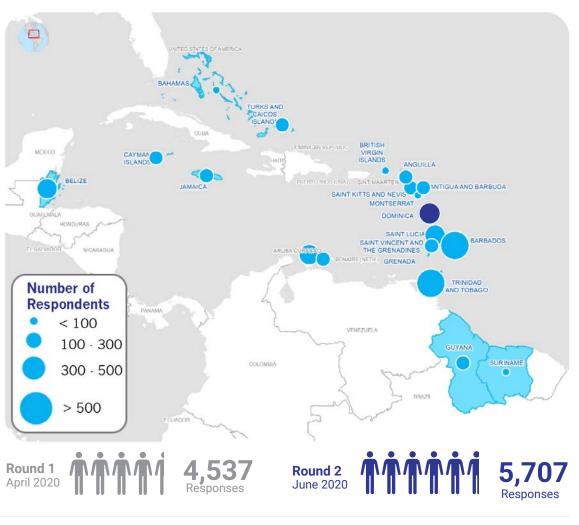


The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching impacts on how people earn a living and meet critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by CARICOM to rapidly gather data on impacts to livelihoods, food security and access to markets.

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 Dominica, 30% of the population is not using the internet, and it is assumed that the poorest, most vulnerable and rural households are underrepresented in the survey results.









Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey Report DOMINICA October 2020

# Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey DOMINICA Summary Report | October 2020

26 %

Male

Female

Disruptions to livelihoods appear to have decreased since April, but are still widespread, affecting over half of respondents. Movement restrictions are still the main reason, cited by half of respondents, followed by concerns about leaving the house, cited by a third of respondents.

Respondents

- The crisis appears to be taking an increasing toll on households' economic wellbeing. Seven out of ten respondents reported job loss or a decline in salaries in their households, which is an increase from 58% in April.
- COVID-19 and measures to contain it have impacted market access, but the proportion of respondents who reported market access constraints nearly halved from 59% in April to 30% in June. While movement restrictions were still the main reason for not having access to markets, they were much less prevalent in June, cited by a third of respondents. The second most frequent reason was a lack of cash, cited by 30%.
- The availability of essential goods in stores appears to have increased between April and June, in particular for basic and fresh food items, but it remains worryingly low for essential medicines, with 31% of respondents reporting partial availability. Nearly three out of four respondents observed an increase in food prices, which is a larger share than in April (59%).
- The majority (87%) of respondents have changed their shopping behaviour since the pandemic, and shifts in adaptation strategies have been observed since April. The largest proportion of respondents (46%) still resorted to buying larger quantities than usual, but this share was smaller than in April (78%). In contrast, the share of respondents buying smaller quantities increased from 6% in April to 28% in June, while the proportion of those buying cheaper or less preferred brands nearly doubled from 21% to 40%.

Food security appears to have deteriorated compared to April. Almost a third of respondents reported skipping meals in June and 6% went one whole day without eating, which is an increase from April. The proportion of respondents with no food stocks in their household increased from 4% in April to 18% in June.

Average ousehold size

39

Average

ade

- More than nine out of ten respondents predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future, with one quarter expecting a severe impact. Nearly half of respondents expressed 'very negative' sentiment concerning the pandemic and the disruption it caused to their livelihood, which are among the highest rates in the region.
- Respondents are mainly worried about unemployment (53%) and illness (47%), and over a third of respondents are worried about meeting their food and other essential needs.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities. Most respondents report an increase in time devoted to domestic work (61%), childcare (58%) and subsistence activities (47%).
- Respondents were asked how they feel their household's income compares to the rest of the country. Impacts to livelihoods, income and food security appear to be more widespread among lower income households compared to average income households. Respondents from lower income households also tend to be more worried about their inability to cover food and other essential needs.
- Findings on key impacts do not to differ significantly between female and male respondents, farm and non-farm households and the 26-40 and 60 age groups, although it appears that some level of agricultural production has helped to buffer a degree of the impact of COVID-19 on food security.

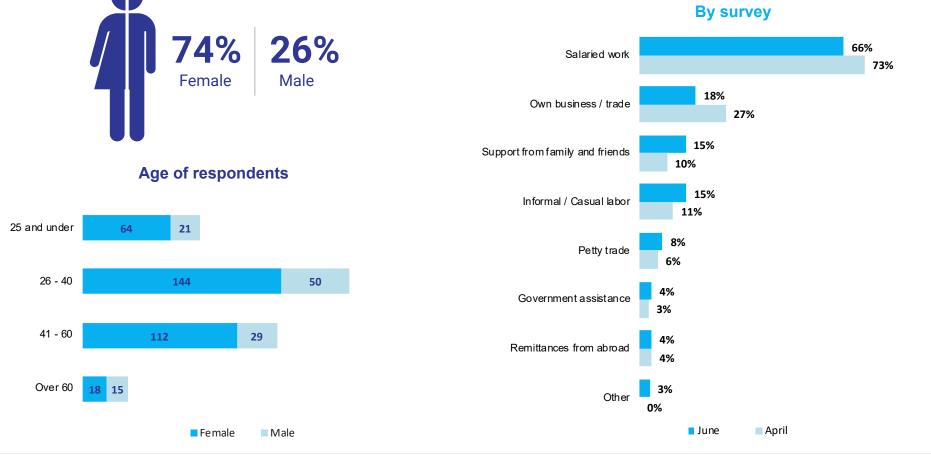
#### Age and sex breakdown of respondents

Respondents are generally more likely to be female than male, and they tend to be concentrated in the 26-40 and 41-60 age groups. Age-disaggregated analysis is only provided for these two age groups due to insufficient numbers in the other age groups.

