



Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS Summary Report | November 2020



135

Respondents

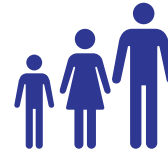


69

Female

31 %

Male



40

Average age



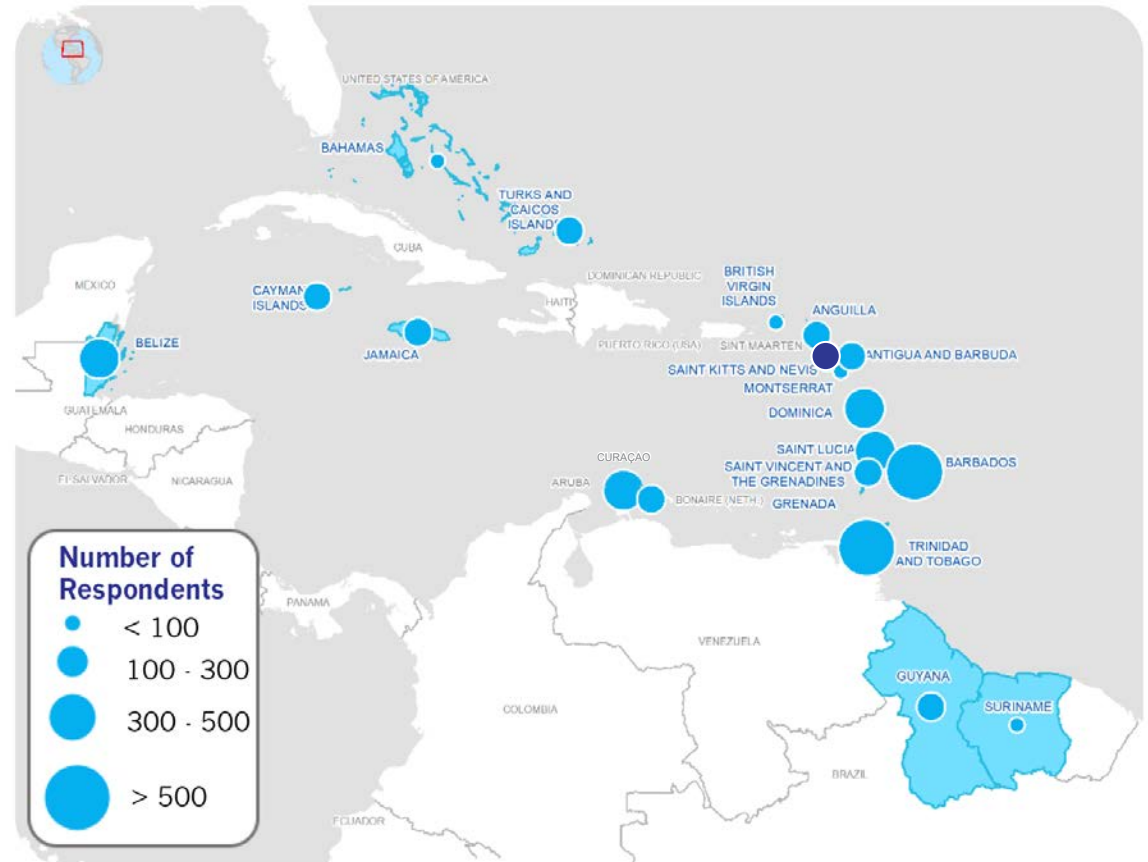
4

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 Saint Kitts and Nevis, one-fifth of the population is not using the internet, and it is assumed that the poorest, most vulnerable households are underrepresented in the survey results.



Round 1
April 2020



4,537
Responses

Round 2
June 2020



5,707
Responses



Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS Summary Report | November 2020

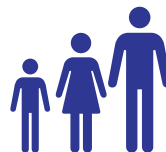


135
Respondents



69
Female

31 %
Male



40
Average
age



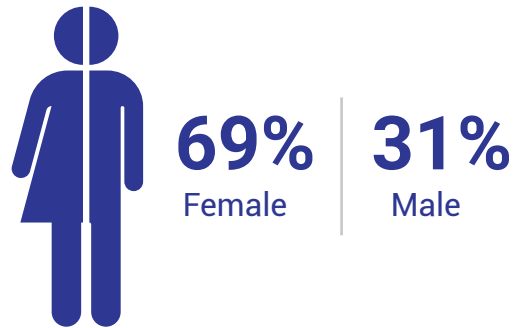
4
Average
household size

- COVID-19 and measures to contain it have resulted in widespread disruption to livelihoods. Half of the respondents reported that their ability to carry out livelihoods was impacted, mainly owing to movement restrictions, concerns about leaving the house, and reduced demand for goods and services.
- Nearly all respondents predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future. One out of five respondents expect this impact to be severe and expressed very negative sentiment concerning the pandemic and the disruption it caused.
- The pandemic appears to be taking an increasing toll on households' economic wellbeing. Sixty-eight percent of respondents have experienced job loss or a reduced incomes in their households, much higher than during the April survey (51%).
- For over half of respondents, job loss and illness are the main worries. Every third respondent is worried about the inability to cover essential needs.
- The pandemic has changed the amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities. Over half of respondents increased time devoted to domestic work and childcare, and over a third reported an increase in time spent on subsistence activities. Four out of ten respondents increased or decreased the amount of time spent shopping.
- COVID-19 also impacted the availability of goods and market access, with some improvements observed in June compared to April. However, 16% of respondents still experienced difficulties in accessing markets, mainly due to lack of cash to spend. While food and other essential goods were generally available in stores, 39% of respondents reported that medicines were only partially available.
- Seventy-three percent of respondents observed an increase in food prices, and 87% changed their shopping behaviour since the pandemic began. Compared to April, more of those who changed how they shop are buying smaller quantities than usual (26% in June compared to 10% in April) or cheaper goods (39% up from 14%), while a decreasing share resorts to buying larger quantities than usual (47% down from 77%).
- The pandemic appears to be impacting food security, with 22% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual and 10% reporting that they have no food stocks in their household. Compared to April fewer people reported having more than one week's worth of food stock (58% down from 80%).
- The number of respondents was not sufficient for disaggregated analysis between men and women and among income and age groups. However, the regional results found that detrimental impacts to income and food consumption were more widespread among low-income families.

