

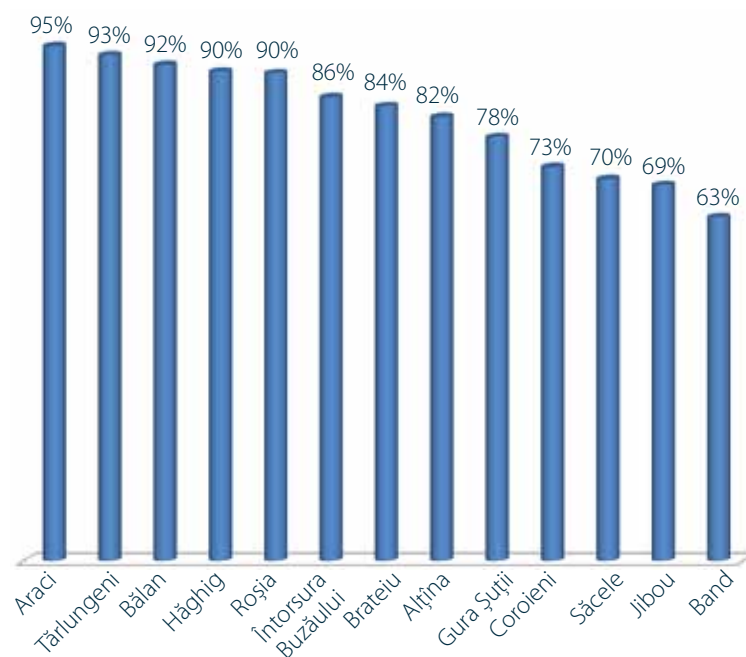
## APPENDIX C: TARGET GROUP & LOCATIONS

### Communities selected for 2010-2011 school year:

**Braşov:** Săcele, Târlungeni; **Covasna:** Araci, Hăghig, Întorsura Buzăului; **Mureş:** Band; **Constanţa:** Castelu; **Maramureş:** Coroieni; **Sălaj:** Jibou; **Sibiu:** Roşia, Alţina, Brateiu; **Harghita:** Bălan; **Bacău:** Bacău, Buhuşi; **Dâmboviţa:** Gura Şuţii, Potlogi, Vizureşti; **Bucharest** Sector 5.

Most of the families that qualified have been in poverty for many generations. On average, the children's parents finished 4-5 grades although in some communities almost all parents are illiterate (i.e. in Band, only 5% of parents had finished 1st or 2nd grade). In only two communities, Rosia and Sacele, the majority of parents had finished 8 grades. The families have an average of 4-5 children and it is not uncommon for 10-12 people to cohabit in a two-room dwelling. Most houses are in appalling condition: improvised roofs, broken or non-existent windows, heated by wood or open electric grills and no running water, cook stoves, refrigeration or sanitation facilities. Children must walk on unpaved, often muddy pathways (in two cases a distance of 1-2 km) to *grădiniţă*.

Children in FCG with daily attendance per community, in May 2011



## APPENDIX D: LEGAL AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Romania's new National Education Law, ratified on February 9, 2011, addresses early education as follows:

- Article 23** incorporates pre-preschool education (age 0-3) in the education law for the first time;
- Article 28(2)** assigns public authorities with responsibility for the step-by-step increase in the availability of preschool in their communities;
- Article 23(b)** introduces a mandatory preparatory year ("Clasa Pregatitoare") for 6 year olds;
- Article 58** recognizes the importance of recreational, after-school, free time, and remedial activities, and
- Article 12(1)** mentions that the State supports preschool children with special needs.

**Fiecare Copil în Grădiniţă** supports the philosophy and goals of the new law by its:

- "Şotron Zero" module which provides educational programs for 2-3 year olds and their moms;
- Active recruitment of impoverished children for preschool;
- Piloting of 'clasa pregatitoare' in our program sites in 2011 in partnership with the School Inspectorates;
- Summer 'school preparation' programs, and
- Monthly food coupons for children's perfect attendance in *grădiniţă*.

A new provision of the Education Law is that starting January 2012, schools will benefit from per student financing. This will give local communities more independence in hiring social workers, a medical nurse, or a school mediator from their own budgets.

The European Union has asserted that it considers preschool education a top priority in order to reduce the number of school dropouts and people living in poverty and social exclusion. On February 17th, 2011, the European Commission launched an action plan for universal access to quality preschool education.