Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Grenada Summary Report | May 2020

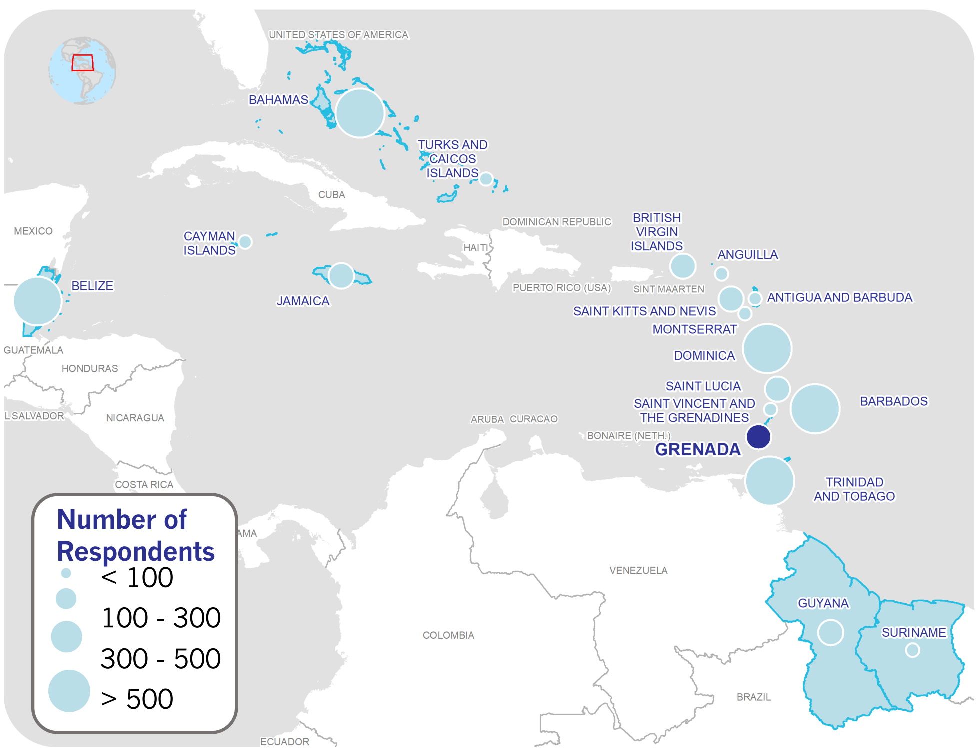
249 Respondents

65 | 35% 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.



Grenada summary findings

- COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have impacted people's access to markets, with 64% of respondents reporting not being able to access markets at some point between March 25 and April 12, primarily owing to movement restrictions.
- Food and other key items were not always fully available in stores, particularly in the case of fresh foods and medicines, and 35% of respondents observed an increase in food prices.
- The vast majority (88%) of respondents changed their shopping behaviour to adapt to disruptions caused by COVID-19, primarily by buying larger quantities than usual. Some are going to different stores.
- COVID-19 is impacting food consumption, with 40% of respondents eating less preferred foods or skipping meals/eating less than usual.
- Disruptions to livelihoods are widespread, with 78% of respondents indicating that their ability to carry out their livelihoods was affected, primarily owing to movement restrictions and to a lesser extent transport limitations.
- People are losing income, with job loss or reduced salaries reported by 48% of respondents.
- The number of respondents was not sufficient for disaggregated analysis between men and women and among 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.

CARICOM CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY A Community for All
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

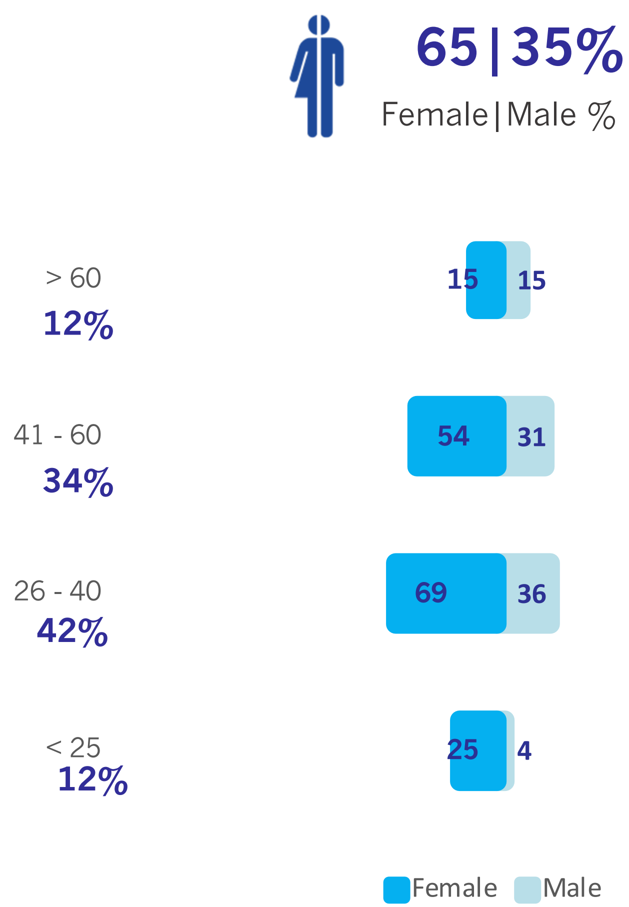
Age and sex breakdown of respondents

Age and gender disaggregated analysis will not be provided due to insufficient responses in the subgroups.

Main household income sources

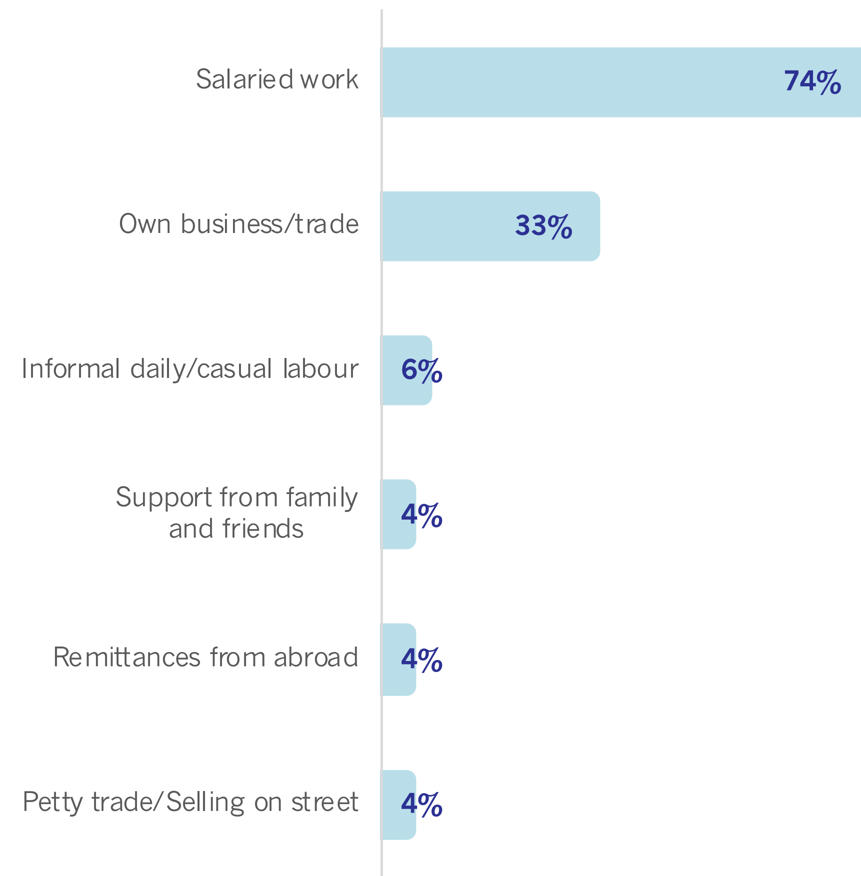
Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source/s for their household. Disaggregated analysis will not be provided due to insufficient responses in the subgroups.

