Purpose of the Social Note

The purpose of this Note is to inform World Bank operations and policy dialogue in Moldova on key social, political, institutional and cultural trends that are of relevance to development interventions in the country. It is primarily targeted as an input to macro-level documents and strategies\(^1\) to reflect in an informed way concerns of social inclusion, cohesion and accountability that influence and are influenced by development programs and reforms, as well as to include proactive approaches to enhancing inclusion, citizens’ voice and accountability in suggested development programs. In addition, the Social Note discusses further development opportunities that may benefit vulnerable groups and Moldova’s economy such as enhancing climate change resilience of the urban and rural poor, and exploring the potential in preservation and maintenance of cultural heritage.

While the Bank and the donor community contribute to empowering the Government of Moldova to build a more competitive economy, efficient and transparent public policy, the impact of development programs would be strengthened by reinforcing the government’s capacity to keep effective channels of communication with its citizens, identify groups that may be less able to partake in the benefits of economic growth, and ensure that its programs and reforms provide equitable level of opportunity to all regardless of income, ethnicity, language, or geographic location. Since social inclusion and cohesion, rule of law and state accountability are all key parts of EU cooperation with Moldova, awareness of these aspects of the country context would also help align development programs with the country’s direction of integration in the European community and help to improve donor coordination efforts.

To achieve this objective, the note covers the following areas:

**Key Social Development Issues:**

- Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups;
- Social Implications of Migration and Remittance-Driven Growth;
- Fragility and Cohesion;
- Voice, Participation and the Demand for Good Governance;
- Land Acquisition Legislation;

**New Focus Areas:**

- The Social Dimensions of Climate Change (SDCC);
- Cultural Heritage and Eco-Tourism.

\(^1\) Country Partnership Strategies, Public Expenditure Reviews, DPLs, as well as Bank inputs to sectoral strategies in Moldova.
The Country Social Note takes, wherever possible, a bottom-up perspective, highlighting ways in which processes at the community and household level are relevant to growth and development. As this note is a result of a rapid desk study research further analytical work may be commissioned to elaborate on the social impacts and risks regarding specific sector programs and reforms. With the understanding that social and political dynamics in Moldova are constantly evolving, the Social Note should remain a “living document” and other interactive formats are being explored by the Social Development team.

Social and Political Context

The Republic of Moldova declared its independence on August 27, 1991. Moldova’s unique location at crossroads between East and West has contributed to frequent changes in its history during which its borders were redrawn multiple times – from an independent principality under Stefan cel Mare in the 15-16 centuries, subsequent annexations by the Ottoman Empire and Russia between the 16 - 20 centuries and unified borders with Romania (1918-1940), through being a Soviet Socialist Republic (1940-1991). Together, Moldova’s location and history account for the remarkable ethnic and cultural diversity of its citizens. Building an independent state and democratization in Moldova have been relatively peaceful with the exception of a brief war in 1990-1991 between Moldova and the separatist region of Transnistria at the eastern border of the country - the latter backed by Russian military. The status of Transnistria remains unresolved.

In 2009 the population of Moldova was estimated at approximately 3.6 million\(^2\) decreasing from 4.3 million in 1989 due to lower fertility and emigration. At the same time, the percentage of citizens holding dual nationality has increased incrementally after Moldovan law of 2002 allowed for the holding of dual nationality\(^3\). An estimated 2.4 million Moldovans are eligible for Romanian citizenship, of which over 300,000 have received it and between 800,000-1.5 million are in the application process.\(^4\) By April 2010 over 15,000 Moldovans had received Bulgarian citizenship with many more eligible to apply based on ancestry.\(^5\) The percentage of rural population in Moldova has grown from 53 to 58 percent between 1990 and 2007 (World Bank 2009) as a result of both migration from larger cities and the return of some citizens from urban to rural areas.

The tables below detail the ethnic and language profile of the country according to the last census in 2004. The 2004 census revealed that about 15 percent of households are of mixed nationality; yet a much larger number of households may have a mixed ethnic background. The biggest group among

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\(^2\) ECA Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011, accessed on Nov 9, 2010  


\(^4\) Gasca 2010 cited in Pogonyi 2010 p.8

the category 'Other' is Roma (0.4% of the entire population), of whom 86% reported 'Other' (presumably Roma) as their mother tongue.

Figure 1: Ethnic profile of Moldova, 1989 and 2004 (% of total population)

On August 31, 1989 the Moldovan language, written in the Latin script which shares the same literary standard as Romanian, was pronounced as official language of the Republic. Prior to that, Russian was the official language of the Moldavian SSR, while Moldovan, written in the Cyrillic script, was also taught in schools and used widely outside the formal domain. Russian is still the predominant language of all national minorities in Moldova (about a quarter of the population), who attend Russian-language schools with some taking additional school hours in their mother tongue (Bulgarian, Gagauz, Ukrainian).

Figure 2: Language profile of Moldova, 2004 (% of total population)

In the past decade, along with fluctuations of economic growth, Moldova has also experienced pronounced social and political changes. One of the most prominent political changes came about in
2009 when the Alliance for European Integration (AEI)\textsuperscript{6} retook power from the Communist Party that had ruled the country between 2001 and 2009 and sped up economic reforms and negotiations with the EU (talks on a EU-Moldova Association Agreement began in January 2010). In April 2009 Moldovans took to the streets in protest following the Communists’ re-election, which united the four democratic parties. In Moldova’s system, parliament elects the president with 61 votes of 101. After three failed attempts, the Communists were unable to elect a president despite having 60 seats, forcing the dissolution of parliament and snap elections. In the July 2009 elections AEI came to power with more than 50 votes, still not enough to elect a president. Parliamentary elections on November 28, 2010 are proving the growing popularity of EU-oriented parties. Yet election results so far give no promise for resolving the stalemate on electing a President, which may prolong further the period of political instability.

The risk of further social unrest is fairly low given that the aftermath of elections and appointment of a new government have passed in a peaceful manner. Growing issues of mistrust between major political parties have contributed to the feeling of uncertainty shortly before and after the November 2010 elections. To the extent to which political leaders reflect polarized opinions within Moldovan society - on foreign and domestic policy issues – the risk of social tensions in the medium and long term would remain. Political affiliations within society are most generally split between a younger, mostly urban, EU-oriented electorate, and a more conservative mostly rural electorate; with nuances based on ethnicity/language where minority groups, even if young and well-educated, may be skeptical about distancing relations with Russia.

