Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

British Virgin Islands Summary Report | May 2020

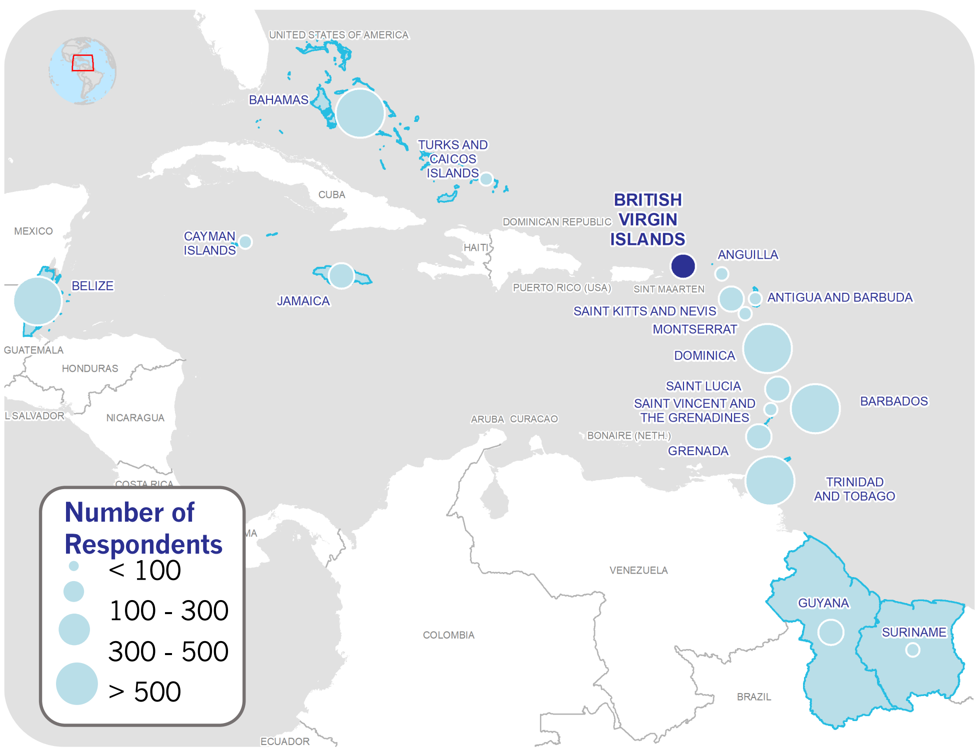
109 Respondents

71 | 29% Female | Male

44 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.



British Virgin Islands summary findings

- Market access has been impacted, with 79% of respondents unable to access markets or stores at some point between March 25 and April 12, which is much higher than the regional average. Restrictions on movement to contain the coronavirus were the main reason.
- Food items and medicines were not always fully available in stores, and 59% of respondents reported an increase in food prices.
- The vast majority of respondents (81%) changed their shopping behaviour to adapt to disruptions caused by COVID-19, primarily by buying larger quantities than usual.
- Most respondents reported no difficulty eating enough, but 16% of respondents skipped meals or ate less than usual.
- Disruptions to livelihoods are widespread, primarily owing to movement restrictions, with 80% of respondents indicating that their ability to carry out their livelihoods was affected.
- Incomes have been negatively impacted, with job loss or reduced salaries experienced by 41% 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. Further assessments are required to understand different impacts across demographic groups.

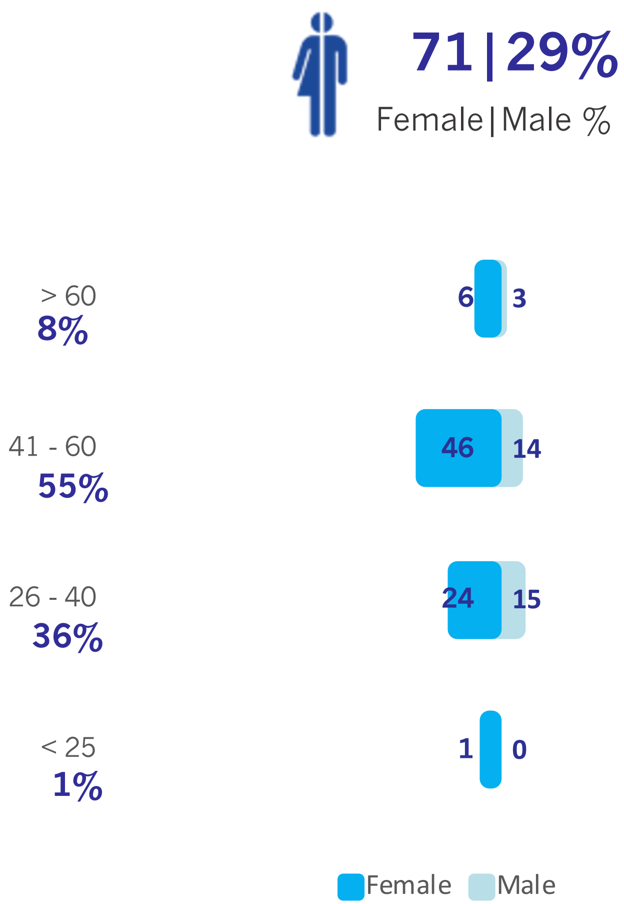
CARICOM CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY A Community for All
CDEMA Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Resilient States · Safer Lives
WFP World Food Programme
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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.

