

Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Regional Summary Report | February 2022



Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Foreword | February 2022

It has been almost two years since the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 virus as a pandemic and one year since vaccines became available in the Caribbean. Since the start of the pandemic, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), with support from the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), has tracked the impact of COVID-19 on the lives and livelihoods of residents in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. To date, survey results have provided highly valuable information to national governments, regional institutions, and international agencies for strategic and operational decisions on actions that assist individuals and households most impacted by the pandemic.

The findings of the fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact survey, which was administered in January and February 2022, communicates the situation of over 6,000 households across 22 countries and territories. At the beginning of 2022, people continue to feel the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Livelihoods are still being affected by high cost and inaccessibility of inputs. Food insecurity remains a significant concern, with 2.8 million persons in the English-speaking Caribbean estimated to be food insecure.

This represents an increase of one million since the start of the pandemic, with severe food insecurity increasing 44% compared to one year ago. Rising food and input costs are contributing to a growing level of food insecurity in a region. Increasing access to affordable and nutritious food through more resilient food systems and regional production is critical to achieving the CARICOM vision

of reducing the region's food import bill 25% by 2025.

Governments have turned to a range of important measures, including social protection, to support people impacted and promote recovery, despite limited fiscal space and increasing national debt. The ability to sustain this support is under threat, requiring innovative financing solutions to navigate the compounded impacts of the pandemic, the climate crisis, economic hardship, and most recently, reverberating global impacts of the crisis in Ukraine. COVID-19 has caused an undeniable erosion of regional advances to reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As has been seen in the regional response to the immediate impact of the virus, there is great scope to renew partnerships for creating more integrated and adaptive systems within the region for improving food security and reducing dependence on extra-regional sources for meeting basic needs.

CARICOM and WFP acknowledge the partnership with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the European Union and USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), which has been critical in documenting the situation over time. Collaborative efforts between governments, regional institutions, UN agencies, international financial institutions, private sector and others remain essential to ensuring that governments and the people of the Caribbean are more resilient as the impacts of the pandemic endure.

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Two years on since the beginning of the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to have cascading and evolving impacts on how people in the Caribbean earn a living and meet their critical needs. CARICOM launched the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey to gather data on people's livelihoods, access to markets and food security and provide snapshots of these impacts over time. This report analyses data from the fourth round of data collection, which took place from 25 January to 8 February 2022. It compares findings with survey rounds conducted in April 2020, June 2020 and February 2021. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the online survey was circulated via social media, media outlets, SMS and emails.

February 2022



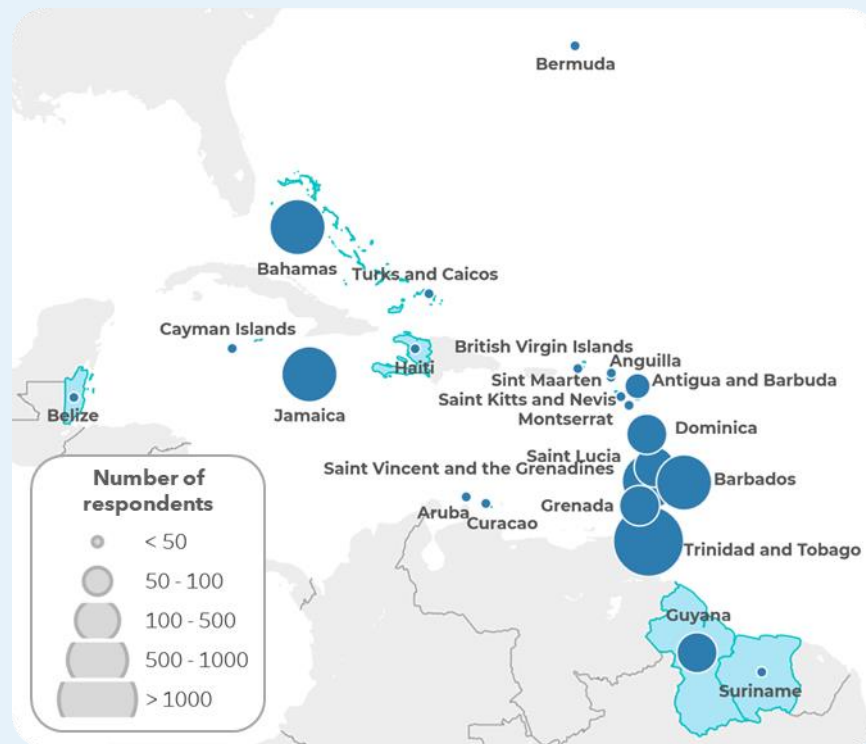
February 2021



June 2020



April 2020



SUMMARY | February 2022

- Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, people in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean continue to be impacted by the health crisis and the resulting economic downturn. While vaccines have become more widely available, new variants in 2021 resulted in travel and movement restrictions continuing to varying degrees.
- The pandemic continues to impact people's livelihoods. Half of respondents faced a disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey. While in line with previous surveys, the reasons for disruptions have shifted. The predominant reason is the increased prices of livelihood inputs and less so movement restrictions or fear of illness.
- Two-thirds of respondents predict at least moderate impacts to their livelihoods in the future. Those with lower incomes, engaged in petty trade or working in the agriculture or transport sectors have the most pessimistic outlooks.
- Negative impacts on income remain widespread, with 57% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced income since the start of the pandemic, which is a higher share compared to April 2020 (48%).
- Respondents mainly worry about illness (49%), followed by unemployment (37%) and meeting their essential needs (35%), with lowest income respondents most worried about food needs.
- Food prices are increasing, with 93% of respondents reporting higher than usual food prices, an observation that is more widespread compared to February 2021.
- One-third of people reported challenges accessing markets in the week prior to the survey, primarily due to a lack of financial means. Respondents are increasingly buying cheaper and less preferred foods and in smaller quantities than usual. Nearly half of lower income respondents reported having no food stocks at home.
- Based on the survey results, it is estimated that 2.75 million people (39%) out of 7.1 million in the English-speaking Caribbean are food insecure. While lower than in June 2020, this figure represents a 60% increase since the first survey in April 2020. The number of severely food insecure has increased since February 2021 from 482,000 to 693,000 people, highlighting the growing severity of impacts.
- More people are skipping meals and eating less preferred foods compared to one year ago. Lowest income households were most likely to resort to negative coping strategies. Respondents are resorting to more severe actions, with 70% drawing on savings to meet immediate needs, nearly half reducing education and health spending, and over a third selling productive assets.
- Differences in impacts are most pronounced when comparing income groups. Households classifying their incomes as below and well below average show the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being. Among the most impacted groups are also Spanish-speakers (migrants) living in Trinidad and Tobago.
- One-fifth of respondents have received some form of government support. Food hampers and cash transfers/income support were most common and more widely reported compared to last year. However, very few were receiving assistance at the time of the survey.
- The Caribbean is at a tipping point for food security. The continued economic impacts of COVID-19 risk widening existing inequalities, and supply chain disruptions will be compounded by the global reverberations of the Ukraine crisis. Food systems and food security must be a strategic recovery priority.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not representative, and the use of an online questionnaire limits inputs from people without internet connectivity.

SUMMARY | February 2022

All respondents

		Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	50%	51%	54%	74%
	Reduction/loss of income	57%	63%	69%	48%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	42%	48%	48%	47%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	33%	30%	27%	38%
	Change in shopping behaviour	88%	84%	87%	84%
	Increase in food prices	93%	71%	78%	59%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	35%	33%	32%	17%
	Lack of food stock	23%	17%	13%	3%

Respondents with well below average perceived income*

*This information was not collected in the April 2020 survey round.

		Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	68%	72%	73%
	Reduction/loss of income	82%	90%	88%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	73%	81%	78%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	56%	59%	54%
	Change in shopping behaviour	95%	93%	93%
	Increase in food prices	97%	80%	85%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	65%	68%	69%
	Lack of food stock	45%	40%	31%

SUMMARY | February 2022

Cross-country comparison*

*The overview is provided only for countries in the region that received over 100 responses during the February 2022 survey.

	Regional average	Bahamas	Barbados	Dominica	Grenada	Guyana	Jamaica	Saint Lucia	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Trinidad and Tobago	
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	50%	31%	38%	53%	42%	65%	48%	50%	55%	60%
	Reduction/loss of income	57%	51%	46%	55%	41%	56%	57%	59%	55%	68%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	42%	26%	32%	51%	36%	45%	45%	45%	48%	50%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	33%	18%	19%	32%	23%	44%	39%	27%	46%	41%
	Change in shopping behaviour	88%	80%	84%	87%	80%	94%	90%	86%	87%	93%
	Increase in food prices	93%	89%	84%	91%	81%	98%	98%	94%	91%	98%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	35%	29%	24%	37%	30%	36%	41%	27%	40%	44%
	Lack of food stock	23%	25%	12%	25%	16%	24%	28%	25%	28%	24%

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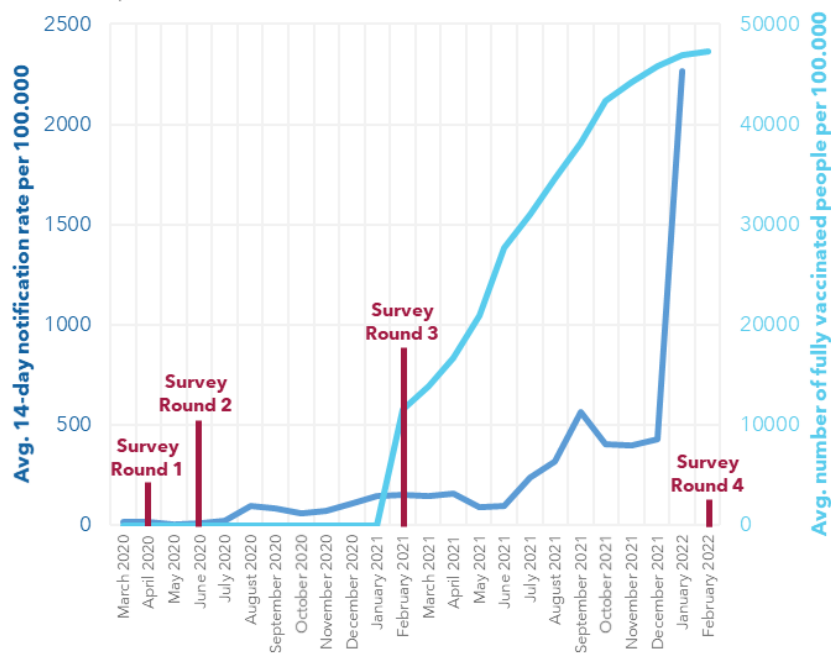
COVID-19 | Situation and response

COVID-19 cases and vaccination rates

In February 2022, nearly two years after the first recorded cases of COVID-19 in the Caribbean, the region reached an all time high in the number of new cases. Cases had increased in mid-2021, reaching a temporary spike in September 2021 with the spread of the Delta variant. Following the emergence of the Omicron variant in late 2021, the region experienced a surge in new cases, with the average infection rate increasing more than fivefold between December 2021 and January 2022.

New COVID-19 cases and vaccination in the Caribbean*

*Unweighted average rate/number for the 23 countries and territories covered by this survey. Number of fully vaccinated people includes those who received all doses prescribed by the initial vaccination protocol.



Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the Our World in Data, 7.2.2022

Since the introduction of vaccines in early 2021, the average vaccination rate in the countries and territories covered by this survey increased steadily, reaching nearly 56% in February 2022, although coverage is uneven across countries. While the vaccination rate in the Caribbean is close to the share of the world's population that is vaccinated, it is lower than that of other countries and regions such as the United States (65%) and the European Union (72%).

Broader developments and government responses

In addition to the public health crisis, governments and families have unprecedented challenges related to education. The average duration of school closures in the Caribbean since March 2020 (74 days of fully closed schools) has been only slightly below the global average (95 days of fully closed schools), affecting at least 1.5 million children, with serious and longer-term impacts for their learning and wellbeing.¹ In February 2022, several countries were in the process of resuming in-person classes, though concerns remain on managing health risks.

In the face of global travel restrictions and the economic downturn, the tourism sector - a major economic driver for the Caribbean - has suffered a significant hit in the region. In addition to frequently updated travel protocols to manage health risks, governments have also adopted measures for the recovery of the tourism sector, including grant programmes, tax relief measures and payroll support for the hospitality industry and related businesses (see next page). Despite a significant increase in tourist arrivals in the region in 2021 compared to 2020, overall figures are still below pre-pandemic levels. As new variants of COVID-19 emerge, the ongoing and changing effects on international travel add to uncertainty about the longer-term recovery of the sector.

¹ UNICEF (2021). COVID-19 and School Closures. Available at: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/one-year-of-covid-19-and-school-closures/>

COVID-19 | Social protection measures

Governments' social protection responses to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic caused a socio-economic crisis that has moved social protection into the spotlight as a way to support people. Estimates by the International Labour Organization in September 2020 suggested that up to 1.87 million people in the Caribbean may have lost their job following the onset of COVID-19.

All governments in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean turned to existing social protection programmes or rolled out new ones in an attempt to mitigate the negative impacts on people. In most cases, these social protection responses were part of broader relief or economic stimulus packages that included measures such as tax relief measures, loan and grant programmes and moratoriums on loan repayments. Given the lingering impact of the pandemic, most governments subsequently extended these measures or launched additional relief packages in 2021.

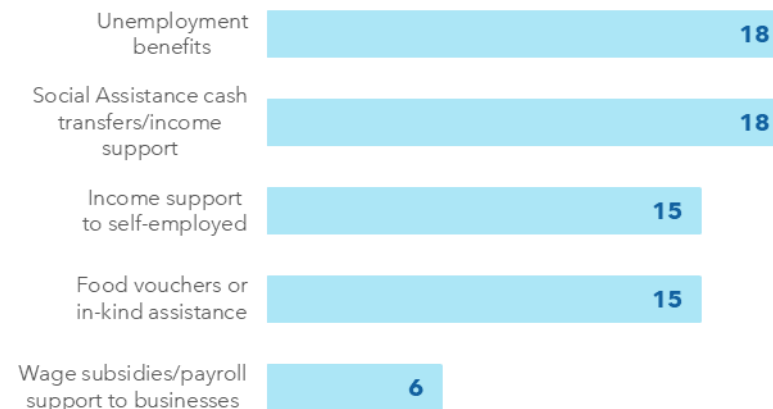
The social protection measures most frequently adopted by countries in the region to assist households were unemployment benefits, cash transfers/income support and specific support for people engaged in self-employment. In many cases, such programmes specifically targeted people working in the tourism industry and related sectors, such as bus drivers, craft vendors and artists, which were heavily affected by the disruptions to international travel. Assistance in the form of food vouchers, meals or hampers with hygiene items were also among the most frequently adopted measures.

Direct assistance to households and employees was complemented with support to businesses, including payroll support, loan and grant programmes and deferral of employer's contributions to social security payments.

While social protection measures provided much-needed support to people and families facing income losses and job losses due to the pandemic, governments themselves faced a significant drop in public revenues. As of 2022, many COVID-19 related assistance programmes are coming to an end, while the longer-term effects of the crisis are still being felt by many. Governments are therefore faced with crucial challenges to support people as the path to recovery continues.

See pages 61-64 for survey results related to social assistance.

Main social protection measures adopted by Caribbean countries in response to COVID-19*
By number of countries that adopted the measure



*Includes English and Dutch speaking countries and territories
Source: WFP Caribbean

Emerging issues | Implications of Ukraine crisis

Promoting recovery and food security will be paramount against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis. While the full range of implications remains uncertain, repercussions are expected to be felt widely, including in the Caribbean. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicts for the year 2022 at least a 1 percent reduction in global economic growth and up to 2.5 percent higher inflation on aggregate across the world, on top of current inflationary trends. Most acutely affected will be global prices of energy and commodities, such as grains and metals, due to additional disruptions in supply chains and volatilities in financial markets.

The Russian Federation is a major producer of natural gas, oil, and solid fuels and together with Ukraine is a primary exporter of key agricultural commodities, such as wheat and maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil. Both countries are major producers of fertilizers and have effectively halted their exports, which will further impact agricultural production and food security, particularly in import-dependent countries.

Reverberations of the conflict on global supply chains and food systems are also expected to be felt in this region. Heavy import dependency among most Caribbean economies on fuel, food products and agricultural inputs means that global changes in oil, shipping and commodity prices will further drive inflationary trends. This will particularly affect people living poverty and vulnerable households, who are still reeling from the effects of COVID-19.

For most Caribbean countries, the primary source markets for the importation of food, fuel and chemicals are the United States of America, countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union. While overall direct trade with Russia and Ukraine is negligible, increasing international prices for basic staple foods will especially hurt import-dependent countries. Food-producing countries, such as Guyana and Suriname, are more directly exposed to supply chain shocks and inflationary pressure due to their reliance on imported agriculture inputs, such as fertilizer from Russia.

Import value of nitrogenous fertilizer (urea) and share by country of origin

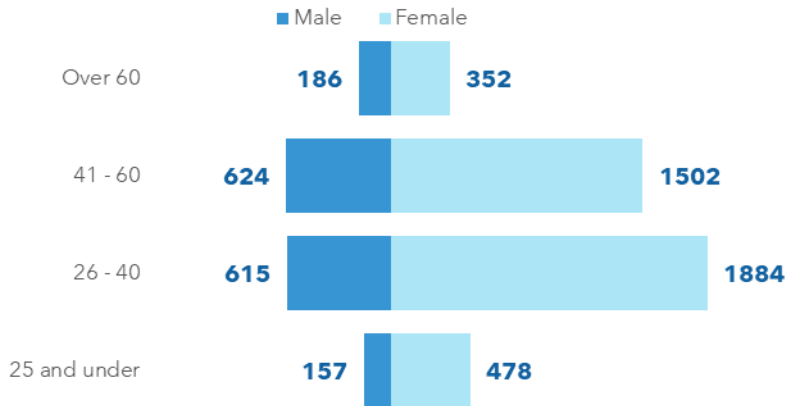
	IMPORTS ('000 USD)	USA	Russia	Trinidad and Tobago	Other
Guyana	16,112.13	39%	39%	0%	21%
Suriname	5,382.60	0%	32%	58%	10%
Belize	1,558.18	7%	7%	63%	23%
Jamaica	1,075.82	99%	0%	0%	1%

Source: World Integrated Trade Solution (WITS) using latest available import data (2018)

Adjustments to government budgets are also expected under new fiscal realities, which means that financing for public services such as health, education or social protection may be at risk from cuts. It is critical to protect and increase these over time to promote inclusive economic recovery. Growing humanitarian needs in Ukraine and international financial support also means that resources from donors and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) will be increasingly stretched and under pressure.

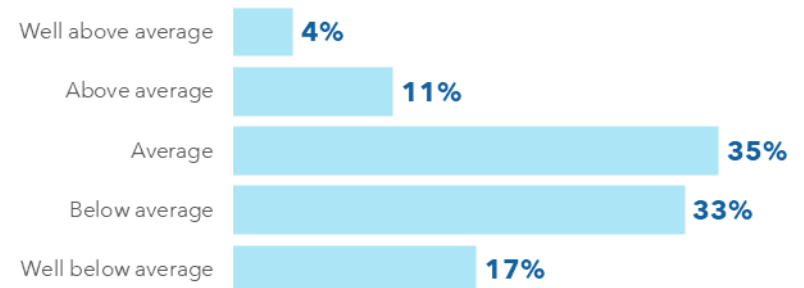
RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Age and sex

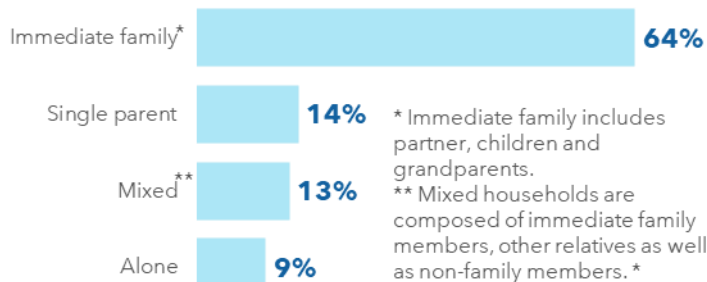


Perceived income levels

Respondents were asked to compare their household's income with the rest of their country



Household composition

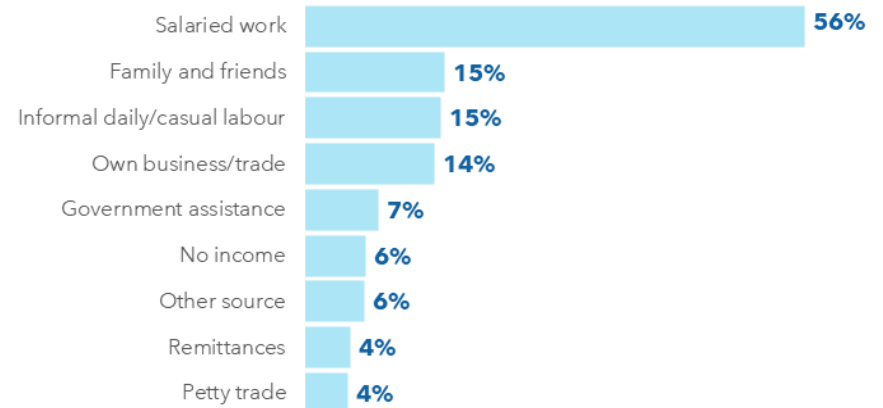


Language



Main income sources

Respondents were asked to indicate the main source(s) of income in their household. Multiple options could be selected.

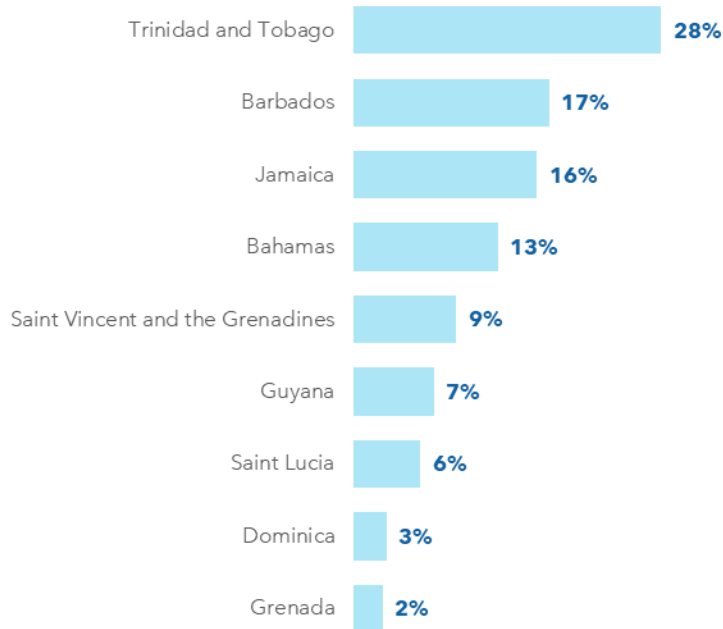


RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Urban/rural location

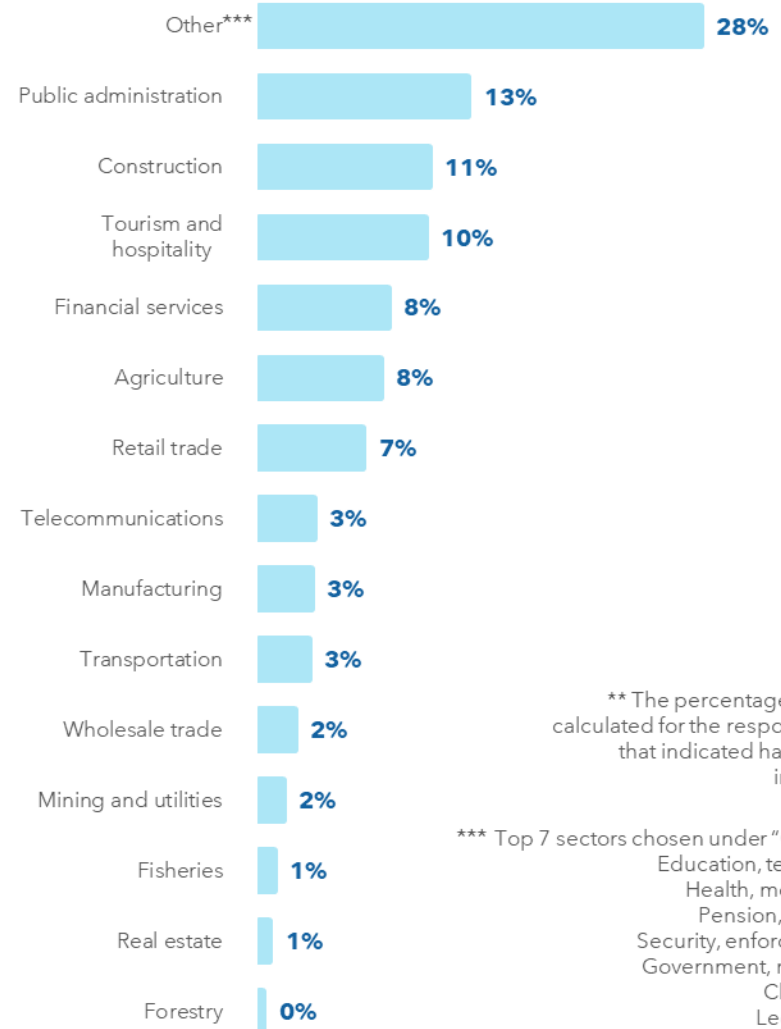


Number of Responses By country*



* Countries with less than 100 responses: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Suriname, Curacao, Aruba, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla, Sint Maarten, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, British Virgin Islands, Bermuda, Turks and Caicos, Haiti

Main income sector**



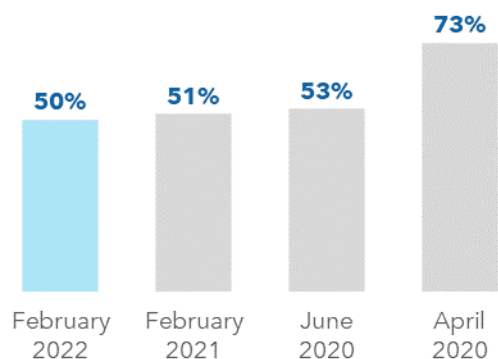
** The percentages were calculated for the respondents that indicated having an income.

*** Top 7 sectors chosen under "Other":
 Education, teaching
 Health, medicine
 Pension, retired
 Security, enforcement
 Government, ministry
 Cleaning
 Legal, law

LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

- ▶ Impacts to livelihoods remain widespread, with half of respondents reporting disruptions.

Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey



The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt livelihoods. For half of respondents, the ability to pursue their livelihood remained compromised in the two weeks prior to the survey. This proportion has decreased from April 2020 (73%) but shows no major change compared to the previous two survey rounds.

When considering the different characteristics of people responding to the survey (such as age, sex, perceived income level or household composition) the biggest differences are linked to people's level and sources of income. Among respondents who described their income as well below average, 69% reported livelihood disruptions, compared to 37% of those with income levels described as well above average. Those with livelihoods in the agriculture, construction and transportation sectors more frequently cited disruptions relative to other economic sectors.

"Due to covid 19 I was unable to continue selling food by the roadside that use to help me out a lot and then the volcanic eruption made things worse. Now I'm just sitting at home unemployed and can't provide for my family . I wish I'm can get some help to restart my food business."
- female, 36, St Vincent and the Grenadines

"Had virus incapable to work to provide for children [and] pay utilities [and] rent" - female, 40, Barbados

"I would have lost some of my produces and the income is less than normal I have a lot of children and it's very hard since the increase of goods." - female, 37, Guyana

"Financially disastrous. Family and loved one isolated in fear of contracting this deadly disease. Physical and mental health of children." - female, 37, Trinidad and Tobago

"I own a school supplies store and of course with the closure of the schools greatly affected our revenues, biggest change will be how I interact with people. We take social distancing quite seriously and always wear our mask outside of home. It has been very difficult for my children to be kept away from friends and family but it has kept us covid free." - female, 33, Guyana

"Wage cut and significant increase in food costs." - female, 40, Barbados

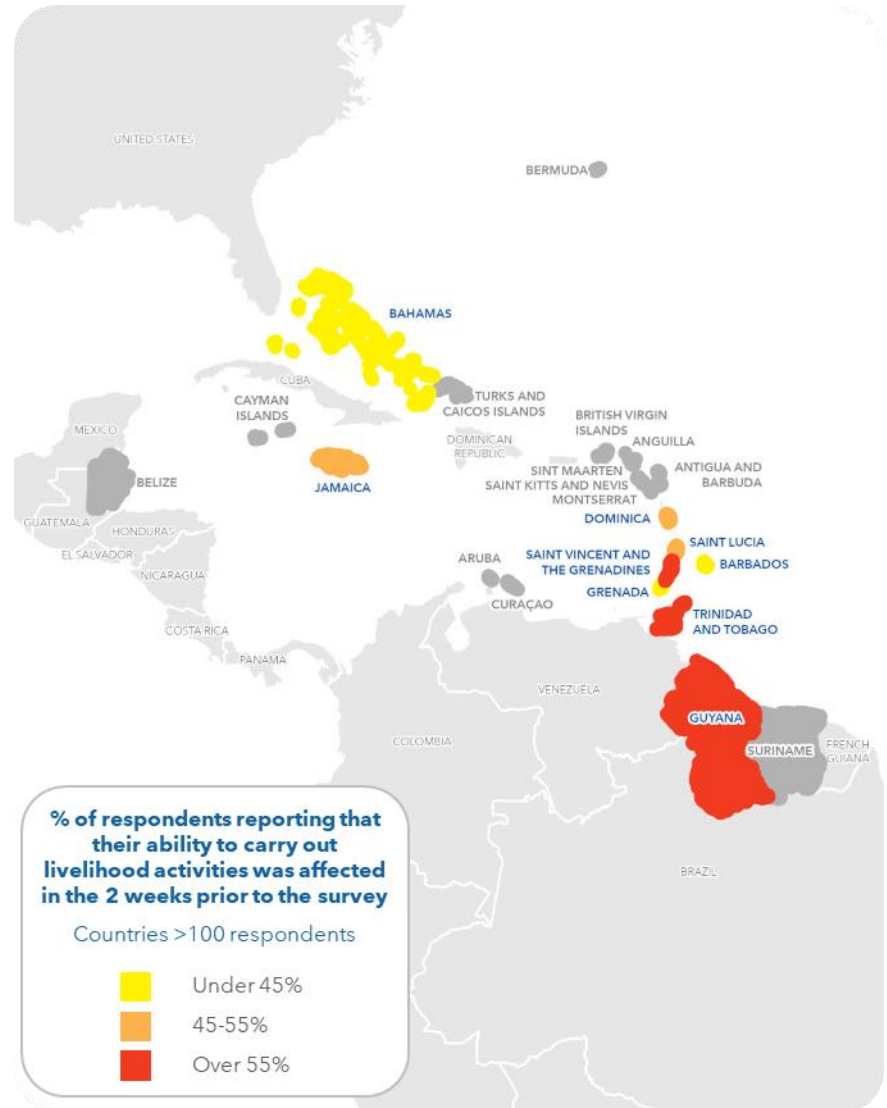
LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

Approximately two thirds of respondents with less stable household income sources (e.g., informal labour, petty trade, support from friends and family) reported their livelihoods being affected in the two weeks prior to the survey compared to 42% of those in households with salaried income. Linked to this, households that reported to have well below or below average incomes indicated livelihood disruptions significantly more than other income groups.

Considering household composition, respondents living in 'mixed' households with extended family and non-family members remain the most widely impacted, while people living alone remain the least.

There are some differences across age groups, with respondents over the age of 60 much less frequently reporting livelihood disruptions compared to younger age groups, which is probably linked to the fact that fewer are active in the labour market and more rely on pensions, government assistance and remittances. Respondents in rural areas seem slightly more affected by livelihood disruptions, and there is only marginal difference by the sex of respondent.

