Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Dominica Summary Report | April 2020

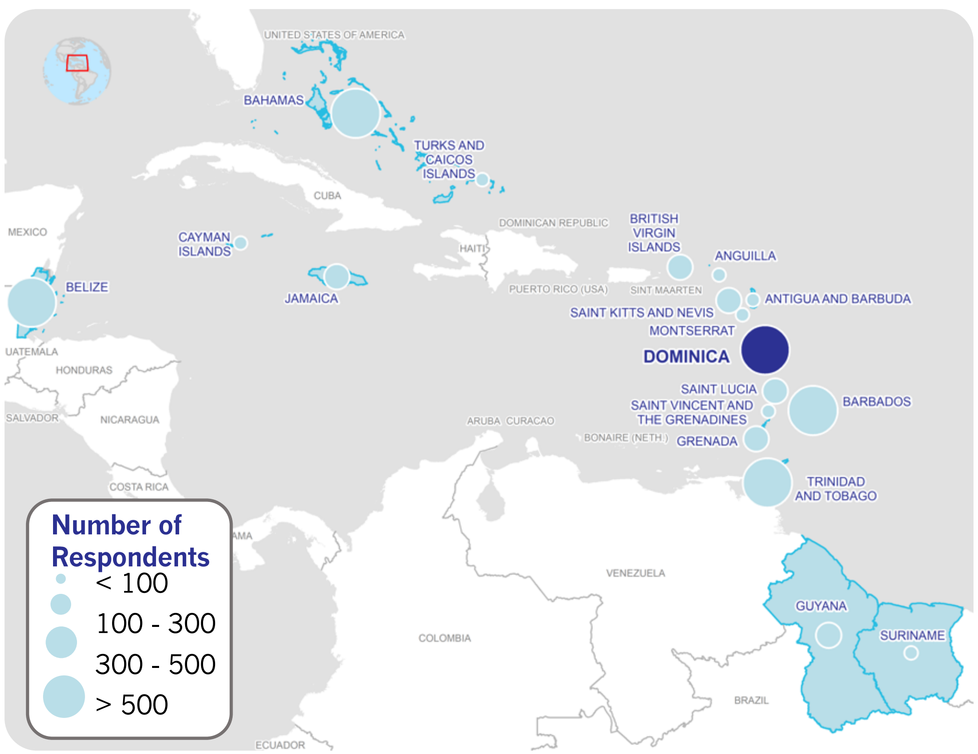
532 Respondents

75|25% Female | Male

41 Average age

4 Average Household size

The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets. Prepared by the World Food Programme with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization, it received 4,537 responses from 19 countries and territories in the Caribbean. The survey was open from 1-12 April 2020 and was shared via social media, email and media.



Dominica summary findings

While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not representative, and the use of a web-based questionnaire limits inputs from those without connectivity. Key findings include:

- Over half of respondents reported not being able to access the market at a time during the previous two weeks, mainly owing to movement restrictions, concerns about the outbreak and stores being closed.
- Key items such as food and medicines are less available than usual, but very few people indicated that they were unavailable. An increase in food prices was reported by 59% of respondents.
- The vast majority of respondents have changed their shopping behavior, primarily by buying larger quantities. Some are going to different stores and buying cheaper or less preferred brands.
- Food consumption has been impacted, with half of respondents reporting eating less preferred foods or skipping meals/eating less.
- Disruptions to livelihoods were reported by 81% of respondents – the highest of countries surveyed. Movement restrictions were the primary reason. A higher percentage of women than men cited transport limitations and more men cited lacking a market to sell products.
- Incomes have been impacted, with 58% of respondents indicating job loss or reduced salaries. This appears to be more prevalent among business-owners compared to salaried workers.
- Trends did not vary dramatically between women and men or people aged 21–40 and 41–60, though there were some differences. Disaggregated analysis was not performed for the other age groups due to insufficient responses.

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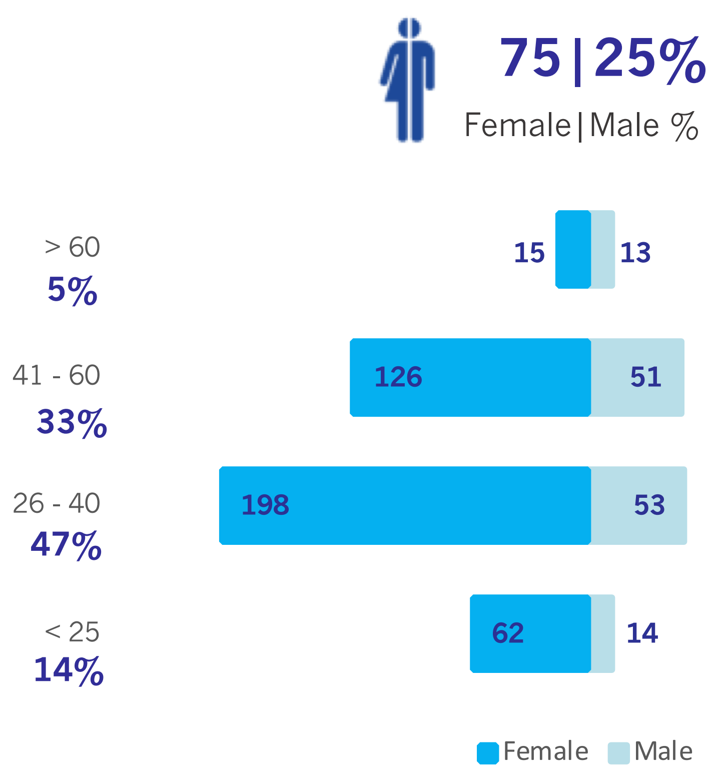
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Age and sex breakdown of respondents

Age breakdown analysis will only be provided for the age groups of 26 – 40 and 41 – 60 due to sufficient responses in these categories.

Age and sex of respondents

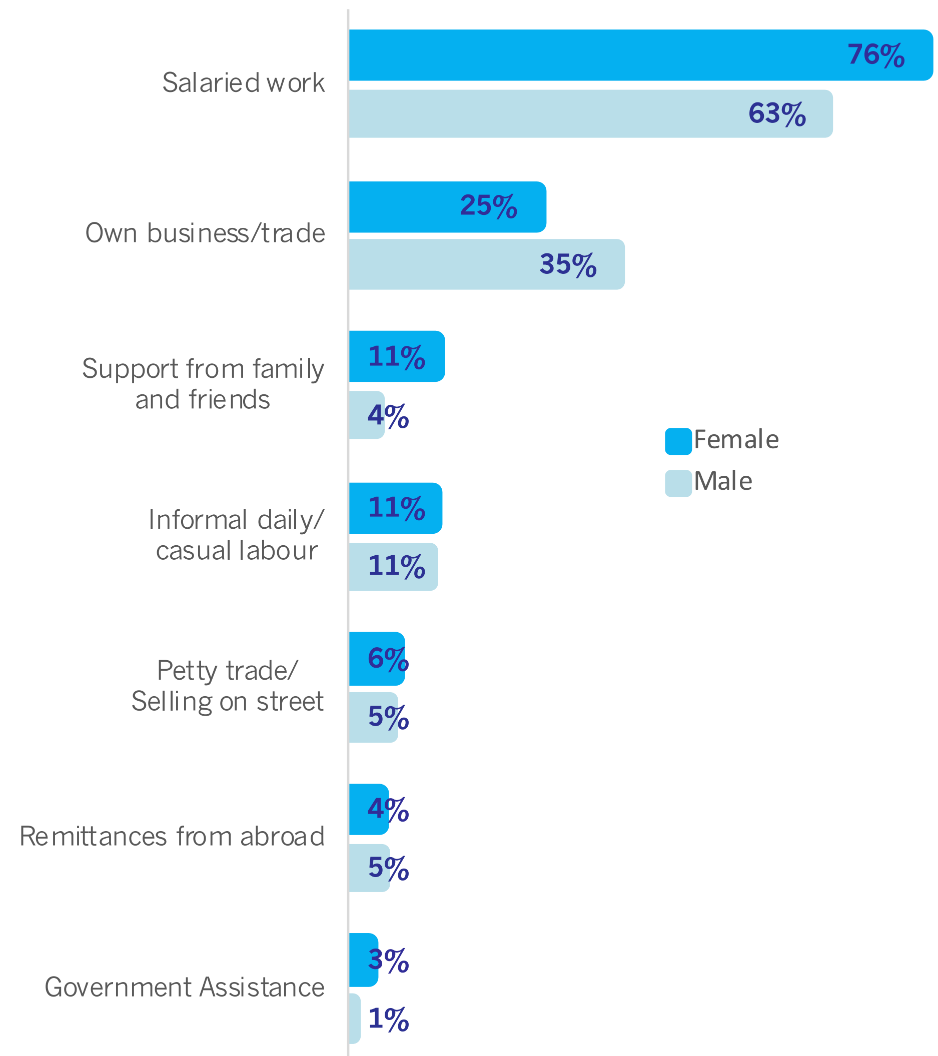


Main household income sources

Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source/s for their household. Disaggregated analysis will only be provided for salaried workers and those with their own business/trade due to sufficient responses in these categories.

Main income source

Multiple choices could be selected.



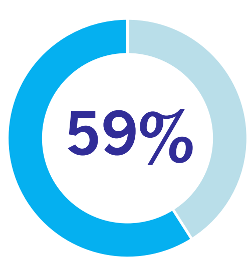
IMPACT ON MARKETS

COVID-19 has impacted how people purchase goods. In the two weeks prior to the survey, 59% of respondents faced a time when they were not able to access markets, which is much higher than the regional average (37%). A higher percentage of respondents aged 26 – 40 reported this challenge compared to those aged 41 – 60. Movement restrictions to contain COVID-19 were the primary reason for all, though a higher percentage of women than men cited concerns about leaving the house due to outbreak and security concerns, while a higher percentage of men cited transport limitations.

People are altering how they shop, with 89% of respondents shifting their behaviours, mainly by buying larger quantities than usual. Very few respondents (2-3%) indicated that food, medicines or hygiene products are unviable, but the availability of fresh and staple foods was much lower than the regional survey averages.

Access to markets

Respondents indicated if there was a time they were not able to access the market during the time of the survey.

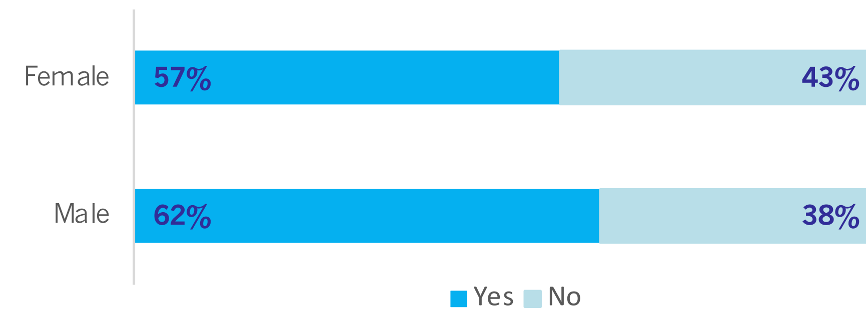


Reported a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days

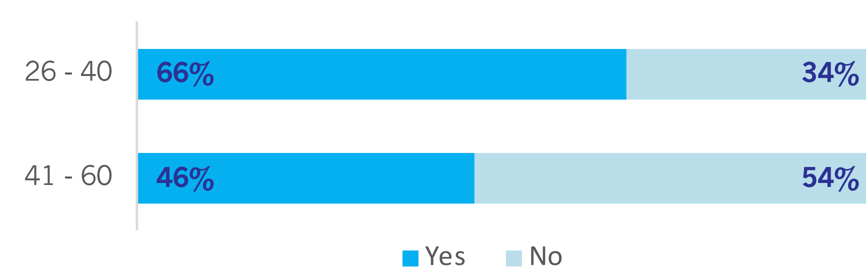
"It's difficult to shop as most of the supermarkets are very packed and now operating with severely reduced hours."

