Republic of Moldova

IMPACT of COVID-19 PANDEMIC on the labour market and living standards of households

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UNECE online meetings on Gender Statistics, 12-14 October, 2020
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Must to do</th>
<th>What to do</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statistical Work Program</strong> for 2020</td>
<td><strong>Instant</strong> adaptation to new circumstances</td>
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<td><strong>State of emergency</strong> (as of March 17) and of <strong>public health emergency</strong> (as of May 16) in the country because of COVID-19 pandemic</td>
<td><strong>Teleworking</strong> &amp; <strong>Smart working</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Emerging needs</strong> for new data and evidences</td>
<td><strong>Seek for new</strong> <strong>partnerships</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Enhance</strong> <strong>monitoring tools</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Pro-action</strong> and <strong>innovation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Methodological solutions</strong> to produce gender statistics on the impact of Covid-19</td>
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Influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on the households
Objective: measure the main challenges and problems faced by households during the pandemic and lockdown period, regarding:

- **Consequences** on health, economic activity or mobility
- Difficulties in accessing health products or services
- Consequences on the **financial condition** of the household

**Measures** taken by households to overcome financial difficulties
- Difficulties in accessing distance learning services
- Difficulties related to **distance learning**

Available information by **sex of the head of HH**
Main findings (1)

Additional module to HBS (ongoing) – overall & health difficulties

Share of households with at least one member facing DIFFICULTIES as a result of Covid-19, by sex of the head of HH

- Women: 4.5%
- Men: 5.2%

Felt depression, stress, anxiety (panic attacks, fear, anxiety)

- Women: 39.6%
- Men: 38.0%

Share of households with at least one member facing HEALTH difficulties, by sex of the head of HH

- Women: 42.3%
- Men: 38.4%

Were in quarantine (mandatory isolation because of a contact with an infected person with COVID19 or a person returned from abroad)

- Women: 0%
- Men: 0%

Buying masks, gloves (lack of, high prices)

- Women: 14.7%
- Men: 16.1%

Access to necessary medical services (of any type, including emergency)

- Women: 10.5%
- Men: 11.0%
Main findings (2)

Additional module to HBS *(ongoing)* – financial difficulties & learning

### Share of households with at least one member facing financial difficulties, by sex of the head of HH

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<tr>
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<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drop or loss of the income from work activity</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>31.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drop or loss of remittances from abroad</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>33.8%</td>
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### Share of households with at least one member facing difficulties in accessing distance learning services, by sex of the head of HH

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<tr>
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<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access because the household does not have a computer, tablet, telephone, TV</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of access because the household does not have an Internet connection</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited access because of insufficient number of computers / electronic devices in the household (for pupils, students, distance workers)</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
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Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the labour market
ILO Recommendations

Monitoring labor markets amid lockdowns to contain the Covid-19 (technical note, April 2020)

Follow-up question to the questions on “reasons for...” absence, for working more/less hours than usual, for not seeking work, for not being available, for recent job loss.

“Is this ... because of the COVID-19?”
Main findings (1)

Follow-up questions to LFS – overall impact

Employed persons affected by COVID-19 by sex (%)

- Women
- Men

- q1: 4.6, 3.7
- q2: 30.9, 18.5

Employed persons affected by Covid-19 by sex and situation in q2 (%)

- Interrupted: 55.0, 69.3
- Remotely: 33.0, 14.1
- Less hours: 36.7, 20.7
- Underemployed: 12.4, 22.9
- Partial work: 6.0, 8.0
Main findings (2)

Follow-up questions to LFS - Unpaid leave as a main reason of absence

Persons who have not worked because of Covid-19 by main reason of absence and sex in q2 (%)

- **Unpaid leave**
  - Women: 32.3%
  - Men: 30.2%

- **Stationary / cessation of activity**
  - Women: 17.8%
  - Men: 27.0%

- **Technical unemployment**
  - Women: 15.7%
  - Men: 25.9%

- **Paid leave**
  - Women: 22.8%
  - Men: 10.0%

- **Flexible / variable program**
  - Women: 10.3%
  - Men: 4.9%
Main findings (3)

Follow-up questions to LFS – Women predominant in the population working remotely & with partial program

**Remotely work by sex**
- q1: Women 75.2%, Men 24.8%
- q2: Women 78.1%, Men 21.9%

**Partial work program by sex**
- q1: Women 59.0%, Men 41.0%
- q2: Women 53.6%, Men 46.4%
Dissemination of results on Covid-19 impact
Dissemination during Covid-19

Impact of Covid-19

Covid relevant press releases

LFS: 2 releases done, 3rd expected in December

HBS: 1st release done, 2nd expected

http://statistica.gov.md

Infographics

http://statbank.statistica.md

Relevant statistical data from the Databank

Used as evidences in analytics of partners
**Challenges**

- Fast switch to the phone interview
- **Risk** to stop the data collection at all (visits to the households suspended for 2 months)
- Distance **guidance** and instructions of interviewers about fieldwork during pandemic
- Protection equipment implying additional **costs**
- Use of **new communication tools**
- Increase in non-response rate for HH surveys

**Next steps**

- Continue data collection & dissemination to catch the **evolution of Covid-19 impact**
- Learn own **lessons** and re-consider future **modus operandi** for HH surveys
- Enhance **monitoring tools** and ensure **quality**
- **Modernize** technical & technological infrastructure
Thank you for attention!

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