Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

St. Kitts and Nevis Summary Report | May 2020

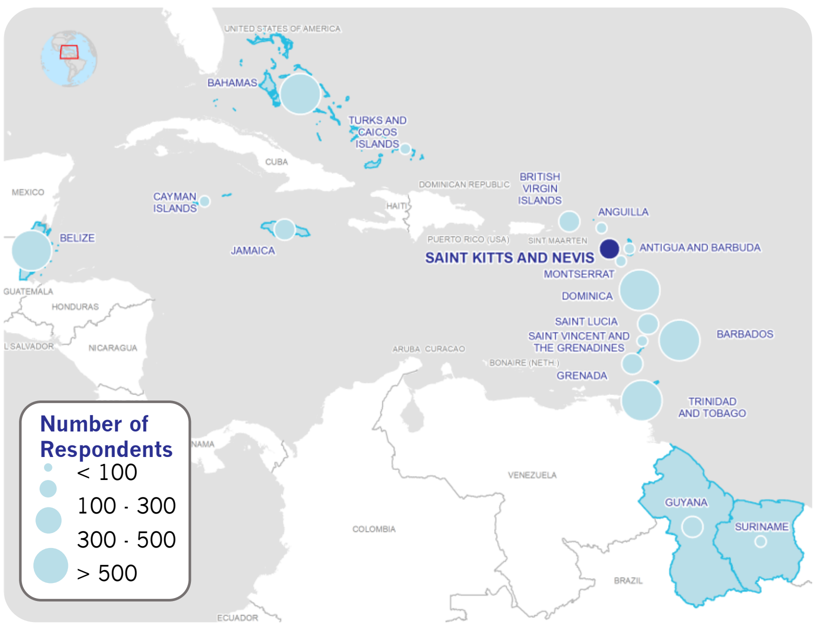
116 Respondents

75|25% Female | Male

38 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.



St. Kitts and Nevis summary findings

- COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have impacted people's access to markets, with 62% of respondents unable to access markets at some point between March 25 and April 12, primarily owing to movement restrictions.
- Food items and medicines were not always fully available in stores, and half of respondents reported an increase in food prices.
- The vast majority (73%) of respondents changed their shopping behaviour to adapt to disruptions caused by COVID-19, primarily by buying larger quantities than usual.
- COVID-19 is impacting food consumption, with 16% of respondents resorting to eating less preferred foods and 15% skipping meals or 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.
- Incomes have been negatively impacted. Job loss or reduced salaries were reported by 51% 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.

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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Funded by European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid
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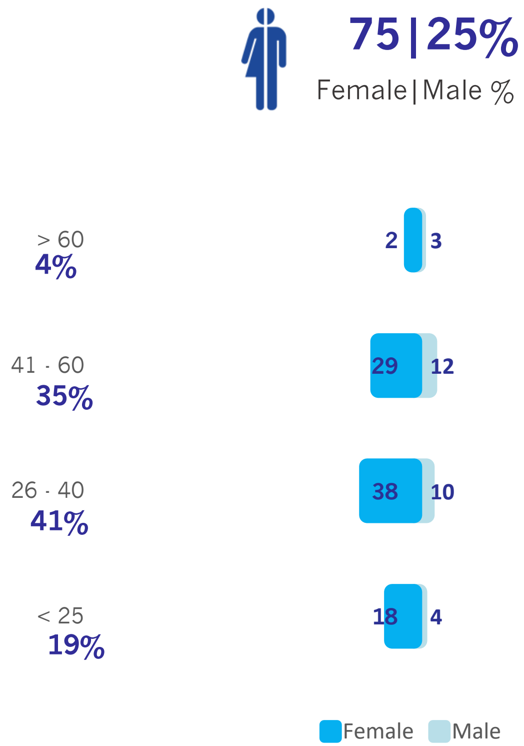
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