There are also significant differences in livelihood disruptions across the region. Almost two thirds of the respondents in Guyana (65%) and Trinidad and Tobago (60%) reported disruptions to their livelihoods, compared to 31% in the Bahamas and 38% in Barbados.

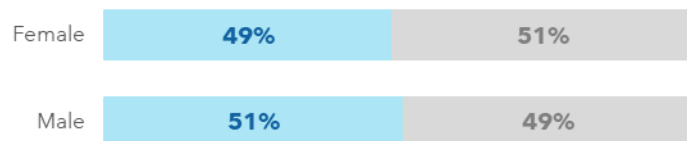


LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

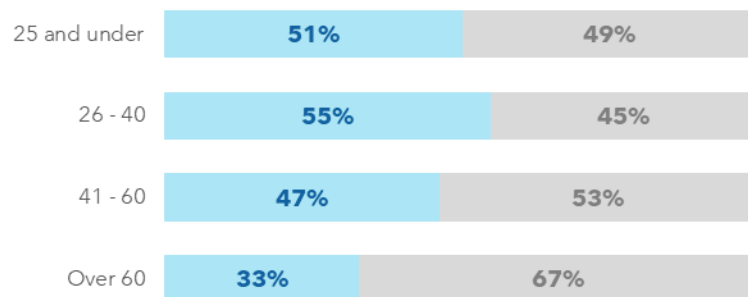
Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey

■ yes ■ no

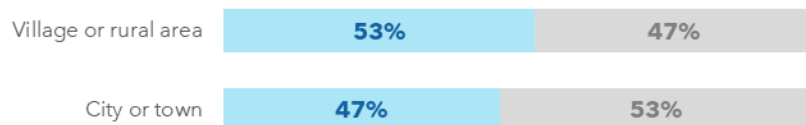
By sex



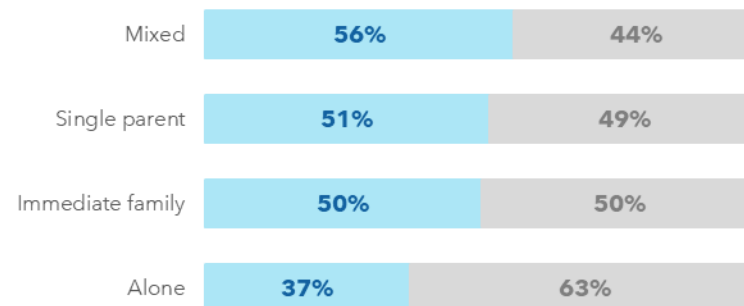
By age group



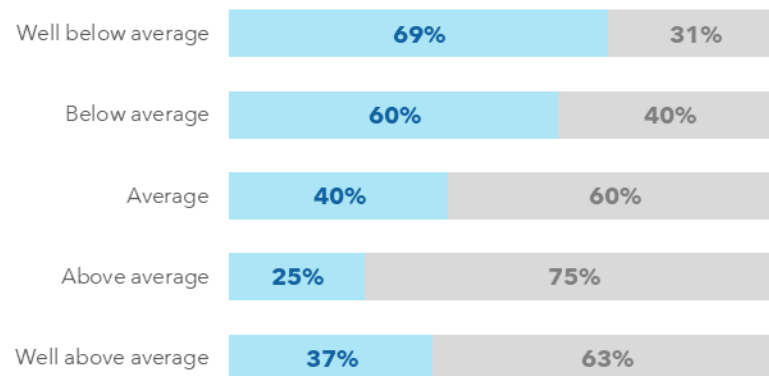
By urban/rural location



By household composition



By perceived income level

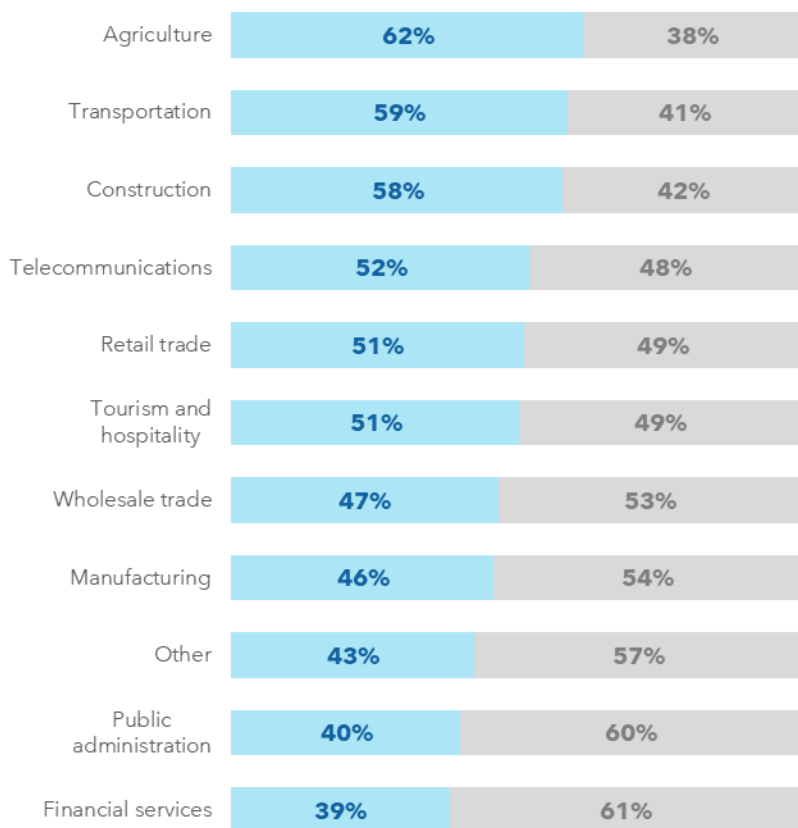


LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

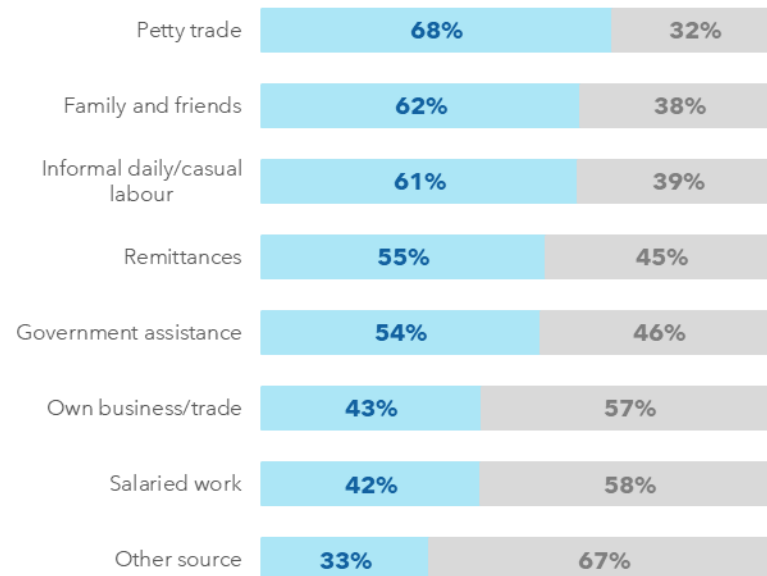
Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey

■ yes ■ no

By income sector



By income sources



"Because of cov19 restrictions all our life stock has been stolen" -female, 67, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

"I currently work in the tourism sector and the pandemic has played a major role in the closure of my work place" - male, 29, The Bahamas

"I had to adapt by resorting to retail trade due to unemployment, but its still not enough to pay the bills." - female, 37, Trinidad and Tobago

"It has affected my ability to ply my trade as a cultural worker." - female, 35, Trinidad and Tobago

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

- ▶ The price of and access to livelihood inputs has become the main factor driving livelihood disruptions, affecting predominantly the lowest-income households.

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

Multiple choices could be selected

Main reason for livelihood disruptions	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	39%	23%	21%	9%
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	34%	38%	33%	25%
Movement restrictions	25%	34%	40%	69%
Reduced demand for goods/services	13%	18%	21%	20%
Increased demand for goods/services	12%	8%	8%	12%
Adult members of the household are unwell	11%	4%	3%	0%
Other	10%	12%	19%	11%
Transport limitations	10%	9%	16%	22%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	8%	8%	11%	11%
No market to sell products	4%	5%	8%	11%

The main driver behind livelihood disruptions in the two weeks prior to the February 2022 survey was the unaffordability of or lack of access to livelihood inputs. This factor has grown steadily in importance with each survey round and is linked to wider trends related to supply chain disruptions and price rises in the Caribbean. Most impacted by this constraint are households with a well below average income level (52% of those facing disruptions), and those engaged primarily in petty trade (59%).

Concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak remain an important contributor to livelihood disruptions, cited by one-third of respondents and slightly more women than men. It is the dominant factor among households who rely on remittances for their income as well as elderly respondents.

One in four respondents facing a disruption to livelihoods cited movements restrictions as a main reason. For those owning businesses, this increased to one in three. Compared to the early stages of the pandemic, movement restrictions have gradually and significantly declined in importance as a factor disrupting livelihoods. Reduced demand for goods/services also is declining in importance as a disruptive factor, as are transport limitations or lack of market outlets to sell own products. However adult members of the household being unwell has notably increased.

"I was forced to be extremely creative because of the lockdowns it made a huge impact on my business. I did an online course, sold vegetables during the lockdowns, I also did apprentice work with an electrician. In this climate I had to adapt, i can't just give up." - female, 47, Barbados

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level

Main reason for livelihood disruptions	Well below average	Below average	Average	Above average	Well above average
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	52%	42%	30%	19%	18%
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	30%	31%	41%	42%	38%
Movement restrictions	19%	22%	33%	40%	20%
Reduced demand for goods/services	12%	14%	14%	12%	11%
Increased demand for goods/services	14%	13%	10%	6%	12%
Adult members of the household are unwell	9%	10%	15%	17%	4%
Other	12%	8%	9%	11%	11%
Transport limitations	10%	9%	11%	9%	10%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	11%	8%	8%	2%	7%
No market to sell products	5%	5%	3%	2%	2%

"My business is tourism distribution of goods. With the onset of Covid my wholesale business has taken a nose dive of over 90%."
- male, 45, Jamaica

"At the moment my household has little to no income, sometimes we have to skip meals in order to have something for the next day. The bills do come monthly and it's so hard to pay them."- female, 30, Jamaica

"As a tourist guide, I have lost all income. No grants received." - male, 66, Trinidad and Tobago

"Whole household was affected recently, not enough income for school, food and living environment is not sustainable... I have adapted by staying home from school to help in the garden to buy medicine for grandparents."- female, 20, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

"A few of the main income people got the covid and things really rough with us." - female, 40, Dominica

"I have a difficulty selling my vegetables because people were not buying as they usually do, so my earnings reduce dramatically but farm inputs increase (fertilizer, chemicals), so I have to reduce our food bill."- male, 53, Guyana

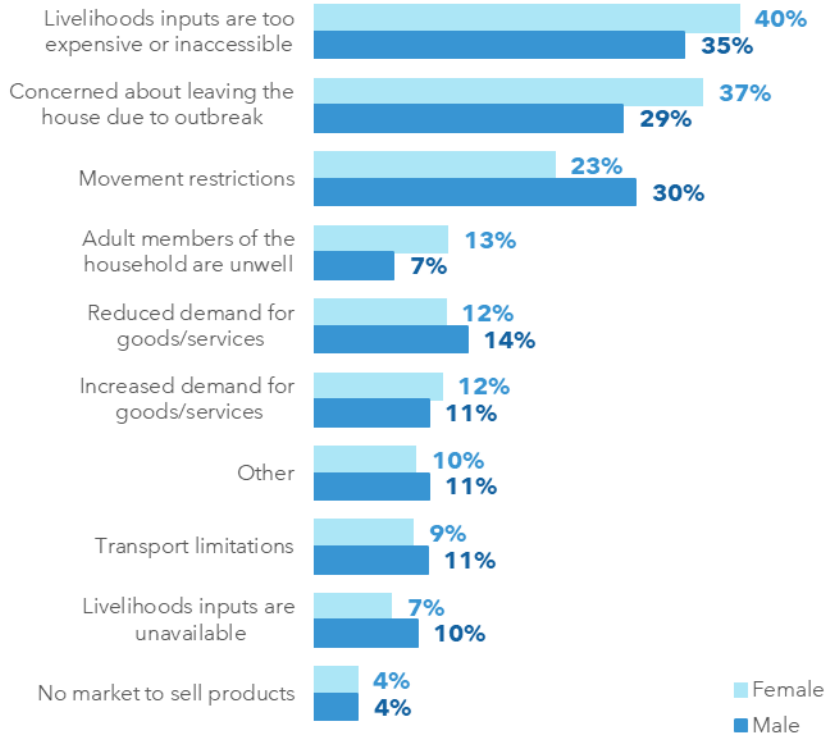
"My biggest challenge due to covid is with my business and it would be nice that government help all small/micro businesses that have been affected weather they newly opened or been in existence for 3 years or 5years." -female , 48, St Lucia

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

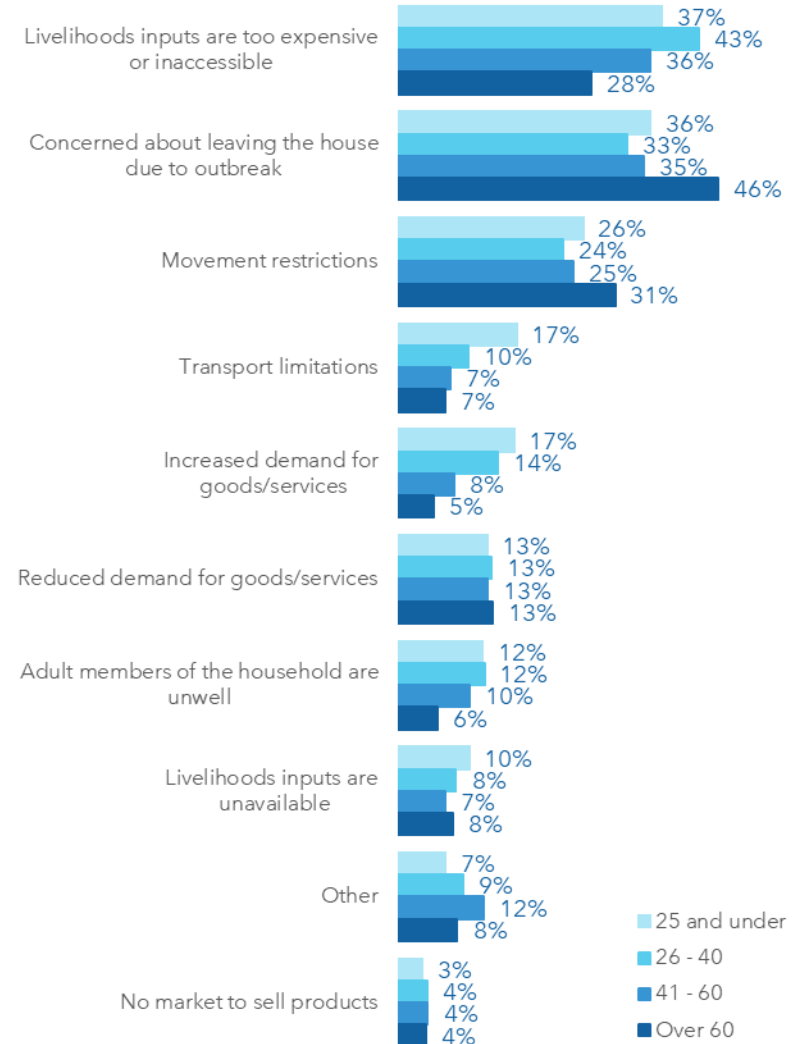
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

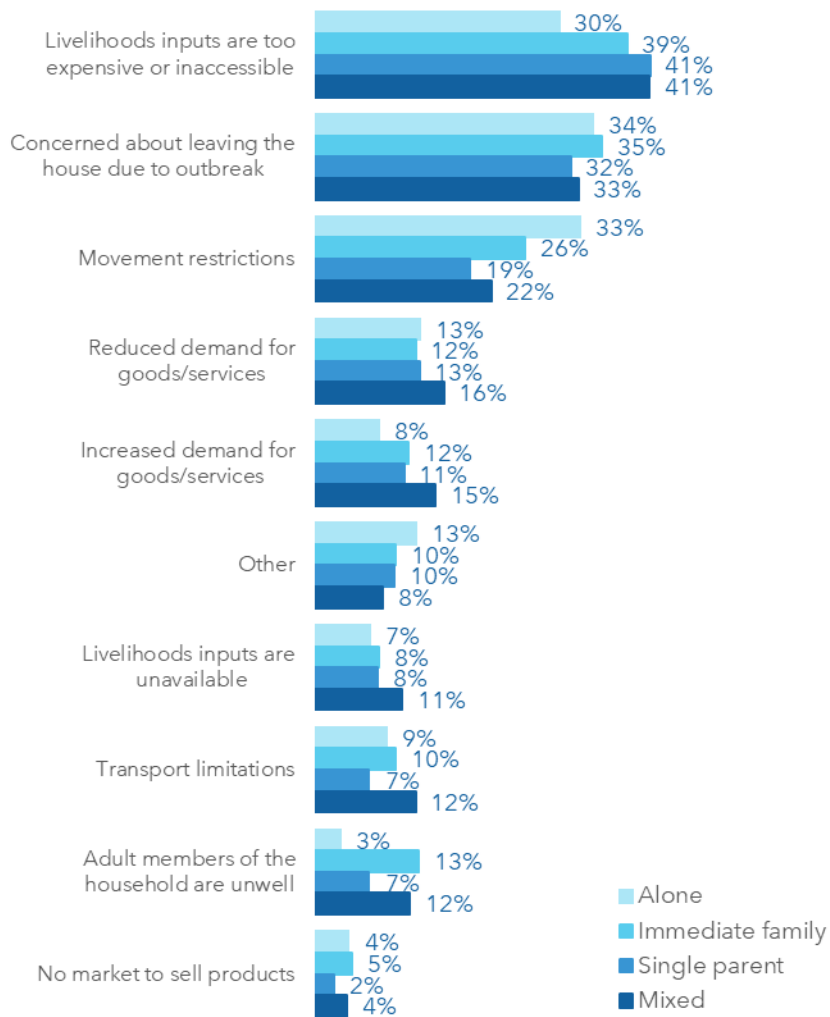


LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

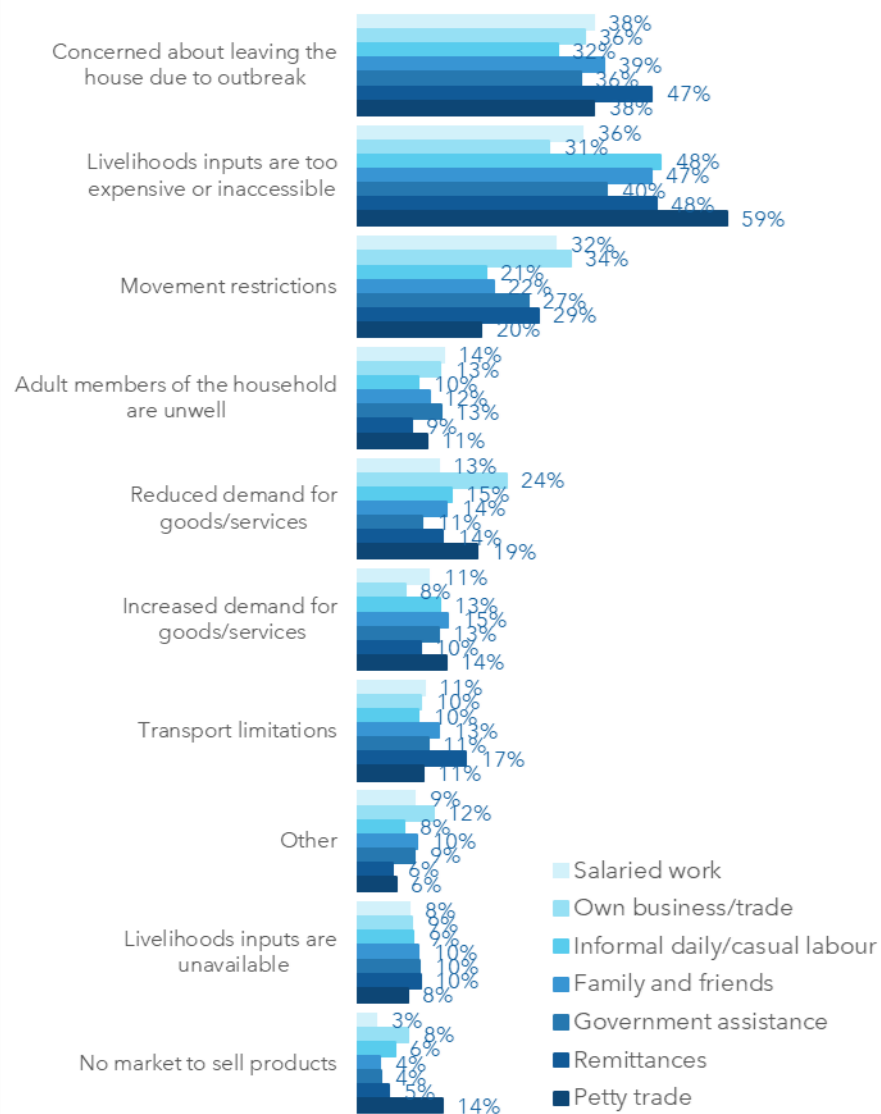
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By household composition

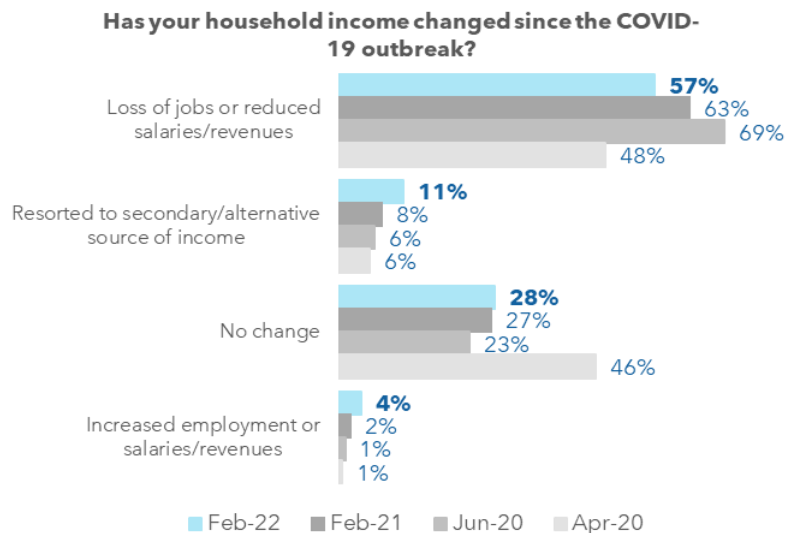


By main income source



LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

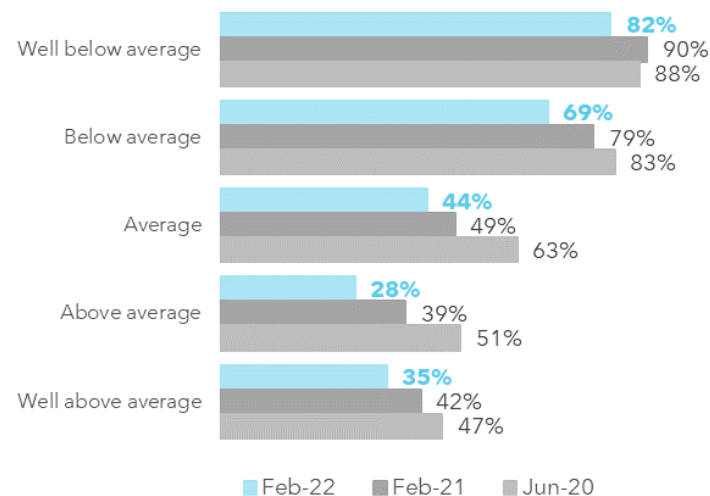
- ▶ The majority of respondents have faced job loss or income reductions in their households.



Impacts to income continue to be widespread, with 57% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the COVID-19 outbreak. While the proportion of households with loss of income or reduced salaries has declined since the second round, the overall situation suggests the continuation of economic hardship with many people facing decreased income.

The most marked differences in responses was found across perceived income levels. Job loss or reduced income was reported by the vast majority of respondents describing their household income as well below average (82%) or below average (69%), compared to those with above (28%) or well above average (35%) income levels.

Households experiencing loss of jobs or reduction of income since the COVID-19 outbreak
By perceived income level and survey round



Important differences were also observed across sources of income, economic sectors and between age groups. Job and income loss was most widespread and consistently high among the respondents under 40 years (64%), those with informal and casual income sources, such as petty trade (74%) and casual labour (75%) or support from family and friends (76%), or those employed in construction (76%), tourism (75%) and transportation (73%).

Unsurprisingly, households who rely on more informal sources of income or external support are also those who most likely report income levels that are below or well below average.

Differences between sex of respondent or location were minor.

LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

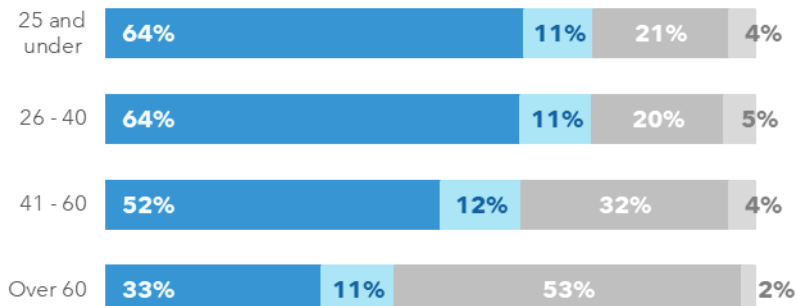
Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

- Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues
- Resorted to secondary/alternative source of income
- No change
- Increased employment or salaries/revenues

By sex



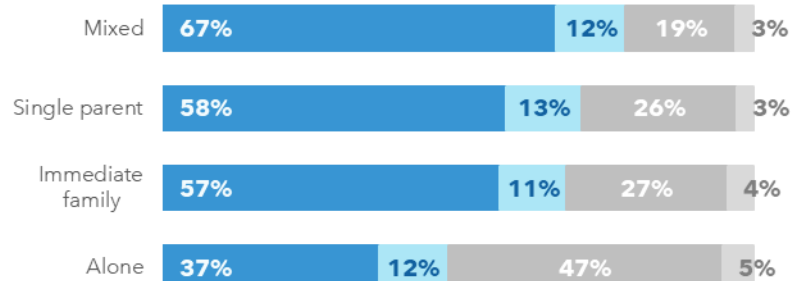
By age group



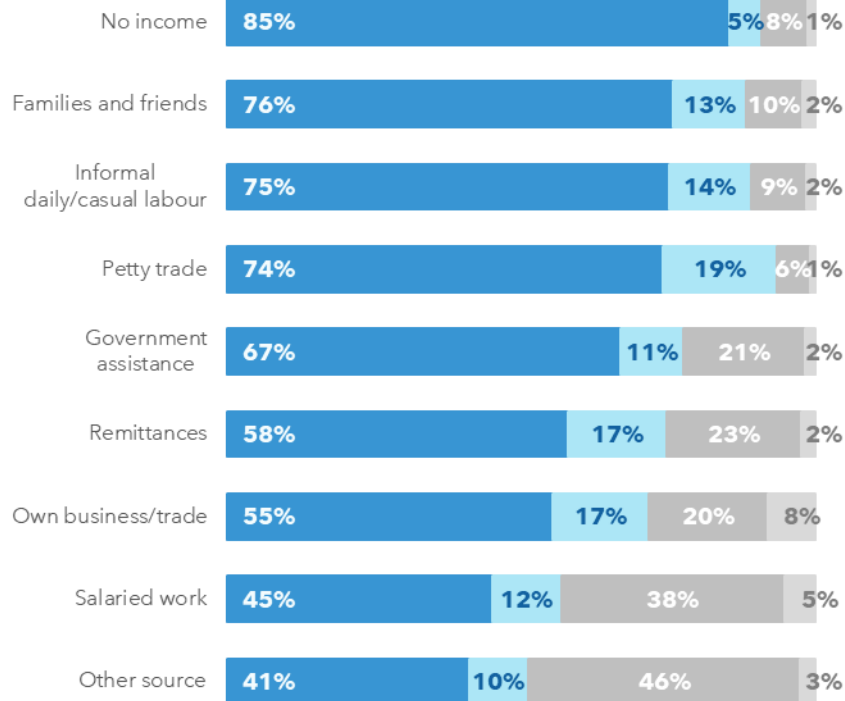
By urban/rural location



By household composition



By income sources

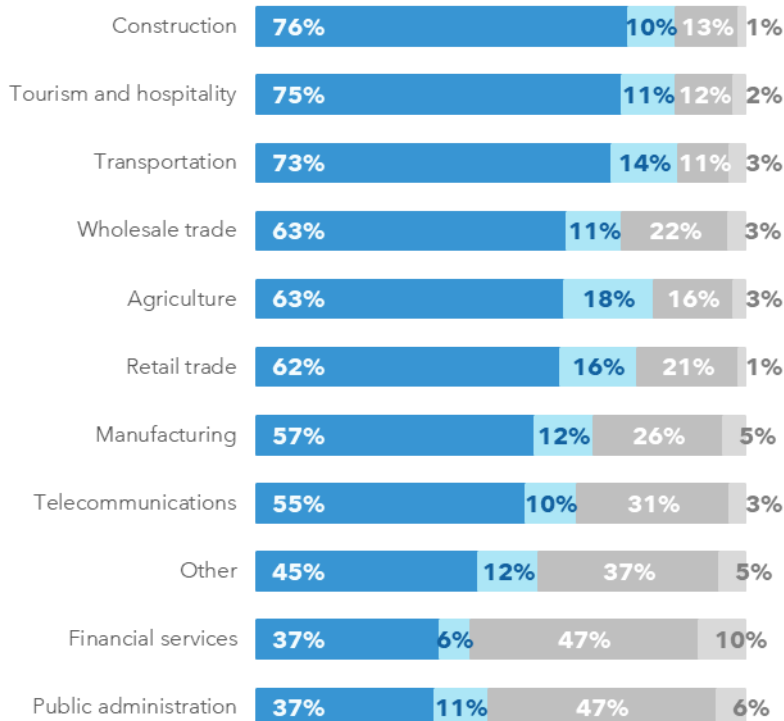


LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

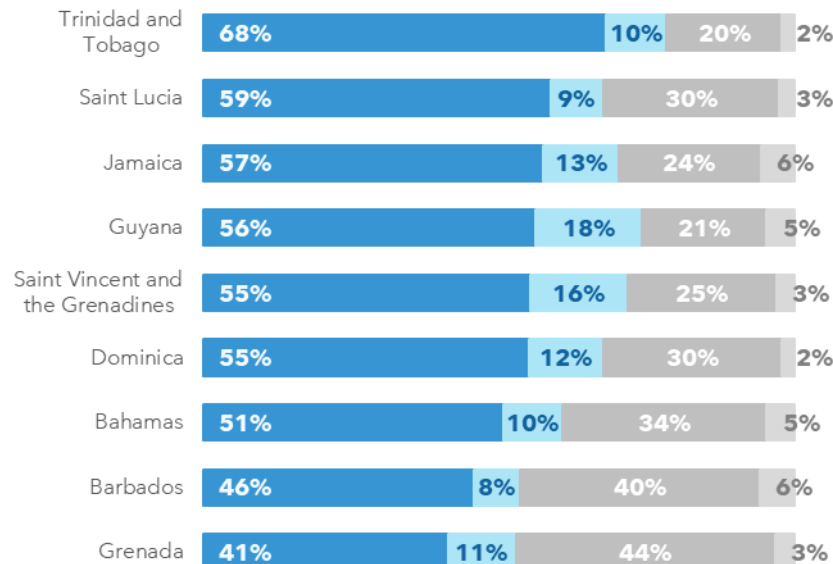
Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

- Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues
- Resorted to secondary/alternative source of income
- No change
- Increased employment or salaries/revenues

By income sector



By country



"I lost my long standing job and appear to be no longer employable at age 49." - female, 49, Barbados

"With the lost of my job as a teacher and my fiancé lost on employment as a sailor has put a tremendous strain on our finances. We had to cut back on a lot of things t I be able to pay small amounts in our bills etc." - 43, St. Vincent

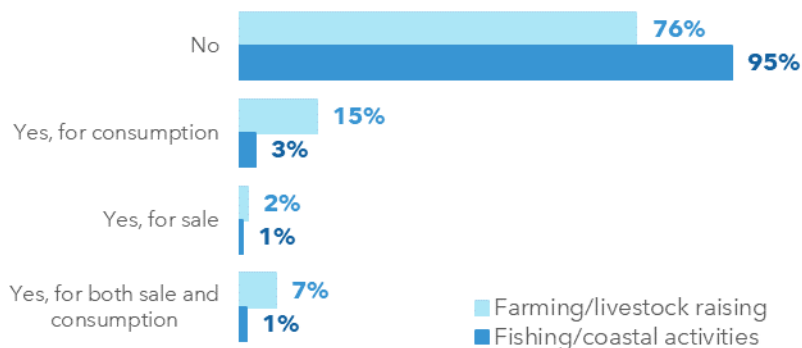
"Was working on a crew ship and now out of a job, now I am presently helping my parents on the farm." - male, 40, Saint Lucia

"The biggest impact is loss of jobs due to businesses closing down and to be able to provide for my children financially." - female, 31, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

► Respondents engaged in fishing activities seem harder hit relative to farming or average households

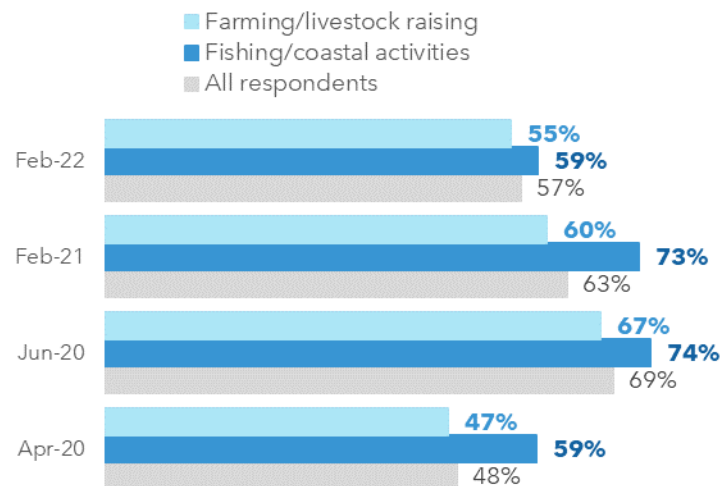
Is your household engaged in farming/fishing?