"Used online ordering introduced by some supermarkets to avoid the long lines and being out of the house for a long time"

In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets? | By sex



In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access markets? | By age

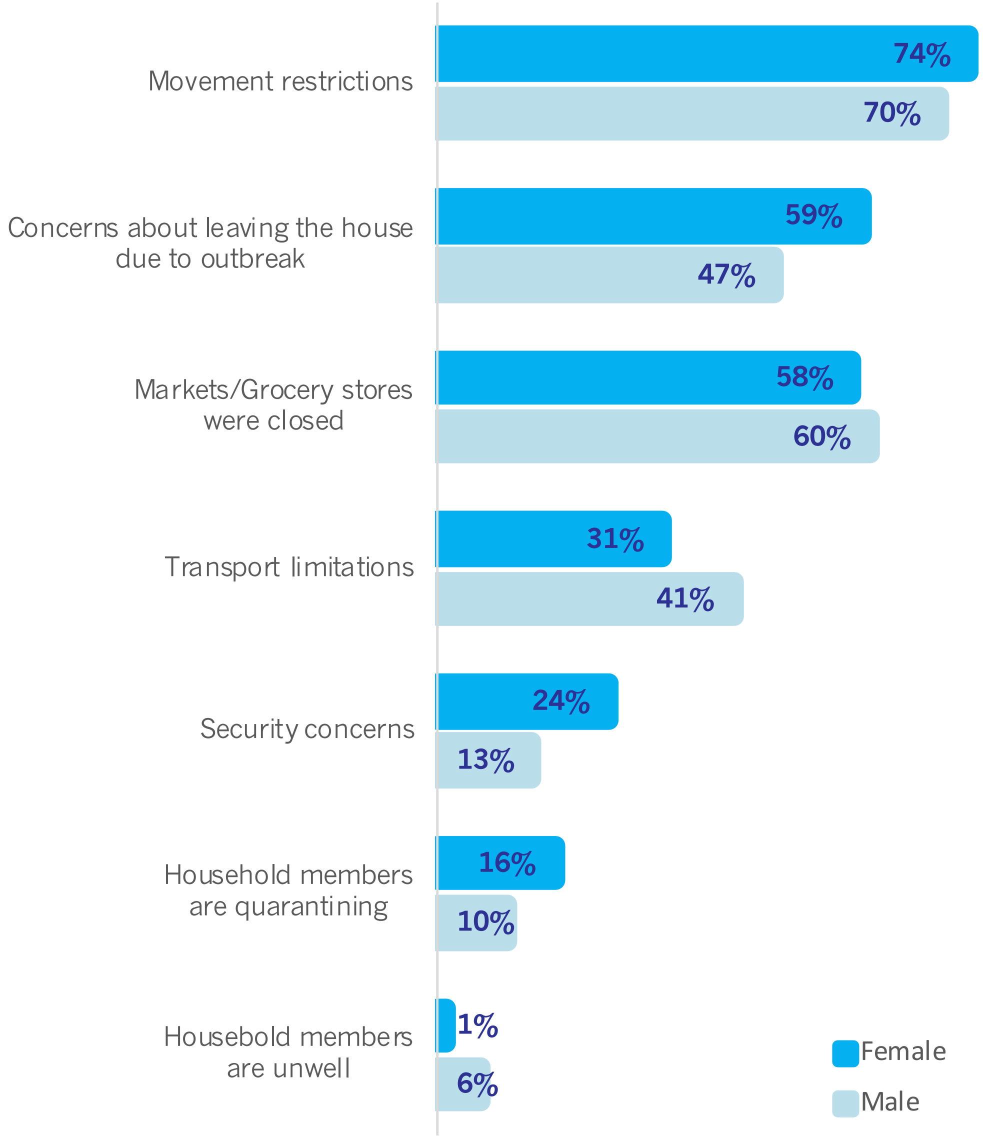


IMPACT ON MARKETS

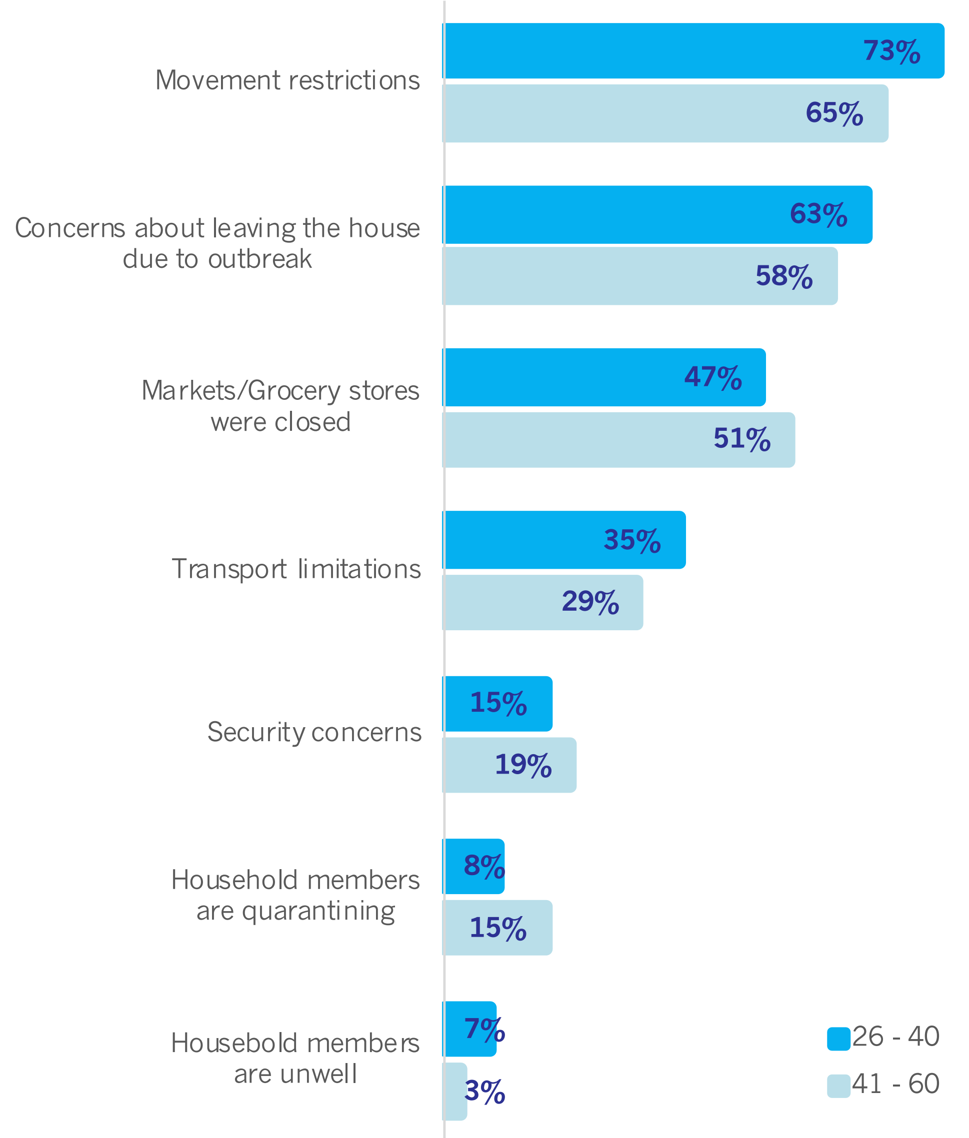
Access to markets

Respondents indicated the main reasons for not being able to access markets/grocery stores.

Reasons for market disruptions | By sex
Multiple choices could be selected.



Reasons for market disruptions | By age
Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

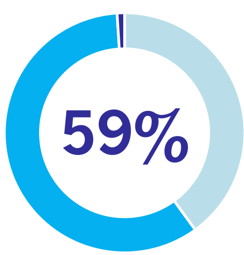
Availability of items in stores

Respondents reported on the availability of key items in stores.

	Staple Food	Fresh food	Hygiene	Medicines
Always Available	41%	49%	60%	39%
Partially/ sometimes available	46%	44%	32%	40%
Not available	2%	2%	3%	3%
Don't know	11%	5%	5%	18%

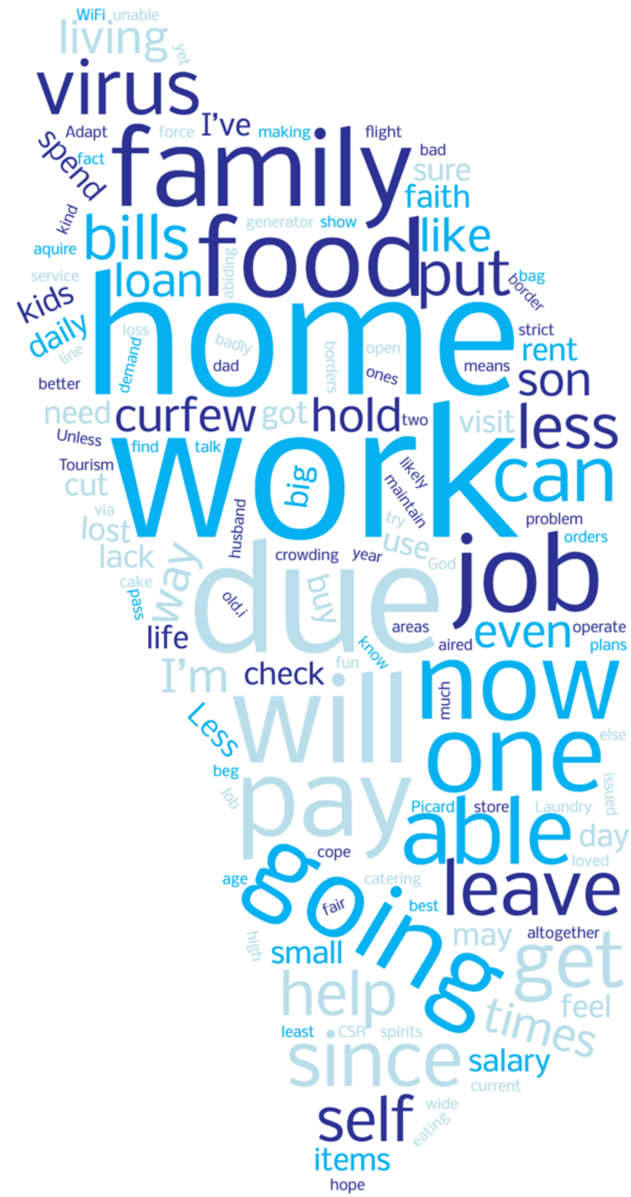
Food prices

Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices.