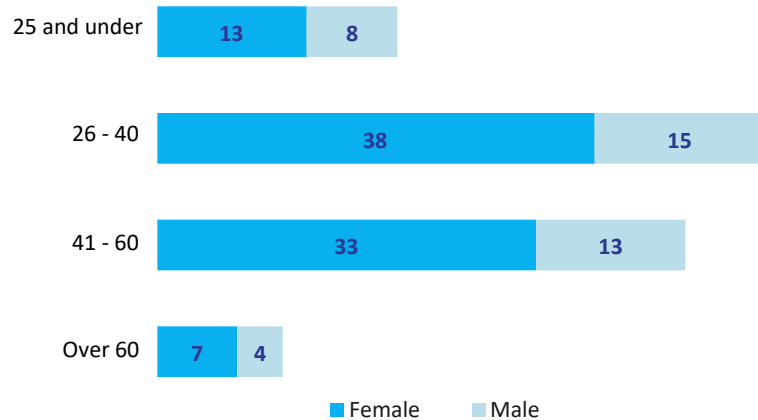
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Age and gender breakdown shows that the majority of respondents are female and in the 26-40 age category. Disaggregated analysis by age, sex or perceived income could not be provided in this report due to an insufficient number of respondents.

Sex of respondents

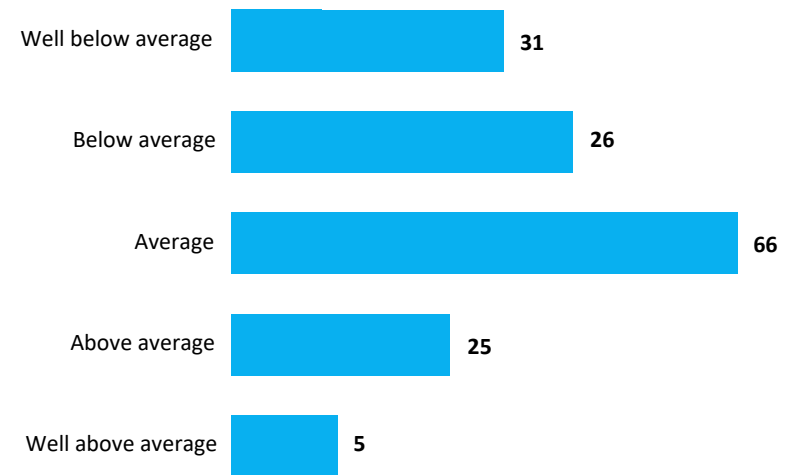


Age of respondents



Perceived income level of respondents

Respondents were asked how they feel their household's income compares to the rest of the country. Half of respondents assessed their income as average while 42% assessed their income as below or well below average. At the same time, 22% of respondents perceived their income as above or well above average.



"My country and its government is free of covid 19 but members of my family is unemployed due to the covid 19 pandemic our government gives a thousand dollars every month to citizens affected by the covid 19." - Male, Age 15

"Try exercise. Assist others." - Female, Age 37

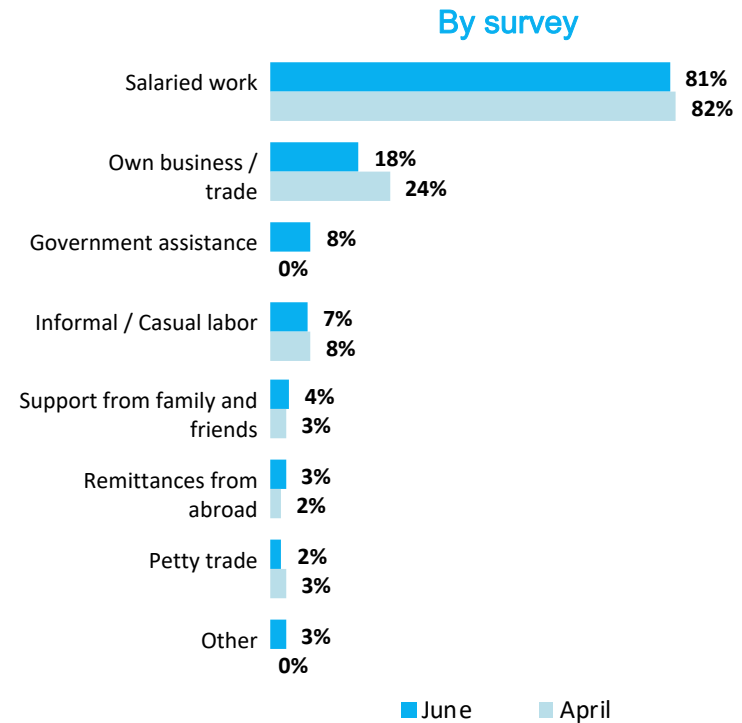


DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

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 81% of respondents, followed by business/trade (18%) and government assistance (8%), which was not mentioned in the April survey.

The Caribbean-wide survey found that the main sources of household income have shifted since April, with a reduction in those reporting salaried income and increased reliance on external support such as remittances from abroad, family and friends, or government assistance. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, survey results do not reveal a similarly strong trend, with the share of salaried work not having changed from April to June. However, the share of respondents reporting income from government assistance increased from 0% to 8% since April.



