

1 Methodology for assessing COVID-19 impact

PwC methodology for socio-economic impact assessment is based on rapid assessment principles and aims to capture the multi-dimensional effects of COVID-19, drawing on both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

The main phases of the project are presented in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1. Overview on socio-economic impact assessment methodology



Source: PwC methodology

- **Scoping/Planning** – the study started by analysing a comprehensive list of vulnerable groups and a complete picture of economic sectors narrowing the selection of the in-scope vulnerable groups and economic sectors through activities like research based on public data¹, consultations and interviews with relevant stakeholders and analysis of impact assessment questionnaires²
- **Secondary Data Research** – identification of available data and the key indicators to be analysed, for setting the initial baseline and capturing the initial in-crisis impact. Based on the trends observed and impact severity of selected key indicators, high-level preliminary policy recommendations and measures were developed
- **Primary Data Research** – a collection of primary acquisition tools was employed including:
 - a. a survey undertaken within a representative sample to cover sociodemographic aspects of citizens and business characteristics of companies,
 - b. relevant discussions with experts and NGOs/associations
- **Analysis** – summarize, consolidate and analyse the data gathered throughout the previous phases in order to understand the underlying vulnerabilities and their magnitude. Re-evaluate the impact in relation to secondary data findings and newer data sets available (e.g. NBS³)
- **Consultations** – discuss findings with all relevant stakeholders and build consensus understanding on social and economic distress of COVID-19 pandemic, while clearly stating the assumptions, limitations and information gaps. Review and expand the recommendations guidelines as well as response measures
- **Reporting** – develop the final Assessment Report amended as resulted from consultations and main stakeholders' validation

The current document (Final Impact Assessment Report - draft) covers all the phases of the methodology, intending to help Moldova's representatives and donors to find answers and shape solutions to navigate the COVID-19 crisis. The variable, besides the manifestation of the disease is the multiple time horizons over which we see the crisis.

¹ Including NBS data, UNDP, Oxford Economics, EU Commission Social Inclusion Policies, Social Assistance Law Moldova, ODIMM, IOM

² Based on approximately 50 questionnaires from key stakeholders (public sectors institutions, development partners/donors, business associations/civil society), reflecting both current and future planned initiatives. The questionnaire was developed by PwC covering both ongoing initiatives (including those where changes arose in Covid-19 circumstances) as well as initiatives planned in response of Covid-19 pandemic

³ National Bureau of Statistics

1.1 Selection of the VGs and ESs

The initial assumptions for understanding the vulnerable groups (VGs) and economic sectors (ESs) revolved around starting from main vulnerable groups that have been identified in Moldova by prior studies, undertaken by both UNDP and other development actors⁴. In addition to the literature, the choice of vulnerable groups was evolved with stakeholder feedback and contributing opinions, exposing underlying vulnerabilities for the main groups.

Figure 2. Stakeholder feedback



Source: PwC analysis

For the vulnerable groups, a structured scorecard was implemented across four measures, based on which a composite score has been calculated. The four measures and their associated weights are as follows: pre-existing vulnerability (30%), pandemic impact strength (30%), pandemic impact duration (30%) and population pool (10%). Each measure was the average of multiple sub-scores, based on several sources, including in-crisis surveys. The sub-scores were evaluated on facts spanning across multiple dimensions (core income resilience, poverty and inequality, health, education, justice and security, social participation and access to information), in order to capture a multi-dimensional impact. The five vulnerable groups resulting were: 1) Children and Youth 2) Poor Households 3) Vulnerable Women 4) NEET Youth and 5) Returning Migrants. At the request of UNDP, the scope of the study was extended to include two additional vulnerable groups: 6) Older population and 7) Freelancers.

In our analysis, we have started by looking at an extensive range of economic sectors, then we have narrowed down our endeavour to 8 main economic areas and, finally, we have focused on 5 main economic sectors and 2 social sectors proposed for our scope, based on research and stakeholder’s consultation.

For the economic sectors selection, an impact scale was used taking into consideration three relevant indicators: GDP weight, number of employees and COVID-19 impact (integrating two sub-indicators: impact severity and recovery prospects). In the following chapters of the report, the most negatively impacted five economic sectors were addressed: Wholesale and Retail Trade (non-food), Transportation and Storage, Manufacturing (light industry), Hospitality and Agriculture. Moreover, given their special character during pandemic, Healthcare and Education sectors were analyzed from both economic and social point of view, attention given to the end-users of medical and education services, and not just to the economic impact.