Age and sex of respondents

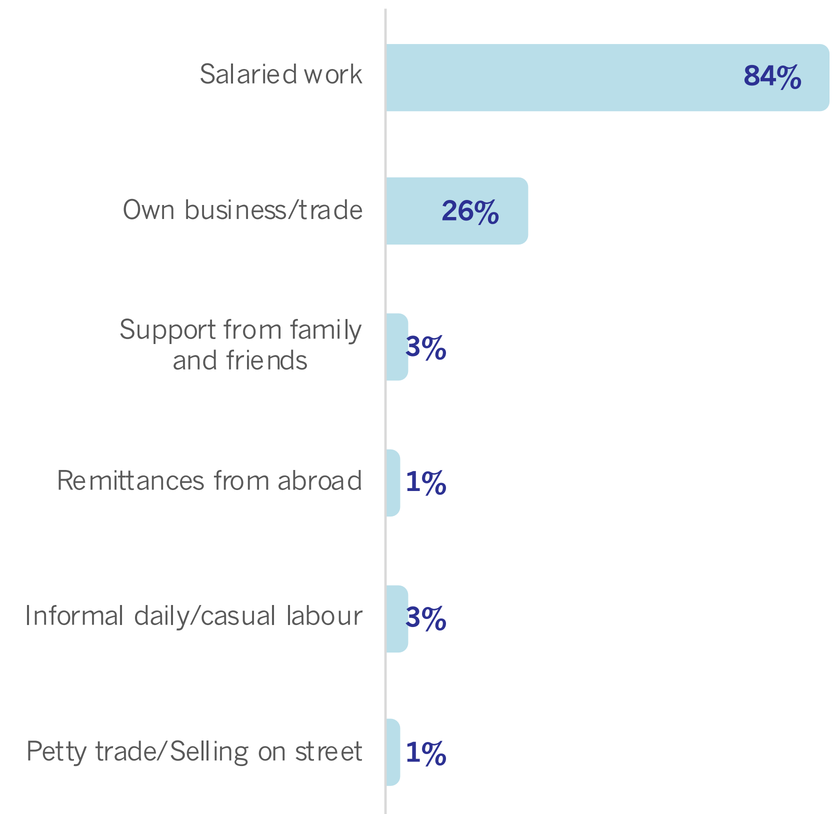


Main household income sources

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

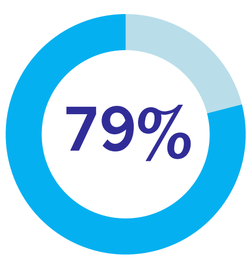
Market access has been impacted, with 79% of respondents unable to access markets at some point between March 25 and April 12, which is much higher than the regional average (37%). This is explained by curfews put in place by the government during this period to contain the coronavirus. Movement restrictions were the primary factor limiting market access, followed by markets and stores being closed.

COVID-19 has also altered how people shop, with 81% of respondents shifting their behavior, mainly by buying larger quantities than usual.

Food items and medicines were not always fully available, with only half of respondents stating that staple foods were "always available" in stores. An increase in food prices was reported by 59% of respondents, which is in line with the regional average.

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

"Currently on 14 day curfew. Following a 7 day curfew. No supermarkets are able to deliver…"

"…Was not able to shop for the 2 week curfew due to availability of food and over crowding and so do not have enough water and food for my family."

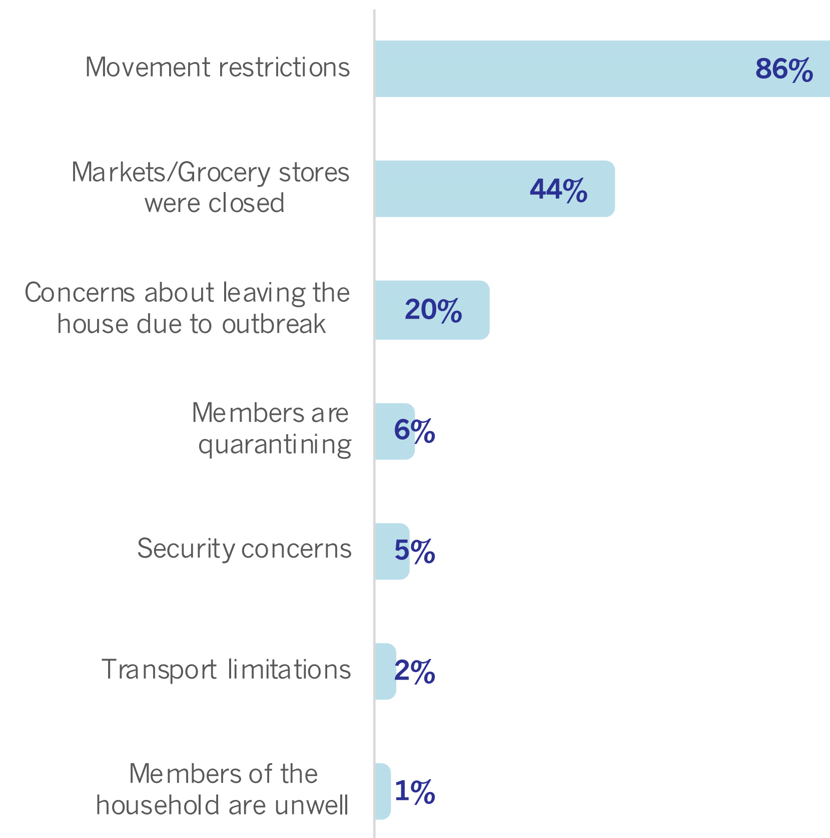
"Difficult to get necessary stocks to last for the length of the curfew. Managing with help from family "

"Not knowing when the curfew will be lifted and how shopping will happen is a concern "

"This has severely impacted the household income, as none of the three of us can work from home. With a full lockdown we cannot buy groceries,"

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

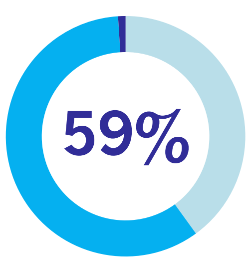
Availability of items in stores

Respondents reported on the availability of key items in stores.

	Staple Food	Fresh food	Hygiene	Medicines
Always Available	50%	61%	68%	43%
Partially/ sometimes available	35%	21%	20%	36%
Not available	6%	5%	5%	3%
Don't know	9%	13%	7%	19%

Food prices

Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices.



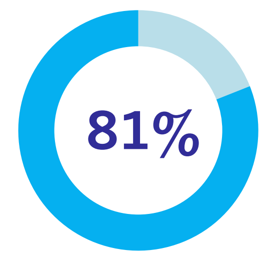
Observed an increase in food prices.
40% reported no change and
<1% reported a decrease

"Garbage isn't being collected in my area. It should be, but isn't"

"…We are in a small community population of 4,000 so our waste is now being collected, curb side for the first time on a regular basis.

Shopping behaviour

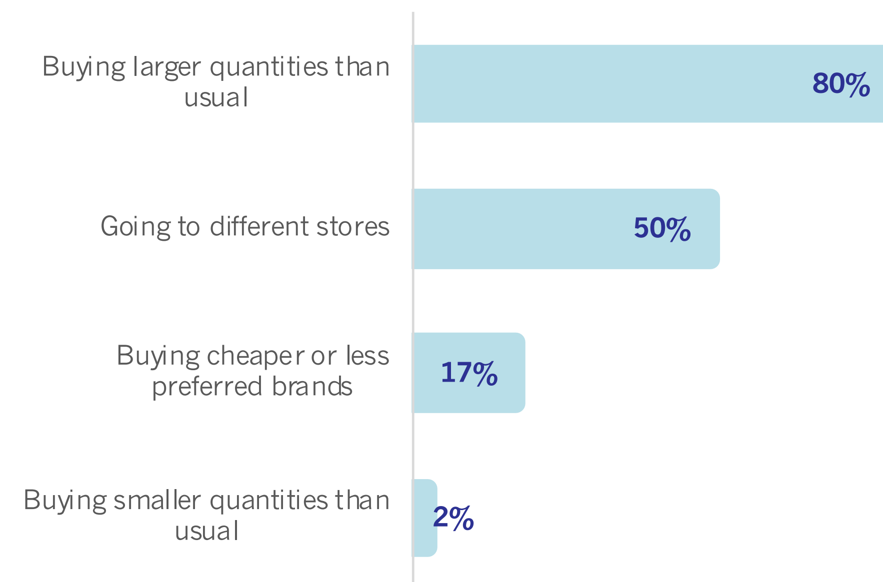
Respondents were asked if they have had to, and if so, how they have altered their shopping behavior.



