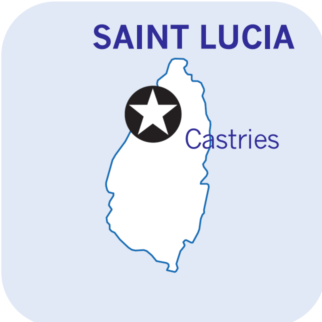


Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Saint Lucia Summary Report | May 2020

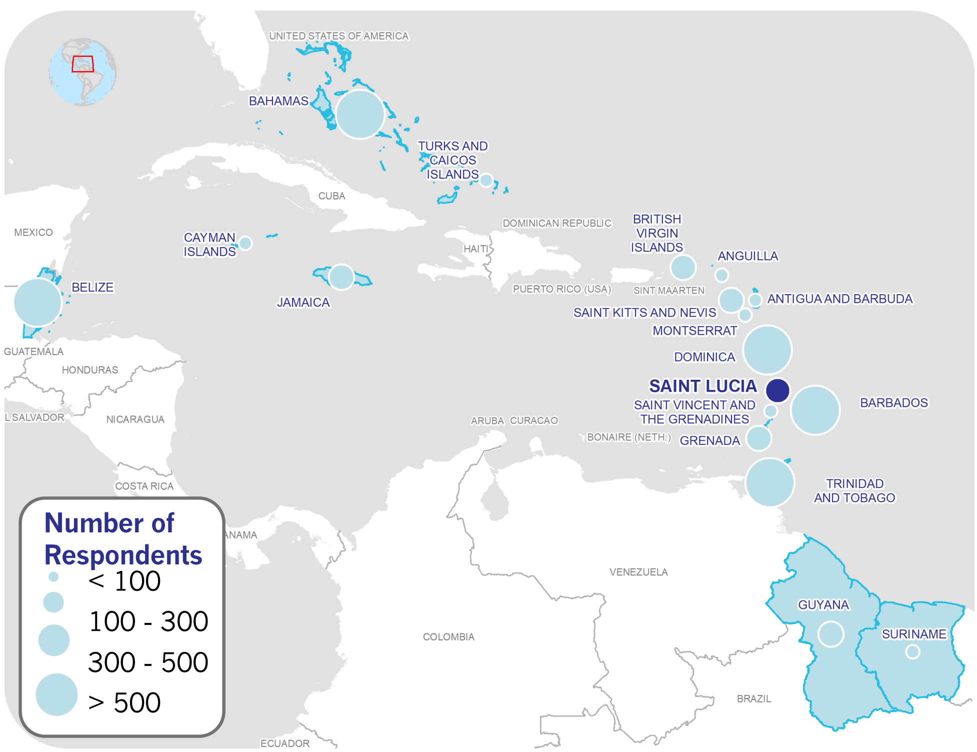
243 Respondents

72|28% Female | Male

42 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.



Saint Lucia summary findings

- COVID-19 has impacted market access, with 76% of respondents reporting that they could not access stores and markets at some point between March 25 and April 12, primarily owing to movement restrictions and closure of stores and markets. This period coincided with a government suspension of nonessential commercial activity thus this result is significantly higher than the regional average.
- Food, hygiene items and medicines were not always fully available in stores. Food price increases were observed by 46% of respondents.
- The vast majority (88%) of respondents changed their shopping behaviour to adapt to disruptions caused by COVID-19, mainly by buying larger quantities than usual.
- COVID-19 has impacted diets, with 28% of respondents eating less preferred foods, and 21% skipping meals or reducing consumption. These are higher percentages than the regional survey averages.
- Disruptions to livelihoods are widespread (reported by 80%), primarily owing to movement restrictions and concerns about the outbreak.
- People are losing income, with 53% of respondents indicating that they have lost their job or are experiencing reduced salaries.
- The number of respondents was not sufficient for disaggregated analysis between men and women and among all age groups. Further assessments are needed to understand the different impacts.

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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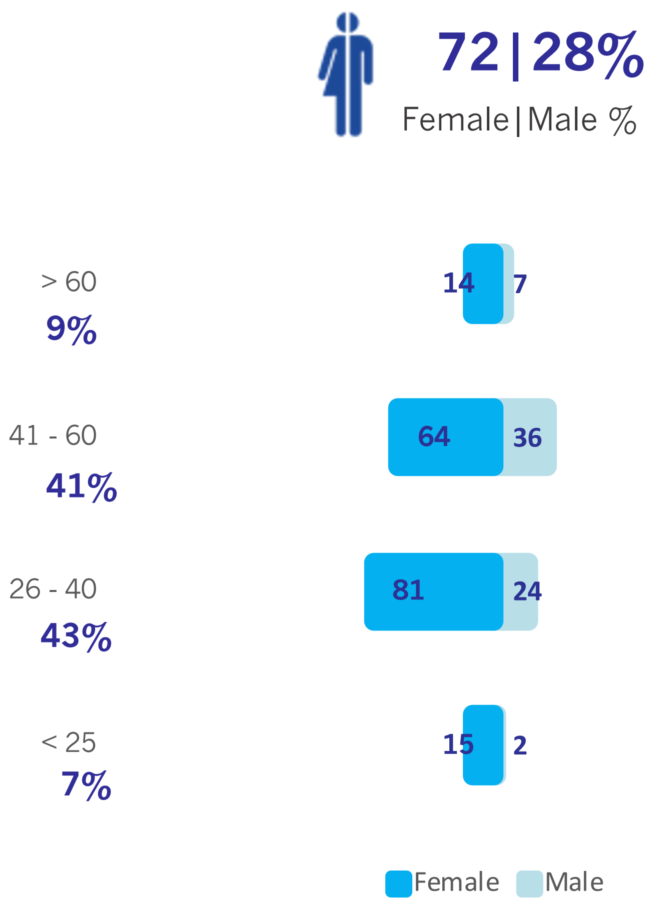
CDEMA CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Resilient States · Safer Lives
WFP World Food Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Age and sex breakdown of respondents

Gender disaggregated analysis will not be provided due to insufficient responses in the subgroups. Age disaggregated analysis will be provided only for the age groups 26-40 and 41-60 due to sufficient responses in these categories.

Age and sex of respondents

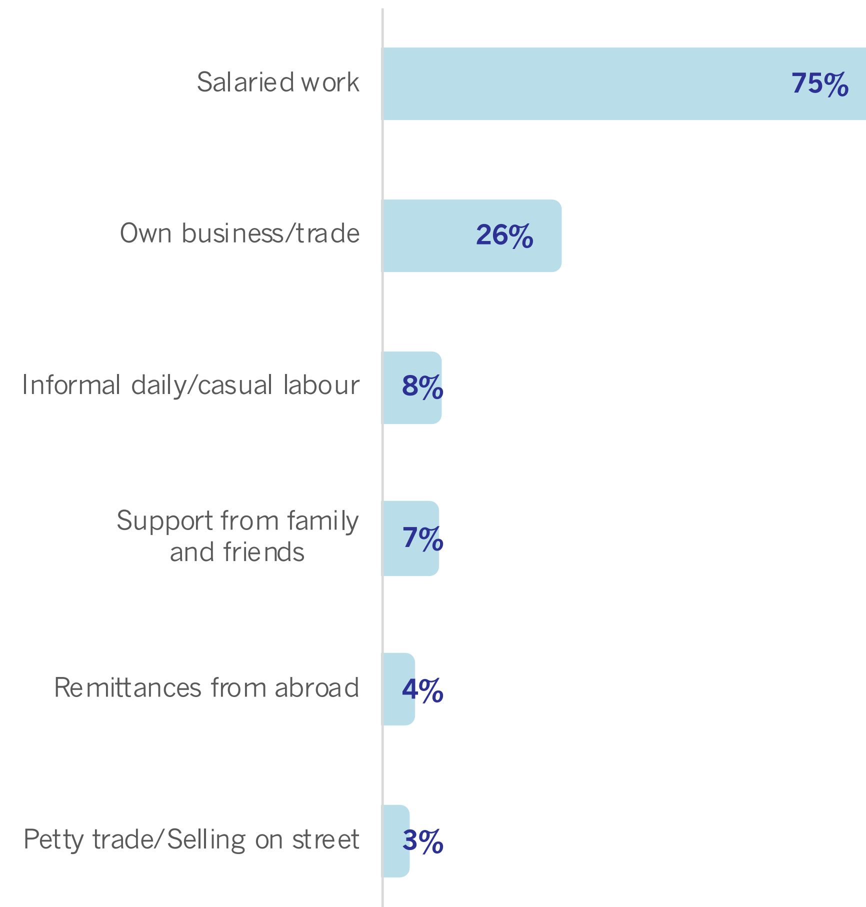


Main household income sources

Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source/s for their household. Disaggregated analysis will not be provided due to insufficient responses in the subgroups.

