

annual report | 2024

Since 2006, we have been fighting for children's hearts - little hearts born sick, yet filled by the same wishes as healthy ones: to live through everything a heart is given in a lifetime.

"Inima Copiilor" is our name. It translates to "The Heart of Children" and symbolizes our commitment to children with serious medical conditions, with a main focus on children with congenital heart diseases and sick neonates.

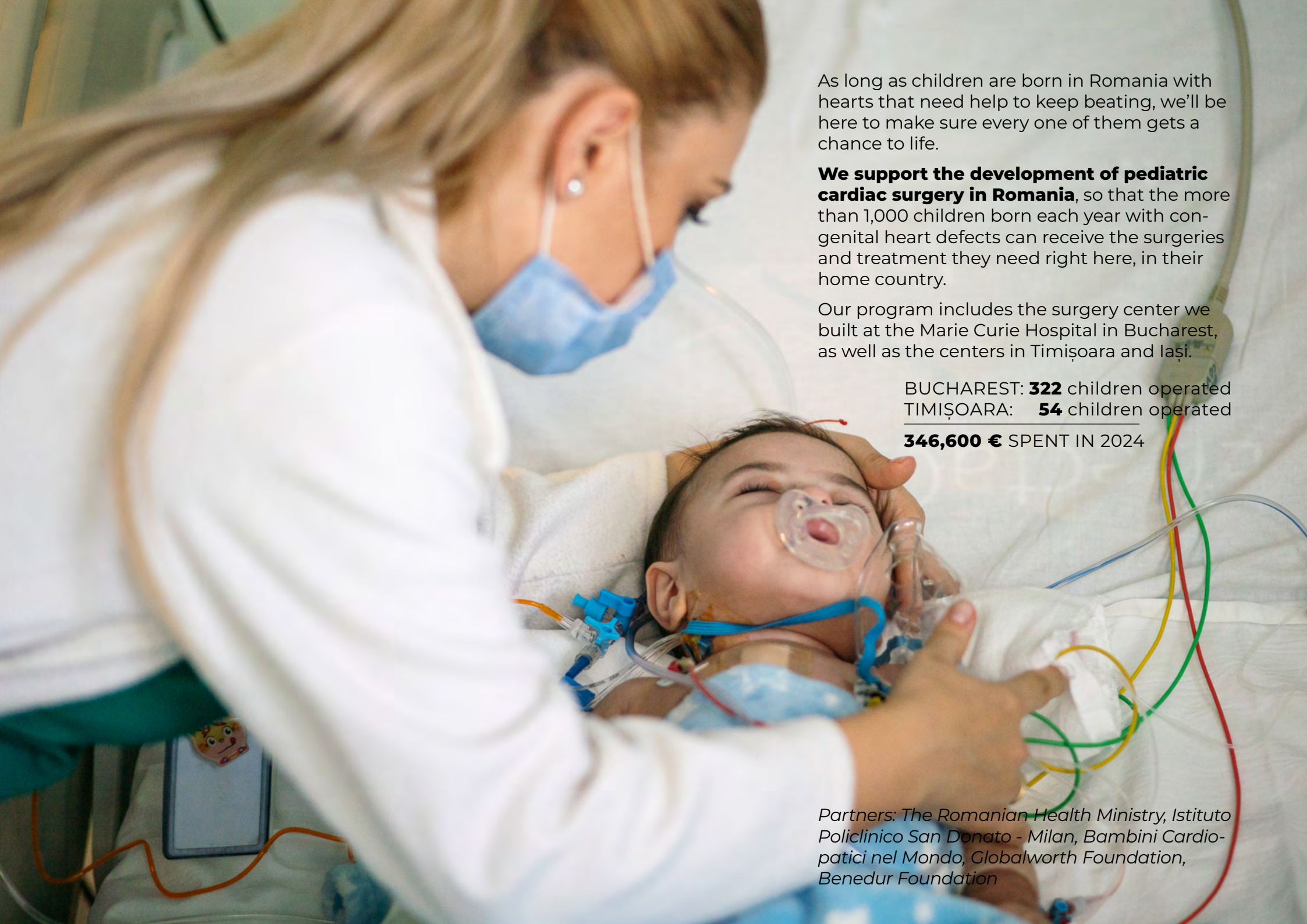
We help them receive early diagnosis and lifesaving surgeries and therapies. We help their families deal with the challenges of caring for a very sick child. We help build and modernize public hospital facilities that treat children. We help medical staff in offering better care to their young patients.

The pages that follow outline our efforts for 2024, the 18th year in our ongoing battle to create more chances for more children to overcome illness and live happy and fulfilling lives.

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As long as children are born in Romania with hearts that need help to keep beating, we'll be here to make sure every one of them gets a chance to life.

We support the development of pediatric cardiac surgery in Romania, so that the more than 1,000 children born each year with congenital heart defects can receive the surgeries and treatment they need right here, in their home country.

Our program includes the surgery center we built at the Marie Curie Hospital in Bucharest, as well as the centers in Timișoara and Iași.

