



Research on Deep Poverty and Access to Human Rights During the Pandemic

Suggestions for Local Governments for Crisis Intervention Programs





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INTRODUCTION

DEEP POVERTY NETWORK - DPN (Derin Yoksulluk Ağı - DYA) Deep Poverty Network is a solidarity network that carries out rights-based work in dozens of poor neighborhoods to tackle urban poverty. It was established in December 2019 by Çimenev volunteers working on the rights and needs of children, youth, and women and carrying out educational activities with these groups.

In our opinion, deep poverty is a chronic state of social exclusion and inequality. People living in deep poverty first need access to their basic rights such as food, housing, health, education, clothing, psychosocial support. We aim to produce projects that will support access to these fundamental rights, develop and report suggestions that will create permanent solutions to eradicate deep poverty, and ensure the implementation of those suggestions.

BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH Covid-19, which is thought to have started in December 2019 and rapidly turned into a global epidemic, caused many countries to take measures to restrict mobility. The disease was confirmed to have reached Turkey on 11 March 2020, after a person tested positive. Just after the confirmation, formal education was temporarily suspended. Then distance education was initiated, individuals under 20 and over 65 were banned from going out on the streets, entry and exit to certain provinces was prohibited. On April 10, curfews were declared on weekends.

The effects of all these measures, #StayHome calls and the health risk created by the epidemic were not the same in every household. People from different districts of Istanbul selling flowers, collecting paper, peddling, working informally in textiles or any other way, living on a daily without a

regular income or working with minimum wage reached the Deep Poverty Network to explain that they no longer had any work and even lost access to food. In addition to the current economic crisis, the new conditions brought by the pandemic left individuals, who already had difficulties in making ends meet, with hunger and poverty.

On March 18, 2020 as DPN we have, launched an online solidarity campaign #ChangeFromHome as a crisis intervention to meet the basic food and care needs of individuals affected by the pandemic and living in poverty. We have provided support to over 2,000 households living in 171 neighborhoods of 34 districts of Istanbul. Although the people we sent support with the solidarity campaign requested support from the district municipality, district governorship or Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, the support could not reach them urgently due to social investigations or prolonged processes that could not be done due to the pandemic. In cases where support was provided, it was insufficient to meet their needs.

While the authorities are explaining the pandemic measures, they do not take into account the conditions of those who live in a single-room house with 7-8 people, those who make a living with daily work, those who do not have city water in their homes, those who do not have a healthy and balanced diet, those who do not have a television, tablet or internet, and those who live in deep poverty. To make them visible, as of May 2020, we have launched a real series of daily human rights stories of individuals that we are in contact with. As of July 2020, we started field visits with the financial support of Heinrich Böll Stiftung in order to provide suggestions to local governments to support the economic, social and cultural rights of people who are experiencing deep poverty and to support these households in case of a lockdown.

SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH Within the scope of the field visits, we met with 103 participants in total from Avcılar, Esenyurt, Üsküdar, Sancaktepe, Sultangazi and Sultanbeyli districts, with the focus being on Ataşehir, Beyoğlu, Çekmeköy, Fatih, Şişli and Ümraniye districts to which we sent support through solidarity campaign. In addition to demographic information, we held in-depth interviews which lasted an hour on average. We asked to what extent they had access to their rights such as education, health, social life, working life, security, nutrition and care before and during the pandemic, the difficulties they faced and understood from them their suggested solutions and demands.

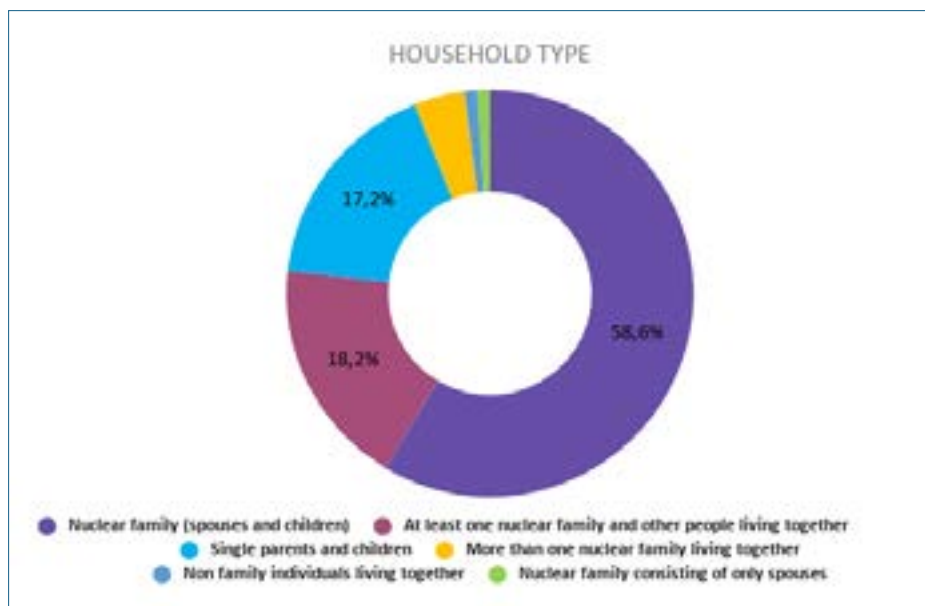
Although the expression of “pandemic period” that is used during the interviews and in this report focuses on the period that started as of March 10, 2020 and curfews continued throughout the country, it also includes the «new normal» period announced after June. Field visits were held in July, August and September 2020. The analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data collected was completed in October 2020

ANALYSIS METHOD The distribution of the answers given to the quantitative questions during the interviews was examined. Qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews were analyzed and reported using the MAXQDA program, using the theme analysis method. In the responses collected from the participants, although the district information reflects the truth, pseudonyms were used for privacy.

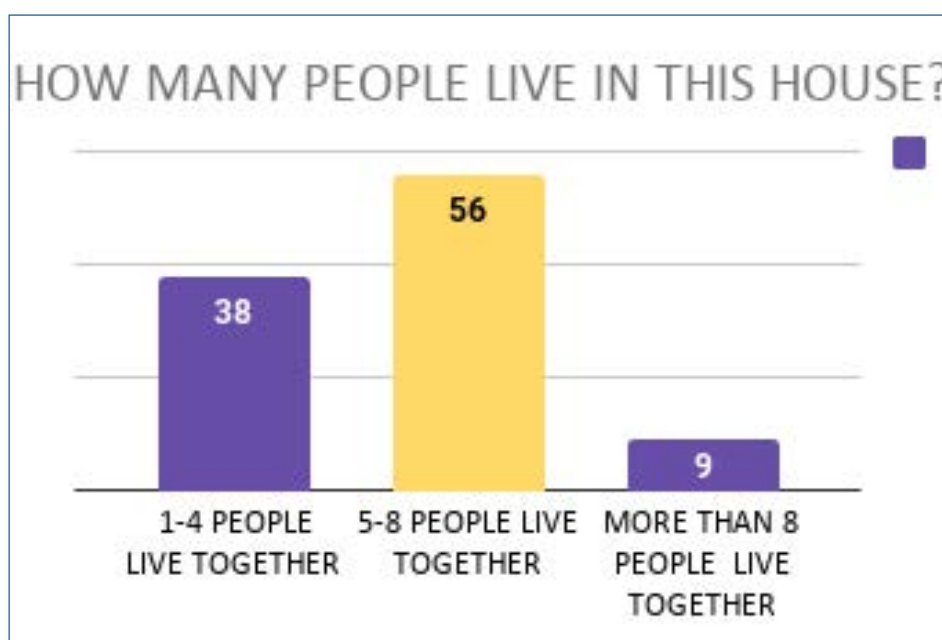
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

1. HOUSEHOLD TYPE

When 103 households we interviewed are analyzed in terms of household types; There is only 1 nuclear family consisting of only spouses. 1 household consists of non-family individuals living together, and 4 households consist of more than one nuclear family. 58% of the households are in a nuclear family structure consisting of spouses and children, 18% consist of at least one nuclear family and other people living together and 17% consist of single parents and children,



When we ask how many people live in the household, it turns out that between 1-4 people live together in 38 households, 5-8 people live together in 56 and more than 8 people live together in 9 households.



2. CHILD AGE RANGE

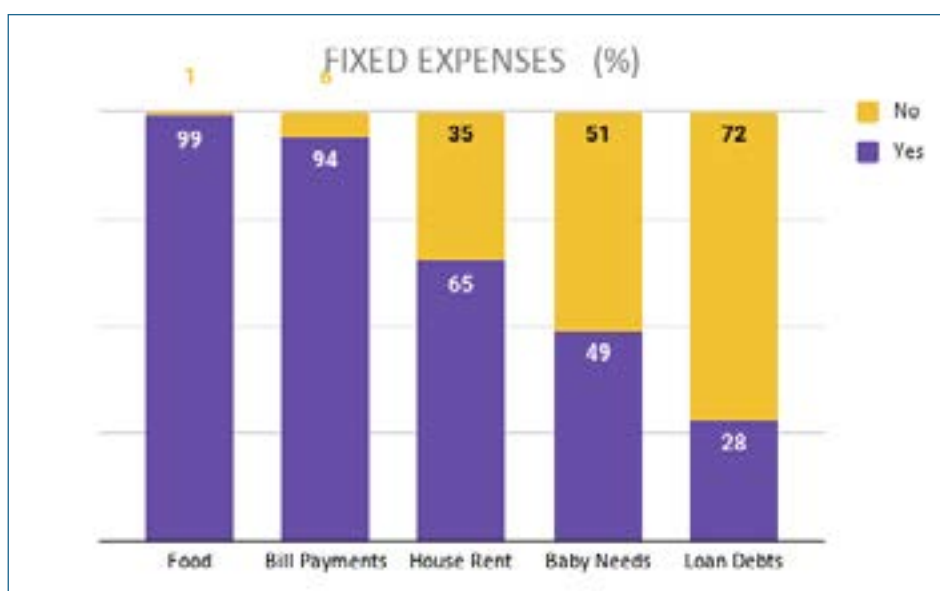
Age Range	Total Number of Household	Total Number of Children (252)	The ratio of the number of children in the age range to the total number of children
0-3	49	58	35% (58/252)
4-6	43	51	20% (51/252)
7-10	40	45	17% (45/252)
11-14	40	51	20% (51/252)
14-18	38	47	18% (47/252)

97 of 103 households we interviewed had at least one child under the age of 18.

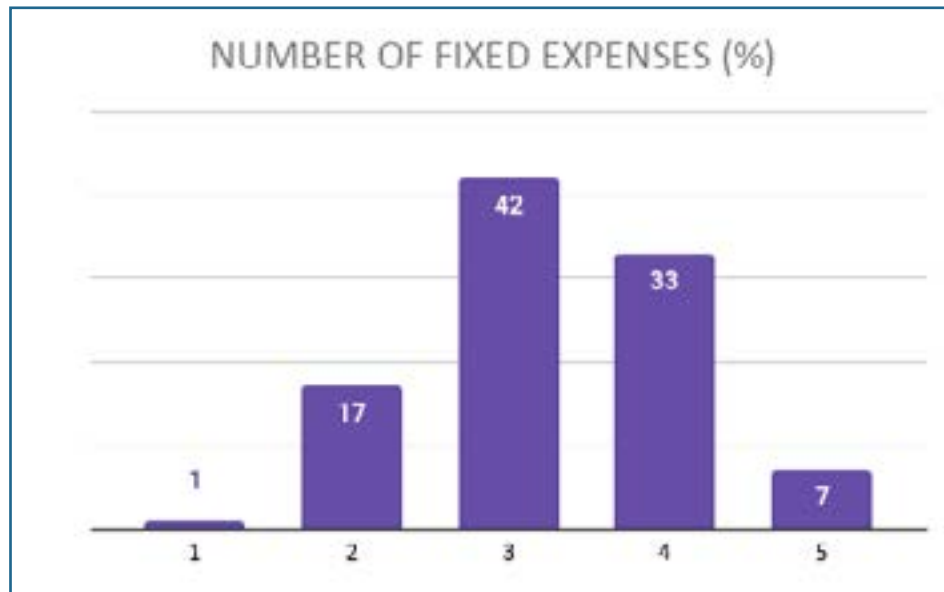
There were 58 children in 49 households in the 0-3 age range, 51 children in 43 households in the 4-6 age range, 45 children in 40 households in the 7-10 age range, 51 children in 40 households in the 11-14 age range, and 47 children in 38 households in the 14-18 age range.

3. FIXED EXPENSES

When we asked the interviewees about the fixed expenses of their household, it turns out that the house rent is a fixed expense for 64%, food is a fixed expense for 99%, baby's needs are fixed expense for 49%, bill payments are a fixed expense for 93% and loan debts are a fixed expense for 27%.



The proportion of those who have at least three or more of the fixed expenses above is 82%. Despite this, only 17.9% of the working people state that they have a regular job.





Location: Ümraniye
Shot by: Özge Ergin

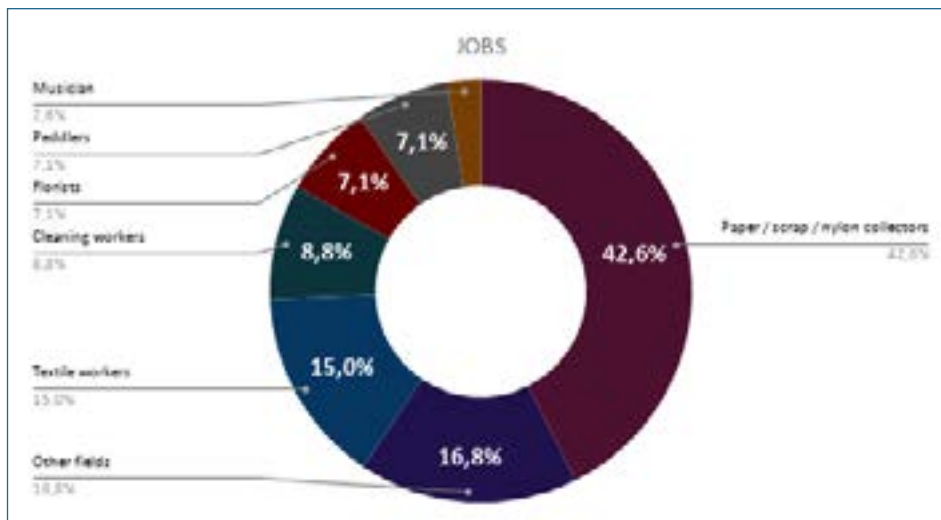
EMPLOYMENT

1. INFORMATION OF WORK

While 18% of the adults in the households we interviewed have a regular job, 64% are daily wagers, the remaining 18% do not have any job.



1.1. Daily and Precarious Work



Working as daily wagers or in insecure jobs is the most common form of work in the households interviewed. When we ask the interviewees about their occupations, 42% are paper / scrap and nylon collectors, 15% are textile workers, 8% were cleaning workers, 7% are peddlers, 7% are florists, 3% are musicians, 16% of them work in other fields. When we ask people about their monthly income, it is around 700-800 TRY (100\$) on average. Despite this, 82% of them have at least three fixed expenses such as rent, bills and food that cost far more than their income.

The feeling of insecurity felt by daily wagers emerges in in-depth interviews. Families with income coming from daily wage jobs in different fields talk about the economic uncertainty and insecurity brought about by living on daily income.

"When he finds daily work, he does it, could be a construction job or a porter. We balance that money and pay the bills." [Ruhşen, Beyoğlu]

"I make beadwork when the children sleep, and if I can sell them, I sell them. If we save three or five, we get along with them " [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

"I'm looking after the kids now. We have no income, we live on garbage" [Nur, Çekmeköy]

"My husband goes out to sell lemons. If everything goes well he comes back with 50-60 liras. If no, nothing like lately." [Aydan, Fatih]

The desire to have a regular job emerges as an important theme in in-depth interviews with families. People express that having a regular job will improve their living conditions. It is seen that the answer of "if it were regular business" is one of the most frequently given answers to the question "What would you like to be different?"

"If I have a regular employee at home, why would I ask for help from the state. Let the state provide us a job rather than food. They work if there is work. If they work, they will not need the state." [Meltem, Beyoğlu]

The most common occupation in the households interviewed is paper / scrap / nylon collecting. In in-depth interviews with households who make a living by collecting paper, scrap or nylon from garbage, it appears that they are concerned about the future of their 'job'. The decline in second-hand paper and scrap prices makes it difficult to live on the daily income from selling these materials, and the municipalities' separation of these materials from waste for recycling centers creates anxiety about losing their only possible income, which is from picking garbage.