Main household income sources

Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have impacted market access, with 76% of respondents reporting that they could not access stores and markets at some point between March 25 and April 12, which is much higher than the regional survey average (37%). The survey period coincided with the suspension of nonessential commercial activities and curfews. Movement restrictions and closure of stores and markets were the primary reasons, followed by concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak. The latter reason was more frequently cited by respondents aged 26-40 compared to those aged 41-60.

Shopping routines have changed for 88% of respondents, most of whom are buying larger quantities than usual. Some are going to different stores and buying different brands than usual.

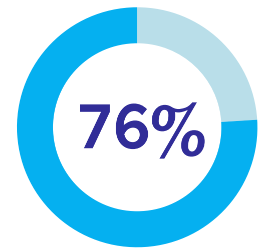
Food and medicines were not always fully available in stores, with 35% of respondents indicating that staple foods were only “partially/sometimes available” and 32% stating the same for medicines (with 26% not knowing either way). Between 5-7% stated items were unavailable. In addition, 46% of respondents observed an increase in food prices, which is lower than the regional survey average (59%).

“I am worried about uncertainties of obtaining medical supplies, worried about the island's ability to obtain income as tourism is practically our economic spine, whether the country may have to implement harsh measures including salary cuts or reduction of public service employees in order to stay afloat.”

“Grocery stores closed, fear of going to stores when they do open due to lack of crowd control, and lack of plan from govt about when and how they'll reopen... “

Access to markets

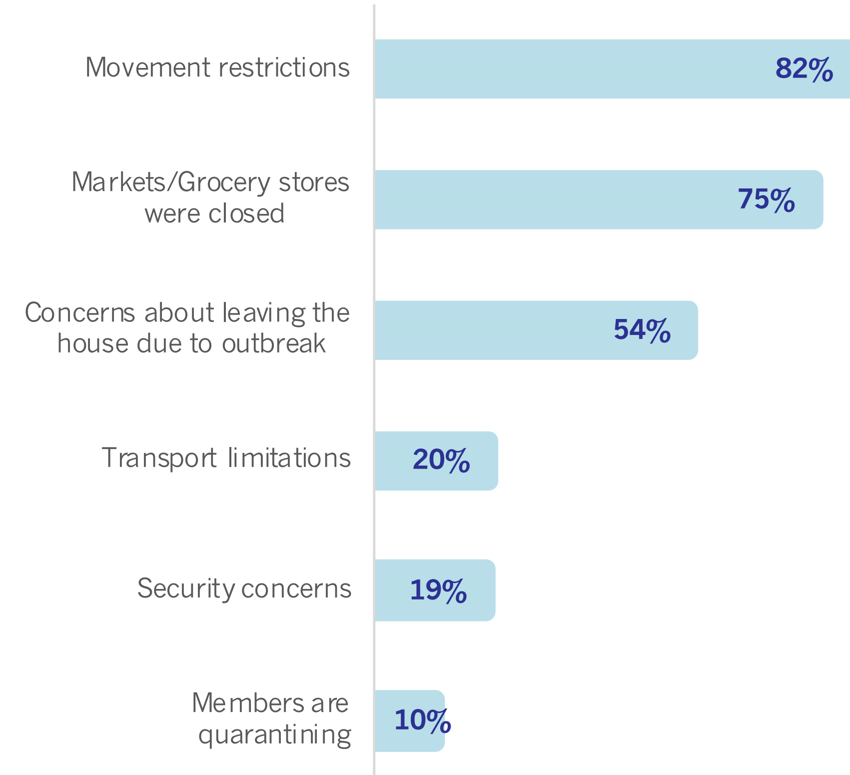
Respondents indicated if there was a time they were not able to access the market during the time of the survey.



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

For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

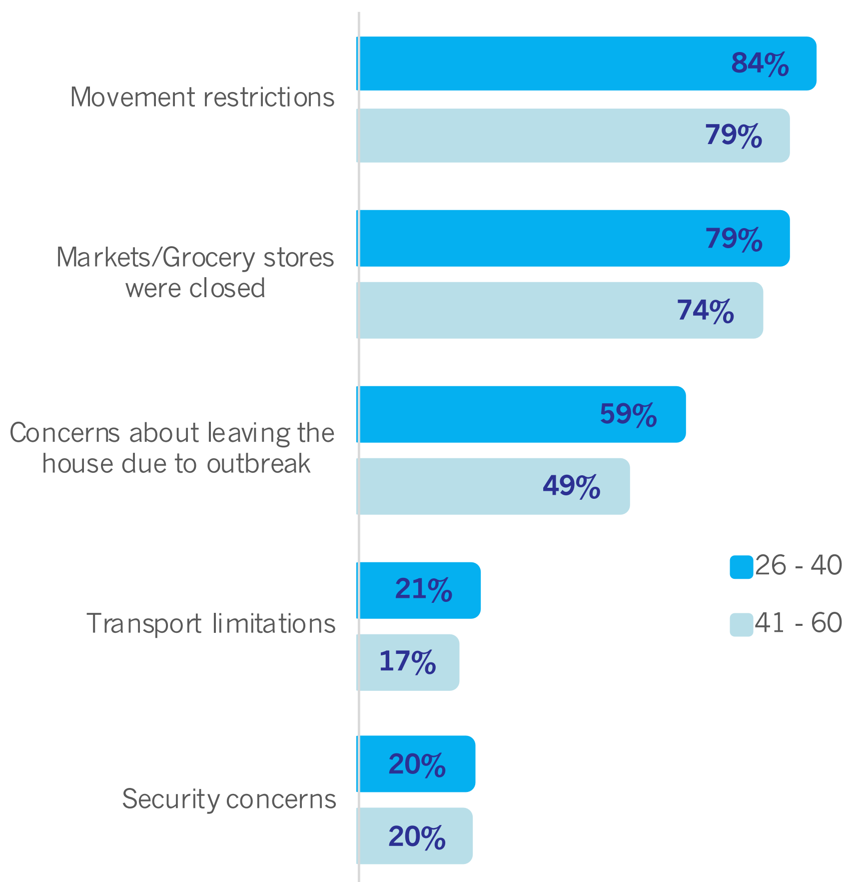
Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were… | By age

Multiple choices could be selected.



"Although we have adequate stores for about 2 weeks we have began rationing supplies in anticipation of an extended curfew."

"Prices in bread have increased. Lines too long at supermarkets and shops, banks closed at the wrong time was unable to access monies sent from overseas because of unemployment "

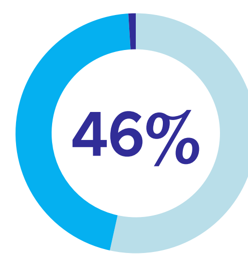
Availability of items in stores

Respondents reported on the availability of key items in stores.

	Staple Food	Fresh food	Hygiene	Medicines
Always Available	49%	44%	57%	33%
Partially/ sometimes available	35%	37%	28%	32%
Not available	5%	6%	6%	7%
Don't know	10%	13%	10%	27%

Food prices

Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices.



Observed an increase in food prices.
54% reported no change and
<1% reported a decrease

"I had to change my shopping hours. I took advantage of the senior citizens' hours. I maintained my Wednesday shopping, but topped up on a Saturday. I maintained my Saturday visit to the Farmers Market."

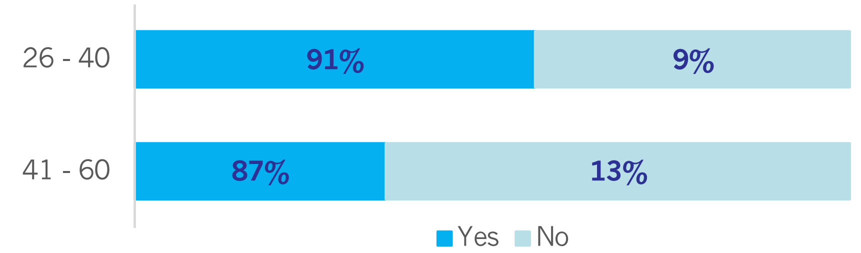
"Loss of shop stock which are perishable items. Haven't adapted as yet"

IMPACT ON MARKETS

Shopping behaviour

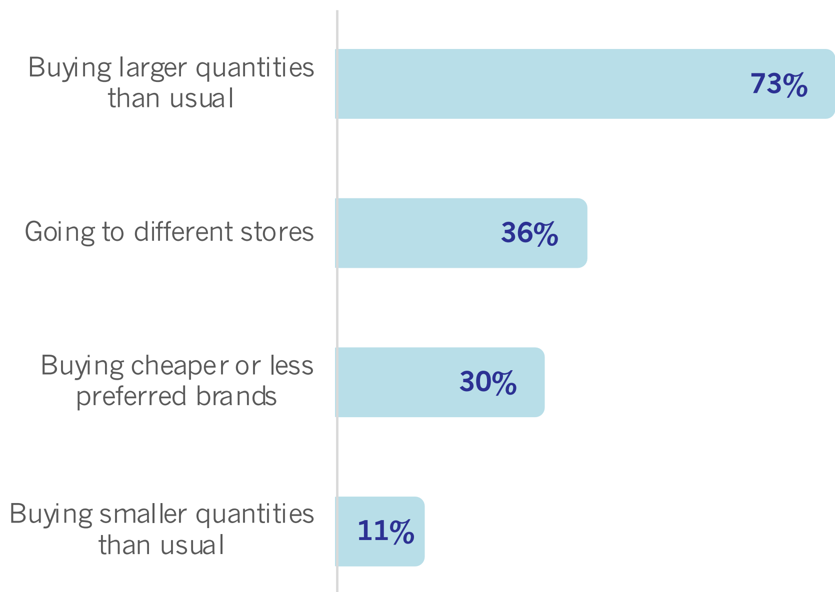
Respondents were asked if they have had to, and if so, how they have altered their shopping behavior.