Age and sex of respondents



Main household income sources

Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

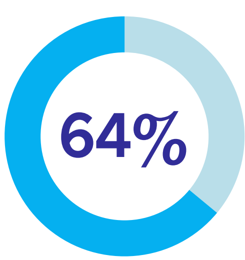
COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have impacted people's access to markets, with 64% of respondents reporting not being able to access markets at some point between March 25 and April 12. This is much higher than the regional survey average (37%). The survey period coincided with curfews put in place in Grenada. Movement restrictions and closure of stores/markets were the most frequently cited reasons by respondents.

COVID-19 has altered how people shop, with 88% of respondents shifting their behavior, mainly by buying larger quantities. Some are going to different stores and buying cheaper brands.

A higher number of respondents reported food, medicines and hygiene items were not always fully available in stores when compared to the regional averages. 45% of respondents reported that staple foods were only "partially/sometimes available". This percentage is even higher for fresh foods (58%) and medicines (54%). Overall, 35% of respondents observed an increase in food prices, which is below the regional average (60%).

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

"Long lines to get to the grocery"

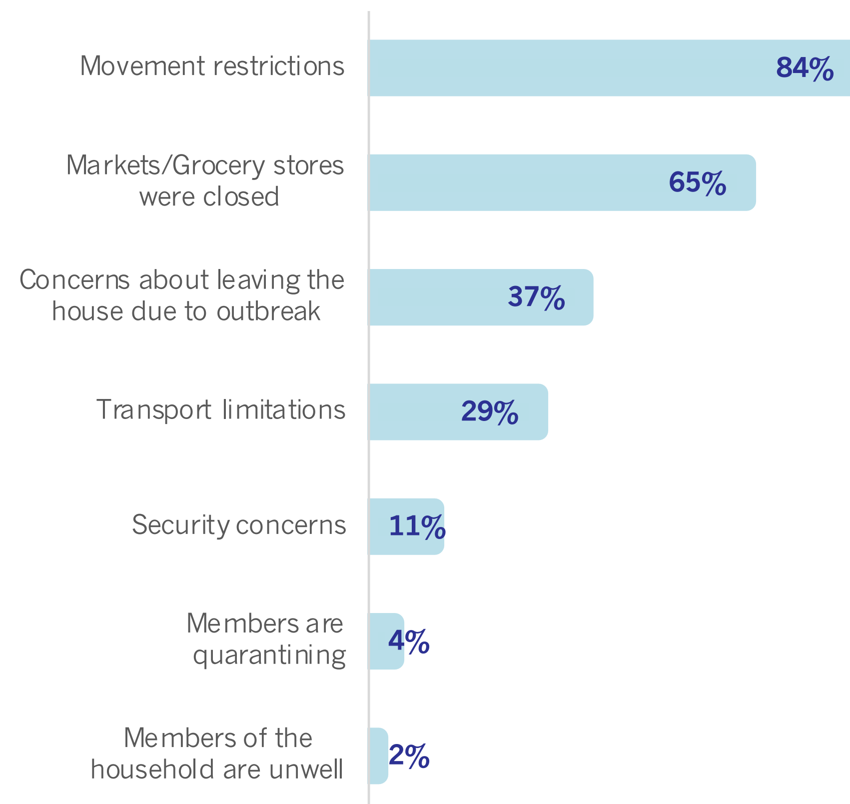
"No ability to get fresh vegetables and meat. Have to rely on canned goods, made difficult by an allergy to fish, which greatly restricts the possible alternatives. "

"The family suffers with asthma and panic attacks so we are trying to be cool and stay indoors. Medication was a big issue in buying, but we will be ok by God Grace. "

"Our supermarkets are closed, therefore, it's difficult to shop for groceries."

For those that had trouble accessing markets, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

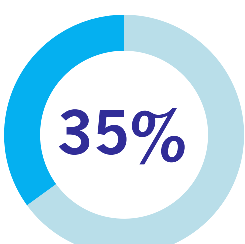
Availability of items in stores

Respondents reported on the availability of key items in stores.

	Staple Food	Fresh food	Hygiene	Medicines
Always Available	39%	24%	52%	21%
Partially/ sometimes available	45%	58%	37%	54%
Not available	7%	7%	2%	5%
Don't know	9%	12%	9%	20%

Food prices

Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices.



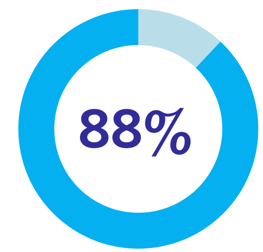
Observed an increase in food prices.
65% reported no change

"As a diabetic I am not sure if I will be a to get vegetables often or have to resort to consuming foods that are not good for me. I hope that I can get insulin and strips as needed."

"I have not been able to get a constant supply of fruits, vegetables and eggs "

Shopping behaviour

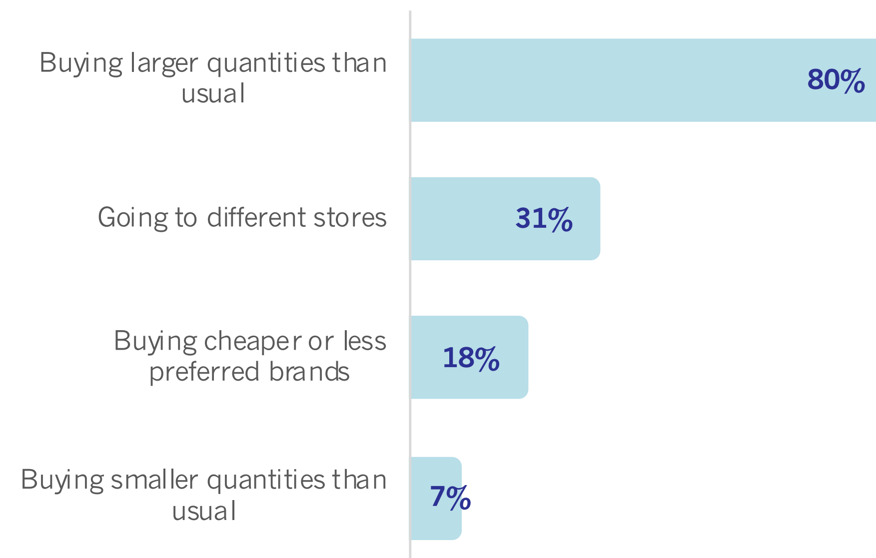
Respondents were asked if they have had to, and if so, how they have altered their shopping behavior.