"I am now working 3 or 2 times a week. And taken up gardening to keep busy." - Female, Age 42

"Mentally exhausting worrying about what will happen next." - Female, Age 45

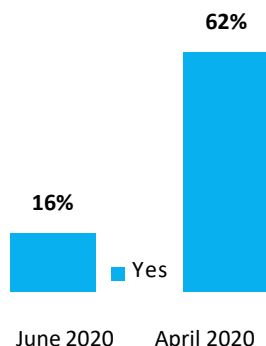
"I haven't been disrupted by Covid-19 only my social life." - Female, Age 19



IMPACT ON MARKETS

While disruptions due to COVID-19 have had a negative impact on market access, access improved substantially compared to April. In June, 16% of respondents indicated they had problems accessing markets in the week prior to the survey, a substantially smaller proportion compared to 62% in April. Lack of money to spend was the primary reason, reported by for 38% of those facing challenges. Compared to April, a substantially smaller percentage of respondents reported movement restrictions, concerns about leaving the house and closure of shops as reasons for their inability to access markets.

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



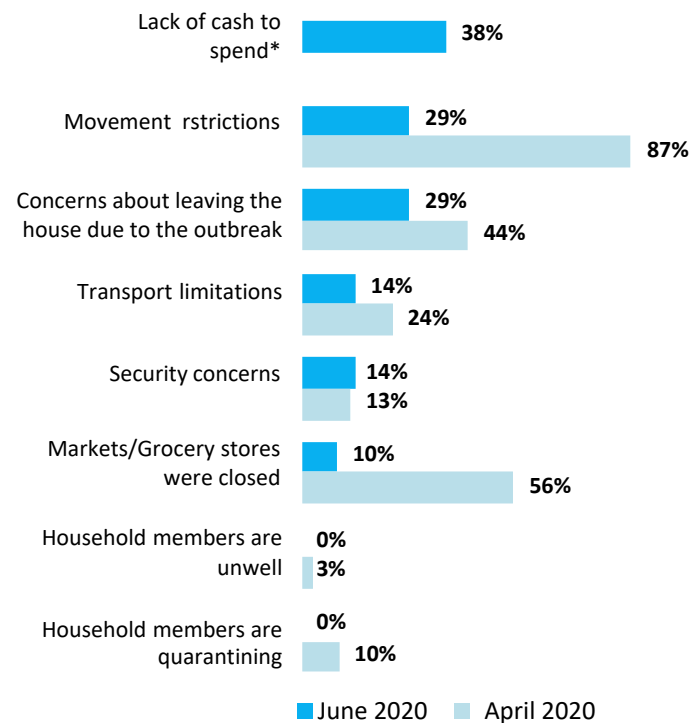
"We had to use savings while my partner and I were not working and was worried we will both be out of a job. Home restriction weighed on my mental health a little since I like to keep myself busy. My partner is still not working, but I am back at work and although we have no cases, the government still has restrictions on manufacturing businesses and I get the sense we are being stigmatized because we have not heard of any other businesses having restrictions like ours. This is weighing on me again since I am basically in a work quarantine. There need to be a balance on restrictions." - Female, Age 34



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

By survey

Multiple responses could be selected



*This option was not provided for in the April 2020 survey.

IMPACT ON MARKETS

Availability of items in stores

Respondents reported on the availability of key 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	↑ 69%	50%	↑ 85%	57%	↑ 87%	65%	↑ 49%	30%
Partially/sometimes available	↓ 28%	41%	↓ 13%	35%	↓ 11%	31%	↓ 39%	47%
Not available	↓ 0%	1%	↓ 0%	2%	↓ 0%	2%	↓ 2%	7%
Don't know	↓ 3%	9%	↓ 2%	6%	↓ 1%	3%	↓ 10%	17%

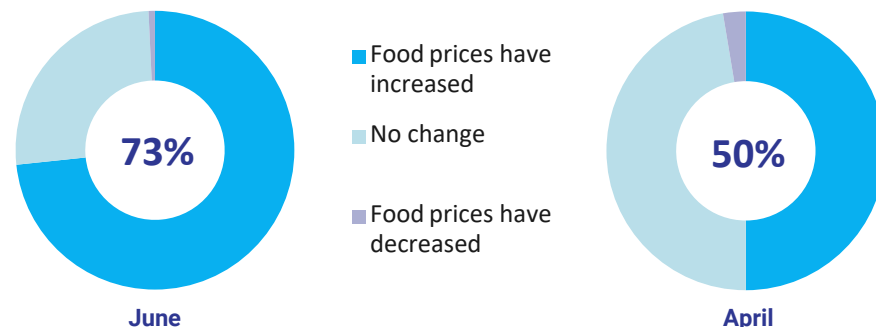
The availability of goods has improved significantly since April, with over 85% of respondents reporting uninterrupted availability of basic foods or hygiene items. However, even in June, for 39% of respondents essential medicines were only partially or sometimes available, and 28% of respondents described fresh foods as partially/sometimes available.

"I have been affected in ways such as movement restrictions/curfew and higher prices on goods because of their higher demand in the market." - Female, Age 35



Food prices

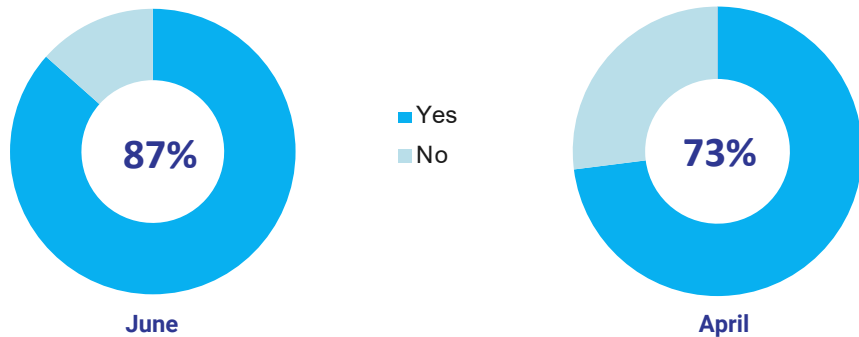
Respondents reported on observed changes in food prices. A large majority of respondents (73%) reported an increase, a significant change since April (50%).