Changed their shopping behaviour

Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to normal times?

Multiple choices could be selected.

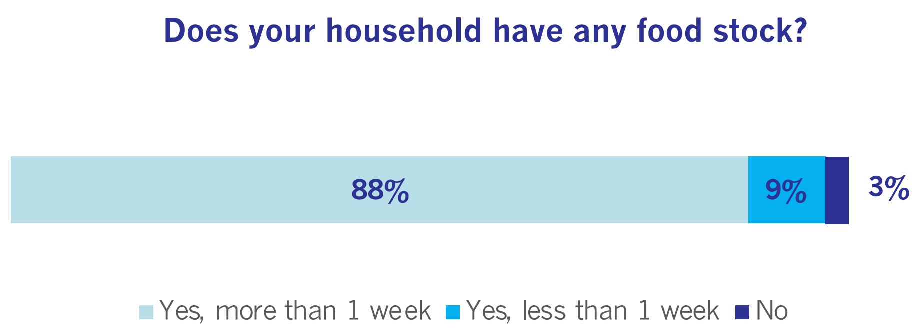


IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

The majority (70%) of respondents reported having no difficulties eating enough, which is in line with the regional trend. However, diets are impacted for some, with 16% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual, and 8% eating less preferred foods. Most respondents had food at home, with 88% having food stocks of at least one week. However, 3% reported having no food stocks.

Food stocks

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

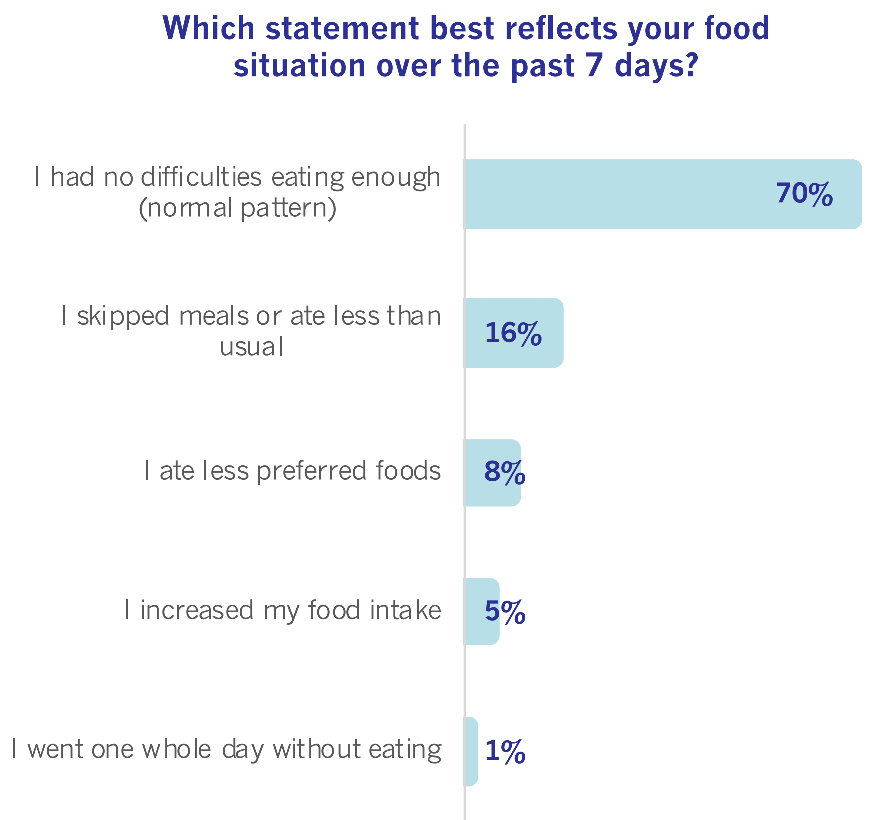


"We have lots of food supply at home but the restrictions and lack of movement coupled with internet speeds make me wish things can return to normal as soon as possible"

"Running out of fresh food like vegetables and fruits."

Food consumption

Respondents were asked to reflect on their food situation.



"We are not allowed out of the apartment, not even to exercise alone. Working from home is also not ideal so have been less productive. Both things above mentioned causes anxiety so we have been eating more "junkie" food than normal"

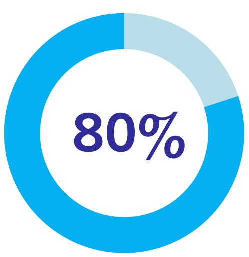
IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods are being widely disrupted by the pandemic and measures to contain it, with 80% of respondents indicating that their ability to carry out livelihoods was affected in the two weeks prior to responding the survey. This was the fourth highest of the 11 countries and territories with sufficient responses for individual analysis. Movement restrictions were the main reason, cited by 92% of respondents whose livelihoods were disrupted.

Job loss or reduced salaries were experienced by 41% of respondents, which is slightly below the regional average (48%). The vast majority of respondents (89%) predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future.

Disruptions to livelihoods

Respondents reported on any disruptions to their livelihoods.