"There is nothing left of the garbage anymore. We used to collect papers and plastics to sell for recycling. Now the municipality is already collecting. So what's left to you? This time, we cannot make a living. Life in the garbage is over now. Clothing used to come out of the garbage, we used to take them and wear them." [Nursu, Çekmeköy]

"Our door of income has gone out of our hands. There are recycles now, they will take this job from our hands. " [Yaznur, Ümraniye]

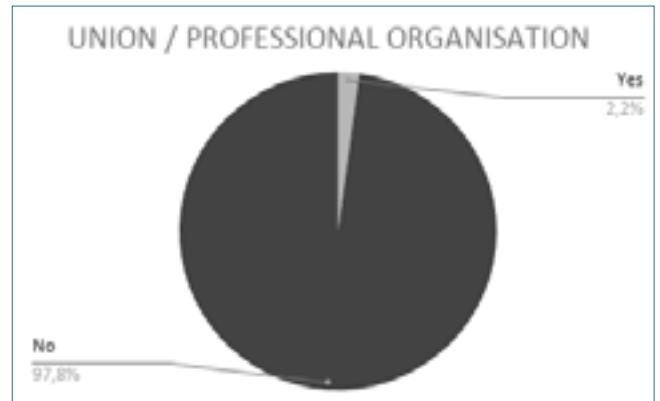
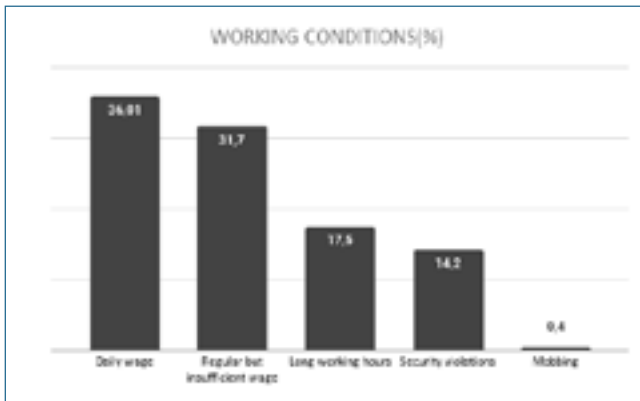
"The sales price of the paper and plastic we collected from the garbage has already dropped. You collect 50 kilograms of paper, and you collect it by going to garbage for 10 hours 15 hours in 2 days. It was 40 lira (5\$) you received, and it dropped to 15-20 lira at the time of the pandemic. Imagine. Instead of getting 40 liras, you start to get 15-20 liras. As if forty lira was enough." [Gülbahar, Şişli]

2. LABOUR VIOLATIONS, WORKING CONDITIONS AND UNION / PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP

When we talk about working conditions, it is understood that earning daily and insufficient wages, followed by long working hours and security violations are seen as the biggest problems. With this information, when the participants are asked whether they are a member of a union or professional



organization related to their field of work, 97% of them said no, and 2 people who said yes said that they do not maintain any active communication.



In in-depth interviews, it is revealed that people, most of whom work in daily wage and insecure jobs, work unprotected against occupational accidents at work sites. Some of the people we interviewed describe that they work in unsafe conditions despite their chronic illnesses.

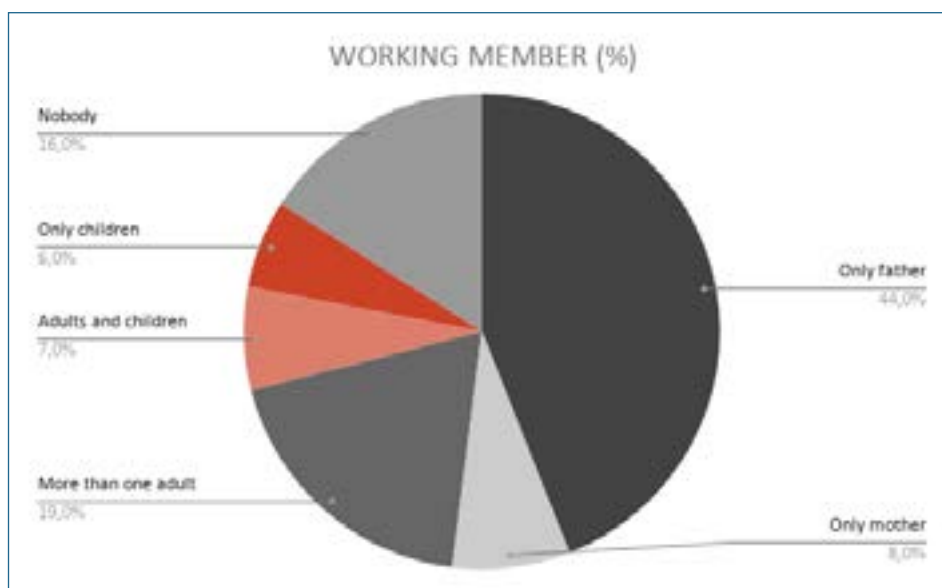
"I used to collect paper. My illness has progressed further as now. I am breathing hard, I am very tired. I can't pull my paper cart here and there." [Orhan, Ataşehir]

"I can't work because of my eyes. I went to apartment cleaning, I rolled and fell" [Aylan, Şişli]

"If you are in Şişli, Nişantaşı you will earn money more securely, but they do not allow you to open a mobile counter in Ataşehir. That's why I go to the highway or the ring road when the traffic is rushed, I try to sell flowers to the drivers. There is a risk of accidents there on the highway, sometimes even the vehicles make dirt and jam, so what do we do, but we are after our bread." [Mehmet, Ataşehir]

3. WORKING FAMILY MEMBER

In 6% of the households we interviewed, the working members are only children, while in 7% households working members are children and adults together. In 8% only the mother works, and in 44% only the father works. We see that in 7% households nobody works in the house.



3.1. Working Children

It is seen that children work in 13% of the families we interviewed. In our in-depth interviews with families, it is revealed that children who work in the family are unable to work due to illness or other reasons, or because the income of adults working in the family is not sufficient to meet their needs. The fact that only children work in 6% of these households shows that the child bears the economic burden in the household.

"My husband couldn't work when he got cancer. Well, we took the biggest son from school and put him to work. We are 10 people in the family, we are crowded. It was not enough even when the husband was working, the house rent, bills, food... all are expenses. What did I supposed to do?" [Melike, Ataşehir]

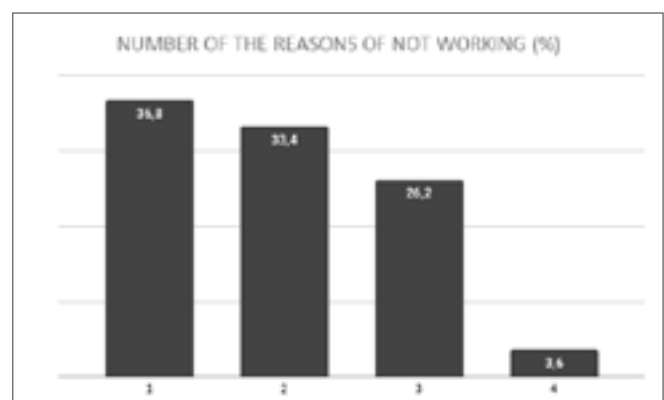
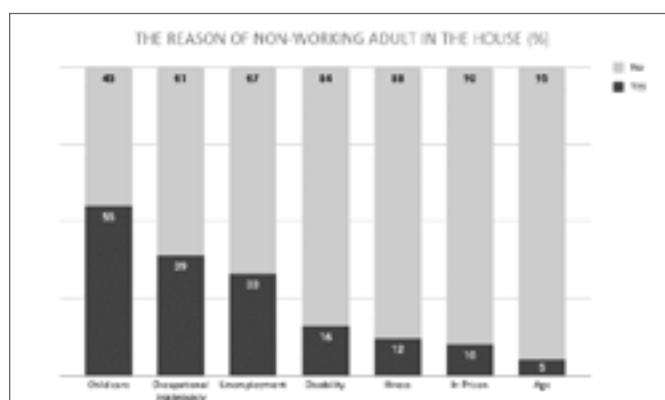
In in-depth interviews, it is revealed that in some households, children are on the field for work starting from a very early age. Families who work daily talk about taking their children with them because there is no one to look after them when they go to work.

"My husband leaves at six in the morning to collect the paper from garbage and returns at eight. He stays at home for an hour or two and goes out again. That continues until the evening. What am I going to do? I also go out with him to help, we take the child. Sometimes I tell my husband to stop here while passing by the park, I put the child on the toys and we play." [Merve, Üsküdar]

"I was taking my little boy, sitting him in the basket, working with him. Those who saw him and felt sorry gave some money" [Gülşay, Çekmeköy]

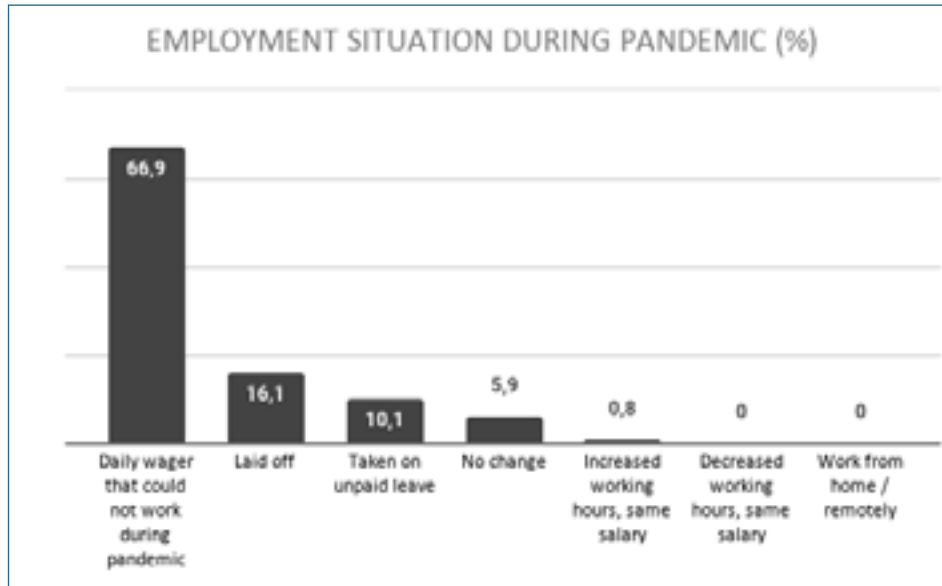
4. REASON OF NOT WORKING

Of the 83 people we asked why the unemployed adult in the household did not work / could not work, 55% stated that they were unable to work due to child care, 39% due to occupational inadequacy and 33% due to unemployment. Then, 16% say they cannot work due to disability, 12% due to illness, 10% and 5% due to old age. 63% say they cannot work due to two or more reasons.



5. JOBS DISRUPTED BY THE PANDEMIC

66.0% of the people we interviewed stated that they worked in daily wage jobs but could not work during the pandemic period, 16.1% said they were laid off, 10.1% said they were, and 5.9% said there was no change. It seems that none of the people we interviewed had the opportunity to work from home / remotely. This situation shows that the calls made for citizens to stay at home are not inclusive and realistic enough.



Daily wagers such as peddlers, paper / scrap collectors, and cleaning workers that require working outside explain that it is not possible to work with the measurements taken during pandemic. While mentioning that they completely lost their daily income and work opportunities during the curfews, they neither could continue their work after the curfews because customers were afraid to shop from peddlers or people were not employing daily cleaning workers during the pandemic period.

“If there are ten florists in Kuştepe, if five are working, five of them are not working. Customers are afraid to approach and buy flowers.” [Didem, Şişli]

“I was looking after the children, I was working. Then the pandemic started and I have not been able to go to work since then. They said that there will be no work until at least September. We are waiting and I hope it will be. Nobody wants to hire a cleaner for their huse now. For example, I used to go to Tuyap as a cleaning worker, but now they don’t employ us there either.” [Pelin, Esenyurt]

“(Daily income before the pandemic) I was cleaning apartments for 40-50 lira (5\$) a day, the price depends on the number of stairs in the building. I was saving the money for the house rent. At night, when the children sleep, I make beads and bracelets and sell them on streets. When the pandemic started, they stopped calling us to clean houses or apartments. And peddling is impossible now. I am afraid of the virus too” [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

“I leave the house, I leave the children, if I have money, I take a minibus, otherwise I walk down to the street for 25-30 minutes to sell handkerchiefs. If I can sell some, I return home to buy something to eat. I cannot sell anything anymore, there is a virus, everyone is afraid. People used to not approach us, now they stay far away.” [Firuze, Ataşehir]

As an indicator of the insecurity experienced by daily wagers, it is seen that they describe themselves as always facing the risk of hunger. Those who can barely meet their daily nutritional needs with the daily income state that hunger is inevitable when they cannot work. If there is no daily income, daily food cannot be obtained and basic needs cannot be met. With the pandemic, this risk becomes even more visible.

“We are daily wagers, when we can’t go out, we go hungry.” [Çandar, Çekmeköy]

"You are doing your daily earnings, returning home to eat the bread of that day. Then it's the same tomorrow. What happened, the pandemic came out, we became unable to sell anything on the street. We were already having a hard time, let's say if I could not go out to sell flowers for two days, we were going to be hungry, but we used to recover ourselves, because we knew we would be out tomorrow or the other day. But what happened now? They stopped us selling anything on the street. They also stopped going out on the street. What do these people should eat or drink? Should we die because of hunger or because of virus?" [Mehmet, Ataşehir]

"In the past, when Ali (her husband) went to the garbage to collect paper, we were making the bread of that day. Now he could not get out and the money he received was cut by half. Well, there have been times that we couldn't even find dry bread" [Sevim, Çekmeköy]

Daily wagers say that they try to continue their daily work to meet basic needs after the curfews. However, during the pandemic period, they work with the fear of getting virus and punishments while doing their daily work. In this process, people living in conditions of deep poverty face the dilemma of starving at home or going out and working illegally.

"I tried to get to work, even if it was illegal, so I could do something for 5-10 lira and buy bread. While thinking that I have to earn something to buy bread for home, there is the risk of penalty and the risk of getting the virus. I am scared a lot. I cannot pay the penalty. But I cannot buy food if I don't work" [Cengiz, Ataşehir]

"But now we are afraid of illness. I used to go and collect scrap with my kids, but now we are afraid." [Serhat, Ataşehir]

Among the people we interviewed, people working in textile mills or in the field of freightage without insurance also stated that they lost their jobs and that they could not benefit from unemployment salaries due to their non-covered employment situation, so they lost all their income during the pandemic.

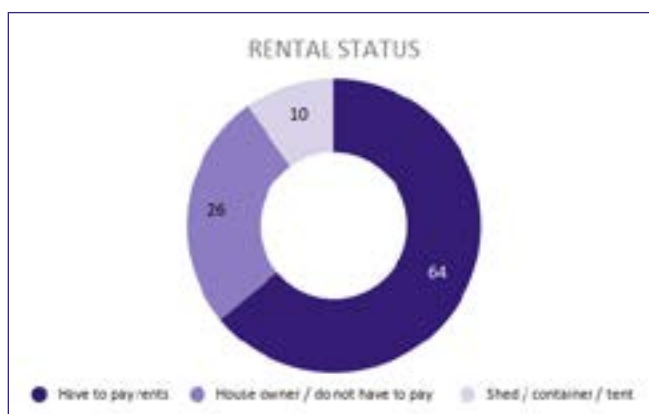
"My wife was unemployed for months, we could not benefit from unemployment salary or something because she always worked without insurance, and I was pregnant and we had a lot of difficulty." [Melisa, Avcılar]

"We could not get unemployment benefits either. Uninsured workers are already in a difficult situation, why can't you benefit from your right if you are a non-covered employee?" [Türkan, Şişli]

SPACE OF LIVING & SECURITY

1. RENT PAYMENT AND RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

64% of the people we interviewed live in a rented house, 26% are house owners or do not need to pay rent, and 10% live in a shed / container or tent. When we asked these people whether they had the risk of losing their homes during the pandemic period, 38% of the people living in the rented house said that they faced this risk.



In in-depth interviews, families mention that paying the rent is a priority among their expenses. They explain that they paid the rent by trying to cut back on other needs in order to not risk losing their house.

"At least it would be nice if there was no rent issue. You can manage even if you can't find food, but when you can't pay the rent, will you sleep on the street?" [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

"If we can go out collecting paper, we save the money from there for rent. We collect food from grocery trash with crushed tomatoes and rotten potatoes in order not to pay for food." [Deniz, Çekmeköy]

The families interviewed talk about the increased risk of losing their homes during the pandemic. There are families that stated they had to move because they could not afford the rent and the expenses of their old house during the pandemic period.