Observed an increase in food prices.
40% reported no change and
1% reported a decrease

> *"Working less hours a week. Limited access to supermarkets."*
>
> *"It's difficult to shop as most of the supermarkets are very packed and now operating with severely reduced hours."*

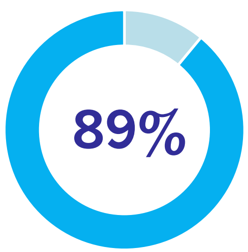


Key themes on how Dominicans are being impacted by and are adapting to disruptions from COVID-19 (from an open-ended survey question)

IMPACT ON MARKETS

Shopping behaviour

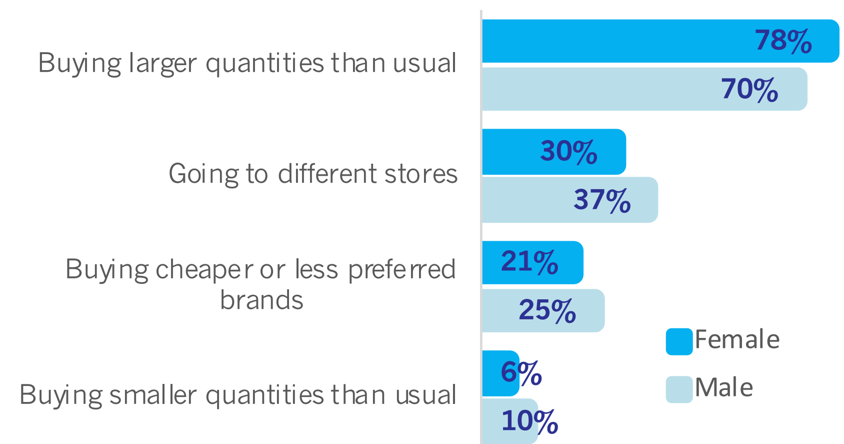
Respondents were asked whether and how they have altered their shopping behavior



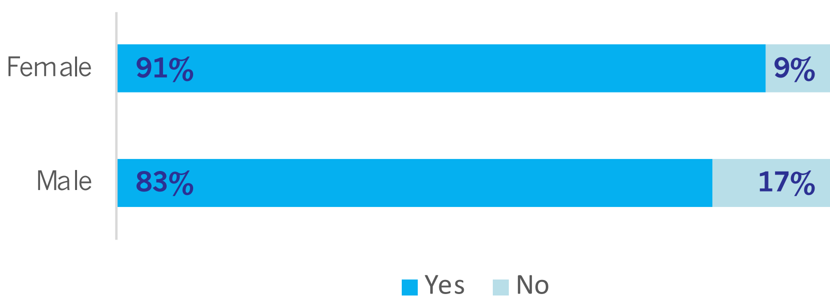
Changed their shopping behaviour

How respondents are changing their shopping behaviour | By sex

Multiple choices could be selected.



Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to usual? | By sex

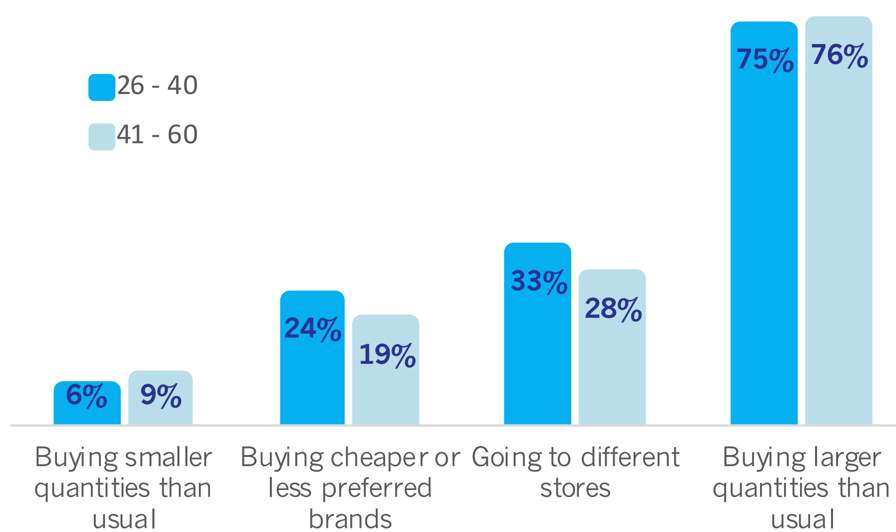


"Well adapting ok. Just the social distancing is the problem when going to the supermarkets or the drug stores. Because you can't be around the crowd when I have little ones at home."

"Too many lock-down and curfew. Not enough time to get food and no pay when we are not at work. So, food is scarce."

How respondents are changing their shopping behaviour | By age

Multiple choices could be selected.



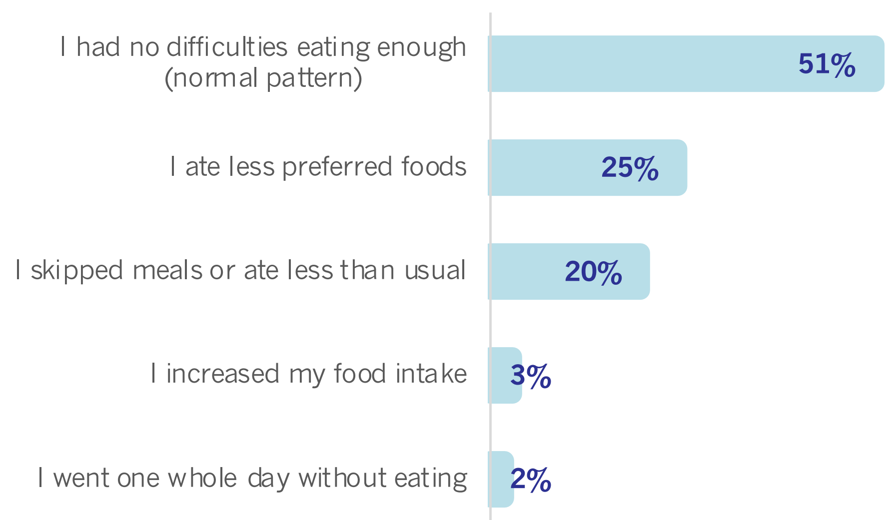
IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

Nearly half of the respondents reported eating less preferred foods or skipping meals/eating less, with 4% of respondents reportedly going one whole day without eating. While findings are consistent between men and women, there were slight variations between the two age groups. A slightly greater percentage of respondents in the 26 – 40 age group resorted to these compromises compared to those aged 41 – 60. Just over three-quarters of households have food stocks of more than one week, which was broadly consistent between both sexes and age groups.

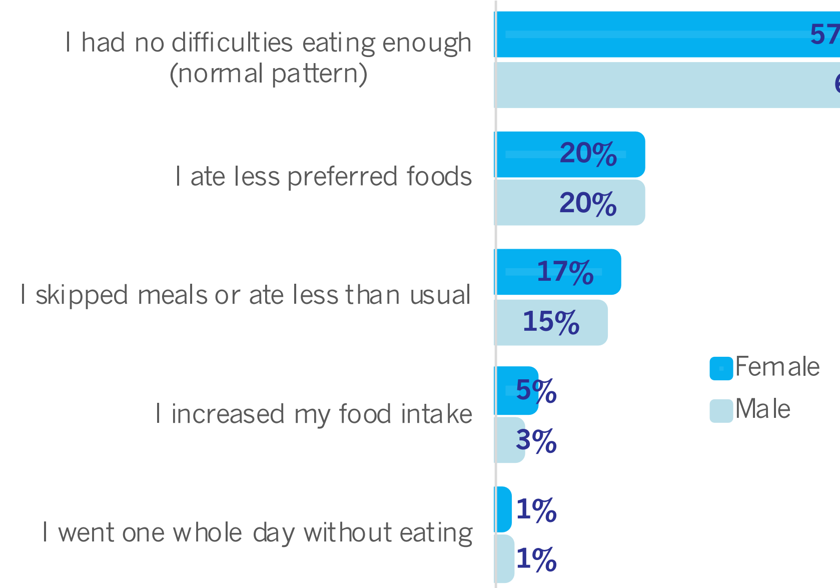
Food consumption

Respondents were asked to reflect on their food situation.

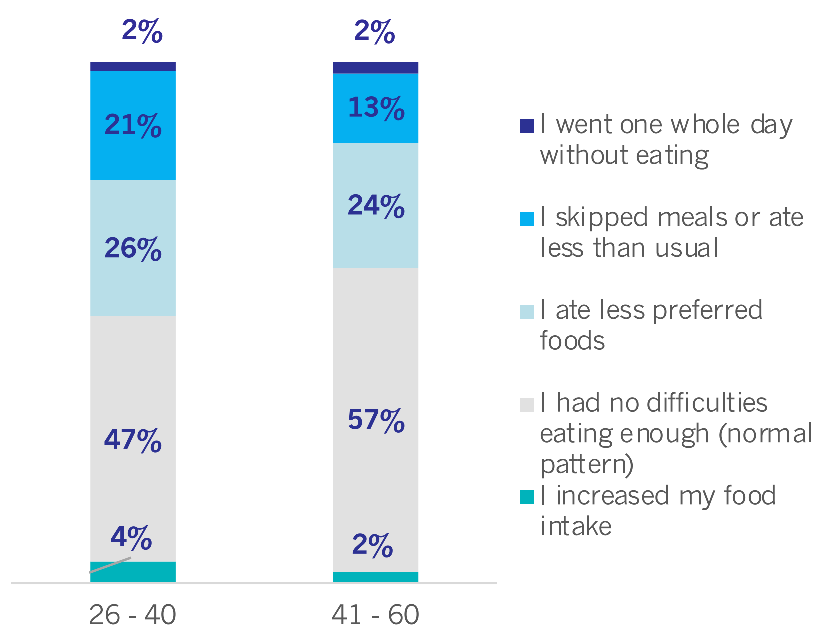
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?



Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days? | By sex



Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days? | By income source

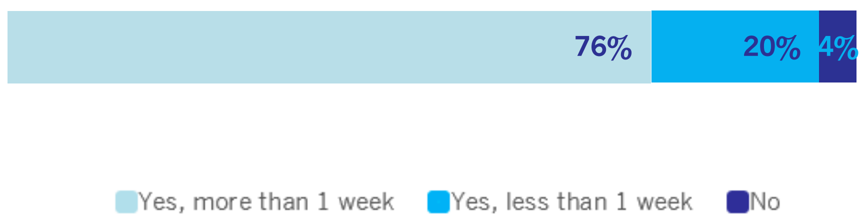


IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

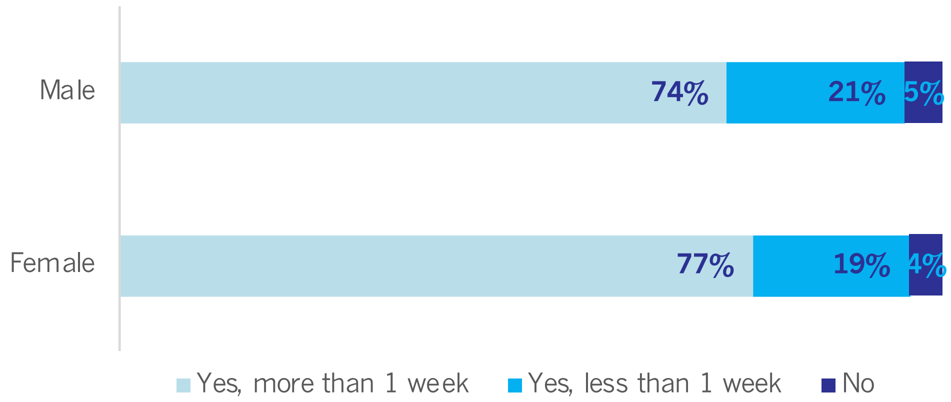
Food stocks

Respondents were asked to indicate the amount of available food stock for their household.

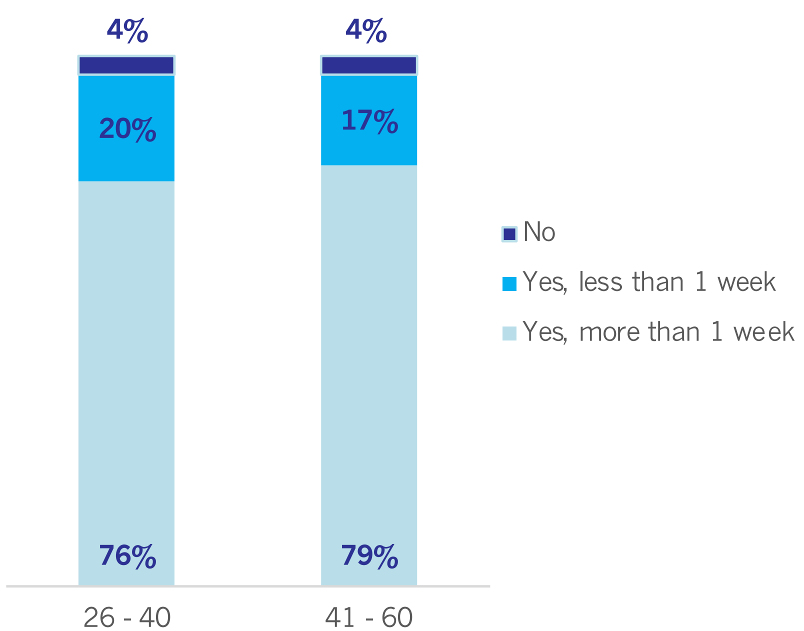
Does your household have any food stock?