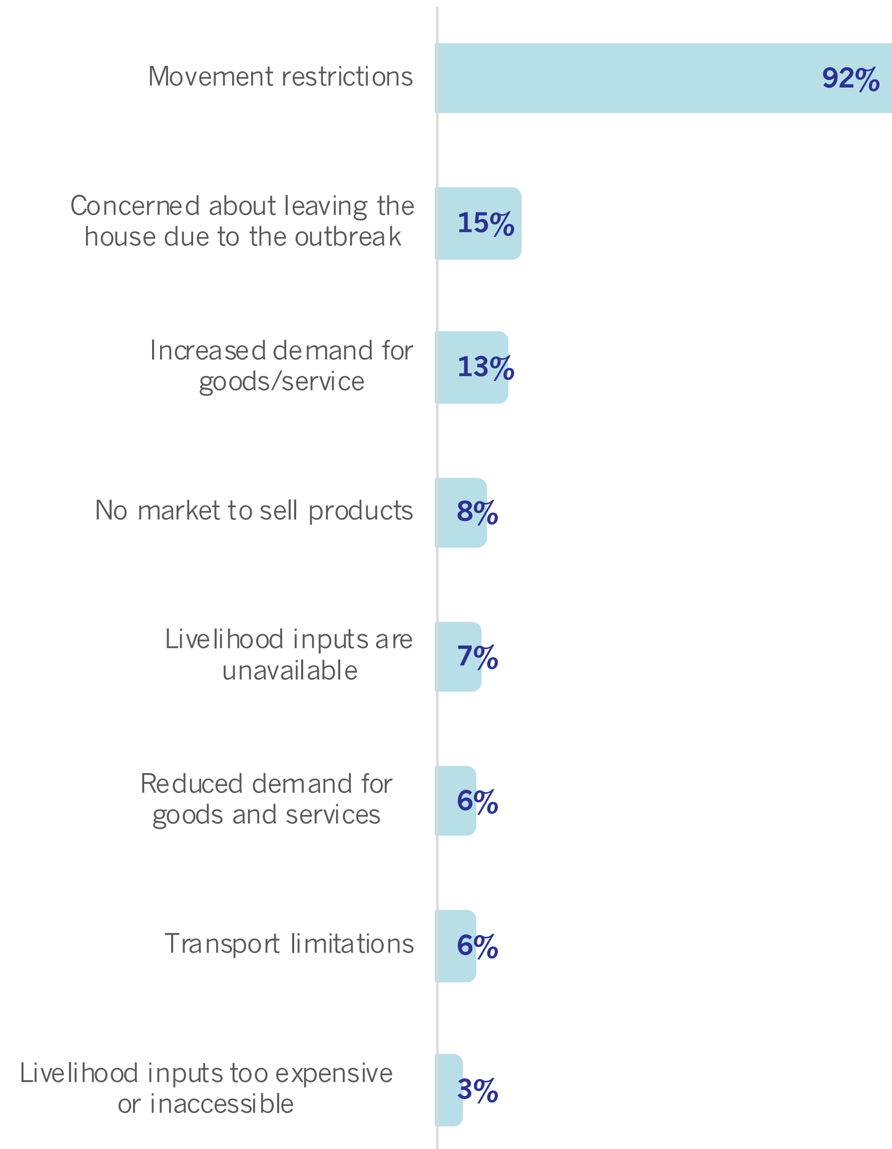
reported livelihood disruptions in the past two weeks

"Our tourism business had been totally disrupted due to the ban of tourist ships visits at this time to the territory. Also due to curfews."

"While my job is currently not affected, if the situation persists then there could be an issue with my continued employment as the wider society and economy becomes affected. "

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

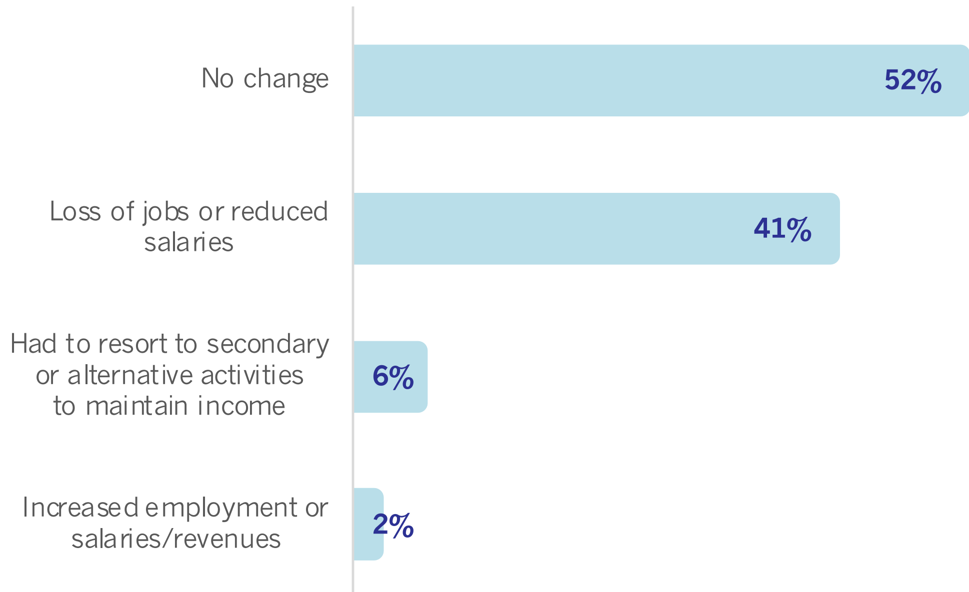


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Income changes

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

Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks?



"As was mentioned, due to loss of business, there isn't a plan B at the moment. Unless people go back to work , which may not seem possible for a large number, I can't sell food."

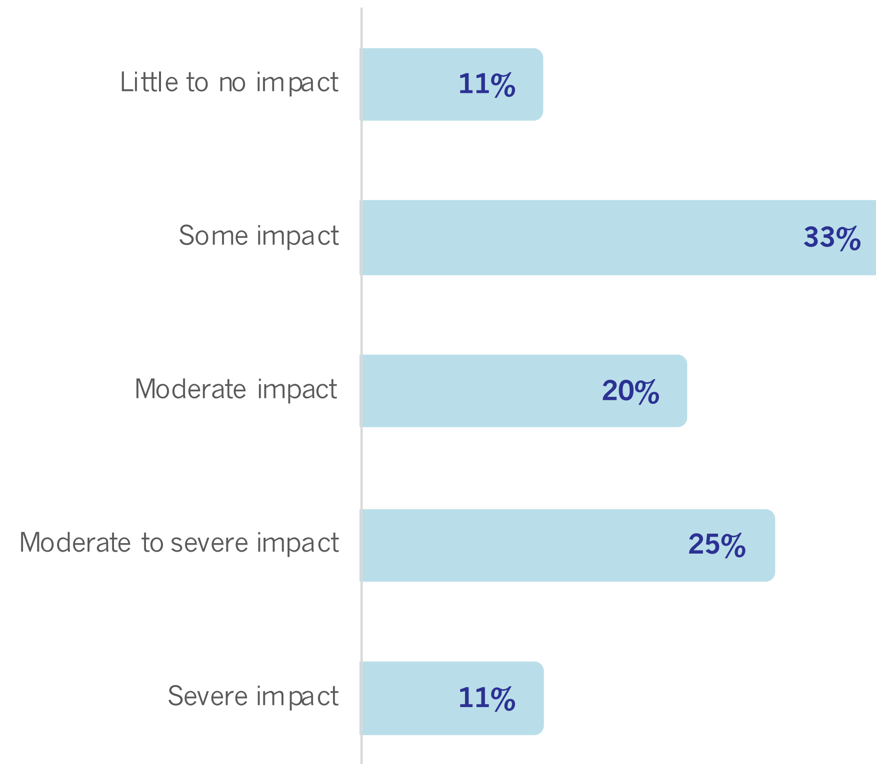
"I am an essential worker so the work load has increased at home and at work"

"Business closed now for a month. This is my primary source of income, so absolutely no income at the moment.."

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?