Although “Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles” and “Transportation and storage” are reported as two different economic sectors by the Moldovan statistics authorities, as a strong link was identified between the two sectors and also the Hospitality sector, we included in the in-depth analysis presented below the transportation of goods in the Wholesale and Retail Trade (non-food) economic sector and transportation of people in the Hospitality economic sector. Also, related to Wholesale and Retail Trade, only the non-food part is in scope for the current study⁵.

⁴ Among the cornerstone studies that formed the basis of ex-ante consideration of vulnerable groups was the 2010 Social Exclusion study done by UNDP, as well as the 2020 Urban Inequalities report.

⁵ Due to lack of disaggregated data for food and non-food related activities, it was used the overall data for the entire Wholesale and retail trade sector

For the purpose of this report, Manufacturing (light industry) refers to textiles and clothing industry only, and Hospitality refers also to travel agencies, tour operators and other booking services and related activities (sub-sector under the Administrative and Support service activities sector – as is categorized in the NBS reports).

Another economic sector that is analysed in the current report is Agriculture. Accounting for a large share of the GDP (almost 11% as of 2019) and the highest percentage of employed population in the whole economy, agriculture is considered to have a significant impact on overall Moldova's economy also due to its high share of Moldovan exports.

The Healthcare system is considered to be the most affected sector in terms of capacity (number of beds) and medical staff due to the current evolution of COVID-19 pandemic in Moldova. The medical personnel are considered to be overwhelmed and exposed to burnout in day-to-day activities. Low motivation due to reduced incomes for the healthcare personnel not directly involved in treating COVID-19 cases has the potential to increase the already widely spread phenomenon.

According to a research done by UNESCO⁶, the educational process of 9 out of 10 students worldwide was impacted by COVID-19 pandemic. Moldova's educational system was also affected by the COVID-19 crisis mainly due to the following reasons:

- **Teachers with limited skills to use the digital environment for providing online teaching**
- **Limited access to IT devices (e.g. tablets, laptops, computers, smartphones), as well as limited Internet connection (reduced Internet coverage across the country, especially in rural areas) for students and pupils**
- **The lack of capacity and time of working-from-home parents to substitute normal educational activities**

Another COVID-19-related risk is increasing school dropdown rates in the next immediate period due to potential increase of domestic responsibilities.

In order to assess the impact of the pandemic on the in-scope economic sectors, data triangulation was performed between the available data from NBS (covering previous years and Q1 and Q2 of 2020) – macro-economic information, the outcomes of the targeted surveys and local experts' inputs – relevant on field-oriented findings.

More details concerning the scoping phase and selection of groups and sectors are presented in the Initial Impact Assessment report (Deliverable 1 of this project).

