

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

## 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 fifth wave is set at 1,996 households, among them 963 households in urban areas, and 1,033 households in rural areas. Data collection is performed via tablets, by using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing method (CATI).

The fifth wave field works of the survey were conducted in October 2021. Response rate was 81.3 percent, among them 80.8 percent in urban settlements, and 81.8 percent in rural settlements.

## KEY MESSAGES OF THE FIFTH WAVE OF THE SURVEY

### 1. Access to the Internet

- 15.7% of households has no internet access within the household. The share of such households in rural areas is twice higher compared to urban areas, 23.6% and 10.1%, respectively. At the national level this indicator has not changed compared to March, 2021.

### 2. Household income

- Within 5.8 percent of households, at least one member has lost a job temporarily or for a long period – over the period from July 2021 to October 2021;
- During the period from July 2021 to October 2021, average monthly income of 16.1% of households decreased. Furthermore, income of 13.6% of households fell by over 50%;
- Main cause for the reduction of income is COVID-19 and the associated basic circumstance 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 (44.6%);
- To cope with the reduced income, most often the households cut down on household expenses other than food (77.1%), food expenses (49.7%), borrowed money from friends and acquaintances (42.3%) and spent savings (41.9%);
- To the question on how worried about household's finance in the next month 37.9% of the respondents said that they are extremely worried, 37.9% said that they are moderately worried, 17.3% are somewhat worried, 4.0% are slightly worried, while 2.8% are not at all worried.

### 3. COVID-19

- 25.0% of the respondents were able to always avoid public places during the last 7 days, 33.6% were often able, 15.6% were sometimes able, 14.4% were rarely able, and 11.4% were never able to avoid public places during the last 7 days;
- 18.5% of the respondents were always able to keep distance when in public places during the last 7 days, 44.6% were often able, 20.6% were sometimes able, 12.7% were rarely able, while 3.5% were never able to keep distance when in public places during the last 7 days;
- 86.1% of the respondents wore mask when in public places during the last 7 days, 11.6% often wore, 1.5% sometimes wore, while 0.7% rarely wore mask when in public places during the last 7 days;
- To the question what type of information about COVID-19 is needed, 17.5% of the respondents said that they need information about COVID-19 spread/infection, 13.1% - about COVID-19 vaccines, while 67.9% said that do not need any information about COVID-19;
- To the question about how worried that someone in their immediate family might become seriously ill from COVID-19, 46.6% of the respondents said that they are extremely worried, 36.3% said that they are moderately worried, 9.2% are somewhat worried, 3.3% are slightly worried, while 3.0% are not at all worried;
- Percentage of responders, who received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine and had any side effects amounts to 37.2%. Of those, the most frequently mentioned side effects were: fatigue/tiredness (38.6%), local pain (33.0%), fever (30.2%), and Joint pain (27.9%);
- When asked how likely it is to get vaccinated for COVID-19 (those who have not been vaccinated at all), the following answers were obtained: very likely - 4.1% of respondents, likely - 23.0%, undecided - 33.8%, unlikely - 17.3%, and very unlikely - 21.5%. In total, share of those who are undecided, unlikely or very unlikely to get COVID-19 vaccine amounts to 72.7%. Comparatively, this parameter in August 2021, was equal to 55.4%;
- Of those who are undecided, unlikely, or very unlikely to get vaccinated against COVID-19, the most frequently mentioned reasons are: vaccine side effects - 36.8%; the vaccine is new, was developed fast, and is not tested enough - 35.8%; existing health related problems - 32.1%, the vaccine causes death or infertility - 12.4%, and allergies on some medications - 8.6%;
- 18.6% of responders stated that they need more information about the COVID-19 vaccine (in August 2021, same was stated by 27.1%). Of those who need more information, mostly are interested in vaccine safety (69.7%), efficacy (62.4%), and the side effects (46.2%).

### 4. Children education

- Only 55.5% of children age 2 to 4 years and only 59.1% of children age 2 to 5 years attended early childhood education (ECD) since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year;
- Percentage of children age 2-4 years with whom adult household members have engaged in four or more activities<sup>1</sup> was 89.9% (97.8% in March, 2021). Similar indicator for the same period for children age 2-5 years was 91.9% (97.8% in March, 2021);
- In October, 2021, 74.1% of children age 6-17 years attended only classroom teaching, 13.6% - only distance learning, 11.0% - combined learning, while 1.3% 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 2021-2022 school year;
- Percentage of children age 7-17 years who attended school since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year and any learning modality for whom any adult in household received feedback on academic performance at the end of the second semester of 2020-2021 school year is 89.3%;
- 96.4% percent of the respondents from which households the child age 6-17 years attended school since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year and any learning modality think that child's preferred learning modality is classroom teaching, 1.3% think that distance learning is the preferred modality, and 2.0% - combined learning modality.

### 5. 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 11.3%;
- 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 35.2%.

---

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.