One out of four respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising and 5% in fisheries/coastal activities. In both cases these activities are primarily for household consumption, with vegetable production being the main farming activity. Around half of respondents undertaking farming (54%) or fishing (49%) also have household income from salaries, and one out of five pursue their own business or are engaged in daily casual labour. Respondents aged 25 years or younger are most likely to be engaged in both types of activities compared to other age groups.

Those engaged in fishing/coastal activities appear to be facing more challenges related to income and food consumption. During each survey round they were more likely to report loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues relative to average respondents.

Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues among respondents engaged in farming/fishing



Food situation among respondents engaged in farming/fishing



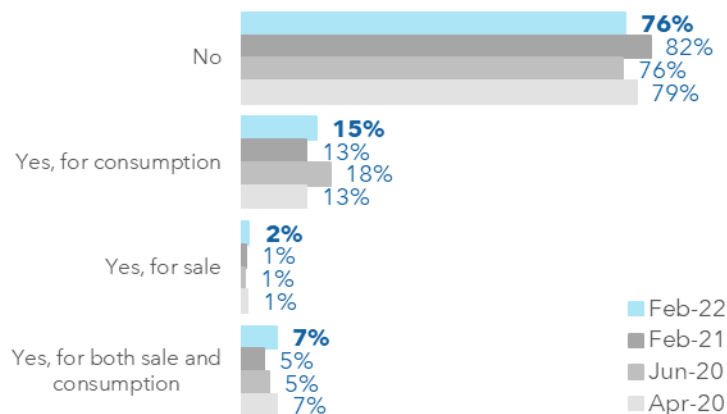
LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

For those engaging in agriculture/ livestock raising, the activities are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

Farming/livestock raising	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Vegetables	73%	74%	83%	74%
Banana/plantains	48%	41%	46%	52%
Poultry	31%	31%	22%	22%
Corn	17%	14%	19%	16%
Small ruminants	16%	13%	12%	16%
Rice	12%	11%	9%	6%
Other	9%	12%	14%	17%
Swine	8%	9%	5%	6%
Pulses	6%	6%	5%	5%
Large ruminants	4%	4%	4%	5%

Is your households engaged in farming/livestock raising?

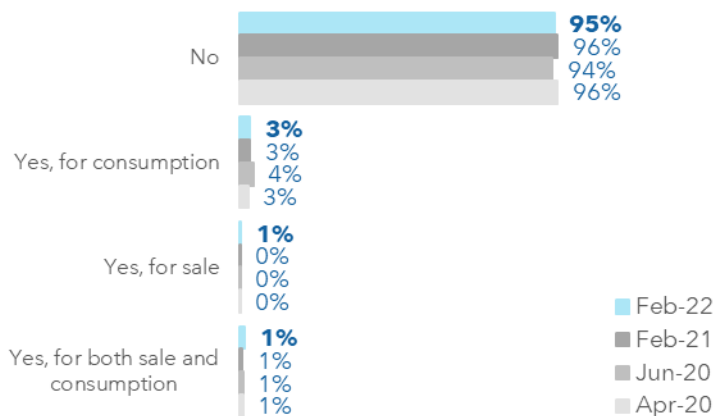


For those engaging in fishing/coastal activities, the activities are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

Fishing/coastal activities	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Small scale aquaculture	31%	23%	22%	22%
Inland fisheries	30%	20%	21%	20%
Marine/coastal fisheries	25%	37%	37%	48%
Other	8%	16%	16%	14%
Fishing gear production	8%	8%	6%	5%
Mangrove/beach activities	7%	9%	7%	4%
Processing of fish/fisheries products	5%	0%	0%	0%

Is your households engaged in fishing/coastal activities?

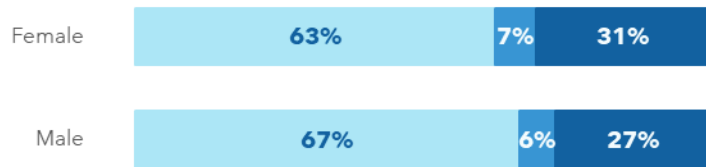


LIVELIHOODS | Farming

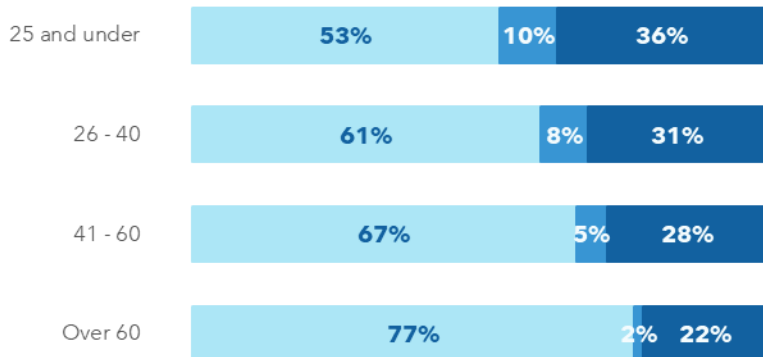
Households engaged in farming/livestock raising

- Yes, for consumption
- Yes, for sale
- Yes, for both sale and consumption

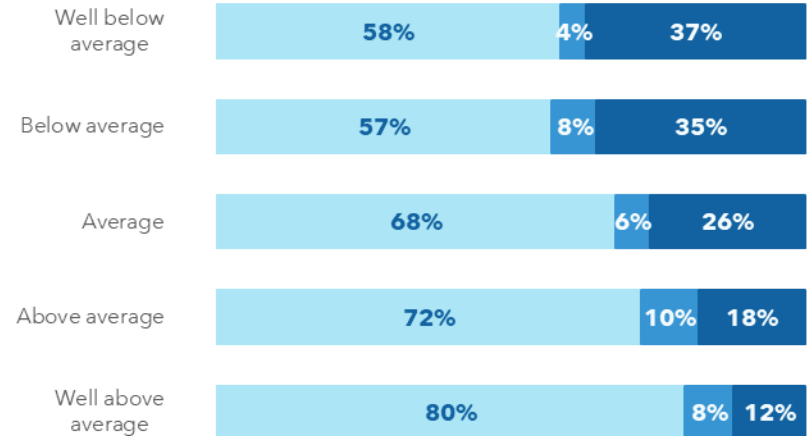
By sex



By age group



By perceived income level



*"It was difficult. When it come to the source of income for my family. Because we do large farming and the market hard to get."
- female, 18, Guyana*

"Things are very slow plus volcano lost of crops and now is dry weather so farming is down and less you have water on farm and I don't have water there." - female, 32, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

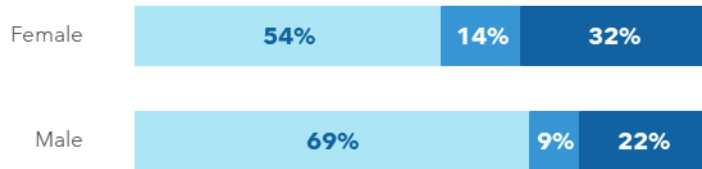
"Loss of assistant workers on the farm. Loss of sales and markets for vegetables." - male, 60, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

LIVELIHOODS | Fishing

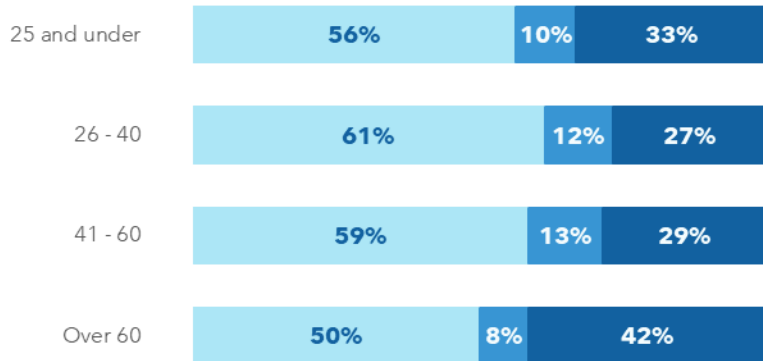
Households engaged in fishing/coastal activities

- Yes, for consumption
- Yes, for sale
- Yes, for both sale and consumption

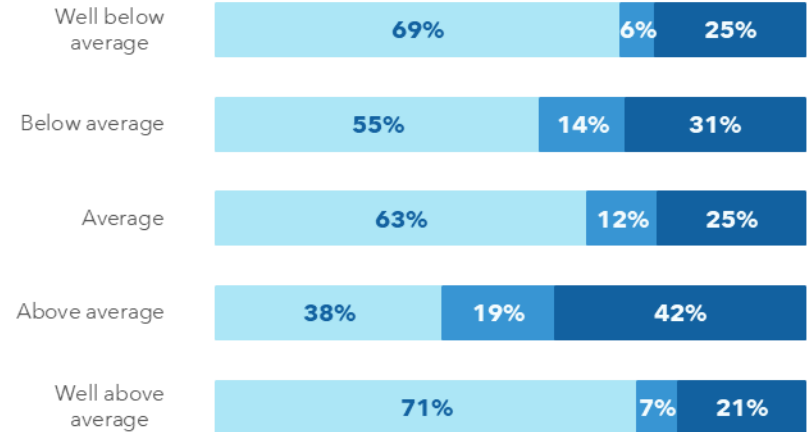
By sex



By age group



By perceived income level



"When we were short on food we started planting vegetables since we could not buy." - male, 32, Grenada

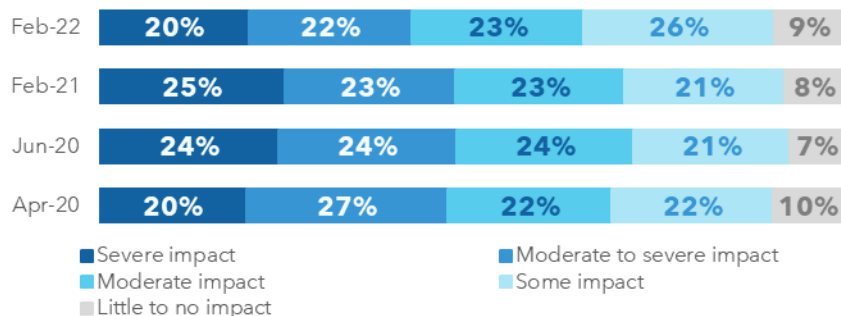
*"work 12 days a month fishing for the rest so I can eat
male, 37, Trinidad and Tobago*

*"I'm a farmer, I do Agro Processing, since covid my sales are 0%." -
female, 55, Dominica*

LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

- ▶ Two out of three respondents expect at least a moderate impact on their livelihoods. Over half of lowest income households anticipate severe impacts.

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



Respondents continue to expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively impact their livelihoods in the future. Looking ahead, 42% anticipate “moderate to severe” or “severe” impacts to their livelihoods, which is slightly lower compared to the prior three survey rounds. Only 9% expect little or no impact.

The perspective of respondents with different levels of income varied substantially. Respondent with the lowest income are the most worried about the future of their livelihoods. Of those with income level perceived as well below average, 56% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, which is much higher than 9% of those with well above average income level. However, it is slightly lower than in February 2021 (63%).

“I have been affected mentally, because of having to worry about where my next source of income is coming from or how I'm going to take care of my kids, or would I ever be able to get a job even though I've done multiple applications I'm yet to be employed” - female, 24, Grenada

“The first year, 2020, there was much less income. 2021 has improved due to more employment” - female, 47, Barbados

“Being a self employed person, the disruption due to closing down of the country caused financial instability which resulted in my downsizing.” - female, 60, Barbados

“Personally trying to rely more on developing entrepreneurial ideas to earn something because hardly anyone is hiring in certain fields. Even if they say they are, return calls are not forthcoming” - male, 31, Barbados

“It is been hard. Less income, very stress, depression, so many deaths losing love ones, scared of going to work and getting sick. Mentally its draining. Life is like a standstill, no movemen[t]. No way we can better ou[r] self because of low income, no savings. Worried about the future.” - female, 31, Trinidad and Tobago

“Having to put my life and future on hold due food prices going up and cost of education going up and no help to gain access to the internet.” - female, 20, Jamaica

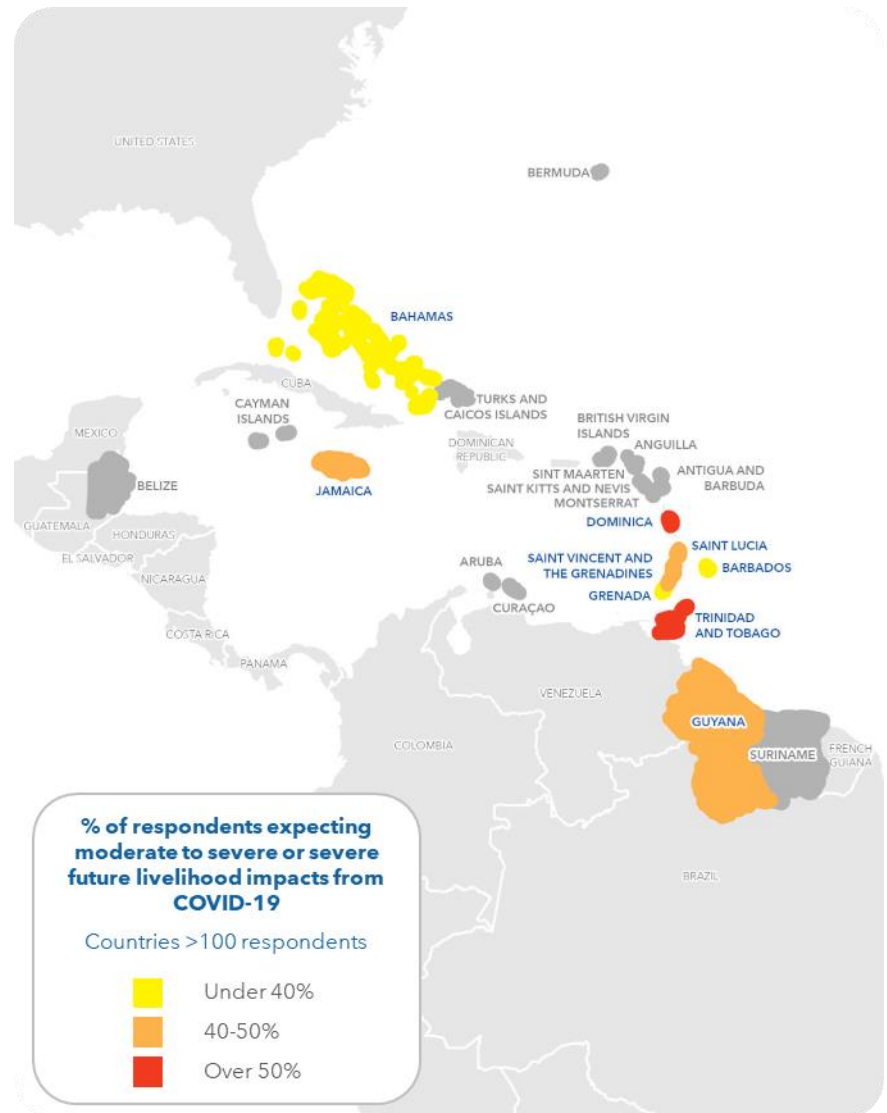
LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

While the vast majority of respondents anticipate at least some impacts regardless of their sources of income, those who rely on salaries or own business were much less likely to predict severe livelihood impacts (13-14%), compared to respondents who earn their living from petty trade (32%) or obtain support from family and friends (30%) and the government (28%).

Perspectives seem to be less severe across livelihood groups and sources of income. Compared to February 2021, the proportion of respondents who expect their livelihood to be impacted severely as a result of disruptions from COVID-19 has fallen among respondents who own a business (from 22% to 14%), those who rely on salaried work (from 17% to 13%), petty trade (from 41% to 32%) or government assistance (from 39% to 28%).

Differences in perspectives can be also observed across age groups. Respondents under 60 years are anticipating more severe future livelihood impacts than those aged 60 or above. Severe and moderate to severe impacts are expected by 44% of those aged 25 or under, by 47% of those between 26 and 40, and by 40% of respondents between 41 and 60 years old, compared to 26% of those aged 60 or above. There are no differences in such expectations between female and male respondents.

However, there are significant differences in future livelihood impact perspectives across the region. Half of the respondents in Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago are expecting severe or moderate to severe future livelihood impacts from COVID-19, compared to 26% in the Bahamas and 32% in Barbados.

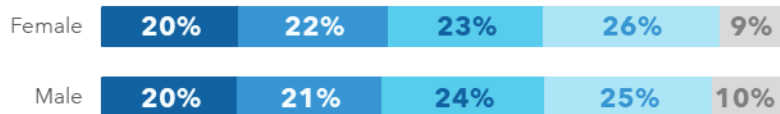


LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

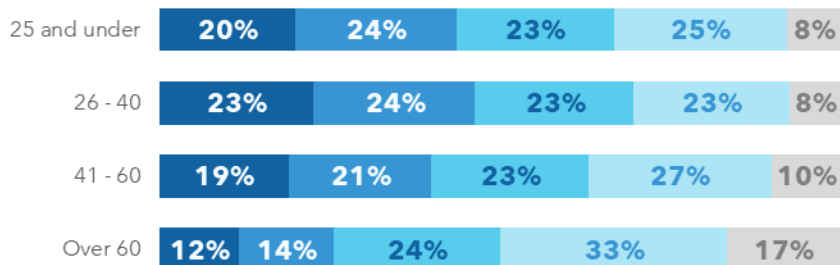
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

- Severe impact
- Moderate to severe impact
- Moderate impact
- Some impact
- Little to no impact

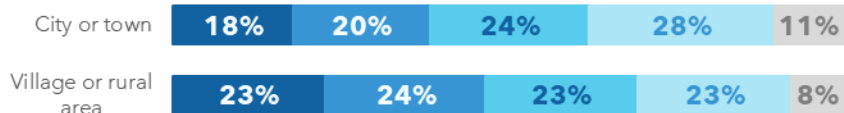
By sex



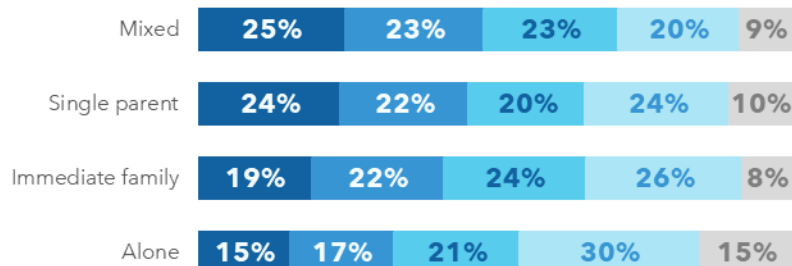
By age group



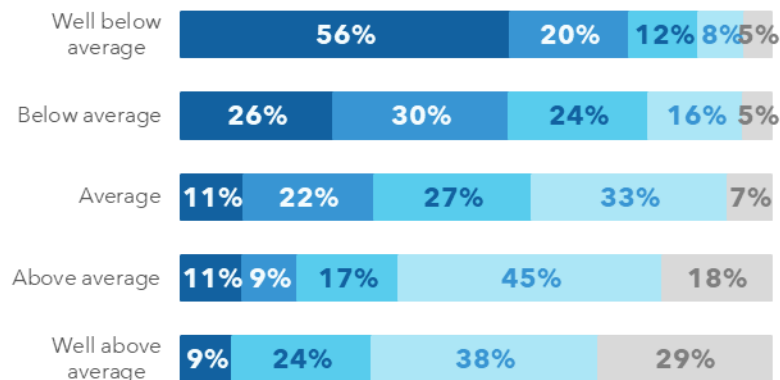
By urban/rural location



By household composition



By perceived income level

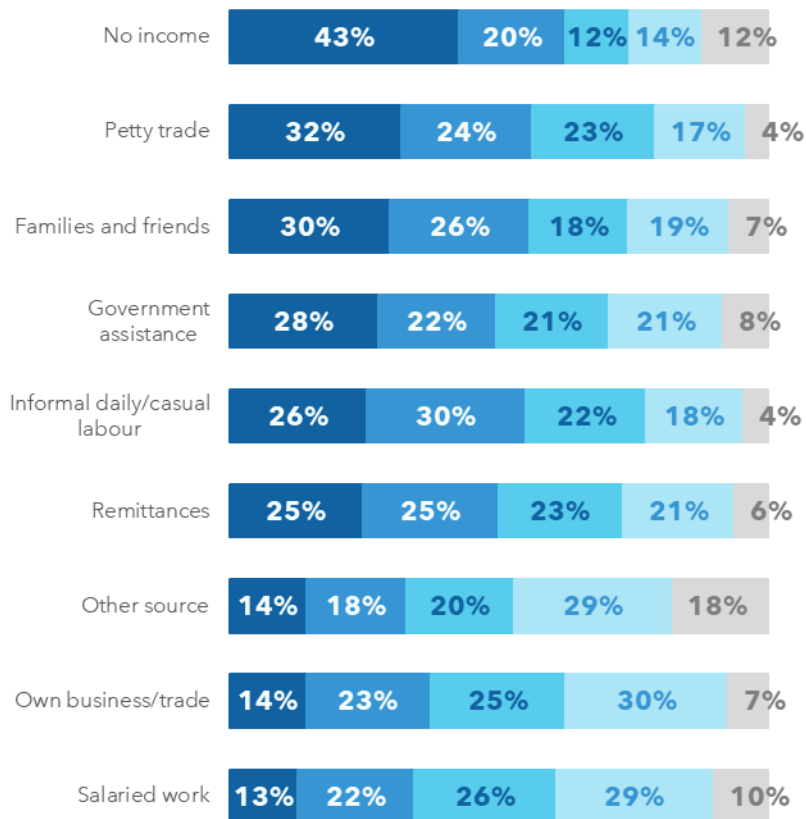


LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

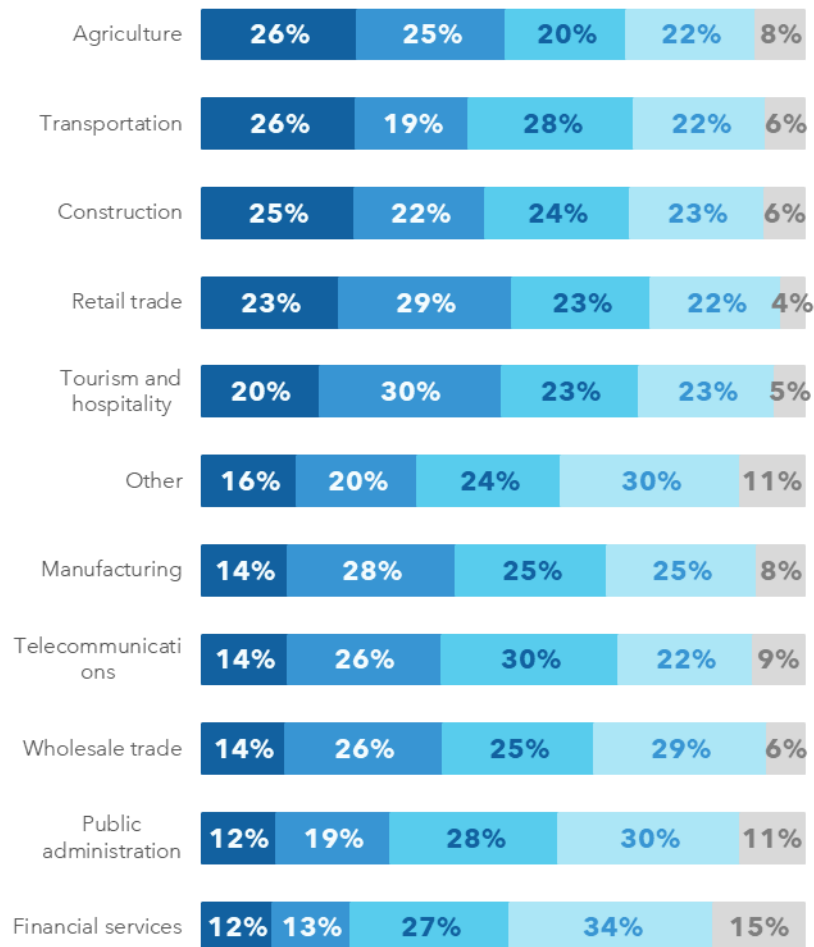
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

- Severe impact
- Moderate to severe impact
- Moderate impact
- Some impact
- Little to no impact

By income sources



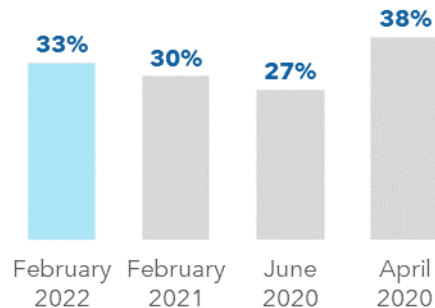
By income sector



MARKETS | Access

- ▶ Market accessibility continues to be a challenge for one out of three respondents.

Respondents unable to access markets in the 7 days prior to the survey



Almost two years since the declaration of the pandemic, people's access to markets continues to be impacted in the Caribbean, with 33% of respondents stating that they were unable to access markets in the seven days prior to the February 2022 survey. While still lower than at the beginning of the pandemic (38% in April 2020), people's access to markets has gotten slightly worse since June 2020. As described in the next section in more detail, the challenges to accessing markets are clearly tied to financial means and income.

Clear differences in market access can be seen across age groups, household composition and income levels, sources and sectors. Between 40-45% of respondents under 40 years old reported a time when they couldn't access markets compared to 26% of those between 41 and 60 years and 12% of respondents over 60 years old. Mixed (41%) and single parent (43%) households also reported difficulties in accessing markets more frequently than others.

*"Financial needs having to depend on others at times for food."
- female, 45, Barbados*

*"I had to find ways and means of getting my medication. Also I had to resort to delivery services for most things as I'm high risk."
- female, 32, St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

*"Since the outbreak of Covid 19 in St Vincent source of income is not coming in like before so I'm way back behind with my rent and bills and [because] cost of living is so high we could barely buy food at the grocery store every day food and gas prices going up"
- female, 34, St. Vincent and the Grenadines*

*"Inflation at most of the grocery stores. Price control provided no help in this regard. The government haven't done anything to address the issues. Store owners are taking advantage of the pandemic and using it as a way to price gouge."
- female, 41, The Bahamas.*

*"Soaring food prices have resulted in higher grocery bills."
- female, 35, Trinidad and Tobago*

*"Loss of food and livelihood"
- female, 26, Grenada*

*"Everything gone up in prices can't afford to but things we need"
- male, 43, Grenada*

MARKETS | Access

Respondents reporting the lowest income levels are experiencing the greatest challenges accessing markets, with respondents with well below (56%) and below average income (45%) indicating difficulties approximately two or three times more often than those with higher income levels. Those with less stable income sources more frequently indicated that they experienced a time when they were unable to access markets compared to other respondents: about half of respondents engaged in petty trade, casual labour or relying on the support from family and friends, compared to 20% of respondents with their own business/trade and 23% with salaried work.

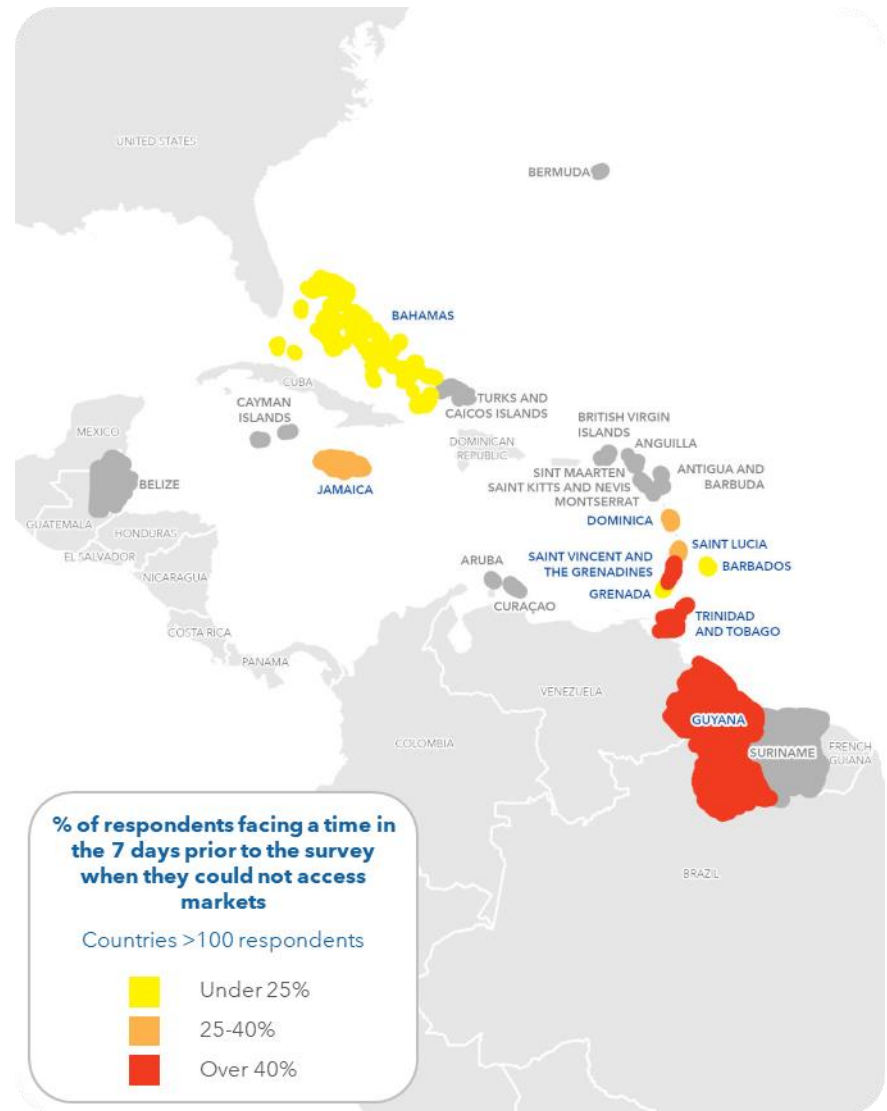
There are also significant differences in market access across the region. Almost half of the respondents in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (46%) and Guyana (44%) reported challenges accessing markets, compared to 18% in the Bahamas and 19% in Barbados.

