

## Pelunca (Romania) – food for those living in poverty

During this time, the Roma people have had no food. It's very hard on them, because there is no work. There is simply no work available for them. Replacement income? No, that doesn't exist for these people. It was heart breaking to hear that there is no way they can get money to buy any food.



After praying, Tjis and Jessica had an amazing idea of getting food to the people in the village. They had the idea to make and give out food vouchers to all the people in the village. Their idea was to contact the local shop and the bread van (that goes through the village) and collaboration with them – so that the people can come to the store to swap their food voucher and get food. This way they can help both the local stores and the Roma themselves. For 5 € a week they can give a family three loaves of bread, flour, pasta, rice etc.

Jessica and her volunteer went to the shop to have a conversation with the lady who runs the shop. The shop lady chatted about the fear and sadness of what is happening in the world. But then she said what is the point of being anxious. We don't know what will come, but we can look hopefully to the Lord Jesus. She said what if we get hopeful, loving and helping these in times instead of crawling in a corner?

Jessica then shared about their project idea and the shop lady was so happy when she was to realised that she can be part of this project - helping the poorest and also getting help themselves with selling in her little shop – she was all emotional with tears and then her face lit up with a smile that warmed the heart. How grateful for another beautiful project!!!



Making an agreement with the local shop

Tjis and Jessica have also signed an agreement with the bread van, that goes through the village. The people can get bread 3 times a week. So their plan is all working out.

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, all the food vouchers were handed out, to 80 families. (they are hoping to give to more families soon) They reported that it's heart-breaking to hear how some of them have barely eaten anything the past few days. Even the children. Nobody finds work anymore, due to lockdown. The people were so grateful for the food vouchers. Some were even so touched that in these times they still are not forgotten. People thanked God that He provides, that the love He gives is incessant and that there are people who give money to help them in these somewhat uncertain times! Blessed be all those who helped/help to provide this nourishment

The people in the village were so grateful. Here are some photos of some people receiving the vouchers



They are so happy they can get food



Happy families who have been to the village shop to swap their voucher for food



Thank you so much to everyone who has given to the COVID 19 food appeal. These families really appreciate it. Tijs and Jessica want to thank everyone from the bottom of their hearts for helping to provide food for these families. Together we do make a difference!