

# CURRENT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS OF INCOME AND CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

*As is generally known, usually the households with children have some peculiarities that differentiate them from the households with no children. The presence and the dependent status of children from their parents or other significant adults in their households determine changes in the level and the structure of disposable income and consumption expenditure in the households. Republic of Moldova like other countries as well was affected by the so-called COVID-19 pandemic. In this paper the peculiarities of the current situation of households with children in Moldova are emphasized and analyzed based on their disposable income and consumption expenditure, using as a source of the statistical data the National Bureau of Statistics of Moldova. Also, in the view of recent research on COVID-19 consequences, are outlined the prospects of the situation of households with children in Moldova.*

**Key words:** households, family couples with children, single parents with children, disposable income, consumption expenditure, Republic of Moldova.

## SITUAȚIA CURENTĂ ȘI PERSPECTIVE ALE VENITURILOR ȘI ALE CHELTUIELILOR DE CONSUM ALE GOSPODĂRIILOR CU COPII ÎN REPUBLICA MOLDOVA

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## Rezumat

*După cum este în general cunoscut, de obicei, gospodăriile cu copii au unele particularități care le diferențiază de gospodăriile fără copii. Prezența și starea dependentă a copiilor de părinții lor sau de alți adulți semnificativi în gospodăriile lor determină schimbări ale nivelului și structurii veniturilor disponibile și cheltuielilor de consum în gospodării. Republica Moldova, la fel ca și alte țări, a fost afectată de așa-numita pandemie COVID-19. În acest articol sunt evidențiate și analizate particularitățile situației actuale a gospodăriilor cu copii din Moldova pe baza venitului disponibil și a cheltuielilor de consum, folosind ca sursă de date statistice Biroul Național de Statistică al Moldovei. De asemenea, în perspectiva cercetărilor recente privind consecințele COVID-19, sunt prezentate perspectivele situației gospodăriilor cu copii din Moldova.*

**Cuvinte-cheie:** gospodării, cupluri familiale cu copii, părinți singuri cu copii, venituri disponibile, cheltuieli de consum, Republica Moldova.

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## Introduction

A harmonious and sustainable development of a society normally corresponds to an adequate level of welfare of the population. One of the approaches commonly used in the assessment of welfare is based on the analysis of consumption expenditure and disposable income of households. As it is generally known, households with children have some peculiarities that differentiate them from households without children. The presence and dependence of children on their parents or other significant adults in their households determines changes in the level and structure of disposable income and consumption expenditure in households. In the Republic of Moldova, as in many other countries, the Household Budget Survey is used for their analysis. Over the years it has undergone several significant changes, the latter referring mainly to the use of the definition of the number of people with habitual residence (the number of persons who have lived mainly in the last 12 months on the territory of the Republic of Moldova regardless of temporary absences (for recreation, vacation, visits to relatives and friends, business, medical treatment, religious pilgrimages, etc.)) instead of the resident population (number of persons who have a permanent residence in the respective territory, including temporarily absent persons). The statistical data on households' characteristics were recalculated from the year 2014 onwards. It also must be mentioned here that the data are comparable only for the years 2014-2018, since there were some changes in the Household Budget Survey design in 2019 (a new sample of households and a new scheme of rotation).

According to NBS metadata the disposable income of the households by source can be classified in: income from employment (salarial activity); income from self-employment in agriculture (the net income from the sale of own agricultural production, as well as the equivalent value of consumption from own agricultural resources, not traded); income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector (the net income from various types of non-agricultural activities on their own account, including the amounts collected from the realization of the finished products from the individual work activities, as well as the profit obtained by the population as a result of the trade-intermediation activities); property income (money collected by the population in the form of interest from bank deposits and loans offered to individuals; dividends and sales of actions; rents from the leasing of goods that do not belong to the production activity (real estate, means of transport, durable goods, etc.)); income from social protection payments (old-age, disability and survivor pensions; social allowances; incapacity benefits; single allowances (for the childbirth, in case of death, for the care of the sick); payments for the care of the child up to 1.5/ 3.0 years old; social aid; allowances for veterans and war widows; scholarships etc.); other income (alimony; money and goods received free of charge, money collected from life insurance, personal property, money transfers from abroad, etc.).

The consumption expenditures of the population according to their destination are classified in expenditures on: food (purchase of products consumed as well as the value of human consumption of food from the household's own resources); alcoholic beverages, tobacco (alcoholic beverages, tobacco and smoking accessories, and the equivalent value of consuming these products from the household's own resources); clothing and footwear (procurement of clothing and footwear, as well as expenses incurred for the payment of services related to their manufacture and repair); household maintenance (rent, energy, water and other communal services, as well as the expenses related to arrangement and repair of the house); dwelling equipment (endowment and equipping the house with various durable goods, household items, and payment for services related to their maintenance); medical care and health (procurement of medicines, medical devices, sanitary and hygiene items, payment for services, medical treatment and hospital treatment); transport (purchase of means of auto-moto transport, spare parts, services related to their service and repair, as well as the payment of various transport services); communication (payment of postal services, telecommunications, and the costs of servicing telecommunication); entertainment

(purchase of the objects of socio-cultural purpose, for rest and sports; of printed production (manuals, didactic material, newspapers, office supplies, etc.); including payment for various cultural activities and services, tourism, etc.); education (purchase of textbooks, school supplies, etc., as well as payments for the payment of education services, inclusive the extracurricular activities and mediation services); hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc. (accommodation and food outside the household in various specialized places); miscellaneous expenses (purchase of hygiene items and cosmetics, haberdashery articles; payment of insurance services for life, real estate, means of transport, etc.; pocket money; funds offered as gifts to particular individuals etc.).

The household is considered a group of two or more people living together usually having family ties and having a common budget, participating fully or partly to the formation of income and their expenditure, or the person who lives and manages separately and does not belong to another household. Households with children are considered to be households with children up to 18 years of age. Family couples are considered the households made up of couples with or without unmarried children.

The Household Budget Survey consists from a gross sample of 9768 households surveyed annually. The sample is a probabilistic one representative at national level, by areas of residence and by statistical regions: North, Center, South and Chisinau municipality [1]. At the national level, the confidence intervals for the significance level of 95% for 2018 are estimated at  $2383.1 \pm 23.8$  Moldovan lei for disposable income per person and  $2407.9 \pm 19.3$  Moldovan lei for consumption expenditures per person [4].

As the statistical data on households between 2014-2018 and 2019 are not comparable, they will be analyzed separately.

## **1. The characteristics of households with children in Moldova**

According to National Bureau of Statistics of Republic of Moldova metadata with regard to the children the Moldovan households are classified in two ways. First one concerns the presence of children in the household and according to it there are households without children (households with single persons, couples without children, other households with children) and households with children (single parents with children, couples with children, other households with children). The second one is about the number of children in the household and divides the households in: those with 1 child, the ones with 2 children, households with 3 children or more and the households with no children. Further the analysis will focus mainly on types of households with children and only on some occasions on households with no children.

By the type of the household in 2019 the average size of the family couples with children was 3.7 persons (3.6 persons in urban area and 3.8 persons in rural area), for single parents with children – 2.5 persons (2.4 persons in urban area and 2.7 persons in rural area), for other household with children – 4.1 persons (3.9 persons in urban area and 4.1 persons in rural area).

In 2019, in the structure of households those with children had a share of 31.5%, of which most were family couples with children - 17.8%, single parents with children accounted for 2.4%, and other households with children had a share of 11.3%. Depending on the area of residence, there are significant discrepancies between the weights of households with children. Thus, in urban areas, family couples with children prevail (23.5% vs. 14.0% in rural areas) and single parents with children (3.6% vs. 1.6% in rural areas), and in rural areas other households with children predominate (13.8% vs. 7.6% in urban areas). By the number of children in the household, those with 1 child represent 14.9%, those with 2 children - 12.5%, with 3 children and more - 4.2%, and the remaining 68.4% being without children. In urban areas, those with 1 child (17.4% compared to 13.2% in rural areas) and 2 children (13.8% compared to 11.5% in rural areas) have a higher share, and in rural areas - those with 3 or more children (4.8% compared to

3.4% in urban areas) have a higher share. The structure of households by the number of children also varies depending on the statistical region.

By the type of the household in 2018 the average size of the family couples with children was 3.8 persons (3.4 persons in urban area and 3.8 persons in rural area), for single parents with children – 2.7 persons (2.4 persons in urban area and 2.7 persons in rural area), for other household with children – 4.2 persons (4.1 persons in urban area and 4.3 persons in rural area). In the case of family couples with children the average size of the household didn't change from 2014, regardless of residence area. For the single parents with children the average size of the household has grown slightly (from 2.4 persons in 2014 to 2.5 people in 2018), while in other households with children the average size slightly reduced (from 4.3 persons in 2014 to 4.2 people in 2018), because of the reduction of the household size in rural areas (from 4.4 people in 2014 to 4.3 people in 2018), while in urban areas the size has grown slightly (from 4.0 people in 2014 to 4.1 people in 2018).