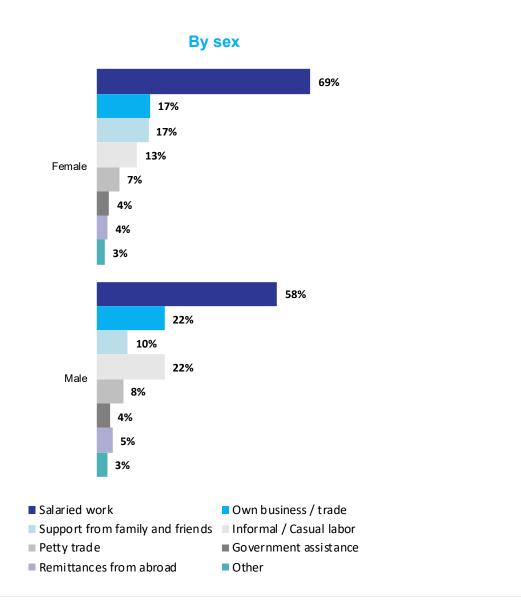
Sex of respondents

#### Main household income sources

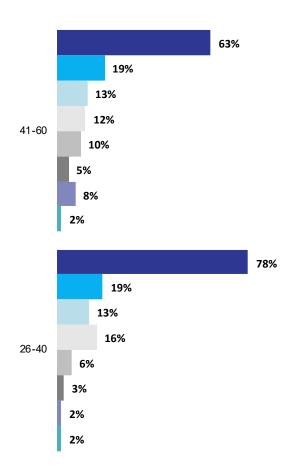
Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source/s for their household. Multiple choices could be selected. The majority of respondents, 69% of females and 58% of males, relied mainly on salaried work for their household income. The prevalence of private business/trade has decreased from 28% in April to 18% in June while a growing share of respondents relied on support from family and friends, informal/casual labour, petty trade, or government assistance for their household income.



## Main household income sources

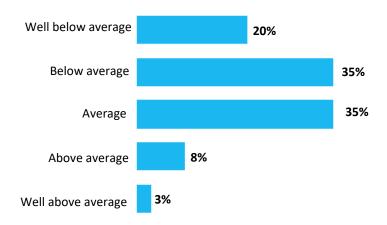






# DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

# How do you feel your household's income compares with the rest of the country?



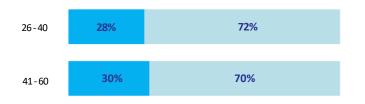
A comparative analysis of findings for 'average' and 'below average' or 'well below average' income households is provided on pages 20 and 21.



#### **Market access**

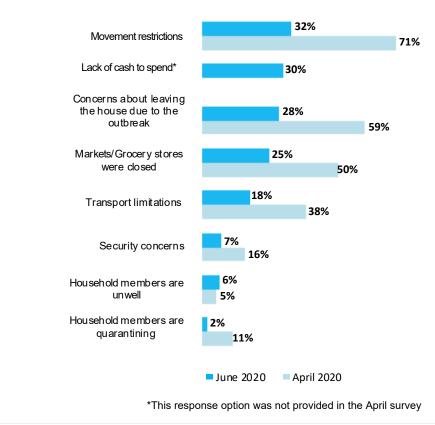
COVID-19 and measures to contain it have impacted market access, with 30% of respondents reporting that they could not access stores and markets at some point seven days prior to responding to the survey in June, which is a smaller share than in the survey conducted in April (59%). In April, movement restrictions and concerns about leaving the house were the primary reasons given for not having access to market, cited respectively by 74% and 59% of affected respondents. In June, movement restrictions were still the primary reason, but were cited by a smaller proportion of affected respondents (32%), followed by worries about leaving the house and a lack of cash, which were cited by 28%. Respondents in the 26-40 age groups more frequently cited movement restrictions (35%) compared to the 41-60 age group (23%).

