

# Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

## Barbados 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 April 2020, June 2020 and February 2021. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the short online survey was circulated in Barbados via social media, media outlets, SMS and emails.

### February 2022



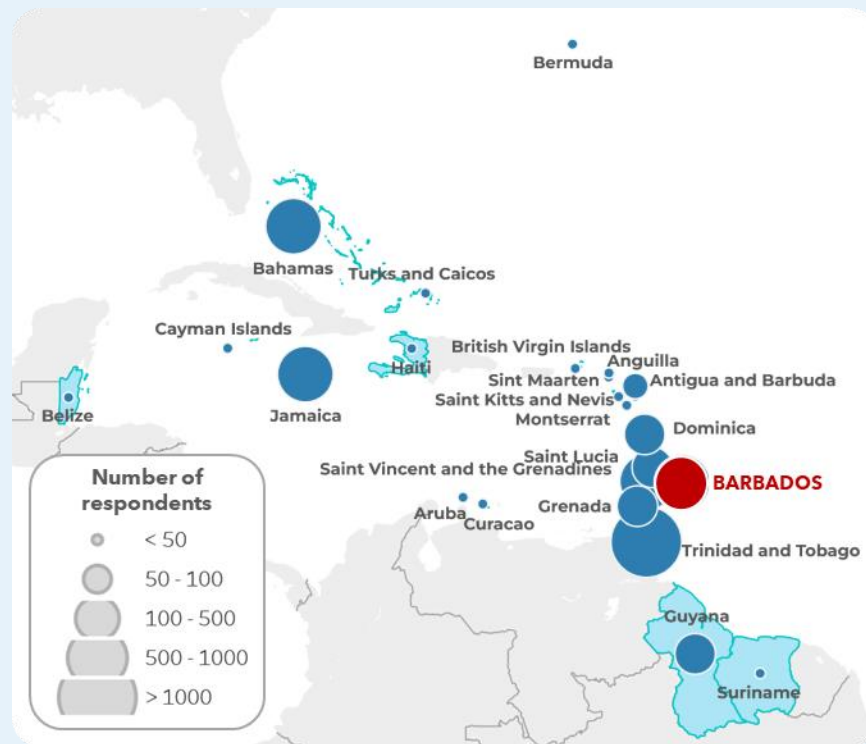
### February 2021



### June 2020



### April 2020



# BARBADOS Summary | May 2022

- Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Barbados continue to be impacted by the health crisis and the resulting economic downturn. While vaccines have become more widely available, the emergence of new variants in 2021 resulted in travel and movement restrictions continuing to varying degrees.
- The pandemic continues to impact people's livelihoods. Nearly 40% of respondents faced a disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey, which is lower than in previous surveys. However, the reasons for disruptions are gradually shifting. More and more people are struggling with the increased prices of livelihood inputs and less so with movement restrictions, while the fear of illness remains significant.
- Nearly 60% of respondents predict at least moderate impacts to their livelihoods in the future. Those with lower incomes, engaged in informal labor or relying on external assistance, and those living in rural areas have the most pessimistic outlooks.
- Negative impact on incomes remains widespread, with 46% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the start of the pandemic, which is a slight improvement compared to February 2021 (55%).
- Respondents continue to worry mainly about illness (56%), followed by meeting their essential needs (35%) and unemployment (34%), with lowest income respondents most worried about unemployment.
- Food prices are increasing, and 84% of respondents reported higher than usual food prices, an observation that is much more widespread compared to February 2021.
- One-fifth 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 cheaper and less preferred foods and in smaller quantities than usual.
- Almost half of respondents (33%) are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure, with the lowest income households being by far the most food insecure. Almost a quarter of the lowest income respondents reported to have no food stocks at the time of the survey.
- More people are going a whole day without eating and skipping meals compared to April 2020. Lowest income households were most likely to resort to negative coping strategies. Respondents are resorting to more severe actions, with 57% drawing on savings to meet immediate food and other needs, a third reducing expenditures on education and health, and a fifth selling productive assets.
- Differences in impacts are most pronounced when comparing income groups. Households describing their incomes as below and well below average show the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being and are at risk of further falling behind.
- One quarter of respondents have received some form of government support. However, very few were receiving assistance at the time of the survey. Food basket/hampers were the most common type of support received.
- Food insecurity risks are deepening in Barbados, 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.
- Women are disproportionately impacted by an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare due to the pandemic.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not representative, and the use of an online questionnaire limits inputs from people without internet access.

# BARBADOS Summary | May 2022

## All respondents

		Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
<b>LIVELIHOODS</b>	Disrupted livelihoods	38%	47%	46%	69%
	Reduction/loss of income	46%	55%	62%	43%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	32%	45%	40%	40%
<b>MARKETS</b>	Lack of market access	19%	18%	17%	52%
	Change in shopping behaviour	84%	79%	84%	85%
	Increase in food prices	84%	56%	73%	48%
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	Reduced food consumption	24%	24%	25%	17%
	Lack of food stock	12%	11%	9%	2%

## Respondents with below or well below average perceived income\*

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

		Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20
<b>LIVELIHOODS</b>	Disrupted livelihoods	50%	60%	60%
	Reduction/loss of income	71%	79%	83%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	58%	72%	60%
<b>MARKETS</b>	Lack of market access	35%	33%	35%
	Change in shopping behaviour	91%	87%	92%
	Increase in food prices	86%	65%	80%
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	Reduced food consumption	48%	50%	48%
	Lack of food stock	23%	21%	18%

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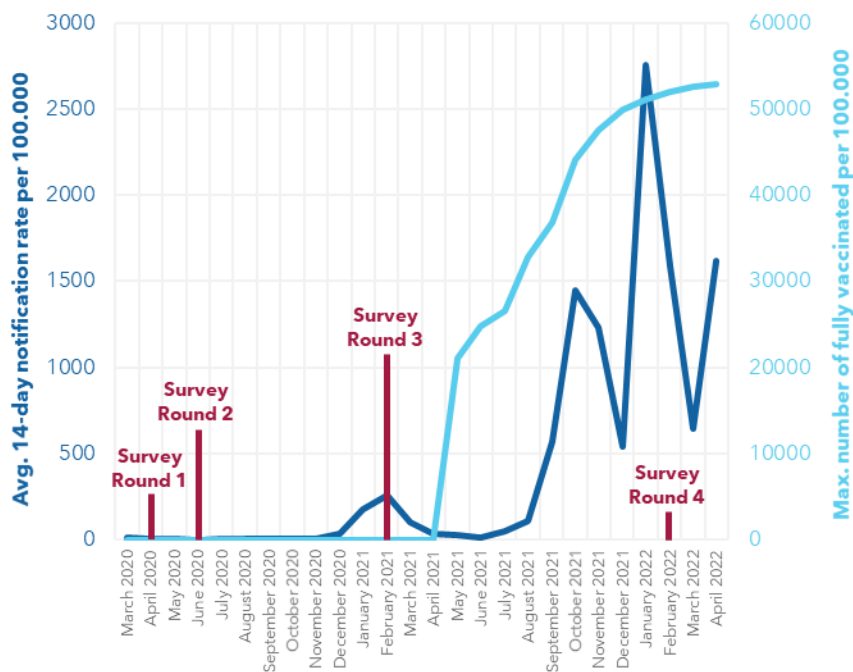
# COVID-19 | Situation and response

## COVID-19 cases and government responses

Following the first recorded COVID-19 case and the declaration of a public health emergency in mid-March 2020, Barbados experienced three waves of infections, with a peak in the number of new cases in late January 2022 due to the Omicron variant. At the time of this survey in early February 2022, a night-time curfew was still in effect but was lifted shortly after. At the time of publication of this report in May 2022, however, the number of cases was on the rise again.

## New COVID-19 cases and vaccination in Barbados\*

\*Average rate of COVID-19 cases and maximum number of fully vaccinated people per month in Barbados. 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

Since the launch of the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in early 2021, as one of the first countries in the Caribbean, Barbados saw a steady increase in the number of people vaccinated through mid-2021, after which vaccination coverage continued to rise, though at a slower pace. As of April 2022, approximately 53% of the country's population were fully vaccinated, which is below the worldwide coverage of 60%.

## Broader developments and government responses

With the tourism sector accounting for 45% of its Gross Domestic Product and some 47,000 people working in tourism or related occupations pre-pandemic, Barbados was severely affected by the virtual collapse in tourism in 2020. Following the resumption of international travel in July 2020, the country saw an upswing in the number of tourist arrivals. However, the total number of stopover visitors in 2021 remained well below pre-pandemic levels. During the period of January-March 2022, total tourism arrivals were slightly above half the level compared to the same period in 2018 or 2019.<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, the government launched a stimulus package for the tourism sector known as the Barbados Employment and Sustainable Transformation (BEST) Plan for up to USD150 million, which included investments in hotels and other tourism facilities, grants to businesses, and training for workers. In the face of the significant socioeconomic impact caused by the pandemic, the government also implemented a number of social protection measures, including the Adopt-a-Family-Programme, which provided financial assistance to about 5,000 vulnerable households but has been scaled back since 2021. Throughout 2020, the government also disbursed about USD78 million through its Unemployment Fund, more than three times the amount disbursed in 2019.<sup>2</sup>

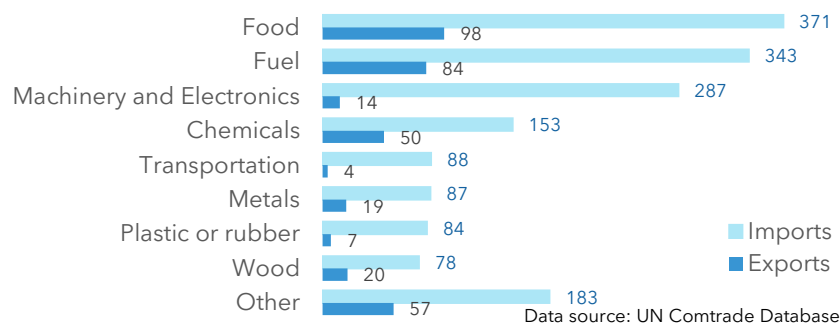
1 Central Bank of Barbados (2022). Review of Barbados' Economic Performance. January to March 2022.

2 Barbados Government Information Service (2021). NIS Financially Stable Despite Impact Of Pandemic.

# Emerging issues | Implications of Ukraine crisis

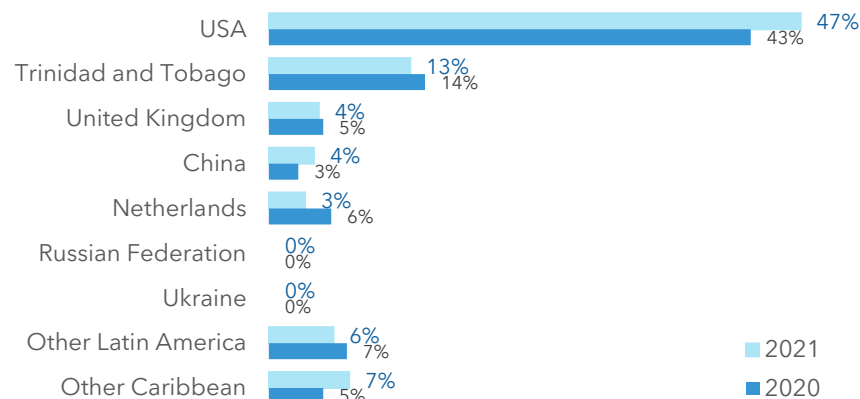
The crisis in Ukraine is having wide implications on international supply chains, inflationary pressure and economic growth (see [Annex](#)). Most affected will be countries which have high import dependency on the Russian Federation and Ukraine on key commodities, but spill over effects are expected also elsewhere. Barbados, like most economies of the Caribbean, is a net importer of commodities. In 2021, overall imports were valued US\$ 1.67 billion and were nearly five times the value of exports, which amounted to US\$ 0.35 billion. Petroleum oil is the single most important traded commodity, both as a share of overall imports (15.6% in US\$ value) and exports (20.8%). The second most important export commodity is rum and other distilled spirits, with a share of 12% of overall exports and 43% of all food exports.

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



The United States is the main trading partner of Barbados, contributing to nearly 47% of its total imports and 13% of exports in terms of US\$ value. The US is also the main source market for food (45%) and fuel (37%), and made up the greatest share of imports for commodity groups such as cereals (83%), fertilizer (74%) or live animals (62%). Caribbean economies were also significant source markets for both food (22%) and fuel (52%), of which Trinidad and Tobago contributed the greatest share of overall imports for those commodities. Imports from the Russian Federation or Ukraine for any these commodities were either non-existent or insignificant.

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

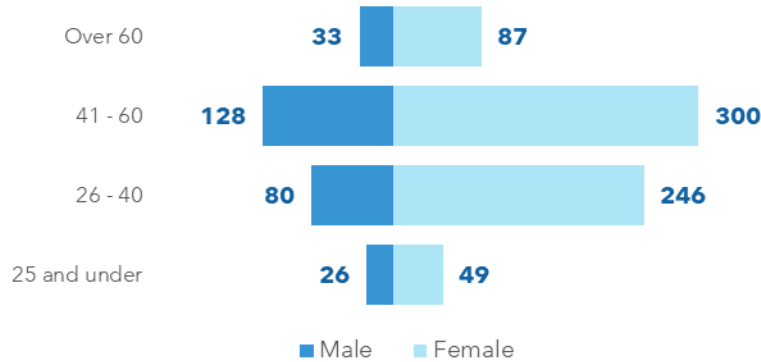


Barbados' negative balance of trade makes it still vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply chain shocks in international markets, which may translate to inflationary pressure domestically. While annual point to point inflation was low and stable for the most part of the pandemic (under 3%), mainly due to weakened international oil and commodity prices, it began a gradual upwards trajectory from June 2021 onwards, and rising sharply to 9.3% in March 2022. Main contributors to the upward trends were the prices of food, transport and electricity costs. It is expected that international commodity prices will continue to rise while oil prices will stabilize, but at an elevated level.

So far, the Central Bank of Barbados (CBB) has not introduced changes to the discount interest rate, which was reduced from 7% to 2% on 1 April 2020. However, to contain the increase in the cost of living, provide relief and incentivize future-oriented recovery, the government introduced select progressive measures in its recent Budgetary Proposals and Financial Statement for the fiscal year 2022/23. Originally tabled prior to the Ukraine crisis, the new budget estimate amounts to 3.74 billion Barbadian dollars, up from 3.51 billion dollars which were allocated for the previous fiscal year.

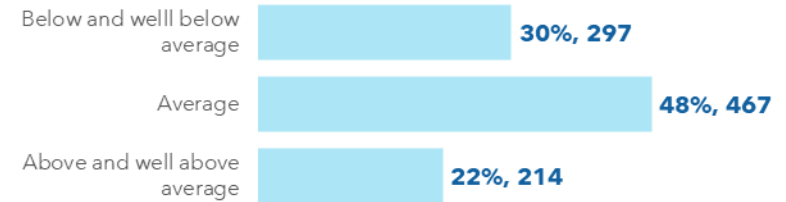
# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

## Age and sex

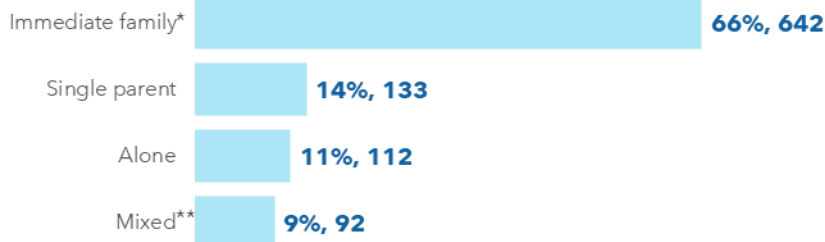


## Perceived income levels

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



## Household composition



\* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.

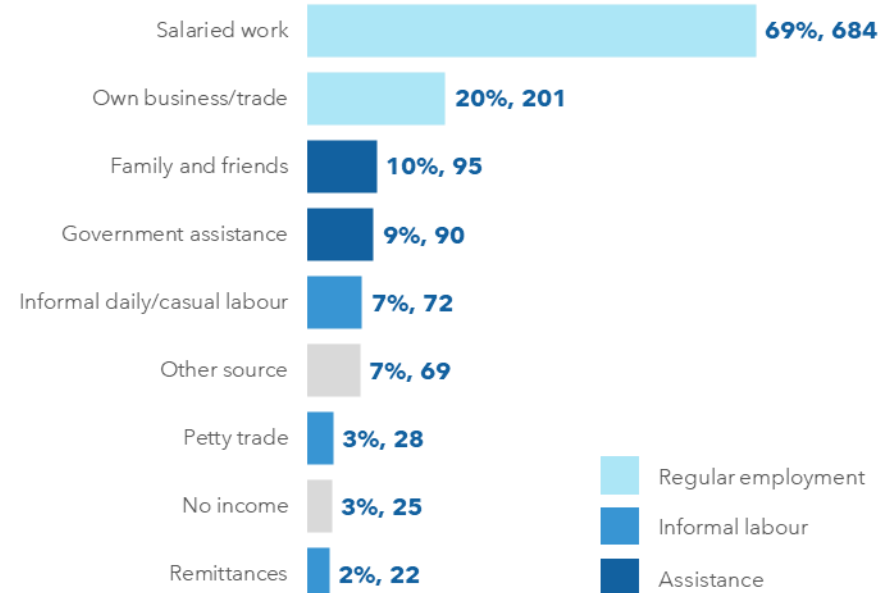
\*\* Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

## Urban/rural location



## Main income sources

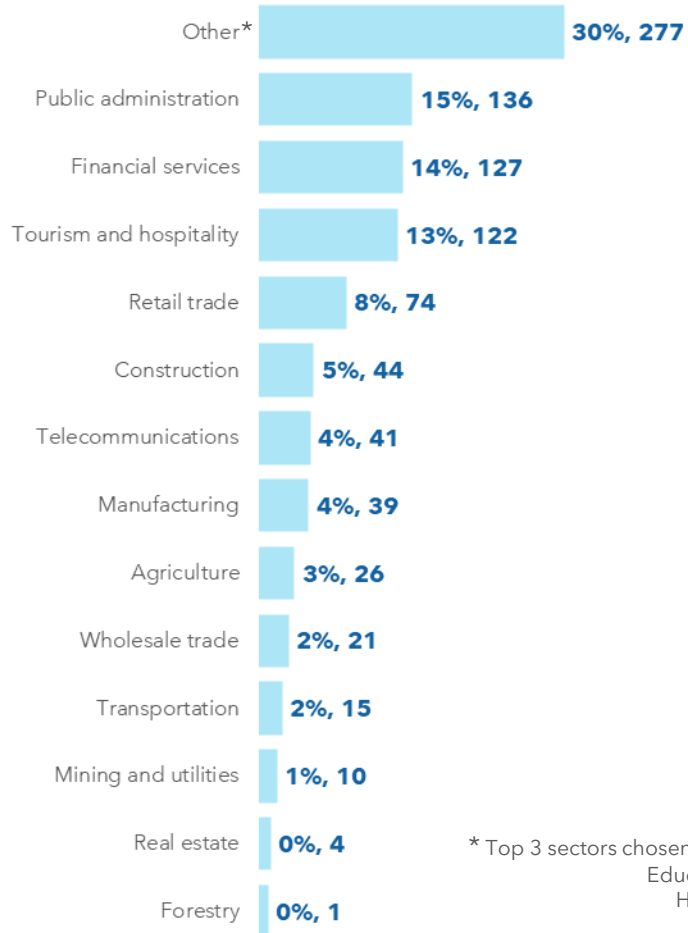
Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source(s) for their household. Multiple choices could be selected.



# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

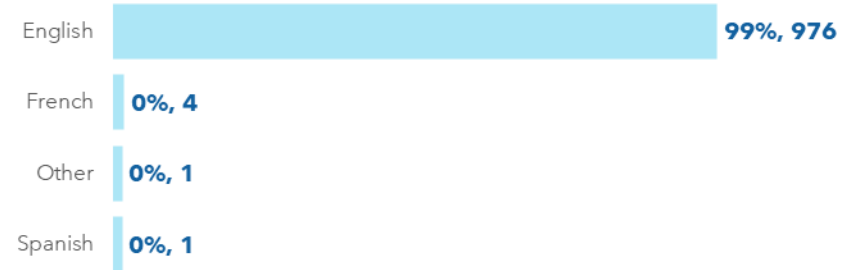
## Main income sector

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



\* Top 3 sectors chosen under "Other":  
 Education, teaching  
 Health, medicine  
 Pension, retired

## Language

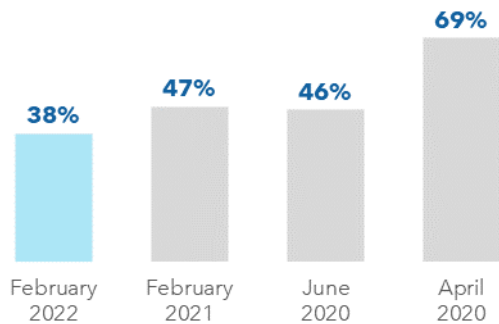




# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

- ▶ 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 nearly four out of ten respondents, the ability to pursue their livelihood remained compromised in the two weeks prior to the survey. This proportion has decreased compared to the early stages of pandemic, when disruptions were experienced by seven out of ten respondents.