"Food prices are too high"- female, 26, Guyana

"Increase in food prices and utilities with limited money coming in"- female, 42, Barbados

"Transportation doubled, food prices increased, lost my home to fire 5 months and no help." - female, 40, Trinidad and Tobago

"Could not get out to find food." - female, 59, St. Vincent and the Grenadines



MARKETS | Access

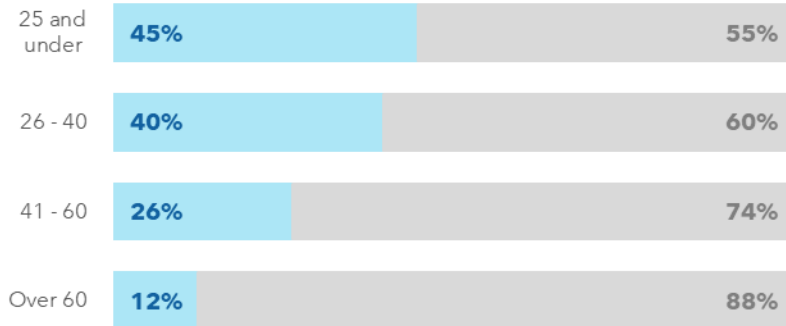
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

yes no

By sex



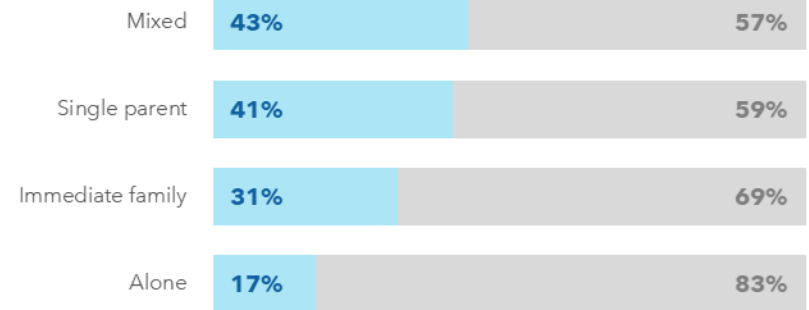
Age group



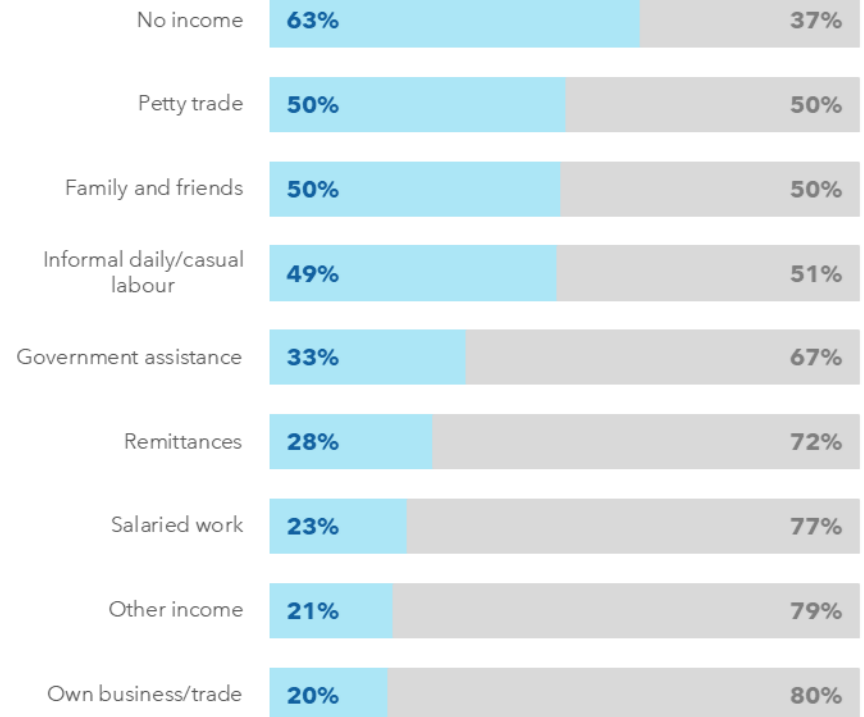
By urban/rural location



By household composition



By main income source

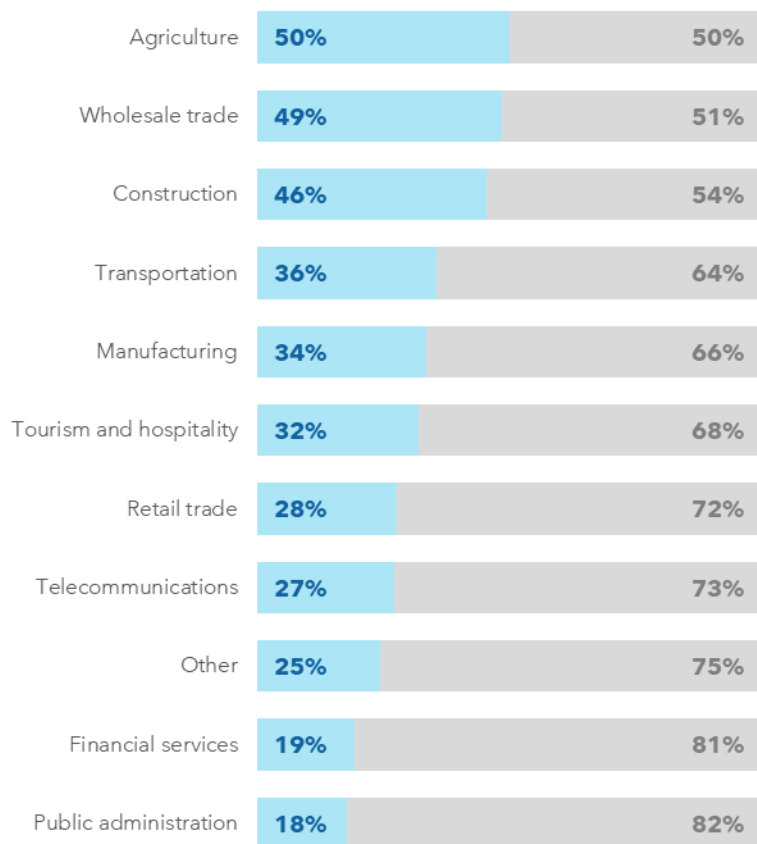


MARKETS | Access

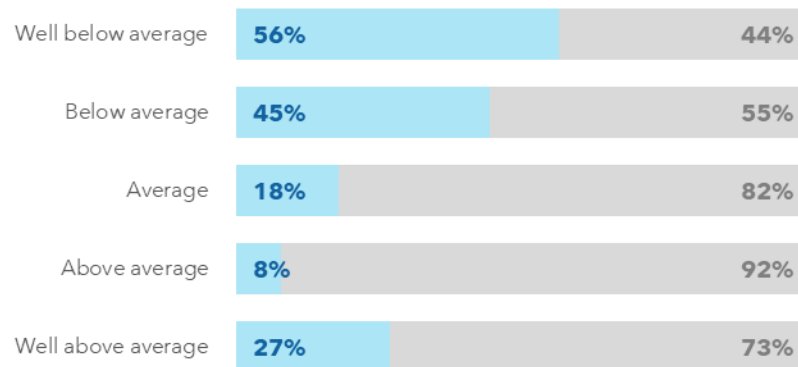
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

■ yes ■ no

By income sector



By perceived income level



*"I was assisted a little in 2020 from a relative overseas because I had not for along time even before covid started, and I now [have] to cut back on spending because of the high food prices...since it is me live alone when I get little work I would put down for a rainy day
-male, 53, Barbados*

*"Less income to save for a rainy day due. The cost of food (fruits and vegetables) has increased to a stage that you have to leave them in the supermarket and buy basic rice, pasta and can meats to stretch the food in the house. Many times I walk around the neighborhood asking for breadfruits and green bananas to cook with a can of protein. The amount of children in my community not going to school or participating in online classes due to COVID and no infrastructure for online classes. I have been personally affected by being so overweight."
- female, 48, Barbados*

MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

- ▶ Lack of financial means continues to be the main limiting factor to market access.

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

Multiple choices could be selected

Main reasons for limited market access	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of financial means*	80%	84%	34%	4%
Concerned about leaving the house	14%	13%	24%	49%
Adult members of the household were self quarantining	9%	2%	3%	10%
Movement restrictions	8%	9%	21%	66%
Transport limitations	6%	5%	15%	23%
Markets/grocery stores closed	6%	6%	16%	52%
Other	6%	6%	50%	12%
Adult members of the household were unwell	6%	1%	3%	3%
Security concerns	2%	3%	7%	15%

* New option in the February 2021 survey round. For June and April 2020 survey rounds, the lack of financial means was calculated based on the text inputted by respondents in the "Other" category.

At the beginning of the pandemic, the main factors limiting market access were related to measures to contain COVID-19 (for example market closures) and concerns about leaving the house, but these concerns have become less significant over time.

Lack of financial means continues to be overwhelmingly reported as the main reason for limited market access, cited by 80% of those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the week prior to the survey (all percentages noted in this section are of those reporting challenges accessing markets). While this is a significant increase since June 2020 (34%), it is slightly lower than a year ago (84% in February 2021). The slight decrease might be due to the increasing number of adults self-quarantining (9%) and feeling unwell (6%) due to the surging cases at the time of the survey.

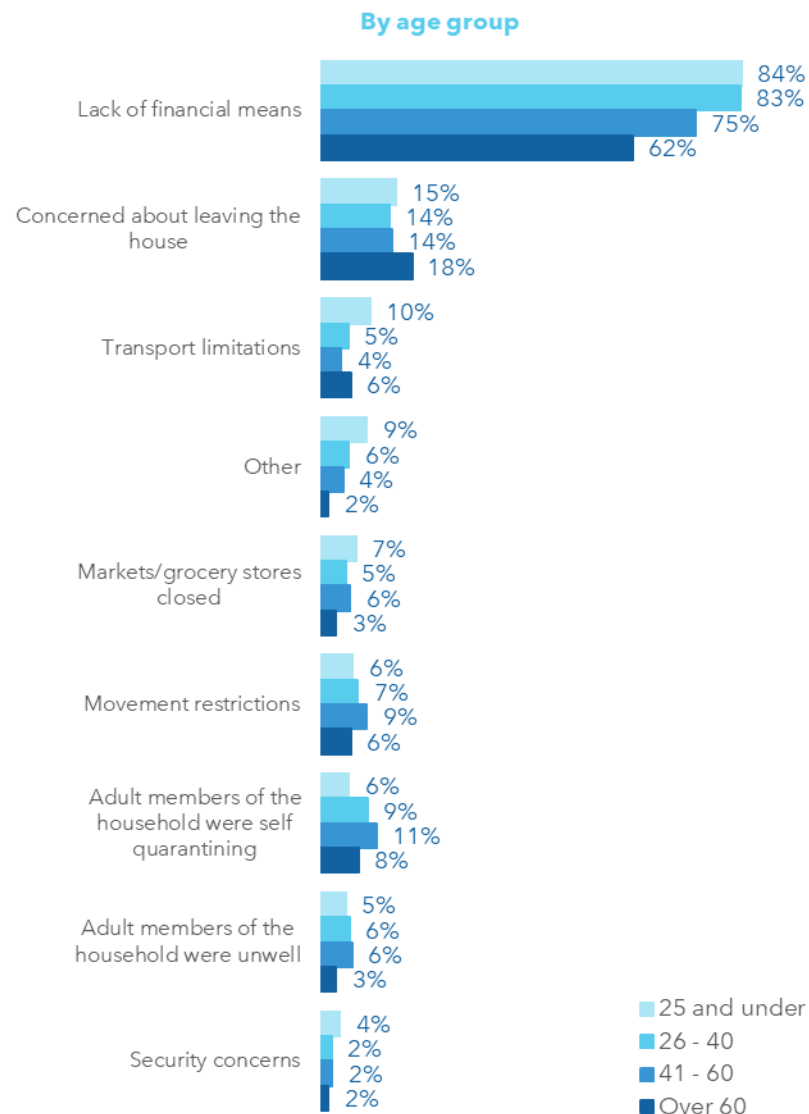
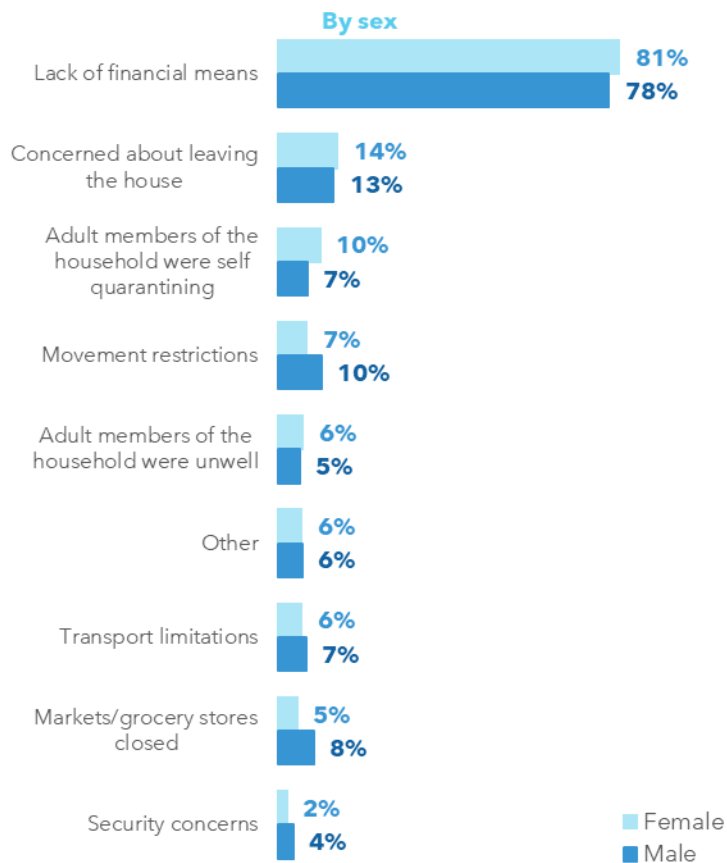
The most notable differences in obstacles people face to accessing markets can be observed across age groups and income levels. Respondents under 40 more frequently cited lack of financial means as a key challenge (83-84%) compared to those over 40 (75% for respondents between 41 and 60 and 62% for those over 60). Respondents who described their income level as being well below average (91%) or below average (84%) also reported lack of financial means more frequently than respondents with average (62%), above average (53%) and well above average (63%) income. Correspondingly, those with less stable income sources (petty trade, support from family/friends, informal daily/casual labour, and remittances) more frequently indicated financial constraints in limiting market access compared to respondents with salaried income or income from their business.

Additionally, it appears that the market access of the respondents living alone was slightly less dependent on financial means and more on concerns and restrictions around the pandemic. However, no notable differences were observed between women and men.

MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

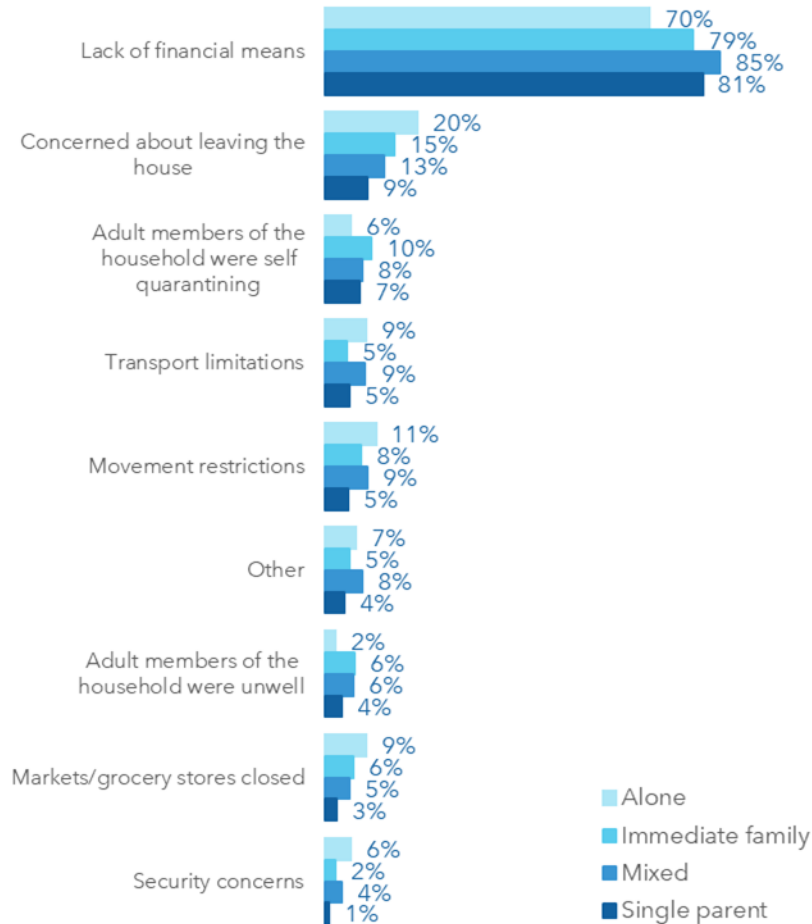


MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

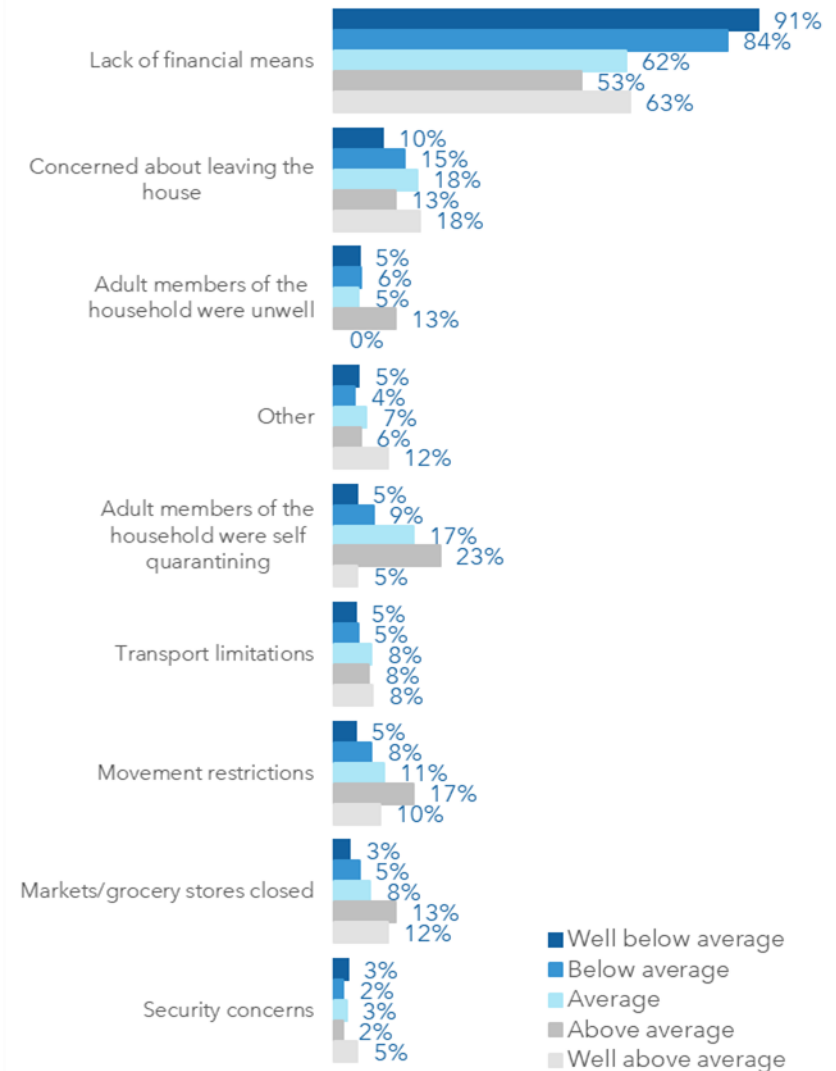
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By household composition



By perceived income level

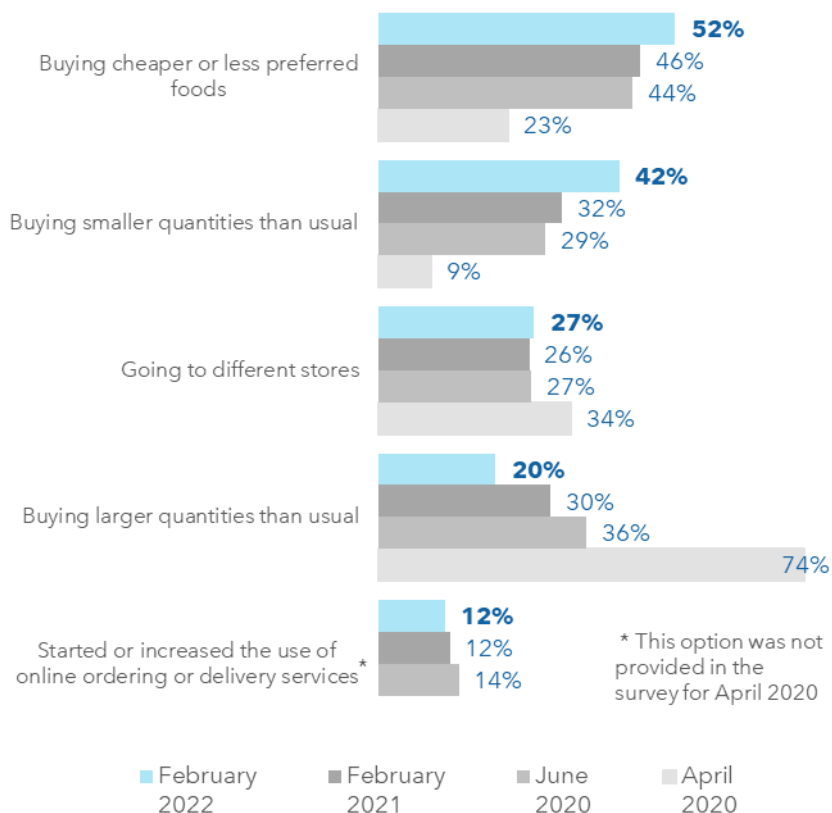


MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

- ▶ Respondents are resorting to buying cheaper foods and smaller quantities more frequently.

Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.



The pandemic continues to impact how people shop, however, the exact changes they are making have shifted since the beginning of the pandemic. A large majority of respondents (88%) reported a change in their shopping behaviour in February 2022. Respondents who changed how they shop indicated that the main changes they were making are buying cheaper or less preferred foods (52%) and buying smaller quantities (42%). Both of these compromises were reported more frequently than during the previous survey rounds. At the same time, respondents were less likely to buy larger quantities (20%) compared to 2020 (74% in April 2020 and 36% in June 2020) and February 2021 (30%). Behaviour has shifted from stocking up at the start of the pandemic to making more compromises as the economic impacts deepen for most households.

The changes people are making are closely linked to age, income levels and income sources. More respondents under 40 years old resorted to buying cheaper food items more often compared to respondents over 40. Respondents who changed how they shop and also indicated lower income levels more frequently reported having to buy cheaper foods (63% of those well below and 59% below average income) compared to wealthier respondents (30% of those with well above, 36% with above, and 45% with average income). Correspondingly, those with less stable income sources (petty trade, support from families and friends, and informal daily/casual labour) also more frequently resorted to buying cheaper foods compared to respondents with more stable incomes.

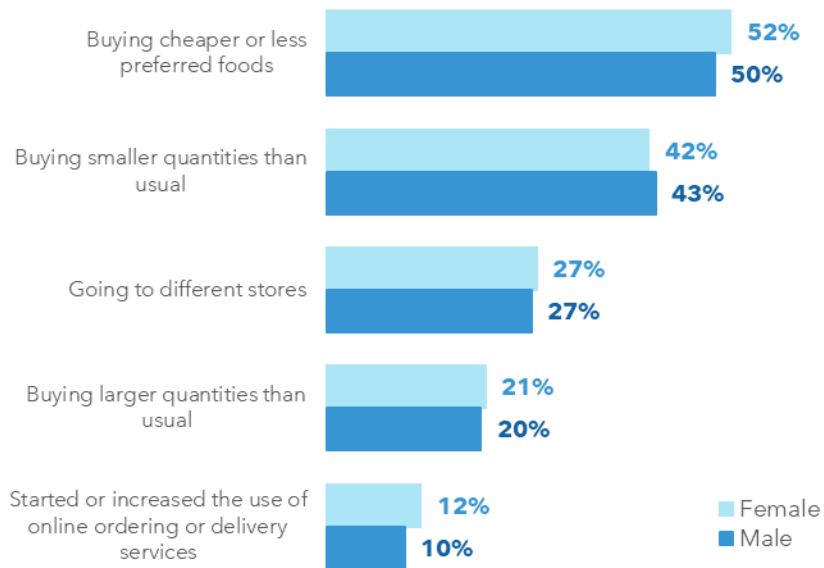
Beside resorting to buying cheaper foods more often, the respondents with well below (48%) and below (45%) average income are also more frequently buying smaller quantities. While on the other hand, respondents with well above or above average income levels continue to buy larger quantities (39-41%), go to different stores (27-35%) and use online ordering/delivery services (20-33%) more frequently than respondents with lower income levels.

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

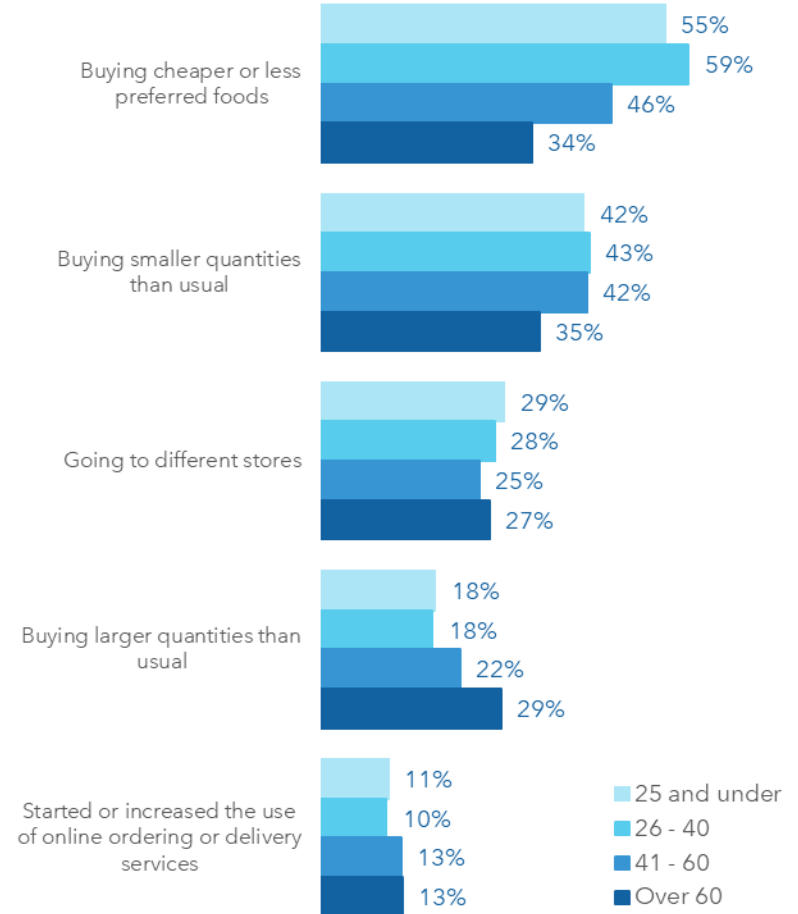
Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

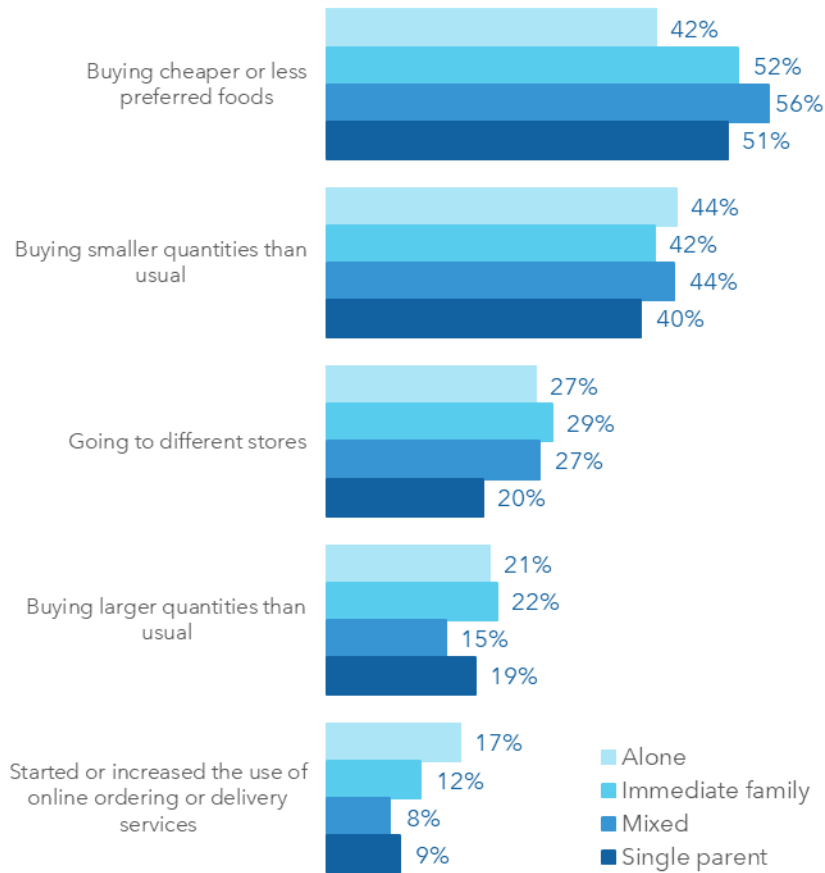


MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

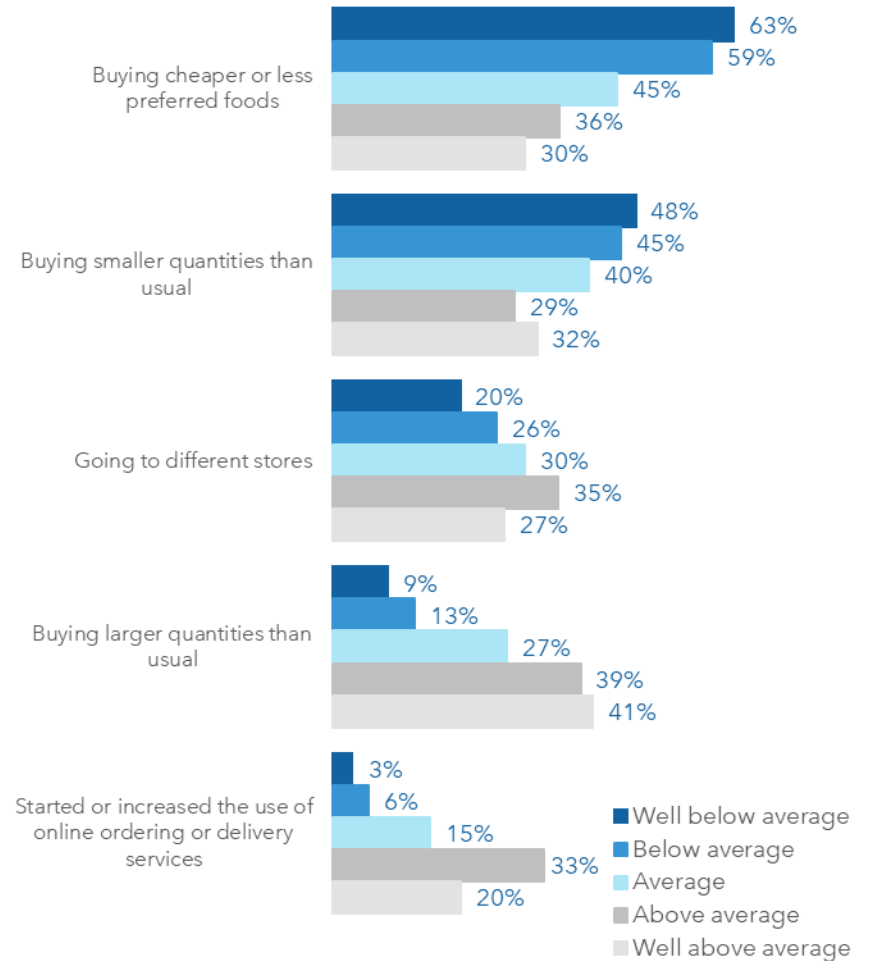
Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By household composition