"We lost already, we were kicked out of the house. The house was the house of my husband's grandfather, we did not rent. During this pandemic time, he rented the house to someone else because he needed money. [Sevim, Çekmeköy]

"We've already lost. We moved from Esenyurt to Karagümrük. The landlord threw our belongings in front of the door." [Gül, Fatih]

"When my electricity, water and rent accumulated and I could not pay, the landlord removed me. I came here" [Didem, Şişli]

"We are in danger of staying on the street. Do they think that the landlords show such tolerance? We were poor, we became poorer. If there was a shelter, at least temporarily" [Ruhşen, Beyoğlu]

"I have 6 months of accumulated rent and debt right now. The landlord says get out, I'm trying to find money, what can I do, I am telling him I'm not safe" [Pelin, Esenyurt]



Shot by: Özge Ergin

1.1. Life in Shack and Tent

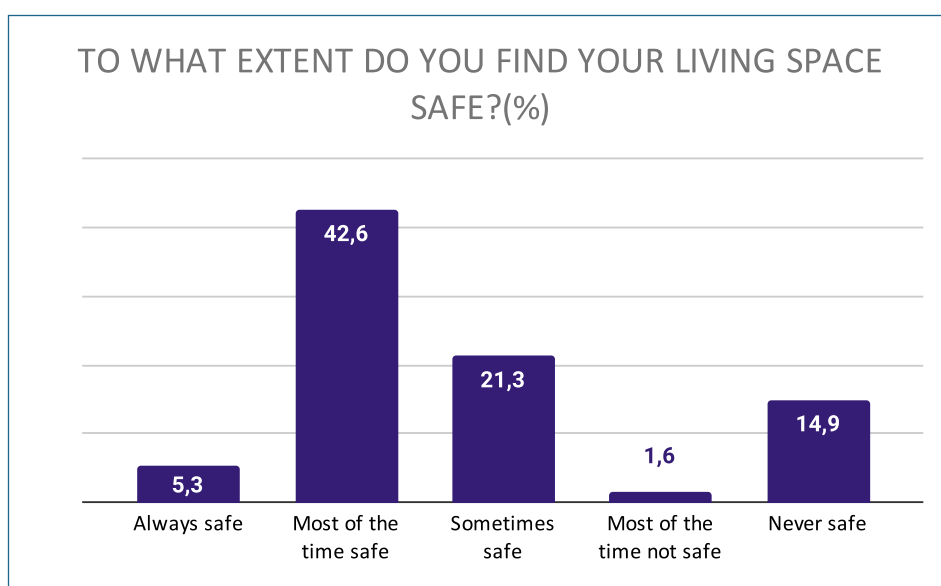
Some of the families interviewed live in shacks or tents. Some have started to live in shacks, containers or tents after losing their homes due to urban transformation, some lost their homes during the pandemic period and others have lived there ever since they came to Istanbul. When these people are asked how safe they feel in their living spaces, it turns out that their living spaces cannot meet basic security and living requirements. At the same time, their concern regarding the uncertainty of how long they can stay in the current living space becomes apparent.

"We are already here in tents so don't ask about the risk of earthquake. Whenever the owner of this land comes, then we go. We all moved here from Küçükbakkalköy, after urban transformation. The houses did not have official title deeds, we sold them for two thousand three thousand liras (300\$), we came here and set up a tent. Until when we are here, then where we will go I don't know. Who knows." [Yasemin, Çekmeköy]

"I am living in the shack. Our house floods, it becomes mud when it rains. There are mices. There is only one room. I wash in the basin, my toilet is outside the house." [Nursu, Çekmeköy]

2. Security

When we asked to what extent people in the 103 households we interviewed felt safe while living in that house and the neighborhood, it is seen that 5% always felt safe, 42% felt safe most of the time, 21% felt safe sometime, 2% do not feel safe most of the time and 15% never felt safe



The common use of drugs in the neighborhood, too many fights in the neighborhood, and the risk of sexual assault are the reasons for not feeling safe.

"If you go out on the street, passersby harass you. We don't trust at all, if I don't have to go to the hospital, I won't leave the house." [Kamuran, Şişli]

"As a woman, neither I nor my daughter are comfortable here. Whatever you wear, when you go out, they look like they have never seen a woman in their lives." [Melisa, Avcılar]

"I don't find it safe at all. They sell drugs everywhere, especially when it gets dark, all the sellers are



Location: Ataşehir
Shot by: Özge Ergin

out. There are both users and sellers. Mine are girls, both themselves and I am afraid. I want to move out of this neighborhood.” [Meltem, Beyoğlu]

“I don’t find the neighborhood safe because there is constant fighting. Every night there is a fight, the sound of gunfire explodes at our bottom. Child screams, shouts, curses. I never send my kids to the street.” [Tuğçe, Şişli]

One of the reasons why families do not find the area they live in safe is the lack of space where children can spend time safely. They claim the need of safe and well-maintained playgrounds far away from traffic and other dangers.

“The house and the street are safe, but I don’t let the kids out, cars pass by, there is no playground or garden here.” [Melike, Ataşehir]

“I wish it was a real park, it needs a well-maintained, non-trash, open-air space where people can spend time.” [Zübeyir, Şişli]

“Cars are always passing on the street, we don’t take the kids out. Sometimes I take them to the park, but that park is too old, neglected.” [Naile, Şişli]

The feeling of acquaintance, being comfortable in the neighborhood and local solidarity are the reasons that make people feel safe.

“I have been in this neighborhood for 12 years. Now we have become families with local residents, we know each other. We can send the kids out alone. My closest friends are my neighbors.” [Semra, Beyoğlu]

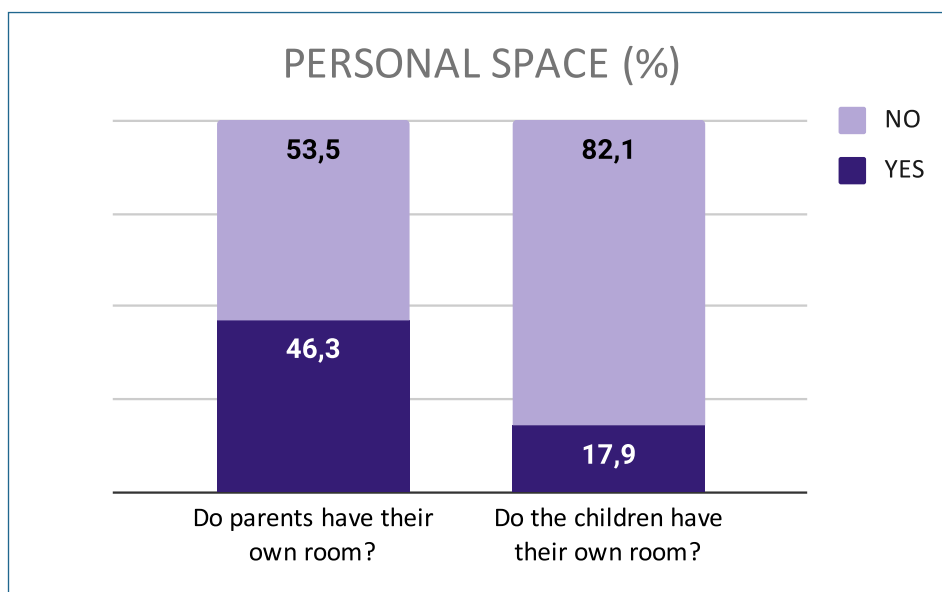
“If someone shouts at me at home, if I have to go to the hospital, my neighbors rush to help.” [Leyla, Şişli]

"My neighbors are fine, they do not hurt me. I feel safe. My neighbors support me when I stay alone at home." [Merve, Üsküdar]

3. Household Conditions

3.1. Personal Space

In 53% of the 103 households we interviewed, parents said that they do not have a room of their own, while in 82%, children do not have a room separate from other family members.



It is also revealed in in-depth interviews that the lack of space for children or adults at home makes it difficult to live together. It is explained that this situation is more difficult especially during the pandemic period when time spent at home becomes compulsory.

"It was very difficult. There is only one room in our house, you can't do anything. Where we all sleep and sit and where the children study and eat, all in the same room. Think that we are all at home. Normally, though, children go out to play, my husband goes to work (woman talking) and everyone is home only while eating and sleeping in the evening. But we had a hard time during curfews. If there was another room in the house, it would be okay." [Candan, Ataşehir]

3.2. Basic Housing Requirements

In in-depth interviews, the theme of the inability to meet the basic living requirements becomes clear. Families describe problems such as the lack of windows at home, the lack of city water, the lack of equipment in the house, the lack of electricity, and the fact that the house is not earthquake resistant due to its old age.

"There is no owner of this place, it is affiliated to the national real estate, I have been living here for twenty years, my mother-in-law was living before me. The owner of this place is sending debt but does not connect city water. In my biggest dream, I imagine myself turning the tap letting the water flow, I have a washing machine, I power it up and clothes are self-washed in the machine... These are just dreams. There is no electricity here in this house, the children want to live more comfortably, but this is what I can do. I also want to be happy, live better. One room, kitchen and toilet are in the same



Location: Çekmeköy

Shot by: Deep Poverty Network Volunteer

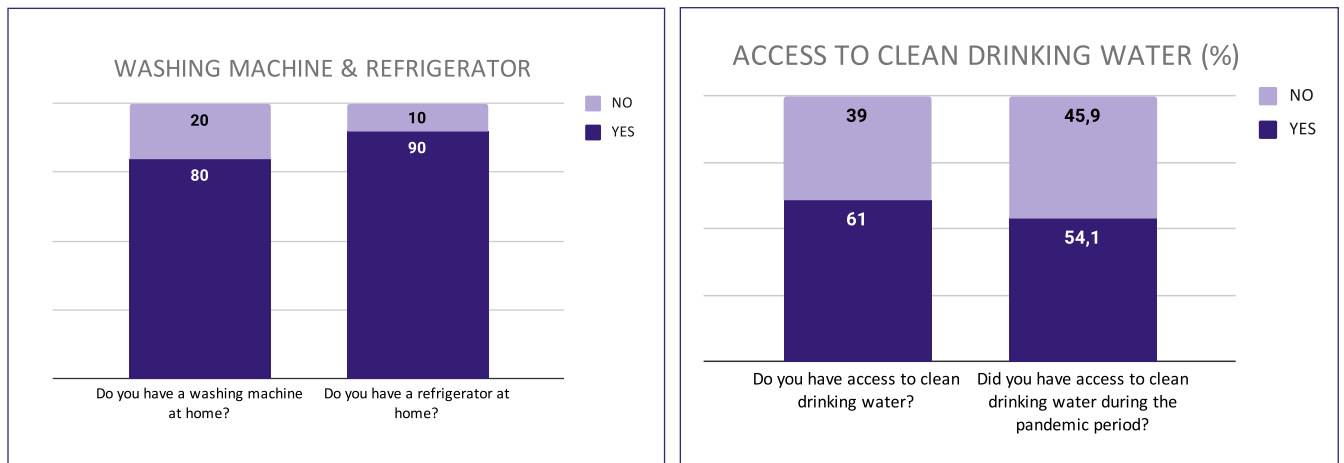
place as you've already seen, the faucet does not flow. It has come so far, but what am I going to do, do I pay the electricity or the water or the rent, what do I have to do, where do I go? I have four children." [Gülbahar, Şişli]

"It is uninhabitable here, there is no seat in my house, there is no bed, the house is not home, the refrigerator is pouring water. I bought it for 100 TL from second hand" [Nesrin, Şişli]

"Our apartment smells of sewage, the sewer is open. It has been like this since the past, not now. There was water under the building, not resistant to earthquakes. They say the house is not reliable, it will be demolished. My sewer exploded, there are flies in everywhere. I couldn't even afford insecticide to spray the house." [Yeliz, Fatih]

"When I was living in the tent, there were rats everywhere. Rats have bitten the children before, we had to take them to the hospital. Then that house burned down, we built a slum. At least there are no mice in the current house. But the houses are very adjacent, and if something happens in the other house, it will damage our house. That's why the tent burned before, it jumped out of the neighbor's house " [Ebrar, Çekmeköy]

20% of the 103 households we interviewed say they do not have a washing machine at home, 10% say they do not have refrigerators.



It is seen that 39% of the interviewees do not have access to clean drinking water in general and this situation has increased as 46% during the pandemic period.

It turns out that some families drink the unhealthy tap water directly, while others drink it after boiling it and cooling it. Some families state that they only buy clean drinking water for children or family members with a chronic disease, and that other people in the household drink tap water. Some of these families say that they had been ill due to tap water before. And some gather bottles that they find from garbage with some water and drink it.

Location: Çekmeköy

Shot by: Deep Poverty Network Volunteer





Shot by: Fatih Pınar
Evde şebeke suyu akmadığı için çeşmeden su taşıyan bir kadın- Şişli

"We drink water from the tap, we buy for the small child with plastic bottle from markets" [Vahdet, Ümraniye]

"We drink tap water sometimes. Once I drank it to the little boy, he had an intestinal inflammation. I do not give that water to the boy anymore. Sometimes I take water from relatives, neighbors, sometimes we fill bottles from the drinkable water fountain" [Gülay, Çekmeköy]

"Sometimes I fill the water, I keep it overnight, then I boil it and cool it. My older daughter survived leukemia, I buy her bottled water and keep it separate from ours." [Sema, Beyoğlu]

"Well, we find water from the garbage like we find food. We drink it by hoping that there is nothing inside." [Yasemin, Çekmeköy]

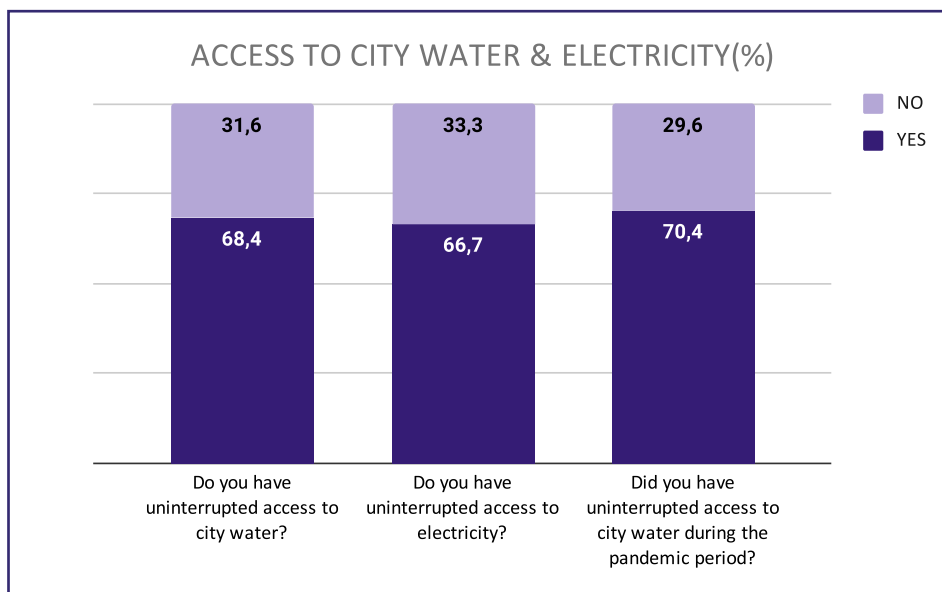
Another method to reach drinking water is to fill water from fresh and drinkable water fountains. Some of the families state that they drink from the tap because there is no place around them to fill. Families residing in Şişli Municipality area say that in the past, the municipality brought drinking water to the neighborhood in a tanker, but this practice has been discontinued since a while.

"There is fresh water in Taşdelen, we fill it from there, put it in the car and pull it every 3-4 days." [Ayşen, Çekmeköy]

"In the past, the municipality used to bring drinking water with a tanker and I used to fill bottles from there. It has stopped a year ago or something." [Kübra, Şişli]

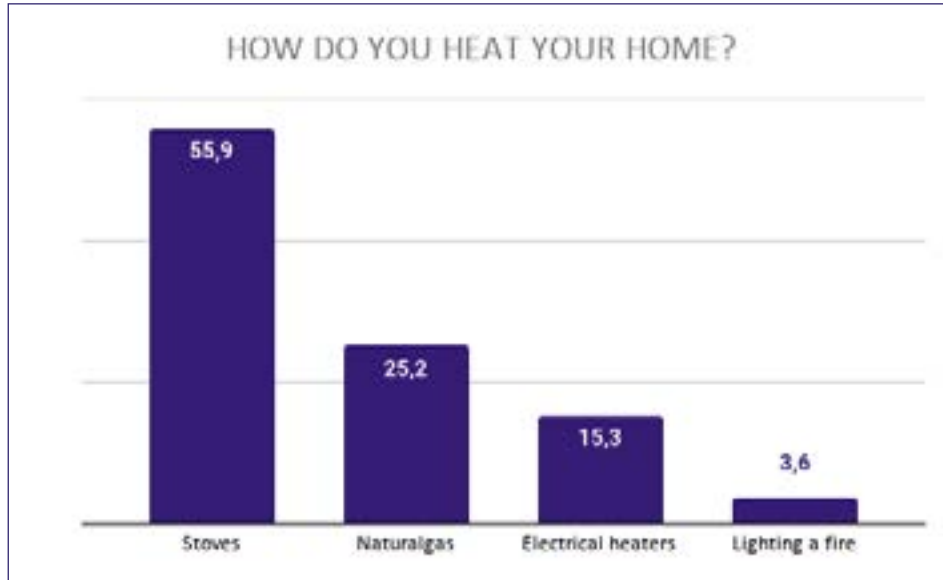
"Municipality used to distribute drinking water; a truck was coming to the neighborhood. I would go and fill two or three cans. It was enough. Now a bottle of water is 8 liras, it is cheaper to buy a purification system at home." [Funda, Beyoğlu]

When we asked to what extent the households we interviewed had uninterrupted access to water and electricity; It is observed that 31% of them had water cuts and 33% of them had power cuts from time to time due to non-payment of bills. During the pandemic period, 29% of them had water cuts, the decrease is due to a ban on cutting water in İstanbul due to the pandemic in the months of March-April-May.