### By age

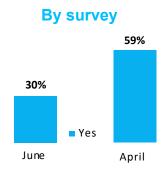


### For those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

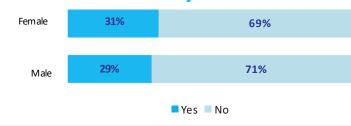




### In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?



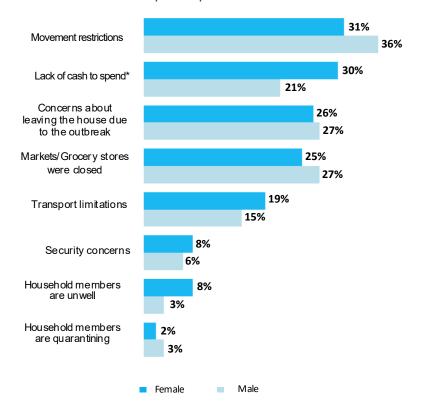
#### By sex



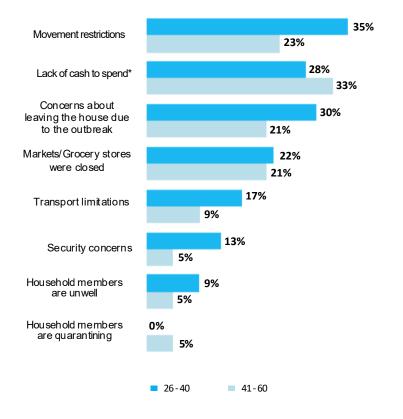
#### **Market access**

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

By sex Multiple responses could be selected



#### By age Multiple responses could be selected

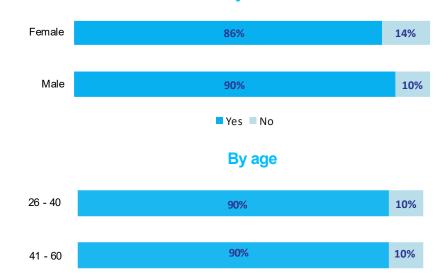


\*This response option was not provided in the April survey

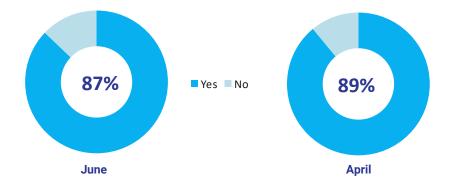
#### **Shopping behaviour**

Shopping routines have changed for 87% of respondents and a change in adaptation strategies can been observed when comparing the findings to those of the April survey. The proportion of households who reported buying larger quantities than usual has dropped from 74% in April to 46% in June while the share of those buying smaller quantities than usual increased from 8% to 28%. The share of those buying cheaper or less preferred brands nearly doubled from 22% to 40%. Female respondents are similar in their shopping patterns as their male counterparts.

#### Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to usual? By sex



#### **Changed their shopping behaviour**



Public buses are not available to travel to town to buy your necessities. -Female, age 55

*Living on savings which are drying out. If borders stay closed and tourist can't come not sure how to get through another month. - Female, age 61* 

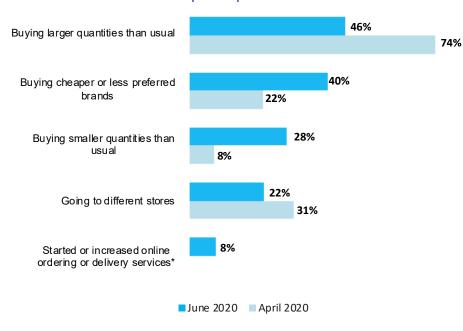
*I work in tourism related activites. No income for past 4 months. Very worrying!! Do not qualify for govt covid stimulus packages. Single parent household. - Female, age 53* 

*I am unemployed. I am planting my vegetables also spending less buying the basics. - Female, age 37* 

### **Shopping behaviour**

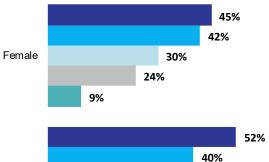
# How respondents change their shopping behaviour By survey

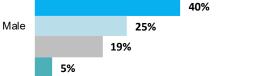
Multiple responses could be selected



\*This response option was not provided in the April survey

#### By sex





Buying larger quantities than usual

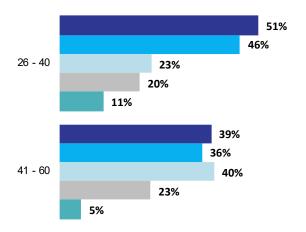
Buying cheaper or less preferred brands

Buying smaller quantities than usual

Going to different stores

Started or increased online ordering or delivery services





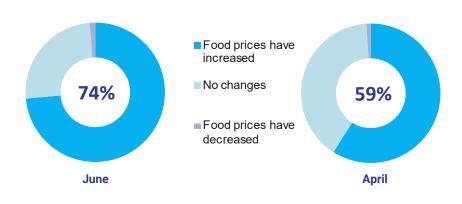
## Availability of items in stores

How Available?	Fresh food items		Basic food items		Hygiene items		Essential medicines	
	June 2020	April 2020	June 2020	April 2020	June 2020	April 2020	June 2020	April 2020
Always Available	<b>↑</b> 72%	49%	<b>^ 82</b> %	41%	<b>^</b> 83%	60%	↑ 56%	39%
Partially/ sometimes available	<b>↓</b> 23%	44%	<b>↓</b> 15%	46%	<b>↓</b> 14%	32%	<b>↓</b> 31%	40%
Not available	↓ 0%	2%	↓ 0%	2%	↓ 0%	3%	<b>↓</b> 1%	3%
Don't know	= 5%	5%	<b>↓</b> 3%	11%	<b>↓</b> 3%	5%	<b>↓</b> 12%	18%

The availability of food, medicines and hygiene items in stores has improved, but their availability is still interrupted. While four out of five respondents reported that basic food and hygiene items were "always available,", only 56% could confirm the same for hygiene items. A growing majority of respondents (72%) reported an increase in food prices, compared to 59% in the first survey conducted in April.