IMPACT ON MARKETS

Shopping behavior

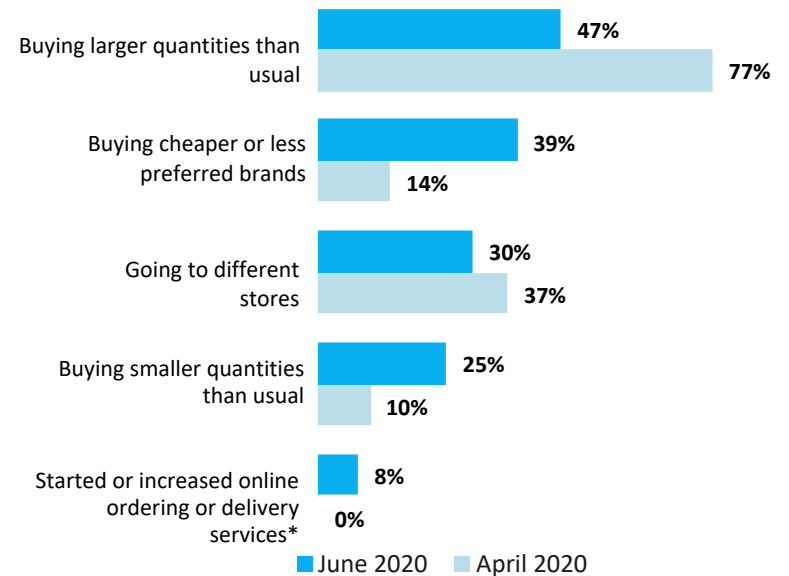
Respondents were asked if they altered their shopping behavior and if so how.



The vast majority of respondents (87%) changed how they shop since the pandemic began. For those who changed their shopping behavior, a significant shift in adaptation strategies was observed since April. Fewer respondents resorted to buying larger quantities than usual (47% in June down from 77% in April) while more respondents resorted to purchasing cheaper or less preferred brands (39% in June compared to 14% in April) and buying smaller quantities than usual (25% in June up from 10% in April). Eight percent of respondents started or increased online ordering or delivery services.

How respondents changed their shopping behaviour By survey

Multiple responses could be selected



*This option was not provided for in the April 2020 survey.

"Landlord still collecting rent and everyone in the household is unemployed."
- Female, Age 21

"Actually not seeing any money right now. You don't need much to be happy."
- Male, Age 25

"No where is hiring. Only my husband's income we're surviving on." - Female, Age 28



IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

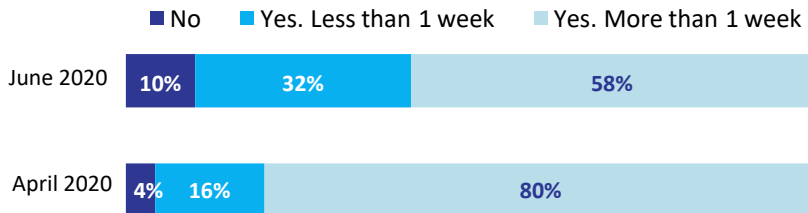
The pandemic and measures to stop its spread are impacting household food security and consumption. One-fifth of respondents reported skipping meals or eating less than usual and 12% eating less preferred foods. Compared to April, a similar proportion of respondents (six out of ten) reported having no difficulties eating enough.

Compared to the April survey, household food stocks have declined, with 58% of respondents reporting that they had over one week of food supply stored up, down from 80% in April. Worryingly, 10% of respondents had no food stocks at all in their household

Food stocks

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

Does your household have any food stock?



"No income, eating less food, government doing nothing due to pandemic and charging us all the utility bill." - Male, Age 28

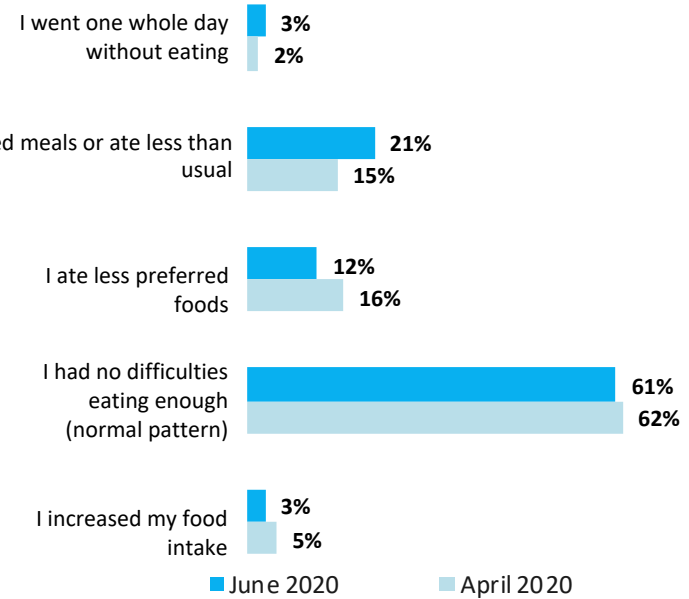
"I worry about child care, education, the ability to pay bills, food sources drying up, tapping into already limited savings...it is a lot." - Female, Age 34



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?



"I will cook in bulk on Sundays and store my food for when I'm ready. Do OMAD style, drink plenty water, change my emotional and thinking pattern. Eat porridge or cornflakes in the nighttime to save the cooked food for other days. This is something covid has taught me, and I'm liking it. We don't need much, stop the gluttony and be satisfied. I also do a green smoothie on Saturdays. I wish I was able to share this survey." - Female, Age 35



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

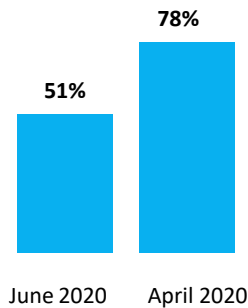
COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus have had a widespread impact on livelihoods with half of respondents still facing disruptions to their livelihoods in June, down from 78% in April.

