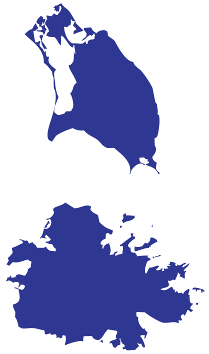


Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA Summary Report | October 2020

166 Respondents

77 Female | **23 %** Male

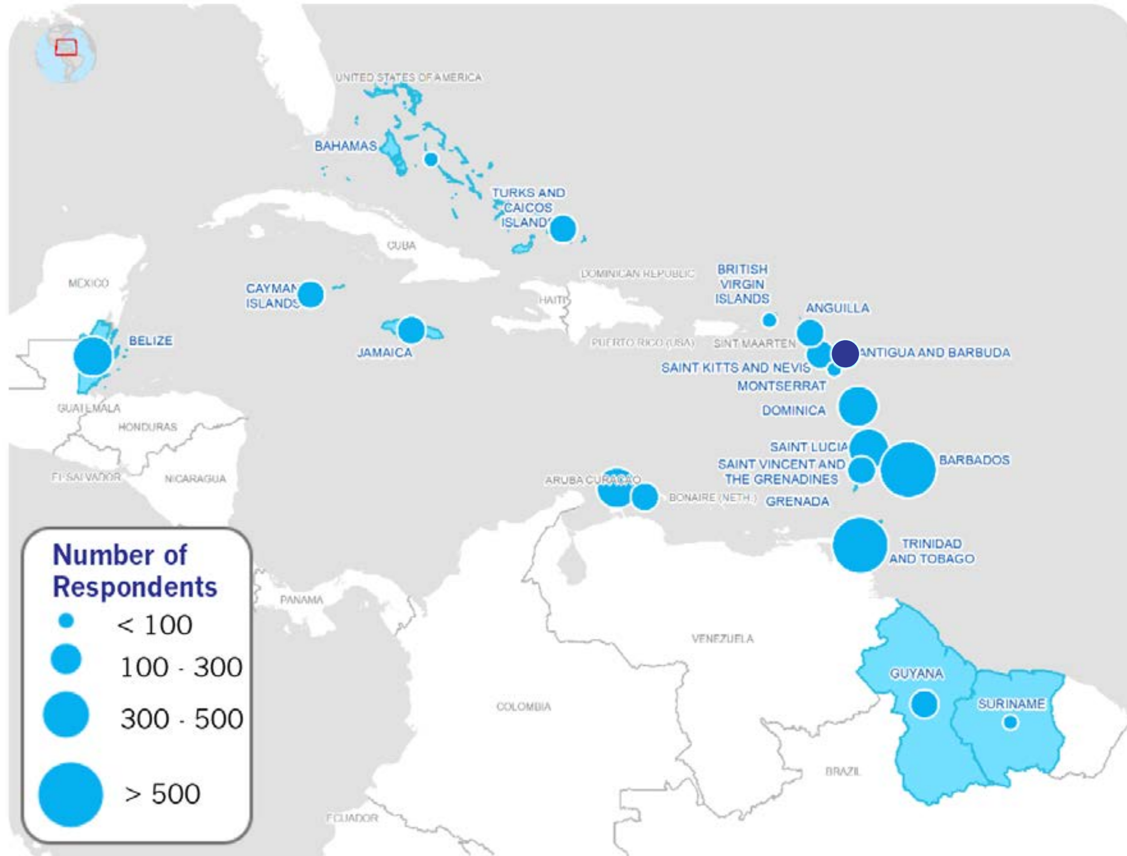
41 Average age

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.

Two rounds of the survey have been carried out, implemented by the World Food Programme on behalf of the CARICOM Secretariat. This summary analyses data collected in the second round, carried out over the last two weeks of June 2020, which received 5,707 responses from 23 countries and territories in the Caribbean. It builds on findings from the first survey implemented in April 2020, which received 4,537 responses from 19 countries and territories.

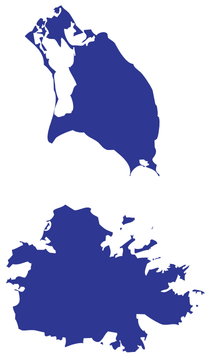
The survey was conducted using online methods and the survey link was shared via social media, e-mail, and text messages. In Antigua and Barbuda, a quarter of the population is not using the internet, despite a very high mobile phone penetration rate of nearly 2 devices per person. It is assumed that the poorest, most vulnerable and rural households are underrepresented in the survey results.



Round 1 April 2020 — **4,537** Responses

Round 2 June 2020 — **5,707** Responses

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



Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA Summary Report | October 2020

166 Respondents

77 Female | **23 %** Male

41 Average age

4 Average household size

- COVID-19 and measures to contain it have resulted in widespread disruptions to livelihoods. Almost two thirds of respondents reported that their ability to carry out livelihoods was impacted, mainly owing to concerns about leaving the house, movement restrictions, reduced demand for goods and services and the high price of livelihood inputs.

- Nearly all respondents (97%) predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future, while a third of respondents expects this impact to be severe. Four out of five respondents expressed negative or very negative sentiment concerning the pandemic and the disruption it caused, similar to the region.

- The pandemic appears to have affected the economic wellbeing of the vast majority of households. Four out of five respondents have experienced job loss or reduced incomes in their households, higher than the regional average (69%). For over half of respondents, job loss and illness are the main worries, followed by the inability to cover essential (40%) or basic food needs (30%). Job loss in the tourism sector is a dominant theme in responses to open-ended questions. It is worth noting that according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean about 90% of employment (and over 40% of GDP) in Antigua and Barbuda is in the tourism economy - the highest share in the Caribbean.

- COVID-19 and measures to contain it have impacted the availability of goods and market access, in line with regional trends. In June, nearly a third of respondents experienced difficulties in accessing markets, mainly due to a lack of cash to spend. At the same time, essential medicines were only partially available for every third respondent and fresh foods for nearly one out of four respondents.