Changed their shopping behaviour

Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to normal times?

Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

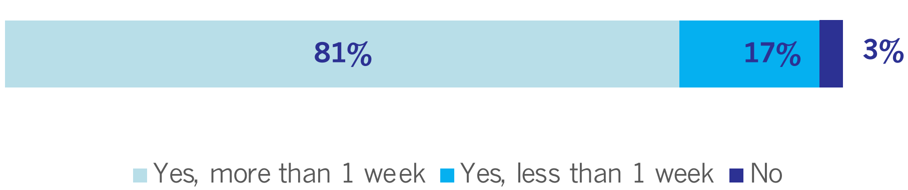
COVID-19 has impacted people's diets. While 53% of respondents reported having no difficulties eating enough in the week prior to the survey, 21% of respondents reported eating less preferred foods and 19% skipped meals or ate less than usual. These percentages are similar to regional averages.

Most households reported being well-stocked on food, with 81% having at least one week's worth of food stock, which is in line with regional averages.

Food stocks

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

Does your household have any food stock?



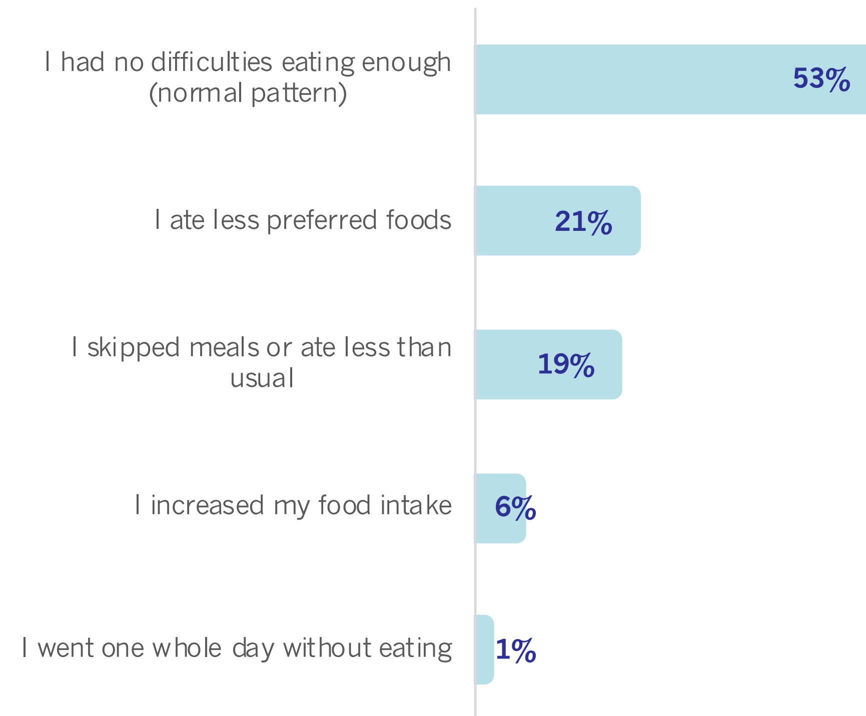
"Trying to cope with situation adjusting way of life eating less and trying save food and plant what is needed in a short period of time."

"Covid-19 has changed the way in which everything works for me, we have to ration food and be mindful of what is being consumed. Additionally, persons in my family tend to eat alot so that has changed as well. "

Food consumption

Respondents were asked to reflect on their food situation.

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



"The disruptions came during the dry season making agricultural production less effective. Less feed for animals. Assistance is required for implementing animal housing to increase production and yields. This is particularly true for small farmers. "

"Eating things I don't normally eat and cutting down on the variety of things we usually eat. Unable to visit my relatives which is something i do quiet often. "

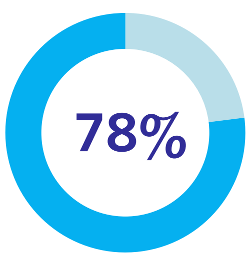
IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods are being widely disrupted by the pandemic, with 78% of respondents indicating that their ability to carry out their livelihoods was affected in the two weeks prior to taking the survey, which is close to the percentage observed in the region (74%). More than half (54%) of the respondents anticipate moderate to severe, or severe impact to their livelihoods which is amongst the highest reported in the region. Movement restrictions are the predominant reason for livelihood disruptions, cited by 85% of impacted respondents. Transport limitations were cited by 37%, which is higher when compared to the region (22%).

Incomes are being impacted, with loss of jobs or reduced salaries reported by 48% of respondents, which is in line with the regional average. The vast majority (91%) of respondents predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future.

Disruptions to livelihoods

Respondents reported on any disruptions to their livelihoods.



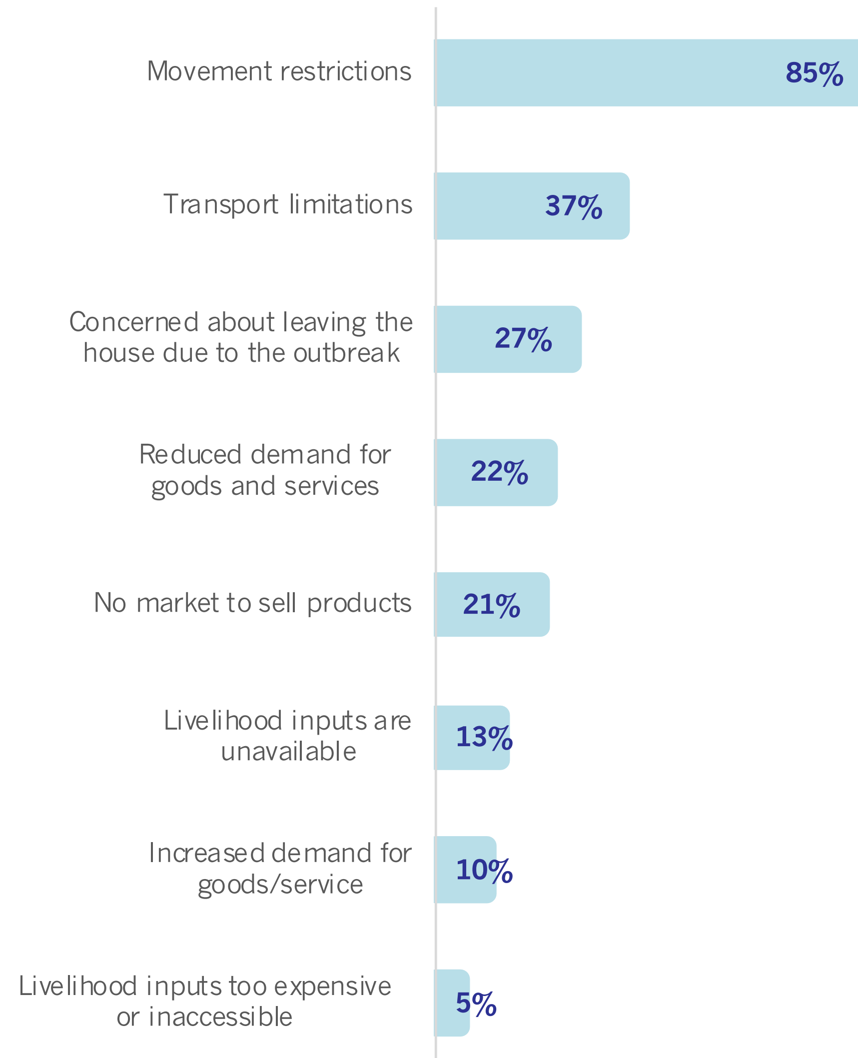
reported livelihood disruptions in the past two weeks

