

# Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

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

### February 2022



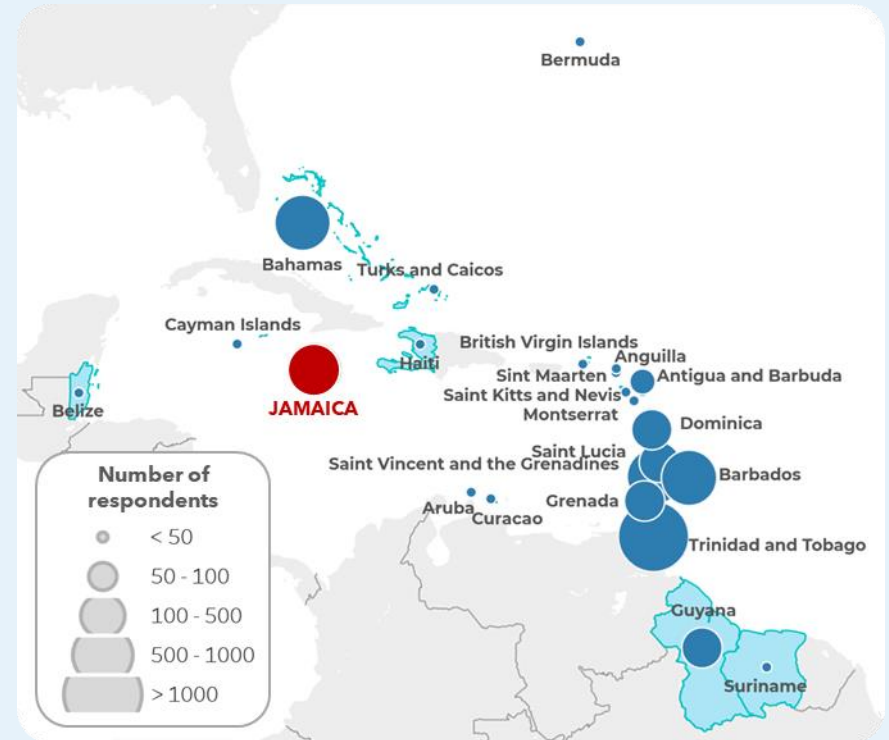
### February 2021\*

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

### June 2020



### April 2020



# JAMAICA Summary | May 2022

- Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Jamaica 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 half 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 have shifted. People are now mainly struggling with the increased prices of livelihood inputs and less so with movement restrictions or the fear of illness.
- Two-thirds of respondents predict at least moderate impacts to their livelihoods in the future. Those with lower incomes, engaged in casual labour or relying on support from family and friends, and those living in rural areas have the most pessimistic outlooks.
- Negative impact on incomes remains widespread, with 57% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced income since the start of the pandemic, which is a higher share compared to April 2020 (29%).
- Respondents mainly worry about illness (42%), followed by meeting their essential needs (37%) and unemployment (36%), with lowest income respondents most worried about food needs.
- Food prices are increasing, and 98% of respondents reported higher than usual food prices, an observation that is more widespread compared to June 2020 or elsewhere in the region.
- Two-fifths 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.
- According to the prevalence rates of food insecurity in Jamaica, over half of respondents (58%) are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure, with the lowest income household being the most food insecure.
- 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, and over half reported to have no food stocks at the time of the survey. Respondents are resorting to more severe actions, with 72% drawing on savings to meet immediate food and other needs, nearly half reducing expenditures on education and health, and over a third selling productive assets.
- Differences in impacts are most pronounced when comparing income groups. Households with reported incomes below and well below average show the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being and are at risk of further falling behind economically.
- One fifth of respondents have received some form of government support. However, very few were receiving assistance at the time of the survey. Cash transfers/income support were the most common support received.
- Women are disproportionately impacted by an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare due to the pandemic.
- Food insecurity risks deepening in Jamaica, 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 the strengthening of national and regional food systems, social protection and emergency preparedness to promote recovery and protect people from future shocks.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data is not entirely representative, and the use of an online questionnaire limits inputs from people without internet access.

# JAMAICA Summary | May 2022

## All respondents

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

		Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
<b>LIVELIHOODS</b>	Disrupted livelihoods	48%	60%	62%
	Reduction/loss of income	57%	74%	29%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	45%	60%	32%
<b>MARKETS</b>	Lack of market access	39%	38%	12%
	Change in shopping behaviour	90%	88%	81%
	Increase in food prices	98%	89%	71%
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	Reduced food consumption	41%	45%	12%
	Lack of food stock	28%	19%	3%

## Respondents with well below average perceived income

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

		Feb-22	Jun-20
<b>LIVELIHOODS</b>	Disrupted livelihoods	58%	70%
	Reduction/loss of income	80%	88%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	70%	88%
<b>MARKETS</b>	Lack of market access	64%	63%
	Change in shopping behaviour	96%	91%
	Increase in food prices	97%	95%
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	Reduced food consumption	68%	76%
	Lack of food stock	51%	45%

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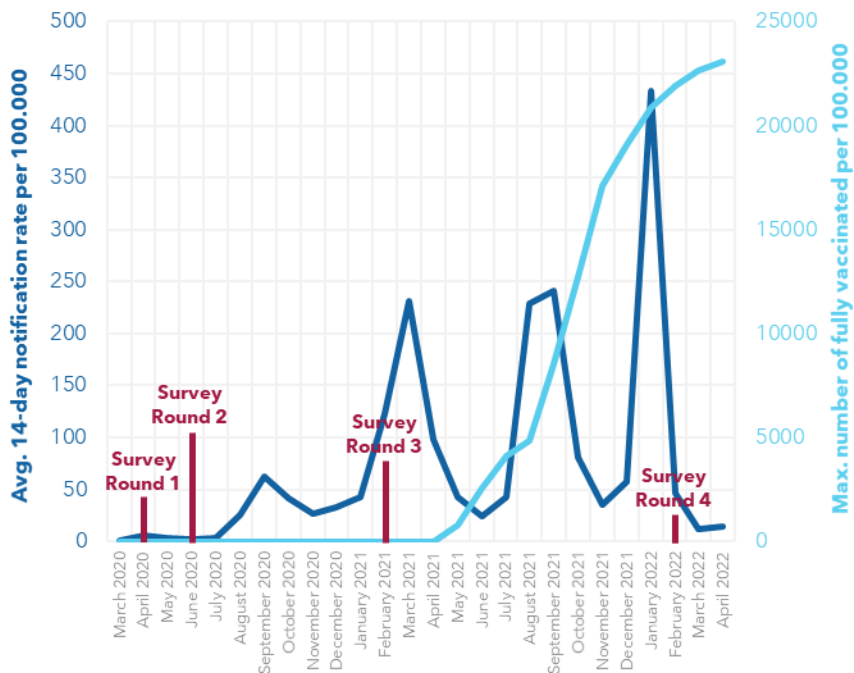
# COVID-19 | Situation and response

## COVID-19 cases and government responses

Since its first recorded COVID-19 case in early March 2020, Jamaica has experienced four waves of infections, with the number of new cases reaching an unprecedented peak in mid-January 2022 following the arrival of the Omicron variant. At the time this survey was completed in early February 2022, the number of daily infections had dropped to 7% of its peak as the government continued to ease restrictions, including night-time curfew hours. Previously, the country had experienced a series of strict lockdowns in 2020 and 2021.

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

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

Following the launch of its vaccination program in early 2021 as one of the first countries in the Caribbean, Jamaica saw a steady but relatively slow increase in the number of vaccinated people. By April 2022, about 27% of the country's population had received at least one dose of the vaccine, which is one of the lowest vaccination rates in the region.

## Broader developments and government responses

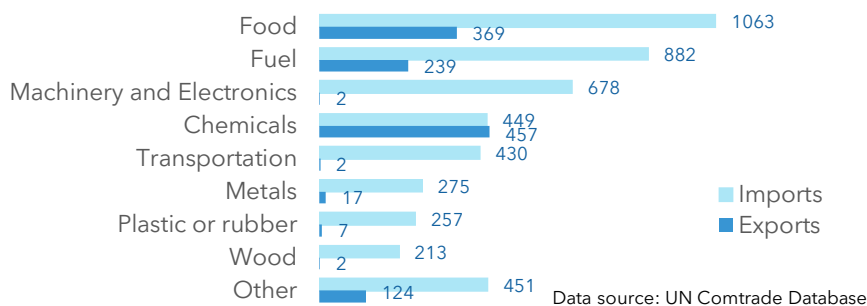
To mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, the Government of Jamaica launched an economic stimulus package in March 2020 for a total value of over USD180 million, including the 'COVID Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) programme' to support households and businesses in targeted sectors. Among its key components was the Business Employee Support and Transfer of Cash (BEST) programme to assist businesses in tourism and related sectors through payroll support. The government also launched the 'Supporting Employees with Transfer of Cash (SET Cash)' grant, providing financial support to persons below a defined income threshold who became unemployed as a result of the pandemic.

In February 2021, the government announced the launch of a Social And Economic Recovery and Vaccine Programme for over USD400 million, providing one-off grants to approximately 350,000 people. This support included one-off grants to National Insurance Scheme pensioners and self-employed persons falling under a defined income threshold, and to beneficiaries of the country's flagship 'Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH)'. The government also launched a new social pension to assist persons over 75 years of age who are not in receipt of a contributory pension or social assistance benefits. Furthermore, approximately 27,000 persons from vulnerable households benefitted from two rounds of cash payments from December 2021 to April 2022, enabled through support from the World Food Programme.

# Emerging issues | Implications of Ukraine crisis

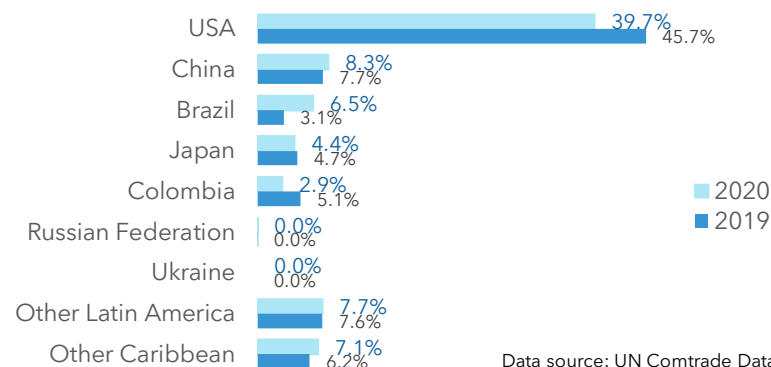
The crisis in Ukraine is having wide implications on international supply chains, inflationary pressure and economic growth (see [Annex](#)). Most affected will be countries which are highly dependent on the Russian Federation and Ukraine on key imports, but spill over effects are expected also elsewhere. Jamaica, like most economies of the Caribbean, is a net importer of commodities. In 2020, overall imports were valued US\$ 4.7 billion and were nearly four times the value of exports, which amounted to US\$ 1.2 billion. Aluminium oxide is the single most important export good and contributed to 36% of overall export value and 96% of all exports in chemicals in 2020.

**Share of Jamaican commodity trade in million US\$ (2020), by product group**



The United States (US) were the main trading partner, contributing to nearly 40% of total imports and 47% of exports in terms of US\$ value. They are also the main source market for food (41%) and fuel (44%), and made up the greatest share of imports for commodity groups such as live animals (94%), animal or vegetable fats and oils (73%), cereals (71%) or fertilizer (67%). Imports from Russia or Ukraine for these commodities were either non-existent or insignificant. However, Jamaica still exhibits some direct exposure to the conflict in Ukraine given that Russia is its fifth main export partner. In 2020, the Russian market accounted for nearly 6% of its overall exports, entirely attributed to the exportation of aluminium oxide from Rusal-owned plants at a value of US\$ 68 million - or 15% of total export value for this commodity.

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

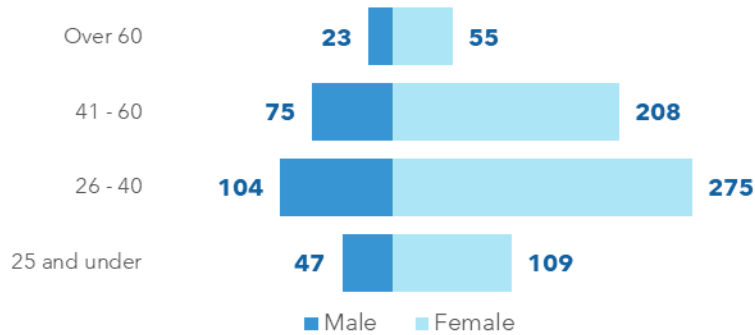


Jamaica's negative balance of trade makes it still vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply chain shocks in international markets, which may translate to inflationary pressure domestically. While Jamaica succeeded to keep the 12 month point to point inflation rate between the target range of 4% and 6% for the most part of the pandemic, inflationary pressure has increased from September 2021 and reached a new high of 11.3% by March 2022. Main contributors to the upward trends were the Consumer Price Index (CPI) divisions: 'Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages' (14.7%); 'Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels' (9.6%) and 'Transport' (14.3%). The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) has countered inflationary pressure by successively increasing the policy interest rate from 0.5 to 4.5 percent over the same timespan. The BOJ Monetary Policy Committee also noted that the conflict in Ukraine poses a downside risk to domestic growth.

On March 25, 2022, the Senate approved the Appropriation Bill, which outlines the Government's estimate of expenditure for the 2022/2023 fiscal year. Originally tabled prior to the Ukraine crisis, the new budget estimate amounts to 912 billion Jamaican dollars, up from 893 billion dollars which were allocated for the previous fiscal year. New taxes are not foreseen for the fifth consecutive year.

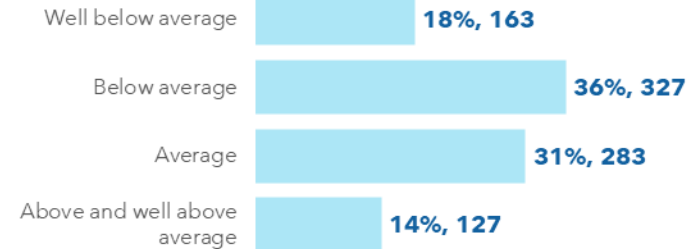
# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

## Age and sex

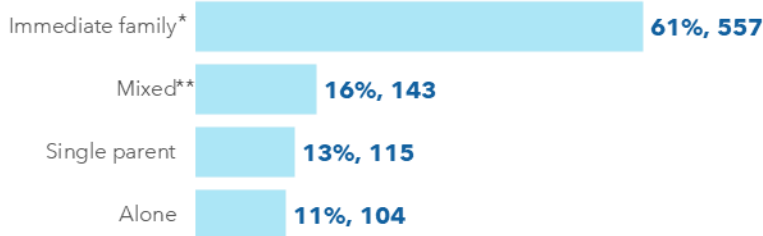


## Perceived income levels

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



## Household composition

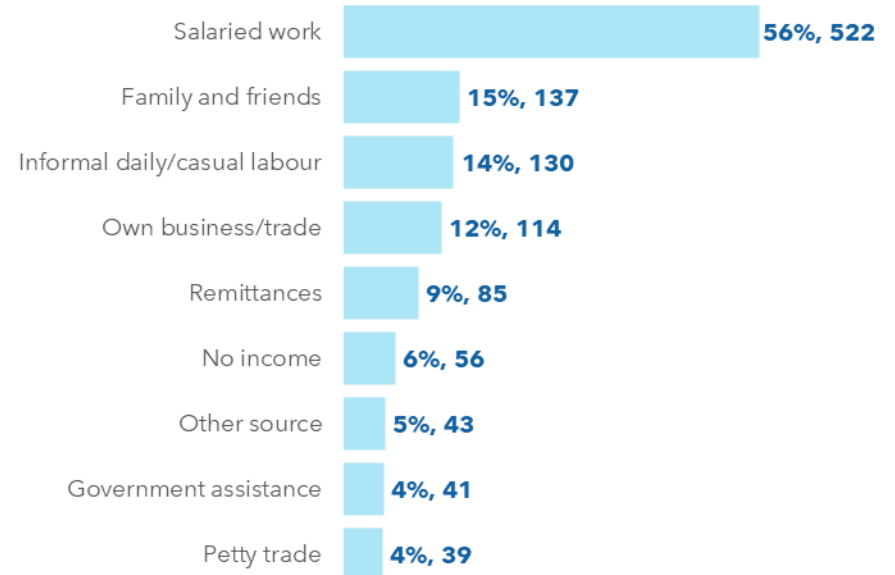


\* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.

