

ECOLOGICAL DISASTER HITS HUNGARY

Hungary was hit by one of the worst environmental catastrophes in its history early October 2010, when an industrial reservoir collapsed, releasing toxic red sludge that covered numerous neighboring villages. Ten people including an infant were killed and thousands lost their homes. Hundreds of children, women and men suffering from the effects of the toxic substance were taken to hospital.

This is a major disaster for nature and for all the residents who may never be able to return to their homes, because the environmental damage is so severe. The now homeless victims are temporarily being sheltered in sport halls, at friends' homes and in government houses. They are deeply shocked by the loss of all their property and by the enormity of the situation.

Club Budapest hopes to raise funds to help these victims through our network of Soroptimists. The aim is to support the buildings efforts of one of the new villages being created to accommodate the victims who will have to start a new life. The focus will be on a project to help women and girls through a community revitalisation project by contributing to the rebuilding of a local grammar school. Budapest Club members are currently investigating the optimal use of the funds and where the aid can offer the greatest support.

We kindly ask Soroptimists - and any of your friends - to help us through your donations! Bank account details are:

Account holder:

Soroptimist Club Budapest

Bank address: OTP Bank, 1051 Budapest,
Nádor u. 16. Hungary

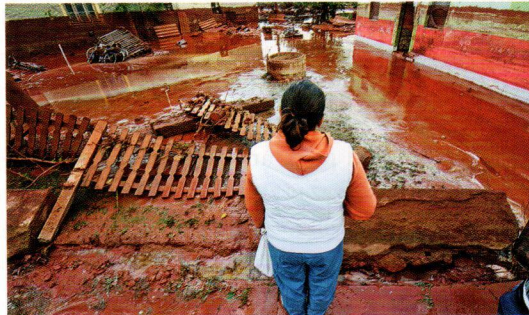
IBAN: HU15117050082049802300000000

BIC (SWIFT): OTPVHUHB

Please note that bank transfers up to an amount of €100 within the EU are free of charge.

Every contribution to our Red Sludge Victims Project will be truly appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact Katalin Juhos at katalinjuhos@yahoo.com.

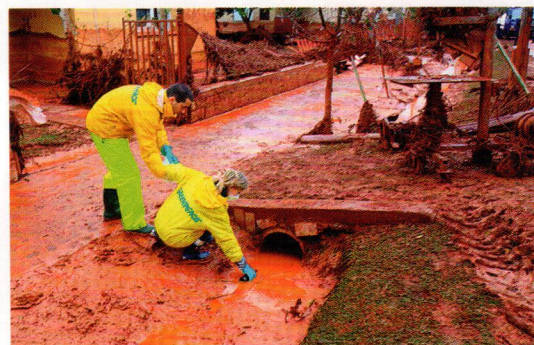
Erzsébet Varsányi, President, Club Budapest



The level of the devastation was enormous after the toxic industrial sludge flooded villages.



Ten people were killed and thousands lost everything in the disaster. Schoolchildren wear masks against dust from dried toxic mud in Devecser. (Photos: Reuters)



Greenpeace workers take samples to determine the toxicity of the sludge.