"As the hotel tourism is severely affected and persons staying home, laundry services will reduce and be some demand until normalcy is returned."

"My movement is restricted to go to my small business and also it allow me to get less work done in the land because of social distancing and curfew. In the pass few days we have a total lock down which allow me to stay home and i can make my produce available to my customers. "

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

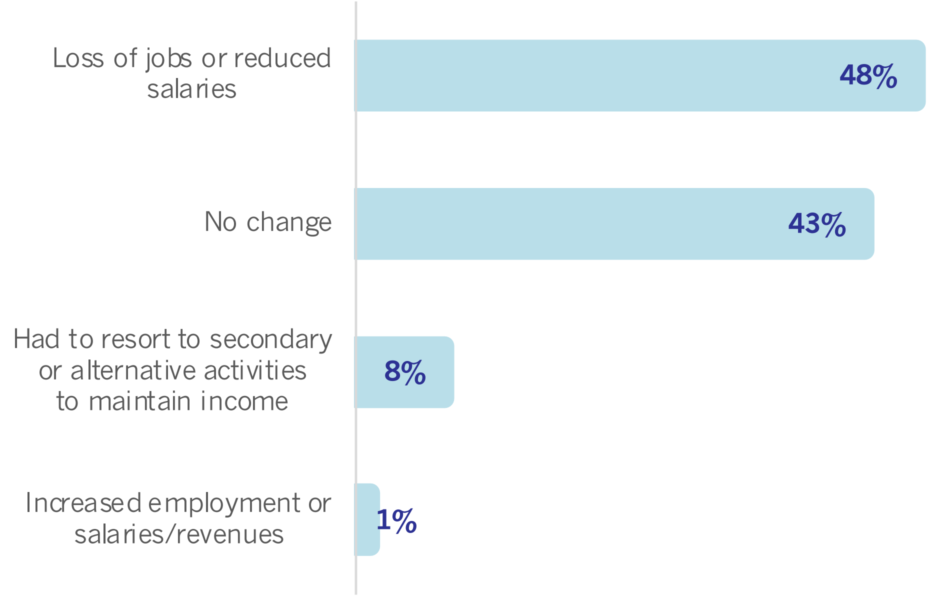


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Income changes

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

Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks?

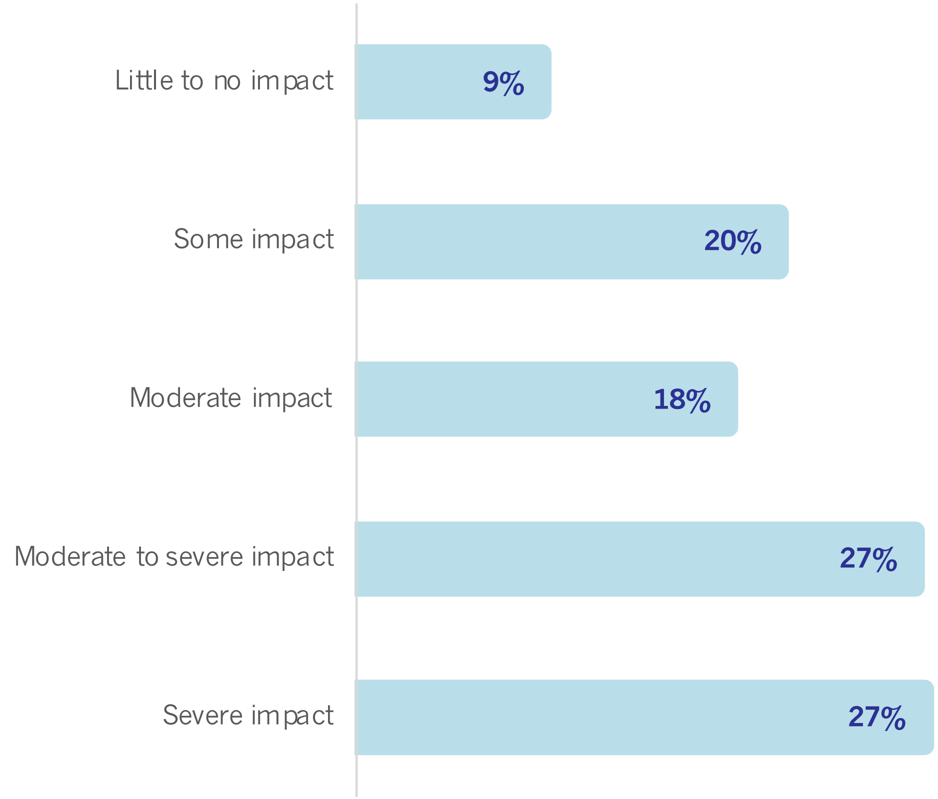


"We have a hotel and have had to put our operations at a minimum. We are going to have to lay off a lot of our employees soon as well as we are not making any money and haven't paid ourself for the last month. Would be many years before we get back to our regular operations in the tourism industry. This will be affecting us for years"

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?

