

# 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 third wave is set at 1,996 households, among them 966 households in urban areas, and 1,030 households in rural areas. Data collection is performed via tablets, by using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing method (CATI).

The third wave field works of the survey were conducted in May-June 2021. Response rate was 83.7 percent, among them 84.0 percent in urban settlements, and 83.5 percent in rural settlements.

## KEY MESSAGES OF THE THIRD WAVE OF THE SURVEY

### 1. Household income:

- Within 13.9 percent of households, at least one member has lost a job temporarily or for a long period – over the period from December 2020 to June 2021;
- During the period from December 2020 to June 2021, average monthly income of 37.4% of households decreased. Furthermore, income of over one fourth of these households (27.5%) fell by over 50%;
- Main cause for the reduction of income is COVID-19 and the associated basic circumstances such as decreased demand of a company/business where a member of a household worked or which was owned by a member of a household (50.7%) and closure of a company/business where a household member was employed (16.9%);
- To cope with the reduced income, most often the households cut down on household expenses other than food (80.8%), food expenses (68.7%), spent savings (48.7%) and borrowed money from friends and acquaintances (44.0%);
- To the question on how worried about household's finance in the next month 41.1% of the respondents said that they are extremely worried, 35.0% said that they are moderately worried, 14.8% are somewhat worried, 4.2% are slightly worried, while 4.8% are not at all worried.

### 2. COVID-19

- 27.1% of the respondents were able to always avoid public places during the last 7 days, 34.7% were often able, 17.9% were sometimes able, 10.4% were rarely able, and 9.9% were never able to avoid public places during the last 7 days;

- 22.0% of the respondents were always able to keep distance when in public places during the last 7 days, 42.3% were often able, 23.0% were sometimes able, 7.9% were rarely able, while 4.7% were never able to keep distance when in public places during the last 7 days;
- 80.1% of the respondents wore mask when in public places during the last 7 days, 15.4% often wore, 2.5% sometimes wore, 1.5% rarely wore, while 0.5% never wore mask when in public places during the last 7 days;
- To the question what type of information about COVID-19 is needed, 43.0% of the respondents said that they need information about COVID-19 vaccines, 13.8% - about COVID-19 spread/infection, 13.4% - about the disease of COVID-19, while 42.3% said that do not need any information about COVID-19;
- Percentage of children age 5-17 whose pattern of sleeping time changed compared to period before the lockdown in April 2020 was 19.8%. The share of such children from urban areas is about twice higher than the share of those from rural areas, 24.4% and 12.3%, respectively;
- To the question about how worried that someone in their immediate family might become seriously ill from COVID-19, 45.1% of the respondents said that they are extremely worried, 29.7% said that they are moderately worried, 12.5% are somewhat worried, 5.5% are slightly worried, while 7.0% are not at all worried.

### **3. Early childhood development:**

- Percentage of children age 0-4 years living in households that do not have 3 or more children's books is 21.2%. The share of such children from rural areas is about three times higher than that from urban areas, 35.8% and 11.5%, respectively;
- Percentage of children age 0-4 years living in households that do not have 10 or more children's books is 59.8%. The share of such children from rural areas is higher than that from urban areas, 71.8% and 51.9%, respectively;
- Early child development index<sup>1</sup> for children age 2-4 years is 88.4%.

### **4. Access to healthcare:**

- Percentage of households where at least one member needed any health services yet was unable to receive the health services in the last 2 weeks was 5.1%;
- Percentage of households where at least one member confronted a situation that could not get medication needed because they were not able to pay (due to high price) during the last 2 weeks was 37.9%.

### **5. Children using electronic devices:**

- Percentage of children age 0-4 years who spent more than 1 hour on average per day in front of any kind of screen in the last 7 days is 43.8%.

### **6. Child's functional difficulties in domains of anxiety and depression:**

- Percentage of children age 5-17 years with functional difficulties in domain of anxiety<sup>1</sup> is 5.5%, with functional difficulties in domain of depression<sup>3</sup> is 2.2%, and of those with functional difficulties in domains of anxiety and/or depression is 6.5%;
- Percentage of children age 5-17 years who seem to be very anxious, nervous or worried daily, weekly or monthly and/or seem to be very sad or depressed daily, weekly or monthly and for whom household member(s) ever thought about seeking professional assistance is 26.8%;
- Percentage of children age 5-17 years who seem to be very anxious, nervous or worried daily, weekly or monthly and/or seem to be very sad or depressed daily, weekly or monthly and for whom household member(s) ever thought about seeking professional assistance and sought professional assistance is 48.3%.

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1 Achieved the minimum number of milestones expected for their age group. For the methodology see: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/early-childhood-development-index-2030-ecdi2030/>

2 Includes being very anxious, nervous or worried daily.

3 Includes being very sad or depressed daily.