



GENERATING EVIDENCE ON THE IMPACT OF THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE ON FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN SERBIA



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Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock-responsiveness

UN Joint Programme *Extending Social Protection to families in Serbia with enhanced shock-responsiveness* focuses on strengthening shock-responsive social protection system to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the consecutive crisis that hit the country.

Its aim is to (i) strengthen the data response on the impact of the crisis on the most vulnerable groups to feed into the introduction of legislative changes for adaptive social protection system (ii) apply the shock-responsive social protection principles to provide support for the 170 most vulnerable families. The project is implemented jointly by UNICEF (lead agency) and UNFPA, with the participation of UNHCR and in close partnership with the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Agenda 2030, Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, other line-Ministries, Local Self Governments, Statistical Office, Red Cross and World Bank. The total project value is \$289.200, funded mainly by the UN Joint SDG Fund.

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I INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background information

The conflict in Ukraine has influenced the global economy in numerous ways. Even before this crisis, poverty and inequality in Serbia were assessed as extensive, measured by European Union (EU) standards, while the ongoing crisis may further deteriorate the living standard in Serbia. Some populations are at specific risk, and so in order to examine how this crisis affects families with children, a survey was conducted with the aim of generating evidence about the effect of the conflict in Ukraine on families with children in Serbia. This report presents the results of the survey.

METHODOLOGY

II.1 Brief overview of methodology

Data were collected between 21 November and 4 December 2022. Data collection methods included computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and computer-assisted web interviewing (CAWI), supported by the Ipsos Online Panel. Ipsos Online Panel is a base of respondents who agreed to take part in various online surveys conducted by Ipsos Strategic Marketing. It includes more than 20,000 participants and is used for research purposes only. Phone interviewing was used to collect 80% of data (N=1,457), while Ipsos Online Panel was used for 20% (N=365). The total sample included 1,822 households. The following section gives details of the sample structure.

The target population included households with children under 17 years of age, and respondents were members of these households. Given that several critical survey questions tackled household financial status, it was important to engage respondents familiar with it. If a household had several children, after listing all of them, the data collection program randomly chose one child to talk about during interviewing.

II.2 Sample

The sample for phone surveys was a one-stage stratified representative sample with quotas (for mobile phones) or a two-stage stratified representative sample with quotas (for landline phones). For online surveys the sample was quota. Stratification was created based on four statistical regions (NUTS2: Republic of Serbia without Kosovo¹ and Metohija), type of settlement and household structure based on children's age.

Household structure based on children's age was taken from MICS6 (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, sixth round) — Serbia, MICS 2019.² Households were divided based on having at least one child under 6 years of age; at least one child aged between 7 and 12 years; at least one child aged between 13 and 17 years. The sample was allocated proportionally within these households: 600 households in each category designed, based on child's age. These 600 households within statistical regions and type of settlement were allocated based on the structure obtained from MICS. Allocation was implemented proportionally to presence in the population and wealth index standard deviation size (the bigger the number of households from a stratum in the population and the bigger the standard deviation — or the difference in 'wealth' of these households — the more such households being included in the sample). Such allocation was then corrected so that there are no fewer than 50 units in each cell. The final allocation is shown in Table 2.2.1.

¹ Mentioning Kosovo in this report needs to be understood in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

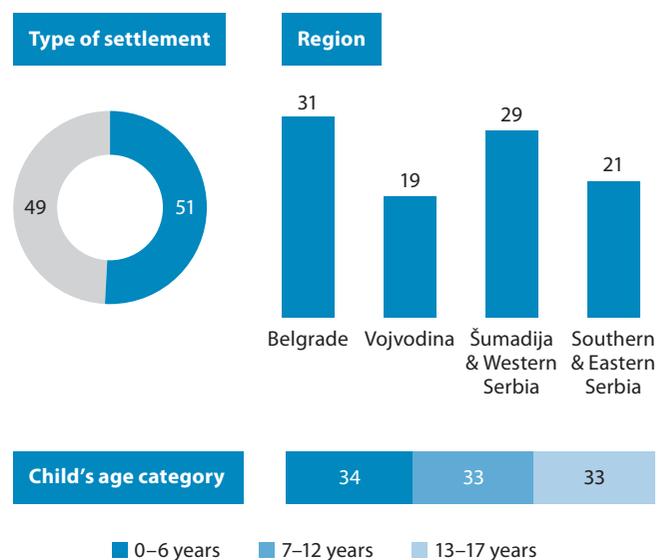
² UNICEF and Statistical Office of Serbia, MICS 2019, Ref. SRB_2019_MICS_v01_M. Database obtained from <https://mics.unicef.org/surveys> 15 November 2022.

TABLE 2.2.1 SAMPLE ALLOCATION BY TYPE OF SETTLEMENT, REGION, AND CHILD'S AGE

Urban/rural	Region	Households with children of age:		
		0–6	7–12	13–17
Urban	Belgrade	75	65	55
	Vojvodina	50	50	50
	Šumadija and West Serbia	67	64	74
	South and East Serbia	61	70	74
Other	Belgrade	61	73	63
	Vojvodina	132	128	130
	Šumadija and West Serbia	80	87	77
	South and East Serbia	74	63	77
Total		600	600	600

Data were weighted on the basis of the original household structure obtained from the same MICS; that is, on the basis of real presence of each stratum in the population.

The sample consists of 49% households from rural areas and 51% households from urban areas (Figure 2.2.1). The share of Belgrade households is 31%, Vojvodina 19%, Šumadija and West Serbia 29% and East and South Serbia 21%. Households are balanced by children's age: 34% of households with children under 6 years of age, 33% with children from 7 to 12 years old, and 33% households with children from 13 to 17 years old.

FIGURE 2.2.1 SAMPLE STRUCTURE BY TYPE OF SETTLEMENT, REGION, AND CHILD'S AGE, IN %

II.3 Ethics and data protection

Through the whole research process, including data collection and reporting, all ethical standards applied when human subjects are involved in the research were taken into account. Ipsos Strategic Marketing follows the highest professional ESOMAR and ISO standards concerning survey design, data collection, processing, and analysis. Additionally, this research was conducted respecting UNICEF procedure on ethical standards in research, evaluation, data collection and analysis, specifically, its guiding principles: respect, beneficence, justice, integrity, and accountability.

All questions in the questionnaire are formulated in a way that does not bring any harm to the respondents (be it physical or psychological harm).

All respondents have taken part in the survey voluntarily, that is, they have given their consent for participation. Confidentiality and privacy of respondents, as well as of their data, was guaranteed with the following steps:

- The interviewers introduced themselves to the respondents by giving them the main information about Ipsos and about UNICEF, with explanations about main aims of this research;

- All respondents were informed that the research is completely anonymous and that participation in the survey is voluntary. They were also informed that their answers would be analyzed on a group level, not individually, as well as that no personal data would be included in the analysis – they were explained that demographical questions are asked only for the purposes of fieldwork control;
- The respondents were also informed about the average length of the questionnaire;
- They were informed that they do not need to answer questions they do not want to answer, as well as that they can interrupt the survey at any point, without any consequences.

By conducting all these steps, the respondents gained enough information about the potential risks and benefits of participating in the survey, so they were able to make an independent decision about their participation. Only after respondent's verbal consent was obtained, the questionnaire was administered.

When it comes to data protection, all data were analyzed in full compliance with legal, regulatory, and ethical obligations of Ipsos Strategic Marketing, as well as in accordance with UNICEF Policy on Personal Data Protection. Any data that could identify the respondents have been anonymized, and will be permanently deleted from the server they are kept on, once it is no longer necessary to retain it for the purposes of this research.

RESULTS

The effects of the conflict in Ukraine on families with children in Serbia

Impact of crises on the financial status of families with children

- Although the population has faced two global crises in the recent past, one almost immediately following the other, 75% say that they are able to differentiate between the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine on their household's financial status, while 22% see no difference.
- For those who are able to differentiate between the effects of these two global crises, 89% say that consequences of the Ukraine crisis have had a negative impact on the financial status of their household, while 55% describe the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as negative.
- Almost all had their living expenses increase (93%), while one quarter mention reduced income (27%).
- Barely making ends meet is mentioned by 21% of households, while only 10% say they can afford almost everything they need.

Changing habits to cope with the crisis

- The most common strategies for coping with the crisis, in regard to finances, are finding extra work (42%), borrowing money (33%), and postponing purchases (32%).

- To cope with the crisis, 66% have changed at least one habit in regard to buying clothes in the past three months, while 59% have changed at least one habit in regard to food consumption.
- Poorer population were more likely to take almost all crisis-coping measures.

Psychological state in the recent period

- In the past month, 39% have felt very or somewhat good, while 23% felt very or somewhat bad.
- In the past three months, 23% have felt the need for psychological support — only 1 in 17 report seeking psychological support, while 1 in 14 could not afford it.
- Being worried more than usual was mentioned by 66%, 43% were under greater stress than usual, 42% had more frequent mood swings, 40% were more anxious than usual, and 37% more irritable.
- As for changes in children's behaviour, there were no reports of any extreme behaviours in the past month.
- Mood swings, as well as changes in children's behaviour, were more noticeable among the most vulnerable population.

Employment and change of employment status during the Ukraine crisis

- The share of the employed is 68%, and of the unemployed, 17%. There are more unemployed people among the most vulnerable population.
- Compared with six months ago, 4% had lost their job. The most common reason for this was reduced scope of work.
- As for those who lost their job in the meantime, 29% believe it was a consequence of the war in Ukraine.

Household expenses

- The majority believe that their monthly expenses have grown since the same month last year (observed based on the share of expenses in total monthly household expenses).
- Annual expenses are also considered higher than last year (observed based on the share of expenses in total yearly household expenses).
- Compared with before the global crises — that is, 2019 — 84% of households reported that expenses related to children are higher now.

Helping households with children

- In the past 12 months, the majority of households with children have not received any assistance. Most recipients can be found among those receiving children's allowance (13%) and birth grant (12%).
- As a response to the current crisis, almost half of the population need regular monthly income (48%), 36% would like easier access or better availability of services related to children, 19% would benefit from increased current financial assistance, 19% from one-off financial assistance, and 19% from reduced current housing costs.

Expectations regarding the future

- Almost half are not optimistic regarding future expectations of their financial standing — 48% believe that it will get worse in the next six months.
- The majority are concerned about unceasing price increases (80%), as well as about potential drop of the quality of life (62%). One third are afraid of not having enough money for basic needs (33%), and one fifth of not being able to afford adequate heating (22%).
- In order to cope with the crisis more easily, the majority are willing to take extra measures and give up unnecessary spending.
- The majority are also willing to take steps aimed at reducing household energy costs: 81% are willing to turn off the lights in empty rooms, 52% to unplug appliances not in use, 21% to buy energy-efficient equipment, 20% to reduce room temperature, 11%

to change the main source of energy, and 9% to install equipment for controlling and reducing energy consumption.

III.1 Sample structure based on household financial status

Given the importance of identifying poorer segments of the population for the survey, the questionnaire includes several measures of household financial status: material deprivation, monthly income per household member and position relative to the poverty line.

Material deprivation

The questionnaire includes five indicators for material deprivation:

- possibility to eat meat, chicken, fish, or vegan/vegetarian equivalent once in two days;
- possibility to afford an unexpected expenditure of 22,000 dinars;³
- having difficulties paying bills on time;
- possibility to afford a one-week vacation for the whole household;
- possibility to afford adequate heating in the dwelling.

The majority state that they can afford to eat meat, chicken, fish, or vegan/vegetarian equivalent once in two days (76%), and almost one quarter say they cannot (23%). Those who are more likely to be unable are residents of South and East Serbia (30%), those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less (36%), recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (43%), as well as those whose household is below the poverty line (44%).

³ The source of the calculation information is the website of the Statistical Office of Serbia.

As for the possibility to afford an unexpected expenditure of 22,000 dinars, more than half would not be able to provide this sum of money (53%), while 46% would not consider it a problem. Quite expectedly, those who would have problems are those with income per household member of 300 euros or less (66%), households below the poverty line (71%), as well as recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (67%).

Difficulties with paying bills on time due to financial issues in the past month appeared in 38% of households, while 61% had no such difficulties. More likely to have these difficulties are those with monthly household income per household member of 300 euros or less (51%), households below the poverty line (56%), as well as recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (52%). In addition, households with children aged 13 to 17 years are more likely to have difficulties paying bills than an average household with children (44%).

