This Monthly Bulletin summarizes data collected from the U-Report polls and highlights key findings and opinions of young people on the following topics:

- COVID-19 and impact on young people's lives – part 3
- Digitalization – access to Internet and devices
- School reopening – perspectives and concerns

Number of U-Reporters:

11.5 million U-Reporters in 69 countries

18,800 U-Reporters as of August 31
COVID-19 AND IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE’S LIVES – PART 3

The series of polls launched by the UNICEF Regional Office aims to explore lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis to build more resilient systems and societies with young people - ‘Build Back Better’.

KEY FINDINGS

What are the biggest obstacles for a young person to become an entrepreneur? Young people...

- Don’t know how to start a business: 21%
- Don’t have entrepreneurship skills: 9%
- Don’t have financial support: 41%
- Don’t have connections: 5%
- Do not want to risk failure: 22%
- Are not interested in being an entrepreneur: 3%

What do you think are the top skills young people will need to cope with similar crisis in the future?

- Entrepreneurial skills: 19%
- Communication: 14%
- Empathy: 4%
- IT/Digital skills: 13%
- Flexibility/adaptability: 32%
- Self-management/discipline: 18%

When you think about your career prospects, what is your biggest concern? I am afraid that...

- I will not find a job: 17%
- I will lose my job: 11%
- I will only find a low-quality job (low pay, little benefits): 26%
- I do not have the skills to find a good job: 8%
- Other: 14%
- I am not concerned: 25%

FOLLOW-UP

The results from 23 countries, including from Moldova will be summarized in a policy paper available to UNICEF, EU and the Moldovan government to improve measures regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Access full results of poll 1, poll 2 and poll 3.
DIGITALIZATION

The series of polls is a part of the European Union and African Union initiative aiming at collecting opinions of African and European youth. The three remaining polls will focus on the topics of climate change, peace and security and jobs.

KEY FINDINGS

1 out of 3
RESPONDENTS faces barriers when accessing the Internet

The biggest barrier is a poor internet connection (44%), inability to afford a device (20%) and high costs of data (20%).

1 out of 2
RESPONDENTS had a negative experience on the Internet

The negative experience was mostly related to fake news (37%), inappropriate material (28%), cyber fraud (15%) or cyberbullying (13%).

Do you have reliable access to electricity?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sometimes</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rarely</td>
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<td>Never</td>
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FOLLOW-UP

The results of the 4 polls collected from relevant countries will be presented at the EU-AU Summit in October 2020 where the future direction of cooperation between the two continents will be defined and endorsed.
SCHOOL REOPENING

With the beginning of the new academic year and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, a short poll was launched in the evening before the first school day. The poll was sent to users aged 25 and below.

ANSWERS

The results display opinions and experience of students mainly dated to the evening before the school start (August 31).

Do you feel prepared for the first school day?

- Yes, very prepared: 30%
- Yes, somewhat prepared: 41%
- Not so prepared: 16%
- Not prepared at all: 13%

Have you received enough information from your school on how they organize the new school year?

- Yes, it seems well organized: 30%
- Yes, but it might be challenging: 35%
- Partly, only some information: 24%
- Not yet: 11%

Are you worried about anything when thinking about the new school year?

- Yes, 68%
- No, 32%

Most respondents are worried about lagging behind with learning material (28%), school closure (29%) and their health because of COVID-19 (18%).

Lastly, students provided answers to the open question „What would make the start of the school year easier for you?”. Most students asked for:

- more clarity and information about the new measurements in schools,
- no online classes but rather sticking to face-to-face education,
- respecting rules and keeping social distancing measures
- not paying too much attention to COVID-19 and getting back to “normal life”.

Access full results HERE