For those that changed their shopping behaviour, they are... | By age



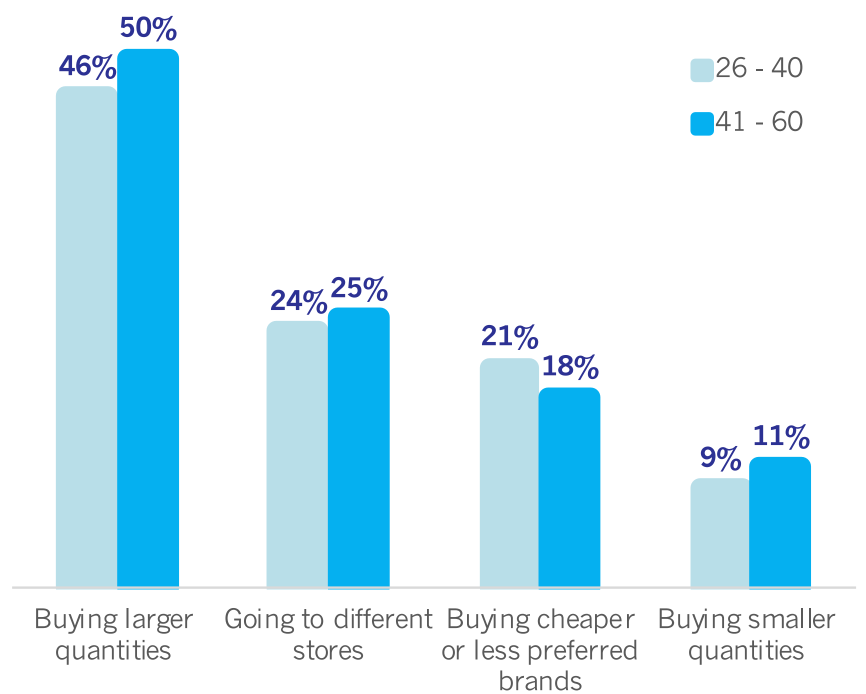
Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to normal times?

Multiple choices could be selected.



For those that changed their shopping behaviour, they are... | By age

Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

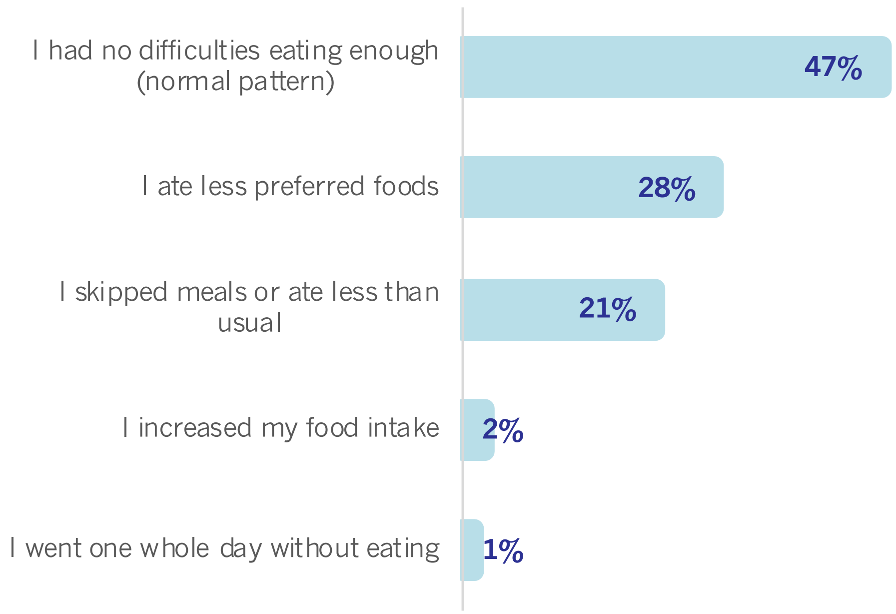
COVID-19 has impacted food security, with 49% of respondents changing their normal eating habits in the 7 days prior to taking the survey. This is a higher percentage compared to regional average (37%). Out of all respondents in Saint Lucia, 21% reported skipping meals or eating less than usual, and 28% resorted to eating less preferred foods.

Most households reported being well-stocked on food, with 72% having at least a week's worth of food stocks. However, 28% had less than a week of food, which was slightly more prevalent among respondents aged 26-40.

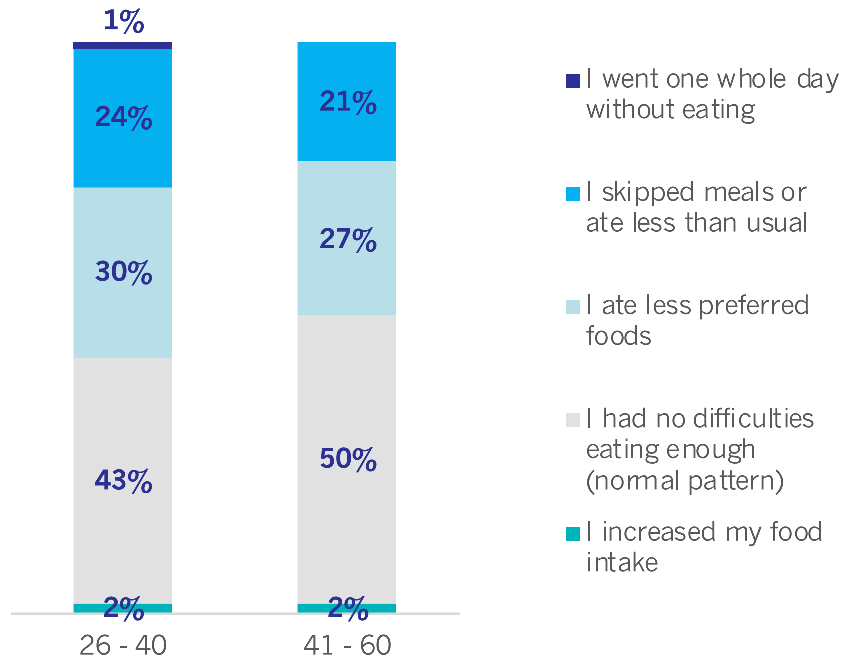
Food consumption

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 age



"Proceeded to being more creative with meals prepared. Have cut back on portions, eating no fast foods or take out and cooking more at home. Going straight to farms and buying from smaller supermarkets where there are less shoppers, leading to less wait time on lines. Stopped eating bread and eating food items which replace bread (home made pancakes, bakes, rotis)"

"Going back to old fashioned recipes where a little goes a long way . Much less fish or meat or chicken. Lots more locally grown produce. No second helpings!"

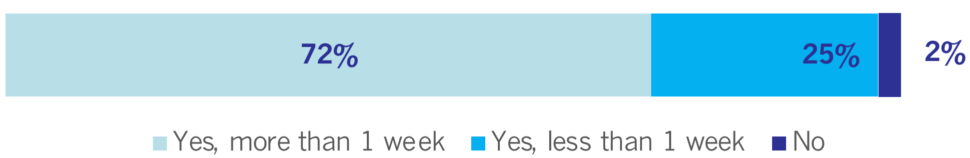
"...We have been on lock down so we won't be able to replenish fresh vegetables when they run out in a few days."

IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

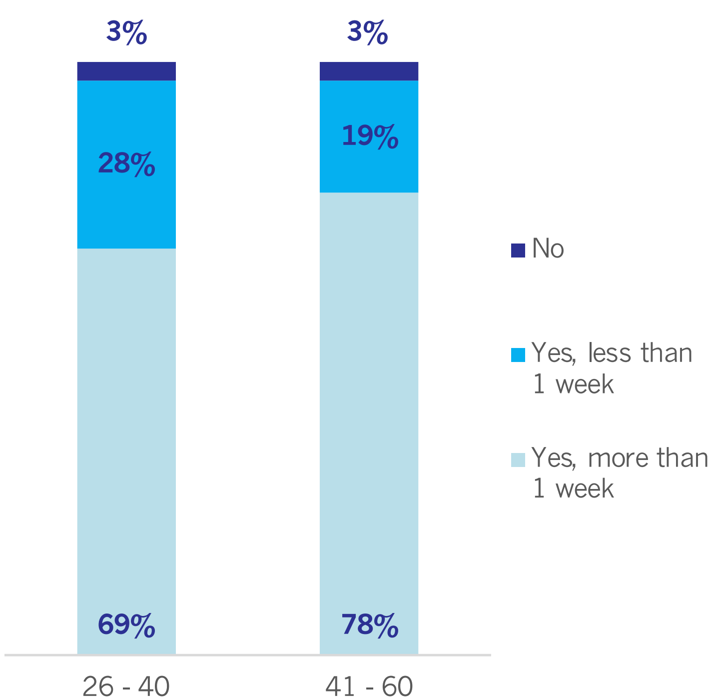
Food stocks

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 age



Key themes on how people in Saint Lucia are being impacted, and are adapting to disruptions from COVID-19.

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods are being widely disrupted by the pandemic, with 81% of respondents indicating that their ability to carry out their livelihoods was affected in the two weeks prior to responding the survey, which is higher than the regional percentage (73%). Movement restrictions were the main reason, followed by concerns about the outbreak. The latter reason was more frequently cited by the 26-40 age group compared to those 41-60 years of age. The younger age group also more frequently cited reduced demand for goods and services, transport limitations and having no market to sell products.

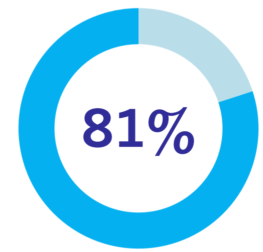
Over half of respondents reported losing their job or experiencing reduced salaries in the two weeks prior to taking the survey. This was the third highest of the 11 countries surveyed with sufficient responses for individual analysis, indicating that income impacts are being acutely felt in Saint Lucia. The vast majority of respondents (94%) predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future, with no major differences between both age groups.

"I am a beekeeper I have been unable to visit apiaries in remote areas of the island due to the following reasons: 1. Unable to get a vehicle pass to be on the road during curfew period. 2. Unable to purchase petrol for vehicle."

"I work in the tourism industry so I have lost my means of income. I will be depending on my savings which isn't much. This means I might go hungry if something doesn't change. I am for curfews if it means it's going to help us in the long run."

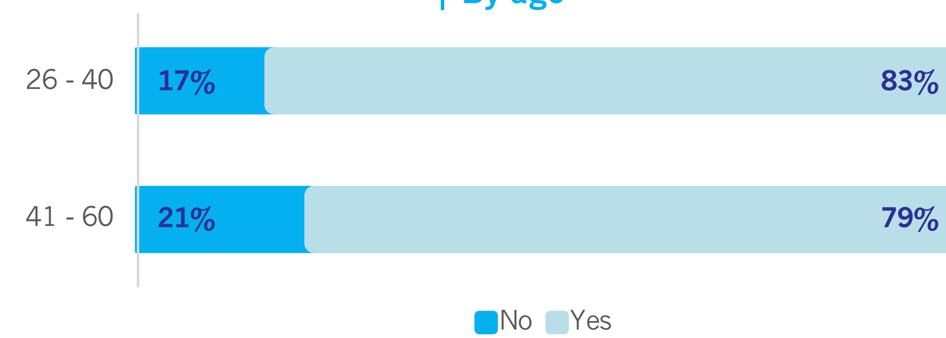
Disruptions to livelihoods

Respondents reported on any disruptions to their livelihoods.



reported livelihood disruptions in the past two weeks

Was your livelihood affected in the last 2 weeks? | By age



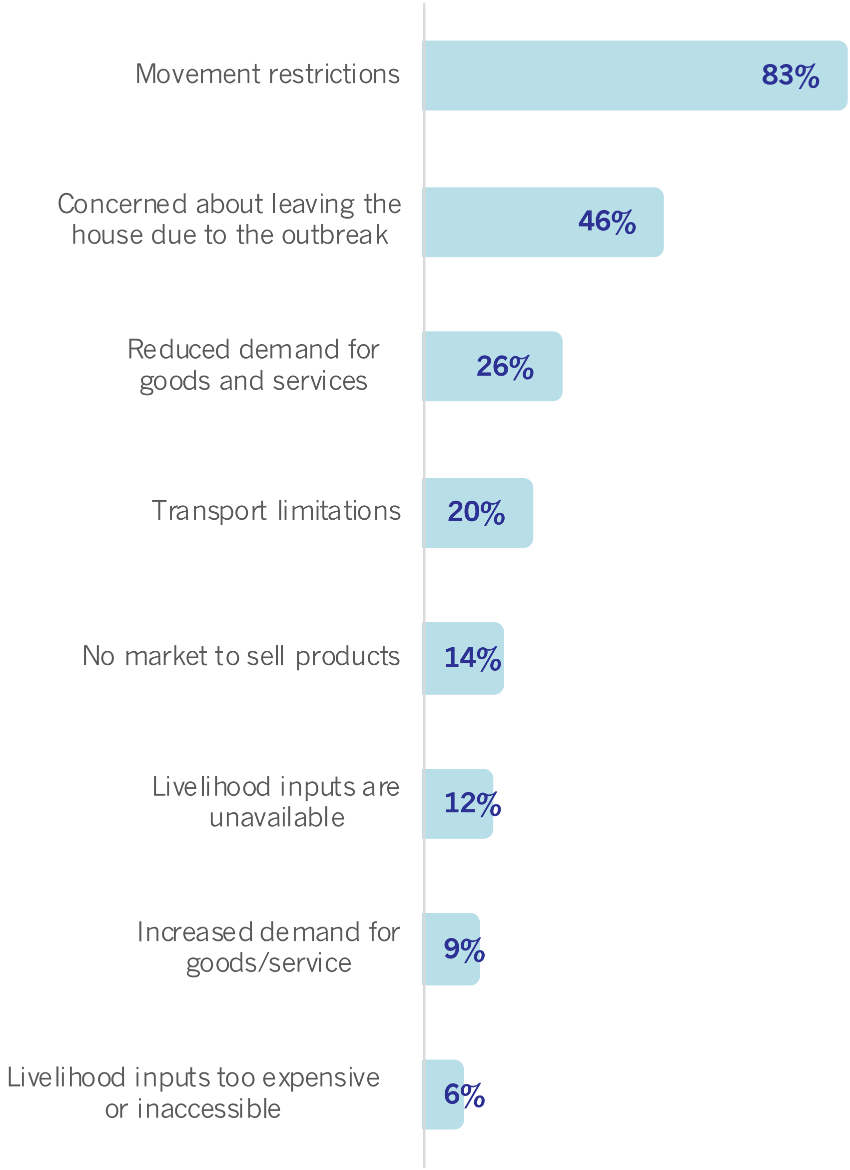
"I'm a hospitality worker. Hence, with this situation I'm currently out of a job with no income. Limited savings which I have to pinch on in order to fulfill my day to day basic needs. I really hope we get a solution very fast for this pandemic."

"Lost a tenant, due to closure of hotel, uncertain about continued employment, as businesses seek to look at strategies to maintain operations and still remain profitable."

