Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

GRENADA Summary Report | November 2020

164 Respondents

75 Female | **25 %** Male

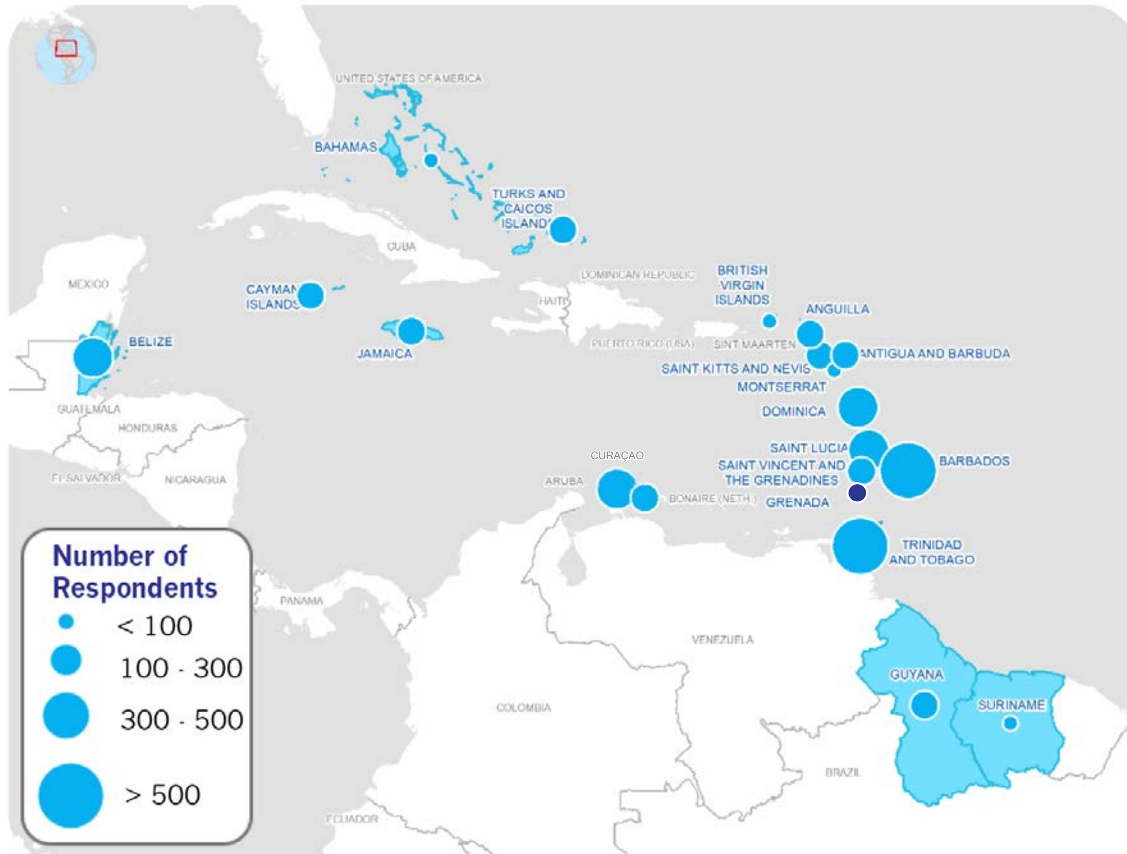
38 Average age

4 Average household size

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

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. It is assumed that the poorest, most vulnerable are under-represented 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

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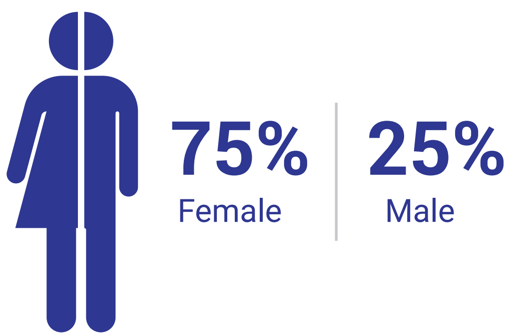
4 Average household size

- Disruptions to livelihoods appear to have decreased since April, but still affect over half of respondents in June. Movement restrictions remain the most frequently cited reason for livelihood disruptions, cited by 60% of affected respondents, followed by transport limitations (36%) and concerns about leaving the house (30%).
- The crisis appears to be taking an increasing toll on households' economic wellbeing. In June, 62% of respondents reported job loss or a decline in salaries in their households, compared to 48% in April.
- Compared to April, households are less likely to rely on salaried work or business/trade for their income and increasingly depend on informal/casual labour, support from family and friends and government assistance.
- Nearly all respondents (92%) predict that their livelihoods will be impacted in the future. Every third respondent expects this impact to be severe and expressed very negative sentiment concerning the pandemic and the disruption it caused, an increase since April.
- Half of respondents are mainly worried about unemployment and illness, and a third are mainly worried about being unable to meet food and other basic needs.
- COVID-19 and measures to contain it have also impacted market access, with over a quarter of respondents reporting access difficulties, down from two thirds in April. The main reason for limited market access was a lack of cash to spend (45%), followed by concerns over leaving the house due to health risks (23%), transport limitations (23%) and movement restrictions (18%).
- While the availability of essential goods in stores appears to have improved, the availability of essential medicine remains worryingly low, with 45% of respondents reporting only partial availability. Almost three out of four respondents observed an increase in food prices, twice as many than in April.
- The vast majority of respondents have changed their shopping behaviour and a clear shift in adaptation strategies can be observed. Compared to April, many more respondents are buying cheaper or less preferred goods or smaller quantities than usual, and fewer respondents make bulk purchases.
- Food security appears to have deteriorated. Household food stocks have declined compared to April, with 17% reporting that they had no food stocks. Thirty-one percent of respondents reported skipping meals or eating less than usual, up from 19% in April.
- The pandemic has changed the amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities. Half of respondents reduced time spent shopping, while nearly the same proportion increased time devoted to domestic work, childcare and subsistence activities,
- 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 households.