3.3. Heating

When we ask how they ensure the heating of the house in the winter in the households we interviewed, it is seen that 56% of them use stoves, 25% of them use natural gas and 15% of them use electrical heaters, and people living in tents or sheds get warmer by lighting a fire.



It turns out that many interviewees find it difficult to find wood, coal or a stove to heat the house. Some express that they are afraid of burning stoves because it is dangerous. These families explain that they have found solutions such as heating a single room of the house, wearing thick clothes, and using a stove only on very cold days. Besides, many people say that they collect wood during summer to burn in the stove in winter. Some of these people state that they will have difficulties in warming next winter as they could not collect wood during the pandemic period.

«We are gathering in a room, we just heat that room up» [Naile, Şişli]

“We were burning a stove, the stove was smoking, we were afraid. We’re burning the electrical heater now. We are sitting in one room, other rooms are freezing.” [Funda, Beyoğlu]

«I’m just burning the boy’s room because he’s sick.» [Meliha, Esenyurt]

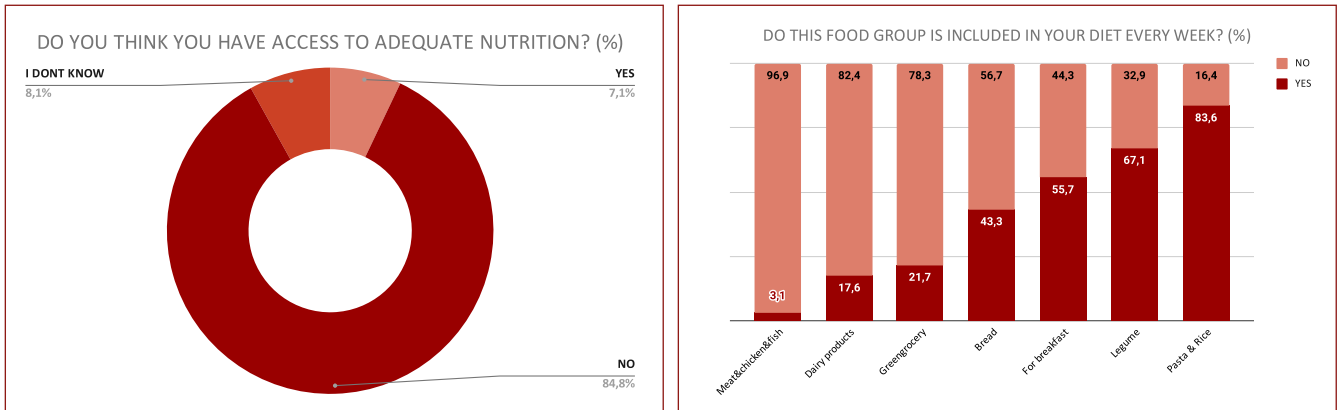
«We always cover ourselves with the blanket, we can’t find material to burn” [Nesrin, Şişli]

“We don’t have coal or wood, we need to set up a stove, but we don’t know what to burn. We want to use an electric heater but we do not have possibility to pay for it. [Sevim, Çekmeköy]

NUTRITION & BASIC CARE

1. MALNUTRITION

84% of the people we interviewed stated that they could not access enough food, 8% stated that they did not know, and 7% stated that they had access to sufficient food. When we ask which food groups are included in their diet each week, it is seen that Pasta & Rice, Legumes and Bread are consumed the most.



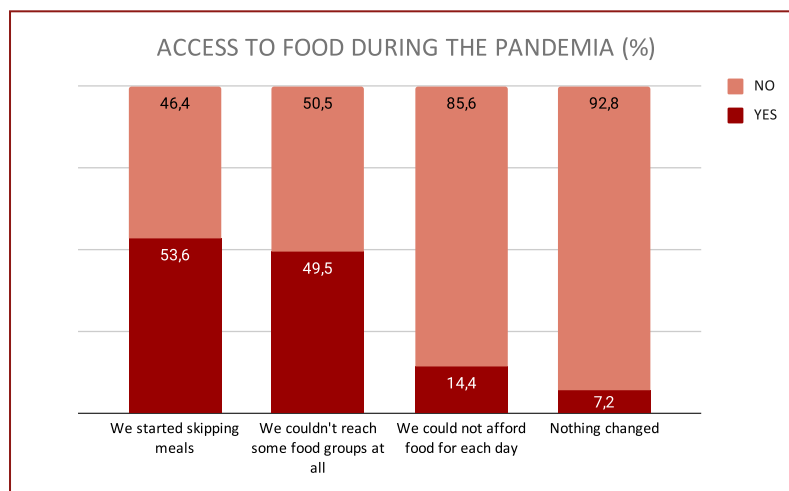
In in-depth interviews, it is revealed that families face health problems such as vitamin deficiency as a result of not being able to get enough food, and that children’s development is at risk of being negatively affected by malnutrition.

“My vitamins went down, I went to the doctor and she gave me vitamins.” [Aylan, Şişli]

“We are upset for my child, because the child is starving most of the time and we cannot afford enough food everyday” [Vahdet, Ümraniye]

2. HUNGER COMING BY PANDEMIA

When we asked to what extent they had access to food during the pandemic period, 7% stated that nothing changed, 53% started skipping more meals, 49% could not reach certain food groups at all, and 14% stated that they could not afford food for each day.



In in-depth interviews, it turns out that the pandemic is causing the families of daily wagers to starve as they lost their daily income.

"As if we used to live in abundance, now I understand." [Gülbahar, Şişli]

"It was very difficult with the pandemia. Many nights we went to bed hungry " [Çandar, Çekmeköy]

"In the past, we were barely getting along, but we were not going hungry." [Dilara, Beyoğlu]

"How can I say? We slept hungry and woke up hungry. The neighbors shared food with those who did not have something to eat. We bought dry bread and ate it with tea. It would be a lie if I said we could cook at home. We tried to go to work and make money. We looked for debt, found 100 lira (15 \$) debt and tried to manage with it. What can I say, we survived with the grocery that you sent (DPN). If you did not send us grocery every day we would be hungry. People get angry with everything when they are hungry, to relatives, to themselves, why they are like this, society, system, inequalities and everything ... " [Mehmet, Ataşehir]

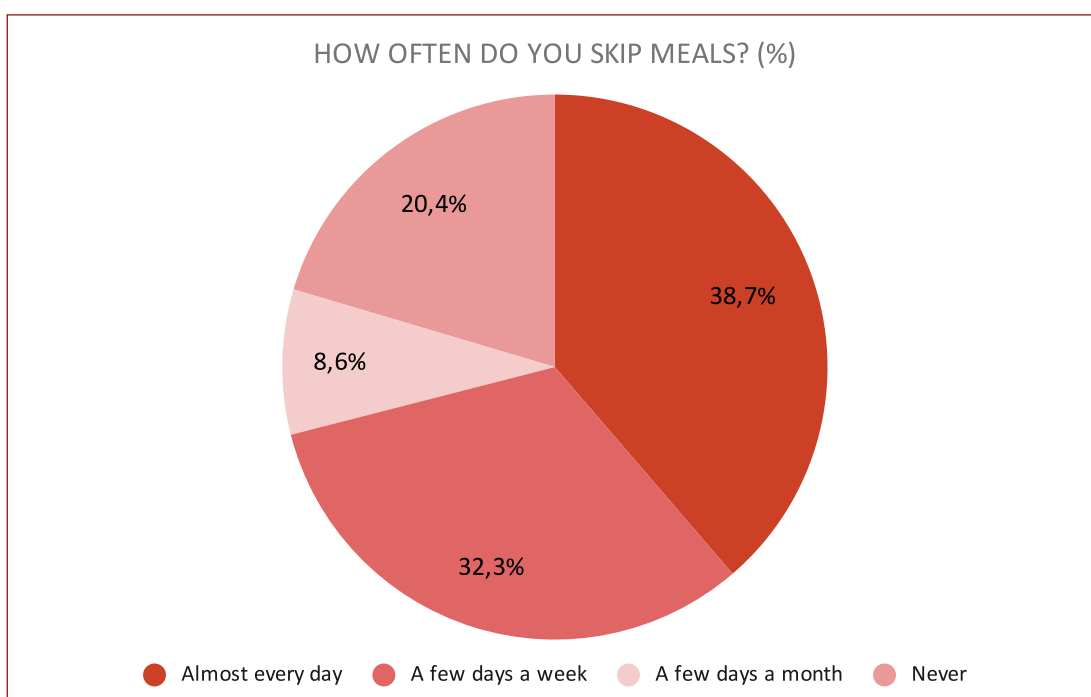
"This period was very difficult for us, I could not feed my own child. There was nothing to cook at my house, my cooking tube was empty. Even the soup was impossible to cook. It's still going hard. We collect food from the garbage" [Vahdet, Ümraniye]

"We had a lot of difficulties with the increase in prices and the occasional interruption of our business. There were days when we didn't eat." [Ruhşen, Beyoğlu]

"Well, we couldn't leave the house, we were hungry. I sell handkerchiefs on the street, but the police did not allow it. Both the virus and hunger are deadly. Whichever you choose" [Firuze, Ataşehir]

2.1. Skipping Meals

38% of the interviewees state that they started to skip meals every day, 32% skip meals a few days a week, 8% skip meals a few days a month, and 20% never skip meals.



In in-depth interviews, families explain that they started skipping more meals due to the pandemic, and reduced the number of meals to be able to manage the limited food supply at home.

"We used to not skip meals, now you wake up in the morning hungry. You think how to buy food, where to go." [Gülbahar, Şişli]

"We try to wake up late so we can skip breakfast and eat just once a day" [Kübra, Şişli]

2.2. Limited Nutrients/Nutrition

49.5% of the families interviewed state that they could not consume fruit, vegetables, meat or hot meals and that they only reach one type of food group.

"We only fed legumes." [Merve, Üsküdar]

"Well, many things have changed, I used to make minced meatballs for kids every week, it was over. I cannot take and give what they want. The fruit is over, for example. I can't afford anymore." [Hatice, Şişli]

"Many days we just eat instant soup." [Aylan, Şişli]

"I used to make flour soup in the mornings and frying potatoes in the evening and eating with the neighbors. Now impossible." [Nursu, Çekmeköy]

2.2. Curfews and Nutrition

Daily wagers work and buy the food for the day with their daily income. They can't afford storing food in their houses. It turns out that as they could not have enough food in their homes before curfews, they had more difficulty in getting adequate nutrition during curfews.

"Of course, when the curfew is declared, there is a queue in front of the markets. If you don't have two days of food at home, there will be a queue in front of the market, of course only if you can afford to buy two days' meals. Believe me, if we had a little money the day the ban came, I would also go. There would be more queues in the markets. People wanted to go but couldn't. Because those who do not have a regular monthly salary, those who earn that day and eat that day like us do not have a food for two three days at home." [Mehmet, Ataşehir]

"I sat down, looked for bread, couldn't find it. A sister saw me and gave me bread." [Özden, Ümraniye]

2.3. To Reach Food;

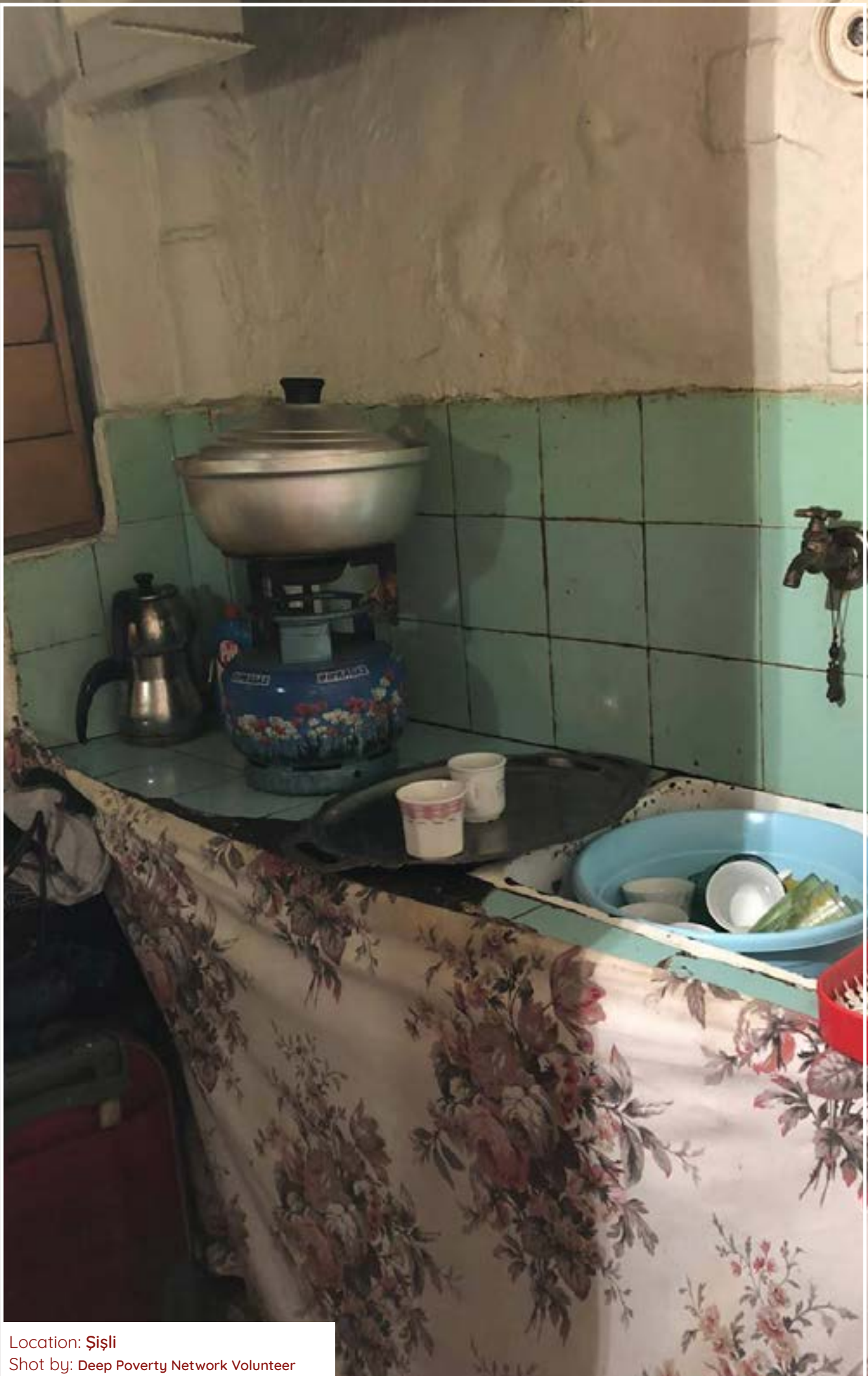
2.3.1. Shopping on Credit/Loan

In in-depth interviews, many families explain that they buy food from the neighborhood grocery store on credit and that their debts on credit have accumulated during the pandemic period.

"Milk, eggs, water, bread. We borrowed them." [Aylan, Şişli]

"I made a loan to the grocery store. I only borrowed bread and milk." [Melek, Şişli]

"My husband went to the grocery store, explained the situation, begged." [Nurşin, Sultanbeyli]



Location: Şişli
Shot by: Deep Poverty Network Volunteer

2.3.2. Collecting Food from Garbage

In in-depth interviews, some families say they had to collect food from the garbage after the curfews. They especially talk about the grocery waste and collecting the leftovers from the market after the markets shut.

"We started collecting junk from grocery trash. we cook and eat them all the time, but we are also afraid because of the virus " [Ayşen, Çekmeköy]

"We started collecting crushed vegetables after the street markets." [Vahdet, Ümraniye]

"You find something out of the garbage but you are afraid to give it to the children." [Serhat, Ataşehir]

"The grocery store does not give on credit anymore, I also have debt. We collect those that are thrown from the markets. Bad tomatoes and potatoes... But now everyone started collecting food from the garbage, leftovers are not enough anymore. " [Yaznur, Ümraniye]

2.3.4. Solidarity among Neighbours

In the pandemic process, neighbourly solidarity stands out in the methods of accessing food.

"The neighbors shared with those who did not have food." [Mehmet, Ataşehir]

"Last time my neighbor added a plate and we sat down with my child and ate." [Nur, Çekmeköy]

"Neighbors know my situation, sometimes they bring me a plate of food." [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

2.3.5. Receiving Support from Deep Poverty Network

Many of the families say that they survived with the support received from Deep Poverty Network during the pandemic period, especially during curfews. In addition to the support from the DPN, it is seen that the food card provided by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and individual supports also helped them in reaching food.