By perceived income level



MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By main income source

Change in shopping behaviour	AVERAGE	Salaried work	Own business/trade	Informal daily/casual labour	Family and friends	Government assistance	Remittances	Petty trade	Other source	No income
Buying cheaper or less preferred foods	52%	49%	48%	62%	65%	59%	52%	65%	41%	51%
Buying smaller quantities than usual	42%	40%	45%	47%	46%	41%	43%	44%	41%	48%
Going to different stores	27%	31%	37%	27%	30%	28%	25%	25%	29%	16%
Buying larger quantities than usual	20%	27%	25%	13%	13%	19%	25%	12%	26%	8%
Started or increased the use of online ordering or delivery services	12%	16%	21%	5%	8%	9%	9%	5%	12%	2%

"I shop less, spend wiser, go out less living in fear because of my one year old baby salary decrease." - female, 27, Trinidad and Tobago

"Not being able to cover all bills and grocery with salary due to increases and depleted savings." - female, 40, Saint Lucia

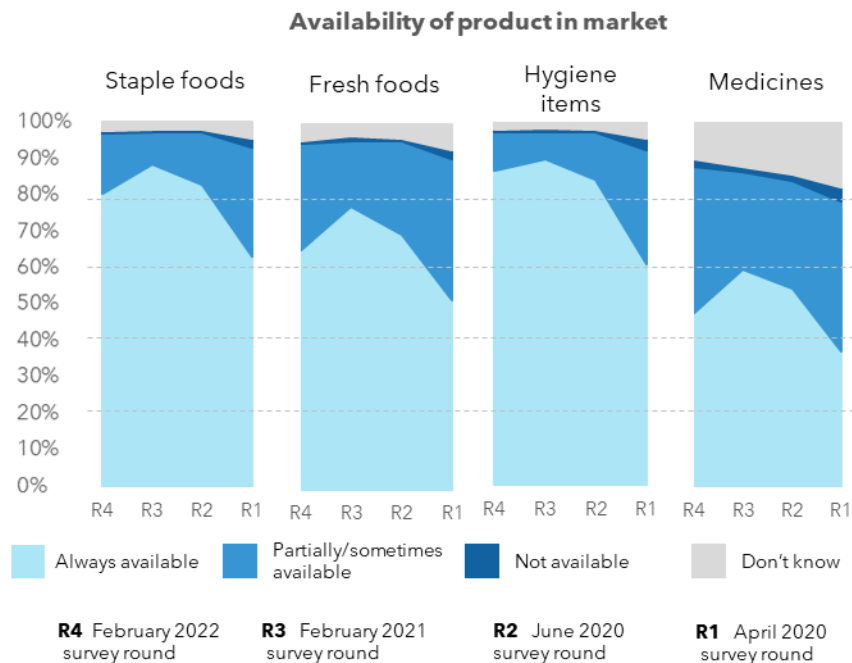
"Limited interaction with family members especially my mum. Online school has become a challenge - adequate supervision for my son, maintaining his focus on his studies, limited extra curricular activities and inability to continue sport training. Inability to travel for leisure or business. Lack of business travel has affected my work routine. I've changed my shopping patterns to minimise time going to supermarkets. I've learnt to do without many items not available at any given time. I've started to support more local businesses especially for produce." - female, 43, Barbados

"Job lost, different eating, shopping an overall spending habits have changed to conserve money for more important items....there I plant a lot more food stuff that I would normally purchase...stock on basics...rice, flour, sugar..." - female, 48, Trinidad and Tobago

"I shop for food far less. I can't buy fruits for my kids and that hurts. My kids are hungry most of the time, can't afford gas and electricity bill high.. sometime we sleep in darkness. First in my life I have to be living like this." - male, 43, Jamaica

MARKETS | Availability

- ▶ Key items are generally available, however the availability of fresh and staple foods, and medicines has decreased since February 2021.



Since the beginning of the pandemic, supply chain disruptions have been a concern owing first to travel restrictions and later to global supply chain issues. The availability of key products had been consistently improving since then until February 2021. The February 2022 survey round observed a decrease in the availability, though still better compared to April 2020. As with previous surveys, very few respondents (1-2%) indicated that goods were unavailable.

The level of availability varied by items. About half of respondents indicated that medicines were always available in February 2022 compared to 60% in February 2021. The availability was more problematic among respondents with the lowest income levels. At the same time, 42% of respondents reported that medicines were sometimes available or unavailable in February 2022 which is significantly higher than last year (28%).

Two-thirds of respondents (66%) indicated that fresh foods were consistently available in their markets compared to 77% during the February 2021 survey. In addition, 29% of respondents reported that fresh foods are only partially/sometimes available or unavailable in February 2022, which is also higher than the previous year (18%).

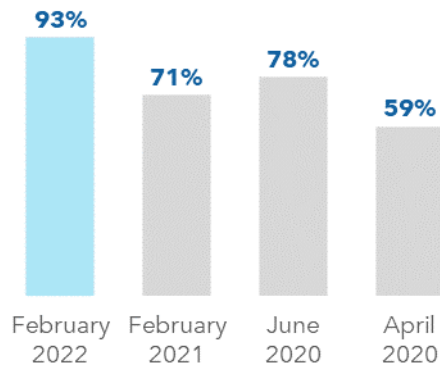
The availability of staple foods has decreased slightly less sharply, with 80% of respondents indicating their constant availability in markets compared to 88% in February 2021.

The reported availability of hygiene items has not changed much, with 86% of respondents indicating that these items were always available in their markets in February 2022 compared to 90% one-year prior.

MARKETS | Food prices

- ▶ Nearly all respondents identified an increase in food prices.

Respondents who reported an increase in food prices over the 2 weeks prior to the survey

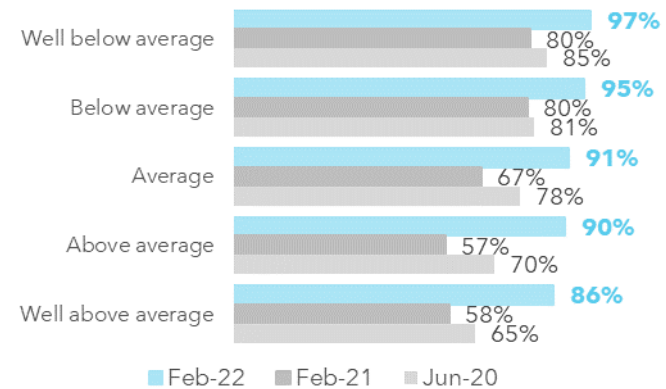


Food price rises are being felt and observed, with nine out of ten respondents reporting an increase in the two weeks prior to the survey.

While a large majority of respondents identified an increase in food prices across all surveyed countries in the Caribbean, this was most widely observed (98%) in Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

There are no variances between those reporting food price increases who live in urban (93%) or rural areas (92%). However, more notable differences can be observed across income levels.

Respondents who reported an increase in food prices over the 2 weeks prior to the survey
By perceived income level and survey round

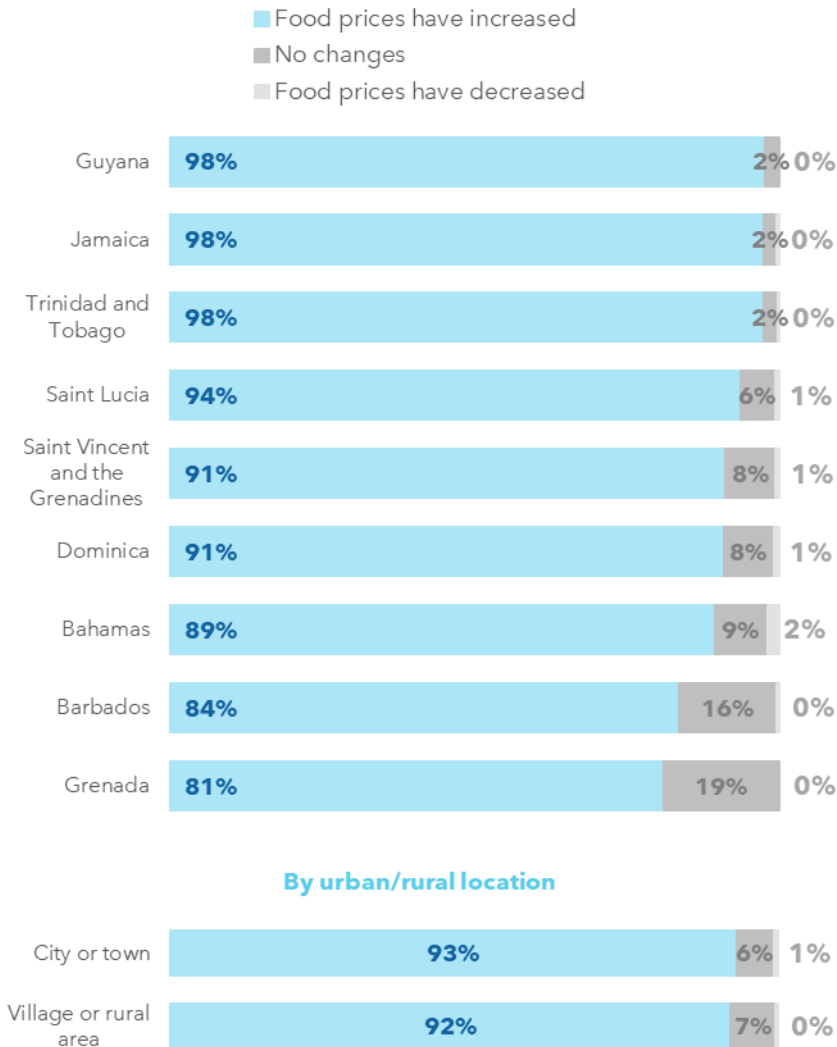


Respondents with lower income levels noted increases in food prices more frequently than others. More than 95% of respondents reporting well below and below average income indicated an increase in food prices, compared to 86-90% of respondents with well above and above average incomes. This could potentially be explained by having fewer shopping options or that they are more sensitive to food price rises.

Despite these differences, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of respondents from all income groups noting increases in food prices when compared to one year ago.

MARKETS | Food prices

Respondents who reported an increase in food prices over the 2 weeks prior to the survey



*"The rise in food prices... and not in my salary to assist with coverage of these price increases. This just makes it harder as I have to spend a lot more and still end up with less stuff that I would usually buy to cover the household for a 2 week period."
 - male, 23, Trinidad and Tobago*

*"Food- prices sharply increased and are still doing so. Education - juggling online and face-to-face. Mental health- isolation takes it toll on physical and mental health."
 male, 15, Jamaica*

*I have small retail business, my sales has decrease and everything gone up from my supplier. So i have to raise my price customers complaining about price increase, but i cant do any better all my profit going in bills; service provider such as electricity company has increase their fuel charges. COVID -19 IS PLAYING on my mental health everything is going up but you not making the money. You have to cut b[ac]k on food and lively hood. Its sad . I keeping the faith thing change later in the year cause I don't know if my business will survive Sometimes take all my money I can't even buy bk goods."
 - female, 30, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.*

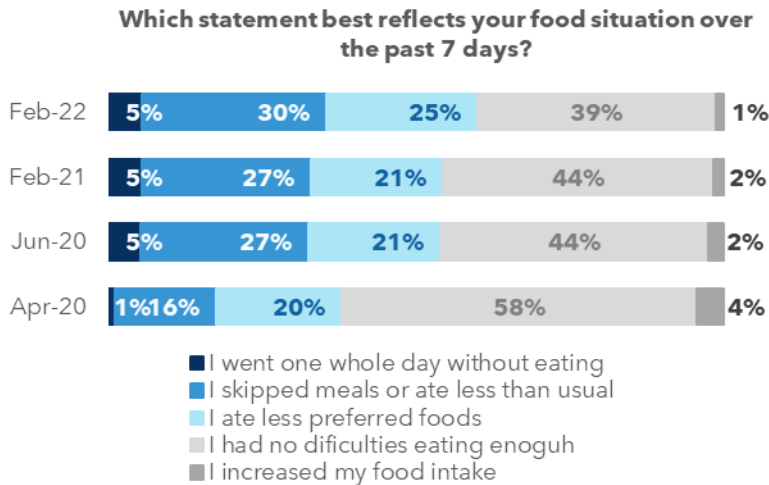
*"Increased power bill and food consumption bill due to children being home due to covid."
 - female, 51, Bahamas*

*"Increased prices of all food and grocery, merchandise in stores and no increased salary."
 - female, 35, Saint Lucia*

*"The constant increase in the cost of living is frightening since we have only received one cash grant since the start of the pandemic"
 female, 49, Guyana*

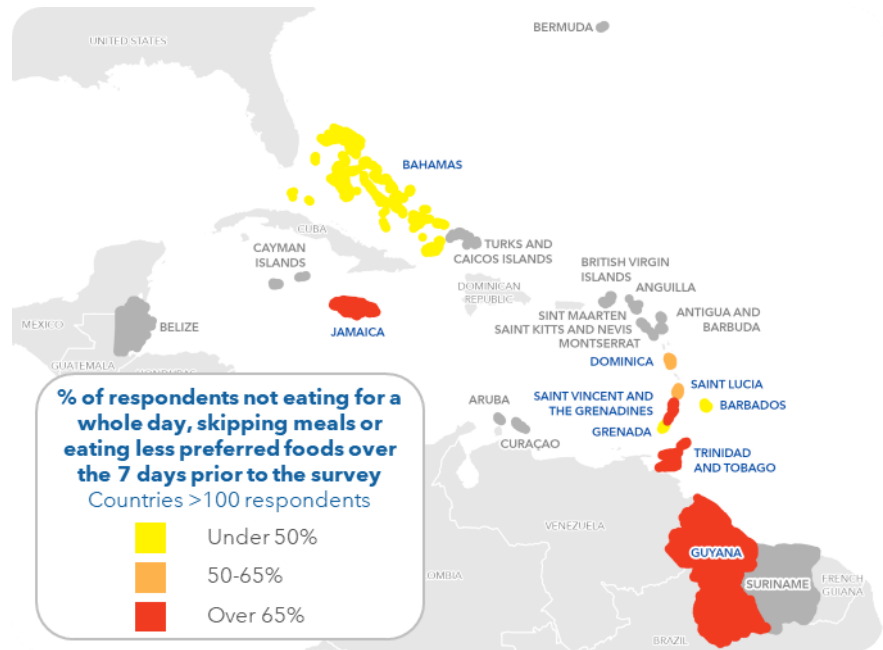
FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

► Food consumption patterns further deteriorated, especially among lower income households and youth, leading to the highest number of severely food insecure people in the region since 2020.



Food consumption and diets continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with 30% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual, 25% eating less preferred foods and 5% going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey. These findings represent a deterioration in the food consumption of respondents compared to all previous rounds in 2021 and 2020.

The gap across income levels and groups continues to increase. Respondents with well below average income continue to be the most affected, with 16% going a whole day without eating and 49% skipping a meal or eating less than usual in the week preceding the survey. Only 22% had no difficulty eating enough compared to 65% of households classifying their income as well above average.



Food consumption patterns vary across countries in the region. In some countries (e.g., The Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada), the majority of respondents reported normal eating habits, with fewer than 50% of respondents not eating for a whole day, skipping meals or eating less preferred foods over the week prior to the survey. By contrast, in other countries (e.g., Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago) over half of respondents resorted to one of these negative measures related to food consumption.

Differences in the impacts on food consumption also varied across age groups, household types, sources of income, and economic sectors, as described on the next page.

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

In line with the previous round, younger respondents were more likely to reduce their food consumption. Among respondents aged 25 and younger, 46% skipped meals, ate less than usual or went a full day without eating, compared to 14% of those over 60 years of age. Differences between sexes appeared less pronounced, with slightly more female respondents (32%) reporting to have skipped a meal or eaten less than usual compared to male respondents (26%) and about the same percentage of respondents (5% female, 6% male) going an entire day without eating.

There are some differences in food consumption based on household composition. Respondents from single-parent and mixed households more frequently reported cutting consumption, with respectively 42% and 49% skipping meals or not eating for an entire day. These were followed by respondents living with immediate family (33%) and those living alone (26%).

Sources of income also reflect stark differences amongst groups. Those without any income source were most impacted, with 86% having gone an entire day without eating, skipping meals or eating less than usual. Most concerning is that 26% of these households went an entire day without eating - significantly higher than those having an income source. Among those that reported an income source, 76-80% of households relying on family or friends, depending on casual labour or petty trade range went an entire day without eating, skipped meals or ate less compared to 50% of salaried workers and 47% of those relying on their own business.

In terms of economic sectors, respondents without an income or employed in construction and agriculture appear to be the most affected, followed by those who earn their living from wholesale trade, transportation, and tourism and hospitality.

Of respondents from rural locations, 35% of reported no difficulties eating enough, compared to 45% of respondents from urban areas.

"More Careful attention is paid to food stock levels and consumption." - female, 52, Barbados

"I have suffer a lot from the volcanic eruption am living in the red zone now my family had the covid and my main concern is my mom who is a diabetic no medication in the hospital we have to buy and the little money we have we can hardly buy food and pay bills have yo try and make ends meet" - female, 38, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

"I have learnt how to conserve on food and essential", 31, Guyana

"Eat less focus more on my children's health and well being and also trying to stay in a job." - female, 32, St Lucia

"I had to adapt to the children doing online classes and i had to buy less food items than i would usually buy due to the increasing food prices." - female, 33, Jamaica

"Lost jobs... No income. Was surviving with food hampers but it stopped it's very though to pay all our utility bills. No food at present to eat."- female, 29, Trinidad and Tobago

'Low income, insufficient food supplies" -female,33, The Bahamas

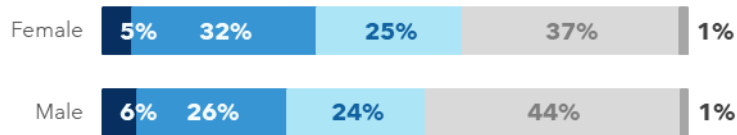
"Just that the food price is so high so sometime we can't afford to buy"- female, 66, Jamaica

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

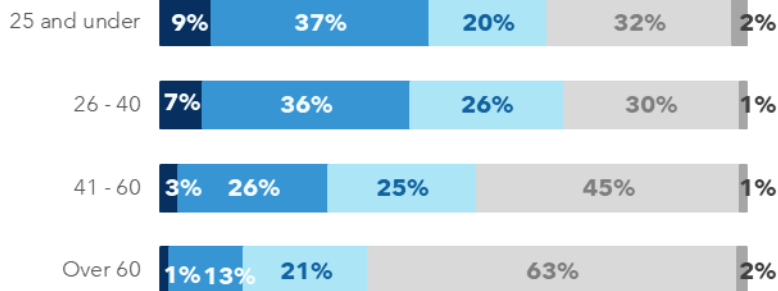
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

- I went one whole day without eating
- I skipped meals or ate less than usual
- I ate less preferred foods
- I had no difficulties eating enough
- I increased my food intake

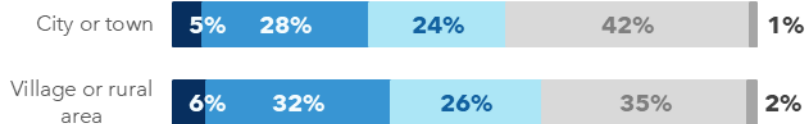
By sex



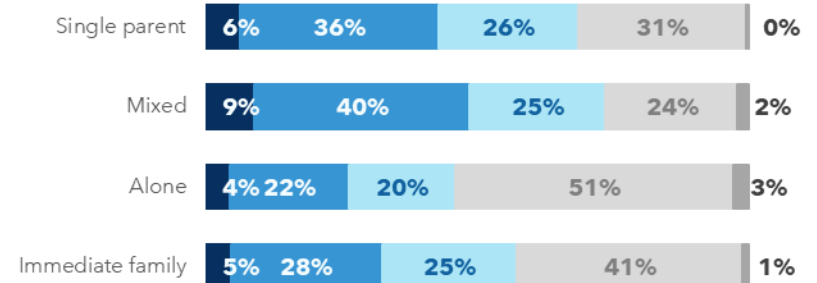
By age group



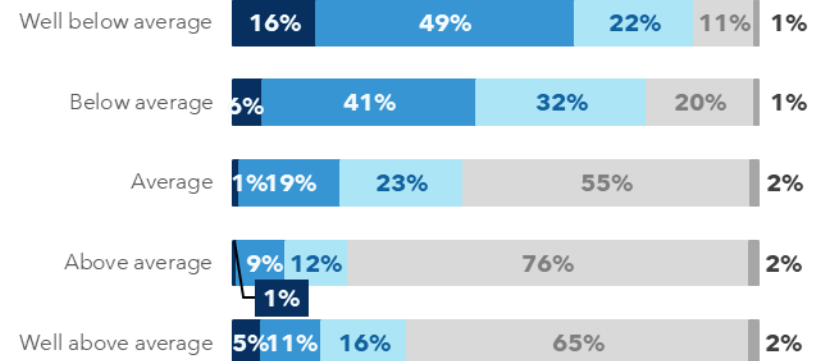
By urban/rural location



By household composition



By perceived income level

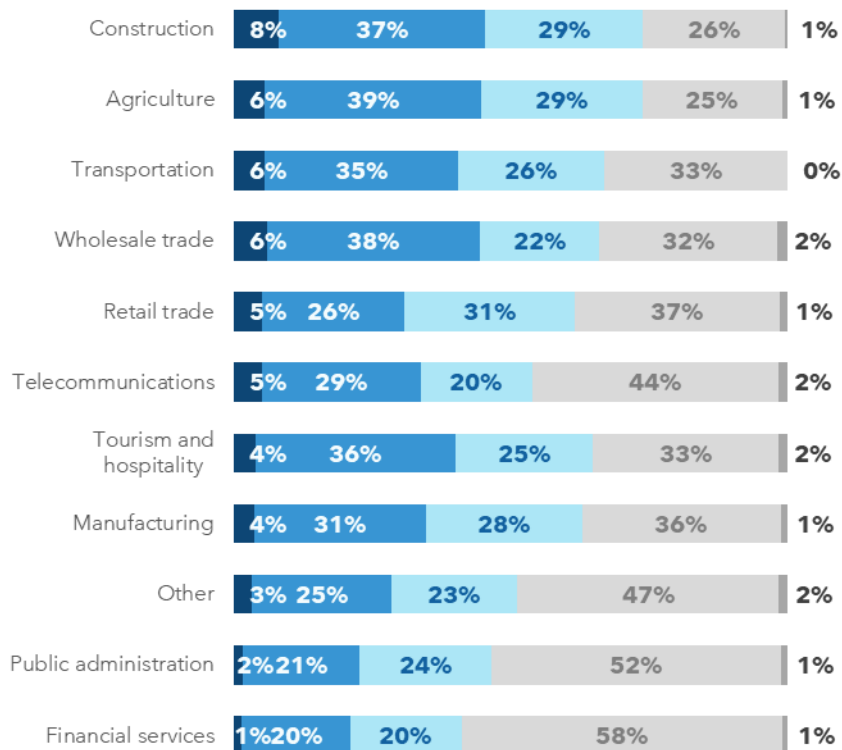


FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

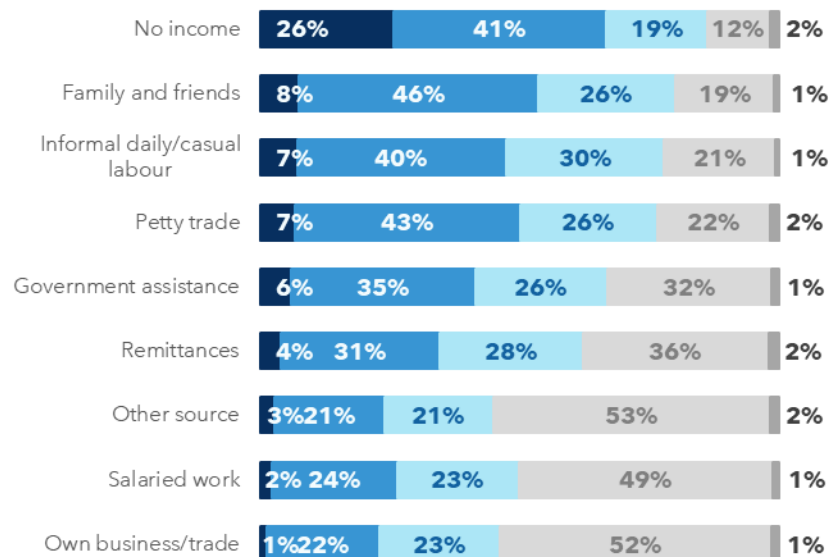
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

- I went one whole day without eating
- I skipped meals or ate less than usual
- I ate less preferred foods
- I had no difficulties eating enough
- I increased my food intake

By income sector



By income sources



FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

- ▶ People are more prone to adopt negative coping strategies to meet their immediate food needs, compromising other priorities.

Survey respondents were asked whether in the 30 days prior to the survey they had reduced essential non-food expenditures, spent savings or sold productive assets to meet their food needs.

Compared to one year ago, a slight increase has been observed on all three negative strategies to meet food needs. Seven out of ten respondents indicated that they spent savings to meet their immediate food needs. Almost half of respondents reported to have reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as education and health. Over a third of respondents resorted to selling productive assets or goods. All three of these measures may compromise people's future well-being, resources and resilience.

Unsurprisingly, households with below or well below average incomes are resorting to these coping strategies much more frequently than others. More than twice as many respondents who classify their income as well below or below average have spent savings to meet food needs compared to those with above or well above average income. Alongside the income impact trends found in this survey, this risks further widening income gaps.

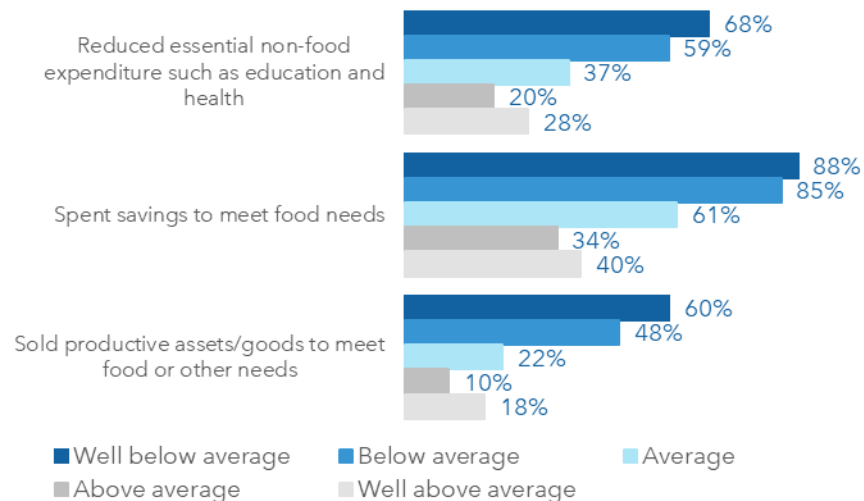
People living in rural areas were also found to more frequently adopt these coping strategies compared to respondents living in urban areas. Women were more likely to have spent savings (71%) compared to men (66%), and all respondents aged under 40 were more likely to undertake any of measures compared to others.

Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.