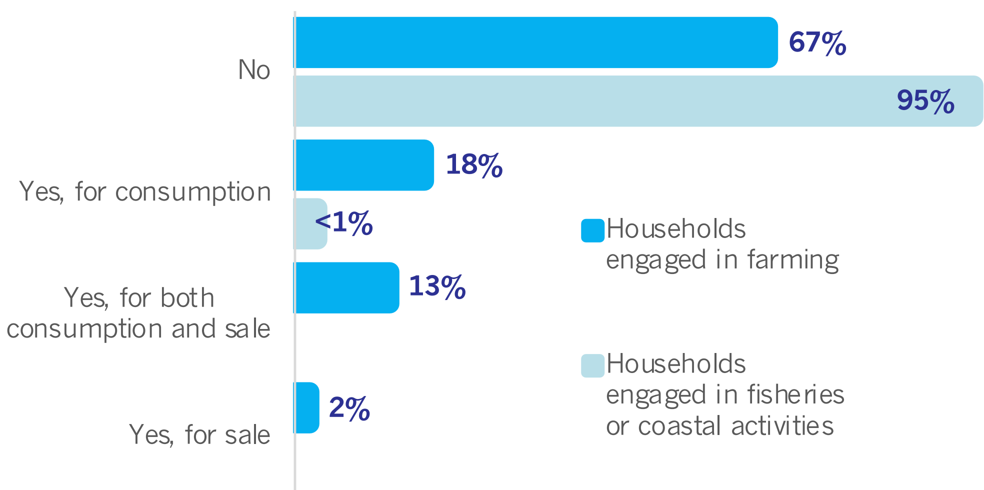


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

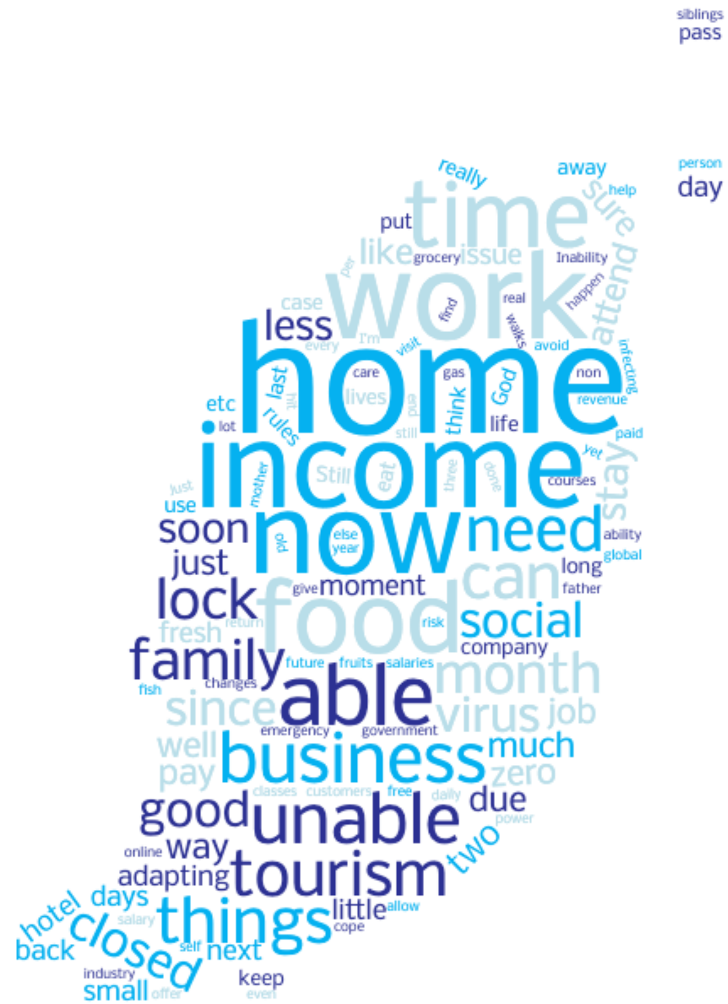
Households engaged in farming/fishing

According to the World Bank, Agriculture in Grenada contributed to 5.2% of GDP in 2018. A third of respondents are engaged in farming, primarily for consumption (18%) or both for sale and consumption (13%). More assessment and analysis on their constraints will be important to gauge how farmers are being impacted by COVID-19, as well as opportunities to boost local production.

Is your household engaged in farming or fishing?



"As a farmer my farm is away from my place of residence. So the restrictions on movement has a decided impact on my ability to carry on with my living. On your farm social distancing is easily achieved? Yet protocol is stay home or else you get two or three hours permission which is inadequate.
Secondly if we don't plant now with the international situation we are likely to starve in the coming weeks and months. "



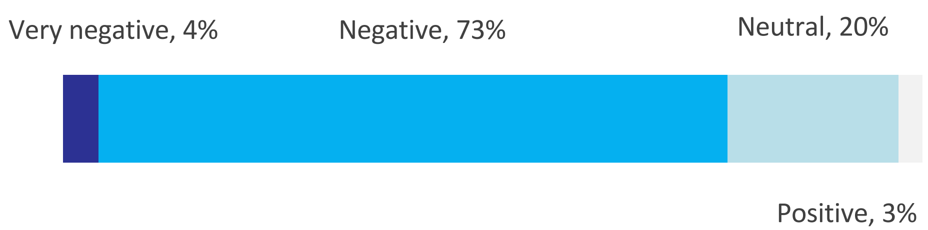
Key themes on how people in Grenada are being impacted, and are adapting to disruptions from COVID-19

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 249 respondents, 41% responded to the open-ended question resulting in a total count of over 3,200 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, 73% of responses were classified as negative, 20% as neutral and only 3% as positive. The slow down in business activity caused by movement restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 are causing income loss and financial uncertainty. This is affecting people's abilities to pay rent, bills and loans. Many describe dipping into savings, which is further causing anxiety. Business owners are raising concerns about potential layoffs of staff under their care.

Respondents in Grenada are adapting their diets by eating less or cutting down on the different types of foods normally consumed. Several describe planting crops at home to access fresh vegetables. Mental health was raised as a silent impact by some of the respondents

Very negative (4%)

"Right now am the only source of income an also I need to be there so I cannot take chances..by going out and coming because I could be bringing the virus home n I don't want that to happen an we're already running out of food so I will really like to know what should I do now at this point of frustration?"

"I have been scared and highly stressed just abiding with the rules and regulations to safeguard myself and my kids"

Negative (73%)

"Had to close my business as no customers - tourism reliant. Have virtually self isolated for 3 weeks now, with more than 80 employees and elderly relatives to care for, need to make sure we are healthy for when the charge happens after this."

"I have had to use up my limited income to stock up, in anticipation of shortages of certain imported goods, in the next few months, as well as food and household items to last for more than a month. I don't think I have sufficient meat for more than a month, but I bought rice, lentils and other such things that can last the period."

Neutral (20%)

"Slow down if business Activities made me loose revenue , I am adapting by conserving what I have , and finding alternate ways of preparing myself should the situation get worse, by planting more crops for food consumption"

"This COVID-19 has taught us to save as much as we could."

Positive (3%)

"The mental health impact while silent should not be overlooked. This is a good opportunity to create a home garden that I've always intended to do."

CONCLUSION

This report contributes to a better picture of how COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus are impacting livelihoods, food security and access to markets in Grenada. While trends were largely consistent with what was observed at the regional level, impacts on market access and availability of foods and medicines appear to be more pronounced.