Does your household have any food stock? | By sex



Does your household have any food stock? | By age



"I had to purchase two sets of groceries, one for home and the other for my mother as she has been taking care of my children due to the hours I am working."

"The baby is unaware of the situation and therefore is fed when hungry. Don't know if his stock will last."

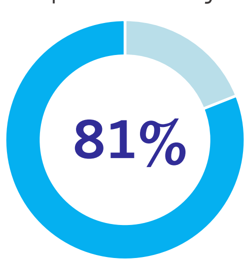
"i am low on food supplies for my family."

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods are being widely disrupted by the pandemic, with 81% of respondents indicating that their ability to carry out livelihoods was affected in the last two weeks, primarily owing to movement restrictions. The results from Dominica were the highest reported among the countries and territories surveyed. While the main reasons are largely consistent between men and women, a higher percentage of men cited transport limitations. A larger percentage of salaried workers also cited transport limitations compared to business-owners, who more commonly faced reduced demand. Incomes are being impacted, with 58% indicating job loss or reduced salaries. This was reported by a slightly higher percentage of women and respondents aged 26 – 40. A greater percentage of business-owners (70%) reported income losses compared to salaried workers (53%). The vast majority of respondents predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future.

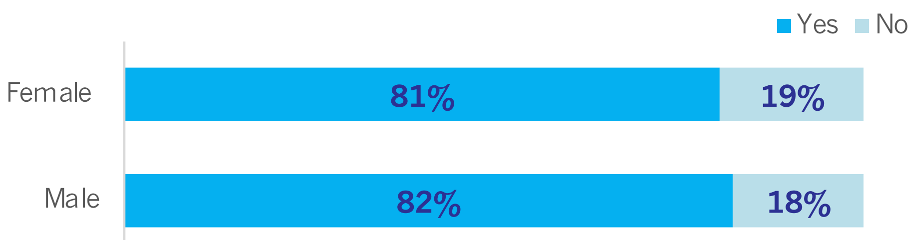
Disruptions to livelihoods

Respondents reported on any disruptions to their livelihoods.



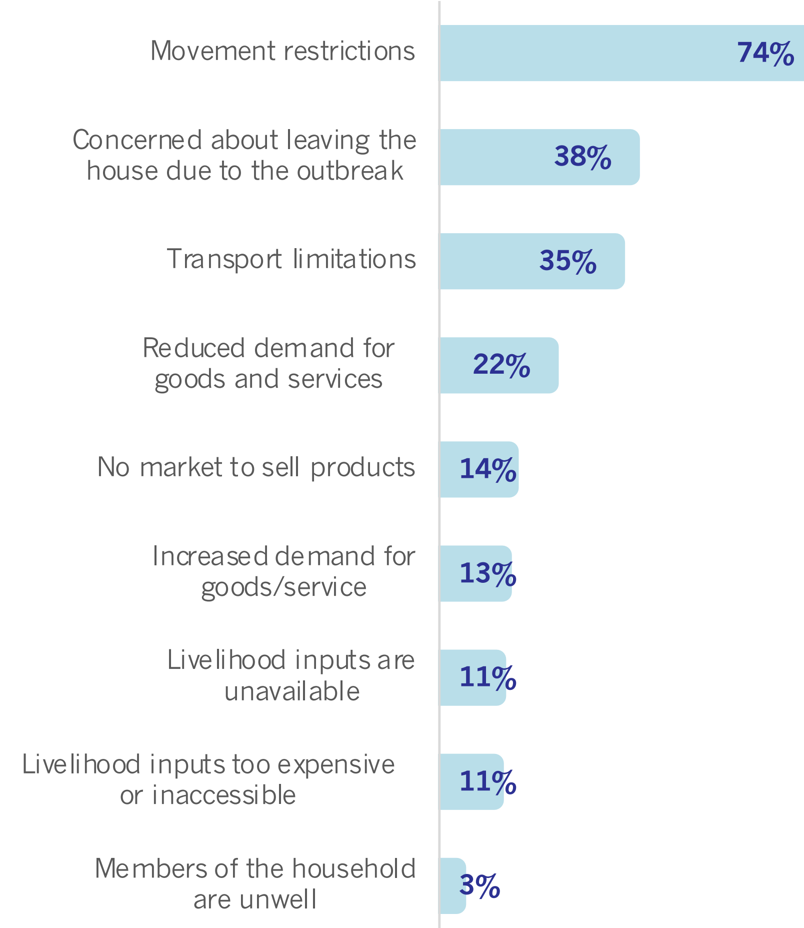
Experienced disruptions to their livelihoods activities in the past two weeks

Was your ability to carry out livelihoods activities affected in the past two weeks?



What were the main reasons for disruptions to your livelihood activities?

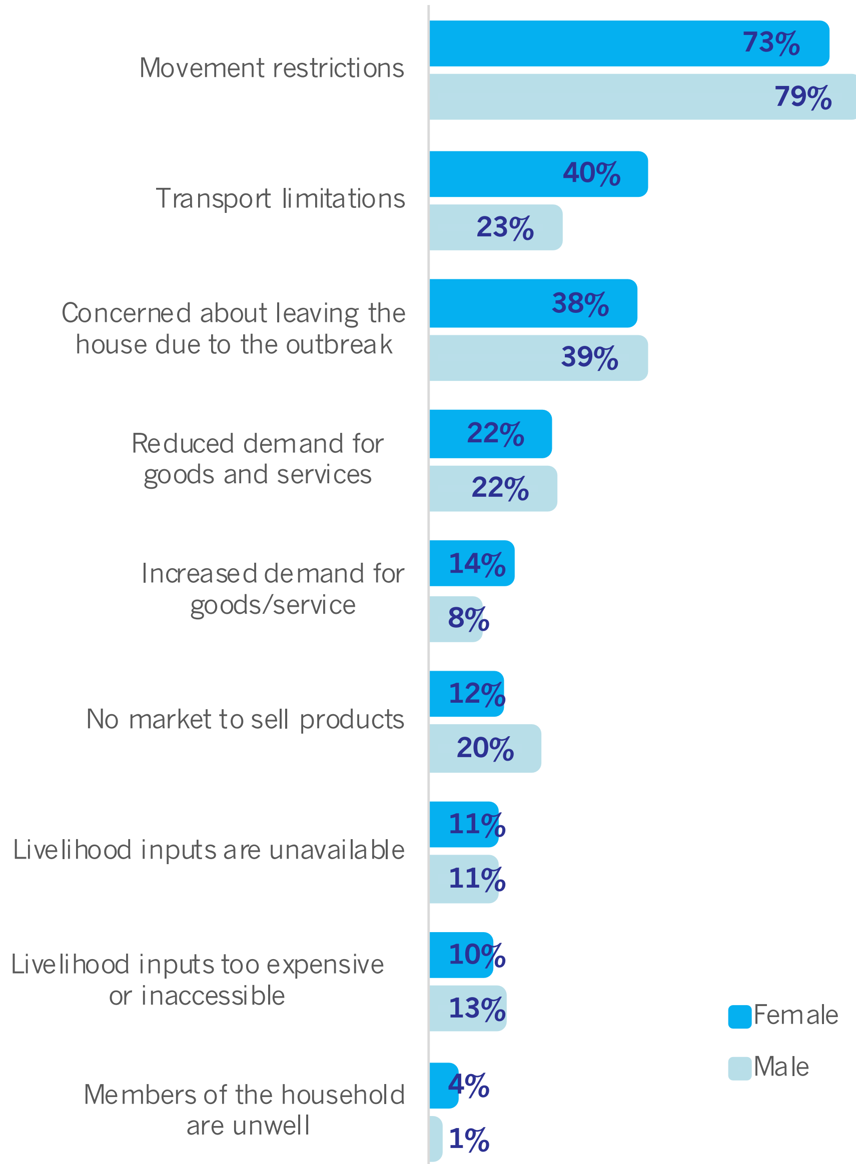
Multiple choices could be selected.



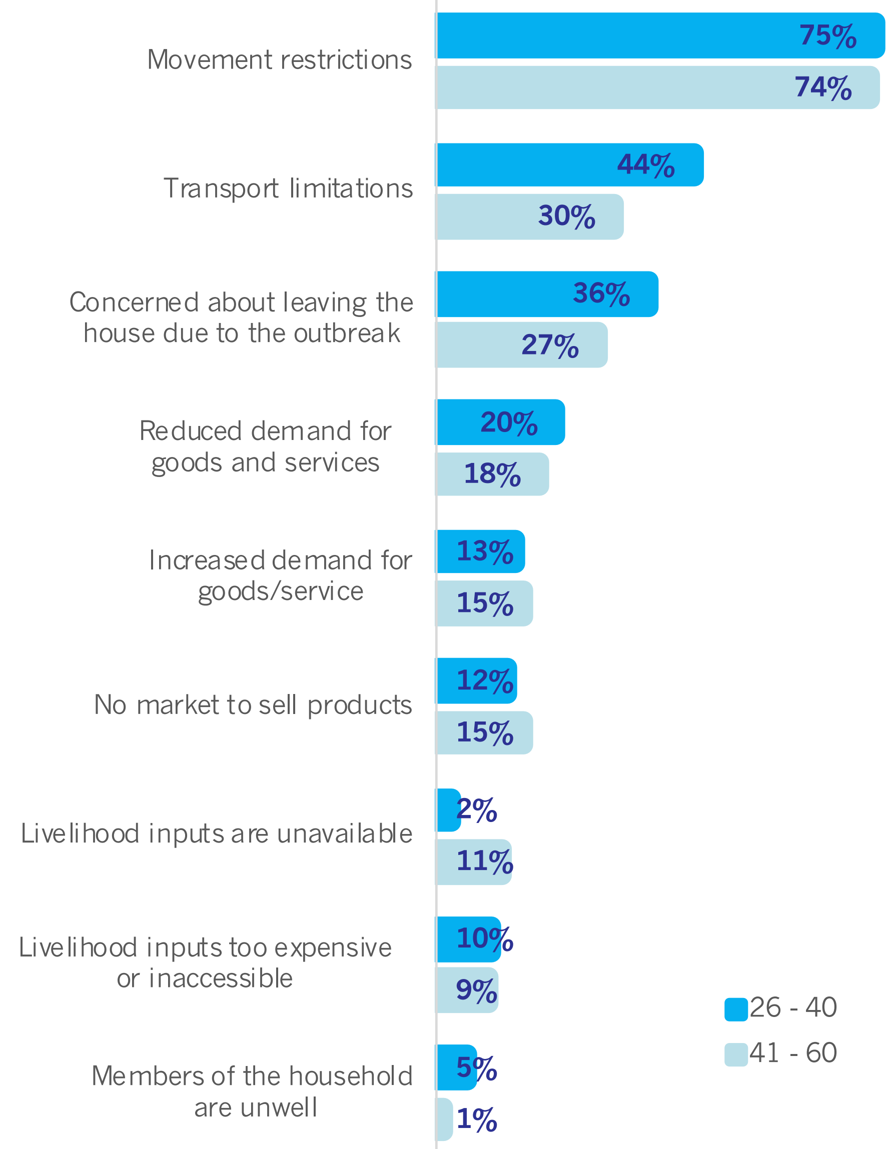
"Self-isolation and quarantine restrictions are keeping us from marketing ready and now rotting vegetables and herbs. A few neighbours are buying or bartering. Working with others to establish more accessible location for picking up orders. Meanwhile planting, with one eye on coming dry season...."

