



Common Actions Against Poverty

LEARNING: MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH RECYCLING

CAAP supports Romani Baxt paper recycling project to fund kindergarten services



Challenge

Funding is always in question for development organizations, often coupled with a worry of dependency and becoming donor-driven. It is no doubt that with outside funding, many things can be accomplished. However, with innovative thinking and creative problem solving, sustainable ways of funding programs can also be used.

For Romani Baxt, a local Albanian Roma NGO, these challenges are ever-present. Specializing in academic and cultural education for Roma children in Albania, Romani Baxt focuses on pre-school and kindergarten services, after-school programs and summer school, aiming to provide and encourage academic success, psychological support and an understanding of rights as humans and youth.

Initiative

To reach these aims in a sustainable way, Romani Baxt is using a creative solution, with the help and support of Common Actions Against Poverty (CAAP), a local Albanian NGO and Terre des hommes, a Swiss NGO. This solution is none other than paper recycling, used as an income-generating activity! Ten months ago, Romani Baxt and CAAP began contacting organizations and institutions around Tirana, setting up contracts for collecting recyclable paper or cartons. Five months later, the initiative has 35 pick-up locations, with more organized by the month. After collecting the recyclables, they are stored in a warehouse, then sold to recycling plants in Durres and Fier. All the money earned from the sale of the material goes directly to support the Romani Baxt kindergarten, reducing consistent need for outside funding.

CONTACT—COLLECT
ORGANIZATIONS RECYCLABLES



SELL—SUPPORT
FOR INCOME GENERATION EDUCATION



Recycling goes toward the support of this kindergarten, Romani Baxt.

Results

Even after a few months, it is clear that this initiative is truly an innovative way of making the kindergarten sustainable and self-sufficient. With the economic downturn, there are now fewer recycling plants able to buy the materials, but this has not stopped Romani Baxt and CAAP from pushing forward in their efforts. To date, over 7 tons of white paper and 8 tons of cartons have already been sold and recycled, with nearly 5 and 10 tons, respectively, in the warehouse waiting for sale. The project is even in the works to expand to include other materials, such as plastic and eventually metals.

This project not only brings necessary funds to the Romani Baxt kindergarten, but it also encourages education, provides jobs, integrates different sectors of society and helps the environment. Success!