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National Statistics Office of Georgia

REAL-TIME MONITORING SURVEY ON IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 ON THE WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

(MAIN RESULTS OF THE FIRST WAVE)

MICS PLUS

unicef

REAL-TIME MONITORING SURVEY ON IMPACT OF THE COVID-19

ON THE WELL-BEING OF FAMILIES AND CHILDREN[1]

FIRST WAVE

I. SURVEY DESCRIPTION

National Statistics Office of Georgia has launched Real-time monitoring Survey on the impact of the Covid-19 on the well-being of families and children with the financial and technical assistance of the United Nations Childrens' Fund (UNICEF). The Survey is based on the sample of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). It is planned to conduct several waves of the survey, which will enable to collect of various information regarding the ongoing situation of the children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the part of the survey, the data will be collected both in urban and rural households. The sample size includes 2118 households throughout the country, of which 1005 units are in urban and 1113 units in rural areas. Collection of the data is carried out by the Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) method.

As a part of the preparatory work, a questionnaire developed by UNICEF was adapted, tested, field staff was trained and a pilot survey was conducted from the second half of 2020. While in the November to December 2020 period, data for the first wave of the survey was collected.

Response rate amounted 86.7 percent, of which 89.1 percent in urban and 84.5 percent in rural areas.
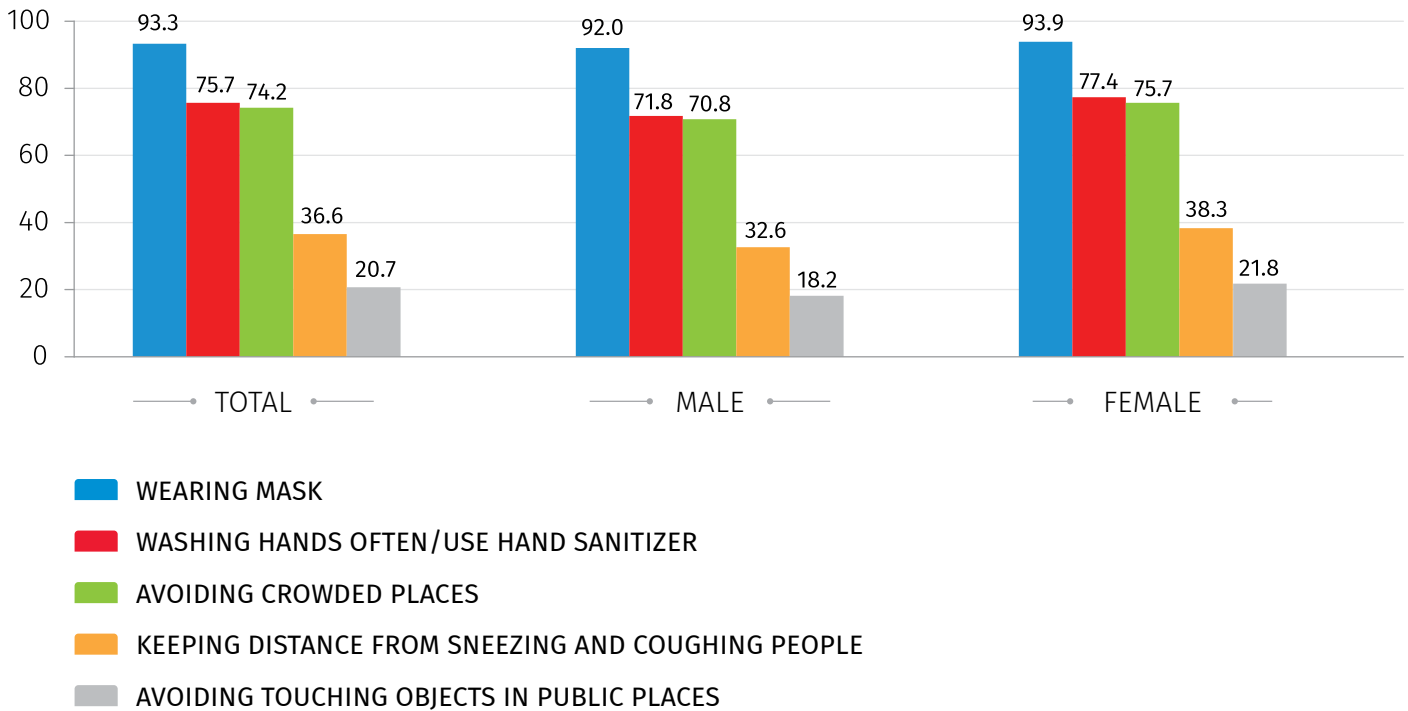
II. MAIN FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY

Households take various measures to prevent themselves from a new coronavirus according to survey. Among them, the most frequent are the following: wearing mask (93.3%) washing hands often and using hand sanitizer (75.7%), avoiding crowded places (74.2 %), keeping distance (36.6 %) as well as avoiding touching objects in public places (20.7%).