More than half say their household could not afford a one-week vacation for the whole household (57%), while 42% state being able to do this. Households from rural areas are more likely than an average household with children not to be able to afford a vacation (66%), as are households with children aged 13 to 17 years (65%), those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (76%), households below the poverty line (81%), and recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (75%).

As for adequate heating in the dwelling, the majority state this is not a problem (87%), while 12% mention inability to afford adequate heating. Residents of Vojvodina are more likely not to be able to afford adequate heating (16%), as are households with children aged 13 to 17 years (16%), those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less (18%), households below the poverty line (23%), and recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (23%).

Figure 3.1.1. shows the responses to these questions for the general population of households with children, while Figure 3.1.2. shows the same data for the population of households with children below the poverty line.

FIGURE 3.1.1 MATERIAL DEPRIVATION

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

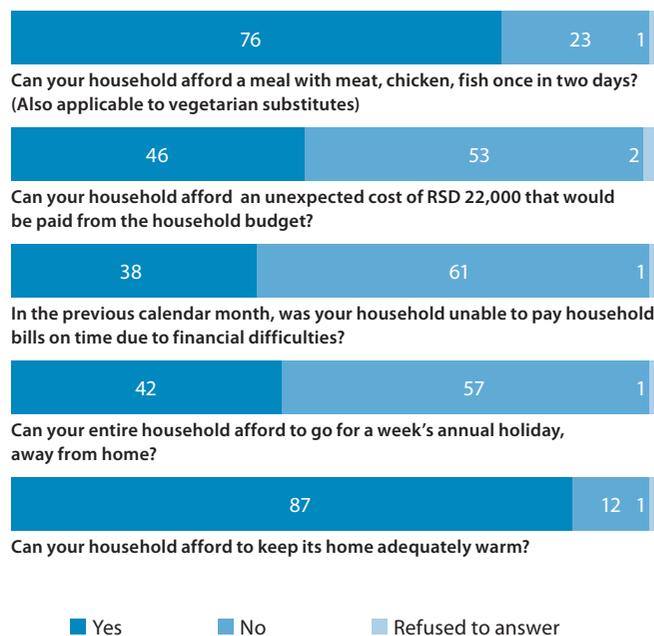
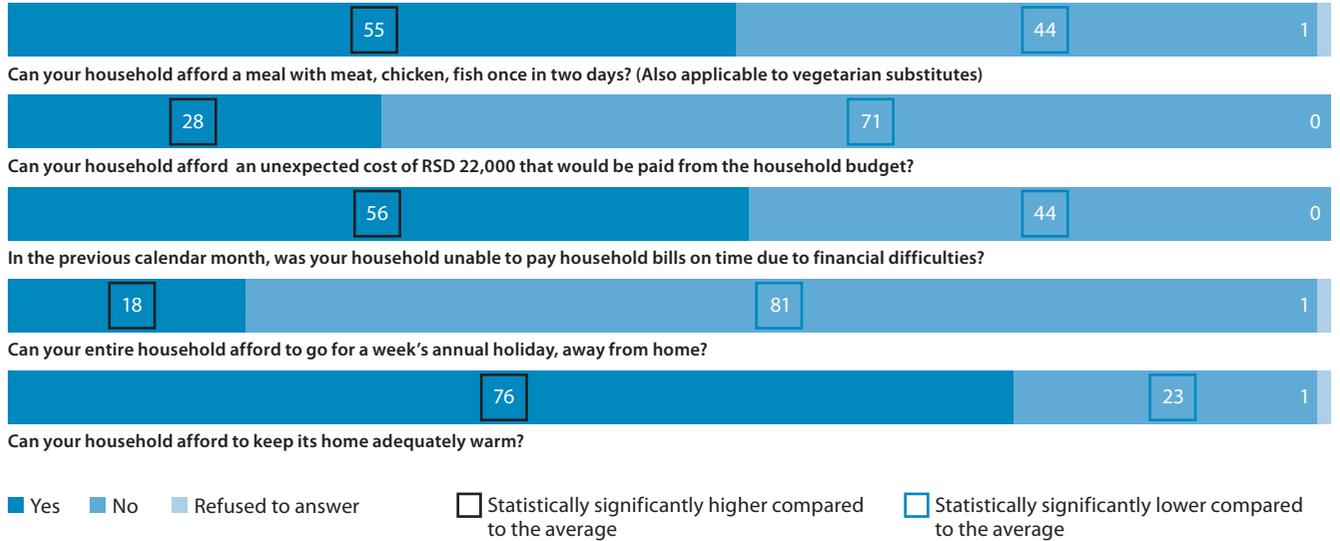


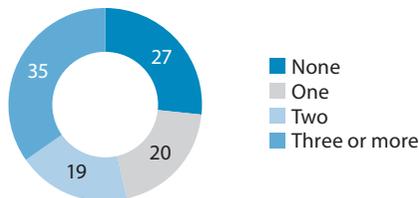
FIGURE 3.1.2 MATERIAL DEPRIVATION

Base: households with children under 17 years of age below poverty line
N=366



Based on the responses to these five questions — that is, the number of material deprivation factors — **four categories of households** were formed: not materially deprived households (not having problems with any of the five factors), households that have problems with one factor, households that have problems with two factors and households that have problems with three or more factors (Figure 3.1.3).

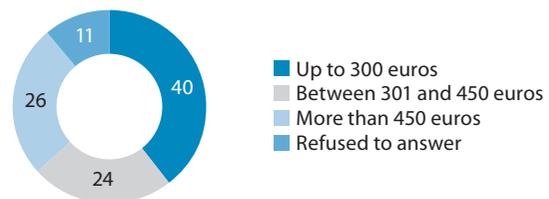
FIGURE 3.1.3 SAMPLE STRUCTURE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF MATERIAL DEPRIVATION FACTORS



Monthly income per household member and the poverty line

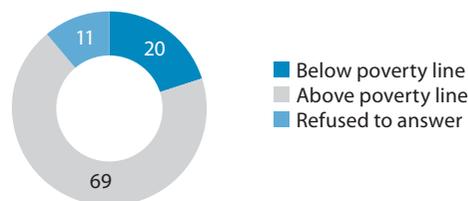
Households were grouped based on monthly income per household member (Figure 3.1.4). The calculations were based on the data originating from the Statistical Office of Serbia. Depending on the number of household members and household structure, each member got an adequate weight when distributing total household income.

FIGURE 3.1.4 SAMPLE STRUCTURE BASED ON MONTHLY INCOME PER HOUSEHOLD MEMBER



Whether a household was above or below the poverty line was calculated, again based on data from the Statistical Office of Serbia, by multiplying the poverty line threshold for a single-member household in 2021 (which was 24,064 dinars a month) with the weight that each household got during calculating monthly income per household member. This amount, which represents the poverty line for the household of that specific structure, was compared with total monthly household income, in order to determine whether the household was above or below the poverty line (Figure 3.1.5). **Households below the poverty line are observed as the most vulnerable population in this report** (N=366), and results for this population will be shown separately from the results for the general population of households with children whenever there are statistically significant differences.

FIGURE 3.1.5 SAMPLE STRUCTURE BASED ON THE POVERTY LINE



Quite expectedly, these three measures of financial/material household status are correlated — given that households’ position relative to the poverty line was calculated on basis of monthly income per household member, the correlation between these two measures is the strongest: the lower the monthly income per household member, the ‘lower’ the household goes below the poverty line. Monthly income per household member and poverty line are also correlated with material deprivation: the lower the income per household member, or the ‘lower’ the household is below the poverty line, the more factors indicate material deprivation of that household. Correlations and their statistical implications are presented in Table 3.1.1.

TABLE 3.1.1 CORRELATIONS BETWEEN THREE MEASURES OF FINANCIAL/MATERIAL HOUSEHOLD STATUS

		Number of material deprivation factors	Poverty line	Monthly income per household member
Number of material deprivation factors	Pearson correlation	1	-.217**	-.318**
	Statistical significance		.000	.000
	N	1,822	1,822	1,822
Poverty line	Pearson correlation	-.217**	1	.743**
	Statistical significance	.000		0.000
	N	1,822	1,822	1,822
Monthly income per household member	Pearson correlation	-.318**	.743**	1
	Statistical significance	.000	0.000	
	N	1,822	1,822	1,822

**Correlation is statistically significant at the level 0.01.

III.2 Influence of crises on the financial status of families with children

Although the population has faced two global crises in the recent past, one almost immediately following the other, 75% say that they are able to differentiate between the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine on their household’s financial status, while 22% see no difference (Figure 3.2.1). Those living in poverty were more likely not to be able to see the difference: households below the poverty line (31%) and those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less (27%).

FIGURE 3.2.1 ABILITY TO DIFFERENTIATE THE EFFECTS OF THE CRISES

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822



Can you differentiate the impact that COVID-19 has had on your household’s financial situation from the impact that the consequences of the war in Ukraine have had on your household’s financial situation?

Statistically significantly higher compared to the average
 Statistically significantly lower compared to the average

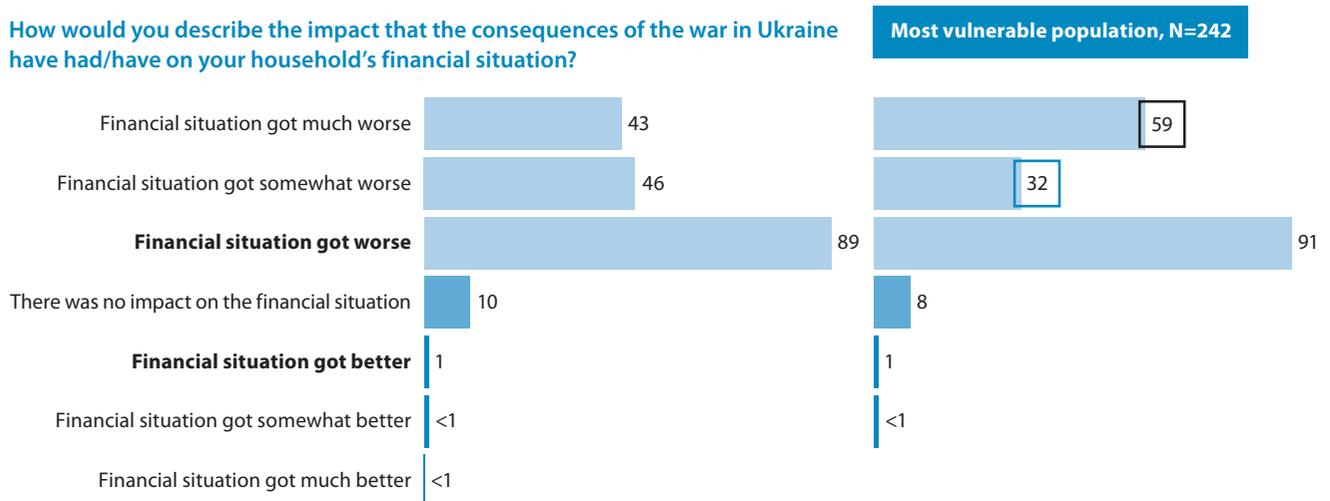
For those who are able to differentiate between the effects of these two global crises, 89% say that the consequences of the Ukraine crisis have had a negative impact on the financial status of their household (Figure 3.2.2). Poorer population are more likely than average to say that their financial status deteriorated significantly as a consequence of the crisis; this is the case among 52% of

those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 59% of households below the poverty line, as well as 64% of those deprived on three or more factors. Those who are not materially deprived are more likely than average to say that the Ukraine crisis has had no effect on their financial status (22%).

FIGURE 3.2.2 IMPACT OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE ON HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Base: households able to differentiate between the effects of different crises on their financial status
N=1,365

How would you describe the impact that the consequences of the war in Ukraine have had/have on your household’s financial situation?