On the social side, one of the most notable trends relates to the large scale of emigration. Along with all its positive impacts on household welfare, opportunities for higher education and economic growth, migration has also had notable social consequences. It has affected relationships within communities and between citizens and local governments, as well as young people’s attitudes towards a future in Moldova versus a future out of the country. This is especially true in rural areas where other opportunities are lacking. The official number of migrants was 318,000 in 2008\textsuperscript{7}; there are arguably many more unregistered Moldovan citizens working abroad, mostly in Russia and Western Europe. The negative impact of migration is most strongly felt in the development of children and youth ‘left behind’, with one or both parents working abroad, and on the social fabric, investments, and civic participation at the local level.

The incentives for migrants to rejoin their communities or invest more actively in their local areas are under-researched. In addition to chances for employment, these incentives are likely to include the ability to trust and rely on responsive public and financial institutions and rule of law. Changes in livelihoods systems such as the rising importance of subsistence agriculture, and role of remittances as primary driver of development have also been pervasive in rural areas and small towns. One of the most evident sources of inequality, and one that affects opportunities of future generation, is allegedly that between families with members working abroad and those without (UN 2008; Cruc et. al. 2009).

\textsuperscript{6} A Coalition of the Liberal, Democratic, Liberal Democratic and Our Moldova Parties

\textsuperscript{7} World Bank 2009, based on national Bureau of Statistics
Similar to other transition economies, Moldova is characterized by a significant informal sector and ‘shadow economy.’ As with undocumented migration, this level of informality makes it harder to estimate through official sources the exact impact of migration and informal employment on income security (unless through targeted household-based research) especially in the aftermath of an economic crisis. It is also difficult to estimate the channels of opportunity and the obstacles faced by migrants and informal workers in securing and retaining employment.

Issues of social cohesion and stability in Moldova’s diverse society are equally relevant in the development arena, especially in view of the second priority in the Government’s National Development Strategy: Settlement of the Transnistrian Conflict and Reintegration of the Country. The ability of the government to effectively address issues of inter-ethnic communication and differing views of future direction of the country within its EU integration agenda and reforms will be key to stability and cohesion.

Inclusion and Vulnerable Groups

Unlike other emerging economies Moldova does not come from a history of entrenched inequalities based on caste, gender, ethnic or clan belonging. Inter-ethnic tolerance in its highly diverse society has been remarkably high and has also been reflected in legal and policy commitments. At the same time, emerging economic inequalities make it increasingly difficult for certain groups to partake in development processes, participate in society, and take advantage of services and opportunities. These inequalities often have a regional or age dimension where rural families, families with children and pensioners tend to comprise a high proportion of poor households. Socio-economic differences between household with migrant workers and those without are also evident, especially in rural areas. More subtle factors influencing ethnic and gender differences in political and economic participation, access to basic services, and employment are still areas requiring further examination. The term ‘social exclusion’ is relatively new in Moldovan research; the National Human Development Report 2010 (UNDP), focused specifically on issues of exclusion, will provide the first comprehensive overview on this topic in the country.

The Government’s National Development Strategy (NDS) 2008-2011 includes “Human capital development, employment and inclusion” constitutes one of the five pillars of . The NDS discusses social inclusion predominantly in the social protection domain specifically with regard to people with disability, even though families with children, the elderly, and certain minority groups e.g. Roma are also at high likelihood of living in poverty or having lower access to basic services.

Recent development strategies in Moldova highlight the fact that there may be diverging opinions among policy stakeholders on what constitutes ‘excluded groups’ in the context of each sector and what ‘policies of inclusion’ should be adopted in response. In the area of education, inclusion is either discussed with a narrow focus on special needs education (draft Education Code) or in a broader sense requesting special attention for all of the following: children from poor families, rural population, children with special educational needs (SEN), institutionalized children, street children, families with many children, single-parent families, children infected with HIV/AIDS (National Strategy and Action Plan ‘Education for All’). Within social protection, a more
comprehensive vision on social inclusion has been incorporated in the draft Strategy on the Development of an Integrated System of Social Services 2008-2011. The World Bank Country Partnership Strategy FY09-FY12 also makes space for integrating broader inclusion concerns in education, health insurance, labor markets and youth employability, social assistance and the pension system.

This section discusses social inclusion and vulnerability in the context of Moldova in two broad areas: (i) National minorities, diversity and non-discrimination; and (ii) Socio-economic vulnerability, inequality and livelihoods.

National Minorities, Diversity and Non-Discrimination

Inter-ethnic respect, tolerance and non-discrimination practices, and policies to encourage preservation of minority cultures and languages, have progressed in Moldova since the country’s independence. Prior to 1989, public education in Moldova was either in the Russian or Moldovan languages. As of 1992 the Ministry of Education began to develop more educational plans in other native languages (Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Gagauz) and in selected Russian-speaking schools students can choose intensive study (3-4 hours/week) of their mother tongue along with an hour of history and traditions of their native culture.

The successful integration of ethnic/language minorities in the country’s higher education system and labor market merits further research. Russian remains the most popular language used by national minorities. Their ability to become proficient in the state language (Moldovan) is key for successful integration including university study, job market, and access to necessary public services and information. Study of the national language in all educational institutions is mandated by the Constitution, yet the quality of learning of Moldovan language is arguably far lower in schools attended by national minorities. Some NGOs and special programs provide additional services to bridge this gap e.g. National Association of European Trainers from Moldova offers language program for the study of Romanian for public servants in minority populated areas of Moldova and issues certificates for language capacity in Romanian.

Cultural integration is particularly challenging for Roma population, who are also most likely to be rejected on a cultural basis by the majority population. Illiteracy rates are especially high among Roma groups with one in five being unable to read or write, and about a third of Roma completing primary education only. The level of Roma enrollment in primary school is below 70 percent and in secondary schools – below 50 percent. Employment and activity levels among the Roma population are much lower than for non-Roma. Reportedly 70 percent of unemployed Roma are not looking for a job. This results in long-term unemployment with negative effects not only on household incomes but also on skill development, future professional orientation of youth within Roma communities. Roma are practically non-present in the education, health, science, police and

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9 UNDP 2010.
security spheres. The low employment and activity levels may also reflect larger proportion of Roma in the informal labor market. UNDP (2007) study reports that labor migration among Roma tends to be seasonal and in closer CIS countries (Russia, Ukraine) where the cost of travel is also lower but so are expected wages.