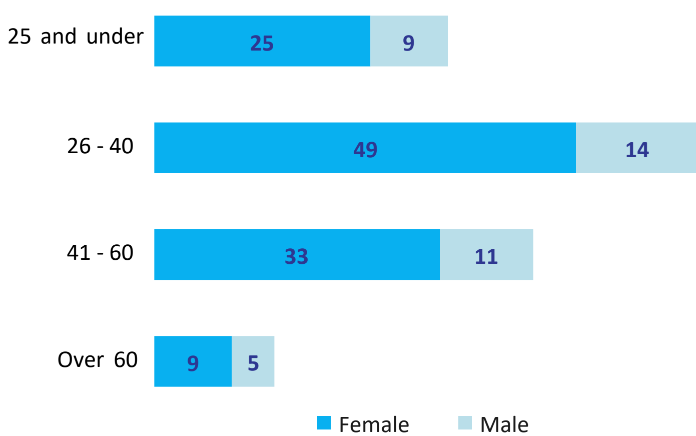
DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Age and gender breakdown shows that the majority of respondents are female and concentrated in the 26-40 age category. A disaggregated analysis of results by sex, age and perceived income level could not be provided in this report given the insufficient number of respondents.

Sex of respondents

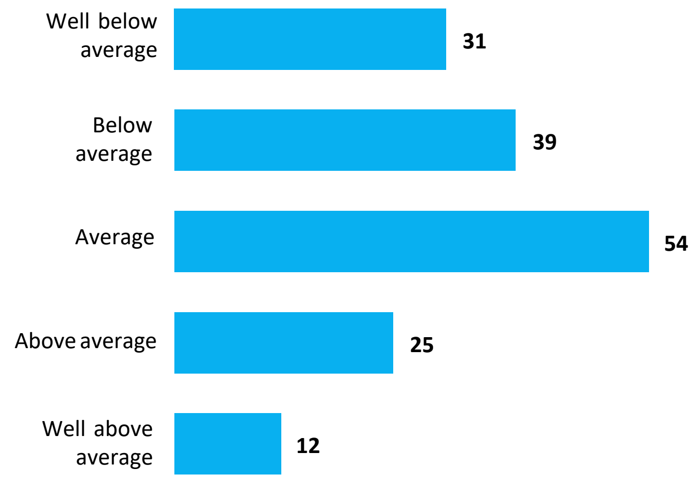


Age of respondents



Perceived income level of respondents

Respondents were asked how they feel their income compares to the rest of the country. Of all respondents, 43% perceive their household income as below or well below average, 33% as average and 23% as above or well above average.



"Before Covid-19 I had a job I loss my job and now am living on my mom income." - Female, Age 17

"The hotel am working in is presently closed till October so that mean less income to my family, but I cope with other small jobs." - Female, Age 49

DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDENTS

Main household income sources

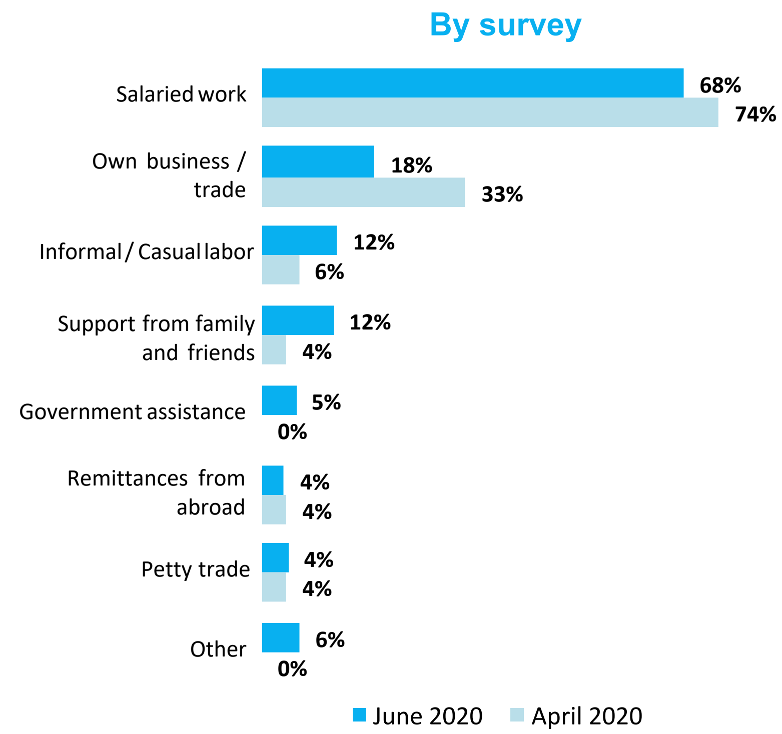
Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source/s for their household and multiple choices could be selected. In June, the main income source remained salaried work among 68% of respondents. This was followed by business/trade which nearly halved to 18% of respondents. At the same time, the share of respondents who relied on informal/casual labour, support from family/friends or government assistance increased.

"My main business is completely closed. I need to open for my staff but am worried I won't be able to cover costs and am forced into more debt over bank account situation. If I can open, I need to find things for the staff to do, so they are doing something positive." - Female, Age 50

"I worked in the Aviation industry so my income is greatly affected as all borders are closed." - Female, Age 37

"Our internet was cut off for the past few weeks so our child could not complete the end of his online schooling for the year." - Female, Age 37

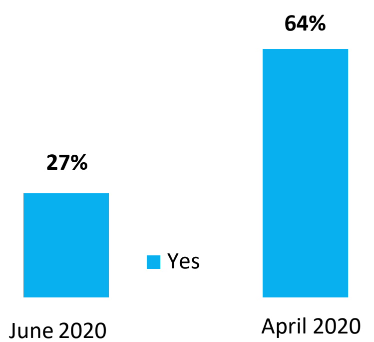
"Loss of income by 50 percent has rendered me unable to maintain scheduled payments of utility bills, existing loans and expenses. Restricted freedom of movement made it impossible to earn income otherwise. Fortunately my household was spared sickness. If anyone was to fall ill it would have been catastrophic as there was little or no savings." - Female, Age 54



IMPACT ON MARKETS

COVID-19 and measures to contain it have had an impact on market access, although to a lesser extent than in April. Of all respondents in June, 27% reported that they could not access stores and markets at some point during the week prior to the survey compared to 64% in April. Lack of financial means was the main reason for limited market access, cited by 45% of respondents who faced restricted market access. This was followed by concerns over leaving the house, which were cited by 23% compared to 37% in April. The share of affected respondents citing movement restrictions dropped significantly from 84% in April to 18% in June, and the proportion of those citing the closure of markets/stores from 65% to 9%.