1.2 COVID-19 impact modelling and key indicators

1.2.1 COVID-19 impact modelling and key indicators of vulnerable groups

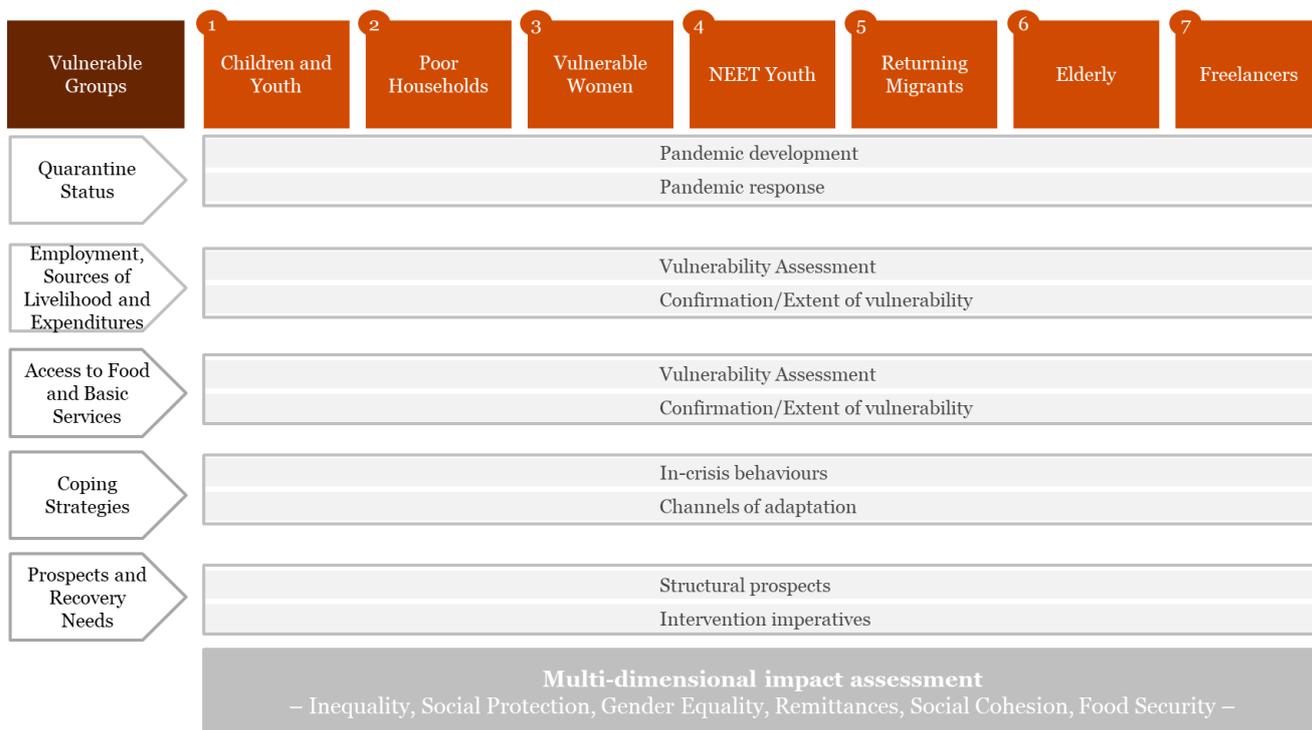
The framework for assessing the social-economic impact of COVID-19 draws on the UN's socio-economic impact assessment (SEIA) toolkit in conceptualizing the incremental impact of the pandemic from a multi-dimensional perspective. Five core dimensions are structured into an analysis framework, presented in Figure 3. These dimensions are:

1. **Quarantine Status** – Understanding the knowledge and attitudes of the population in light of the pandemic development, as well as reflecting on the pandemic response, as shaped by shared vulnerabilities and individual constraints
2. **Employment, Sources of Livelihood and Expenditures** – Gauging directly the economic and financial impact on the vulnerable groups, as well as estimation of the damage to the labor market, both in formal and informal sectors
3. **Access to Foods and Basic Services** – Observing the household's access to – and impact of COVID-19 on food procurement and basic services like education, health, and access to water and sanitation
4. **Coping Strategies** – Evaluating the in-crisis behaviours of households and their channels of adaption

⁶ UNESCO – COVID-19 impact on education

5. **Prospects and Recovery Needs** – Understanding the priorities and even imperatives needed for recovery, and setting up the foundation informing the policy response

Figure 3. Impact assessment model



Source: PwC methodology

The analysis of each vertical will be assessed through both quantitative and qualitative lenses. The framework used aims to support broader conversation around multi-dimensional impact, as well as to facilitate dialogue around the response and recovery pillars set out by the UN⁷.

In addressing the vulnerable groups in scope, indicators were conceptualized across five impact dimensions and along two categories:

- **Baseline indicators:** Pre-crisis and in-crisis secondary data. The purpose of these indicators is to establish the scale and level of pre-existing vulnerability and overall condition of each group. Given the on-going character of the COVID-19 pandemic, the granularity and periodicity of the data was subject to availability from the National Bureau of Statistics and the other public institutions⁸. The reference period chosen was Dec-2019, or latest data available.
- **Survey indicators:** Primary data, whose selection of indicators was grounded in SEIA principles designed by UNDP. The purpose of these indicators is two-fold: i) to sample direct multi-dimensional aspects of the household dynamics during the crisis and ii) to validate and inform the findings of the initial assessment based on secondary data alone.

The list of defined indicators is presented as follows in the table.