"We try to eat whatever you send, using them sparingly. I used to have difficulties before, but when I could not go to the cleaning, I couldn't get anything. I rarely get a plate of food from the neighbor and feed it to the children. " [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

"Well, we've seen days when the kitchen and refrigerator were completely empty. We looked at each other's faces, we did not know what we eat. We ate one meal every day, we woke up late so that we could eat less. The children want something, they ask. I have no face to answer. One day a neighbor gave your number so we met you. Now we survive with those coming month after month from DPN." [Sema, Beyoğlu]

"We had a real hard time, we used to feed ourselves in some way. I don't know what we would have done if we didn't have what you sent. There is also a virus, we are afraid to take food from neighbors." [Vedat, Ataşehir]

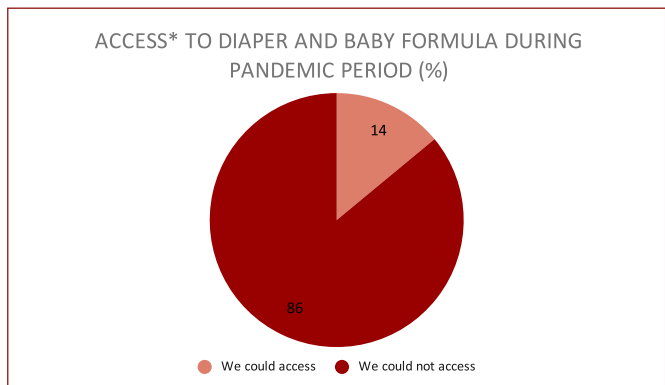
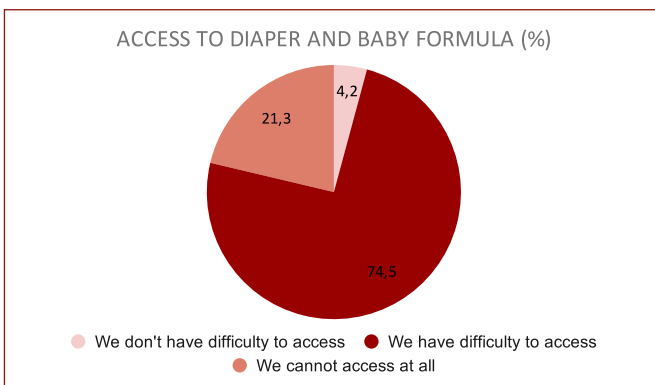
3. DIAPERS AND BABY FORMULA

49 out of 103 households we interviewed use diapers or baby formula. On the other hand, 74% of these families state that they have difficulty in purchasing diapers and food, while 21% cannot buy



Location: Ataşehir
Ev ziyaretlerinden bir kare

them at all, and only 4% can buy them without any problems. When we asked to what extent they could access their diaper and food without the Deep Poverty Network or other support during the pandemic period, it stated that 87% would not be able to afford without support.



*Without the support of DPN

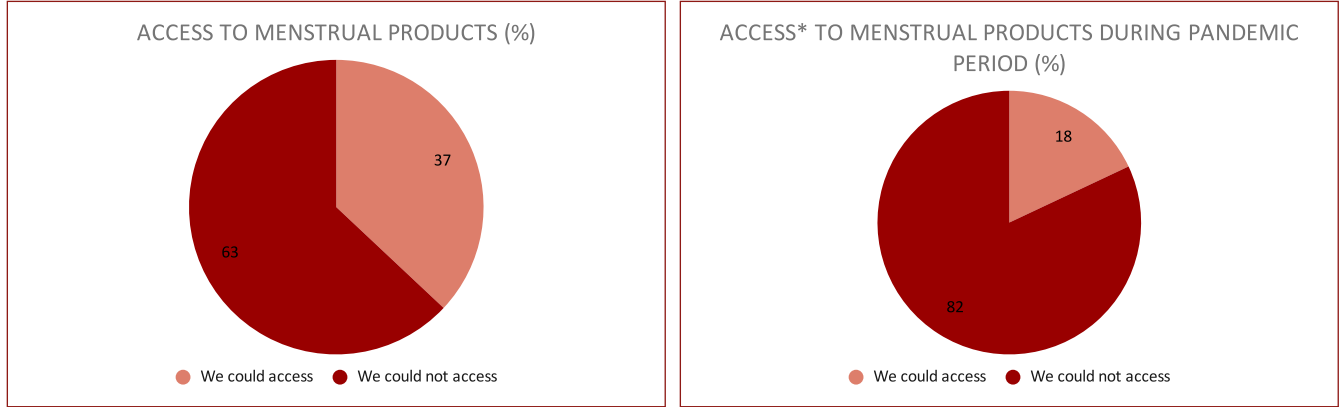
In interviews with families, it is seen that the use of formula becomes a necessity, especially when children cannot be breastfed or when children start to feed with supplementary food yet there is not appropriate food for a healthy diet. If there is no access to baby formula, babies are fed in a way that affects their healthy development.

"My child was overweight when he was born.I feed him with ready soup. I can't afford baby formula every day " [Nermin, Ümraniye]

"We cannot afford the formula anyway, I am breastfeeding but it is not enough. The child is starving" [Nurşin, Sultanbeyli]

4. ACCESS TO MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS

Menstrual products are used in 79 of 103 households we interviewed. 63% of these people say that they cannot meet the need for pads regularly, while 37% say they can. Without the support of Deep Poverty Network during the pandemic period, 82% would not access the products.



*Without the support of DPN

It seems that women see menstrual product spending as a luxury. They explain their preference to meet their children's needs instead of buying pads. Three mothers we interviewed say that when their daughters begin to have periodz, they buy the pad only for their children but still do not use it for themselves. Women specifically state that they use the cheapest pad. Alternatives to pads are using diaper pieces or using some fabric pieces.

"Sometimes we use diaper pieces." [Didem, Şişli]

"I took from the diaper of the baby, I cut and used it like that" [Sevim, Çekmeköy]

"Piece of fabric, piece of T-shirt, piece of cloth... anything I find" [Gül, Şişli]

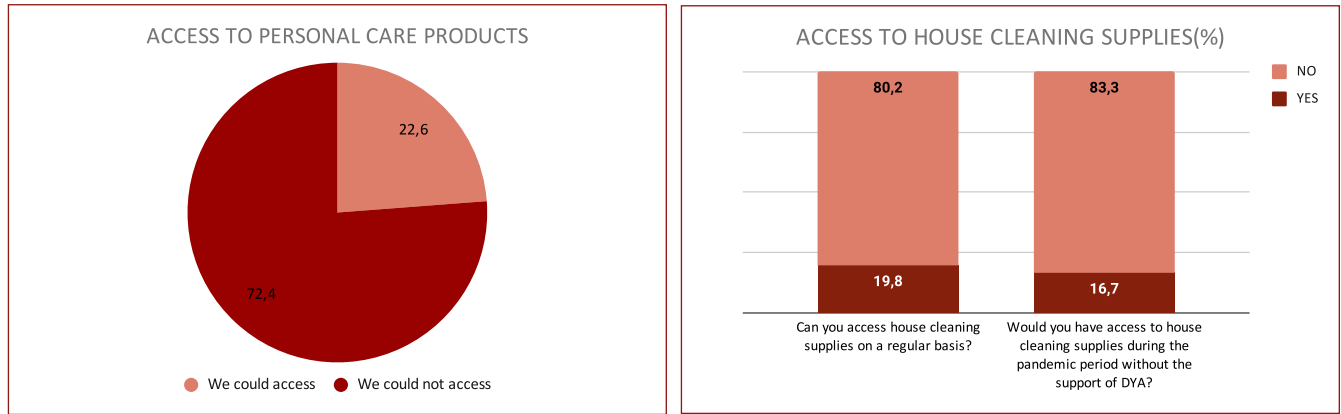
"But I can't tell my daughters to use pieces of fabric, they use proper pads. It came out of the packages DPN sent, when it was not enough, we went to the grocery store and bought it " [Meltem, Beyoğlu]

"I can't spare much money for luxury." [Aylan, Şişli]

"If I buy pads for a month, I cannot buy for the next month. Instead of spending money on the pad, I buy other needs of the child " [Candan, Ataşehir]

5. ACCESS TO PERSONAL CARE AND CLEANING PRODUCTS

While 76% of the people we interviewed stated that they cannot access personal care items on a regular basis, 23% say they can. 83% of them cannot access household cleaning supplies on a regular basis, while 80% say they would not be able to reach them without DPN support during the pandemic period.



"Well, I can't clean, how can I do it, there is such a time that we can't find food. Should I buy cleaning supplies when I am not eating? I use the packages that you send " [Pelin, Esenyurt]

They talk about solutions such as using cleaning materials interchangeably, cleaning with vinegar, using only water for cleaning, collecting cleaning material from garbage.

"Sometimes I can not find hand soap, I wash hands with dishwashing detergent, if any. I have grated the bar soap and washed my clothes in the machine. " [Didem, Şişli]

"We did everything with bar soap, I wash the clothes by hand. I keep the clothes in water for 1 day and then I wipe the floors with that water. [Nermin, Ümraniye]

"I have neither soap nor shampoo. I clean with water. " [Asiye, Ataşehir]

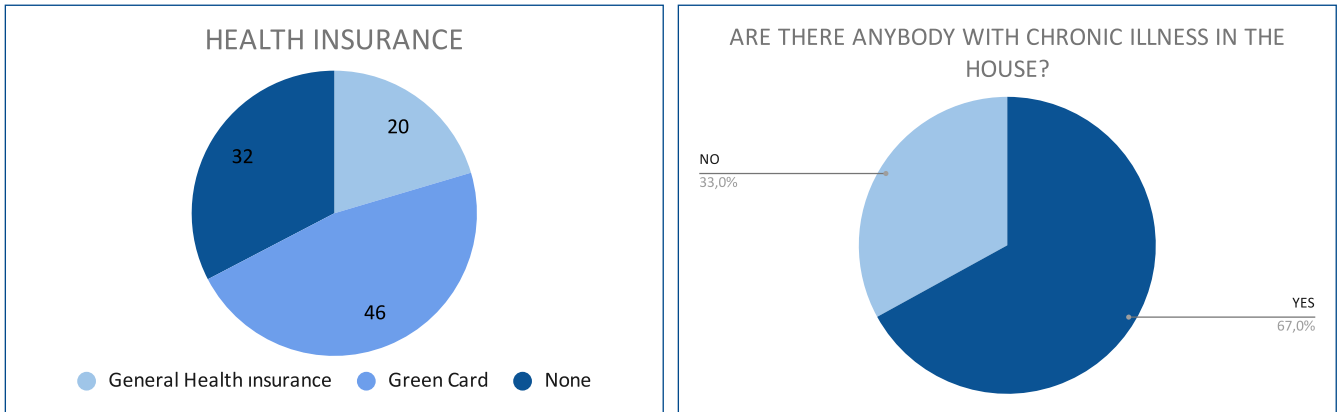
"Sometimes people throw soap, shampoo, detergent in the garbage, I get the bottom of the unfinished bottles" [Belma, Çekmeköy]

"I can buy neither shampoo nor cleaning materials. My husband found shampoo from the garbage, I washed the children with it. " [Nurşin, Sultanbeyli]

HEALTH

1. SOCIAL SECURITY

While 20% of the adults in the households we interviewed benefit from general health insurance, 46% of them benefit from green card. 32% of them cannot access any health insurance.

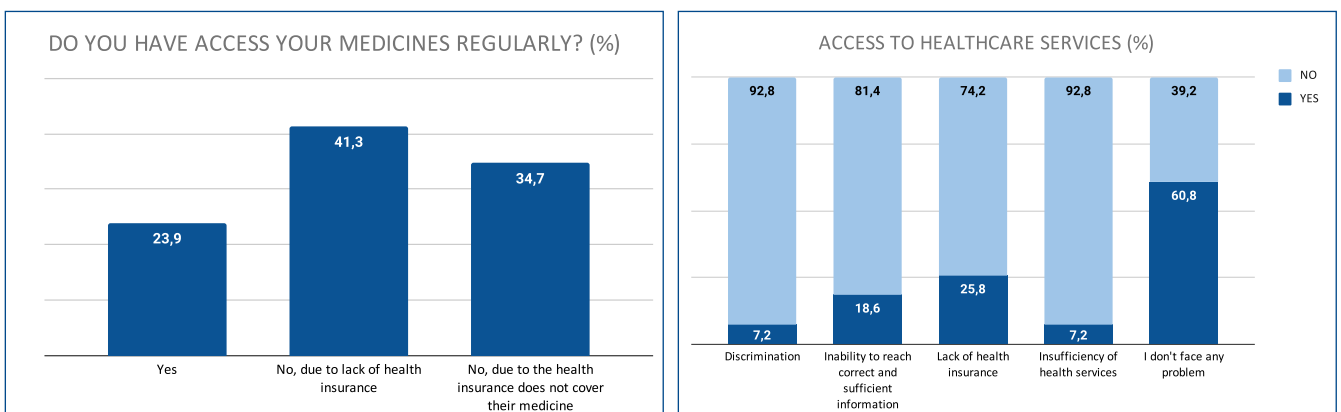


2. CHRONIC ILLNESS

At least one individual has a chronic disease in 67% of the households we interviewed, and 29% of these patients are children.

3. ACCESS TO MEDICINE

23% of 92 people who use regular medicines state that they can easily access their medicines with health insurance without paying anything. However, 41% stated that they could not access their medicines regularly due to lack of health insurance, and 34% because their health insurance does not cover their medicines.



It turns out that people using Green Cards cannot benefit the health services or access medicines they need to use due to their accumulated debts

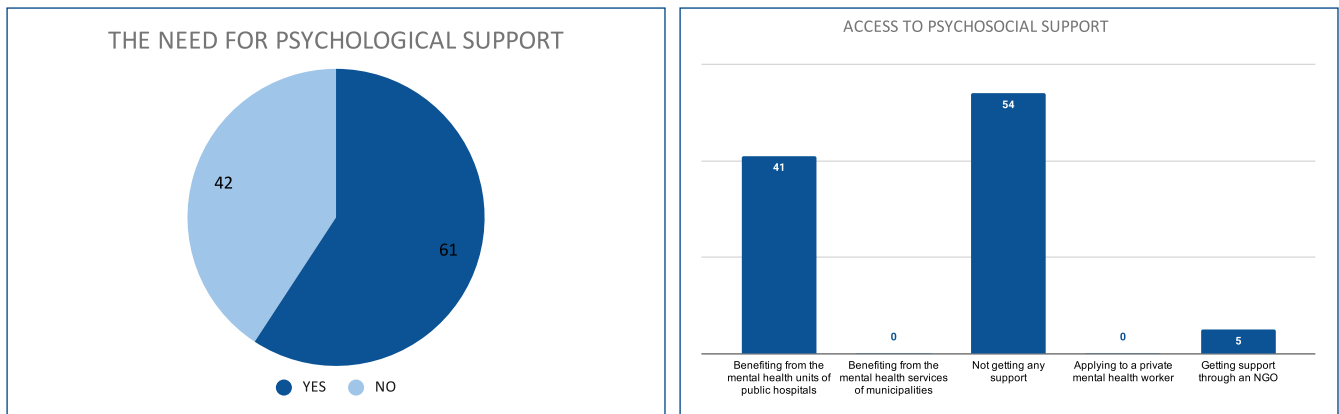
"My husband has a brain shrinkage and he stopped his treatment. We cannot buy medicine because we cannot pay our debt to the pharmacy. [Yaznur, Ümraniye]"

"I had a heart attack during the corona period. I had accumulated debt to the pharmacy for the Green Card. They wanted 500 lira for the drugs " [Zübeyir, Şişli]

4. PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

61 people out of 103 we interviewed stated that they need psychological support.

41% of those who need psychological support apply to the psychiatric services of public hospitals, 53% say they do not receive any support, 5% say they receive support through an NGO. However, it turns out that none of them benefit from the mental health services of the municipalities or apply to private mental health professionals..



People who say they do not receive support cite reasons as not knowing where to get support from, not believing that it will be useful or worrying that getting psychological support will be seen as bad by people.

"I don't know what to do, where I should go." [Gülbahar, Şişli]

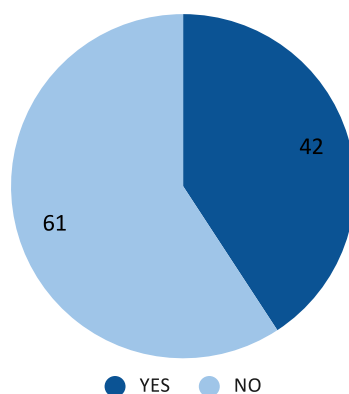
"Everyone needs it, but what are you going to do?" [Çandar, Çekmeköy]

"My daughter actually needed support. "When she goes to a psychologist, she is treated like crazy" in the family, so we couldn't take it. [Tuğçe, Şişli]

4.1. Psychological Support During Pandemic Period

42% of the people we interviewed say that they need psychological support especially during the pandemic period and they mention about psychosomatic complaints.