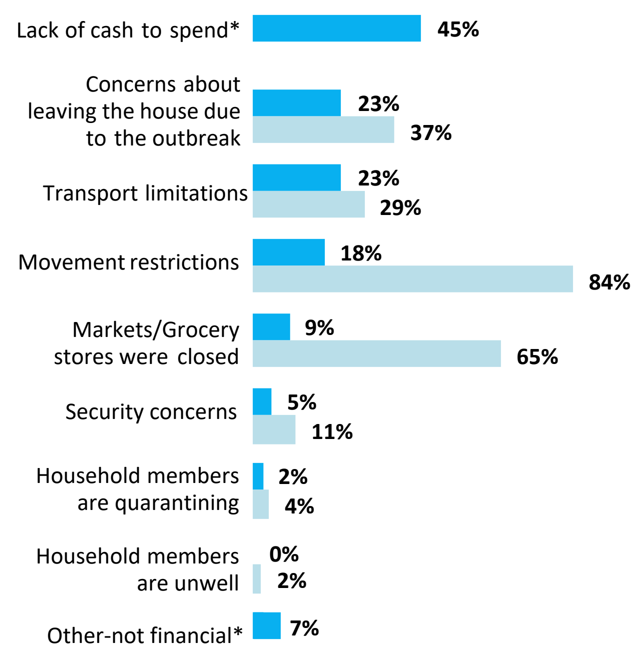
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?



"Not bring able to worship in my church freely." - Female, Age 62

"Have been stranded in Grenada due to travel restrictions in place without being able to travel home." - Female, Age 27

For those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were…
By survey
Multiple responses could be selected



*This option was not provided for 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	**↑ 64%**	24%	**↑ 73%**	39%	**↑ 87%**	52%	**↑ 38%**	21%
Partially/ sometimes available	**↓ 33%**	58%	**↓ 25%**	45%	**↓ 11%**	37%	**↓ 45%**	54%
Not available	**↓ 1%**	7%	**↓ 2%**	7%	**= 2%**	2%	**↓ 3%**	5%
Don't know	**↓ 2%**	12%	**↓ 0%**	9%	**↓ 0%**	9%	**↓ 14%**	20%

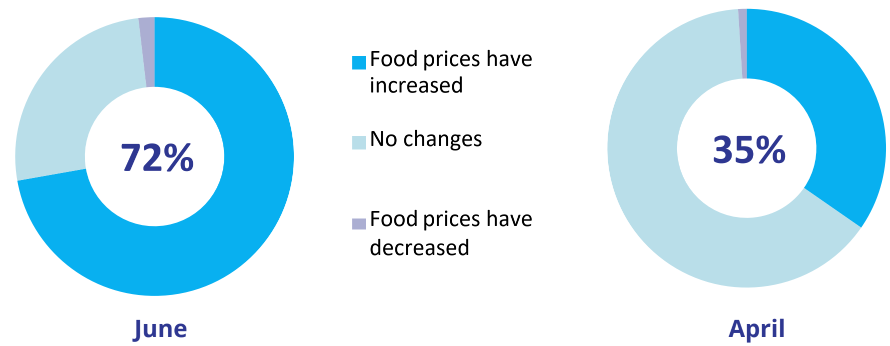
The availability of goods seems to have improved since April but remains comparatively low for key items. For 45% of respondents essential medicines were only sometimes or partially available and fresh foods were only partially available for a third of respondents.

"Potential loss of income if second wave occurs." - Female, Age 51

"Loss of my job and unable to meet my daily demands and payment of bills." - Male, Age 40

Food prices

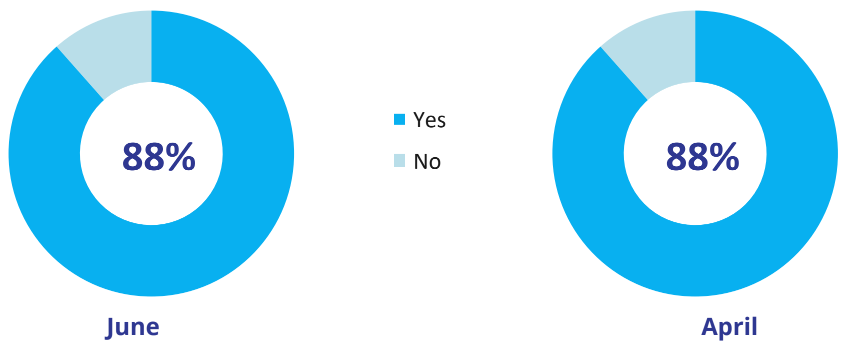
Respondents reported on any observed changes in food prices and the vast majority (72%) reported an increase, a much larger share than in April (35%).



