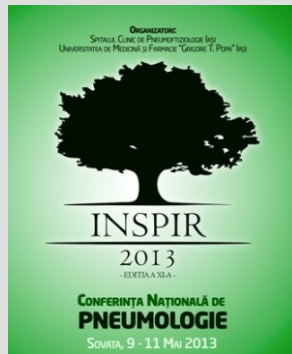


# Tuberculosis remains a huge health problem in Romania and The Republic of Moldova



In the photographs above can be seen photos from the TB conference at Sovata recently attended by RCHF and also in March at a TB conference organized by the US Embassy in Bucharest.

Tuberculosis is still a major health problem in Eastern European Countries especially in both Romania and the Republic of Moldova. Both Countries lack in having a health care budget overall and lack in a specific health budget to address TB. There is no national TB prevention and education project and the public remain at large ignorant about Tuberculosis, despite it being a perfectly treatable illness if caught on time and if the full course of treatment is observed. Multi Drug resistant TB is now also alarmingly rising in both Countries often because poverty forces patients to give up on treatment and go find some work so they can feed their family. Here badly needed is a social back up scheme for TB patients in poorer families and on low income when a breadwinner is infected with TB and hospitalized as TB treatment last for 6 to 12 months.

Stichting RCHF our role of **STOP TB Partners** has for many years collaborated with the Iasi University Hospital of Pneumologie and promotes strongly TB education within the educational and public sector as well as speaking at conferences and at universities to students.



## Hard unseen poverty continues to thrive in every city, town and rural village in Romania

You can enter and populated area in Romania especially the rural villages were you will see quaint often old style dwellings, but what you wont see is the hardship that many family suffers in a Country were salaries for those lucky enough to have work have not risen in real terms since 1998. In contrast utility bills and food prices have risen many, many times making hardship a norm for far too many families and pensioners alike. Spiraling gas and electricity prices of these now privatized companies have seen many thousands unable to afford these basic services and has helped raise also the basic food price of locally made products like bread and all processed foods. The Romanian people are a clean living and proud people, but after communism their plight has not altered when we speak of the huge amount who live in poverty and suffer unfair hardship in a Country that still all these years after Communism has no poverty reduction plan as within all other EU countries and no real social back up for its ageing population along with the newborns who will if nothing is done face hardship in their lives too. Within RCHF we reach as many families with great needs as we can and help them but a national campaign to combat hard poverty is the real answer.