

## Helping families have a harvest of hope

'It all started with the chickens. Life used to be really hard for us, but now we rejoice that we can help others.'

The Bulmagas struggled to feed themselves, but life changed when they began poultry farming, supported by one of Mission Without Borders' (MWB) mini-farms.



'Being a family with three children, we couldn't make ends meet,' says Viorel. He is unemployed and can only find casual work, usually in the local market. His wife, Liliana, is both deaf and dumb. She works from time to time as a seamstress, and looks after her children at home.

Alexandra, Virsavia and Emanuil love going to school. But they often have to miss classes. Although schooling is free in Moldova, pupils can only attend if they have the necessary school supplies and books. So the Bulmaga children frequently stay at home – especially in winter, because they don't have suitable clothing or shoes for walking to school in the mud and snow.

The family always hoped to grow enough food for themselves. They wanted to sell their produce for an income. That way they could save up to make sure the children got to school. But any farming they could do was limited. They have a garden and grow some vegetables. Yet it's not enough. The family had a poor diet. Viorel knew that if he could just have a few chickens that would be the start of becoming self-reliant.



And that's just what Viorel and his family received through MWB's mini-farm. 'With your support, we managed to build the chicken shed. Before, it was impossible for us to build by ourselves, but your support has made it possible.'

Now life is very different for the Bulmagas. Viorel asserts, 'the chickens are helping us become more self-sufficient. We now have fresh eggs in the home and also meat.'

What's more, while the whole family has a better diet, they also have extra eggs to sell. Viorel knows God has blessed his family to being able to look after themselves. He is keen to support others in the same way that he's been helped. 'We want to be able to help others from what we have.'

The Bulmaga family is just one of thousands across Eastern Europe supported by Mission Without Borders and helped to move on to the next level of sustainability. Most are trapped in poverty and struggle to grow enough food.

So MWB's Harvest of Hope is the perfect solution: tailored to meet each family's individual needs, families may receive a box of seeds to plant their own vegetable patch. Or they may receive a whole mini-farm of all the resources they need to grow plants or tend livestock, such as tools, a greenhouse or a chicken shed.

### Help more families farm a harvest of hope:

It costs just £15 to supply a family with a box of seeds

£40 could buy a brood of ten chickens

£55 could train a family member in bee-keeping

A major donation of £1,750–£3,000 could pay for a whole mini-farm.

- Please give to our Harvest appeal by sending a cheque to: *Mission Without Borders, Freepost RRCC-LEJL-ELCH, 175 Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 2A.*
- Donate directly by phoning: 020 7940 1370 or donate online at [www.mwbuk.org](http://www.mwbuk.org)



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