When considering the different characteristics of people responding to the survey (such as age, sex, perceived income level or household composition) the biggest differences are linked to people's level of income and age. Among respondents who described their income as below or well below average, 51% reported livelihood disruptions, compared to 22% of those with income levels above or well above average. Respondents up to the age of 40 were more affected compared to older age groups.

*"My work day is compacted and more intense with great pressure the same top quality job done with less time." - Male, age unknown*

*"Employment contract became temporary and conditional on revenue" - Male, 30*

*"Money has been tight and jobs are just not there." - Female, 44*

*"Work adjustments by limited hours to do business which resulted in low income" - Male, 40*

*"Having to work from home and not being able to teach face to face, also being home alone with limited social interaction has been difficult." - Male, 45*

*"In addition to covid my home was affected by Elsa last year repairs still ongoing" - Male, 40*

*"I have had my home taken back by the bank in December 2021" - Female, 45*

*"I currently have covid and the biggest thing I have had to adapt to is returning to work in office and not feeling safe" - Female, 28*

*"3 of my staff came down with covid-19 leaving me to run business(sic) all alone for more than 6 weeks" - Female, 68*

*"Having to work from home and not technological savvy." - Female, 52*

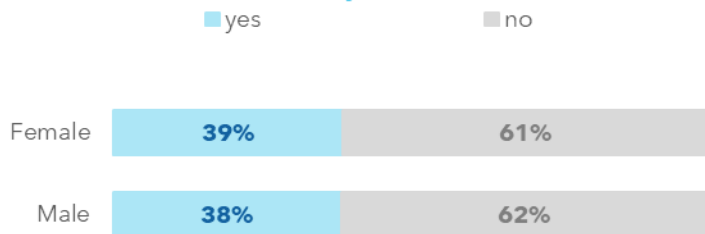
*"Lack in income from overtime from working. Work is being done but for time off which is never taken and the drop in income has affect flow of money in household" - Female, 36*

*"Caught COVID and no job or income source" - Female, 24*

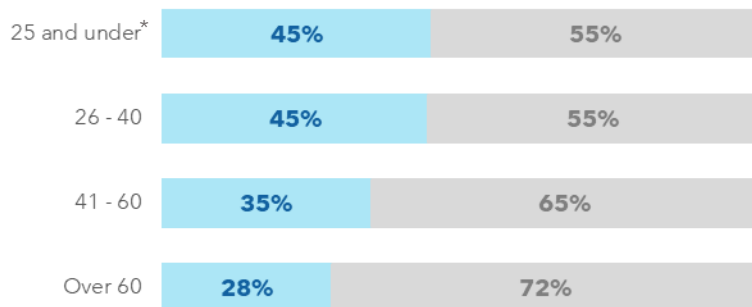
# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

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

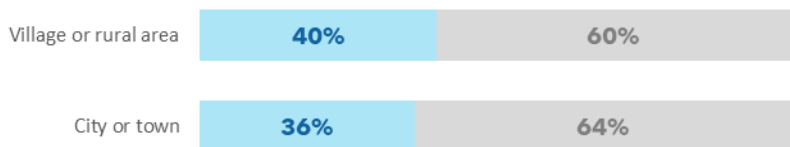
## By sex



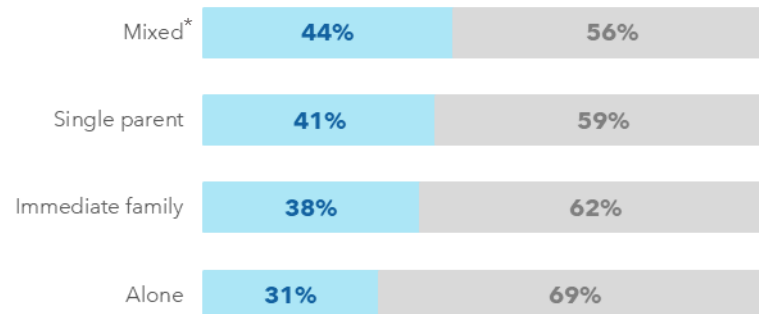
## By age group



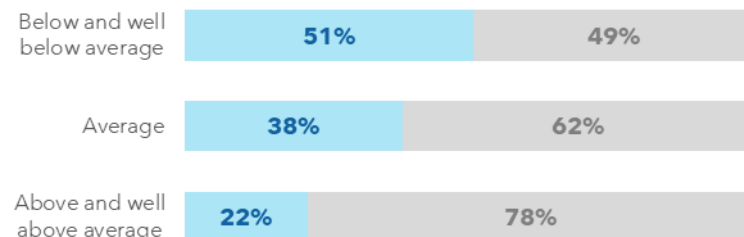
## By urban/rural location



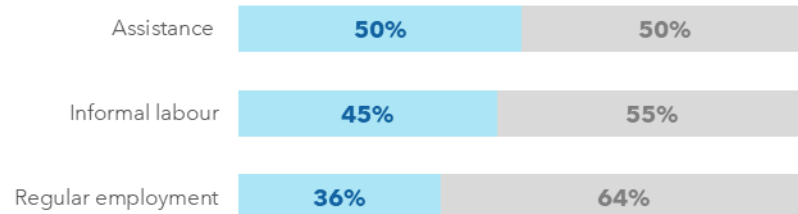
## By household composition



## By perceived income level



## By income sources



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

- Concerns about leaving the house remains the main factor behind livelihood disruptions. Limited access to livelihood inputs affects mostly low income households.

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

Multiple choices could be selected

	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	39%	50%	38%	34%
Movement restrictions	33%	52%	50%	77%
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	22%	12%	14%	5%
Adult members of the household are unwell	16%	3%	2%	0%
Other	14%	11%	17%	10%
Reduced demand for goods/services	12%	19%	24%	22%
Transport limitations	8%	8%	12%	10%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	8%	7%	10%	11%
Increased demand for goods/services	7%	4%	6%	9%
No market to sell products	4%	4%	7%	9%

The main drivers behind livelihood disruptions in the two weeks prior to the February 2022 survey were concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak. The trend was particularly notable for respondents from households with an above or well above average income (cited by 46% who faced disruptions) and respondents aged 60 or above (51%). Movement restrictions remained an important contributor to livelihood disruptions, cited by one-third of respondents facing disruptions and particularly men, albeit much less so when compared to the early phase of the pandemic (77%).

A steadily growing disruptor to livelihood activities is the unaffordability of livelihood inputs, cited by one out of five respondents. This factor has gained 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 well below average income level (36% of those facing disruptions), those engaged primarily in informal/casual sources of income (35%) and respondents from large/mixed households (38%).

Reduced demand for goods/services and lack of market outlets to sell products are both declining in importance as disruptive factors. However, adult members of the household being unwell has notably increased as a reason for disruptions (from 0% in April 2020 to 16% of those facing disruptions in February 2022), which is in line with the spike of COVID-19 cases given the emergence of the Omicron variant.

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

"Working from home has been really difficult while online school is happening" - Female, 40

"My partner was unemployed for 3 months. It was challenging to get bills paid." - Female, 46

"I have had to delay personal plans for professional development to be able to look after my children while they're at home because of online learning. My work is also suffering as a result and I am not sleeping nor am I able to generally function at the level I once did. Physical health and well-being is also deteriorating during this time." - Female, 37

"Not being able to move around freely to do your business" - Female, 51

"Had to close small business." - Female, 55

"Well my dad no longer works, storm affected my housing so I'm now in accommodation temporarily which is the most stressing and uncomfortable timing." - Female, 32

"Less work hours which is less income" - Female, 36

"I have lost my job and is close to losing my home" - Female, 47

"Running a business has become more expensive and difficult due to stuff absences and the results in overtime to cover shifts , additional sanitizing costs and" - Female, 49

"Constantly being out of work due to covid" - Female, 30

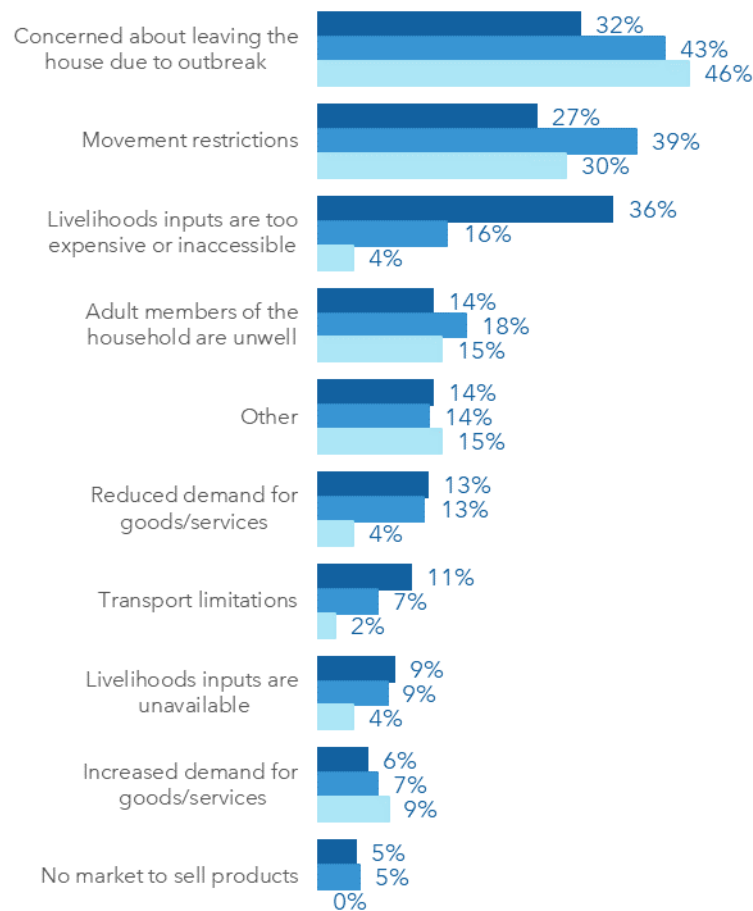
"Great remote working/work from home opportunities" - Male, 45

"Had virus incapable to work to provide for children n pay utilities n rent" - Female, 40

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



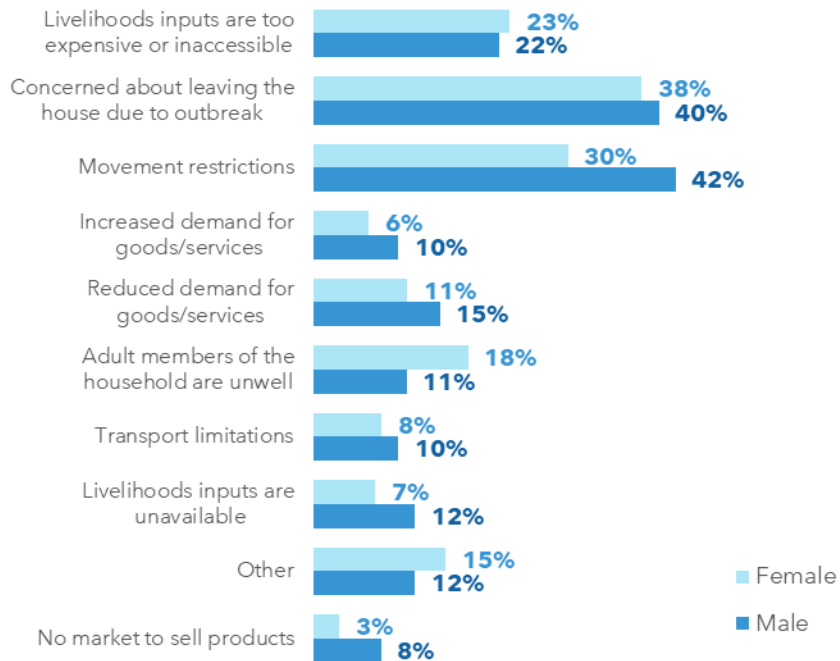
■ Below and well below average ■ Average ■ Above and well above average

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

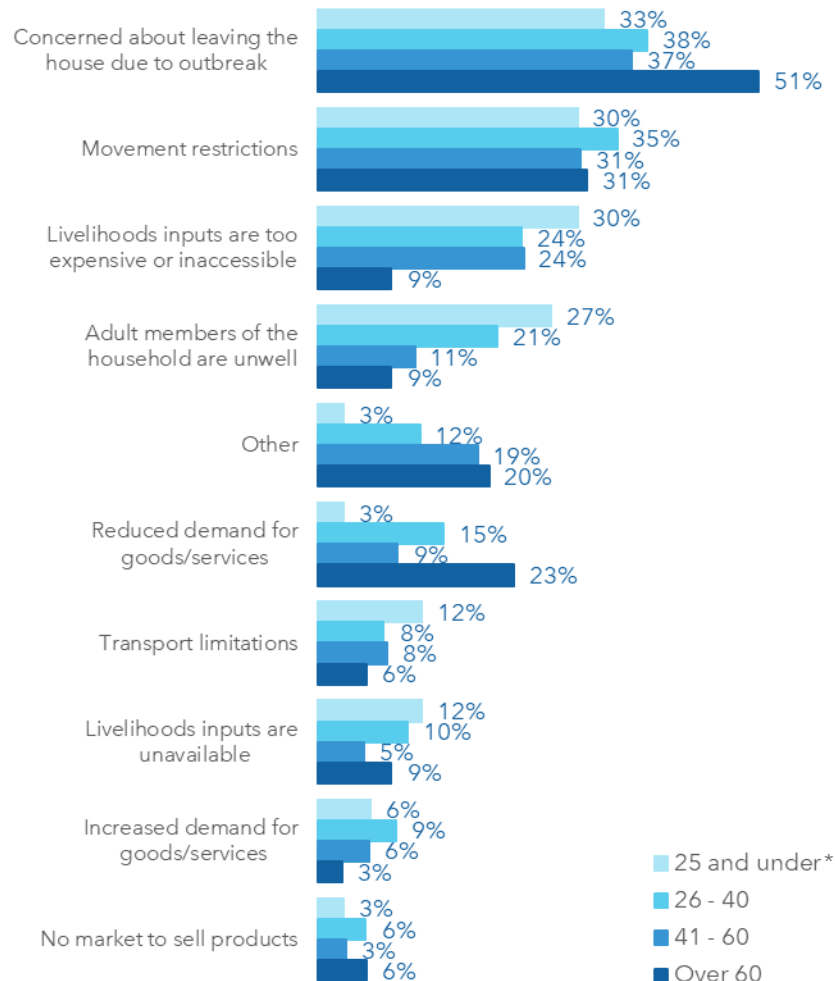
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group



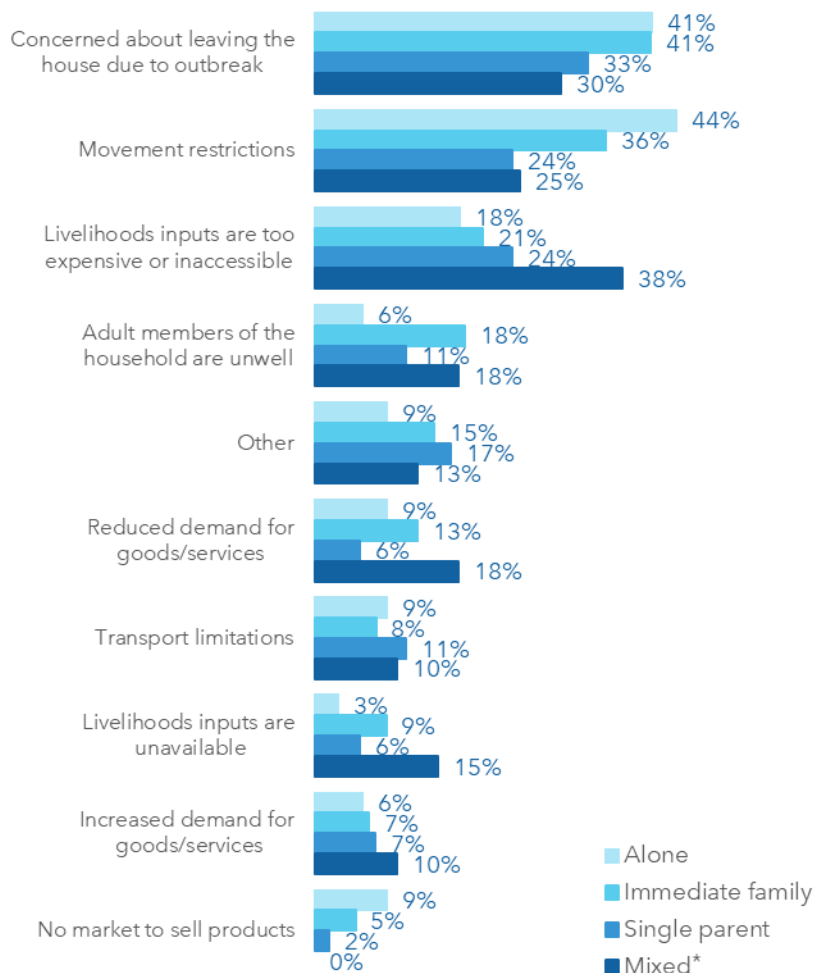
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

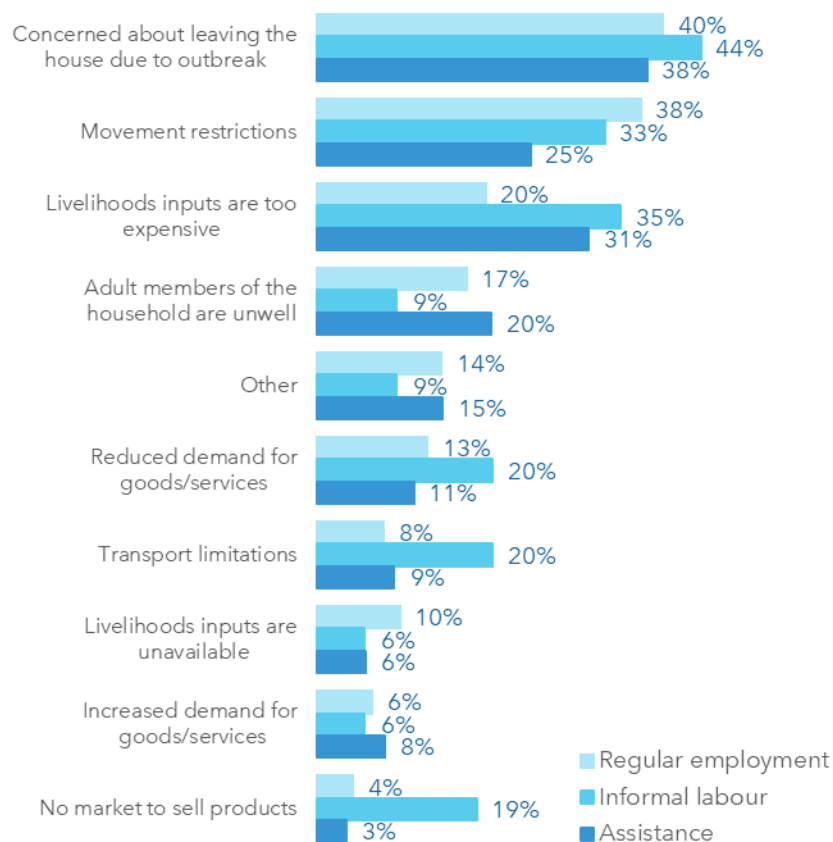
Multiple choices could be selected.

## By household composition



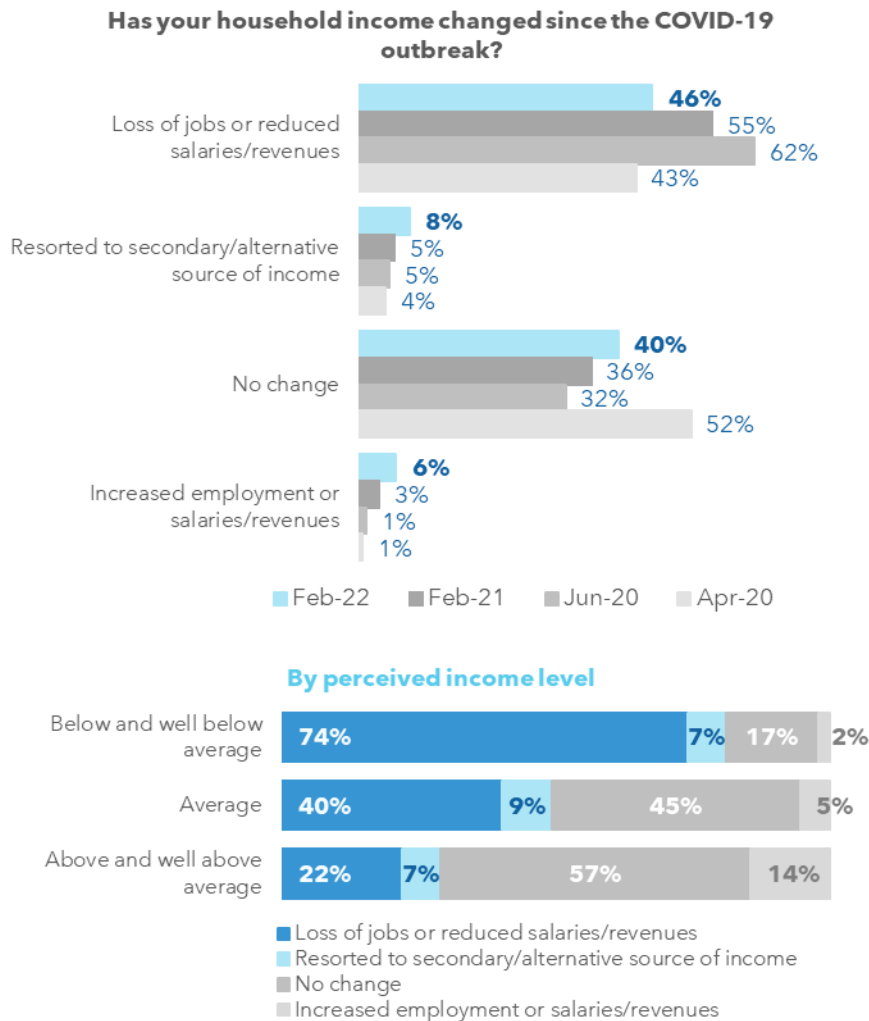
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

## By main income source



# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

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



Impacts to income continue to be widespread, with 46% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the COVID-19 outbreak. While the proportion of households with loss of income or reduced salaries has declined since 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.