Quality of housing tends to be lower in Roma communities with an estimated one third of Roma households living in an insecure dwelling. Another notable gap, widening social distance between Roma and non-Roma households is Roma's lower access to traditional information and communication means such as radio and television. Gender discrimination is allegedly more evident in Roma communities where more traditional cultural rules apply, and are perpetuated by earlier marriage age.10

The National Bureau for Inter-Ethnic Relations is the main institution advocating for rights of national minorities at the governmental level. Ensuring that this Bureau, other relevant state and NGO actors, and minority groups themselves, are represented in policy consultations and policy-making institutions is an essential step to account for the country's high diversity in its policy-making. Inclusiveness of state institutions and policies towards cultural and language minorities is also highly relevant in view of future integration with Transnistria where the majority of population is Russian speaking and the study of Moldovan language has been severely restricted in the past twenty years.

Socio-Economic Vulnerability, Inequality and Livelihoods

Inequality in income, wealth, and (socio-economic ties) represent some of the biggest sources of exclusion in the context of Moldova. Despite the fact that 40 percent of the population was able to move out of poverty between 1999 and 2004, poverty rates in Moldova are still quite high – 29% compared to a 20% ECA average (World Bank 2006). Rural residents and agricultural workers, youth and the elderly are among the most economically vulnerable groups.

Poverty and inequality in Moldova are to a large extent rooted in the transition processes of the early and mid-1990s. Land privatization, though equitable and executed in a more or less transparent manner, resulted in excessively re-parcelled agricultural land. Collective farm assets were privatized in a non-transparent manner and many were liquidated at very low prices, rather than restructuring collective farms as more viable enterprises. These trends, combined with loss of export markets, reduced drastically the economic options of farmers. According to 2007 HBS around 70 percent of the poor live in rural areas (World Bank 2008).

Poverty rates in small towns tend to grow in par with or more than that of rural areas, and were in 2005 higher than poverty rates in both rural areas and large cities (World Bank 2006). The National HDR 2006 states that small town residents face the highest risk of poverty (UNDP 2006). In addition, small towns have tended to receive least amount of remittances compared to rural areas.

10 UNDP 2007.
and bigger cities. The connection of small town households to land and agriculture work and/or subsistence agriculture (even when their primary income is not in agriculture) also deserves further research given the high unemployment in small towns and their relatively low connection to remittances.

Children, youth and pensioners are also at a higher risk of economic exclusion. Children constitute 30.4 percent of the extremely poor population. The ratio of elderly citizens (65 and older) living in poverty was also high - 37.2 in 2008 (UNDP 2010). Youth (15-34) make up one third of the population and are 3.5 times more likely than adults to be unemployed. The youth joblessness in Moldova (30 percent) was reported as one of the highest in ECA (World Bank 2008).

An equally concerning trend to poverty rates is that a much larger percent of the population may be living on the margin of falling into poverty. About 43 percent of respondents in Moldova's 2010 public opinion survey reported that their family income is only enough to buy the essentials, 34% said it was not enough even for essential expenses. This situation is especially precarious in the context of employment insecurity, continuing effects of the global economic crisis on remittances, and migrant labor and domestic cuts in spending. Asked to assess the income status of their family ('poor' or 'non-poor') about 80 percent of respondents assessed it as 'poor'. The National HDR 2006 reported income vulnerability to be as great a problem as poverty rates. During the NHDR 2006 survey, 33 percent of interviewed citizens considered their incomes to be unstable and just over 16 percent reported their incomes to be very unstable. Incomes in agriculture were particularly volatile. (UNDP 2006)

Poverty and unemployment contribute to social exclusion through multiple channels - reduced access to basic goods and services, to decent housing and safe living environment, and less interaction between individuals and groups. Thus, effective pro-poor policies in Moldova would also be ones that look at increasing access to various basic services for excluded groups, as well as at increasing citizens’ interaction and information about available opportunities. Research and policy recommendations that emphasize overcoming poverty as well as preventing vulnerable middle class families, particularly those with children, from falling into poverty would be a valuable contribution to the development of current social sector strategies.

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11 World Bank Poverty Assessment 2004: 45% of remittances were received in large cities; 41% in rural areas and 13% in small towns; World Bank Poverty Update 2006: 56% of private transfers were made to rural areas, 21% to small towns (World Bank 2006) (this could also point to improvement in financial services to receive transfers in rural areas between 2003-2005, yet the difference is still big between rural and small town).


13 The Barometer of Public Opinion in Moldova was launched in 1998, conducted yearly by the Institute for Public Policy and financed by the Soros foundation. The April-May 2010 survey involved a sample of 1,115 people representing adult population in 75 communities across the country (margin of error ± 3%).

Social Implications of Migration and Remittance-Driven Growth

Labor migration has brought numerous opportunities for Moldovan households – better housing, better connectivity to internet, more financial means for basic consumption on food, services and education. It is also considered as one of the most evident options for escaping poverty by the poor (Cruc et. Al. 2009). At the same time, massive levels of migration bring significant changes to the social structure, attitudes and local development dynamics, and may in some cases perpetuate issues of exclusion where presence of a migrant in the household is one of the most evident sources of economic inequality within a community.

While the benefits of migration are unquestionable, Moldova’s 2006 National HDR recognizes that the scale of labor migration also poses questions regarding the ‘quality’ of growth in the country. The report notes that the number of migrants is rising with no sign of reversal, as domestic unemployment in Moldova continues to be high and as the growing diaspora makes emigration for new migrants simpler. “The intensity of this process points to a collective lack of confidence in the future of the country and proves that for many citizens economic growth has brought nothing. Cultivating confidence in the future of the Republic of Moldova, by using an efficient, socially-responsible and human-oriented economic policy, is the monumental political task of the current and future governments...” As most migrants tend to be young adults migration rates also affect negatively birth rates and contribute to the ageing of the society. In addition, it contributes to further depression of rural areas as many of the migrants and their children come from rural areas. (UNDP 2006)

Safety of migration and the situation of Moldovan workers abroad is a further concern. As a large number of labor migrants are undocumented, As such they face a variety of risks including becoming victims of trafficking and modern-day slavery, and a wider insecurity regarding basic services such as healthcare. IOM has also reported cases of homelessness of Moldovan migrants in the EU. Safety risks in migration have a strong gender dimension, where women and children are found to be at higher risk, although men can also be affected.

