

Who is missing from local development?



ETHNIC MINORITIES

In Moldova ethnic minorities comprise circa 25% of the population

In rural areas they often face social exclusion and discrimination in preserving their ethnic identity and cultural heritage.

Ethnic minorities have limited access to education in their own languages. Thus, only 0,06% of Ukrainian children have Ukrainian as their language of instruction, a situation similar to the Bulgarian children of whom only 0.02% have Bulgarian as their language of instruction.

Men and women representing ethnic minorities are able to participate in decision-making, including through political representation in local government, only in the communities where they represent the majority. In general, the levels of

political representation and participation of men and women representing ethnic minorities in development planning is insignificant. They face problems articulating their specific needs which are accorded low priority in local development agendas.

Women and girls from minority groups experience discrimination based on their minority status and their gender. They are particularly vulnerable to violations of their rights in both public and private life: they have even less opportunities for political participation and income-generating opportunities than men of their communities.

Empowerment of women and men from ethnic minority groups contributes to improvement of diversity, combating discrimination and making local development inclusive and responsive to concerns of the entire community!