Movement restrictions are still the most common reason for livelihood disruptions, even though the percentage of respondents citing this reason decreased significantly from 86% in April of those facing disruptions to 49% in June. Reduced demand for goods and services became the second most common reason in June, more than doubling to 33% of affected respondents. Concerns about leaving the house due to the pandemic and transport limitations maintained the same level of importance compared to April, and more respondents in June cited livelihood inputs being too expensive.

Disruptions to livelihoods

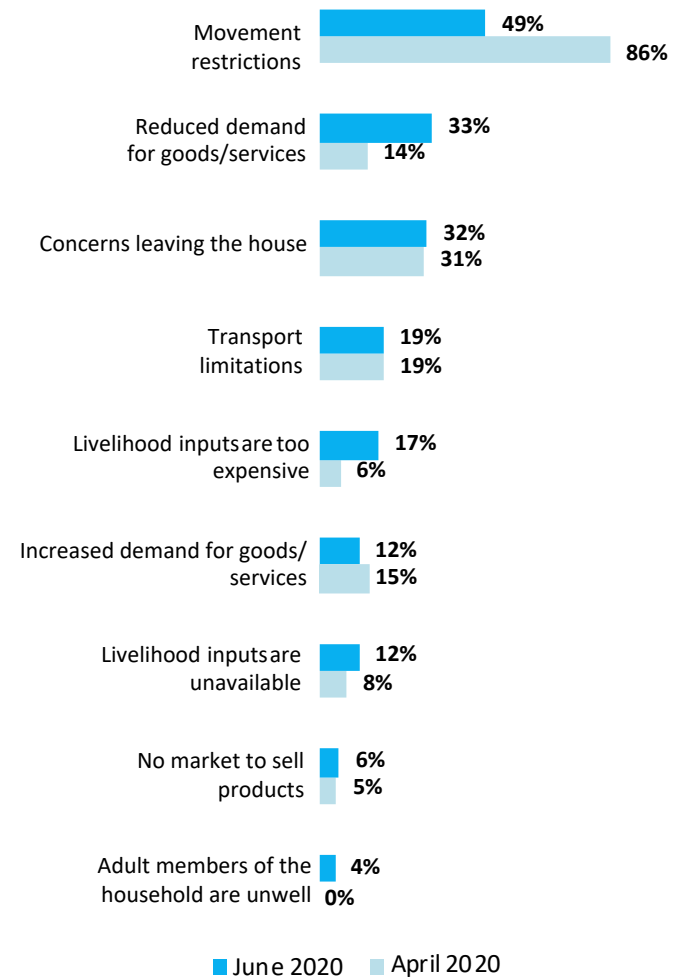
Respondents reported on any disruptions to their livelihoods in the past two weeks.

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



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

Multiple choices could be selected

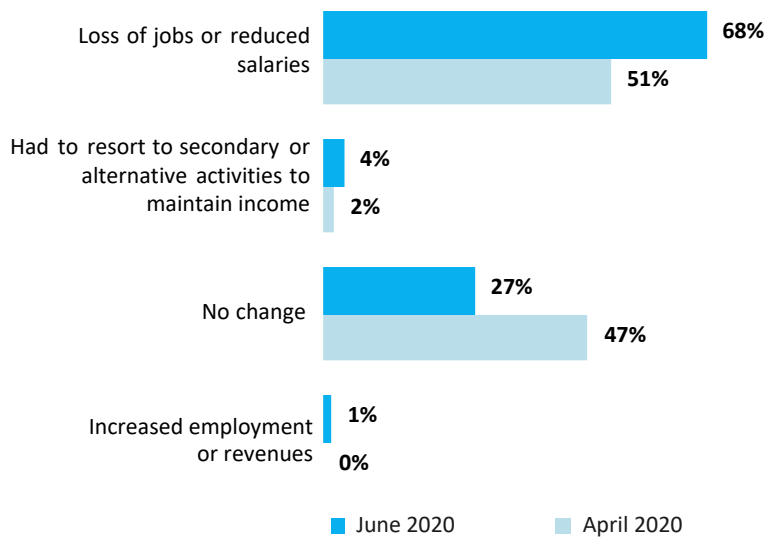


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Income changes

Respondents were asked to report on any changes in household income. Compared to April, a higher share of respondents experienced loss of jobs or reduced salaries (68% up from 51%).

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



"Loss of job, and difficulty in finding work." - Female, Age 25

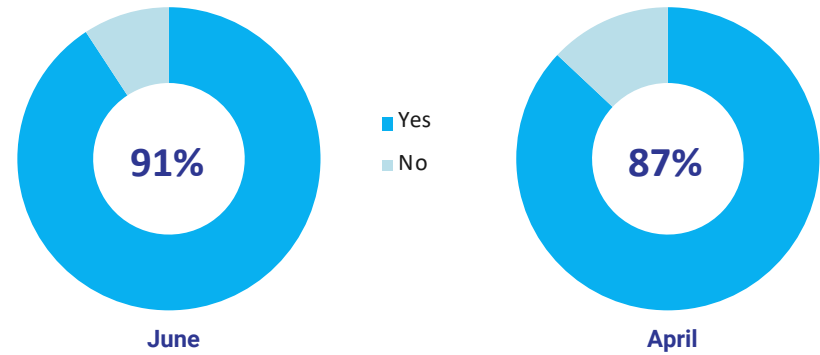
"Low wages but still making ends meet. Children out of school and worried about their education." - Female, Age 26

"No tourism on the island and I work on the tourism bars job, so no work." - Male, Age 29



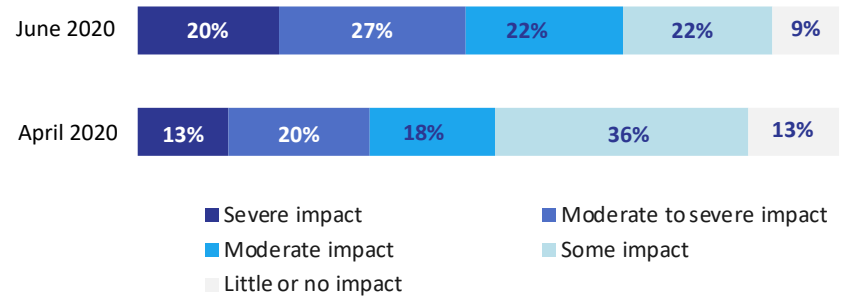
Future livelihood impacts

Respondents were asked to look ahead and predict the level of impact to their livelihoods as a result of disruptions from COVID-19. Ninety-one percent of respondents believed that their livelihoods would be impacted to some degree and 20% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted, reflecting an overall increasingly widespread pessimism.