Along with broader questions of social sustainability in a remittance-supported economy, there are also immediate concerns induced by migration to be taken into account in development programs. On the one hand, is the concern for the precarious position for children and youth of migrant parents. On the other hand, are the implications for communities and local development i.e. the effects on social cohesion and social capital, interest and participation of migrants in local government decisions and in making investments in their places of origin e.g. for business development, maintenance of private or public facilities and infrastructure, as well as migrants’ use of and demand for accountability channels at the local level.

Implications for youth

The situation of children ‘left behind’ as a result of migration has important implications both for their ability to access necessary services in the present, as well as for their integration in Moldovan society and economy in the future. In September 2005, 35,000 children of school age were living
without both parents and over 75,000 children had at least one parent working abroad.\textsuperscript{14} In 2007, 20 percent of Moldovan children lived without one or both parents due to migration.\textsuperscript{15}

A comprehensive study by UNICEF (2006) showed that children of migrants are less vulnerable financially, and HBS 2007 data confirms that children from migrant households are less likely to be living in poverty.\textsuperscript{16} Children of migrants also tended to be more confident and optimistic about their future education and career prospects compared to their peers. Even if they did not have clarity on what that future would involve, most often they saw it to be in a foreign country with their parents rather than in Moldova.\textsuperscript{17}

At the same time, migrants’ children were reported to have more problems with communication and to be less active in school and community life. They were more vulnerable to school absences and drop-out, drug abuse, and premature sexual relationships. Because of the higher material standard of living, children of migrants were considered more as a privileged than vulnerable group by community and school institutions.

The higher sense of security expressed by children of migrants is mirrored by decreasing confidence in domestic educational institutions and labor market among all youth – those with parents abroad and those with parents in Moldova. Higher education is strongly related to financial means, with children of wealthier families expecting an almost guaranteed entrance to university. Some reported that they would choose their university education only based on costs and affordability with less regard of their own abilities, career interests, or labor market requirements (UNICEF 2006 p.70). This situation often also results in attitudes of indifference towards the education system, given that those who study hard and perform well are not always successful in finding a job and achieving good standard of living after graduation, compared to others who go abroad with their parents. Thus, social mobility has become greatly associated with migration.

In terms of participation in community and extracurricular activities, children of migrants were often more apathetic and had less ideas about activities and opportunities they would like to see available (sports, dance, cultural, etc.). The fact that many migrants’ children were at the care of elderly guardians with more conservative views, was sometimes seen as contributing to their isolation from out-of-school activities. Availability of safe places and community services for youth activity was seen as important to facilitate the social integration of all youth. Such centers were started in the early 2000s with World Bank support and continued by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, yet financing for them has been rather low and uncertain under current government budget.

Raising awareness of educational and work opportunities within Moldova as well as of national, regional and EU programs of interest to youth can have a positive impact on changing attitudes towards opportunity in Moldova. The World Bank Youth Voices Group has developed a network of

\textsuperscript{14} Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, cited in UNICEF 2006
\textsuperscript{15} World Bank 2009c. Same data based on HBS 2007 points out that a similar percentage of children (18 percent) live without one or both parent due to other reasons (divorce, death, or because the parent who cares for them is single)
\textsuperscript{16} Ibid.
\textsuperscript{17} UNICEF 2006.
active youth in all regions of the country including Transnistria and has a record of experiences performing youth-led public information campaigns on various topics such as anti-corruption, environment, education and eco-tourism. The group prepared an interactive map on formal and non-formal education opportunities in Moldova and shared with youth around the country. At the beginning of their information campaign on formal and non-formal education the YVG recorded that 70-95 percent of the youth involved considered education abroad. At the end of the campaign, 15 percent said that they would seriously reconsider their decision to study abroad and 50 percent reported that they had learned something that could potentially help them in the future.

Implications for local development and Migrant Incentives for Investment at Home

Migration has affected local development in two important and related ways. Firstly, it has had a recognized impact on the social fabric and relationships within communities and between communities and local governments. Secondly, it has led to weaker links between incomes and a dynamic economic life at the local level given that the interest of migrants to invest in community development and infrastructure has been rather low.

Trust and cooperation between migrants and local authorities is withering. Migrants tend to have low confidence in local government, and local governments tend to perceive migrants as ones that would opt to stay out of the country and pull their families along rather than as members of the community. (UN 2008)

The rising economic inequality between migrant and non-migrant households is also raising additional concerns on the social sustainability of remittance-led growth. “The division of community members by economic criteria is becoming increasingly obvious: the families of people who go abroad become richer while those who stay in the community do not.” (UN 2008, p. 5) It has also been reported that households whose main source of income is remittances have the lowest degree of poverty risk (16.7%), while those receiving income from agriculture or social benefits have the highest likelihood of being poor (Cruc et. al. 2009, p.12). This has tangible results on relationship within communities; community members have become, “...less friendly, [...] more prejudiced, more withdrawn, more envious, more insular.” Rural areas traditionally characterized by close relations and openness among neighbours have also been affected by this phenomenon.” (UN 2008) Looking for incentives to improve communication between migrants and local authorities, as well as among members of the same community – migrant and non-migrant - would be beneficial for the success of any local development initiatives.

Remittances have boosted consumption but not much productive investment. Investments from remittances tend to go into basic consumption (food, clothes), repair of houses, or higher education, but contribute to a very small extent to local infrastructure (UNDP 2006; World Bank 2005). The starting of small enterprises with remittance funds has been difficult as banks credit mostly large enterprises (UNDP 2006). Generally, within the ECA region, many migrants in have indicated that they want to start a business when they come home, yet almost all reported lack of trust in formal

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ej73Rd6838

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institutions such as banks in their home countries. Such research suggests that services for investment of remittances can be improved and effort be made for them to target to needs of women who have been shown to make most effective use of remittances (World Bank 2006b, p. 180). Importing knowledge, technology, and the ‘culture’ of small business development, along with appropriate financial services and using proper community channels to raise interest and participation in such opportunities would therefore be essential in order to transform remittances income into wider local development benefits.

