Impact of Covid-19 on children and youth
Widespread barriers to remote learning reinforce pre-pandemic inequalities

- **Pre-pandemic PISA** tests score gap widening between socially advantaged pupils and socially-disadvantaged.

- **75%** of sample children and youth lacked sufficient devices *(poor 80%)*

- **50%** of sample lacked an internet connection *(poor 30%)*

- **50%** did not have adequate knowledge to connect to remote educational platforms *(poor 85%)*

- **25%** were in a school that only partially ensured remote learning *(poor 55%)*
Children from vulnerable family structures experienced worse educational outcomes

**42%** is the poverty rate among households with 3+ children

**27%** divorced or single parents could not organise remote learning (*1% married parents*)
Top priorities regarding COVID-19

1. Personal health
2. Food supply safety
3. Education
Coping and prospects

- Children were most anxious about getting the right information and staying in touch with people.

- Needs for tablets and devices (some were donated, but more are needed).

- Short-term need for alternative educational channels in reaching the most vulnerable children and youth (UNICEF estimate that 5 months of school closure equivalent to loss of 0.6 years of schooling).

*Information based on the UNDP-led socio-economic impact assessment, conducted with UNFPA, in collaboration with the State Chancellery and in close collaboration with the rest of UN System organizations. PwC is the contracted partner to conduct this study.*

*All figures reflect sample population of the survey conducted during August-October 2020 among 390 people.*
Impact of Covid-19 on poor households
Poor households have seen high job losses, aggravating tight budgets

- **18%** job loss among poor in sample *(versus 2.8% in the general population)*

- **67%** of poor households do not have enough income/savings to cover monthly expenses *(urban 83%)*
Poor households are reducing food in response to the pandemic, despite having a poorer diet

Faced with 8.7% food inflation, 65% of poor households relied on cheaper food, despite consuming -20-100% less quality nutrients pre-pandemic

Basic needs suffer in the absence of resources

1 in 5 poor households reduced health and education expenses in order to cope with the pandemic fallout
Top priorities regarding COVID-19

1. Personal health
2. Food supply safety
3. Water supply safety
Coping and prospects

Around **29%** of poor households required community services during the pandemic.

By and large there were positive outlets, but some pockets of unhealthy behaviours and discouragement observed.

Lack of material means shape a mindset of scarcity and disengagement towards society’s problems (climate, education, etc).

**8%** of poor gave up looking for a job, after unsuccessful attempts in the recent past, and **48%** believe unemployment benefits would help.

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Impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable women
Women’s income mix was more affected by the pandemic

1 in 4 job loss among vulnerable women in sample (second only after returning migrants)

69% of vulnerable women lost at least 25% of their income (16% of women lost between 75%-100% of income, including drop in remittances)
Vulnerable women have a hard time juggling multiple demands

- 21% of vulnerable women could not organise remote learning at all *(worst of all groups)*

- 96% of vulnerable women handled household chores during the pandemic *(and 61% cared for children)*

The pandemic has sparked an increase in domestic violence

- 6% of women in sample experienced domestic violence (mainly physical and emotional), all filed complaints
Top priorities regarding COVID-19

1. Personal health
2. Food supply safety
3. Water supply safety
Coping and prospects

- Vulnerable women had the lowest median income per family member among all vulnerable groups (867 MDL)

- 20% of vulnerable women needed community services during the pandemic

- Closure of social shelters made it difficult for women to deal with and receive assistance for cases of domestic violence

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Impact of Covid-19 on NEET youth
NEET youth experienced serious material and social deprivations pre-pandemic

- **25%** of NEET did not have their house connected to the energy supply
- **6** NEET individuals were sleeping in abandoned buildings and **3** in garages
- **37%** of NEET youth did not have sufficient protective equipment during the pandemic period
- **13%** of NEET youth cited receiving remittance income in 2020 (versus **22%** receiving in 2019)
Basic needs suffer in the absence of resources

- **47%** of NEET youth spent their savings to go through the pandemic expenses.

- **18%** of NEET reported that in order to compensate for income loss some days they did not eat at all.
Prospects and recovery needs

Top priorities regarding COVID-19

1. Personal health
2. Food supply safety
3. Safety and dignity
Coping and prospects

- Highest sample levels of unhealthy behaviours observed (37% NEET youth smoked more and 22% drank more alcohol)
- NEET youth in sample distinguished themselves through rather large share of uncompleted studies, and the fact that most were living alone
- 57% of NEET declared not being interested in actively seeking a job

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Impact of Covid-19 on older people
The older persons had the vaguest understanding of prevention measures, but also most difficulties in procuring PPE.

1 in 4 older people did not cite wearing a mask as a prevention measure.

60% of older people had difficulties in procuring face masks and 39% hand disinfectant.
Households led by older people expressed the highest level of food concerns of all vulnerable groups

79% perceived that food prices are rising and 13% perceived both a rise in food prices and food scarcity

67% of older people do not have enough income/savings to cover monthly expenses (urban 89%)

Due to higher morbidities, the older people feel healthcare pressures much more

40% of older people experienced difficulties in obtaining access to Non-Contagious Diseases medical services
Top priorities regarding COVID-19

1. Personal health
2. Food supply safety
3. Water supply safety
Coping and prospects

The older people had lower mobility and lower connectivity to the Internet

Two main issues for the older people were the capacity of the healthcare system and loneliness

The older people experienced higher levels of depression, despite lower quarantine

35% of households led by older people required community services support, during the pandemic

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Impact of Covid-19 on returning migrants
Returning migrants have seen the highest job losses of any group (double the next group)

- **62%** job loss among migrants in sample, out of which 72% planning to return to same country
- **92%** of returning migrants performed work which cannot be done remotely
- **22%** of returning migrants have lost between 3/4 and 4/4 of their income due to the COVID-19 pandemic
Not all returning migrant children are integrated into the educational system, especially in rural areas.

- 7% of migrant children were enrolled in a school that did not ensure remote learning.

Weak legal contracts come at a (high) cost.

- 78.2% of returning migrants reported not being covered by health insurance.
Top priorities regarding COVID-19

1. Personal health
2. Food supply safety
3. Reopening logistic infrastructure
Coping and prospects

A large part (72%) cited a perceived need for new platforms or channels with new job listings.

Public opinion was more favourable to migrants in terms of resources than health implications.

From those that lost their job, 79% plan to return to the same country and 15% to another country, thus emigrating may hinge on welfare aspirations that may be difficult to replicate in Moldova in a short time horizon by lower-skilled or lower-educated individuals.

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Impact of Covid-19 on freelancers
Freelancers have limited options if they cannot work

- 12% faced severe impact due to restrictions, with most of the crop being lost
- 86% of freelancers performed work which cannot be done remotely, but 46% lacked skills for remote work
Freelancers carry the burden of self-employment on their shoulders

40% of freelancers had debt (*the most indebted of any group*)

44% of freelancers spent their savings to go through the pandemic period
Top priorities regarding COVID-19

1. Personal health
2. Food supply safety
3. Water supply safety
Coping and prospects

Freelancers are a very heterogeneous group, with varying levels of education, income and access to facilities.

Overall there were prevalent liquidity concerns across the board, with high worries being flagged by freelancers in the HORECA sector.

Freelancers had overall better material conditions for their children, and were more open-minded to new green technologies.

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