

**Capital:** Bucharest  
**Population:** 22.3 million (July 2003 est.)  
**GDP (current US\$):** \$169.3 billion (2002 est.)  
**Population below national poverty line:** 29% (2002 est. WB report – Sept.2003)  
**GDP per capita (purchasing power parity):** \$7,600 (2002 est.)  
**Religion:** Eastern Orthodox 87%, Protestant 6.8%, Catholic 5.6%, Other (mostly Muslim) 0.4% (2002)  
**Language:** Romanian, Hungarian, German  
**President:** Ion Iliescu  
**Prime Minister:** Adrian Nastase  
**Ambassador to U.S.:** Sorin Dumitru Ducaru



**National Interest:** Romania has been an enthusiastic member of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, serving as a strong ally during the Kosovo conflict, and committing resources to the U.S.-led global war against terrorism. A democratically strong and economically prosperous Romania is critical to peace and stability in Southeast Europe. Romania can also provide a positive model for democratic conduct, constructive inter-ethnic relations, and regional cooperation.

#### OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN ROMANIA

FY 04: Total AEEB - \$27.835 million, USAID Total - \$22.793 million

**Expanding the Private Sector (FY04 \$10.17 million, 44%):** The Private Sector program works with financial and capital markets, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), agribusiness, energy, and the environment. USAID activities improve policies, laws, and regulations supporting market expansion; strengthen private business associations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and government institutions to make small businesses more competitive and increase their exports; and encourage the state to transfer its assets to private ownership more quickly.

**Strengthening Local Democratic Governance (FY04 \$7 million, 31%):** This program provides technical assistance and training focused on three main areas: strengthening local government management and citizen participation, increasing local political party organizations' responsiveness to grassroots initiatives, and strengthening the efficiency of lower level courts.

**Child Welfare & Women's Health (FY04 \$5.635 million, 25%):** USAID assistance through partnerships with NGOs is helping to reduce substantially the unacceptably high levels of child institutionalization in Romania, decrease the number of state-run institutions, and increase the number of counties and municipalities responsible for caring for children. USAID is increasing access to quality integrated health services by integrating reproductive health services into the primary health care system; promoting modern contraception and HIV/AIDS prevention through social marketing and public information campaigns; and coordinating and maximizing resources through partnership activities and encouraging public-private partnerships.

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