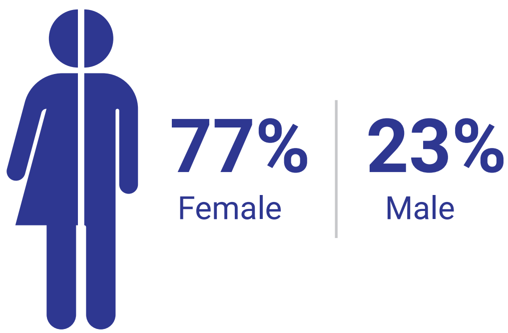
- The vast majority of respondents observed an increase in food prices (72%) and changed their shopping behaviour (85%) since the pandemic began. In line with regional trends, respondents mainly resorted to buying cheaper or less preferred goods (48%), going to different stores (33%) and buying smaller quantities than usual (32%).

- Food insecurity is affecting a sizeable proportion of the population, with similar trends as in the region. Nearly one out of three respondents reported skipping meals or eating less than usual, and 7% went one whole day without eating. Of all respondents, 16% had no food stocks in their household.

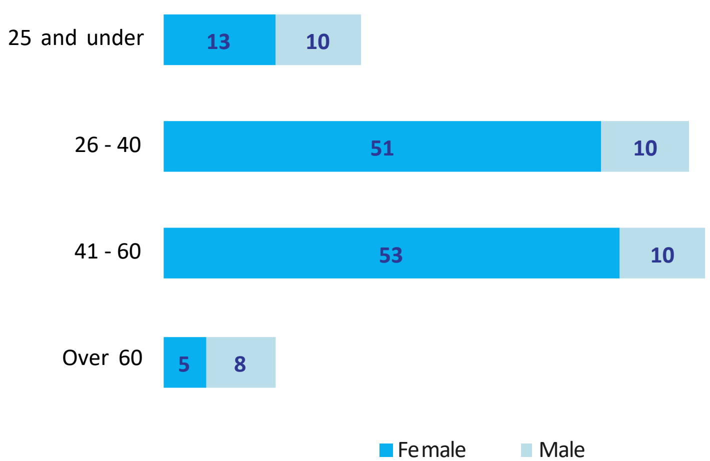
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Age and breakdown shows that the majority of respondents are female and concentrated in the 26-40 and 41-60 age categories. Disaggregated analysis by sex, age and perceived income level could not be provided due to an insufficient number of respondents.

Sex of respondents

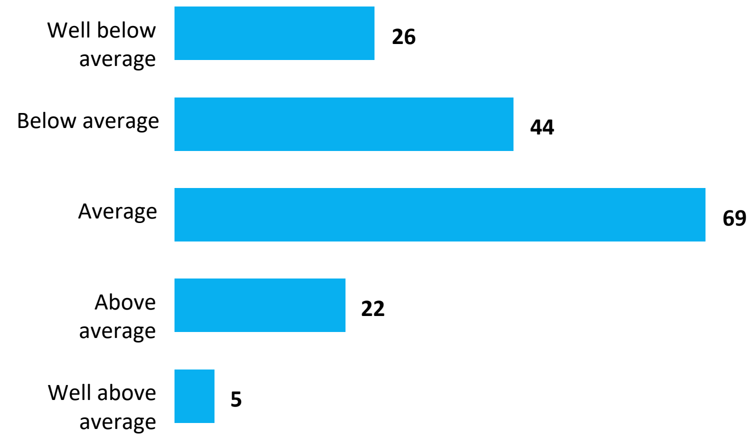


Age of respondents



Perceived income level of respondents

Participants were asked how they feel their income compares to the rest of the country. Of all respondents, 42% assess their income as below or well below average, 42% as average, and 16% as above or well above average.



"This changes brings me closer to most of my family members but also it teaches me a huge lesson on poverty and saving." - Female, Age 25

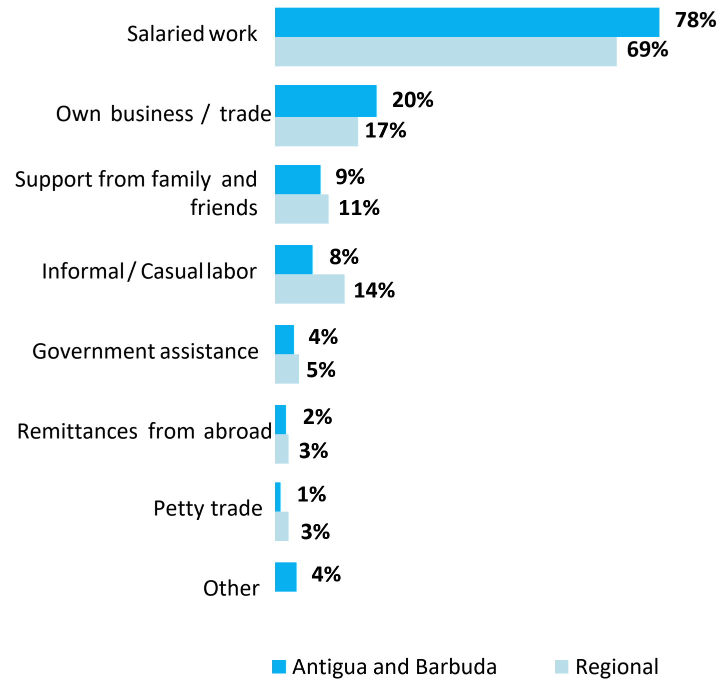
"I've now become the breadwinner for the household. We've lost a major income earner." - Female, Age 34

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Main household income sources

Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source/s for their household, and multiple choices could be selected. The main income source is salaried work, with 78% of respondents, followed by business/trade (20%). Compared to the region, households in Antigua and Barbuda rely more on salaried work.

In the Caribbean, a trend has been observed in changes in household income sources which reflects the negative impact that COVID-19 has had on labour markets in the region. This is represented by a loss of more formal sources of income and higher reliance on external support, such as remittances from abroad and support from family and friends, as respondents try to find other means of covering expenditure shortfalls.



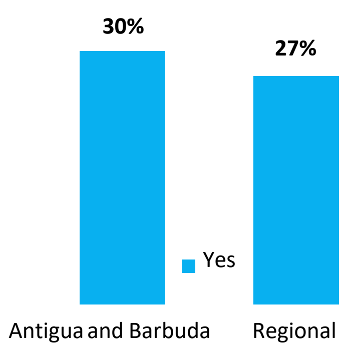
"I had to close my newly opened business." - Female, Age 44

"To cope is hard because I have children plus a grandchild plus my mom to take care of and I was the only one working. There is no income and I have bills rent food and my household to take care of without any income." - Female, Age 38

IMPACT ON MARKETS

Disruptions due to COVID-19 have had a negative effect on market access. In June, 30% of respondents indicated they had problems accessing markets in the week prior to the survey. A lack of cash to spend was the primary reason, cited by every third respondent experiencing lack of access to markets. Concerns over leaving the house due to the outbreak, and transportation limitations were the next most common reasons, reported by about one out of four respondents.