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

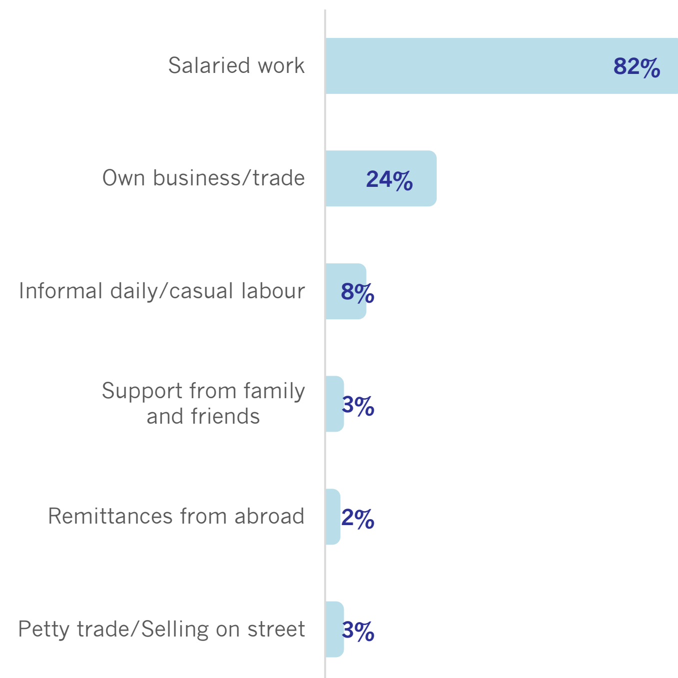


Main household income sources

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

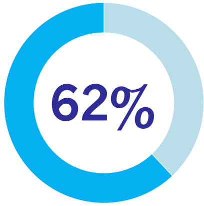
COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have impacted people's access to markets, with 62% of respondents unable to access markets at some point between March 25 and April 12, which is much higher than the regional average (37%). This is explained by curfews put in place by the government during this period to contain the coronavirus. Movement restrictions and closure of stores/markets were the most frequently cited reasons.

COVID-19 has altered how people shop, with 73% of respondents shifting their behavior, mainly by buying larger quantities than usual, with some going to different stores than usual.

Food, hygiene items and medicines were not always fully available in stores, with 41% of respondents reporting that fresh foods were only "partially/sometimes available". This percentage is even higher for medicines (47%). Half of respondents reported an increase in food prices, which is below the regional level (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

"I would like to pick up additional or a different variety of food stuff but cannot leave home."

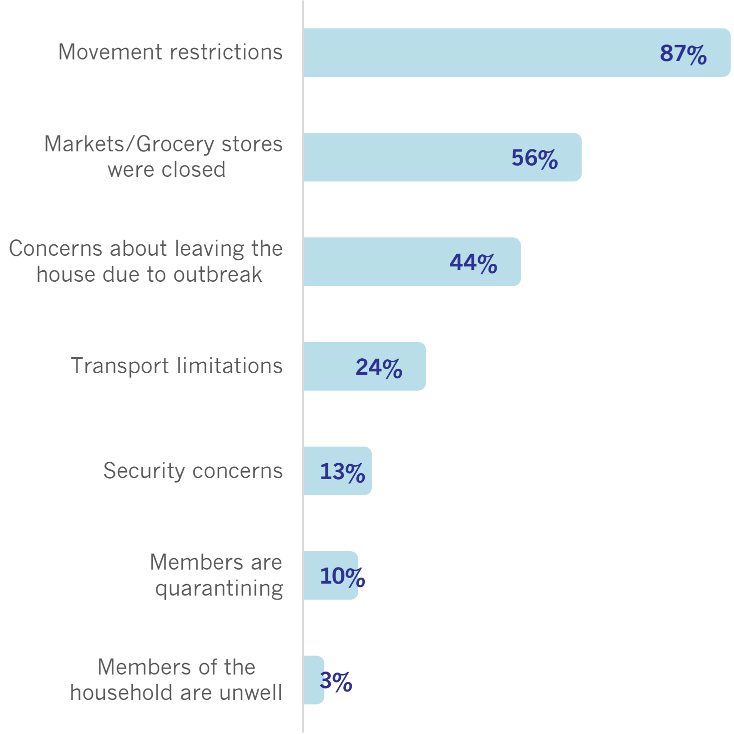
"Access too pharmacies has been harder because of the long lines.Banking takes longer because of the lines. We don't go out much because of curfews"

"Not being able to shop as normal due to the large crowd of shoppers."

"I'm adapting to the restrictions re curfew. I have no choice but to accept the new reality. However price gouging is not acceptable in the rural areas despite the denial by the government."

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



IMPACT ON MARKETS

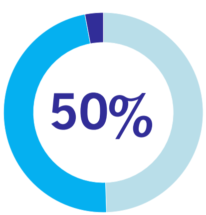
Availability of items in stores

Respondents reported on the availability of key items in stores.

	Staple Food	Fresh food	Hygiene	Medicines
Always Available	57%	50%	65%	30%
Partially/ sometimes available	35%	41%	31%	47%
Not available	2%	1%	2%	7%
Don't know	6%	9%	3%	17%

Food prices

Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices.

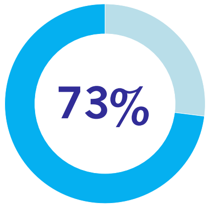


Observed an increase in food prices.
48% reported no change
<3% reported a decrease

"The supermarket arrangements for essential workers should be revised and instead of having just 3 to 5 have a day solely for essential workers...it is creating a clash with regular shoppers and by the time we get there supplies are minimal"

Shopping behaviour

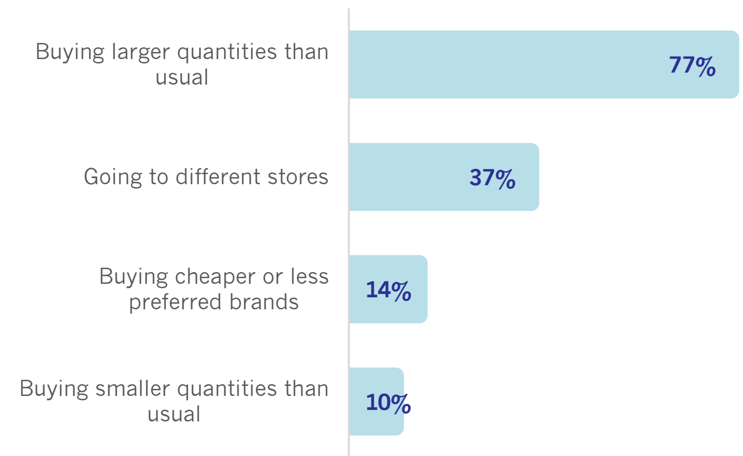
Respondents were asked if they have had to, and if so, how they have altered their shopping behavior.