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

What were the main reasons for disruptions to your livelihood activities? | By sex
Multiple choices could be selected.

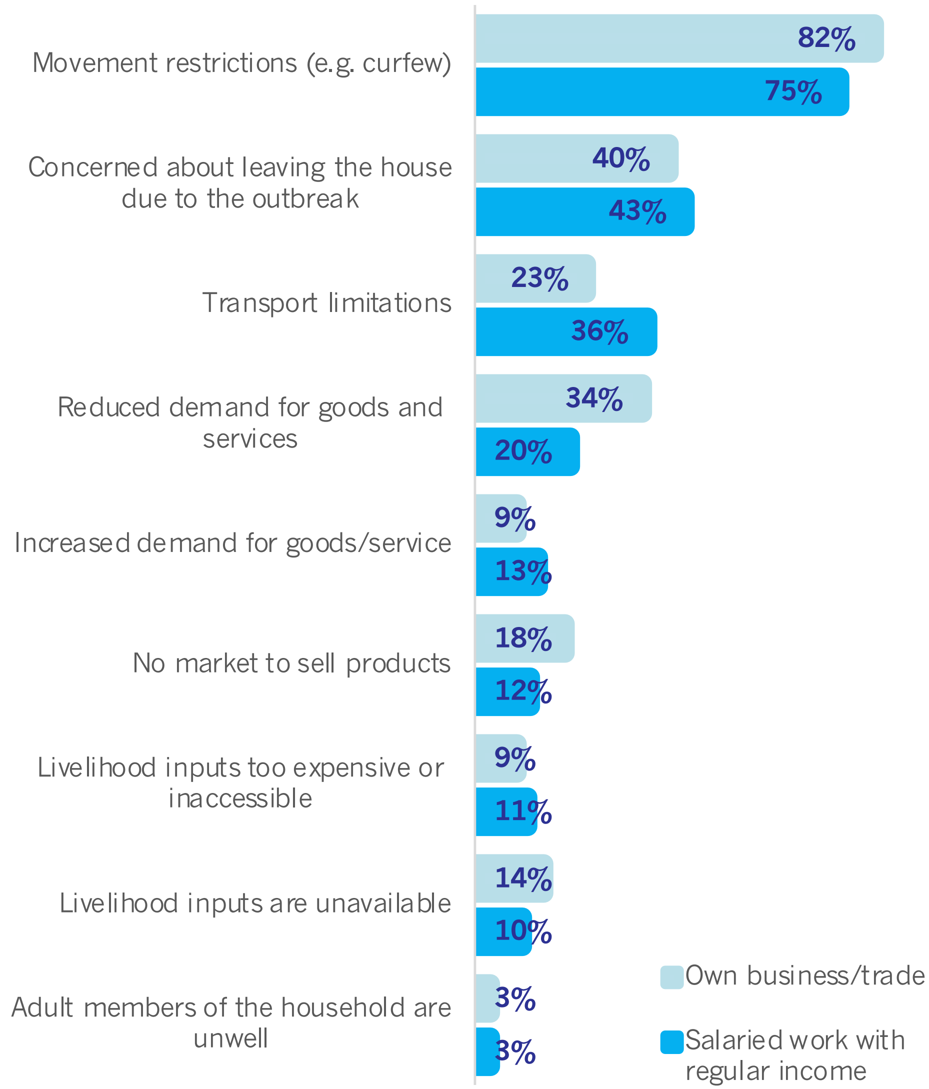


What were the main reasons for disruptions to your livelihood activities? | By age
Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

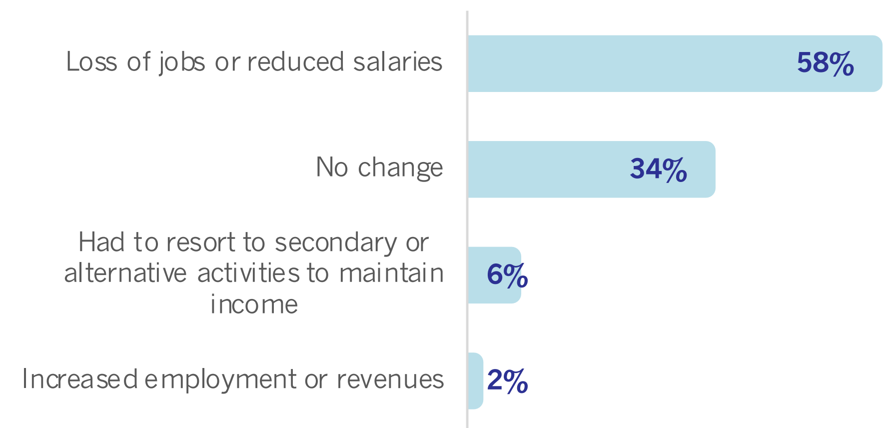
What were the main reasons for disruptions to your livelihood activities? By income groups
Multiple choices could be selected.



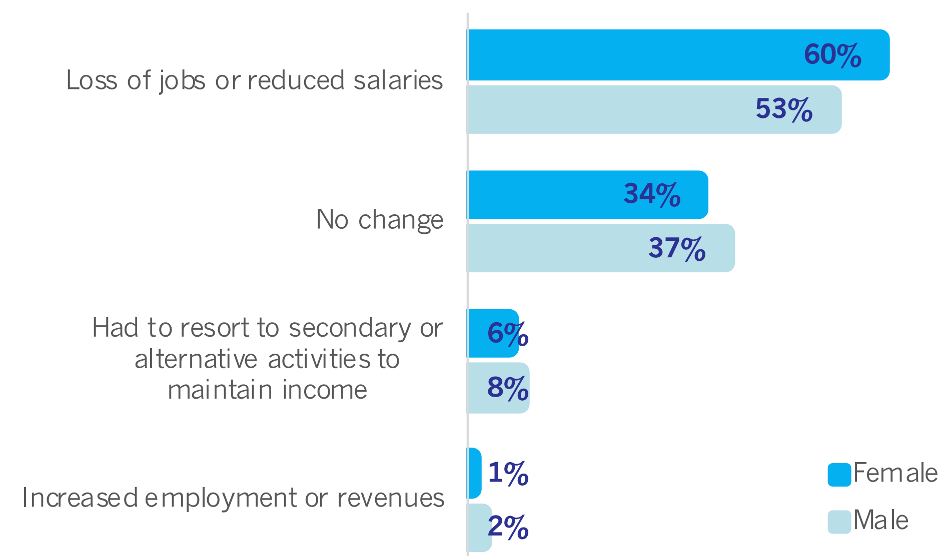
Income changes

Respondents communicated changes to their income in the past two weeks.

Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks?

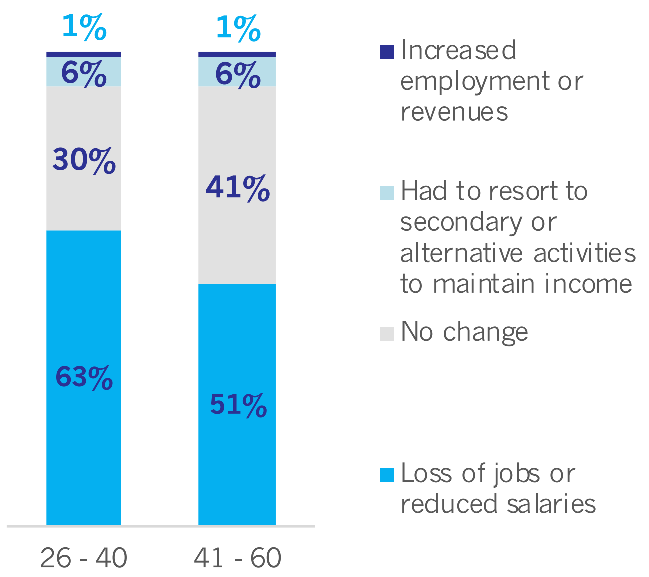


Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks? | By sex

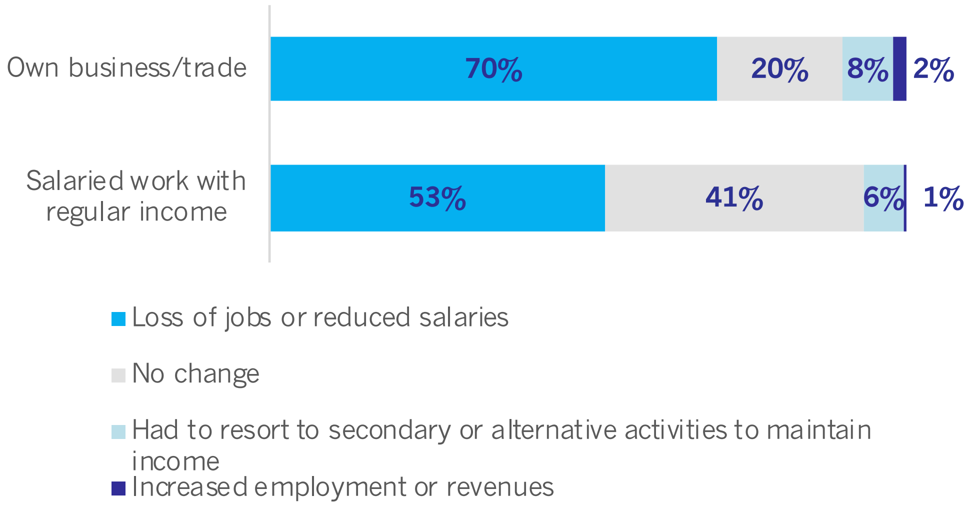


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks? | By age



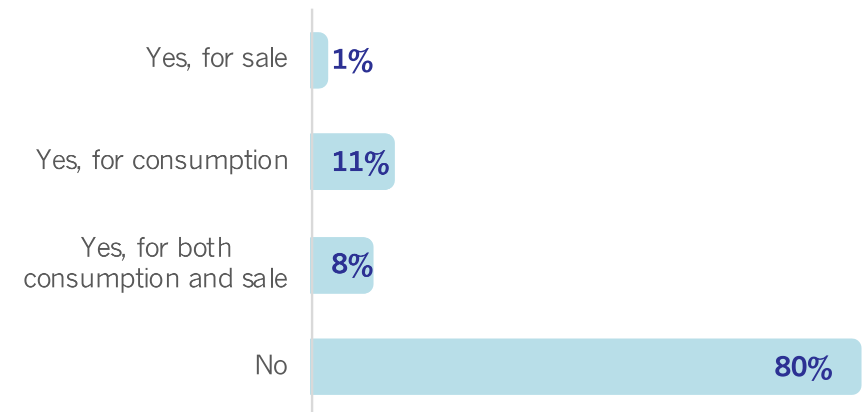
Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks? | By income source



Households engaged in farming/fishing

Agriculture is an important component of the economy and source of livelihoods in Dominica. The sector sustained heavy losses from Hurricane Maria. Given the limited number of survey respondents engaged in farming (especially for sale) and fishing/coastal activities, more assessment and analysis on their constraints will be important to gauge how farmers and fisherfolk are being impacted by COVID-19.

Households engaged in fisheries or food production/animal husbandry



"I am a fisherman and this covid19 has my fishing disrupted ...because of the curfew plus transportation is really a problem these days people don't want to give you a lift."