IMPACT ON MARKETS

Shopping behavior

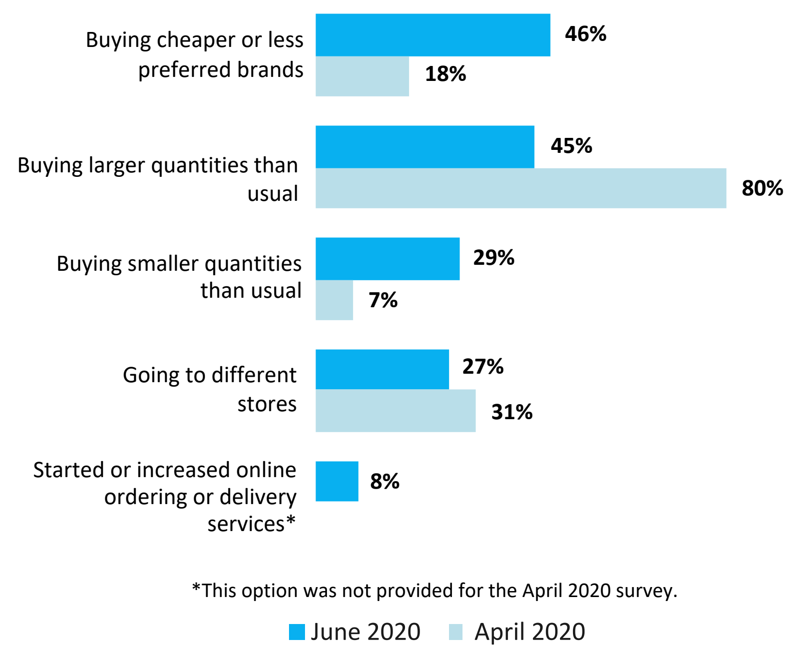
Respondents were asked if they altered their shopping behavior and if so how.



Shopping routines have changed for 88% of respondents, and a significant change in adaptation strategies has been observed since April. In June, 46% of respondents who have changed their shopping behaviour resorted to buying cheaper or less preferred brands, a considerable increase from 18% in April. The share of respondents who resorted to buying smaller quantities than usual increased to 29% from 7% in April. At the same time, the proportion of respondents who were buying larger quantities than usual nearly halved from 80% in April to 45% in June. These trends are an indication that shopping behaviour is increasingly affected by economic rather than movement constraints.

How respondents changed their shopping behavior
By survey round

Multiple responses could be selected



"Very depressed." - Female, Age 40

"Working from home as a result of covid has proven to be my biggest challenge. As an educator we basically went from little to no technology driven learning to full fledged e-learning practices. I trust that with more training for both educators and students there will be significant improvement and less emotional distress." - Female, Age 28

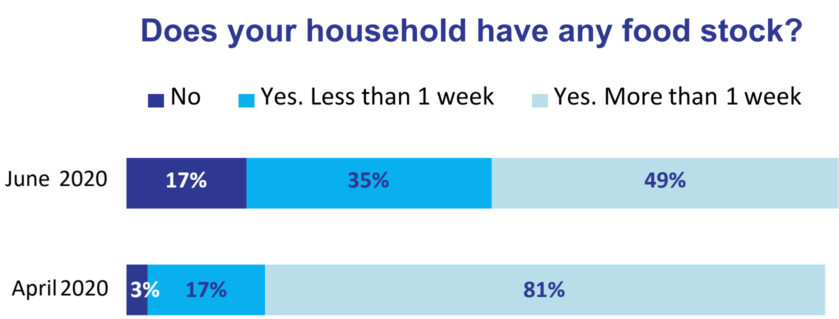
IMPACT ON FOOD SECURITY

COVID-19 and measures to stop its spread have impacted household food stocks and consumption, and the situation appears to have deteriorated since April. In June, only 49% of respondents had over one week of food supply stored, down from 81% in April. Worryingly, 17% of respondents had no food stored at all, an almost sixfold increase since April.

At the same time, the proportion of respondents who skipped meals or ate less than usual increased from 19% in April to 31% in June, while the share of those having no difficulties eating enough fell from 53% to 42%.