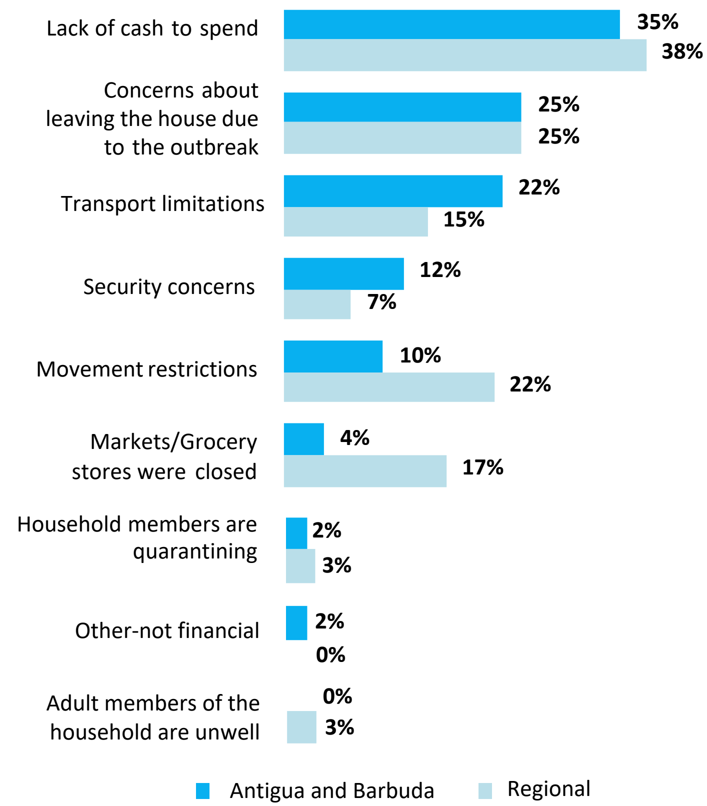
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?



"I had less contact with my friends and I'm adapting to a more limited approach to talking to them also I'm maybe going crazy being locked up in this house without any freedom." - Male, Age 17

"Inability to travel home or have family visit me while working in an island away from family." - Female, Age 33

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



30% of all surveyed households reported not being able to access markets in the past week, mainly due to lack of cash.

IMPACT ON MARKETS

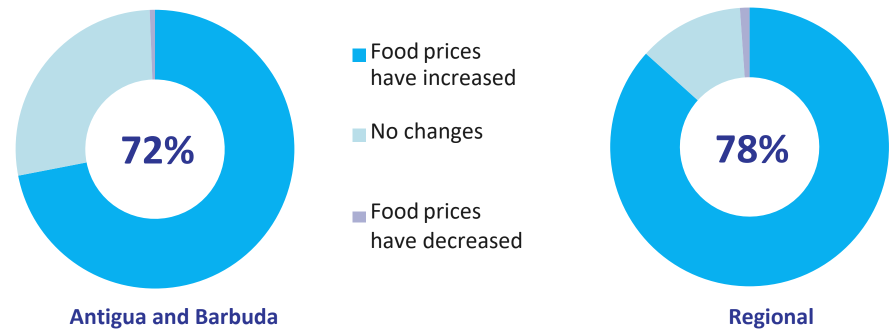
Availability of items in stores

Respondents reported on the availability of key items in stores. Availability of items is impacted, in line with trends in the Caribbean. The availability of basic food and hygiene items was fairly high, reported to be always available by four out of five respondents. However, essential medicines were only partially available for one out of three respondents and fresh foods for one out of four respondents.

How Available?	Fresh food items		Basic food items		Hygiene items		Essential medicines	
	Antigua and Barbuda	Region	Antigua and Barbuda	Region	Antigua and Barbuda	Region	Antigua and Barbuda	Region
Always Available	**70%**	71%	**84%**	83%	**80%**	85%	**48%**	55%
Partially/ sometimes available	**23%**	25%	**14%**	15%	**18%**	13%	**35%**	30%
Not available	**1%**	1%	**0%**	1%	**1%**	1%	**3%**	2%
Don't know	**5%**	4%	**2%**	2%	**1%**	2%	**14%**	15%

Food prices

Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices. The vast majority observed an increase.



"Lost my main source of income and now depend on part time income which is not enough to cover my bills. All my savings have been exhausted and without new income I will not be able to meet all my expenses anymore." - Male, Age 31

"Lost of employment , resulting in inability to meet basic needs, pay mortgage payments, utilities and provide for family." - Female, Age 46

"I can't pay my rent and my light and water bills keep going up." - Female, Age 31 "

So far my life has not changed in terms of my income but cost of living has increased therefore I now have an increase in my expenditure and less savings." - Female, Age 43

"Loss of salary...living off savings for past few months." - Female, Age 47

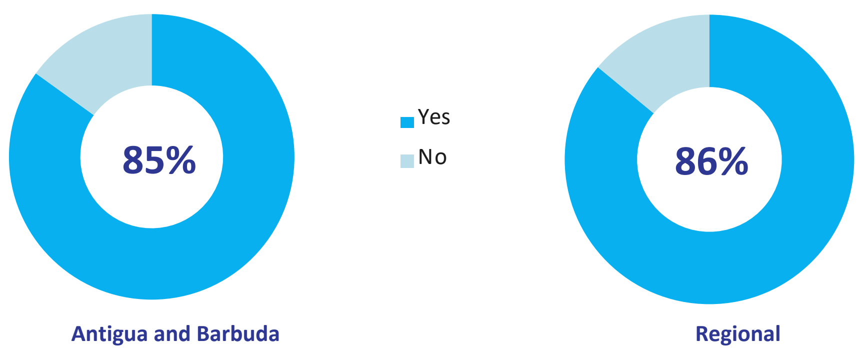
"Loss of my second source of income. I've had to divert money for food to cover bills that my secondary income would usually cover." - Female, Age 34

IMPACT ON MARKETS

Shopping behavior

Respondents were asked if they have had to, and if so, how they altered their shopping behavior. The vast majority of respondents changed their shopping patterns since the pandemic (85%). Those who did, predominantly resorted to purchasing cheaper or less preferred brands (48%), going to different stores (33%) or buying smaller quantities than usual (31%). While these findings were in line with regional trends, less respondents adapted by buying larger quantities than usual (26%) when compared to the region (37%).

Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to before COVID-19?

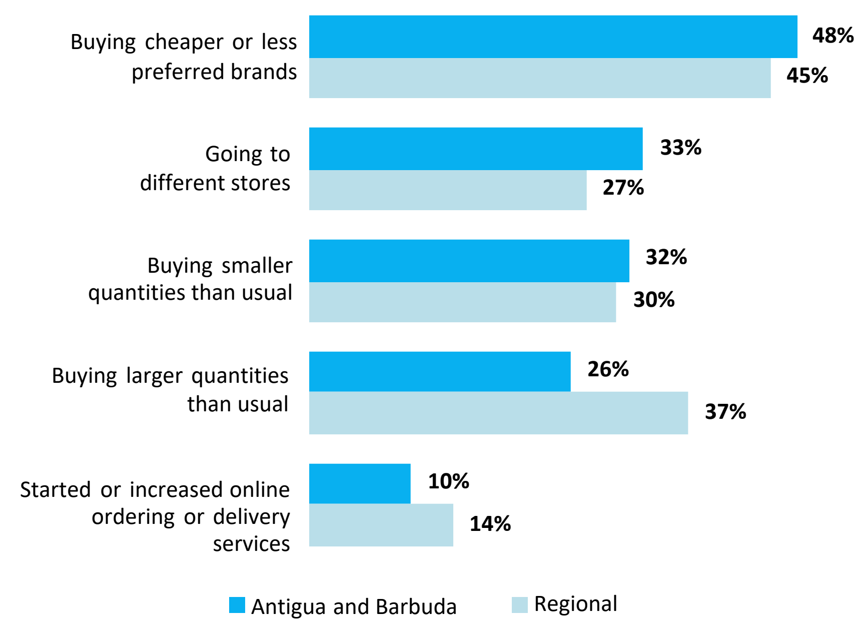


"I can't pay my rent and my light and water bills keep going up." - Female, Age 31

"Loss of salary...living off savings for past few months." - Female, Age 47

"Loss of my second source of income. I've had to divert money for food to cover bills that my secondary income would usually cover." - Female, Age 34

How respondents changed their shopping behaviour
Multiple responses could be selected



IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

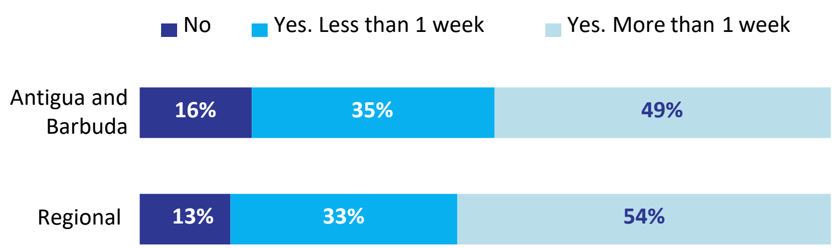
The pandemic and measures to stop its spread have impacted household food stocks and food consumption. Almost half of respondents said that they had over one week food supply stored up, similar to the regional average. Worryingly, 16% of all respondents had no food stocks at all in their household.

Food consumption has been negatively affected. Similar to regional trends, 30% of respondents reported skipping meals or eating less than usual, and 7% went one whole day without eating. Another quarter of respondents ate less preferred foods.

Food stocks

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

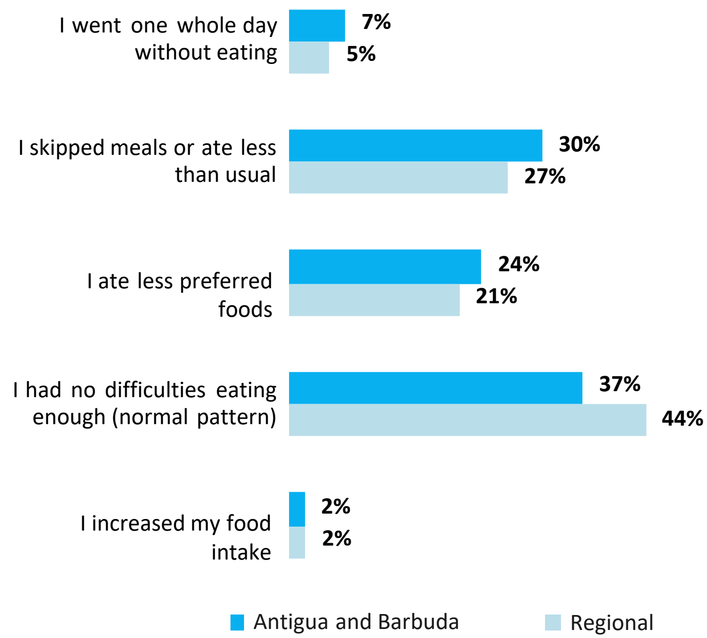
Does your household have any food stock?



Food consumption

Respondents were asked to reflect on their food consumption during the week prior to the survey.

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



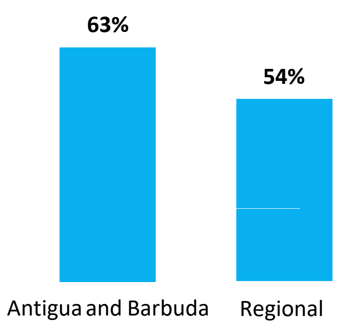
IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have had a widespread impact on livelihoods. In Antigua and Barbuda, almost two thirds of respondents reported disruptions to their livelihoods, higher than the regional average. Concerns over leaving the house and movement restrictions were the the most frequent reasons for livelihood disruptions, cited by 32% of respondents that reported disruptions. A reduced demand for goods and services was cited by almost a quarter of affected respondents.

Disruptions to livelihoods

Respondents reported on any disruptions to their livelihoods.