An understanding of what would drive migrants and their investments back to Moldova is equally important. While the general understanding is that a more dynamic labor market is needed to offset massive migration, factors such as transparency, rule of law, clear accountability channels and ability to demand one’s rights, trust and confidence in local government, and citizens’ overall respect for their responsibilities might also have a strong weight. Current research indicates that professional and social integration is often hard for returning migrants and many soon choose to go abroad again, or are forced to for lack of other options.

Further research on the effect of migration on regional and local development and ways in which migrants can be engaged would be useful in order to highlight policy gaps and suggestions. Little is known, for example, on the use of assets left behind by migrant adults e.g. whether agricultural land belonging to migrant families would be generally rented out; left to parents or extended relatives; left for commercial or subsistence use; or left abandoned? Or alternatively whether migrants tend to be landless rural residents? Generally, migrants’ families may be less able to take advantage of national development programs as they are likely to be less informed about such programs and opportunities or have less social capital in their communities as was suggested by UNDP’s qualitative research.

Similarly, relevant research can generate more insights on the connection between migration and the availability and maintenance of key community services such as roads, schools, water, or irrigation and ways in which benefits of migration can be leveraged for better local development with positive effects for the entire community.

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19 ECA workshop on remittances, June 2010
Fragility and Social Cohesion

Moldova’s growth has faced little disruption by violence and conflict through the country's political and economic transition. Through the Constitution of the Republic (1994), the Government has committed to safeguard the rights of minorities and non-discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, language, and religion. Nevertheless, the pending and still uncertain resolution of Transnistria's status, and the multi-cultural nature of Moldovan society present some policy questions whose answers would be key to the sustaining a stable and cohesive society.

Policies for the integration of Russian-speaking citizens, including but not limited to residents of Transnistria and the Autonomous Gagauz Territory, are essential for social cohesion. The need for such policies will also become more evident in future given that the current generation of students does not grow up bilingual as previous generations. As noted above, Russian is the main language of education for all minority groups i.e. for approximately a quarter of Moldova's population. Unless conditions for quality learning of the state language (Moldovan) are provided for all, or alternatively, measures are made for the acceptance of Russian as a functional second language in the republic, the gap in opportunity between ethnic Moldovan and minority populations will continue to increase.

The treatment of Russian-speaking minorities within Moldova would also be an important model for future integration of Transnistrian citizens with the rest of Moldovan society. The debate over the status of Transnistria incorporates both ethnic/cultural considerations as well ones of political and economic alignment with Russia versus the EU/Romania. While political and economic concerns are arguably greater than ethnic ones, the potential for mobilizing conflicting sentiments on an ethnic basis remains and was displayed strongly in the early days of the conflict. Securing the rights of ethnic Moldovans within Transnistria (approximately 30 percent of its population) is also concerning though it is currently out of the control of Moldovan government. Schools in the Moldovan language have not been given equal protection by authorities as Russian-language schools and Moldovan is still taught in the Cyrillic script.

In a future scenario of reintegration of Transnistria within the Republic of Moldova reforming and democratization of Transnistrian institutions will have to be widely consulted with the citizens of Transnistria to ensure that any new regime will have the necessary legitimacy within the region.

Overall, the issue of Moldova’s foreign policy and economic alignment with Russia versus the EU/Romania dominated the political dialogue in the first decade of the country's independence. Early 1990s political intentions of unification with Romania, based on cultural kinship, and the announcement of Moldovan as the official state language were polarizing to the society and contributed to the movements for Transnistria's and Gagauzia’s independence. The direction towards EU integration taken by the last AEI government has been less controversial, and has created a better momentum for reuniting rather than dividing groups of various ethnicities and political views. A border treaty with Romania signed in November 2010, further assuaged concerns on the part of international partners on future unification with Romania.
Voice, Participation, and the Demand for Good Governance

Political participation of Moldovan citizens is steadily increasing. Parliamentary elections on November 28, 2010 saw a high (over 60 percent) voter turnout. The level of organization of civil society groups is also rising (with over 7000 registered CSOs, a quarter of them active) although the interaction between CSOs and government is still weak or encouraged by international donors. The areas of civil society activity at the national level are limited to issues such as anti-corruption, elections, or European integration (ADEPT 2010). Participation in community-level organizations is also low though this aspect of local development has not received much attention in development research. A regional livelihoods study in 2006 showed that the poor and very poor livelihood groups rely exclusively on their households and relatives for support and information and are not part of any associations, while those ‘in transition’ (i.e. likely to move in and out of poverty in the coming years) have relationships both in and outside of the community that provide access to information on markets, jobs, migration, finance and credit opportunities i.e. allow for their more active participation in the economy as well as civic life.

Low confidence in government and public institutions - not uncommon for Eastern Europe and CIS societies - is partly the reason for the low In a 2010 public opinion survey, 35.8 percent of respondents said that they have no trust in the Parliament, and 34.2 percent reported that they do not trust the Government. Trust in local government on the other hand was relatively high (42.2 percent reporting that they have some trust in LG). The church, followed by media, were the two most trusted institutions. High corruption levels contribute to lack of trust. (IPP 2010) Moldova rates 105 out of 178 countries in TI corruption perception index 2010 – better than almost all former Soviet republics, yet lower than its non-FSU neighbors in Eastern Europe.

In the legal and policy domain, the Government has embarked on a number of initiatives to improve transparency in governance, both in terms of access to public data and in terms of providing channels for participation in policy-making. The Law on transparency in the decision-making process (November 2008) and subsequent Regulation on the transparency of the decision-making process (February 2010) are the main legal documents setting the basis for open data and more transparent governance processes. According to the latter Regulation each institution is responsible for developing internal rules on information access, appointing and training a coordinator responsible for public consultations on their policies, managing a list of CSOs and individuals who have expressed desire to be involved in decision-making in public policy processes. Explanations have to be given if such participation is rejected. (GoM, 2010b) Channels for civil society participation at the level of national policy-making have been made through the National Participation Council, composed of representatives of 30 NGOs.

