



# Hands of Hope

Helping the poor & needy in Romania

## Dumeni Project 2011



We have been visiting this Roma group for a number of years and a project in 2008 built saw a house built with separate units for 4 families. One of these original families saved up money (the husband going to work in Italy) enabling them to buy their own old house nearby. This freed up one of the units for a young couple and their baby.

The sister of one of the families had told us many times how bad her house across the field was and we knew another group had helped them to refurbish the roof to prevent water getting in.

In April Samanta pleaded with us to go and look at her house, saying that even with the repairs the wall at the back of the house was collapsing.

*Above grandmother outside old house; right Samanta and family*

We walked across the fields to look at the house, a home for 4 adults and 5 children aged 14 to 3. We were dismayed when we saw how bad it was. The house has 2 rooms, the left leaked badly; the room on the right was better but still had damp walls and a tiny space for 9 people to sleep in and with no form of heating. The mud brick wall at the back of the house was collapsing and the electricity meter sited on the outside wall was falling away from the wall and propped by a piece of timber.



The grandmother was sick and her other son who lives with the family had special needs. We were encouraged to see that despite the state of the home the family had managed to cultivate an area in front of the house. The father was able to get occasional seasonal work in the fields but apart from that the only income was the children's family allowance.

Though it had not been our plan to build another house this year, once we saw the state of the house, we knew that it would not last another winter.

Work started in July to build a new home in front of the existing one. We have had some funds already donated towards this project and at the moment are proceeding in faith so as to finish the new home before the winter.

**We are aiming to raise £12,000 to cover this project, ideas and help? Please contact us on:**

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