## **Food prices**

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



"Significantly reduced my expenses. I have put off all activities that are not related to food/light/water" - Male, Age 30

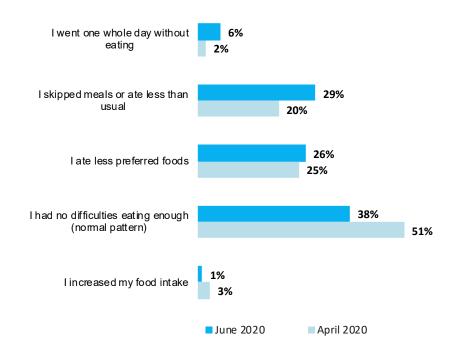
"Fear of not getting health care services due to covid since only public hospital are allowed to treat covid or flu related illness. Seems my insurance coverage will be of no use if I or my family are infected"- Male, Age 36

"Loss of job and income also we have been pinching our money to cover food and essential need that went up since covid19" - Female, Age 23

# **IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY**

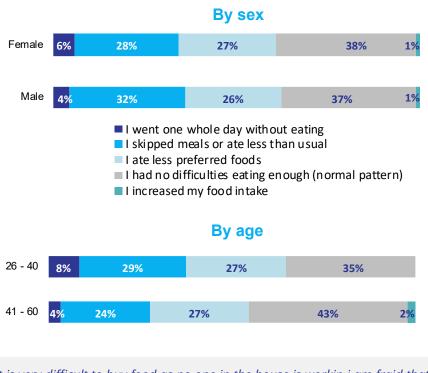
The COVID-19 pandemic and measures to stop its spread have impacted household food stocks and food consumption, and the situation appears to have deteriorated compared to April. Almost a third of respondents reported skipping meals in June and 6% went one whole day without eating, which is an increase from April. At the same time the share of respondents with no difficulties eating enough fell from 51% to 38%. The proportion of respondents with no food stocks in their household increased from 4% in April to 18% in June, while the share of respondents with more than a week worth of food stocks fell from 76% to 44%.

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



### By survey

# 38% percent of respondents reported no difficulties eating enough, down from 54% in April



It is very difficult to buy food as no one in the house is workin i am fraid that one of this day i might not have food to give my 3 children. – Female, age 29

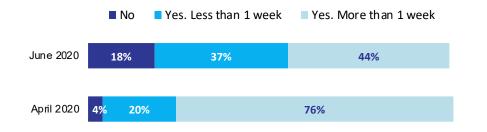
It is not easy hearing your child crying for snacks and can't provide for her, before things never been so. – Male, age 39

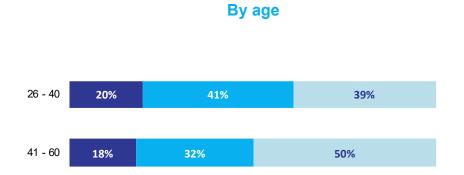
# IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

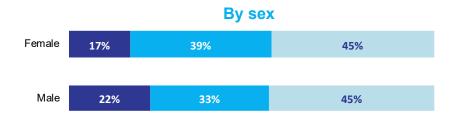
### **Food stocks**

#### Does your household have any food stock?

#### By survey





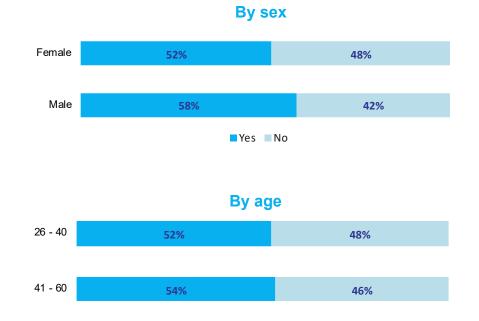


Watching yr kids hungry an you don't have to give ain't easy – Female, age 36

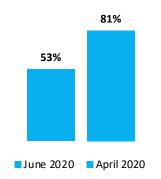
Seeing my children hungry is one of the hardest things I have ever had to go through. – Male, age 40

More than half of respondents (53%) reported that they faced a time in the last two weeks when their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected. This percentage is lower than in the April survey. Male and female respondents as well as respondents aged 25-40 and 41-60 experienced similarly a disruption to their livelihoods.

Movement restrictions are still the main reason for livelihood disruptions, cited by half of affected respondents, which is a decrease from 74% in April. This is followed by concerns about leaving the house, cited by 36% of respondents that experienced disruptions. Compared to April, a higher share of affected respondents (24%) cited the cost of livelihood inputs as a reason for livelihood disruptions, compared to 11% in April. Female respondents who faced disruptions more often cited concerns about leaving the house (37%) and the cost of livelihood inputs (28%) as a reason compared to their male counterparts (20% and 12%). Reduced demand for goods and services was a more prevalent reason for male respondents (35%) than female respondents (17%).

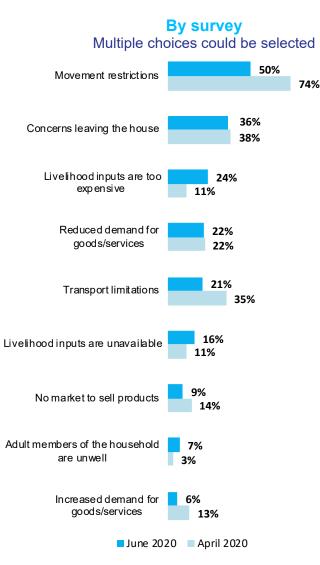


% of respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected



Compared to April, the cost of livelihood inputs caused a disruption to livelihood activities for an increasing share of respondents.

