

Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Guyana Summary Report | May 2022

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 June and April 2020. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the short online survey was circulated in Guyana via social media, media outlets, SMS and emails.

February 2022



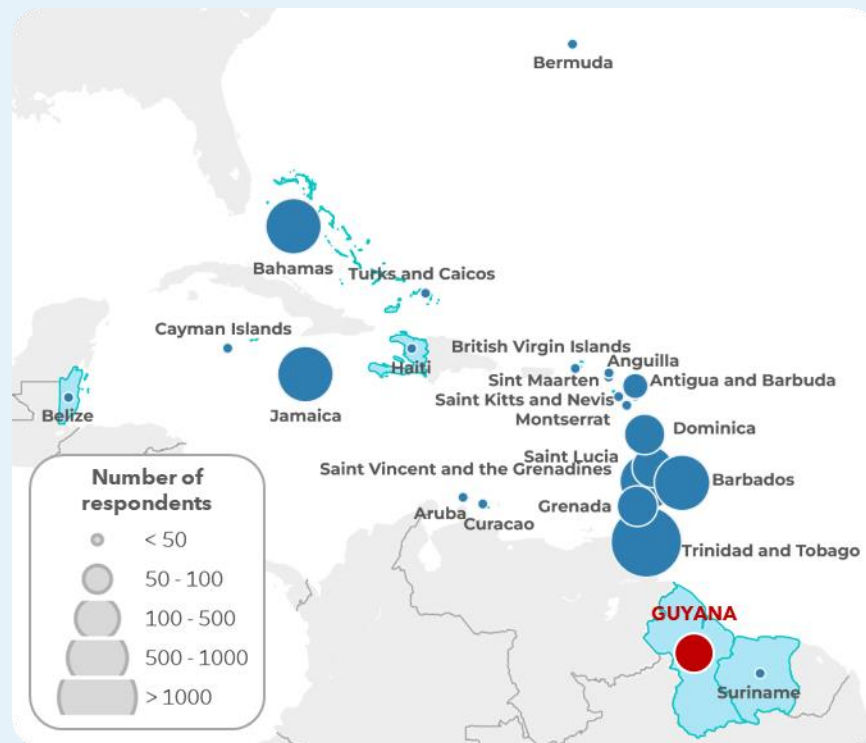
February 2021*

*Comparison with the February 2021 survey round is not included because of the low number of responses from Guyana.

June 2020



April 2020



Guyana Summary | May 2022

- Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Guyana continue to be impacted by the health crisis and the resulting economic downturn. Their recovery is further hampered by widespread reports of rising food and living costs, exacerbated by persisting supply chain issues caused by the pandemic, and the evolving impacts of the Ukraine crisis.
- Two-thirds of respondents faced a disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey, which is lower than in previous surveys but still very elevated. The predominant reason has shifted more towards the increased prices of livelihood inputs and less so movement restrictions.
- Over two-thirds of respondents predict at least moderate impacts to their livelihoods in the future. Those with lower incomes, engaged in the informal economy, and those living in rural areas have the most pessimistic outlooks.
- Negative impact on incomes remains widespread, with 56% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the start of the pandemic, which is a higher share compared to April 2020 (38%).
- Respondents mainly worry about illness (58%), followed by meeting their essential and food needs (35%) and unemployment (34%), with lowest income respondents most worried about fear of illness and meeting food needs.
- Food prices are increasing, with almost all (98%) of respondents reporting higher than usual food prices, an observation that is more widespread compared to June 2020 and higher than the regional average.
- Nearly half (44%) of respondents reported challenges accessing markets in the week prior to the survey, primarily due to a lack of financial means. Respondents are increasingly buying smaller quantities than usual and cheaper and less preferred foods.
- Based on the survey data, 58% of respondents are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure, with the lowest income household being the most food insecure.
- Lowest income households were most likely to resort to negative coping strategies, and one third of households reported to have no food stocks at the time of the survey. Respondents are resorting to more severe actions, with 82% drawing on savings to meet food and other needs, nearly half reducing expenditures on education and health, and two fifths selling productive assets.
- Differences in impacts are most pronounced when comparing income groups. Respondents describe their income as below and well below average show the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being.
- Respondents continue spending more time on domestic work and childcare compared to before the pandemic, which is typically undertaken by women.
- Nearly half (44%) of respondents have received some form of government support, which is considerably more compared to the regional average (22%). However, almost none were receiving assistance at the time of the survey. Cash transfers were the most common form of support.
- Food insecurity risks are deepening in Guyana, given continued economic impacts of COVID-19, supply chain disruptions, rising inflation, and global reverberations of the Ukraine crisis. It is critical to invest in strengthening of national and regional food systems, social protection and emergency preparedness to promote recovery and protect people from future shocks.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not entirely representative, and the use of an online questionnaire limits inputs from people without internet connectivity.

Guyana Summary | May 2022

All respondents

Comparisons with the February 2021 survey round is not included because of the low number of responses from Guyana.

		Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	65%	65%	77%
	Reduction/loss of income	56%	63%	38%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	45%	55%	49%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	44%	32%	20%
	Change in shopping behaviour	94%	93%	87%
	Increase in food prices	98%	82%	80%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	36%	34%	16%
	Lack of food stock	24%	7%	3%

Respondents with below or well below average perceived income

Comparison with the February 2021 survey round is not included because of the low number of responses from Guyana. Information on income level was not collected in April 2020.

		Feb-22	Jun-20
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	77%	75%
	Reduction/loss of income	67%	80%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	58%	69%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	58%	47%
	Change in shopping behaviour	94%	94%
	Increase in food prices	99%	89%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	46%	59%
	Lack of food stock	31%	11%

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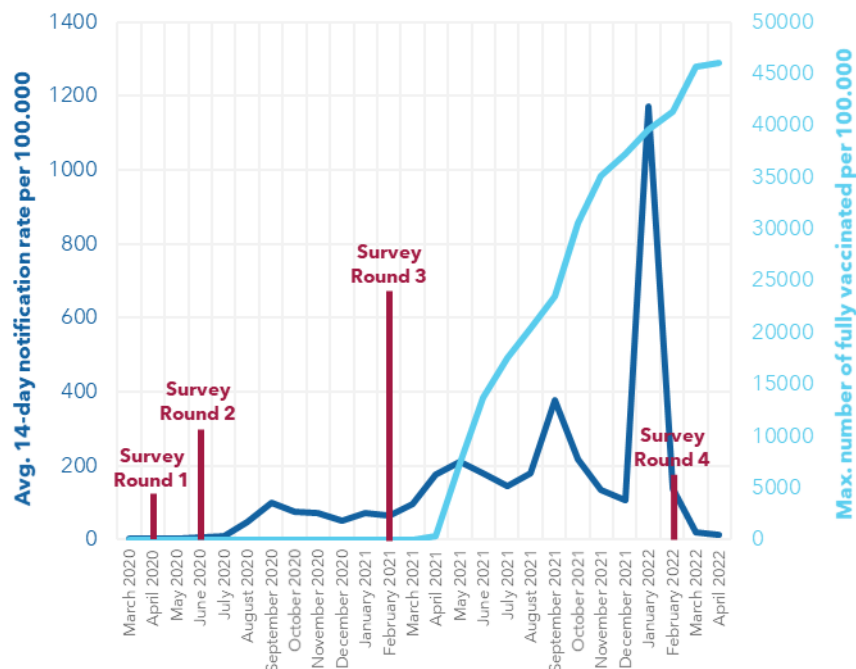
COVID-19 | Situation and response

COVID-19 cases and government responses

Following the first confirmed case of COVID-19 on March 11, 2020, Guyana experienced four major waves of infection. The last wave led to an unprecedented surge in the number of new cases in late January 2022, around the time of the start of this survey. By early March 2022, the number had dropped back to its lowest level since the early months of the pandemic. Shortly after, the government lifted most restrictions on social gatherings and removed the requirement to wear masks.

New COVID-19 cases and vaccination in Guyana*

*Average rate of COVID-19 cases and maximum number of fully vaccinated people per month in Guyana. Number of fully vaccinated 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, 3.5.2022

The Government of Guyana began the roll out its COVID-19 vaccination programme in early March 2021. As of May 2022, 46% of the population were fully vaccinated, remaining below the worldwide coverage of 60%.

Broader developments and government responses

The Government of Guyana implemented a set of social protection measures to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. The Pandemic Assistance Vouchers Programme was rolled out in mid-2020 to assist eligible vulnerable persons, including persons who suffered income loss, persons with disabilities and households headed by senior citizens with the purchase of foodstuff and hygiene supplies.

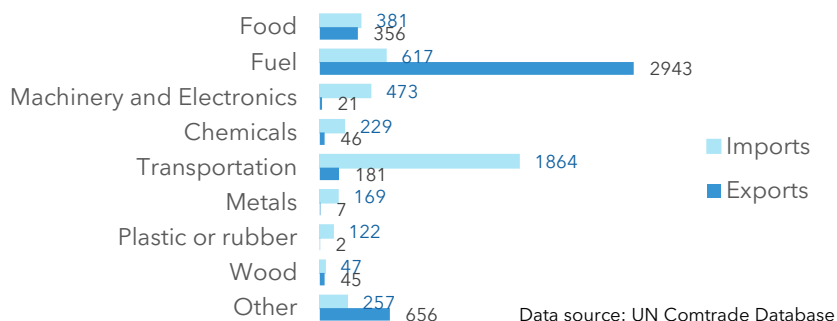
In September 2020, the government launched the National COVID-19 Cash Grant, which aimed to assist each household in Guyana through a one-off cash grant valued at GYD25,000 (USD120). In addition to the universal cash grant, additional one-off payments of GYD25,000 were provided to all old age pensioners, public assistance recipients and persons living with disabilities. The government also reintroduced the 'Because We Care' programme, to provide cash assistance to parents of school-aged children attending public or private schools. An electricity subsidy for the value of a month's bill was also provided to the most vulnerable households. In partnership with the World Food Programme, the government implemented a programme to provide cash grants to support women's empowerment.

The socioeconomic impact of the pandemic was aggravated by the May 2021 floods that affected several regions in the country following heavy rainfall, resulting in damage to houses, with wider impacts to livelihoods and the agricultural sector.

Emerging issues | Implications of Ukraine crisis

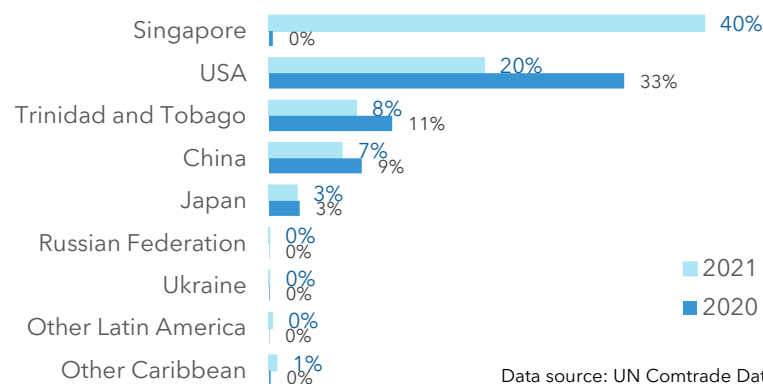
The crisis in Ukraine is having wide implications on international supply chains, inflationary pressure and economic growth (see Annex). Most affected will be countries which have high import dependency on the Russian Federation and Ukraine from key commodities, but spill over effects are expected also elsewhere. Guyana, unlike most economies of the Caribbean, is currently a net exporter of commodities by US\$ value. In 2021, overall exports were valued US\$ 4.26 billion and were slightly above the value of imports, which amounted to US\$ 4.16 billion. Crude oil was the single most important export product, making up 69% of all exports in US\$. A floating oil drilling platform from Singapore, with an import value of US\$ 1.66 billion, accounted for 40% of all imports in Guyana in 2021.

Share of commodity trade in Guyana in million US\$ (2021), by product group



The United States is the main trading partner of Guyana, contributing to nearly 20% of its total imports and 33% of exports. The US is also the main source market for food (37%) and fuel (42%), and made up the greatest share of cereal imports (97%). At the same time, Guyana is the largest producer of cereals in CARICOM and the third largest in the Caribbean, accounting for 30% of production in 2019, mainly through the cultivation of rice. Almost all of its fertilizer Guyana is sourcing from four countries in Latin America and the Caribbean while milled products are either imported from countries in the EU or the Caribbean. Imports from the Russian Federation or Ukraine for any of these commodities were either non-existent or insignificant.

Top 5 import partners based on US\$ value (all commodities)

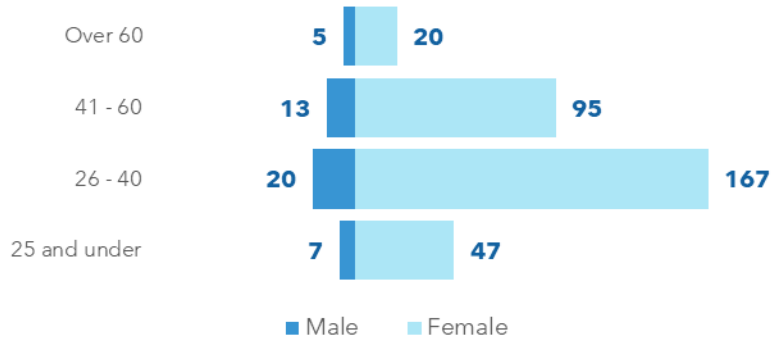


With its positive balance of trade, and in particular the export oriented oil sector, Guyana is among the few economies in the region which may potentially benefit from oil price rises in international markets. However, the lack of oil refining facilities means that Guyana needs to maintain fuel imports in the foreseeable future to cater to its needs for electricity generation and transport, which represents a continued reliance on international markets and may affect domestic fuel prices and inflation. Like for many Caribbean economies, the increasing cost of living became a major burden for Guyana at the backdrop of the pandemic. Inflationary pressure increased significantly during mid-2021 and continued its upwards trajectory in 2022. Annual point-to-point inflation reached 6.8% in March, mainly driven by food price inflation (13.4%).

So far, the Bank of Guyana has not introduced major changes to its monetary policy with the benchmark interest rate stable at 5% since 2013. However, the government increased significantly spending plans for the new fiscal year 2022/23. Originally tabled prior to the Ukraine crisis, the new budget estimate amounts to 552.9 billion Guyanese dollars, up by 44% of what was allocated for the previous fiscal year. New budgetary measures are envisaging the reduction of taxes and an increase in social welfare spending.

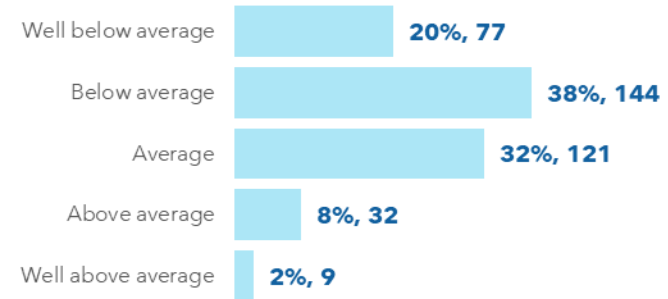
RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Age and sex

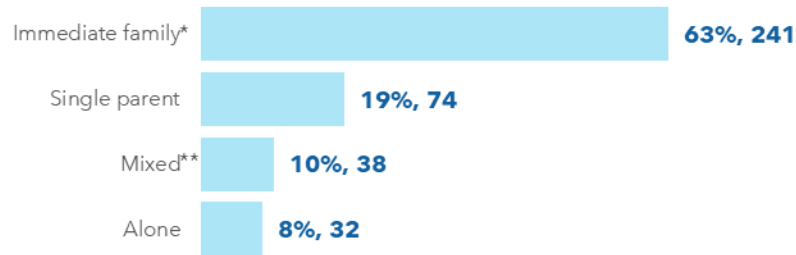


Perceived income levels

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



Household composition

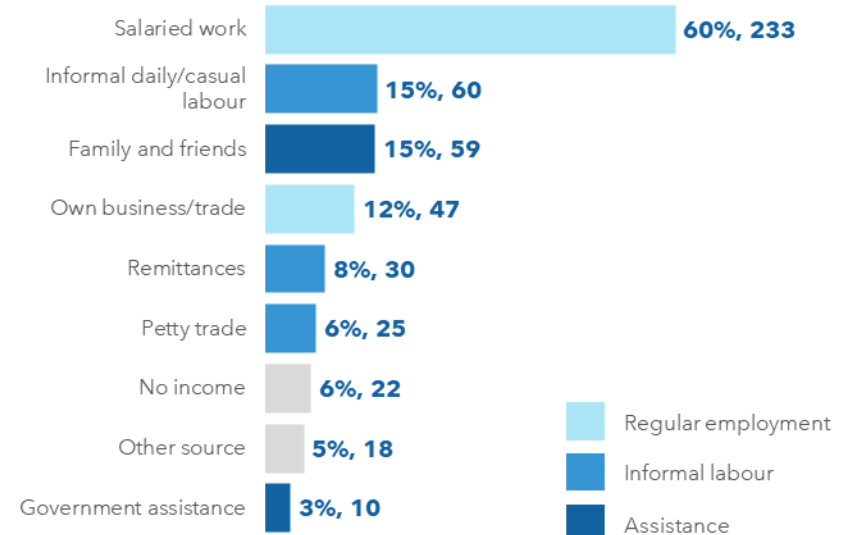


* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.

** Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

Main income sources

Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source(s) for their household. Multiple choices could be selected.