Women were more likely than men to take the above-mentioned measures to protect themselves from the coronavirus.

The chart below indicates the percentage of households that took various measures to protect themselves from the coronavirus:

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[1] „Real Time Monitoring/Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Plus".

CHART №1

COVID-19 SELF PROTECTION MEASURES
(%)

Legend:
- **WEARING MASK** (blue)
- **WASHING HANDS OFTEN/USE HAND SANITIZER** (red)
- **AVOIDING CROWDED PLACES** (green)
- **KEEPING DISTANCE FROM SNEEZING AND COUGHING PEOPLE** (orange)
- **AVOIDING TOUCHING OBJECTS IN PUBLIC PLACES** (grey)

Measure	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
WEARING MASK	93.3	92.0	93.9
WASHING HANDS OFTEN/USE HAND SANITIZER	75.7	71.8	77.4
AVOIDING CROWDED PLACES	74.2	70.8	75.7
KEEPING DISTANCE FROM SNEEZING AND COUGHING PEOPLE	36.6	32.6	38.3
AVOIDING TOUCHING OBJECTS IN PUBLIC PLACES	20.7	18.2	21.8

According to the finding of the survey, the main source of receiving information on COVID-19 prevention for households are television (92.1%), internet (36.0%), social networks (32.0%), family members and friends (26.0%).
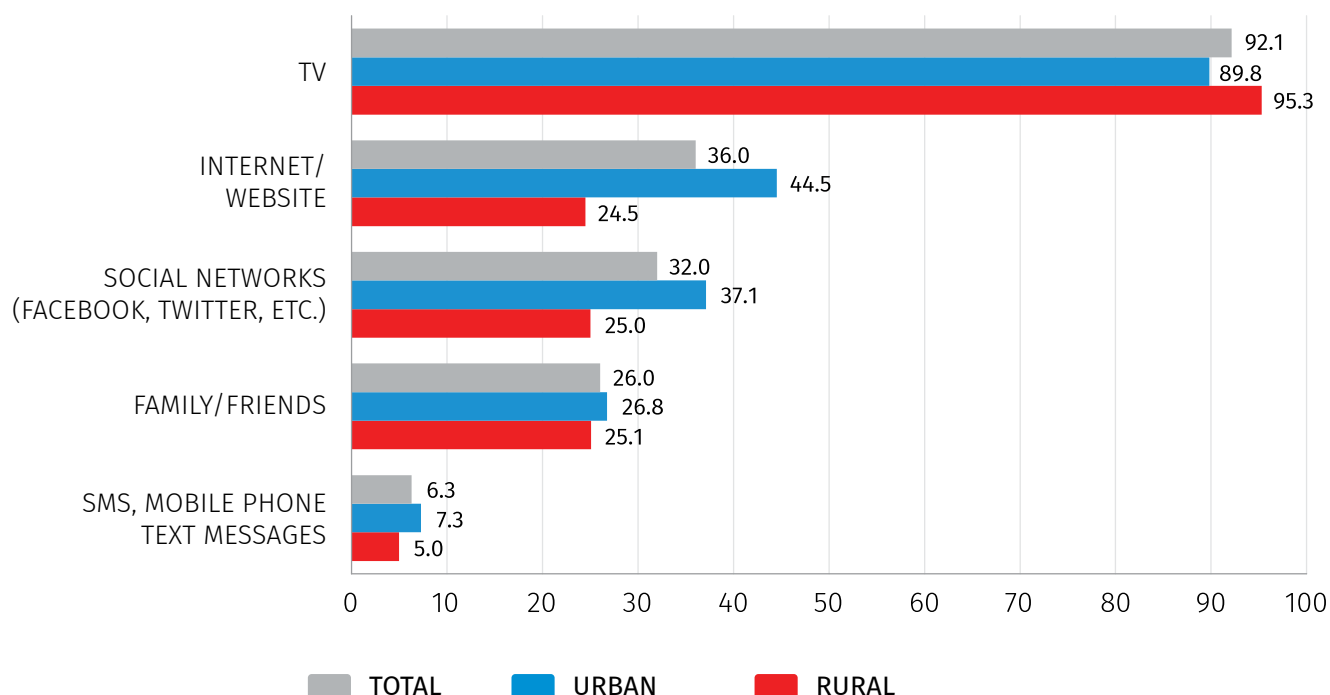
It should be noted that among information sources television is more common in rural areas, while internet and social networks are popular in urban areas.