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



Daycares and schools are closed, as a working woman - I have no place to leave my child or to assist with online learning during the day. – Female, age 33

Most self employed do not have tax numbers and records of their source of income readily available so they cannot apply for the [stimulus] package. – Female, age 52

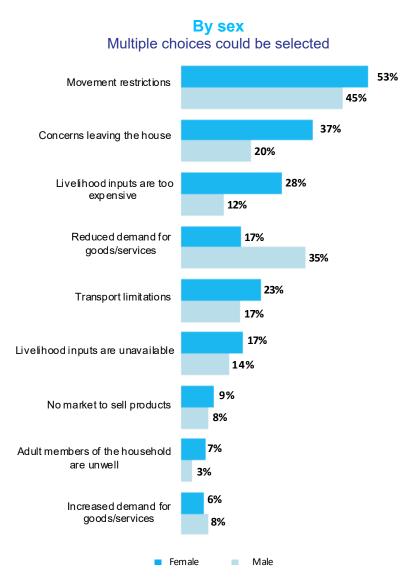
I am trying my best to survive. – Female, age 21

Kids are in need of computer to do school work an I have none only try to use my phone to assist the three of them it's tough. I get depressed a lot an want to just disappear. – Female, age 36

The purchase of my agricultural products was severely hampered. So although I increased time spent on the farm the returns are not equivalent. – Male, age 49

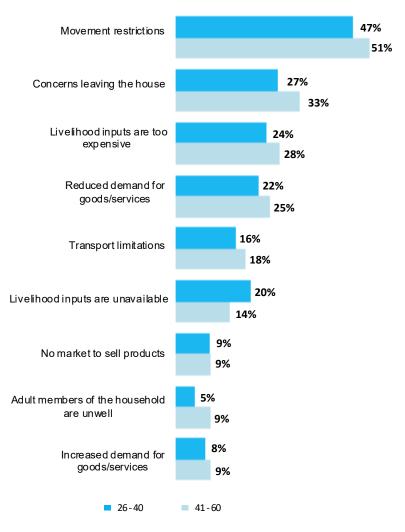


# For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...



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

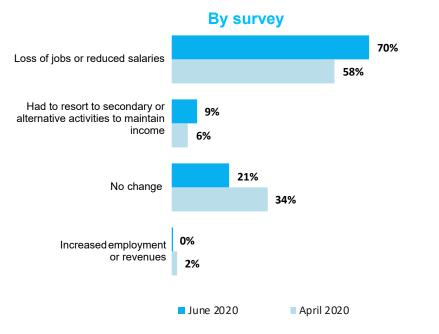
By age Multiple choices could be selected



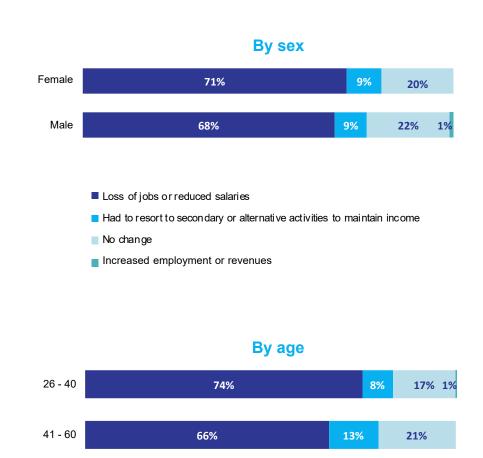
### **Income changes**

The crisis appears to be taking an increasing toll on the economic wellbeing of households. Most respondents' households have lost employment or experienced reduced salaries since the COVID-19 outbreak, and the proportion of affected households has increased from April. Over two-thirds (70%) of respondents reported having experienced loss of employment or reduced salaries in their household, a notable increase from April (58%). Concurrently, a considerably smaller proportion of respondents reported no change to their household income.

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



# 70% of respondents reported a loss in employment or reduction in salaries in June



#### Households engaged in farming/fishing

According to the World Bank, the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector contributed 11.1% to Dominica's GDP in 2018 and is a key source of employment and income. In this survey, half of respondents reported being involved in farming activity, predominantly for own consumption, while 9% were engaged in fishing or related coastal activities.

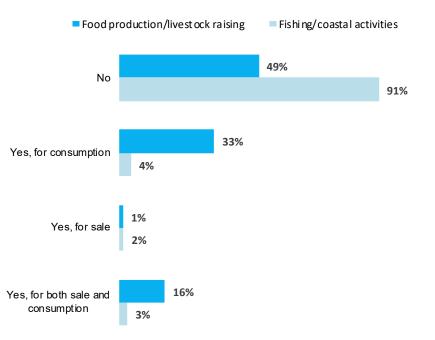
The large number of respondents in farming allowed for a comparison of these farm households to non-farm households. Impacts on household income and food consumption do not differ substantially between non-farm and farm households.

Farm households were more likely to have no difficulties eating enough compared to non-farm households (42% against 34%, respectively). Non-farm households also have a more negative outlook on the future, with 29% anticipating a severe impact to their livelihood, compared to 16% of farm households. The main worries do not significantly differ between farm and non-farm households. However, non-farm households are slightly more likely to report worries about meeting essential needs (43% compared to 34% for farm households) and food needs (40% compared to 31% for farm households). Having a source of food for own consumption certainly helps to mitigate concerns about having enough to feed the family and can sustain normal consumption patterns.

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.