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 (74%), compared to those with above or well above average (22%) income levels.

Important differences were also observed across sources of income, between age groups and family composition. Job and income loss was most widespread and consistently high among the respondents under 40 years of age, affecting over half of respondents in that age group, those with informal and casual income sources (70%), or relying on some form of assistance (71%).

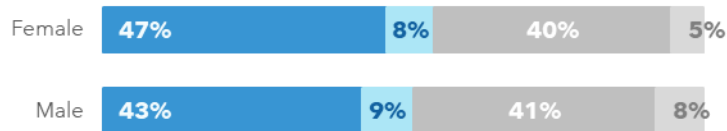
Differences between sex or location of respondent were minor.

# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

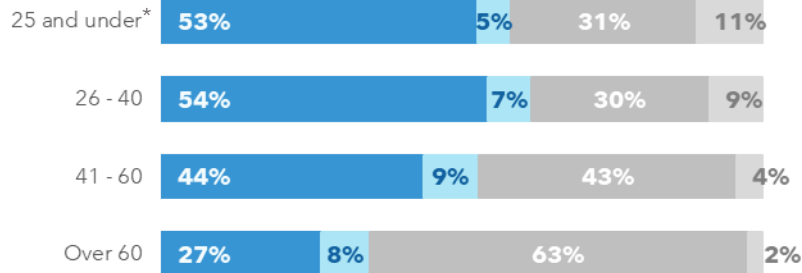
## Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

- 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

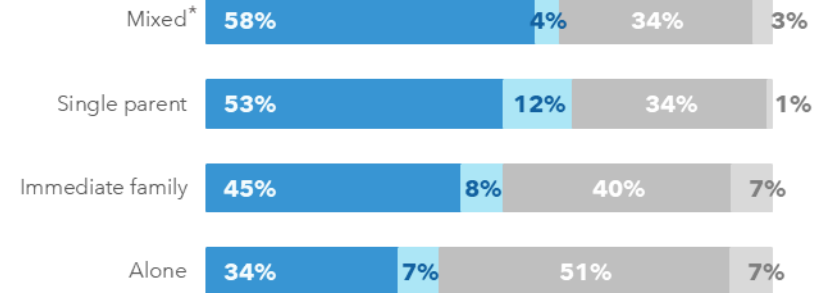


### By urban/rural location

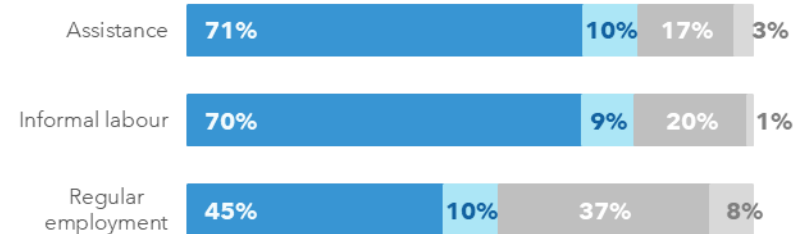


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

## By household composition



## By income sources

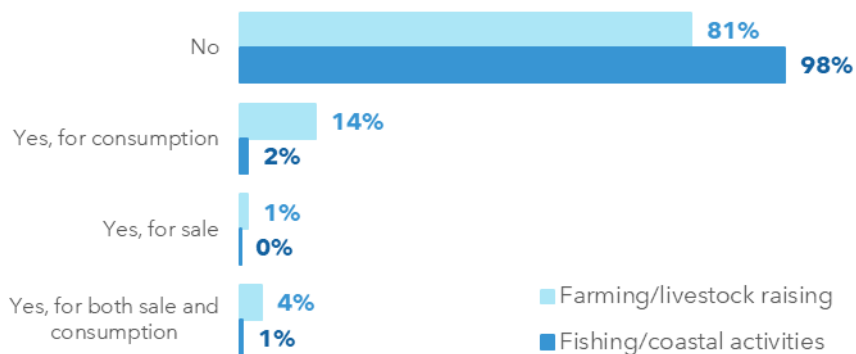




# LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

- ▶ While only a small number of respondents were engaged in fishing/coastal activities, they seem harder hit relative to farming or average households.

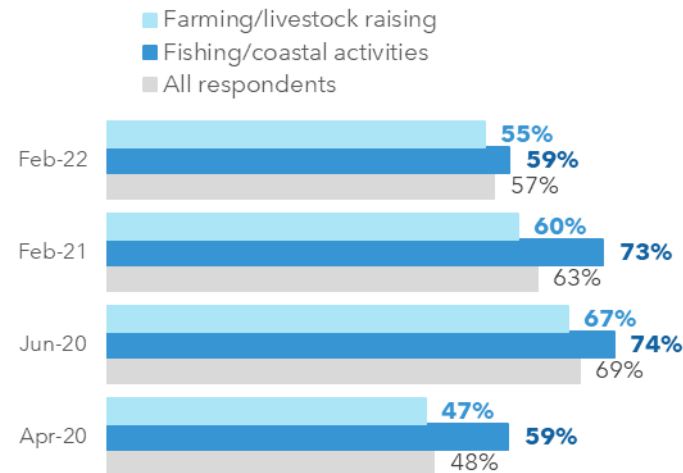
Is your households engaged in farming/fishing?



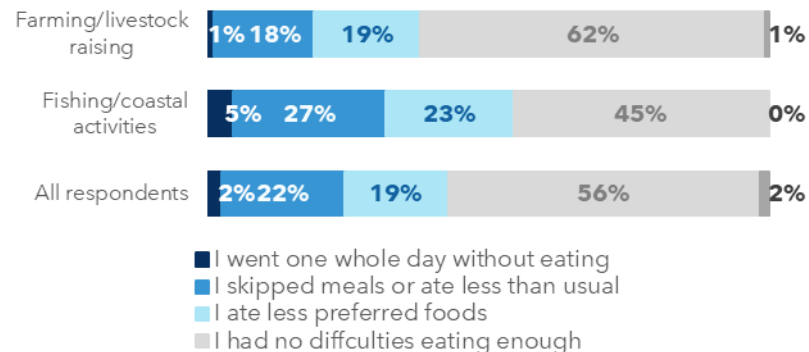
One out of five respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising, and 2% in fisheries/coastal activities. In both cases these activities are primarily for household consumption, or complementing existing incomes, with vegetable production being the main farming activity and marine/coastal fishing the main fishing activity. 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.

While only a small number of respondents were engaged in fishing/coastal activities, they appear to be facing greater challenges related to income and food consumption. During each survey round they were more likely to report loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues relative to average respondents. They were also more likely to have gone a whole day without eating, skipped meals or eaten less than usual in the two weeks prior to the survey.

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



Food situation among respondents engaged in farming/fishing



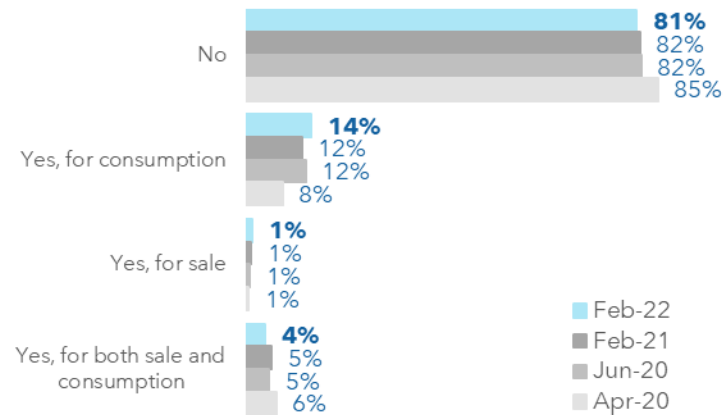
# LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

Farming/livestock raising	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Vegetables	76%	70%	79%	68%
Banana/plantains	33%	26%	35%	41%
Poultry	32%	34%	30%	23%
Small ruminants	11%	15%	13%	17%
Other	8%	12%	11%	10%
Corn	7%	6%	8%	4%
Pulses	7%	5%	4%	3%
Swine	4%	7%	6%	13%
Large ruminants	4%	3%	4%	4%
Rice	3%	4%	9%	1%

## Is your households engaged in farming/livestock raising?

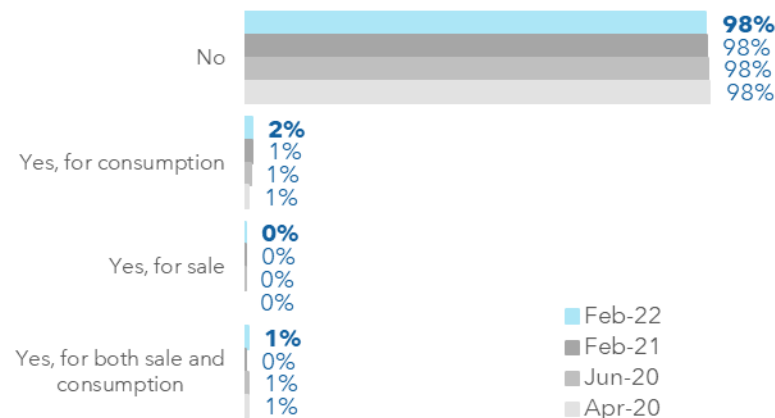


## For those engaging in fishing/coastal activities, the activities are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

Fishing/coastal activities	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Marine/coastal fisheries	32%	29%	30%	75%
Inland fisheries	27%	26%	13%	13%
Other	14%	13%	13%	13%
Small scale aquaculture	9%	10%	17%	0%
Fishing gear production	5%	3%	4%	0%
Mangrove/beach activities	5%	13%	4%	0%
Processing of fish/ fisheries products	0%	0%	0%	0%

## Is your households engaged in fishing/coastal activities?

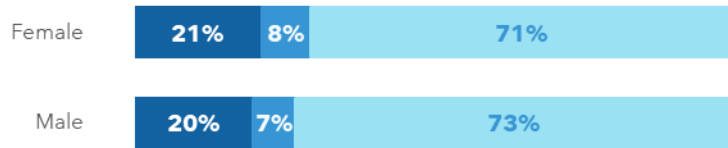


# LIVELIHOODS | Farming

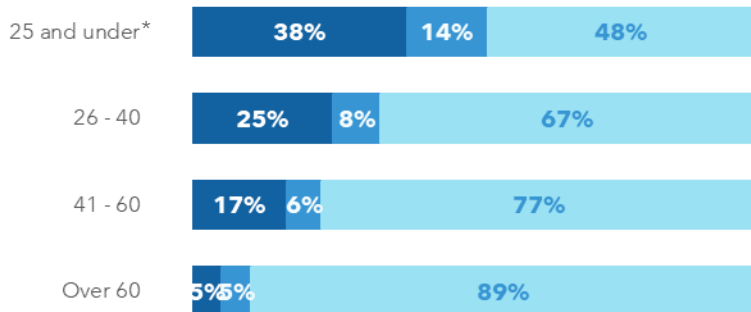
## Households engaged in farming/livestock raising

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

### By sex

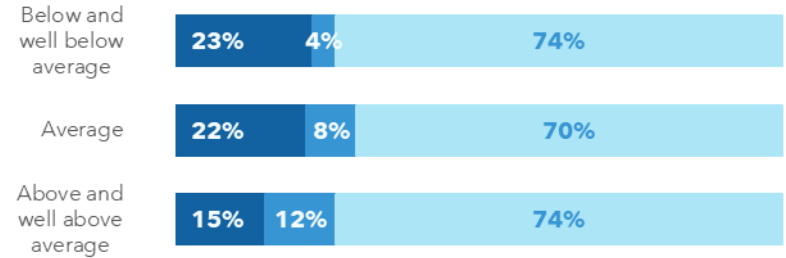


### By age group



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

## By perceived income level



"We have lost all our investment already from a location we couldn't upkeep during lockdown and closing of shop. We can't understand where we could take vegetable after reaping from farm if not home where we live" - Female, 49

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

"My biggest change was growing some of what we consume. Not making money has been the biggest disruption for us." - Female, 40

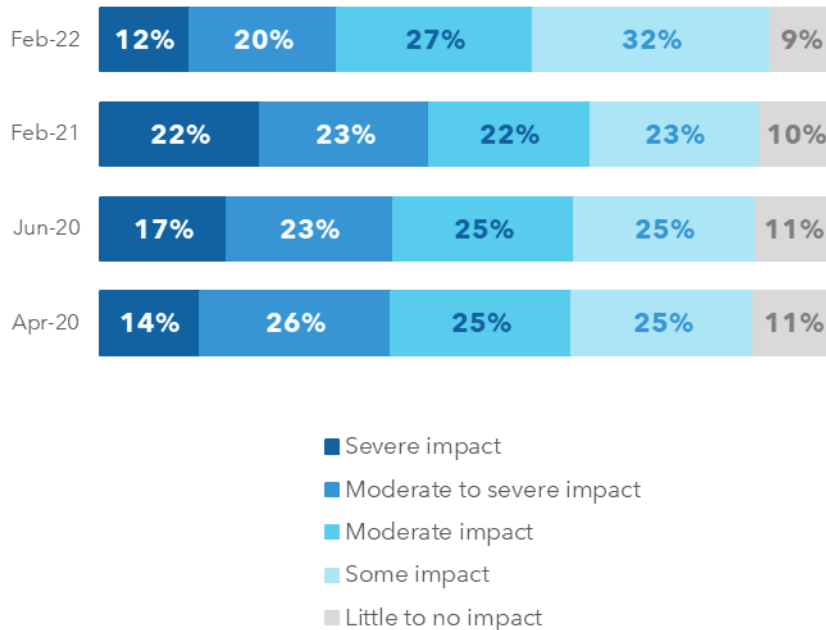
"My secondary forms of income depend on people socializing and attending large group events. Those events have basically ceased with the advent of Covid-19. My primary employment is also beset by lots of additional cost and a reduction in spending by customers." - Female, 49

"Loss of work and income, inability to travel overseas, inability to take contracts overseas" - Male, 35

# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

- ▶ Six out of ten respondents anticipate at least a moderate impact on their livelihoods. For a third of low income households impacts are expected 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, 32% anticipate “moderate to severe” or “severe” impacts to their livelihoods, which is lower compared to the prior three survey rounds, and may suggest some growth in optimism as of February 2022. Only 9% expected little or no impact.

The perspective of respondents with different levels of income varied substantially. Respondent with the lowest income are the most worried about the future of their livelihoods. Of those with income levels perceived as below or well below average, 35% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, which is much higher than 6% of those with above or well above average income level.

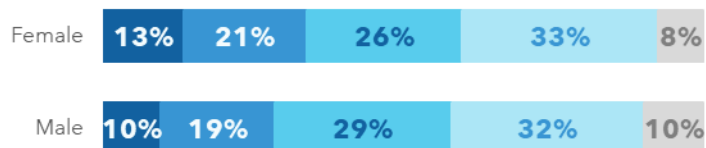
Single parent households, those relying on unstable and more informal sources of income, as well as households living in rural areas and youngest respondents were also noticeably more pessimistic in terms of future livelihood impacts.

# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

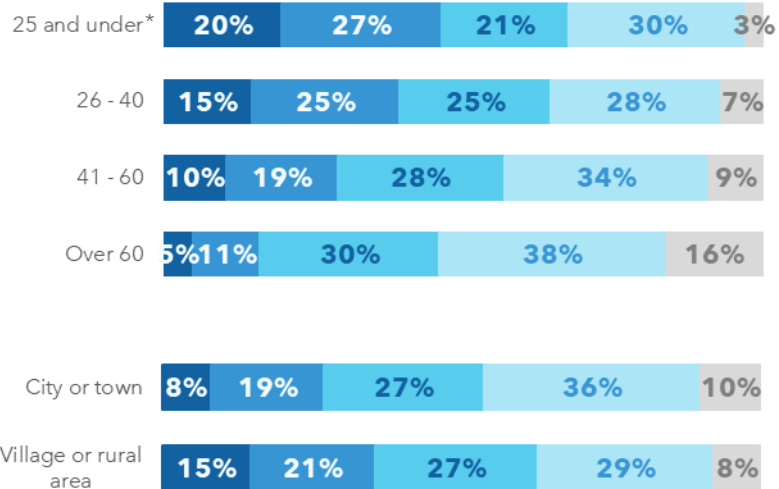
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

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

## By sex

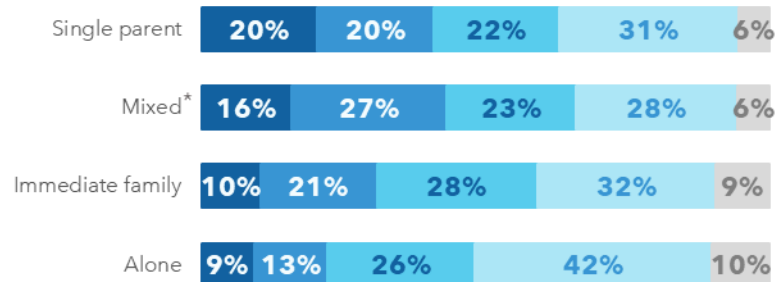


## By age group

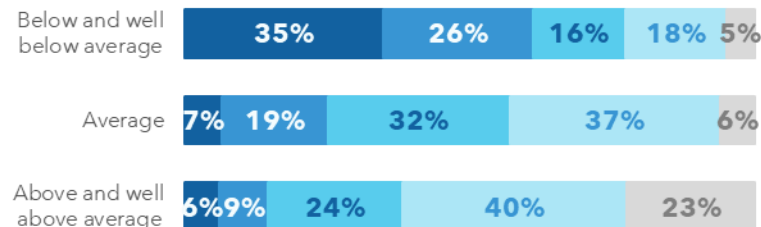


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

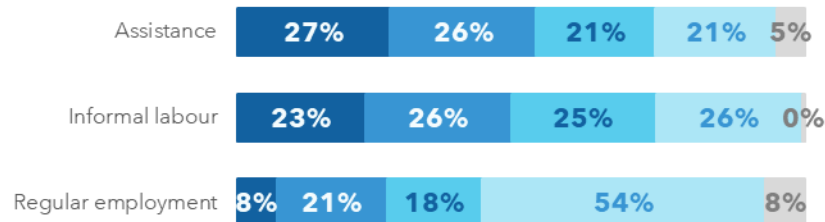
## By household composition



## By perceived income level



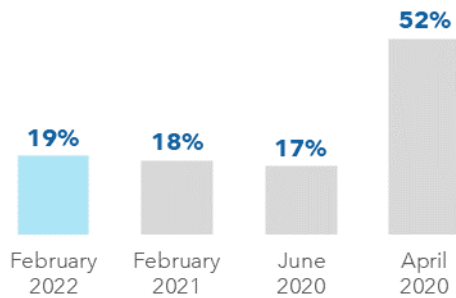
## By income sources



# MARKETS | Access

- ▶ One in five respondents continue to experience difficulties in accessing markets.

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



Almost two years since the declaration of the pandemic, people's access to markets continues to be impacted in Barbados, with 19% of respondents stating that they were unable to access markets in the seven days prior to the February 2022 survey. While lower than at the beginning of the pandemic (52% in April 2020), the proportion of respondents facing market access challenges is very similar to the levels reported during the February 2021 (18%) and June 2020 surveys (17%). The challenges to accessing markets are mainly related to limited financial means and falling incomes.

Compared with the February 2022 regional average (33%), fewer respondents in Barbados reported issues with market access. Clear differences in market access can be seen across age groups, household composition and income levels.

Respondents reporting the lowest income levels were experiencing the greatest challenges accessing markets. Those with below or well below average income (35%) indicated difficulties more than twice as often as those with higher income levels (15% of respondents with average income and 8% with above or well above average income).

Younger respondents under 40 were also experiencing greater challenges in accessing markets when compared to 14% of those between 41 and 60 years and 9% of respondents over 60 years of age.

One third of households with an extended/mixed composition reported difficulties in accessing markets, which is more frequent than other household types. Those living alone experienced the least difficulties in accessing markets (6%).

No major differences in market access were observed between male and female respondents or between those living in rural or urban areas.

