

ANNEX I

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ABSTRACT

Title	Inequalities in Urban and Rural Moldova
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In the last decade or so the Republic of Moldova has made important positive progress in terms of human development, yet the country continues to face a number of very complex challenges that require a collaborative effort and action by all stakeholders involved. Some of these challenges are intensifying in their complexity, such as migration (both internal and outmigration) and the connected brain drain. Depopulation and the demographic context are worsening as well. Several groups within the population are either excluded or at high risk of social exclusion, including women, ethnic minorities, youth not in employment or any formal training, people with disabilities and the elderly. While income inequalities are relatively low, our analysis demonstrates the risks of new non-income inequalities emerging, such as inequalities in accessing food and energy. Moldova's progress is at risk particularly in the urban settlements throughout the country, and especially in the context of the high urbanization and growth of the capital city. Increasing pollution and continuous degradation of the environment also add a negative impact to the generally challenging situation.

Through this series of Inequality Papers, UNDP Moldova and its partners are tapping into new evidence, including big data on mobility and thick data on people's perceptions. We analyse income and some non-income inequalities through the prism of access to qualitative services, including health care, primary education, green spaces, transportation and urban mobility. This analytical work is ongoing, and will result in a series of position and policy papers that will provide in-depth detail on multifaceted non-income inequalities. Our ambition is to unpack complex development challenges in the areas of urban mobility, consumption behaviour, the future of skills and jobs and the future of education.