

# REAL TIME MONITORING SURVEY / MULTIPLE INDICATOR CLUSTER SURVEY (MICS) PLUS

## SURVEY DESCRIPTION

The National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) has commenced Real Time Monitoring survey of the impact of COVID-19 on the welfare of families and children at the end of 2020; the survey is implemented with technical and financial support from UNICEF, based on the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS6) sample.

The survey approach is based on the collection of information from the same respondents repeatedly on a frequent basis over a year (panel survey).

As part of the survey, data is collected from urban as well as rural households. The sample size for the entire country for the second wave is set at 1,996 households, among them 965 households in urban areas, and 1,031 households in rural areas. Data collection is performed via tablets, by using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing method (CATI).

The second wave field works of the survey were conducted in February-March 2021. Response rate was 87.1 percent, among them 87.6 percent in urban settlements, and 86.6 percent in rural settlements.

## KEY MESSAGES OF THE SECOND WAVE OF THE SURVEY

### 1. Access to the Internet and ownership of ICT equipment

- 15.8% of households has no internet access within the household. The share of such households in rural areas is twice higher compared to urban areas, 22.9% and 10.8%, respectively. At the national level this indicator has declined by 5 percentage points compared to November, 2020;
- Only 58.4% of households own a computer or a tablet. The share of such households is 71.1% in urban areas, and 40.2% in rural areas. 99.6% of households own a mobile phone.

### 2. COVID-19

- Respondents' answers to a question whether they would receive vaccine against COVID-19 if available for free and approved by the Government was as follows: 8.6% – very likely, 20.2% – likely, 29.5% – undecided/DK, 10.4% – unlikely, and 31.4% – very unlikely. Overall, the share of the respondents who are undecided/DK, unlikely or very unlikely to receive vaccine against COVID-19 was 71.2%;
- Most frequent reasons listed by the respondents who are undecided/DK, unlikely or very unlikely to receive vaccine against COVID-19 are: vaccine side effects – 58.1%, vaccine causing death or infertility – 37.5% and vaccine is too new, developed fast and not used enough – 36.5%;

- 38.8% of the respondents said that they need more information about vaccine against COVID-19. Furthermore, those who need more information are the most interested in finding out how safe they are (81.3%), the side effects (56.4%), and how effective they are (55.5%);
- 12.1% of the respondents do not trust vaccines at all (i.e., any vaccine, not just a vaccine against COVID-19), while 19.6% trust all vaccines, 38.1% trust most vaccines, and 27.3% trust just some vaccines.

### 3. Children education

- Only 44.7% of children age 2 to 4 years and only 52.1% of children age 2 to 5 years attended early childhood education (ECD) since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year;
- The share of children age 2-4 years who attended early childhood education (ECD) since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and receiving food support from ECD institution during the kindergarten closure between November 2020 and March 2021 during at least a month is 92.4%;
- Percentage of children age 2-4 years with whom adult household members have engaged in four or more activities<sup>1</sup> was 97.8%. For comparison, this indicator during November-December, 2020 was 92.3%; Similar indicator for the same period for children age 2-5 years was also 97.8%;
- In March, 2021, 78.7% of children age 6-17 years attended only classroom teaching, 11.2% - only distance learning, 8.7% - combined learning, while 1.4% did not attend the learning process at all. This indicator has been calculated among those children age 6-17 who attended general educational or pre-school institutions in-class or remotely since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year;
- Percentage of children age 6-17 years who attended school since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and any learning modality for whom any adult in household received feedback from school, on homework and additional tasks is 76.2%;
- Percentage of children age 6-17 years who attended school since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and any learning modality for whom any adult in household received feedback on academic performance at the end of the first semester of 2020-2021 school year is 90.0%;
- 95.8% percent of the respondents from which households the child age 6-17 years attended school since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and any learning modality think that child's preferred learning modality is classroom, 1.5% think that distance learning is the preferred modality, and 2.7% - combined learning modality.

### 4. Child discipline

- 55.4% of children age 1-14 years experienced psychological aggression as a discipline method during the last one month, and 19.0% experienced physical punishment. Furthermore, 56.2% of 1-14 years old children experienced any violent discipline method.

### 5. The reliance on clean fuels and technologies<sup>2</sup> within the households

- Percentage of household members living in households using clean fuels and technologies for cooking is 89.0%. This indicator is 97.3% in urban areas and 77.3% in rural areas;
- Percentage of household members living in households using clean fuels and technologies for space heating is 63.8%. This indicator is 88.4% in urban areas, and just 29.1% in rural areas.

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1 Read books or looked at picture books; told stories; Sang songs to or with, including lullabies; Took outside the home; played with; Named, counted or drew things for/with.

2 Among them, electricity, liquefied gas, natural gas and respective technologies.