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 62% of respondents reported having no difficulties eating enough, 16% of respondents reported eating less preferred foods,15% skipped meals or ate less than usual and 2% went a whole day without eating.

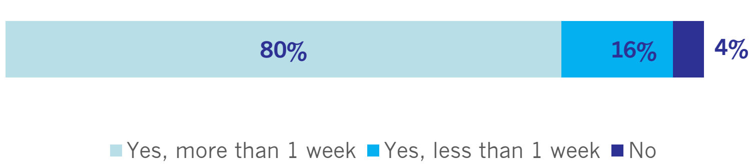
Most respondents had food at home, with 80% having at least one week's worth of food stocks. However, 4% reported having no food stocks.

These percentages are similar to the 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?



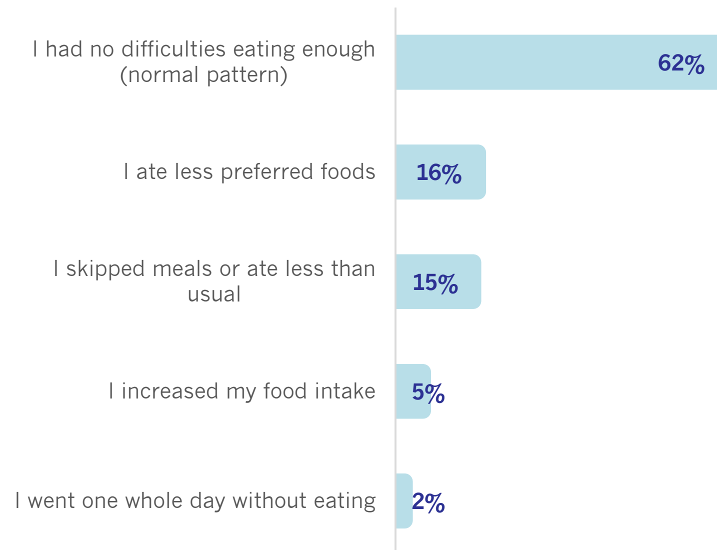
"If curfew is extended without a break, I will not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables."

"Not been able to look after the more vulnerable group to ensure that they have a good supply of food or a prepared meal. Convenience foods have to be substituted for fresh wholesome foods."

Food consumption

Respondents were asked to reflect on their food situation.

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



"It is kind of frustrating that i am not able to have as much healthy food as possible and in addition to that the curfew has intertwined with movements on getting certain necessary items. I just hope that the situation will be rectified quickly."

"I share fruits and vegetables. My husband is not working so less money is coming in. He likes gardening and that is helping to put food on the table."

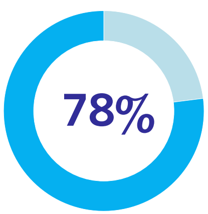
IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Livelihoods are being widely disrupted by the pandemic, with 78% of respondents indicating that their ability to carry out their livelihoods was impacted in the two weeks prior to responding the survey, which is similar to the regional average (74%). Movement restrictions were the predominant reason for livelihood disruptions, cited by 86% of affected respondents. Concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak were cited by 31%.

Household incomes are decreasing as a result of the pandemic. Loss of jobs or reduced salaries were reported by 51% of respondents, which is in line with the region. The vast majority of respondents (87%) predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future.

Disruptions to livelihoods

Respondents reported on any disruptions to their livelihoods.