Statistically significantly higher compared to the average
 Statistically significantly lower compared to the average

For the COVID-19 pandemic, 55% of those who can see the difference between the effects of the two crises reported negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the financial status of their household (Figure 3.2.3). Poorer population seem to be more harshly affected by the crisis: 67% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less said their financial situation had worsened (one quarter described it as severely worsened); 69% of households below the poverty line shared this opinion (more than one quarter described the financial status as severely worsened); as did 71% of the materially deprived on three or more factors (one quarter described the financial status as severely worsened). Moreover, recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in

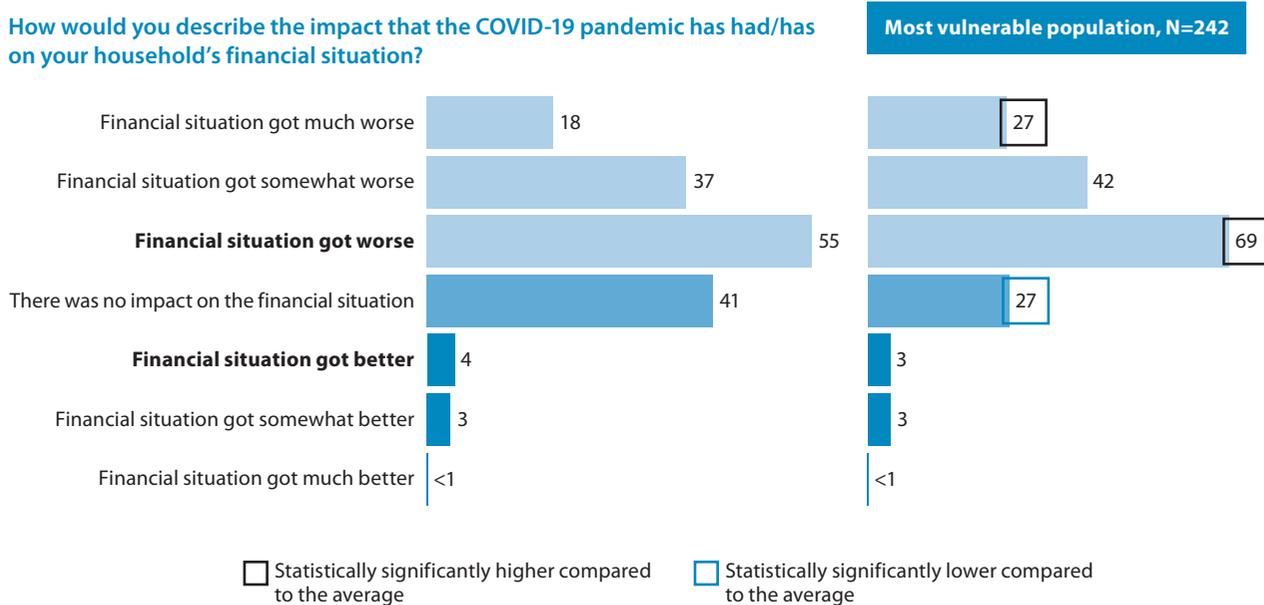
the past 12 months are also more likely to say they were affected negatively by the COVID-19 pandemic: 71% described their financial situation as worse, while almost one third described this deterioration as severe.

Those better-off were again more likely to say that the COVID-19 pandemic had no impact on their financial situation; this is the case among 52% of those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more, as well as among 55% of the materially not deprived. In addition, this population were more likely than average to say their financial situation had improved due to the COVID-19 pandemic: 6% of those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more, as well as 7% of the materially not deprived.

FIGURE 3.2.3 IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Base: households able to differentiate between the effects of different crises on their financial status
N=1,365

How would you describe the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had/had on your household’s financial situation?



Similarly, those who are unable to differentiate between the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and consequences of the Ukraine crisis on their household financial situation are also more likely to say their financial status worsened due to the crises (67%) (Figure 3.2.4). This is especially the case with those who are materially deprived on three or more factors (84%). There are also differences in the degree of damage — poorer population are more likely to say that their financial situation got a lot worse due to the crises: 38% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 41% of households below the poverty line, and 51% of the materially

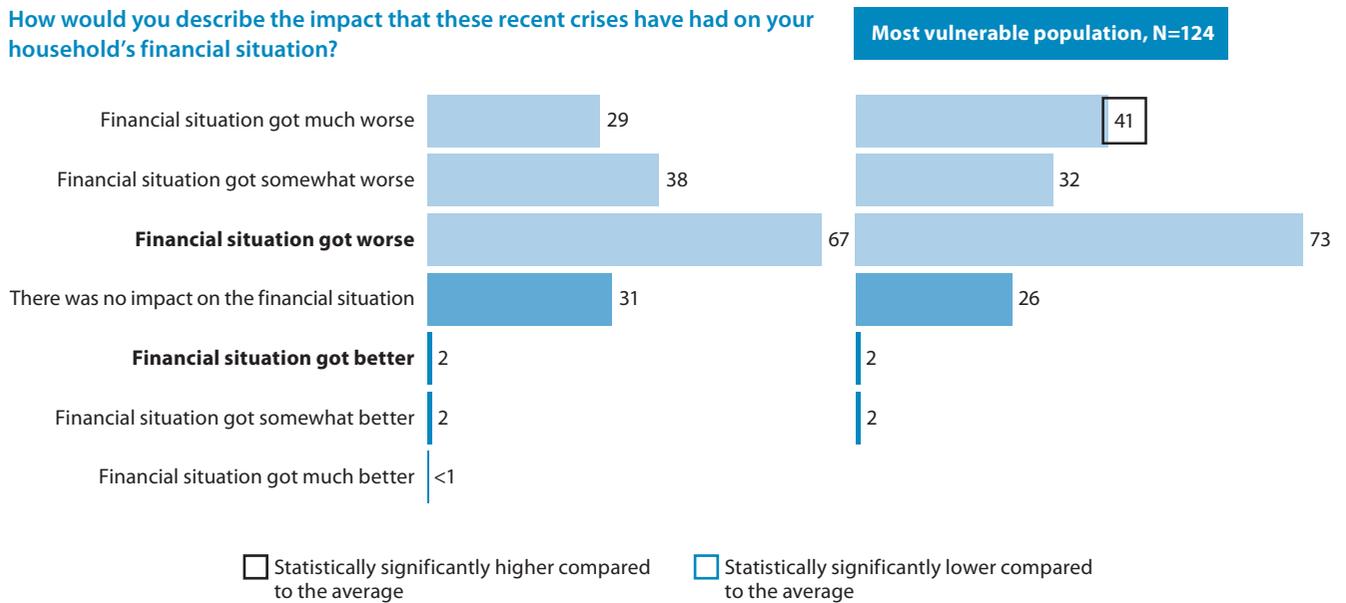
deprived on three or more factors. Recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months are also more likely to say their financial situation worsened a lot due to the crises (43%).

More affluent population, again, are more likely to say there had been no impact of the crises on their household financial situation: 42% of those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more and 55% of the materially not deprived.

FIGURE 3.2.4 EFFECTS OF RECENT CRISES ON HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SITUATION

Base: households unable to differentiate between the effects of different crises on their financial status
N=457

How would you describe the impact that these recent crises have had on your household’s financial situation?



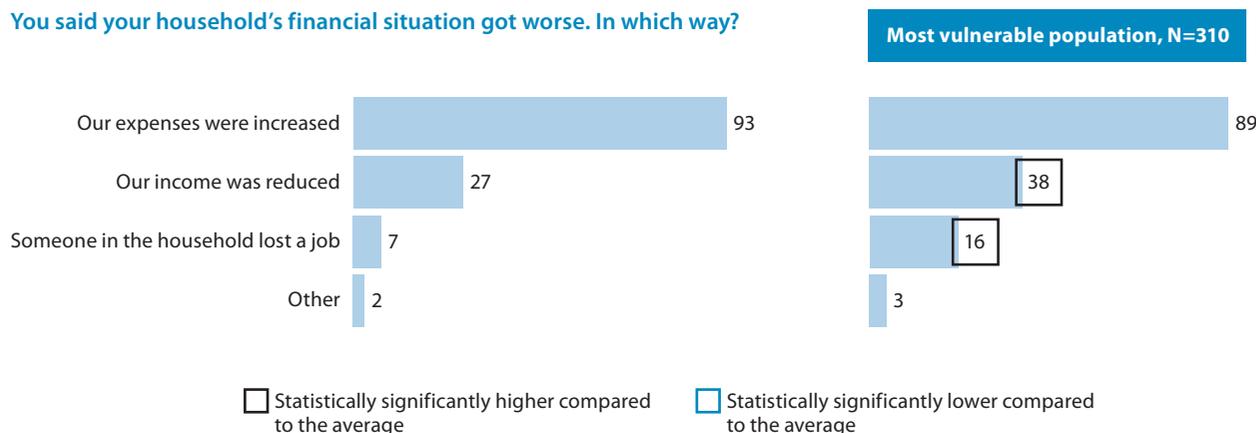
Almost all have had their living expenses increase (93%), while one quarter mention reduced income (27%) (Figure 3.2.5). Moreover, 7% report a household member losing his or her job as a consequence of the crises. Reduced income was more likely to be mentioned by residents of rural areas (32%), residents of Šumadija and West Serbia (32%), as well as poor population: 37% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 38% of households below the poverty line, as well as 35% of the materially deprived on three or more

factors. This population were also more likely to report a household member losing his or her job: 12% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 16% of households below the poverty line and 11% of the materially deprived on three or more factors. They were also joined by the recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (13%); this group also reports a household member losing his/her job more often compared to the average.

FIGURE 3.2.5 DETERIORATION OF FINANCIAL SITUATION

Base: households with deteriorated financial situation
N=1,514, multiple answers

You said your household’s financial situation got worse. In which way?



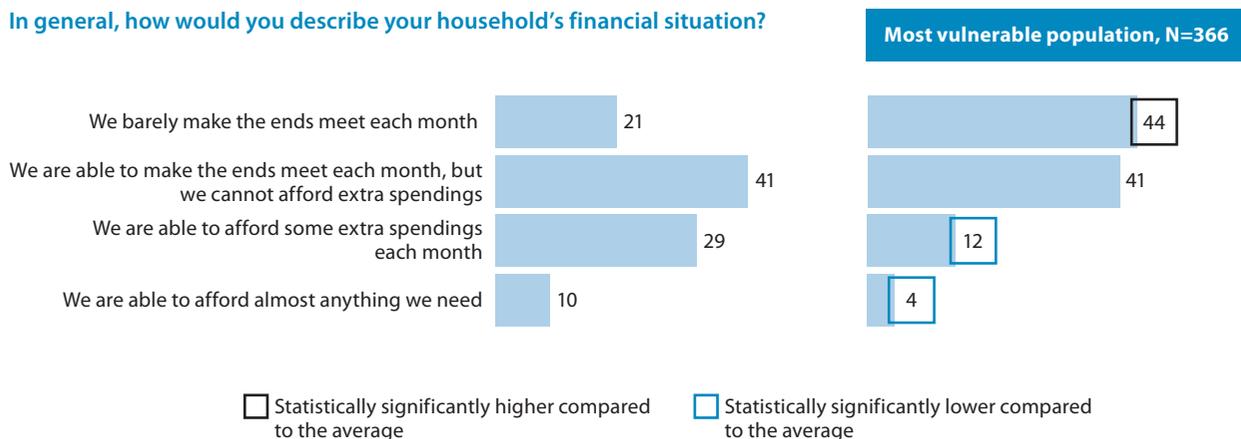
As for the current financial situation of the household, 21% say they barely make ends meet, 41% although not really being forced to make ends meet, still cannot afford extra spending, 29% can afford some extra expenses each month, while only 10% can afford almost everything they need (Figure 3.2.6). Those who barely make ends meet, expectedly, are more often members of poor population: 33% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 44% of households below the poverty line, and 44% of the materially deprived on three or more factors. This was also

more commonly the response of recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (35%), residents of South and East Serbia (27%), as well as households with children aged 13 to 17 years (27%). On the other hand, being able to afford almost everything they need is more often the response of those whose monthly income per household member is 450 euros or more (17%), those who are not materially deprived (28%), residents of Belgrade (13%), as well as households with children under 6 years of age (13%).

FIGURE 3.2.6 CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

In general, how would you describe your household's financial situation?



III.3 Changing habits to cope with the crisis

To cope with the current crisis, 78% report taking at least one measure in terms of finances. The most common strategies were finding an additional job (42%), borrowing money (33%) and postponing purchases (32%) (Figure 3.3.1). Additionally, 25% started using their savings, 15% stopped using private healthcare services, and 14% thought about changing their heating method this winter. Moreover, 10% reported being forced to sell some things, 5% had to move because of high housing costs, and 4% started relying on money obtained from friends or relatives who live abroad (remittances).