⁷ A UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, April 2020; UN Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better, June 2020

⁸ Including the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI), National Bank of Moldova (BNM), Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MSMPS)

Table 1. List of defined key indicators for vulnerable groups

Baseline Indicators	Survey indicators
Dimension 1 – Quarantine Status	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of COVID-19 tests performed per capita No of infections at 60 days since first case Infection rate by gender Infection rate by age Rate of recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondent knowledge of COVID-19 Household members that show COVID-19 symptoms, whether tested or not Opinion on possibility to take measures View and choice of prevention options
Dimension 2 – Employment, Sources of Livelihood and Expenditures	
Sub-Dimension 2.1 – Employment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation rate Unemployment rate (ILO) NEET youth rate Share of persons living in jobless households Share of migrants reporting intention to return to Moldova Share of households with self-employed economic status Active population demographic burden Increases in unemployed registered with NEA No of new self-employed / freelancer businesses closed during period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment Status in 2019 Type of ownership of the establishment enterprise in which the household's member works Employment Sector
Sub-Dimension 2.2 – Income	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share of people under absolute poverty line Median deficit of resources Ratio between top and bottom income quintile Q20/Q80 Gini coefficient Dynamics of personal transfers during period Dynamics of remittances during period Remittances as % of GDP Share of migrants reported negatively impacted by COVID Share of households with self-employed socio-economic status Differential gender impact on employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income change Percentage change in household income over the reference period Availability of household income for short term essential expenses
Sub-Dimension 2.3 – Expenditures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expenses by number of children Expenses by head of household Expenses by socio-economic status Procurement of non-food commodities Inflation rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household indebtedness Household capacity of debt servicing Other sources of income, excluding wages, salaries and own-businesses prior to and during COVID-19 Budget expenditures before and during COVID-19 Prices changes as perceived by the household
Dimension 3 – Access to Food and Basic Services	
Sub-Dimension 3.1 – Food	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household consumption of meat by income Household consumption of milk by income Household consumption of eggs by income Mean daily calories intake by source 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household concern over access to food Main sources of Food to the household pre- and post-COVID-19 outbreak
Sub-Dimension 3.2 – Water and sanitation	

Baseline Indicators

- Share of households with no running water or sewerage system
- Number of persons per room

Survey indicators

- Access to safe and affordable water pre-and post-COVID-19 outbreak
- Type of toilet facility available to the household before the outbreak of COVID-19
- Change in access to clean sanitation due the outbreak of COVID-19

Sub-Dimension 3.3 – Health and Hygiene

- Financial access to healthcare services of households with children aged under 18 years
- Infant mortality
- Incidence of HIV/AIDS per 100.000
- Incidence of Tuberculosis per 100.000
- Incidence of mental illness per 100.000
- Share of health expenses from total household expenses
- Life expectancy at birth
- Subjective state of health
- Changes in level of access to Health
- Access on hygiene items
- Access to specific health services
- Change in access to clean sanitation due the outbreak of COVID-19

Sub-Dimension 3.4 – Education

- Early school leavers by gender
- Secondary cycle enrolment rate
- Tertiary cycle enrolment rate
- NEET rate
- Access to computer
- Access to internet
- Quality of Education - PISA scores
- Children school attendance pre-COVID-19
- Impact of COVID-19 on children school attendance
- Reason why school-aged children (if any) have stopped attending school.
- Household devices and appliances (incl. internet connection and smartphone/tablet)
- Availability of remote learning

Dimension 4 – Coping Strategies

- Ratio of childcare benefits to minimum subsistence level
- Share of households receiving social benefits (without pensions)
- Share social benefits (without pensions) from total income
- Value of average benefit income per person
- Estimated impact of government programmes
- Big Data in-crisis telecom data
- Compensation measures in the face of loss of income
- Assistance received
- Type of assistance received

Dimension 4 – Prospects and recovery needs

- Crimes against family and minors
- Human Development Index
- Score for Peace
- Estimated impact of government programmes
- Concern over livelihood conditions for the next three months
- Household needs prioritization
- Types of assistance needed
- Household members who are seeking employment
- Type of support most useful to household members who are looking for a job.
- Occurrence of family violence during period
- Type of family-related violence during period

Source: PwC methodology

1.2.2 COVID-19 impact modelling and key indicators for economic sectors

The impact model for the in-scope economic sectors was designed considering three alternative scenarios, based on different evolutions of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis: the optimistic scenario, the realistic scenario and the

pessimistic scenario. The evolution of each economic sector within each of the three scenarios is based on available data provided by NBS and LFS⁹ for the first six months of 2020 and forecasted data for the next period, based on PwC analysis.