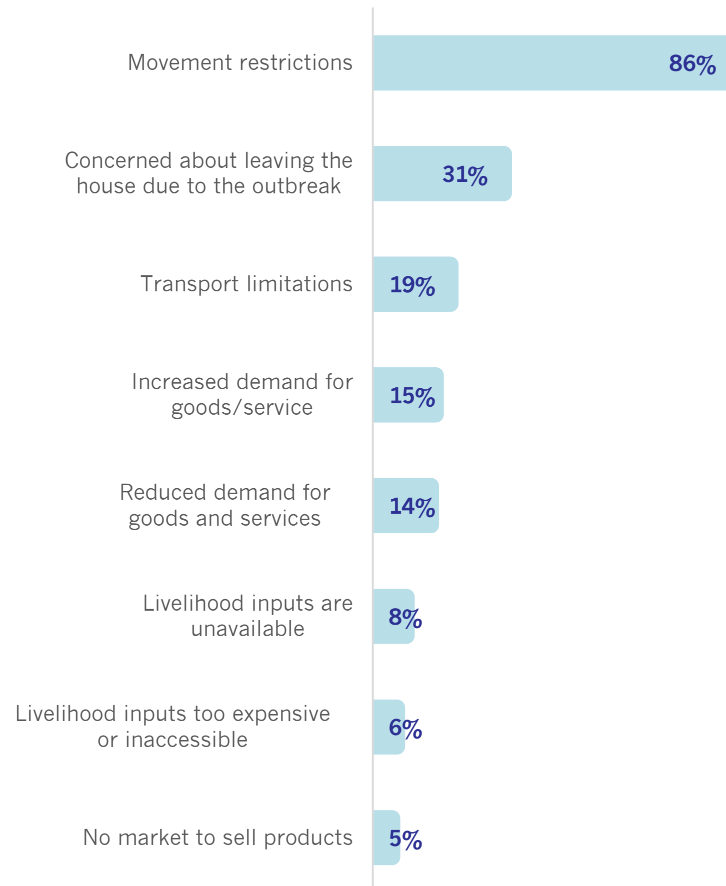
reported livelihood disruptions in the past two weeks

"As a small business owner in event decorating, this is something I do part-time and due the outbreak and consequently the restrictions to promote social distancing, events are being cancelled and ultimately affect my business ability to generate income and finance its obligations such as loan payment."

"The curfew is protection in which am grateful. That the only impact on my livelihood and movements"

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

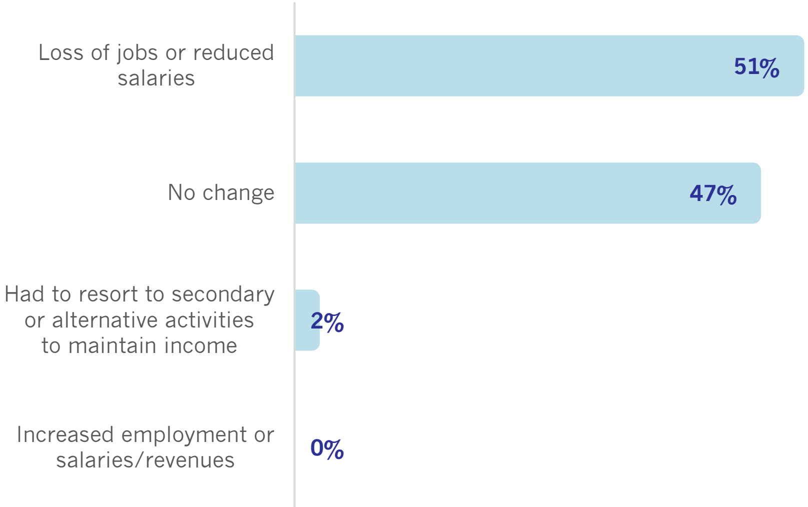


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Income changes

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

Has your household income changed over the past 2 weeks?



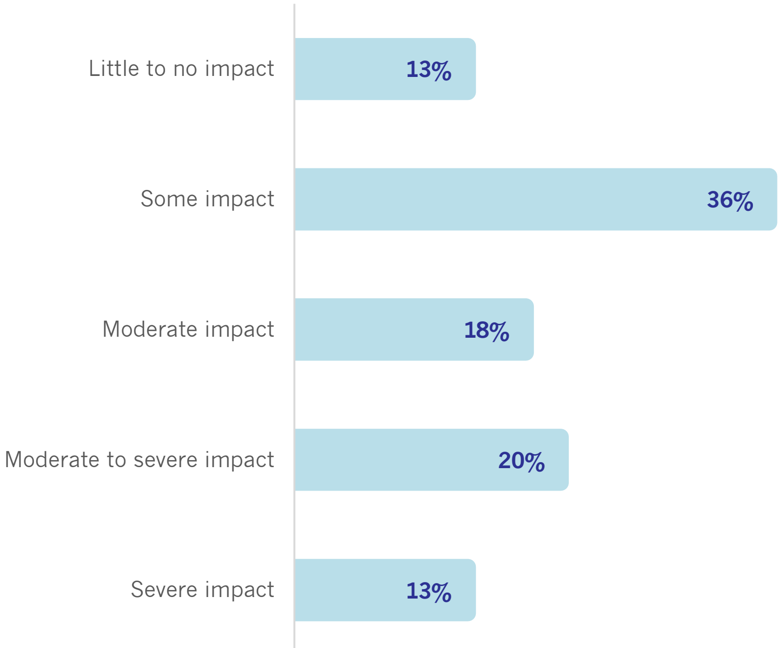
"We haven't had too much disruption as yet as it is still early days for us in St Kitts and Nevis. I anticipate that if it does carry on for months then there will be much disruption."

"Working hours have been reduced, as there isn't enough work coming in. Will have to seek financial help from the Government's stimulus package, as I have a serious medical condition, and have to have my medicine each month."

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?