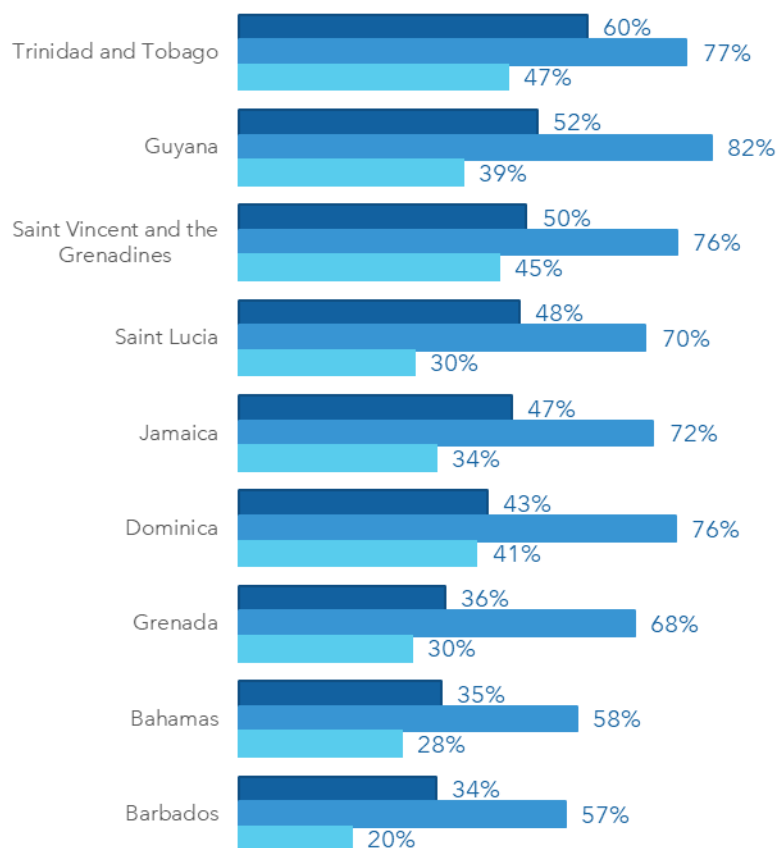
By perceived income level



FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey
By country

- Reduced essential non-food expenditure such as education and health
- Spent savings to meet food needs
- Sold productive assets/goods to meet food or other needs



"The biggest change we have made is making sacrifices such as reducing meal sizes to ensure there is food on the table" - female, 52, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

"The cost of living as escalate and i have to skip meals and i dont no compassionate relief from the government" - female, 53, Jamaica

"Unplug appliances to keep electricity bill down. Take 1 shower a day to reduce water bill. Skip meals so groceries last longer. Buy cheaper groceries." - female, 21 Jamaica

"Had to cut food budget so we can maintain mortgage had to enroll my kids in public schools because I could no longer afford private school also lose my insurance I also disconnected my cable and telephone in order to save money." - female, 49, The Bahamas

"Covid has affected me by restricting me, from acquiring enough financial resources due to lack of jobs, and the hours you have to do extra side jobs due to the strict curfews, I adapt over the years by going out there searching for jobs and spending little on unnecessary items and alcohol, but instead food items and keeping something small in the house for any emergencies"- male, 49, St Lucia

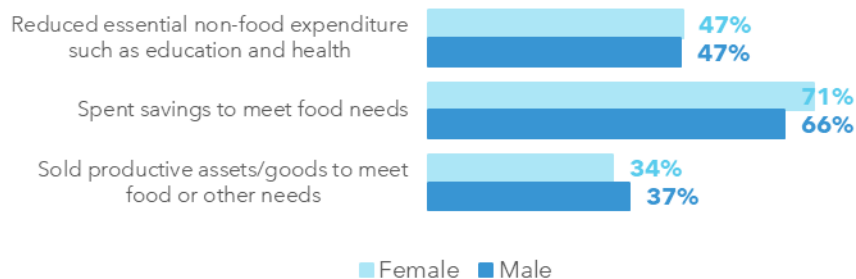
"Due to my inability to obtain a permanent job as a result of underlying issues and not being vaccinated; I have had to cut back look for little gigs to make it through eat less to ensure my kids had the basic needs." - female, 38, Grenada

FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

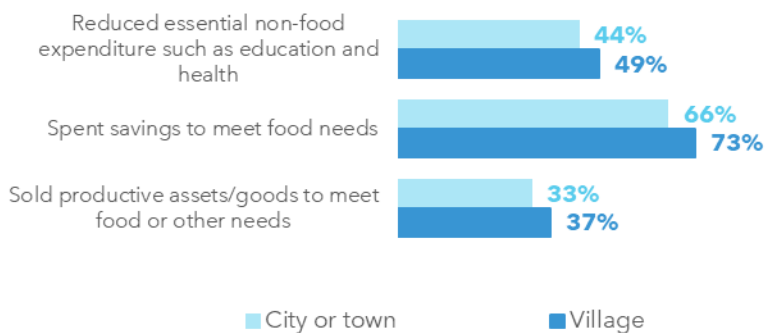
Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

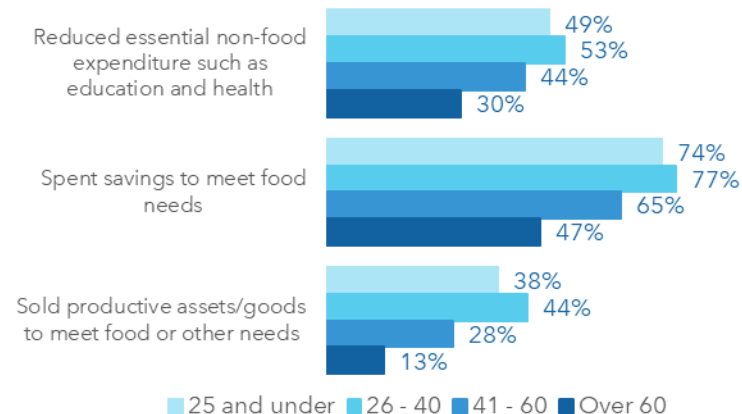
By sex



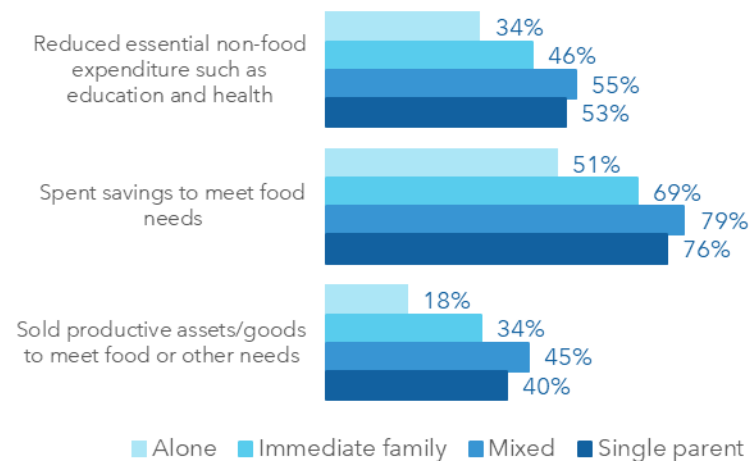
By urban/rural location



By age group



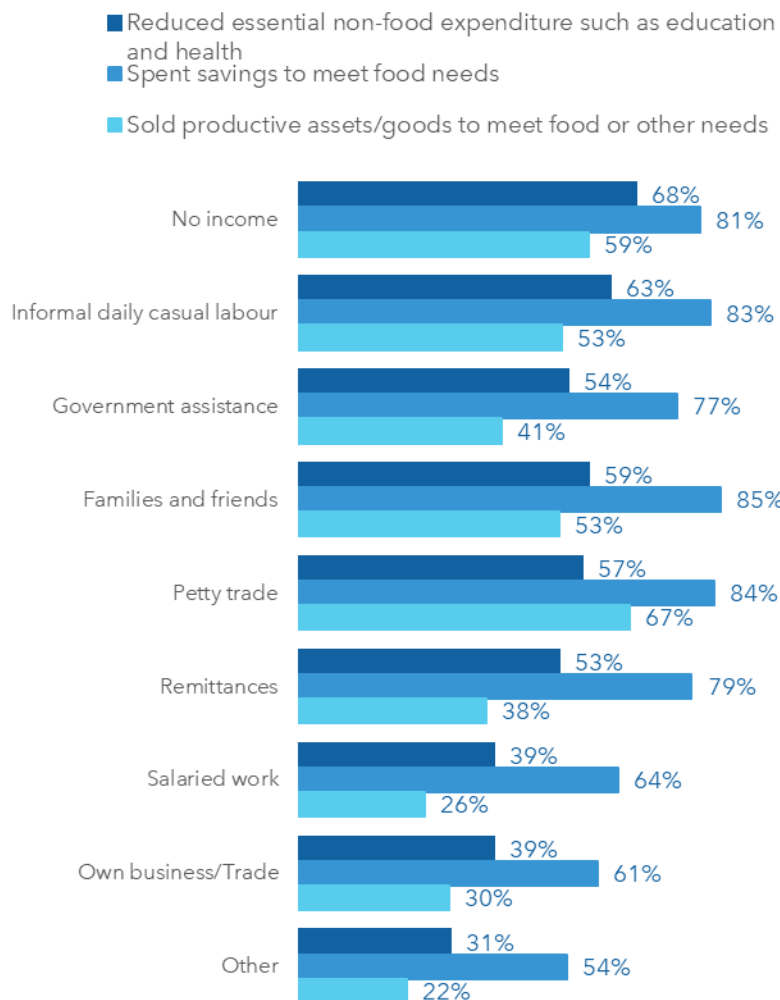
By household composition



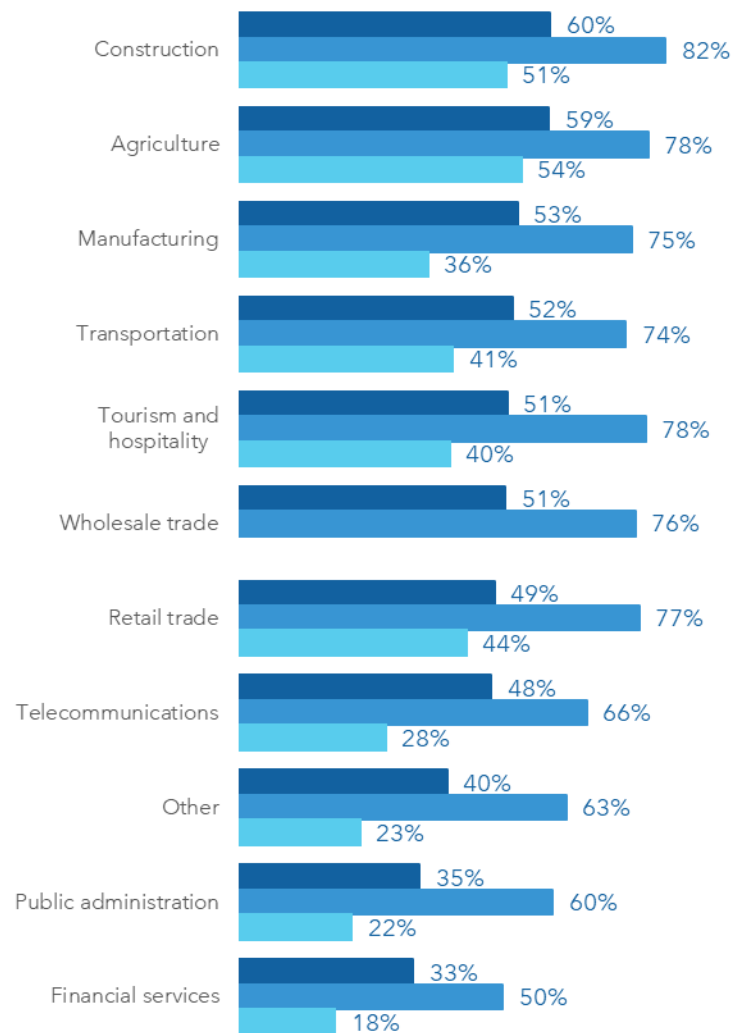
FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

By income source



By income sector

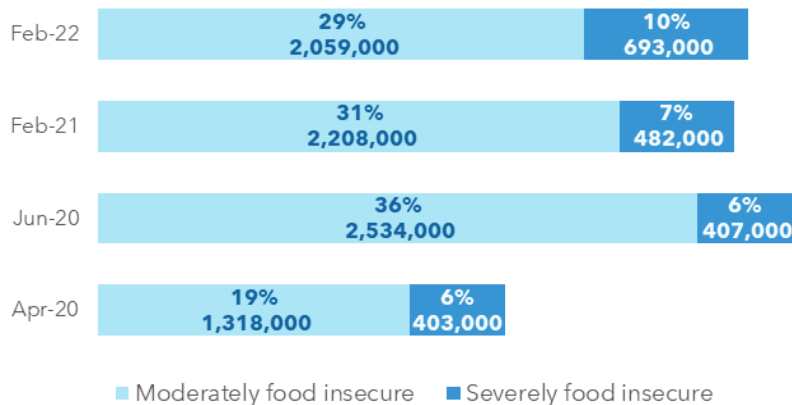


FOOD SECURITY | Food security estimates

- ▶ 2.8 M people are estimated to be food insecure in the English-speaking Caribbean: an increase of 1 M people since the beginning of the pandemic.

The rCARI, an adapted remote version of the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), was used to assess the overall level of food insecurity across the English-speaking Caribbean. The CARI classifies individual households according to their level of food security. rCARI assesses two dimensions: (1) the current status of households' food consumption (based on food consumption patterns over the previous week), and (2) the current coping capacity of households to meet future needs (assessed based on economic vulnerability and the adoption of livelihood coping strategies). The composite score is comprised of 50% of the current food consumption domain, 25% of economic vulnerability domain, and 25% of the livelihood coping domain (see page 78 for more information on the CARI methodology).

Estimated number of food insecure*



Based on survey results and population data, it is estimated that 2.75 million out of 7.1 million people are food insecure across the English-speaking Caribbean as of February 2022. This is a slight increase compared to 2.69 million in February 2021 and a decrease from the nearly 3 million in June 2020. There has been an overall increase of 1 million food insecure people since the beginning of the pandemic.

While the levels of overall food insecurity has remained relatively stable over the past year, the number of severely food insecure people has significantly increased from 482,000 in February 2021 to 693,000 in February 2022, representing nearly 10% of the population. Severe food insecurity has increased by 44% over the past year and by 72% since the first survey round in April 2020, highlighting the deepening crisis and the inequality of the impacts of COVID-19, particularly on lower income households.

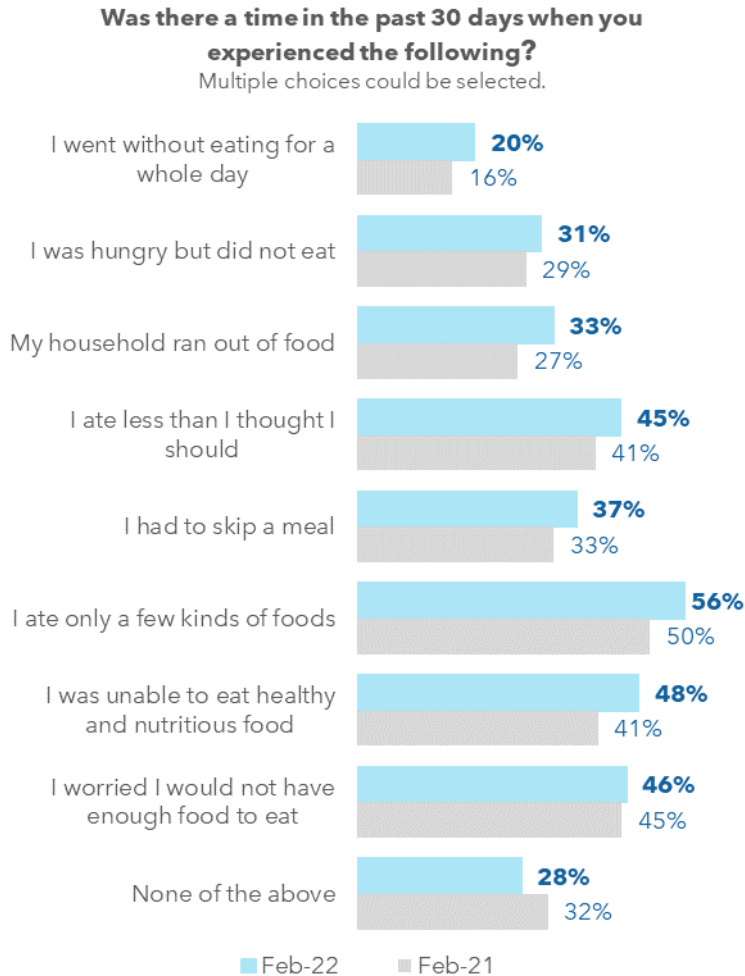
In line with the previous sections of this report, the food security findings reflect a deterioration in food consumption patterns, economic vulnerability (including food prices, income changes and sources), market stability and livelihood disruptions.

The trends are confirmed by analysis that is based on a different methodology, the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), which assesses how food insecurity is experienced in a household (see pages 54-57 for findings). The FIES was introduced in the third survey round in February 2021 (see page 80 for methodology).

*For more information on the CARI, see WFP's ['Technical Guidance Notes Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security \(CARI\)'](#) (2015).

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

- ▶ All negative experiences and behaviors associated with difficulties in accessing food increased compared to February 2021.



The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was used to provide a picture of food insecurity experienced by respondents during the 30 days preceding the survey. The FIES, which is an indicator used for the Sustainable Development Goal of Zero hunger (SDG 2), is a metric of severity of food insecurity at the household or individual level. It relies on people's self-reported food-related behaviours and experiences associated with increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints.

Compared to February 2021, there was an increase in negative experiences related to all of the eight individual FIES categories. In the 30 days leading up to the survey, 20% of respondents reported experiencing a time when they went a whole day without eating and 31% of respondents experienced a time when they were hungry but did not eat.

One-third of respondents indicated that their household had run out of food in the previous 30 days. Worries about having a sufficient quantity of food to eat were reported by 46% of respondents.

Maintaining a diverse diet was not feasible for 56% of respondents, and 48% were not able to eat healthy and nutritious food in the first place. Only 28% of respondents did not experience any of the situations listed above.

The reporting of the individual FIES categories varies across respondents. The most striking differences emerge across income and age groups, which corresponds with the trends in food consumption patterns.

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

Respondents who describe their household income as well below average are the most affected across all individual negative food-related behaviours while those with above or well above average income were the least likely to engage in any of such behaviours.

Differences are also pronounced across age groups, with younger adults (25 and younger) particularly affected. Among them, 55% reported to have eaten less than they thought they should have in the past month, and 65% ate only a few kinds of food. Respondents aged over 60 were the least likely to have engaged in any of the negative food related behaviours.

Differences exist also between household types and the sex of respondents but are less pronounced. Mixed and single-parent households seem more affected across the different experiences when compared to differently composed households, as do women compared to men.

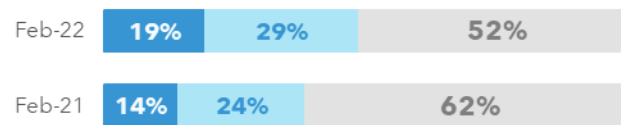
Using the FIES methodology and survey data to calculate food insecurity prevalence rates, it is estimated that 48% of respondents are either moderately (29%) or severely (19%) food insecure across the surveyed countries in the English-speaking Caribbean. When compared to the February 2021 survey round, the prevalence of severe and moderate food insecurity increased by 5%.

Respondent with lower income levels are experiencing severe and moderate food insecurity more often than those with higher incomes. Approximately every second respondent with well below average income level experienced severe food insecurity in the 30 days prior to the survey compared to every tenth respondent with well above average income. Only 17% of those with well below average income and 33% of those with below average income were food secure (or mildly food insecure), compared to 77-87% of respondents from the other income groups.

Prevalence rates of food insecurity

Based on FIES methodology

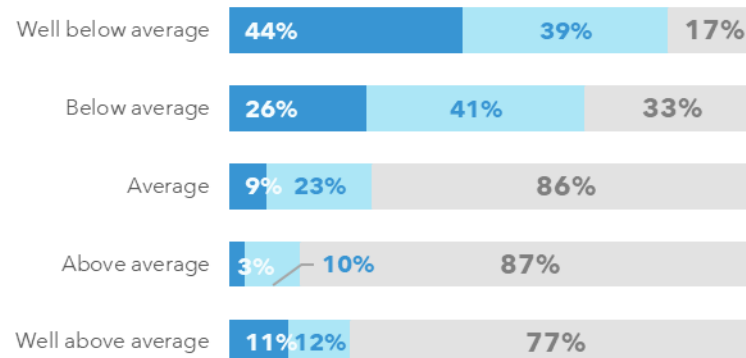
- Severely food insecure
- Moderately food insecure
- Mildly food insecure or food secure



Prevalence rates of food insecurity

By perceived household income

Based on FIES methodology

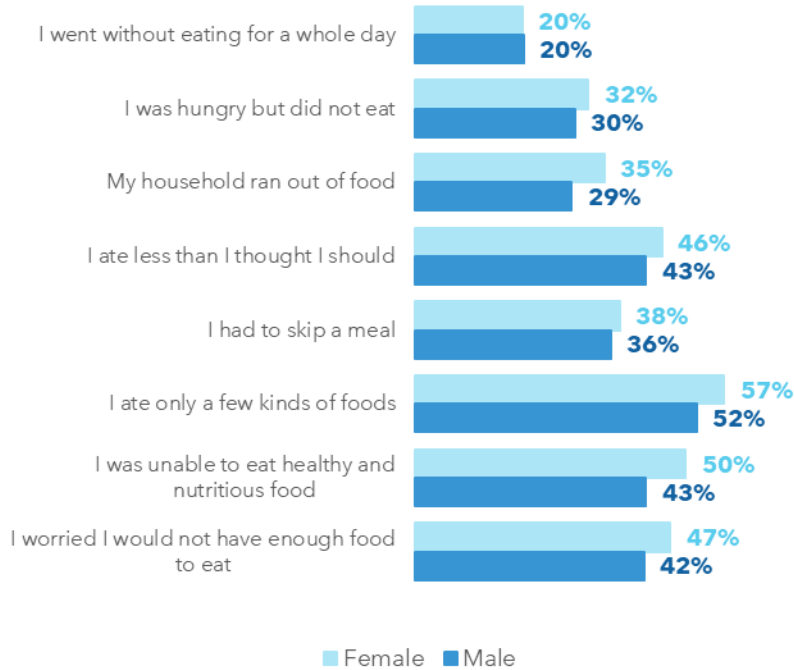


FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

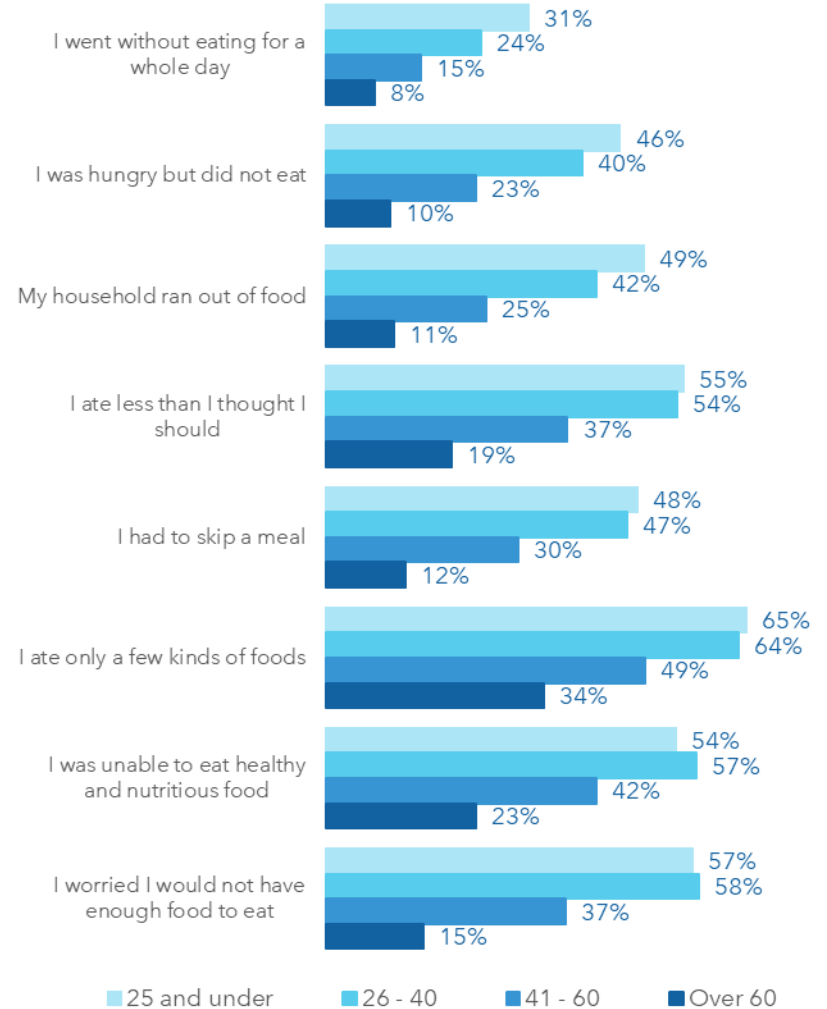
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

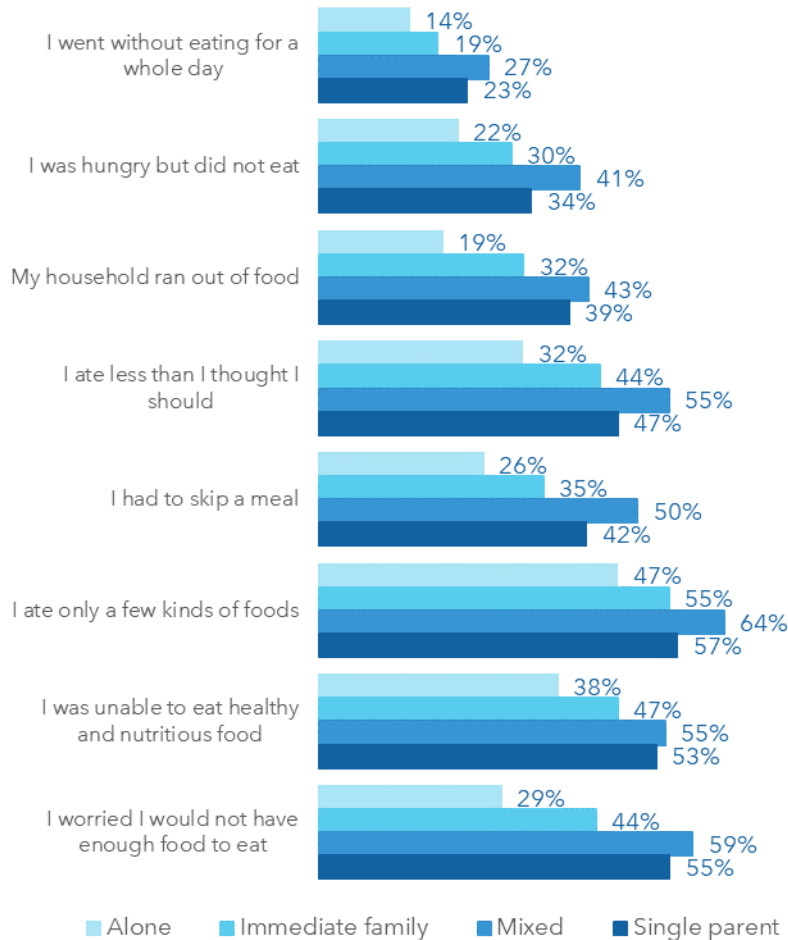


FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

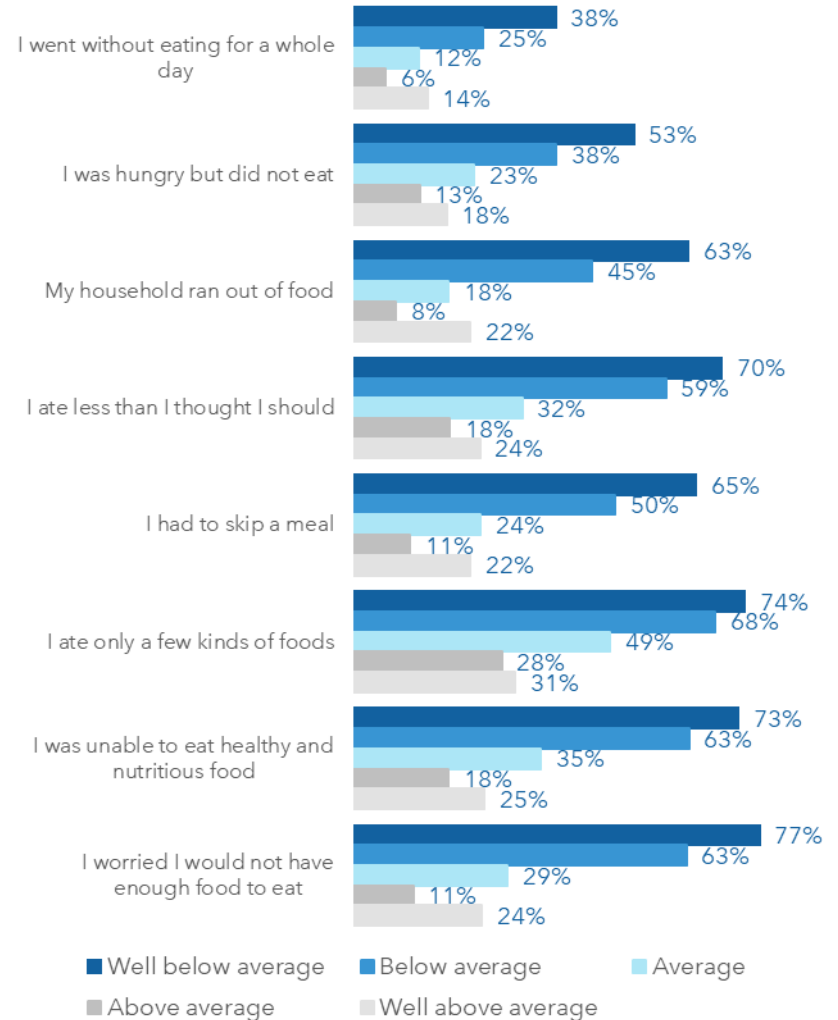
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By household composition



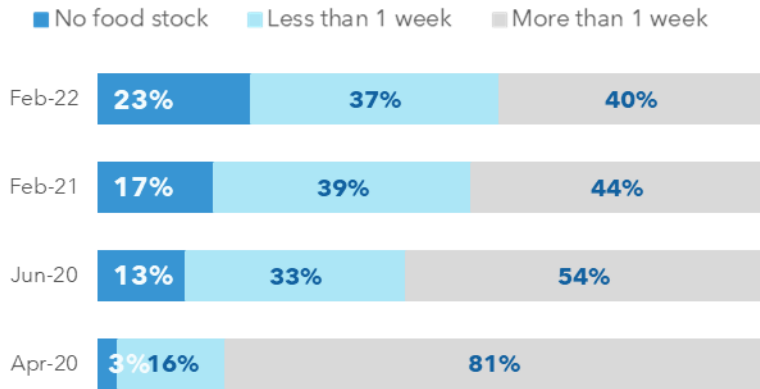
By perceived income level



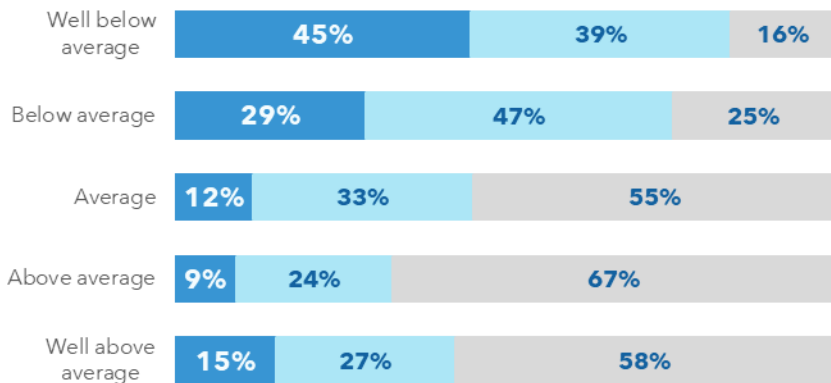
FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

- ▶ An increased proportion of households reported having no food stocks at all, and many others only had stocks for less than a week.

Does your household have any food stock?



By perceived income level



In February 2022, 40% of respondents reported having more than a week’s worth of food supplies in their households. This represents a decrease from 44% in February 2021 and 54% in June 2020.

Similarly, an increased proportion of respondents (23%) reported to have no food stocks compared to last year (17%). While some of these changes are likely driven by people not needing to “stock up” related to lockdowns, people’s means is also an influencing factor.

Of respondents with a perceived income of well below average, 45% had no food stocks at all at the time of the survey and only 16% had more than a week’s worth of food stock, compared to 55% of households with an average income.

It also appears that younger age groups tend to have less food stocks or for shorter periods of time (less than a week) compared to respondents aged over 60, of whom 63% have food stocks worth more than a week.

Households who derive their income primarily from salaried work or their own business/trade tend to have larger food stocks than households that rely mainly on informal sources of income (including remittances), on government assistance or have no income.

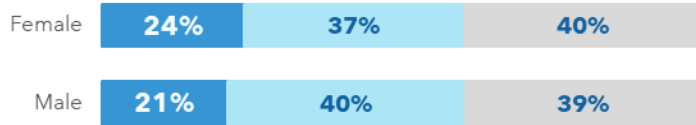
Respondents living alone or with immediate family members, thus in smaller households, also tend to have larger food stocks available. The stocks reported by female and male respondents were relatively consistent.

FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

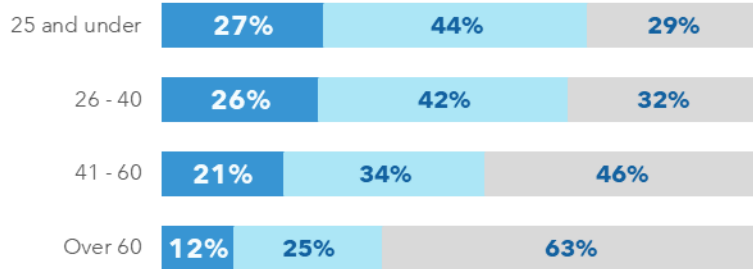
Does your household have any food stock?