The chart below indicates percentage of households by sources of information on COVID-19:

CHART №2

**THE SOURCES OF RECEIVING INFORMATION ON COVID-19**

(%)

	TOTAL	URBAN	RURAL
TV	92.1	89.8	95.3
INTERNET/WEBSITE	36.0	44.5	24.5
SOCIAL NETWORKS (FACEBOOK, TWITTER, ETC.)	32.0	37.1	25.0
FAMILY/FRIENDS	26.0	26.8	25.1
SMS, MOBILE PHONE TEXT MESSAGES	6.3	7.3	5.0

According to the survey findings based on information declared by households, in 31.8 percent of households, at least one member lost job temporarily or for a long period from March to December 2020.

The chart below shows the percentage of households by urban and rural areas, in which at least one member has lost job since March 2020, temporarily or for a long period:

CHART №3

## PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO LOST JOB SINCE MARCH 2020 (%)
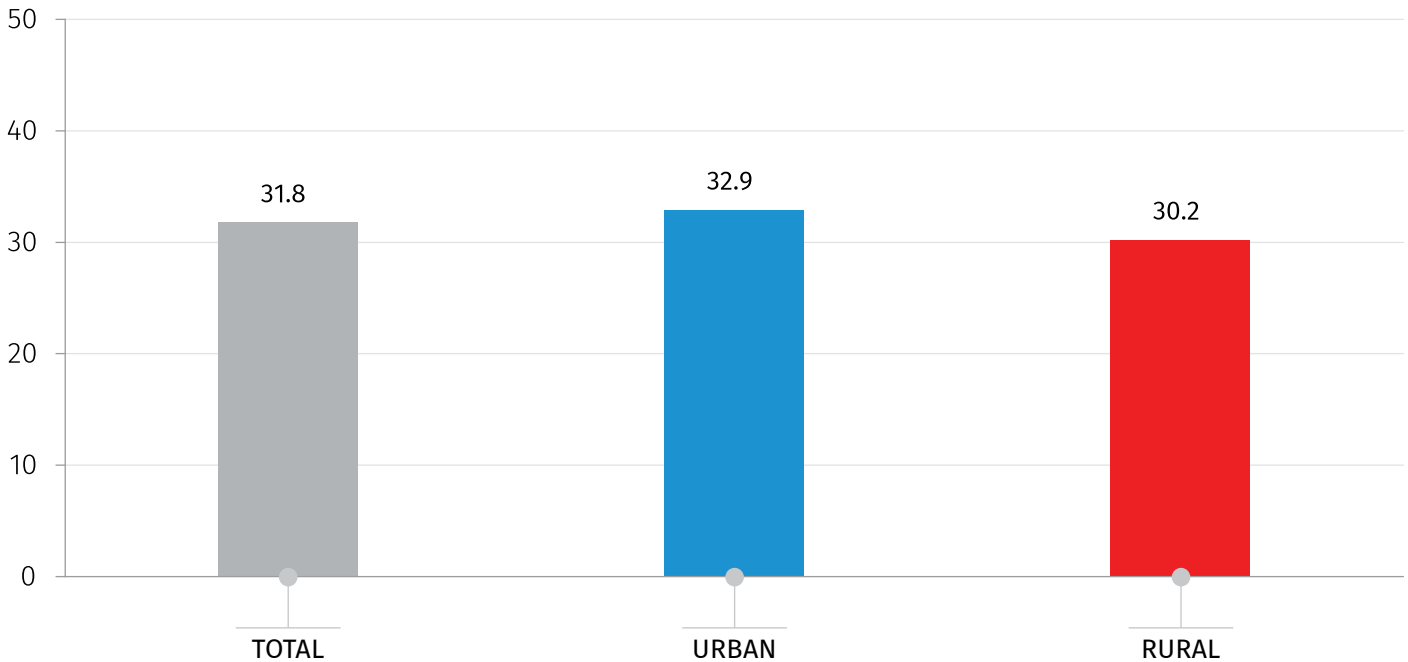
Since march 2020 an average monthly incomes have been declined to 53.0 percent of households according to the survey results. The above-mentioned figure makes up 51.1 percent in urban and 55.5 percent in rural areas.