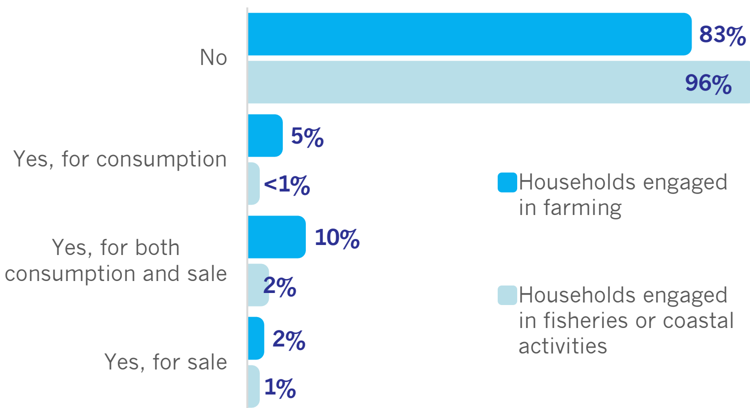


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Households engaged in farming/fishing

According to the World Bank agriculture, forestry and fishing in St. Kitts and Nevis contributed to 1.2% of GDP in 2018. Out of the total respondents, 17% are engaged in farming, primarily for both sale and consumption, and 4% are engaged in fishing. Given the limited respondents engaged in 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



"...now have specific day when I get work done on the farm within specific hours thus having to change my normal routine (because my workers had to stay home due to the imposed curfew) in order to stay with the curfew hours that had to be imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19. Its a challenge but I have learned to adapt and it working out."

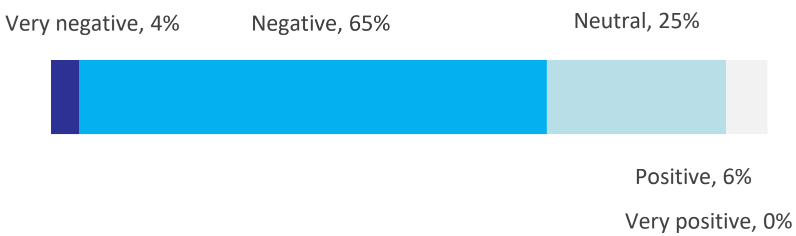
Key themes on how people in
St. Kitts and Nevis are being impacted, and are
adapting to disruptions from COVID-19

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 116 respondents, 44% responded to the open-ended question resulting in a total count of 1,563 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, 65% of responses were classified as negative, 25% as neutral and 6% as positive. Some described how the economic slowdown caused by movement restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 was causing job losses and business closures. Business owners raised concerns about potential layoffs of their staff.

Respondents in St. Kitts and Nevis are concerned about not being able to access fresh and nutritious foods. They are adapting their eating behaviours by eating less or cutting down on the different types of foods normally consumed. While people described adapted to changes, there is uncertainly and anxiety about the future, particularly related to finances.

Very negative (4%)

*"Mentally it's taking the toll on many.
Financially unsure about your future
Health wise there is a major concern
Economically I'm anticipating the decline"*

Negative (65%)

"I am just not able to get to my physio appointments regularly."
"Concern & anxiety over livelihood and national food security has affected health leading to very high blood pressure, headaches and sleeplessness."
"No job = no money =no food, unpaid bills & rent"

Neutral (25%)

Covid-19 has retard my movement to an extent thus affecting me from doing deliveries of my farm products. Time of deliveries has also been affected. I had to make all deliveries in one day and within a specific time cause me not to be able to collect monies at times because No one is at home. "

"I am adapting to changes so far, such as curfews, reduced shopping days ect. I am still gainfully employed but there are many who are not…It depends on how long this goes on we could all find ourselves desperate for food and other essential."

Positive (6%)

"All in all I am giving thanks for life."
"Staying home. Staying safe. Nervous but good. Looking for online business to make additional income"

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 St. Kitts and Nevis. While overall trends for St. Kitts and Nevis were largely 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. Of the 11 countries/territories with sufficient responses for individual analysis, St. Kitts and Nevis had the fourth highest percentage of respondents reporting loss of jobs or reduced salaries.

Overall, COVID-19 has had widespread impacts on people's lives and livelihoods, translating into loss of jobs or income for more than half of respondents. With nearly a third 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 encouraged 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 crisis.

More responses from the survey

""Our tenant ...may not be able to pay after that if the lockdown continues so that will be a significant reduction in our income. Our other source of income is our business, which is a very young and small business that we were trying to get off the ground. We have a client overseas who still needs our services for the next month but not sure what will happen after that."

"I am adapting to changes so far, such as curfews, reduced shopping days etc. I am still gainfully employed but there are many who are not. There must be a system put in place where the less fortunate are properly identified and help be provided. The difficulty I have is that some people will have and still crave to get more and deprive those who genuinely need the help. It depends on how long this goes on we could all find ourselves desperate for food and other essential."

"School had to be close earlier than scheduled. Had to resort to virtual learning communication with students to prepare for CXC examination. Not all students have access to the technology to enable them to participate."

"There must be a system put in place where the less fortunate are properly identified and help be provided. The difficulty I have is that some people will have and still crave to get more and deprive those who genuinely need the help."

