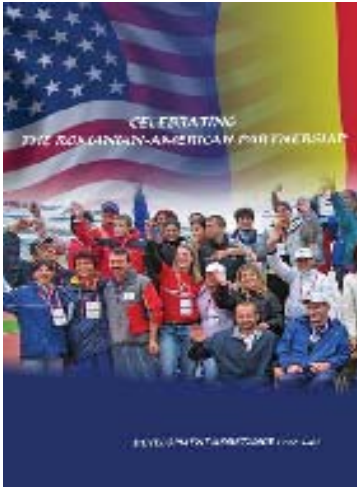




## COUNTRY PROFILE

FEBRUARY 2008



“Celebrating the Romanian-American Partnership: Development Assistance 1990-2007”  
(Available at <http://dec.usaid.gov>)

### ROMANIA SNAPSHOT

Capital: Bucharest  
Population: 21.5 million  
Population growth rate: -0.4%  
Life expectancy: 72  
GDP (billions): \$104.4  
GDP per person: \$4,833 (2006)

For more information, see [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)  
Keyword: Romania

### OVERVIEW

Since 1990, the American people have contributed more than \$620 million in economic and technical assistance, which evolved from its initial emphases on humanitarian aid and rebuilding the collapsed economy to forming partnerships which supported Romania’s transition to a free market democracy. USAID assisted its Romanian partners in developing financial markets, small private businesses, and energy markets, while protecting the environment, improving democratic governance, building civil society, reforming the rule of law, strengthening women’s health care, reforming child welfare, and fortifying disaster preparedness.



### Bucharest

On January 1, 2007, Romania joined the European Union. Development assistance from the U.S. Government will cease in 2008.

### PARTNERSHIP LEGACY

#### FREE ENTERPRISE EMERGES FROM COMMAND ECONOMY

Romanians sought American know-how to tackle the challenges of their new economy. Together, they worked to open Romania for private business by drafting laws and regulations, creating associations to support business development, establishing regulatory commissions for the free market, building the capital markets to finance private business, providing credit to small businesses, and privatizing more than 300 state enterprises. Collaborative efforts also stimulated agribusinesses and rural development, implemented environmental specialist trainings, and promoted energy reform.

#### DEMOCRACY SUCCEEDS DICTATORSHIP

Romanians and their American partners have opened parts of the government to public scrutiny, decentralized basic services, and built a spectrum of non-governmental organizations which serve as the foundation for civil society. A series of wide-ranging reforms and innovations have re-established the rule of law, reduced corruption, and helped political parties connect with citizens. More effective courts have benefited from ethics codes for judges and clerks, the nationwide adoption of a random case assignment system, and the operations of the National Institute of Magistrates and School for Court Clerks. Passage of the Freedom of

## **USAID ASSISTANCE TO ROMANIA**

Early Transition Years (1990-1996):  
\$212 million

Consolidating Democracy and Reform  
(1997-2001):  
\$250 million

Rapid Economic Growth , Stability and  
EU Accession (2002-2007):  
\$150 million

Disaster Assistance (1991-2006):  
\$8 million

Information and Transparency of Local Public Administration Acts paved the way for a more politically-engaged and informed citizenry.

### **COMMUNITY REPLACES STATE CARE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

Romanians used American assistance to bring about profound reforms in the child welfare system and in closing the large orphanages. The number of children in orphanages dropped from 170,000 in 1990 to fewer than 26,000 in 2007 and the number of orphanages housing more than 100 children dropped from 700 to 27 over the same period. The social work profession has been re-established with appropriate training and certification; fully 9,000 child welfare staff and mayors have been trained in community services. Now, more than 65,000 children receive community services while residing with their birth or foster families.

Partnerships between Romanians and USAID have also improved reproductive health services, changed public attitudes and behavior towards those with disabilities or HIV/AIDS, and confronted domestic violence. Nearly 9,000 medical professionals – working in 80 percent of primary health clinics – have been trained to provide family services. Developmentally-disabled citizens have new opportunities to fulfill their potential through NGOs such as Special Olympics - Romania.

### **PREPARED TO PROTECT AND PROVIDE FOR ITS PEOPLE**

The American people have responded to Romania in its times of need and strengthened the country's disaster management capacity. In 2005-2006, the U.S. provided more than \$5.8 million in relief supplies, grants to restore schools and health clinics, and short-season, high-yielding corn (maize) seed to communities devastated by floods.

When migrating birds first brought the deadly H5N1 strain of the Avian Influenza virus to the Danube Delta in 2005, USAID delivered \$2.4 million for surveillance equipment, training, public information campaigns and consulting services. The National Influenza Center, three regional infectious disease centers and two regional veterinary labs were equipped with real-time polymerase chain reaction analyzers for rapid virus identification; 220 public health and veterinary staff were trained in epidemiology, surveillance, and response; 100 county veterinary staff and 500 mayors were trained in outbreak management; and, commercial poultry farmers were trained to improve bio-security.

### **SUSTAINING PARTNER BUILDS ON ITS PROGRESS**

Aid from the American people, coupled with the bold visions of USAID's Romanian partners, has yielded tremendous achievements in less than two decades. In the words of USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore, "Romania's transformation from a closed, repressive system to an open society based on political freedom and the rule of law will serve as an invaluable model for others."

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