EMployment and income loss

- The share of household heads who were working before the start of covid-19 (March 2020) but who stopped working fell from 26% in October 2020 to 17% in December 2020. While these results may also be sensitive to seasonality, disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic are still common. For instance, 42 percent of household heads who are not working as of December 2020, cited a reason potentially related to COVID-19, the main one being the closure of work establishments.

- Household labor income has improved significantly since mid-August. Indeed, while in mid-August and October, respectively 92% and 70% had experienced a decline in their labor income, in December 2020 less than half (44%) of households experienced a decline in income. This improvement in labor markets is however marked by heterogeneity across the welfare distribution and place of residence. The 20% poorest households (95% and 75% experienced income decline resp. in mid-August and October) and those in rural areas (97% and 70% experienced income decline resp. in mid-August and October) are still more vulnerable to declines in labor income.

COVID-19 vaccine

- More than two out of three households expressed willingness to be vaccinated against covid-19 if a vaccine were approved. However, household heads in the wealthiest strata and in urban areas are much less favorable to vaccination. The reasons cited by households reluctant to be vaccinated vary widely, the main reasons being lack of confidence in the vaccine or the authorities responsible for vaccine distribution and fear of deteriorating health.

- Moreover, regarding willingness to pay for vaccination, 58% of households are in favor of it; however, the majority are only willing to pay an amount of less than 500 GMD.
From March to December 2020, households perceive an improvement in their well-being. Indeed, from the period March to mid-August 2020 to the period October-December 2020, the share of households experiencing decline in their well-being fell from 49% to only 2%. On the other hand, the share that perceive an increase went from 4% to 24%. The forecasts of households are also in clear improvement between their mid-August and December 2020 estimates.

Need of medical care expressed by households increased from the period March to mid-August 2020 to the period October to December 2020 from 31% to 63% of households, probably revealing a restrained need during the peak of the first wave of COVID-19 cases. In December only 1.2% of the households were unable to access medical care, mainly due to lack of money and fear of covid-19.

In December 2020, regardless of wealth quintile and place of residence, almost all households with at least one school-attending member sent them back to school, compared to only 11% in October.

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Graph 5: Perception of household wellbeing from March to December 2020

Graph 6: Subjective forecast of the evolution of household wellbeing

Graph 7: Household non access to commodities since mid-March 2020

Graph 8: Need of medical care since March to December 2020

Graph 9: Households with children back to school

Graph 10: Households facing problems of honoring payment of services