*"Less income to save for a rainy day due. The cost of food (fruits and vegetables) has increased to a stage that you have to leave them in the supermarket and buy basic rice, pasta and can meats to stretch the food in the house. Many times I walk around the neighbourhood asking for breadfruits and green bananas to cook with a can of protein."*  
- Female, 48

*"I have to slow it down in the way my kids them eat cause price in the supermarket increase so much that was so hard for me to adapt."*  
- Female, 28

*"stay at home unless going to work or market shopping"* - Female, 53

# MARKETS | Access

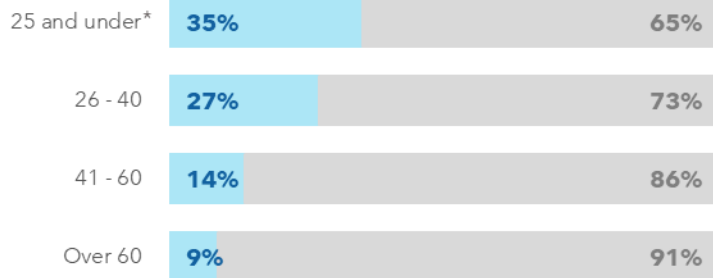
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

■ yes ■ no

## By sex



## By age group

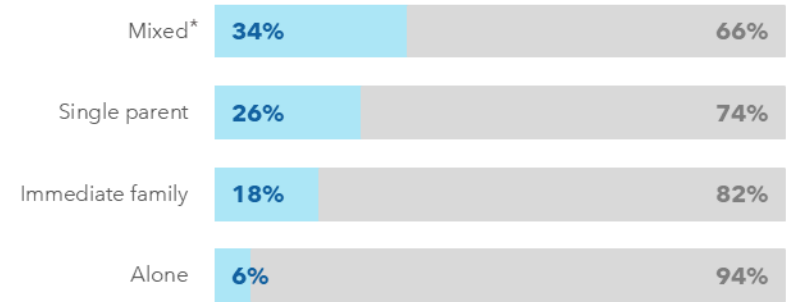


## By urban/rural location

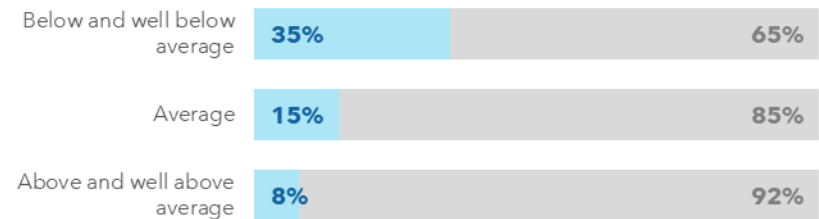


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

## By household composition



## By perceived income level



# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

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

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

Multiple choices could be selected

	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of financial means*	62%	65%	34%	2%
Adult members of the household were self quarantining	27%	4%	0%	8%
Movement restrictions	19%	20%	28%	75%
Concerned about leaving the house	18%	23%	20%	45%
Markets/grocery stores closed	10%	13%	17%	62%
Other	9%	13%	18%	10%
Transport limitations	8%	7%	13%	6%
Adult members of the household were unwell	6%	1%	2%	3%
Security concerns	2%	4%	5%	9%

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

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

Lack of financial means continues to be reported as the main reason for limited market access in Barbados, cited by 62% 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 a significant increase since April (2%) and June 2020 (34%) and remains at a similarly elevated level compared to a year ago (65% in February 2021). However, lack of financial means is less widespread as a reason for limited market access compared to the regional average (80%). An increasing number of respondents referred to self-quarantining (27%) and feeling unwell (6%) as limiting market access, likely due to surging cases at the time of the survey.

The most notable differences in barriers people in Barbados face when accessing markets can be observed across income levels, sex, age groups, and household composition. Respondents who described their income level as being below or well below average (78%) reported lack financial means more frequently than respondents with above or well above average (29%) incomes. Respondents under 40 more frequently cited lack of financial means as a key challenge (70-73%) compared to those over 40 years (36% for those over 60 and 51% for those between 41 and 60).

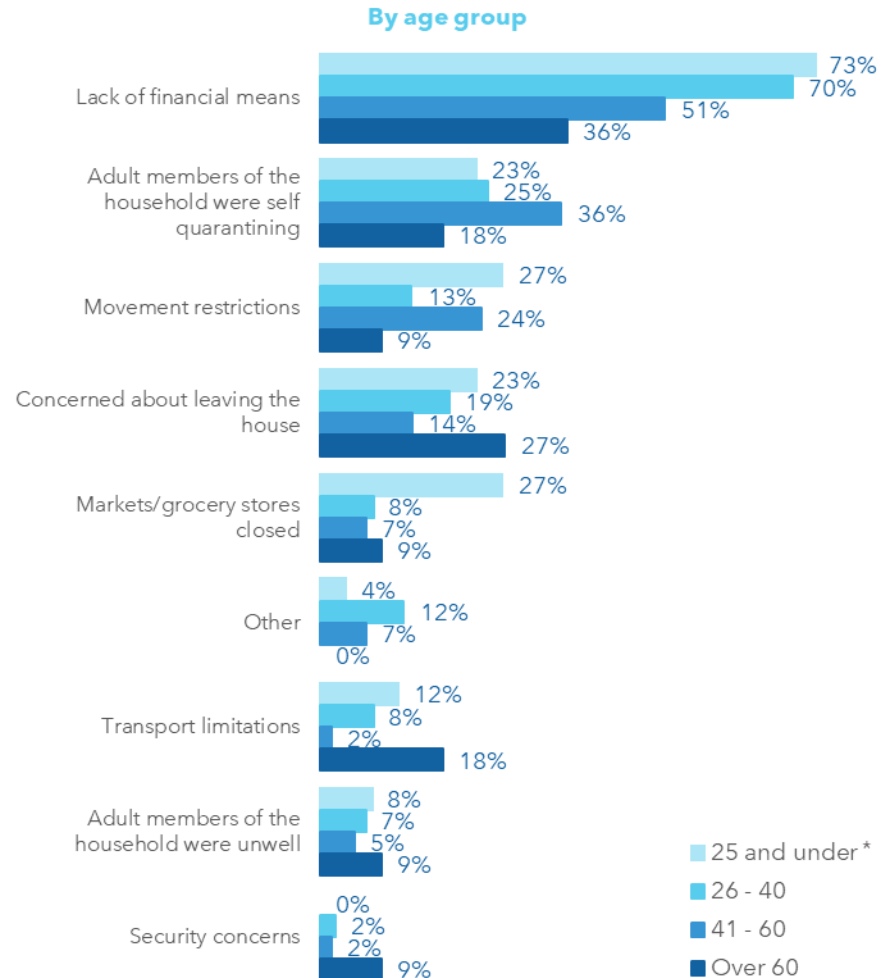
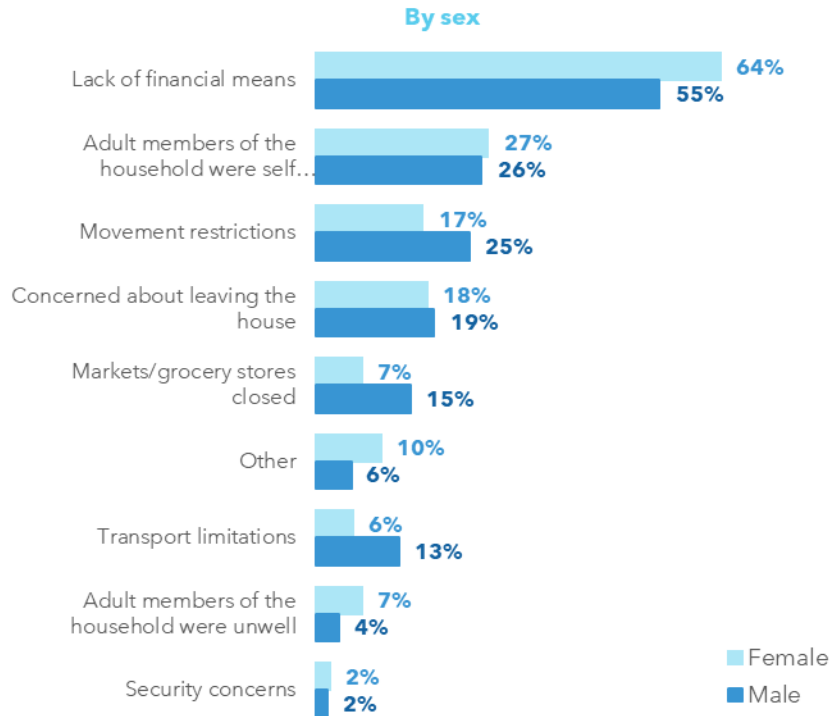
In addition, it appears those living with immediate family were slightly more impacted by members of the household self-quarantining. For male and female respondents, while the overall trends were the same, more men cited movement and transport restrictions than women, and women more frequently cited lack of financial means.



# 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.



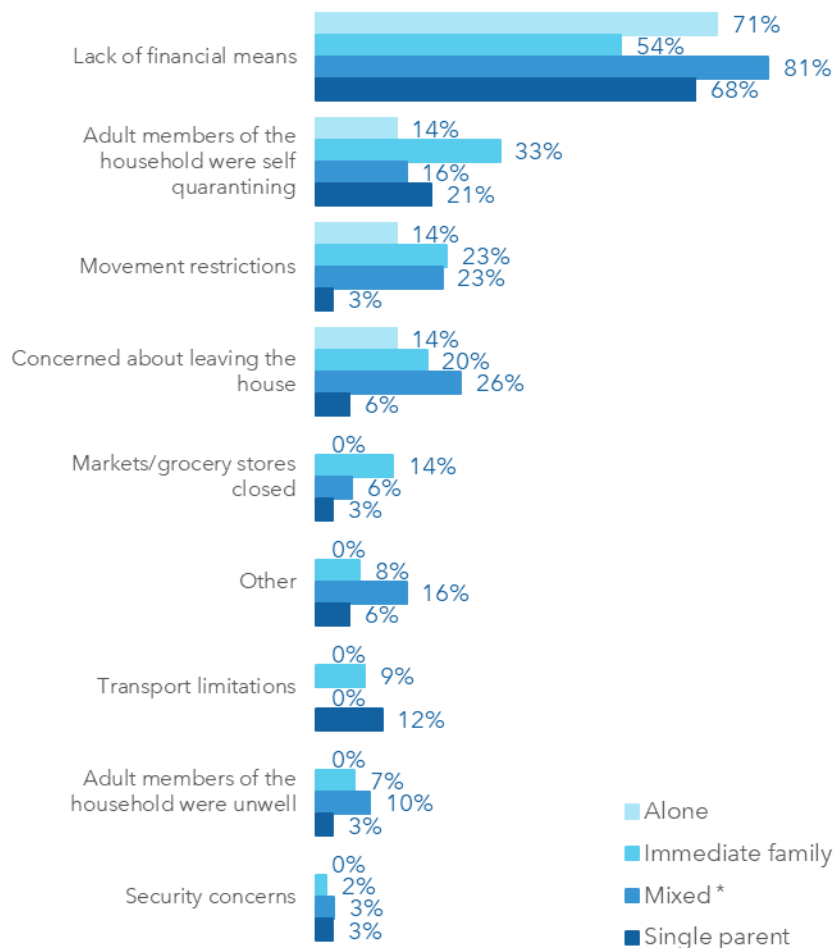
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

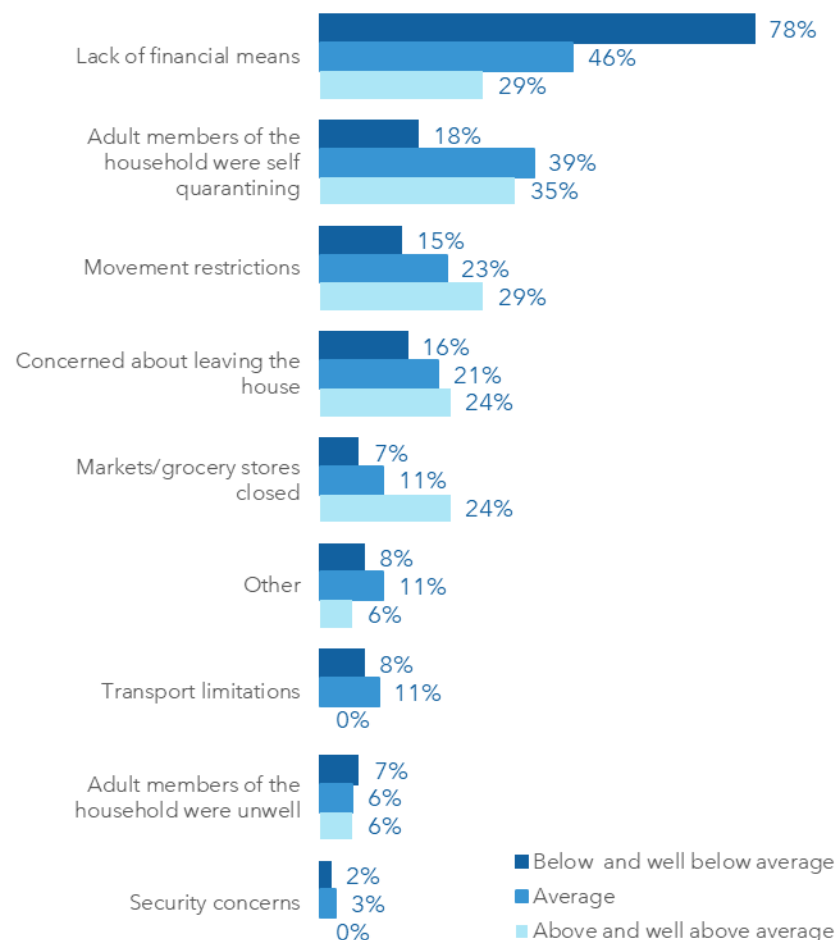
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

## By household composition



## By perceived income level



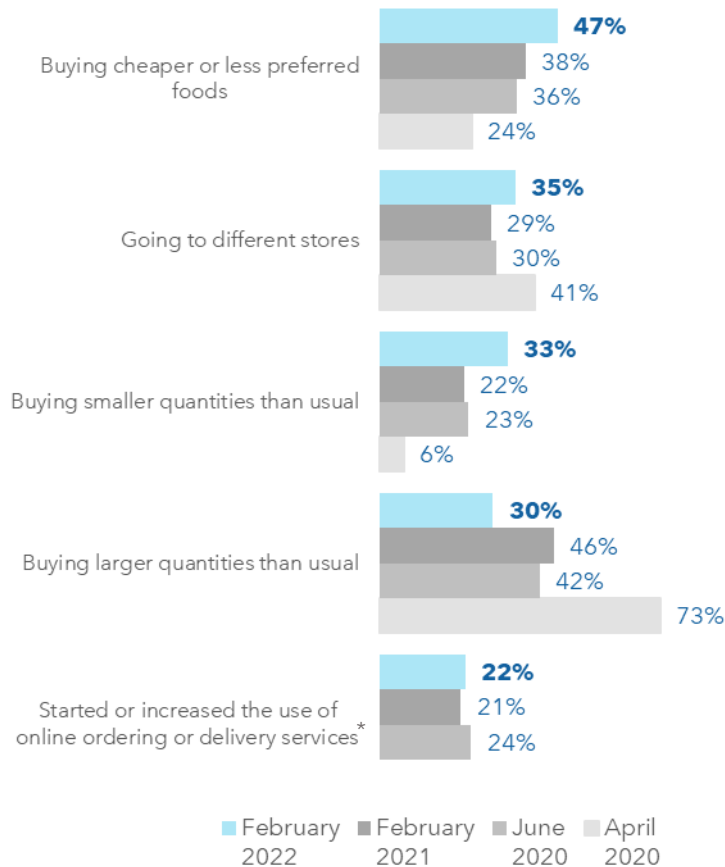
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



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

The pandemic continues to impact how people shop, however the exact changes they are making have shifted since the onset of the pandemic. The majority of respondents (84%) from Barbados reported changing their shopping behaviour, which is slightly higher than last year (79%). Respondents who changed how they shop indicated that the main changes they were making are buying cheaper or less preferred foods (47% of those making changes), going to different stores (35%) and buying smaller quantities (33%). While in April 2020 the most common change (73%) was to buy larger quantities, in February 2022 only 30% of those changing how they shopped were doing so. Behaviour has shifted from stocking up at the start of the pandemic to making more compromises as the economic impacts deepen for most households.

The changes people are making are closely linked to sex, age, household composition and income levels. Households with lower incomes were much more likely to shift towards buying cheaper or less preferred foods or smaller quantities than usual, compared to higher income households. On the other hand, respondents with above and well above average income levels were much more likely to buy larger quantities and use online ordering/delivery services than respondents with lower income levels.

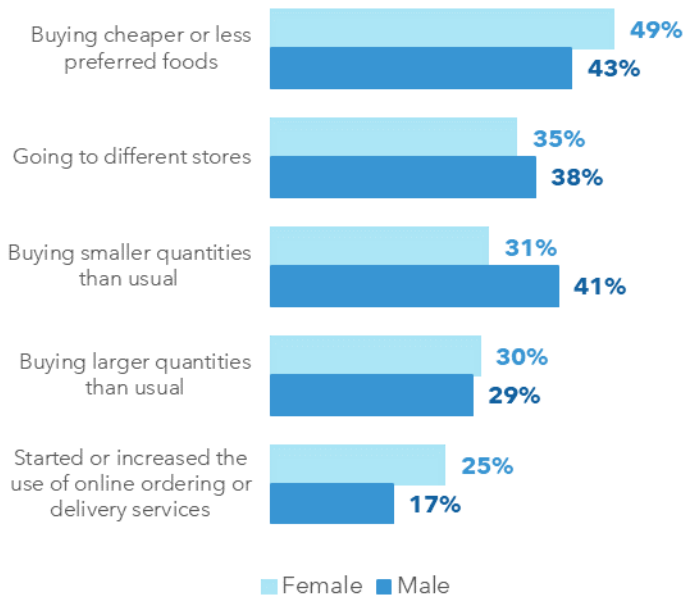
In addition, respondents under 60 years old resorted to buying cheaper food items more often compared to respondents over 60. Women are also more frequently resorting to buying cheaper food items than men, while men more often reported buying smaller quantities. Those living alone are less likely to buy cheaper foods and more often turn to online ordering compared to other household compositions.

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

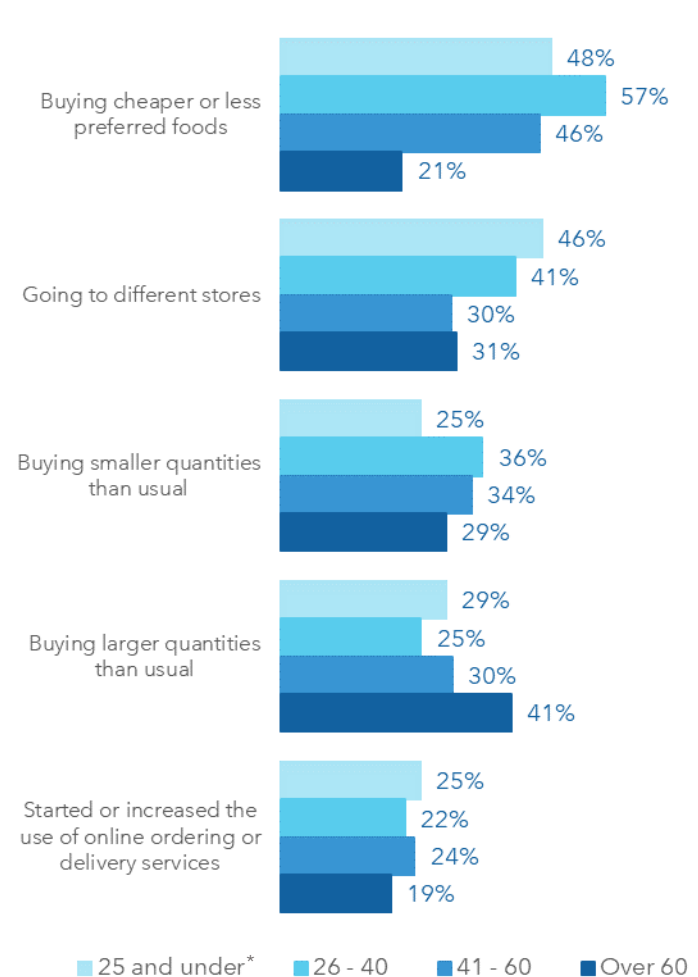
By sex



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

Multiple choices could be selected.