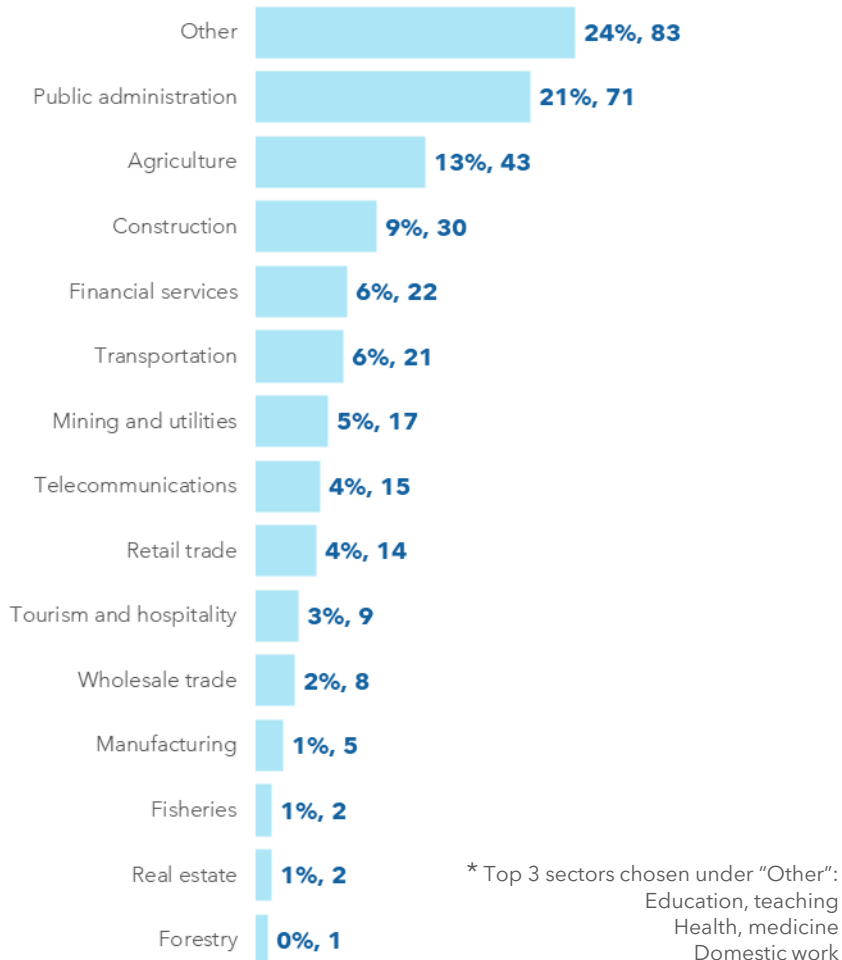
Urban/rural location



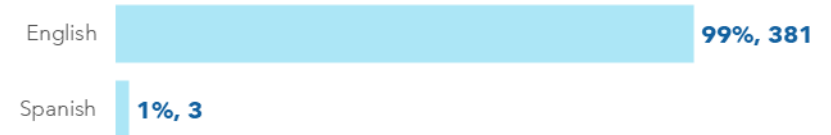
RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Main income sector

Respondents were asked to indicate the sector that represents their household's main source of income. The percentages were calculated for the respondents that indicated having an income.



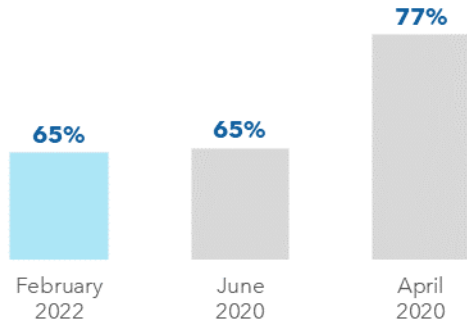
Language



LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

- ▶ Impacts to livelihoods remain widespread, especially among lowest income households.

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 two thirds of respondents, the ability to pursue their livelihood remained compromised in the two weeks prior to the survey. This proportion has decreased but remains very high, compared to the early stages of pandemic, when disruptions were experienced by three out of four respondents.

When considering the different characteristics of people responding to the survey (such as age, sex, perceived income level or main source of income) the biggest differences are linked to people's level and type of income. Among respondents who described their income as below and well below average, 78% reported livelihood disruptions, compared to 48% of those with income levels described as average. Most affected were also respondents relying on informal sources of income (80%) and living in rural areas (70%).

"My biggest change is begin without a job and not providing for my family basic needs" - Male, 34

"I lost my job and have not had an income for the longest while. Savings are almost done" - Female, 24

"My business in the Tourism industry was greatly affected" - Male, 59

"I had to closed down my clothes store and started groceries business, the profit is little have to be eating and paying bill and rent from that, scared of my business going down." - Female, 47

"Can't pay my bills cost of living is so high all i can do it buy food i have so much outstanding bills if the government give us food then we can take what we work for to pay our bills that's what i need i am sick and have to work 6 days a week to help my put food on the table" - Female, 38

"I'm a single mom of 3 kid's and it been really hard on me because where I live is s small village and I do my lil snack and garden for a living but since the COVID and recently last year we had flood it even get harder because my garden was no longer available due to the flood but now I'm trying to plan back my garden" - Female, 27

"Always have to wear a mask. Making that part of your everyday life. Work remotely, losing interest in work since there is little motivation and fun working remotely compared to being in the office." - Female, 23

"Increase workload on the job and shorter hours of rest and less time spent with family" - Female, 34

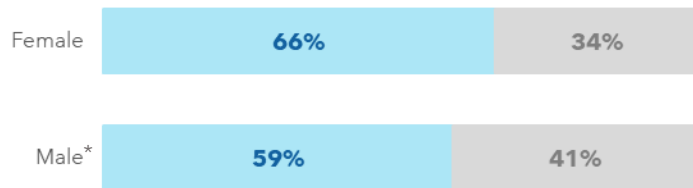
Those between 40 and 60 years of age also seem to report disruptions more often than younger respondents between 26 and 40 years. While women seem to be slightly more commonly affected by livelihood disruptions compared to men, this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

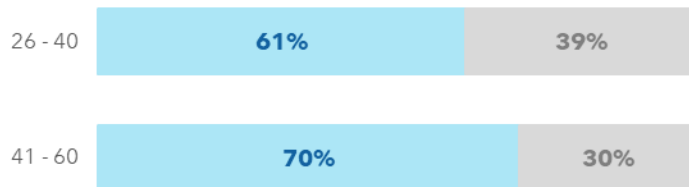
Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey

■ yes ■ no

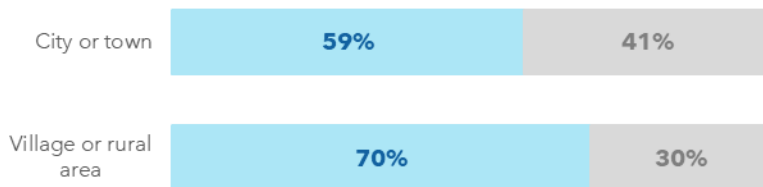
By sex



By age group

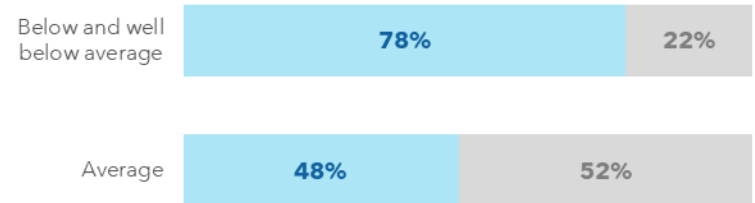


By urban/rural location

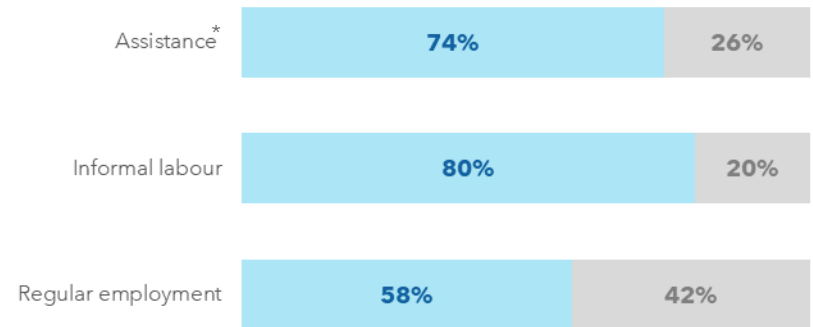


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By perceived income level



By income sources



"My husband the sole income provider was hospitalized" - Female, 48
 "It's having an impact on the communities and people are not getting to work adequately and as such the spending power is very low" - Male, 28
 "Can get to work anywhere cause people wouldn't let you into their home" - Female, 29

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

- ▶ The price of and access to livelihood inputs has become the main factor behind livelihood disruptions, affecting mainly low-income households and those in informal employment.

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

Multiple choices could be selected

	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	43%	26%	18%
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	38%	41%	19%
Movement restrictions	24%	54%	34%
Increased demand for goods/services	18%	15%	19%
Reduced demand for goods/services	15%	22%	16%
Adult members of the household are unwell	12%	4%	0%
Transport limitations	11%	18%	18%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	10%	19%	12%
Other	6%	16%	12%
No market to sell products	4%	12%	10%

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, mentioned by 43% of respondents facing disruptions. This factor has grown steadily in importance since the early days of the pandemic 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 below and well below average income level (48%) and those engaged primarily in informal/casual sources of income (56%). Women also appear to be more impacted by the unaffordability of livelihood inputs compared to men, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

Concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak (38%) and movement restrictions (24%) still remain important contributors to livelihood disruptions, albeit less so compared to the early phase of the pandemic in 2020. However, movement restrictions are still dominant factors for livelihood disruptions among households with average incomes, and those deriving their incomes from regular employment.

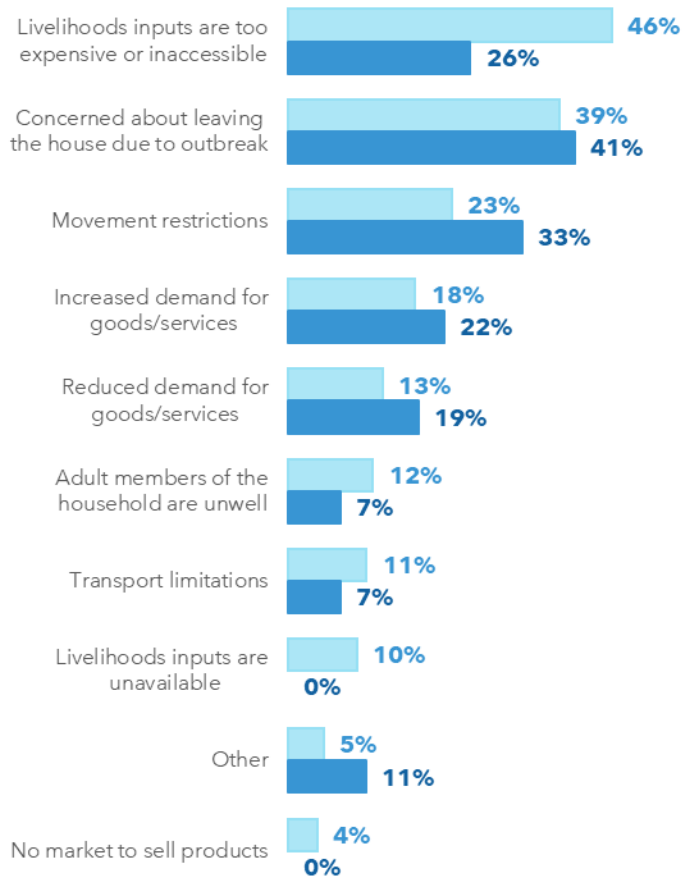
Lack of market outlets to sell own products is declining in importance as a disruptive factor, as are transport limitations. However, adult members of the household being unwell has notably increased as a reason, and may reflect the surge in cases at the time of the survey.

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

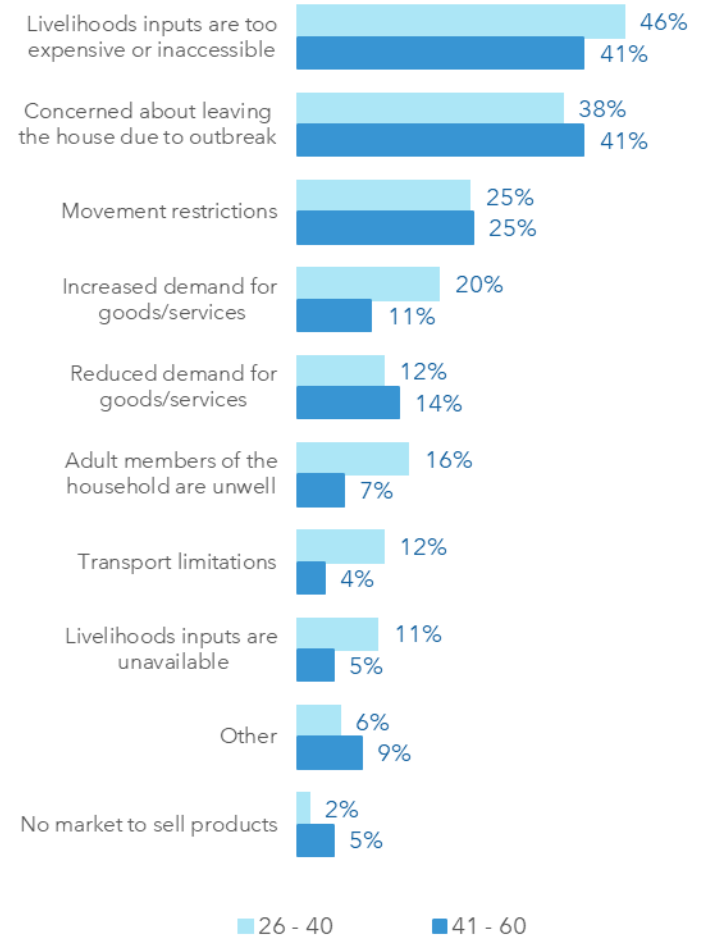
By sex



■ Female ■ Male*

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By age group



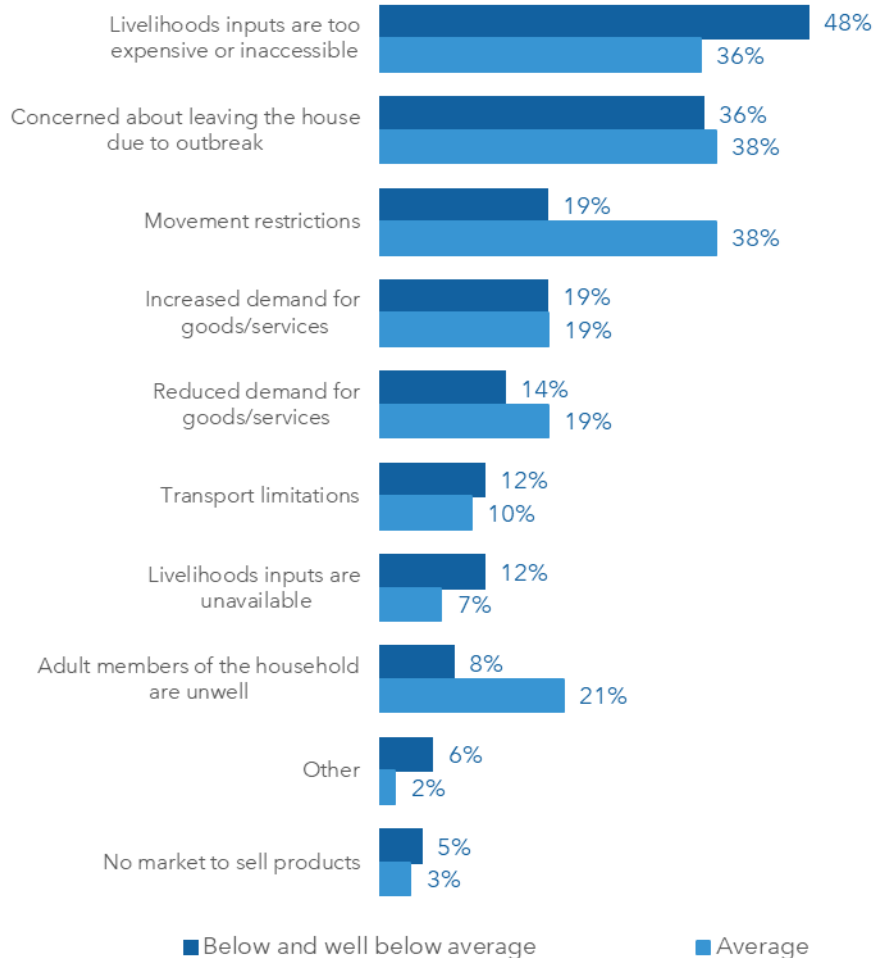
■ 26 - 40 ■ 41 - 60

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

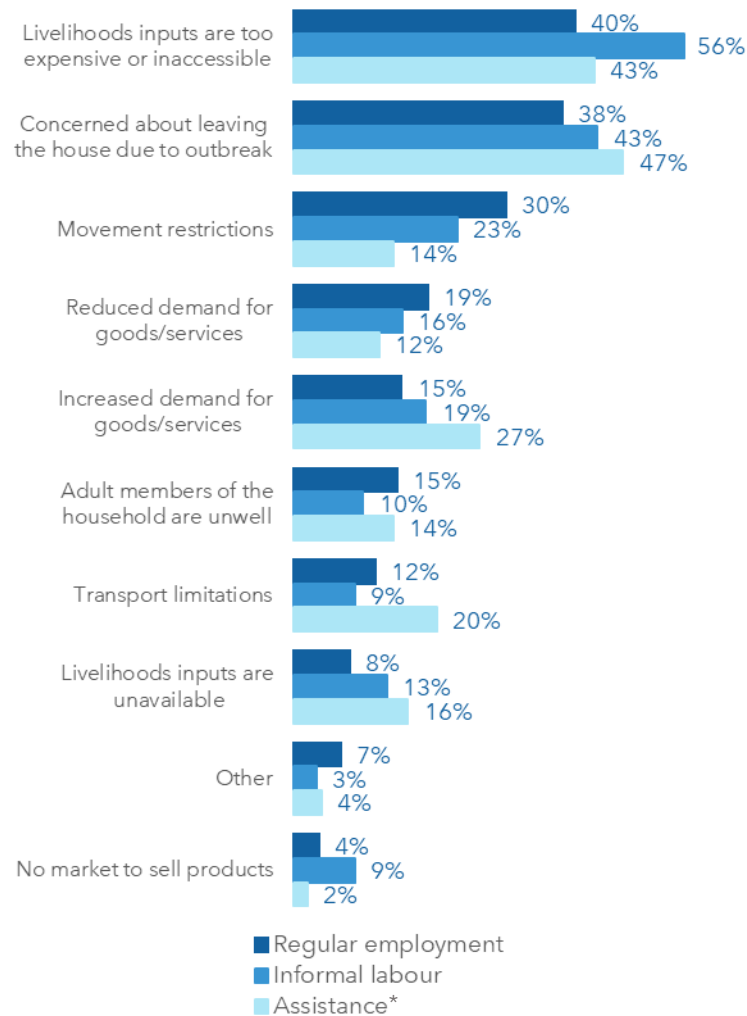
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



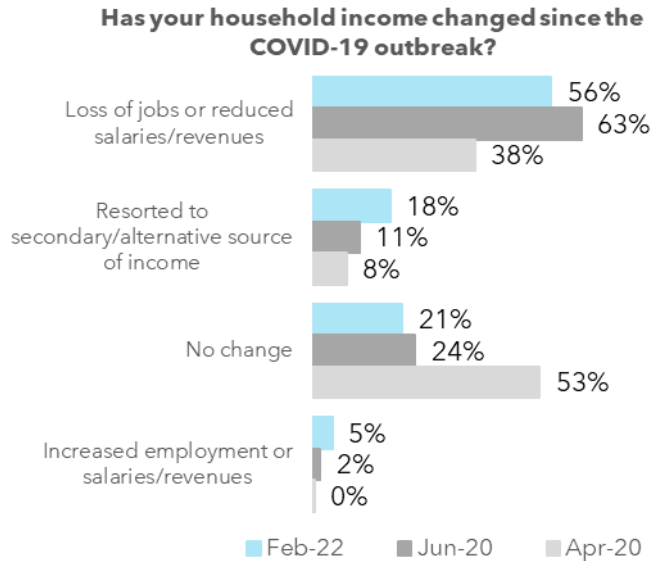
By main income source



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

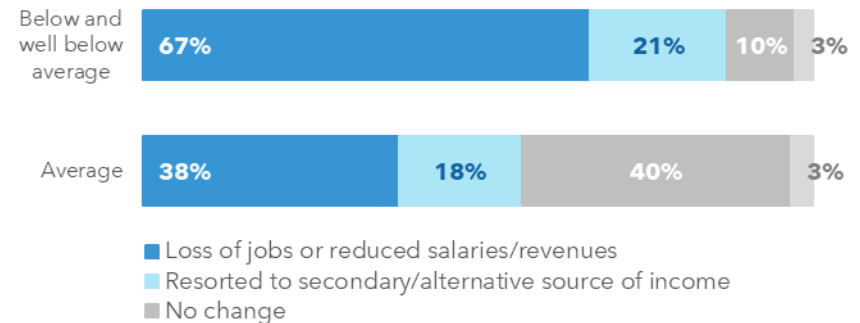
LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

- ▶ Most respondents have faced job loss or income reductions in their households.