In 2018 totally per country family couples with children had a share of 18.1% from all households (increasing from 17.4% in 2014), the share being higher in urban area – 20.9% (increasing from 20.2% in 2014) than in rural area – 16.0% (increasing from 15.2% in 2014). The share of households with single parents with children was 2.3% in 2018 (the same as in 2014), the share being higher in urban area – 3.4% (increasing from 2.8% in 2014) than in rural area – 1.4% (increasing from 1.9% in 2014). The share of other households with children was 11.5% in 2018 (decreasing from 15.5% in 2014), the share being higher in rural area – 13.0% (decreasing from 18.2% in 2014) than in urban area – 9.4% (decreasing from 12.1% in 2014). In 2018 totally per country households with 1 child had a share of 16.9% from all households (decreasing from 19.4% in 2014), the share being higher in urban area – 20.3% (decreasing from 22.6% in 2014) than in rural area – 14.4% (decreasing from 17.0% in 2014). The share of households with 2 children was 11.0% in 2018 (decreasing from 12.2% in 2014), the share being higher in urban area – 11.4% (increasing from 10.5% in 2014) than in rural area – 10.8% (decreasing from 13.5% in 2014). The share of households with 3 children and more was 3.8% in 2018 (decreasing from 3.6% in 2014), the share being higher in rural area – 5.2% (increasing from 4.8% in 2014) than in urban area – 2.0% (the same as in 2014). The share of households without children was 68.2% in 2018 (increasing from 64.8% in 2014), the share being higher in rural area – 69.6% (increasing from 64.7% in 2014) than in urban area – 66.3% (increasing from 64.9% in 2014).

## **2. The income of the households with children in Moldova**

In 2019 on the whole country the average disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with family couples with children was in the amount of 2657.5 MDL (higher in urban area (3162.3 MDL) than in rural area (2119.4 MDL)), from which the biggest share - 60.1% was from employment (higher in urban area (69.1%) than in rural area (45.9%)), followed by: other incomes – 18.0% (lower in urban area (15.6%) than in rural area (21.8%)) (from which remittances – 13.6%, lower in urban area (10.3%) than in rural area (18.9%)), income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector- 8.5% (lower in urban area (8.3%) than in rural area (8.8%)), income from self-employment in agriculture- 6.6% (much lower in urban area (0.4%) than in rural area (16.5%)), social protection payments- 6.5% (lower in urban area (6.2%) than in rural area (7.0%)) (from which: pensions – 1.1% (0.8% in urban area and 1.6% in rural area), child allowances – 4.2% (4.9% in urban area and 3.1% in rural area), social support – 0.4% (0.1% in urban area and 0.9% in rural area)), property income- 0.3% (0.4% in urban area and 0.1% in rural area). In 2019 on the whole country the average disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with single parents with children was in the amount of 2298.8 MDL (higher in urban area (2655.7 MDL) than in rural area (1811.0 MDL)), from which the biggest share – 52.6% was from employment (higher in urban area (58.5%) than in rural area (41.0%)), followed by: other incomes – 29.1% (higher in urban area

(30.1%) than in rural area (27.2%)) (from which remittances – 16.0%, lower in urban area (14.0%) than in rural area (19.9%)), social protection payments – 7.7% (lower in urban area (3.7%) than in rural area (15.8%)) (from which: pensions – 1.2% (0.7% in urban area and 2.2% in rural area), child allowances – 1.9% (2.2% in urban area and 1.2% in rural area), social support – 2.8% (8.3% in rural area)), income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector –6.3% (higher in urban area (7.5%) than in rural area (3.9%)), income from self-employment in agriculture –4.2% (much lower in urban area (0.3%) than in rural area (12.1%)). In 2019 on the whole country the average disposable income per capita of the other Moldovan households with children was in the amount of 2165.9 MDL (higher in urban area (2747.4 MDL) than in rural area (1964.8 MDL)), from which the biggest share –41.9% was from employment (higher in urban area (55.9%) than in rural area (35.2%)), followed by: other incomes – 24.8% (lower in urban area (19.4%) than in rural area (27.3%)) (from which remittances – 22.4%, lower in urban area (15.4%) than in rural area (25.8%)), social protection payments – 14.2% (higher in urban area (15.7%) than in rural area (13.5%)) (from which: pensions – 8.4% (9.2% in urban area and 8.0% in rural area), child allowances – 1.9% (2.2% in urban area and 1.8% in rural area), social support – 0.6% (0.9% in rural area)), income from self-employment in agriculture –11.6% (much lower in urban area (1.7%) than in rural area (16.4%)), income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector –7.2% (slightly higher in urban area (7.2%) than in rural area (7.1%)), property income - 0.3% (0.5% in rural area).

In the year 2019 on the whole country the average disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with 1 child was in the amount of 2939.2 MDL (higher in urban area (3584.2 MDL) than in rural area (2389.0 MDL)), from which the biggest share –58.2% was from employment (higher in urban area (69.4%) than in rural area (43.9%)), followed by: other incomes – 18.9% (lower in urban area (16.0%) than in rural area (22.5%)) (from which remittances – 15.3%, lower in urban area (10.8%) than in rural area (21.1%)), social protection payments – 9.2% (lower in urban area (8.7%) than in rural area (9.8%)) (from which: pensions – 4.3% (3.3% in urban area and 5.5% in rural area), child allowances – 2.7% (3.5% in urban area and 1.6% in rural area), social support – 0.3% (0.6% in rural area)), income from self-employment in agriculture –7.4% (much lower in urban area (0.5%) than in rural area (16.1%)), income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector –5.9% (lower in urban area (5.0%) than in rural area (7.1%)), property income - 0.4% (0.4% in urban area and 0.5% in rural area).

In the year 2019 on the whole country the average disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with 2 children was in the amount of 2360.6 MDL (higher in urban area (2805.5 MDL) than in rural area (2025.1 MDL)), from which the biggest share –52.1% was from employment (higher in urban area (63.5%) than in rural area (40.2%)), followed by: other incomes – 22.6% (lower in urban area (17.5%) than in rural area (27.9%)) (from which remittances – 18.1%, lower in urban area (11.7%) than in rural area (24.8%)), income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector –9.2% (higher in urban area (10.5%) than in rural area (7.8%)), social protection payments – 8.2% (lower in urban area (7.6%) than in rural area (8.8%)) (from which: pensions – 3.2% (2.0% in urban area and 4.4% in rural area), child allowances – 3.6% (4.8% in urban area and 2.3% in rural area), social support – 0.2% (0.3% in rural area)), income from self-employment in agriculture –7.8% (much lower in urban area (0.6%) than in rural area (15.3%)), property income - 0.1% (0.2% in urban area and 0.1% in rural area).

In the year 2019 on the whole country the average disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with 3 children and more was in the amount of 1679.6 MDL (higher in urban area (2076.4 MDL) than in rural area (1502.2 MDL)), from which the biggest share –41.2% was from employment (higher in urban area (55.0%) than in rural area (32.7%)), followed by: other incomes – 22.7% (slightly higher in urban area (23.0%) than in rural area (22.6%)) (from which remittances – 18.3%, lower in urban area (16.0%) than in rural area (19.7%)), income from self-employment in agriculture – 12.6% (much lower in urban area (1.9%) than in rural area (19.2%)), social protection payments – 12.5% (much lower in urban area (7.4%) than in rural area (15.6%)) (from which: pensions – 2.8% (1.9% in urban area and 3.4% in rural area), child allowances – 4.6% (4.3% in urban area and 4.8% in rural area), social support –

2.8% (0.5% in urban area and 4.3% in rural area)), income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector –11.0% (higher in urban area (12.7%) than in rural area (9.9%)).

In the year 2019 on the whole country the average disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households without children was in the amount of 3320.4 MDL (higher in urban area (4081.4 MDL) than in rural area (2860.3 MDL)), from which the biggest share –47.7% was from employment (much higher in urban area (60.7%) than in rural area (36.5%)), followed by: social protection payments –25.8% (lower in urban area (24.1%) than in rural area (27.3%)) (from which: pensions – 22.5% (22.5% in urban area and 22.6% in rural area), social support – 0.3% (0.1% in urban area and 0.5% in rural area)), other incomes – 11.7% (lower in urban area (9.3%) than in rural area (13.7%)) (from which remittances – 9.0%, lower in urban area (5.9%) than in rural area (11.6%)), income from self-employment in agriculture –9.4% (much lower in urban area (0.8%) than in rural area (16.9%)), income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector –5.0% (lower in urban area (4.7%) than in rural area (5.3%)), property income - 0.3% (0.4% in urban area and 0.3% in rural area).

