

## DevInfo in Action

### Moldova: Using DevInfo to Tackle Rural Deprivation

*Editor's Note: This is the second installment in a three part series on DevInfo implementation in Moldova.*

In recent years, poverty in Moldova has declined in urban areas while it has increased in rural regions. This troubling trend was highlighted in the Second Millennium Development Goals Report for the Republic of Moldova (2010), which attributed much of the cause to climate-related factors negatively affecting agricultural yields over multiple years.<sup>1</sup>



Source: UNICEF Moldova

As a key step towards tackling the issue of rural deprivation, the Republic of Moldova's Ministry of Economy developed a special composite index to analyze the level of rural community deprivation in Moldova: the Small Area Deprivation Index, or SADI.

The SADI combines data from seven indicator categories - income deprivation, economic deprivation, demographic deprivation, health care deprivation, education deprivation, housing and utility deprivation, and geographic deprivation – and assigns varying weights to each one.

| Small Area Deprivation Index (SADI) |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Category                            | % weight |
| Income deprivation                  | 20       |
| Economic deprivation                | 20       |
| Demographic deprivation             | 10       |
| Health deprivation                  | 15       |
| Education deprivation               | 15       |
| Housing deprivation                 | 10       |
| Geographic deprivation              | 10       |

Source: Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova

The data used to calculate the SADI are sourced from central and local administrative records, as well as from other official statistical repositories. The Ministry of Economy computes the SADI for 843 local communities scattered across the country and then ranks them in order from lowest (1 = most deprived area) to highest (843 = least deprived area). The SADI data are then entered into the [DevInfo Moldova](#) database system, the national database for monitoring country progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other national development targets.

Once entered into DevInfo Moldova, the SADI data are widely used by UNICEF, other UN agencies and the Government to analyze the socio-economic situation at the local level and plan appropriate interventions. For example, SADI data were used as the basis to select 10 rural communities for

<sup>1</sup>Second Millennium Development Goals Report - Republic of Moldova, Government of the Republic of Moldova, 2010, pp. 18-19, [http://www.undp.md/presscentre/2010/MDG%20Report%20II/MDG2\\_RM.pdf](http://www.undp.md/presscentre/2010/MDG%20Report%20II/MDG2_RM.pdf).

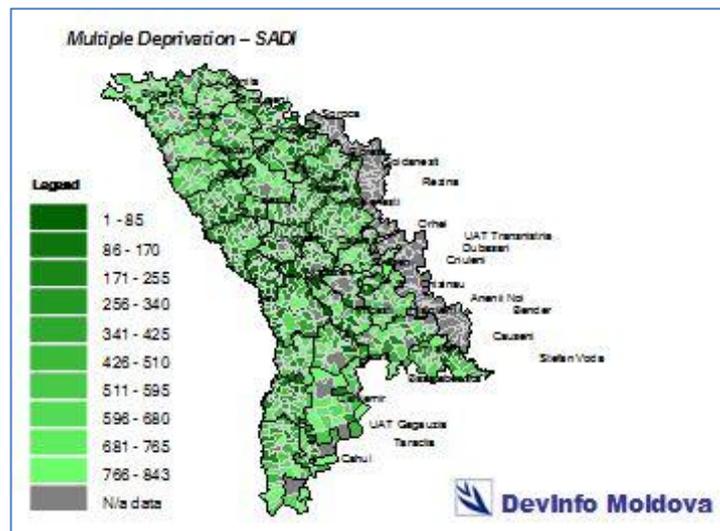
monitoring the impact of the global economic crisis on human development. Similarly, SADI data were also used as the basis to select 110 rural communities for capacity building in strategic planning and budgeting, to help spur local socio-economic development.

Additionally, UNICEF Moldova selected one of the rural districts with the lowest SADI values – Leova – as the focus of its UNICEF Equity project, conducted in partnership with two local NGOs. The project seeks to develop a cross-sectoral mechanism for adequately addressing the plight of the country's most vulnerable children.

One of the extra benefits of putting the SADI data into DevInfo Moldova is the ability not only to identify which districts and communities face the greatest need, but also to identify pockets of deprivation within relatively prosperous districts. According to Elena Laur, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF Moldova,

“Although some districts may have a lower level of deprivation as compared to other regions, these districts often contain communities which have a relatively high degree of deprivation.”

With DevInfo Moldova in place, country stakeholders can rest assured that current interventions are indeed targeting those rural communities in greatest need.



SADI data for Moldova. Source: DevInfo Moldova -www.devinfo.md

### *Data making a difference.*

For more information, please contact Elena Laur, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, UNICEF Moldova, at [elaur@unicef.org](mailto:elaur@unicef.org) or Rodica Nicoara, Deputy Head of Division of Policy Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova, at [r\\_nicoara@mec.gov.md](mailto:r_nicoara@mec.gov.md).