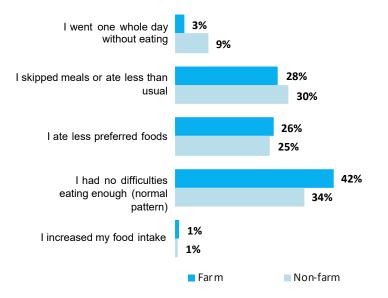
More information about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Caribbean small-scale fisheries and what solutions and adaptation methods are being used to ensure the continuity of livelihoods has been shared through other resources and a regional webinar.

### Households engaging in farming/fishing

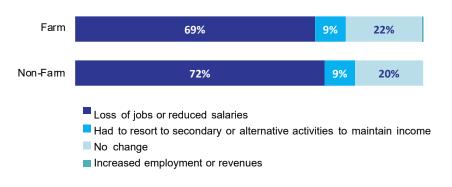


## Households engaged in farming/fishing

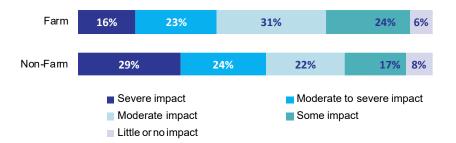
# Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?



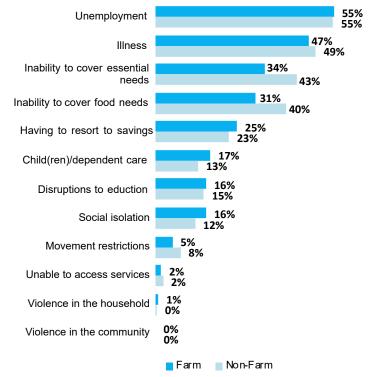
# Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?



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



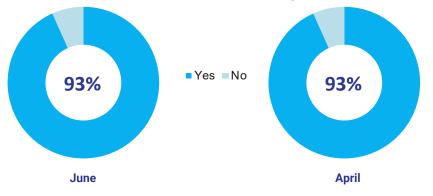
# What are you mainly worried or concerned about at the moment...



## **Future livelihood impacts**

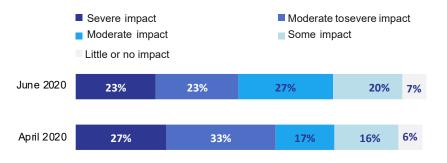
Respondents were asked to look ahead and predict the level of impact to their livelihoods as a result of disruptions from COVID-19. More than nine out of ten respondents believed that their livelihoods would be impacted to some degree, similar to the April survey, while a nearly quarter of respondents expect the impact to be severe.

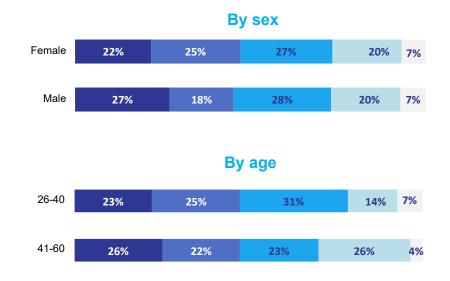
% of respondents expecting that their livelihood will be impacted



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

## By survey





Savings have ran out. Not sure where to turn next. – Female, age 35

Been home with kids an trying to help with their homeschooling. Because finish up all my little savings in bank to feed them an try keep light on. – Female, age 36

Both my wife and I are out of work. Had to used up saving to pay the bills and to feed family. I has come too a point it all finished and no work yet. It's hard when u have too think of ur children and wat u going to feed them. – Male, age 40

Praying wave 2 don't hit our region hard. – Male, age 63

# **INSIGHTS BY INCOME**

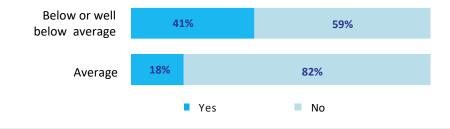
Respondents were asked to how they feel their household's income compares with the rest of the country. The results of the disaggregated analysis suggest that low-income households have experienced much more serious impacts on their market access, food security, livelihood and income. Households with a perceived income below or well below average were significantly more likely to experience market access constraints, with 41% reporting difficulties in accessing markets, compared to 18% of households with a perceived average income.

Impacts on food security are much more significant for lower-income households. Over one third of respondents with a perceived income below or well below average skipped meals or eat less than usual, compared to a fifth of respondents with an 'average' household income. Likewise, almost one third of respondents with a 'below' or 'well below' average income resorted to eating less preferred foods, compared to 23% of those from 'average' income households. One quarter of households with 'below' or 'well below average' income had no food stocks, compared to 11% of 'average' income households.

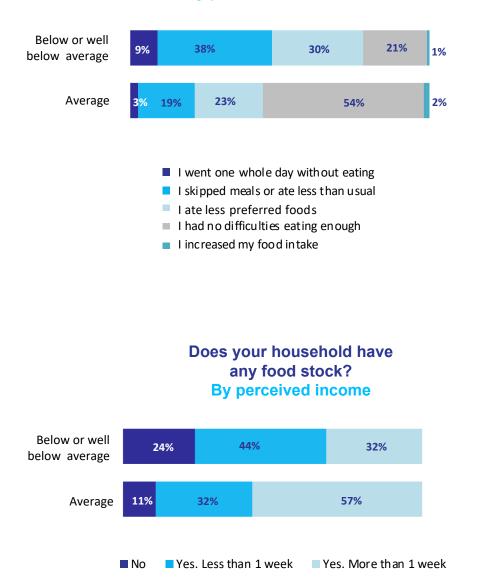
Lower income households also more frequently reported livelihood disruptions (62% compared to 43%) and loss of jobs or reduced salaries (79% compared to 63%) than 'average income' households.