Impacts to income continue to be widespread, with 56% 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 slightly since June 2020, it is still higher than the rate observed in April 2020. The overall situation suggests the continuation of economic hardship with many people facing decreased income.

By perceived income level



The most marked differences among respondents was found across income levels. Job loss or reduced income was reported by the vast majority of respondents describing their household income as below or well below average (67%), compared to those with average (38%) income levels.

Important differences were also observed across sources of income and location of respondent. Job and income loss was most widespread and consistently high among respondents with informal and casual income sources (70%), located in villages/rural area (60%) and those between the age of 26 and 40 years (58%).

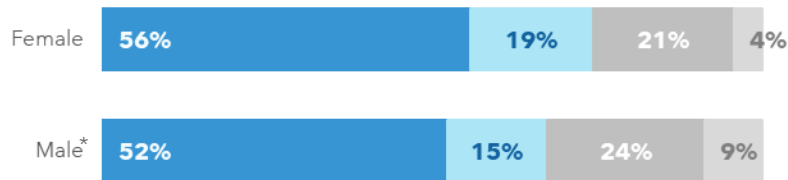
Differences between sex or of respondent were minor.

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



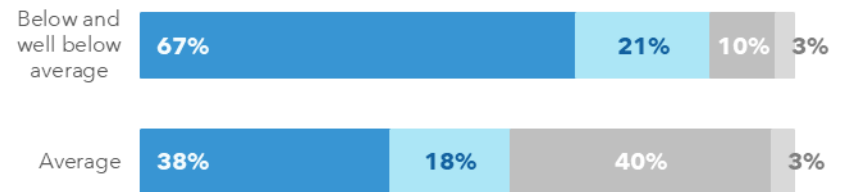
By age group



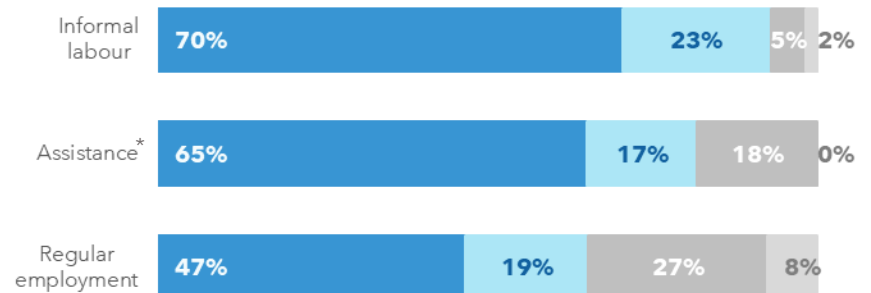
By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



By income sources

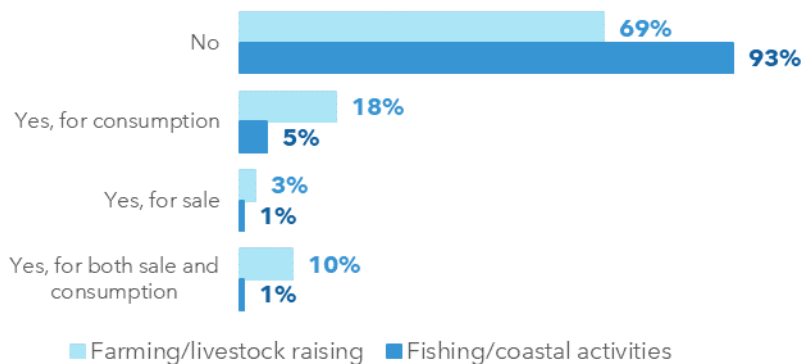


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

- ▶ The incomes of respondents engaged in fishing activities seem to have been harder hit relative to farming or average households.

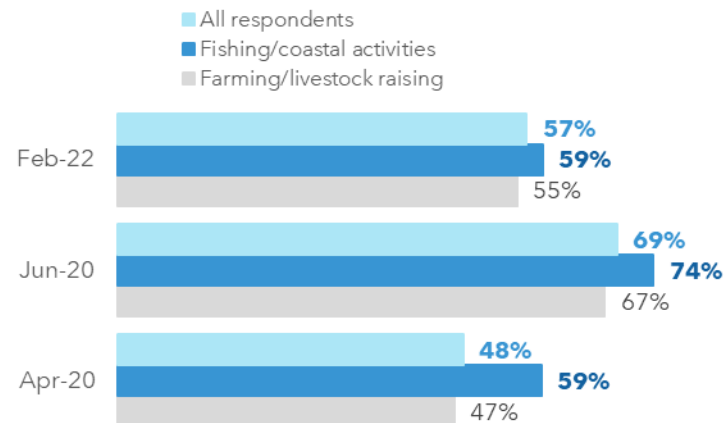
Is your household engaged in farming/fishing?



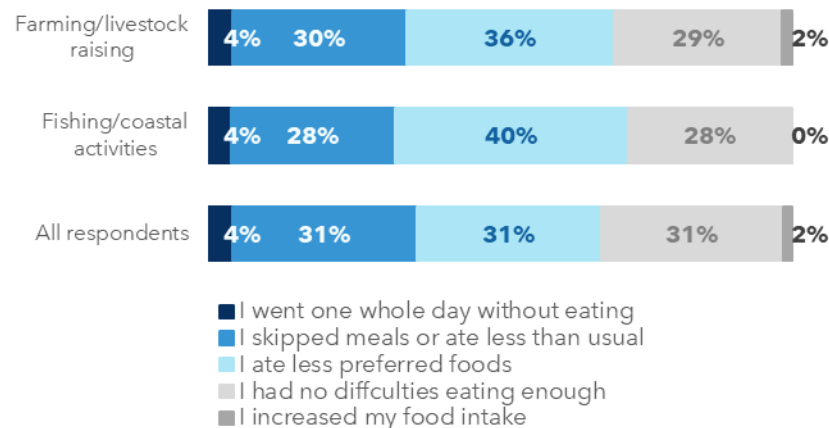
One out of three respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising, and 7% in fisheries/coastal activities. In both cases these activities are primarily for household consumption, or complementing existing incomes, particularly among poorer households, with vegetable production being the main farming activity and small scale aquaculture the main fishing activity, shifting away from coastal fisheries compared to the start of the pandemic.

Over half of respondents undertaking farming and fishing derive their household income primarily from salaries, which underscores the complementary role these activities play for most households. The results from the Caribbean region show that respondents engaged in fishing are facing greater challenges related to income - they were more likely to report loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues relative to average respondents or those engaged in farming. The results from Guyana indicate a similar trend, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of respondents.

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



Food situation among respondents engaged in farming/fishing



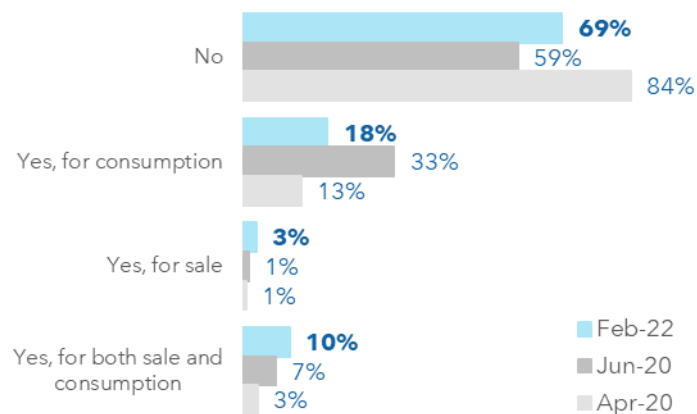
LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

Farming/livestock raising	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Vegetables	72%	84%	68%
Poultry	42%	29%	38%
Banana/plantains	30%	27%	34%
Rice	15%	7%	11%
Corn	11%	1%	4%
Small ruminants	8%	1%	9%
Pulses	7%	3%	9%
Swine	6%	4%	4%
Other	4%	7%	11%
Large ruminants	2%	3%	2%

Is your households engaged in farming/livestock raising?

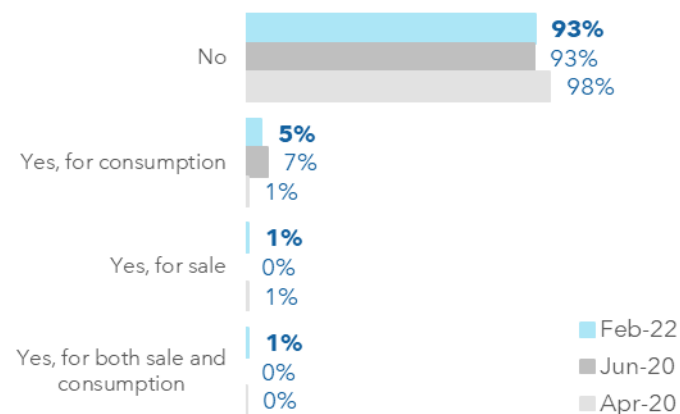


For those engaging in fishing/coastal activities, the activities are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

Fishing/coastal activities	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Small scale aquaculture	64%	8%	0%
Inland fisheries	20%	33%	20%
Marine/coastal fisheries	12%	0%	40%
Other	12%	17%	20%
Mangrove/beach activities	4%	8%	0%
Fishing gear production	4%	0%	0%
Processing of fish/fisheries products	0%	0%	0%

Is your households engaged in fishing/coastal activities?

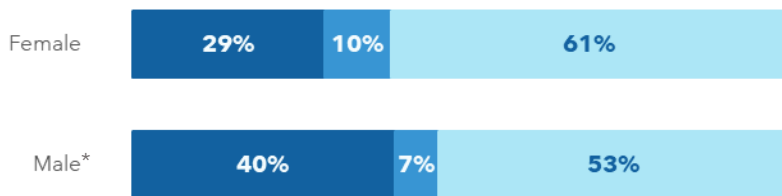


LIVELIHOODS | Farming

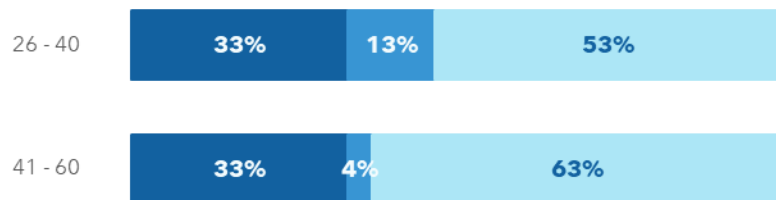
Households engaged in farming/livestock raising

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

By sex

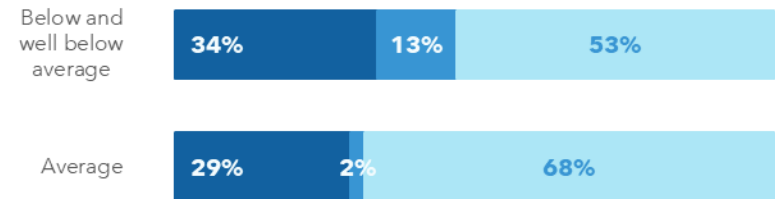


By age group



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

By perceived income level



"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

"I have been affected tremendously in my business and livelihoods during COVID-19 my business had bring on a decline in every way less sources of income." - Female, 43

"I'm a single parent who lost main source of income. My savings depleted. Had to transfer my son from private school to public. The cost of living is too high and I'm inundated with debts" - Female, 34

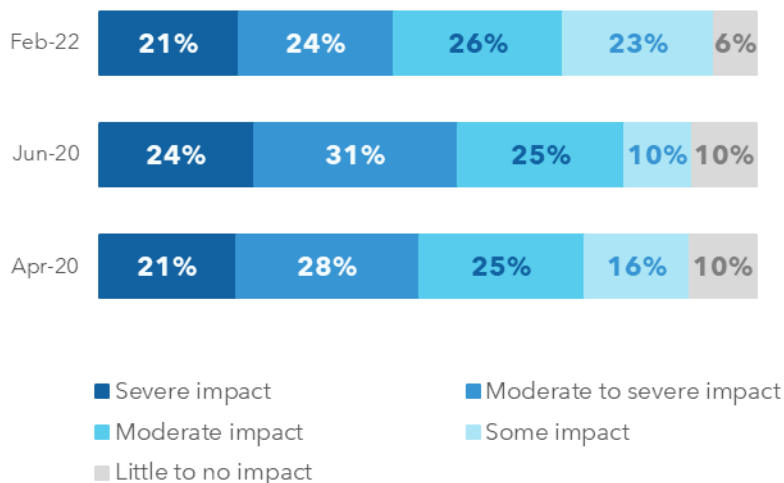
"Business was down size to 1 day per week and finding it difficult to access medications for my diabetes. Everything had to scale down." - Female, 45

"I had to do rotation at another hospital for which I had to pay for traveling and travel in public transportation to and from" - Female, 43

LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

- ▶ Seven out of ten respondents anticipate at least a moderate impact on their livelihoods. A third of low income respondents expect impacts to be severe.

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, 45% anticipate “moderate to severe” or “severe” impacts to their livelihoods. While slightly lower compared to the prior survey rounds, it is not necessarily a sign for optimism given the continued anticipated impacts. Only 6% expected little or no impact, a slightly lower proportion of respondents compared to the early stages of the pandemic.

The perspective of respondents with different levels of income varied substantially. Respondents with the lowest income anticipated the most severe impacts to their livelihoods. Of those with income levels perceived as below or well below average, 31% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, which is much higher than the 7% of respondents with average household incomes.

Households relying on assistance and informal sources of income, those living in rural areas, and those between 40 and 60 years of age, were also noticeably more pessimistic in terms of future livelihood impacts. Women also appear to be slightly more pessimistic than men, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

"Business is slow and some weeks no business. Less income yet the capital expenditures remain- rent, water, electricity and licenses and tax/vat" - Female, 62

"My husband fell ill n he cant work back for now so no source of income currently" - Female, 30

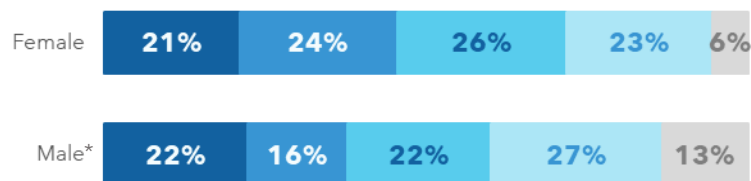
"Increase of food item price.. fertilizer price Increase for the farm" - Male, 25

LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

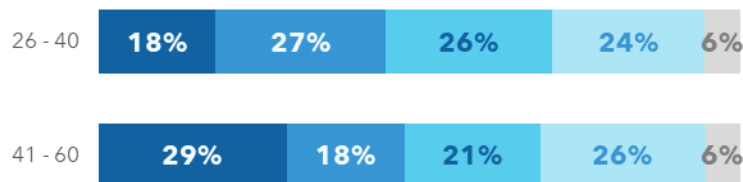
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

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

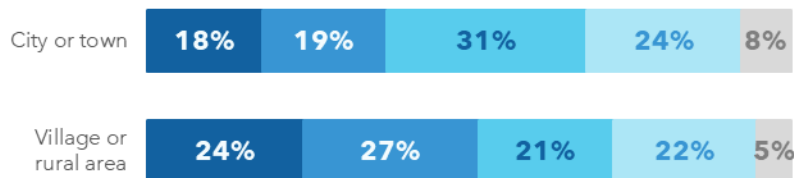
By sex



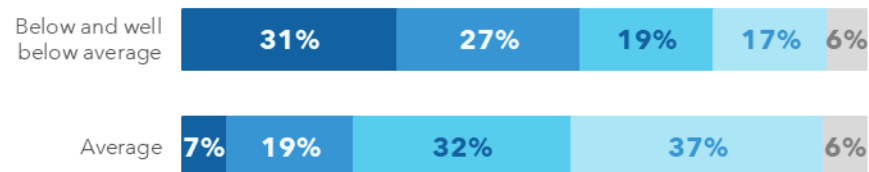
By age group



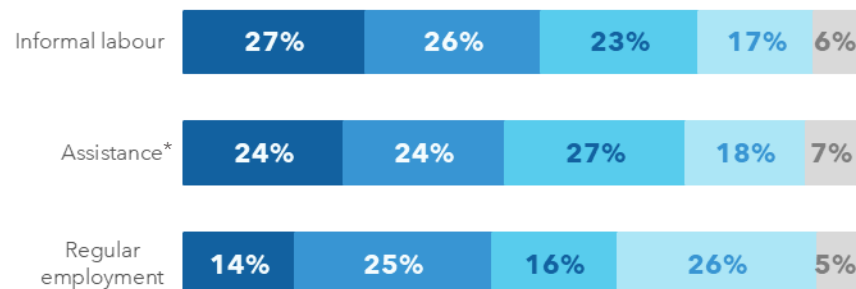
By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



By income sources

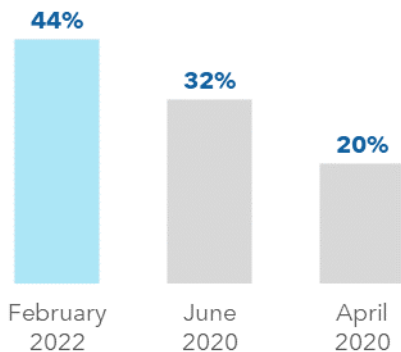


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

MARKETS | Access

- ▶ An increasing number of respondents are facing challenges in accessing markets, driven by limited means.