By age group



"I had to buy food stuff by the bulk to get through but now the cost of living gone up." - female, 36

"Cost of living gone up and my salary is still the same. after paying bills I have to survive on \$300 for the month." - male, 42

"Shopping once per month for non-perishable supplies in bulk where possible. Preserving /freezing fruit and veg." - female, 73

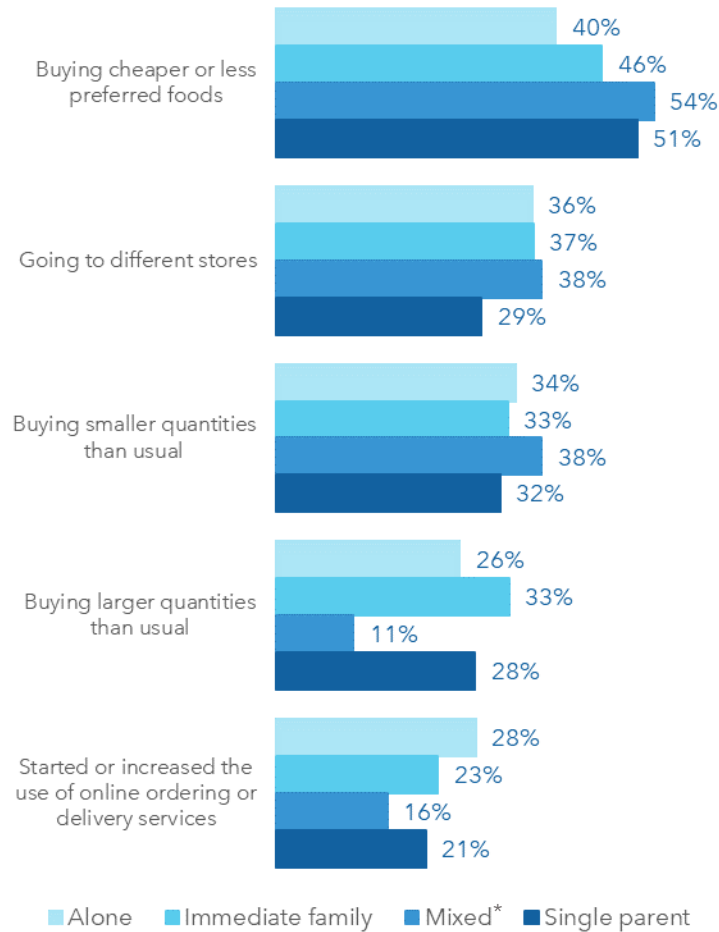
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

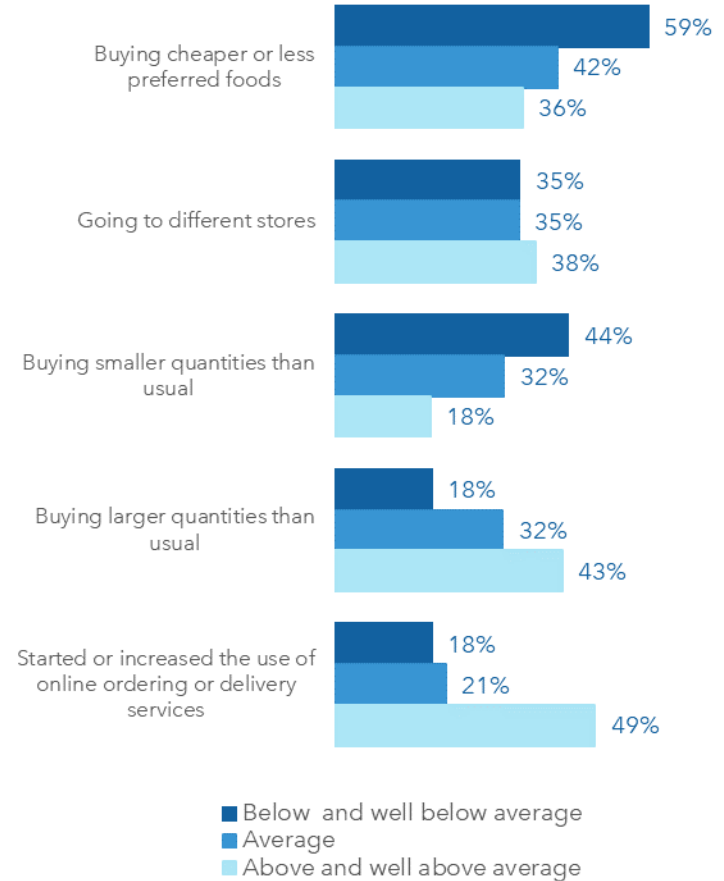
## Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By household composition



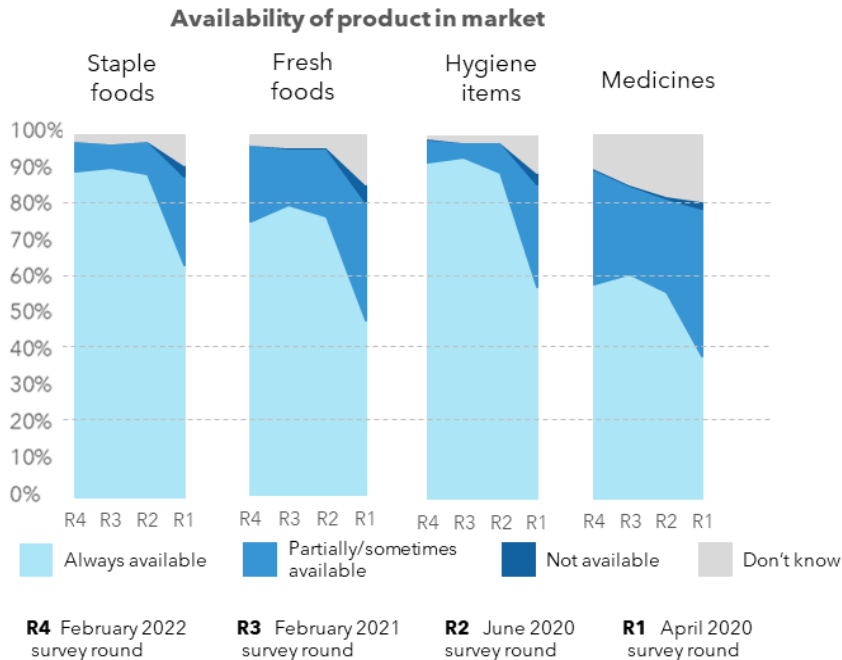
## By perceived income level



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# MARKETS | Availability

- ▶ The availability of all key items has increased since June 2020, however medicines and fresh foods are still not sufficiently 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 key products had been consistently improving since then until February 2021. The February 2022 survey round observed a slight decrease in their availability, though still better compared to April 2020 or to the regional average. Less than 1% of respondents in Barbados indicated that key goods were generally unavailable.

The level of availability varied by items and income level of respondents. More than half of all respondents (59%) indicated that medicines were always available in February 2022 which is comparable to last year (62%). At the same time, 32% of respondents reported that medicines were only sometimes available or unavailable in February 2022, which is higher than last year (24%). However, households with lowest incomes were much more likely to report partial or occasional availability of medicines (48%) compared to higher income households (15%).

Three-quarters of respondents (76%) indicated that fresh foods were constantly available in their markets. Additionally, 21% of respondents indicated that fresh foods are only partially/sometimes available in February 2022 which is a slight increase from last year (16%).

The availability of staple foods remains consistent, with 90% of respondents indicating their constant availability in their markets in line with the previous year (91%). Only 9% of respondents reported that staple foods are only partially/sometimes available or unavailable in February 2022.

The reported availability of hygiene items also appears to be constant, with 93% of respondents indicating that these items were always available in their markets in February 2022 which is in line with last year (94%).

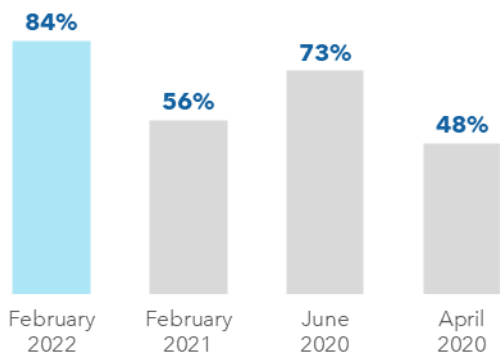
*"Spending money on cleaning solutions (alcohol, sanitizers, masks, etc.). Savings have depleted because of higher prices." - male, 51*

*"Unable to save money. Higher food prices. Need clothing and shoes. Things are getting better slowly but I need a bit of help with a government home where I can get away from high rent." - male, 63*

# MARKETS | Food prices

- ▶ The vast majority of respondents identified an increase in food prices.

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



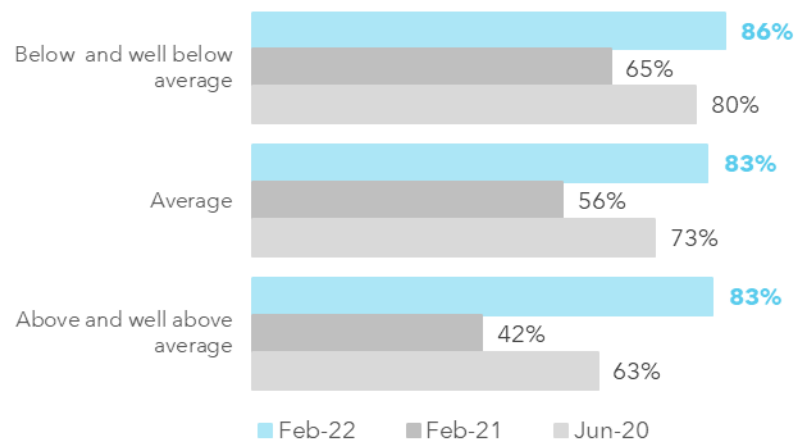
Food price rises are being felt and observed, with the vast majority of respondents (84%) reporting an increase in the two weeks prior to this survey. In Barbados, slightly fewer respondents are reporting an increase in prices compared to the regional average (93%).

Respondents across all income levels noted increases in food prices. The greatest growth in the reporting of the increases in food prices since June 2020 can be observed among respondents with above or well above average income levels, which suggests that price increases are now being felt by respondents across all income groups.

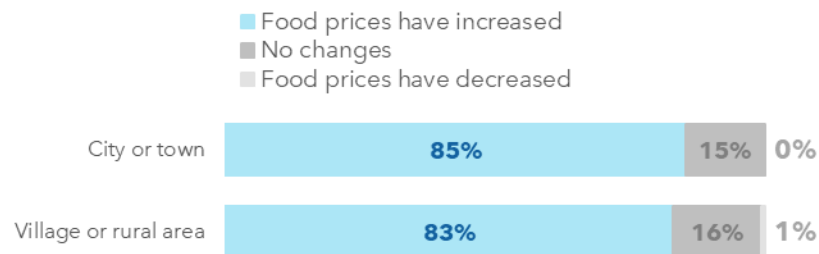
There were no major differences between those reporting food price increases who live in urban or rural areas.

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

## By perceived income level and survey round



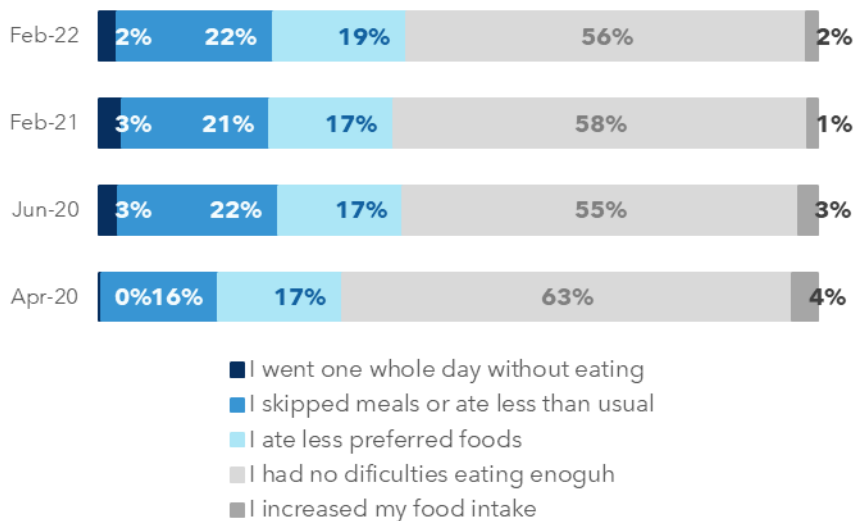
## By urban/rural location



# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

- ▶ Food consumption patterns have deteriorated from the impact of the pandemic, but to a lesser degree compared to countries in the region.

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



Food consumption and diets of people in Barbados continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with 22% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual in the week leading up to the survey. Unlike other countries in the region, food consumption patterns have not significantly deteriorated in Barbados compared to February 2021, although the proportion of households who are eating less preferred foods and skipping meals or eating less than usual slightly increased.

The impacts on food consumption in Barbados appear most serious for households with below and well-below average income levels, with 6% going a whole day without eating and 42% skipping a meal or eating less than usual in the week preceding the survey. Female respondents appeared to be slightly more negatively affected than male respondents.

Differences in the impacts on food consumption also varied across age groups, household types, and sources of income. Respondents under 40 years of age were more likely to reduce their food consumption compared to older respondents. Respondents aged 40 and younger more often skipped meals, ate less than usual or went a full day without eating, compared to those over 40 years of age.

Sources of income also reflect stark differences amongst groups. Those relying on less stable income sources (informal daily/casual labour and assistance) were most impacted, with up to 38% skipping meals or eating less than usual compared to 19% of those with more stable income sources such as salaried work and own business.

Single parent and mixed larger households in Barbados experienced slightly more difficulties than other groups. A similar pattern can be observed for respondents living in villages or rural areas.

*"Had to cut back on everything as the money isn't coming in before, due to job loss." - Female, 29*

*"Have four children to support on my own it's not easy right we have nothing to eat in the house" - Female, 30*

*"I have not been able to provide for my family i am hardly eating I hardly sleep I'm stressed out and worried" - Female, 27*

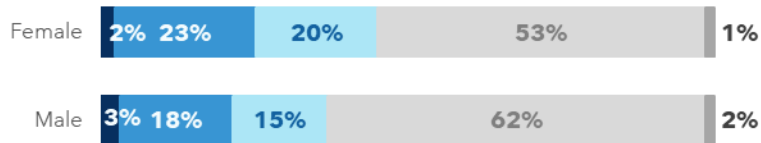


# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

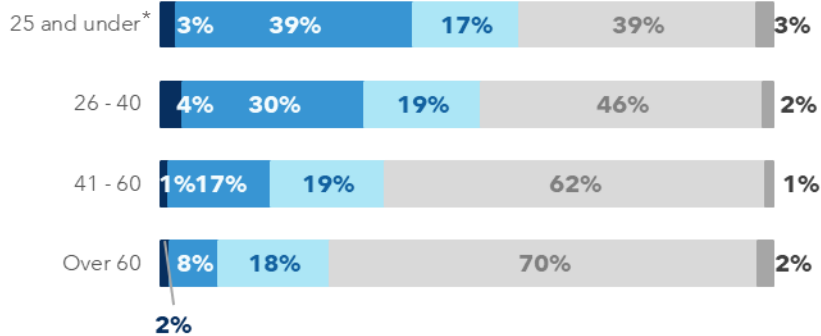
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

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

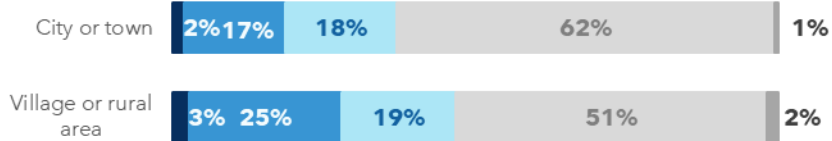
## By sex



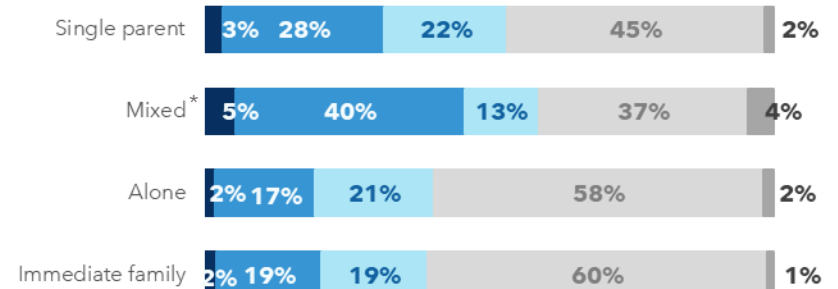
## By age group



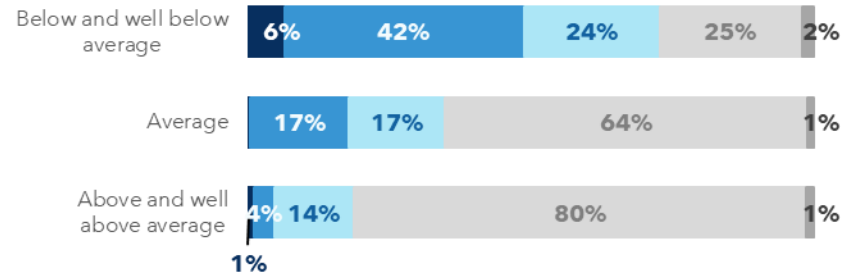
## By urban/rural location



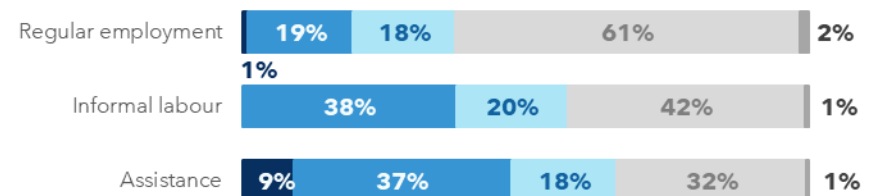
## By household composition



## By perceived income level



## By income source



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

- ▶ Respondents keep adopting negative coping strategies to meet their immediate food needs, compromising other priorities and future income generation.

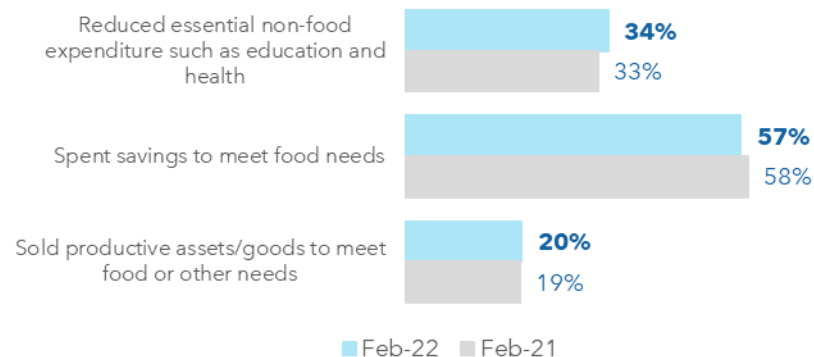
Survey respondents were asked whether in the 30 days prior to the survey they had reduced essential non-food expenditures, spent savings or sold productive assets to meet their food needs. Of all respondents in Barbados, 57% resorted to spending savings, and 34% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. Furthermore, 20% of respondents sold productive assets to meet food or other needs, potentially undermining their long-term income generation. However, the adoption of negative coping strategies is less widespread in Barbados compared to the regional average.

In line with food consumption and other trends, households with below or well below average incomes are resorting to these negative strategies much more frequently than more well-off households.

