

Who is missing from local development?

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In Moldova persons with physical disabilities are accepted by 66% of respondents of the recent survey as work colleagues and by 63% as friend. Persons with mental disabilities, by contrast, are accepted by only 35% of respondents as work colleagues and by 31% as friends.

Women and men with mental and physical disabilities are often shunned from communities based on the deeply-rooted prejudices about their ability to participate in society. They are excluded from participation in decision making and lack access to basic community services.

Girls and boys with disabilities are as a rule placed in separate schooling facilities or are excluded from schooling entirely, as a result of intolerance. Adults with disabilities are almost entirely excluded from the workforce. Persons with disabilities face durable threats of complete loss of legal capacity, as well as institutionalization. They often do not receive the health services responding to their actual needs.

The impoverishment of women with disabilities renders them vulnerable to violence at home in cases where they are economically dependent on a male partner or family member. Women having children or caring about family members with disabilities have limited opportunities for employment which leads to poverty.

Empowerment of women and men with disabilities is a crucial element in promoting change among communities and inclusive development responsive to concerns of the entire community!



The Joint Integrated Local Development Programme of the Government of Moldova, 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 Government of Sweden works to ensure that the vulnerable women and men benefit equally from decentralization and local development.

Source: Perceptions of the Population of the Republic of Moldova on Discrimination: Sociological Study, Soros Foundation-Moldova, 2011
Photo: Dorin Goian.
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