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

By survey



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Worries

The survey asked what people were mainly concerned about. Over half of respondents (58%) are mainly worried about unemployment, followed by illness (56%) and the inability to cover essential needs (34%). Every fourth respondent is primarily concerned about the inability to cover basic food needs or having to resort to savings.

"Myself & 2 of my sons are out of a job. It is a very difficult road we are traveling but with the help of Almighty God we will make it through. Pressing on!"
- Female, Age 57

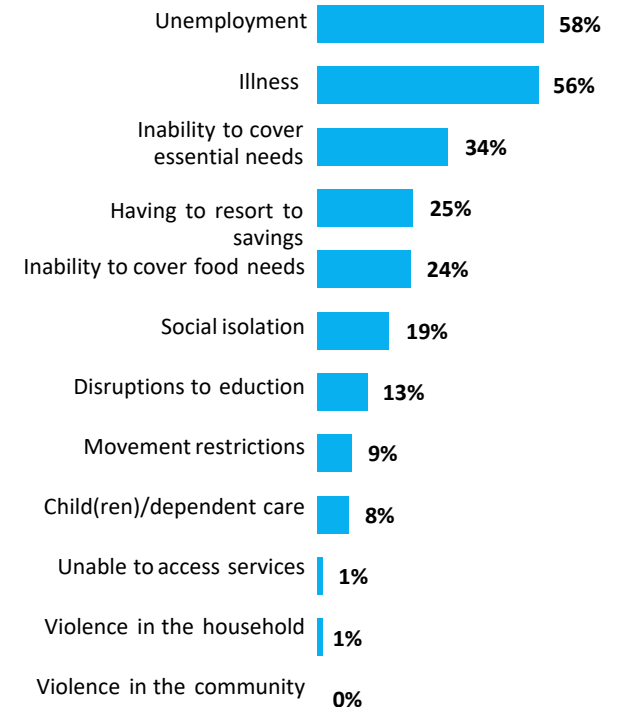
"Government needs to be more serious about the pandemic." - Female, Age 59

"The stress of covid and elections under a state of emergency continues to be stressful." - Female, Age 59

"Unable to travel abroad. Being patient." - Male, Age 61



What are you mainly worried or concerned about at the moment... Multiple responses could be selected



IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Households engaged in farming/fishing

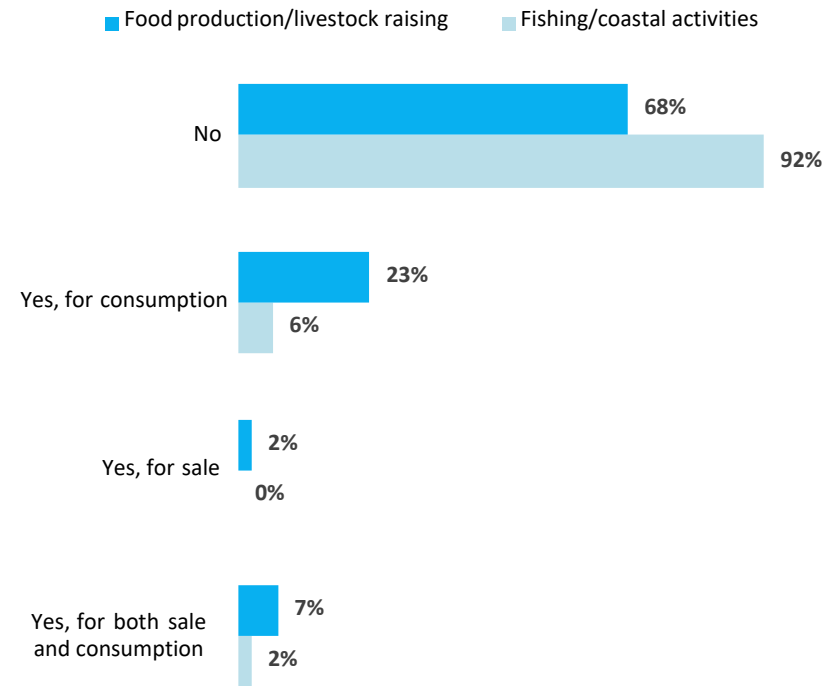
Agriculture (including fishing) accounts for 1.3% of national GDP in Saint Kitts and Nevis. In this survey, 32% of respondents reported being involved in food production and 8% in fishing activities, both predominantly for own consumption.

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 reported 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 food production or fishing in Saint Kitts and Nevis 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 more in-depth assessment and analysis of the impacts of COVID-19 on agricultural livelihoods, production and food systems in the Caribbean.

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



"It's rough. Essentially workers should be compensated for being on the front line. Person who are out of work should be paid fully." - Female, Age 33

"During such time, we have monitored the amount of income spent, as well as the amount of food we consume. All things in moderation." - Female, Age 36



WIDER IMPACTS

Unpaid care and work

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities. Over half of respondents increased time devoted to domestic work and childcare and 36% reported an increase in time spent on subsistence activities. Time spent on shopping either increased or decreased for a similar proportion of the respondents.