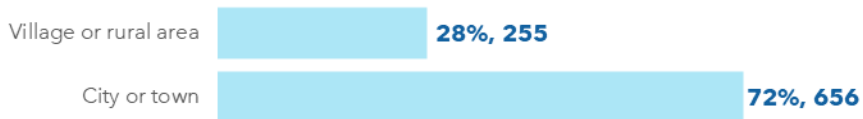
\*\* Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

## Main income sources

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



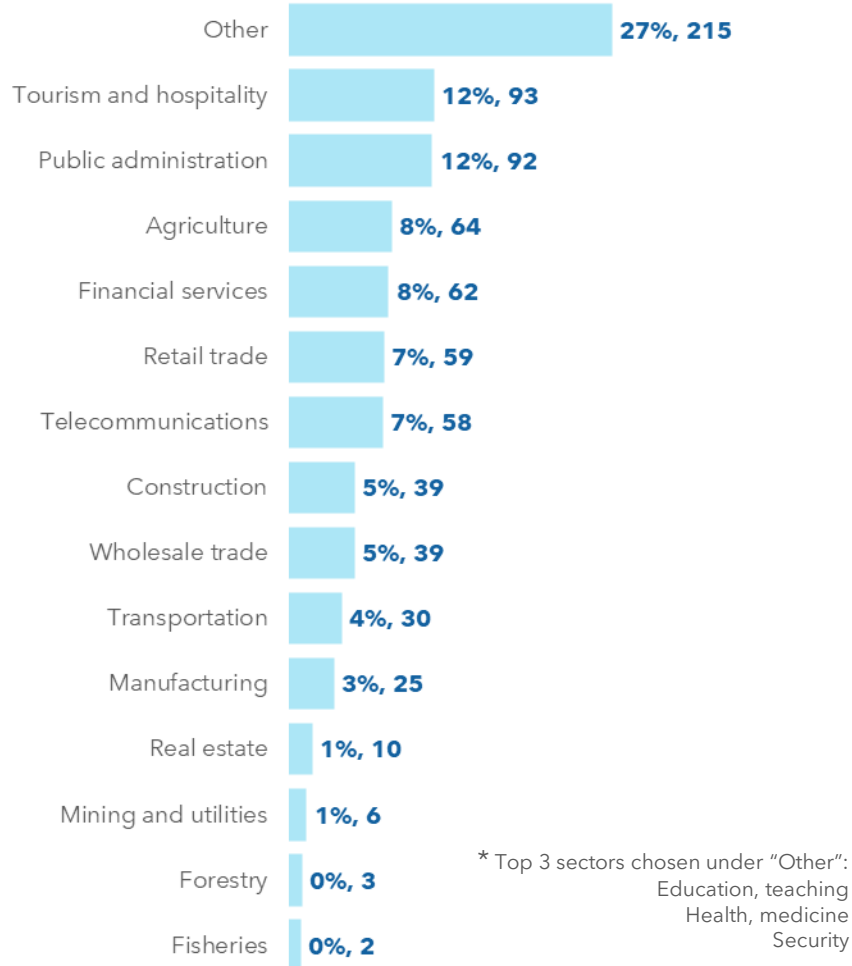
## Urban/rural location



# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

## Main income sector

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



## Language

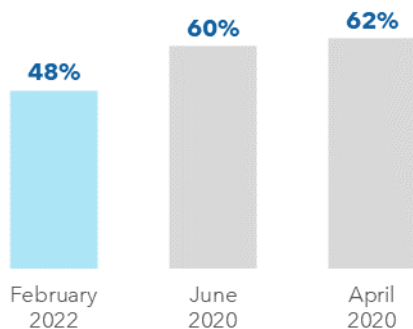




# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

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

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



The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt livelihoods. For nearly half of respondents, the ability to pursue their livelihood remained compromised in the two weeks prior to the survey. This proportion has decreased but remains high, compared to the early stages of pandemic, when disruptions were experienced by six 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 well below average, 59% reported livelihood disruptions, compared to 20% of those with income levels described as above or well above average. Respondents up to the age of 40 were more affected compared to older age groups.

*"I was affected by COVID-19 i did end up losing my job."  
- female, 38*

*Loss of job in the tourism industry, biggest changes not use to not having a job that pays." - female, 28*

*"Lost my job so I had to go on any construction work as a labour." - male, 33*

*"I lost my job my land lord put me out because I can't pay the rent I have to be back and forth with friends so I don't adapt anything." - female, 22*

*COVID has impacted my life In such a way that it prevent my from attending university or finding a job to generate a good source of income and employment becomes difficult because your qualifications make you over qualified for the small job that would help to generate some for of income." - male, 20*

*"Felt guilty that that i was not able to bury my mom in a fitting way. My small catering business closed and I was also made redundant from my substansive job as a chef" - male, 56*

*"I don't have a job since and it is very difficult. I have to cut down on everything but the bills are driving me crazy because they keep increasing by the days, weeks and month.. I need some help."  
-female, 66*

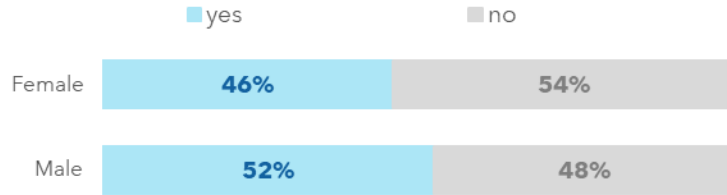
*"When I was ill from the virus I was unable to worked for a month and was not paid for that time at all I come was reduced and bills increase." - female, 38*

*"Me and my mother was a vendor at a school fence covid 19 lock down school income stop bills can't pay mother pressure and sugar take over then she loose her eye site from sugar, I get few constructions work on and off not enough for me, mother and daughter. - male, 39*

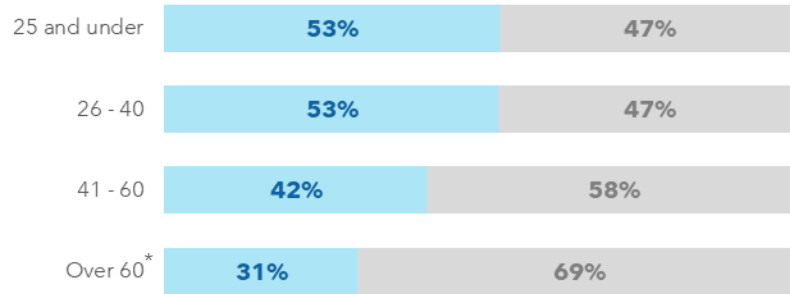
# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

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

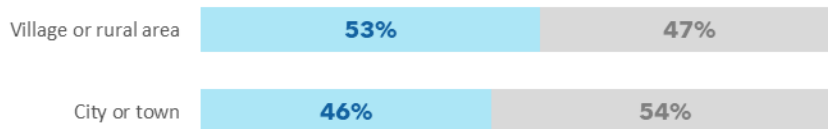
By sex



By age group

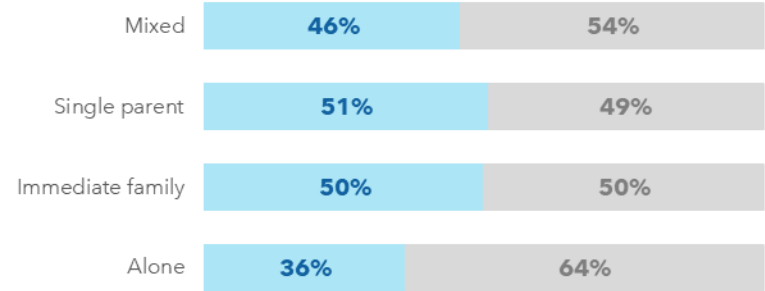


Urban/rural

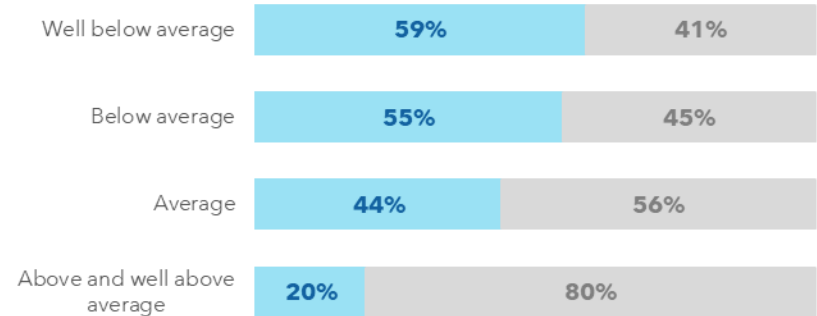


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

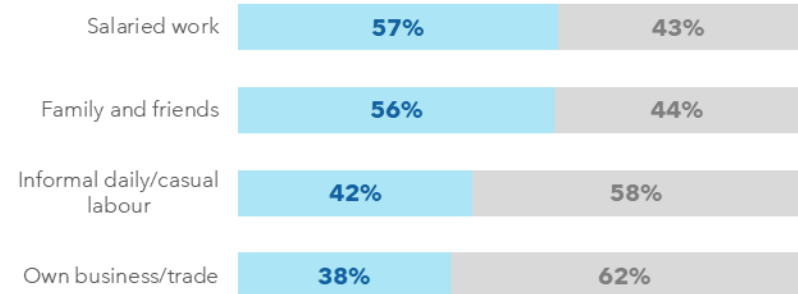
By household composition



By perceived income level



By income source



# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

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

Multiple choices could be selected

	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	47%	27%	9%
Movement restrictions	26%	31%	49%
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	26%	38%	9%
Increased demand for goods/services	13%	6%	8%
Reduced demand for goods/services	13%	24%	25%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	10%	17%	14%
Adult members of the household are unwell	8%	1%	0%
Other	7%	16%	16%
Transport limitations	6%	11%	17%
No market to sell products	5%	7%	8%

The main driver behind livelihood disruptions in the two weeks prior to the February 2022 survey was the unaffordability of or lack of access to livelihood inputs. This factor has grown steadily in importance 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 (52% of those facing disruptions), those engaged primarily in informal/casual sources of income (53%) and single parent households (55%). Female respondents were also more sensitive to the unaffordability of livelihood inputs (49%) compared to their male counterparts (41%).

Concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak and movement restrictions remain important contributors to livelihood disruptions, both cited by one-fourth of respondents, albeit less so compared to the early phase of the pandemic. However, they are still dominant factors for livelihood disruptions among households with above or well above average incomes, and those deriving their incomes from salaries and own business. For respondents aged 60 or above they formed the biggest barrier during the February 2022 survey round. Among men, movement restrictions were the second most important reason for livelihood disruptions, nearly twice the rate of female respondents, and only second to expensive livelihood inputs.

Reduced demand for goods/services also is declining in importance as a disruptive factor, as are transport limitations or lack of market outlets to sell own products. However, adult members of the household being unwell has notably increased as a reason.

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

"Since Covid my mother stopped working. Food, transportation and school fee has been a struggle to pay/buy." - female, 25

"The biggest change for me was watching savings that I spent the past 10 years building up get reduced to nothing. Losing my mom who passed away before the vaccine became available. Not knowing if I'll be able to recover from all these losses because it seems like nothing is changing." - male, 45

"My company has to cut any overtime and anything that would allow staff to work for some extra money and this affects the ability to do more for my children." - female, 37

"I lost my work so only my spouse is working and that isn't enough for bills paying and caring for a 1-year-old." - female, 26

"Biggest change was salary reduction, then had to live with my brother for awhile, couldn't afford my rent." - male, 39

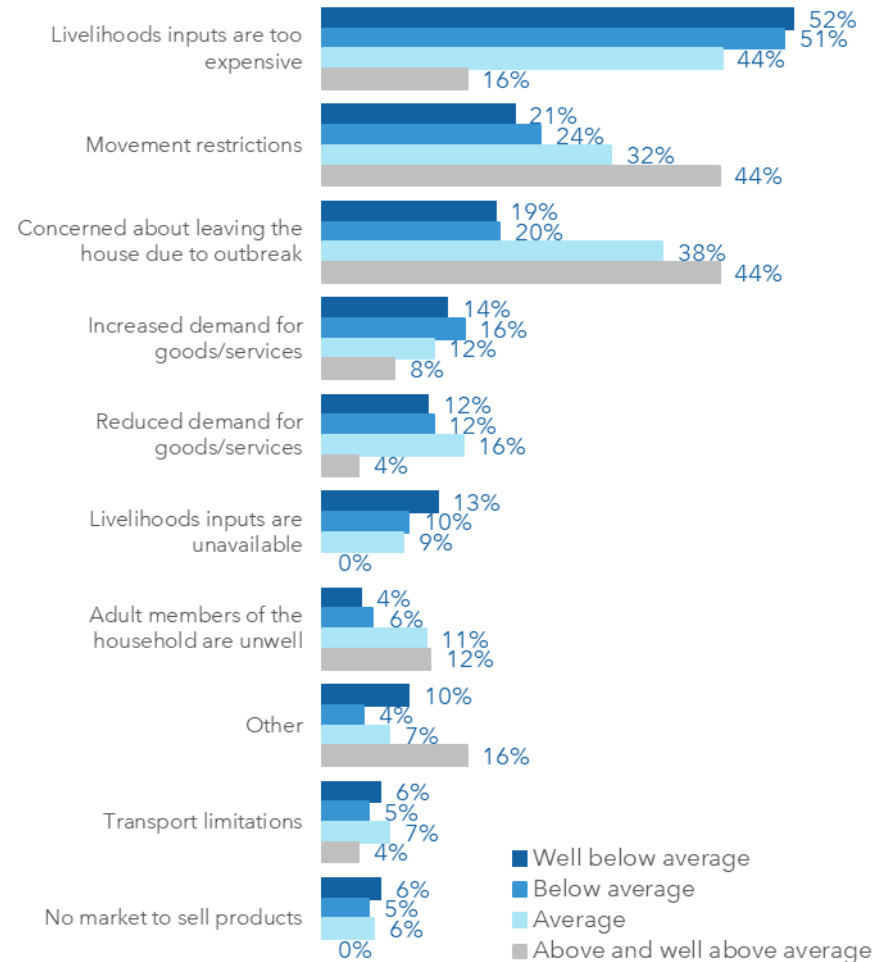
"Well COVID 19 has affected me and my family a lot me and my spouse did loose our job, but we a trying to wear our mask and wash ours hands to avoid from get infected with the virus." - female, 25