The **Table 1** shows the average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. According to the data from 2018, from the types of household with children and area of residence urban family couples with children had the biggest amounts of average disposable monthly income per capita, followed by urban single parents with children and other urban households with children. It should be noted though, that in the case of rural area, a bigger amount of average monthly disposable income per capita had „other rural households with children”<sup>3</sup>, followed by rural family couples with children and rural single parents with children. The situation is the same for the year 2014. From important changes that took place between 2014 and 2018 in the amount of the average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households can be mentioned: the increase of the income from employment in all types of households with children in urban area (by 50-60% for the family couples with children and single parents with children and by 35% for other households with children) and in rural area (by 40-50% for the family couples with children and single parents with children and by 65% for other households with children); the decrease of the income from remittances for urban single parents with children by 71%; the increase of the self-employment in non-agricultural sector for urban single parents with children by 2.1 times; the increase of the social protection payments (especially pensions) for other urban households with children by 70%. In any other cases the changes were much smaller.

**Table 1. The average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, MDL**

	Total per country		Urban area		Rural area		Total per country		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	Family couples with children						Single parents with children					
<b>Disposable income - total</b>	1607.1	2131.1	1957.6	2676.0	1280.9	1666.5	1504.7	1969.0	1935.4	2354.3	1048.3	1377.3
<b>Employment</b>	799.7	1202.3	1219.8	1904.6	408.6	603.5	662.9	1057.5	929.2	1402.4	380.6	527.8
<b>Self-employment in agriculture</b>	124.9	161.5	9.8	11.5	232.1	289.3	72.9	75.7	2.7	5.4	147.3	183.7
<b>Self-employment in non-</b>	179.0	163.4	228.1	201.4	133.4	131.0	78.7	140.2	91.4	194.2	65.2	57.3

<sup>3</sup> Here and further quotations are used for this phrase where it can be confused in order to designate the term used in statistical classification and not just some expression used coincidentally.

<b>agricultural sector</b>												
<b>Property income</b>	1.3	2.0	1.1	2.9	1.5	1.3	11.8	4.7	22.8	7.7	-	-
<b>Social protection payments, from which:</b>	76.5	119.7	95.1	113.7	59.2	124.8	159.2	164.8	175.2	142.6	142.3	198.9
<b>pensions</b>	10.8	18.9	8.3	16.1	13.1	21.2	86.7	54.8	125.8	67.5	45.2	35.2
<b>child allowances</b>	43.4	55.6	66.7	80.9	21.6	34.0	20.9	5.6	40.6	3.0	-	9.7
<b>social support</b>	7.8	21.8	2.1	0.9	13.2	39.7	26.6	57.9	-	34.0	54.9	94.5
<b>Other income, from which:</b>	425.7	482.3	403.8	441.9	446.1	516.6	519.3	526.1	713.9	601.9	313.0	409.6
<b>remittances</b>	349.7	409.3	288.7	326.7	406.5	479.8	333.5	191.7	436.7	127.1	224.1	290.9
<b>Other households with children</b>												
	<b>Total percountry</b>		<b>Urban area</b>		<b>Rural area</b>							
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>						
<b>Disposable income - total</b>	1380.6	1887.9	1543.9	2103.6	1303.8	1778.4						
<b>Employment</b>	563.0	850.7	917.4	1236.6	396.3	654.7						
<b>Self-employment in agriculture</b>	175.9	187.4	25.6	24.8	246.5	270.0						
<b>Self-employment in non-agricultural sector</b>	87.1	112.9	119.0	211.0	72.1	63.1						
<b>Property income</b>	0.5	-	-	-	0.7	-						
<b>Social protection payments, from which:</b>	150.0	241.6	164.4	279.1	143.2	222.5						
<b>pensions</b>	109.6	150.9	123.3	184.5	103.1	133.8						
<b>child allowances</b>	21.8	26.5	26.6	32.1	19.5	23.6						
<b>social support</b>	4.3	20.5	2.9	15.0	4.9	23.3						
<b>Other income, from which:</b>	404.3	495.4	317.6	352.1	445.1	568.2						
<b>remittances</b>	364.3	431.9	243.8	244.2	420.9	527.2						

*Source:* Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova[6]

The *Table 2* shows the share of average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. There are significant differences in the income structure of different types of households with children, as well as by residence area. It should be noted that the income from employment occupies if not the largest share, then an essential one - about half of the share of income. In the case of family couples with children, 2/3 of the income comes from employment in urban areas, while in rural areas they have only 1/3 of all income. The shares of income from employment in other types of households than family couples with children showed smaller differences depending on the area of residence, although in rural areas they were about 1/3, in urban areas the share was about 2/3. Obviously, an important share in the rural area is occupied by the income from the individual agricultural activity - about 1/5, which is a bit lower in the case of single

parents with children and other households with children. Remittances also occupy an important place in the income structure of households with children, especially rural ones, the share of which was about 1/3 regardless of the type of household with children.

It should be noted here that there are major differences in the share of remittances between types of households with children in urban areas, so in the case of single parents with children their share is 5.4% in 2018, while in the same year this share in family couples with children and other households with children was higher - about 12%. This difference is caused by the fact that single parents have more difficulty going abroad, having dependent children compared to households with more adults.

Households with children in rural areas are more dependent on social protection payments than those in urban areas. This is more obvious for single parents with children in rural areas, in the structure of income whose share of social benefits is 14.4% in 2018, as well as for "other households with children" in rural areas (12.5%) compared to family couples with children from rural areas (7.5%).

In family couples with children from rural areas, but especially in households with single parents with children, social support occupies a slightly higher share than other types of social protection payments, while in other households with children, pensions have a significant share in the incomes, where older relatives or grandparents may be the ones caring for children, while one or both parents may be abroad (in these households the share of remittances is also high).

Property income occupies an insignificant share in the income structure of households with children, without changing significantly over the years and without differing significantly depending on the area of residence or type of household, while income from individual non-agricultural activity has a share, although not large, but significant in the income structure of households with children, regardless of the place of residence. With the exception of family couples with children where the share of these incomes was higher in rural areas than in urban areas, in the case of other types of households with children the situation is the opposite. These incomes contain, among others, the amounts collected from the realization of the finished products from the individual work activities, as well as the profit obtained by the population as a result of the trade-intermediation activities. Obtaining these incomes is more difficult for single parents with children from rural areas and "other households with children" who are more employed in individual agricultural activity, lacking people to take care of these sources of income in addition to agricultural activities.

It should be noted that the share of income from employment between 2014 and 2018 increased in family couples with children and single parents with children in both urban and rural areas. There was also an increase in the share of social protection payments in households with children in rural areas and in "other households with children" in general, as well as in the share of income from individual non-agricultural activities in urban areas. On the background of these increases, the share of incomes from other categories in households with children decreased, and in particular the share of remittances in the case of single parents with children decreased significantly.

**Table2. The share of average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, %**

	Total percountry		Urban area		Rural area		Total percountry		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	Family couples with children						Single parents with children					
<b>Employment</b>	49.8	56.4	62.3	71.2	31.9	36.2	44.1	53.7	48.0	59.6	36.3	38.3



	Total percountry		Urban area		Rural area		Total percountry		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	Family couples with children						Single parents with children					
Self-employment in agriculture	7.8	7.6	0.5	0.4	18.1	17.4	4.8	3.8	0.1	0.2	14.1	13.3
Self-employment in non-agricultural sector	11.1	7.7	11.7	7.5	10.4	7.9	5.2	7.1	4.7	8.2	6.2	4.2
Property income	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.2	1.2	0.3	-	-
Social protection payments, from which:	4.8	5.6	4.9	4.2	4.6	7.5	10.6	8.4	9.1	6.1	13.6	14.4
pensions	0.7	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.0	1.3	5.8	2.8	6.5	2.9	4.3	2.6
child allowances	2.7	2.6	3.4	3.0	1.7	2.0	1.4	0.3	2.1	0.1	-	0.7
social support	0.5	1.0	0.1	0.0	1.0	2.4	1.8	2.9	-	1.4	5.2	6.9
Other income, from which:	26.5	22.6	20.6	16.5	34.8	31.0	34.5	26.7	36.9	25.6	29.9	29.7
remittances	21.8	19.2	14.7	12.2	31.7	28.8	22.2	9.7	22.6	5.4	21.4	21.1
	Other households with children											
	Total percountry				Urban area				Rural area			
	2014		2018		2014		2018		2014		2018	
Employment	40.8		45.1		59.4		58.8		30.4		36.8	
Self-employment in agriculture	12.7		9.9		1.7		1.2		18.9		15.2	
Self-employment in non-agricultural sector	6.3		6.0		7.7		10.0		5.5		3.5	
Property income	0.0		-		-		-		0.1		-	
Social protection payments, from which:	10.9		12.8		10.6		13.3		11.0		12.5	
pensions	7.9		8.0		8.0		8.8		7.9		7.5	
child allowances	1.6		1.4		1.7		1.5		1.5		1.3	
social support	0.3		1.1		0.2		0.7		0.4		1.3	
Other income, from which:	29.3		26.2		20.6		16.7		34.1		31.9	
remittances	26.4		22.9		15.8		11.6		32.3		29.6	