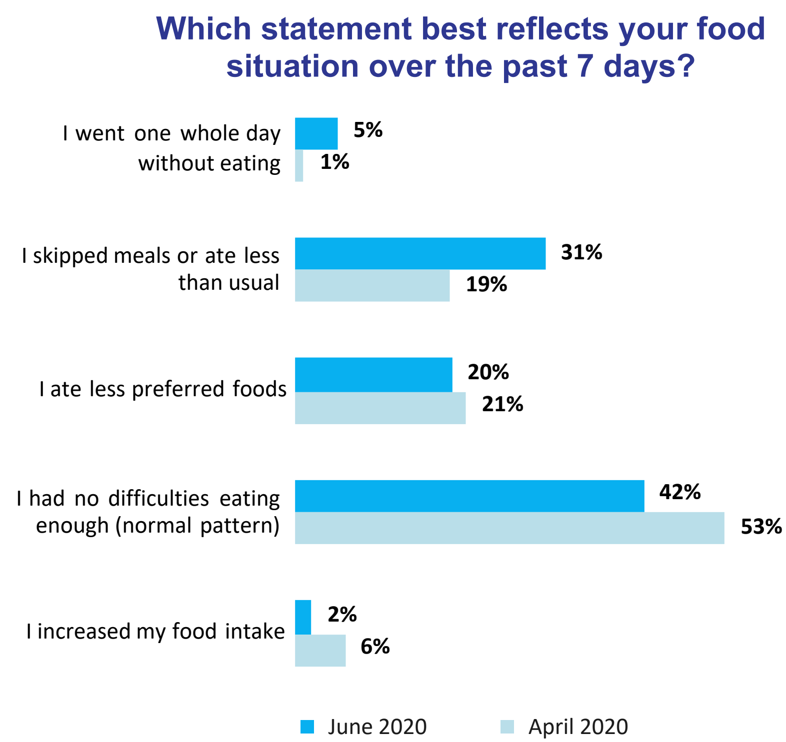
Food stocks

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



Food consumption

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

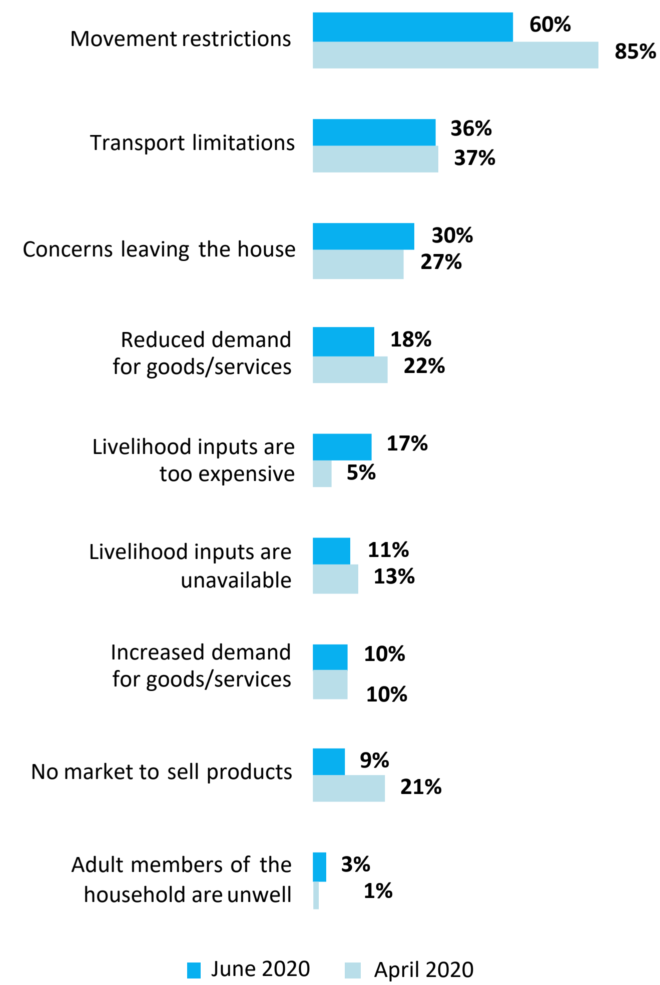


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

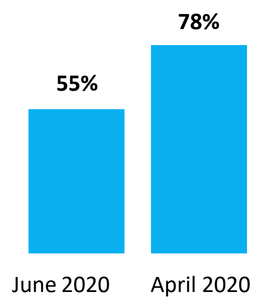
Disruptions to livelihoods are still widespread, affecting 55% of respondents compared to 78% in April.

The main reasons for livelihood disruptions are also changing. Movement restrictions are still the most common reason for livelihood disruptions but the percentage of affected respondents citing this reason decreased from 85% in April to 60% in June. Likewise, the share of respondents citing the lack of a market to sell products as the reason for livelihood disruptions fell from 21% in April to 9% of in June. In contrast, the price of livelihood inputs became a more prevalent reason, cited by 17% of affected respondents in June compared to 5% in April.

For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were…
By survey
Multiple choices could be selected



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

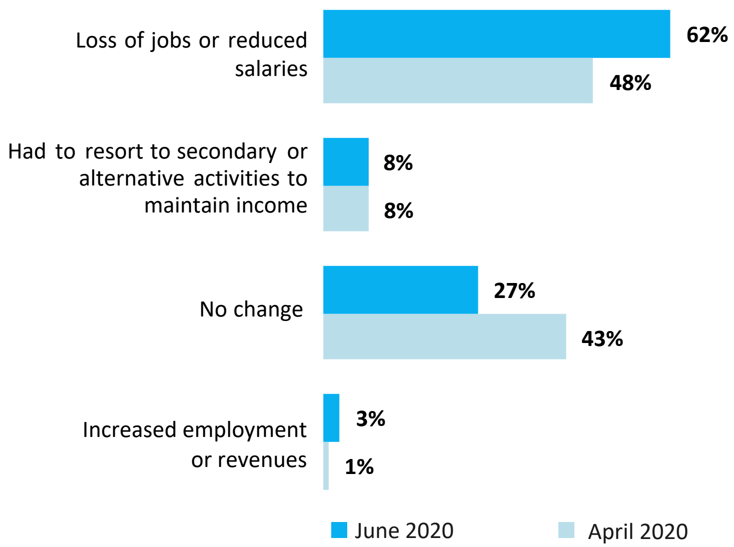


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Income changes

The crisis appears to be taking an increasing toll on the economic wellbeing of households. The share of respondents who reported job loss or reduction in salaries in their households increased from 48% in April to 62% in June, while the share of respondents that reported no income changes fell from 43% to 27%.

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

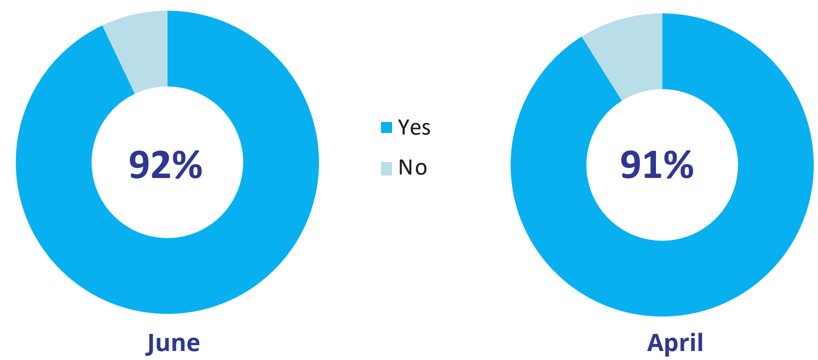


"I have been adapting fine." - Female, Age 19

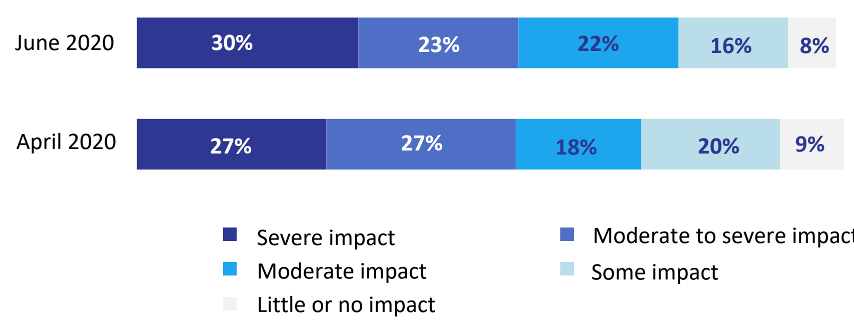
"I have been home since March it's become tiring." - Female, Age 30

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. Nearly all respondents (92%) believe that their livelihoods would be impacted and one third of respondents expect a severe impact.



