

Impact of Covid-19 on children and youth

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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%*)

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



Children from vulnerable family structures experienced worse educational outcomes



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

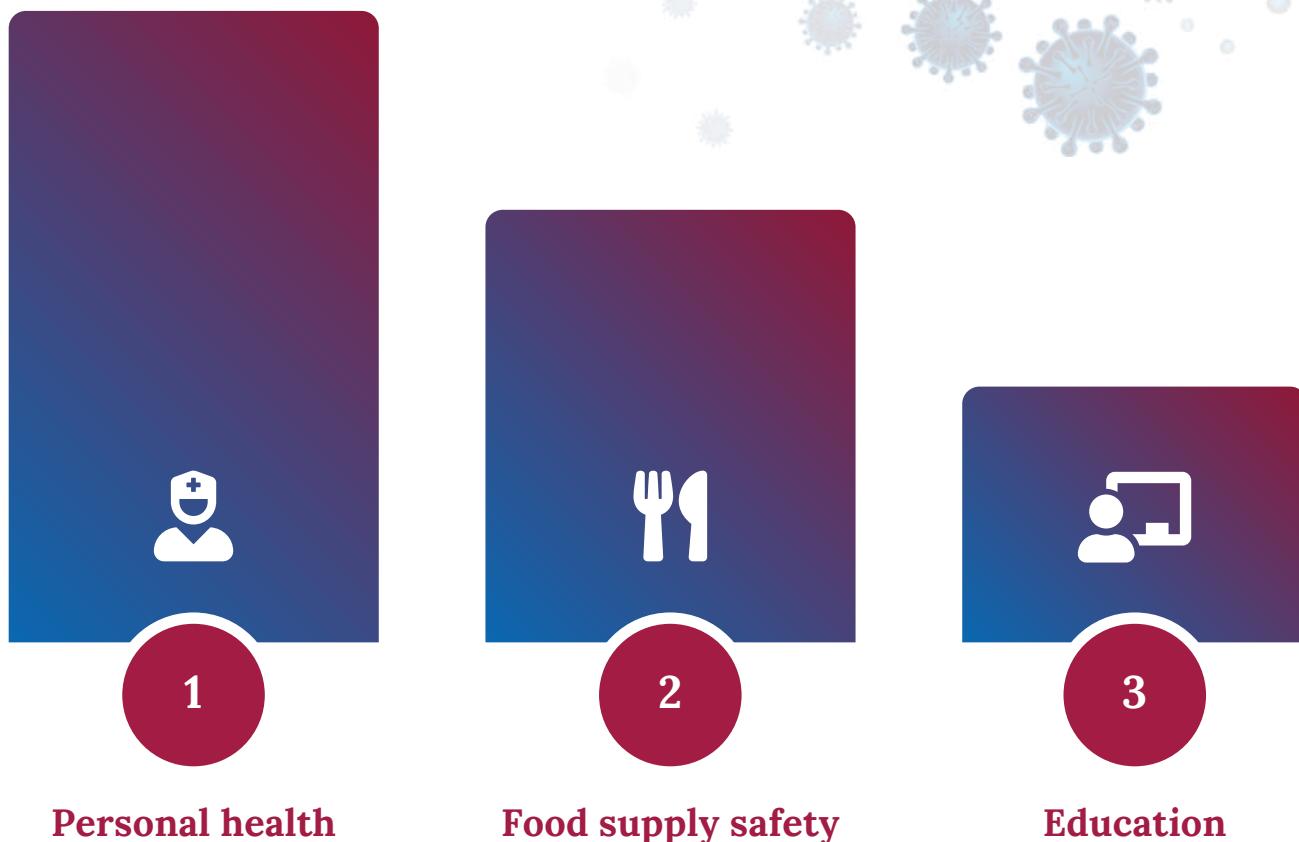


27% divorced or single parents could not organise remote learning (*1% married parents*)

Prospects and recovery needs



Top priorities regarding COVID-19



Prospects and recovery needs



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.