Those who are materially deprived on three or more factors took almost all of these measures more often compared to the average household with children (with the exception of relying on one's savings — this measure was more likely to be taken by those deprived on one factor (32%), as well as those with children under 6 years of age (30%)). Households with children under 6 years of age

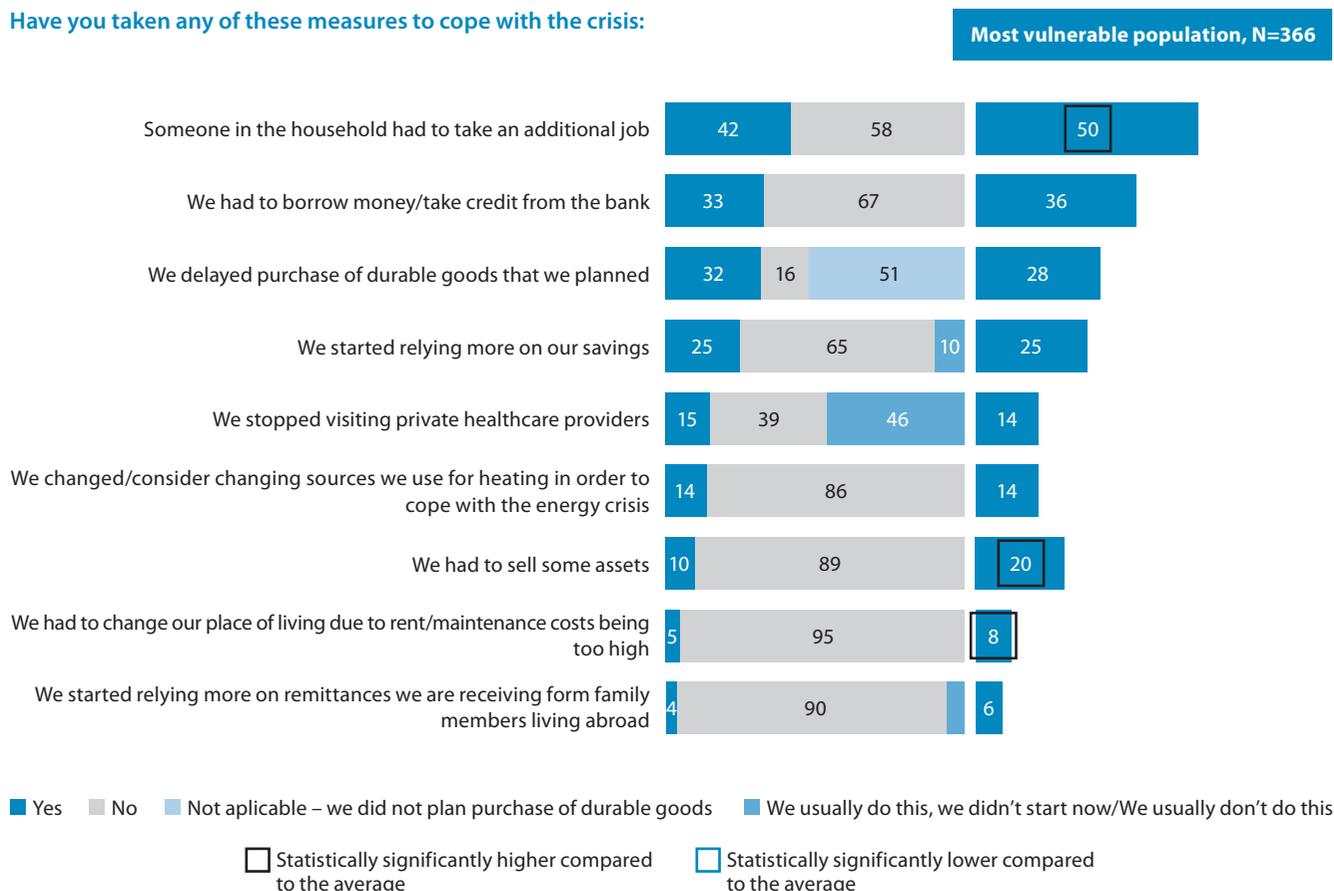
were also more likely to report continuing to use private healthcare services (45% stated they had not stopped using these healthcare services), and they were less likely than average to state not using these services in general (40%). On the other hand, quite expectedly, poor population are less likely to use private healthcare services in general: 54% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 59% of households below the poverty line and 55% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

Poor population are also more likely than average to be forced to look for another job in order to cope with the crisis: 49% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 50% of households below the poverty line, and 57% of the materially deprived on three or more factors. This population were also more likely to be forced to sell some things: 15% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 20% of households below the poverty line, 20% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, as well as 18% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months.

FIGURE 3.3.1 FINANCIAL MEASURES TAKEN TO COPE WITH THE CRISIS

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

Have you taken any of these measures to cope with the crisis:



To cope with the crisis, about two fifths of households with children did not/will not travel this year: 38% said they would not go on a winter vacation (besides the 46% who normally don't do this), and 37% said they had no summer vacation (besides the 19% who normally don't do this) (Figure 3.3.2). In addition, 16% mentioned not buying new textbooks/school materials for children this year, 12% said that their child did not go on a day trip or school excursion, and 10% that their child stopped attending extra classes they were going to.

As for not buying new textbooks and school materials, households with children aged 13 to 17 years were more likely than average to take this measure (32%), as well as residents of South and East Serbia (21%), together with

poor population: 21% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 21% of households below the poverty line, and 25% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

The situation is similar regarding not going on a day trip or school excursion; this was more common among households with children aged 13 to 17 years (19%), as well as among poor population: 17% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 20% of households below the poverty line, as well as 21% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

The pattern repeats itself in regard to dropping out of extra lessons; households that are more likely to have done

this are those with children aged 13 to 17 years (15%), as well as poor households: 13% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 15% of households below the poverty line, and 19% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

As for summer vacation, the materially deprived on three or more factors were more likely than an average household with children to say they had no summer vacation last year because of the crisis (47%), while 32% of this population generally do not travel during the summer. This is also the case with the recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (37%), with households below the poverty line (40%), those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (32%), residents of rural areas (26%), residents of Vojvodina (24%) and Šumadija and West Serbia (24%), as well as with house-

holds with children aged 13 to 17 years (23%) — members of all these populations more often than average state that they usually do not travel for summer holidays.

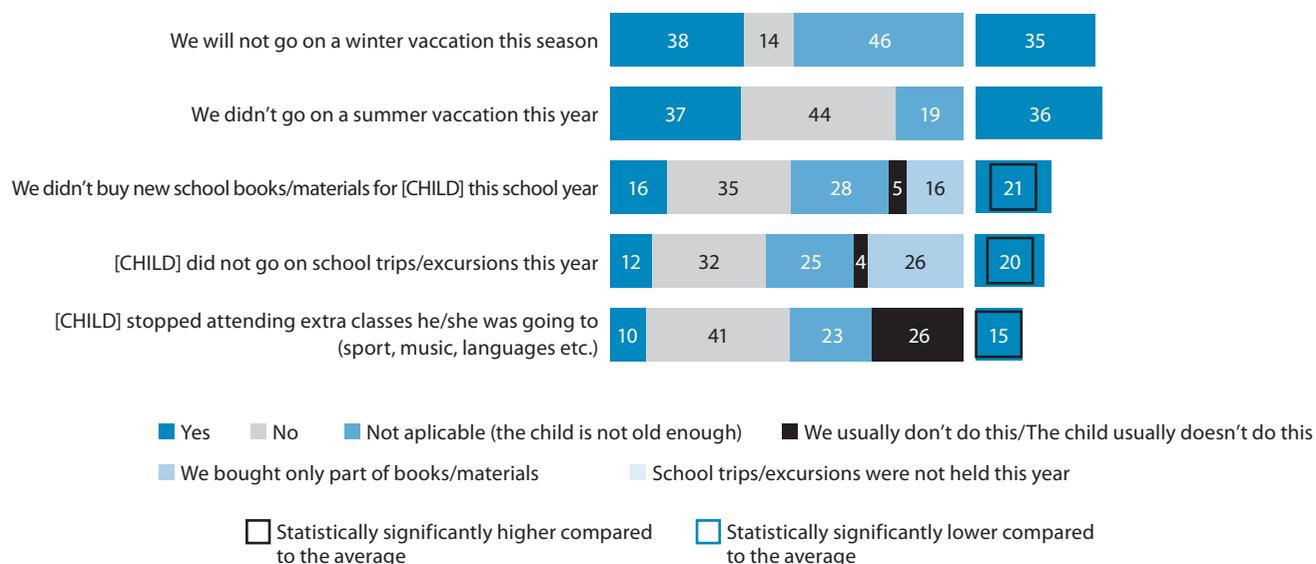
The situation is similar for winter vacation — the materially deprived on three or more factors, but also those materially deprived on two factors, were more likely to say they would not travel during the winter this year (45% and 47%, respectively). Materially deprived on three or more factors also more often than the average household with children state that they generally do not have winter vacations (53%), which is also the case with recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (55%), households below the poverty line (56%), those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (52%), residents of rural areas (53%), and households with children aged 13 to 17 years (52%).

FIGURE 3.3.2 OTHER MEASURES TAKEN TO COPE WITH THE CRISIS

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

What about some other measures you may have taken to cope with the crisis?
Please tell me if any of the following applies:

Most vulnerable population, N=366



As for changing habits regarding buying clothes, 66% said they had changed at least one habit in the past three months, while this share rises to 76% in the most vulnerable population. The most common change is not buying new clothes anymore (56%), followed by buying clothes in cheaper stores or buying clothes of lower quality (36%), visiting second-hand shops (14%), as well as borrowing clothes from relatives and friends (12%) (Figure 3.3.3). **Almost all these changes are more striking in the most vulnerable population.**

Poor population were more likely than average to stop buying new clothes unless necessary: 62% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, and 70% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

Second-hand shops were more likely to be the option used for households with children aged 13 to 17 years (19%), as well as for poor population: 21% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 21% of households below the poverty line, 25% of the material-

ly deprived on three or more factors, as well as recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (20%).

Poor population were also more likely to mention buying clothes in cheaper shops or clothes of lower quality: 44% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 46% of households below the poverty line, 55% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, as well as 48% of recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months.

Those who started borrowing clothes more than average were residents of rural areas (15%), recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (22%), as well as poor population: 18% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 21% of households below the poverty line, and 22% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

FIGURE 3.3.3 BUYING CLOTHES — MEASURES TAKEN TO COPE WITH THE CRISIS

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822



At least one habit regarding food consumption was changed in the past three months by 59% of households with children and 65% of the most vulnerable households with children. The most common change was starting to shop in cheaper stores (37%) and stopping visits to restaurants and fast-food outlets (32%) (Figure 3.3.4). Food of somewhat lower quality became the choice of 23% of households, while 16% started eating at home more. Fewer than three meals is now the daily routine for 10%, while 7% replace a meal with snacks sometimes, and 3% started obtaining food from other households.

Poor population more often than average report buying food in cheaper stores in general: 47% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less and 48% of households below the poverty line. The materially deprived on three or more factors were more likely than the average to have started doing this in the past three months (49%).

Poor population were more likely to report usually consuming food of somewhat lower quality: 24% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 28% of households below the poverty line, and 24% of the materially deprived on three or more factors. This was also the case with recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (23%). Moreover, poor population were also more likely to report having introduced this change in the past three months: 29% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 29% of households below the poverty line, and 39% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, as well as 29% of households with children aged 13 to 17 years.

The poor were also more likely to report having started to consume fewer than three meals a day: 15% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, 19% of households below the poverty line, 21% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, as well as 19% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months. Furthermore, 15% of households below the poverty line, as well as 13% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, more often than average reported having fewer than three meals a day in general.

The situation is similar for consuming snacks instead of meals; this was more likely to become the practice among the poor: 10% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, 12% of households below the poverty line, 11% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, and 13% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months.

In order to cope during the crisis, some stopped going to restaurants and fast-food places. More likely than average, those were the materially deprived on three or more factors (41%), but also residents of Belgrade (40%), as well as those with monthly income per household member between 300 and 450 euros (37%). However, not visiting restaurants and fast-food outlets in general was mentioned more often by residents of rural areas (47%), residents of Vojvodina (51%), as well as those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (51%), and households below the poverty line (56%).