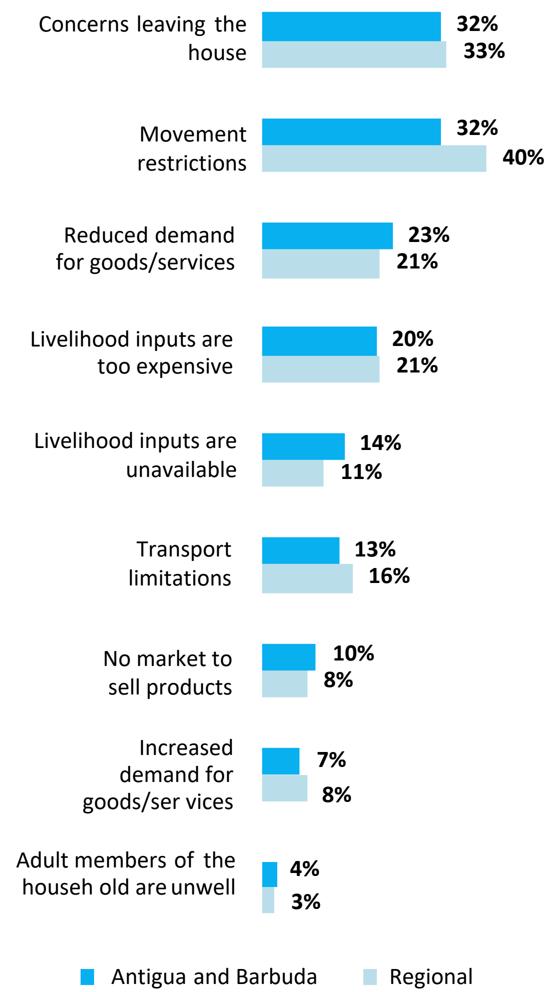
% of respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected



"Forced into early retirement and now having to support extended family as their businesses become stagnant. No income to cover any unexpected illnesses and to start new adaptive ventures to earn more." - Male, Age 65

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

Multiple choices could be selected

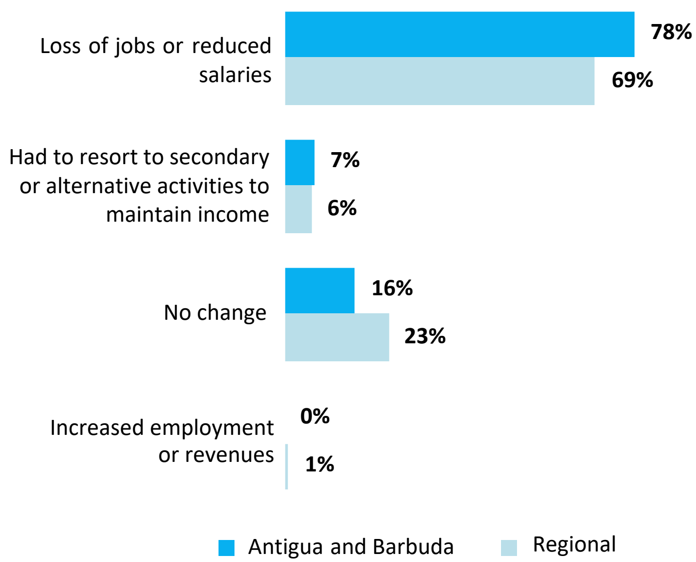


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Income changes

Respondents communicated changes to their income since the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic appears to be taking a widespread toll on households' economic wellbeing. Nearly four out of five respondents have experienced job loss or reduced incomes in their households, higher than in the region.

Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

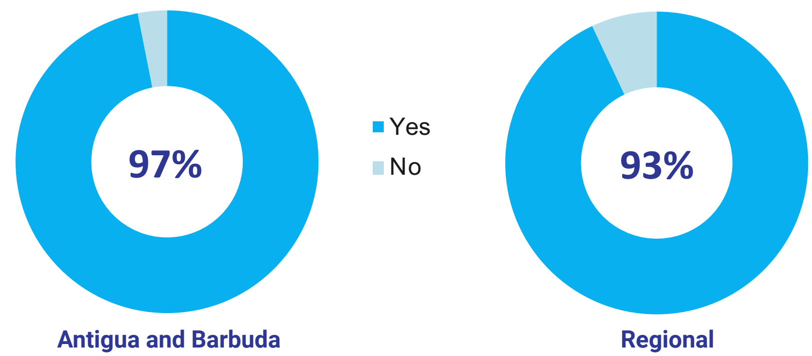


79% of respondents reported a loss in employment of reduction in salaries in June.

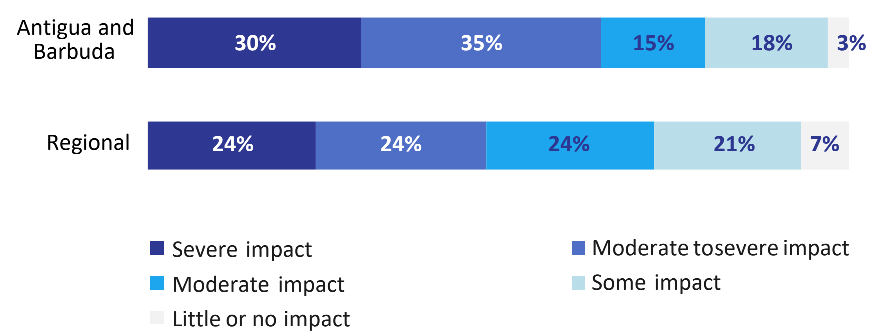
Future livelihood impacts

Respondents were asked to look ahead and predict the level of impact to their livelihoods as a result of disruptions from COVID-19. Almost all respondents believed that their livelihoods would be impacted to some degree and nearly a third of respondents anticipate severe impacts.