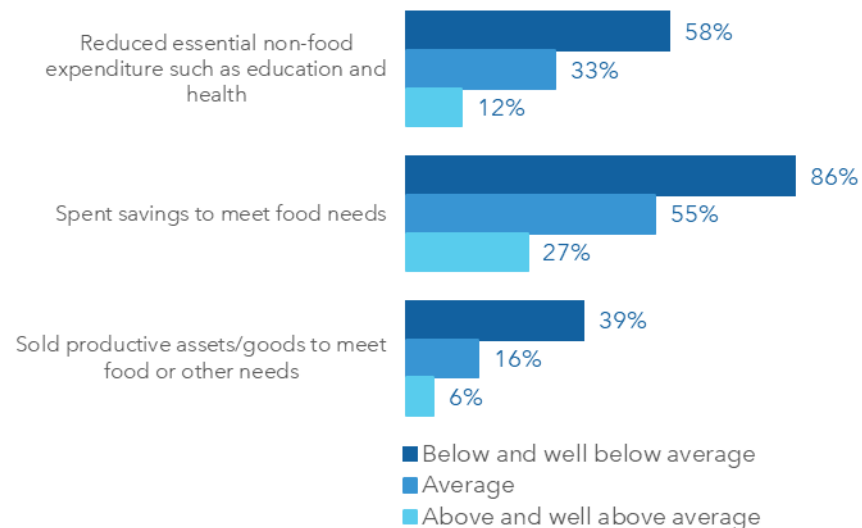
Respondents living in rural areas were also found to more frequently adopt these coping strategies compared to those living in urban areas. Both men and women were likely to have reduced essential non-food expenditures and spent savings to meet food needs, though these coping strategies were more frequently cited by women. Respondents aged 26 to 40 were also more likely to adopt any of the negative coping measures compared to older respondents. In addition, single parents and mixed households also adopted the negative coping strategies slightly more frequently than other household groups in Barbados.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



**By perceived income level**

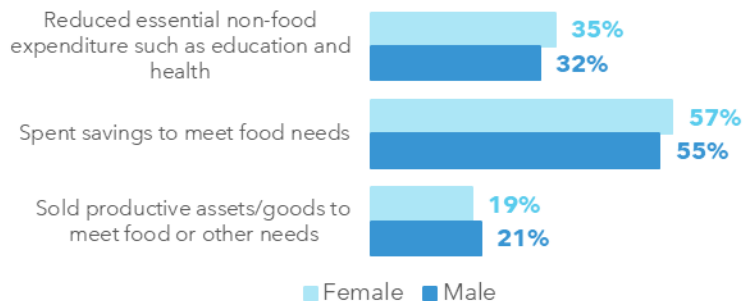


# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

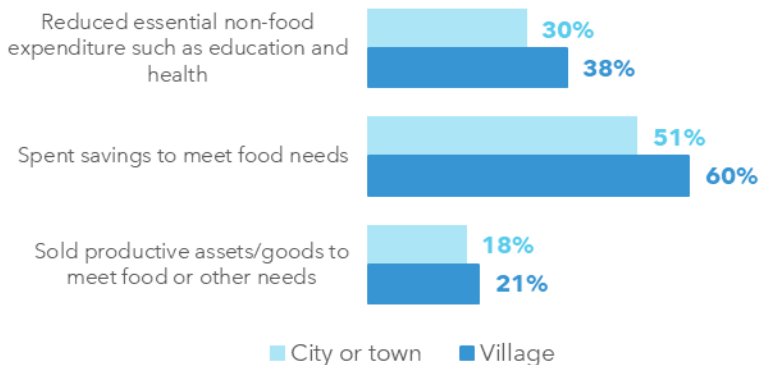
## Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

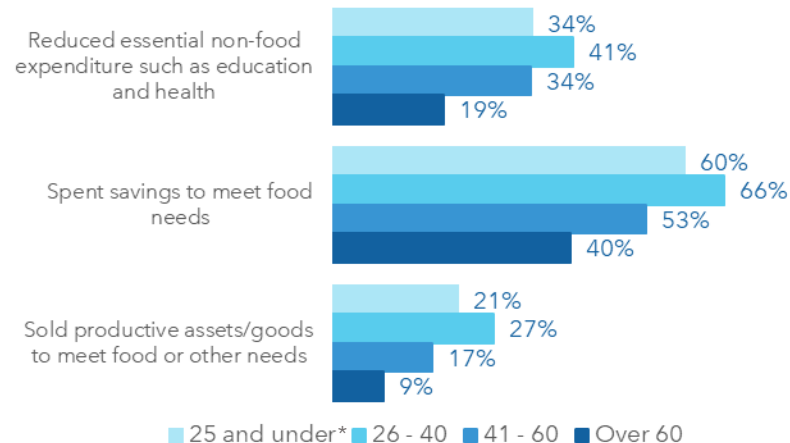
### By sex



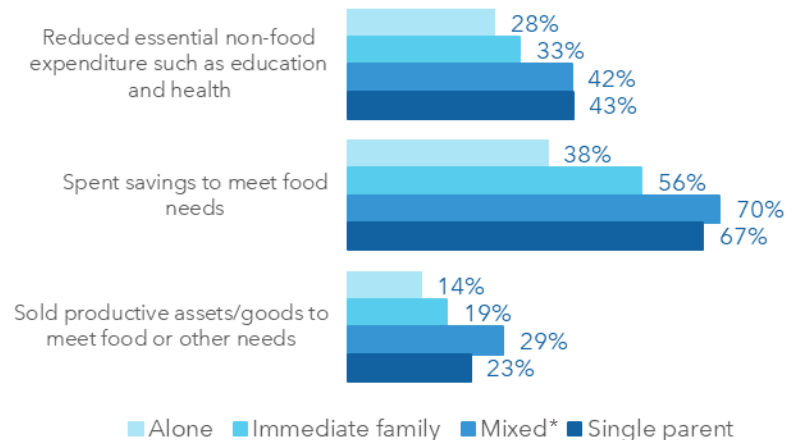
### By urban/rural location



### By age group



### By household composition

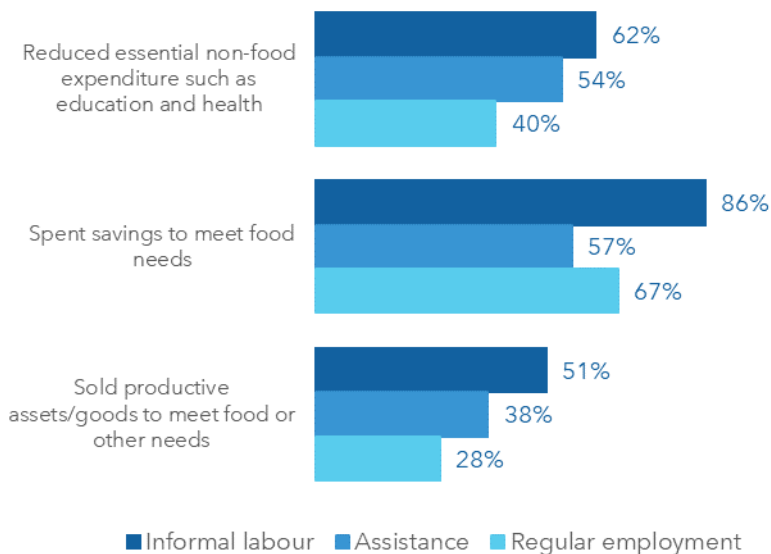


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

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

### By income source



"I have to slow it down in the way my kids them eat cause price in the supermarket increase so much that was so hard for me to adapt." - Female, 28

"cost of living gone up and my salary is still the same. after paying bills I have to survive on \$300 for the month" - Male, 42

Due to covid-19 I am not worked since March 2020. I have used up all of my savings and am dependent on family for food. Even though it's difficult have learnt to do without." - Female, 61

"Weight gain due to unhealthy foods and not being able to afford a gym" - Female, 50

"Had to cut back on everything as the money isn't coming in before, due to job loss." - Female, 29

"Have four children to support on my own it's not easy right we have nothing to eat in the house" - Female, 30

"I have to slow it down in the way my kids them eat cause price in the supermarket increase so much that was so hard for me to adapt." - Female, 28

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

"Not making enough income and my biggest changes I have made over the past year was staying home and keep safe" - Male, 51

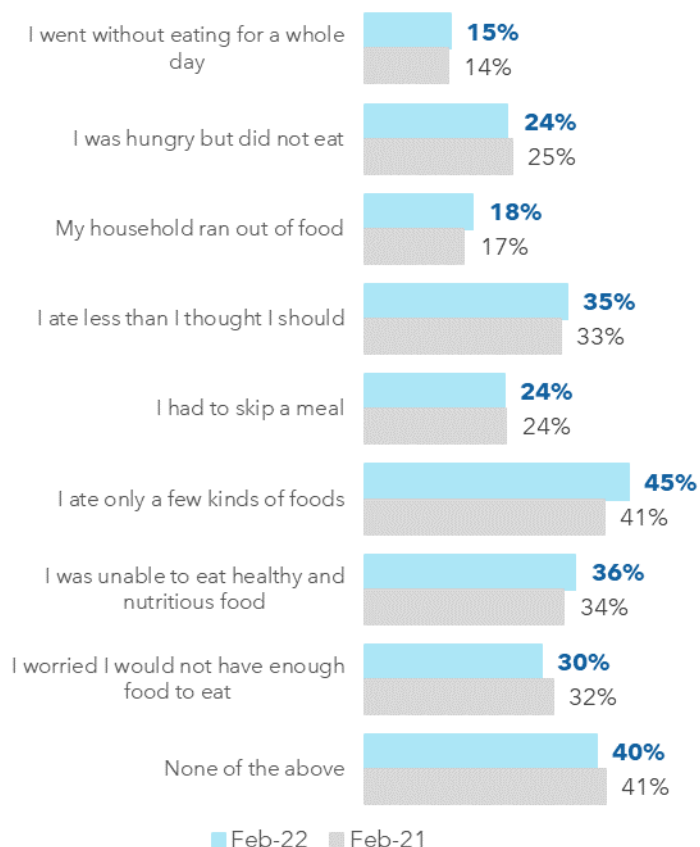
"I lost my job have been unable to work due to online school. I lost my car. I was homeless. Applied for welfare for 6 months so that I can have a roof over our heads but now the 6 months is up." - Female, 25

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

- ▶ A concerning number of respondents are struggling to access food and meet their food and nutritional needs on a monthly basis.

## 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 60](#) for an explanation of the methodology).

Compared to February 2021, negative experiences related to the eight individual FIES categories were stable. When asked about the 30 days leading up to the survey, 35% of respondents from Barbados experienced a time when they ate less than they thought they should, 36% of respondents experienced a time when they were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food, and 45% reported a time when they only ate a few kinds of foods.

The reporting of the individual FIES categories varies across different types of respondents. The most striking differences emerge across income and age groups, which correspond with the regional trends in food consumption patterns. Respondents who describe their household income as well below average were the most affected across all individual negative food-related behaviours while those with above or well above average income were the least likely to engage in any of such behaviours. Pronounced differences were also observed across age groups, with younger respondents (40 and under) particularly affected. Respondents aged over 60 were the least likely to have engaged in any of the negative food-related behaviours. No major differences emerged between women and men.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

Based on the FIES methodology, it is estimated that 22% of respondents in Barbados are moderately food insecure and an additional 11% are severely food insecure. When compared to the regional findings, the prevalence of severe and moderate food insecurity is similar.

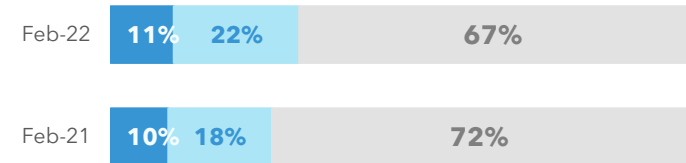
In Barbados, respondents with lower income levels are experiencing severe and moderate food insecurity more often than those with higher incomes.

Approximately a third of respondents with well below or below average income levels experienced severe food insecurity in the 30 days prior to the survey. Only 34% of those with well below or below average incomes were food secure (or mildly food insecure), compared to 74% and 93% of respondents from average and wealthier income groups.

## Prevalence rates of food insecurity

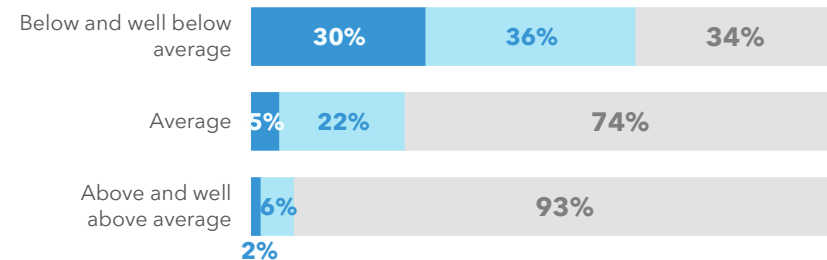
Based on FIES methodology

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



## Prevalence rates of food insecurity by perceived household income

Based on FIES methodology.



*"I have not been able to provide for my family i am hardly eating i hardly sleep I'm stressed out and worried" - Female, 27*

*"Just ain't have enough money to maintain myself" - Male, 45*

*"My biggest change was growing some of what we consume. Not making money has been the biggest disruption for us." - Female, 40*

*"My 12 year old monitor his eating to make it last a little longer." - Female, 42*

*"Not being able to eat healthy as we did prior to Covid19" - Female, 51*

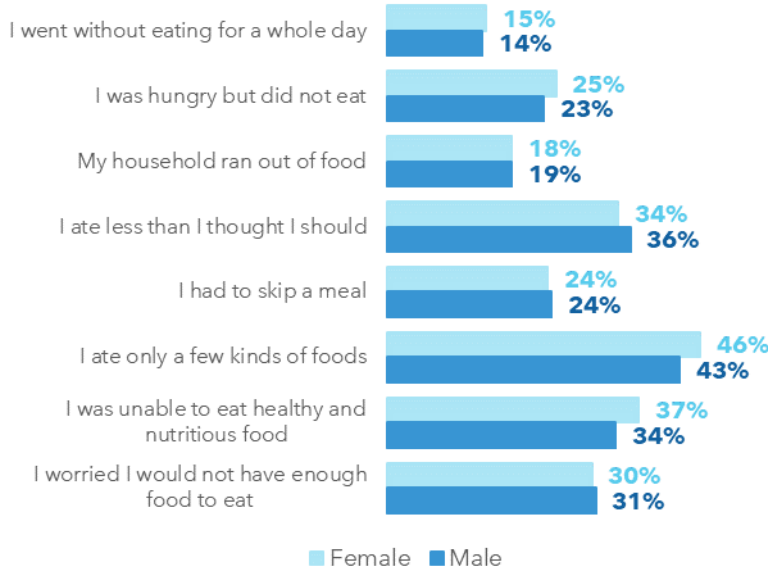
*"Not having enough money to buy food and baby care items." - Female, 40*

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

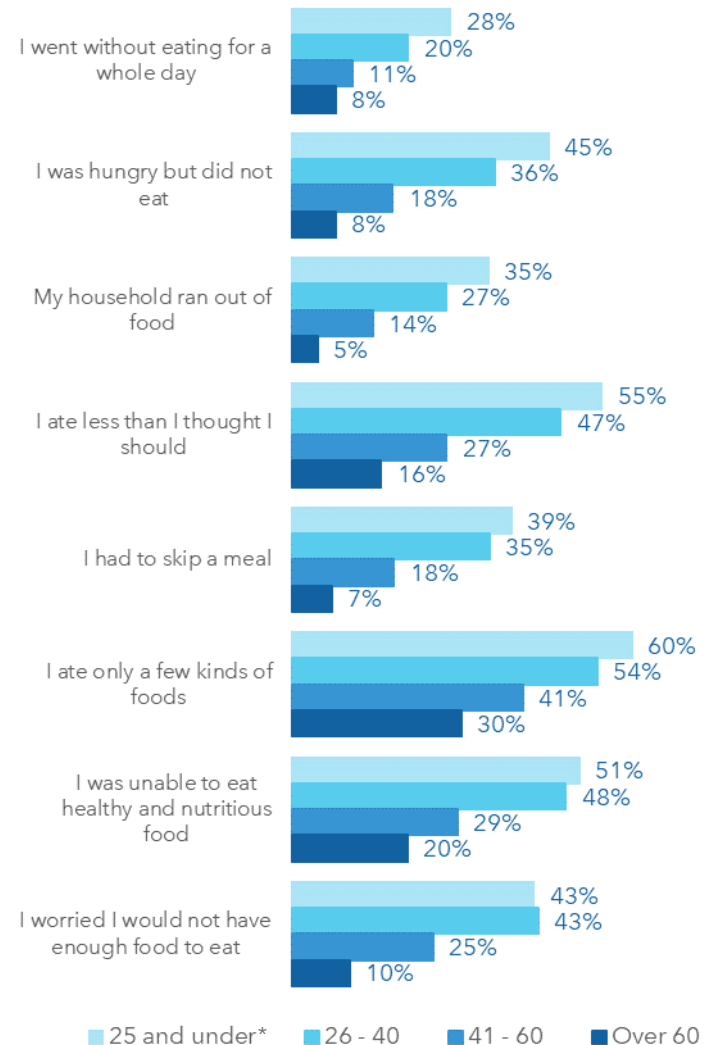
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group



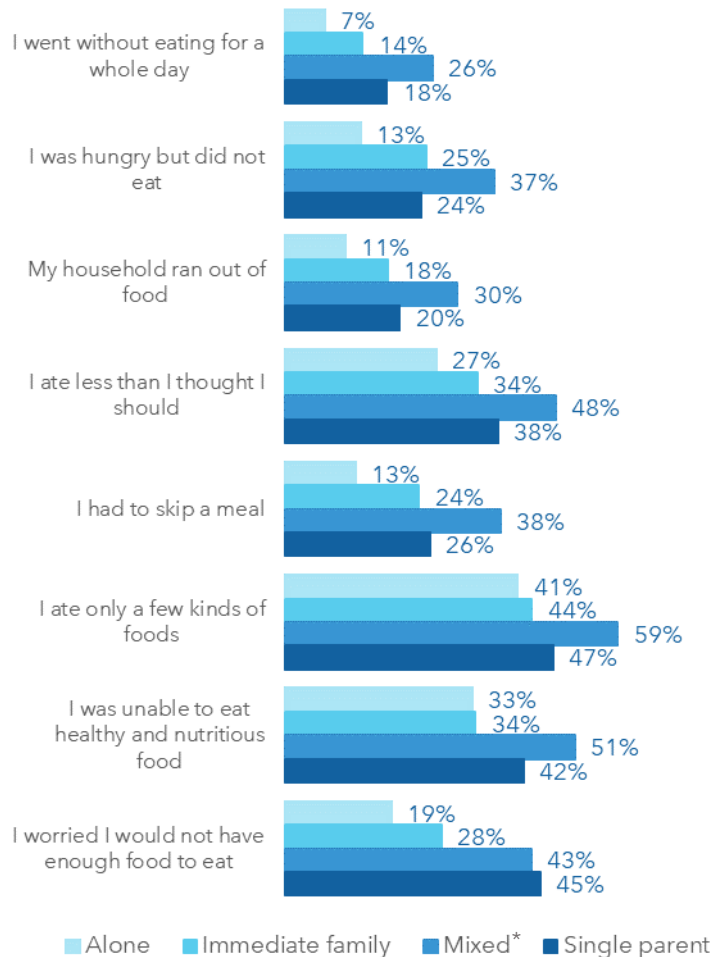
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

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

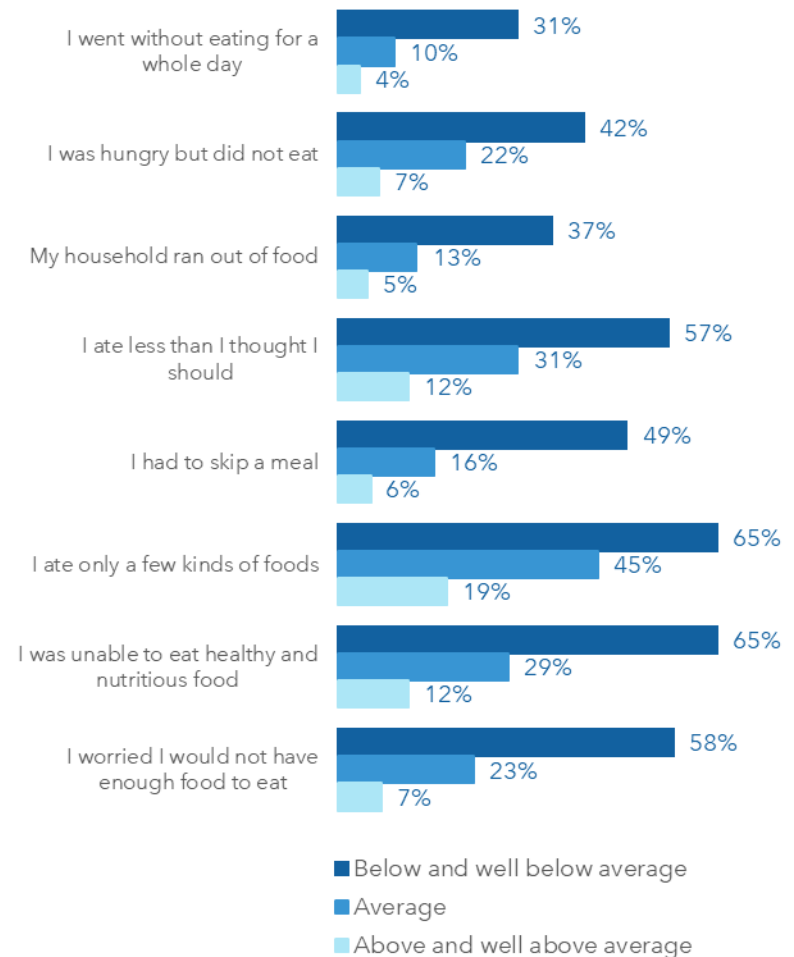
Multiple choices could be selected.

By household composition



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

By perceived income level



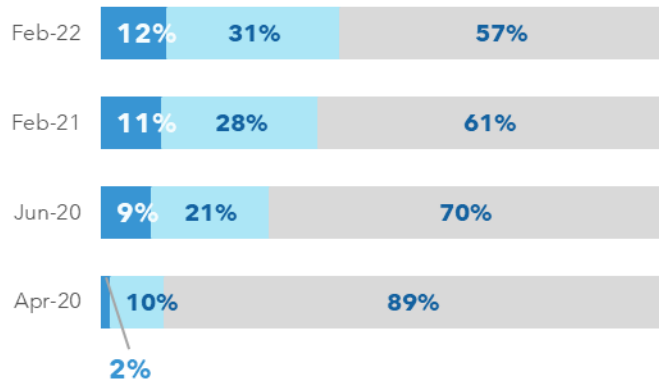


# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

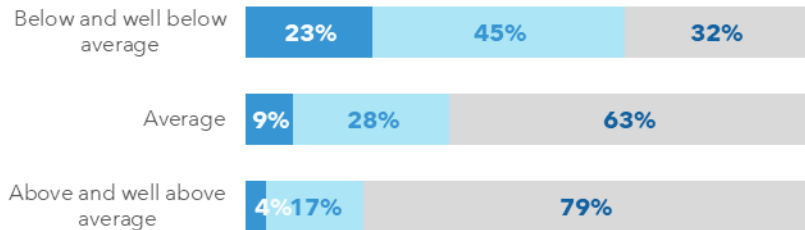
- ▶ Most lower income households have less than a week of food stocks at home.

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

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



**By perceived income level**



While the majority of households (88%) have some type of food supplies at home, 12% of respondents reported to not have any food stocks at all at the time of the survey in February 2022. These results represent a deterioration compared to April 2020. While some of these changes are likely driven by people not needing to “stock up” in relation to lockdowns, people’s financial means are also an influencing factor. Overall, with the availability and size of household food stocks decreasing over time, these trends appear to be less widespread and steep in Barbados compared to the Caribbean region.

Differences in food stocks in Barbados appear to primarily reflect disparities in household income, with low-income households reporting less food stocks than higher income households. Of respondents with a perceived income of well below or below average, 32% had food stocks for over a week, compared to 79% of households with an above or well above average.