*Source:* Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova[6]

The **Table 3** shows the average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. According to the data from 2018, by the number of children and area of residence urban households with 1 child had the biggest amounts of average disposable monthly income per capita, evidently followed by urban households with 2 children and those with 3 children and more. The hierarchy of amounts is the same in the case of rural households with children. Obviously, households without children, regardless of area of residence, had bigger amounts of average monthly disposable income per capita compared to the households with children. A curious thing is that the amount of the average monthly disposable income per capita for urban households with 3 children is comparable with the one of the rural households with 2 children and it's

much more similar than in the case of urban households with 2 children compared to rural households with 1 child. The situation isn't too different for the year 2014. From most significant changes that took place between 2014 and 2018 in the amount of the average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households can be mentioned: the increase of the income from employment in all types of households with children in urban area (by about 50% for the households with 1 child, for those with 3 children and more and for those without children; by 76% for the households with 2 children) and in rural area (by 40-50% for the households with 1 child, for those with 3 children and more and for those without children; by 73% for the households with 2 children); the increase of the income from remittances in households with 3 children and more (from urban area – by 51%, from rural area – by 43%); the increase of the income from remittances in rural households with 1 child by 35%; the increase of the social protection payments (especially pensions) for households without children (from urban area – by 50%, from rural area – by 62%). In other cases the changes were much smaller.

**Table 3. The average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, MDL**

	Total percountry		Urban area		Rural area		Total percountry		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	<b>1 child</b>						<b>2 children</b>					
<b>Disposable income - total</b>	1741.4	2325.3	2084.3	2679.2	1470.2	1995.0	1353.4	1954.7	1523.2	2365.2	1254.6	1646.5
<b>Employment</b>	889.7	1314.3	1305.9	1895.6	504.4	771.7	550.7	1016.6	861.9	1519.3	369.6	639.2
<b>Self-employment in agriculture</b>	134.3	169.1	13.2	15.1	246.5	312.8	153.9	146.2	12.2	11.9	236.4	247.1
<b>Self-employment in non-agricultural sector</b>	137.0	117.8	159.6	152.9	116.0	85.1	116.9	165.0	172.5	240.8	84.5	108.1
<b>Property income</b>	1.5	2.9	3.2	4.3	-	1.6	1.6	-	-	-	2.5	-
<b>Social protection payments, from which:</b>	123.0	186.3	121.3	195.6	124.5	177.6	107.4	150.5	130.9	144.3	93.7	155.2
<b>pensions</b>	77.4	95.4	65.9	91.2	87.9	99.3	51.1	61.5	51.7	57.7	50.8	64.3
<b>child allowances</b>	3.0	35.5	46.2	52.5	15.0	19.6	32.7	44.4	51.5	72.1	21.7	23.6
<b>social support</b>	3.2	15.0	0.7	9.0	5.4	20.6	4.1	19.9	0.3	3.4	6.4	32.3
<b>Other income, from which:</b>	455.9	534.8	431.1	415.6	478.9	646.1	423.0	476.3	345.7	448.9	468.0	496.9
<b>remittances</b>	383.9	434.1	315.0	252.4	447.7	603.6	364.2	399.5	241.8	331.0	435.5	450.9
	<b>3 children and more</b>						<b>No children</b>					
<b>Disposable income - total</b>	1025.6	1384.1	1290.7	1638.8	942.6	1314.0	2011.4	2711.4	2408.1	3326.8	1705.3	2294.3
<b>Employment</b>	303.3	438.2	526.2	770.0	233.5	346.9	850.7	1189.9	1288.5	1869.7	513.0	729.3
<b>Self-employment in agriculture</b>	177.1	213.1	45.6	33.4	218.3	262.6	184.8	197.5	27.2	24.2	306.4	315.0
<b>Self-employment in non-agricultural sector</b>	137.8	152.9	326.1	344.3	78.8	100.2	123.4	140.6	161.8	180.6	93.7	113.4
<b>Property income</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.2	1.9	5.0	4.5	-	0.2
<b>Social protection</b>	117.7	179.5	142.2	135.7	110.0	191.5	474.1	734.1	543.1	812.3	420.9	681.1

payments, from which:												
pensions	452	482	472	58.3	446	455	437.2	661.8	492.5	747.7	394.6	603.6
child allowances	35.3	50.0	65.3	44.3	25.8	51.5	0.1	-	0.2	-	-	-
social support	26.3	50.9	21.0	20.3	27.9	59.3	3.7	12.5	2.0	6.0	5.0	16.9
Other income, from which:	289.7	400.4	250.6	355.4	301.9	412.8	376.2	447.3	382.4	435.5	371.4	455.3
remittances	247.4	359.9	187.7	284.0	266.1	380.8	293.6	357.9	264.7	300.1	315.9	397.1

*Source:* Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova [6]

The *Table 4* shows the share of average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. It is noted that households with 1 or 2 children have a significantly higher share of income from employment than those with 3 or more children. This lower share of salary income in households with 3 or more children is supplemented by higher shares of income from self-employment (1/4-1/5): agricultural sector - in rural areas and non-agricultural sector in urban areas, and also higher shares of social protection payments - about 15% in villages and about 8% - in cities. There aren't very significant differences between households with different numbers of children in the share of remittances in total income, shares that represent 1/3 in rural areas and about 10-17% - in urban areas. In households without children, pensions occupy a significant source of income (20-26%), in addition to remittances and employment incomes, while incomes from individual non-agricultural activity have lower shares than in the case of households with children.

Among the significant changes in the income structure of households with children depending on the number of children between 2014 and 2018 are: the increase of the share of income from employment in households with 1 or 2 children and those in urban areas with 3 children and more (with about 4-11 p.p.); increase of the share of social protection payments in households with 3 or more children in rural areas (by about 3 p.p.) and the share of remittances in the same type of households in urban areas (by about 3 p.p.); reduction of the share of remittances in households with 1 or 2 children (by about 3-7 p.p.), of the share of social protection payments in households with 3 or more children in urban areas (by about 3 p.p.), of the share of incomes from agricultural activity in rural areas in households with children (by 1-4 p.p.) and the share of income from non-agricultural activity in urban areas in households with 1 child or 3 children and more (by 2-4 p.p.).

**Table 4. The share of average monthly disposable income per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, %**

	Total per country		Urban area		Rural area		Total per country		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	1 child						2 children					
Employment	51.1	56.5	64.2	70.8	34.3	38.7	40.7	52.0	56.6	64.2	29.5	38.8
Self-employment in agriculture	7.7	7.3	0.7	0.6	16.8	15.7	11.4	7.5	0.8	0.5	18.8	15.0
Self-employment in non-agricultural sector	7.9	5.1	7.8	5.7	7.9	4.3	8.6	8.4	11.3	10.2	6.7	6.6
Property income	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.2	-
Social protection	7.1	8.0	6.0	7.3	8.5	8.9	7.9	7.7	8.6	6.1	7.5	9.4

<b>payments, from which:</b>												
<b>pensions</b>	4.4	4.1	3.2	3.4	6.0	5.0	3.8	3.1	3.4	2.4	4.0	3.9
<b>child allowances</b>	1.7	1.5	2.3	2.0	1.0	1.0	2.4	2.3	3.4	3.1	1.7	1.4
<b>social support</b>	0.2	0.6	0.0	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.3	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.5	2.0
<b>Other income, from which:</b>	26.2	23.0	21.2	15.5	32.6	32.4	31.3	24.4	22.7	19.0	37.3	30.2
<b>remittances</b>	22.0	18.7	15.5	9.4	30.5	30.3	26.9	20.4	15.9	14.0	34.7	27.4
	<b>3 children and more</b>						<b>No children</b>					
<b>Employment</b>	29.6	31.7	40.8	47.0	24.8	26.4	42.3	43.9	53.5	56.2	30.1	31.8
<b>Self-employment in agriculture</b>	17.3	15.4	3.5	2.0	23.2	20.0	9.2	7.3	1.1	0.7	18.0	13.7
<b>Self-employment in non-agricultural sector</b>	13.4	11.0	25.3	21.0	8.4	7.6	6.1	5.2	6.7	5.4	5.5	4.9
<b>Property income</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	0.0
<b>Social protection payments, from which:</b>	11.5	13.0	11.0	8.3	11.7	14.6	23.6	27.1	22.6	24.4	24.7	29.7
<b>pensions</b>	4.4	3.5	3.7	3.6	4.7	3.5	21.7	24.4	20.5	22.5	23.1	26.3
<b>child allowances</b>	3.4	3.6	5.1	2.7	2.7	3.9	0.0	-	0.0	-	-	-
<b>social support</b>	2.6	3.7	1.6	1.2	3.0	4.5	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7
<b>Other income, from which:</b>	28.2	28.9	19.4	21.7	32.0	31.4	18.7	16.5	15.9	13.1	21.8	19.8
<b>remittances</b>	24.1	26.0	14.5	17.3	28.2	29.0	14.6	13.2	11.0	9.0	18.5	17.3

