

## Update from Tjis and Jessica (Romania) re: COVID-19 food appeal – week 2

Well prepared, with the list in hand, we went to the Roma village. Simona (our volunteer) was also there again to help. Handing out the vouchers went very smoothly. A few hours and we were done. So happy to be able to help all these people and their gratitude is so great. "Nobody ever did what you did for us, nobody!!! Respect and great gratitude from the bottom of my heart." Nice to hear this, not for ourselves, but to hear how much it means to them, not just doing a good job, but providing help when there is no help at all, no food, no work, no income. We thank and continue to thank all those who have given donations to help feed these people

It is the second week of feeding, now to 100 families. In the photos you can see how they picked up bread from the bread van on Tuesday. Nice to see the happy faces. From Thursday they can also pick up their food again from the local store.



## Update from Pelunca - Week three of food aid.

On Monday Jessica and her volunteer, Simona went shopping to buy food to make food packages for the families in a small Roma village that lives in severe poverty by a river. They put together 35 packages. The people were happy to see Jessica and Simona again and were incredibly grateful for the nutrition.

On Tuesday, in the Roma village they are working in, all food vouchers were handed out again - this is running very smoothly. We helped when the bread truck was there, because this is a very busy time. In the end there were 100 happy and grateful families there.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to feed these families.



## **Update from Pelunca, - Week 5**

First of all, a big thanks to Amen Trust, and others who have supported our food distribution during the COVID – 19 lockdown. All donations together have allowed us to help many families five weeks in a row. We would like to list what happened with these donations.

For five weeks 100 families in the main Roma village we work in, were provided with food and three fresh loaves of bread every week. By using a voucher system they could collect their food from the local shop and loaves of bread from the bread van that comes to the village. This system worked fantastically. The last week they could pick up potatoes for a change. The people were all so grateful.

In addition, 35 large food parcels were made for the Roma community living in severe poverty by the river. We also delivered food packages to some people in two other villages to those who really needed it.

To the Roma people in 3 other poor villages, we distributed some seed packets, so they are able to grow their own vegetables.

More milk than usual was distributed to the little babies.

Just before the Lockdown, the local family doctor died. This made the medical help for the people very difficult. If there was some medical help, most of the people could not obtain or pay for their medication. Therefore, during this period the medical costs were much higher than normal for the organization.

Simona took on this task - she went to get the medication and brought it to the people. She even went with someone to the hospital, because he is Roma they obviously didn't want to help him, but because Simona went with him, his injuries received the stitches and medical care he needed.

As of Friday the lockdown rules relaxed a bit and people are allowed to go back to work. For the Roma people it is back to how it was. Well, actually that doesn't change much for them. Except for another endless search for work because finding a job is certainly not easy for them. But at least they have a chance.

Thanks to further financial support for food from Amen, we can continue to help for a bit longer.

We will keep you informed about our food distribution and again a big thank you to all the warm hearts