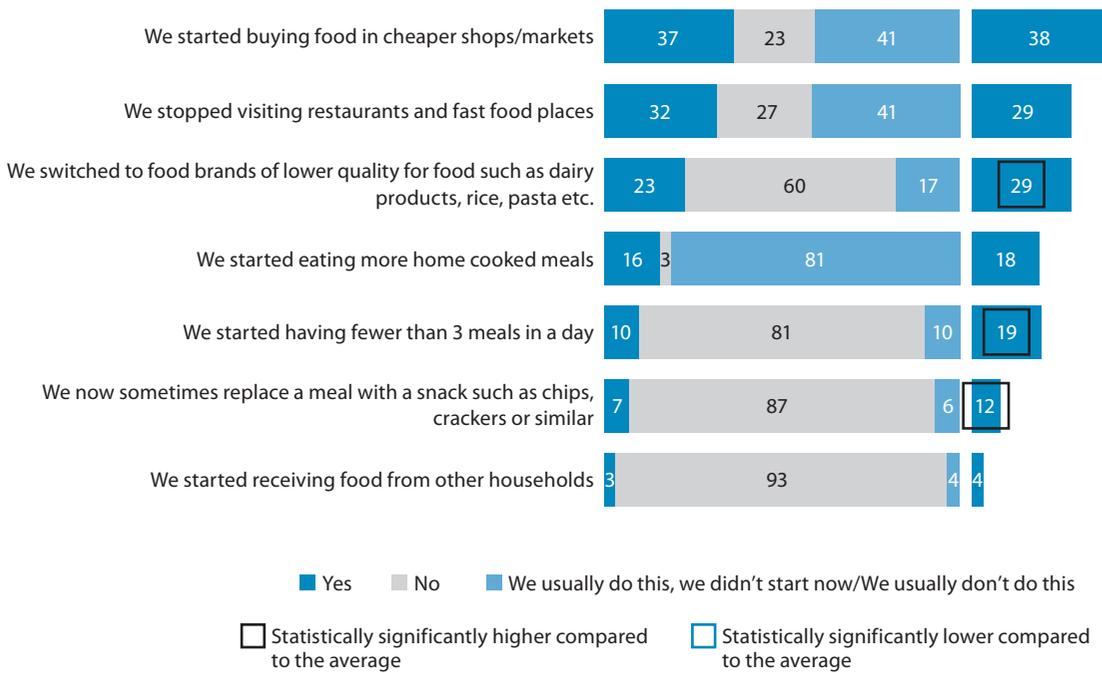
In addition, 48% of households that produce their own food (N=733) reported relying on this food more than usual in the past three months.

FIGURE 3.3.4 FOOD CONSUMPTION — MEASURES TAKEN TO COPE WITH THE CRISIS

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

Which of the following measures related to food consumption have you taken in the last three months to cope with the crisis?

Most vulnerable population, N=366

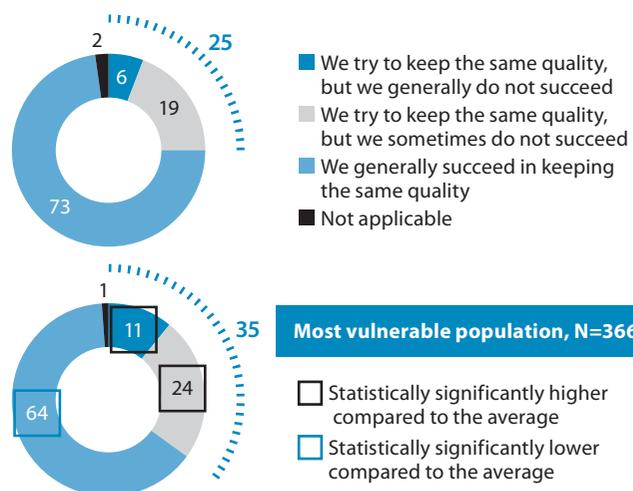


As for feeding children, the majority say they normally can keep the usual quality of food that the child consumes (73%), while 25% report not being able to do this every time: 19% fail sometimes, and 6% generally do not manage to do it (Figure 3.3.5). The poor report more often that they generally cannot keep the same quality: 10% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, 11% of households below the poverty line, 14% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, and 10% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months.

FIGURE 3.3.5 QUALITY OF CHILDREN'S DIET

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

What about the food [CHILD] eats? How would you describe its quality compared to three months ago?



Most vulnerable population, N=366

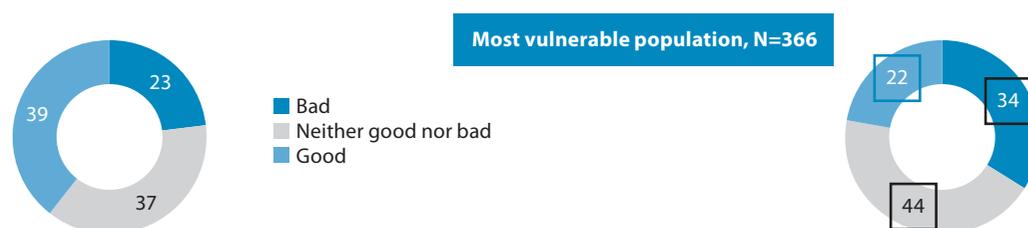
III.4 Psychological state in the recent period

In the past month, 39% felt mainly or very good, 37% neither good nor bad, while 23% felt mainly or very bad (Figure 3.4.1). Negative feelings were more common in the poor population: 41% of the materially deprived on

three or more factors, 34% of members of households below the poverty line, and 31% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less. Compared to the average, feeling bad was also more common among residents of South and East Serbia (28%), recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work (37%), as well as among those from households with children aged 13 to 17 years (27%).

FIGURE 3.4.1 PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE IN THE PAST MONTH

Base: members of households with children under 17 who are informed about household’s financial situation
N=1,822



How were you generally feeling in the past month?

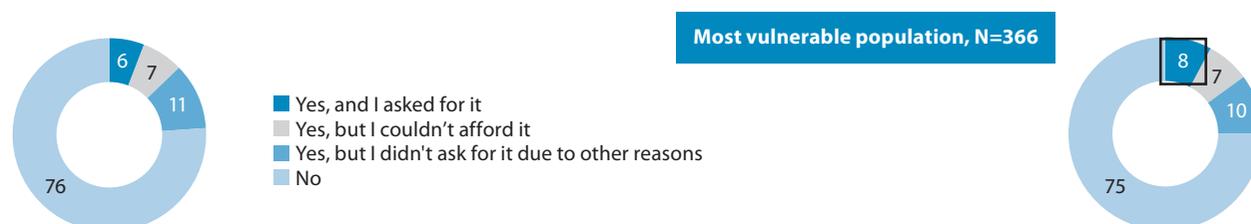
- Statistically significantly higher compared to the average
- Statistically significantly lower compared to the average

In the past three months, 23% have felt the need for psychological support — 6% report seeking it, while 7% could not afford it (Figure 3.4.2). Members of the most vulnerable population were more likely to seek help (8%),

while those materially deprived on three or more factors were more likely than average to feel the need for psychological support, which they could not afford (13%).

FIGURE 3.4.2 NEED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Base: members of households with children under 17 who are informed about household’s financial situation
N=1,822



In the last three months, have you felt the need for psychological help?

- Statistically significantly higher compared to the average
- Statistically significantly lower compared to the average

In the past month, 66% reported worrying more than usual, 43% were under greater stress than usual, 42% had more frequent mood swings, 40% were more anxious than usual, and 37% were more irritable than usual. Poor population were more likely than average to experience all these changes, regardless of whether they were those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, those from households below the poverty line, or the materially deprived on three or

more factors. Recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work were also more likely to experience these changes, compared to the average. Findings for the general population of households with children, as well as for the mentioned groups, are shown in Table 3.4.1. Statistically significant differences relative to all households are shown in blue.

TABLE 3.4.1 MOOD SWINGS IN DIFFERENT POPULATIONS, DATA IN %, RESPONSE 'YES'

	All households, N=1,822	Households with monthly income per household member 300 euros or less, N=728	Households below the poverty line, N=366	Households that are materially deprived on three or more factors, N=634	Recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work, N=266
I have been worrying more than usual	66	72	75	81	73
My mood has constantly been changing, with ups and downs	43	52	60	62	57
I have been feeling more stressed than usual	43	48	54	59	56
I have been feeling anxious	40	49	56	57	53
I have been feeling more irritable than usual	37	44	50	54	49

As for changes in children's behaviour, there were no reports of any extreme behaviours in the past month; 32% stated that the child spent more time than usual using a smartphone/computer/tablet, 21% noticed more frequent mood swings, 19% thought that the child seemed more irritable than usual, 18% that the child was less motivated to do daily tasks, 17% that the child seemed more distracted than usual, 13% said that child's school grades got worse in the past month, and 11% that the child felt lonely.

Again, poor population were more likely than the average household with children to report all these changes in the child's behaviour: those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, those from households below the poverty line, and the materially deprived on three or more factors. Changes in children's behaviour were also more obvious among recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work, as well as among households with children aged 13 to 17 years (among children of this age). Findings for the general population of households with children, as well as for the mentioned groups, are shown in Table 3.4.2. Statistically significant differences relative to all household are shown in blue.

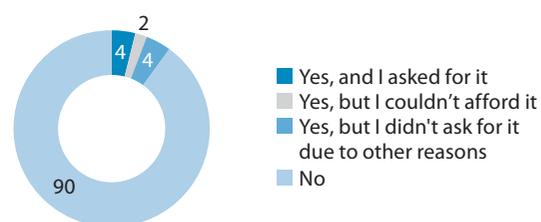
TABLE 3.4.2 CHANGES IN CHILDREN'S BEHAVIOUR IN DIFFERENT POPULATIONS, DATA IN %, RESPONSE 'YES'

	All households, N=1,822	Households with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, N=728	Households below the poverty line, N=366	Households that are materially deprived on three or more factors, N=634	Recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work, N=266	Households with children aged 13 to 17 years, N=606
He/she spent more of his/her free time than usual on his/her phone/tablet/computer	32	33	33	39	37	44
His/her mood was changing faster than usual	21	27	33	32	35	32
He/she seemed more irritable than usual	19	23	29	30	32	28
He/she felt less motivated for daily tasks than usual	18	22	24	28	26	30
He/she seemed more distracted than usual	17	22	27	30	31	28
His/her school grades have dropped	13	15	18	19	18	22
He/she felt lonely	11	14	18	17	17	16

The majority did not consider providing psychological support to the child: only 10% said that they thought about this, while 4% actually sought support (Figure 3.4.3). Members of households with teenagers (13 to 17 years) were more likely to seek psychological support (6%), as were recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (7%). Materially deprived households on three or more factors were more likely to consider providing psychological support to the child, which they could not afford (4%). Compared with the general population of households with children, households with children that are below the poverty line do not differ significantly in this regard.

FIGURE 3.4.3 NEED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHILD

Base: members of households with children under 17 who are informed about household's financial situation
N=1,822



Have you considered providing psychological help for your child in the past three months?

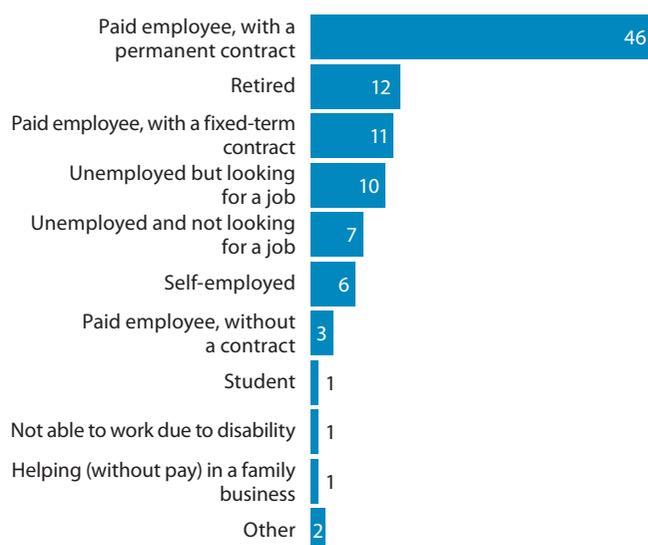
III.5 Employment and change of employment status during the Ukraine crisis

Regarding current employment status (during the data collection period), 68% of informed members of households with children are employed: 46% have a permanent employment contract, 11% a fixed-term employment contract, 6% are self-employed, 3% work without a contract, while the rest (0.2%) are interns (Figure 3.5.1). Those with a permanent employment contract are more likely to live in urban areas (54%), and less likely in rural areas (38%).