It also appears that younger age groups tend to have less food stocks or for shorter periods of time (less than a week) compared to respondents aged over 60, of whom 73% have food stocks worth more than a week. Households who derive their income primarily from salaried work or their own business tend to have larger food stocks than households that rely mainly on informal sources of income and on support from family and friends.

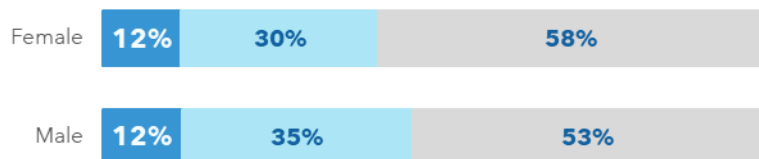
Households in rural areas seem to be slightly less in the position of stocking up on food compared to respondents living in urban centres. The stocks reported by female and male respondents were relatively consistent, with women being slightly more inclined to stock up food for longer periods.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

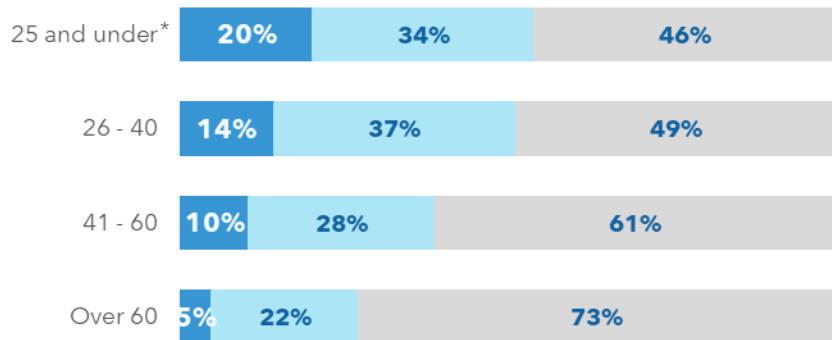
## Does your household have any food stock?

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

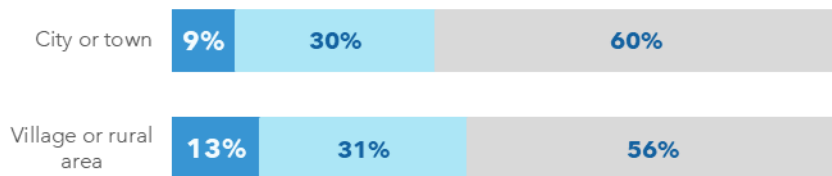
### By sex



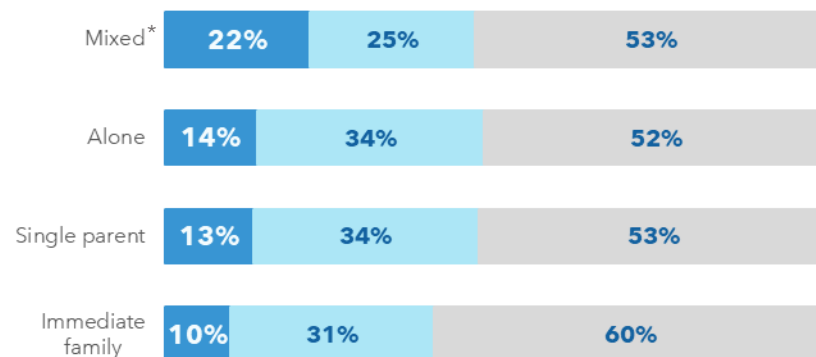
### By age group



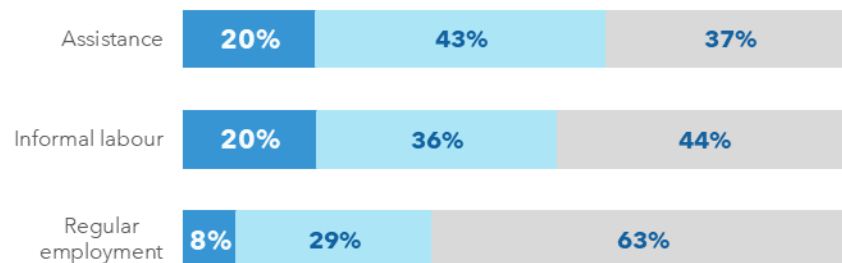
### By urban/rural location



### By household composition



### By income sources

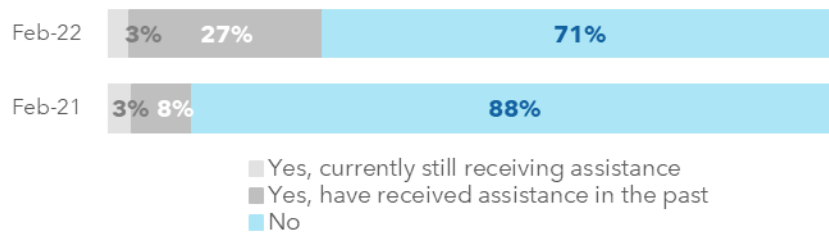


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

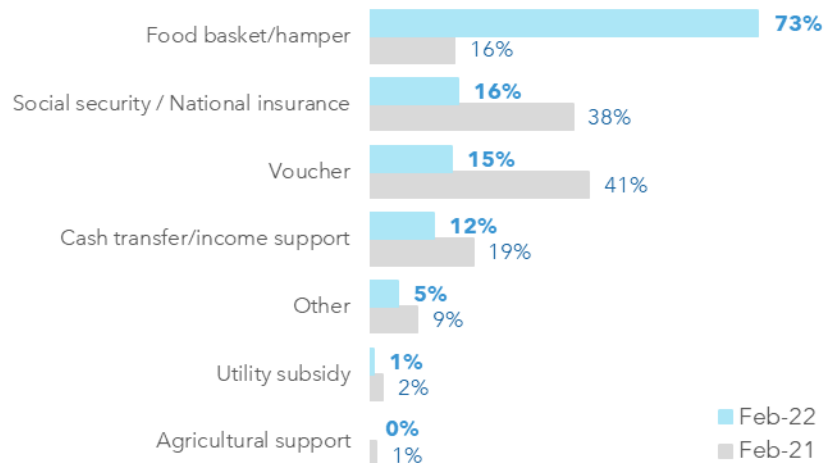
- ▶ The number of respondents who have received assistance has increased from one year ago. Food basket/hamper is now the leading form of assistance.

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



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

Multiple choices could be selected.



One in three respondents reported to have received government assistance. This is a considerable increase when compared to results from one year ago, where only 11% of respondents reported to have received assistance. It is also above the regional average where 22% of respondents reported to have received some sort of support related to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, only 3% of respondents from Barbados are still currently receiving assistance at the time of the survey.

Respondents most commonly reported receiving assistance in the form of food basket/hamper (73%), followed by social security/national insurance (16%) and vouchers (15%). This is a shift from what was reported one year ago, where vouchers and social security/national assistance were the leading mode of assistance, as reported by 40% of respondents. Various programmes by The Welfare Department of Barbados and other private charitable trusts provided a series of food vouchers which were honoured by major supermarkets on the island since the declaration of the pandemic.

Respondents reporting average (32%) and below average (36%) income were more likely to receive assistance. An increasing number of single parent families have accessed assistance. A higher proportion of respondents living in rural areas reported to have received some form of assistance when compared to urban dwellers.

Recipients of assistance largely consisted of households who already rely on government assistance (53%) as primary income source, followed by those engaging in informal labour (39%).

Respondents over 60 years old were less likely to be the recipients of government assistance than younger respondents. No major differences were reported between men and women.

# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

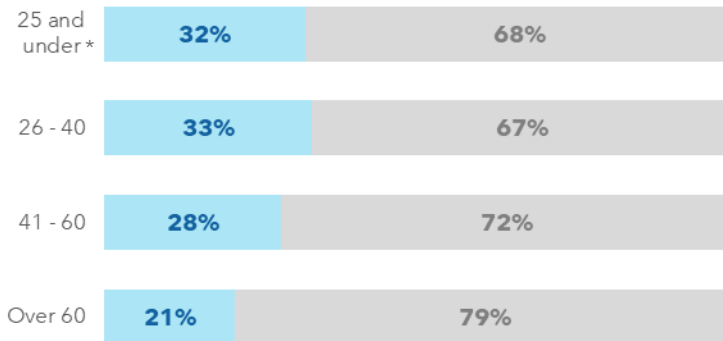
Have you received any assistance from the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

■ Yes ■ No

By sex



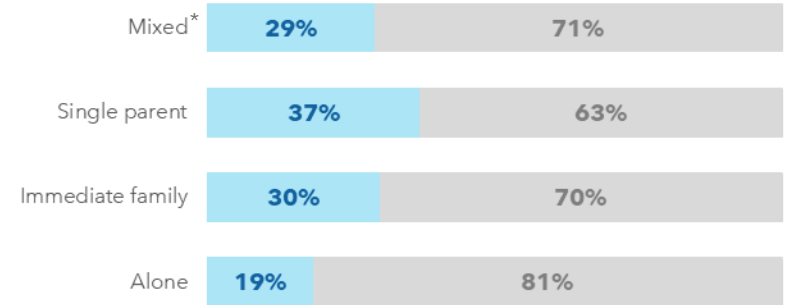
By age group



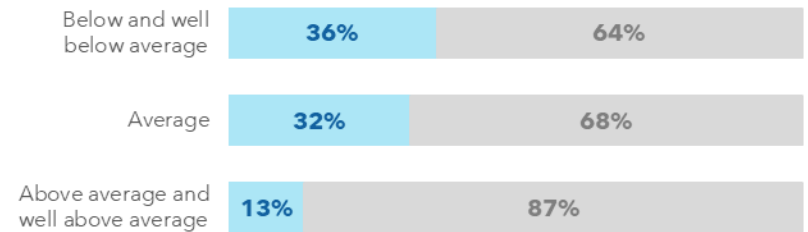
By urban/rural location



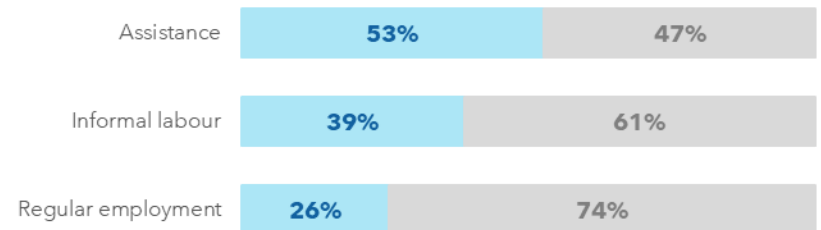
By household composition



By perceived income level



By main income source



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

## ► Fear of illness remains the leading concern among respondents.

Fear of illness is still the leading cause for concern among respondents. Perhaps attributed to the availability of vaccines, it is less so when compared to one year ago. This is followed by the inability to cover essential needs and unemployment. The results in Barbados are largely consistent with those in the Caribbean region. However more respondents from Barbados are worried about violence in the community (19%) when compared to the region (9%).

Respondents of different income levels varied in their main worries. Those describing their income as below and well below average are less worried about illness (39%), while 47% cite unemployment as their main concern. This is followed by inability to cover essential (44%) and food needs (42%). In contrast, out of those respondents with above and well above average income levels, two thirds cited concerns about falling ill and half were mainly worried about social isolation. Movement restrictions, disruptions to education and inability to access services were also major concerns for economically better off households.

A notably higher percentage of male respondents (22%) were concerned about movement restrictions when compared to female respondents (12%). Women were more concerned about covering essential and food needs than men. The vast majority of those from the over 60 age group (81%) are still primarily concerned with falling ill. Unemployment and the inability to meet essential needs were more frequently cited by the under 40 age groups, with social isolation most cited by those under 25. Half of households with a mixed composition cited unemployment as their main worry, which is a larger portion when compared with other household types.

## Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

Main worries	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20
Fear of illness	56%	67%	51%
Social isolation	35%	26%	19%
Unemployment	34%	44%	55%
Inability to cover essential needs	26%	26%	28%
Disruptions to education	22%	16%	14%
Inability to cover food needs	19%	20%	19%
Having to resort to savings	19%	16%	20%
Movement restrictions	15%	15%	11%
Child(ren)/dependents care	15%	14%	15%
Violence in the community	5%	7%	7%
Other worries	3%	2%	0%
Unable to access services	1%	1%	2%
Violence in the household	0%	1%	0%

## By perceived income level

Main worries	Below and well below average	Average	Above and well above average
Fear of illness	39%	63%	66%
Social isolation	24%	34%	52%
Unemployment	47%	32%	19%
Inability to cover essential needs	44%	23%	19%
Disruptions to education	13%	26%	27%
Inability to cover food needs	42%	13%	4%
Having to resort to savings	15%	25%	13%
Movement restrictions	9%	14%	26%
Child(ren)/dependents care	16%	14%	15%
Violence in the community	3%	5%	8%
Other worries	1%	3%	4%
Unable to access services	2%	1%	27%
Violence in the household	1%	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%	53%
Social isolation	35%	34%
Unemployment	34%	33%
Inability to cover essential needs	28%	21%
Disruptions to education	23%	19%
Inability to cover food needs	21%	16%
Having to resort to savings	19%	19%
Movement restrictions	12%	22%
Child(ren)/dependents care	16%	12%
Violence in the community	5%	5%
Other worries	2%	4%
Unable to access services	1%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	0%

\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

### By household composition

Main worries	Alone	Immediate family	Mixed*	Single parent
Fear of illness	58%	59%	51%	47%
Social isolation	35%	34%	30%	41%
Unemployment	28%	34%	49%	28%
Inability to cover essential needs	26%	24%	27%	35%
Disruptions to education	7%	24%	15%	28%
Inability to cover food needs	13%	18%	32%	23%
Having to resort to savings	24%	18%	20%	20%
Movement restrictions	23%	15%	12%	7%
Child(ren)/dependents care	4%	16%	14%	17%
Violence in the community	9%	5%	3%	6%
Other worries	4%	2%	1%	2%
Unable to access services	1%	1%	2%	3%
Violence in the household	1%	0%	0%	0%

### By age group

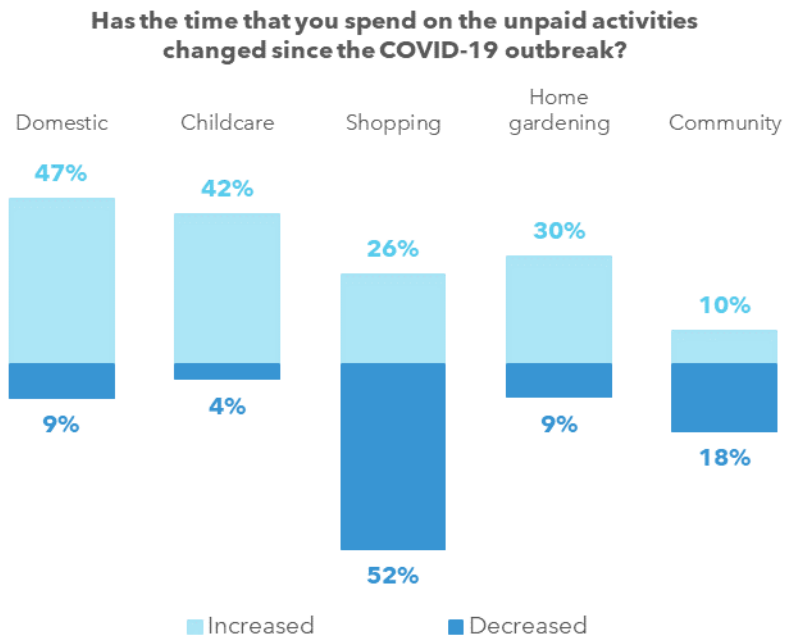
Main worries	25 and under*	26 - 40	41 - 60	Over 60
Fear of illness	51%	43%	60%	81%
Social isolation	41%	33%	34%	35%
Unemployment	45%	44%	30%	16%
Inability to cover essential needs	32%	34%	23%	13%
Disruptions to education	21%	20%	25%	17%
Inability to cover food needs	25%	28%	16%	4%
Having to resort to savings	12%	17%	20%	24%
Movement restrictions	15%	14%	12%	27%
Child(ren)/dependents care	9%	22%	13%	6%
Violence in the community	4%	3%	5%	12%
Other worries	0%	2%	3%	5%
Unable to access services	3%	2%	0%	2%
Violence in the household	0%	1%	0%	2%

### By urban/rural location

Main worries	City or town	Village or rural area
Fear of illness	57%	55%
Social isolation	41%	31%
Unemployment	27%	38%
Inability to cover essential needs	27%	26%
Disruptions to education	21%	23%
Inability to cover food needs	15%	23%
Having to resort to savings	16%	21%
Movement restrictions	18%	13%
Child(ren)/dependents care	17%	13%
Violence in the community	7%	4%
Other worries	3%	2%
Unable to access services	2%	1%
Violence in the household	1%	0%

# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

- ▶ Respondents – and particularly women – continue to spend more time on domestic work and childcare.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents continue to increase time devoted to domestic work and childcare, while decreasing shopping activities. Nearly half of respondents (47%) reported spending more time on domestic work and childcare, and over half (52%) continue to curb their shopping activities. These patterns are largely consistent when compared with the overall results from the region, and the results from February 2021.

Both female and male respondents reported an increase in time spent on unpaid work due to pandemic. More women are reporting an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare when compared to men.

Across all income groups, a similar proportion of respondents reported increased time spent in domestic work. An increase in time spent on childcare was more often reported by those classifying their income as well below and below average (47%) compared to those with above and well above average income (39%).

Fewer persons living alone reported increases in unpaid activities compared to other household types. People living with immediate family members and single headed households seem to be making more adjustments. Over half of those living in immediate family households reported an increase in domestic work (60%) and an increase in childcare (62%).

The amount of time spent on the community work is decreasing for 26% of respondents while 9% reported an increase. This decrease was most often reported among respondents with below or well below average incomes.

Respondents continue to curb their shopping activities, which may be attributed to the lack of finances and the shifts in how people spend their money. Respondents with below and well below average income (67%) more frequently reduced their time spent on shopping activities, when compared to respondents with above and well above average income (32%).

# 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	47%	42%	26%	30%	10%
No change	41%	25%	22%	38%	42%
Decreased	9%	4%	52%	9%	18%
Not applicable	3%	28%	1%	22%	30%

Feb-21	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	43%	38%	24%	28%	6%
No change	46%	33%	28%	46%	48%
Decreased	7%	4%	46%	6%	16%
Not applicable	3%	25%	2%	20%	29%

Jun-20	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	51%	41%	27%	36%	8%
No change	40%	29%	21%	41%	52%
Decreased	7%	4%	51%	5%	12%
Not applicable	2%	25%	1%	18%	28%

## By sex

Female	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	49%	46%	27%	32%	10%
No change	38%	23%	19%	36%	40%
Decreased	10%	5%	52%	9%	20%
Not applicable	3%	27%	1%	23%	30%

Male	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	42%	35%	22%	27%	10%
No change	47%	31%	27%	44%	47%
Decreased	8%	3%	50%	8%	14%
Not applicable	3%	31%	1%	21%	28%

## By household composition

Alone	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	37%	11%	25%	26%	15%
No change	46%	27%	24%	40%	35%
Decreased	13%	1%	49%	5%	16%
Not applicable	3%	61%	2%	29%	33%

Immediate family	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	49%	43%	26%	30%	9%
No change	40%	28%	22%	40%	45%
Decreased	8%	3%	51%	9%	17%
Not applicable	3%	26%	1%	21%	29%

Mixed*	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	46%	40%	16%	28%	8%
No change	38%	16%	23%	29%	34%
Decreased	12%	8%	59%	14%	24%
Not applicable	4%	36%	2%	29%	34%

Single parent	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	46%	63%	31%	40%	10%
No change	39%	18%	16%	30%	40%
Decreased	13%	6%	52%	12%	23%
Not applicable	3%	13%	1%	18%	27%

\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results



# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

Has the time you spend on the unpaid activities changes since the COVID-19 outbreak

## By perceived income

### Below and well below average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	46%	47%	20%	29%	10%
No change	38%	22%	11%	32%	33%
Decreased	12%	8%	67%	16%	23%
Not applicable	4%	23%	2%	23%	34%

### Average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	47%	41%	28%	33%	8%
No change	41%	27%	24%	36%	42%
Decreased	8%	3%	48%	6%	18%
Not applicable	4%	30%	0%	25%	32%

### Above average and well above average

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	44%	39%	31%	23%	13%
No change	43%	22%	37%	50%	53%
Decreased	11%	2%	32%	10%	17%
Not applicable	2%	37%	1%	16%	17%

"Home schooling continues to have a negative impact on my productivity at work. It does not appear that there have been discussions between government and private sector employers regarding making allowances for parents with school aged children.