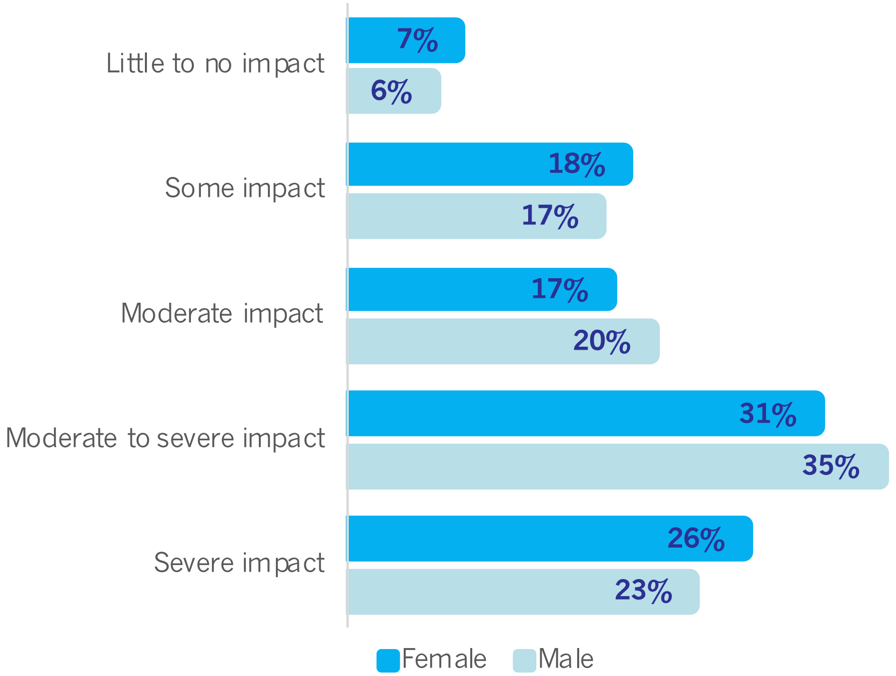
"Reduced sales of vegetable crops have resulted in crops being left in the field. Given that production of the crops is a family effort, my wife and children are beginning to show signs of demotivation and are reluctant to replant."

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Future livelihood impacts

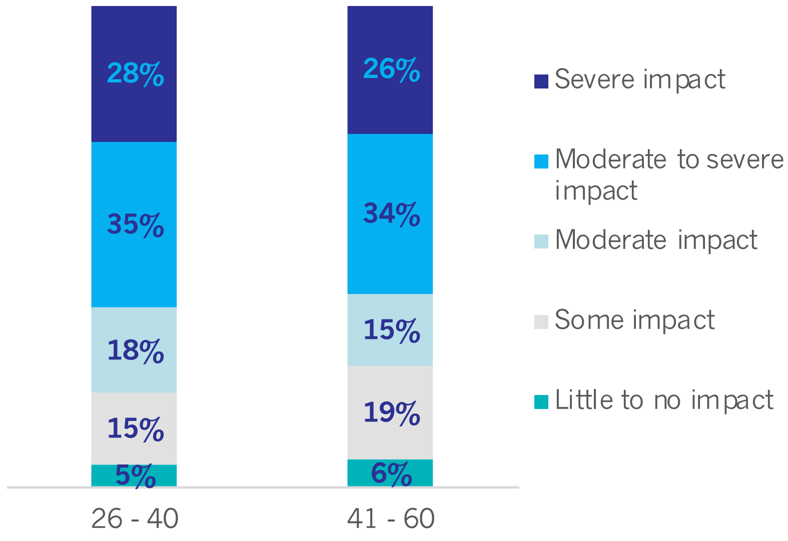
Respondents were asked to look ahead and predict the level of impact to their livelihoods as a result of disruptions from COVID-19.

How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19? | By sex

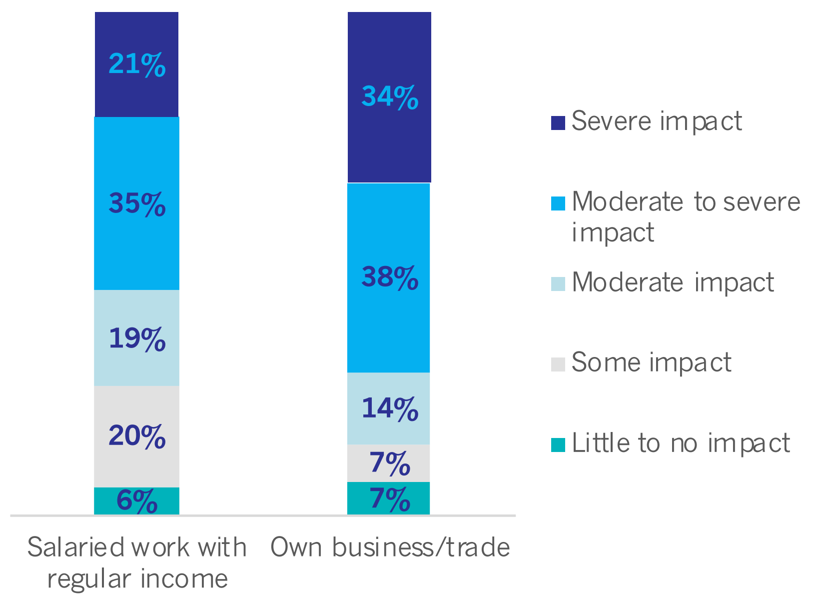


"I have been out of work for the past 2 weeks... I'm a single mother and I'm not sure how my bills are going to be paid. Let's hope this gets under control and some sort of normalcy will be regained."

Looking ahead, how do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as result of disruptions from COVID-19? | By age



Looking ahead, how do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as result of disruptions from COVID-19? | By income groups

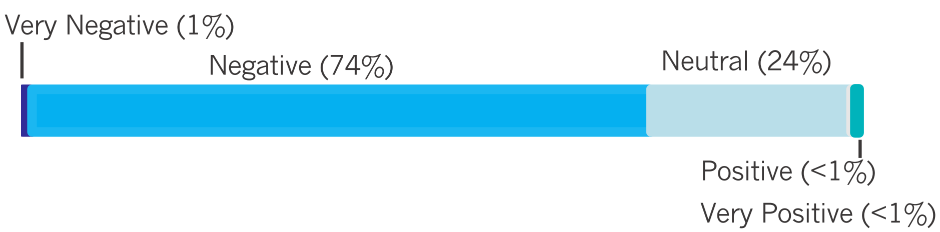


HOW PEOPLE ARE COPING AND ADAPTING

Respondents were provided space to give fuller and more nuanced insights on how they have been affected by disruptions from COVID-19 and how they are adapting. Out of the 532 respondents, (46%) responded to the open-ended question, resulting in a total count of over 1,766 words.

An analysis of the responses by WFP Caribbean, in collaboration with Google's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Unit, was able to swiftly categorise and interpret the degree of positive and negative emotions within the responses using machine learning.

Distribution of sentiments across open-ended survey responses



Of the responses, 74% were classified as being negative with 24% classified as neutral. Dominicans who participated in the survey expressed concerns over losing their jobs, many as a result of disruptions in the tourism sector and cancellations in their own business. Respondents that reported a loss of job and reduced income are feeling anxiety and stress about ability to manage loan repayments, bills and rent. Some report that conditions at home are under strain owing to an increase in caretaking duties for elderly persons and children.

Very negative (1%)

"Affected greatly. I am a frontline worker (nurse) and my husband is unemployed since he works in the Tourism industry as a tour guide. My salary is the only form of income to support my family at home and my elderly parents since COVID-19."

Negative (74%)

"Our household is making less money due to persons losing their jobs. It's a strain on the ones who are still employed ….spending less in an effort to save money to pay loans since moratorium for loan repayments were not given."

"I've cut back on my meals so I can feed my son and handicap mom properly. Also cut salary is causing me to be in debt; rent and hire purchase account is falling behind."

Neutral (24%)

"Information not easily obtained in my country......more collaboration need in the media field…"

"Increased attention to kids at home. Had to spend significant time with them and their remote classroom activity. This is all new for the schools. Maybe standardization on google classroom would help."

Positive (<1%)

"Leaning on the proper information sources and trying daily to innovate"

"Self sustenance has been a goal for our family and by extension our village. Most of what we eat is produced ourselves, and we believe that everyone should turn to some kind of farming."

Very Positive (<1%)

"We have been coping quite well with minimum disruption. Lots of time to relax at home. Also reading, watching TV and looking up lots of information on line."

CONCLUSION

This report contributes to a better picture of how COVID-19 is impacting livelihoods, food security and access to markets in Dominica. While the trends are largely consistent with what was observed at the regional level, some impacts appear more widespread or severe in Dominica, most notably on livelihoods. Of the 11 countries/territories with sufficient responses for individual analysis, Dominica has the highest percentage of respondents reporting disruptions to livelihoods, the second highest for loss of jobs or reduced salaries, and the second most negative outlook on future livelihood impacts.

With some people reducing their consumption or skipping meals, impacts to food availability and consumption need to be addressed before they worsen. As noted in the regional survey report, local production should be galvanized to meet future demands and trade and supply chains must remain open, as outlined in the CARICOM COVID-19 Agri-Food Response and Mitigation Framework Document. Financial assistance and other resources to vulnerable populations should be expanded along the lines of plans and actions already underway in many countries in the Caribbean, in order to mitigate the economic impacts at the household level.

While there are not significant differences in how women and men reported being impacted, more women may be experiencing negative income impacts. More in-depth assessment and analysis on the wide-ranging economic and social impacts of COVID-19 will be critical to further inform responses in Dominica.

More responses from the survey

“Adapting fairly well. I understand what is happening… made the necessary adjustments to ensure that my family and I have the basic necessities to live comfortably for at least a month with little to no wastage”

“Sale for vegetables was very poor.I had to put workers on a shorter week.”

“I am out of work and the little I had I use for getting supplies and pharmaceuticals.”

“It brought me close my children. But I. Know true value of home and work and how too deal with.”

“Inability to work, child can’t go to school. Unable to leave my village because of fear of catching the virus”

“Strain on mental health”

“Staying clear of the news”

“I offer traditional therapies and my income is and will be greatly affected and I am not sure how things will turn out”

“Too much dependence on supermarket imported processed foodstuffs.”

“Lack of cottage processing and storage (dry and cold) facilities for locally produced foodstuffs.”

“Scarcity of essential fruits and vegetables.”

“Poor dissemination of information leading to overall anxiety levels of population”

“Travel plans have been affected but we're staying positive. Farming keeps us occupied at least.”

ANNEX. REGIONAL SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

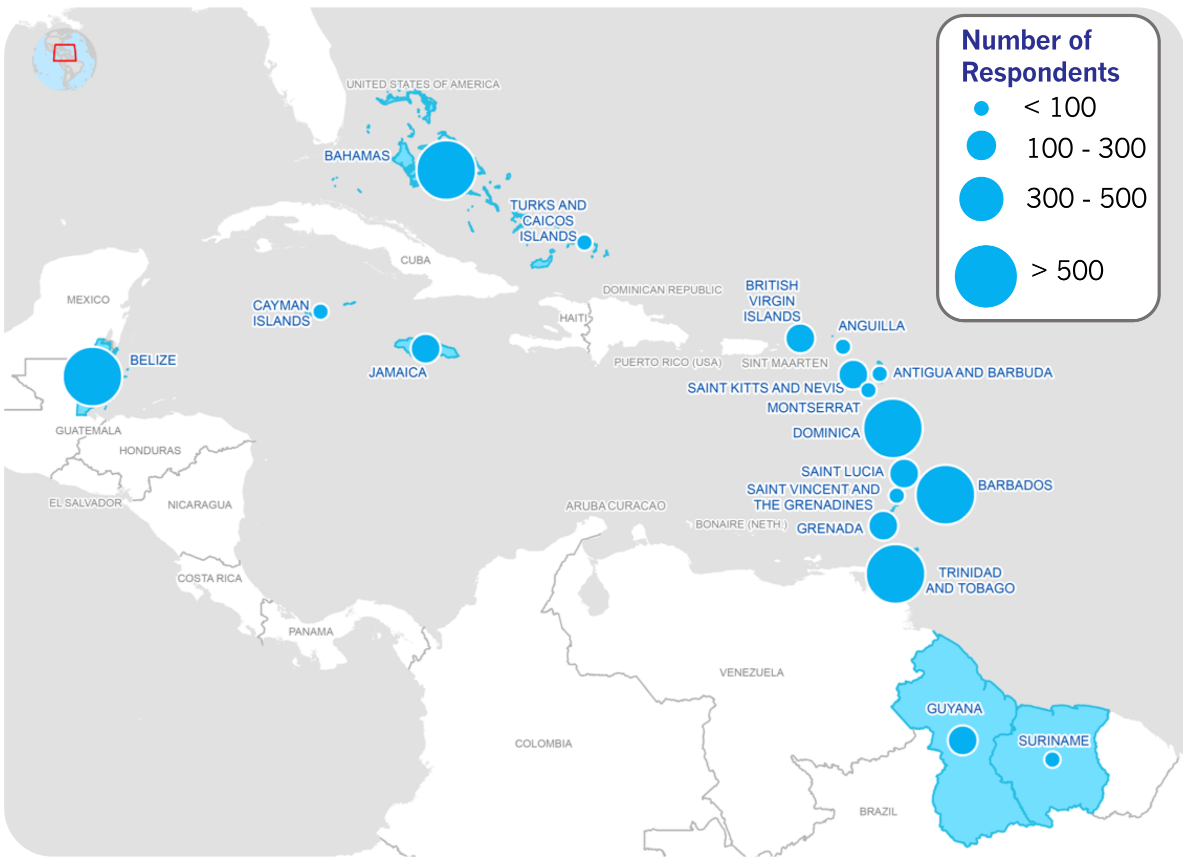
The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets. Prepared by the World Food Programme with support from the Food and Agriculture Organization, the survey link was shared via social media, email and media. This summary analyses data collected from 1-12 April 2020.