The main reasons for income decline were The COVID-19 and COVID-19 related reasons as the company/business where household member worked closed (31.9%), decreased demand to company/business (23.2%), had to close company/business household member-owned (15.8%), reduced salary of household member (7.0%) and reduced work hours of household member (6.9%).

The chart below shows the percentage of households, in which average monthly income has declined due to COVID-19 realated reasons:

**PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WHERE AVERAGE MONTHLY INCOME
DECLINED DUE TO COVID-19 RELATED REASONS
(%)**

- **COMPANY/BUSINESS HOUSEHOLD MEMBER WORKED CLOSED**
- **DECREASED DEMAND TO COMPANY/BUSINESS WHERE HOUSEHOLD MEMBER WORKED/OWNED**
- **HAD TO CLOSE COMPANY/ BUSINESS HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OWNED**
- **REDUCED SALARY**
- **REDUCED HOURS OF WORK FOR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER**
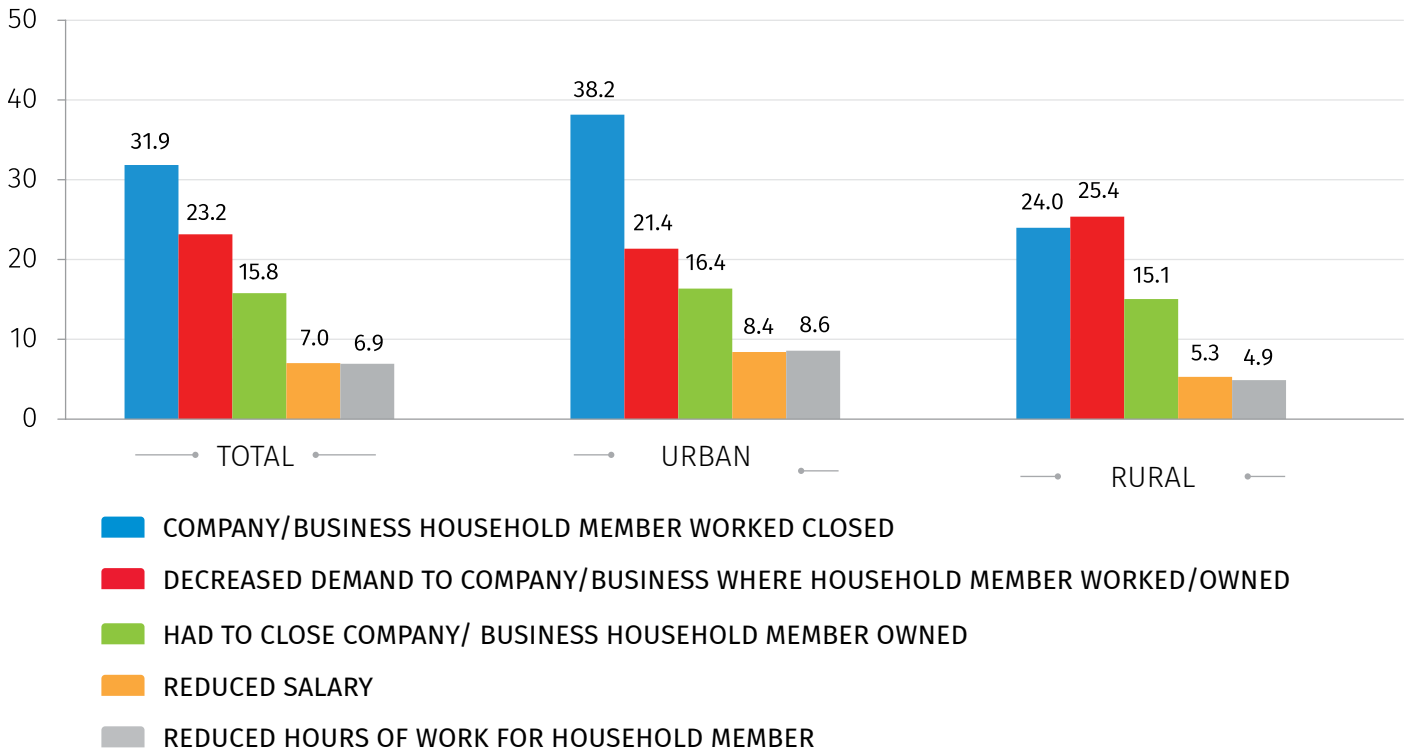
According to the survey results, within the framework of Coronavirus/COVID-19 impact mitigation measures by the government of Georgia 80.6 percent of households benefited from subsidizing electricity bills for at least a month, 72.7 percent of households - subsidizing natural gas bills, 40.4 percent from 200 GEL one-time social assistance for children under 18. In addition, 32.3 percent benefited from deferral of loans of commercial banks / microfinance organizations.