■ No food stock ■ Less than 1 week ■ More than 1 week

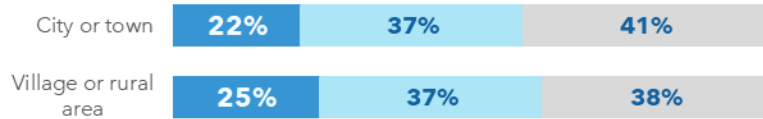
By sex



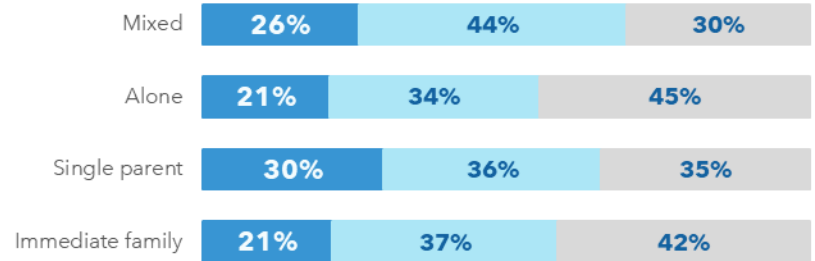
By age group



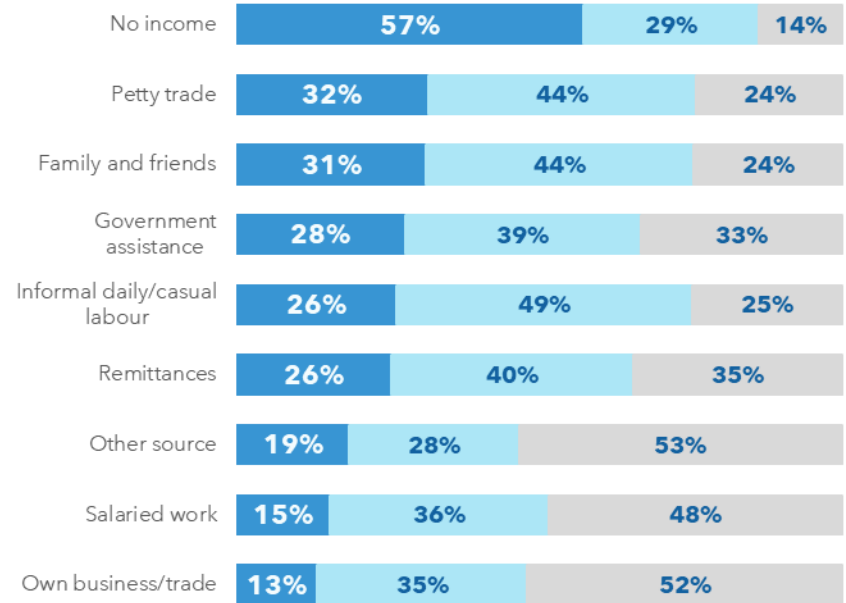
By urban/rural location



By household composition



By income sources

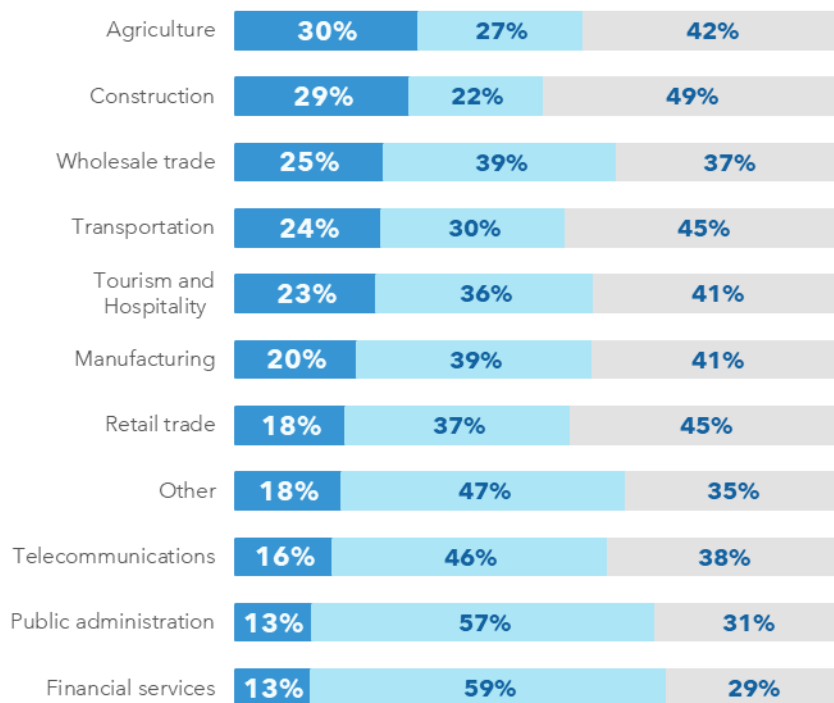


FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

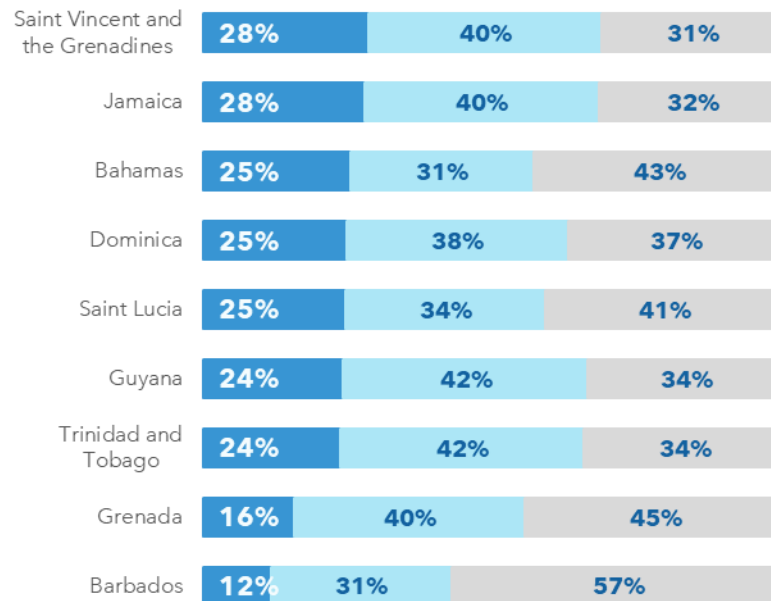
Does your household have any food stock?

■ No food stock ■ More than 1 week ■ Less than 1 week

By income sector

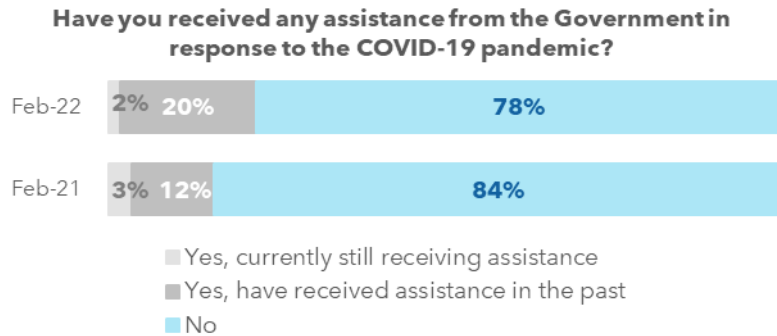


By country



WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

- ▶ Food and social security continue to be the most commonly received forms of government assistance, but few are still receiving support.



Governments have responded to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 with various forms of support. One-fifth of respondents reported receiving some form of assistance since the pandemic began – an increase when compared with the situation from one year ago. However, similar to February 2021, only 2% of respondents are still receiving assistance.

Food baskets continue to be most common form of support received (38%), followed by income support or cash transfers (33%). Some form of assistance was received by respondents irrespective of their income levels. However, support was more frequently cited by those with well below average (22%), below average (25%) and average (22%) income compared to those from the wealthier groups (13% of those with above and 16% with well above average income).

The tourism industry, which is central to Caribbean economies, has been hard hit by the pandemic. Respondents working in tourism (38%) most commonly reported support, followed by agriculture, retail and transport (all 25%).

"No assistance from government"- male, 51, Dominica

"Relocation for employment opportunities after government assistance ended" - female, 29, The Bahamas

"Not enough government assistance to small business" - male, 45, Saint Lucia

"Had to resort to asking friends for financial assistance" - female, 31, Saint Lucia

"I lost my job and now have to be home seeking financial assistance whether for rent, food, school etc" - female, 27, Jamaica

"My partner lost his job and so I had to use my entire income to cover my mortgage and had to depend on relatives and friends for assistance" - female, 49, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

"Difficulties to secure government approval NIB ex" - male, 50, The Bahamas

"No more NIB financial assistance, money is small can't pay my bills"-female, 62, The Bahamas

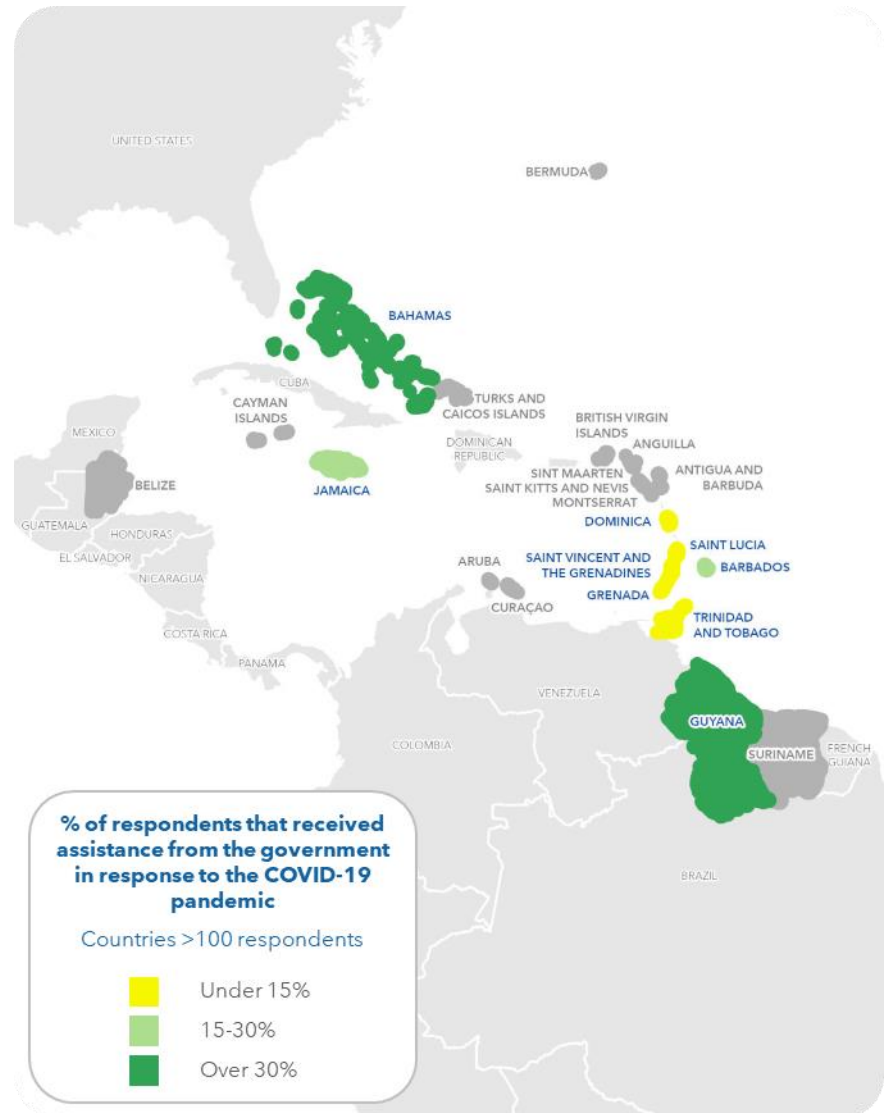
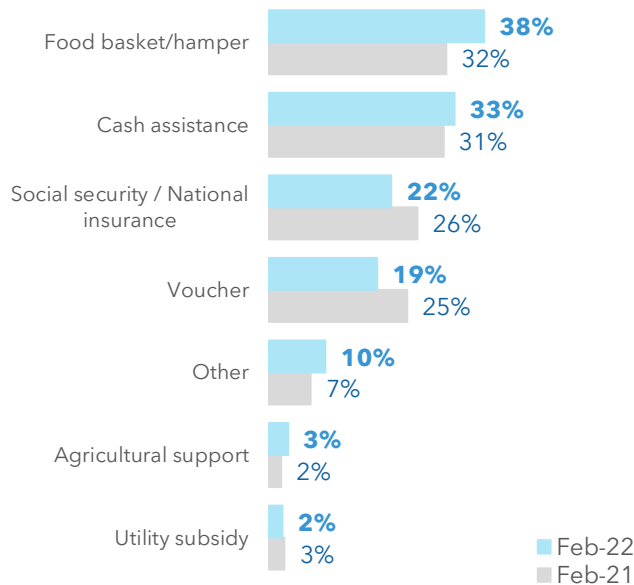
WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

Over half of those who already rely on government assistance reported to have received some form of COVID-19 related assistance since the beginning of the pandemic. However, a large proportion of respondents (84%) who reported to have no income may have fallen through government safety nets as they reported to have not received any form of assistance.

There are no major discernable differences between how different genders, age groups, location or household composition are receiving assistance. These trends were also largely consistent with those reported in February 2021.

Respondents who received assistance from the Government, have received the following...

Multiple choices could be selected.



WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

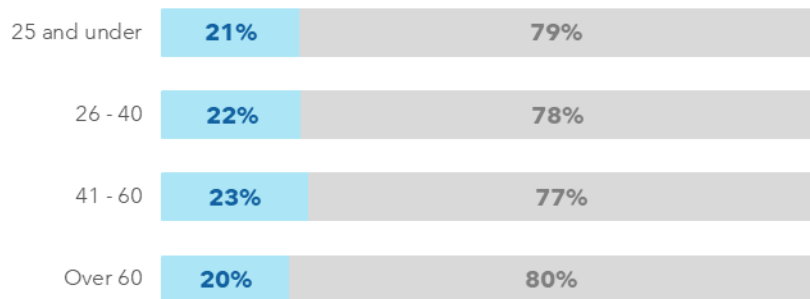
Have you received any assistance from the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

■ Yes ■ No

By sex



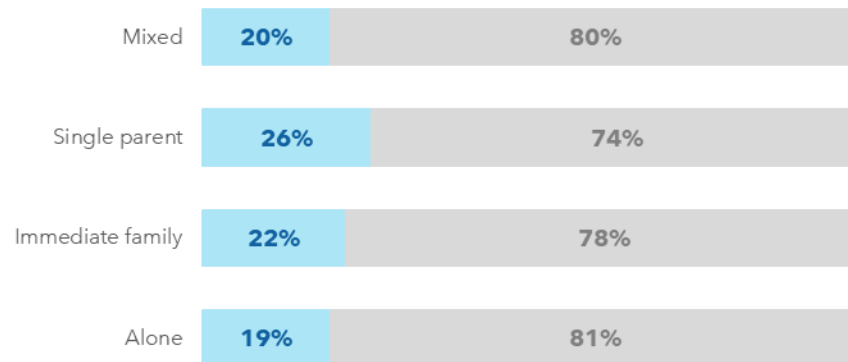
By age group



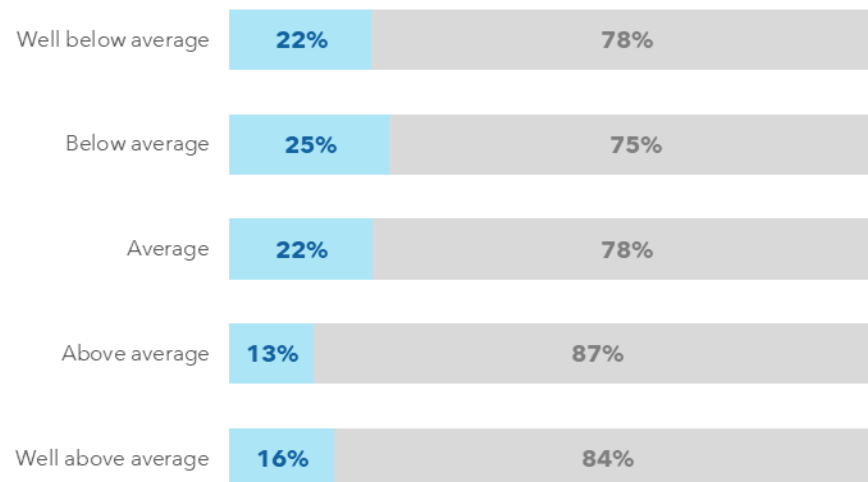
By urban/rural location



By household composition



By perceived income level

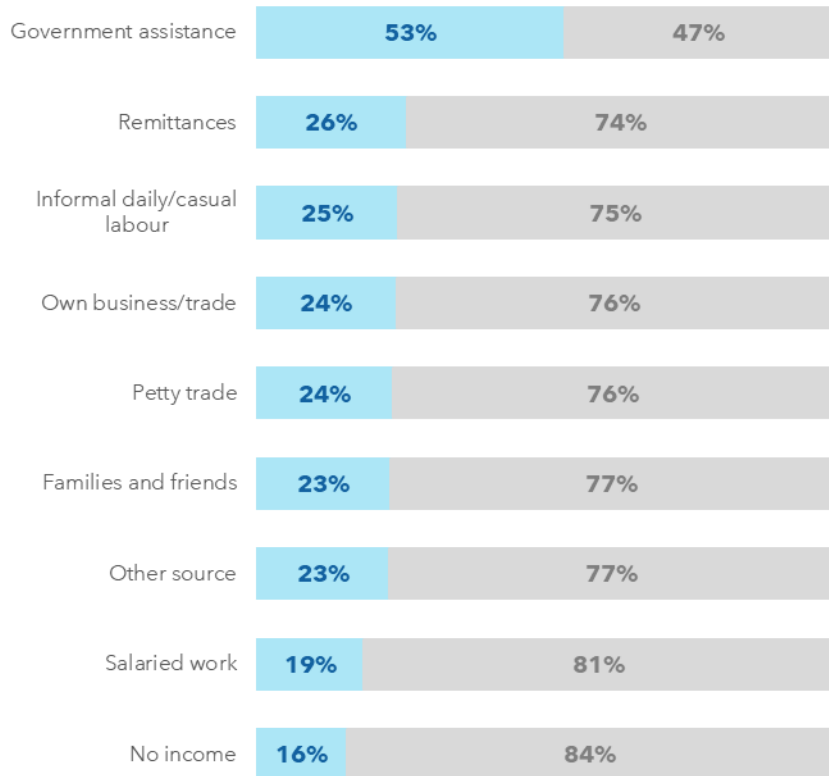


WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

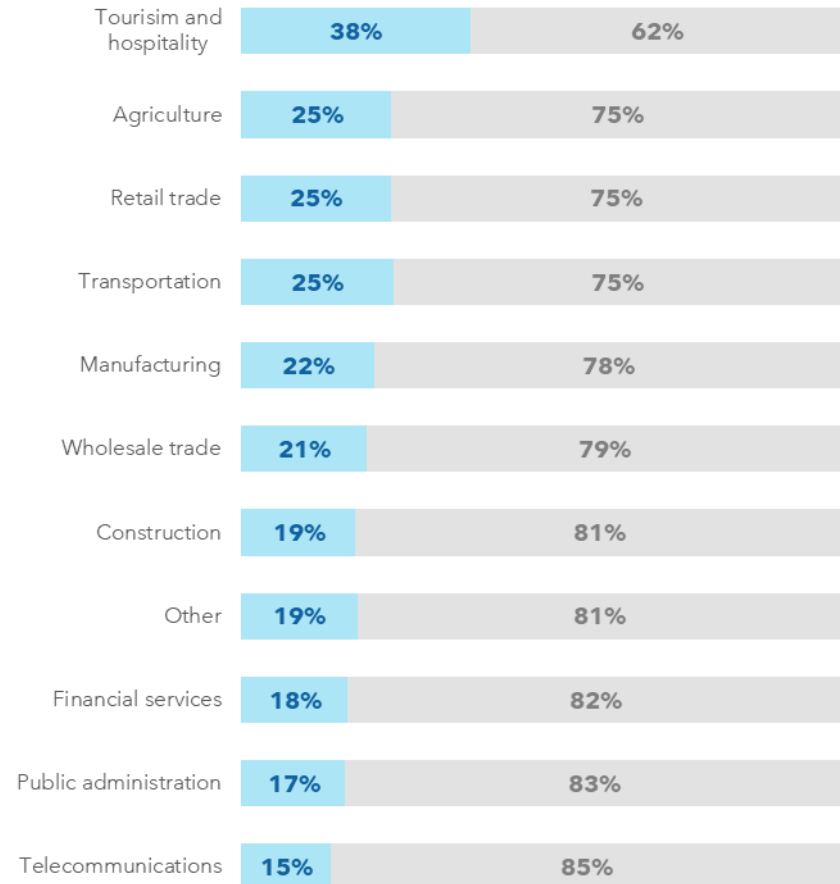
Have you received any assistance from the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

By main income source

■ Yes ■ No



By income sector



WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

- ▶ Fear of illness is still the leading concern among respondents. However, it has decreased in importance when compared to one year ago.

Respondents' main worries have been fairly consistent over time. Fear of illness is still the leading cause for concern among respondents, though slightly less so than in February 2021.

Unemployment, inability to cover essential needs and food, and social isolation are also top concerns. Overall, fewer respondents worried about unemployment when compared to June 2020.

There is a noticeable difference among respondents with different income levels. Lower income groups main worries relate to meeting food and other essential needs and unemployment, whereas wealthier households are more worried about issues such as illness, social isolation and disruption to education. Over half of respondents who perceived their income as well below average income expressed the inability to cover food needs as their main worry. Concerns about disruption to education have increased among all income levels, particularly above average income households (15% in February 2021 and 26% in February 2022).

There continue to be differences among age groups. Respondents younger than 40 were more concerned about unemployment and meeting essential needs (though less so than a year ago), whereas those above 40 had more worries about falling ill.

Concerns about meeting food needs were also more frequently cited by respondents living in mixed households with extended family compared to other household types. Trends amongst household compositions were mostly consistent with 2021. There were no major differences between urban and rural respondents or males and females, though slightly more women were mainly worried about covering food and essential needs and disruptions to education.

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

Main worries	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20
Fear of illness	49%	57%	52%
Unemployment	37%	44%	53%
Inability to cover essential needs	34%	37%	38%
Inability to cover food needs	31%	32%	31%
Social isolation	22%	21%	16%
Disruptions to education	17%	12%	11%
Having to resort to savings	16%	14%	17%
Child(ren)/dependents care	13%	10%	11%
Movement restrictions	9%	12%	9%
Violence in the community	9%	7%	9%
Other worries	2%	2%	0%
Unable to access services	2%	5%	4%
Violence in the household	1%	1%	1%

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level

Main worries	Well below average	Below average	Average	Above average	Well above average
Inability to cover food needs	54%	42%	19%	8%	11%
Unemployment	48%	45%	32%	24%	18%
Inability to cover essential needs	48%	44%	28%	15%	11%
Fear of illness	32%	42%	58%	63%	64%
Child(ren)/dependents care	17%	14%	13%	11%	9%
Social isolation	12%	15%	27%	40%	29%
Disruptions to education	10%	13%	22%	26%	17%
Having to resort to savings	10%	14%	21%	16%	9%
Violence in the community	5%	6%	10%	15%	19%
Movement restrictions	3%	6%	11%	20%	18%
Unable to access services	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%
Other worries	2%	2%	2%	3%	6%
Violence in the household	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%

WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex

Main worries	Female	Male
Fear of illness	50%	46%
Unemployment	37%	38%
Inability to cover essential needs	36%	31%
Inability to cover food needs	33%	27%
Social isolation	22%	21%
Disruptions to education	18%	14%
Having to resort to savings	15%	17%
Child(ren)/dependents care	14%	11%
Movement restrictions	8%	12%
Violence in the community	7%	11%
Other worries	2%	3%
Unable to access services	2%	3%
Violence in the household	1%	1%

By age group

Main worries	25 and under	26 - 40	41 - 60	Over 60
Fear of illness	44%	44%	51%	67%
Unemployment	43%	43%	34%	17%
Inability to cover food needs	39%	40%	24%	10%
Inability to cover essential needs	37%	41%	31%	16%
Social isolation	22%	19%	23%	29%
Disruptions to education	17%	15%	19%	16%
Having to resort to savings	13%	14%	17%	20%
Child(ren)/dependents care	9%	17%	12%	5%
Movement restrictions	7%	7%	10%	20%
Violence in the community	7%	6%	10%	18%
Unable to access services	3%	3%	2%	3%
Other worries	1%	1%	3%	5%
Violence in the household	1%	1%	1%	1%

By household composition

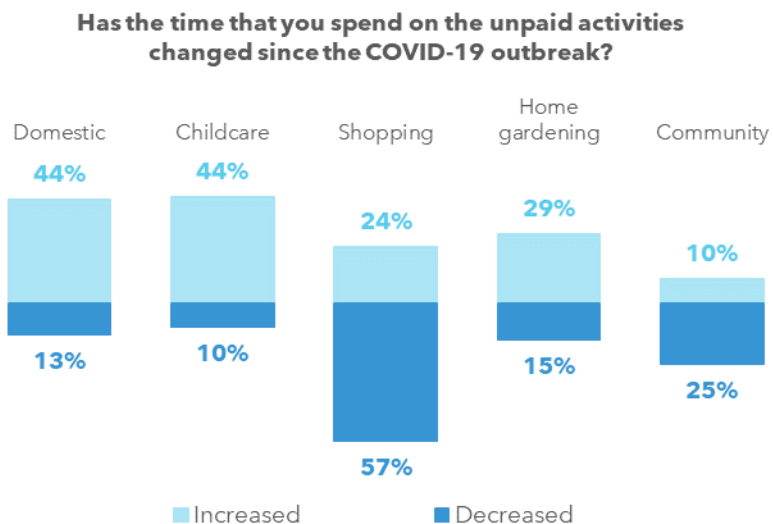
Main worries	Alone	Immediate family	Mixed	Single parent
Fear of illness	53%	51%	43%	42%
Unemployment	33%	37%	41%	35%
Social isolation	30%	22%	16%	21%
Inability to cover essential needs	27%	33%	42%	37%
Inability to cover food needs	19%	29%	43%	37%
Having to resort to savings	17%	16%	14%	14%
Movement restrictions	16%	10%	7%	5%
Violence in the community	12%	8%	8%	8%
Disruptions to education	9%	18%	13%	18%
Other worries	5%	2%	2%	1%
Child(ren)/dependents care	4%	14%	12%	17%
Unable to access services	3%	2%	3%	3%
Violence in the household	1%	1%	2%	0%

By urban/rural location

Main worries	City or town	Village or rural area
Fear of illness	49%	49%
Unemployment	35%	41%
Inability to cover essential needs	36%	32%
Inability to cover food needs	29%	34%
Social isolation	23%	20%
Having to resort to savings	14%	17%
Disruptions to education	16%	18%
Child(ren)/dependents care	13%	14%
Violence in the community	10%	6%
Movement restrictions	10%	8%
Unable to access services	3%	2%
Other worries	3%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	1%

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

- ▶ Respondents continue to spend more time on domestic work and childcare and less on shopping.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents continue to increase time devoted to domestic work and childcare, while decreasing shopping activities. Forty-four percent of respondents reported spending more time on domestic work and childcare, and 57% continue to curb their shopping activities. These patterns are largely consistent when compared with results from February 2021.

Both female and male respondents reported an increase in time spent on unpaid work due to pandemic. The February 2022 results show that more women are spending more time on domestic work and childcare when compared to men, which is also a slight increase when compared to results from one year ago.

Across all income groups a similar proportion of respondents reported increased time spent in domestic work. Increased time spent on childcare, however, was reported more often by those classifying their income as well below and below average (48-49%) compared to those with above and well above average income (34-35%).

When looking at respondents from different types of household compositions, fewer people living alone reported increases in unpaid activities compared to others. People living in mixed households that include extended family seem to be making more adjustments compared to one year ago. Nearly half reported an increase in time spent on childcare, while in February 2021, 35% reported this increase.

The amount of time spent on the community work is decreasing for 25% of respondents while 10% reported an increase. The decrease was most often reported among respondents with below or well below average incomes.

Respondents continue to curb their shopping activities, which can be likely attributed to the lack of finances and the changes in how people shop. Respondents with below (63%) and well below (73%) average income more frequently reduced their time spent on shopping activities, compared to 35% of respondents with well above average income (35%).

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

Has the time that you spend on the unpaid activities changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

Unpaid care and work

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	44%	44%	24%	29%	10%
No change	39%	24%	17%	35%	36%
Decreased	13%	10%	57%	15%	25%
Not applicable	5%	22%	2%	21%	29%

By sex

Female

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	46%	47%	24%	30%	10%
No change	37%	22%	15%	33%	34%
Decreased	13%	9%	58%	14%	26%
Not applicable	5%	21%	2%	23%	31%

Male

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	37%	37%	21%	27%	12%
No change	45%	28%	22%	40%	41%
Decreased	13%	11%	54%	16%	23%
Not applicable	6%	24%	2%	17%	24%

By household composition

Alone

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	30%	11%	19%	24%	13%
No change	50%	35%	24%	42%	39%
Decreased	13%	3%	54%	7%	20%
Not applicable	7%	51%	2%	28%	28%

Immediate family

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	45%	47%	24%	31%	10%
No change	39%	23%	17%	36%	36%
Decreased	12%	9%	57%	14%	25%
Not applicable	5%	21%	2%	19%	28%

Mixed

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	45%	44%	21%	26%	8%
No change	34%	22%	15%	33%	35%
Decreased	14%	13%	61%	17%	24%
Not applicable	7%	20%	3%	24%	33%

Single parent

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	44%	51%	26%	28%	10%
No change	36%	22%	13%	29%	32%
Decreased	16%	14%	59%	20%	28%
Not applicable	5%	13%	2%	22%	29%

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

Has the time that you spend on the unpaid activities changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

By perceived income level

Well below average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	43%	48%	17%	26%	9%
No change	28%	17%	6%	25%	26%
Decreased	21%	19%	73%	26%	33%
Not applicable	8%	16%	4%	23%	32%

Below average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	45%	49%	23%	27%	10%
No change	34%	22%	10%	32%	33%
Decreased	16%	13%	65%	21%	29%
Not applicable	5%	17%	2%	20%	28%

Average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	44%	44%	26%	32%	10%
No change	44%	26%	22%	38%	38%
Decreased	8%	5%	51%	9%	21%
Not applicable	5%	25%	1%	21%	31%

Above average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	41%	35%	29%	31%	11%
No change	49%	32%	30%	44%	48%
Decreased	7%	2%	41%	5%	20%
Not applicable	3%	31%	1%	20%	21%

Well above average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	41%	34%	26%	26%	18%
No change	44%	27%	37%	45%	39%
Decreased	13%	9%	35%	13%	21%
Not applicable	3%	29%	2%	17%	22%

"The closure of schools has been a huge impact as government expects that parents can easily stay home or afford extra child care. Schools have not discounted full fees but yet barely teach 1.5hours per day while working parents are expected to pay for it all while staying at home minding children and online school. Where are we supposed to source this addition expense from???"- female, 47, Barbados

"Working from home, whilst trying to care for children has had a serious effect on mental health, and the isolation." - female, 37, Saint Lucia

"Changes in friendship dynamics due to differing opinions on protocols and vaccination, decreased quality of relationships due to reduced social activities, having little time without my children as I now have to stay home all the time to supervise online school" - female, 36 Jamaica

"Stay home from work to take care of my children."- female, 33, Guyana

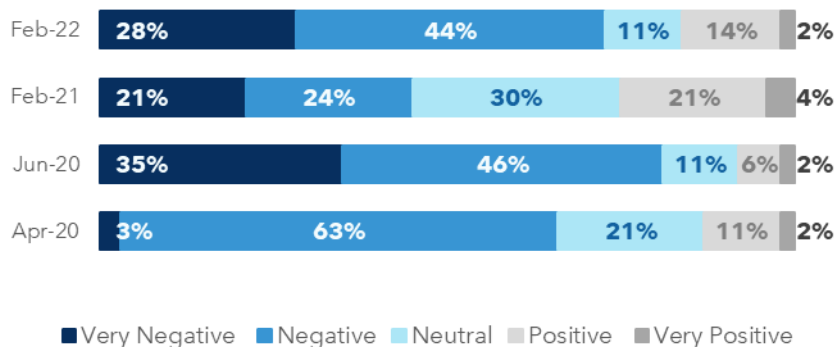
"I've had to home school my toddler, which is a bit difficult because she's my first and doesn't have any other children at home to converse with. I'm not a teacher so techniques in engaging her in school work is a bit difficult."- female, 35, Dominica

"Home schooling continues to have a negative impact on my productivity at work. It does not appear that there have been discussions between government and private sector employers regarding making allowances for parents with school aged children. The increased time away from work coupled with employer expectations of unchanged work output results in working late i.e. to after 9pm 5 days a week which reduces normal family time and places additional mental stress on parents."- male, 39, Barbados

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

- ▶ The pandemic continues to take an increasingly negative toll as respondents worry about the spread of the illness and increasing prices.