4,537 Respondents

19 Countries & Territories

69 | 29% Female | Male

42 Average age



At a glance

- COVID-19 has caused widespread disruption to livelihoods, driven primarily by movement restrictions and concerns about leaving the house.
- Half of respondents have faced a change in income, owing mainly to job loss or reduced revenue/salary. People owning businesses or engaged in casual labour or petty trade appear most impacted.
- Most respondents were able to access markets in the previous seven days but with substantial variations across the region. Those unable to do so cited movement restrictions, store closures and concerns about leaving the house.
- Availability of food, hygiene items and medicines appears to be less than normal, but very few respondents indicated that items were unavailable.
- People are changing how they shop, with most respondents purchasing larger quantities.
- Most respondents are not having difficulty eating enough, but some are eating less preferred foods.
- At the regional level, trends were broadly consistent between male and female respondents, though further country-level analysis may reveal greater gender differences.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not representative, and the use of a web-based questionnaire limits inputs from those without connectivity.

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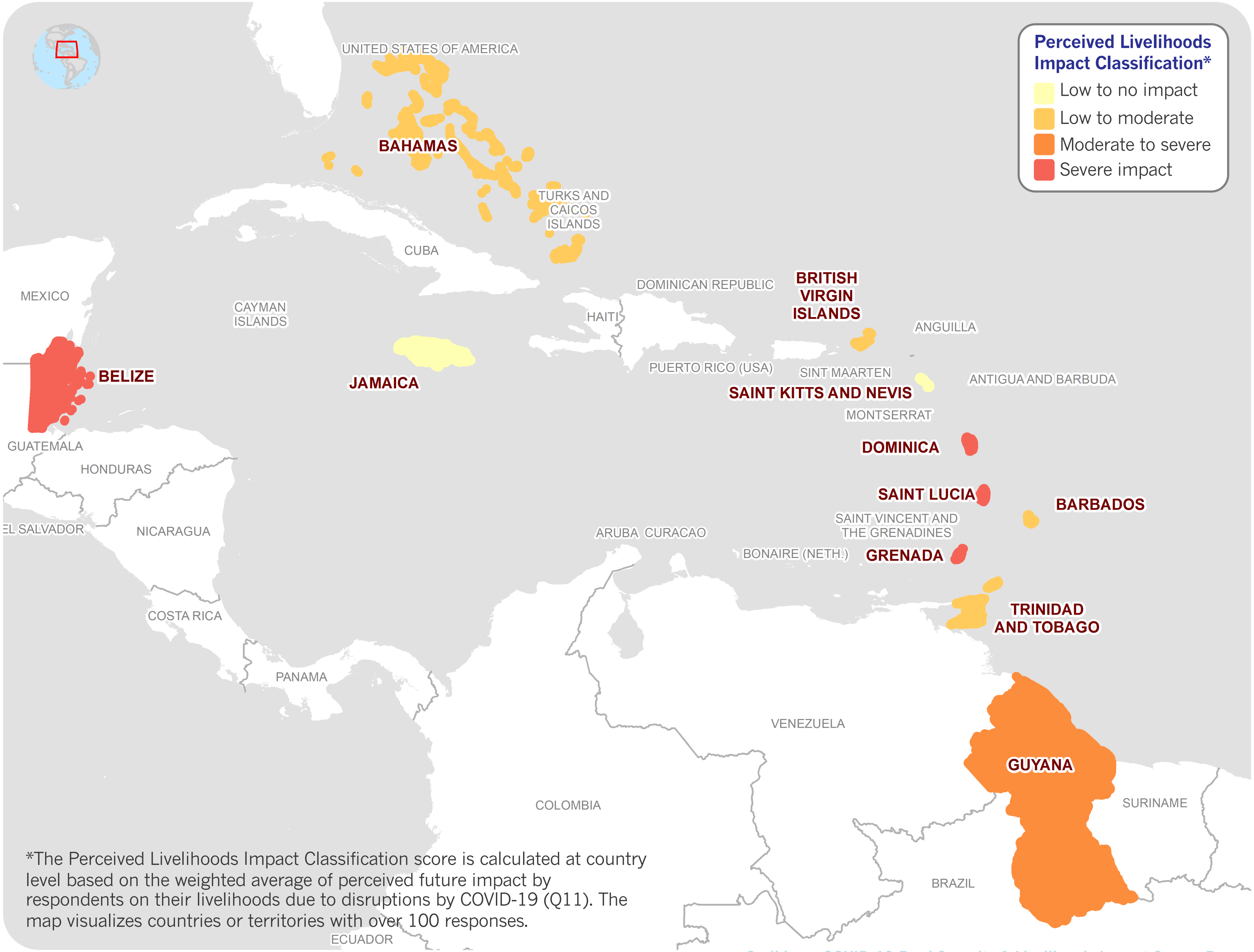
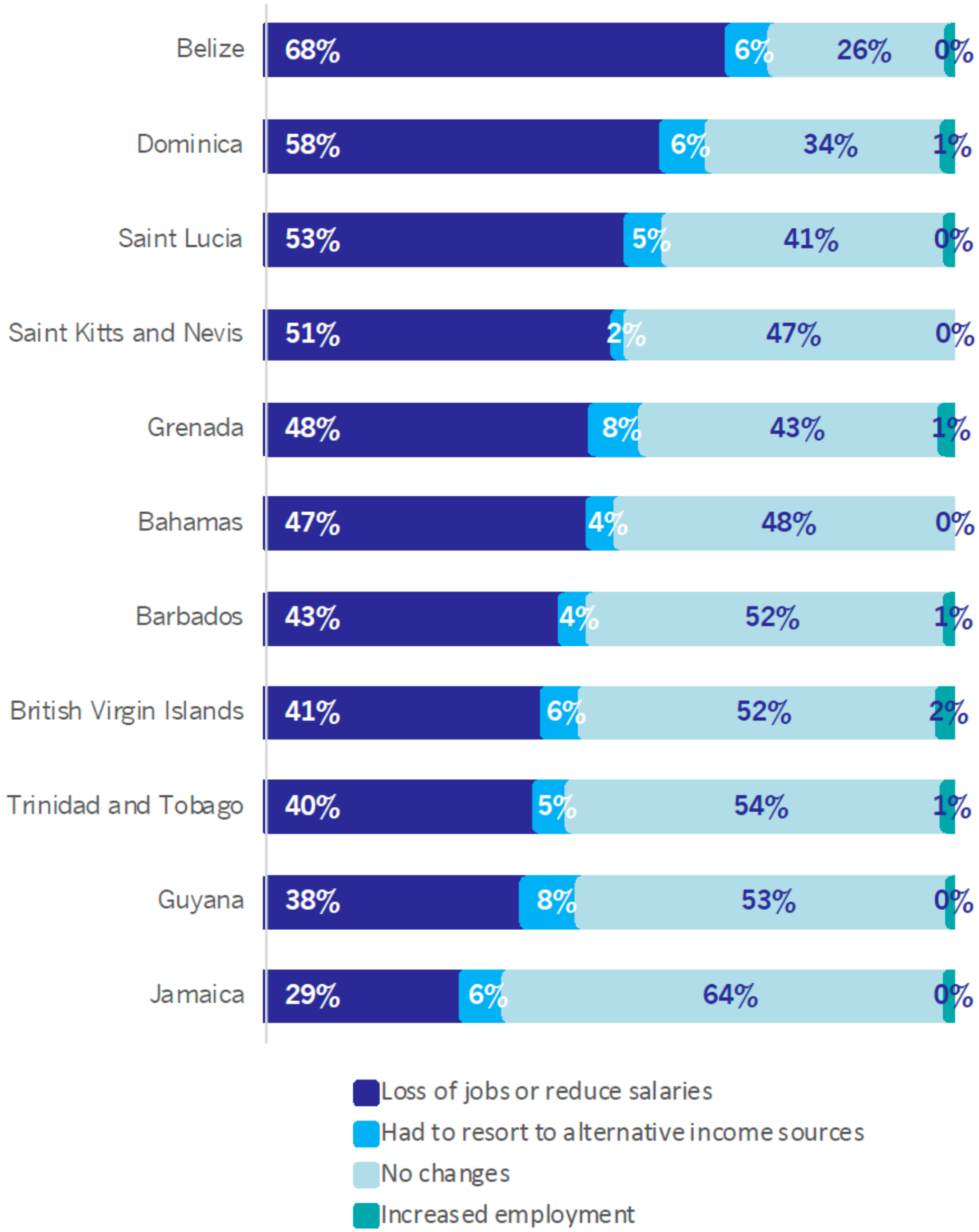
ANNEX. PERCEIVED LIVELIHOODS IMPACT IN THE CARIBBEAN



