

# 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 sixth wave is set at 1,996 households, among them 962 households in urban areas, and 1,034 households in rural areas. Data collection is performed via tablets, by using a computer-assisted telephone interviewing method (CATI).

The sixth wave field works of the survey were conducted in December 2021. Response rate was 82.0 percent, among them 80.5 percent in urban settlements, and 83.5 percent in rural settlements.

## KEY MESSAGES OF THE SIXTH WAVE OF THE SURVEY

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

- 14.8% of households has no internet access within the household. The share of such households in rural areas is 2.4 times higher compared to urban areas, 22.5% and 9.3%, respectively. At the national level this indicator has decreased by 0.9 percentage points compared to October 2021.
- Only 60.4% of households own a computer or a tablet. The share of such households is 72.7% in urban areas, and 43.3% in rural areas. 99.9% of households own a mobile phone.

### 2. Household income

- Within 1.8 percent of households, at least one member has lost a job temporarily or for a long period in November 2021. 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 to October 2021, within 13.9 percent of households – over the period from January to June 2021 and within 31.8 percent of households – over the period from March to December 2020;
- In November 2021, average monthly income of 8.8% of households decreased. Among them, income of 16.8% of households fell by over 50%. During the period from July to October 2021 average monthly income of 16.1% of households decreased, during the period from January to June 2021 – in 37.4% of households, and during the period from March to December 2020 – in 53.0% of households;

- 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 (41.1%);
- To cope with the reduced income, most often the households cut down on household expenses other than food (75.3%), spent savings (55.2%), cut down on food expenses (42.4%) and borrowed money from friends and acquaintances (34.1%);
- To the question on how worried about household's finance in the next month 41.9% of the respondents said that they are extremely worried, 38.1% said that they are moderately worried, 13.0% are somewhat worried, 4.4% are slightly worried, while 2.5% are not at all worried.

### 3. COVID-19

- 28.4% of the respondents were able to always avoid public places during the last 7 days, 26.1% were often able, 14.6% were sometimes able, 16.4% were rarely able, and 14.5% were never able to avoid public places during the last 7 days;
- 16.1% of the respondents were always able to keep distance when in public places during the last 7 days, 37.2% were often able, 24.6% were sometimes able, 16.0% were rarely able, while 6.1% 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, 11.5% often wore, 1.4% sometimes wore, 0.7% rarely wore, while 0.3% never wore mask when in public places during the last 7 days;
- To the question what type of information about COVID-19 is needed, 10.3% of the respondents said that they need information about COVID-19 spread/infection, while 76.0% 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, 49.6% of the respondents said that they are extremely worried, 32.2% said that they are moderately worried, 10.1% are somewhat worried, 3.5% are slightly worried, while 3.1% 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 36.9%. Of those, the most frequently mentioned side effects were: local pain (37.2%), fever (33.3%), fatigue/tiredness (32.2%), and Joint pain (24.2%);
- 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 - 6.6% of respondents, likely - 25.9%, undecided - 34.5%, unlikely - 14.1%, and very unlikely - 18.5%. In total, share of those who are undecided, unlikely or very unlikely to get COVID-19 vaccine amounts to 67.1%. Comparatively, this parameter in October 2021 was equal to 72.7% and in August 2021 - 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 - 46.4%; the vaccine is new, was developed fast, and is not tested enough - 40.2%; existing health related problems - 27.4%, the vaccine causes death or infertility - 15.4%, Immunity after already contracting COVID-19 - 12.8%, and allergies on some medications - 6.1%;
- 16.6% of responders stated that they need more information about the COVID-19 vaccine (in October 2021 same was stated by 18.6%, while in August 2021 by 27.1%). Of those who need more information, mostly are interested in vaccine safety (75.1%), efficacy (69.8%), and the side effects (44.5%).

#### 4. Children education

- Only 59.7% of children age 2 to 4 years and only 66.2% of children age 2 to 5 years attended early childhood education (ECD) since the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year;
- In December 2021, percentage of children age 2-4 years with whom adult household members have engaged in four or more activities<sup>1</sup> was 94.4% (89.9% in October 2021 and 97.8% in March 2021). Similar indicator for the same period for children age 2-5 years was 89.2% (91.9% in October 2021 and 97.8% in March 2021);
- In December 2021, 71.7% of children age 6-17 years attended only classroom teaching, 21.7% - only distance learning, 5.0% - combined learning, while 1.5% 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;
- 97.3% 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, 0.7% think that distance learning is the preferred modality, and 1.6% - combined learning modality.

#### 5. Access to healthcare

- Percentage of households where at least one member needed health service yet was unable to receive the health service in the last 2 weeks (December 2021) was 10.6% (11.3% in October 2021 and 5.1% in June 2021);
- 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 (December 2021) was 38.1% (35.2% in October 2021 and 37.9% in June 2021).

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

- Percentage of household members living in households mainly using clean fuels and technologies for cooking is 89.4% (89.0% in March 2021). This indicator is 97.8% (97.3% in March 2021) in urban areas and 77.9% (77.3% in March 2021) in rural areas;
- Percentage of household members living in households mainly using clean fuels and technologies for space heating is 66.5% (63.8% in March 2021). This indicator is 91.1% (88.4% in March 2021) in urban areas, and only 33.2% (29.1% in March 2021) 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.