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

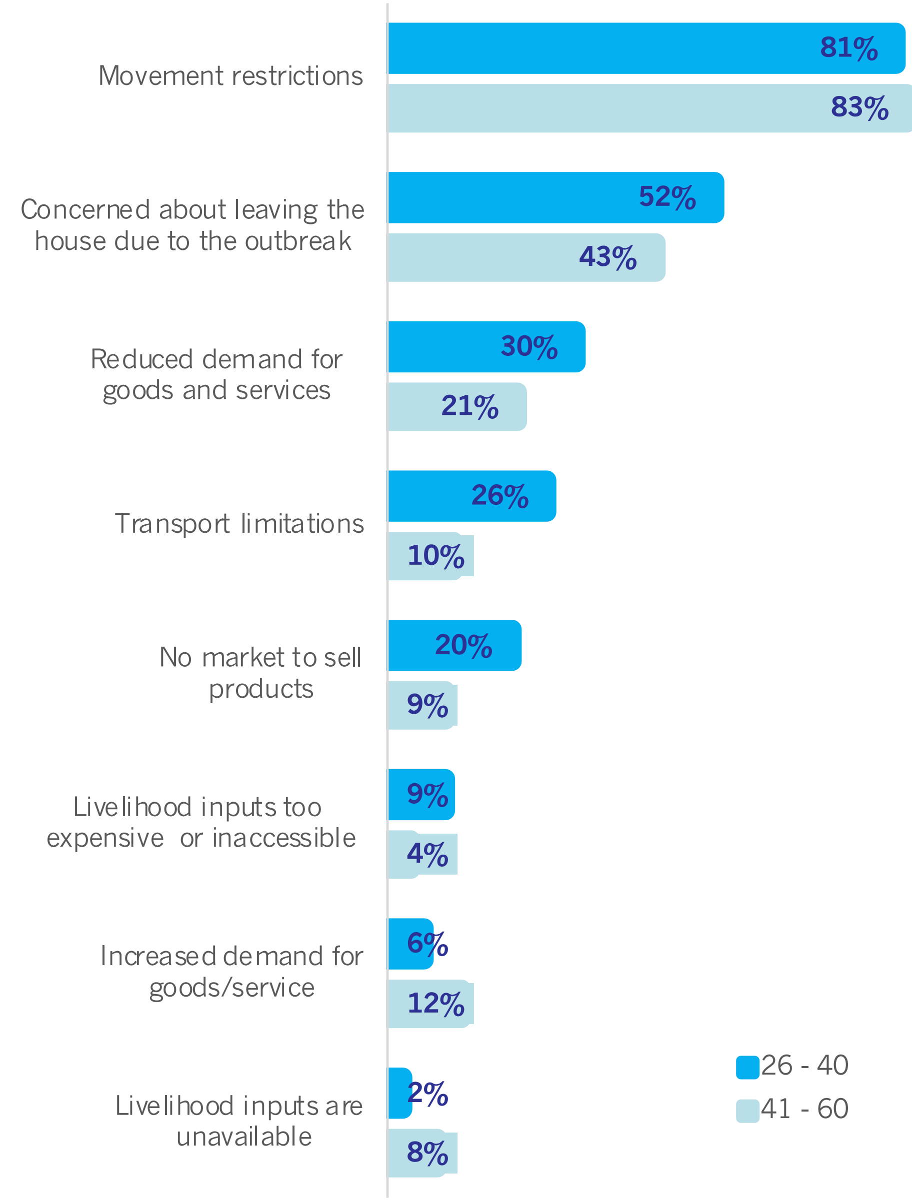
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.



For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were... | By age

Multiple choices could be selected.

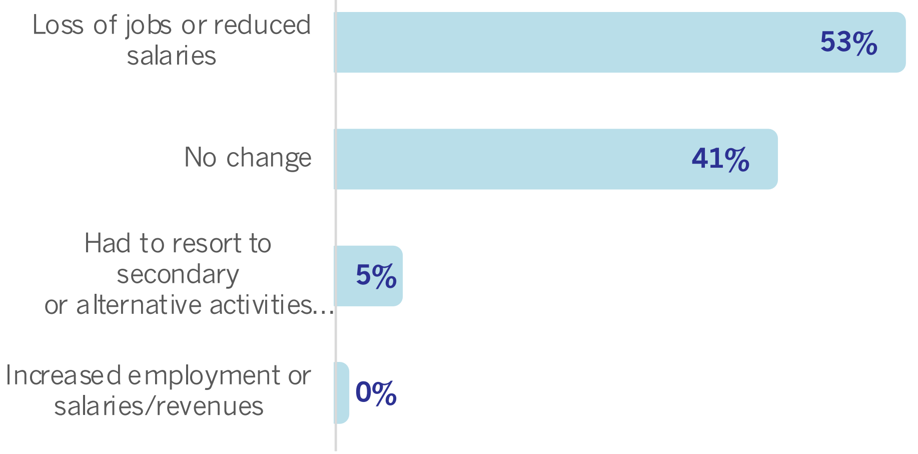


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

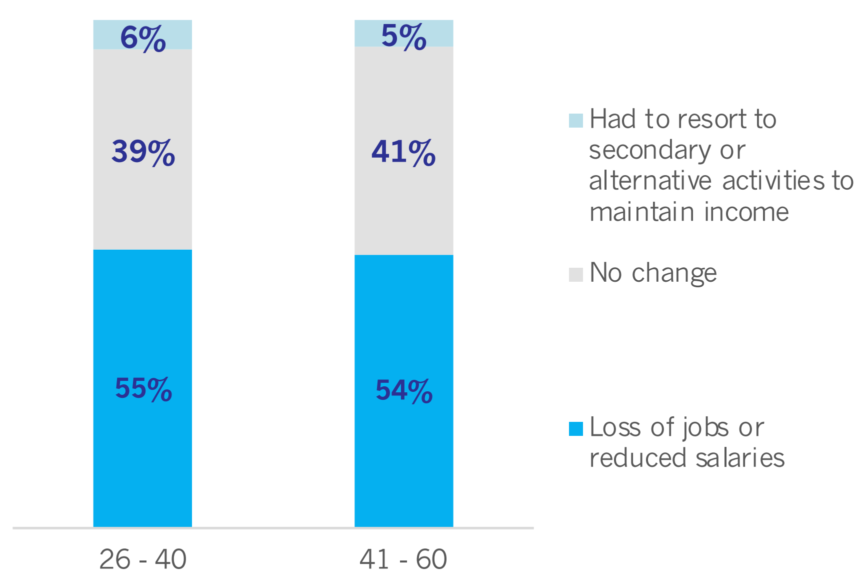
Income changes

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 age

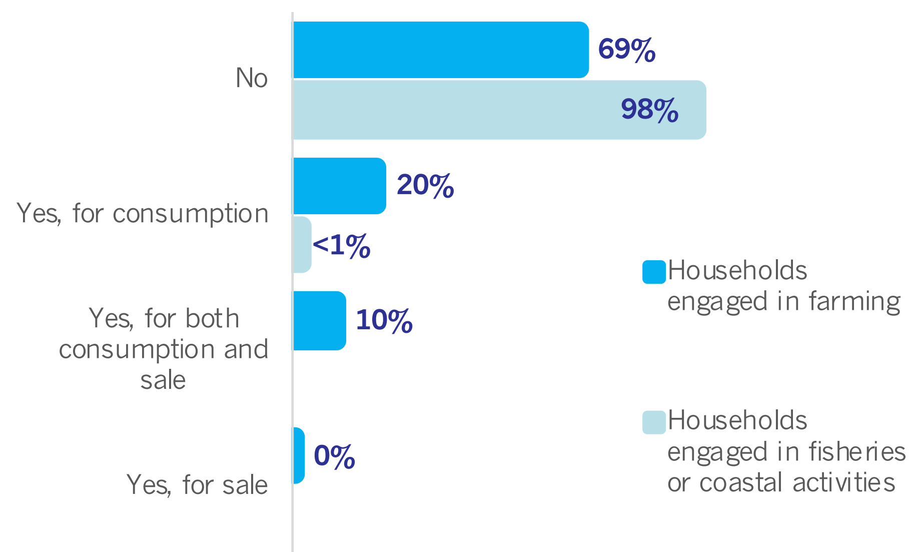


Households engaged in farming/fishing

According to the World Bank, Agriculture in Saint Lucia contributes to 2.1% of GDP and to about 10% of employment.

A fifth of respondents are growing food for their own consumption. Given the limited respondents engaged in commercial farming 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 and farming



"My family main's form of income is through the tourism industry. Lack of cruise ships. Airport closures means no tourist transfers, day trips etc."

"Funds from abroad disrupted due to banking closure, border closure regionally has affected alternate business "

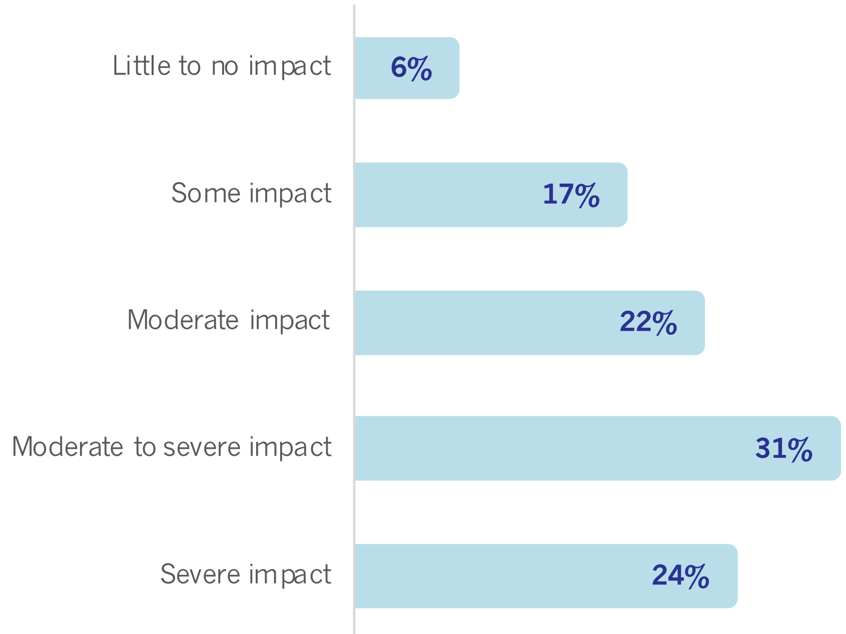
IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Future livelihood impacts