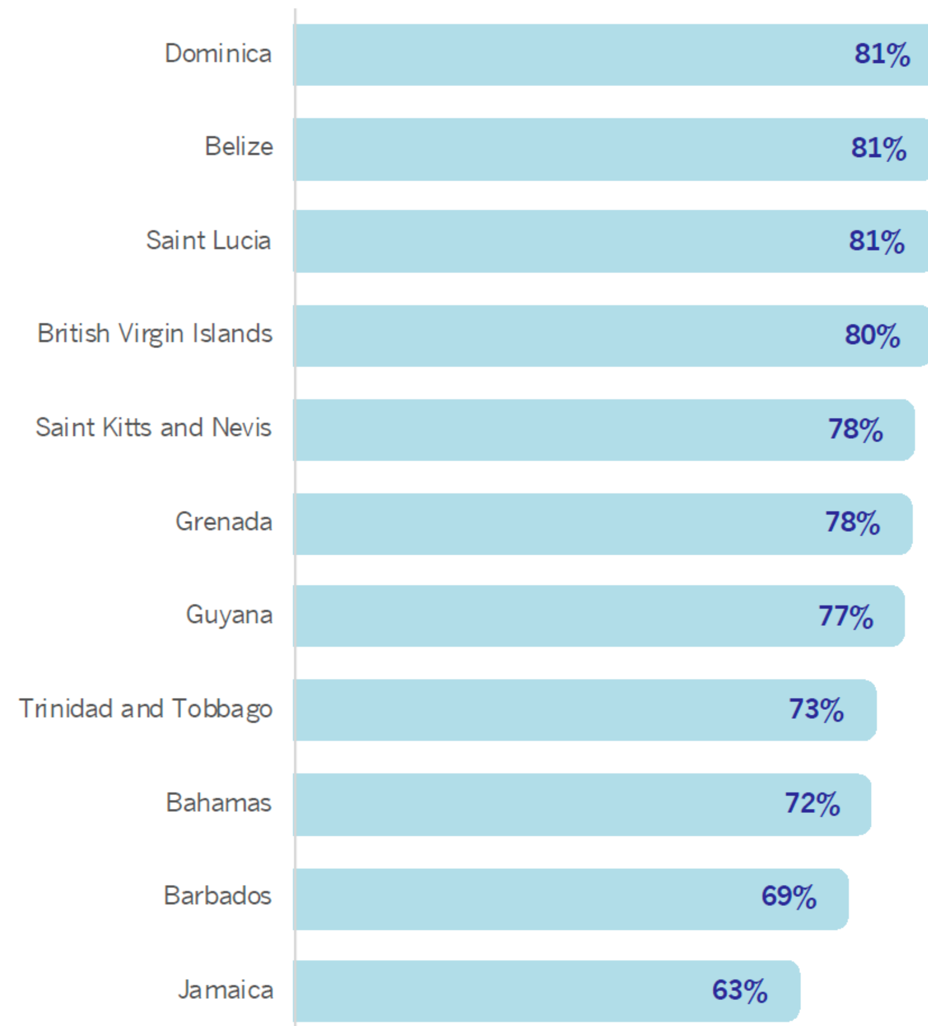
*The Perceived Livelihoods Impact Classification score is calculated at country level based on the weighted average of perceived future impact by respondents on their livelihoods due to disruptions by COVID-19 (Q11). The map visualizes countries or territories with over 100 responses.

ANNEX. DETAILED FIGURES FOR COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES (WITH >100 RESPONSES)

Income changes



% reporting disruptions to livelihoods



ANNEX 5. METHODOLOGY

The survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphone and PC/desktop. The data collection period was inclusive of 1-12 April 2020.

The survey was circulated widely via email, social media, media and other communication channels by participating ministries including (but not limited to) Ministries of Agriculture, Social Protection, National Disaster Management Organizations, UN agencies and NGO partners.

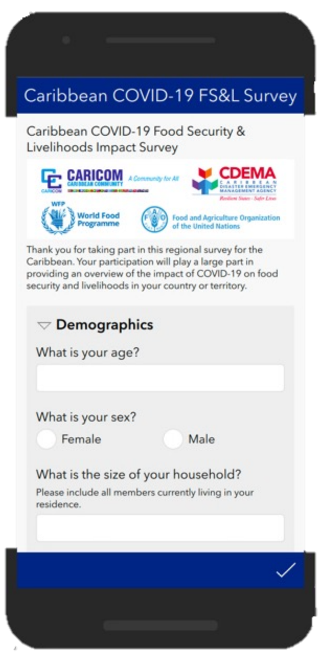
Responses were visualised live on an interactive dashboard and continually monitored to ensure their legitimacy based on cross referencing with prior knowledge and secondary data. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against intentional or unintentional outliers.

WFP Caribbean performed the data collection, monitoring and analysis. Data was analysed according to age groups and sex where there are sufficient responses (100+).

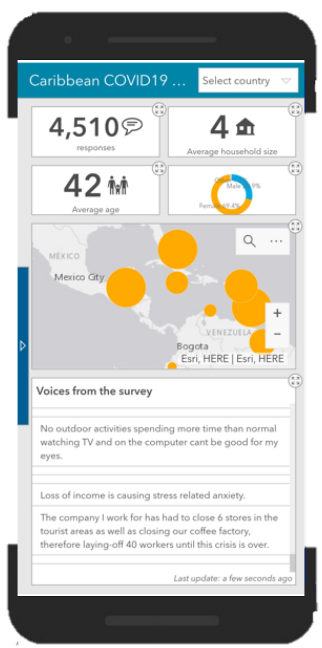
The qualitative analysis was performed in collaboration with Joseph Xu from Google's AI unit using Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP, a branch of AI which analyses and interprets human languages, provided: (a) a sentiment analysis to determine the number of positive versus negative responses and (b) auto-categorisation of the responses. To moderate the non-representative nature of the data, the analysis team further refined the classifications presented by the algorithms.

National level reports are only produced for countries and territories with 100+ responses. Reports are prepared by WFP Caribbean: Amy Chong, Sarah Bailey, Elisaveta Gouretskaia, Nicholas Grainger, and Francesca Ciardi.

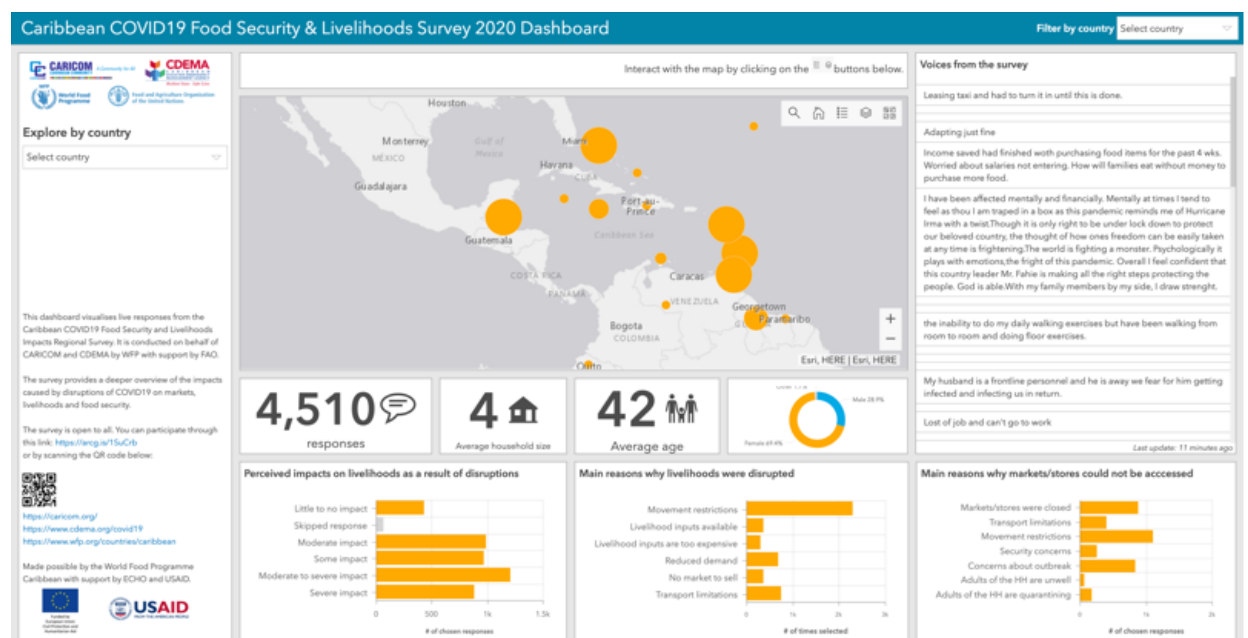
Survey (Closed)
http://arcg.is/1SuCrb



Dashboard for smartphones
https://arcg.is/izn5H



Dashboard for PC/laptop http://arcg.is/Ca8X0



ANNEX 6. QUESTIONNAIRE

Caribbean COVID-19 FS&L Survey

Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Thank you for taking part in this regional survey for the Caribbean. Your participation will play a large part in providing an overview of the impact of COVID-19 on food security and livelihoods in your country or territory.

Demographics

What is your age?

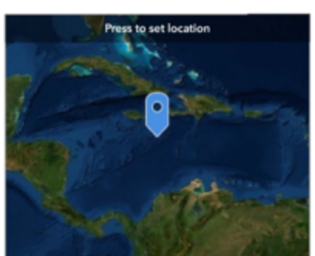
What is your sex?
- Female
- Male

What is the size of your household?
Please include all members currently living in your residence.

Which country do you live in?*

Location

Please click on the target icon on the map if you would like to provide a more accurate location.



Lat: 16.04150 Lon: -75.20324

Markets

1. In the past 7 days, has there been a time when you or your household could not access the markets/grocery stores?
- Yes
- No

What were the main reasons why you or your household could not access the markets/stores?
Please select all that apply.
- Markets/stores were closed
- Transport limitations
- Movement restrictions (eg. curfew)
- Security concerns
- Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak
- Adult members of the household are unwell
- Members of household are self quarantining
- Other

2. Are fresh food items (eg. eggs, meat, vegetables) currently available in markets/stores?
- Always available
- Partially/ sometimes available
- Not available
- Don't know

3. Are basic food items (eg. bread, rice) currently available in markets/stores?
- Always available
- Partially/ sometimes available
- Not available
- Don't know

4. Are hygiene items (eg. soap, detergent) currently available for purchase in markets/stores?
- Always available
- Partially/ sometimes available
- Not available
- Don't know

5. Are essential medicines available in clinics or pharmacies?
- Always available
- Partially/ sometimes available
- Not available
- Don't know

6. Has there been any changes in the costs of food items over the past 2 weeks?
- Food prices have increased
- Food prices have decreased
- No changes

7. Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to normal times?
- Yes
- No

How have you changed your shopping behaviour?
Please select all that apply.
- Buying larger quantities than usual
- Buying smaller quanitities than usual
- Buying cheaper or less preferred foods than usual
- Going to different stores

Livelihoods

8. Was your ability to carry out livelihoods activities affected in the past two weeks?
- Yes
- No

What were the main reasons for the disruptions to your livelihood activities?
Please select all that apply.
- Reduced demand for goods/services
- No market to sell products
- Transport limitations
- Movement restrictions (eg. curfew)
- Livelihoods inputs are unavailable
- Livelihoods inputs are too expensive or inaccessible
- Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak
- Adult members of the household are unwell
- Increased demand for goods/services
- Other

9. Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks?
- Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues
- Increased employment or increased salaries/revenues
- Resorted to secondary/alternative source of income to maintain income levels
- No change

10. What are your household's main income sources over the past year?
You may select up to 2 that apply.
- Salaried work with regular income
- Daily/casual labour
- Own business/trade
- Petty trade/selling on street
- Remittances from abroad
- Support from families and friends
- Government assistance/social safety nets
- Other

11. How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?
- Little to no impact
- Some impact
- Moderate impact
- Moderate to severe impact
- Severe impact

12. Is your household currently engaged in farming/livestock raising?
- Yes. For consumption
- Yes. For sale
- Yes. For both sale and consumption
- No

Please select all that apply.
- Rice
- Corn
- Vegetables
- Pulses
- Banana/Plantains
- Poultry
- Small ruminants (eg. sheep, goat)
- Large ruminants (eg. cattle)
- Swine
- Other

13. Is your household currently engaged in fishing/coastal activities?
- Yes. For consumption
- Yes. For sale
- Yes. For both sale and consumption
- No

Please select all that apply.
- Small scale aquaculture
- Inland fisheries
- Marine/coastal fisheries
- Processing of fish/fisheries products
- Fishing gear production
- Mangrove/beach activities (eg. shellfish harvesting)
- Other

Food Security

14. Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?
- I had no difficulties eating enough food (normal pattern)
- I ate less preferred foods
- I skipped meals or ate less than usual
- I went one whole day without eating
- I increased my food intake

15. Does your household have any food stock?
- Yes. Less than one week
- Yes. Less than 2 weeks
- Yes. Less than 3 weeks
- Yes. Less than 1 month
- Yes. More than 1 month
- No

General

Please provide any additional insights into how you have been affected by the disruptions from COVID19 and how you are adapting.
Do not provide any sensitive information.

1000

Thank you for your participation! Please hit the Submit button.
Individual responses are anonymous. Overall survey results will be publicly available.

Submit

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