The three scenarios rationales are described as follows:

- January and February 2020 were considered months not all affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Impact was identified to be starting from March 2020 and from July 2020 for Agriculture
- For March – June 2020, available data from NBS for relevant industry indicators were used in order to present the actual impact of COVID-19 pandemic
- For July 2020 - June 2021, the three scenarios were developed based on forecasted figures
- For neither of the three scenarios, a second lock-down with similar negative consequences was considered
- **Realistic scenario:** For the forecast process, a distinct approach was applied for each economic sector in scope in order to better assess the recovery pace:
 - For Transportation and Storage, Manufacturing (light industry) and Wholesale and Retail Trade (non-food), the impact was forecasted to gradually decrease with 30% monthly from July 2020 to June 2021.
 - For Agriculture, the impact was mainly forecasted based on the draught impact rather than on the COVID-19 crisis impact, following the agriculture seasonality. Taking into consideration the specificity of Agriculture activities, the real impact of the low production registered in the 2nd quarter of 2020, will be reflected starting with July 2020, reaching a maximum negative impact in February – March 2021.
 - For Hospitality, the impact was forecasted to gradually decrease with 20% monthly from September 2020 to June 2021. As no new restrictions were imposed or existing restrictions lifted, for the summer period (July-August), same impact was taken into consideration (44%).
- **Optimistic scenario:** It was considered that the impact will gradually decrease with a more rapid pace (10%) compared to the realistic scenario, except for Agriculture. Based on the forecasted data, the following negative impact (compared to similar period of 2019) is expected to be reached at the end of 2020: Hospitality – 9%, Agriculture – 8%. Transportation and Storage, Manufacturing (light industry) and Wholesale and Retail Trade (non-food) are expected to recover at 2019 level by the end of the year, if the current evolution trend is maintained.
- **Pessimistic Scenario:** It was considered that the impact will gradually decrease with a slower pace (10%) compared to the realistic scenario. Based on the forecasted data, the following negative impact (compared to similar period of 2019) is expected to be reached at the end of 2020: Hospitality – 29%, Agriculture – 15%, Transportation and Storage – 3%, Manufacturing (light industry) – 2%, Wholesale and Retail Trade (non-food) – 2%. Manufacturing and Wholesale and Retail Trade (non-food) are expected to fully recover at 2019 level by June 2021.

For the in-scope economic sectors, a set of indicators including both general and specific aspects of economic activities were defined. The indicators were used to set a baseline for the pre-crisis assessment (Q1 2020) and were further used to assess the impact for the affected period (e.g. Q2 2020) by comparison:

- QoQ comparison (2019 vs. 2020)
- YoY evolution comparison (2018-2019 evolution vs. 2019-2020 evolution)

The list of defined indicators is presented as follows in the table below:

⁹ Labor Force Survey (Ancheta Fortei de Munca)

Table 2. List of defined key indicators for economic sectors

Baseline Indicators	Impacted sectors	Level of granularity
General indicators		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution in GDP • Number of active enterprises • Number of employees • Number of enterprises with profit • Average monthly income 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown on economic sectors or even at CAEM (Classification of Activities in Moldovan Economy) level • Breakdown on economic sectors or even at CAEM level (Micro, Small, Medium) • Breakdown on economic sectors or even at CAEM level and on segmentation (Micro, Small, Medium) • Breakdown on economic sectors or even at CAEM level (Micro, Small, Medium) • Breakdown on economic sectors or even at CAEM level
Specific indicators		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transported goods • Transported passengers • Tourism services • Inbound tourism • Outbound tourism • Domestic tourism • Tourists accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation • Transportation • Hospitality • Hospitality • Hospitality • Hospitality • Hospitality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport type (railway, road, water, air) • Transport type (railway, road, water, air) • Tourism type (leisure, business, wellness) • Accommodation type (hotels, motels, summer camps, recreation structures, guesthouses, etc.) • Accommodation type (hotels, motels, summer camps, recreation structures, guesthouses, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total volume of industrial production • Sown areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing • Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakdown on economic sectors or even at CAEM level and on segmentation (Micro, Small, Medium) • Type of agricultural crops and categories of producers • Type of agricultural crops
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution per 10,000 usual residents • Evolution per 10,000 usual residents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of physicians • Number of paramedical personnel • Number of hospitals • Number of medical institutions • Number of beds in hospitals • Number of pupils and students enrolled • Pedagogical staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare • Healthcare • Healthcare • Healthcare • Healthcare • Healthcare • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of hospitals (public, non-public) • Type of medical institutions (public, non-public)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of graduates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution per 10,000 usual residents • Type of institution (primary and general secondary, vocational, higher education) • Type of institution (primary and general secondary, vocational, higher education) • Type of educational level (lower secondary, general upper secondary, vocational, higher)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational expenditures from the national public budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education 	