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Impact of Covid-19 on poor households

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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%*)

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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

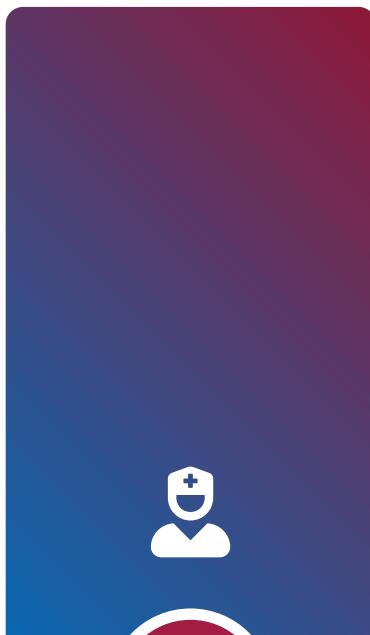


1 in 5 poor households reduced health and education expenses in order to cope with the pandemic fallout

Prospects and recovery needs

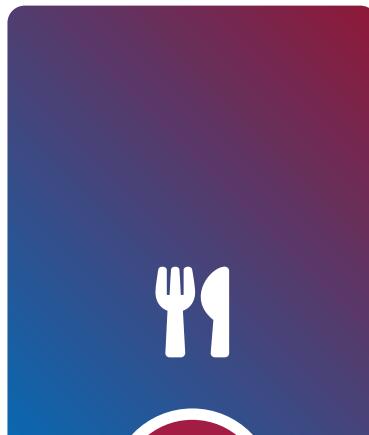


Top priorities regarding COVID-19



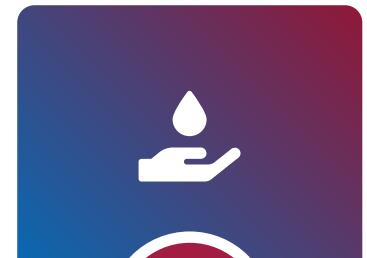
1

Personal health



2

Food supply safety



3

Water supply safety

Prospects and recovery needs



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



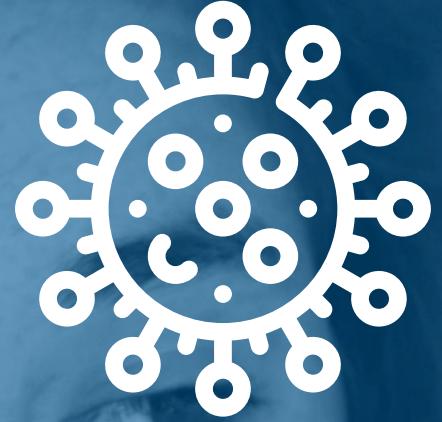
Lack of material means shape a mindset of scarcity and disengagement towards society's problems (climate, education, etc)



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

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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)*

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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