"Unemployed rite now can't get a job from the COVID-19 since March 2020"- female, 29

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

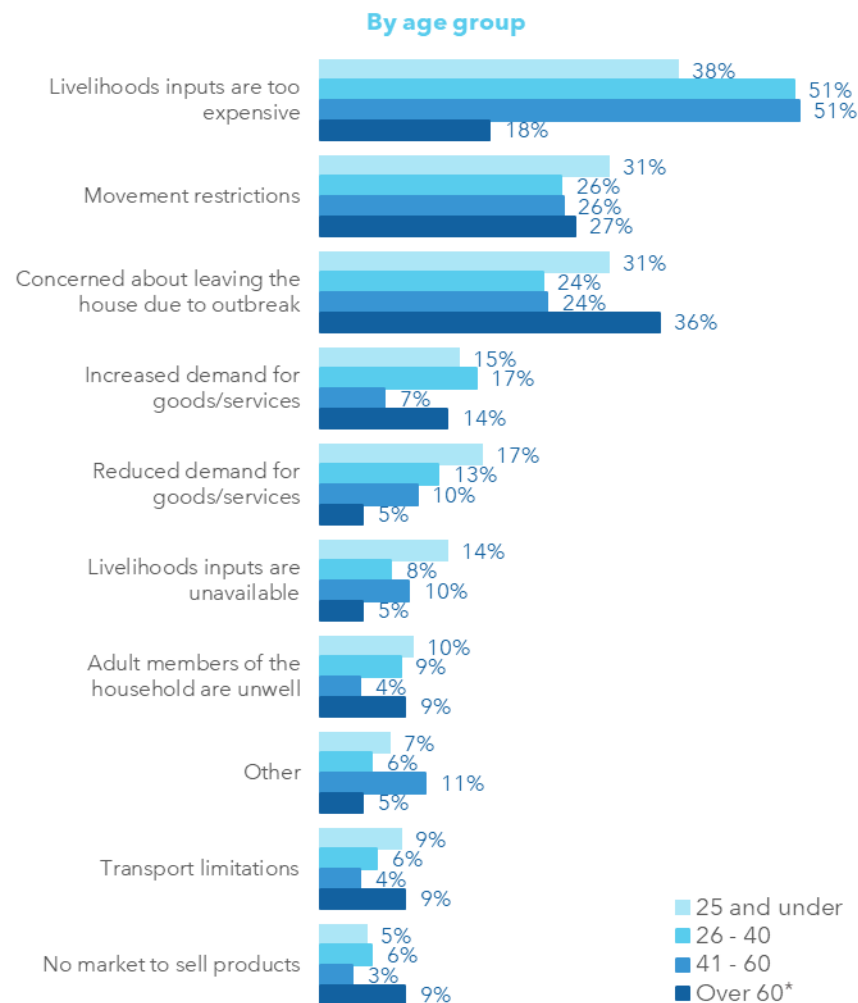
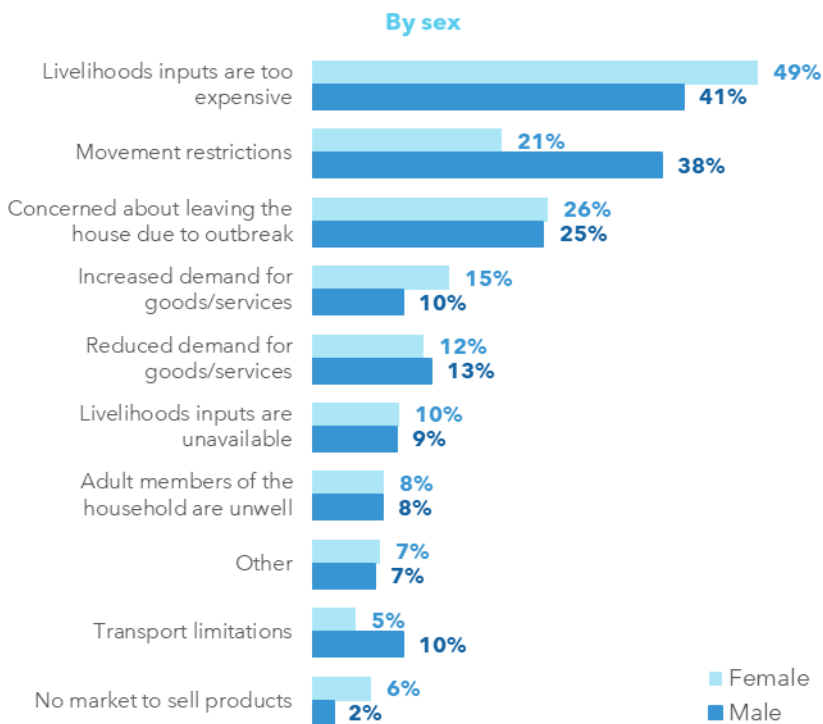
### By perceived income level



# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



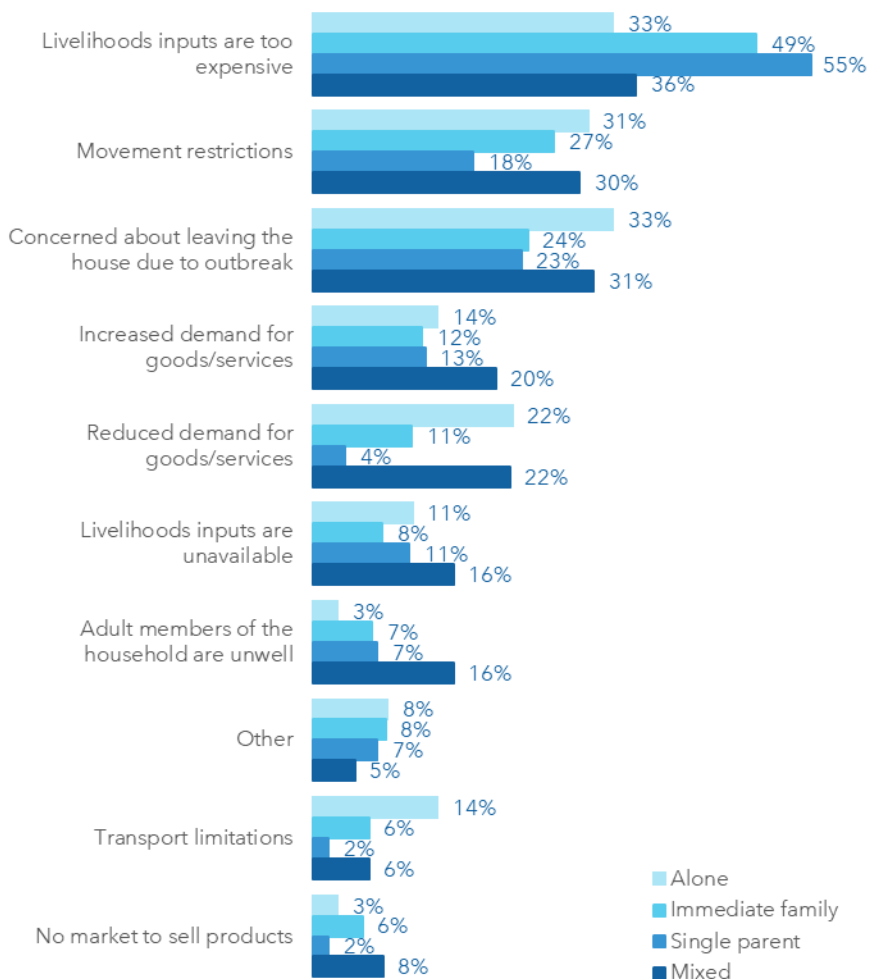
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

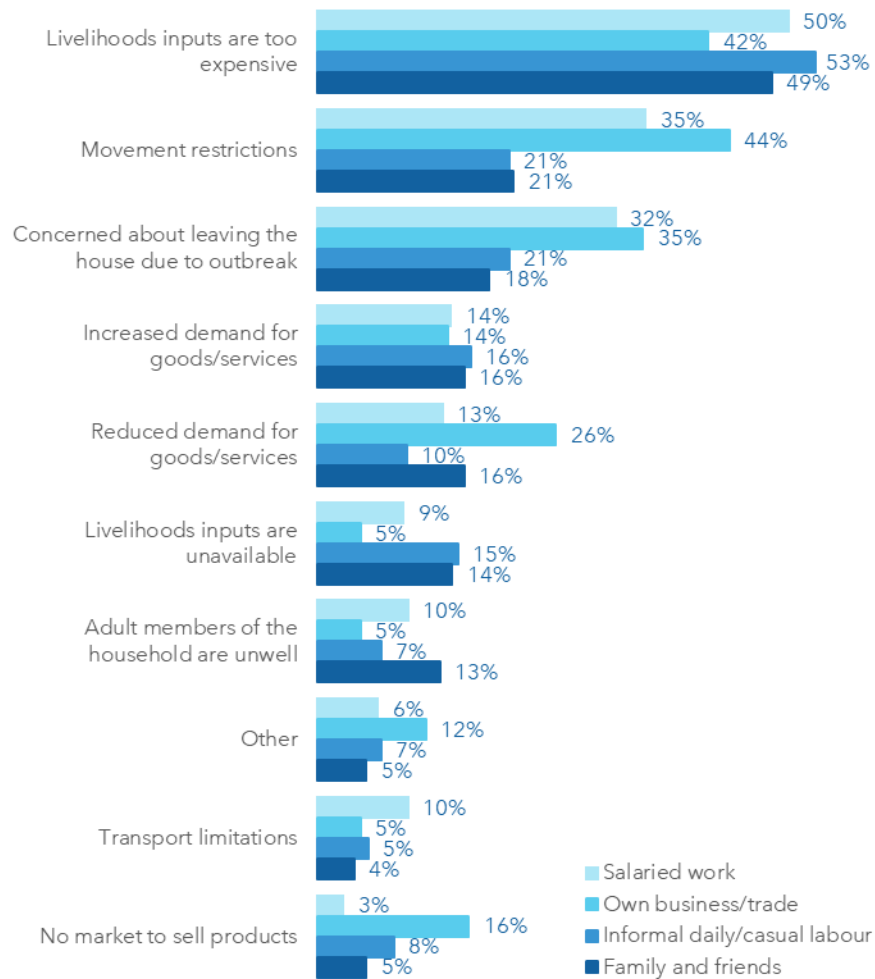
**For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...**

Multiple choices could be selected.

## By household composition

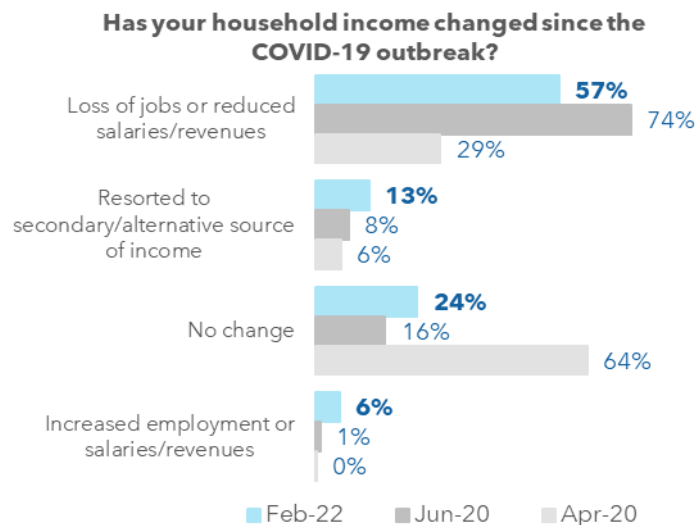


## By main income source



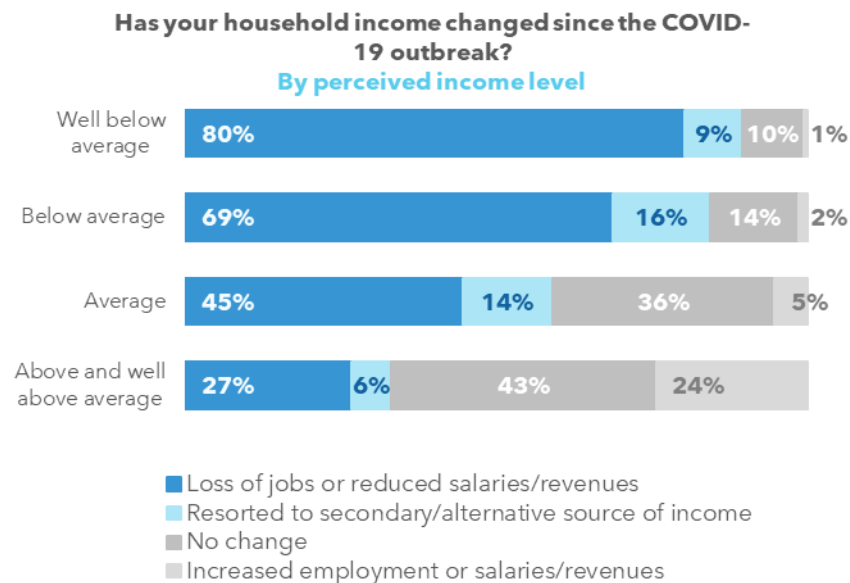
# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

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



Impacts to income continue to be widespread, with 57% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the COVID-19 outbreak. While the proportion of households with loss of income or reduced salaries has declined since June 2020, it is still double the rate observed in April 2020 and the overall situation suggests the continuation of economic hardship with many people facing decreased income.

The most marked differences in responses was found across perceived income levels. Job loss or reduced income was reported by the vast majority of respondents describing their household income as well below average (80%), compared to those with above or well above average (27%) 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 two thirds of respondents in that age group, those with informal and casual income sources (72%), or relying on support from family and friends (72%).

Single parent households and those living in rural areas were also more affected compared to households with other compositions or those living in urban areas/towns.

Differences between sex of respondent were minor with regard to impacts on job and income loss.

# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

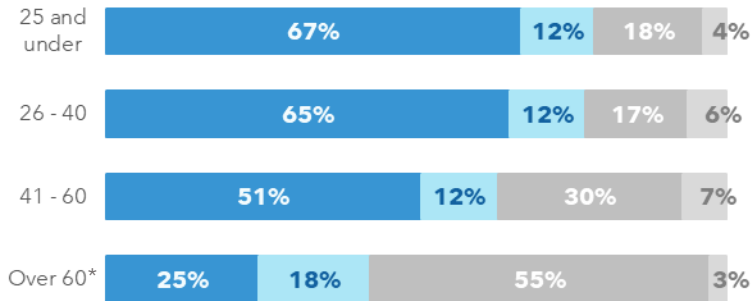
Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

## By sex

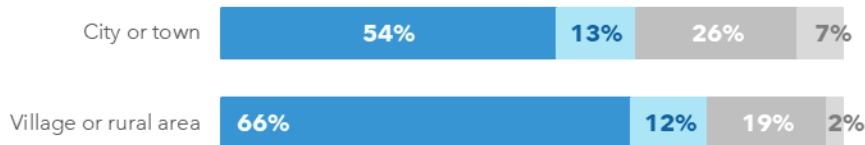
- Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues
- Resorted to secondary/alternative source of income
- No change
- Increased employment or salaries/revenues



## By age group

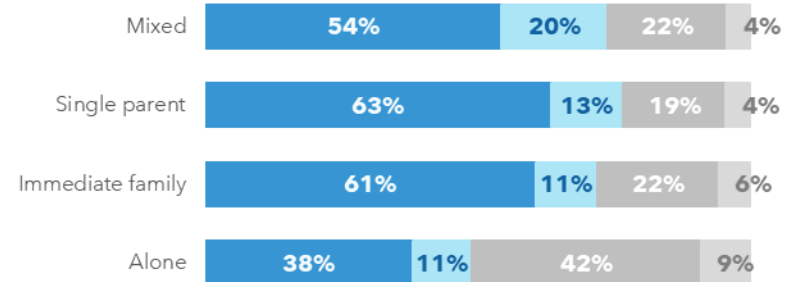


## By urban/rural location

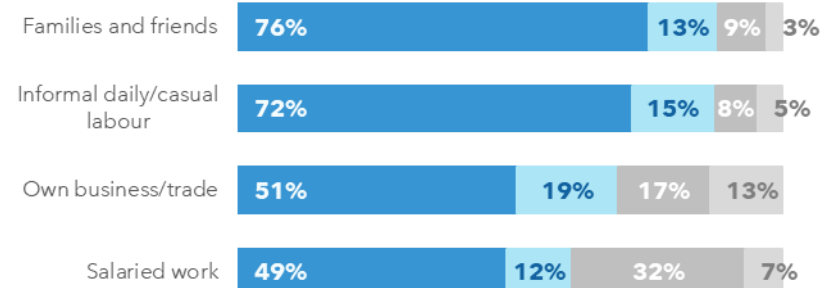


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

## By household composition



## By income sources

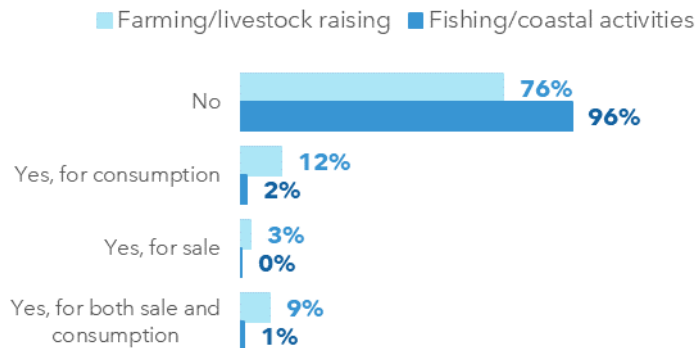




# LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

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

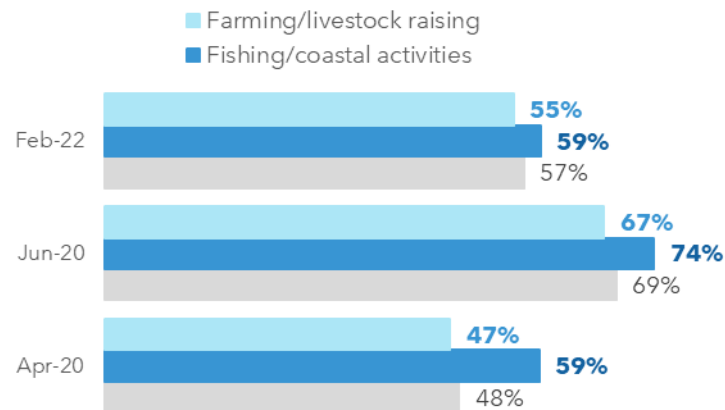
## Is your household engaged in farming/fishing?



One out of four respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising and 4% 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. Two thirds of respondents undertaking farming (68%) and nearly three quarters of those engaged in fishing (73%) derive their household income primarily from salaries. One fifth of those engaged in fishing derive their income from casual labour.

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



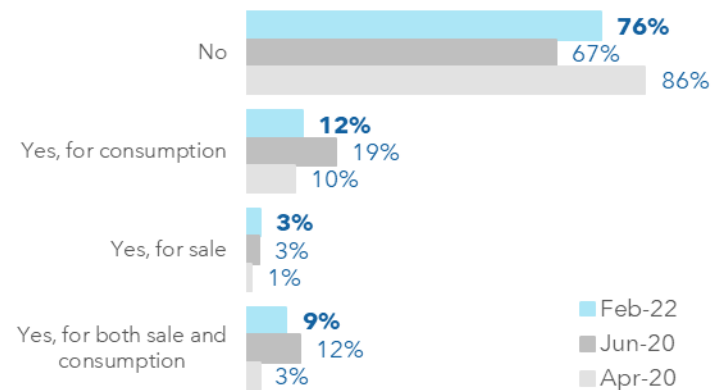
# LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

Farming/livestock raising	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Vegetables	55%	77%	63%
Banana/plantains	55%	60%	57%
Poultry	40%	29%	13%
Small ruminants	22%	17%	17%
Corn	16%	28%	20%
Other	14%	19%	7%
Swine	13%	4%	3%
Rice	12%	13%	3%
Pulses	5%	5%	3%
Large ruminants	5%	6%	7%

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

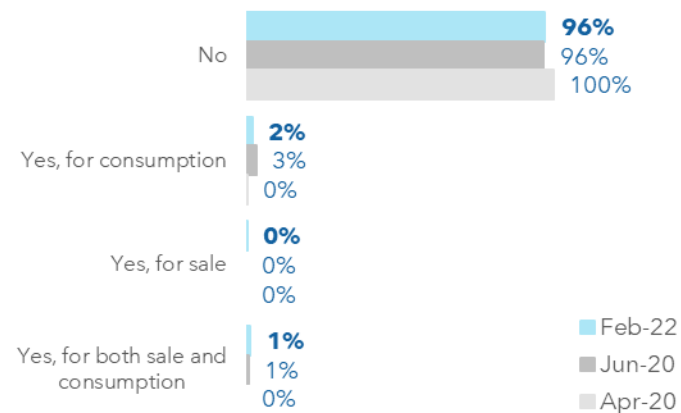


## For those engaging in fishing/coastal activities, the activities are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

Fishing/coastal activities	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Marine/coastal fisheries	45%	56%	0%
Inland fisheries	35%	11%	0%
Small scale aquaculture	26%	33%	0%
Mangrove/beach activities	16%	11%	0%
Fishing gear production	13%	11%	0%
Other	10%	33%	100%
Processing of fish/fisheries products	10%	0%	0%

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

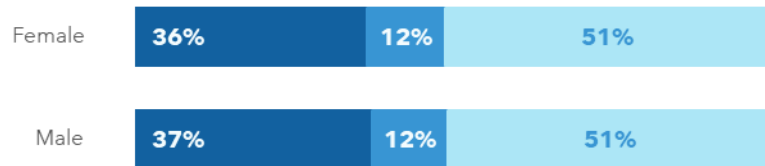


# LIVELIHOODS | Farming

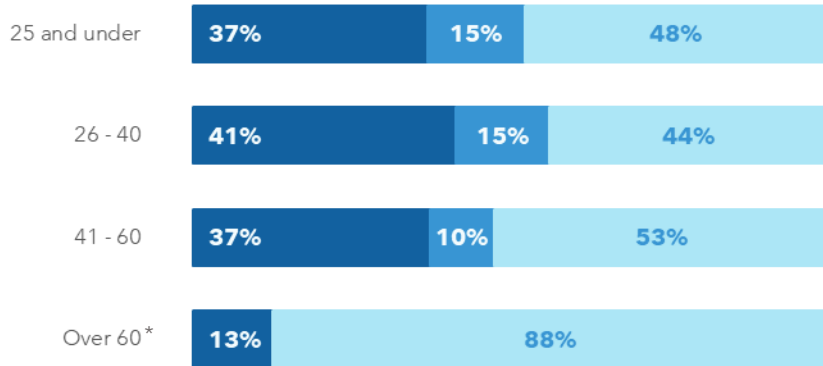
## Households engaged in farming/livestock raising

### By sex

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

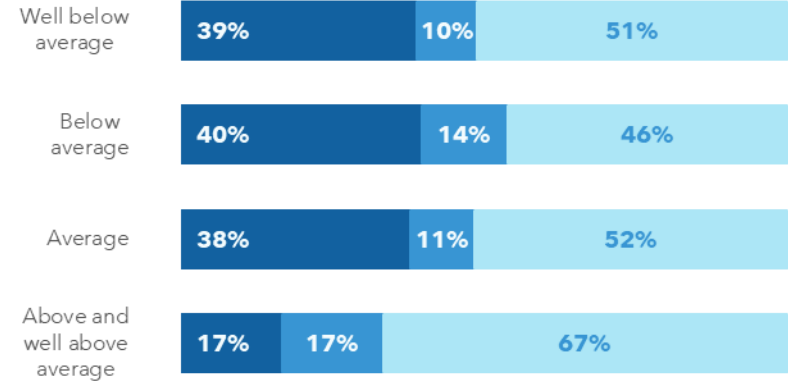


### By age group



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

### By perceived income level



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

*"Farmers lost crops due to closing of hotels."* anonymous

*"This affects us because things are a bit slow right now and the cost of most items at the store are very high."*  
- female, 34

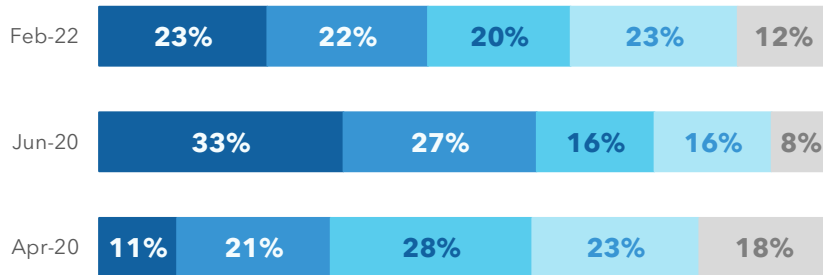
*"The cost of living have increased several times and there is not enough income to match the increase."*  
- female, 25

*"Lost job could not pay rent I had to move in with families."*  
- male, 25

# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

- ▶ Two out of three respondents anticipate at least a moderate impact on their livelihoods. For half of lowest 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?**



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

Respondents continue to expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively impact their livelihoods in the future. Looking ahead, 45% anticipate “moderate to severe” or “severe” impacts to their livelihoods, which is slightly lower compared to the prior three survey rounds. Only 12% expect little or no impact.

The perspective of respondents with different levels of income varied substantially. Respondent with the lowest income are the most worried about the future of their livelihoods. Of those with income level perceived as well below average, 51% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, which is much higher than 9% of those with above or well above average income level.

Single parent households, those relying on unstable and more informal sources of income, such as family or friends and daily casual labour, as well as households living in rural areas were also noticeably more pessimistic in terms of future livelihood impacts.

*“My household has become a single income household and therefore there is less ability to cover bills, buy food and educate the children.” - female, 41*

*“Lost my job, have to be dependent on my child's father and other family.” - female, 20*

*“I work in the Ministry of health, the workload has increased a thousand-fold, getting real exhausted, because inadequate rest and rejuvenation, put off all recreational activity and just focus on the job.” - male, 54*

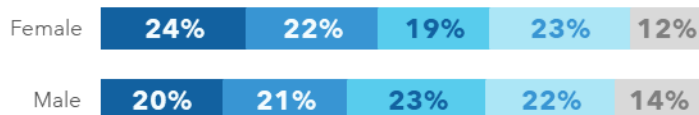
*“I lost my job due to getting sick and now have respiratory problems. I'm now unable to work.” - female, 39*

# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

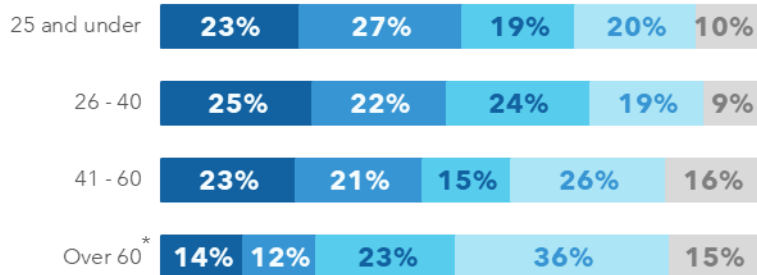
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

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

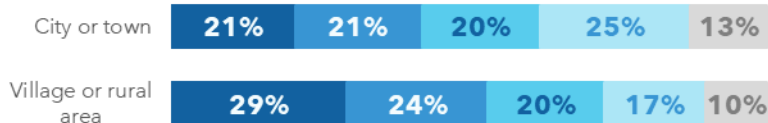
## By sex



## By age group

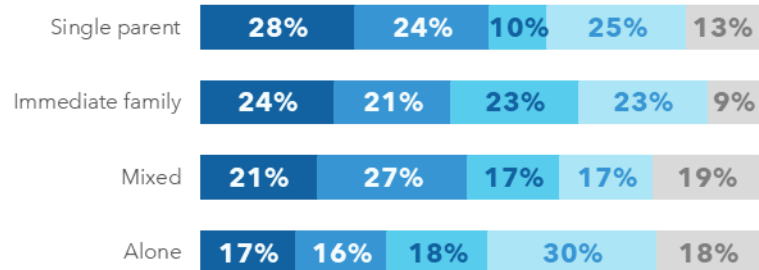


## By urban/rural location

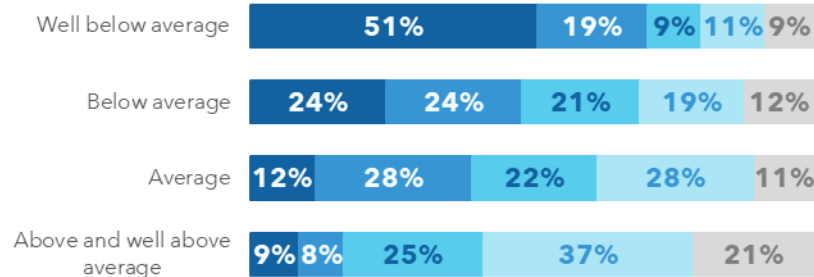


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

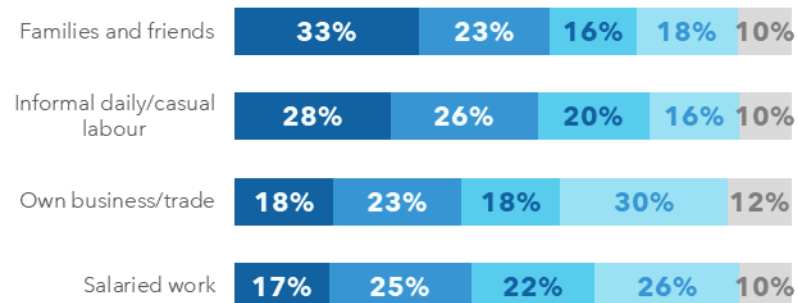
## By household composition



## By perceived income level



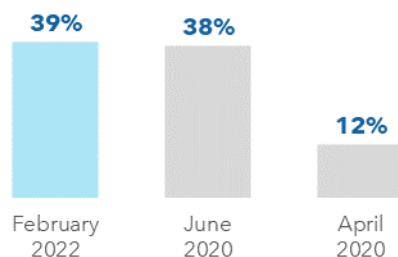
## By income sources



# MARKETS | Access

- ▶ Two in five respondents are still experiencing 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 Jamaica, with 39% of respondents stating that they were unable to access markets in the seven days prior to the February 2022 survey. While higher than at the beginning of the pandemic (12% in April 2020), people's access to markets remains very similar to the levels reported during the June 2020 survey (38%). The challenges to accessing markets are mainly related to limited financial means and falling incomes.