Overall, COVID-19 has had widespread impacts on people's lives and livelihoods in Grenada, translating into loss of jobs or income for nearly a half of the respondents. 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, including better understanding the different impacts on men, women, children and different age groups.

More responses from the survey

"Due to the out break I maybe left without a job if things doesn't return to normal by the end of April since I'm employed under the contract for service employment. If I'm not able to go back to work I'll be left with no salary, my spouse is already without a salary since he is a construction worker so my household may soon be without any source of income "

The way i am adapting is eating more of my produce and spending time with my family. That lock out give me and opportunity to reflect to things that i had no are little time to in the pass to thing about."

"I have had to use up my limited income to stock up, in anticipation of shortages of certain imported goods, in the next few months, as well as food and household items to last for more than a month. I don't think I have sufficient meat for more than a month, but I bought rice, lentils and other such things that can last the period."

"Had to close my business as no customers - tourism reliant. Have virtually self isolated for 3 weeks now, with more than 80 employees and elderly relatives to care for, need to make sure we are healthy for when the charge happens after this."

"Young Children at home with no teacher to engage them in age appropriate activities made it hard for me to work from home. No help with housework or yard/garden also made it difficult."

"Not really affected very much. I can work from home. I stock up on food stuff on the specified days that we are allowed to go out to shops. I'm usually a stay at home person so curfew does not affect me."

ANNEX. REGIONAL SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

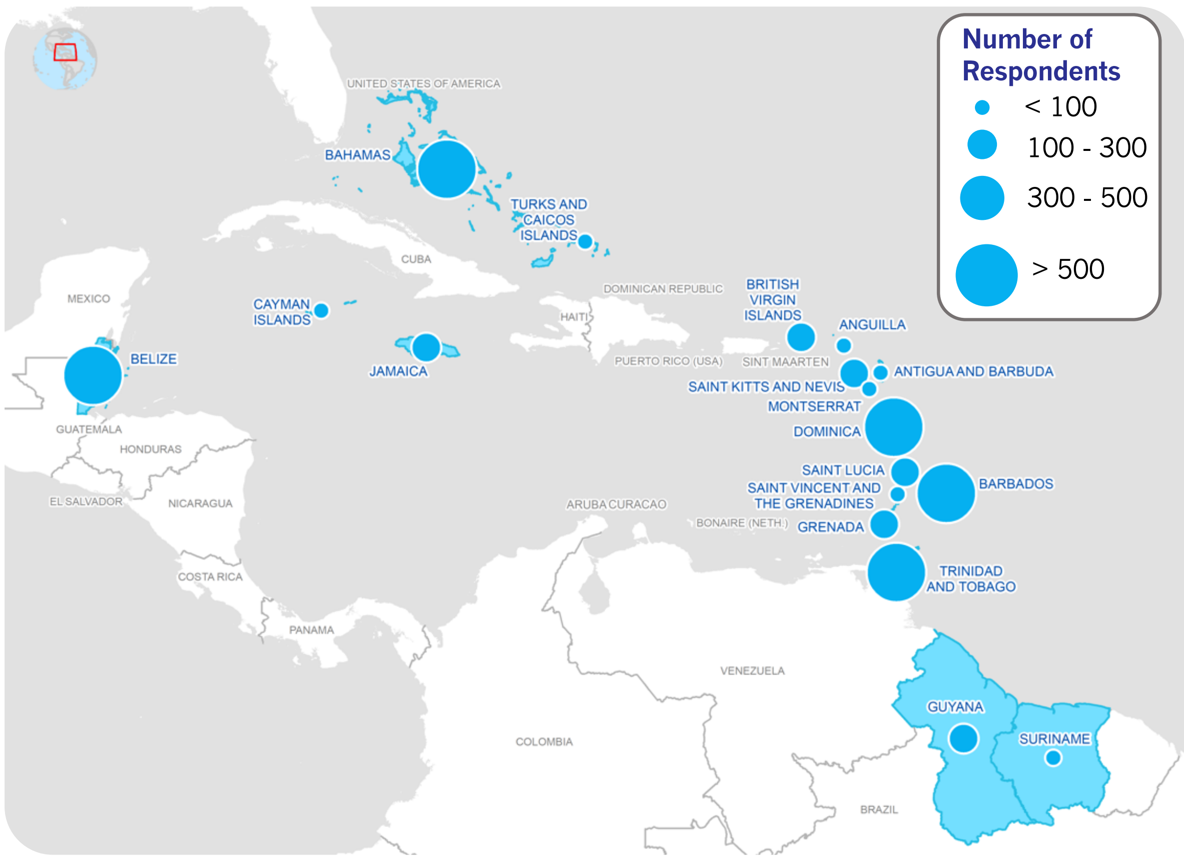
The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets. Prepared by the World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



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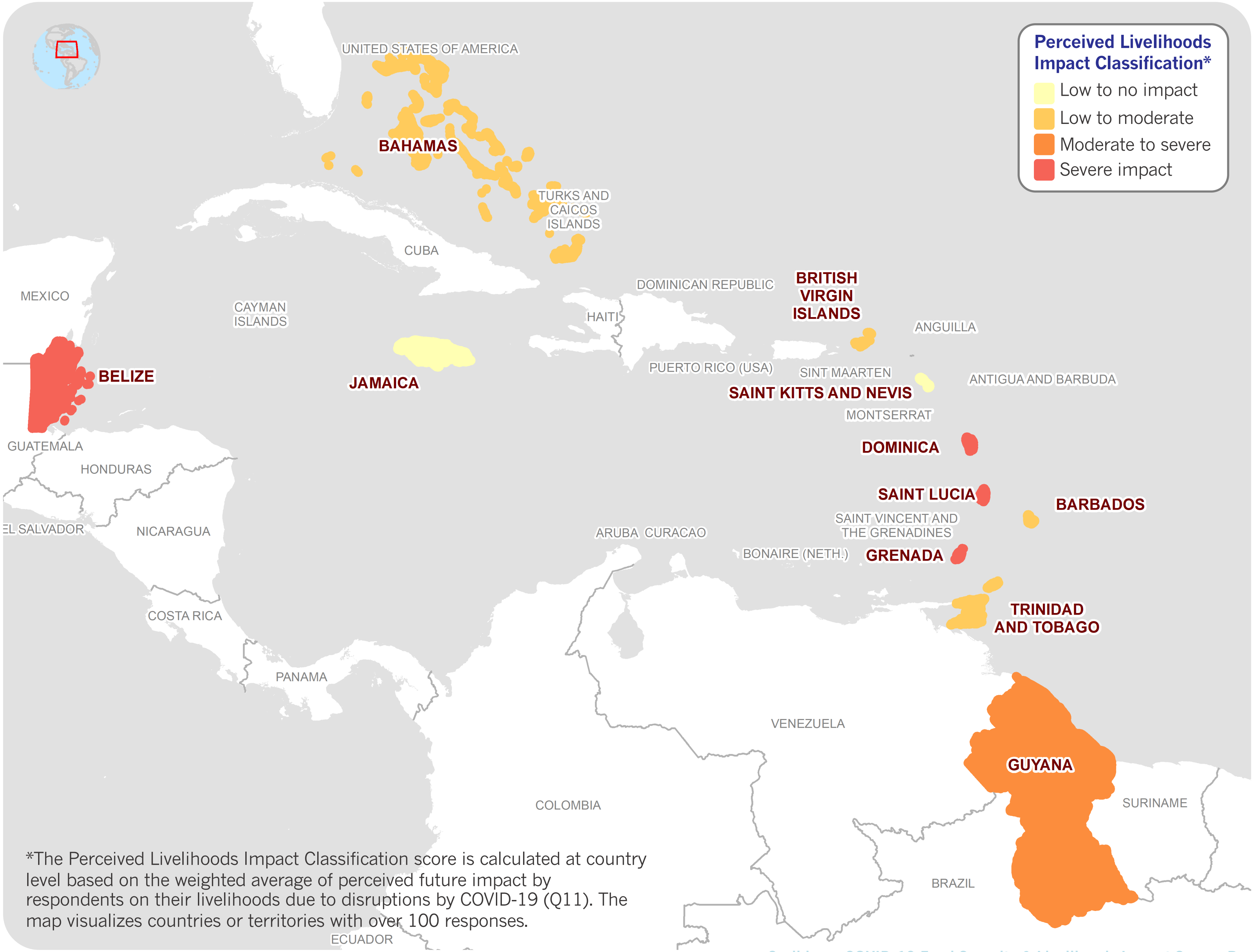
At a glance