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20 The Ukraine-Moldova Civil Society Task Force was established in September 2010 to facilitate exchange of expertise between Ukrainian and Moldovan NGOs in the process of EU integration, specifically in economic transition, democratic governance and nation building reforms.
Budget allocations are still centrally controlled. Concerns for unequal policies of resource and grant allocation at the national and regional level, and for non-transparent budget transfers between central government and raions have been expressed (GoM 2010a). The document *Rethink Moldova* (GoM 2010a) notes that the current system provides space for “political maneuvering, awarding those raions...more loyal to the central Government and penalizing those in opposition.” A decentralization reform program was launched with UN and Sida support to review and clarify responsibilities and competencies for central and local agencies, as well as their shared functions, and redesign the current local government revenue system.

The World Bank E-transformation project aims to address many of the constraints to a transparent budgeting process at the national government level (ensuring better flow of data and transparency at the level of the central government). An important next step would be to address the demand side for transparency in government i.e. enabling individual citizens, communities and/or civil society organizations to participate, give feedback, monitor, and/or voice grievances on budget decision-making and execution. Citizen Report Cards survey (2010) points to an impressive level of internet connectivity in both rural and urban areas that could make such citizen involvement possible.

The World Bank is also contributing to improving civil society and community participation through its Civil Society Fund grants program and the Moldova Social Investment Fund implementing community-based work. The YVG public anti-corruption campaign on city trolley-buses in Chisinau was one of the most creative efforts in promoting the fight against corruption among citizens.

At the local and community level, the ability of citizens to access public services such as social benefits, employment services, credit or insurance programs has been obstructed on the one hand by fragmented and bureaucratic administrative procedures, and on the other – by insufficient capacity of local level government workers (social assistance workers, municipality officials). Information and access to services is further by citizens and community groups is further impeded in rural areas due to physical distances and transportation costs related to contacting public agencies, lower levels of available information and of citizen education levels, as well by emigration of young adults, leaving a large percentage of elderly and minor citizens in rural areas.

It is not uncommon for rural residents to spend a substantial time in order to travel to the nearest town, wait in line, and still be unable to obtain the needed information or complete the administrative task they set out to do. Women have been especially affected as they are often the ones interacting with public agencies, and the ones who have to be absent from their workplace or leave children home alone for long periods of time. A UNIFEM/Sida piloted in Singherei (soon to be extended to three more raions) created a one-stop social service center to facilitate access to information and public services. Coordinating public administration services to simplify the
sharing of information and service delivery, as well as coordinating donor efforts in building local-level capacity of public officials would be a first necessary step to ensure better coverage and in social programs. Appropriate channels for citizen redress and/or monitoring of government programs and services will also have a positive impact on raising awareness and participation.

**Land Acquisition Legislation**

This section highlights relevant Moldovan legislation regarding the acquisition of land for public interest, and compares details stipulated in Moldovan Law with requirements of OP 4.12. Acquisition of private land for public use is guided by Law #488-XIV21 “On Expropriation for the Purpose of Public Use,” amended by Law #482-XV22. Acquisition of public land or transfer of land from one public entity to another, or from public to private ownership is guided by Regulation #688, last amended in 200123. Compatibility between Moldovan laws on expropriation or transfer of property and OP 4.12 is examined in more detail in Annex I.

Moldovan legislation specifies a list of conditions under which land can be expropriated for public use. A multi-sectoral governmental commission, with representation of state entities according to the details of each case, determines whether the conditions for expropriation are appropriate. Compensation is generally provided for land or real estate, although other losses to the owners and right-holders can also be compensated. For example, arable lands can be expropriated only after harvesting season unless the value of crops is included in the compensation. After receiving formal notice of expropriation with proposed compensation (sent to legal owners), owners and other ‘right-holders’ are responsible for submitting their counter-offer in a 45-day period. Compensation is negotiated between the owner and a state/citizen committee; if no agreement can be reached in this negotiation, it is decided in Court. In the expropriation of land or housing, the law requires that an alternative land or housing is proposed to the owner, and that the owner should be compensated for the difference in value. In the case of transfer of public land from one entity to another no payment is necessary. In the case of transferring land from a commune (local government level) for regional or national government use, Regulation #688 does not specify obligations for compensating persons with any claims other than legal ownership.

World Bank experience with resettlement action plans in Moldova is very limited as no operations have required actual resettlement, though a few have triggered OP 4.12 with regard to land

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21 Dated June 08, 1999 and published in Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova #42-44/311 dated April 20, 2000
22 Dated 04.12.2003
acquisition. Currently the Millennium Challenge Corporation – Moldova is preparing a Resettlement Action Plan with regard to Saraceni-Soroca road rehabilitation project, using World Bank OP 4.12 guidelines. The assessment and action plan resulting from this project could provide a more concrete precedent of applying OP 4.12 regulations in the context of Moldovan legislation.24

Social Dimensions of Climate Change

As the National Human Development Report 2010 *Climate Change in Moldova* points out, adaptive capacity of a nation depends strongly on its financial resources. While in rich countries “coping with climate change to date has largely been a matter of adjusting thermostats, dealing with longer, hotter summers, and observing seasonal shifts” (Watkins 2007) “in developing countries adaptation to climate change implies saving lives.” (UNDP 2006, p.32) In the context of Moldova it also implies protecting people’s housing, livelihoods and overall means of survival during disasters and severe weather events.

Moldova’s vulnerability to floods and drought has already been demonstrated in recent years. The floods on the Prut river of June 2010 led to the displacement of more than 3000 displaced persons, damage and risk of damage to over 1,700 houses, an extensive impact on local infrastructure, and on rural livelihoods through the flooding of 10,000 ha of agricultural land.25 Severe weather events have been recurring in Moldova (drought of 2007, flood of 2008), pointing to the need for higher resilience both at the national level (technology and capacity-building), and at the local level supporting the coping strategies of farmers and rural communities.

Disasters and increased climate variability are likely to produce a variety of social impacts e.g. intensified rural-urban migration, water and food insecurity, and additional health challenges. (Post 2010) Considering the already high levels of emigration, especially from rural areas, migration and connection to remittances or family abroad is likely to be a coping strategy for a large part of the population.

The adaptive capacity of communities and households is tightly related to their livelihoods and assets (physical, natural, human, social, economic and financial; see Moser and Satterthwaite 2008). Thus, in addition to children, the elderly, and people with disability, vulnerable groups would include those with less connection to remittances or social capital abroad, as well as those whose livelihoods are directly vulnerable to disasters or severe weather e.g. farmers and agriculture workers including subsistence farmers, small or home-based businesses.