More respondents reported issues with market access compared with the regional average (33%) for the February 2022 survey. Clear differences in market access can be seen in Jamaica across age groups, household composition, location of the household, income levels, and income sources.

Respondents reporting the lowest income levels were experiencing the greatest challenges in accessing markets. Respondents with well below (64%) and below average income (50%) indicated difficulties significantly more often as those with higher income levels (22% of respondents with average income and 13% with above and well above average income).

Those with less stable income sources more frequently indicated that they experienced a time when they were unable to access markets compared to other respondents: three in five respondents engaged in casual labour (60%) or relied on the support from family and friends (61%), compared to approximately one in five of those with salaried work (27%) or their own business (18%).

Difficulties in accessing markets were also most widespread among youngest respondents, those who lived in single parent households or located in predominantly rural areas. Male respondents (43%) also cited experiencing difficulties in accessing markets slightly more often than female respondents (37%).

*"Am affected in many way can't get a job bus fare increase food increase." - female, 19*

*"Can't buy food to feed family, because of lost of job and children not able to go to school." - female, 51*

*"The biggest changes I made is to check for cheaper prices if it's even a dollar cheaper." - anonymous*

*"Increased food and utility prices have eroded my income" - female, 38*

*"Can hardly find money at times and the price for food and stuff went up." - male, 28*

# MARKETS | Access

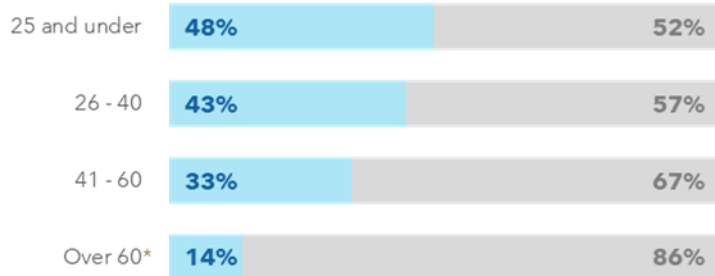
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

■ yes ■ no

## By sex



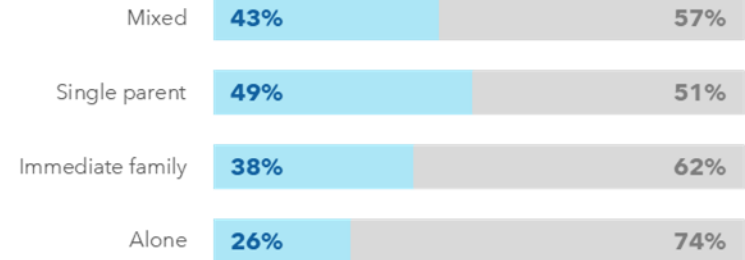
## By age group



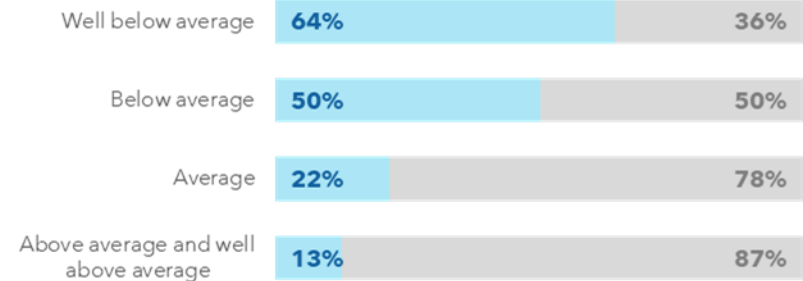
## By urban/rural location



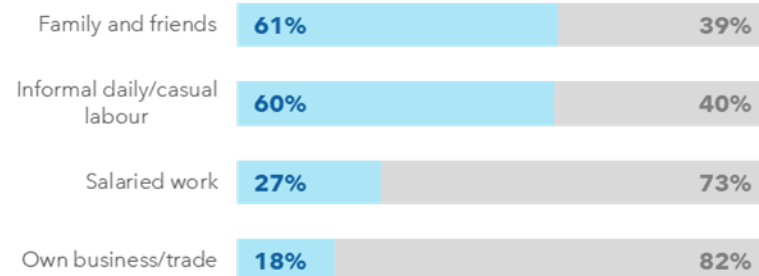
## By household composition



## By perceived income level



## By main income source



\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

- ▶ Lack of financial means has become the main reason 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

	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of financial means*	88%	36%	8%
Movement restrictions	8%	16%	36%
Concerned about leaving the house	8%	42%	48%
Markets/grocery stores closed	7%	16%	56%
Security concerns	5%	3%	24%
Other	5%	22%	12%
Transport limitations	4%	14%	32%
Adult members of the household were unwell	2%	3%	0%
Adult members of the household were self quarantining	2%	1%	16%

\*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 access were measures implemented to contain the spread of 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 is overwhelmingly reported as the main reason for limited market access in Jamaica, cited by 88% 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 June 2020 (36%), and it is also above the regional average (80%)

The most notable differences in obstacles people face to accessing markets can be observed across income levels. Respondents who described their income level as being well below average (90%) or below average (93%) reported lack financial means more frequently than respondents with average (80%) and above or well above average (56%) income. Respondents under 60 cited lack of financial means as a key challenge slightly more frequently (88% to 89%) compared to those over 60 (80%).

While the lack of financial means was also the main market access barrier for respondents living alone in their household, additionally, leaving the house or the closure of stores was a significant concern for them compared to the respondents in other family/living arrangements. Movement restrictions were also a slightly greater concern for male (14%) compared to female respondents (6%).

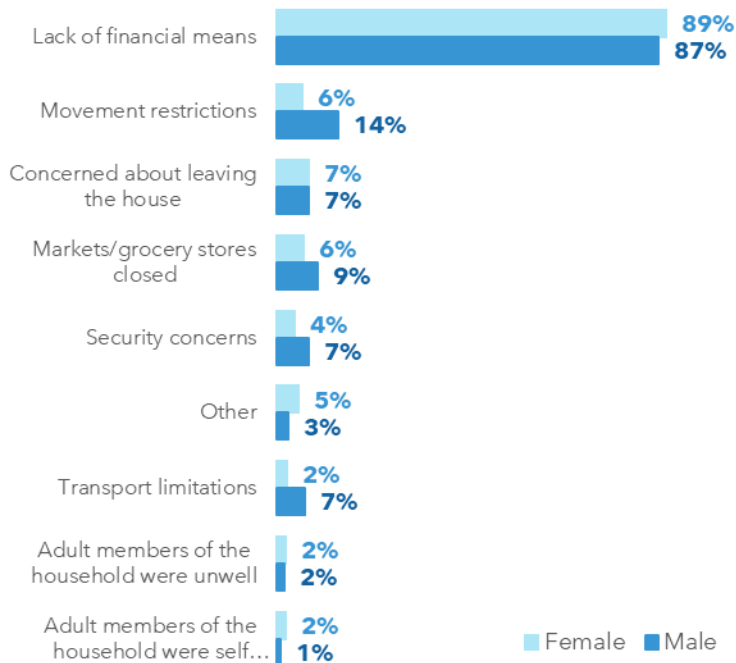


# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

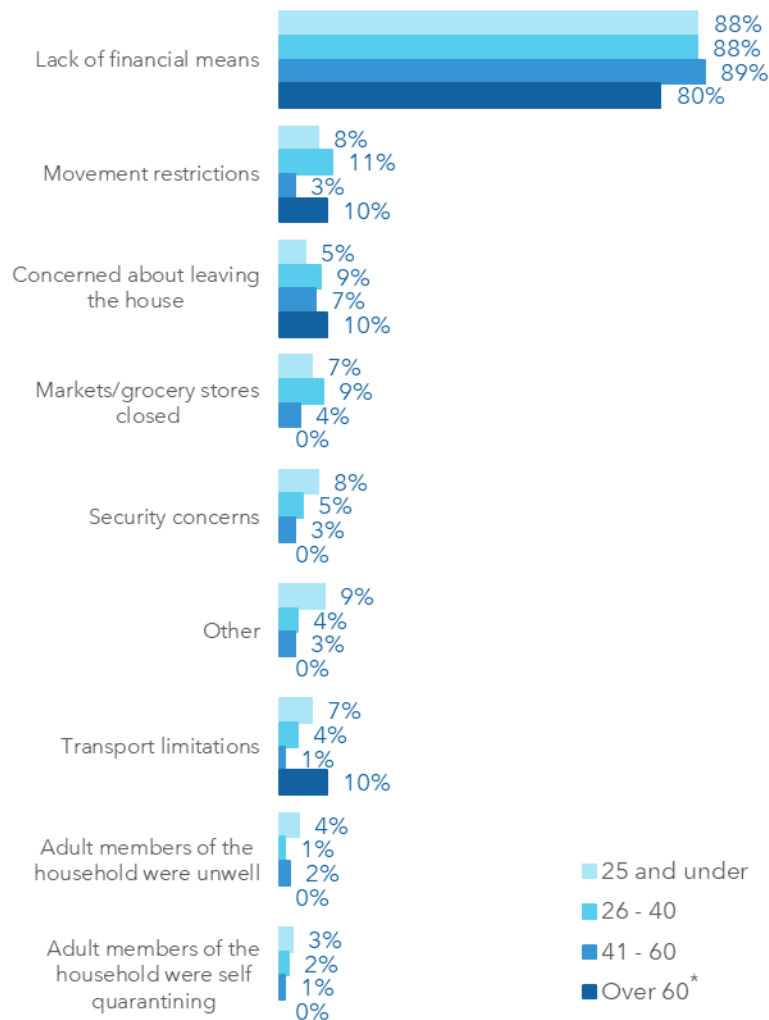
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

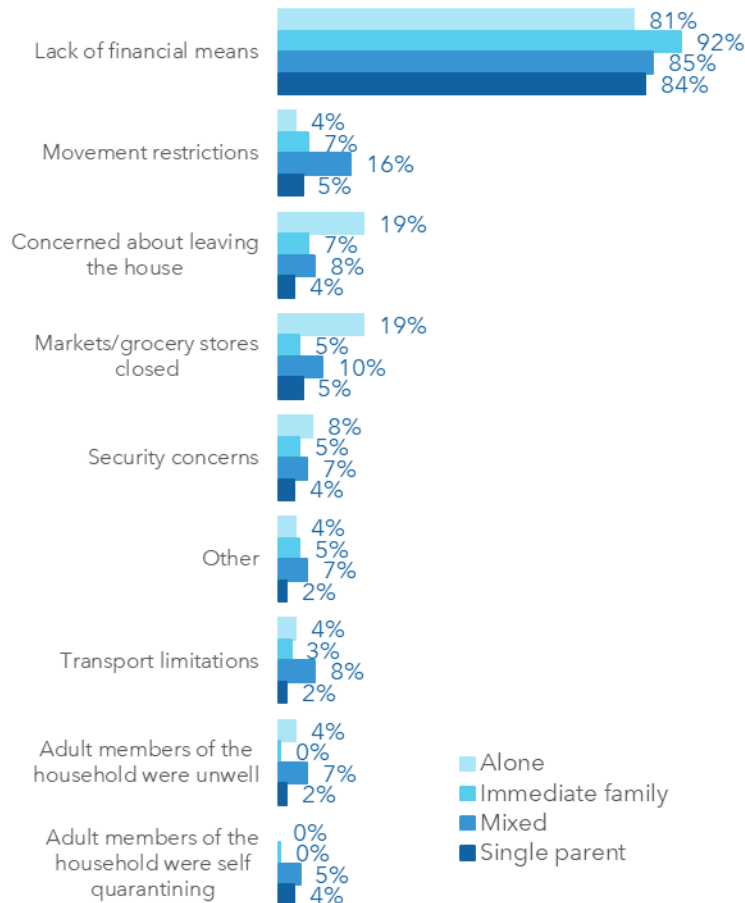


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

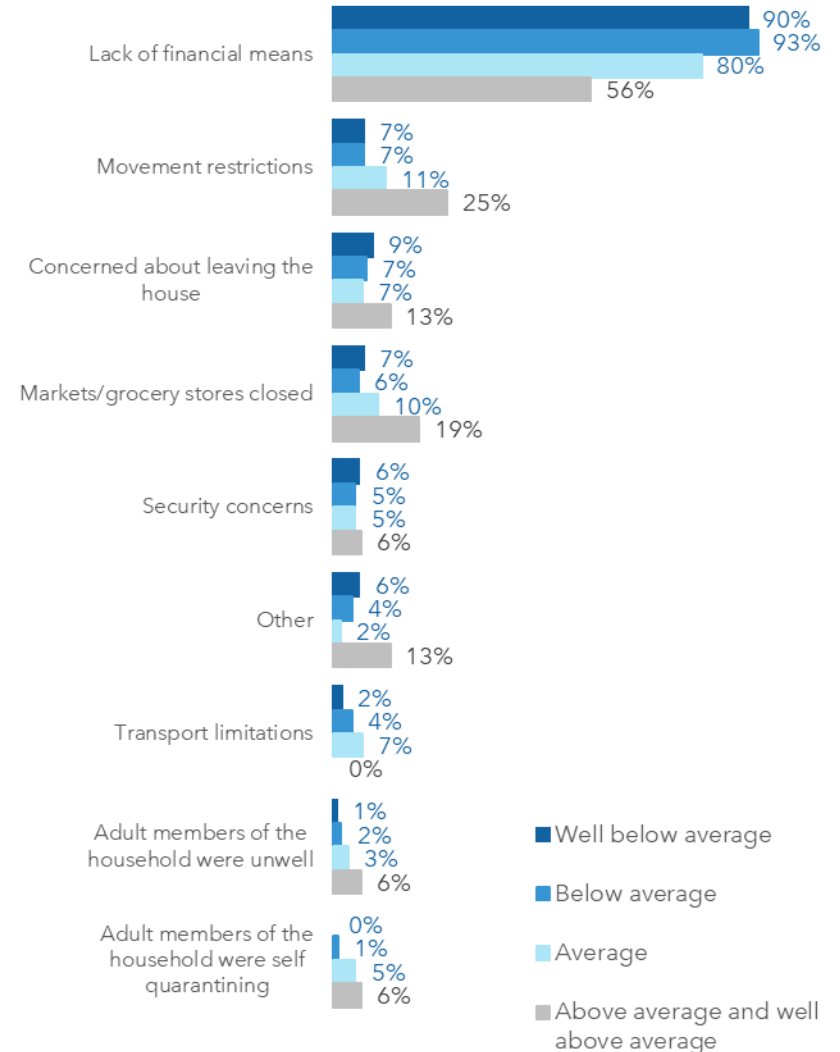
# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

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

Multiple choices could be selected.  
By household composition

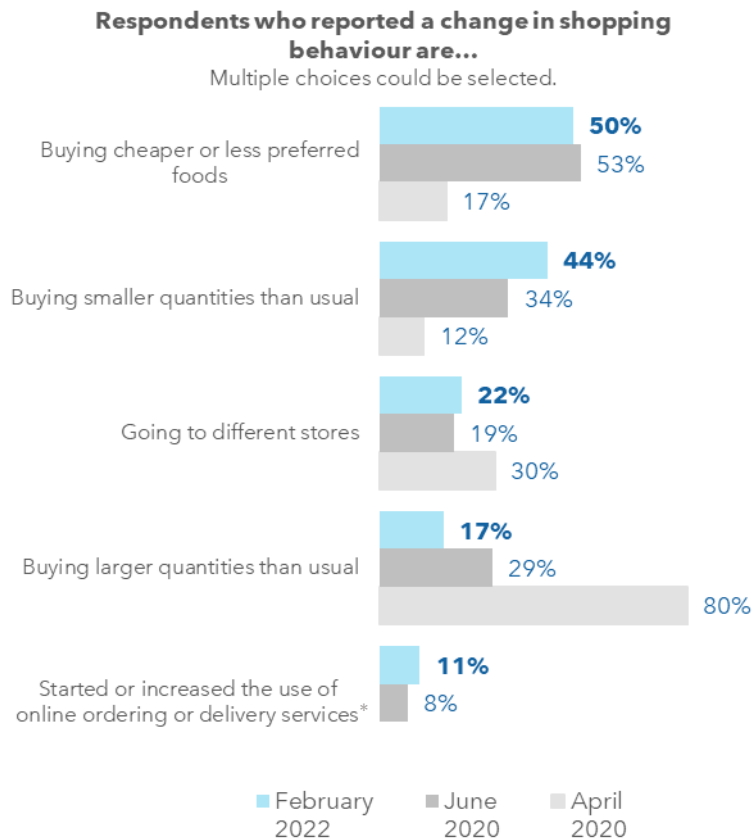


By perceived income level



# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

- ▶ Respondents continue to resort to buying cheaper foods, but they are also more frequently buying smaller quantities.