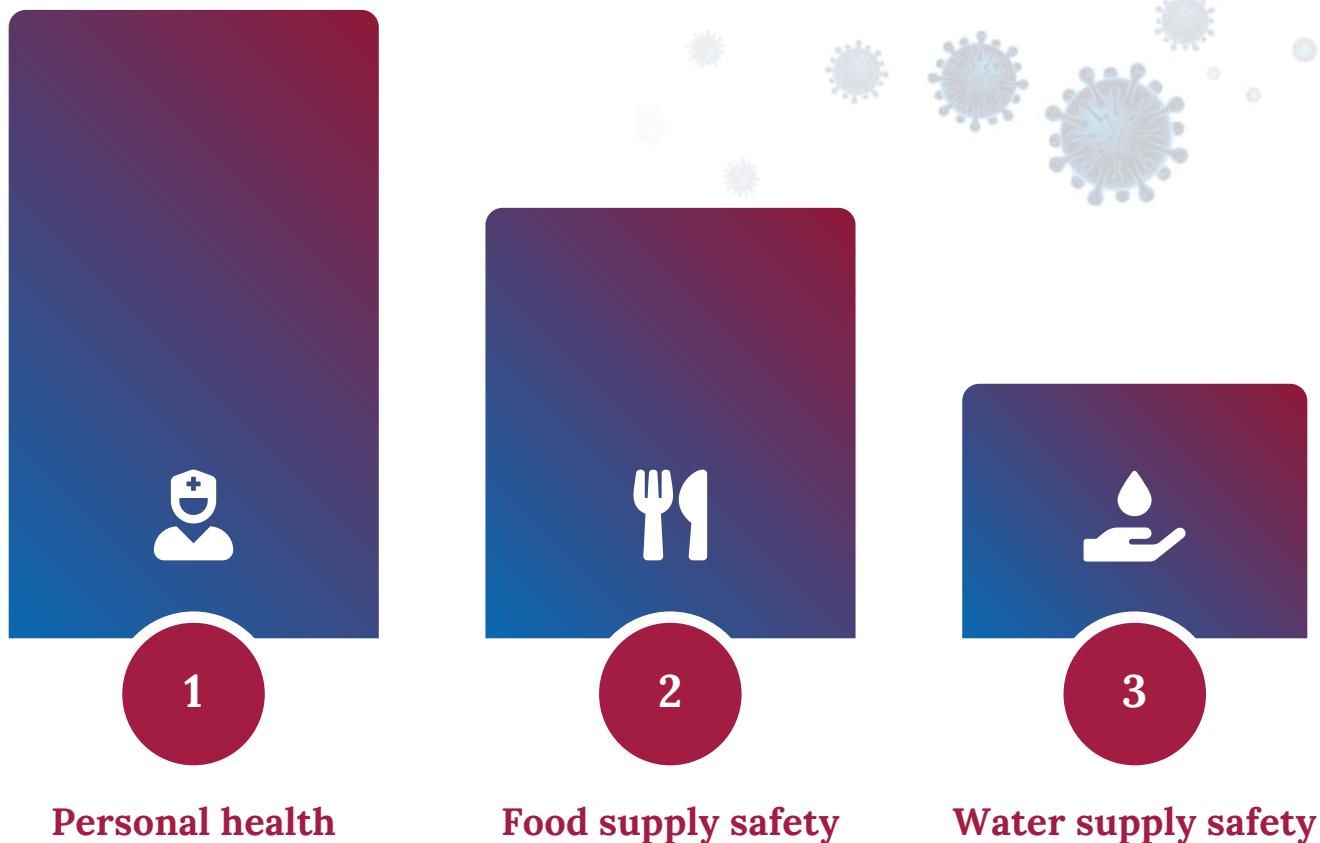
6% of women in sample experienced domestic violence (mainly physical and emotional), all filed complaints



Prospects and recovery needs



Top priorities regarding COVID-19



Prospects and recovery needs



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

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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)