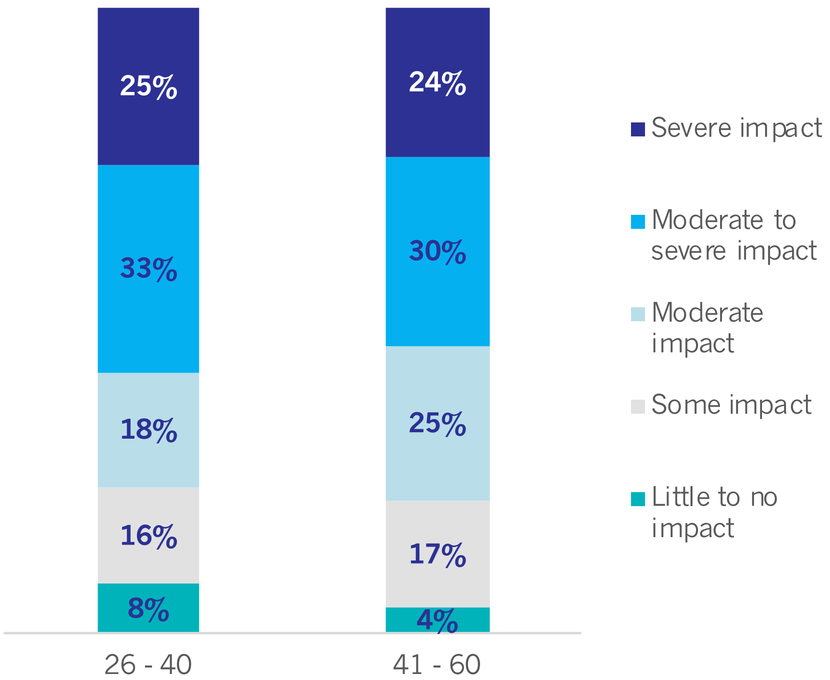
Respondents were asked to look ahead and predict the level of impact to their livelihoods as a result of disruptions from COVID-19.

"With the limited movement restrictions in place we have been trying to save money in anticipation of low/no revenue in the coming months. We have requested assistance regarding any debt and we are being more conservative in our overall expenditure."

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



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



"Running an accommodations service has been impacted by the travel restrictions. As such we have had cancellations and no new bookings. While I own a second business that is providing an income, this will only last until June. After which I will have to find a new source of revenue."

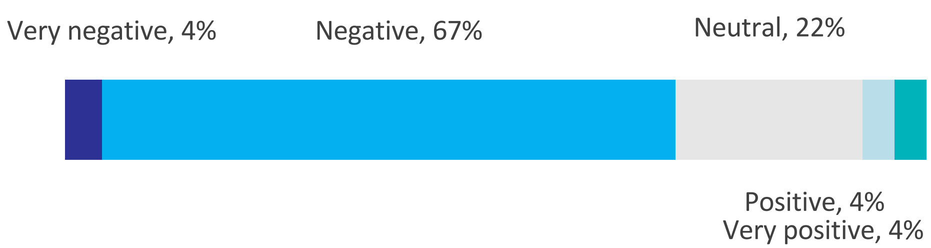
"Well....not being able to go to work, Don;t know how my job status would be in the coming lock down. Since am the only income in family at the moment"

HOW PEOPLE ARE COPING AND ADAPTING

Respondents were provided space to give fuller and more nuanced insights on how they are coping and adapting to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Out of the 243 respondents, 57% responded to the open-ended question resulting in a total count of 4,190 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 responses



Based on this analysis, 67% of responses were classified as being negative, 22% as neutral and 4% as positive. Respondents from Saint Lucia expressed concerns about losing their jobs, with many of them citing loss of demand in the tourism and the service industry. Many are having to resort to their savings to meet payments for their rent, mortgages and loans. The sudden closure of supermarkets and pharmacies created anxiety about the unavailability of fresh food, vegetables and medicines. Many have adapted by making alterations to their diet and eating habits. Overall, respondents from Saint Lucia expressed understanding about the need for movement restrictions and described adapting to the protocols.

Very negative (4%)

"Emotionally as there is a feeling of powerlessness and I am bombarded with this situation like every second but trying to stream the media I expose myself to."

Negative (67%)

"Won't to able to pay my mortgage and car loans due to a vast reduction is my base salary and over 50% cut in commission. I'm a media worker and 80% of my salary is from sales. Now that advertisers has cancelled their advertising my net salary automatically drops."

Neutral (22%)

"Information from official sources has been restricted."
"I've always been a stay at home person so the curfews and isolation periods does not have any major impact on me."

Positive (4%)

"I prepared since February. I look to the future. I wear masks and gloves. Bought wholesale sanitizers etc in advance . I also started growing my own food coconuts mangoes cucumber golden apples sour orange plantain green bananas limes. Give to neighbours."

Very Positive (4%)

"learning to appreciate nature, natural foods more, planting my own, cooking my own. being careful to avoid waste. "
"More focus on internal balancing strategies eg. meditation and prayer as the absence of external distractions can be difficult to cope with at times."

CONCLUSION

This report contributes to a better picture of how COVID-19 and measures to contain it are impacting livelihoods, food security and access to markets in Saint Lucia, where strict measures were in place around the survey period to prevent the spread of the virus. Impacts in Saint Lucia seem to be more pronounced when compared to regional trends, with a higher percentage of people reporting that they were not able to access markets, maintain their normal eating patterns and carry out their livelihood activities. Of the 11 countries and territories with sufficient responses for individual analysis, Saint Lucia had the third highest percentage of respondents reporting livelihood disruptions and loss of jobs or reduced salaries.

Overall, COVID-19 has had widespread impacts on people's lives and livelihoods in Saint Lucia. With a fifth of respondents eating less or skipping meals, impacts to food 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. At the same time, financial assistance and other resources to vulnerable populations should be expanded along the lines of plans and actions already underway to mitigate the economic impacts at the household level.

More in-depth assessment and analysis on the wide-ranging economic and social impacts of COVID-19 will be critical to further inform responses to the unfolding crisis.

More responses from the survey

"Very cautious about handling money or traded items for fear of the COVID19 virus being on purchased item and would have to disinfect of wash items if possible. Also wash hands or hand sanitize every time handle money."

"I spend time in nature whenever possible. More focus on personal aspirations"

"Purchased additional supplies for sanitization and dietary supplements to support and maintain good health and strong immune system. More frequent use of home gym to maintain active life healthy lifestyles"

"Sleeping more so I eat less"

"The only disruption has been our external social patterns which is completely understandable."

"The closure of all educational institutions. It becomes difficult to manage a child less than 4 years old. There is also a higher level of stress owing to the Covid 19 situation. Both on child and adults."

"We're just so concerned about whether we will have access to food for purchase before our supply diminishes, and praying that there's no change in salary as we live month to month."

"I need to eat more vegetables due to my medical condition but due to curfew its difficult to maintain a healthy diet."

"I've been eating more processed and junk foods since I'm at home. I'm looking forward to returning to work."