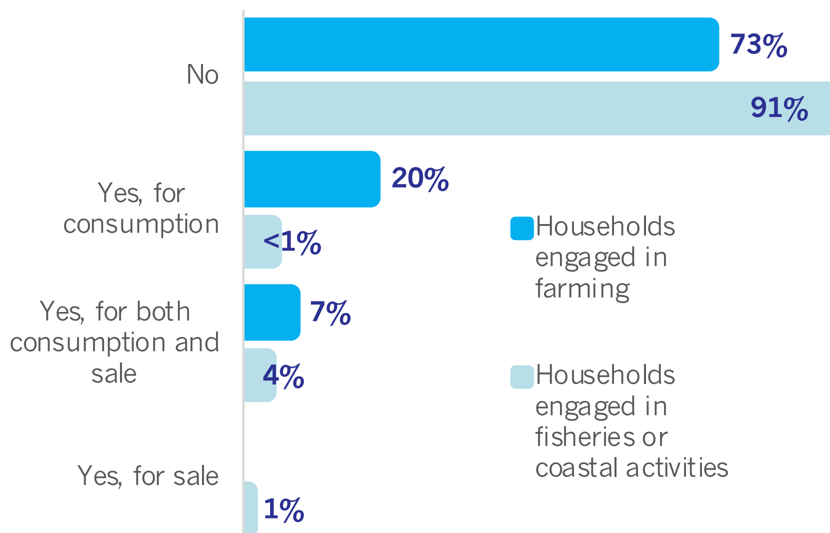


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Households engaged in farming/fishing

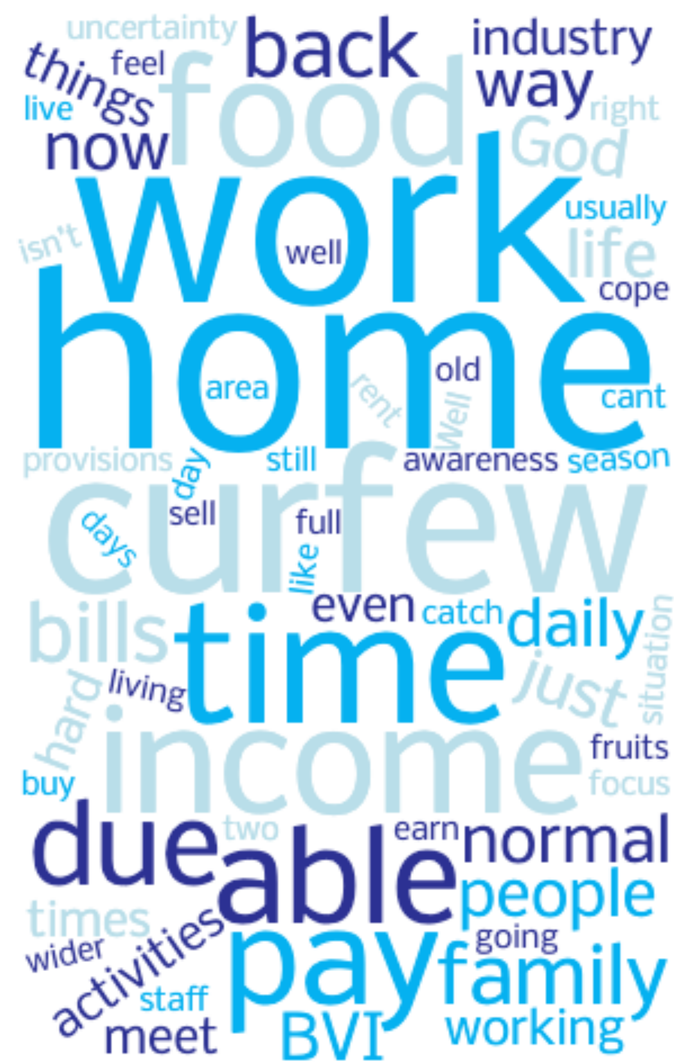
One-fifth of respondents are growing food for personal consumption, and 9% engage in fishing. Owing to the COVID-19 crisis, 6% of the respondents have started some farming at their homes. Given the very limited number of respondents engaged in commercial farming and fishing/coastal activities, more assessment 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 husband is a fisherman and as a result of COVID-19, we have been placed under a 24-hour curfew for the second time, so he is not able to go fishing. This is affecting our lives as we have bills to pay and also we usually get seafood to eat from his catch."

"Although I am confined to my home, I still manage to be Productive in a variety of ways. One way is by starting a farm by planting seeds, as I intend on doing my own back yard farming."



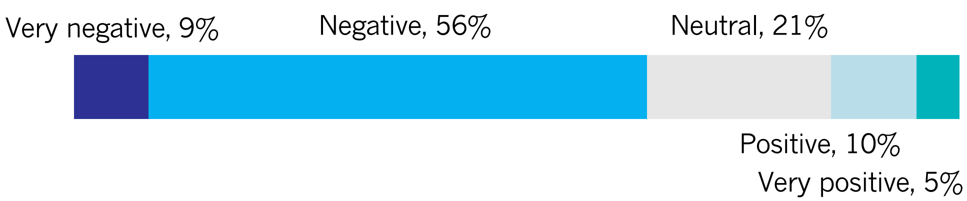
Key themes on how people in the British Virgin Islands are being impacted, and are adapting to disruptions from COVID-19

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 the109 respondents, 48% responded to the open-ended question resulting in a total count of over 1700 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



Respondents from British Virgin Islands expressed a variety of sentiments in how they are coping and adapting. Out of the total responses, 56% were classified as being negative, 13% as neutral and 10% as positive. Many expressed feelings of anxiety about how the movement restrictions in place at the time of the survey were impacting their livelihoods. The majority of the negative responses were from those who were experiencing a decrease in household income or loss of jobs and uncertainty with regards to their ability to meet daily, weekly and monthly financial commitments in the future. Respondents are also trying to adapt to working from home while ensuring that they have a work life balance and manage family and household duties.

Very negative (17%)

"I have been affected mentally and financially. Mentally at times I tend to feel as thou I am trapped in a box as this pandemic reminds me of Hurricane Irma with a twist...."

"As a business owner, with no work for the past month, there will be no income. Will have to layoff employees. How will they survive. More than half live paycheck to paycheck. BVI has no unemployment insurance or any other such provisions"

Negative (56%)

"The challenge of balancing working at home, online classes for my primary school daughter and the daily chore of household duties which include meal preparation has added an extra level of stress to my daily life. "

"Challenging during imposed curfew to access necessities"

Neutral (13%)

" Currently working from home. Job focus and duties have changed due to COVID19."

"Working from home. Balancing domestic and work activities from home. Planting some food items."

Positive (10%)

"We are making a conscious effort in focusing on positives, especially to put at ease our 82-year old mother."

"Restricted to staying at home and have adapted well, as it's for the greater good of the country in order to slow/stop the spread of COVID19."

Very Positive (4%)

"Work-life balance has improved significantly."

"Adapting just fine ."

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 the British Virgin Islands. While overall trends for the British Virgin Islands were consistent with what was observed at the regional level, some impacts appear to be more pronounced, particularly on access to markets given restrictions in place. The percentage of people experiencing livelihood disruptions was also higher.