THE NEED FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT DURING PANDEMIC



"Since I have a headache all the time, the neurologist also asked me to go to psychology. I was orried, anxious. The psychiatrist gave me medication and I am using them." [Şermin, Beyoğlu]

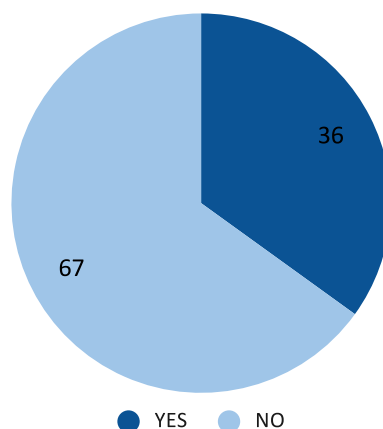
"Since I learnt about covid, heart palpitations started in my body. I have corona phobia. Cough, shortness of breath, anxiety.. all psychological. I was crying at the slightest shortness of breath. I was looking for the corona support line, I was talking. I still did not caught by corona, but I am feeling myself very bad. [Didem, Şişli]

"We have been struggling for the last six months. My husband was fired first. Then the pandemic started and he could not find a job. We always argue, children fight tooth and nail. It was very difficult for me. I have ulcer. The doctor said, "Don't endure in silence, it is dangerous you need to share what you are going through, the reason of the ulcer is your stress". Since then I share with my sister." [Ruhşen, Beyoğlu]

5. Access to Mask and Disinfectant

While 35% of the households we interviewed stated that they can easily access masks and disinfectants, 65% say they cannot.

ACCESS TO THE MASK & DISINFECTANT



Some families were able to buy masks distributed by the state through pharmacies without applying while some say that they applied but they either could not get a return or they could not access the mask because the system did not work or the pharmacy was out of masks.

"My husband sewed it for us." [Bedia, Beyoğlu]

"We needed a lot of masks. The government gave us 5 masks, but 5 for what? My husband was going to work, changing one every day " [Funda, Beyoğlu]

It turns out that those who could not buy masks found alternative methods such as using a disposable mask multiple times, washing and using masks, using a headscarf instead of a mask, using wet wipes instead of masks, and sewing masks at home.

"There was no cash, I covered my mouth with a headscarf" [Cemile, Şişli]

"We don't have disinfectants at home, no lies. If we try to buy them, at least 7-8 lira, we cannot. I can not go out, there are 5 children. My husband has one mask, we don't have another." [Nurşin, Sultanbeyli]

"Now there is no mask. We use a cleansing tissue instead of a mask " [Didem, Şişli]

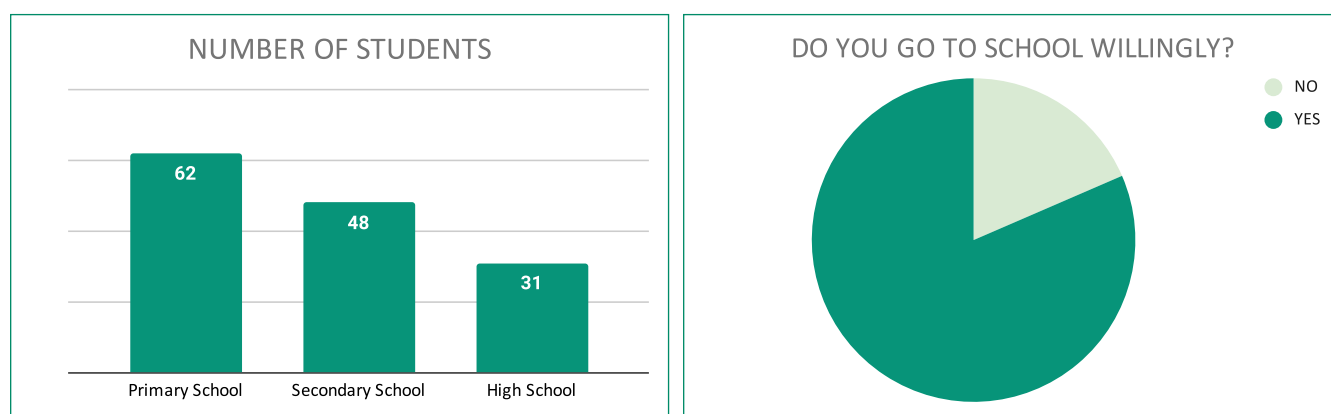
"I am using this mask multiple times. We wash, wash and use again. " [Tarık, Beyoğlu]

A message came from the pharmacy saying "come and get your 5 masks". The systems of the pharmacy were not working when we went. The next time I went there was no mask left [Candan, Ataşehir]

EDUCATION

1. SCHOOLING

There are 141 children in total attending school in 73 out of 103 households we interviewed. 44% of these children, that is, 62 of them attend primary school, 34% attend secondary school, 22% attend high school, and 81% say they go to school voluntarily and they love school.



1.1 School Dropouts

The risk of children leaving education emerges as an important theme in in-depth interviews. Some of the families told that their children dropped out of school before completing education for various reasons. Lack of follow-up of responsible adults, economic difficulties, the need/force for the children to work are the reasons for dropouts. Two of the families shared that the children could not start school at all because they do not have an identity card.

"I am currently thinking about how I am going to afford the expenses of new semester. Neither the municipality, the district governorship, nor the headman, teachers no one came to check these students during distant education. If the state investigated this, they would know whether the children were able to follow the online courses. If I had the opportunity, I would love to study. I'm very angry with my parents because they didn't send me to school. I sent all my children, I want them to go to school. I will do my best so that my children will not say "Mom, you did not send me to school" in the future. I'm trying to do my best. It would be better if the state supports me, it would be enough at least not making it difficult. They should not ask for money during registration, or for the books. [Firuze, Ataşehir]

Some of the families interviewed say that their children attend school irregularly. It seems that the absence of an adult who follows homeschooling or the lack of follow-up by the school authorities lead to this.

"My 17-year-old daughter goes 1-2 days a week because she doesn't want to. We are talking to the teacher, the principal. They do not care to help. I do not understand whether they are doing this because we are Roma." [Çandar, Çekmeköy]

"There are children who go to 4th grade and are illiterate." [Selçuk, Ataşehir]

He doesn't want it at all, sometimes he goes, sometimes he doesn't." [Meliha, Esenyurt]



Location: Çekmeköy
Shot by: Özge Ergin

Some of the families say that their children drop out of school after they start working, while others say that their children may have to work and will have to drop out of school when that happens. A few of the families we interviewed stated that their children want to leave school and work to support their families.

"The child sees our situation, wants to work, does not want to go to school. I cannot meet the needs of my on child" [Süleyman, Ümraniye]

"I removed my 19-year-old son from school so he could work and bring home money. He really wanted to continue high school." [Gül, Şişli]

"What could prevent them from continuing their education?" Almost all families answer the question "financial difficulties".

"The older child left school for economic reasons and started looking for a job when he finished primary school. I will send my little boy as far as I can." [Ebrar, Çekmeköy]

It becomes clear in the interviews that it is difficult for children to go to school when the basic needs of their family is not met. The lack of electricity and water in the house, the inability of the child to access food or the lack of school allowance are among the factors that families see as obstacles to the education of the child. Families have difficulty to prepare take away lunch for school, to buy materials for courses and to pay the support money requested by the school.

"If he has pocket money, if I can provide him food and clothing, he can go to school." [Ebrar, Çekmeköy]

"School uniforms are too expensive. we could not afford his shoes and bags. That's why he left school." [Özden, Ümraniye]

"I had difficulties in feeding, and affording school bus. I give 5 lira, he says "mother is not enough". I sent him to school when he was fed." [Didem, Şişli]

"They were telling me that all my friends are eating, I cannot eat, I am ashamed. That's why they didn't go to school " [Gülay, Çekmeköy]

Families explain that despite the financial impossibility, they have difficulties in supporting the children's interests and development in different fields due to a lack of finances.

"My daughter is very interested in painting, sometimes she wants something. Mostly I cannot afford. It shouldn't be like that. There is talent, but there are limited opportunities." [Tuğçe, Şişli]

1.2. Education is a Source of Hope for Change

Families express their wish that their children's future should be different from their own lives and that their children should not experience the difficulties they have experienced. Many families see education as a hope for change. The idea of "We could not study they should" emerges in the narrative of the families.

"We were ignorant, let them improve themselves and go to university." [Melek, Şişli]

"The boy gets up in the morning alone, gets ready and goes to school. He wanted to be a sea captain, then said he wanted to be a doctor. There is a desire to read. As long as he has a profession, you can

support his own family, not like us. " [Deniz, Çekmeköy]

Especially in the narratives of some mothers we interviewed, there is a desire for girls to read and to be able to stand on their own feet.

"I want my child to study, stand on her feet. I am depended to my husband now. I say to my daughter that you attend school, have a profession, do not need anyone." [Funda, Beyoğlu]

"I lived under a lot of oppression. I want my girl to study and become something, become independent just like men." [Gül, Şişli]

"I will stand behind her no matter what, I will try to get my daughter to study even if we are starving" [Belma, Çekmeköy]

1.3. The Need for Support in Education

Families explain that their children need both academic and psychosocial support in their school life. It appears that children are moving away from school as a result of not being able to get the support they need.

"He falls down at school because he walks on his toes, other students make fun of him. We went to psychiatry and he gave some medicine." [Hacer, Şişli]

"My son, who goes to secondary school, does not want to continue at school. He has difficulty in lessons. The longer he falls back from lessons, the more he doesn't want to go." [Arife, Esenyurt]

It turns out that some children have been repeating a grade for several years, and some children cannot read and write even though they have finished first grade.

"The boy is 12 years old. He should be in the 6th grade but in the 2nd grade. He still couldn't read, he doesn't know what to study anyway. He doesn't understand his lessons. I cannot read and write either." [Yasemin, Çekmeköy]

"He was trying to read but couldn't. He is in grade 3 at the age of 11." [Sevim, Çekmeköy]

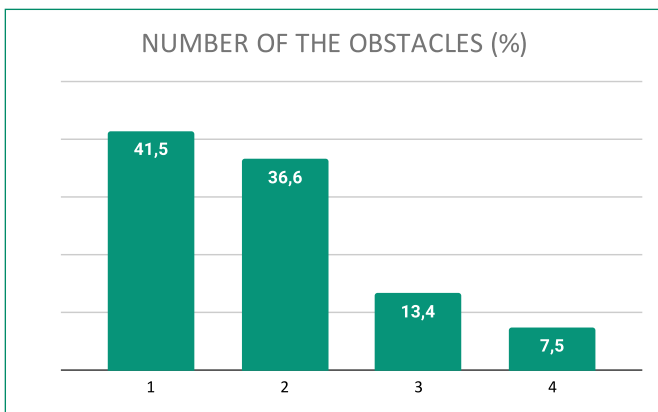
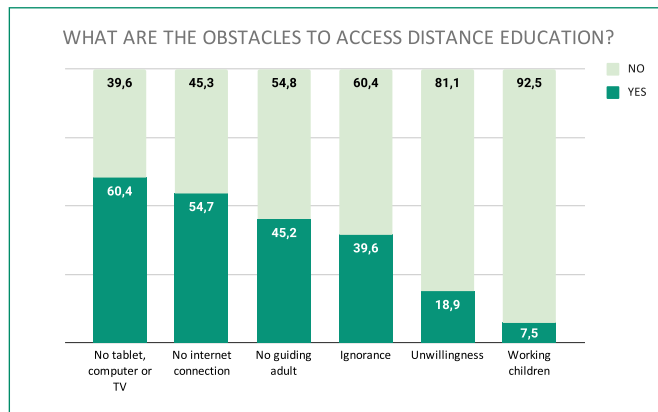
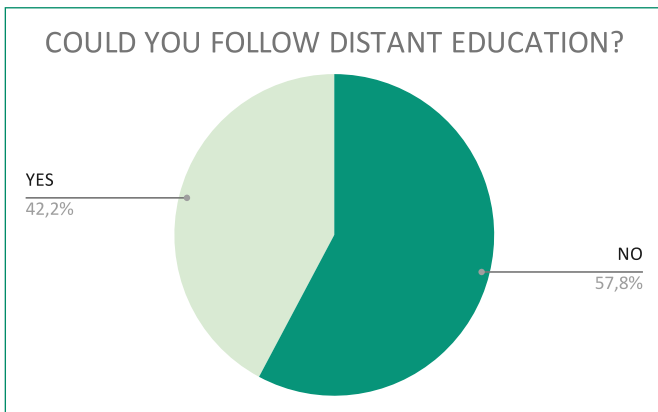
When asked what their children need in order to continue their education, families state that they need an adult who will "guide" and support them in their academic life..

"As parents, we both dropped out of primary school and could not go to school. The children ask something, we do not understand anything, we cannot help with the lesson. The older ones help the little ones in their lessons, but no one helps the older ones" [Sema, Beyoğlu]

Some of the children receive consultation at the Çimenev Science and Art Center of our organisation. When asked about their educational support needs, these families say that they consult Çimenev whenever they need academic or psychosocial support.

2. PARTICIPATION IN DISTANCE EDUCATION & BARRIERS

57% of them state that they cannot follow distance education. When we look at the reasons, the absence of a tablet, computer or television seems to be the biggest obstacle for 60%, followed by the lack of internet connection for 54%, and not having an adult to guide for 45%.



2.1. The Need for a Guiding Adult in Distance Education

It is revealed that children need adult support in order to reach EBA TV (the only distant education channel for all provided by ministry of education). However some of the families do not know how to reach EBA TV, and some say that children cannot watch EBA TV because television does not support this channel.

In a family we interviewed, 11-year-old Elif mentions that she has never heard of EBA TV. Families who do not know how to access EBA TV also mention that the school or the teacher never contacted them during this period.

***"I have never heard of Eba TV. There is TV at home, but our school was closed early this year. I have never met my teacher "* [Elif, 11 yaş]**

***"Our television does not support EBA TV because it is old."* [Yaznur, Ümraniye]**

The teacher's follow-up of the distance education process appears to be a supporting factor in children's access to distance education and protects against the risks of dropout.

***"The teacher called us and helped us to find a channel. Its name is EBA. The child studied all the time by looking through that channel. The teacher checked every week."* [Çandar, Çekmeköy]**

***"The teacher described how to find the channel. The lessons were all in EBA TV. The internet was needed for live lessons, children couldn't participate it. "* [Halime, Şişli]**



Location: Ataşehir

Shot by: Deep Poverty Network Volunteer

2.2. Children Do Not Have Personal Space

Many of the families say that their children do not have a space of their own due to the conditions of the house they live in. The lack of personal space where children can be alone, listen to lessons, study and spend time on their own makes it difficult for them to continue their distance education.

"Since the house is single room, there was no place where they could study. They are three brothers. We as parents are also at home. Living room, kitchen, children's room, bedroom are all in one" [Hatice, Şişli]

2.3. Conflicts of Class Hours

In houses where there are more than one children attending school, the conflicts of children's class hours is a big obstacle. Families report that the technological facilities at home do not allow more than one child to participate in distance education at the same time, or that there is no space where children can attend courses at the same time.

"4 siblings together, each has lessons at the same time. There is only one TV and my phone. They did not study or anything this year." [Cemile, Fatih]

2.4. Digital Inequality

As supported by the quantitative data, the most prominent reason for children not being able to participate in distance education is that technological facilities at their house are not sufficient. While some families state that their children cannot attend because their children do not have internet access even though their teachers organize online classes, some families say that there is no digital opportunity to even listen to EBA TV.

"I could not attend the live lessons because there was no computer, I could not ask questions to my professors in subjects I did not understand." [Sude, 10-year-old]

"My children could not attend school. I wish there was a television opportunity, at least they would watch the recorded lessons." [Gülbahar, Şişli]

"The situation of the students is very bad. My children were successful children, they fall behind because of the lack of tv and tablet." [Kamuran, Şişli]

It is seen that children strive to continue their education despite the digital inequality they face and find different solutions to participate in distance education.