ANNEX. REGIONAL SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

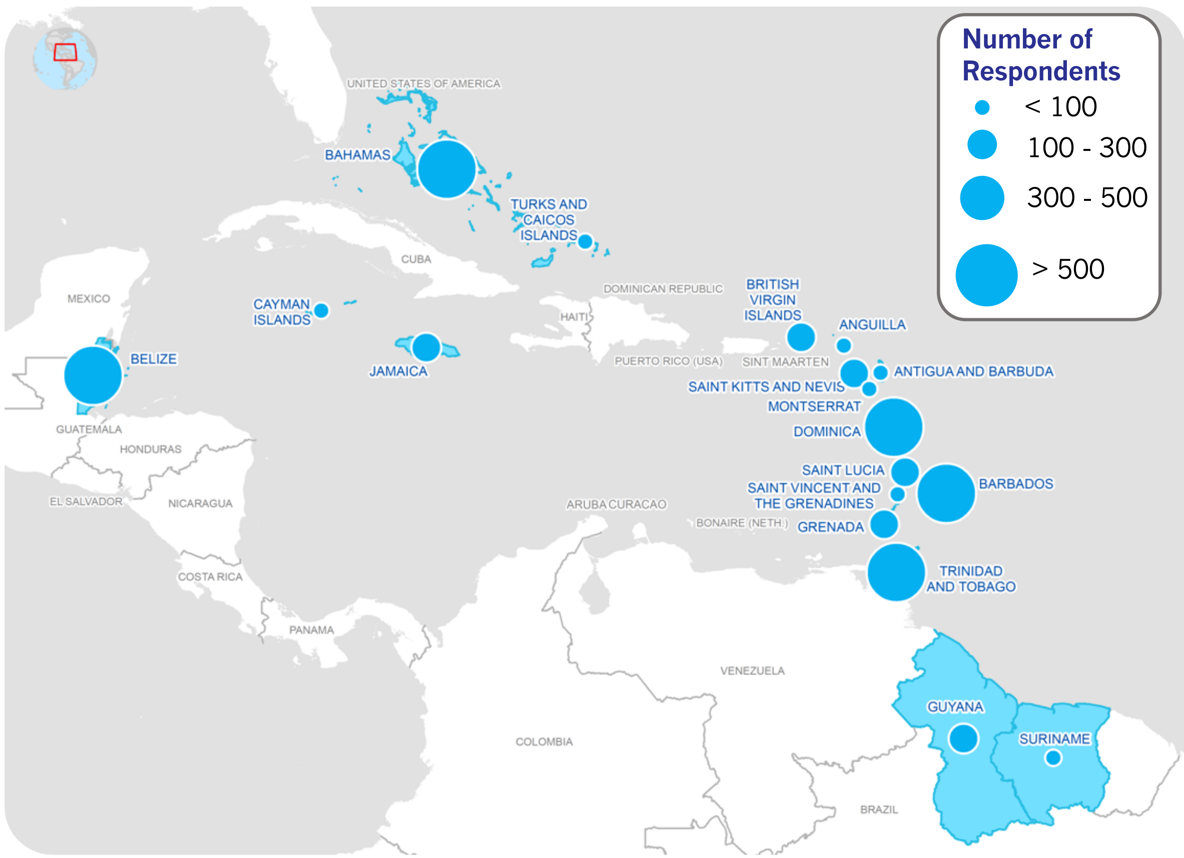
The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets. Prepared by the World 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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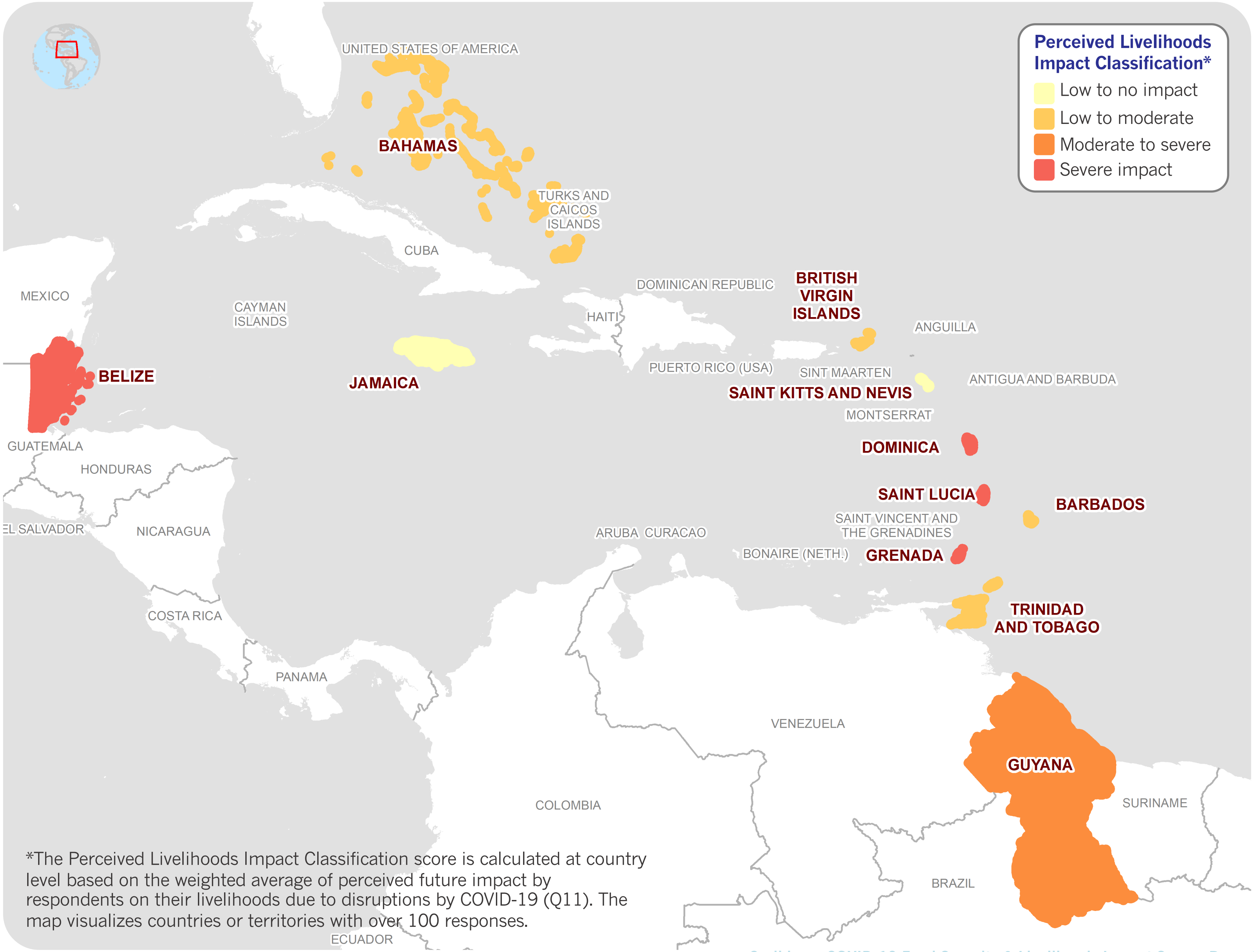
CDEMA CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY Resilient States · Safer Lives