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

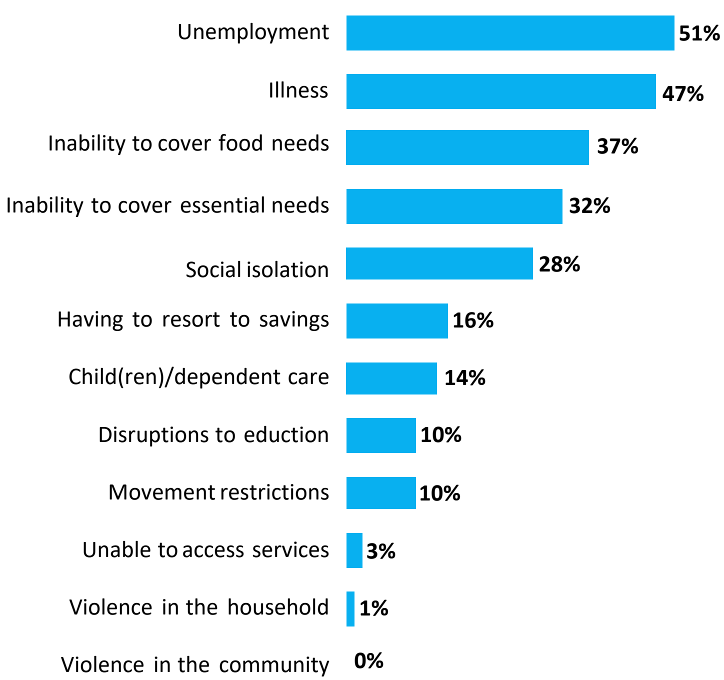


IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

Worries

Half of respondents are mainly worried about unemployment and illness. In addition, a considerable share of respondents are worried about their inability to cover food (38%) or other essential needs (32%). Social isolation was a main concern for 28% of respondents.

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



"Grenada borders are closed, my job as a international consultant has been affected because I cannot travel. I have no other source of income for now." - Female, Age 46

"Thankfully I haven't been disrupted financially (thank God), however my mental health has been drastically affected. I suffer more anxiety attacks. I try to adapt by seeing a therapist and reminding myself that I have some control when I stipulated protocols. I also took up gardening and domestic chores." - Female, Age 23

"Working in tourism and no light on the end of the tunnel." - Female, Age 58

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS

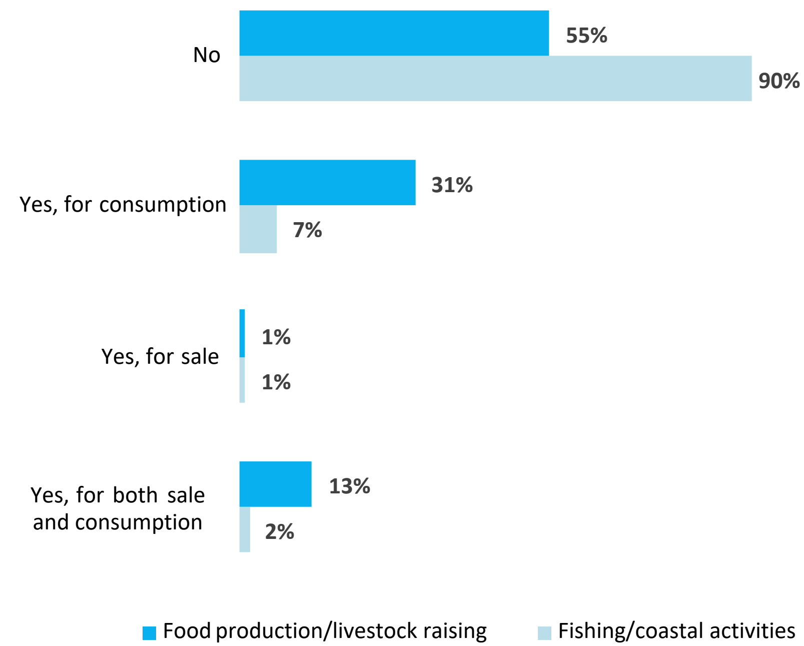
Agriculture (including fisheries) is an important economic sector in Grenada and accounts for 6% of national GDP. In this survey, 45% of respondents reported being involved in farming and 10% in fisheries, both predominantly for own consumption.

At the regional level, metrics of wellbeing for households producing food 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



"Had to close down business for good, the sudden nature of the pandemic placed a huge financial burden on us, one we could not continue." - Female, Age 31

WIDER IMPACTS

Unpaid care and work

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the amount of time people are spending on unpaid activities. Half of respondents reduced time spent for shopping, while nearly the same proportion increased time devoted to domestic work, childcare and subsistence activities, a trend similar to the overall region. Time devoted to community activities was also more likely to decrease rather than to increase.

	Domestic work	Childcare	Shopping	Subsistence production	Community work
Decreased	6%	5%	51%	5%	24%
No change	45%	28%	18%	26%	42%
Increased	48%	44%	29%	55%	9%
Not applicable	1%	23%	1%	14%	24%

How people are coping and adapting

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

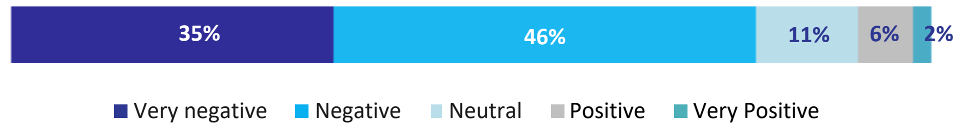
Grenada, June 2020

Grenada, April 2020

In June, 70, or 43% of the 164 respondents from Grenada 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.