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



Basic needs suffer in the absence of resources



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

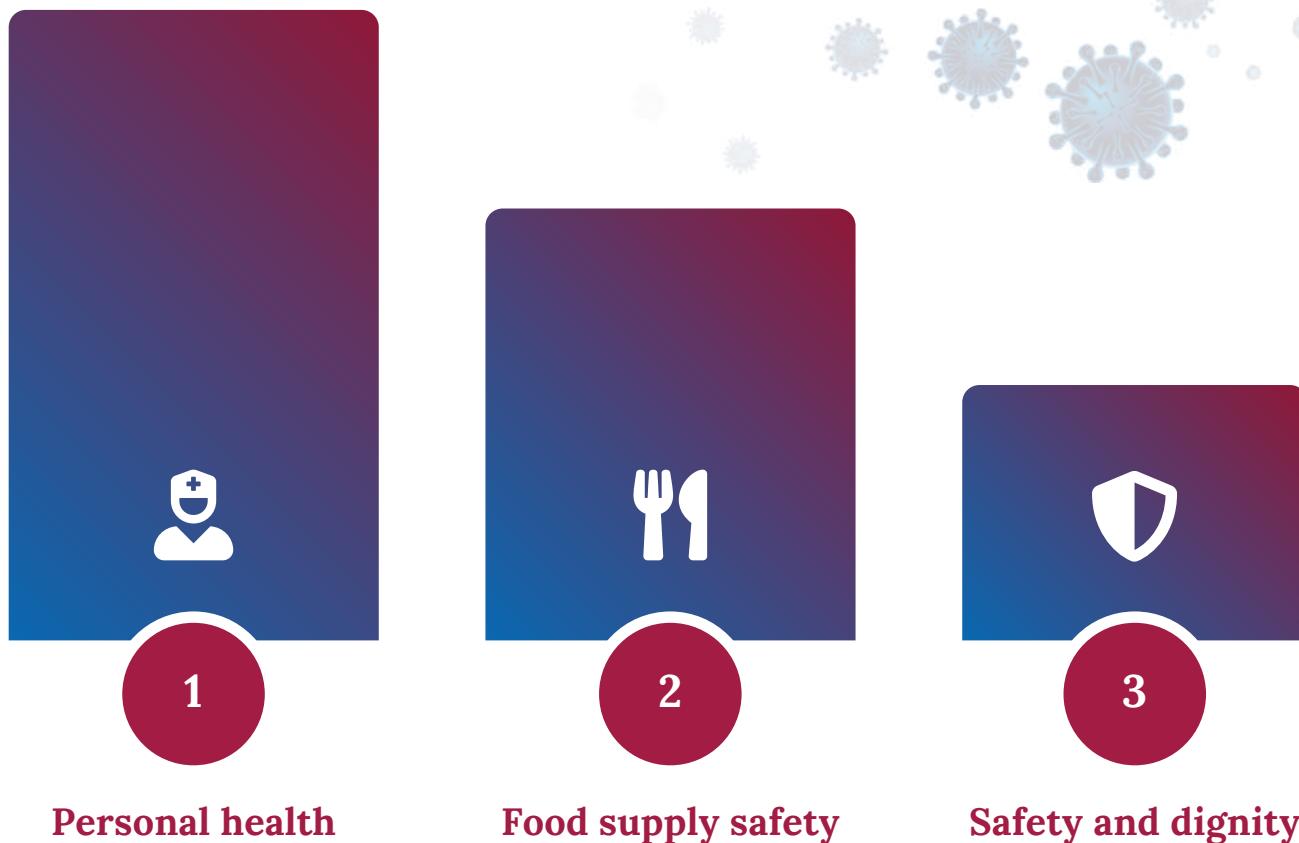


18% of NEET reported that in order to compensate for income loss some days they did not eat at all

Prospects and recovery needs



Top priorities regarding COVID-19



Prospects and recovery needs



Coping and prospects



Highest sample levels of unhealthy behaviours observed (37% NEET youth smoked more and 22% drank more alcohol)



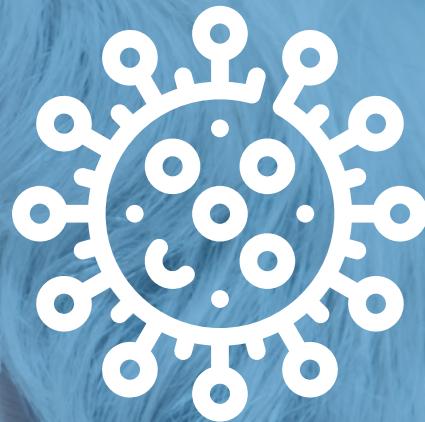
NEET youth in sample distinguished themselves through rather large share of uncompleted studies, and the fact that most were living alone



57% of NEET declared not being interested in actively seeking a job

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Impact of Covid-19 on older people

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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



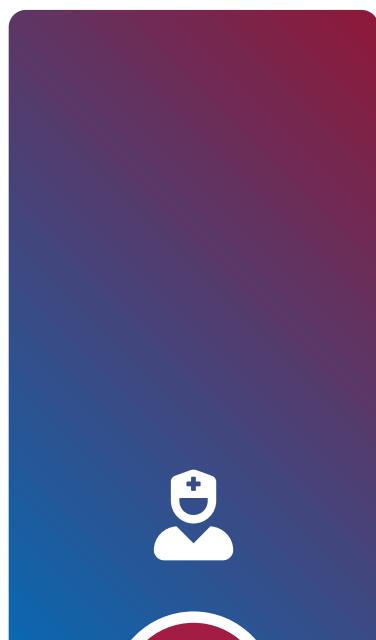
40% of older people experienced difficulties in obtaining access to Non-Contagious Diseases medical services