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



"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

"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

"I have been affected by the rising price for groceries ,vegetables and meat. I had to cut down on quantity I buy." - Female, 36

"The increase of food stuff is costly for a person like me who cannot afford it especially when I am unemployed I do domestic work and that is not sufficient and its not an every day work its very hard" - Female, 38

An increasing number of respondents stated that they were unable to access markets in the seven days prior to the February 2022 survey. Disruptions to market access were reported by 44% of respondents in February 2022, an increase from 32% in June 2020 and 20% in April 2020. The challenges to accessing markets are mainly related to limited financial means and concerns about leaving the house.

Compared with the regional average (33%) reported in February 2022, a larger portion of respondents in Guyana reported issues with market access. Clear differences in market access can be seen across income groups.

Respondents reporting the lowest income levels were experiencing the greatest challenges accessing markets. Those with below or well below average income (58%) indicated difficulties more than twice as often as those with an average income level (24%).

Those relying on government assistance and engaging in informal labour also more frequently cited challenges accessing markets when compared with those with more regular employment.

No major differences in market access were observed between age groups or between those living in rural or urban areas.

MARKETS | Access

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

■ yes ■ no

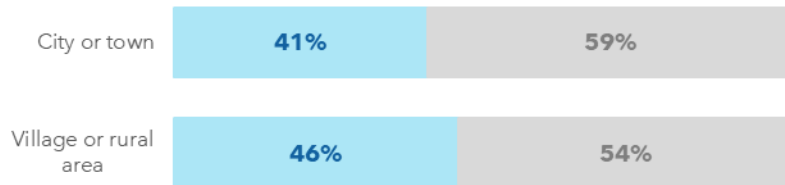
By sex



By age group

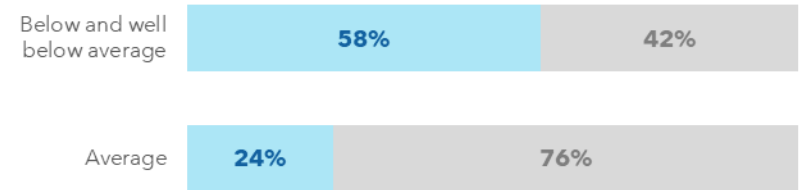


By urban/rural location

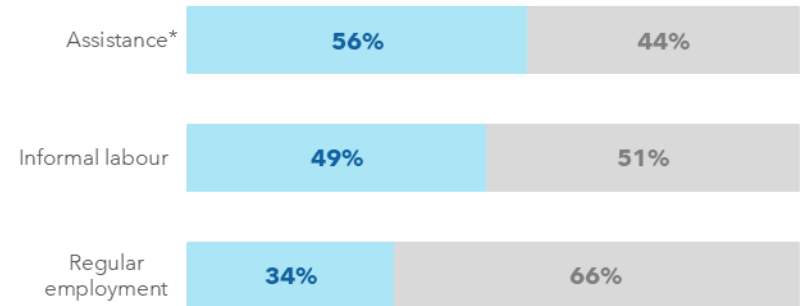


* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By perceived income level



By main income source



MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

- ▶ An increasing number of respondents are citing lack of financial means as the main limiting factor for accessing markets.

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	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of financial means*	82%	14%	3%
Concerned about leaving the house	22%	37%	74%
Adult members of the household were self quarantining	10%	2%	14%
Transport limitations	8%	21%	21%
Other	7%	7%	-7%
Adult members of the household were unwell	6%	4%	3%
Movement restrictions	5%	26%	22%
Markets/grocery stores closed	5%	33%	52%
Security concerns	4%	14%	19%

Lack of financial means is the main factor limiting access to markets, cited by 82% 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). This is similar to what was reported in the regional average (80%). Respondents also referred to concerns about leaving the house (22%) and self quarantining (10%) as factors limiting market access.

The most notable differences in barriers people in Guyana face when accessing markets can be observed across income levels. Respondents who described their income level as being below or well below average (88%) reported lack financial means more frequently than respondents with above or well above average (55%) incomes. Respondents describing their household income as average also frequently cited self quarantining and stores being closed.

Lack of financial means was the main limiting factor for both sexes, however it appears to be more frequently cited by female respondents (84%) when compared to male respondents (68%). However, this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

The only marked differences between the age groups were observed by the large number of respondents from 26-40 age group who cited adult households self quarantining as a barrier to market access more frequently than the 41-60 age group.

Those engaging in regular employment more frequently cited adult members feeling unwell when compared with those who rely on government assistance and those working in the informal sector.

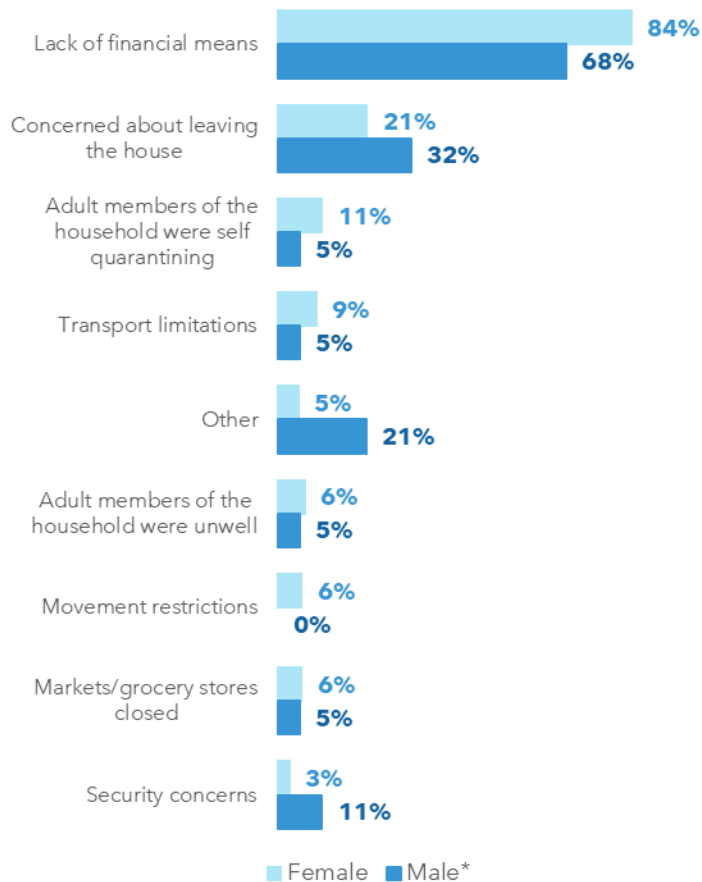
*New option in the February 2021 survey round. For June 2020 survey round, the lack of financial means was calculated based on the text inputted by respondents in the "Other" category.

MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

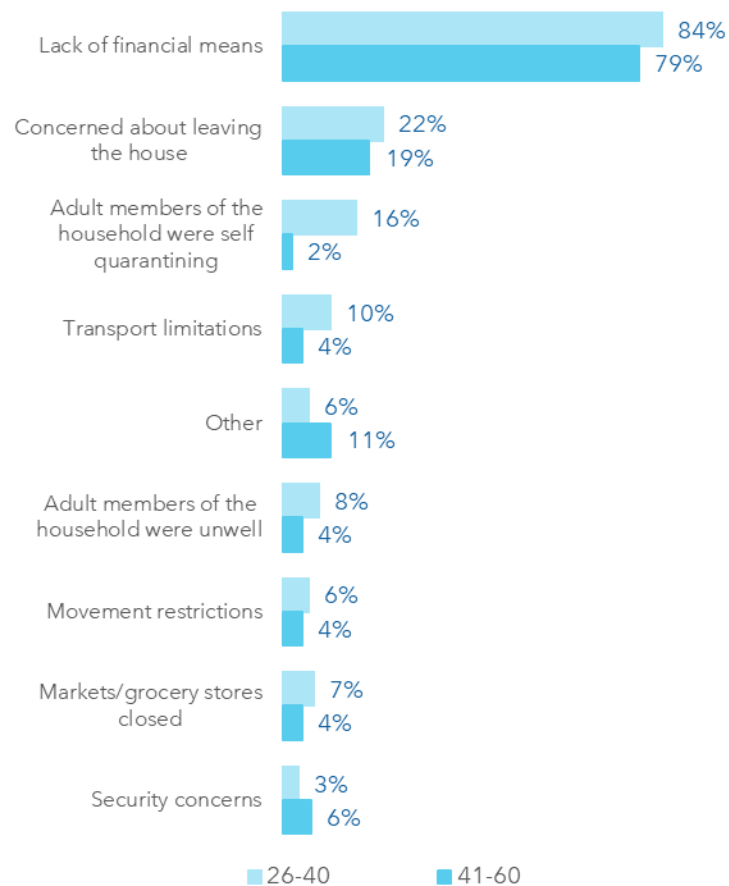
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group



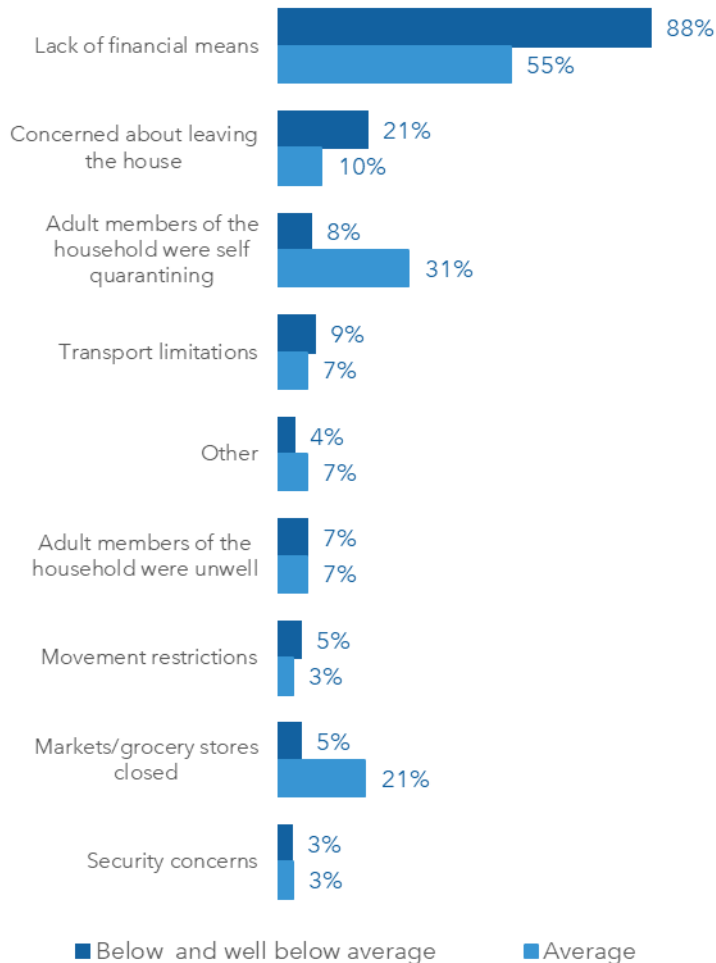
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

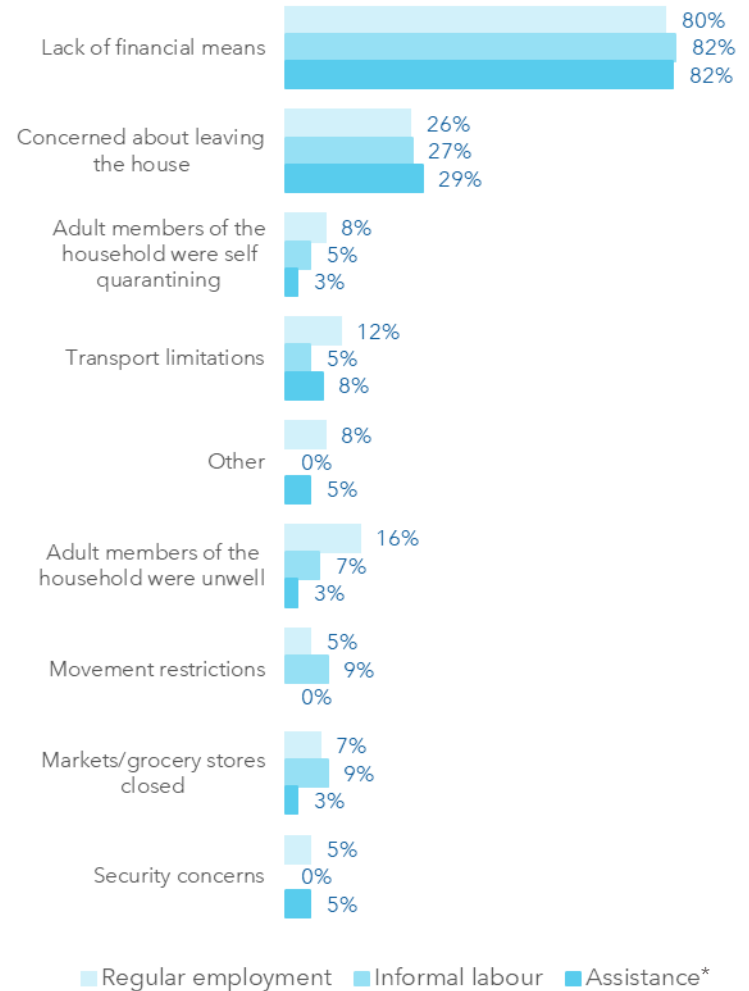
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



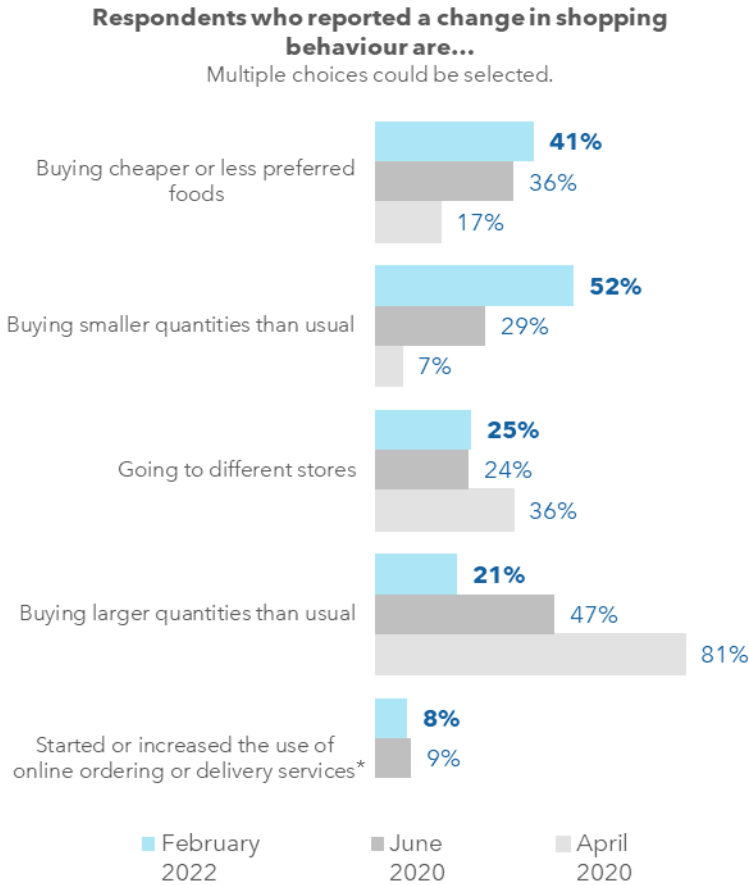
By main income source



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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



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

The pandemic continues to impact how people shop, however there are some shifts in the changes they are making. The majority of respondents (94%) from Guyana reported changing their shopping behaviour, which is consistent with the last year (92%).

Respondents who changed how they shop indicated that the main changes they were making are buying smaller quantities than usual (52%), cheaper or less preferred foods (41%), and going to different stores (25%). While in April 2020 the most common change (81% of those making changes) was to buy larger quantities, in February 2022 only 21% were doing so. Behaviour has shifted from stocking up at the start of the pandemic to making more compromises as the economic impacts deepen.

Households of different perceived income levels are adjusting their shopping behaviour in differing ways. Those with lower incomes were much more likely to shift towards buying cheaper or less preferred foods or smaller quantities than usual, compared to others. On the other hand, respondents with average income levels were much more likely to buy larger quantities than respondents with lower income levels.

There are some marked differences in how respondents of different age groups are adjusting. Respondents from the 25-40 age group resorted to buying cheaper food items and going to different stores more often compared to respondents from the 41-60 age group.