Participatory vulnerability assessments can be used to reveal the impact of severe weather on livelihoods of the poor, and opportunities to support their coping strategies at the local level. Local-level adaptation options may include community-based channels for awareness-raising and early warning systems, community or household options for accessing insurance and/or social

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24 Based on MCC-Moldova Call for proposals for Resettlement Action Plan of November 2010.

protection funds. While the effects of disasters and severe weather conditions are most strongly felt in rural areas due to their impact on agriculture, impacts in urban areas specifically to strong rains and heat stress should be discussed as well, in particularly with regard to drainage systems, housing, and health.

**Cultural Heritage and Eco-tourism**

Moldova’s history and rich ethnographic traditions – a result of its diverse population - account for an authentic and largely unknown internationally cultural heritage, including medieval churches and monasteries spread throughout the country, national arts and crafts such as ceramics, woodcarving, textiles and carpets, and traditional embroidery, folklore, and winemaking customs. While official tourism flow, and especially international tourism in Moldova, is low, the spread of informal forms of tourism indicates a potential for developing such services in the longer-term.

As holder of the world’s largest wine cellars Moldova also boasts with impressive wine collections, and varied local and European wine sorts. All major commercial wineries provide organized tours, and most offer tourist packages to attract groups of visitors for longer stay, combined with nature or other sightseeing opportunities. In addition, private or household winemaking traditions are well preserved and still widespread in many rural households. These family customs have also provided an informal source of income and tourism for those able to get information on potential visitors, where guests are invited to participate in harvesting and/or wine-making, or simply to share a meal and taste the wine in the host’s home.

The valleys and lakes along Prut and Nistru rivers, and forested areas in the central region of Moldova e.g. Codru woods capture the natural variety and opportunities for fishing and bird watching, and has also attracted some informal, mostly domestic, tourism including through local volunteers. Safety and reasonably low instances of crime and violence are also positive factors in the case of Moldova.

Developing a vibrant tourism sector in Moldova - historical, ethnographic, focused around wine-making culture, or eco-tourism - would be a long-term endeavor for the Government and private entrepreneurs in the country. Some of the immediate challenges for this sector lie in the development of competitive airfares to and from Moldova to increase the convenience and affordability of travel to the country; the development and upgrading of domestic transport options and hospitality infrastructure; and skills for delivering quality tourist services. Improving the general environment for private sector development such as good financial and insurance services would also play a key role.

With these challenges in mind, developing a strategic and realistic vision of local or national authorities would be important in finding the right niche for potential cultural and tourist services in Moldova, and handling most pressing needs in the process. This strategic dialogue should also involve small and medium-scale entrepreneurs and communities, some of whom are already engaged in informal tourist services. The World Bank’s experience in cultural heritage preservation
and tourism market and strategy assessment in regions of Russia and Belarus shows a scope of opportunity for supporting local strategies and facilitating regional learning in this sector.

Conclusions

This note has attempted to summarize the main issues presenting equity and social sustainability concerns in the development context of Moldova. Implications for World Bank projects and policy dialogue can be roughly summarized in three groups: (i) key risks and social development concerns; (ii) enhancing inclusion and social sustainability in Bank's program; (iii) new focus areas for engagement. Recognizing that the World Bank is one among a large group of donors in the country, close coordination with other agencies on topics on inclusion and equity, fragility and cohesion, accountability and community engagement would be essential.

Key Risks and Social Development Concerns

Managing the negative social implications of migration and remittance-driven growth is one of the foremost social development challenges in the Moldova context. While migration brings unquestionable benefits to the country's growth and household consumption, it also has a disruptive effect on family and community cohesion, creating risks for children and youth 'left behind' and raising the burden on elderly relatives in such households. Migration is accompanied by a wide set of insecurities – personal safety (including safety from trafficking), issues arising around lack of legal residence and accessing basic services in the host country, insecurity of income and employment. The scale of migration is also changing the outlook of many Moldovan youth for future opportunities inside Moldova in favor of pursuing a future abroad. In the long run, increasing scale of migration and tendency of migrants to spend longer periods abroad or change their legal residency to their place of employment would further increase social distance between migrants and their communities of origin.

At the same time, the engagement of migrants in local development and investments other than immediate household consumption has been minimal. In order to facilitate meaningful participation of migrants and investments for the wider benefit of their local communities, more primary research and evidence would be necessary on the incentives and capacity of migrants to reconnect socially and economically with their home communities, to make use of productive assets left at home (e.g. land), and to participate in local policy and decision-making.

Managing inequality and exclusion in Moldova is tightly linked to identifying the various channels of exclusion from social, economic and political life. While it known that rural residents and families with children have a higher likelihood to be living in poverty, groups such as Roma, long-term unemployed, households living on the brink of poverty and with unsecure income, and small town residents (whose livelihoods are also tightly linked to agriculture, commercial or subsistence), or people with disability are also often at risk of having low or substandard access to basic services, proper housing and nutrition, and enough information and ability to seek better opportunities. In small town and rural areas rising inequality has also been observed between migrant and non-migrant households, due to the inability of some to benefit directly from migration.
Moldova’s National Human Development Report 2010 (UNDP) focusing on social exclusion proposes a set of indicators relevant for monitoring exclusion in various sector programs. World Bank’s active engagement in such initiatives and cooperation with donors in mainstreaming broader inclusion concerns in programs and policy advice would be a step towards better defining and monitoring issues of exclusion in the country.

Managing risk of political and social instability is likely to remain a relevant concern for World Bank engagement in the foreseeable future. This risk is driven partly by current events of Presidential election deadlock, but also by ongoing issues of mistrust among major political leaders, polarized views on foreign and domestic policy, and the unresolved status of the Transnistrian region. High ethnic diversity and the sizeable proportion of a Russian-speaking minority in the country would require open dialogue and effective strategies on the part of policy-makers for successfully integrating all minority groups in the Moldova’s EU-oriented reform agenda.