Prospects and recovery needs

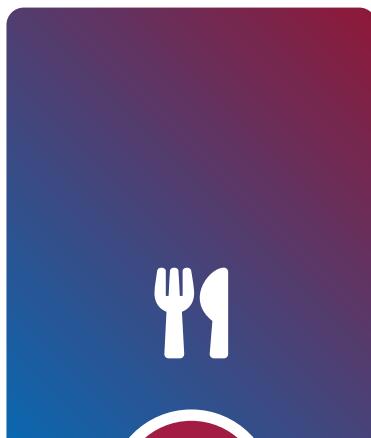


Top priorities regarding COVID-19



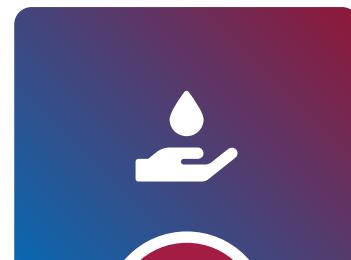
1

Personal health



2

Food supply safety



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Water supply safety

Prospects and recovery needs



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



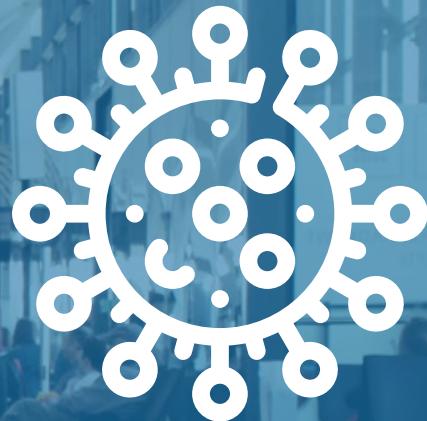
35% of households led by older people required community services support, during the pandemic

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UN
DP



Impact of Covid-19 on returning migrants

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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