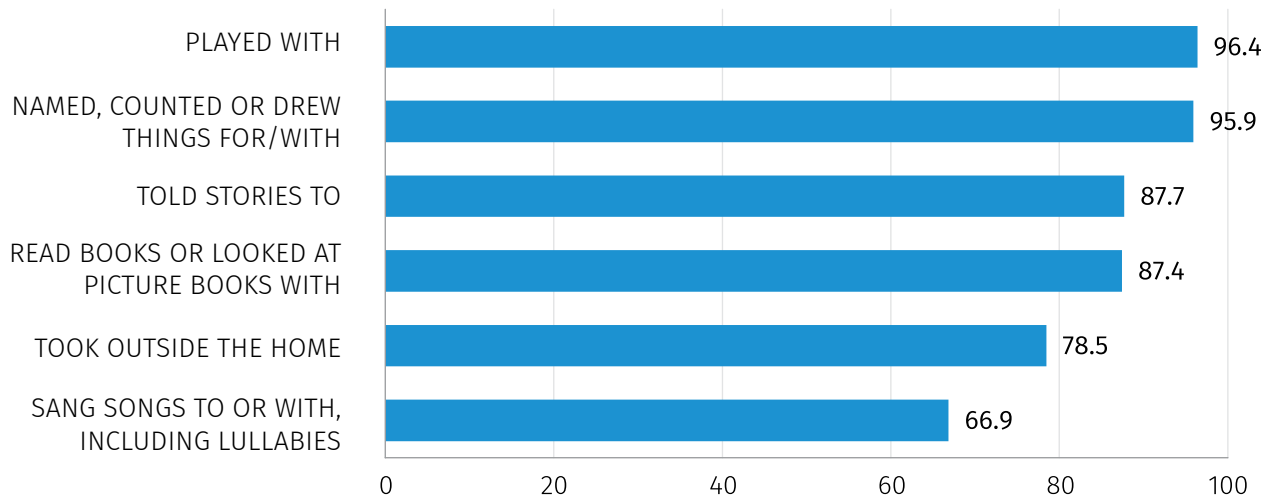The survey also assessed the impact of COVID-19 on children's education and distance learning.

According to the survey, along with children aged 2-5, adult household members participated in activities that helped educate the child and prepare them for school. Together with children, adult household members were most often involved in activities such as playing (96.4%), naming, counting or drawing of different objects (95.9%), telling stories (87.7%), reading books or looking at picture books (87.4%).

The chart below shows the percentage of children aged 2-5 years with whom adult household members were involved in various activities:

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CHART №5

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGE 2-5 YEARS WITH WHOM ADULT HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS ENGAGED IN DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES
(%)

| Activity	%
PLAYED WITH	96.4
NAMED, COUNTED OR DREW THINGS FOR/WITH	95.9
TOLD STORIES TO	87.7
READ BOOKS OR LOOKED AT PICTURE BOOKS WITH	87.4
TOOK OUTSIDE THE HOME	78.5
SANG SONGS TO OR WITH, INCLUDING LULLABIES	66.9

According to the results of the survey, the percentage of children aged 6-17, who physically attended relevant institutions, before the closure of educational institutions in March 2020 and after their closure were given online lessons, amounted to 96.9. For urban and rural areas - 98.1 and 95.2 percent, respectively. A relatively high rate of attendance at online classes by age group was observed among children aged 6-11 years and amounted to 97.4 percent.