"My children went to watch the recorded lessons from the neighbor because our TV does not support EBA TV. However there is this virüs, we are afraid to disturb others. My children could never attend the live classes. Sometimes they had homework and they tried to do it with their father's phone." [Semra, Beyoğlu]

2.5. Distance Education Is A Huge Obstacle"

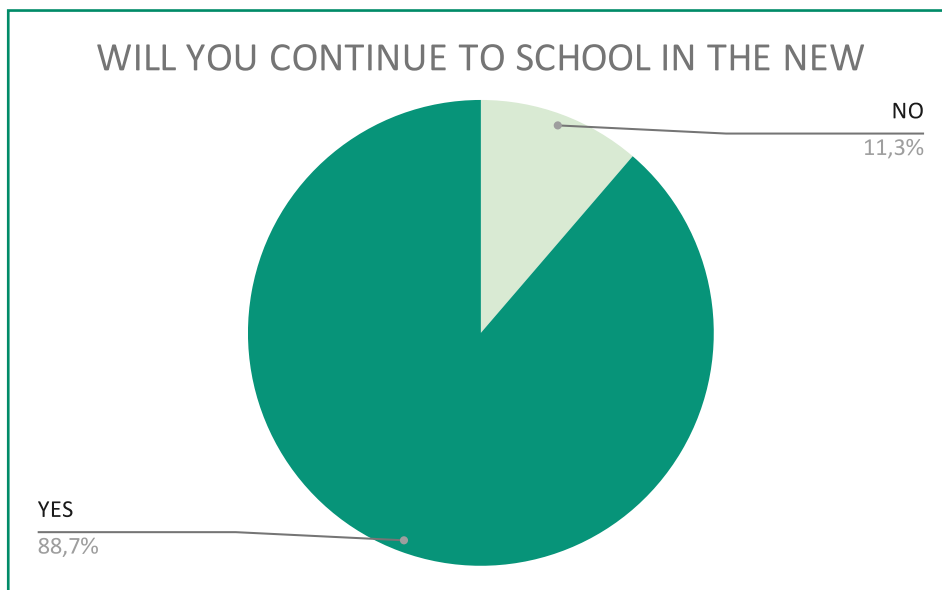
The families interviewed explain that the inability of their children to participate in distance education affects their success at school and their motivation to attend school. On the other hand it is observed that some of the children who can access distance education through a digital tool are still having difficulty to understanding and follow what is being taught.

"Most of us couldn't watch the lectures. Although there were live lessons, we did not know. It is as if we had never been to school last semester." [Dilek, 13-year-old]

"My courses conflicted with the lessons of my siblings. My teacher gave the frequencies of EBA TV channel, and we installed it with my father. But it is very difficult to understand the lesson from Eba TV. Our teachers made live broadcasts through EBA Live so that we could ask our questions and attend the class. However we could not install Eba Live to my father's phone because the phone did not support the application. I didn't have a tablet or computer. Also, my mother and father are illiterate, so I followed my siblings' courses, I tried to show them. We didn't understand anything from this period, it was like we never went to school. (Berrin, 14-year-old)

As another indicator that inability to access distance education affects children's motivation, 11% of children who attended school before the pandemic say that will not continue in the new semester.

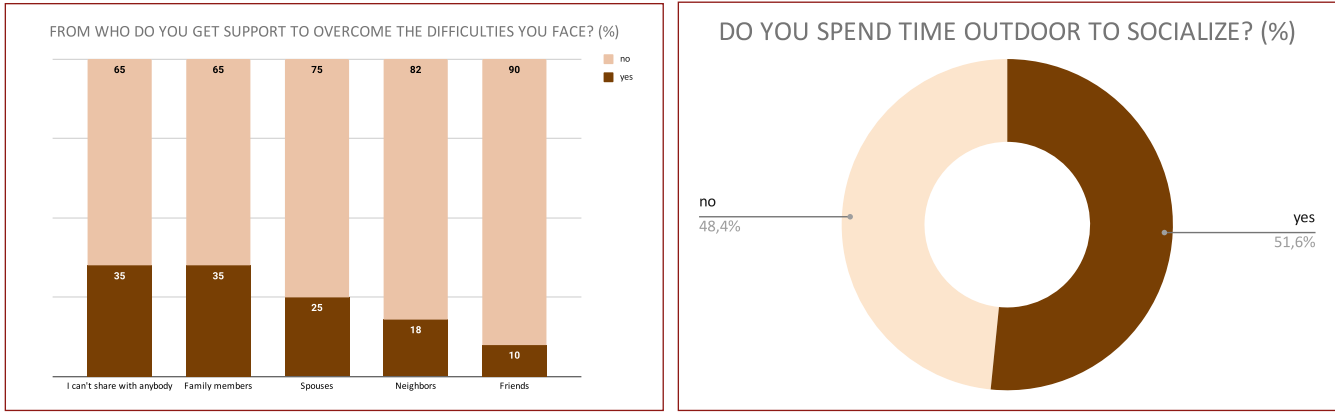
Note: Tablet, TV and internet support was provided through DPN for children who continue their education but cannot attend distance education due to digital inequalities.



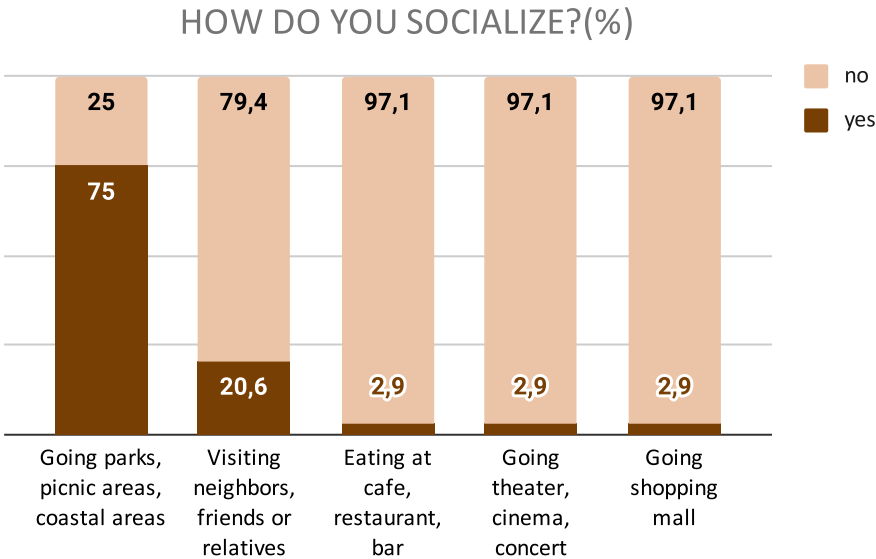
SOCIAL LIFE

1. Social Life Before Pandemic

When we ask how they overcome the difficulties they face in their lives, we see that 35% of them generally do not share with anyone, while the remaining 65% say they get support mostly from family members and spouses, then neighbors and friends.



51% of them spend time outside the house to socialize. It is understood that 75% of them go to parks, picnic areas, coastal areas and 20% of them socialize by visiting neighbors, relatives or friends. 97% of the people we interviewed can not go out for dinner, spend time in the shopping mall or participate in activities such as theater, cinema and concerts.





Location: Fatih
Shot by: Deep Poverty Network Volunteer

2. Time Spent at Home During Pandemic

2.1. Children “Neither Out nor Home”

People under 20 and over 65 were prohibited from going out between March and June in Turkey. During these months, they were only allowed to go out three hours a day, once a week. Families explain how difficult it was for children not to go out.

“We fought all the time, all the time. This is a one-room house, we are 6 people. bedroom, living room, kitchen all in one. Imagine.” [Gülbahar, Şişli]

“Our children fought all the time, they could not see their friends. There were police officers on the street as well. [Naile, Şişli]

“No playing on the street for children, no park. It was very difficult for them. My older daughter has nothing left to read at home. They were painting. We made cookies together, they learned how to break eggs.” [Tuğçe, Şişli]

Some of the families say that their children spend time at home mostly watching television or on the phone, if available.

“Children inevitably got addicted to the television and the phone.” [Betül, Beyoğlu]

“They didn’t do anything, they watched TV.” [Pelin, Esenyurt]

Some families say they find different ways to spend time at home with their children such as playing games, painting, studying together, cooking together. It is seen that these people enjoyed the time they spend together during curfews.

“We played games a lot. I became a horse, we played ball, we played hide and seek.” [Aylan, Şişli]

“We studied with them because I was literate. I helped them with mathematics.” [Ayşen, Çekmeköy]

“We played games as a family, we held activities. We played ball, hiding toys etc. We cooked pastry and meals together. I constantly spent time with the children, finally we became friends” [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

“We remembered all the games of our childhood and played with them. We used to take out our pots in the summer, this year we took out early and planted flowers. We played ball with the kids. It was nice.” [Bedia, Beyoğlu]

2.2. Increased Conflict at Home

Some families say that the fear and anxiety created by the pandemic is combined with the anxiety of not meeting basic needs and this increased the stress at home, while others say that many people staying together in a small living space increased conflict. Some of the parents describe that they could not control their anger towards children.

“I couldn’t calm down. I constantly shouted at the children, I caused problems” [Arife, Esenyurt]

“I used to talk to my husband, we used to get along. Then he had a heart condition, then he was fired. Then this pandemic stress started. Everyone stays at home, there is no income, nothing. The man got nervous. Very angry. He started fighting and shouting all the time.” [Dilara, Beyoğlu]

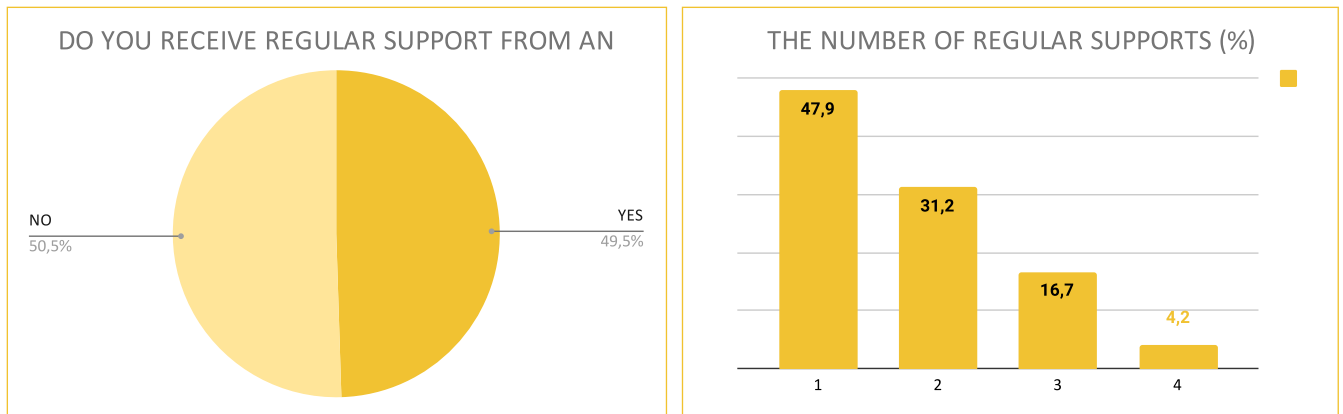
"We had a real hard time, our house is too small. We even cannot fit in the house when we are all together" [Kamuran, Şişli]

"Conflicts at home has increased much, much more, so I say let me go to a psychiatrist as soon as possible." [Gülbahar, Şişli]

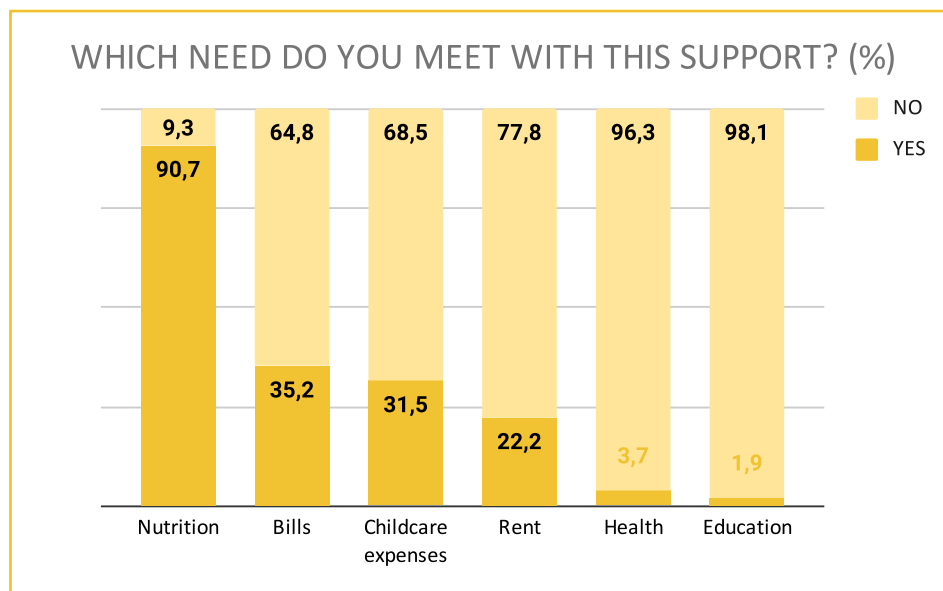
SOCIAL SUPPORTS

1. REGULAR SOCIAL SUPPORTS

49.5% of 103 households we interviewed stated that they receive regular social support from a public institution, NGO or individual regardless the pandemic process.



40% of those who receive regular support receive support from Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, 36% from individuals, 28% from the district governorship, 26% from other state institutions, and 20% from the district municipality they live in. Approximately 53% of those who receive support say they get support from at least two or more institutions.



The support received is mostly spent on food, various bill payments, child care expenses, rent payment, health expenses and education expenses; in other words for basic needs. It is seen that social support is the only means of income in some households.



Location: Şişli
Shot by: Özge Ergin

1.1. Support Received From Local Governments

60% of the households interviewed say they get support from IMM or district municipalities. This rate is higher than the rate of those receiving support from public institutions. It is seen that they benefit from the monthly food card, some of them receive milk support for children and most families benefit from coal support. It turns out that some of the support received from the local government is a one-off or low in frequency.

"I applied to Fatih municipality, they only brought a can of meat." [Aydan, Fatih]

"We received 180 tl food card every 6 months from Beyoğlu municipality." [Dilara, Beyoğlu]

"IMM gave me a 100 lira card per month. I have 3 children and I just buy cheese with it." [Serhat, Ataşehir]

1.2. Obstacles of Reaching Support

1.2.1. No Access To Application Mechanisms

Some families say that they cannot apply because they do not have internet and do not know where or how to apply for support.

"We had to apply by phone, I couldn't manage it." [Aydan, Fatih]

"Availability was very limited, I sent 144 messages. I could not reach for social assistance or support." [Şenay, Beyoğlu]

"I went to the district governor. They said I should apply via e-government. I don't have internet, I could not apply through my touch-tone phone." [Özden, Ümraniye]

1.2.3. Not Complying with Support Criteria

Some of the families interviewed say that they need social support, they have difficulty in meeting their basic needs on their own, but they still get rejected from social support applications for various reasons. It is observed that factors such as the absence of a residence address, lack of identity, having a registered pension, not having an official divorce etc have a negative result on social support applications.

"I have a 30 year old car. I do not have the car serviced so the penalty comes every year. I cannot sell due to penalties, and my applications for social support are rejected because it is seen that I have a car" (Elif, Ataşehir)

"I live separately from my husband. But he doesn't want to be officially divorced. If I sue, he threatens. I could not open the case so that nothing would happen to us. That is why I cannot get any money from the state for children, and I do not receive support since I do not appear to be divorced. [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

"I said I am separated from my husband. But we are not officially divorced and that man has a regular income, I cannot meet the support criteria. Look what's in the house except 2 broken sofa beds, they didn't even come to check the house. What is the so called criteria for this house?" [Pelin, Esenyurt]

"I could not get the 1000 lira one-time pandemic support because I got my father's pension. It seems that I have a salary of 1600 lira, but my father's wife receives half of it." [Melek, Şişli]

1.2.4 Not Getting Response to Applications

Families say they applied to many institutions, but the investigation process either took too long or was inconclusive.

They say, «We received your application, we will respond asap», no one responds. [Arzugül, Fatih]

«I did not get any respond from neither Ataşehir Municipality nor district governorship» [Melike, Ataşehir]

“I applied for the red card over and over but no response, anything. I said «do I necessarily have to beg?». I applied to the white table, there was no result either. « [Nursu, Çekmeköy]

“When we explain why we came, they(district municipality) should at least sit down and listen. They say okay, we will call you and put us off. nothing else. They never called, how many times we gave our number. « [Sevim, Çekmeköy]

1.2.5. Being Invisible And Despair

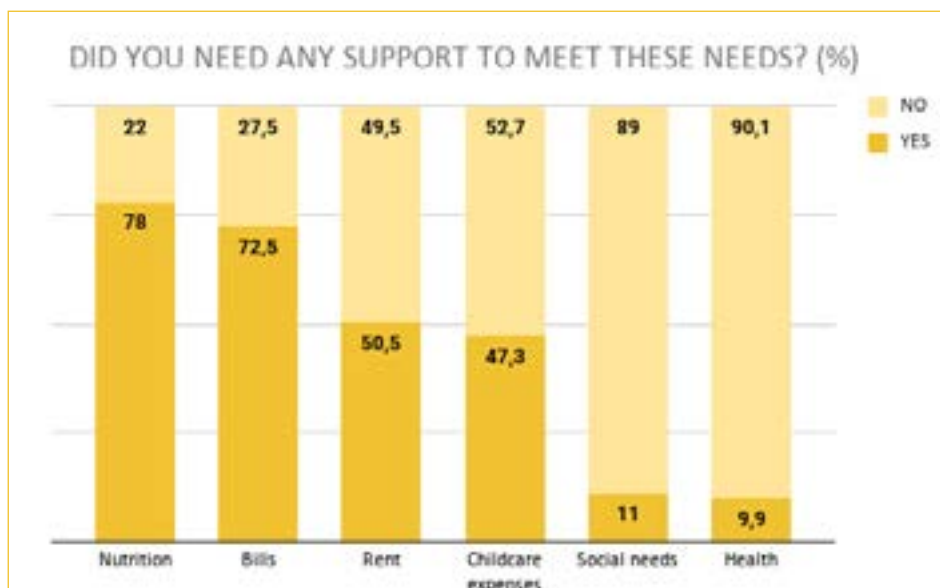
Families describe the emotions created by this situation as desperation, feeling of being unseen, inability to express oneself, despair and being left alone.