"Have a young baby and cant access the baby need. I am new to fatherhood so am not well prepared"

ANNEX. REGIONAL SUMMARY KEY FINDINGS

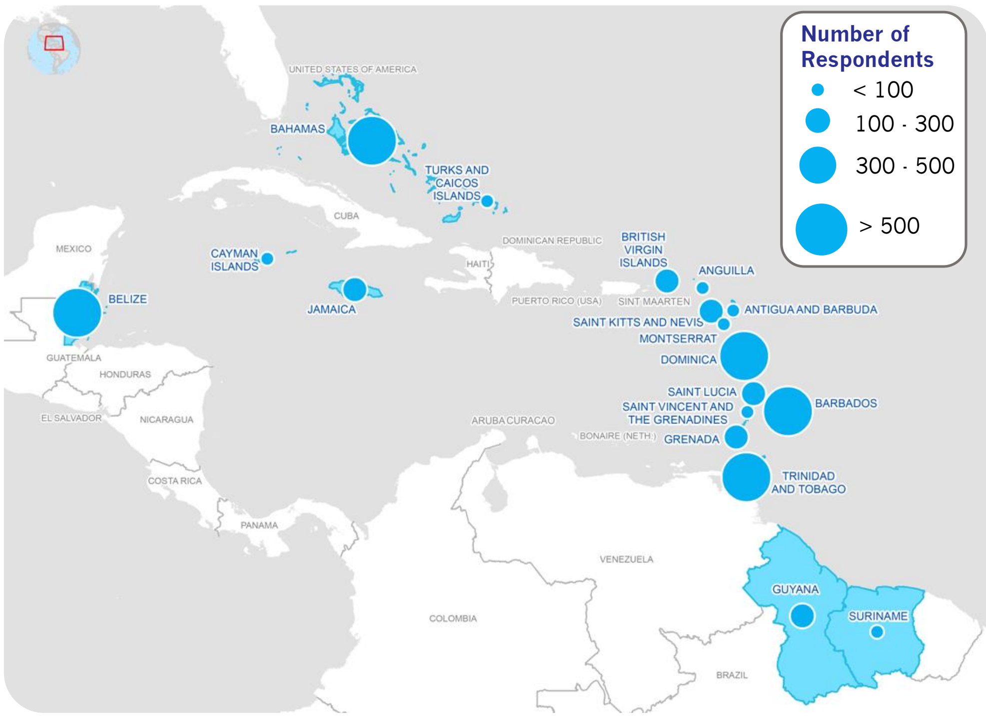
The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets. Prepared by the World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