% of respondents expecting that their livelihood will be impacted



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



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

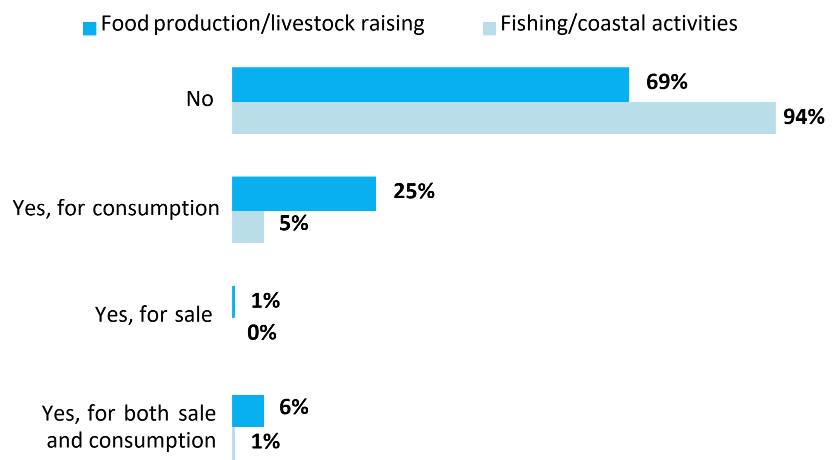
Households engaged in farming/fishing

Agriculture (including fishing) accounts for only 1.8% of national GDP in Antigua and Barbuda. In this survey, 31% of respondents reported being involved in food/livestock production and 6% in fishing, mainly for own consumption.

At the regional level, metrics of wellbeing for farming households do not differ much from the average respondents but households engaged in fishing seem to have been more adversely affected by disruptions related to COVID-19 as they report above average values for loss of jobs/reduced salary, difficulties in eating enough food, worrying about food needs and expecting their livelihood to be severely affected.

A disaggregated analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on households engaged in farming or fishing in Antigua and Barbuda cannot be conducted given the insufficient number of responses received from these subgroups. CARICOM and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) are conducting a more in-depth assessment and analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on agricultural livelihoods, production and food systems. More information about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Caribbean small-scale fisheries and what solutions and adaptation methods are being used to ensure the continuity of livelihoods has been shared through other resources and a regional webinar.

Households engaging in farming/fishing

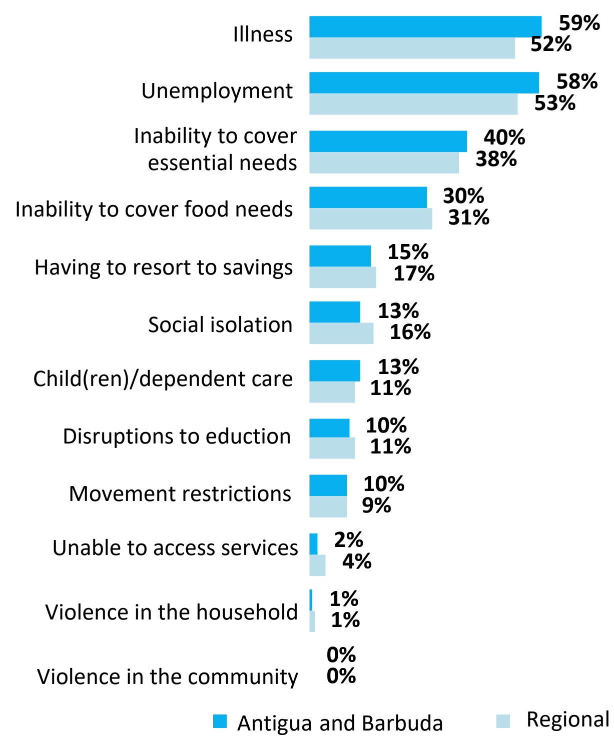


Worries

Nearly three out of five respondents are mainly worried about illness or unemployment, slightly more than in the region, and this followed by the inability to cover essential and food needs (40% and 30%).

What are you mainly worried or concerned about at the moment...

Multiple responses could be selected



WIDER IMPACTS

Unpaid care and work

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities.

	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
Decreased	13%	10%	56%	6%	23%
No change	31%	25%	20%	32%	49%
Increased	54%	44%	24%	54%	11%
Not applicable	1%	21%	1%	8%	18%

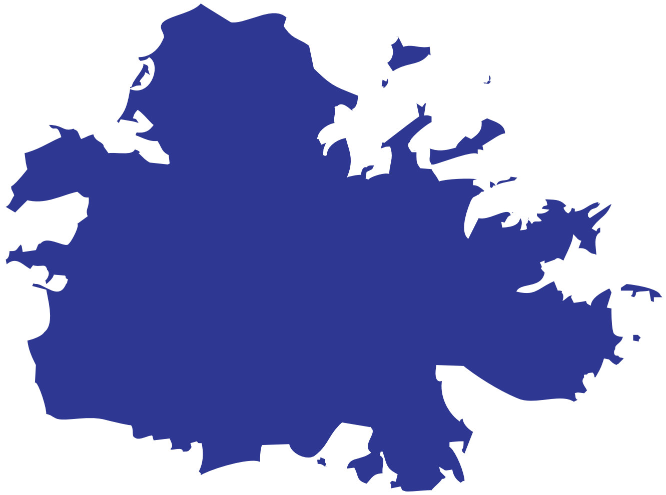
The majority of respondents (56%) reduced time spent for shopping, while over half of respondents (54%) reported an increase in the time devoted to domestic work and subsistence production. The amount of time spent on childcare increased for 44% of respondents.

"Tourism which was our main source of income has stopped and the unknown future of it is worrying." - Female, Age 31

"Not able to pay my bill. . .can't provide food to eat at times. . .my son and his wife lost their jobs only God knows." - Female, Age 42

"My source of income is a trade heavily dependent on tourism and cruise ship passengers." - Female, Age 50

"Health issues prior to Covid-19 so using of the mask is not good for me. Low oxygen level." - Female, Age 57

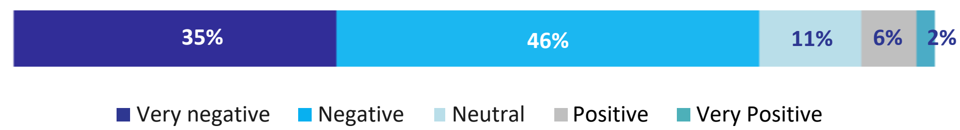


How people are coping and adapting

The survey gave respondents space to give fuller and more nuanced insights on how they are coping and adapting to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. In June, 65, or 39%, of the 166 respondents from Antigua and Barbuda answered the open-ended question. Text analysis was used to categorize and interpret the degree of positive and negative emotions among the responses using machine learning.