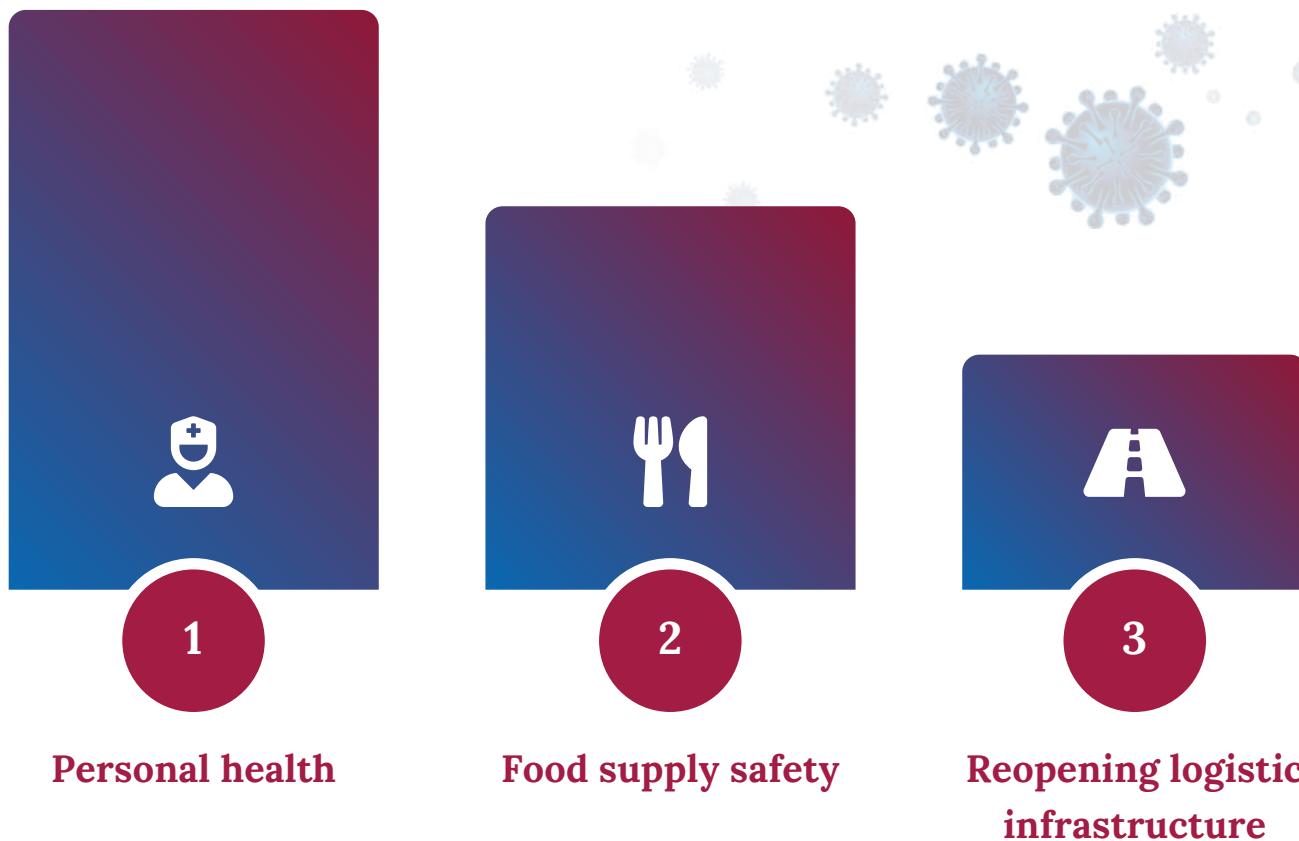


78.2% of returning migrants reported not being covered by health insurance

Prospects and recovery needs



Top priorities regarding COVID-19



Prospects and recovery needs



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

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



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

Impact and leading vulnerabilities



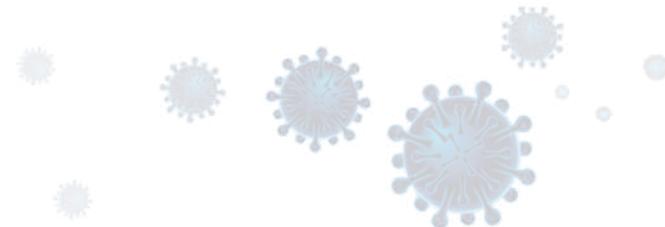
Freelancers carry the burden of self-employment on their shoulders



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



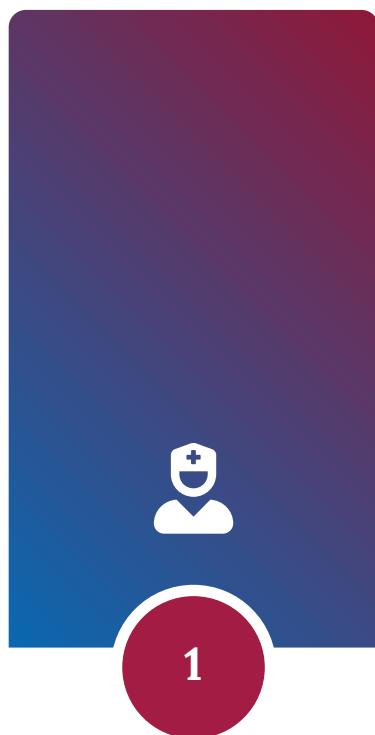
44% of freelancers spent their savings to go through the pandemic period



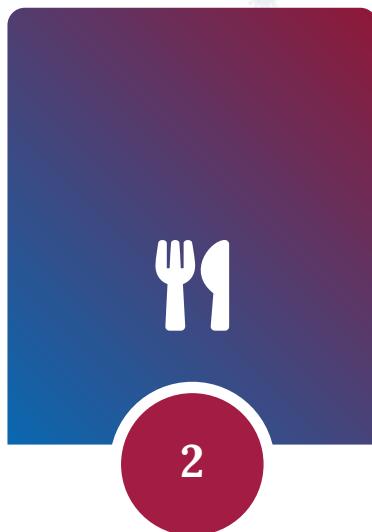
Prospects and recovery needs



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Personal health



Food supply safety



Water supply safety

Prospects and recovery needs



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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