Source: PwC methodology

The level of granularity and periodicity (monthly or quarterly) were subject to data availability from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova and relevant public institutions. The above-mentioned list of indicators contains only the available indicators (for specific periods or industries) used for building the economic impact model and drawing relevant conclusions related to the evolution of in-scope economic sectors during COVID-19 pandemic.

1.3 Data collection

The current study is based on data and information collected through several channels using specific methodology, including:

- **Desk research** covering existing documentation for the vulnerable groups and sectors analysed, including pre-crisis and in-crisis sectorial and group assessments and evaluations, statistical data, policy documents, etc.;

The objective was to collect existing information and analyse secondary statistical data from public records, press releases, reports and publications issued by national and European or international authorities. Our desk research team performed a thorough analysis of the reports publicly available and offered to us by various stakeholders, for the in scope economic sectors activities.

The main risks for this approach refer to lack of, poor quality, insufficient level of detail and inconsistency of data. To partly mitigate this risk, we have performed a mapping of potential alternative data sources, such as the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure or the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Protection. An important source for our effort was the data compiled by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Figure 4. List of stakeholders interviewed/surveyed



Source: PwC methodology

- **Interviews and consultations** with the relevant stakeholders, including both representatives of the public and of the private sector;

In order to assess the view of most relevant stakeholders on the COVID-19 pandemic impact and learn about their initiatives aimed to reduce the crisis effects, individual phone interviews were organized. The stakeholders were in advance grouped into categories considering the key-economic sectors and vulnerable groups targeted by the report. This ensured that proper questions were addressed and high

quality, detailed information was provided by the interviewees. The list of targeted stakeholders is presented (Figure 32) above.

- **Impact assessment questionnaires**, directed to main stakeholders (public sector institutions, development partners/donors, business associations/civil society) and meant to collect information regarding ongoing and planned initiatives as well as impacted initiatives by the COVID-19 pandemic:

The tailor-made questionnaires were employed in order to gather information regarding the adjustments made by the stakeholders to their current projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as regarding the projects/initiatives in their pipeline that need to be modified to address the COVID-19 impact. Questionnaires were filled in by more than 45 key stakeholders, including public sectors institutions, development partners/donors, social NGOs and business associations.

- **A targeted survey** developed in collaboration with a specialized company - Magenta Consulting.

