

UNDP Experience with Hadareni and Commitment Re-affirmed

UNDP Romania, in partnership with the Government of Romania, through the National Agency for Roma, has agreed to manage the funds allocated to the Community Development Programme in Hadareni. The main goal of this initiative is to improve the situation in the community of Hadareni through a number of targeted interventions.

Given the history and the present situation in the community of Hadareni, the Romanian Government has drafted, with the help of UNDP, an integrated programme that would address the issues raised by the members of the community. In so doing, UNDP and the Government have consulted with the representatives of the community and begun implementing the plan of action in 2007 with the financial support of the Government and of the UNDP. The programme has so far managed to tackle some important issues that have been identified as priorities, respectively the rehabilitation of the infrastructure and the enhancement of community cohesion between Roma, Hungarians and Romanian citizens by creating local organizational capacity, promotion of civic education, initiating and developing dialogue between ethnic and religious groups.

This Government intervention is the first of its kind in Romania and a great step towards acknowledging and taking responsibility for the ethnic conflicts in which Roma were victims of the reckless rage of the majority population. This decision to initiate and conduct a community development programme is a very useful example in providing support to local communities in similar situation. UNDP remains committed in implementing this programme in an integrated and consistent manner in order to achieve sustainable results on the ground. UNDP is a partner to the Government of Romania, in this initiative not because it is an easy task but because of the challenges posed by such an intervention. The Hadareni experience demonstrates that timely allocation of necessary resources; and, strengthened partnerships between central authorities, local authorities and beneficiary communities are essential. The experience also underlines the appropriateness of measures taken by UNDP in 2008 to strengthen its procurement and contract management capacity. The UNDP is confident that these elements together will result in important benefits for the Hadareni community, and others, in 2009 and beyond.

UNDP looks forward working with national and local partners and reaffirms its support to the Government's Hadareni program in 2009 in order to ensure the wellbeing of the members of the Hadareni community. UNDP also acknowledges the Government's recent proposed measures to mitigate the effects of the global financial crisis and trusts that this program will be seen as priority because poverty affected communities are mostly at risk and the economic problems may further disrupt the social imbalances.

UNDP Romania