*Source:*Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova[6]

### 3. The monthly consumption expenditure of the households with children in Moldova

In 2019 on the whole country the average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with family couples with children was in the amount of 2759.9 MDL (higher in urban area (3300.3 MDL) than in rural area (2183.8 MDL)), from which the biggest share –38.1% was for food (much lower in urban area (35.0%) than in rural area (42.9%)), followed by: household maintenance – 14.3% (lower in urban area (13.9%) than in rural area (14.9%)), clothing and footwear –11.2% (lower in urban area (10.8%) than in rural area (11.7%)), transport–7.3% (higher in urban area (7.7%) than in rural area (6.6%)), dwelling equipment –5.1% (lower in urban area (4.6%) than in rural area (5.7%)), miscellaneous expenses – 4.7% (higher in urban area (4.9%) than in rural area (4.5%)), entertainment – 4.5% (higher in urban area (5.9%) than in rural area (2.3%)), communication – 4.3% (slightly lower in urban area (4.3%) than in rural area (4.4%)), medical care and health – 3.6% (higher in urban area (3.9%) than in rural area (3.1%)), hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – 3.4% (higher in urban area (4.9%) than in rural area (1.0%)), education – 2.1% (higher in urban area (2.6%) than in rural area (1.2%)), alcoholic beverages, tobacco – 1.5% (slightly lower in urban area (1.5%) than in rural area (1.7%)). In 2019 on the whole country the average consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with single parents with children was in the amount of 2537.5 MDL (higher in urban area (2988.2 MDL) than in rural area (1921.7 MDL)), from which the biggest share – 40.0% was for food (much lower in urban area (37.2%) than in rural area (46.0%)), followed by: household maintenance – 16.6% (higher in urban area (17.3%) than in rural area (15.3%)), clothing and footwear – 10.4% (higher in urban area (10.6%) than in

rural area (9.9%)), dwelling equipment – 5.2% (higher in urban area (5.4%) than in rural area (5.0%)), miscellaneous expenses – 5.2% (much lower in urban area (4.4%) than in rural area (6.8%)), communication – 5.1% (higher in urban area (5.2%) than in rural area (4.9%)), medical care and health – 4.8% (lower in urban area (4.7%) than in rural area (5.0%)), entertainment – 4.2% (higher in urban area (5.4%) than in rural area (1.6%)), transport – 3.2% (higher in urban area (3.6%) than in rural area (2.3%)), hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – 2.9% (higher in urban area (3.8%) than in rural area (0.9%)), education – 1.9% (higher in urban area (2.3%) than in rural area (1.2%)), alcoholic beverages, tobacco – 0.5% (slightly lower in urban area (0.3%) than in rural area (1.0%)). In 2019 on the whole country the average consumption expenditure per capita of the other Moldovan households with children was in the amount of 2190.2 MDL (higher in urban area (2763.9 MDL) than in rural area (1991.8 MDL)), from which the biggest share – 43.4% was for food (much lower in urban area (40.4%) than in rural area (44.8%)), followed by: household maintenance – 13.4% (lower in urban area (13.3%) than in rural area (13.5%)), clothing and footwear – 11.2% (lower in urban area (10.5%) than in rural area (11.5%)), transport – 5.3% (lower in urban area (4.3%) than in rural area (5.8%)), communication – 4.9% (higher in urban area (5.0%) than in rural area (4.8%)), medical care and health – 4.8% (higher in urban area (5.8%) than in rural area (4.4%)), dwelling equipment – 4.7% (lower in urban area (4.0%) than in rural area (5.1%)), miscellaneous expenses – 4.6% (higher in urban area (5.3%) than in rural area (4.2%)), entertainment – 2.9% (higher in urban area (5.0%) than in rural area (1.9%)), hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – 1.7% (higher in urban area (3.2%) than in rural area (1.0%)), alcoholic beverages, tobacco – 1.6% (lower in urban area (1.2%) than in rural area (1.8%)), education – 1.5% (higher in urban area (1.9%) than in rural area (1.3%)).

In 2019 on the whole country the average consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with 1 child was in the amount of 2876.4 MDL (higher in urban area (3527.1 MDL) than in rural area (2321.3 MDL)), from which the biggest share – 38.8% was for food (much lower in urban area (36.0%) than in rural area (42.5%)), followed by: household maintenance – 14.7% (lower in urban area (14.4%) than in rural area (15.0%)), clothing and footwear – 11.2% (lower in urban area (10.2%) than in rural area (12.4%)), transport – 6.0% (higher in urban area (6.9%) than in rural area (4.9%)), dwelling equipment – 5.0% (lower in urban area (4.4%) than in rural area (5.8%)), miscellaneous expenses – 5.0% (higher in urban area (5.7%) than in rural area (4.2%)), communication – 4.8% (lower in urban area (4.6%) than in rural area (5.1%)), medical care and health – 4.2% (lower in urban area (4.1%) than in rural area (4.4%)), entertainment – 4.1% (much higher in urban area (5.7%) than in rural area (2.0%)), hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – 2.8% (much higher in urban area (4.2%) than in rural area (1.0%)), education – 1.7% (higher in urban area (2.4%) than in rural area (0.8%)), alcoholic beverages, tobacco – 1.7% (lower in urban area (1.5%) than in rural area (1.8%)). In 2019 on the whole country the average consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with 2 children was in the amount of 2496.8 MDL (higher in urban area (2960.1 MDL) than in rural area (2147.3 MDL)), from which the biggest share – 39.4% was for food (much lower in urban area (35.9%) than in rural area (43.1%)), followed by: household maintenance – 13.8% (lower in urban area (13.5%) than in rural area (14.1%)), clothing and footwear – 11.3% (lower in urban area (11.2%) than in rural area (11.5%)), transport – 7.1% (lower in urban area (6.4%) than in rural area (7.7%)), dwelling equipment – 5.0% (lower in urban area (4.8%) than in rural area (5.2%)), miscellaneous expenses – 4.4% (the same in urban area as in rural area (4.4%)), communication – 4.4% (lower in urban area (4.3%) than in rural area (4.5%)), entertainment – 4.1% (much higher in urban area (5.9%) than in rural area (2.2%)), medical care and health – 3.9% (higher in urban area (4.7%) than in rural area (3.1%)), hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – 3.2% (much higher in urban area (5.2%) than in rural area (1.2%)), education – 1.9% (higher in urban area (2.4%) than in rural area (1.3%)), alcoholic beverages, tobacco – 1.5% (lower in urban area (1.3%) than in rural area (1.7%)). In 2019 on the whole country the average consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with 3 children and more was in the amount of 1918.9 MDL (higher in urban area (2629.0 MDL) than in

rural area (1601.4 MDL)), from which the biggest share – 44.4% was for food (much lower in urban area (38.5%) than in rural area (48.6%)), followed by: household maintenance – 13.5% (higher in urban area (14.3%) than in rural area (12.9%)), clothing and footwear – 10.5% (higher in urban area (11.4%) than in rural area (9.9%)), transport – 5.8% (higher in urban area (7.1%) than in rural area (4.8%)), dwelling equipment – 4.8% (lower in urban area (4.5%) than in rural area (5.0%)), medical care and health – 4.4% (slightly lower in urban area (4.4%) than in rural area (4.5%)), communication – 4.3% (higher in urban area (4.8%) than in rural area (3.9%)), miscellaneous expenses – 4.3% (lower in urban area (4.0%) than in rural area (4.6%)), entertainment – 3.1% (much higher in urban area (4.5%) than in rural area (2.0%)), education – 2.3% (higher in urban area (2.7%) than in rural area (2.0%)), hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – 1.5% (higher in urban area (2.9%) than in rural area (0.5%)), alcoholic beverages, tobacco – 1.0% (lower in urban area (0.8%) than in rural area (1.2%)). In 2019 on the whole country the average consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households without children was in the amount of 3048.4 MDL (higher in urban area (3830.2 MDL) than in rural area (2575.8 MDL)), from which the biggest share – 41.2% was for food (much lower in urban area (37.0%) than in rural area (45.0%)), followed by: household maintenance – 17.9% (lower in urban area (17.4%) than in rural area (18.4%)), clothing and footwear – 8.4% (lower in urban area (8.2%) than in rural area (8.6%)), medical care and health – 6.1% (higher in urban area (6.8%) than in rural area (5.5%)), transport – 5.8% (higher in urban area (7.0%) than in rural area (4.8%)), dwelling equipment – 5.2% (lower in urban area (4.9%) than in rural area (5.6%)), communication – 4.5% (slightly lower in urban area (4.4%) than in rural area (4.5%)), miscellaneous expenses – 4.0% (higher in urban area (4.3%) than in rural area (3.6%)), hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – 2.4% (much higher in urban area (4.4%) than in rural area (0.7%)), alcoholic beverages, tobacco – 2.1% (lower in urban area (1.9%) than in rural area (2.2%)), entertainment – 1.9% (much higher in urban area (3.0%) than in rural area (0.9%)), education – 0.5% (higher in urban area (0.8%) than in rural area (0.2%)).