- 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.

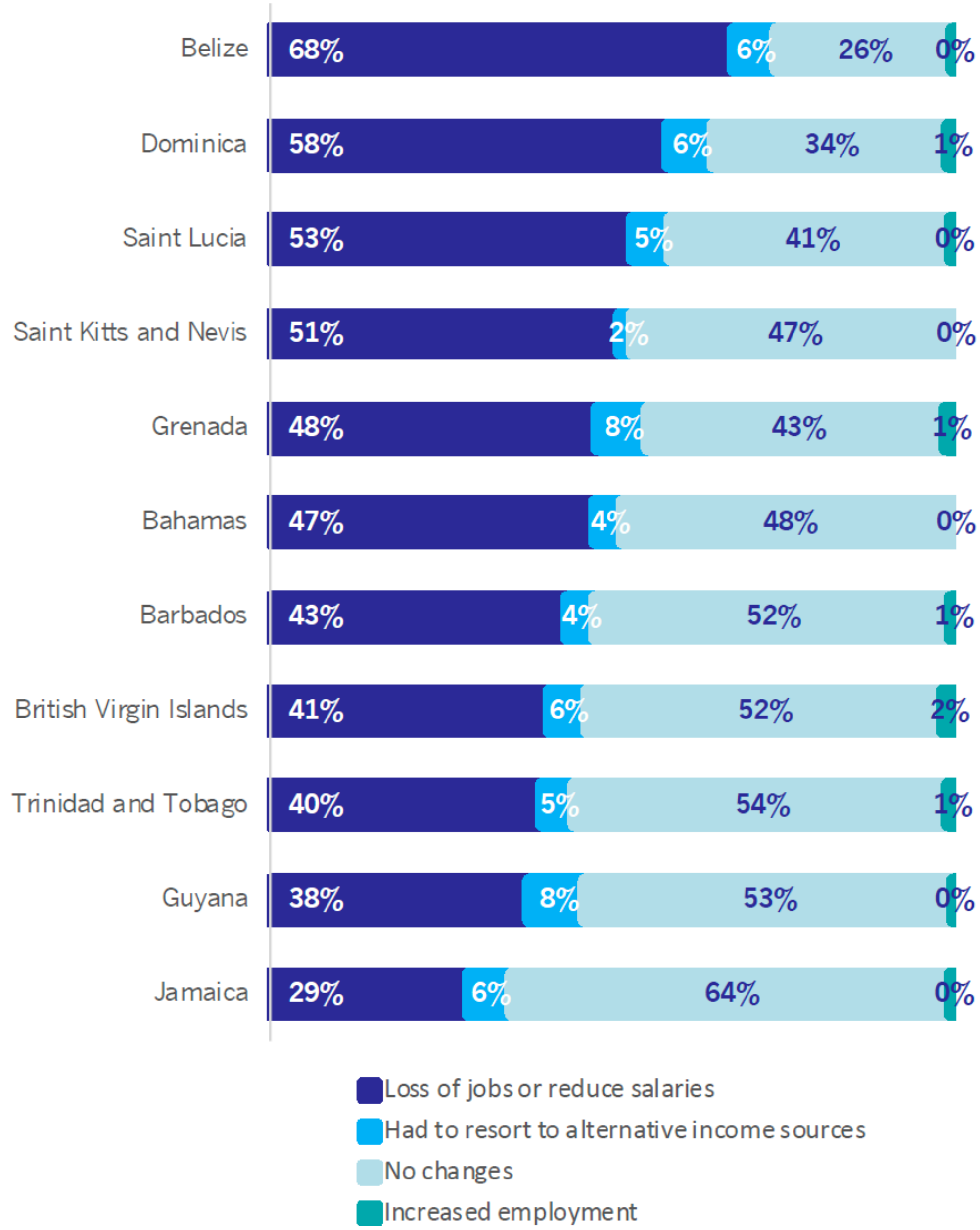
ANNEX. PERCEIVED LIVELIHOODS IMPACT IN THE CARIBBEAN



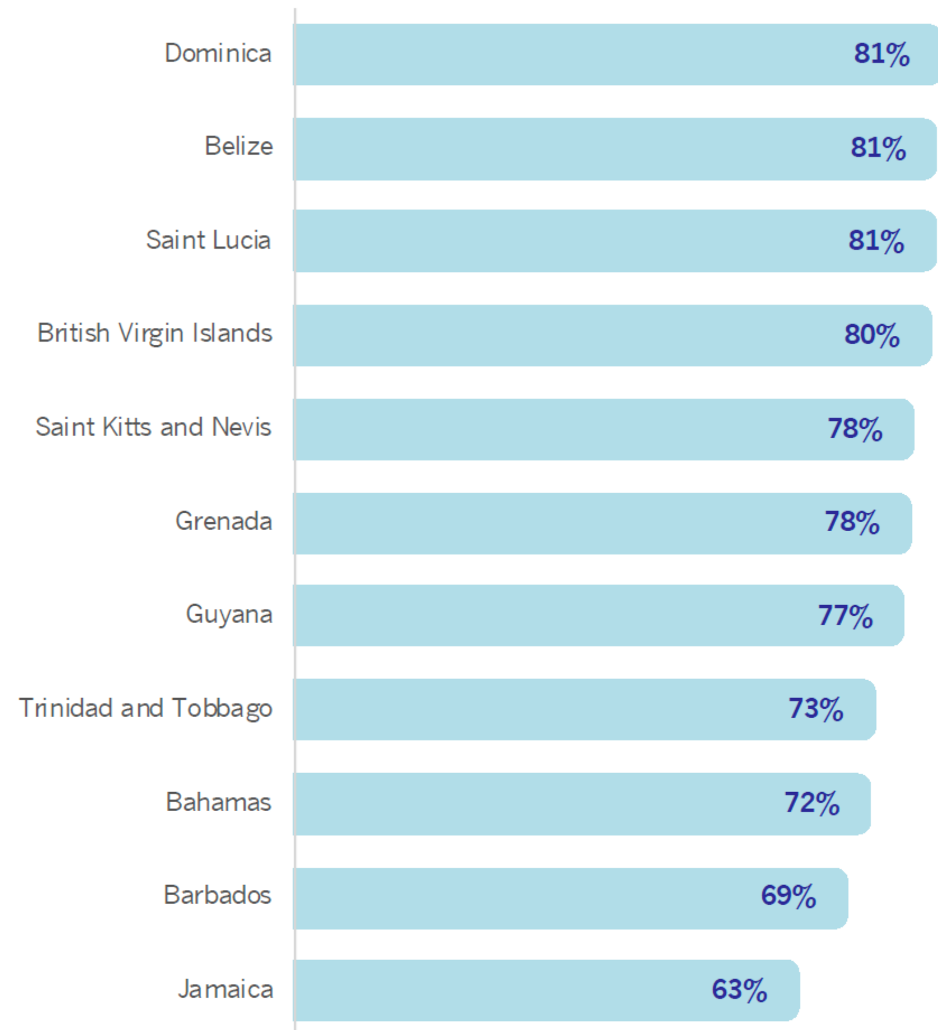
*The Perceived Livelihoods Impact Classification score is calculated at country level based on the weighted average of perceived future impact by respondents on their livelihoods due to disruptions by COVID-19 (Q11). The map visualizes countries or territories with over 100 responses.

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.

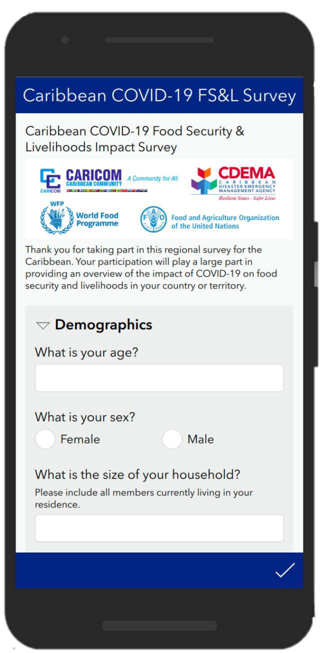
Responses were visualised live on an interactive dashboard and continually monitored to ensure their legitimacy based on cross referencing with prior knowledge and secondary data. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against intentional or unintentional outliers.