The chart below shows the percentage of children aged 6-17, who received online lessons, by type of settlement, gender, and age groups:

CHART №6

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGE 6-17 YEARS
## WHO RECEIVED ONLINE LESSONS
(%)
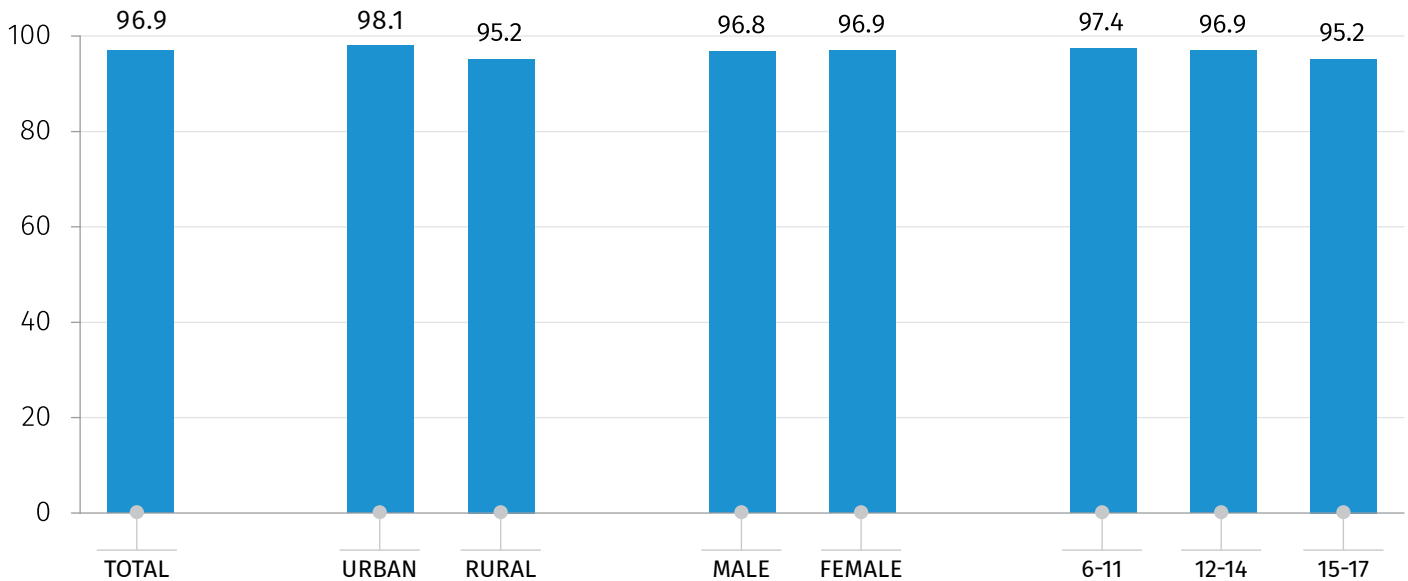
Accoring to the survey results, 57.5 percent of children aged 6-17 watched or listened to TV lessons. This rate is relatively high in rural settlements (60.7%), by gender - in girls (60.0%), and by age - in children aged 6-11 (61.8%).