As for the unemployed, 10% are looking for a job, and 7% are not. In addition, 12% of the population are retired persons.

FIGURE 3.5.1 EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF INFORMED MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN DURING DATA COLLECTION PERIOD

Base: members of households with children under 17 who are informed about household's financial situation N=1,822



What is your current employment status?

Members of poor population are more likely than average not to be employed and to be looking for work: 16% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, 20% of members of households below the poverty line, and 14% of the materially deprived on three or more factors. The share of unemployed and looking for work is also bigger among recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (21%), as well as among residents of South and East Serbia (14%).

Similarly, the unemployed who are not looking for work are also more likely to belong to the poor population: 11% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, and 15% of members of households below the poverty line. The share was also bigger among recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work (20%), as well as among those living in rural areas (10%) and in Vojvodina (11%).

FIGURE 3.5.2 EMPLOYMENT STATUS SIX MONTHS AGO OF INFORMED MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Base: members of households with children under 17 who are informed about household's financial situation N=1,822



And what was your employment status six months ago?

Compared with six months ago, the majority had unchanged employment status — 70% were also employed six months ago: 46% had a permanent employment contract, 13% a fixed-term employment contract, 6% were self-employed, 3% worked without a contract, and the rest were interns (0.2%) (Figure 3.5.2).

The share of the unemployed and looking for work six months ago was 9%, and of the unemployed not looking for work, 7%. The share of retired persons was 12%.

There is a similar pattern to that of current employment status in regard to differences relative to average — unemployed members of poor population were more likely to be looking for work also six months ago: 14% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, and 16% of members of households below the poverty line. This share was bigger also among recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months

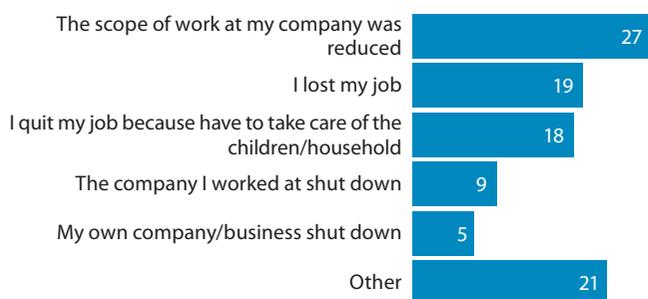
(19%), residents of rural areas (11%), and residents of South and East Serbia (13%).

Again, the share of the unemployed and not looking for work was also bigger in poor population six months ago: 11% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, and 14% of members of households below the poverty line. There were also more of them among recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (20%), among residents of rural areas (11%), and residents of Vojvodina (11%).

The share of those who are currently (during the data collection period) unemployed, but were employed six months ago, is 4% in the population of informed members of households with children. The most common reason for stopping work was reduced scope of work in the company where they were employed (27%), followed by loss of work (19%), and leaving work in order to take care of children or the household (18%) (Figure 3.5.3).

FIGURE 3.5.3 REASONS FOR CEASED EMPLOYMENT

Base: those who stopped working in the past six months
N=66



What was the reason you stopped working?

The majority stopped working in September (24%), May (21%) and October (19%) (Figure 3.5.4); **29% of them believe this was a consequence of the current Ukraine crisis** (Figure 3.5.5).

FIGURE 3.5.4 PERIOD WITHOUT EMPLOYMENT

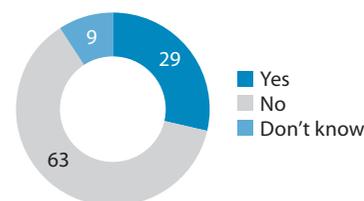
Base: those who stopped working in the past six months
N=66



FIGURE 3.5.5 CONNECTION BETWEEN LOSS OF WORK AND UKRAINE CRISIS

Base: those who stopped working in the past six months
N=66

Do you think the fact that you stopped working is related in any way to the current war in Ukraine and its consequences?



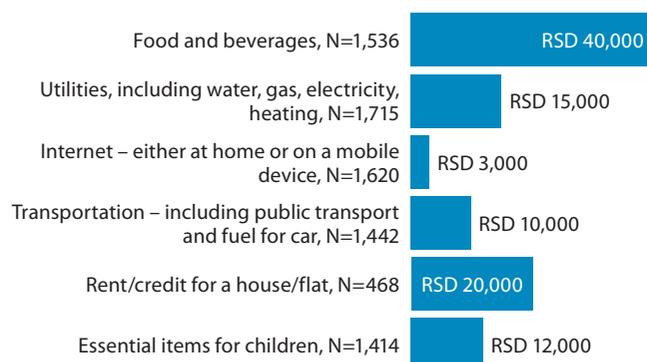
III.6 Household expenses

The average household with children spends most money on food (median value 40,000 dinars a month). The median for utility expenses is 15,000 dinars, for internet 3,000 dinars, commuting or fuel 10,000 dinars, rent or housing loan 20,000 dinars, and essential items for children 12,000 dinars (Figure 3.6.1).

FIGURE 3.6.1 EXPENSES IN THE PAST MONTH

Base: households with children under 17 years of age which had these expenses, median values

Thinking of last month, how much did your household approximately spend on each of the following? Please tell me about the amount in RSD for each.



Comparing the share of these expenses in total household expenses in the past month with that share for the same month last year, the majority believe that their expenses are higher now, especially those for food and drinks (91%), transportation (79%), essential items for children (78%) and public utilities (76%) (Figure 3.6.2).

For food and drink, poor population are more likely than average to report that the share of these expenses in total monthly expenses is now smaller: 6% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, 5% of households below the poverty line, and 5% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less. This was also the opinion of residents of South and East Serbia (5%), as well as of households with children aged 13 to 17 years (5%).

Members of poor population are also more likely than average to say they had no internet expenses last year: 4% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 6% of households below the poverty line, 5% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, and 6% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months.

The same pattern can be observed in regard to transportation or fuel expenses — having no such expenses last year was mentioned by 8% of those whose monthly income per household member is 300 euros or less, 11% of households below the poverty line, 8% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, and 10% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months.

As for rent or housing loan expenses, residents of urban areas are more likely than average to say that the share of these expenses in total monthly expenses had increased since last year (19%), especially in Belgrade (21%) and among those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more (21%). Having no such expenses last year was more common among residents of rural areas (67%), households below the poverty line (71%), and recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (71%).

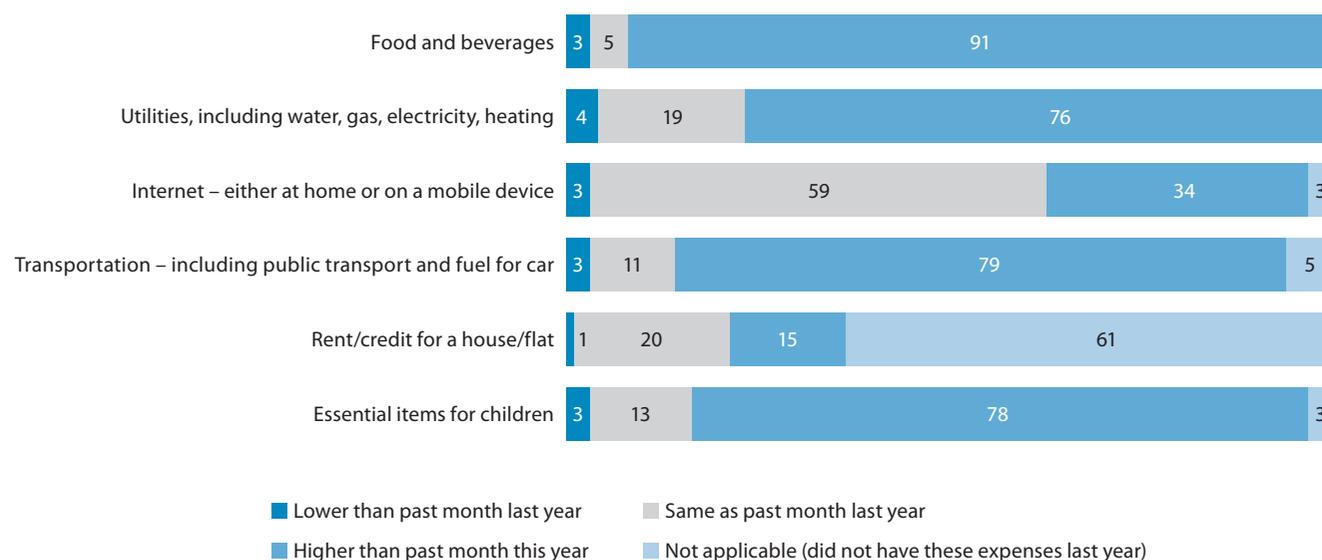
Having lower expenses for necessary children’s supplies was more commonly reported by households with children aged 13 to 17 years (5%), residents of South and East Serbia (5%), those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (5%), households below the

poverty line (6%), the materially deprived on three or more factors (5%), as well as recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (6%).

FIGURE 3.6.2 COMPARISON OF THE SHARE OF EXPENSES IN TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES FROM THE PAST MONTH WITH THE SAME MONTH LAST YEAR

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

Thinking about the share of these expenses in total household expenses, would you say that the expenses for each of the following in the past month were lower, the same, or higher compared to the same month last year (2021)?



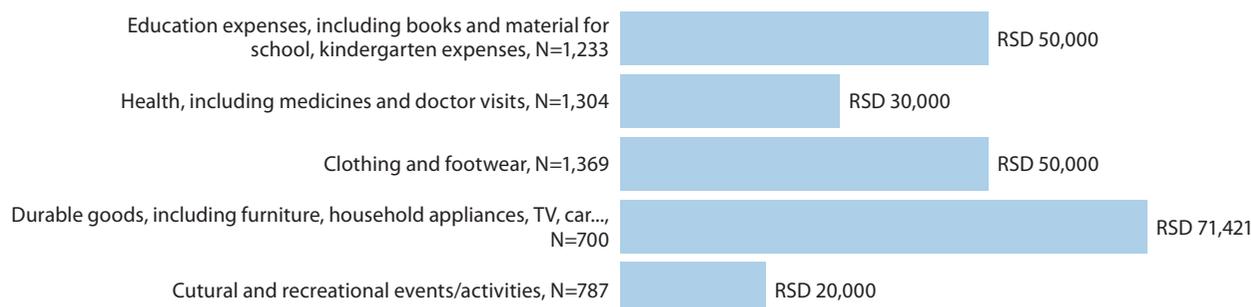
As for annual household expenses, most money was spent on durable goods (median 71,421 dinars), then on education and clothes (median for both 50,000 dinars). The median for health was 30,000 dinars a year, and for culture and recreation, 20,000 dinars (Figure 3.6.3).

When the share of these annual expenses in total annual household expenses is compared with that same share for the year before (2021), it is again obvious that majority of expenses have increased, particularly in regard to those for clothing and footwear (74%), education (69%) and health (67%) (Figure 3.6.4).

FIGURE 3.6.3 EXPENSES IN 2022

Base: households with children under 17 years of age, which had these expenses in 2022, median

Now, if you think about the year that's passing (2022), how much did your household approximately spend on each of the following? Please tell me the amount in RSD for each.



Materially deprived households on three or more factors are more likely than an average household to report having increased the share of expenses on education, as well as the share of expenses on healthcare in total expenses in 2022 compared with 2021 (77% and 74%, respectively). They are also more likely to say that they had no expenses for clothing and footwear last year (4%) — which is also the case with the recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (6%), as well as with households below the poverty line (7%), and those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (4%).