Sentiment in Grenada seems to have significantly deteriorated with the proportion of respondents expressing "very negative" sentiment increasing almost tenfold, from 4% in April to 37% in June 2020. At the regional level, sentiment also appears to have significantly deteriorated compared to April with very negative comments increasing from 3% to 35%.

Region, June 2020



Region, April 2020

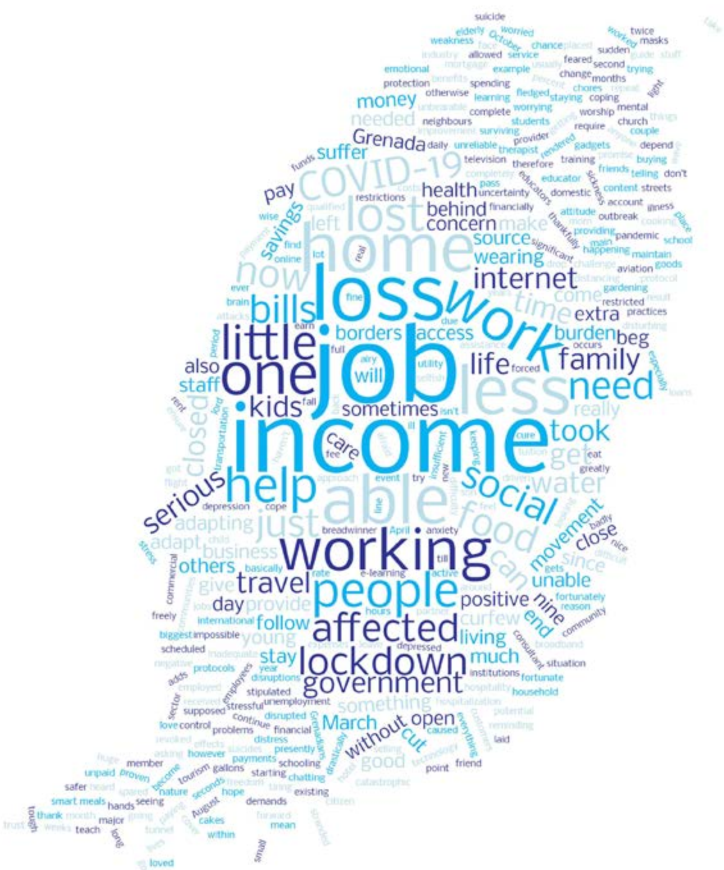
Concerns regarding employment and growing financial strain on households have likely driven the increase in negative sentiments.

"I'm not a citizen but been living here nine years was supposed to leave in April so now it's Aug providing commercial flight are allowed to come in if not I'll just be content.my stay is usually nine months it's nice I didn't get back to USA. I feel much safer here as I follow all protocol and only go out about twice a month." – Female, Age 73

HOW PEOPLE ARE COPING AND ADAPTING

Key themes

The word clouds represent key themes on how people in Grenada are being impacted and are adapting to disruptions from COVID-19. In June, the most frequently mentioned phrases were "job", "income" and "loss" compared to "home", "income" and "food" in April. The most common phrases for June indicate that respondents are concerned about unemployment and their ability to sustain livelihoods.



June 2020

April 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 have brought a halt to international tourism while internal movement restrictions and business closures have caused further economic disruptions.

Compared to responses provided in April, the survey findings from June suggest that the crisis is having an increasing toll on the economic wellbeing of households, with loss of employment and reduced incomes affecting almost two out of three respondents.

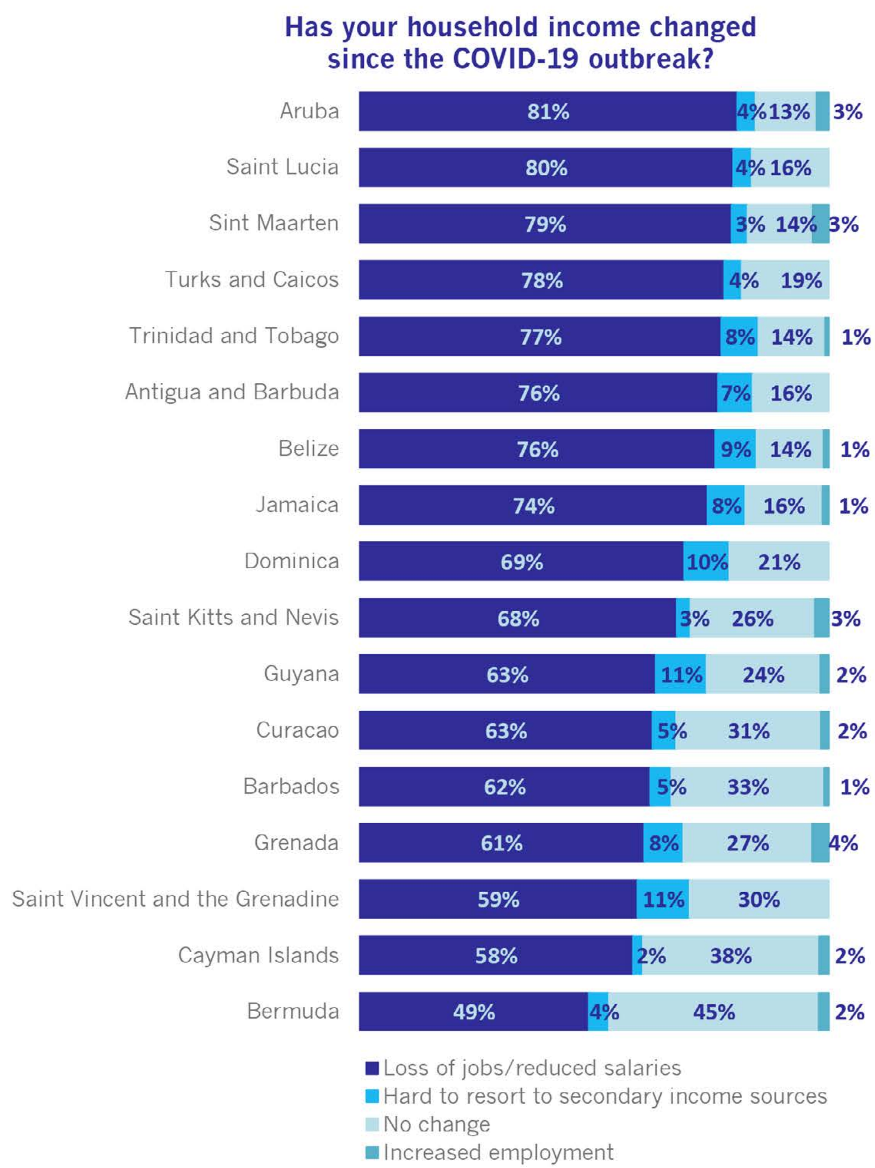
As a likely result of these economic hardships, household food stocks and consumption have deteriorated, with one out of three respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual. While the availability of essential goods in stores appears to have improved compared to April, the availability of fresh food items and essential medicines remains worryingly low. In addition, many households are facing market access problems due to financial constraints, a situation that is likely exacerbated by widely reported increases in food prices. A third of respondents expressed very negative sentiment in relation to the pandemic and the disruption it caused and almost the same proportion expects their livelihood to be severely affected in the future.