The **Table 5** shows the average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. According to the data from 2018, urban family couples with children had the biggest amounts of average monthly consumption expenditure per capita, followed by urban single parents with children and other urban households with children. Here should be noted that in 2014 the average monthly consumption expenditure was bigger for urban single parents with children than for urban family couples with children. In 2018 „other rural households with children” had the biggest amounts of average monthly consumption expenditure per capita, followed by rural family couples with children and rural single parents with children. Though, here should be noted that in 2014 the average monthly consumption expenditure was bigger for rural family couples with children that were followed by other rural households with children and rural single parents with children. From the significant changes that took place between 2014 and 2018 in the amount of the average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence can be evidenced: the increase of the amount of the consumption expenditure for food in all types of households with children in urban area (by 34-35% for the family couples with children and other households with children and by 25% for the single parents with children) and in rural area (by 37-39% for the single parents with children and for other households with children and by 27% for family couples with children); the increase of the amount of the consumption expenditure for urban family couples with children for clothing and footwear by 42% and for hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. – by 3.2 times; the increase of the amount of the consumption expenditure for other urban households with children for clothing and footwear by 55%. Other modifications were much smaller.

**Table 5. The average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, MDL**

	Total per country		Urban area		Rural area		Total per country		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	Family couples with children						Single parents with children					
Consumption expenditures - total	1674.3	2265.3	2015.8	2885.0	1356.5	1736.9	1832.6	2281.1	2422.1	2729.8	1207.7	1592.1
Food	704.5	914.7	789.7	1058.2	625.2	792.2	744.6	994.3	886.3	1110.7	594.3	815.5
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	20.2	31.6	21.9	41.5	18.7	23.3	16.3	14.4	25.4	19.9	6.7	6.1
Clothing and footwear	213.6	295.6	243.1	346.2	186.2	252.6	235.7	291.8	298.5	334.3	169.1	226.5
Household maintenance	298.2	340.1	377.5	451.4	224.3	245.2	320.9	386.0	441.3	481.9	193.3	238.9
Dwelling equipment	58.7	76.9	65.4	97.2	52.4	59.5	52.8	65.8	70.4	68.2	34.2	62.1
Medical care and health	68.2	86.8	80.3	98.0	56.9	77.3	99.8	87.6	162.9	127.6	33.0	26.2
Transport	81.9	128.9	116.4	198.9	49.7	69.1	83.1	60.7	116.6	81.5	47.5	28.8
Communication	79.4	109.3	101.7	140.9	58.7	82.3	86.7	133.6	118.6	176.3	53.0	68.0
Entertainment	29.9	61.6	47.7	108.1	13.3	22.0	37.8	61.1	54.1	80.6	20.6	31.1
Education	8.9	15.9	13.7	19.9	4.4	12.5	21.9	18.3	39.6	28.5	3.2	2.5
Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.	26.6	78.0	48.3	153.8	6.3	13.5	42.4	50.8	69.2	79.7	14.1	6.5
Miscellaneous	84.2	125.8	109.9	171.0	60.2	87.3	90.6	116.7	139.3	140.7	38.9	79.8
	Other households with children											
	Total per country		Urban area		Rural area							
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
Consumption expenditures - total	1436.5		1896.8		1655.1		2180.1		1333.7		1752.9	
Food	634.1		874.9		719.1		968.3		594.2		827.6	
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	15.8		29.0		10.3		27.2		18.3		30.0	
Clothing and footwear	177.7		246.4		174.4		269.6		179.2		234.6	
Household maintenance	238.9		277.8		301.2		327.3		209.7		252.7	
Dwelling equipment	46.3		59.8		41.5		58.3		48.6		60.6	
Medical care and health	69.3		82.2		70.6		98.0		68.7		74.2	

<b>Transport</b>	64.3	70.4	74.0	86.7	59.8	62.1
<b>Communication</b>	67.7	93.5	83.8	112.3	60.1	84.0
<b>Entertainment</b>	14.2	25.4	23.8	41.7	9.7	17.2
<b>Education</b>	21.5	13.7	39.8	14.2	12.9	13.5
<b>Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.</b>	18.9	28.1	43.7	57.3	7.2	13.3
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	67.7	95.3	72.9	119.3	65.2	83.1

*Source:*Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova[5]

The *Table 6* shows the share of average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. In all types of households, food expenditures account for about 1/3-1/2 of the total expenditures. (about 37% for family couples with urban children and 46% for family couples with rural children, about 41% for single parents with children from urban areas and about 51% for single parents with children from rural areas, and 43-47% in other households with children), a significant share is also spent on clothing and footwear (about 10-15%) and those for household maintenance (about 14-19%). Family couples with children and single parents with children have a share of entertainment expenses and those for hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc. higher (1.0-3.7% and 0.4-5.3%, respectively) than in other households with children (0.7-1.9% and, respectively, 0.5-2.6%).

Among the major changes between 2014 and 2018 in the structure of consumption expenditures of households with children can be mentioned: the decrease of the share of expenditures for food and household maintenance together with the increase of the share of expenditures for entertainment and for hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc. in family couples with children; increase of the share of expenditure on food and communications and miscellaneous expenditures together with the decrease of the share of expenditure on medical care and health and transport for single parents with children; increase of the share of expenditure on food and clothing and footwear and miscellaneous expenditures together with the decrease of the share of expenditure on household maintenance and education in other households with children.

Therefore, it can be seen that households with single parents with children, as well as family couples with children and other households with children in rural areas are in a more precarious situation, given the share of food expenditure in the structure of consumption expenditure, as well as its evolution.

**Table 6. The share of average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by type of household and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, %**

	Total per country		Urban area		Rural area		Total per country		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	Family couples with children						Single parents with children					
<b>Food</b>	42.1	40.4	39.2	36.7	46.1	45.6	40.6	43.6	36.6	40.7	49.2	51.2
<b>Alcoholic beverages, tobacco</b>	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.9	0.6	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.4
<b>Clothing and footwear</b>	12.8	13.1	12.1	12.0	13.7	14.5	12.9	12.8	12.3	12.2	14.0	14.2
<b>Household maintenance</b>	17.8	15.0	18.7	15.6	16.5	14.1	17.5	16.9	18.2	17.7	16.0	15.0



<b>Dwelling equipment</b>	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.4	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.8	3.9
<b>Medical care and health</b>	4.1	3.8	4.0	3.4	4.2	4.5	5.4	3.8	6.7	4.7	2.7	1.6
<b>Transport</b>	4.9	5.7	5.8	6.9	3.7	4.0	4.5	2.7	4.8	3.0	3.9	1.8
<b>Communication</b>	4.7	4.8	5.0	4.9	4.3	4.7	4.7	5.9	4.9	6.5	4.4	4.3
<b>Entertainment</b>	1.8	2.7	2.4	3.7	1.0	1.3	2.1	2.7	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.0
<b>Education</b>	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.7	1.2	0.8	1.6	1.0	0.3	0.2
<b>Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.</b>	1.6	3.4	2.4	5.3	0.5	0.8	2.3	2.2	2.9	2.9	1.2	0.4
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	5.0	5.6	5.5	5.9	4.4	5.0	4.9	5.1	5.8	5.2	3.2	5.0
	<b>Other households with children</b>											
	<b>Total per country</b>		<b>Urban area</b>		<b>Rural area</b>							
	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2018</b>						
<b>Food</b>	44.1	46.1	43.4	44.4	44.6	47.2						
<b>Alcoholic beverages, tobacco</b>	1.1	1.5	0.6	1.2	1.4	1.7						
<b>Clothing and footwear</b>	12.4	13.0	10.5	12.4	13.4	13.4						
<b>Household maintenance</b>	16.6	14.6	18.2	15.0	15.7	14.4						
<b>Dwelling equipment</b>	3.2	3.2	2.5	2.7	3.6	3.5						
<b>Medical care and health</b>	4.8	4.3	4.3	4.5	5.2	4.2						
<b>Transport</b>	4.5	3.7	4.5	4.0	4.5	3.5						
<b>Communication</b>	4.7	4.9	5.1	5.2	4.5	4.8						
<b>Entertainment</b>	1.0	1.3	1.4	1.9	0.7	1.0						
<b>Education</b>	1.5	0.7	2.4	0.7	1.0	0.8						
<b>Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.</b>	1.3	1.5	2.6	2.6	0.5	0.8						
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	4.7	5.0	4.4	5.5	4.9	4.7						

*Source:*Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova[5]

The *Table 7* shows the average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. According to the data from 2018, by the number of children and area of residence urban households with 1 child had the highest amounts of average disposable monthly income per capita, obviously followed by urban households with 2 children and those with 3 children and more. The hierarchy of amounts is similar in the case of rural households with children. Evidently, the households without children, regardless of area of residence, had higher amounts of average monthly consumption expenditure per capita compared to the households with children. The same situation is also for the year 2014. From the most essential changes that took place between 2014 and 2018 in the amount of the average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households can be evidenced: the increase of the amount of consumption expenditure of food in all types of households with children in urban area (by about 27% for the households with 1 child, by about 50% for the households with 2 children and for those with 3 children and more; by 32% for households without children) and in rural area (by about 38% for the households with 1 child, by about 29% for the households with 2 children; by 35.0% for the households with 3 children and more; by 33% for households without children); the increase of the amount of consumption expenditure for clothing and footwear in urban households with 1 child by 46%; the increase

of the amount of consumption expenditure in urban households with 2 children for clothing and footwear by 46% and for household maintenance by 33%; the increase of the amount of consumption expenditure for household maintenance in households with 1 child (in urban area by 33% and in rural area – by 40%). In other cases the changes were minor.

