAN EUR: RO21 RZBR 0000 0600 0602 8662

Raiffeisen Bank – Branch Moșilor
SWIFT CODE: RZBRROBU

Fax/Phone: +40 21 211 30 94;

Email: acsis@acsis.ro

Website: www.acsis.ro

www.facebook.com/AsociatiaAcsis