

# Who is missing from local development?

ROMA



**In Moldova Roma represent one of the most excluded ethnic minority and vulnerable group of population**

**There are no Roma in any position of mayors in the Republic of Moldova. The number of Roma as elected local councilors does not correspond to the number of Romani voters in the Republic of Moldova. The percentage of Roma in electoral bureaus of the communities in which Romani voters represent a majority is about 3.4%.**

Roma in rural slum settlements frequently attend extremely substandard schools. Where Roma are numerically underrepresented in schools, they frequently report bullying by non-Romani peers, often unchecked by school authorities. As a result, circa 25% of Roma cannot read or write. The level of enrolment of Romani children in primary schools is below 70%, and in secondary schools below 50%. Unemployment rate among Roma is 50% higher than the overall population. Almost 61% of Roma live on less than 2 USD per day.

The Romani women's lives and opportunities tend to be highly constrained, not simply by their lack of formal education and training but by the boundaries imposed by conventional gender roles and their practical responsibilities for the rearing of children. Romani women rarely benefit from reproductive health and other services available at the community level.

Limited access of Romani women and men to employment, education, health care, and other services as well deficit of voice and power violates their human rights and prevents benefiting from local development.

**Empowerment of Romani women and men helps rectifying their exclusion so that they can participate fully in determining both their own future and that of the wider community!**