Worries about the inability to cover food and other essential needs are more prevalent among respondents from lower income households. Respondents from lower income households also have a more pessimistic outlook on the future, with 30% expecting a 'severe' impact to their livelihood, compared to 15% of 'average' income households.

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

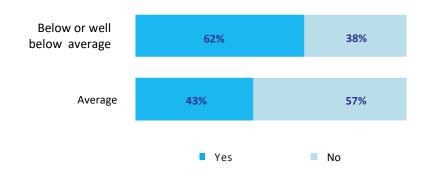


#### Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days? By perceived income

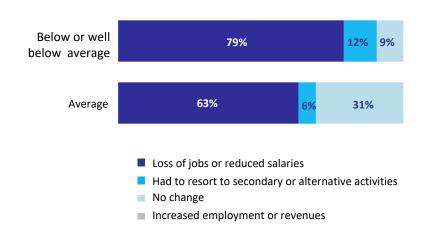


# **INSIGHTS BY INCOME**

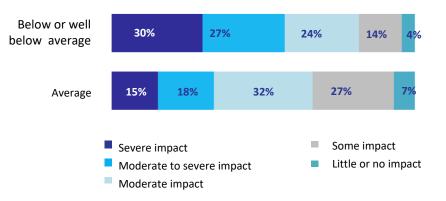
# Was your ability to carry out livelihood activities affected in the last 2 weeks? By perceived income



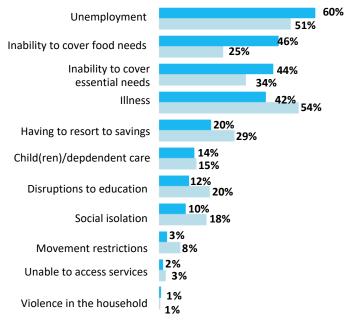
# Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak? By perceived income



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



#### What are you mainly worried or concerned about at the moment... By perceived income



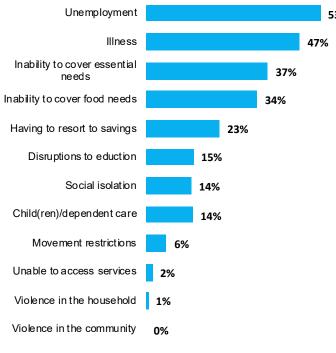
# WIDER IMPACTS

## **Worries**

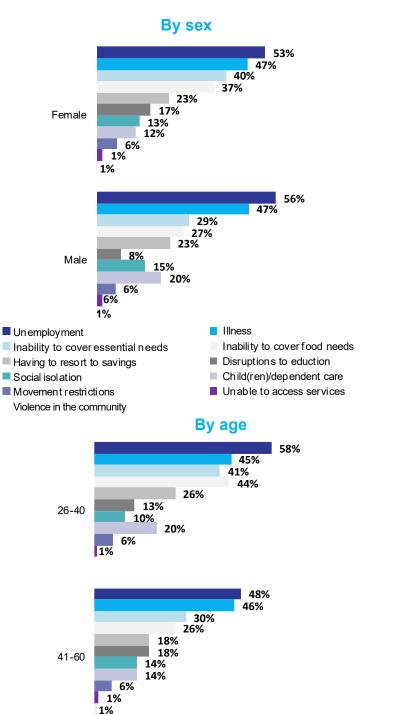
Half of respondents are mainly worried about unemployment or contracting the illness, followed by a third of respondents who are mainly worried about their inability to cover essential or food needs.

Male and female respondents are similarly worried about unemployment, but women are more worried about not being able to cover essential and food needs. Concerns about unemployment, covering essential and food needs are also more common among younger (26-40 years) respondents.

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



# Multiple responses could be selected



#### Unpaid care and work

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the amount of time people spend on unpaid activities. The majority of respondents increased time devoted to domestic work (61%), childcare (58%) and subsistence activities (47%), and a larger share of female respondents devoted more time to childcare activities (61%) and domestic work (63%), compared to male respondents (47% and 53%). Responses to changes in shopping behavior are mixed, with 43% reporting a decrease in the time spent on shopping, while 42% report an increase. Respondents in the 26-40 age group more frequently reported an increase in time spent on childcare (66%) and shopping (48%) than respondents in the 41-60 age group.

	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
Decreased	9%	5%	43%	9%	25%
No change	29%	23%	15%	31%	45%
Increased	61%	58%	42%	47%	10%
Not applicable	2%	15%	1%	12%	20%

#### By sex

Female	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
Decreased	7%	4%	42%	9%	24%
No change	29%	21%	14%	31%	45%
Increased	63%	61%	44%	47%	10%
Not applicable	2%	14%	1%	13%	20%
Male	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
<b>Male</b> Decreased		Childcare 7%	Shopping 45%		
	work			production	work
Decreased	work 15%	7%	45%	production 12%	work 27%

#### By age

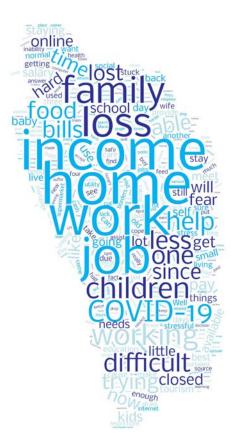
26-40	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
Decreased	7%	5%	39%	10%	25%
No change	26%	18%	12%	34%	44%
Increased	63%	66%	48%	43%	7%
Notapplicable	4%	10%	1%	13%	24%
	Domestic			Subsistence	Community

41-60	work	Childcare	Shopping	production	work
Decreased	12%	3%	49%	10%	23%
No change	27%	28%	13%	26%	48%
Increased	60%	54%	38%	52%	13%
Notapplicable	1%	16%	0%	12%	17%

# WIDER IMPACTS

## Key themes in Dominica

The word clouds represent key themes on how people in Dominica are being impacted by and are adapting to disruptions from COVID-19. In June, the primary worry over "work" remains still relevant, but respondents' concerns have become more focused on the lack of "work", as evidenced by the increasing prominence of words such as "income" and "job".

