

# Who is missing from local development?

In Moldova Roma people, the number of which according to various official studies vary between 12,000 and 20,000, represent one of the most vulnerable groups of population. Roma face discrimination and multiple barriers to social inclusion, employment, education, health care and other services. There is a high degree of intolerance and hostility towards Roma held by the majority population.

## Poverty

The unemployment rate among Roma is 50% higher than in the overall population. Every second Roma lives in extreme poverty and six out of ten Roma live in absolute poverty. Almost 61% of Roma live on less than 2 USD a day (the international poverty line).

# Roma

## Roma Women

Roma women encounter the triple discrimination - as Roma, as women and as persons belonging to a low socioeconomic class.

Roma women experience greater risks of social exclusion and poverty than men of their community and women from the ethnic majority. The lack of equality is seen in violence against women, access employment, education, decision making positions and social services.

Roma women rarely benefit from reproductive health services that are available at the community level. Due to gender stereotyping it is more likely that a Roma girl will leave school early than in the case of a Roma boy.



*The parents of an ethnic Moldovan school girl who shared the same desk with a Roma boy lodged a complaint with the teacher requesting their daughter be seated with Moldovan children.*

*Huzun, Straseni district, Moldova*

## Education

The level of enrolment of Roma children in primary schools is below 70% and in secondary schools below 50%. Every fifth Roma cannot write or even read; three out of ten Roma people have at most primary education and another three out of ten have only secondary education (including incomplete or vocational education). Higher education is rare for Roma, making up only 4% of the total Roma population, compared to 38% of non-Roma. Only 27.2% of teachers would accept a Romani person as colleagues and 26.3% as pupils/students.



## Access to basic services

Over 80% of Roma households are not connected to running water and have neither a bathroom nor a toilet.

The majority of Roma communities are located at the outskirts of their locality or even outside it, creating additional difficulties for them in accessing basic community services.

*The administration of an educational institution recommended that a Roma girl does not indicate her Roma ethnic background in personal documents under the threat of being deprived of her student's allowance.*

*Ungheni town, Moldova*

## Politics

Roma face considerable barriers to political inclusion. During the election campaigns this community is marginalized from the political processes and its interests are not adequately addressed by the existing political parties.

Roma representation in local public administration authorities remains insignificant, thus limiting their participation in the local decision making.



## Health

Limited coverage and limited services provided through the medical insurance system restrict access of Roma to quality healthcare. Only 23% members of Roma households have a medical insurance policy, less than half the rate of the general population.

**Roma people shall become equal partners to bring value in the community life and development!**



The Joint Integrated Local Development Programme (JILDP) of the Government of Moldova, implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), with a financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) works to make the decentralization ACCOUNTABLE, NON-DISCRIMINATIVE, TRANSPARENT and local development PARTICIPATORY and RESPONSIVE to the needs of the most vulnerable.