	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
Decreased	6%	6%	39%	8%	20%
No change	30%	25%	19%	36%	54%
Increased	63%	52%	41%	46%	8%
Not applicable	2%	16%	1%	11%	18%



"I'm a medical student who was scheduled to start rotations in August. My career has been put on pause. I'm worried about rent and entering the hospitals with Covid." - Female, Age 23

"Loss my job in the tourism industry since borders remained closed. Now rebooting the family farmlands." - Female, Age 34

"During such time, we have monitored the amount of income spent, as well as the amount of food we consume. All things in moderation." - Female, Age 36

"The stress of covid and elections under a state of emergency continues to be stressful" - Female, Age 59

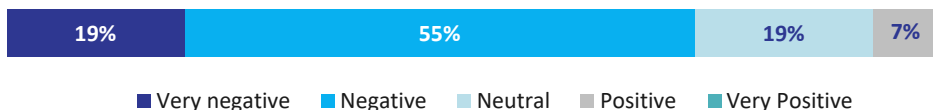


WIDER IMPACTS

How people are coping and adapting

Both survey rounds gave respondents space to provide fuller and more nuanced insights on how they are coping and adapting to the disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Saint Kitts and Nevis, June 2020



Saint Kitts and Nevis, April 2020

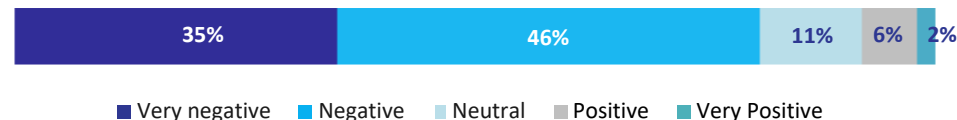


In June, 31% of the 135 respondents from Saint Kitts and Nevis answered the open-ended question. Text analysis was used to categorize and interpret the degree of positive and negative emotions within the responses using machine learning.

Sentiments seem to have significantly deteriorated compared to April, with the share of “very negative” sentiment having jumped almost five-fold from 4% in April to 19% in June 2020, though this is still lower than the regional average (35%). Compared to the region, a similar proportion of respondents expressed negative sentiments (74% compared to 81%). A quarter of the comments were classified as neutral, which is similar April.

These findings suggest that concerns and worries among respondents from Saint Kitts and Nevis are increasing with regard to the pandemic and its impacts.

Region, June 2020



Region, April 2020



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

“My spouse lost their income and is now pursuing alternative means of generating income.” - Male, Age 37

“There is constant fear of exhausting our savings and left with nothing.” - Female, Age 44

“Plan have change, was planning to take vacation to the US.” - Male, Age 49

“Having to work from home and the initial long food lines were inconvenient at times.” - Female, Age 53

“Reduce salary. Not enough to pay bills.” - Female, Age 53



CONCLUSION

Results from this survey suggest that the COVID-19 pandemic is having a negative impact on the income and food security of a growing number of people in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

Reported instances of unemployment, reduced income and rising food prices have increased significantly, despite some improvements in market access and the availability of food and other essential goods. Half of respondents are still experiencing disruptions to their livelihoods. The majority of respondents reported income or job loss in their household and respondents are worried about unemployment.

The pandemic is shifting life at home, with time spent on domestic work, childcare and subsistence activities increasing, and shopping patterns changing towards cheaper and smaller purchases. The availability of essential medication is still an issue for some respondents.

Trends in Saint Kitts and Nevis are similar compared to what was observed at the regional level, while respondents' perspectives on how the pandemic is impacting their lives and overall sentiment appears to be more negative compared to April. The vast majority of respondents in Saint Kitts and Nevis predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future.

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

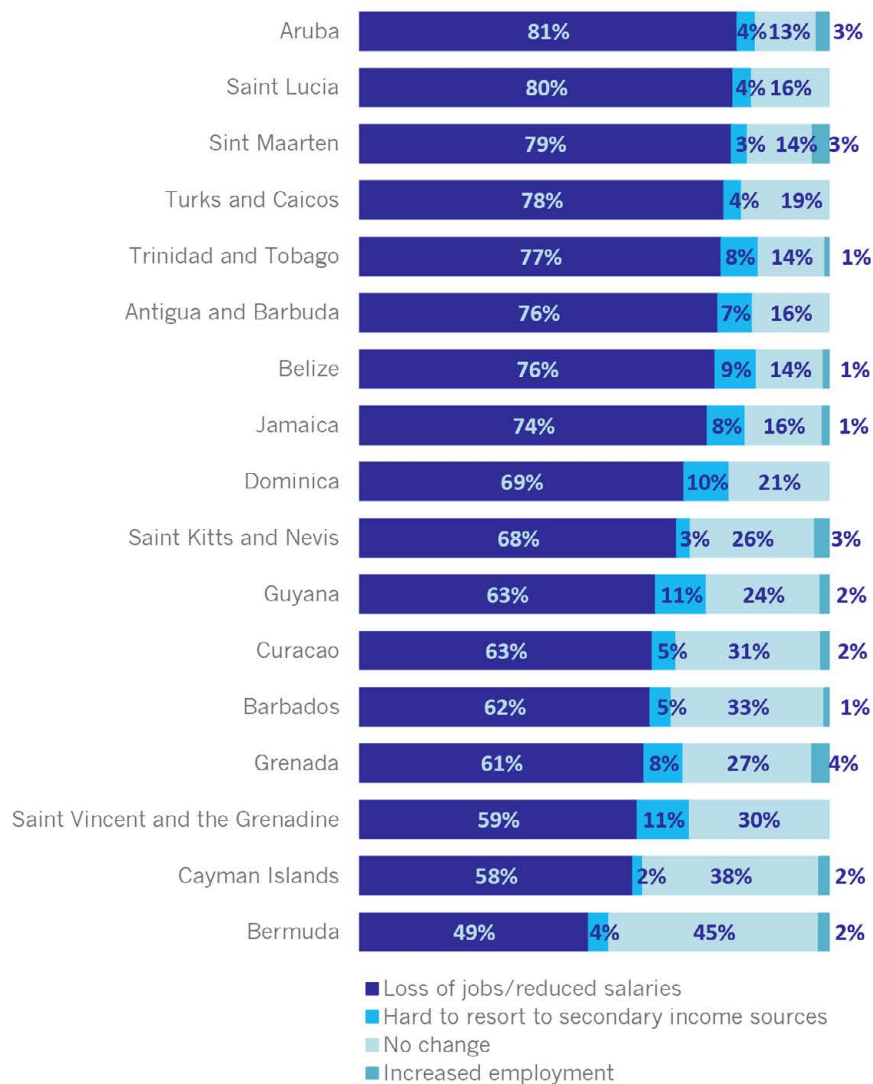
With every fifth person in Saint Kitts and Nevis not using the internet, the results of this web-based survey should be read with a degree of caution given potential bias towards households who can afford internet access or smartphone devices. Considering the unforeseeable end of the crisis, it is essential to continue monitoring its impacts, particularly on the most vulnerable groups.