In response to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the government of Grenada has introduced policies and programmes to assist people that have lost their incomes and to support food security. Given the protracted nature of the crisis, the government of Grenada and its partners must redouble their efforts to mitigate these impacts through medium and longer-term programmes and interventions. Opportunities include the permanent expansion of social programmes, livelihood support in the agriculture and fisheries sector and vocational training for people working in other affected sectors.

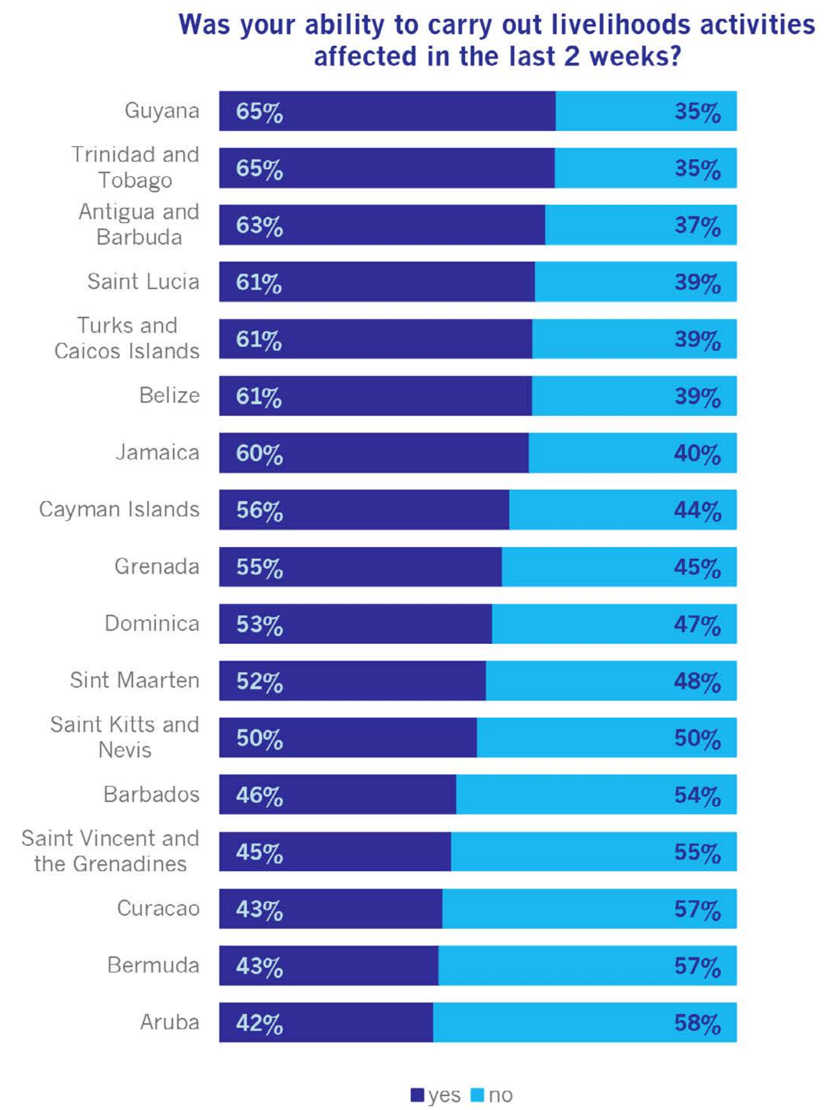
With over a third of the population of Grenada not using internet, the results of this web-based survey should be read with a degree of caution given potential bias towards households who can afford internet access or smartphone devices. Continued and specific assessments of vulnerable populations and people living in rural areas are highly recommended to better gauge the impact of COVID-19 on these groups.

ANNEX. REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

Income changes



Livelihood disruptions



METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

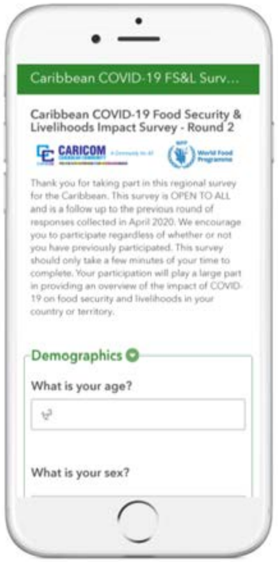
The second round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphone and PC/desktop. The data collection period was inclusive of 14 June to 1 July 2020. The survey was circulated via email, social media, SMS,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

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