Distribution of sentiments across open-ended survey responses



Respondents were given the space to provide more nuanced insights on how they are coping with and adapting to the evolving impacts of the pandemic. Out of the 6,010 respondents, 2,518 responded to the open-ended question, of which 2,261 were in English, 255 in Spanish and two in French and other languages.

Their responses were analysed by machine learning algorithms to categorize and determine the degree of positive and negative emotions. This sentiment analysis classifies the overall feeling expressed within each response and how negative or positive it is.

In February 2022, the respondents were expressing negative (44%) and very negative (28%) sentiments more often compared to February 2021 (21% and 24% respectively). This extent of negative sentiments is similar to June 2020, though slightly less severe.

The rise in negative sentiments implies that the pandemic is taking an increasingly negative toll on many respondents when compared to the situation from one year ago. Respondents from Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also expressed their struggles to recover from Hurricane Elsa and the La Soufriere volcano eruption while coping with the pandemic.

Respondents continue to adjust to many facets of this pervasive COVID-19 pandemic. Many expressed falling ill with the virus, either themselves or their family members. They also highlighted disruptions in accessing health care for chronic health issues. Respondents voiced feelings of anxiety, stress and uncertainty and impacts to their mental health. They reported that physical ailments have also affected their mental health owing to increased anxiety. Workers and employers voiced fears of falling ill and spreading the virus at their workplace, which is interrupting normal functioning.

Many respondents stressed concerns about increasing prices and financial burdens; this sentiment was echoed throughout the region. New and increasing financial demands related to food, utilities, childcare, education, healthcare and petrol prices have diminished their resources and purchasing power. Many reported depleting their savings to keep up with their bills. People also raised issues about travel still being difficult.

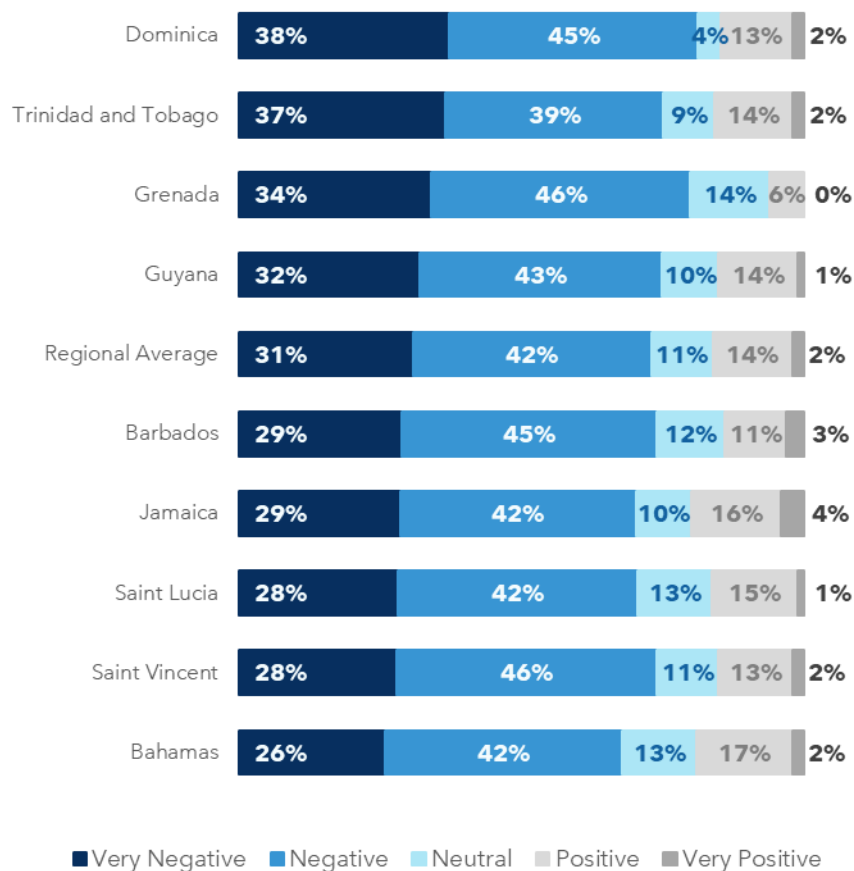
Respondents with children raised major concerns about disruptions to the education system and their children's schooling. Online and homeschooling remain a huge challenge, including for those who are trying to balance working from home.

Amid these struggles, some highlighted positive elements, including related to faith, opportunities to work from home and time spent with family.

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

Cross-country comparison of sentiments*

*The overview is provided only for countries in the region that received over 100 responses during the February 2022 survey.



Some sample responses:

Very negative (28 %)

"My mental health is degrading, I am stressed and worried I am not able to feed my family" - female, 25, Barbados

Negative (44 %)

"Stay isolated from family is the hardest for me, and having to lose loved ones and friends" - female, 40, Saint Lucia

Neutral (11%)

"Working with what I have to make it work" - male, 44, The Bahamas

Positive (14%)

"Working from home when I was allowed. - this increased my productivity" - female, 48, Trinidad and Tobago

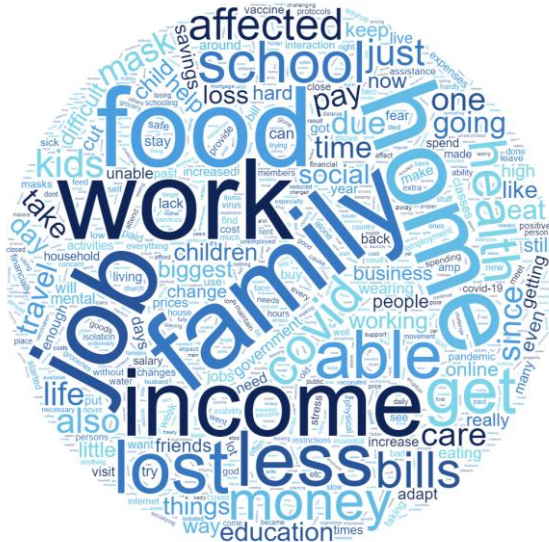
Very positive (2%)

"Great remote working/work from home opportunities" - male, 45, Barbados

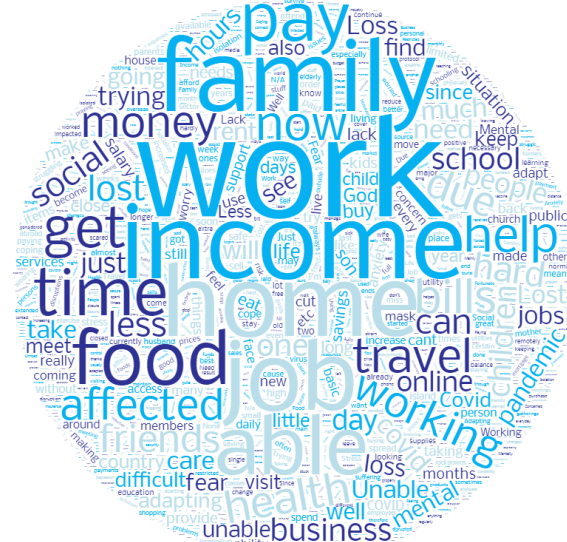
The analysis of the responses was performed in collaboration with Google's AI unit.

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping



FEBRUARY
2022



FEBRUARY
2021



JUNE
2020



APRIL
2020

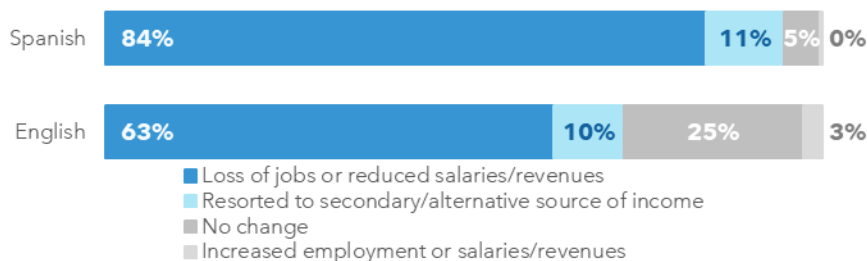
CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

- ▶ Spanish speakers from Trinidad and Tobago have the most negative metrics across a variety of measures related to well-being and impact.

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

By language



Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

By language

Main worries	Spanish	English
Fear of illness	38%	50%
Unemployment	32%	44%
Inability to cover essential needs	69%	34%
Inability to cover food needs	78%	33%
Social isolation	10%	21%
Disruptions to education	3%	12%
Having to resort to savings	4%	14%
Child(ren)/dependents care	4%	15%
Movement restrictions	2%	8%
Violence in the community	2%	8%
Other worries	1%	2%
Unable to access services	13%	2%
Violence in the household	0%	1%

The survey was available in English, French, and Spanish. Seven percent of survey respondents identified as Spanish speakers. Of these 92% reside in Trinidad and Tobago. Nearly 21,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, most of them Venezuelans (86%), were registered with UNHCR in the country as of December 2021. It is assumed that Spanish-speaking respondents from Trinidad and Tobago are mainly Venezuelans.

The responses of Spanish speakers differ significantly from those of English speakers in Trinidad and Tobago and from the survey averages in the region. Spanish speakers mainly rely on informal daily/casual labour for their income (42%, which is almost double the rate of English speakers with 24%), support from family and friends (26%) and salaried work (26%), while 16% reported no income. In addition, the Spanish speakers mainly derive their income from the construction sector (48%) compared to the survey average of 11%.

Spanish speakers were more likely to experience disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey (76% compared to 55% of English-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago). Over four out of five reported loss of jobs or income, compared to three out of five English speakers. Over two-thirds of Spanish speakers were unable to access markets at some point in the week prior to the survey, compared to less than one-third of English speakers.

Only 6% of Spanish speakers had more than a week's worth of food stock, compared to 45% of English. They were also much more likely to compromise their food consumption or try to meet food needs by reducing expenditure on education and health, selling productive assets or spending savings. The inability to meet food and other essential needs were their main worries. Differences in food consumption explain this concern with 94% of Spanish speakers either going an entire day without eating, skipping meals or eating less preferred foods compared to 64% of English speakers.

CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

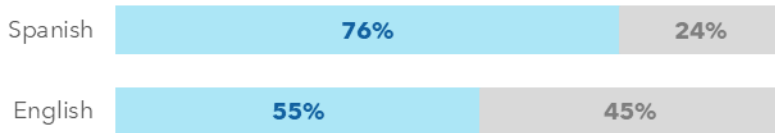
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

By language

■ yes ■ no



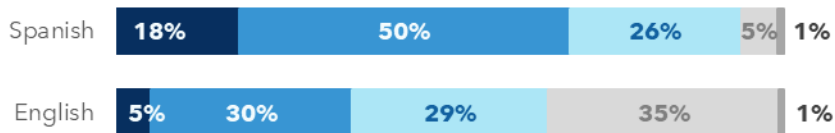
Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey



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

By language

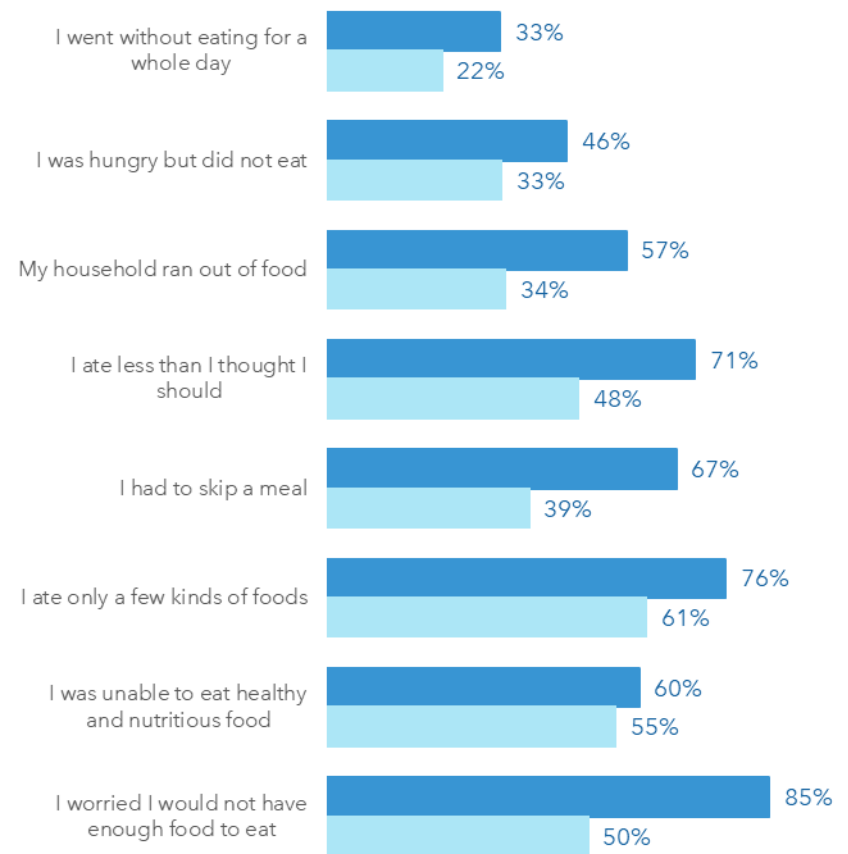
■ I went one whole day without eating ■ I skipped meals or ate less than usual
 ■ I ate less preferred foods ■ I had no difficulties eating enough
 ■ I increased my food intake



Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By language



■ Spanish

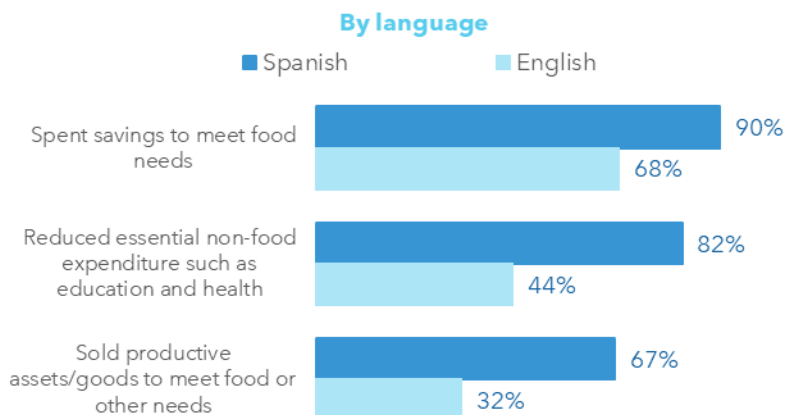
■ English

CHALLENGES FACING MIGRANTS

Spanish-speaking respondents in Trinidad and Tobago

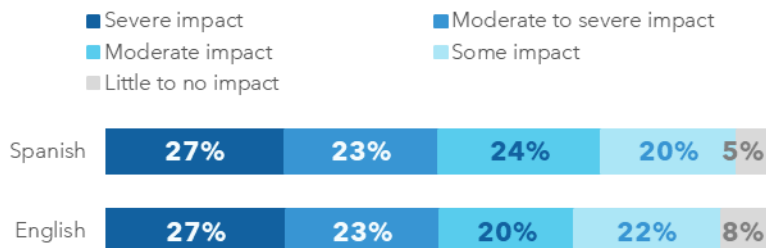
Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.



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

By language



Has the time that you spend on the unpaid activities changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

By language

English	Home gardening				
	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	45%	49%	14%	37%	9%
No change	37%	22%	13%	33%	35%
Decreased	12%	9%	71%	15%	26%
Not applicable	6%	21%	3%	16%	30%

Spanish	Home gardening				
	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	41%	33%	6%	4%	3%
No change	25%	20%	6%	23%	19%
Decreased	28%	28%	84%	35%	29%
Not applicable	6%	20%	4%	38%	49%

"Ha sido muy difícil, las cosas han cambiado mucho, sobre todo porque a veces en los hospitales no nos atienden debido al covid19" (*It has been very difficult, things have changed a lot, especially because hospitals are not able to attend us due to COVID-19*) - female, 20

"Muy afectados sin empleo ni alimentos ni ahorros para pagar la renta y luz" (*Highly affected without employment or food or savings to pay the rent and electricity*) - female, 46

"Que casi no se consigue empleo y los alimentos aumentan su precio." (*I can hardly find any work and food has become more expensive*) - female, 32

"Muy mal no tengo trabajo y tengo 3 niños y es muy fuerte no poder trabajar para mi familia." (*Very bad. I don't have a job and I have three children. It's hard not being able to work for my family's needs*) - male, 29

CONCLUSION

Since the first survey was launched in April 2020, much has changed. Vaccines have become available, travel has been re-introduced and governments in the Caribbean have implemented strategies and programmes to cushion the economic blow and encourage recovery. Yet this survey shows that COVID-19 continues to have profound impacts on how people in the Caribbean meet their most pressing needs and try to earn a living. Nearly two years from the onset of the pandemic, the economic reverberations continue to take a toll on livelihoods, incomes and food security. Despite certain signs of recovery, the overall picture remains deeply troubling.

Many people continue to face disruptions to their livelihoods, and the impact on incomes remains pervasive. The resources that people have are not going as far with increasing food prices. People are buying cheaper foods, purchasing in smaller quantities, drawing on savings and reducing other critical expenditures on health and education to make ends meet. On top of these unsustainable measures, they report skipping meals, going to bed hungry and being worried about feeding their families.

Impacts to jobs and unemployment remain a critical concern. With many restrictions ended or being significantly reduced, there is some cause for optimism on economic recovery. However, the picture in February 2022 was one of struggles related to employment and concerns about the future, especially for those already living in poverty or on the edge. The decrease of incomes, lost jobs and increased costs to pursue livelihoods have recalibrated the baseline of where people are - and it will take substantial effort and investment to make sure that those already in difficulty are not left even further behind as the Caribbean seeks to turn the corner on the pandemic.

These impacts are hitting hardest those who can least afford it - particularly families with the lowest incomes. Spanish-speakers in Trinidad and Tobago are still faring worse than others, as are younger respondents compared to other age groups. The survey highlights that unpaid time spent on childcare and domestic work are still greater than before the pandemic, and these activities often are disproportionately shouldered by women. Continued and deepened analysis on gender remains a priority to ensure that recovery processes are gender-responsive and support women's empowerment.

Governments have turned to many policy measures and programmes to manage these impacts and support people. Social protection has played a critical role through expanded unemployment insurance, income support, cash transfers and food support. While many measures have ended, the impacts to people's incomes and lives have not. It is critical for governments to continue to provide safety nets and invest in people's resilience, particularly for those living in poverty and facing different facets of vulnerability.

Caribbean states are highly exposed to global and regional shocks, and COVID-19 has joined a long list of shocks that have had profound implications on people's lives - including the 2008 global financial crisis and numerous hurricanes and other disasters. The very active 2020 and 2021 hurricane seasons, and the eruption of La Soufriere volcano in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, are stark reminders of the threats to people's lives and economic recovery. The Ukraine crisis will have global reverberations on the price of grains, food commodities and shipping, with the greatest impacts on import-dependent regions like the Caribbean.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Concerted effort and investment remains as critical as during the early days of pandemic, in order to address the continued hardship and head off the growing inequality on the horizon. Now is the time for a renewed push on food security in the Caribbean. Not only has COVID-19 impacted how people are able to meet their food needs, it has thrust a spotlight on the importance of strengthening food systems and harnessing the potential of greater regional food production and trade. With the Ukraine crisis further impacting global food prices, the CARICOM call to [reduce imports by 25% by 2025](#) is more important than ever. To that end, efforts must be accelerated to take forward the recommendations of the CARICOM Ministerial Task Force on Food Production and Food Security.

While there are signs of revitalising tourism and commercial activities, economies are not expected to bounce back quickly, and recovery will not come at the same pace for all. Efforts need to be reinvigorated and retooled to assist people towards a recovery that is inclusive and that provide safety nets for those still struggling to find employment and feed their families. Governments and development partners need to meet the uncertainties unleashed by COVID-19 with renewed energy towards regional food security, collaboration and integration.

The need for investment and the realities of economic contraction mean that financing is a key and challenging priority. New measures, models and financing terms are needed to meet development and recovery financing needs in the Caribbean and to ensure resources when future shocks and disasters occur.

Along with the devastating loss of life, COVID-19 has highlighted the fragility of supply chains, economies and people to global downturns, especially for those facing poverty. It has also led to innovations, responses and renewed focus that can provide fuel for strengthening food systems, accelerating digital strategies, advancing financing options and investing in social protection.

- **Increase investments in agri-food systems, regional food production, productivity and trade, and develop targeted initiatives to resolve bottlenecks to import reduction.** Strengthen national and regional food systems through measures to promote production and transformation, productivity, intra-regional trade and diversification of supply chains. Identify and address bottlenecks for reducing imports.
- **Accelerate initiatives on digital transformation and data to promote food systems and food security.** Increase digital connectivity and digital services, including investing in open access and real-time data on market prices and climate information services, as well as promoting access of small producers to digital technologies and innovations.
- **Develop and expand creative initiatives to increase demand for local foods** to encourage healthy diets and combat non-communicable diseases and obesity, while supporting local and sustainable agricultural production.
- **Advocate for tailored financing terms, develop innovative risk-informed financing options and accelerate efforts to access climate finance.** Advocate for multi-dimensional vulnerability data to support Caribbean governments to access concessional development financing. To mitigate the financial impact of future shocks, develop new disaster risk finance instruments tailored to the risks facing Caribbean states, and particularly small islands, as part of a risk-layered approach.
- **Expand social protection and social services and invest in systems to respond to future shocks.** Protect and expand social assistance and services, review benefit values in light of inflation and increase the overall efficiency of national social protection programmes and systems. Invest in preparing social protection to expand in the event of future shocks.

METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

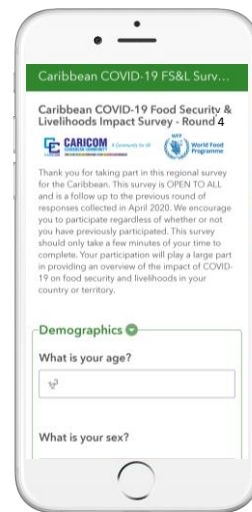
The fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 25 January to 8 February 2022. The survey was circulated via email, social media, SMS, media and other communication channels. WFP performed the data collection and analysis. Responses were visualised and monitored live on an interactive dashboard. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against data entry errors and/or unintentional outliers.

The qualitative analysis performed builds on earlier 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 distribution of very negative to very positive 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 algorithm.

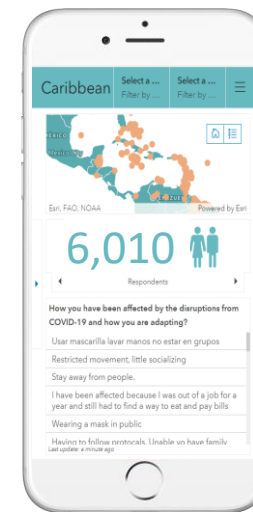
WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Barbados and Grenada. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago for circulating the survey link.

While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not representative, and the use of a web-based questionnaire limits inputs from those without connectivity. Responses were over-represented from two countries, with 26% of responses coming from Trinidad and Tobago and another 17% from Trinidad Barbados. While this report refers to the results of previous survey rounds, the varying demographics of respondents limit comparability across survey rounds.

This report was prepared by WFP Caribbean - Amy Chong, Irina Bird Reddiar, Camilla Spallino, Trisandhi Gosine, Elisaveta Gouretskaia, Darko Petrovic, Sarah Bailey and Regis Chapman.



Survey form



Dashboard for Smartphones



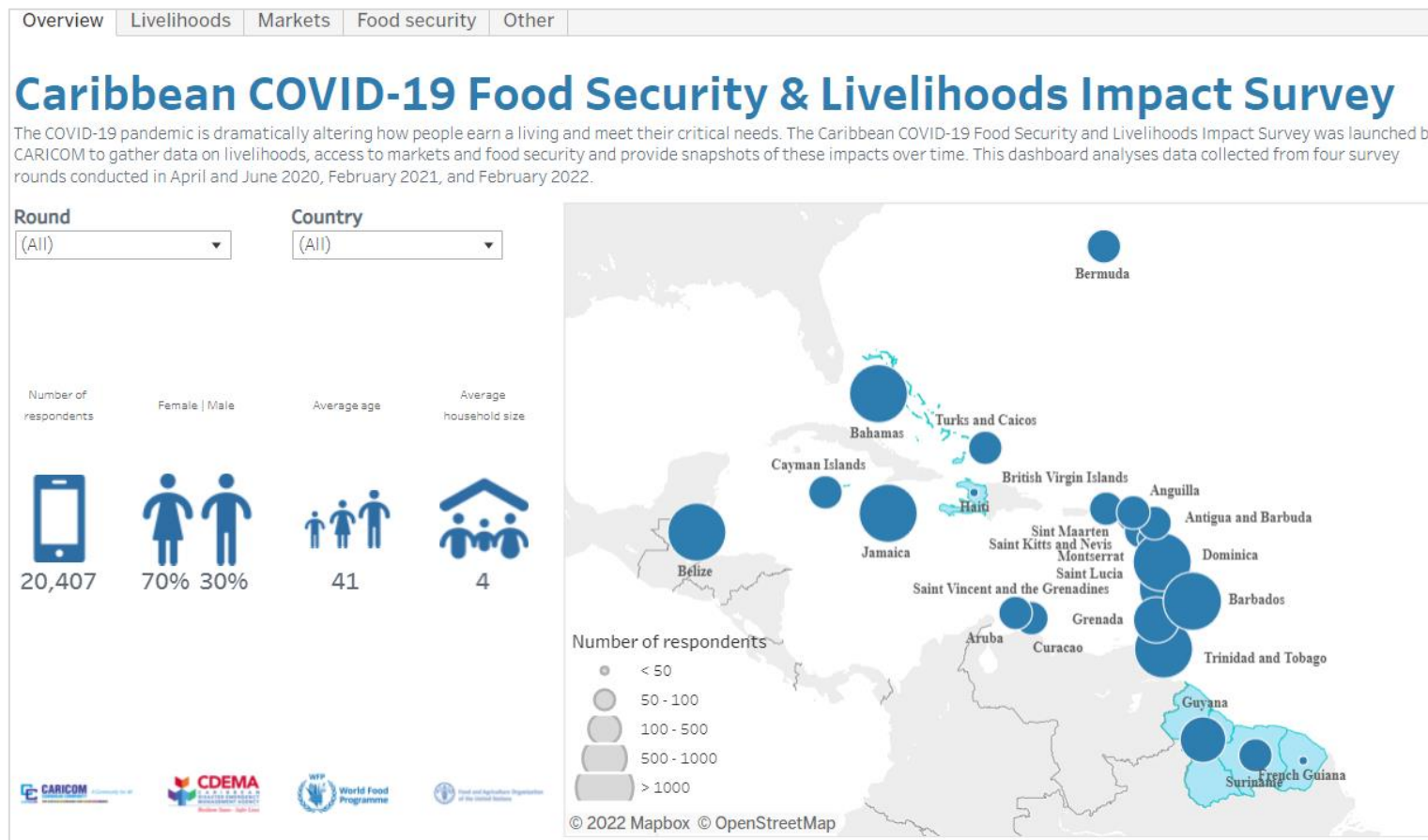
Dashboard for PCs/Laptops

METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A new feature of the fourth survey round is the development of a Tableau dashboard which analyses data collected from four rounds of the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey conducted in April 2020 (Round 1), June 2020 (Round 2), February 2021 (Round 3), and February 2022 (Round 4). The dashboard can be accessed through the link or the QR code to the right.



SCAN the QR code to see the Food Security & Livelihood Impact Survey dashboard online. It may take a second to load. Alternatively, follow this link: <https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/CaribbeanCOVID-19FoodSecurityLivelihoodsImpactSurveyRound1-4/Overview>



CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

Two methodologies were used for calculating the food insecurity estimates presented in this report: the rCARI, which is an adapted remote version of the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), and the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).

The Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) was developed by the World Food Programme as a standardised approach to assessing and reporting the level of food insecurity within a population. Under the CARI approach, each surveyed household is classified into one of four food security categories: food secure, marginally food secure, moderately food insecure, and severely food insecure. This classification is based on the household's current status of food security - using food consumption indicators - and its coping capacity - using indicators measuring economic vulnerability and asset depletion. The CARI combines the indicators into a summary indicator - called the Food Security Index (FSI) - which represents the population's overall food security status. This FSI is a simple average of the summary measures of a household's current food security status and its coping capacity, ranging from 1 (food secure) to 4 (severely food insecure). For this report, current food security status was assessed based on responses to the question "Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?". The coping capacity dimension was calculated based on responses to the questions "Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?" and "What are your household's main income sources over the past year?". The percentages of moderately and severely food insecure obtained through this approach were applied to the overall regional population to obtain regional estimates of food insecurity.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) is an experience-based metric of food insecurity severity at the household or individual level, which is used for global food security monitoring and aligned with food security targets outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It relies on people's direct responses to eight questions during a 12 months or 30 days recall period: while the 12 months recall period is typically used for SDG monitoring, reference to the past 30 days is in order to assess recent food insecurity and its risk factors or consequences. The eight questions focus on self-reported food-related behaviours and experiences during 30 days prior to the survey. They reflect increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints. A concept essential to the FIES is that the eight items and respondents are positioned on the same underlying scale of severity of food insecurity. Therefore, the probability of a respondent answering "yes" to a FIES item depends on the distance along the scale between the food severity experienced by the respondent and the severity of the item. A respondent's raw score (an integer number ranging from zero to eight) is the sum of affirmative responses given to the eight FIES questions. It is the basis for estimating the respondent parameter, which provides an interval measure of the severity of food insecurity and makes it possible to produce comparable measures of food insecurity. For this report, prevalence rates of moderate and severe food insecurity were calculated based on survey data using FAO's methodology and [FIES online App](#).

For more information on the CARI, see WFP's ['Technical Guidance Notes Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security \(CARI\)'](#) (2015).

For more information on the FIES, see FAO's ['The Food Insecurity Experience Scale: Measuring food insecurity through people's experiences'](#) and FAO's ["Implementing the FIES in surveys"](#)

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SCAN the QR code to see all the Food Security & Livelihood Impact reports online. Alternatively, follow this link: www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-covid-19-food-security-and-livelihoods-impact-survey-round-4-february-2022



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