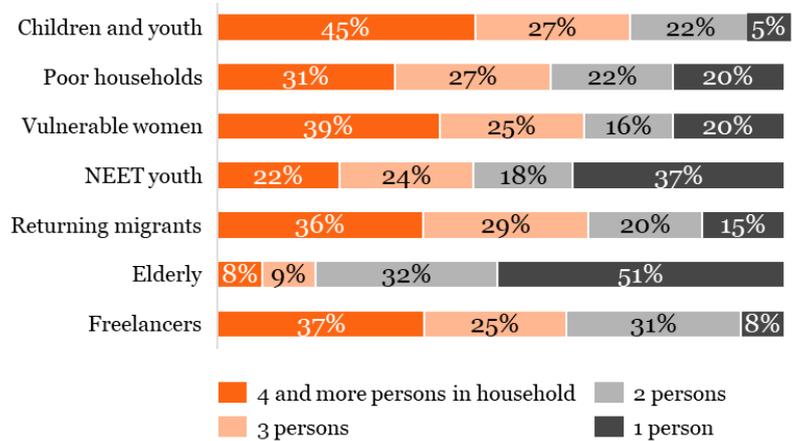
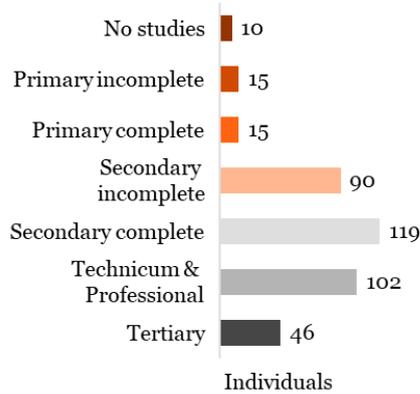
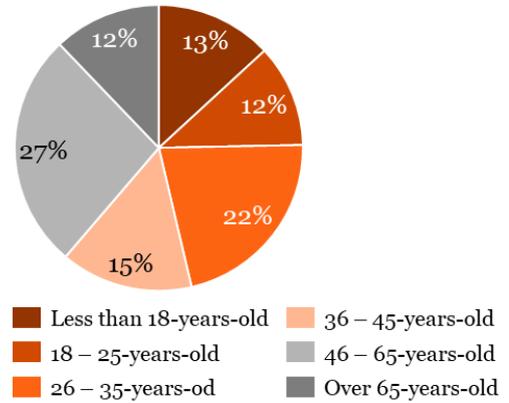
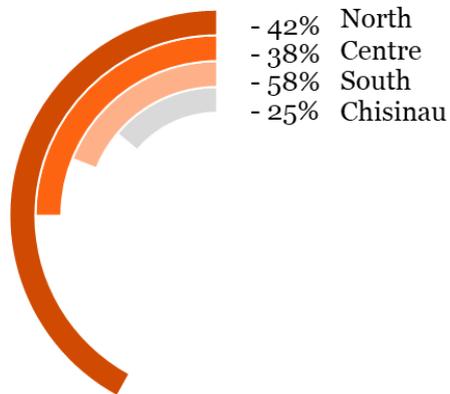
The structure of the survey was developed together with UNDP (with inputs from OHCHR, UNFPA and other UN agencies) and Magenta Consulting representatives. The survey covers relevant aspects for both in scope vulnerable groups and economic sectors. The survey has collected primary data and information from 390 Moldovan citizens and 450 companies (relevant persons from the company's management) across all in-scope economic sectors, the answers **reflecting their perception on specific aspects**.. The results of the survey are disaggregated and presented extensively in Chapters 3 and 4. For more details regarding the sampling methodology used and instrumentation of the questionnaires used, please see Appendix 1.

For the vulnerable groups, the survey was conducted during 19th of August and 14th of September 2020, and was answered by 390 respondents in Moldova across all in-scope vulnerable groups, with the following profile:

390 respondents out of which:

70% rural areas

68% females



For the economic sectors purpose, the survey was conducted during 18th of August and 14th of September 2020, and was answered by 450 companies operating in Moldova across all in-scope economic sectors as follows:

450 respondents out of which:

72% urban areas

58% women

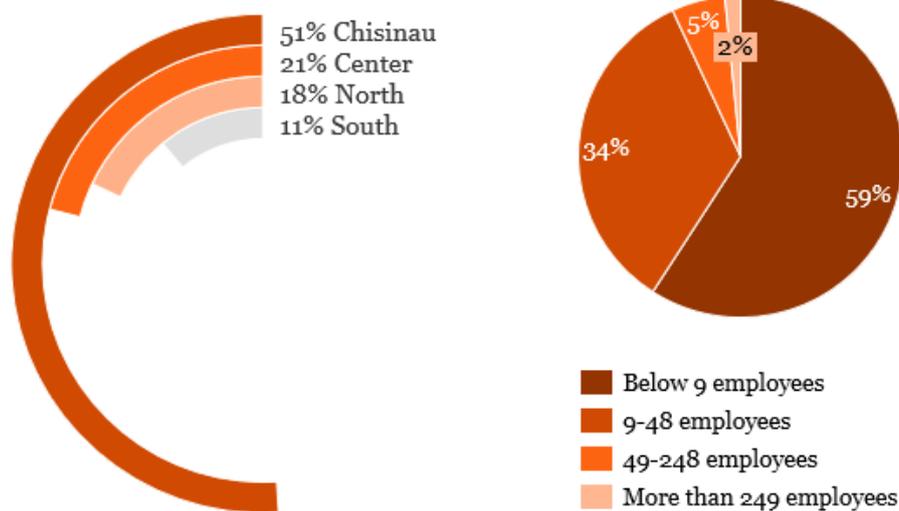
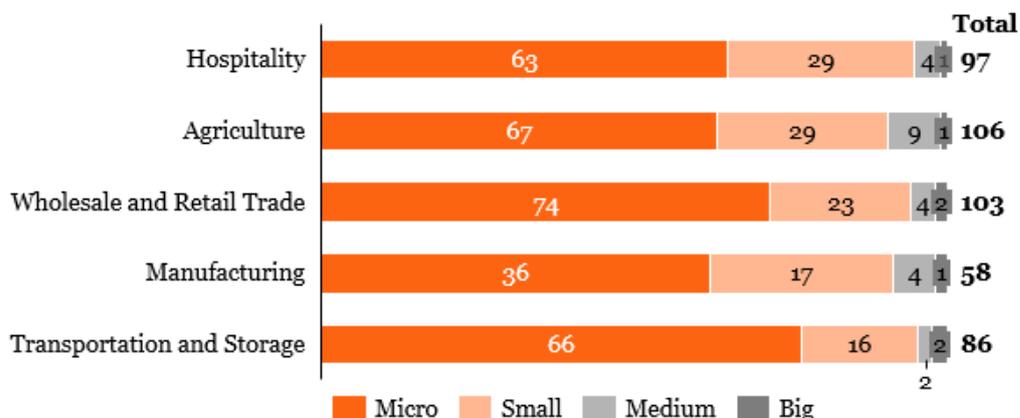