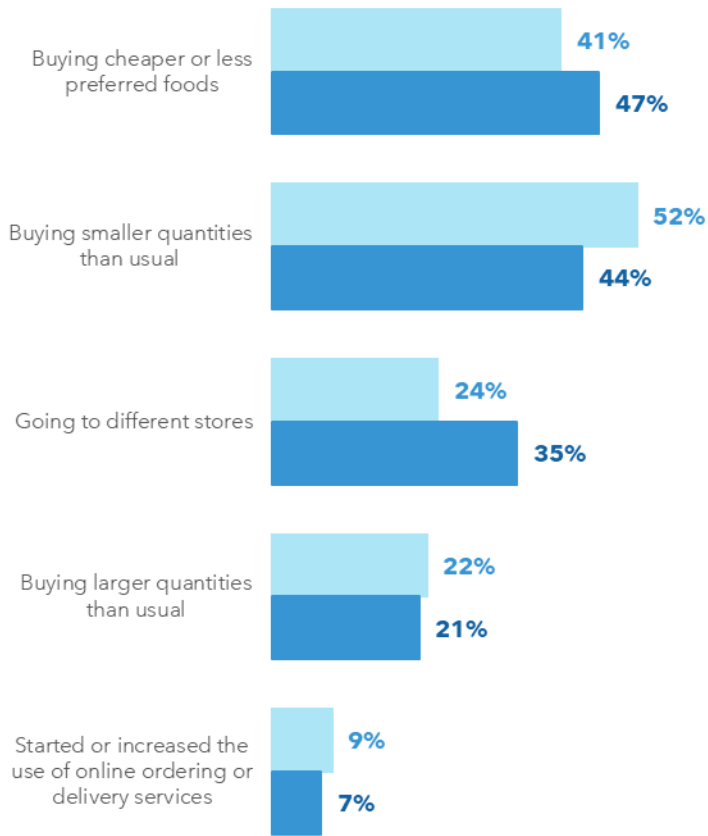
Differences in the changes in shopping behaviour can also be noted between male and female respondents, however these findings should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

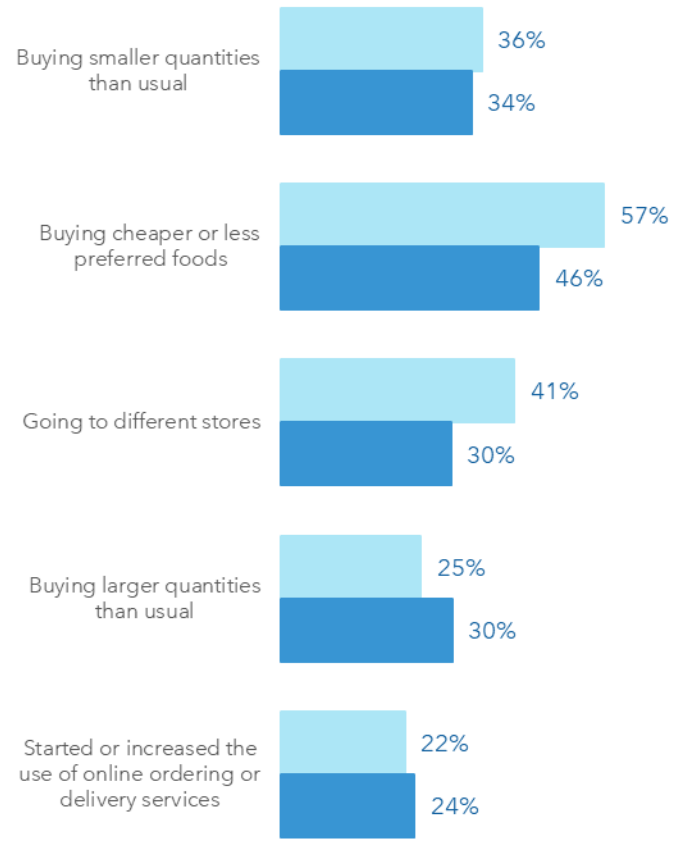
By sex



■ Female ■ Male*

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By age group



■ 26 - 40

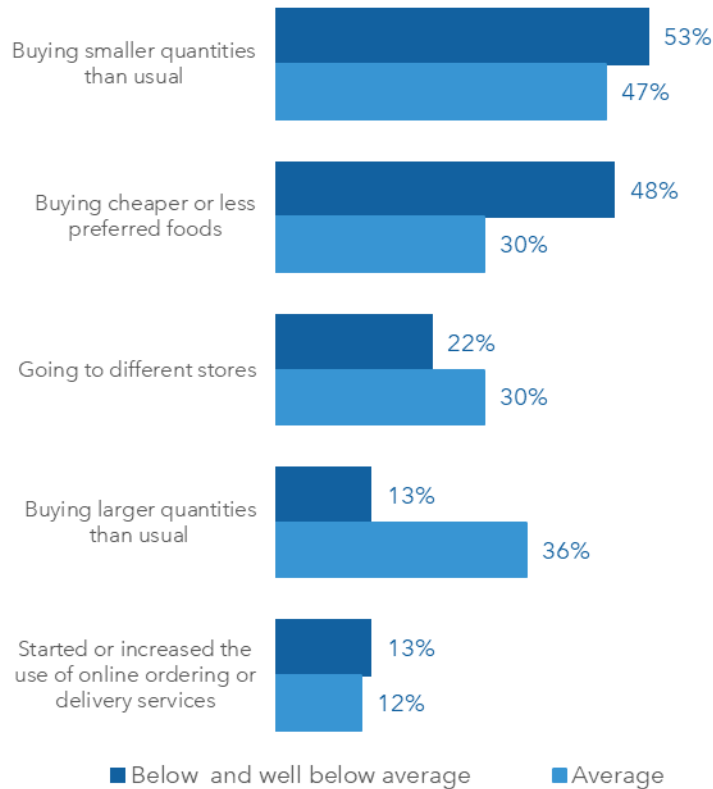
■ 41 - 60

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

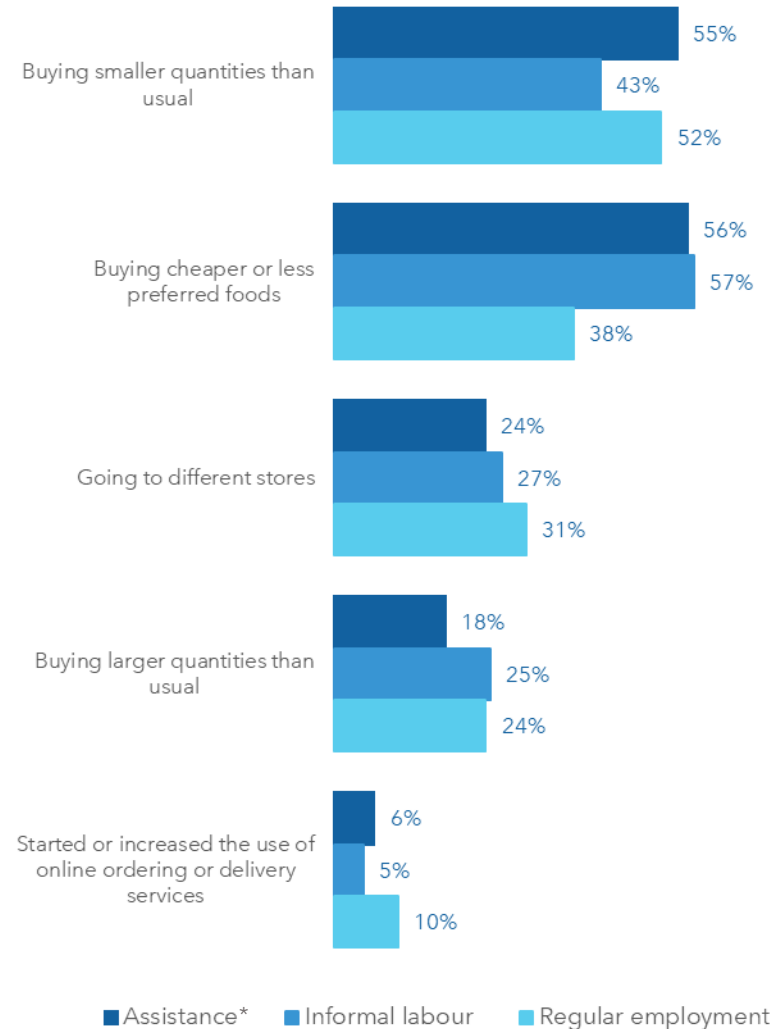
Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



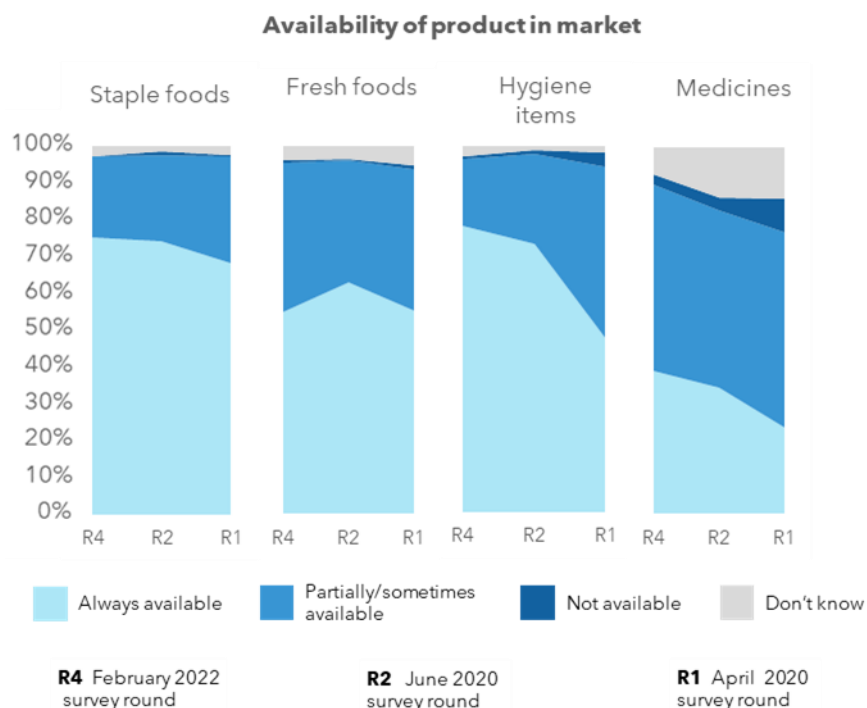
By main income source



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

MARKETS | Availability

- ▶ The availability of all key items has remained consistent since June 2020, however medicines and fresh foods are still less available.



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 almost all key products has been consistently improving since then until February 2022, with staple foods and hygiene items being always available to a large majority of respondents. However, the continuous availability of fresh foods has decreased in February 2022 to similar levels observed in April 2020, and medicines are still not always available for over half of respondents. Very few respondents (0-3%) indicated that goods were completely unavailable.

The level of availability varied by items. More than a third of respondents (39%) indicated that medicines were always available in February 2022 which shows a gradual increase over time in comparison to April 2020 (23%). At the same time, 51% of respondents reported that medicines were only sometimes available while 3% indicated medicines were unavailable in February 2022.

Over half of respondents (55%) indicated that fresh foods were constantly available in their markets, this reflects a decrease from levels in June 2020 (63%) and is comparable to similar observations in April 2020 (55%). Additionally, 41% of respondents indicated that fresh foods are only partially/sometimes available in February 2022 which is a slight increase from June 2022 (33%).

Three quarters of respondents reported staple foods are always available in their markets. About one fifth of respondents reported that staple foods are only partially/sometimes available in February 2022. These observations are consistent with those in previous surveys.

The reported availability of hygiene items have increased since the start of the pandemic, with 78% of respondents indicating that these items were always available in their markets in February 2022 compared to 48% in April 2020.

"Increase of price on every food stuff, as well as bills" - Female, 30

"Biggest impact has been inflation and rising food prices." - Female, 33

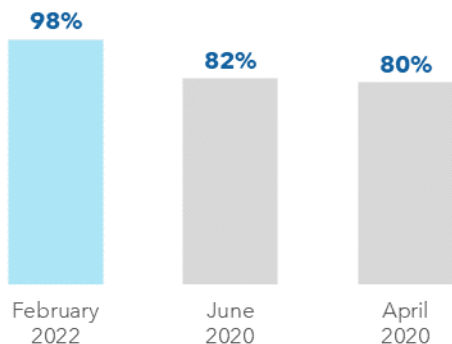
"Had to be cautious about spending and learn to manage food and income to last." - Female, 31

"Additional cost for transportation" - Female, 32

MARKETS | Food prices

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

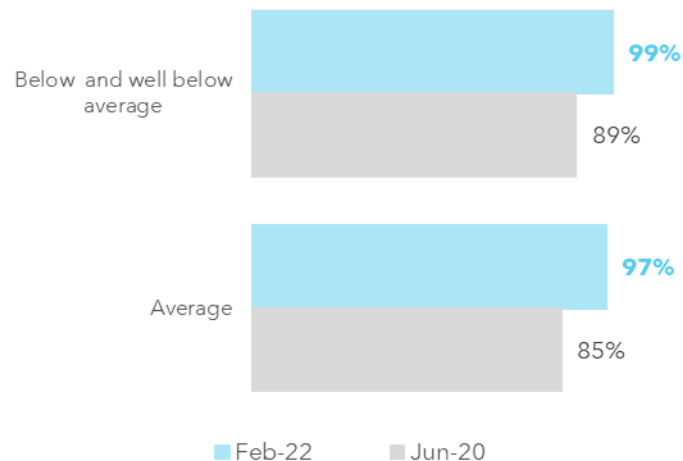
Respondents who reported an increase in food prices over the 2 weeks prior to the survey



Food price increases are being felt and observed, with the vast majority of respondents (98%) reporting an increase in the two weeks prior to this survey. This number is slightly higher when compared to the regional average (93%), and substantially higher compared with the Guyana results in June and April 2020.

Nearly all respondents across all groups reported food price increases. This is particularly concerning for the growing number of households with lower incomes that are already struggling to access markets due to lacking financial means and meeting their food consumption needs.

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



By urban/rural location



FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

- ▶ Food consumption patterns continue to deteriorate, especially among lower income households and people who live in villages or rural areas.



Food consumption and diets of people in Guyana continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with 31% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual, 31% eating less preferred foods and 4% going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey. These findings represent a deterioration compared to results from both June 2020 and April 2020, at the onset of the pandemic.

The findings are overall aligned to the regional averages, where 5% of respondents went a whole day without eating and 30% skipped meals or ate less than usual in the two weeks prior to the survey.

The gap across income levels and groups continues to increase. Respondents with below or well below average income continue to be the most affected, with 6% going a whole day without eating and 40% skipping a meal or eating less than usual in the week preceding the survey. Only 15% of those respondents had no difficulty eating enough compared to 53% of households classifying their income as average.

Differences in the impacts on food consumption also varied across age groups, geographical location, and sources of income. Those relying on less stable income sources (informal labour and assistance) were most impacted, with 42-47% having gone an entire day without eating, skipping meals or eating less than usual compared to 28% of those with more stable income or regular employment.

Among respondents aged 40 and younger, 40% skipped meals, ate less than usual or went a full day without eating, compared to 31% of those over 40 years of age.

The food consumption patterns of respondents living in villages or rural areas were also significantly more affected than those of respondents located in cities or towns: 42% of respondents residing in villages/rural areas reported going an entire day without eating, skipping a meal or eating less than usual, compared to 21% of respondents living in cities or towns.

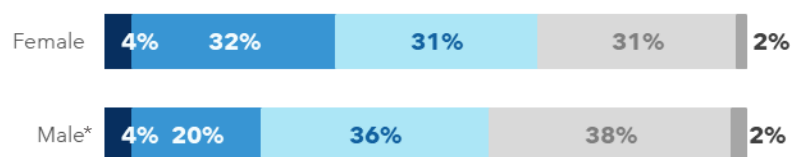
Female respondents (36%) seem to be more often reporting to have skipped a meal or eaten less than usual compared to male respondents (24%), however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

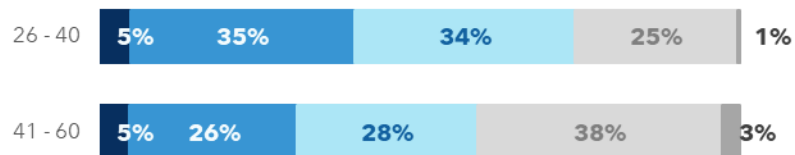
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

- 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

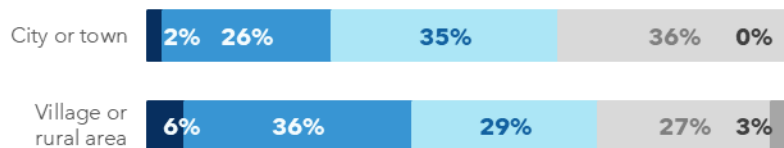
By sex



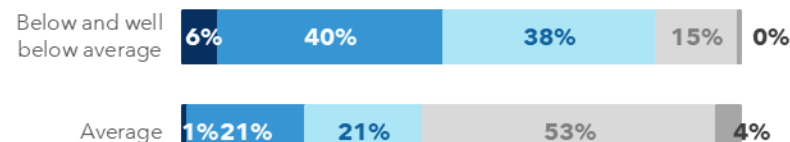
By age group



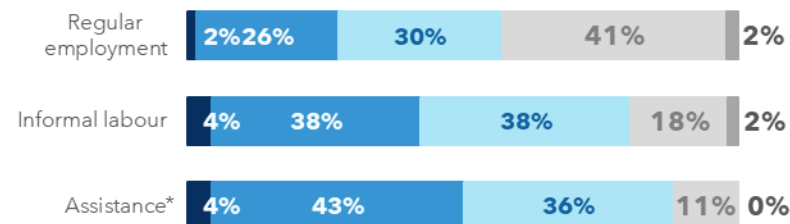
By urban/rural location



By perceived income



By income sources



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

- ▶ People are increasingly 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.

Of all respondents in Guyana, 82% resorted to spending savings, and 52% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. Furthermore, 39% of respondents sold productive assets and goods to meet food or other needs. The trends in adopting negative strategies in Guyana are more widespread than the regional average. The trends highlight that a concerning number of people in Guyana are compromising their future well-being, resources and resilience to meet their immediate food needs.

Households with below or well below average incomes are resorting to negative coping strategies much more frequently than others. Nearly all respondents (94%) who classify their income as well below or below average have spent savings to meet their food needs, compared to 72% of those with an average income. Additionally, twice as many respondents with the well below or below average income (52%) reported selling productive assets/goods to meet their needs compared to respondents with an average income (26%).