“No one respects us except during the election period. No one came to control our conditions during pandemic. Okay, responsables of district governors, you did not come and look, okay, what about our applications? Why they are all inconclusive?” [Vedat, Ataşehir]

“Don't they know, people have been fired? Even before we were getting along on a scarce basis. But now we are in such a situation that we have not been able to pay bills for several months. The house has a loan installment, we cannot find food and bread. Cash does not come, how can we get something from somewhere? Do you understand we were left so alone without DPN? [Kamuran, Şişli]

2. SOCIAL SUPPORT DURING PANDEMIC

It is seen that 78% need support to buy food, 72% to pay bills, 50% to pay rent, 47% for child care expenses, 11% to meet social needs and 10% for patient care expenses during pandemic.

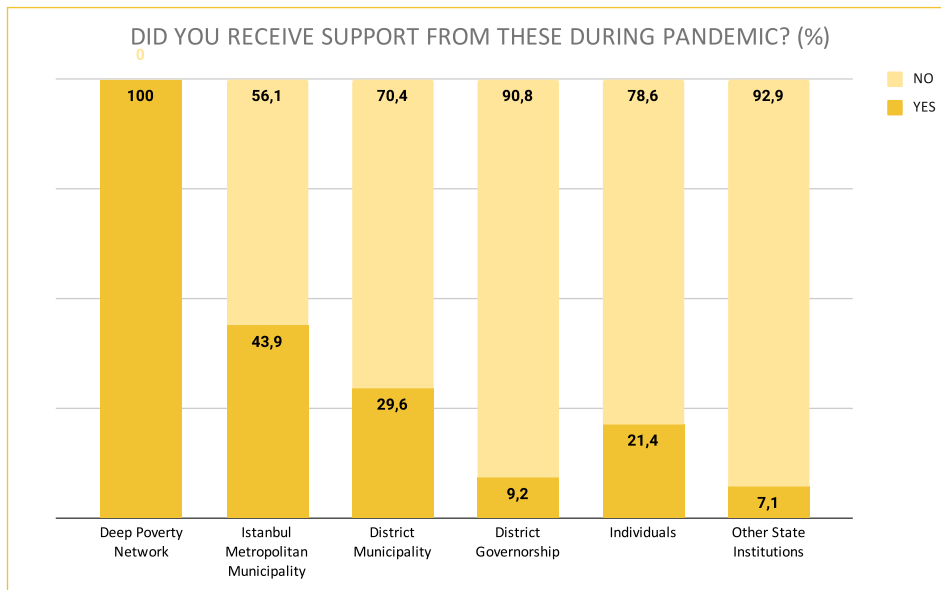


2.1. 1000 TRY PANDEMIC SUPPORT BY MINISTRY OF FAMILY, LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES

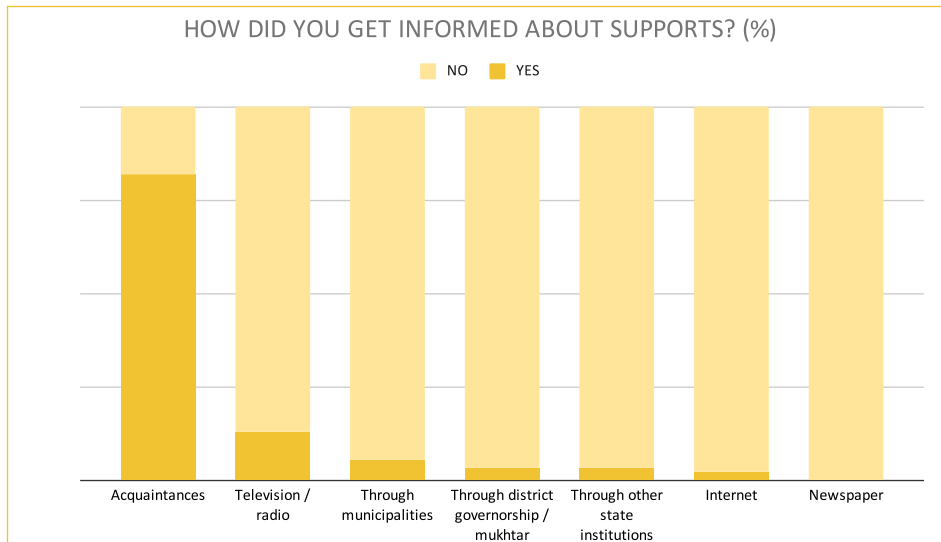
The Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services has provided 1,000 TL in cash one time within the scope of the Pandemic Social Support Program since March. 52% of them benefited from this support and 95% of these people think that it was not sufficient. They used this money primarily for food, then for debt, bill and rent payments and child care expenses.

2.2. Other Support Received During The Pandemic Period

During the pandemic period 43% benefited from IMM support, 29% from the district municipality, 21% got individual support, 9% district governorship and 7% support from other state institutions (except the support from DPN). It is seen that 34% of the households we interviewed only had access to support during this period, while the rest received support from at least two institutions.



81% of the people are informed about the social support programs through acquaintances, 12% through television or radio, 5% through the announcements of the municipalities, 3% through the district governorship, mukhtar or state institutions.



2.2.1. Pandemic Raises Urgent Needs

Some families explain that they started to have difficulties in meeting their needs during the pandemic so they needed social support although they did not need it before. Most of them explain the difficulty of not getting any answers to their applications during this period and the urgency of their needs.

"This pandemic period is not a period as usual. everything is very urgent. Come on, normally you go to the municipality or district governorship, they make you wait for months. But this period should not have been like this. People were left without work, we were starving. Our babies went hungry, we were left without diapers. If not now, when will the state hear our voices? We have fixed expenses; rent, bills, food... Did the employees return to work? I can't say anything about the rent, maybe the landlord lives with what he takes from us, maybe they are also poor. But what about the bills? Electricity, water, gas? Then about education; when the distance education started, do you think the school continued? It didn't. Eba TV could not be installed on our phone because we have an old model. So the children could not watch their lessons and ask questions to their teachers. " [Sema, Beyoğlu]

"We applied for 1.000 TRY support, we went to the governor's office, the district governor's office, we went to the municipality of Esenyurt, nothing nothing nothing. I called the emergency numbers for milk, I begged, not even a packet of milk I received." [Gül, Fatih]

2.2.2. Home Inspections Could Not Be Made

People encounter standard social examination procedures when they apply for support during the pandemic period. Some of the families stated that their applications were not approved so they could not get any support because home inspections could not be made, which are included in the social inspection procedures of municipalities and district governorships.

"Nothing is resulted from the district governorship and Sultangazi municipality. They had to come home and make their investigation, and they stopped doing it due to pandemic. I need the supports now. " [Nurdan, Sultangazi]

"I went to the District Governorship and Beyoğlu Municipality. They said they have to make a social examination at home but they don't do it now due to pandemic. It has been 4 months. Who knows when they will come. I applied for an urgent need. [Sema, Beyoğlu]

2.2.3. Nutrition Supports During Pandemic Period

When asked about the support received during the pandemic in in-depth interviews, families emphasize that the food support from the Deep Poverty Network and local governments was important in this regard. It turns out that the support that reaches in a crisis situation is seen as a "breath" against hunger.

"Somedays we only thought what to eat." [Hatice, Şişli]

"If food had not come from Fatih municipality, we would have been starving. It was a small pack of supplies, but was enough for us. Then we applied to you, the neighbors gave me your number. We started to eat regularly, otherwise it was very difficult. " [Eylül, Fatih]

"We had a lot of difficulties during this period. If there were no neighbors, or you (DPN) we could not have food and bread." [Orhan, Ataşehir]

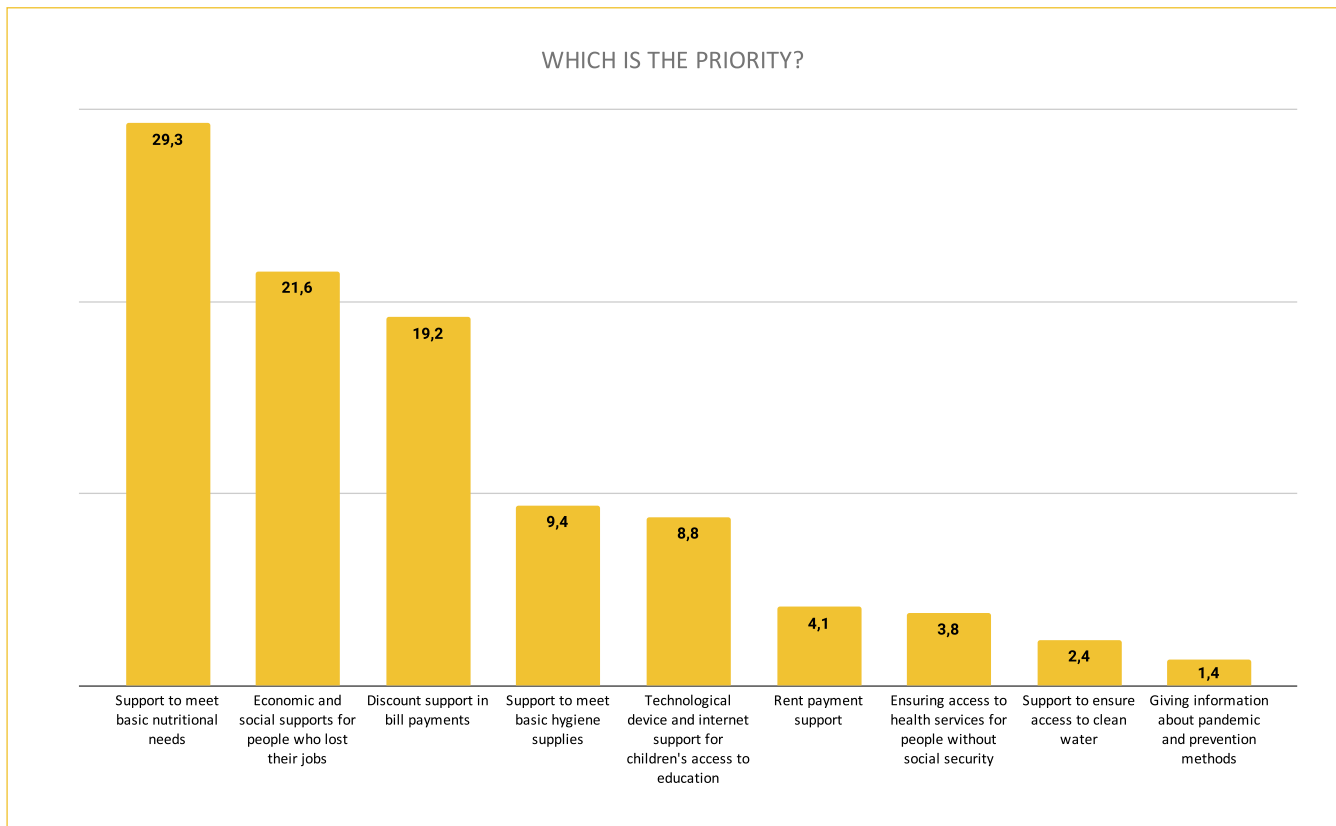
"If there wasn't you (DPN), we would be very miserable. You have paid our two bills, sent us food, so we could breath " [Kamuran, Şişli]

3. What Should Have Been Different?

Görüştüğümüz 103 hanede pandemi sürecinde yapılması gereken bazı destekleri saydık ve öncelik sWe read some of the support that should be made during the pandemic process in 103 households we interviewed and asked them to rank the top three most important in order of priority. The supports we read are as follows;

- Technological device and internet support for children's access to education
- Support to meet basic nutritional needs
- Ensuring access to health services for people without social security
- Giving information about pandemic and prevention methods
- Support to meet basic hygiene supplies
- Economic and social support for people who lost their jobs
- Support to ensure access to clean water
- Discount support in bill payments
- Rent payment support

Although they emphasize that each of them is very important, according to the interviewees, "Meeting their basic nutritional needs" is the first priority, "Creating economic and social support for people who have lost their job" is the second, and "Making a discount in bill payments" is the third priority.



In addition to this rating, when asked about the expectations from local and central governments during the pandemic period in in-depth interviews, the answers are: “baby food and diaper support”, “drinking water support”, “dysinfectant and mask support”, “discount on bill payments” and “increasing the limit of the currently issued food cards”.

3.1. The Need for Regulation in Social Support Application Evaluations

It is observed that families think that determining the needs is insufficient and that there are inequalities in the distribution of support, especially during the pandemic period.

3.1.1. Inquiry Regarding the Justice of the Distribution of Support

Some families say those who are in better condition can get support while they cannot. Some explain that they can easily submit their support requests because they have acquaintances at the municipality. While it is revealed that both local administrations and public institutions have increased their social support during the pandemic period, the idea that the distribution was not held transparently becomes apparent.

“Support came to the neighborhood from the municipality, the district governorship, but many people in need could not benefit.” [Funda, Beyoğlu]

“Well, I don’t know what I say, everyone has been so selfish that even people with money have applied for support.” [Meltem, Beyoğlu]

“They had to investigate and take care of those who were in a very difficult situation like us.” [Hasibe, Fatih]

“We have relatives in the municipality, they always supports us if possible.” [Sonay]

3.1.2. Realizing Needs During the Crisis Periods

Families think that mechanisms should be created by local and central government officials to determine and respond to urgent needs at local level.

"When there were curfews, they had to come and look, if there were people who were starving ust because of this ban. At least this Ataşehir municipality had come and look. What is the responsibility of the mukhtar? The mukhtar should have check if his neighbors are fed, if a bowl of food is cooked?"
[Serhat, Ataşehir]

"There could be neighborhood officials. they could check us by maintaining social distance. " [Şenay, Beyoğlu]

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Through our interviews and our field experiences, it is seen that the emergency conditions created by the pandemic leave those who are already experiencing deep poverty and working for a daily wage face the risks of starvation, losing their home and not being able to access their basic needs. This situation reveals the necessity to take into account poverty and deep poverty conditions in the crisis period plans of local governments and state bodies. Based on field experiences and fieldwork results, our suggestions for local administrations and state bodies are as follows;

EMPLOYMENT

- In crisis situations such as a pandemic, unemployment support should be provided regardless of whether the person previously worked with insurance or not. People who lose their daily wage jobs should also be able to benefit from this support.
- Regular social support should be provided for people living under conditions of poverty or deep poverty to reach their basic needs until they can start working again, considering that they use their daily income for their daily needs which is lost in crisis situations.
- In recruitment activities to be carried out after the crisis, people who work in daily wage jobs and lost their jobs during the crisis should be given equal opportunities, taking into account their situation. Number of employment centers should be increased and application processes should be more accessible. The Employment Center of Ümraniye Municipality offers a good example in this regard.

SPACE OF LIVING & SECURITY

- Temporary accommodation centers should be established by local administrations so that people who have lost their homes in disasters and crisis situations can benefit.
- Destroyed houses should be renewed and should be offered with low wage to those who are in danger of losing their homes. An example of this application was carried out in October 2020 by the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality; by renewing 400 residences that were idle and renting them for 100 lira to the people in need.
- The house heating needs of families in need should be met in crisis situations.
- Given access to basic water, especially during pandemic periods, clean water tankers should provide access to clean water in neighborhoods. Şişli Municipality carried out this practice in 2019.

NUTRITION & BASIC CARE

- Households that cannot fulfill their basic food needs should be identified and social market practices should be established for these households. Although Beyoğlu Municipality presented the most successful example of this practice, it did not receive new applications during the pandemic process.
- Pads, baby diapers, formulas and adult diapers should be included in social support programs and emergency packages.
- Local government-controlled stores should be established where basic need items for cleaning and hygiene supplies, pads, cloths and food are available at affordable prices..
- A budget should be allocated from the local government budgets for food in case of crisis situations.
- The basic nutritional and care needs of people who are infected and are in quarantine at home should be met by local government if they cannot meet it themselves.

HEALTH

- Access to free masks should be available to every person who needs it.
- In crisis situations, Green Card users should have access to medicines and health services regardless of their debts.
- Psychological support centers of local governments should be made widespread and remote support should be provided to those in need in times of crisis.

EDUCATION

- Social support programs for basic school needs (school uniform, nutrition, stationery) should be established for children in households who have difficulty meeting their needs because of the crisis.
- Parents should be informed about distance education in writing or orally, by phone or home visits.
- Transportation to the nearest distance education center established by the Ministry of Education should be provided for the children who do not have access to it at home.
- In cases where it is not possible to access distance education centers, local authorities should provide free wireless internet broadcasting within the administrative region.



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