The increased time away from work coupled with employer expectations of unchanged work output results in working late i.e. to after 9pm 5 days a week which reduces normal family time and places additional mental stress on parents." - Male, 39

"The lack of consistent and credible information on which lifestyle changes can be confidently made. I would say my biggest change to date is staying at home more than in the past. This requires a lot of mental intelligence to function effectively." - Male, 57

"Online schools and the lack of proper engagement of our kids in education and sporting activities. This is 3 years the kids have had no school sports. They are not properly engaged in online school and spend too much time behind a screen which is not productive" - Female, 41

"The lack of human & social interactions is devastating as well as their impact on people's mental health. We now live in a very lonely virtual world." - Female, 62

"My biggest concern is for the children who have been largely online for almost 2 years. This is not good for them and is terrible for parents, some may have to choose between earning a living and caring for their children. The children need to be back in school." - Female, 45

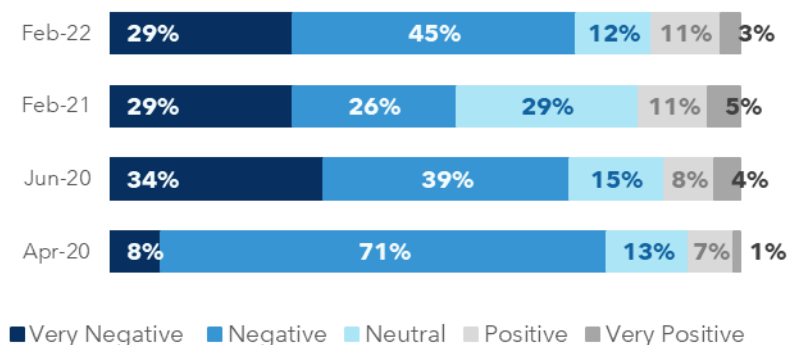
"Little socialization with friends" - Female, 60

"Fewer external activities. I do more things alone and do more hobbies at home." - Female, 69

# WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

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

Distribution of sentiments across open-ended survey responses



Respondents were given the space to provide more nuanced insights on how they are coping with and adapting to the evolving impacts two years on since the declaration of the pandemic. Out of the 995 respondents, 333 responded to the open-ended question.

Sentiment analysis classifies the overall feeling expressed within each response and how negative or positive it is. In February 2022, the largest share of respondents expressed negative (45%) and very negative (29%) sentiments.

Many respondents expressed concerns about rising prices on many fronts. Increased costs in food are forcing households to reduce their consumption, and costs incurred by COVID-19 due to staff shortages and cleaning supplies are impacting many businesses. Many reported to falling ill and being out of work, resulting in loss of work and income. As a result, respondents are depleting their savings, and resorting to alternative means to make ends meet.

Respondents from Barbados raised many concerns about online schooling impacting the social development of their children. Some parents expressed having to choose between earning an income and caring for their children. Limited interaction is also a concern between external family members and friends which continue to take a toll on respondents' mental wellbeing.



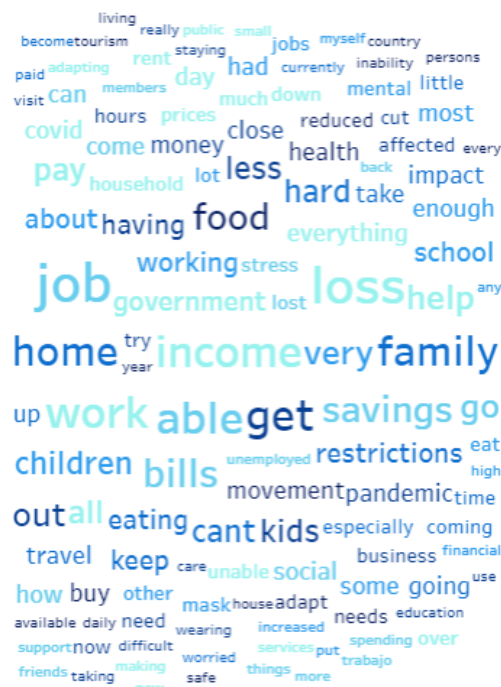
**FEBRUARY  
2022**

# WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping



APRIL  
2020



JUNE  
2020



FEBRUARY  
2021

# CONCLUSION

Since the first survey was launched in April 2020, much has changed in Barbados. Vaccines have become available, travel has been re-introduced and the Government of Barbados 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 Barbados meet their most pressing needs and try to earn a living. Nearly two years from the onset of the pandemic, the economic reverberations continue to take a toll on livelihoods, incomes, food security and people's mental 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 now increasing food prices. More and more people are therefore 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, many 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. 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, single parent

households or younger respondents compared to other age groups. It will therefore take substantial effort and directed investment to make sure that those already in difficulty are not left even further behind as Barbados seeks to turn the corner on the pandemic.

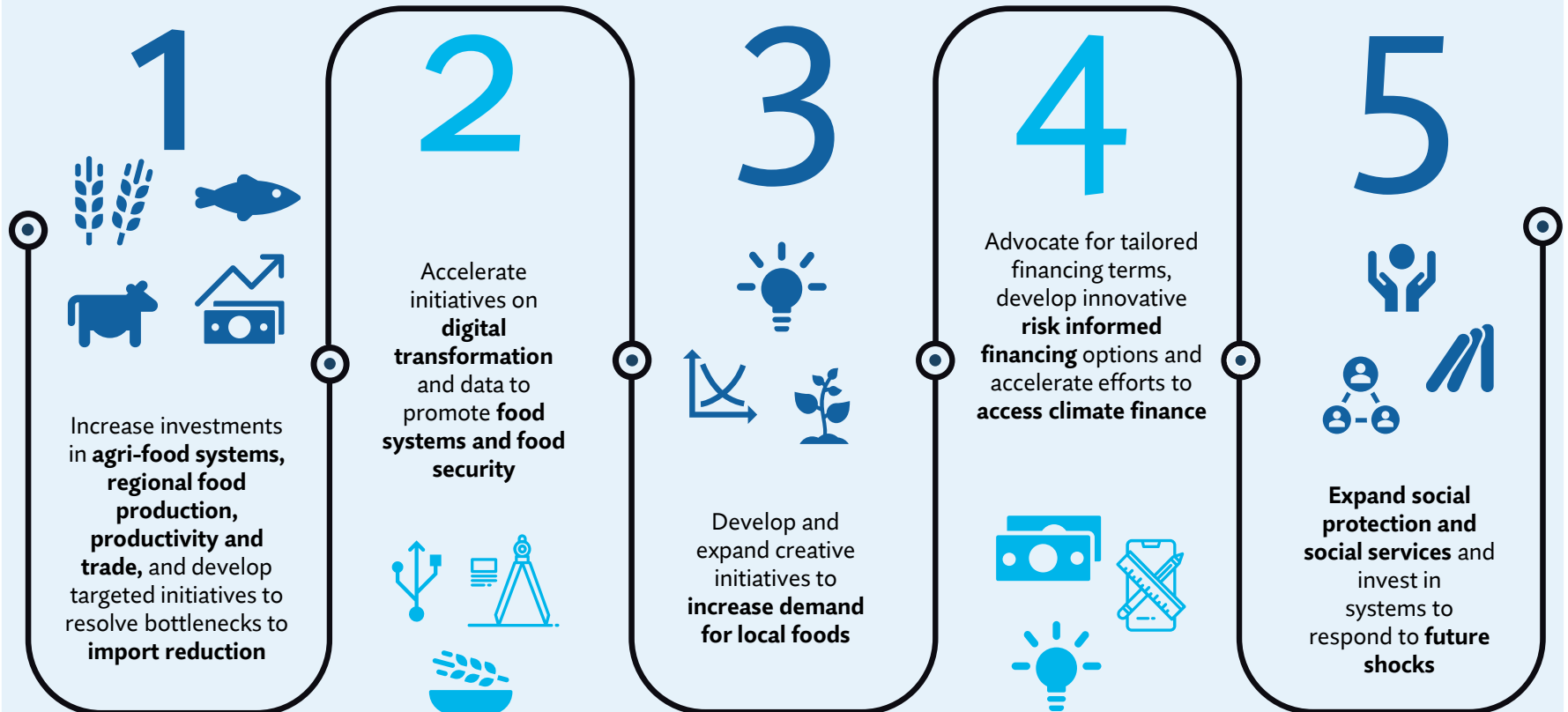
The survey also highlights that unpaid time spent on childcare and domestic work are still greater than before the pandemic, and these activities are disproportionately shouldered by women. Continued and deepened analysis on gender dynamics remains a priority to ensure that recovery processes are gender-responsive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

The Government of Barbados has turned to many policy measures and programmes to manage these impacts and support people. Social protection has played a critical role through expanded unemployment insurance, income support, cash transfers and food support. Given the continuation of impacts to people's incomes and lives, it is critical for the government to keep investing in safety nets and people's resilience, particularly for those living in poverty and facing different facets of vulnerability.

Similar to other Caribbean economies, Barbados is highly exposed to global and regional shocks. The combination of COVID-19 impacts on household economy, supply chain disruptions and rising inflation, as well as the anticipation of another active hurricane season and the global economic reverberations of the Ukraine crisis present Barbados with a serious multi-pronged challenge for food security. The strengthening of national emergency preparedness, social protection, and food systems 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

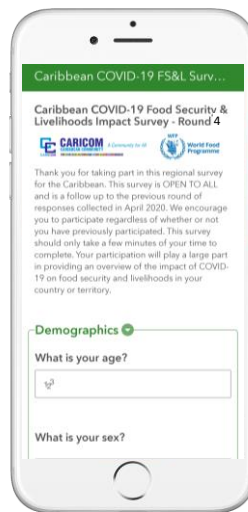
The fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 25 January to 8 February 2022. The survey was circulated via email, social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

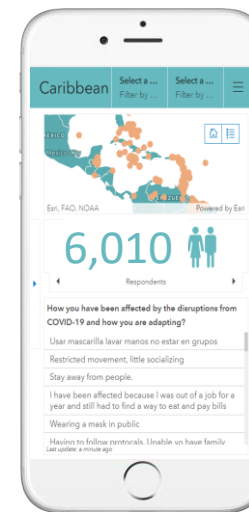
WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Barbados and Grenada. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago for circulating the survey link.

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



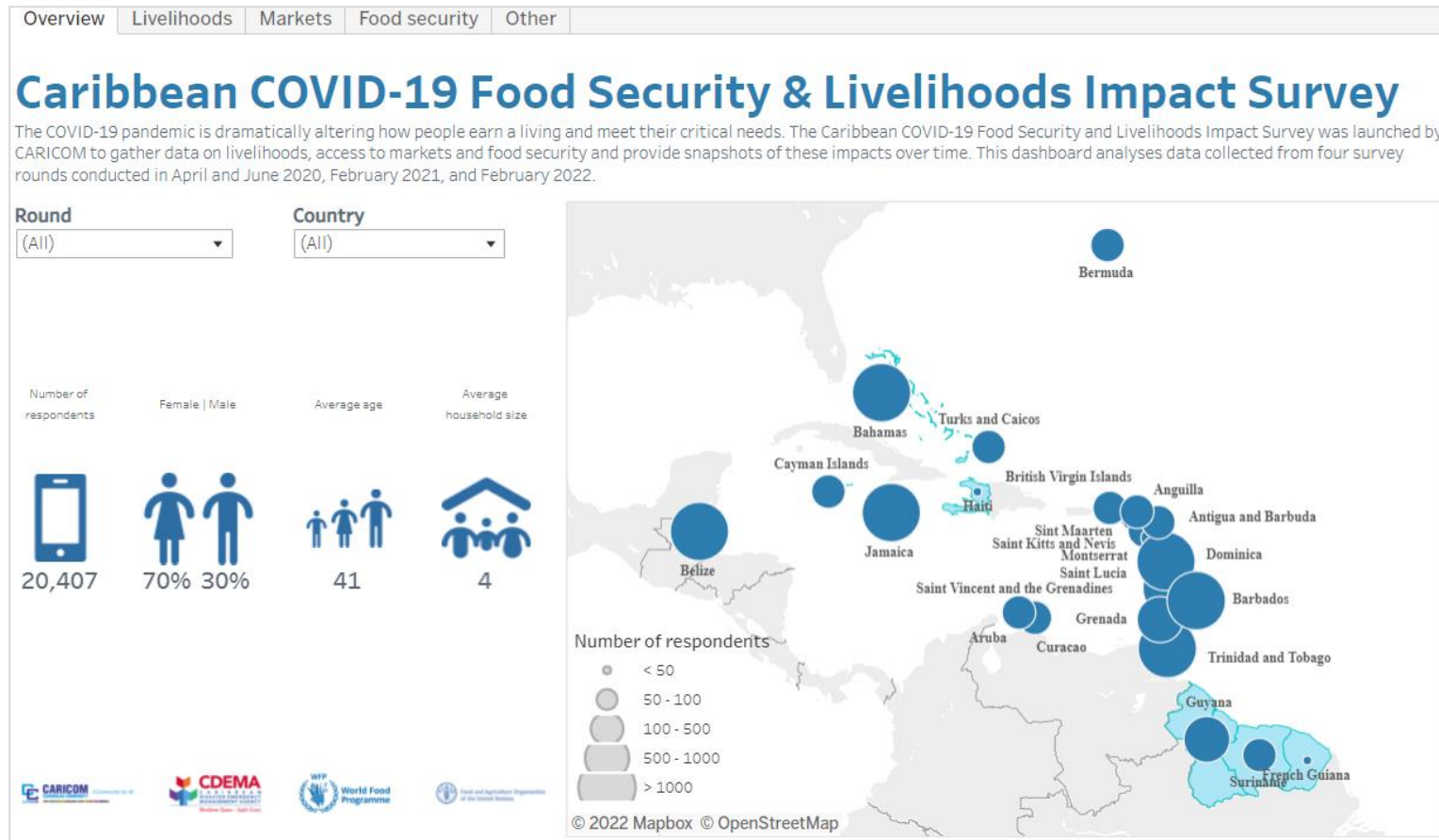
Dashboard for PCs/Laptops

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

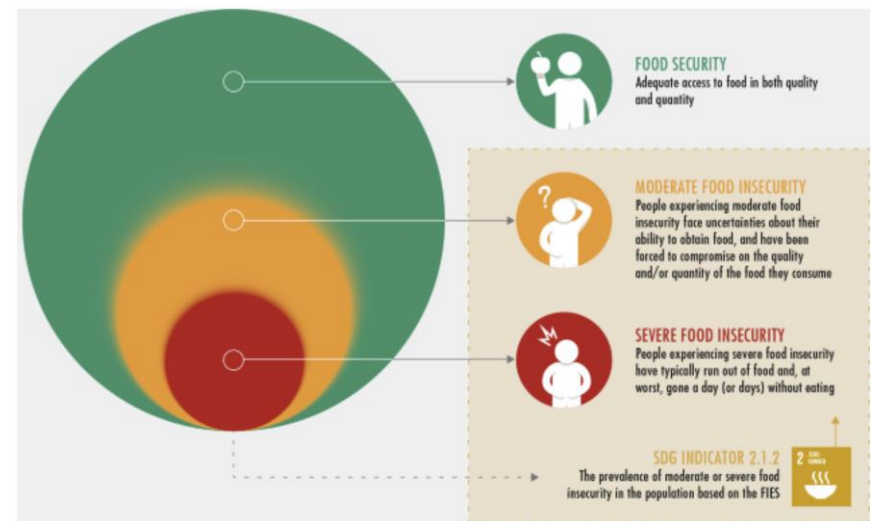


# CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

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).



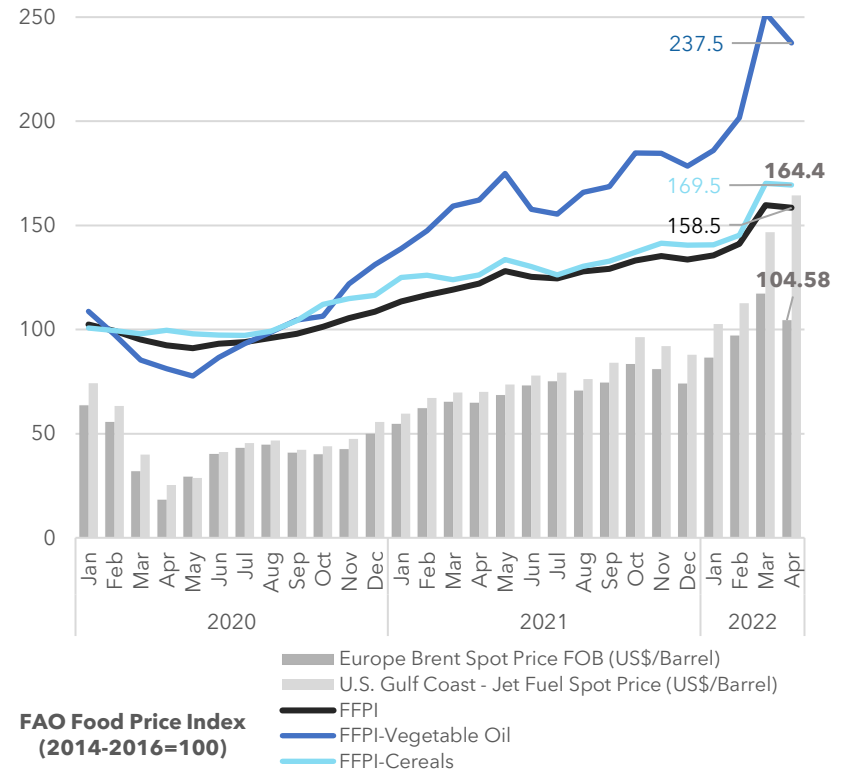
# ANNEX | Regional implications of Ukraine crisis

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% reduction in global economic growth and up to 2.5% 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) 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 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 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.

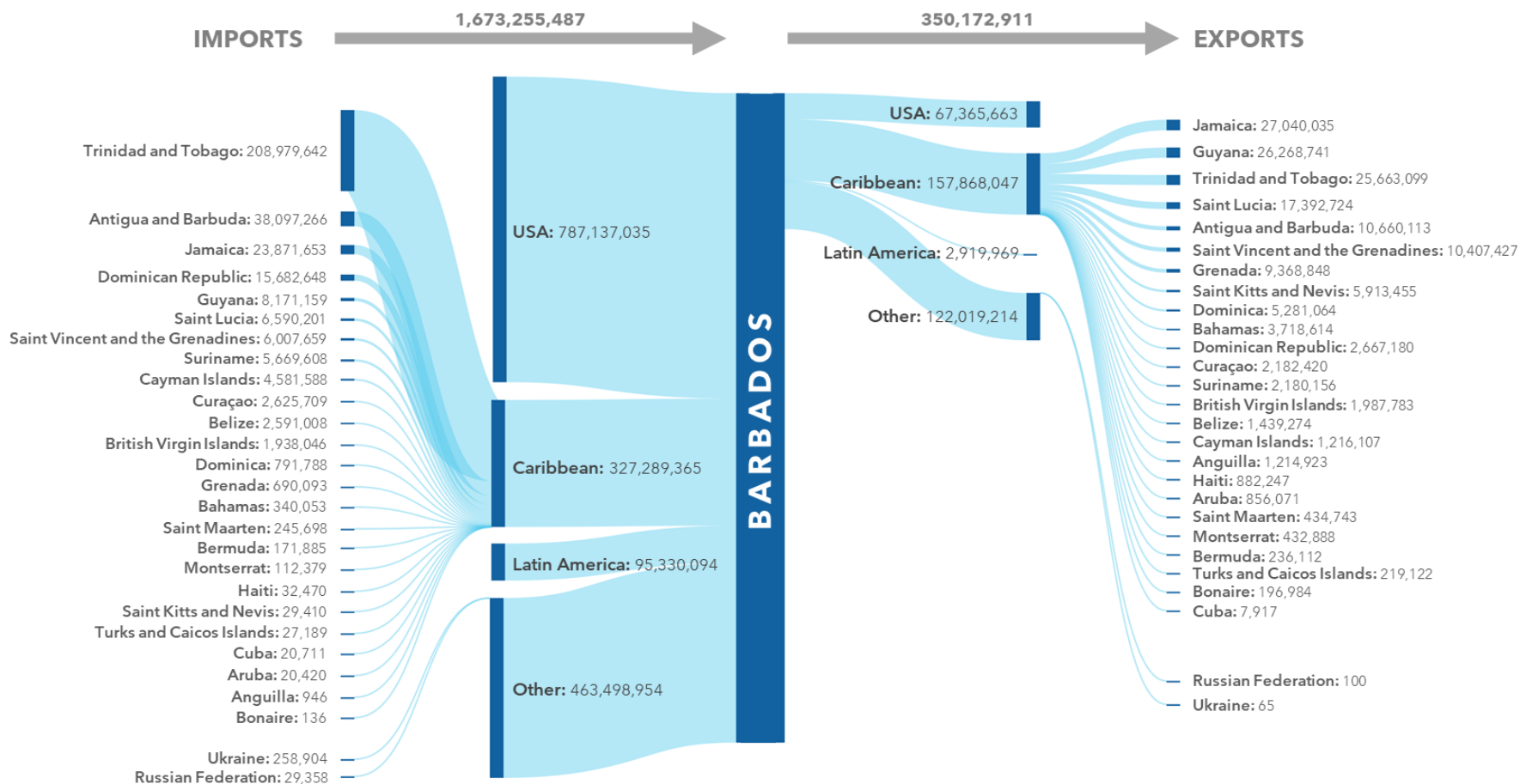


Source: FAO, US Energy Information Administration

# ANNEX | Barbados trade flows

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

Source: UN Comtrade



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**UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME**  
**WFP Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean**

UN House, Marine Gardens  
Christ Church  
Barbados  
Website: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/caribbean>  
Email: [barbados.communications@wfp.org](mailto:barbados.communications@wfp.org)

**CARICOM**  
**Caribbean Community Secretariat**

Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown  
PO Box 10827  
Guyana  
Website: <https://www.caricom.org>



**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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