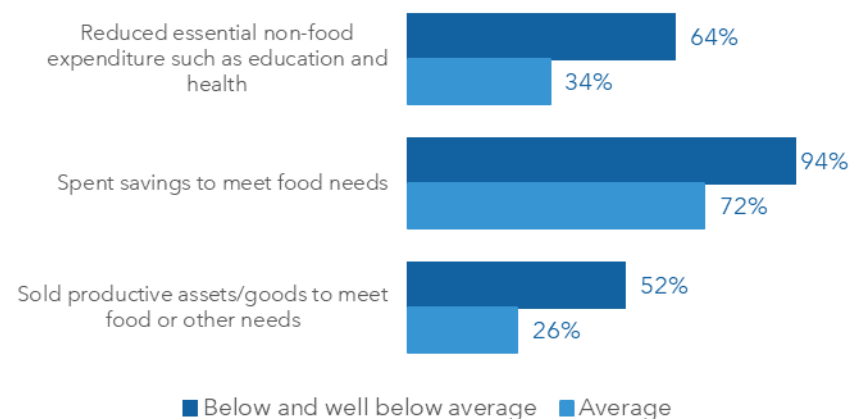
People living in rural areas were also found to more frequently adopt these coping strategies compared to respondents living in urban areas. Respondents aged under 40 were also more likely to adopt any of the negative coping measures compared to older respondents. The results also indicate that women are more likely to resort to negative coping strategies compared to men, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



By perceived income level

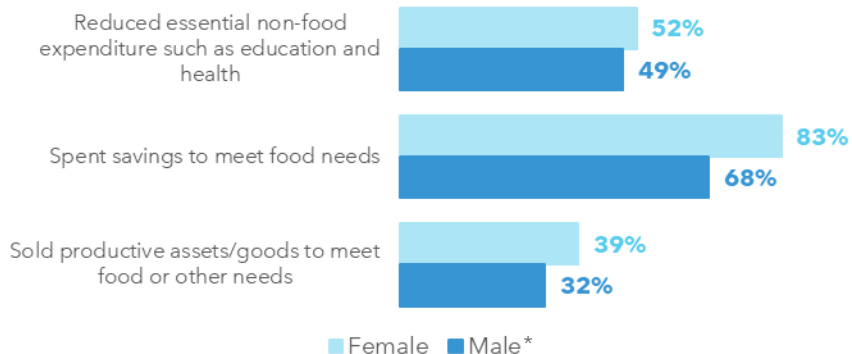


FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

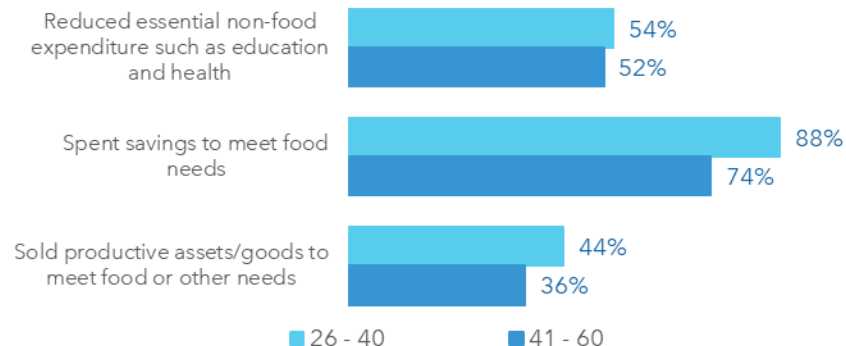
Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

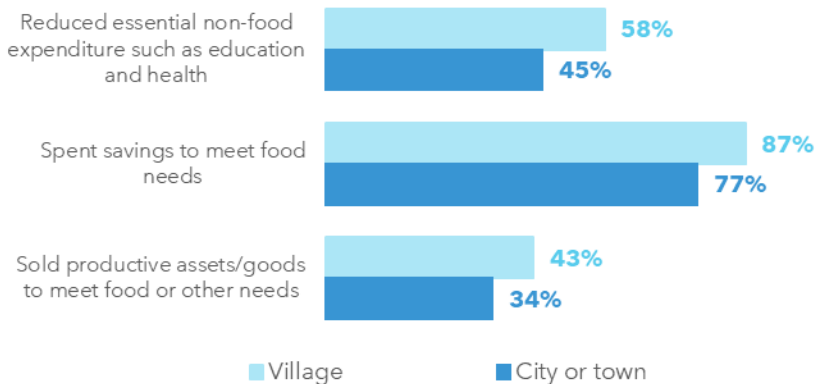
By sex



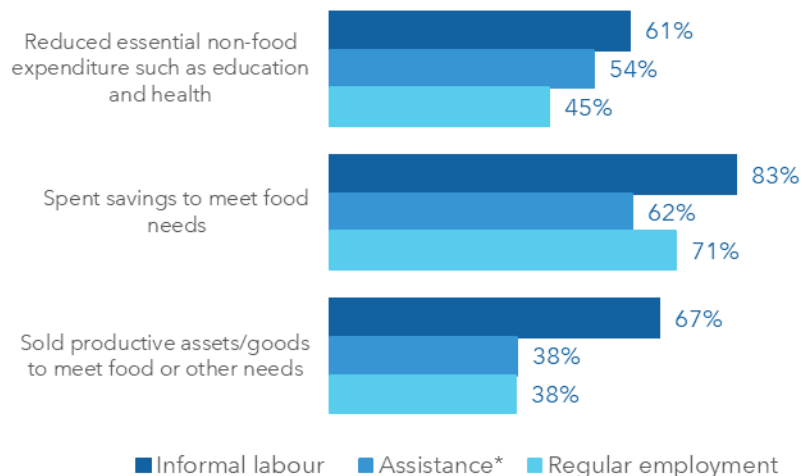
By age group



By urban/rural location



By income source



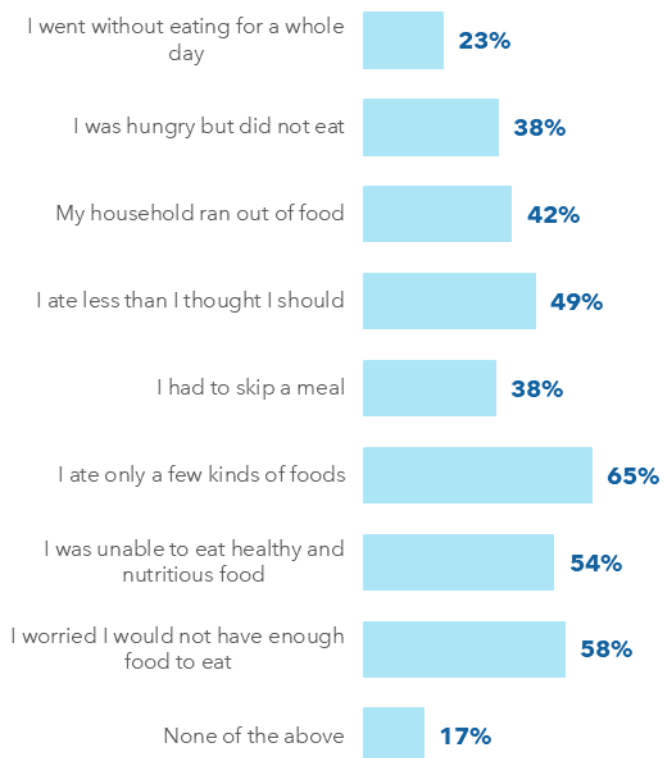
* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

- ▶ All negative experiences and behaviours associated with difficulties in accessing food are more widespread in Guyana compared to regional trends.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



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 (see [page 53](#) for an explanation of the methodology).

In the 30 days leading up to the survey, 23% of respondents from Guyana experienced a time when they went a whole day without eating, 38% when they were hungry but did not eat, and 42% reported that their household ran out of food. Additionally, half of respondents noted they had experienced a time when they ate less than they should have, and 38% of them skipped a meal. Worries about not having enough to eat were reported by more than half of respondents (58%). Maintaining a diverse diet was not feasible for 65% of respondents, and 54% were not able to eat healthy and nutritious food in the first place. Only 17% of respondents did not experience any of the situations listed above. All of these negative behaviours appeared to be more widespread in Guyana compared to the regional average.

The reporting of the individual FIES categories varies across respondents, with the most striking differences emerging across income groups and geographical location. Respondents who describe their household income as well below or below average were the most affected across all individual negative food-related behaviours, while those with average income were the least likely to engage in any of such behaviours (the above and well above income groups were not included given the limited number of respondents in those categories). People living in rural areas in Guyana reported adopting more negative behaviours associated with difficulties in accessing food.

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

Differences were also observed across age groups, with younger respondents (40 and under) particularly affected. Respondents aged over 40 were the least likely to have engaged in any of the negative food-related behaviours. Differences appeared also between male and female respondents, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

Using the FIES methodology and survey data to calculate food insecurity prevalence rates, it is estimated that 58% of respondents are either moderately (35%) or severely (23%) food insecure in Guyana, a value that is 10% above estimates for the Caribbean average of 48%. In Guyana, respondents with lower income levels are experiencing severe and moderate food insecurity much more often than those with average incomes. Nearly a third of respondents with below or well below average income levels experienced severe food insecurity in the 30 days prior to the survey compared to 10% of those with an average income. Only 26% of those with well below or below incomes were mildly food insecure or food secure, compared to 59% of respondents from wealthier groups.

"I have to beg family members for help and sometimes I had to leave my children alone at home to work at nights to help get money to feed them and pay the bills" - Female, 36

"I have learned to consume on the little that you have to make it work" - Female, 29

"I lost my job, my new job I got after 2 years of searching is minimum wage that barely covers anything. I can't buy my medication of treat my genetic disease" - Female, 21

"I had to not eat some days pay rent and I don't really have money for my children to eat" - Male, 33

Prevalence rates of food insecurity

Based on FIES methodology

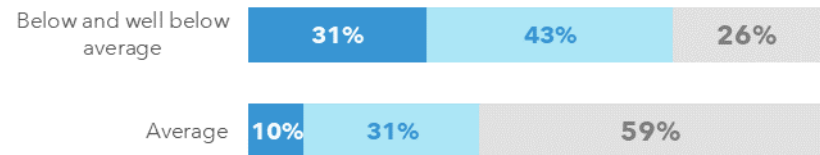
- Severely food insecure
- Moderately food insecure
- Mildly food insecure or food secure



Prevalence rates of food insecurity by perceived household income

Based on FIES methodology

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

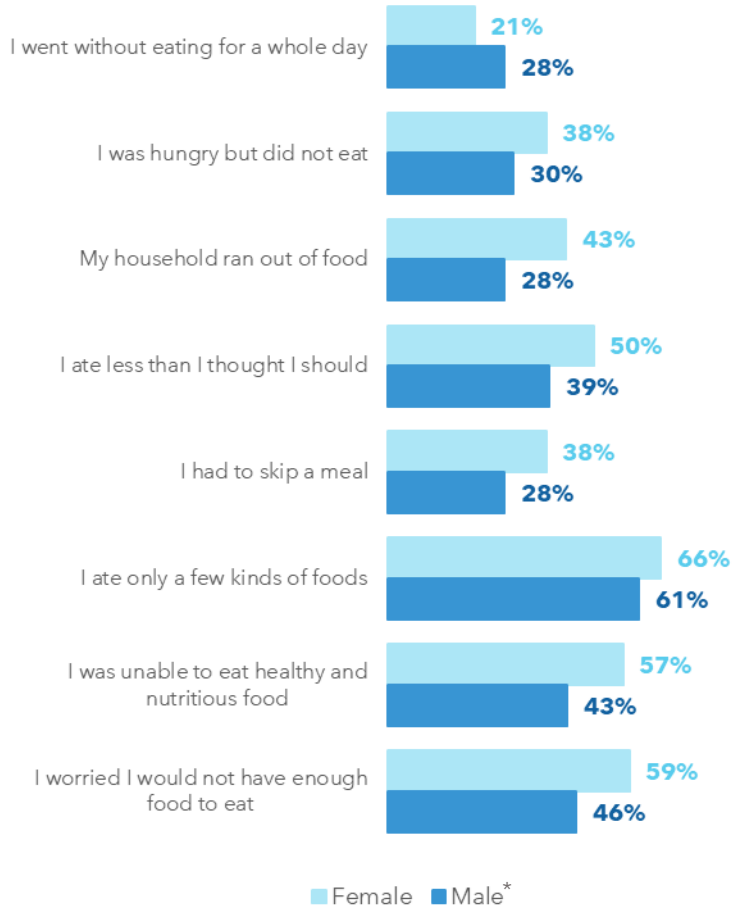


FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

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

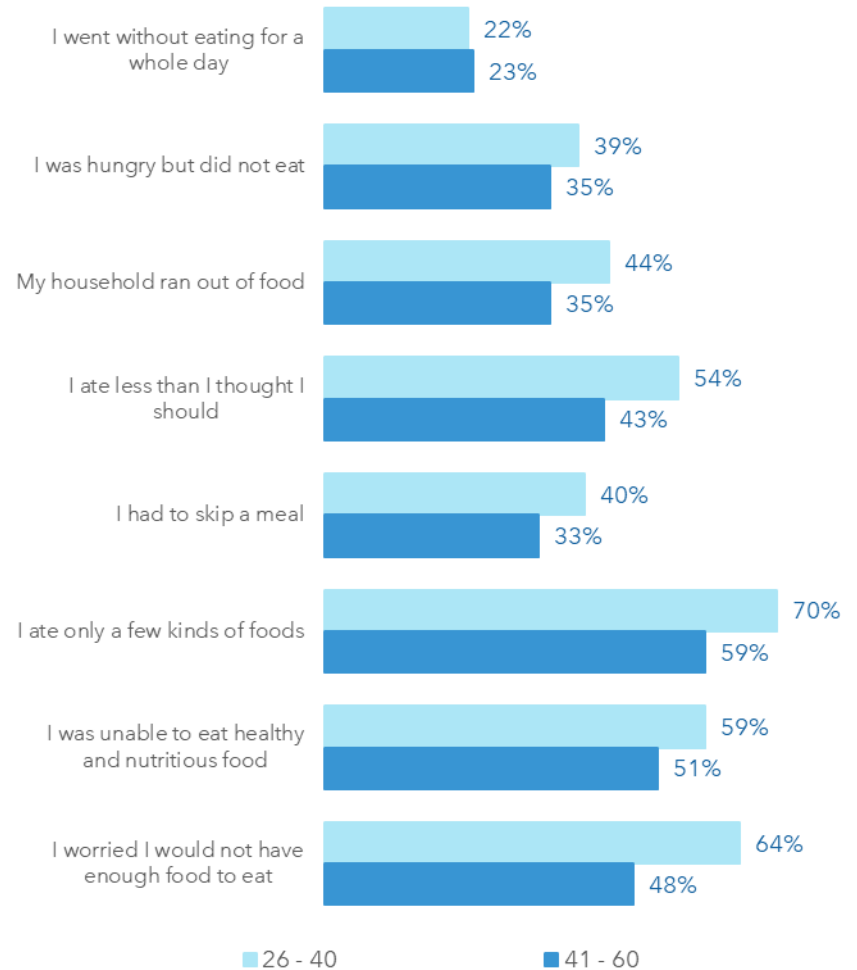
Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By age group

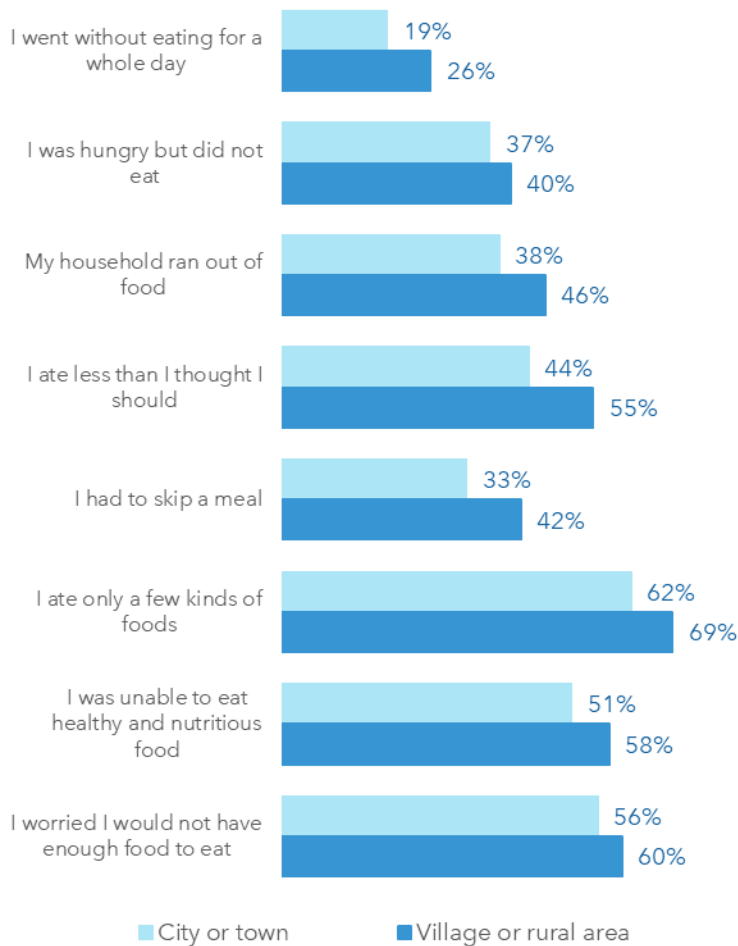


FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

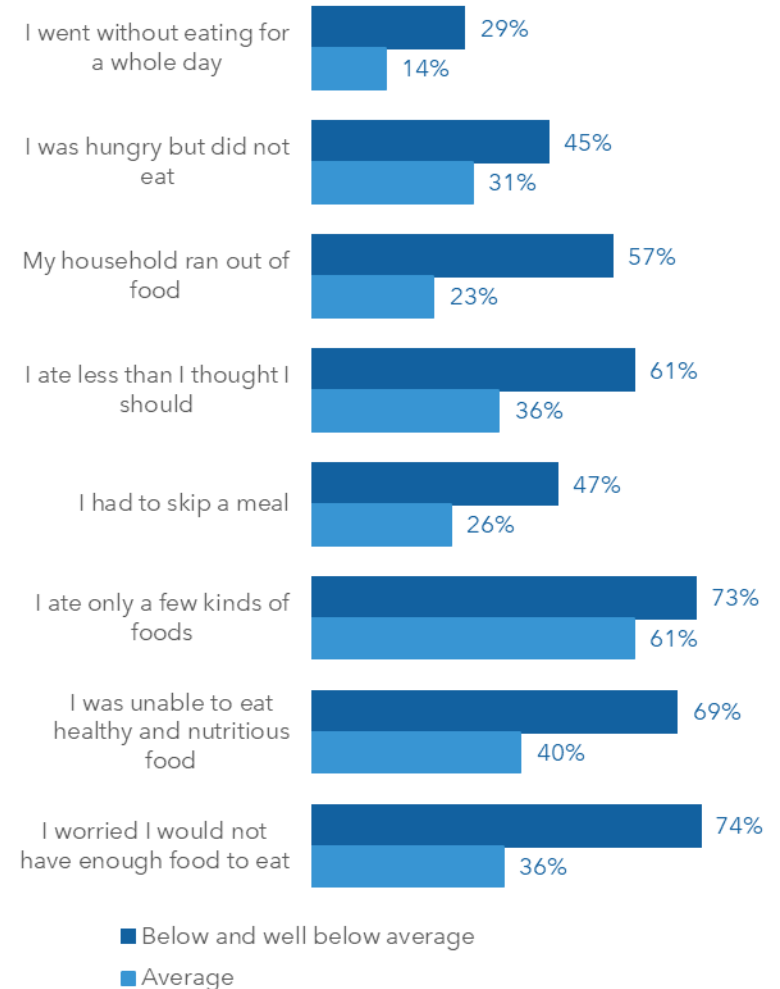
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By urban/rural location

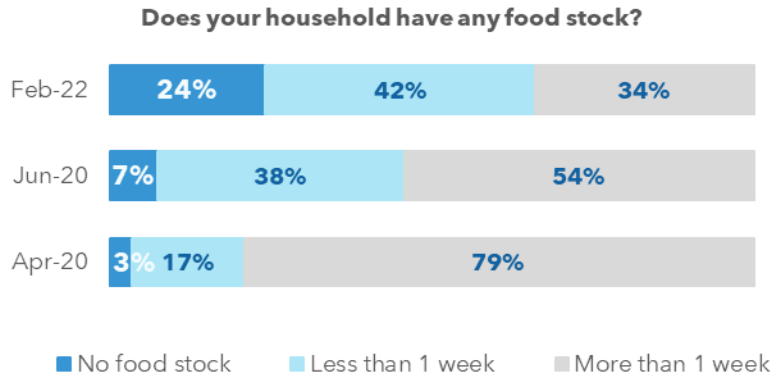


By perceived income level



FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

- ▶ An increased proportion of households reported having no food stocks at all both compared to previous surveys and to regional trends.