Figure 5. Number of companies participating in the survey



Source: PwC and Magenta Consulting survey data

- **NBS Ad-hoc Module on COVID-19 impact on households**, used as additional data source to the survey and validation gateway of main conclusions.

The National Bureau of Statistics ran an ad-hoc module to the Household Budget Survey addressing the COVID-19 pandemic impact. The module offered valuable in-crisis context for household impact and is an excellent benchmark for the results of the main survey on vulnerable groups. Of particular interest was the ability to extract overlapping vulnerabilities from the module, with respect to health concerns, difficulties related to the education of children, and finances. Moreover, as the module included questions related to the changes in employment locally or abroad, it was also relevant in the analysis of returning migrants.

- **Mobility big data**, kindly provided by UNDP, reflecting anonymized in-crisis behaviour, including geolocation patterns.

The dataset was based on flows recorded by a telecom operator in Moldova. The technology supported mobility statistics based on (anonymized) mobile phone signals. This dataset allows visualization of the dynamics of origin/destination flows, the trends in personal activity, stay-at-home ratios, and the

evolution of the radius of distance travelled in kilometres – thus serving the basis for benchmarking against past peak values and serving as a proxy for population confidence and economic reopening.

- **Electricity consumption**, kindly provided by UNDP, showing anonymized electricity consumption patterns.

The dataset presented monthly electricity consumption patterns for both 2020 and prior years (the main analysis investigated 2019 year-on-year dynamics, but some of the data went back up to 2014). The data was based on a Moldovan energy operator and was anonymized and aggregated up to regional level, with the possibility to separate the Chisinau area. The trends informed a data-driven opinion on the household energy consumption during the pandemic, with implications arising in terms of energy poverty and coping with the coming cold season.

- **Earth observation data** kindly provided by UNDP, based on analysis undertaken in partnership with the European Space Agency.

The spatial dataset was based on rapid response satellite earth observation and featured two services: first, thematic maps and anomaly detection abilities in agriculture (for the Făleşti, Ungheni, Bălți and Sângerei raions); and second air quality analyses and assessment of levels of NO₂, SO₂, CO, PM₁₀ and PM_{2,5} pollutants in the atmosphere (for Moldova nationwide and Ukraine). These two services allowed estimations of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local agricultural practices and cropland distribution and status (relevant given draught weather conditions), as well as impact on the air quality relating to the lockdown (relevant given decrease in personal transportation over the time horizon).

- **Micronarratives**, collected within a qualitative study performed by UNDP, which were used in conjunction with insights emerging from the quantitative spectrum.

The micro-narratives form part of an initiative of the UNDP to understand the experience and support systems of Moldovan communities, during the COVID-19 pandemic. The dataset added rich qualitative context to the other quantitative sources. In addition to the stories offering direct insight into the concerns and behaviours triggered by the crisis, the dataset also offered possibility to aggregate these by demographics and triads, thus cross validating the issues emerging for sub-groups against yet one additional source.