At the regional level, sentiments seem to have significantly deteriorated compared to April with the share of very negative comments increasing significantly. Trends for Antigua and Barbuda are very similar to the region, with 37% expressing 'very negative' and 45% 'negative' sentiment.

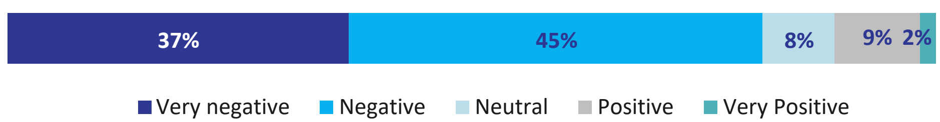
Region, June 2020



Region, April 2020

Concerns regarding employment and growing financial strain on households have likely driven the increase in negative sentiments livelihoods in the region

Antigua and Barbuda, June 2020



In Antigua and Barbuda, 82% of open-ended responses can be categorized as negative or very negative

"My husband salary was cut in half since April." - Female, Age 65

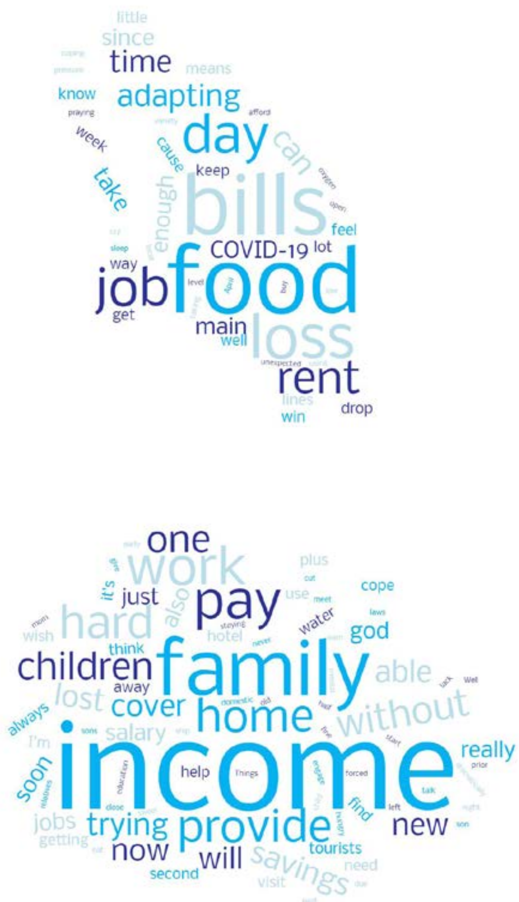
"Education for the children has been a challenge. Trying to keep them engage so they do not feel the mental pressure of the pandemic." - Female, Age 41

"I am currently running a house of 5 on a single salary so it is a balancing act but I am making it happen." - Female, Age 46

HOW PEOPLE ARE COPING AND ADAPTING

Key themes

The word clouds represent key themes on how people in Antigua and Barbuda are being impacted and are adapting to disruptions from COVID-19. The most commonly mentioned word is "income", followed by "food" and "family", which indicates that a large focus of respondents are concerns about their ability to sustain their livelihood.



June 2020

CONCLUSION

Since March 2020, strict measures were put in place to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. The closure of borders, air and seaports has brought a halt to international tourism while internal movement restrictions and business closures have caused further economic disruptions.

Results from this survey suggest that the vast majority of people in Antigua and Barbuda have experienced a deterioration of their employment and income situation, an increase in food prices and concerns about the future of their livelihoods. A third of respondents expect their livelihood to be severely affected, and worries about unemployment and illness are widespread. Negative or very negative sentiment about the pandemic and its impacts is widespread, similar to the region.

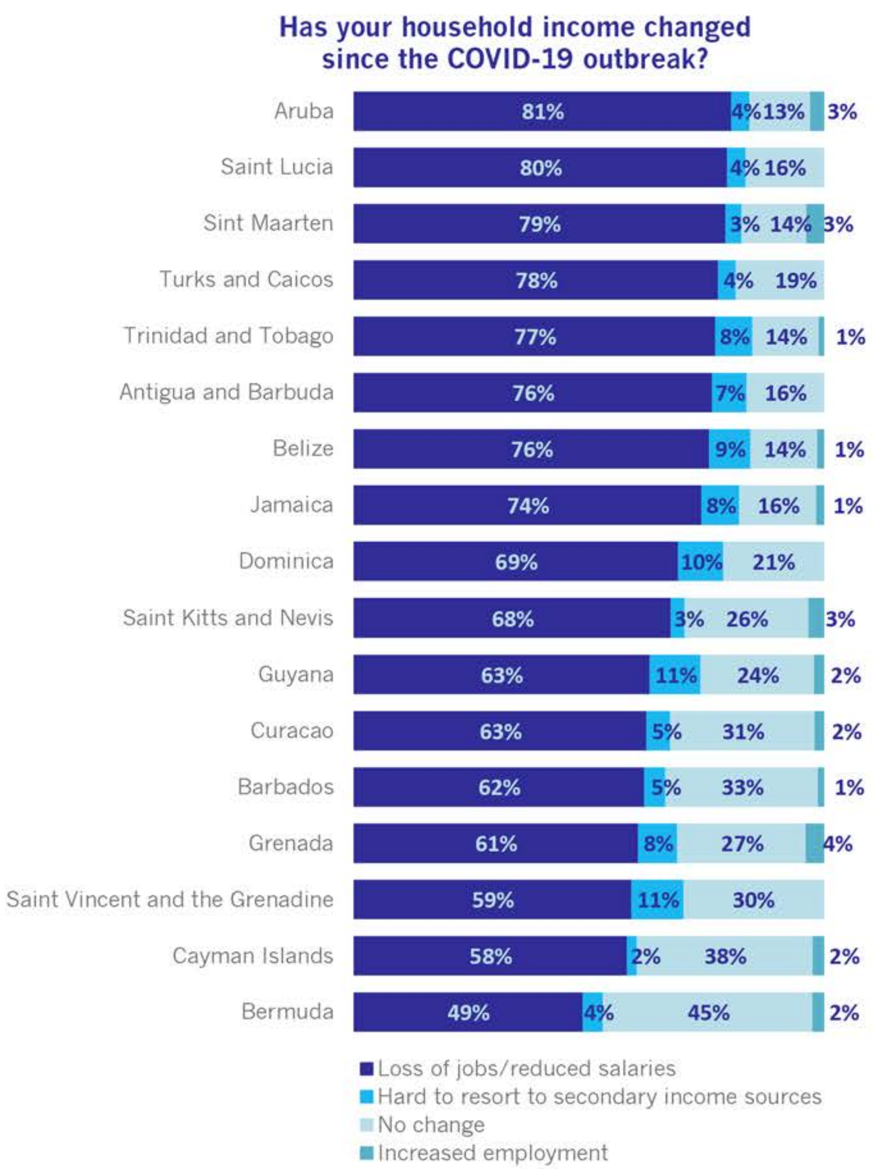
The pandemic is shifting life at home, with time spent on domestic work, childcare and subsistence activities increasing, and shopping patterns changing towards purchases of cheaper goods and smaller quantities. While most consumer goods are widely available, limited access to essential medicines among a third of the population is concerning. A third of respondents reported difficulties accessing markets, mainly due to lack of cash for purchases, and the same proportion is worried about their ability to cover basic food needs and indicated to have skipped meals or eaten less than usual.