BUCHAREST: **322** children operated
TIMIȘOARA: **54** children operated

346,600 € SPENT IN 2024

Partners: The Romanian Health Ministry, Istituto Policlinico San Donato - Milan, Bambini Cardiopatici nel Mondo, Globalworth Foundation, Benedur Foundation



In 2011 we completed the building and furnishing of a state-of-the-art cardiac surgery unit in Bucharest's Marie Curie Children's Hospital. And we have been supporting it ever since.

With around 300 children operated on yearly, it is the only such unit in Romania that treats exclusively children.

However, still not all children with congenital heart defects can be operated on in Romania due to the limited capacity of the existing facilities.

The expansion of the Cardiac surgery unit of the Marie Curie Children's Hospital is definitely needed.

In 2024, we completed the design phase and began construction works. We also updated the chiller of the high-performance air-treatment system and upgraded the electrical installation.

3,000,000 € estimated project cost

217,120 € SPENT IN 2024

Major Partners: NN Romania, ING Romania

In 2013, when we finished building the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Marie Curie Children's Hospital - with the support of many donors and sponsors - we created the only level-4 NICU in Romania. Since then, it has been caring for the most vulnerable newborns - critically ill and premature babies from all over the country

Eleven years later, the demand for this highest level of care has far exceeded capacity, leaving a heart-wrenchingly long waiting list of infants in need.

We are expanding the Marie Curie NICU with a new building that will increase the number of individual patient rooms from 27 to 47, along with an on-site operating room, a dedicated neonatal MRI, training facilities, and specially designed family spaces. The excellent medical team of the unit will care for at least 500 sick children every year.

Construction works started in autumn 2022 and in 2024, the building was closed in, and work continued on interior finishes, electrical and plumbing systems, climate control, and other critical installations. The unit will be completed in 2025.

1,070,770 € SPENT IN 2024

Partners: Holcim, Hidroelectrica, Jumbo Romania, Nuclearelectrica, Secom Healthcare Group, Vodafone Romania Foundation.



It is the unanimous opinion of experts that, while human milk is the best nutrition for every child, for the very sick and premature babies it is literally vital.

The doctors at the Marie Curie neonatal intensive care unit strongly believe in the unparalleled properties of human milk and so do we.

It is here that we built Romania's only human milk bank and transformed infant feeding practices.

Mother's milk is collected, tested, stored, pasteurized, then tested again to ensure it's sterile, before being given to the babies who need it most.

For the past 7 years, we have been supplying the unit with **sterile disposable polypropylene (BPA- and BPS-free) bottles and latex teats** used to safely administer patient feedings.

In 2024, we also trained the personnel of the neonatal intensive care unit of the Braşov Maternity Hospital, and are assisting them in **opening a regional milk bank in Braşov.**

49,400 bottles

22,900 teats

17,040 € SPENT IN 2024



At least 150 hospital beds are needed in Romania for critically ill newborns - babies who cannot survive without highly specialized care. To move closer to that goal, our association built the Marie Curie neonatal ICU, which we are now expanding, and we rebuilt the NICU in Constanța. But it is far from enough!

In 2024, we started fundraising to build **a new level 4 neonatal intensive care unit in Târgu Mureș** in partnership with the local association, ACV România.

This new unit will serve the entire central region of the country. Târgu Mureș is also home to a well-established cardiac surgery center that treats many newborns with heart defects. For them, access to advanced neonatal intensive care is essential to stabilize them and give them a real chance at reaching and surviving surgery.