Members of poor population were also more likely to report they had no expenses on durable goods: 52% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 57% of households below the poverty line, 50% of the materially deprived on three or more

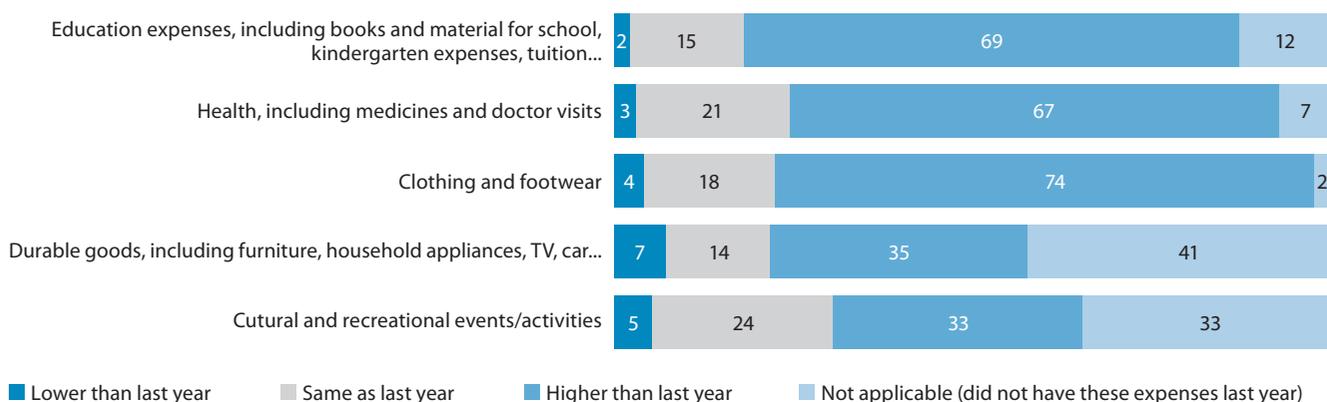
factors, as well as 52% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months.

As for expenses related to culture and recreation, members of poor population again mention not having such expenses in the previous year more often compared to the average: 50% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 61% of households below the poverty line, 47% of the materially deprived on three or more factors, and 54% of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months. On the other hand, having a bigger share of these expenses in total annual expenses this year was more likely to be mentioned by residents of Belgrade (41%), those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more (42%), and those who are not materially deprived (42%).

FIGURE 3.6.4 COMPARISON OF THE SHARE OF SPECIFIC EXPENSES IN TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES IN 2022 WITH EXPENSES IN 2021

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

And thinking about the share of these expenses in total household expenses, would you say that the expenses for each of the following in this year were lower, the same, or higher compared to the last year (2021)?



When it comes to expenses related specifically to children, 84% believe they are now higher than in 2019 — that is, before the Ukraine crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic — and more than half believe that they are a lot higher. Less than 2% of the population believe that expenses related to children are now lower, while 4% believe they are the same as in 2019. Another 10% had no children in 2019, and so they could not make the comparison (Figure 3.6.5).

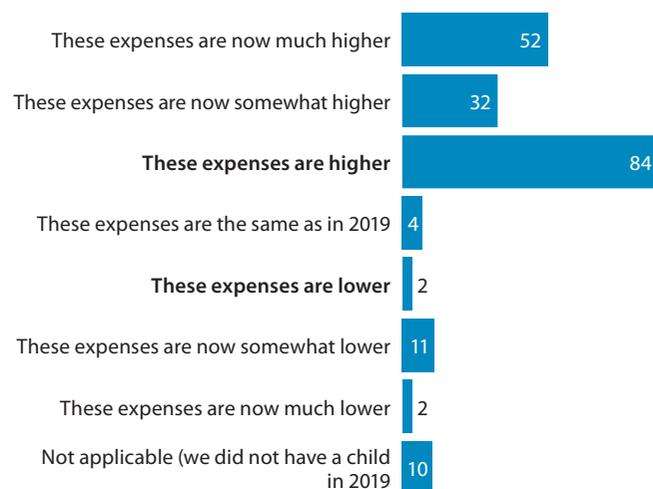
Members of households with children aged 7 to 12 years, as well as members of households with children aged 13 to 17 years, are more likely to say that expenses related to children are higher now than in 2019 (95% and 92%, respectively). Members of households with younger children (under 6 years of age), on the other hand, are less likely than average to mention increased expenses related to children (64%).

Moreover, members of households with children aged 13 to 17 years are more likely to believe that expenses related to children are now much higher (61%), which is also the case with members of poor population: 59% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 62% of households below the poverty line, and 65% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

FIGURE 3.6.5 COMPARISON OF EXPENSES RELATED TO CHILDREN IN 2022 WITH EXPENSES IN 2019

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

Please think of all the expenses related to [CHILD]. How would you describe these expenses now, compared to the period before COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine (2019)?



III.7 Helping households with children

In the past 12 months, the majority of households with children have not received any assistance. Most recipients can be found among those receiving children’s allowance (13%) and birth grant (12%) (Figure 3.7.1). Another 4% received some other assistance from local government or local institutions, 4% received social assistance, 3% disability allowance, 2% energy subsidies, and 2% one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work.

Children’s allowance was more common among residents of rural areas (16%), as well as in poor population: 21% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 27% of households below the poverty line, and 19% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

Members of poor population were also more likely to have received social assistance in the past 12 months: 8% of

those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 12% of households below the poverty line, and 8% of the materially deprived on three or more factors. Residents of Vojvodina were also in this group (7%).

Recipients of disability allowance were also more likely than average to be poor: 5% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, 7% of households below the poverty line, and 5% of the materially deprived on three or more factors. Having a child with some form of disability was more common in households below the poverty line (8%), and among recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work (13%).

As for receiving one-off assistance from the Center for Social Work, this was obtained by 4% of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, by 6% of households below the poverty line, and by 4% of the materially deprived on three or more factors.

Members of households below the poverty line were also more likely to receive energy subsidies (4%).

FIGURE 3.7.1 ASSISTANCE FOR HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Base: households with children under 17 years of age, response ‘Yes’ N=1,822

In the past year, have you/your household received any of the following:



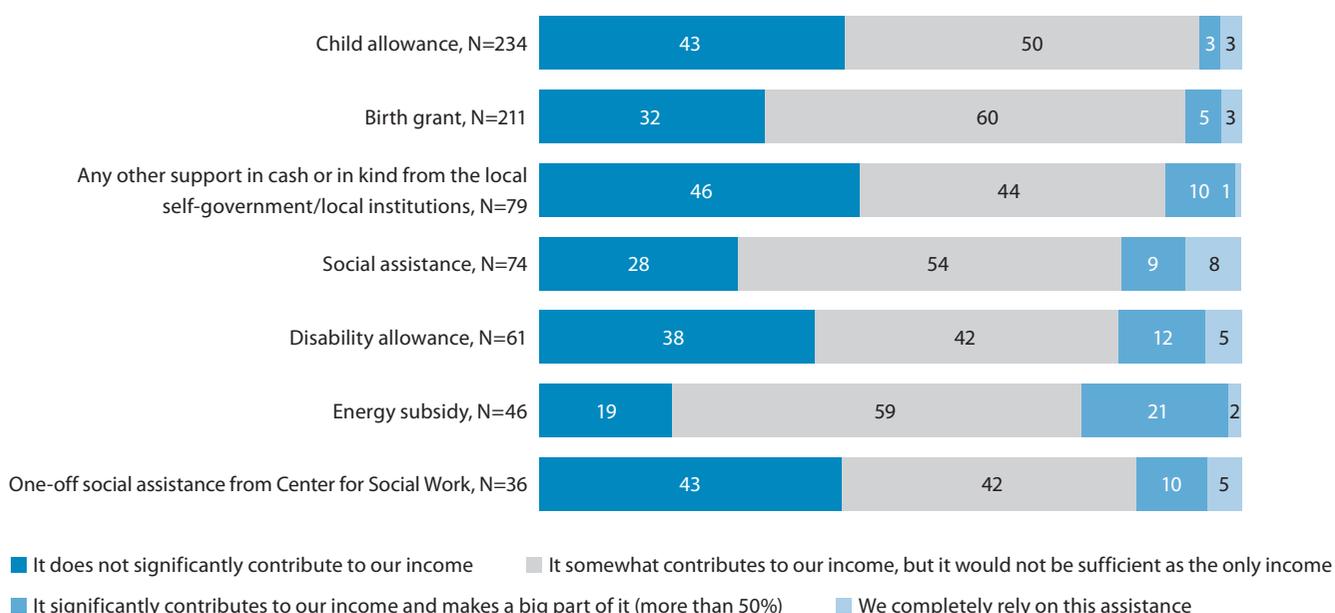
Beneficiaries mainly report that these forms of assistance contribute to household budget: 56% of recipients consider children’s allowance beneficial, which is also the case with 68% of recipients of birth grant, 54% of recipients of some other type of assistance from local

government or local institutions, 72% of recipients of social assistance, 59% of recipients of disability allowance, 81% of recipients of energy subsidies, and 57% of recipients of one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work (Figure 3.7.2).

FIGURE 3.7.2 RELEVANCE OF ASSISTANCE

Base: households with children under 17 years of age, beneficiaries of assistance

How much does the assistance received contribute to your household’s income?



As a response to the current crisis, almost half of the population need regular monthly income (48%), 36% would like easier access or better availability of services related to children, while 19% would benefit from increased current financial assistance, 19% from one-off financial assistance and 19% from reduced current housing costs (Figure 3.7.3).

(47%), as well as to recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (53%).

Regular monthly income seems to be more relevant to those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (48%), to households below the poverty line (52%), the materially deprived on three or more factors

Easier access or greater availability of services needed related to children in regard to health, mental health, education, and culture and recreation is more likely to be mentioned by richer population: households above poverty line (19%), those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more (24%), as well as those who are not materially deprived (24%).

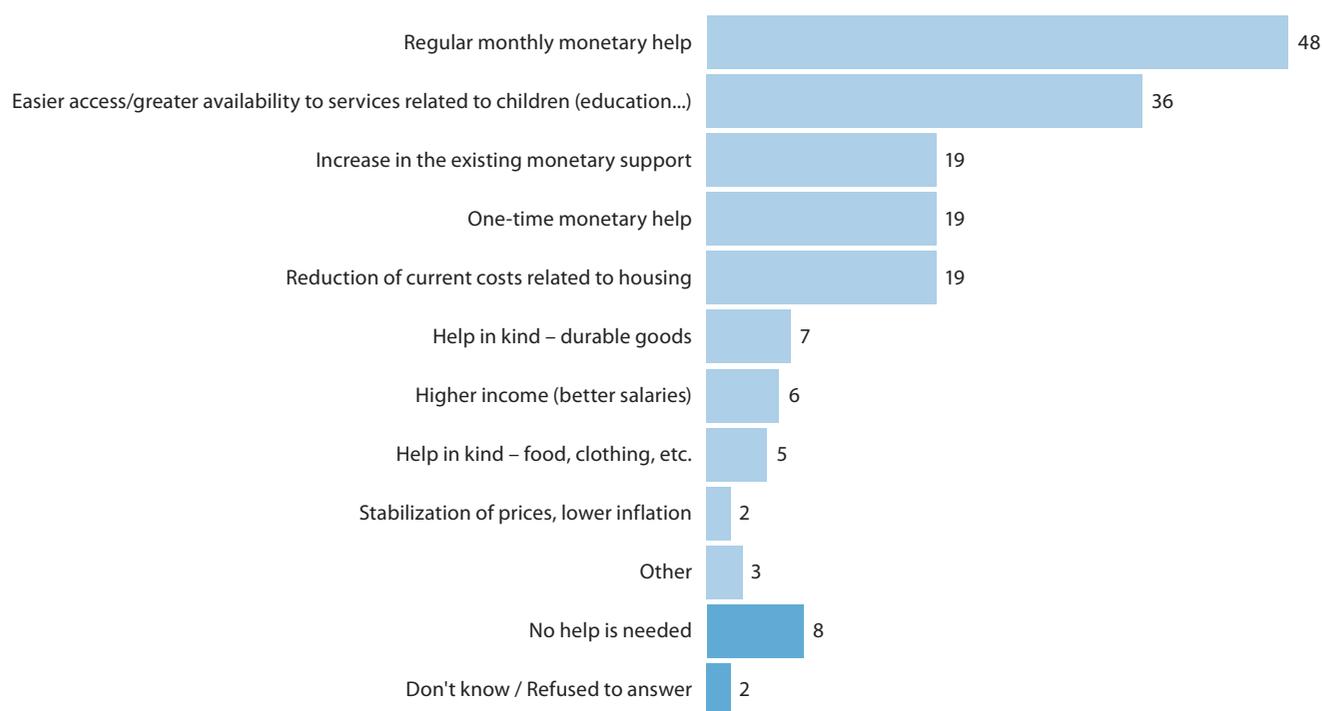
Increase of current financial assistance is more likely to be considered relevant by recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (15%), as well as by residents of rural areas (11%).