The chart below shows the percentage of children aged 6-17 who watched and / or listened to TV lessons after the closure of educational institutions:
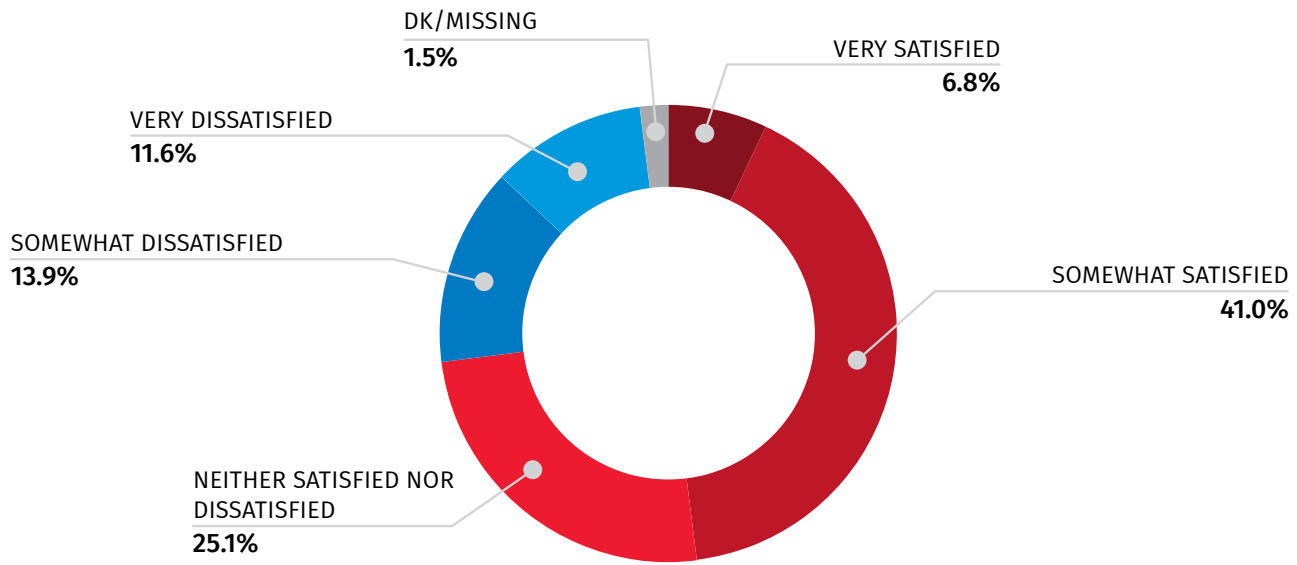
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**PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGE 6-17 YEARS
WHO LISTENED OR WATCHED TV LESSONS
(%)**
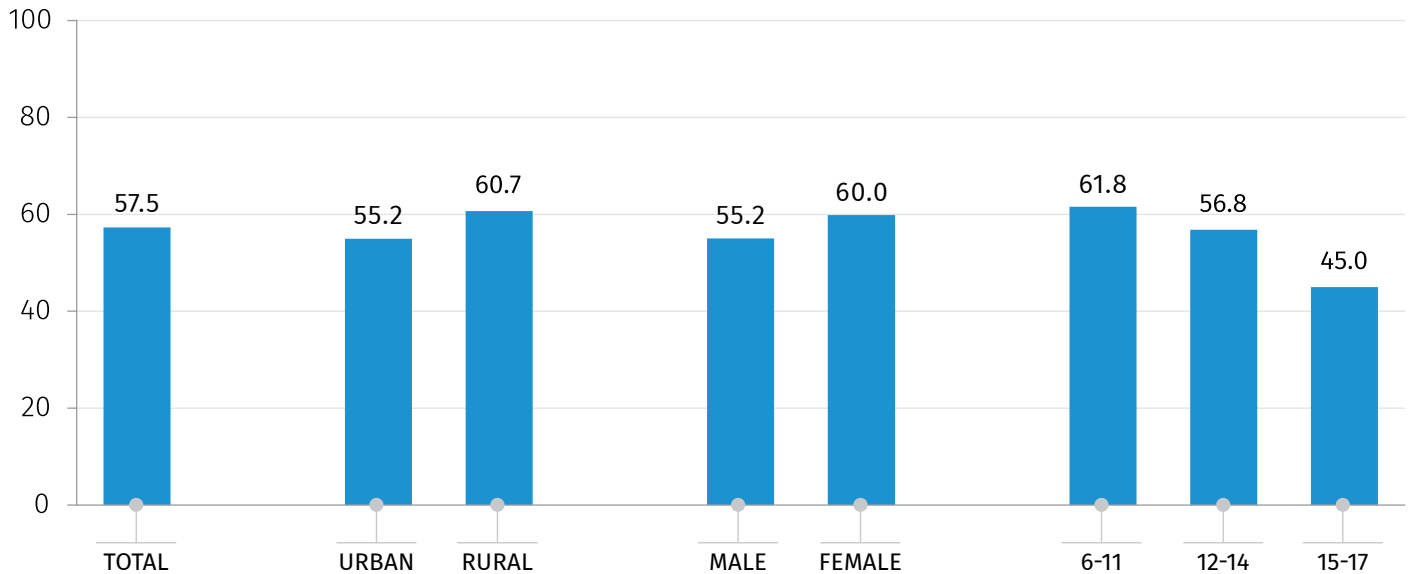
According to the survey, almost half (47.8%) of the households are satisfied with distance learning methods during the period of closed educational institutions.

The chart below shows the level of satisfaction of households with the proposed methods of distance learning for the children, who are the members of these households.