ANNEX. REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

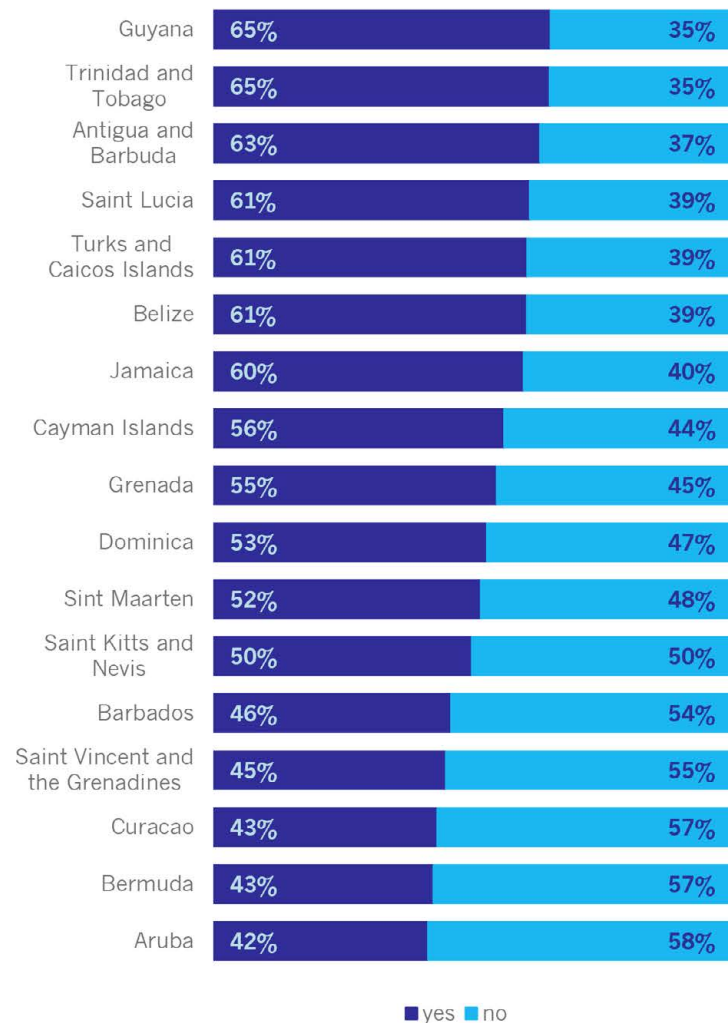
Income changes

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?



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.

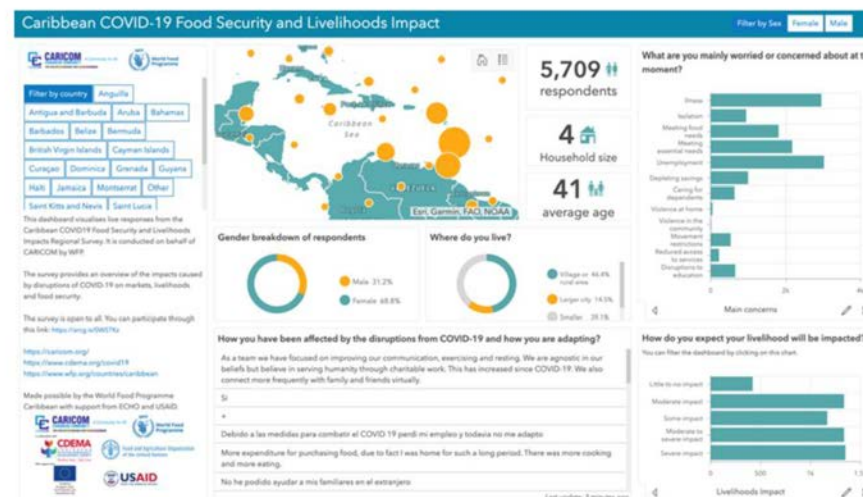
This report was prepared for WFP Caribbean by Kagin's Consulting - Edward J. Taylor, Justin Kagin, Momir Blazek, Julian Fletcher-Taylor, Rebecca Morton, Sebastian Fletcher-Taylor and Heng Zhu.



[Link to survey](#)



[Link to dashboard \(mobile version\)](#)



[Link to dashboard \(desktop version\)](#)

This page is intentionally left blank.

UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Office for Emergency Preparedness and Response in the Caribbean

UN House, Marine Gardens

Christ Church

Barbados

Regis Chapman | Head of Office

Tel: +1 246 467 6085

Email: wfp.barbados@wfp.org

Website: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/caribbean>

CARICOM

Caribbean Community Secretariat

Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown

PO Box 10827

Guyana

Shaun Baugh | Programme Manager, Agricultural & Agro-Industrial Development

Tel: +592 222 0134

Email: shaun.baugh@caricom.org

Website: <https://www.caricom.org>



Funded by