Given the protracted nature of the crisis, the government of Antigua and Barbuda and its partners must redouble their efforts to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts through medium- and longer term programmes and interventions. Opportunities include the permanent expansion of social programmes, livelihood support, and vocational training for people from affected economic sectors.

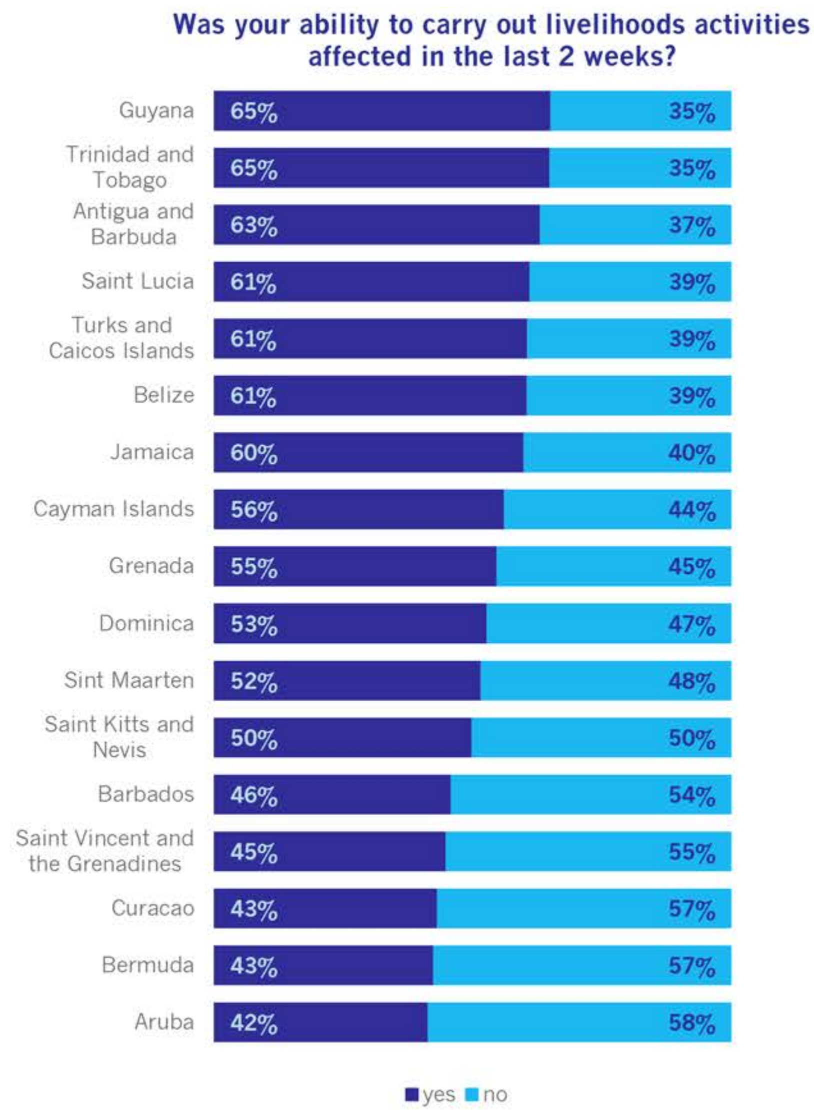
With almost a quarter of the population of Antigua and Barbuda not using internet, the results of this web-based survey should be read with a degree of caution given potential bias towards households who can afford internet access or smartphone devices. Given the unpredictable end of the crisis, it is essential to continue to monitor its impact, particularly on the most vulnerable groups.

ANNEX. REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

Income changes



Livelihood disruptions



METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

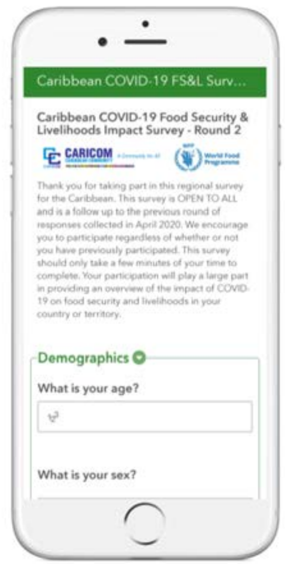
The second round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphone and PC/desktop. The data collection period was inclusive of 14 June to 1 July 2020. The survey was circulated via email, social media, SMS, media and other communication channels.

The World Food Programme (WFP) performed the data collection, monitoring and analysis. Responses were visualised live on an interactive dashboard and 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.

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 responses. To moderate the non-representative nature of the data, the analysis team further refined the classifications presented by the algorithms.

WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR for their support with the Spanish translation of the survey.

This report was prepared for WFP Caribbean by Kagin's Consulting - Edward J. Taylor, Justin Kagin, Momir Blazek, Julian Fletcher-Taylor, Rebbeca Morton, Sebastian Fletcher-Taylor and Heng Zhu.



Link to survey

Link to dashboard
(mobile version)

Link to dashboard (desktop version)

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