WFP World Food Programme

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

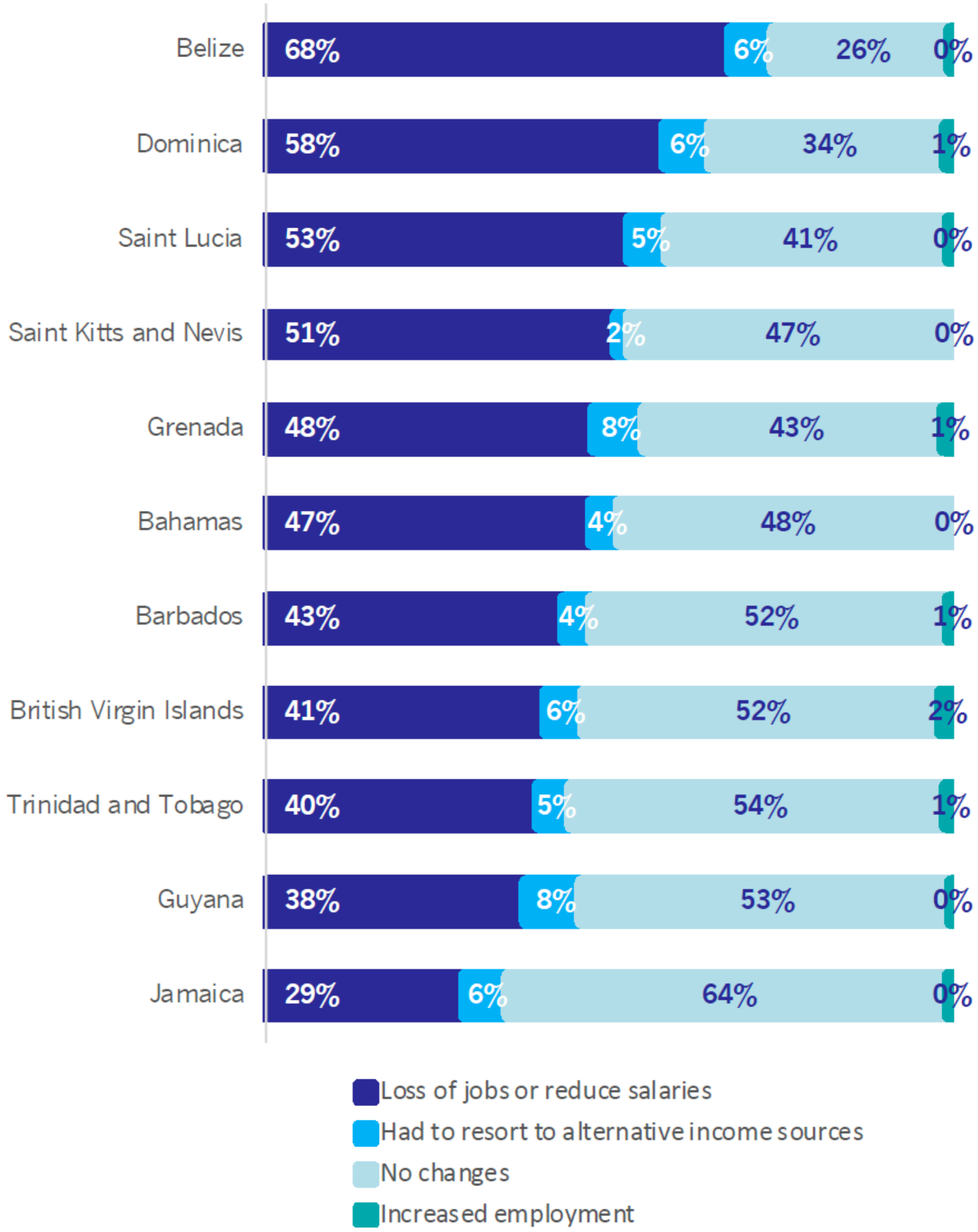
ANNEX. PERCEIVED LIVELIHOODS IMPACT IN THE CARIBBEAN



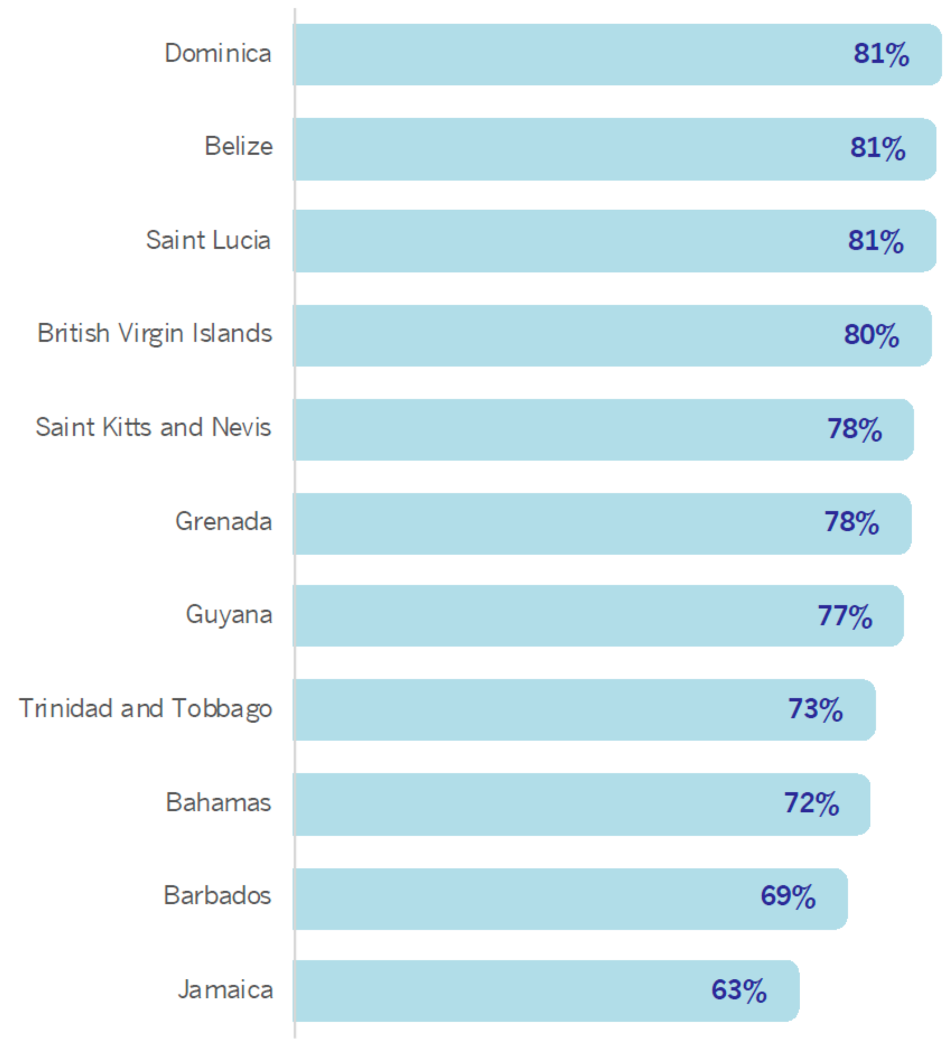
*The Perceived Livelihoods Impact Classification score is calculated at country level based on the weighted average of perceived future impact by respondents on their livelihoods due to disruptions by COVID-19 (Q11). The map visualizes countries or territories with over 100 responses.

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

Income changes



% reporting disruptions to livelihoods



ANNEX. 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.

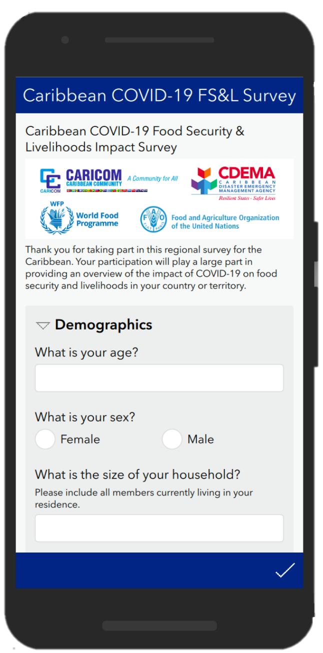
Responses were visualised live on an interactive dashboard and continually monitored to ensure their legitimacy based on cross referencing with prior knowledge and secondary data. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against intentional or unintentional outliers.

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

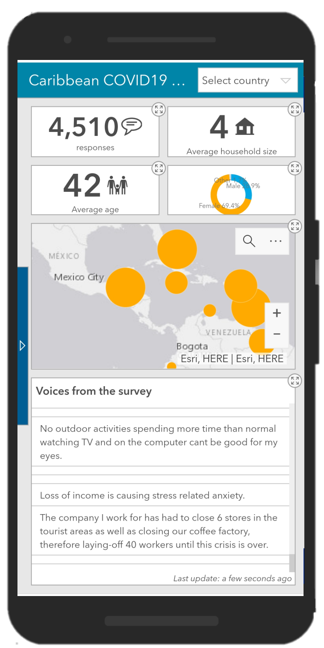
The qualitative analysis was performed in collaboration with Joseph Xu from Google's AI unit using Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP, a branch of AI which analyses and interprets human languages, provided: (a) a sentiment analysis to determine the number of positive versus negative responses and (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 sufficient responses. Reports are prepared by WFP Caribbean: Amy Chong, Sarah Bailey, Elisaveta Gouretskaia, Nicholas Grainger and Francesca Ciardi.

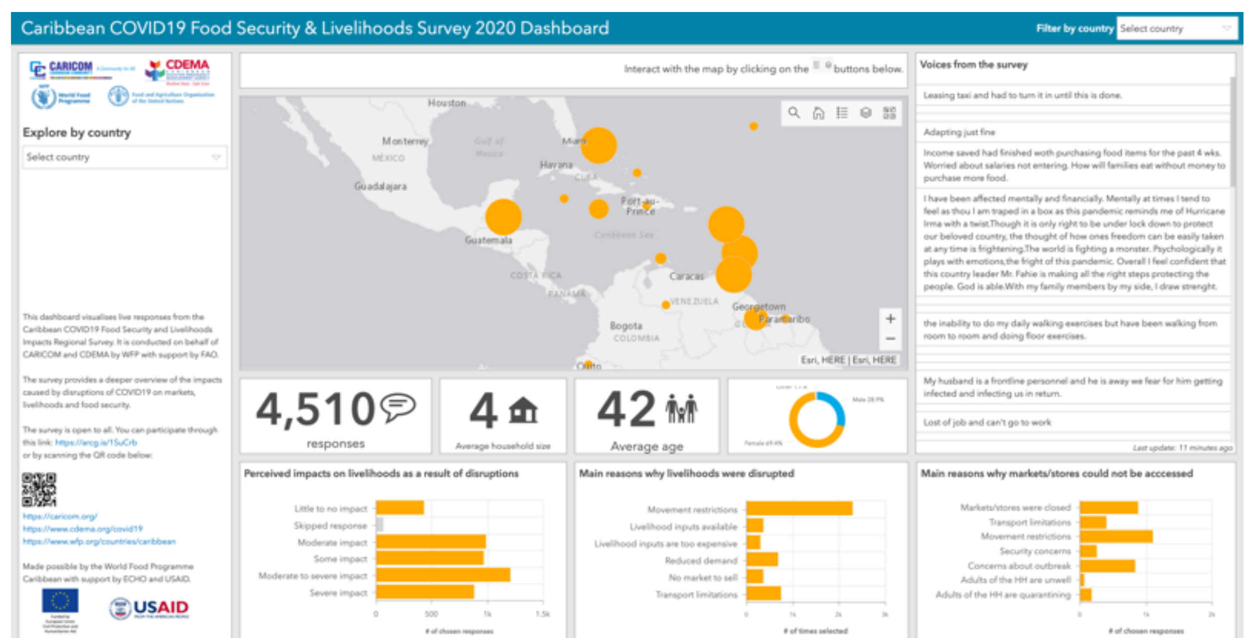
Survey (Closed)
http://arcg.is/1SuCrb



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



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



ANNEX. 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

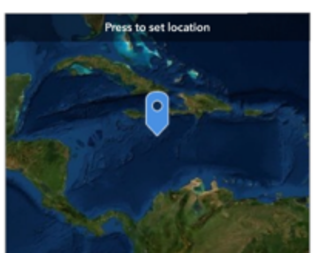
What is the size of your household?

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.

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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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