Overall, COVID-19 has had widespread impacts on people's lives and livelihoods, translating into loss of jobs or income for 41% of respondents. With a quarter of respondents unable to maintain normal eating patterns, risks 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. At the same time, financial assistance and other resources to vulnerable populations should be expanded 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

"Just the uncertainty of the future as it regards tourism as I depend on it for my living.."

"Well COVID19 as put a disruption on my daily work life ,and therefore I cant pay my rent ,buy enough food ,or pay my bills .and it's taking a toll on me ,that sometimes I get real angry for no reason .I just want this airborne disease to just go away so everyone can get back their normal life..."

"The main thing that affected us is that curfew not being able to carry out our normal life routine and activities "

"I suffer from asthma and money is hard when bills need to be paid "

"Lost revenue at busiest time in season due to two days notice of closing borders. We had invested $50,000 expecting that back and more by the end of March. Now we are fully stocked with a new roof and stage with no market to sell in. We will be okay for food and drink as we are a restaurant but once its over, we will have no staff as we cannot pay them while we are closed. "

"Children are not in a learning institution and there are no efficient and effective way of learning while at home. Employer was forced to allow staff to work on shift and two days later temporarily laid off due to lockdown."

"The inability to do my daily walking exercises but have been walking from room to room and doing floor exercises."

ANNEX. REGIONAL SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

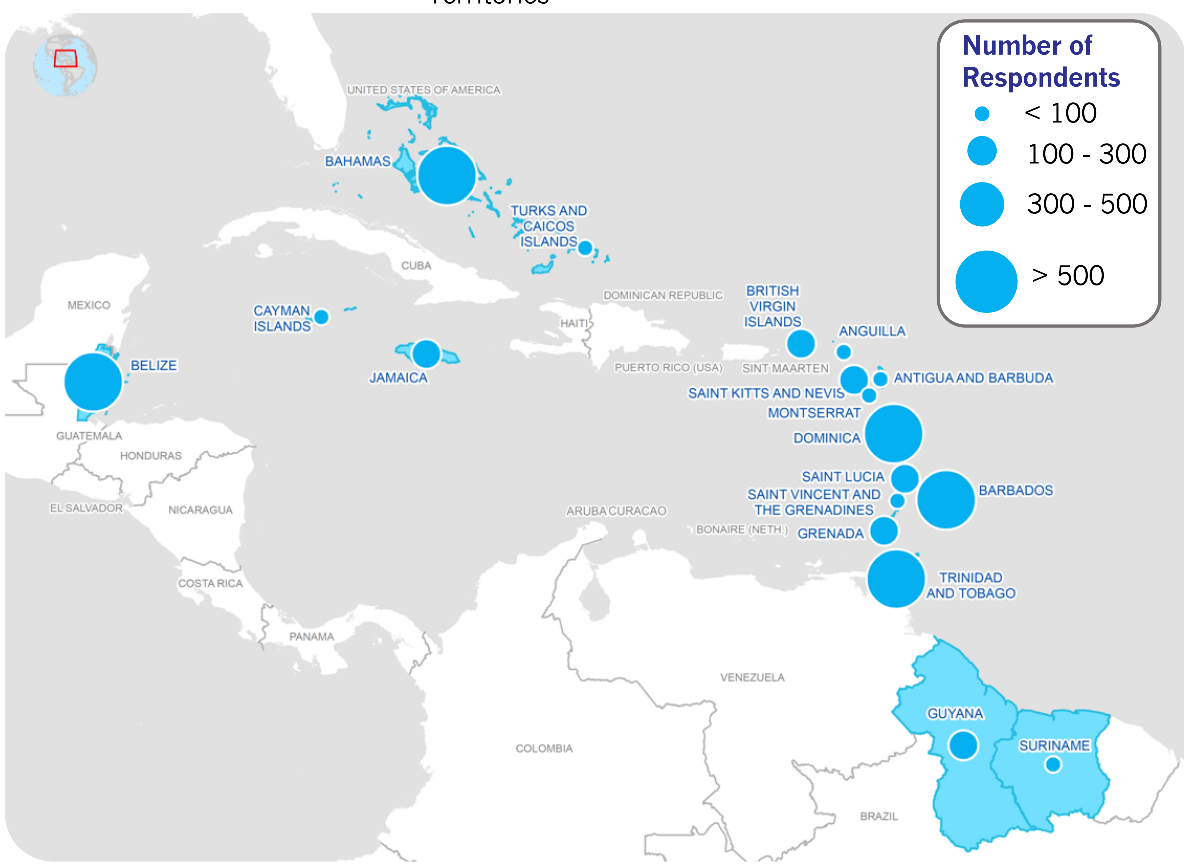
The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets. Prepared by the World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