Enhancing Inclusion and Social Sustainability in Bank’s Program

Inclusion mechanisms in development projects and country policies can have a significant impact in enhancing opportunities and citizens’ capacity to overcome poverty. Within projects and programs, such mechanisms may include affordability studies, assessments of citizens’ perceptions on policy outcomes, accessible channels for redress and clear administrative rules for handling citizen feedback, targeted information campaigns and/or investments towards groups that have fewer opportunities to participate in social and economic life (e.g. low-income households, rural households and rural minority groups in particular, Roma population, children living without one or both parents, institutionalized children, elderly citizens, people with disability). Within country policies and strategies, a clear and inclusive definition of marginalized groups which takes into account specific impacts of the policy or sector is necessary in order to address

Bringing service delivery closer to citizens through effective decentralization, greater transparency and accountability at all levels has been recognized as a necessary step by both Government and donors. At the same time, effective decentralization is a long-term process that would require clearer and more efficient processes of resource allocation at the central level as well. The World Bank is well-placed to support public accountability initiatives due to its active promotion of transparency and open data at the central government level through its Governance and E-transformation project. Fostering citizen’s own capacity to engage with government would be an important part of this equation - enhancing the demand as well as supply of better governance method.

Within other Bank-led programs this could also be done by placing adequate attention to citizen monitoring and redress channels to further citizens’ and communities’ capacity to be more actively engaged in public and private programs. Cooperation with other donors on more citizen-responsive models for service delivery (e.g. integrated social service centers) can also enhance the convenience
of access and information to social or financial services, particularly beneficial to residents of remote rural areas.

Community-based approaches and participatory assessment of local needs can also help strengthen cohesion and participation among disadvantaged groups at the local level. The successful example of the Moldova Social Investment Fund indicates that there is a good potential for channeling funds at the community level. Extending opportunities for small-scale financing of community-led projects in various sectors has multiple benefits such as building donors’ knowledge of local needs and challenges, developing institutional structures to assess needs and manage funds at the local level, and an opportunity to address more directly needs of vulnerable groups.

New Focus Areas for Engagement

Moldova’s vulnerability to extreme weather events has become more and more palpable in recent years with intense drought and floods affecting the country. The impact of climate-change related anomalies will continue to be felt by both rural and urban communities. Yet it will have harshest consequences for those whose lives and livelihoods are most exposed to adverse climate, rural and small town population with strong reliance on agriculture, communities residing along big river basins, and those with less resources and social capital allowing them to protect or restore their assets in the case of severe weather events.

Measures for increasing the resilience and adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities can encompass a range of activities – improving the channels of communication and mobilization of help and resources within and between communities, or between them and public or civil society institutions in times of disaster; preventative action to support local resilience through small infrastructure or early warning systems, among others.

The potential of the country to capitalize on its rich ethnographic and historical cultural heritage, wine-making traditions, and small-scale or ‘village’ tourism can also be explored strategically with government and private sector counterparts or at the local community level. With the understanding that Moldova needs to address some larger-scale challenges related to tourism and hospitality industry (including liberalizing air traffic to the country) the government can look both towards enhancing its strategic vision for cultural heritage and tourism, as well as towards supporting smaller locally-based initiatives of an existing, though largely informal, tourist demand.
References:


## ANNEX I: LAND ACQUISITION LEGISLATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions on Acquisition Rules and Procedures Based on OP 4.12</th>
<th>Acquisition of Private Land in Moldova (Laws # 488, #482)</th>
<th>Acquisition/Transfer of Public Land in Moldova (Regulation #688)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do any laws or regulations require that involuntary resettlement be avoided or minimized at all account possible?</td>
<td>No specific mention of avoiding or minimizing resettlement. The acquisition should be for public interest and use under conditions set in Art. 5.</td>
<td>Such conditions are not specified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Who is eligible for compensation or assistance:  
a. Persons with formal right or title to the land (compensated and assisted in moving?)  
b. Persons without formal title but with claims to the land recognizable by national law (compensated and assisted in moving?)  
c. Persons without title or recognizable claim to the land (assisted in moving?) | Owners or other ‘right-holders’ over the object of expropriation are eligible (Art. 9 (3)). They are compensated for the value of the property and other losses as negotiated or determined by court (Art. 15 (2)). | No payment is necessary for the transfer of land from one state entity to another.  
Documents for legal ownership of the land are necessary to complete the transfer. |
| Is a process/census conducted to determine all eligible persons for compensation and assistance and a cut-off date set for eligible persons to be registered? | Property owners are notified in writing of the expropriation - including of proposed compensation to them and other right-holders. (Art. 9)  
Owners and right-holders need to submit their counter-offer within 45 days. (Art. 10) | No such process is specified. |
| Does compensation package for lost land include the following:  
a. Compensation for land and assets  
b. Compensation for livelihoods  
c. Compensation for disturbance  
d. Land-for-land compensation  
e. Resettlement (moving) costs and start-up expenses | a. Includes compensation for the value of property as negotiated with the owner or decided in court. Compensation for land and housing are specifically mentioned in Art. 4.  
b. Art. 15 (2) stipulates compensation for the value “and other loss afflicted on the owner or ‘right-holder’” to be determined by an expert committee. Art. 16 (2) requires that arable land cannot be expropriated before end of the harvesting season unless the value of the crops is included in the compensation. | Monetary compensation is paid to the legal owner (state entity) in case of private purchase of public land.  
Compensation is not paid to individuals. |
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are land and other assets compensated at full replacement cost at the national market? With values assessed at pre-project or pre-displacement value whichever is higher?</td>
<td>Land is compensated at value no lower than the normative price established on the basis of the stipulated legislation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is compensation payment required prior to displacement (or before government takes possession of land)?</td>
<td>Yes, the owner has full possession rights and obligations until receiving the agreed-upon compensation. (Art. 20)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Is a resettlement action plan required? In terms of project-affected people, what are the procedures and requirements for: a. Identifying  
b. Consulting  
c. Giving prior notice | The Law does not specify requirements for a "resettlement action plan."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| What grievance/appeals mechanisms are available? How accessible/affordable and efficient are they? | Owners and ‘right-holders’ can negotiate any claims with the commission in charge of reviewing claims and compensation proposals. This commission constitutes three experts in the field of public work, requiring the expropriation, and three land/property owners of the same community who have no relation to the affected persons. |

No such mechanisms are specified. Art. 18 states that in the case of disagreement of the terms of transfer the government body in charge of conducting the transfer can proceed with the Transfer Decision without the agreement of either or
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If the above negotiations are not successful, judicial mechanisms are available.</td>
<td>both parties.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a set process and responsible institution assigned for monitoring the resettlement obligations?</td>
<td>N/A since no resettlement obligations are specified.</td>
<td>N/A since no resettlement obligations are specified.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>