SATISFACTION WITH DISTANCE LEARNING
(%)

DK/MISSING
1.5%

VERY SATISFIED
6.8%

VERY DISSATISFIED
11.6%

SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED
13.9%

SOMEWHAT SATISFIED
41.0%

NEITHER SATISFIED NOR
DISSATISFIED
25.1%

According to the survey, 57.5 percent of children aged 2-17, who physically attended the pre-school or secondary school until the closure of educational institutions in March 2020, continued their education in the classrooms after the re-opening of the educational institutions for classroom teaching.
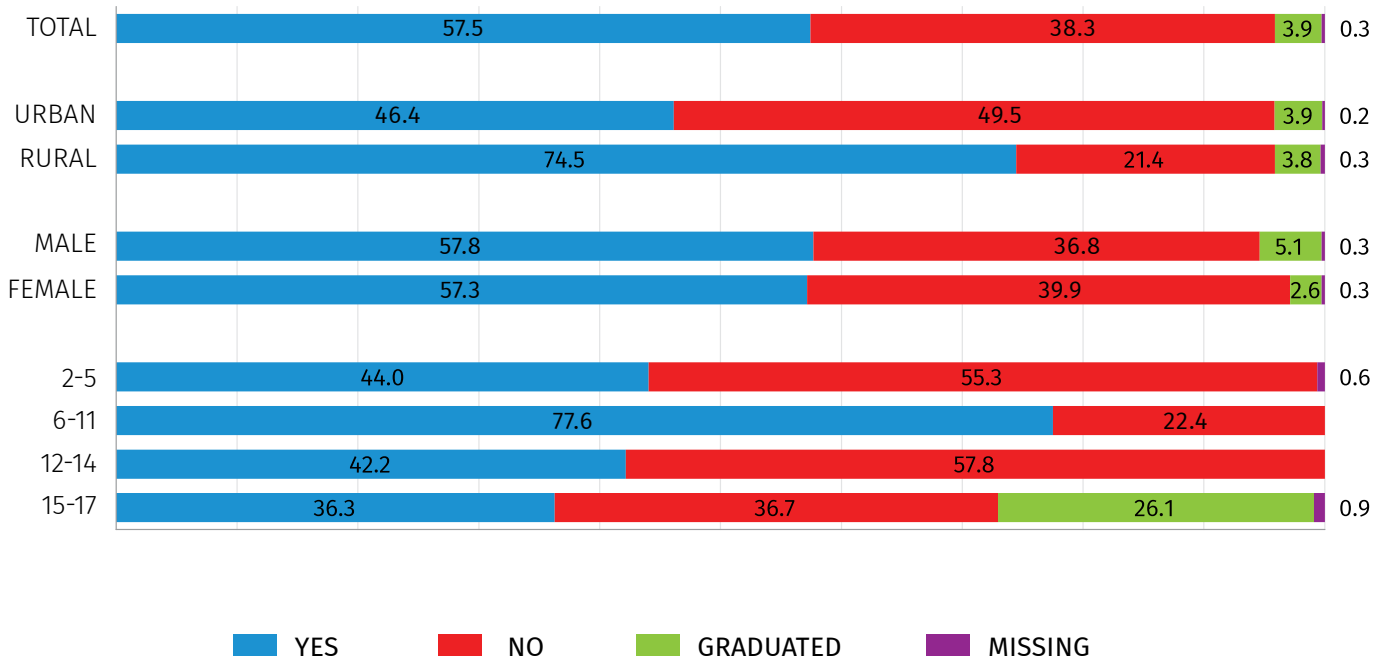
According to the same survey, 38.3 percent of children did not renew their learning process in the classroom, while 3.9 percent of children had already completed their learning by the time the learning process resumed.

The chart below shows the percentage of children aged 2-17 years, who returned to in-class room teaching after the schools reopened.

CHART №9

RETURN TO IN-CLASS ROOM TEACHING AFTER THE SCHOOLS REOPENED
(%)

Category	YES	NO	GRADUATED	MISSING
TOTAL	57.5	38.3	3.9	0.3
URBAN	46.4	49.5	3.9	0.2
RURAL	74.5	21.4	3.8	0.3
MALE	57.8	36.8	5.1	0.3
FEMALE	57.3	39.9	2.6	0.3
2-5	44.0	55.3		0.6
6-11	77.6	22.4		
12-14	42.2	57.8		
15-17	36.3	36.7	26.1	0.9

■ YES   ■ NO   ■ GRADUATED   ■ MISSING

According to the survey findings, the main reason for non-returning to educational institutions in children aged 2-17 was the closure of educational institutions and the availability of only online education (67.3%), as well as the fear of COVID-19 (28.1%).

Note:
- In some cases, the small difference between the final result and the sum of the numbers is explained by the rounding of the data.

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