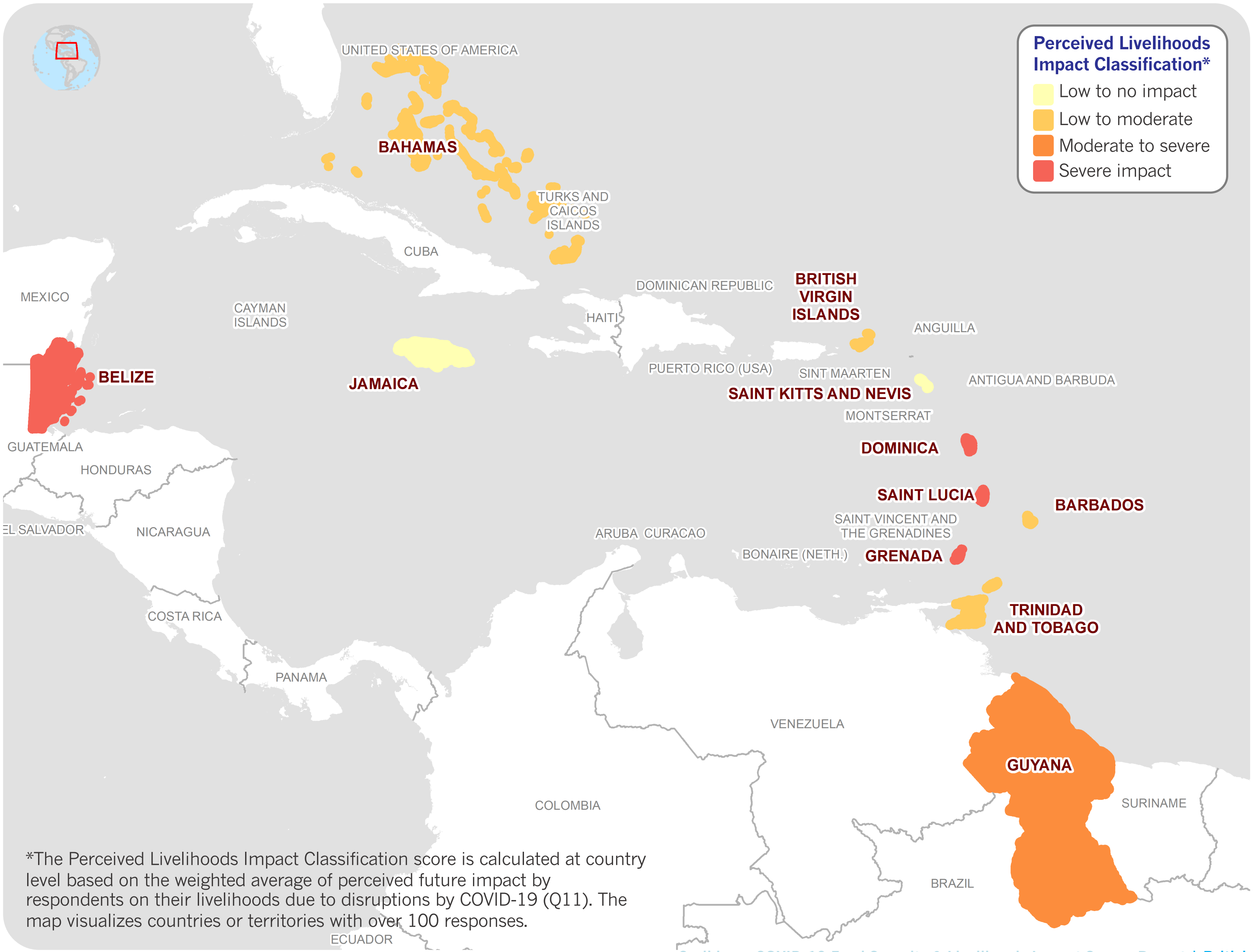


At a glance

- 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.