4,537 Respondents

19 Countries & Territories

69|29% Female|Male

42 Average age



At a glance

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

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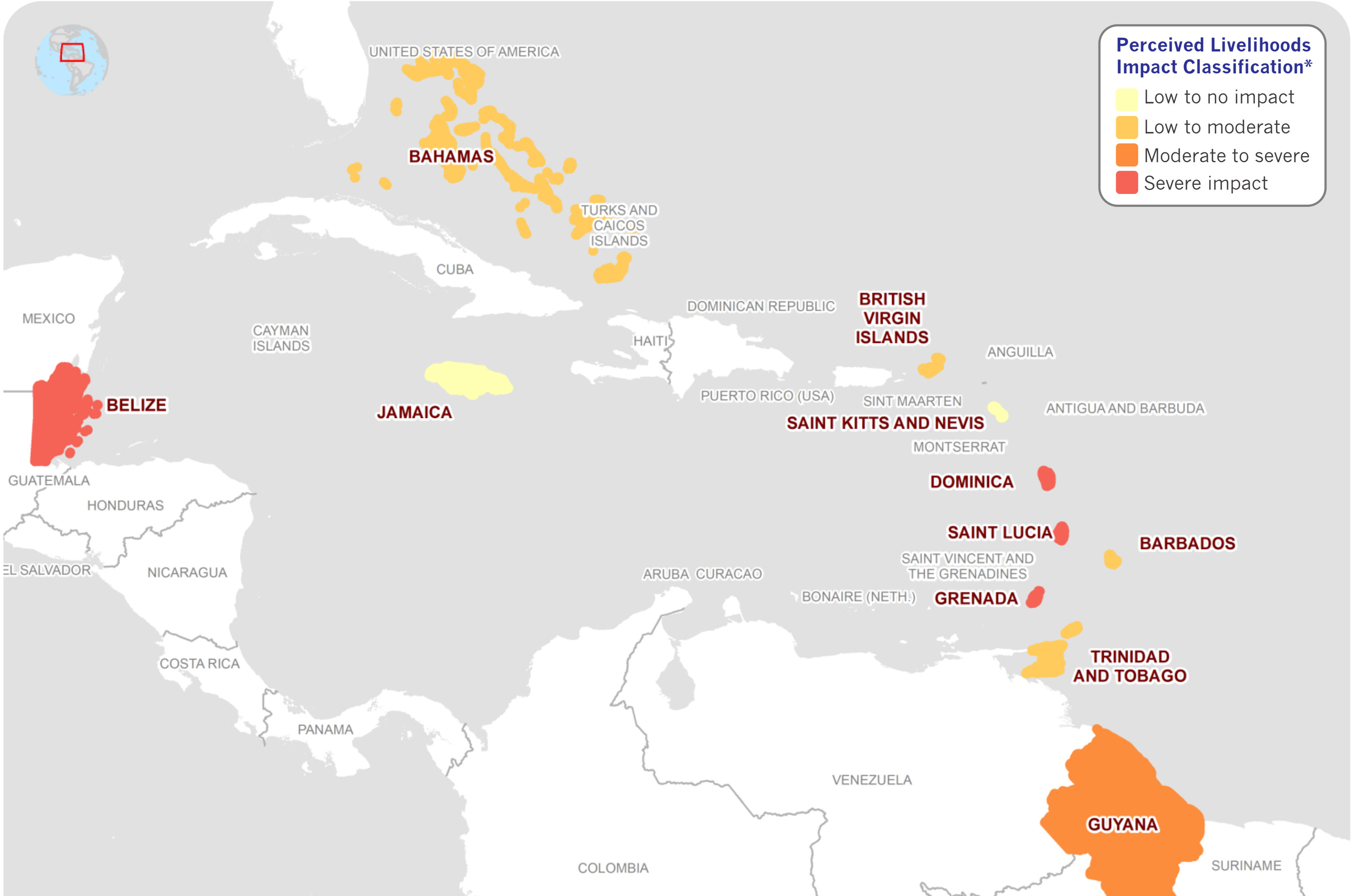
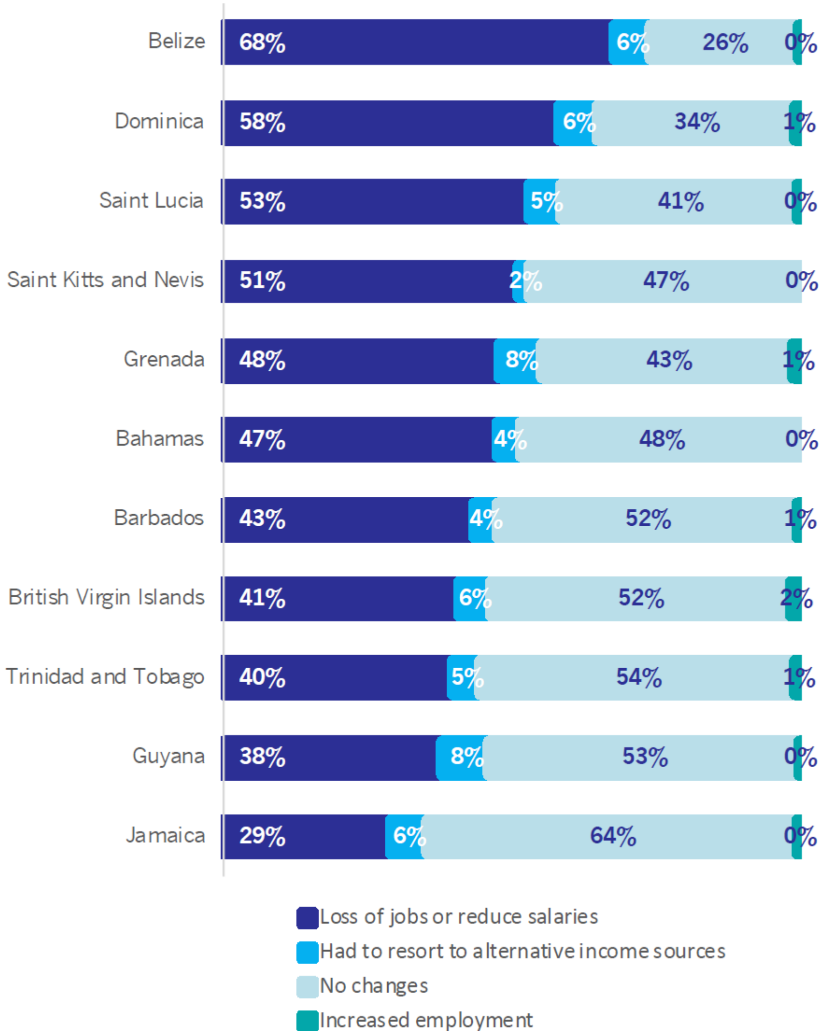
ANNEX. PERCEIVED LIVELIHOODS IMPACT IN THE CARIBBEAN