**Table 7. The average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, MDL**

	Total per country		Urban area		Rural area		Total per country		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	<b>1 child</b>						<b>2 children</b>					
<b>Consumption expenditures - total</b>	1788.5	2377.3	2135.5	2808.7	1467.2	1974.8	1454.3	2080.5	1636.7	2587.7	1348.1	1699.8
<b>Food</b>	738.4	973.9	847.6	1072.4	637.3	882.0	633.9	882.4	676.4	1011.0	609.1	785.9
<b>Alcoholic beverages, tobacco</b>	21.4	39.9	21.0	45.8	21.7	34.5	16.2	21.3	14.2	21.1	17.4	21.5
<b>Clothing and footwear</b>	216.8	303.9	233.9	340.5	201.0	269.7	194.9	270.2	213.1	310.6	184.3	239.8
<b>Household maintenance</b>	325.7	369.7	403.6	445.4	253.6	299.1	242.4	305.8	298.1	396.6	209.9	237.5
<b>Dwelling equipment</b>	60.6	76.7	69.8	88.1	52.0	66.2	47.2	68.1	38.2	83.2	52.5	56.7
<b>Medical care and health</b>	84.5	100.9	99.8	110.2	70.4	92.2	59.7	84.2	55.3	97.9	62.2	73.9
<b>Transport</b>	83.2	122.9	107.4	155.0	60.8	93.0	74.1	103.8	95.8	164.7	61.5	58.2
<b>Communication</b>	88.9	128.1	109.4	158.6	70.0	99.6	67.3	94.7	83.1	114.5	58.1	79.9
<b>Entertainment</b>	26.1	50.5	42.6	89.0	10.8	14.6	17.6	53.7	27.0	91.1	12.2	25.6
<b>Education</b>	23.7	17.5	33.9	20.2	14.2	14.9	9.7	17.5	13.9	19.4	7.2	16.0
<b>Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.</b>	31.8	66.2	57.8	121.8	7.7	14.3	20.4	63.6	39.8	127.5	9.1	15.8
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	87.3	127.0	108.7	161.7	67.5	94.7	70.9	115.2	81.5	150.0	64.8	89.1
	<b>3 children and more</b>						<b>No children</b>					
<b>Consumption expenditures – total</b>	1107.4	1503.0	1343.5	1892.2	1033.6	1395.9	2029.7	2680.3	2367.7	3226.7	1769.0	2310.0
<b>Food</b>	549.0	757.0	596.1	887.4	534.3	721.1	889.8	1170.3	1010.9	1332.1	796.2	1060.7
<b>Alcoholic beverages, tobacco</b>	10.5	21.6	7.5	35.3	11.5	17.8	31.5	50.3	32.2	54.9	30.9	47.1
<b>Clothing and footwear</b>	136.1	211.4	144.4	240.7	133.5	203.4	198.6	257.9	210.3	283.2	189.6	240.8
<b>Household maintenance</b>	157.5	201.9	212.5	288.0	140.3	178.2	403.7	543.7	495.3	660.0	333.1	464.9
<b>Dwelling equipment</b>	38.3	53.0	39.2	45.1	38.1	55.2	74.3	110.8	72.9	117.6	75.3	106.2
<b>Medical care and health</b>	50.4	44.9	57.8	49.2	48.2	43.7	121.4	138.4	132.8	175.0	112.6	113.6
<b>Transport</b>	38.0	41.4	65.3	98.9	29.5	25.6	87.7	100.3	112.4	136.9	68.6	75.5
<b>Communication</b>	41.8	61.1	54.0	73.4	38.0	57.6	84.7	122.4	106.4	154.7	68.0	100.6
<b>Entertainment</b>	23.5	21.8	60.7	26.0	11.8	20.6	23.6	26.3	35.1	52.2	14.8	8.8

<b>Education</b>	5.0	3.8	14.0	5.6	2.2	3.3	11.8	12.4	14.6	22.5	9.6	5.6
<b>Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.</b>	3.6	14.3	11.0	41.2	1.2	6.9	31.8	43.0	56.5	91.1	12.8	10.5
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	53.7	70.7	81.1	101.2	45.1	62.3	70.9	104.4	88.2	146.5	57.5	75.8

*Source:*Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova[5]

The *Table 8* shows the share of average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018. The structure of consumption expenditures also varies depending on the number of children in the household. Along with the increase in the number of children in households with children, the share of expenditures for: food products also increases (from 41.0% in 2014 for households with 1 child to 50.4% in 2018 in those with 3 children and more); clothing and footwear (from 12.8% in 2014 for households with 1 child to 14.1% in 2018 for those with 3 children and more); dwelling equipment (from 3.2% in 2014 for households with 1 child to 3.5% in 2018 for those with 3 children and more), but also decreases the share of expenditures for: household maintenance (from 15.6% in 2014 for households with 1 child to 13.4% in 2018 in those with 3 children and more); medical care and health (from 4.2% in 2014 for households with 1 child to 3.0% in 2018 for those with 3 children and more); transport (from 5.2% in 2014 for households with 1 child to 2.8% in 2018 in those with 3 or more children); communication (from 5.4% in 2014 for households with 1 child to 4.1% in 2018 for those with 3 or more children). Unlike households with children, those without children had higher shares of expenditures for alcoholic beverages and tobacco, household maintenance, dwelling equipment and medical care and health.

Between 2014 and 2018 there are significant differences between some categories of expenditures on households with children in urban and rural areas. To a more significant extent, the shares of expenses for food, alcoholic beverages and tobacco, clothing and footwear, hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc. have increased and the share of spendings on entertainment, medical care and health in households with 3 or more children in urban areas has decreased. In rural areas, the share of expenditures of the same type of households has mostly undergone minor changes, and among the most significant are: the decrease in the share of expenditure on medical care and health, transport and the increase in the share of expenditure on clothing and footwear.

In the case of households with 1 child, the most essential changes in the share of expenditures were those in the urban environment - the decrease in the share of expenditures for housing maintenance; for food and increasing the share of spending on hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc.; leisure; clothing and footwear. In the rural area, in the case of this type of households, the share of food expenses and the share of household maintenance expenses had more significant changes, the weights of other expenses not having major changes.

In households with 2 children, again several major changes took place in the urban environment: increasing the share of: entertainment expenses; hotels, restaurants, cafes, etc. and lowering the share of: food expenditure; household maintenance and clothing and footwear. In rural areas, this type of households had an increase in the share of food expenditures and a decrease in the share of housing and transport expenditures, with the share of other expenditures changing less.

In the case of households without children, there have been no significant changes in the structure of expenditures in either urban or rural areas, with some exceptions, such as: a decrease in the share of food expenditure in urban areas and in rural areas - an increase in the share of household maintenance expenditures and the decrease in the share of medical care and health expenditures.

In the case of households with children, it is obvious that the number of children determines a higher share in the household of food and clothing and footwear expenses because these expenses are for individual use.