One-off financial assistance seems to be more important, compared to the average, to those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (9%), while reduced housing costs would mean more to residents of urban areas (11%), especially residents of Belgrade (9%), as well as to those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more (10%).

FIGURE 3.7.3 MOST RELEVANT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822, up to three responses, all responses

What kind of help, as an answer to the current crisis, would be most useful for your household?



III.8 Expectations regarding the future

Almost half are not optimistic regarding future expectations for their financial standing — 48% believe that it will get worse in the next six months. Nevertheless, 32% believe their financial situation will stay the same, while 13% are optimistic that their financial situation will get better in the next six months (Figure 3.8.1).

The materially deprived on three or more factors are more pessimistic: 60% believe that their financial situation will

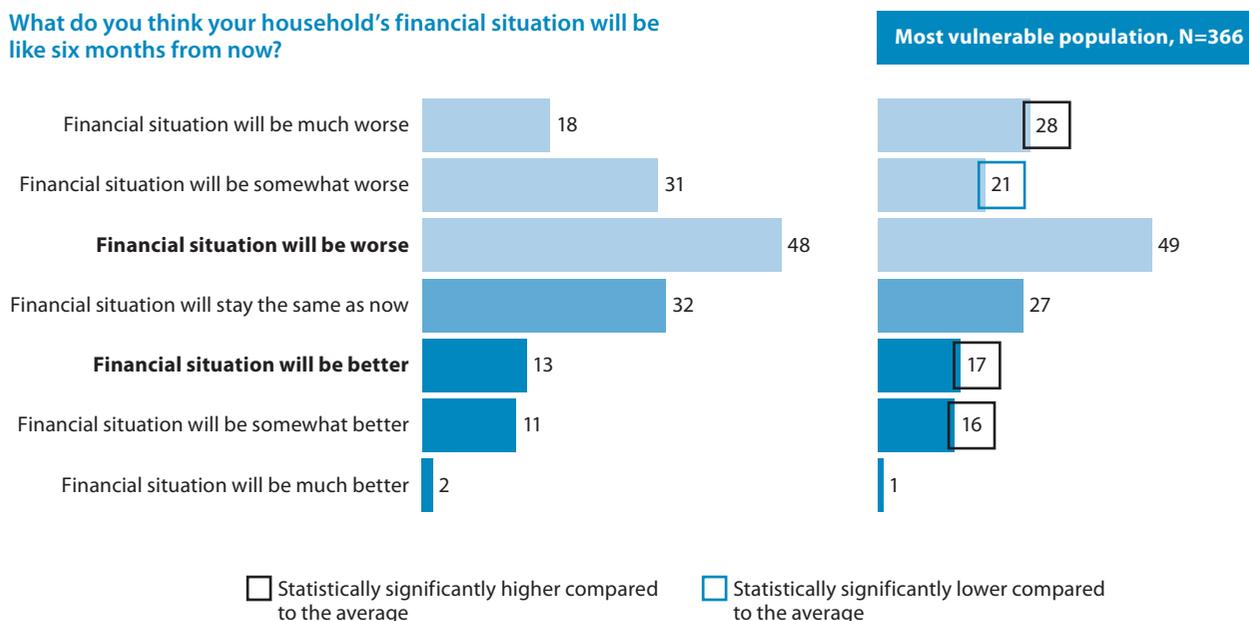
worsen in the next six months, and 32% believe it will worsen a lot. Households below the poverty line, as well as those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less, are also more likely than average to believe their financial situation will get a lot worse (28% and 24%, respectively).

Recipients of social assistance, children’s allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months, as well as households below the poverty line, quite interestingly, seem to be more optimistic than average; that is, they are more likely to believe their financial situation will improve in the next six months (21% and 17%, respectively).

FIGURE 3.8.1 FUTURE EXPECTATIONS REGARDING FINANCIAL SITUATION

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822

What do you think your household’s financial situation will be like six months from now?



The majority are concerned about unceasing price increases (80%), as well as about potential drop of the quality of life (62%). One third are afraid of not having enough money for the basic needs (33%), and one fifth of not being able to afford adequate heating (22%) (Figure 3.8.2).

Those who are materially deprived on three or more factors are more concerned than average about potential drop of the quality of life (70%), about not having enough money for basic needs (58%), and about not being able to afford adequate heating (35%).

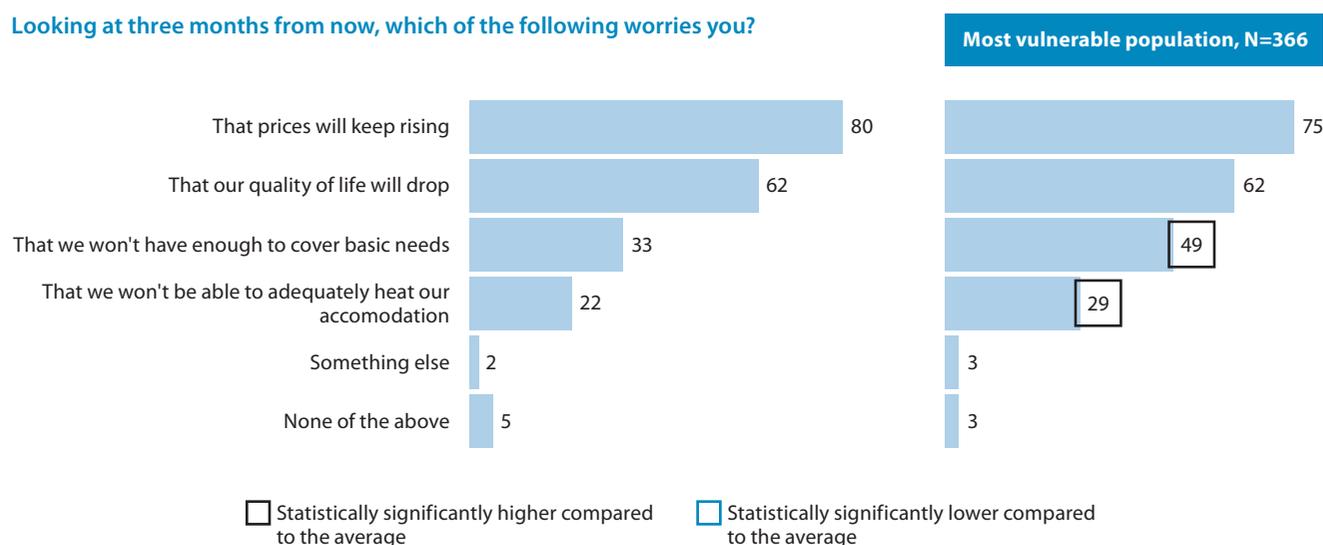
Not having enough money for basic needs was more likely to be mentioned by members of households with children aged 13 to 17 years (38%), residents of South and East Serbia (39%), those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (46%), households below the poverty line (49%), as well as recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (47%).

Members of poor population were more concerned about ensuring adequate heating; besides the materially deprived on three or more factors, this was more likely to be a concern of those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (26%), of households below the poverty line (29%), and of recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (29%).

FIGURE 3.8.2 CONCERNS IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822, multiple answers

Looking at three months from now, which of the following worries you?



In order to cope with the crisis more easily, the majority are willing to take extra measures and give up the unnecessary: 72% would spend less on travel, going out and similar activities in the next three months, 47% would reduce fuel consumption and using a car, 25% said that a household member would look for another job, and 17% that a household member would look for a better-paid job. However, 9% would not apply any extra measures (Figure 3.8.3).

Those who are materially deprived on three or more factors are more likely to say they would look for another job (33%) and for a better-paid job (23%). Finding a better-paid job is also, compared to the average, something planned more often by members of households below the poverty line (22%), those with monthly income per household member of 300 euros or less (21%), as well as recipients of social assistance, children's allowance, or one-off social assistance from the Center for Social Work in the past 12 months (23%).

Members of richer population, on the other hand, are more likely to say that they would not take any measures: 13% of those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more, and 19% of those who are not materially deprived.

The majority are willing to take measures aimed at reducing household energy costs: 81% are willing to turn off the lights in empty rooms, 52% to unplug appliances when not in use, 21% to buy energy-efficient equipment, 20% to reduce room temperature, 11% to change the main source of energy, and 9% to install equipment for controlling and reducing energy consumption. However, 8% stated that they would not implement any of these measures (Figure 3.8.4).

Those who are materially deprived on three or more factors are more willing to unplug appliances when not in use (59%), as well as to reduce room temperature (26%).

Households below the poverty line are more likely to be willing to change their main source of energy for a cheaper, more available, or more efficient one (15%), while those with monthly income per household member of 450 euros or more are more willing to install equipment for controlling and reducing energy consumption (12%). Members of this group, together with those who are not materially deprived and with residents of Belgrade, are also more likely than average to say they would not implement any of the given measures (13%, 14% and 10%, respectively).

FIGURE 3.8.3 EXTRA MEASURES FOR OVERCOMING THE CRISIS

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
N=1,822, multiple answers, all responses

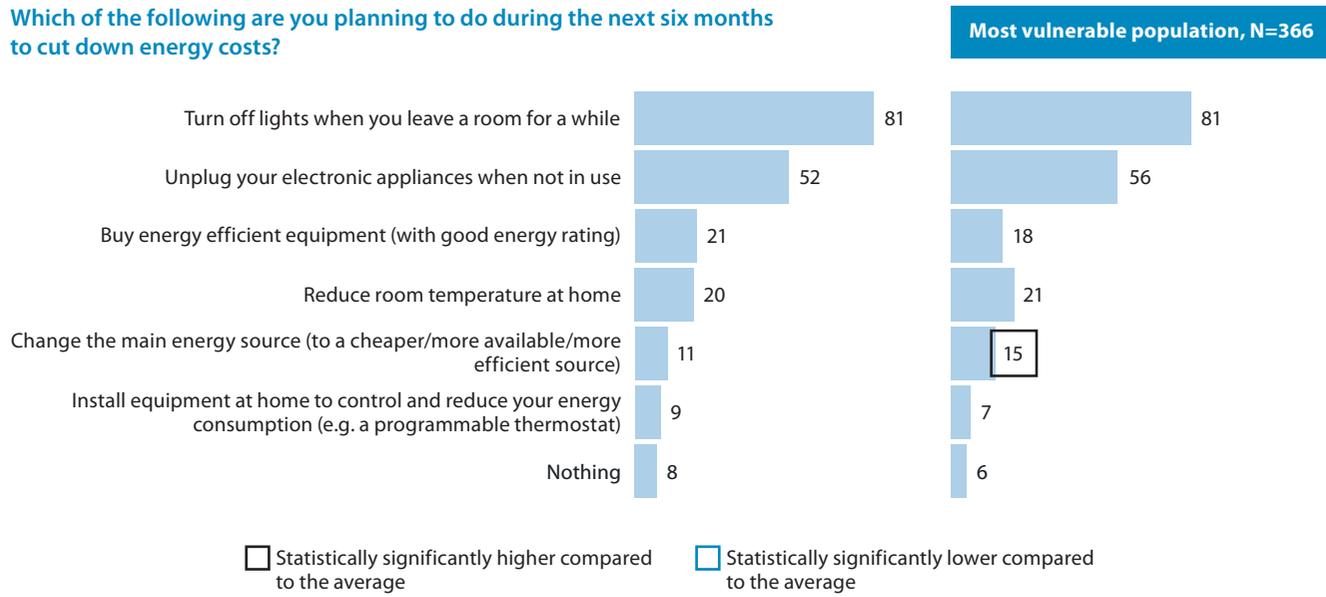
Are there any other measures that you expect you will take in the next three months?



FIGURE 3.8.4 MEASURES AIMED AT REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION COSTS

Base: households with children under 17 years of age
 N=1,822, multiple answers, all responses

Which of the following are you planning to do during the next six months to cut down energy costs?



GENERATING
EVIDENCE ON THE
IMPACT OF THE
CONFLICT IN
UKRAINE ON
FAMILIES WITH
CHILDREN IN
SERBIA