\*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 (90%) from Jamaica reported a change in their shopping behaviour in February 2022, which is similar to June 2020 (88%) and to the regional average (88%). Respondents who changed ways how they shop indicated that the main changes they were making are buying cheaper or less preferred foods (50%) and buying smaller quantities (44%). At the same time respondents are less likely to buy larger quantities (17%) compared to 2020 (80% in April 2020; 29% in June 2020). Behaviour has shifted from stocking up at the start of the pandemic to making more compromises as the economic impacts deepen for most households.

The changes people are making are closely linked to age, income levels and income sources. Among the respondents who changed how they shop, 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 are more likely to buy larger quantities, go to different stores and use online ordering/delivery services than respondents with lower income levels. In addition, respondents under 40 years old resorted to buying cheaper food items more often compared to respondents over 40.

Respondents are buying smaller quantities regardless of income source, while those with less stable income sources (support from family and friends and informal daily/casual labour) resorted to primarily buying cheaper or less preferred foods.

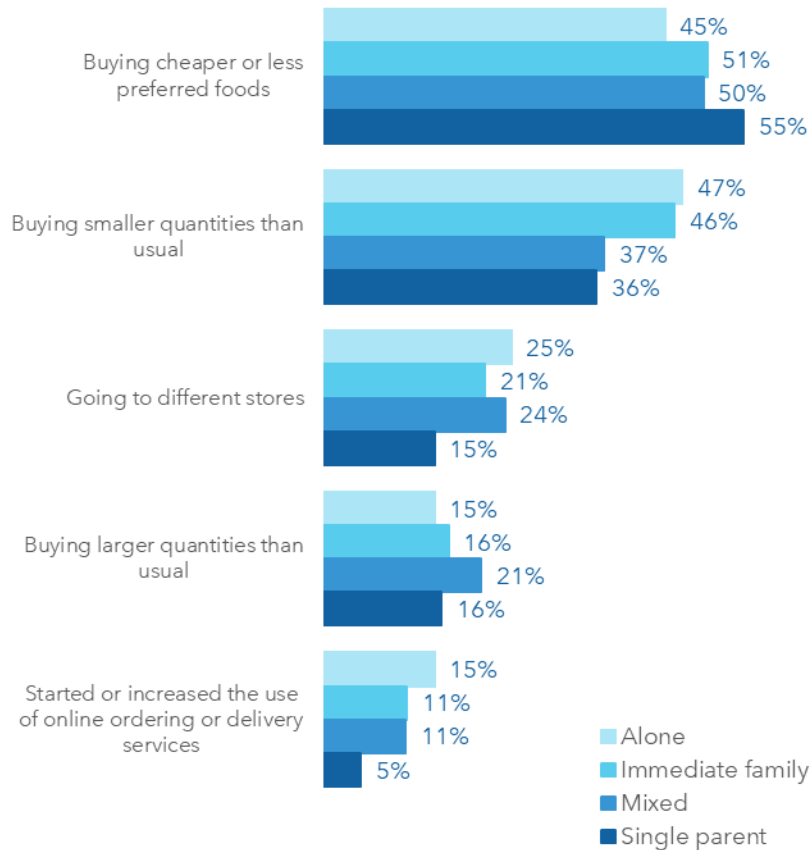
Those with salaried income or income from their business are in addition more likely to adopt other measures such as buying in bulk, going to different stores and using online delivery services.

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

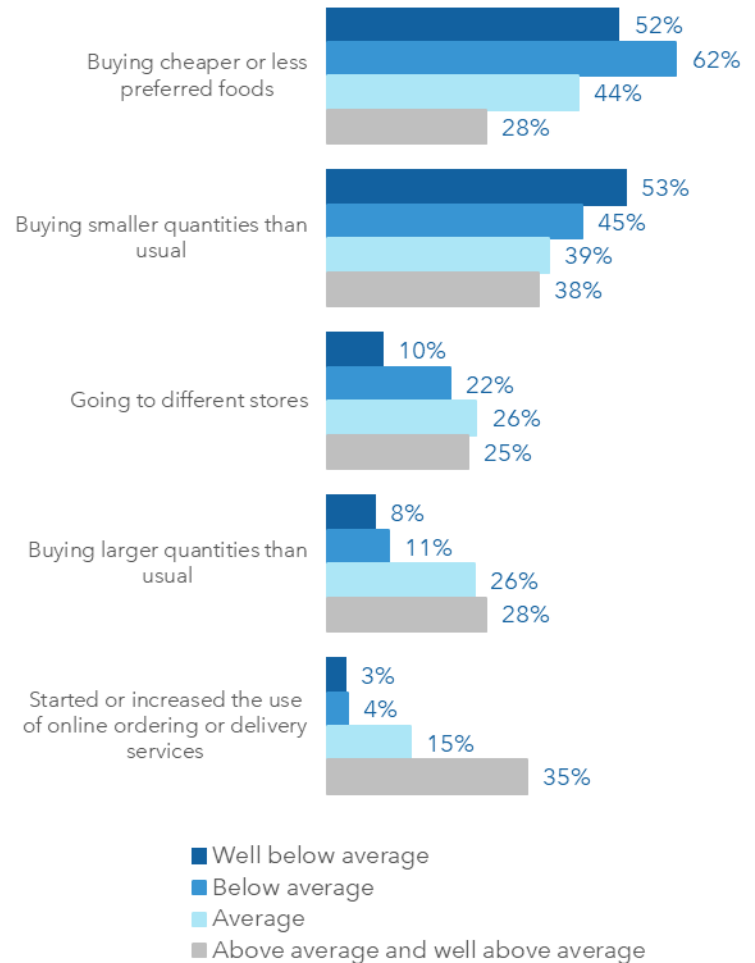
### By household composition



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

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By perceived income level

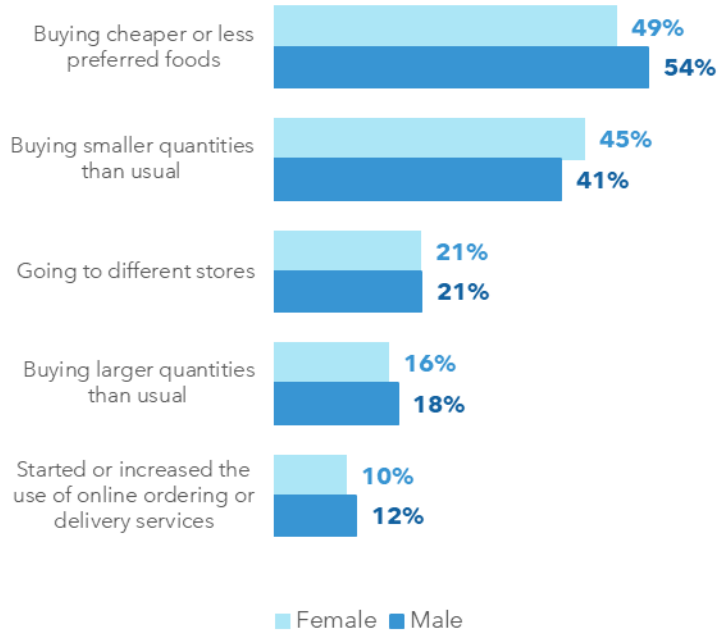


# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

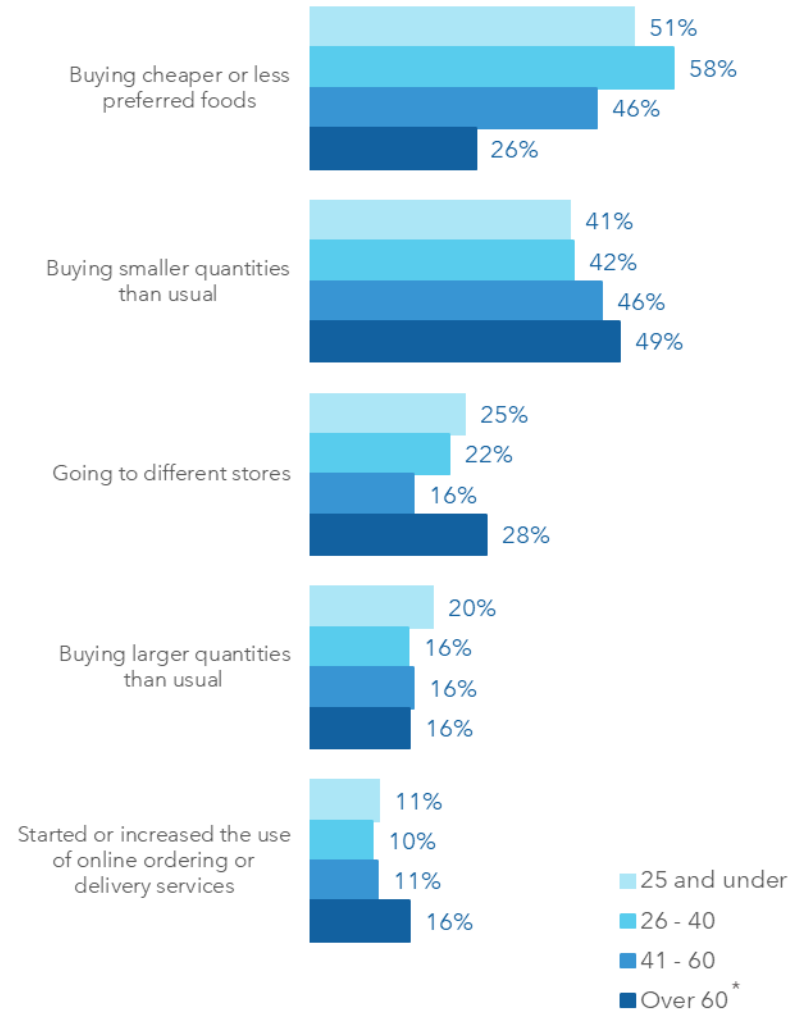
## Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By sex



## By age group



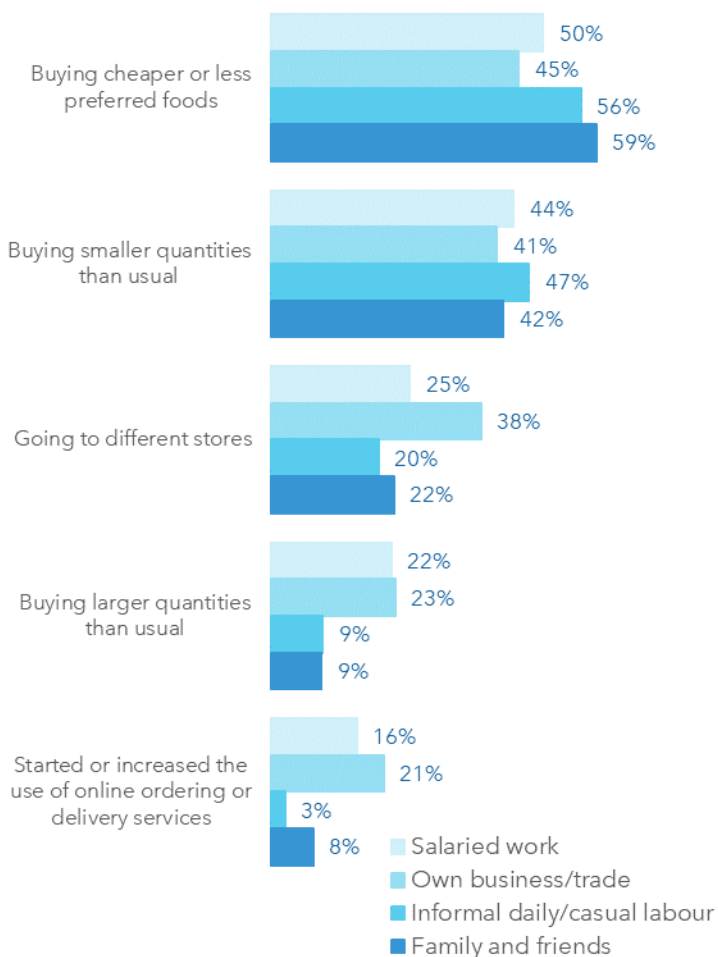
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

By main income source



*"Despite having a job its hard to cope with the light, water bills and to assist my siblings to go to school - she's visual impaired and my mom is low on income. Life sometimes take a turn and I really do hope for the best so that my family can at least eat a proper meal daily then go through life for another day. Lack of income leads to depression, I pray and hope I don't fall in one." - male, 32*

*"Inflation outstripping pay. No pay increases in 9 years." - male, 64*

*"Wearing of mask every day, taxi fare hike, and high cost to everything." - female, 40*

*"Been living below average. Everything raise except my pay." - female, 34*

*"Prices increased with goods and services, the pay remains the same and we have to be consuming less." - female, 23*

*"Inability to find additional source of income, the biggest changes are to spend less money and to make a clear distinction between want and necessity." - male, 37*

*"High food cost and utility, and no work." - male, 51*

*"Electricity bill went sky high since the work at home order." - male, 27*

*"High electricity bills because I have to work from home most time." - female, 50*

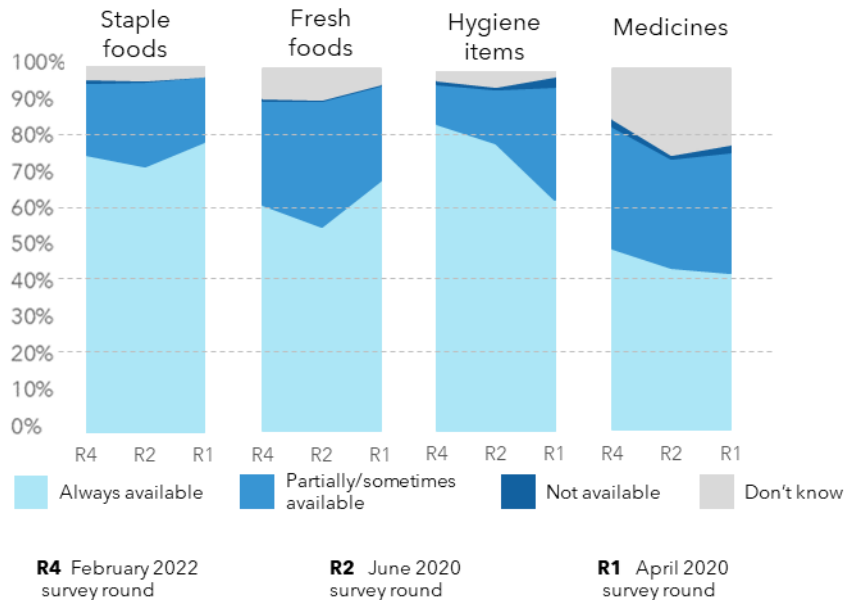
*"Increase in food, fares, bills... I make a list of what's needed and prioritize bills." - female, 31*

*"The cost of living has increased several times and there is not enough income to match the increase." - female, 25*

# MARKETS | Availability

- ▶ The availability of all key items has increased since June 2020, however medicines and fresh foods are still not sufficiently available.