**Table 8. The share of average monthly consumption expenditure per capita of the Moldovan households with children by number of children and areas of residence between 2014 and 2018, %**

	Total per country		Urban area		Rural area		Total per country		Urban area		Rural area	
	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018	2014	2018
	1 child						2 children					
Food	41.3	41.0	39.7	38.2	43.4	44.7	43.6	42.4	41.3	39.1	45.2	46.2
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	1.2	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.3	1.3
Clothing and footwear	12.1	12.8	11.0	12.1	13.7	13.7	13.4	13.0	13.0	12.0	13.7	14.1
Household maintenance	18.2	15.6	18.9	15.9	17.3	15.1	16.7	14.7	18.2	15.3	15.6	14.0
Dwelling equipment	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.3	2.3	3.2	3.9	3.3
Medical care and health	4.7	4.2	4.7	3.9	4.8	4.7	4.1	4.0	3.4	3.8	4.6	4.3
Transport	4.7	5.2	5.0	5.5	4.1	4.7	5.1	5.0	5.9	6.4	4.6	3.4
Communication	5.0	5.4	5.1	5.6	4.8	5.0	4.6	4.6	5.1	4.4	4.3	4.7
Entertainment	1.5	2.1	2.0	3.2	0.7	0.7	1.2	2.6	1.6	3.5	0.9	1.5
Education	1.3	0.7	1.6	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.9
Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.	1.8	2.8	2.7	4.3	0.5	0.7	1.4	3.1	2.4	4.9	0.7	0.9
Miscellaneous	4.9	5.3	5.1	5.8	4.6	4.8	4.9	5.5	5.0	5.8	4.8	5.2
	3 children and more						No children					
Food	49.6	50.4	44.4	46.9	51.7	51.7	43.8	43.7	42.7	41.3	45.0	45.9
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco	1.0	1.4	0.6	1.9	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.9	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.0
Clothing and footwear	12.3	14.1	10.7	12.7	12.9	14.6	9.8	9.6	8.9	8.8	10.7	10.4
Household maintenance	14.2	13.4	15.8	15.2	13.6	12.8	19.9	20.3	20.9	20.5	18.8	20.1
Dwelling equipment	3.5	3.5	2.9	2.4	3.7	4.0	3.7	4.1	3.1	3.6	4.3	4.6
Medical care and health	4.6	3.0	4.3	2.6	4.7	3.1	6.0	5.2	5.6	5.4	6.4	4.9
Transport	3.4	2.8	4.9	5.2	2.9	1.8	4.3	3.7	4.7	4.2	3.9	3.3
Communication	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	4.1	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.8	3.8	4.4
Entertainment	2.1	1.4	4.5	1.4	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.6	0.8	0.4
Education	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.2
Hotels, restaurants, cafes etc.	0.3	1.0	0.8	2.2	0.1	0.5	1.6	1.6	2.4	2.8	0.7	0.5
Miscellaneous	4.8	4.7	6.0	5.4	4.4	4.5	3.5	3.9	3.7	4.5	3.3	3.3

*Source:*Elaborated on the basis of NBS of Republic of Moldova[5]

#### **4. The actual and potential consequences of COVID-19 crisis on the households with children in Moldova**

The consequences of the COVID-19 are unprecedented and are being felt all around the world. Severely affected economies and labour markets, struggling for survival of many businesses, job and income losses, rising poverty affect a multitude of people. The people most exposed at risk are the self-employed, domestic workers and caregivers, the ones employed in occasional or temporary work. The lack of adequate social protection systems aggravates the vulnerability to the crisis of working families. For many children and their families, the rapidly changing situation means disturbed education and care for children, family illnesses and the potential loss of household income. In the context of restrictions on free movement and the socio-economic downturn of the crisis that put the household at increased risks, family-friendly policies and practices can make a critical difference. Work and income protection, paid leave for family care, flexible work arrangements and access to quality, emergency child care are important measures that allow employees to protect themselves and have self-care and care for children and their relatives.

The return of many Moldovan migrants to Moldova in the context of existing barriers due to COVID-19 crisis and their remittances and acquired skills may support Moldovan households, but only on short-term, because of job losses, unpaid leaves, technical unemployment, stationary activity. There is the possibility to invest the remittances at home. Also, barriers due to COVID-19 crisis together with a increase in laid-off labour force will increase the competition on labour market, thus growing the difficulty to find a job, not just a decent one and this may affect negatively household incomes and consumption expenditures. These aspects may prompt the returned migrants to use the remittances to compensate and/or increase consumption expenditures of the household instead of saving and/or investing.

In Moldova due to COVID-19 crisis, from 33.2 thousands of workers or 4.1% of total employed population that were affected: 20.1 thousands did not work at all or were absent from work (this number has grown 2 times from the quarter I of 2019 to the quarter I of 2020), 2.7 thousands were put on partial work schedule, 8.5 thousands worked fewer hours a week and also, from the quarter I of 2019 to the quarter I of 2020 the number of those with unpaid leave has grown three and half times and those in technical unemployment – by 1.6 times and on top of this most of the workers who suffered from the crisis are employees [3]. Also, the estimated reduction of workers in the Moldovan light industry is by 7600 workers [2]. According to a recent survey of CCF/HHC Moldova [8] on vulnerable families, where 140 families participated (50.7% were families with 3 children and more, 18.6% - families with 1 child, 30.7% - families with 2 children), 54% of the interviewed families stated that their income decreased during March-April 2020, compared to January-February 2020. The monthly income of the families oscillates between 540 and 9500 MDL, and some families even indicated the lack of any income in that month. The dynamics of the monthly income of the interviewed families in the period January-April 2020 show that they achieved the highest revenues in January 2020, mainly as a result of the implementation of the decisions of the District Commissions for Child Protection regarding the allocation of family support for 2019. Starting with February, the income decreased constantly. In the period January-March 2020 the share of families with an income of 3000 MDL and more reduced from 47% to 41%, the share of families with an income of 1601-3000 MDL has grown from 29% to 34%, the share of families with an income of less than 1600 MDL has grown from 22% to 24%, the share of families without an income has reduced from 2% to 1% and all this means that overall the number of families with a smaller income has grown as a reduction of the number of families with a higher income. A sharp reduction was registered from March 2020 to 15 April 2020: the share of families with an income of 3000 MDL and more reduced from 41% to 21%, the share of families with an income of 1601-3000 MDL has grown from 34% to 36%, the share of families with an income of less than 1600 MDL has grown from 24% to 31%, the share of families

without an income has grown from 1% to 12%. According to the respondents the reduction in household income is due to reduction in occasional work and delay of payment of social benefits and was stopped the provision of financial assistance for family support due to the impossibility of evaluation / confirmation of the needs and impossibility of meeting the multidisciplinary team for completion of necessary documents. The problem of food insufficiency was determined by the decreased income.

All these issues will contribute to the decrease of the household income, especially from employment and self-employment jobs affected by this crisis, not only in short-term, but also in long-term, if state authorities, businesses, workers won't adapt to the new conditions of labour market or won't find solutions to tackle these issues.

## **Conclusions and prospects**

From the year 2014 up to the years 2018 and 2019 took place important changes in the structure of Moldovan households with children and in the amounts and structures of their average monthly consumption expenditure per capita and average monthly disposable income per capita and also between the types of households with children, by number of their children and by the area of residence. The average size of the households with single parents with children and urban households with family couples with children have grown, while the average size of the "other households with children" has shrunk. The share of "other households with children" has reduced while the shares other types of households with children didn't shown major changes. The most important source of disposable income for the households with children is the income from the employment and its share in total disposable income has grown, regardless of the type of the household with children, area of residence of the household or the number of children in the household. It has increased at a much faster rate (together with the income from social protection payments) than other sources of income. Another essential source of income for households with children is the remittances that had and continue to have a bigger share in the rural households that grows, but usually with a slower rate. Also, for rural households with children another significant source of income is from the self-employment in agriculture, though it's share has decreased between 2014 and 2018, because of a bigger rate of growth of income from employment and from the social protection payments. The property income has a too small share in the total income of the households to be significant at all. Pensions are an important source of income for "other households with children". The share of the income from self-employment in non-agricultural sector has grown for the urban single parents with children, "other urban households with children", households with 2 children and those with 3 children and more, while for other types of households with children it has decreased, because of the reduction in it's absolute amount. The most significant share of the consumption expenditures in households with children is for food that can have from a third to a half of all expenses in urban households and half of all expenses in rural households. Other important destinations of expenses are clothing and footwear (that has a higher share as the number of children is bigger) and household maintenance (that has a higher share as the number of children is smaller). The shares of expenses on entertainment and hotels, restaurants, cafes etc. are higher in urban households with children. Other destinations of expenses had smaller shares and smaller changes.

The COVID-19 crisis has affected Moldova as other countries and has created many issues for Moldovan households as well. The growth of job losses; increases of cases of partial work schedule, technical unemployment and stationary activity, the return of migrants from abroad, growth of unpaid leaves and other issues affected and will continue to affect negatively the disposable income and consumption expenditure of households (especially the ones with children and vulnerable ones) at least on short-term and now it's up to state authorities, businesses and workers to come with solutions and use this crisis as a basis for the future growth of Moldovan economy, otherwise it will deepen it's chronic social

and economic problems. In accordance with UNICEF guidelines [7], as general measures to be used in order to support households with children may be mentioned the following: implementation of flexible working arrangements (flexible working time, flexible free time, flexible locations/roles); supporting parents working with safe and appropriate childcare options in the context of COVID-19; prevention and approach of risks at work, strengthening occupational safety and health measures; guidance and training in occupational safety and health measures and hygiene practices; encouraging workers to seek appropriate medical care in case of fever, cough and shortness of breath; support workers manage stress and personal safety during the COVID-19 pandemic; supporting social protection measures undertaken by the government.

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