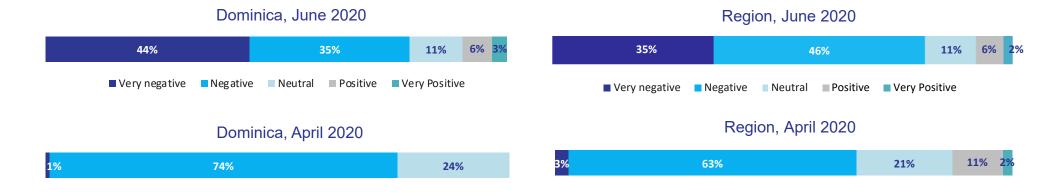




June 2020

April 2020

## How people are coping and adapting



Text analysis was used to analyze respondents' answers to open ended questions, categorizing responses in terms of degrees of positive and negative emotions. Comparing attitudes across time and against outcomes in the region provides more insight into how residents of Dominica are coping with the crisis.

At the regional level, 'very negative' sentiment has increased since April, from 3% to 35%, while 81% of respondents expressed an overall negative sentiment. Sentiment in Dominica is similar to the region. Overall negative sentiment remains widespread, expressed by 79% of respondents in June, and is accompanied by a steep increase in 'very negative' sentiment to 44% of respondents, from 1% in April.

# CONCLUSION

In March 2020, Dominica closed its borders after the first COVID-19 case was identified, and strict measures were put in place to contain the spread of the virus. The closure of borders and non-essential businesses, combined with a curfew, severely curtailed economic activities. While many economic and commercial activities have resumed, the broader impacts of the pandemic continue to have an effect on how people live, work and meet their basic needs.

While market access and the availability of goods appear to have improved, findings suggest that the availability of medicines remains worryingly low, and nearly three quarters of respondents report an increase food prices.

Loss of employment and reduced salaries are widespread and appear to affect an increasing share of the population. As a probable result of this situation, food security appears to have deteriorated, with over a third of respondents reducing their food consumption, and more respondents reporting no food stocks in their households. Impacts on food security, livelihoods and incomes appear more widespread among lower income households.

The vast majority of respondents expect their livelihoods will be negatively affected in the future, which may further compound the food security situation. Very negative sentiment has increased steeply and was expressed by nearly half of respondents, among the highest rates in the region.

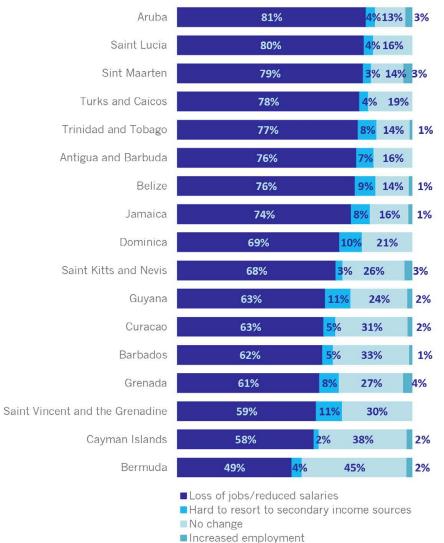
Given the protracted nature of the crisis, the government and its partners must redouble their efforts to mitigate the socioeconomic impact through medium- and longer-term programmes and interventions. Opportunities include the continued expansion of social protection programmes, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups.



# ANNEX. REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

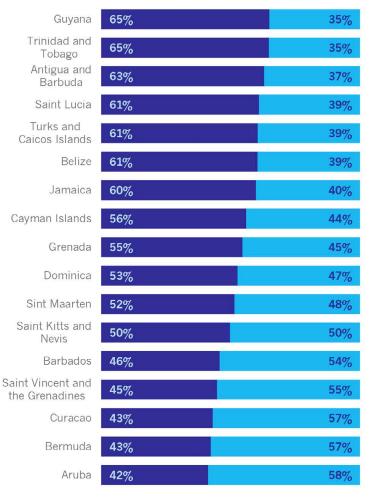
## **Income changes**

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



## **Livelihood disruptions**

# Was your ability to carry out livelihoods activities affected in the last 2 weeks?



🗖 yes 📘 no

# **METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

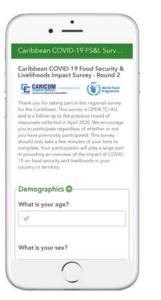
The second round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphone and PC/desktop. The data collection period was inclusive of 14 June to 1 July 2020. The survey was circulated via email, social media, SMS,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





<u>Link to survey</u>

Link to dashbard (mobile version)



Link to dashboard (desktop version)

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