Availability of product in market



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 February 2022 survey round demonstrated an improvement in the availability of staple foods, hygiene products, and medicine from the June 2020 levels. However, medicines and fresh foods continue to be unavailable or only partially available to approximately one third of respondents. As with previous surveys, very few respondents (1-2%) indicated that goods were completely unavailable

The level of availability varied by items. Over half of respondents indicated that medicines are always available in February 2022 compared to 45% in June 2020. At the same time, 36% of respondents reported that medicines are only sometimes available or unavailable in February 2022 which is comparable to June 2020 (31%) and April 2020 (36%).

Similarly, only 63% of respondents indicated that fresh foods are constantly available in their markets. Additionally, 29% of respondents indicated that fresh foods are only partially/sometimes available in February 2022 which is a decrease from June 2020 (34%).

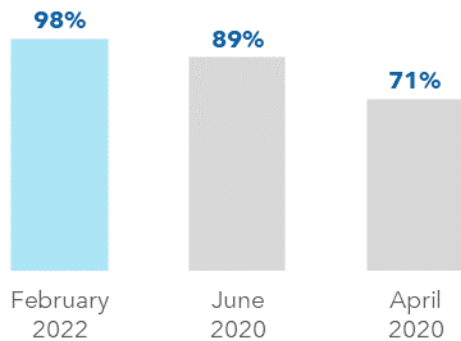
The availability of staple foods has increased slightly less sharply, with 76% of respondents indicating their constant availability in their markets compared to 73% in June 2020. Additionally, 21% of respondents reported that staple foods are only partially/sometimes available or unavailable in February 2022, which is slightly lower than June 2020 (24%).

The availability of hygiene items appears to be more constant, with 85% of respondents indicating that these items were always available in their markets in February 2022 which is slightly higher than previously (June 2020, 80%; April 2020, 64%).

# MARKETS | Food prices

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

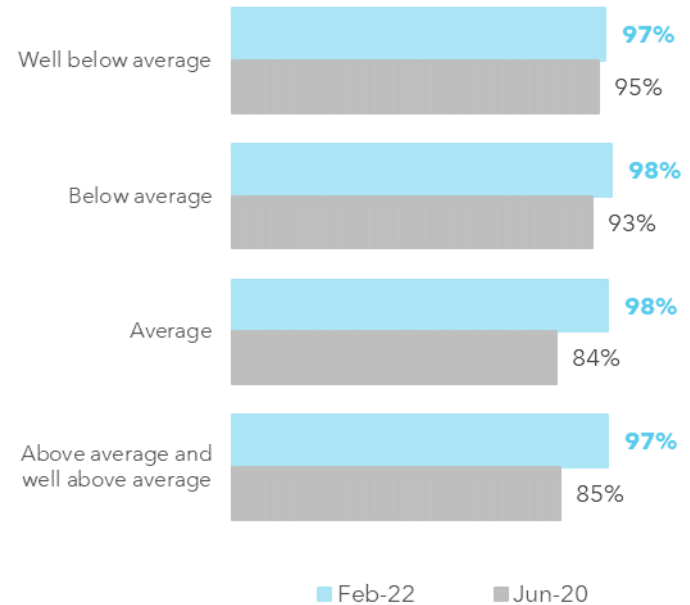
Respondents who reported an increase in food prices over the 2 weeks prior to the survey



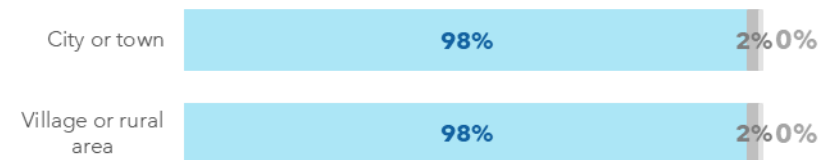
Food price rises are being felt and observed, with almost all respondents reporting an increase in the two weeks prior to this survey. While a large majority of respondents identified an increase in food prices across all surveyed countries in the Caribbean (regional average of 93%), this was even more widely observed by the respondents in Jamaica (98%).

Respondents in Jamaica across all income levels consistently noted increases in food prices. Interestingly, the greatest growth in the reporting of the increases in food prices since June 2020 can be observed among respondents with average, above or well above average income levels, which suggests that price increases are increasingly encountered by respondents across the whole population spectrum.

By perceived income level and survey round



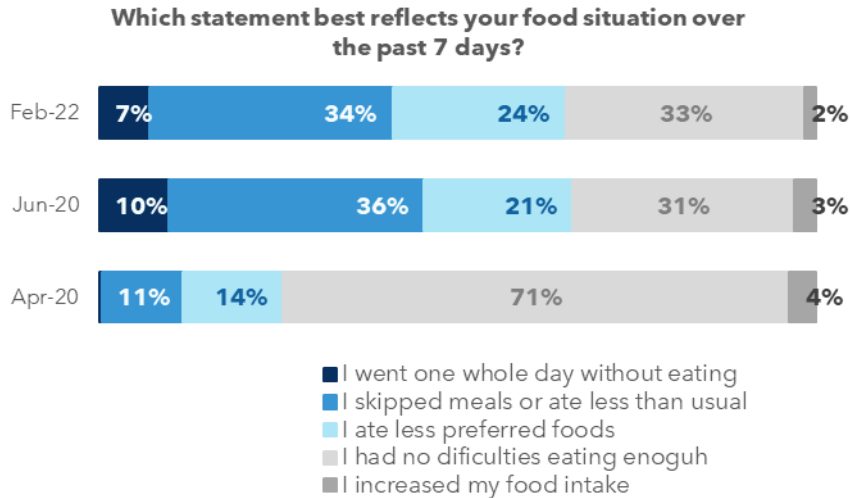
By urban/rural location





# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

- ▶ Food consumption patterns continue to deteriorate, especially among lower income households and younger respondents.



Food consumption and diets of Jamaicans continue to be impacted by the pandemic, with 34% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual, 24% eating less preferred foods and 7% going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey. These findings have slightly improved compared to results in June 2020 but still represent a deterioration in the food consumption of respondents compared to the onset of the pandemic in April 2020.

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

The gap across income levels and groups continues to increase. Respondents with well below average income continue to be the most affected, with 21% going a whole day without eating (16% at regional level) and 47% skipping a meal or eating less than usual (49% at the regional level) in the week preceding the survey. Only 13% of those respondents had no difficulty eating enough compared to 79% of households classifying their income as above or well above average.

Differences in the impacts on food consumption also varied across age groups, household compositions, and sources of income. Those relying on less stable income sources (informal daily/casual labour and support from family and friends) were most impacted, with 52-59% having gone an entire day without eating, skipping meals or eating less than usual compared to 25-33% of those with more stable income sources such as salaried work and own business.

Among respondents aged 40 and younger, 47-48% skipped meals, ate less than usual or went a full day without eating, compared to 35% of those over 40 and 14% of those over 60 years of age. There are some differences in food consumption based on household composition. Respondents from single-parent and mixed households more frequently reported cutting consumption, with respectively 51% and 43% skipping meals or not eating for an entire day. These were followed by respondents living with immediate family (41%) and those living alone (28%).

Differences between sexes appeared less pronounced, with slightly more female respondents (36%) reporting to have skipped a meal or eaten less than usual compared to male respondents (30%). More male respondents went an entire day without eating (9%) than female respondents (6%).

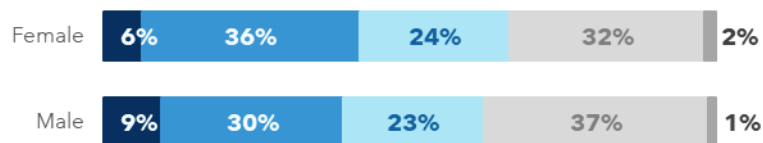
The food consumption patterns of respondents living in villages or rural areas was also more affected than that of respondents located in cities or towns.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

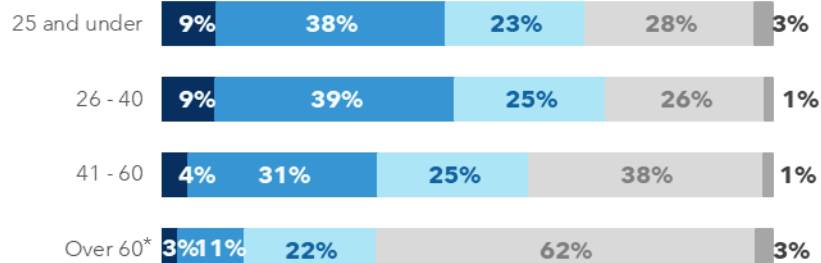
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

- 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

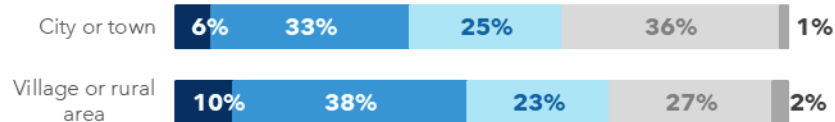
## By sex



## By age group

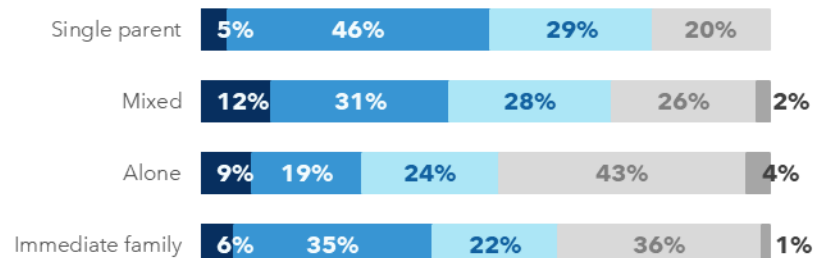


## By urban/rural location

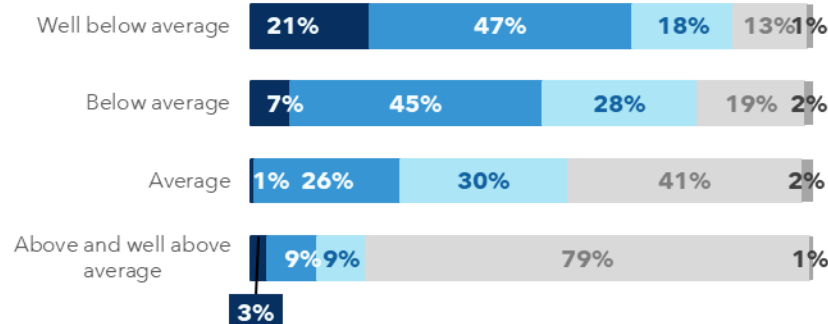


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

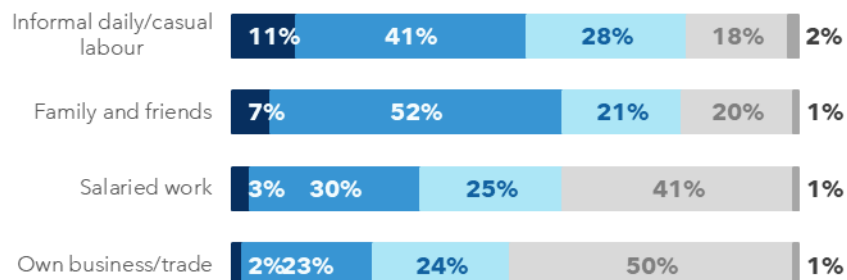
## By household composition



## By perceived income level



## By income sources



# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

- ▶ Respondents are 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 Jamaica, 72% resorted to spending savings, and 47% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. Furthermore, 34% of respondents sold productive assets and goods to meet food or other needs. The trends in adopting negative coping strategies in Jamaica are largely corresponding to those of the regional average. All the three measures may compromise people's future well-being, resources and resilience.

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

People living in rural areas were also found to more frequently adopt these coping strategies compared to respondents living in urban areas. Men were more likely to have reduced essential non-food expenditures (52%) and sold productive assets (38%) to meet food needs compared to women (45% and 32% respectively). Respondents aged under 40 were also more likely to adopt any of the negative coping measures compared to older respondents.

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

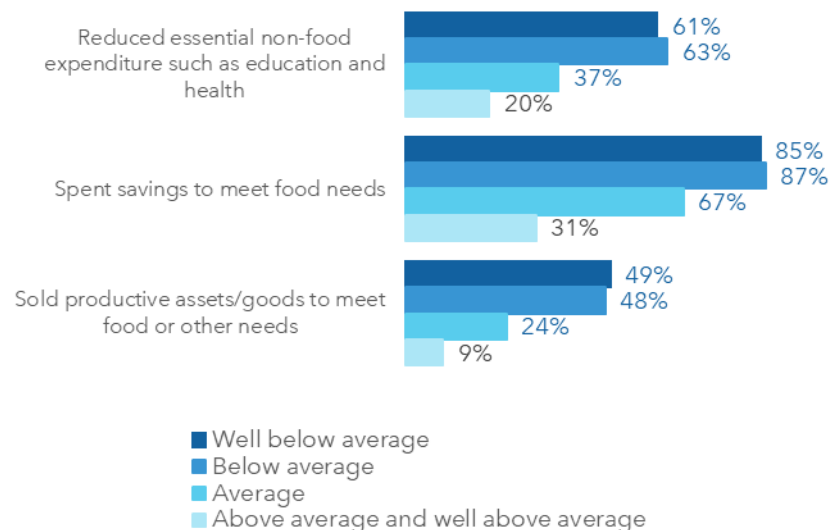
Multiple choices could be selected.