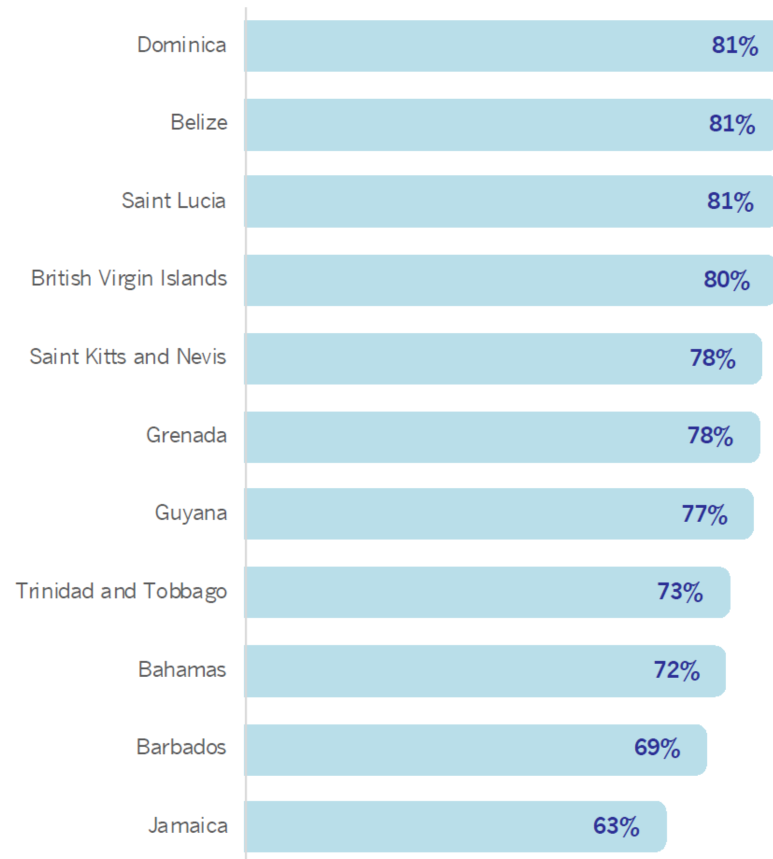
*The Perceived Livelihoods Impact Classification score is calculated at country level based on the weighted average of perceived future impact by respondents on their livelihoods due to disruptions by COVID-19 (Q11). The map visualizes countries or territories with over 100 responses.

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

Income changes



% reporting disruptions to livelihoods



ANNEX. 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.

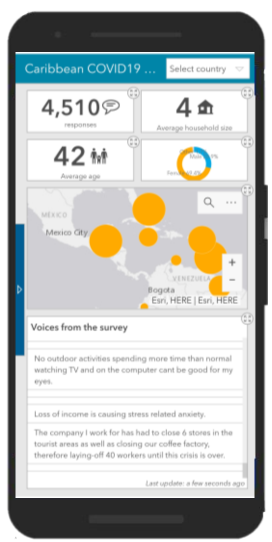
WFP Caribbean performed the data collection, monitoring and analysis. Data was analysed according to age groups and sex where there are sufficient responses.

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.

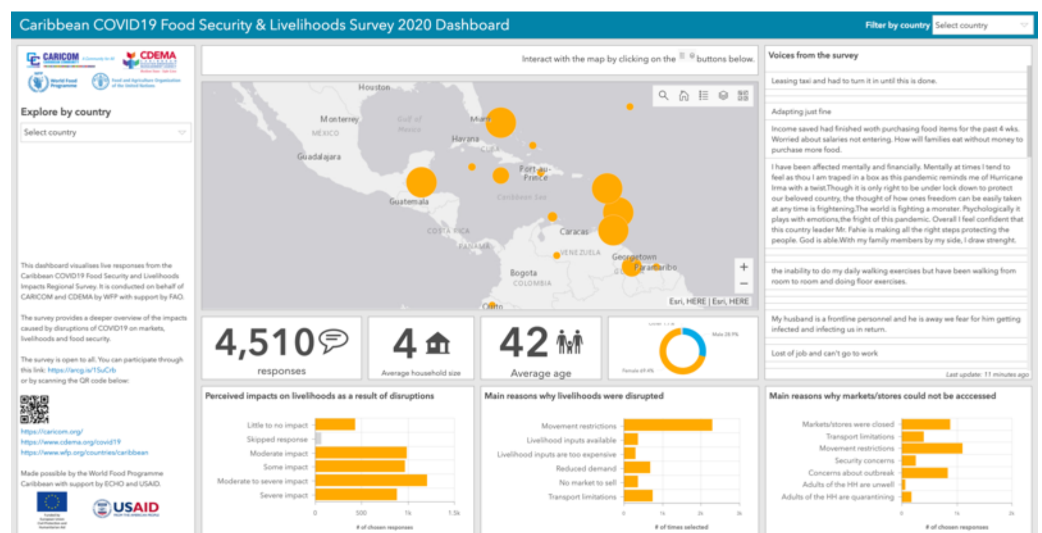
National level reports are only produced for countries and territories with sufficient responses. Reports are prepared by WFP Caribbean: Amy Chong, Sarah Bailey, Elisaveta Gouretskaia, Nicholas Grainger and Francesca Ciardi.

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

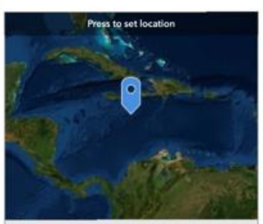
What is the size of your household?

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 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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