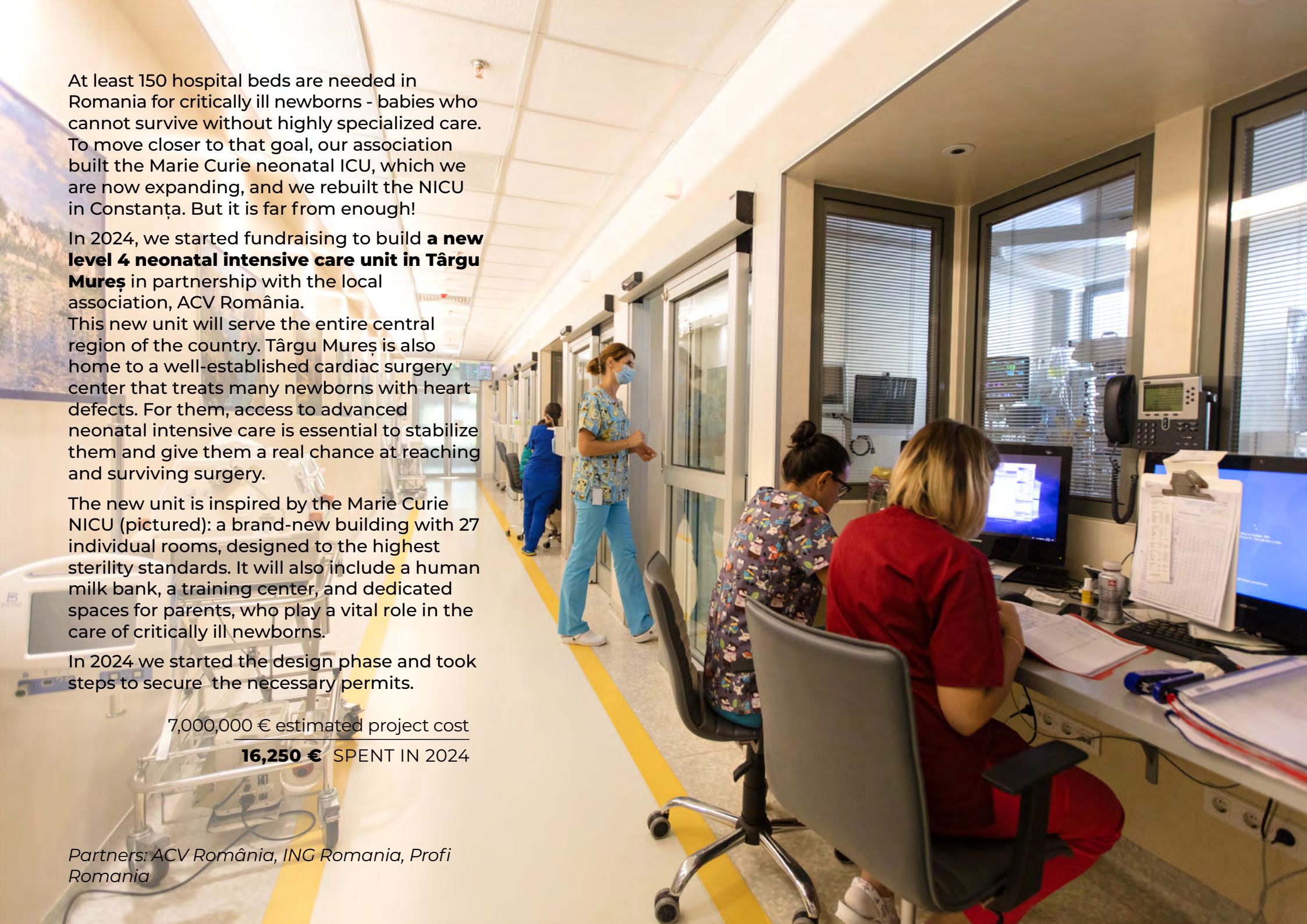
The new unit is inspired by the Marie Curie NICU (pictured): a brand-new building with 27 individual rooms, designed to the highest sterility standards. It will also include a human milk bank, a training center, and dedicated spaces for parents, who play a vital role in the care of critically ill newborns.

In 2024 we started the design phase and took steps to secure the necessary permits.

7,000,000 € estimated project cost

16,250 € SPENT IN 2024

Partners: ACV România, ING Romania, Profi Romania



Marie Curie is the busiest pediatric hospital in the country, caring for more children than any other. Every day, it sees a high volume of surgeries - many being emergencies for whom it's critical that life-saving procedures begin the instant a child arrives. To meet this need, we are **establishing a dedicated emergency operating block at Marie Curie.**

Strategically located steps away from the emergency ward, close to the neonatal ICU and directly facing the elevator that brings patients from the helipad we are building, this new surgical block is designed to minimize the route of the patient within the hospital and shorten the time between the arrival of the patient and the start of life-saving procedures.

The operating block will include two surgical rooms along with all essential support spaces: a doctors' filter area, pre-anesthesia room, recovery room, and an adjacent endoscopy suite.

This new surgical block will serve surgeons from all specialties within the hospital and significantly enhance the level of care offered by this major children's hospital.

1,200,000 € total project cost

120,970 € SPENT IN 2024





Children from all over Romania are admitted and treated at the Marie Curie Hospital in Bucharest - critically ill patients, trauma victims in life-threatening conditions, and newborns for whom every minute can make the difference between life and death.

At least 40% of neonates admitted to intensive care are emergency cases that need to be airlifted.

Currently, helicopters carrying patients on life support land on the outskirts of Bucharest. Patients are transferred to ambulances, reconnected to life support, and driven through the city's heavy traffic to the hospital, only to be transferred once again into another incubator. All repeated medical maneuvers and the time lost are damaging to patients.

The helipad that we are building on top of the Marie Curie Hospital is nearly finished. We completed the electrical, beaconing, and fire extinguishing installations and, as a final step, we furnished the operational area.

Children in need will gain time. Doctors working to save them will gain time. Vital time!

867,000 € total project cost

116,410 € SPENT IN 2024

Partner: MOL Romania



Every year, around 1,000 newborns are born in Romania with heart defects. Most of the time, the birth of a cardiac child comes as a complete shock to the family, leaving them in need of advice, medical care, financial support.

We help and guide all patients and families in need.

- we assist families in obtaining the best treatment option for their children. We provide counselling and long-term guidance to hundreds of families;
- we contribute to transportation, lodging, and living expenses for families with children who must go to a large city with a heart surgery center, or even abroad;
- we pay for tests and examinations that are not covered in public hospitals;
- we contribute with medicines that are difficult to find, expensive, or not covered by the public insurance system.

203 patients helped

136,560 € SPENT IN 2024

We are
immensely grateful
for your support!

Key partners who contributed to our most recent projects. For the comprehensive list, please visit our website.

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