In February 2022, one quarter of respondents reported having no food stock at home and an additional 42% reported having less than 1 week of stock. This represents a significant increase from both June 2020, when 7% of respondents had no food stock, and April 2020, when only 3% had no stock. While some of these changes are likely driven by people not needing to “stock up” related to lockdowns, people’s eroding financial means are also an influencing factor.

Of respondents with a perceived income of well below or below average, 31% had no food stocks during the survey and only 23% had more than a week’s worth of food stock, compared to 49% of households with an average income. Households who derive their income primarily from regular employment tend to have larger food stocks than households that rely mainly on informal sources of income and on external assistance.

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 40, of whom 37% have food stocks worth more than a week. Households in more urban areas seem to stock up on food more than those living in rural environments. Female respondents also appear to report less food stock to rely on compared to male respondents, however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of male respondents.

Overall, the trends related to people’s food stocks in Guyana appear to be similar to those in the Caribbean region. However, a greater proportion of respondents in Guyana reported a limited or no food stocks compared to the regional average.

"Cannot afford basic amenities for myself and kids." - Female, 43

"I have been finding it hard to feed my kids and myself sometimes for days I don't eat but give my kids them the little I beg for" - Female, 26

"My parents and family start measuring food so we will argue if someone ate more/ stole food from someone else etc. . . My mother being the sole provider after my Father not being able to find a job. . . I had to borrow school supplies from my friends because I couldn't afford to buy them." - Female, 18

"I have had to resort to sharing food with another person that is not a part of our household almost on a day basis." - Female, 34

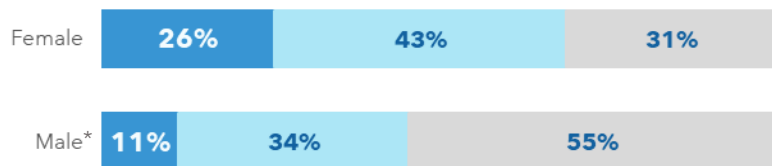
"I've experienced severe reduction in income which has placed all my financial obligations in a state of arrears, I've also developed mental health issues due to contracting the virus and I've been forced to be strong when I'm not." - Female, 26

FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

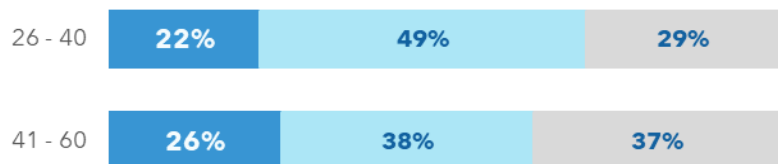
Does your household have any food stock?

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

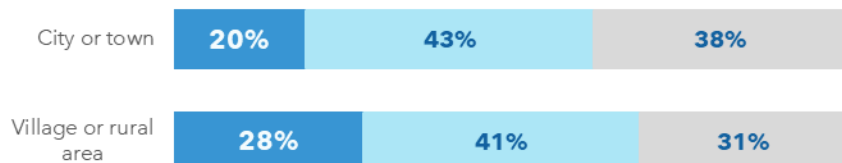
By sex



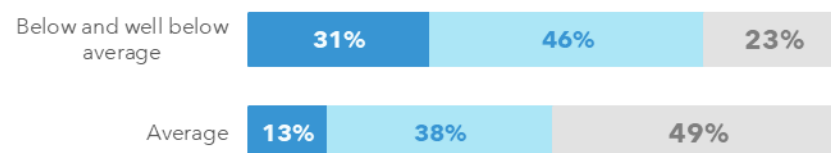
By age group



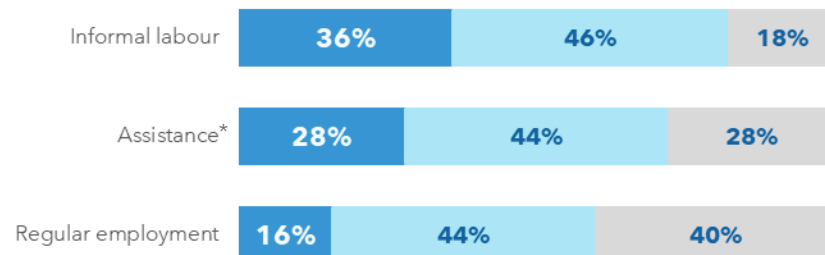
By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



By income sources



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

- ▶ Respondents from Guyana are amongst the highest portion reporting to have received assistance when compared to the region.

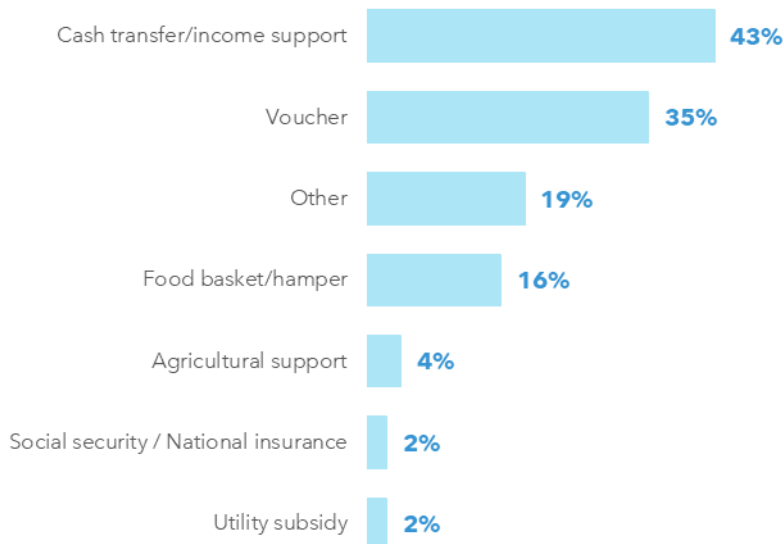
Have you received any assistance from the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Yes, currently still receiving assistance
- Yes, have received assistance in the past
- No



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

Multiple choices could be selected.



Forty-five percent of respondents reported to have received some form of government assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This percentage of 44% is significantly higher when compared with the regional average of 22% reporting to have benefited from government assistance. Almost none of these respondents (1%) reported still receiving assistance at the time of the survey, which is similar to what is being reported regionally.

Respondents most commonly reported receiving assistance in the form of cash transfers/income support (43%), followed by vouchers (35%). The Government of Guyana has been responding to those in need through various programmes such as the COVID-19 public assistance programme. Vulnerable households who are managed by single parents, consisting of elderly, persons living with disabilities, and those who have suffered income loss were targeted and benefited from cash assistance, and through vouchers redeemed at selected supermarkets. Eligible persons from the hinterland received food hampers which alleviated logistical constraints and were better catered for their indigenous diet. The World Food Programme also supported the government with cash grants which included support for women from vulnerable households who participated in the Women's Innovation and Investment Network (WIIN).

Respondents who perceive an average perceived income level (51%) were more likely to report to have received assistance compared with those from below and well below income level (40%).

There were no marked differences between sex, age groups, locality and income sources.

WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

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

■ Yes ■ No

By sex



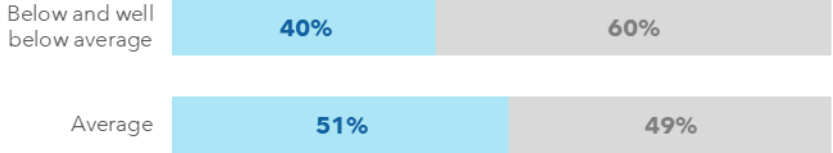
By age group



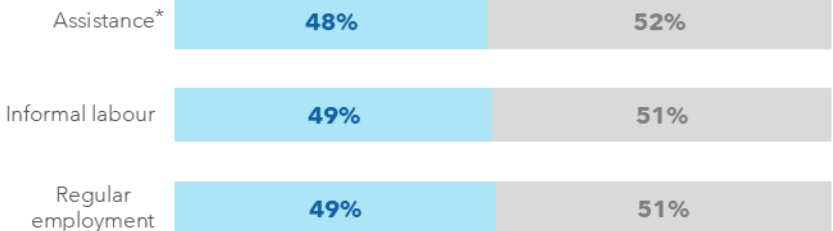
By urban/rural location



By perceived income level



By main income source



* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

- Fear of illness, followed by inability to cover food and essential needs are the main worries cited.

Fear of illness is still the leading cause of concern among respondents. Perhaps attributed to the availability of vaccines, it is less so when compared to June 2020. This is followed by the inability to cover food and other essential needs and by unemployment, which is consistent with overall results for the Caribbean region. Respondents from Guyana (58%) are more worried about falling ill when compared to the overall results from the Caribbean region (49%).

Respondents with different income levels continue to experience contrasting impacts of the pandemic. Respondents who describe their household income as average are more concerned about illness (69%) when compared to those from below or well below average income levels (48%). Inability to cover food and other essential needs follow as the secondary concerns, which are more frequently cited by those from below and well below income. Data was limited for those in above and well above average income levels.

Distinctions in main worries between rural and urban respondents were observed. Those from urban areas were more concerned about falling ill and social isolation when compared to those from rural areas. In contrast, unemployment was more of a concern for those from rural areas. Inability to cover food and essential needs were similarly cited between the localities.

There were no significant differences between age groups. A slightly increased portion of respondents from the 26-40 age group more frequently cited inability to cover essential needs and unemployment when compared to those in the 40-60 age group.

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

Main worries	Feb-22	Jun-20
Fear of illness	58%	69%
Inability to cover food needs	35%	35%
Inability to cover essential needs	35%	28%
Unemployment	34%	45%
Social isolation	20%	27%
Disruptions to education	18%	17%
Having to resort to savings	18%	18%
Child(ren)/dependents care	11%	7%
Movement restrictions	8%	15%
Violence in the community	5%	10%
Other worries	3%	0%
Violence in the household	1%	1%
Unable to access services	1%	2%

By perceived income level

	Below and well below average	Average
Fear of illness	48%	69%
Inability to cover food needs	46%	21%
Inability to cover essential needs	43%	30%
Unemployment	38%	28%
Social isolation	16%	26%
Disruptions to education	14%	26%
Having to resort to savings	16%	22%
Child(ren)/dependents care	11%	12%
Movement restrictions	4%	12%
Violence in the community	1%	7%
Other worries	3%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	1%
Unable to access services	0%	0%

WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex

Main worries	Female	Male*
Fear of illness	57%	67%
Inability to cover essential needs	36%	28%
Inability to cover food needs	35%	28%
Unemployment	34%	33%
Social isolation	21%	15%
Disruptions to education	18%	24%
Having to resort to savings	18%	22%
Child(ren)/dependents care	12%	9%
Movement restrictions	8%	9%
Violence in the community	3%	15%
Other worries	2%	7%
Violence in the household	1%	0%
Unable to access services	0%	2%

By urban/rural location

Main worries	City or town	Village or rural area
Fear of illness	63%	54%
Inability to cover food needs	35%	39%
Inability to cover essential needs	35%	35%
Unemployment	29%	38%
Social isolation	28%	15%
Disruptions to education	21%	16%
Having to resort to savings	16%	19%
Child(ren)/dependents care	12%	11%
Movement restrictions	10%	6%
Violence in the community	6%	3%
Other worries	3%	2%
Violence in the household	0%	1%
Unable to access services	1%	0%

By age group

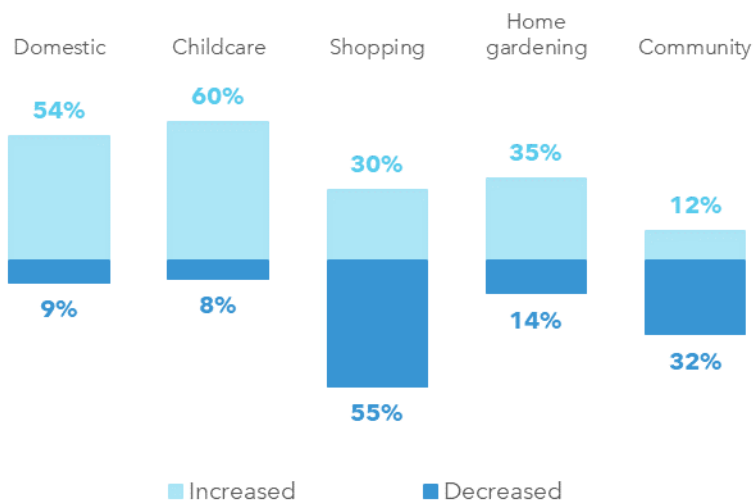
Main worries	26 - 40	41 - 60
Fear of illness	55%	60%
Inability to cover food needs	34%	35%
Inability to cover essential needs	41%	32%
Unemployment	34%	28%
Social isolation	21%	20%
Disruptions to education	17%	18%
Having to resort to savings	17%	17%
Child(ren)/dependents care	17%	5%
Movement restrictions	6%	9%
Violence in the community	3%	4%
Other worries	2%	3%
Violence in the household	1%	0%
Unable to access services	1%	1%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

- ▶ Respondents continue to report an increase in time devoted to domestic work and childcare, while decreasing shopping activities.

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



"Online schooling and nobody home to take care of the kids if I go and work" - Female, 23

"Online school with the addition of poor connectivity" - Male, 16

"After having COVID could not access any after care, lost my job, cannot get another...It is a vicious cycle as I am not eating healthily, and do not want to get sick again." - Female, 62

"Certain beneficial services have been delayed or denied." - Female, 22

Households in Guyana continue to adjust the amount of time spent on unpaid care and work to cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents reported an increase in time devoted to domestic work and childcare, while decreasing shopping activities. The reported amount of time spent on childcare has increased by 12%, while on home gardening it has reduced by 13% when compared with June 2020. Nearly half of respondents (54%) reported spending more time on domestic work and childcare, and over half (52%) continue to curb their time for shopping activities. These patterns are largely consistent when compared with the overall results from the region.

Different income groups continue to have varied experiences with their amount of time spent on unpaid care and work. A decrease in time spent on shopping activities was more often reported by those perceiving their income as well below and below average (67%) when compared to those with average income level (43%).

Both female and male respondents reported an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare, and while data does not enable disaggregation owing to limited male responses, women typically disproportionately spend more time on unpaid work and care than men.

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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

By survey round

Feb-22	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	54%	60%	30%	35%	12%
No change	33%	20%	14%	34%	34%
Decreased	9%	8%	55%	14%	32%
Not applicable	4%	13%	1%	16%	22%

Jun-20	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	61%	48%	26%	48%	15%
No change	27%	34%	17%	29%	37%
Decreased	8%	7%	57%	8%	24%
Not applicable	4%	11%	1%	14%	23%

By sex

Female	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	55%	63%	30%	36%	10%
No change	33%	17%	13%	33%	34%
Decreased	10%	8%	56%	15%	33%
Not applicable	3%	12%	0%	16%	22%

Male*	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	42%	41%	32%	33%	24%
No change	45%	35%	16%	41%	35%
Decreased	8%	8%	51%	10%	22%
Not applicable	5%	16%	0%	15%	19%

* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By perceived income

Below and well below average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	54%	61%	22%	35%	10%
No change	30%	18%	11%	29%	32%
Decreased	14%	12%	67%	18%	37%
Not applicable	2%	9%	0%	17%	21%

Average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	52%	65%	37%	36%	12%
No change	38%	19%	20%	43%	41%
Decreased	4%	4%	43%	10%	25%
Not applicable	6%	12%	0%	11%	22%

"I was working as a domestic help and because of covid the lay me off so instead of working the law me off" - Female, 26

"I have been affected tremendously in my business and livelihoods during COVID-19 my business had bring on a decline in every way less sources of income." - Female, 43

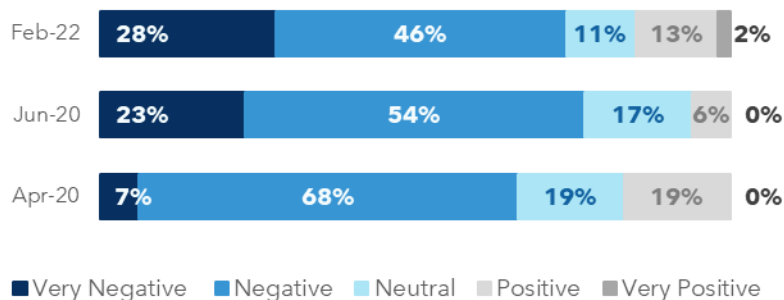
"I'm a single parent who lost main source of income. My savings depleted. Had to transfer my son from private school to public. The cost of living is too high and I'm inundated with debts" - Female, 34

"I have been severely affected because business has been very slow and i have a large family 5" - Female, 49

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

- ▶ The pandemic continues to take an increasingly negative toll as respondents worry about the increasing food prices and living costs.

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 two years on since the declaration of the pandemic. Out of the 391 respondents, 203 responded to the open-ended question. 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 mainly negative (46%) and very negative (28%) sentiments.

The responses paint a picture of struggles but also changes people are making to adapt. With the cost of food and living rising, many are struggling to cover basic amenities and pay for utilities and bills. Some respondents described high costs in fertilizer and building materials limiting their ability to carry out their livelihood activities.

Many also described falling ill and feeling long-term effects of COVID-19. This is preventing some from working to their full capacity, further contributing to economic stresses. Some, already suffering from existing health conditions, described challenges accessing health services. Many described the mental toll of COVID-19, including the grief of losing loved ones.

Some sample responses:

Very negative (28%)

"For my family members we have suffered bereavement, isolation, loss of income, and fear are triggering our mental health conditions or exacerbating existing ones. We are facing increased levels of insomnia, and anxiety.

However, the biggest change I have adapted are buying lesser good/services than expected, my siblings are unable to attend school because of closure, while others attend school twice per week on a half-day session." - Female, 18

Negative (46%)

"So sad covid is bad" - Female, 38

"It's been hard when 1 person income alone is trying to run the home then work had closed making things more hard ." - Female, 33

Neutral (11%)

"Cooking twice per week" - Female, 43

Positive (13%)

"Stay home from work to take care of my children" - Female, 33

"Start craft to help out with Bill's but not going as I wish but thankful for what we have" - Female, 37

Very positive (2%)

"Biggest change was working from home and striving for work/ life balance" - Female, 54

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



JUNE
2020



APRIL
2020



CONCLUSION

Since the first survey was launched in April 2020, much has changed in Guyana. Vaccines have become available, travel has resumed and the Government of Guyana has implemented various 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 Guyana 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 widespread toll on livelihoods, incomes, food security and people's wellbeing. Despite certain signs of recovery and optimism, the underlying picture still remains concerning.

Many people continue to face disruptions to their livelihoods, and the impact on incomes remains widespread. The resources that people have are not going as far with increasing food prices. More and more people are buying cheaper or less preferred foods, purchasing in smaller quantities, drawing on savings and reducing other critical expenditures on health, education and livelihoods to make ends meet. On top of these unsustainable measures, more people also 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 and greater government expenditures foreseen for the new fiscal year 2022/23, there is some cause for optimism on economic recovery and relief. However, the picture in February 2022 was one of many facing struggles related to employment, food security, and concerns about the future. The decrease of incomes, lost jobs and increased costs of living or for pursuing livelihoods have recalibrated the baseline of well-being, in negative terms for most people.