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

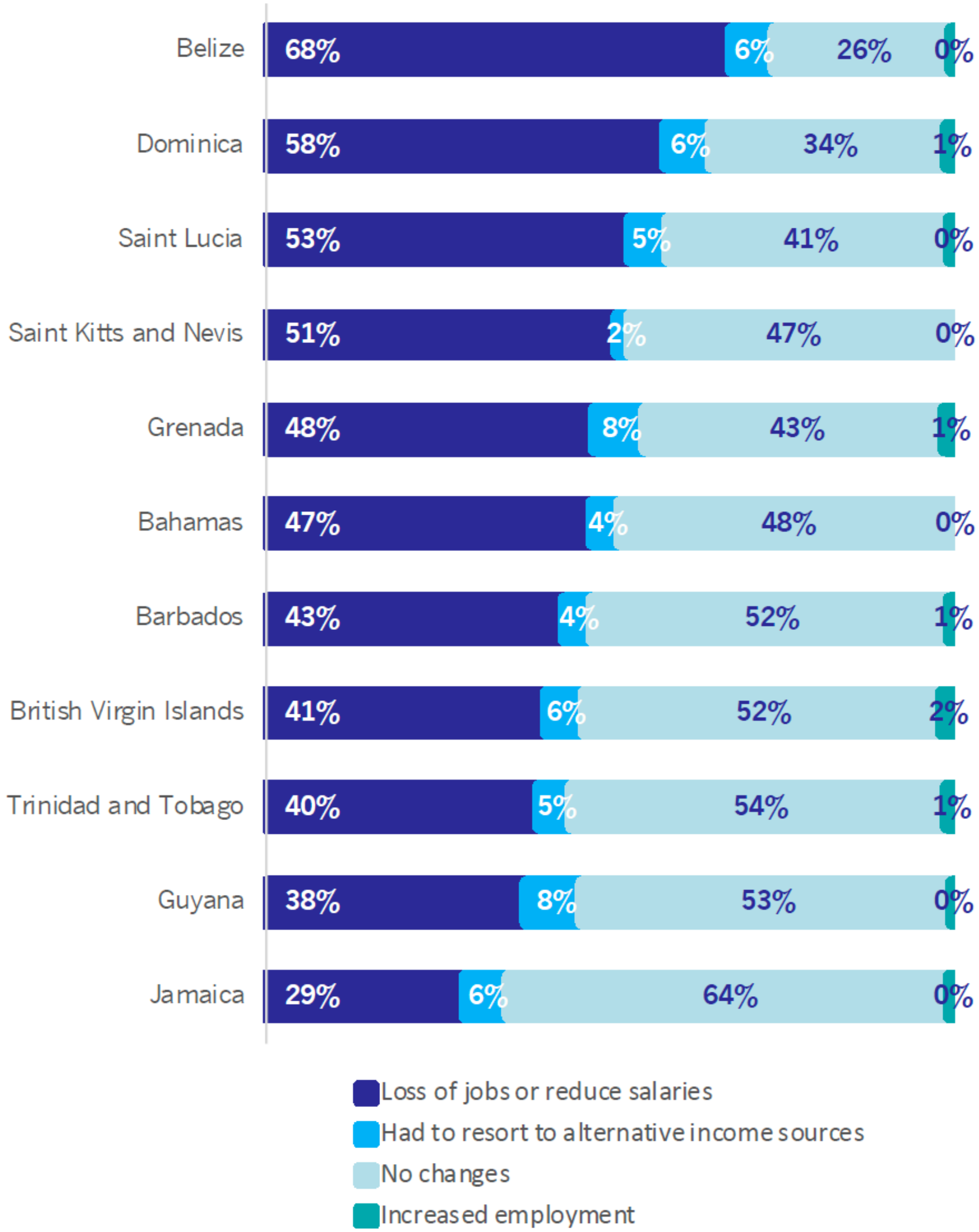
ANNEX. PERCEIVED LIVELIHOODS IMPACT IN THE CARIBBEAN



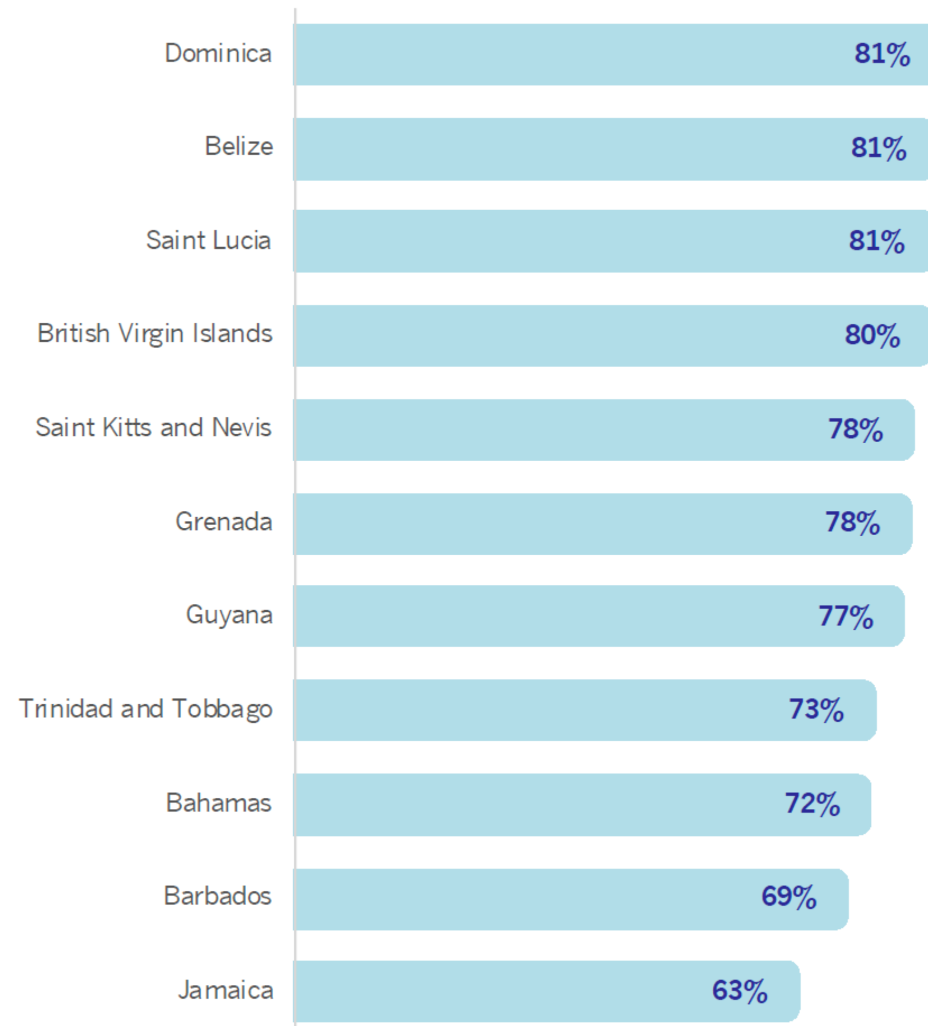
*The Perceived Livelihoods Impact Classification score is calculated at country level based on the weighted average of perceived future impact by respondents on their livelihoods due to disruptions by COVID-19 (Q11). The map visualizes countries or territories with over 100 responses.

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.

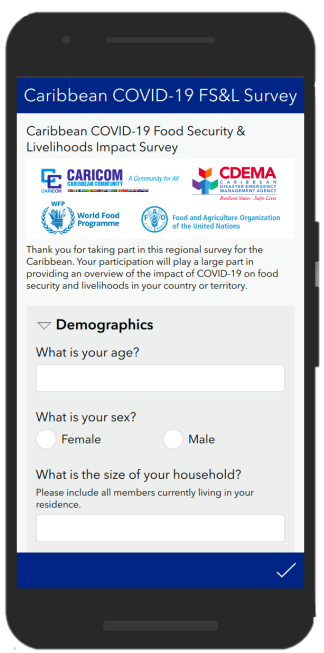
Responses were visualised live on an interactive dashboard and continually monitored to ensure their legitimacy based on cross referencing with prior knowledge and secondary data. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against intentional or unintentional outliers.

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

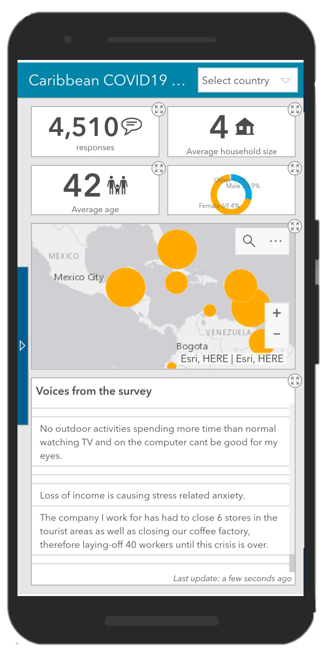
The qualitative analysis was performed in collaboration with Joseph Xu from Google's AI unit using Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP, a branch of AI which analyses and interprets human languages, provided: (a) a sentiment analysis to determine the number of positive versus negative responses and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

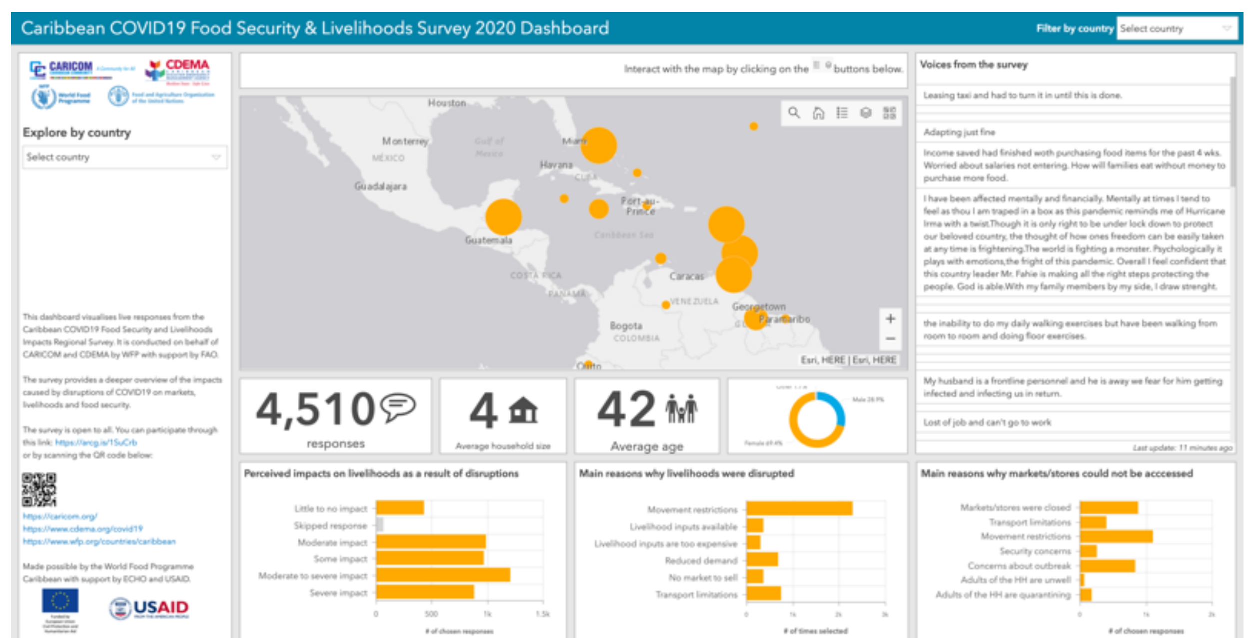
Survey (Closed)
http://arcg.is/1SuCrb



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?

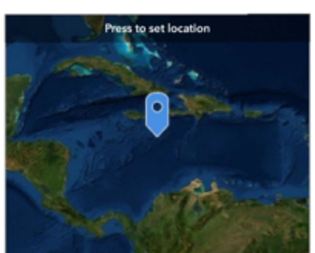
Please include all members currently living in your residence.

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 quantities 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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