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

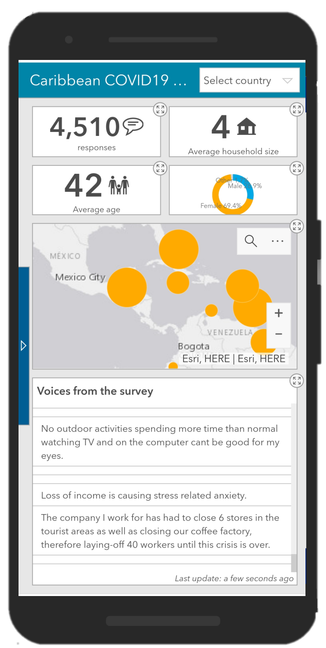
The qualitative analysis was performed in collaboration with Joseph Xu from Google's AI unit using Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP, a branch of AI which analyses and interprets human languages, provided: (a) a sentiment analysis to determine the number of positive versus negative responses and (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.

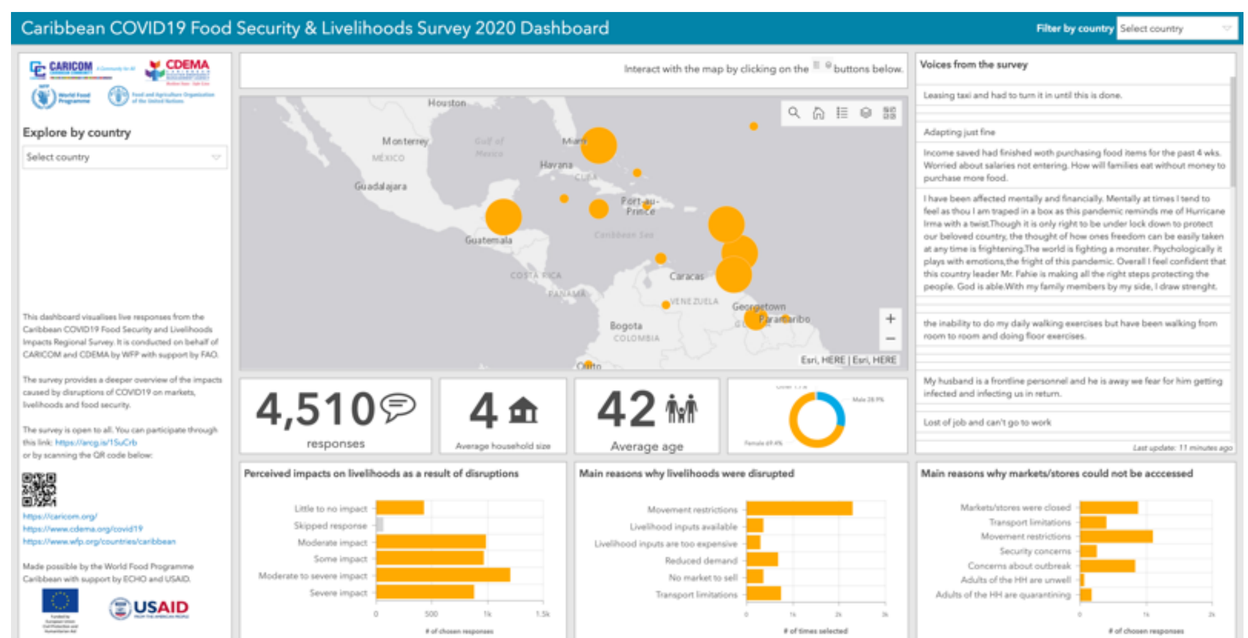
Survey (Closed)
http://arcg.is/1SuCrb



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

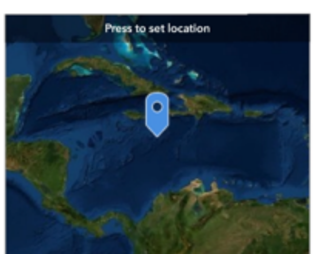
What is the size of your household?

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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