These impacts are hitting hardest those who can least afford it - particularly families with the lowest incomes, those who rely on less formal source of income or assistance for their living and households

which are located in rural areas. It will take substantial effort and directed investment to make sure that those already in difficulty are not left even further behind as Guyana seeks to turn the corner on the pandemic.

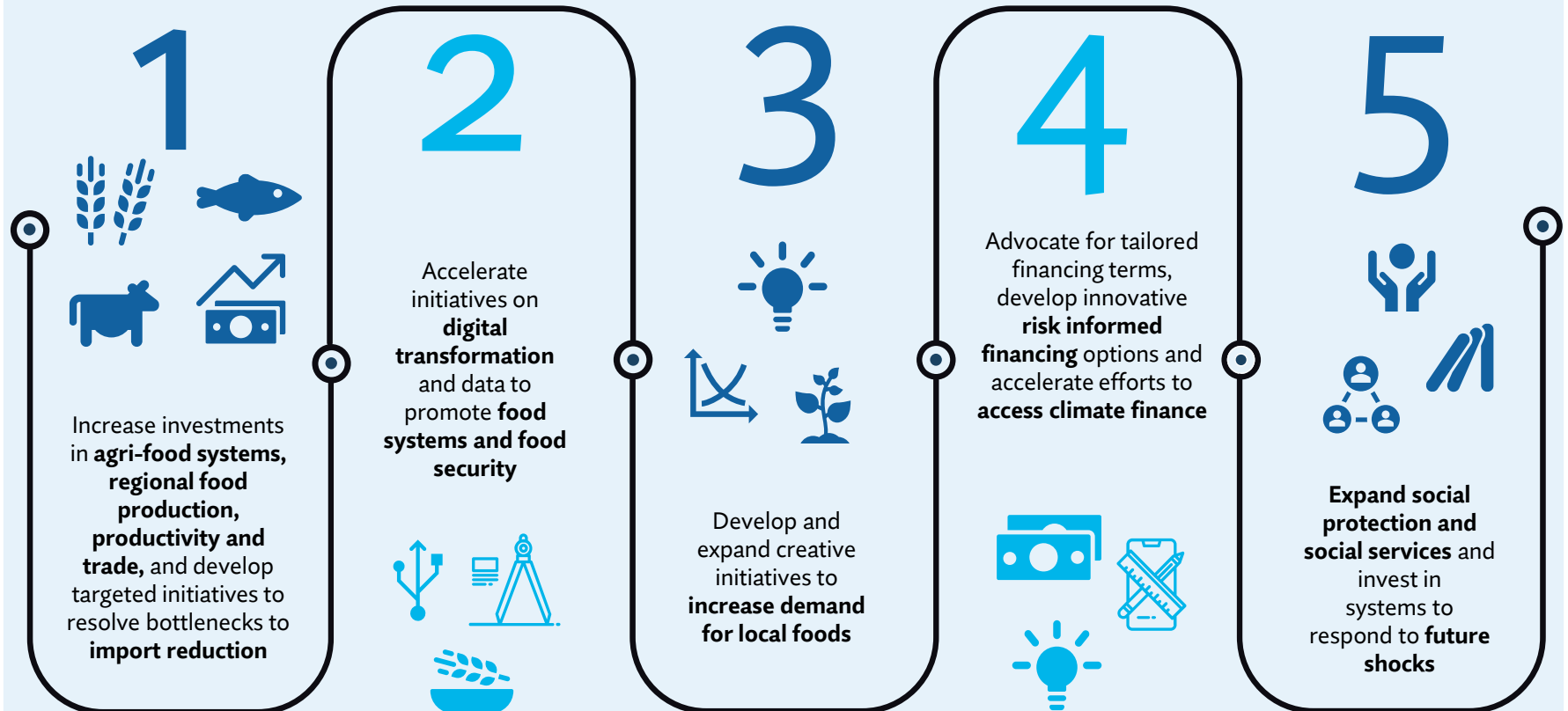
The survey also highlights that unpaid time spent on childcare and domestic work are still greater than before the pandemic, and these activities are disproportionately shouldered by women. Continued and deepened analysis on gender dynamics remains a priority to ensure that recovery processes are gender-responsive and continuously support women's empowerment.

The Government of Guyana has turned to many policy measures and programmes to manage these impacts and support people. Social protection has played a critical role through cash transfers, vouchers and other forms of support. Given the continuation of impacts to people's incomes and lives, it is critical for the government to continue and increase investments in safety nets and people's resilience, particularly for those living in poverty and facing different facets of vulnerability.

Similar to other Caribbean economies, Guyana is highly exposed to global and regional shocks. The combination of COVID-19 impacts on incomes, supply chain disruptions and rising inflation, as well as the anticipation of the global economic reverberations of the Ukraine crisis and the potential for drought conditions, present Guyana with a multi-pronged challenge for food security and economic recovery. The predicted economic growth owing to oil revenue, the strengthening of food systems, social protection, and emergency preparedness must be therefore a strategic recovery and development priority, in line with broader CARICOM objectives and recommendations. See Box 1 on next page for recommendations from the [*Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey Regional Summary Report, February 2022*](#).

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Box 1: Recommendations from the [Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey Regional Summary Report, February 2022](#)



METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

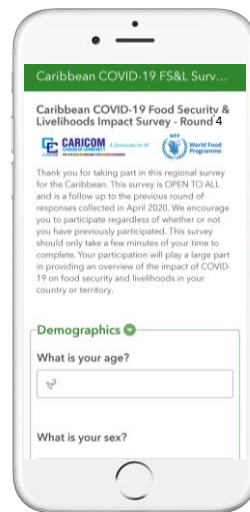
The fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 25 January to 8 February 2022. The survey was circulated via email, social 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.

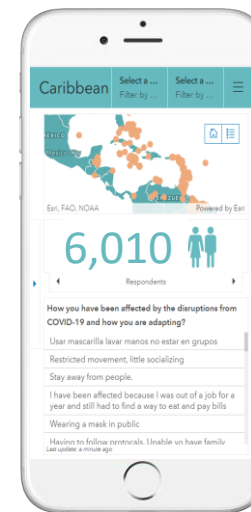
WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Barbados and Grenada. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago for circulating the survey link.

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



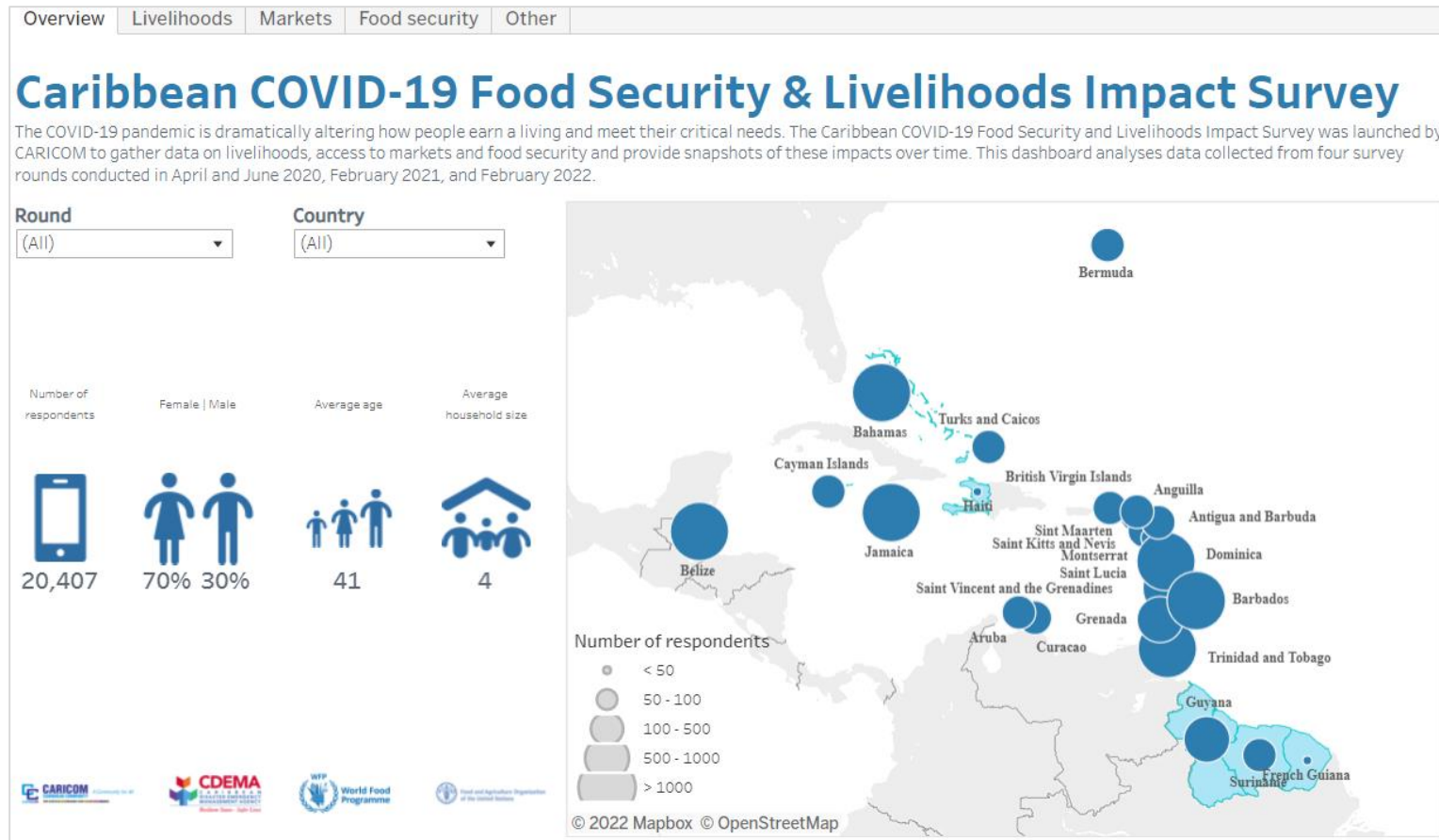
Dashboard for PCs/Laptops

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 & Livelihoods 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>

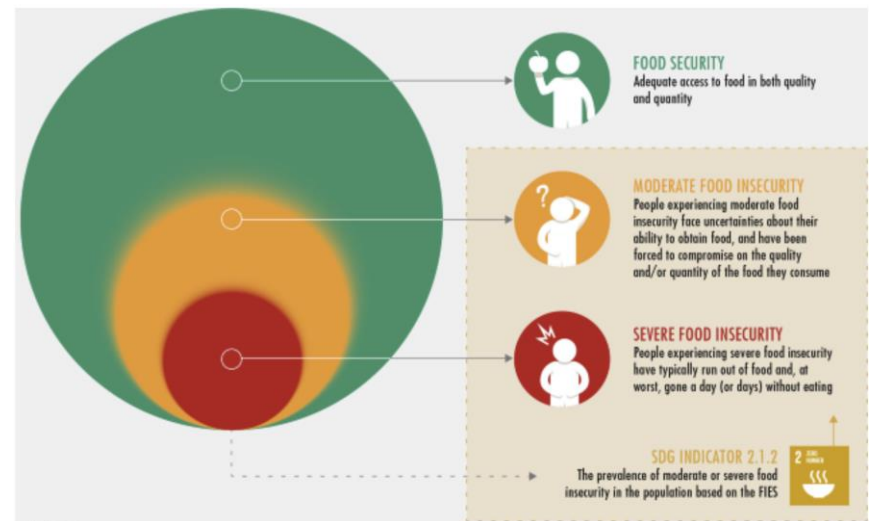


CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was used for calculating food insecurity estimates presented in this report. 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 FIES, see FAO's ['The Food Insecurity Experience Scale: Measuring food insecurity through people's experiences'](#) and FAO's ["Implementing the FIES in surveys"](#)



Interpreting FIES indicators (Source: FAO).

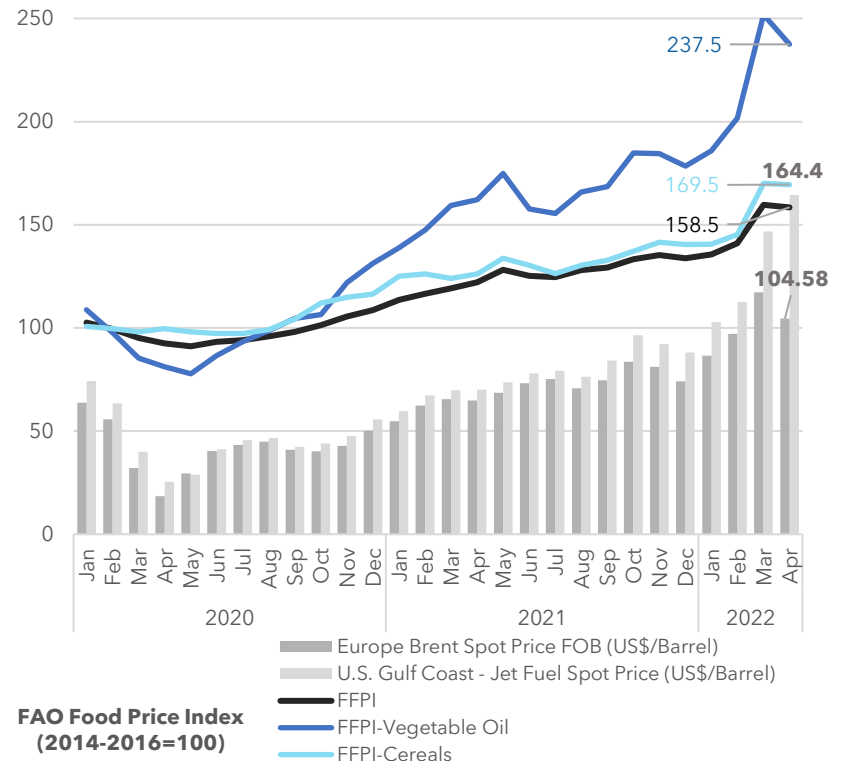
ANNEX | Regional implications of Ukraine crisis

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 FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) has already reached an all time high in March 2022 with 159.7 points and remains elevated.

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 also major producers of fertilizers and export disruptions may 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, jet fuel, shipping and commodity prices will further drive inflationary trends. This will particularly affect small island states, people living in 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 and fertilizer is expected to have cascading effects in this region.

Adjustments to government budgets are also expected under new fiscal realities and will also depend on future oil price developments, which means that financing for public services such as health, education or social protection may be at risk from cuts. However, it is critical to protect and increase these over time to promote inclusive economic recovery and prevent the rise in inequalities. 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.

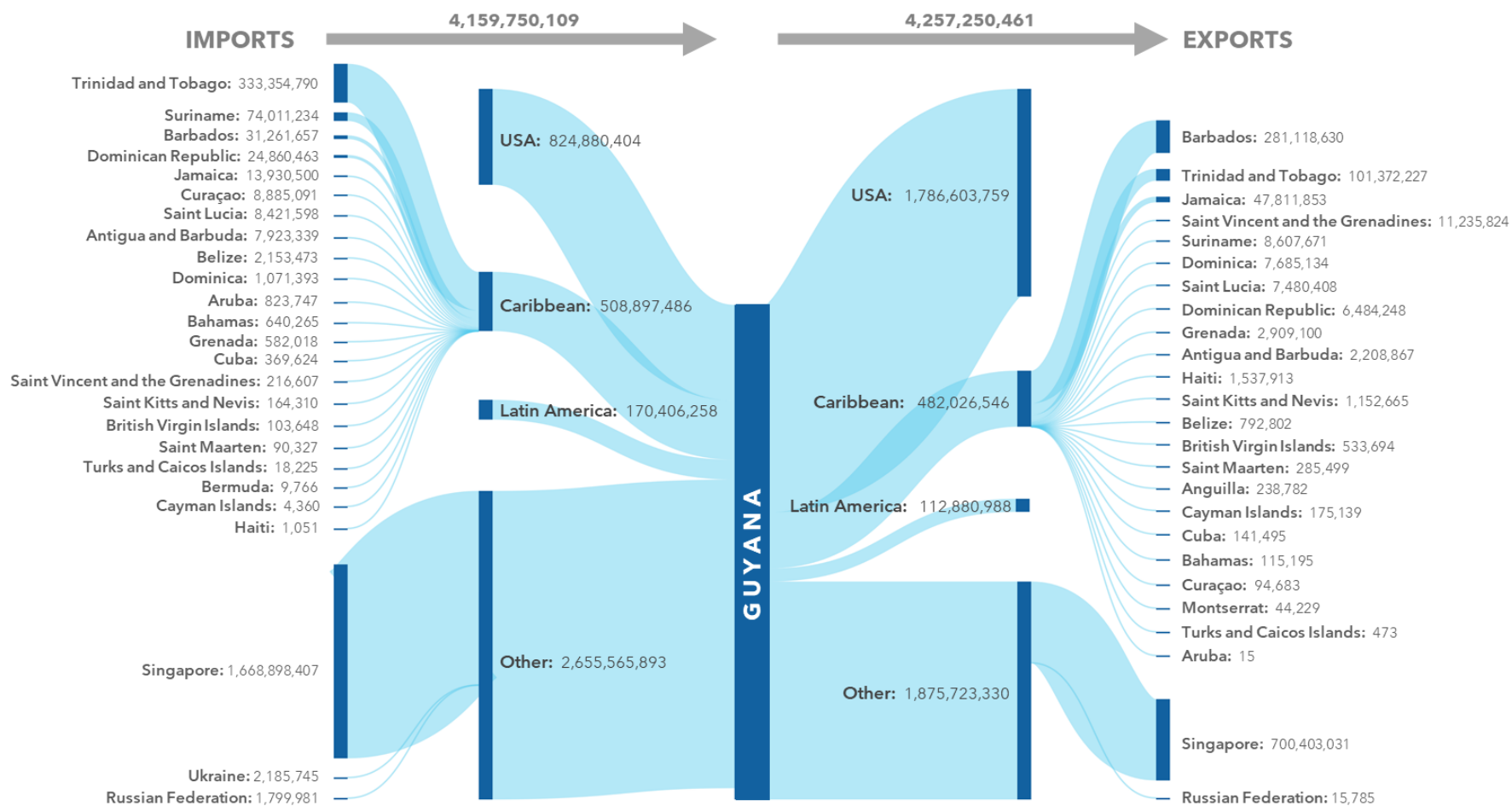


Source: FAO, US Energy Information Administration

ANNEX | Guyana trade flows

Import and export of all commodities in Guyana in 2021, based on US\$ value

Source: UN Comtrade



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



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