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

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level

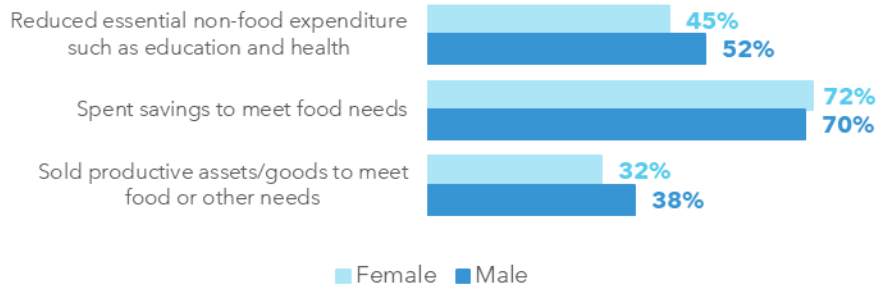


# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

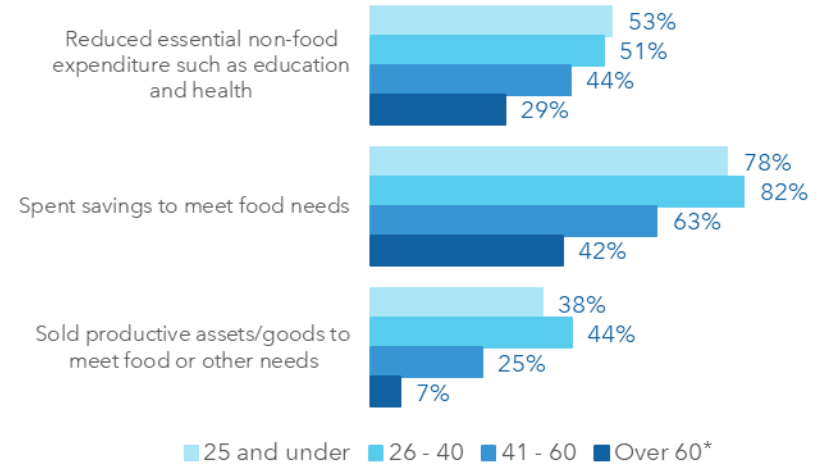
## Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

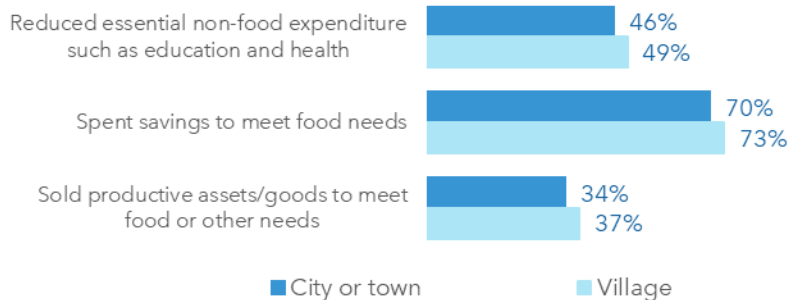
### By sex



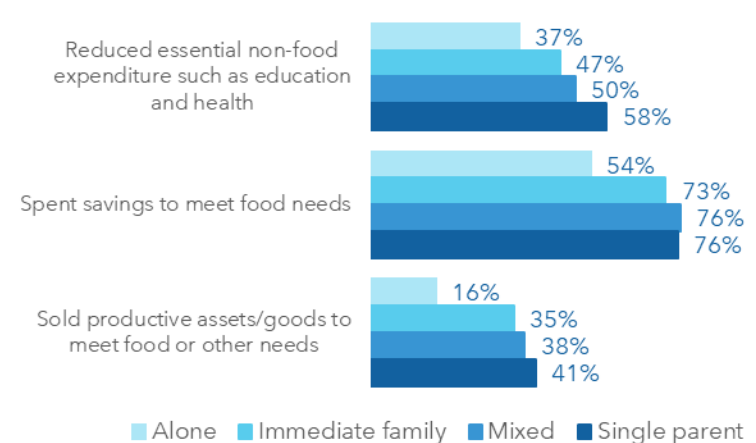
### By age group



### By urban/rural location



### By household composition

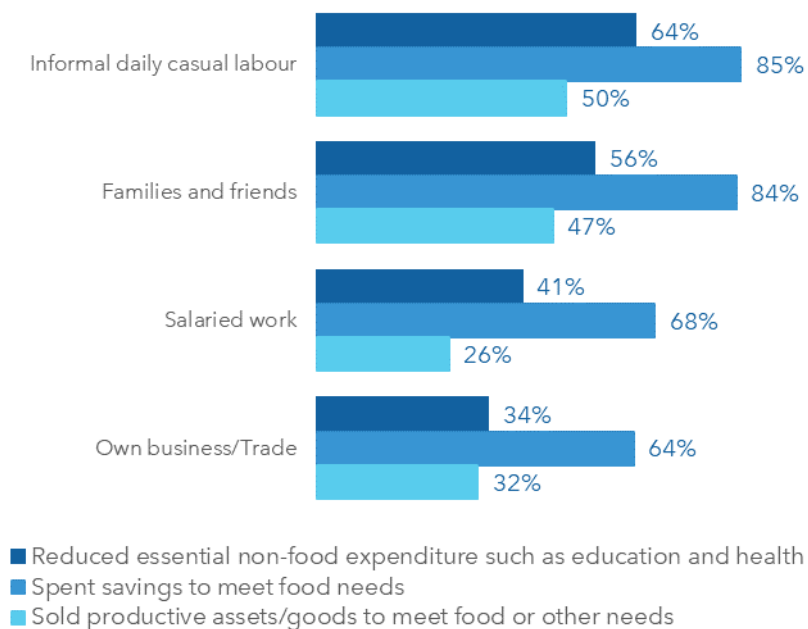


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

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

### By income source



"Spend less, eat less." - female, 31

"Not being able to eat healthy as a cancer patient." - female, 30

"Huge pay cut and suffering from hunger." - male, 35

"Food shortages, lock down, affected psychologically." - female, 40

"No money, no food to eat. In worries." - male, 29

"I lost my job and I can't feed my family members since the pandemic began." - female, 29

"Out of a stable job, low income, find it hard to put food on the table, really stressing." - male, 29

"I've literally become ill due to not accessing diagnostic health care." - female, 52

"Not having a job and most days I just eat one meal." - female, 44

"Over the past year because of covid 19 I lost my job and my apartment because I can't pay the rent. So I was sleeping outside on the street, I was on the road begging for help, no food to eat, no sleep. As soon as I got enough money to pay the bus to go to the country where I'm now trying to live, trying to grow livestock to help myself and others." - male, 29

"I have to adapt to start eating less and also spending money more wisely." - male, 35

"Paying bills before buying food just to be sure it's taken care of." - female, 43

"Cannot buy large quantities of food like before and pamper myself." - female, 60

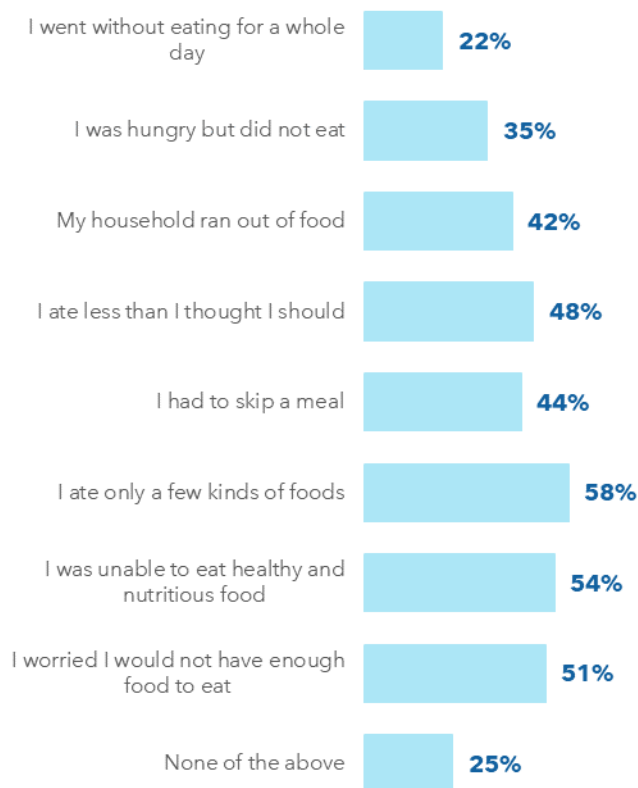
"Can't pay my existing loans" - male, 45

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

- ▶ A significant proportion of Jamaicans is 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 62](#) for an explanation of the methodology).

In the 30 days leading up to the survey, 22% of respondents from Jamaica experienced a time when they went a whole day without eating, 35% when they were hungry but did not eat, and 42% when their household ran out of food. Additionally, almost half of respondents noted they had experienced a time when they ate less than they should or skipped a meal. Worries about not having enough to eat were reported by half of the respondents.

Maintaining a diverse diet was not feasible for 58% of respondents, and 54% were not able to eat healthy and nutritious food in the first place. Only 25% of respondents did not experience any of the situations listed above.

The reporting of the individual FIES categories varies across respondents. The most striking differences emerge across income and age groups, which corresponds with the 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 behaviors.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

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

Using the FIES methodology and survey data to calculate food insecurity prevalence rates, it is estimated that 58% of respondents are either moderately (33%) or severely (25%) food insecure in Jamaica, a value that is 10% above estimates for the Caribbean average. In Jamaica, respondents with lower income levels are experiencing severe and moderate food insecurity much more often than those with higher incomes. Approximately every second respondent with well below average income level experienced severe food insecurity in the 30 days prior to the survey compared to every tenth respondent with well above average income. Only 14% of those with well below average and 24% of those with below average income were food secure (or mildly food insecure), compared to 57% and 80% of respondents from wealthier groups.

## Prevalence rates of food insecurity

Based on FIES methodology

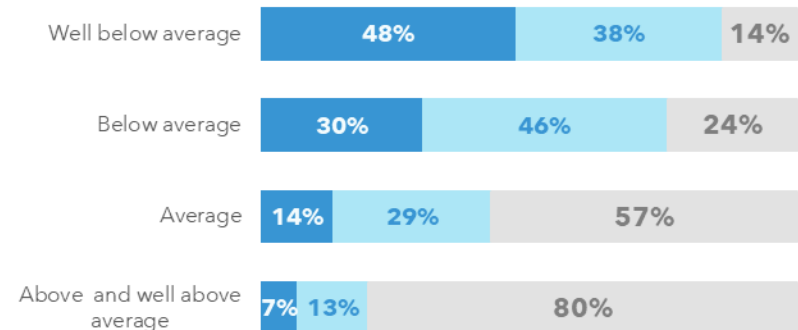
- Severely food insecure
- Moderately food insecure
- Mildly food insecure or food secure



## Prevalence rates of food insecurity by perceived household income

Based on FIES methodology

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



*"I had to leave my job because no cash was forthcoming because of covid. I had to stay jobless for a few months and had my 1 year old daughter having to be without food or pamper. My baby mother and I constantly argue, and I owe so many people." - male, 30*

*"I adapted to a lot of new ways like eating one time a day." - female, 41*

*"Eat less, spend less. The house leaks when it rains, overall a stressful situation." - female, 45*

*"Lost of my job I can't afford to eat breakfast and lunch at daytime, no money." - male, 39*

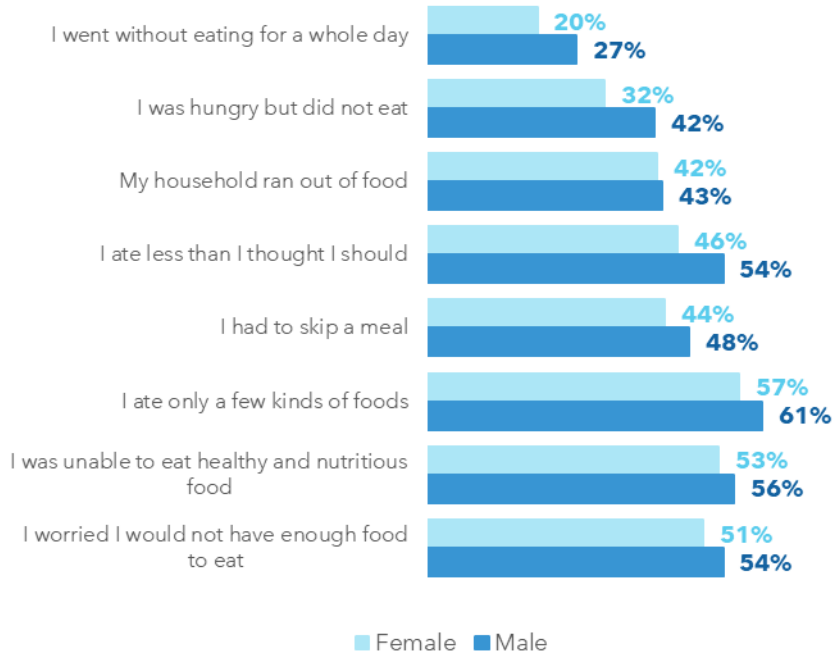
*"I have to eat less to finance myself and my bills." - female, 62*

*"Reduced spending power resulting in dietary changes." - female*

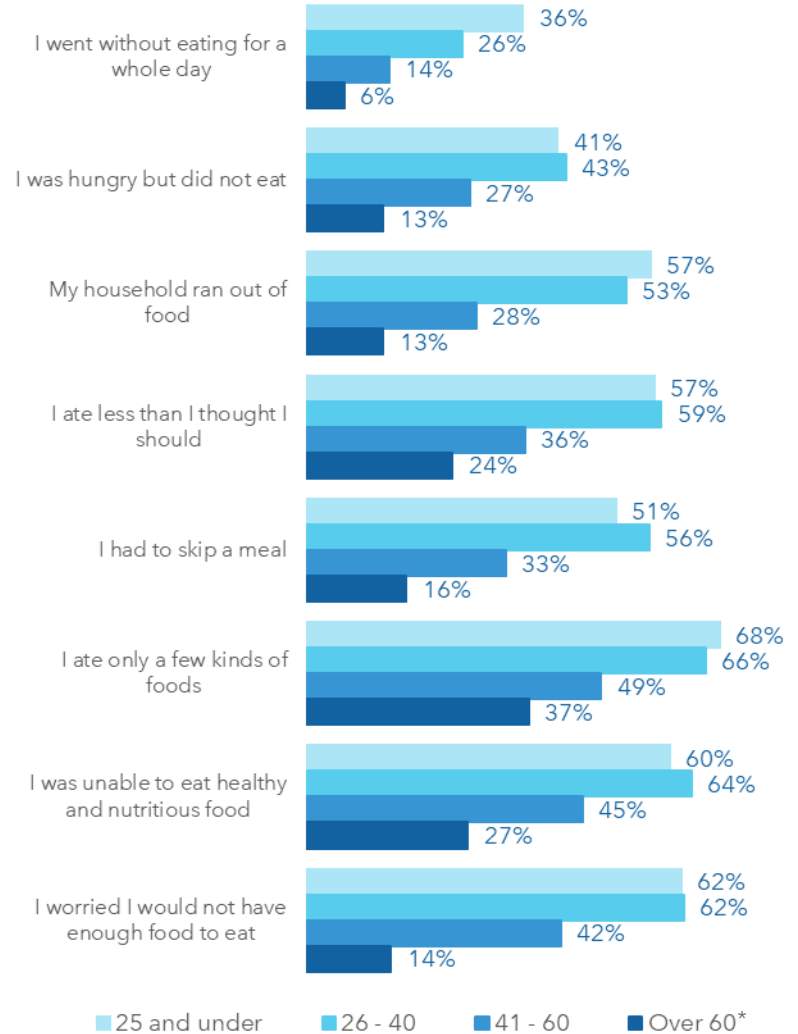
# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

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

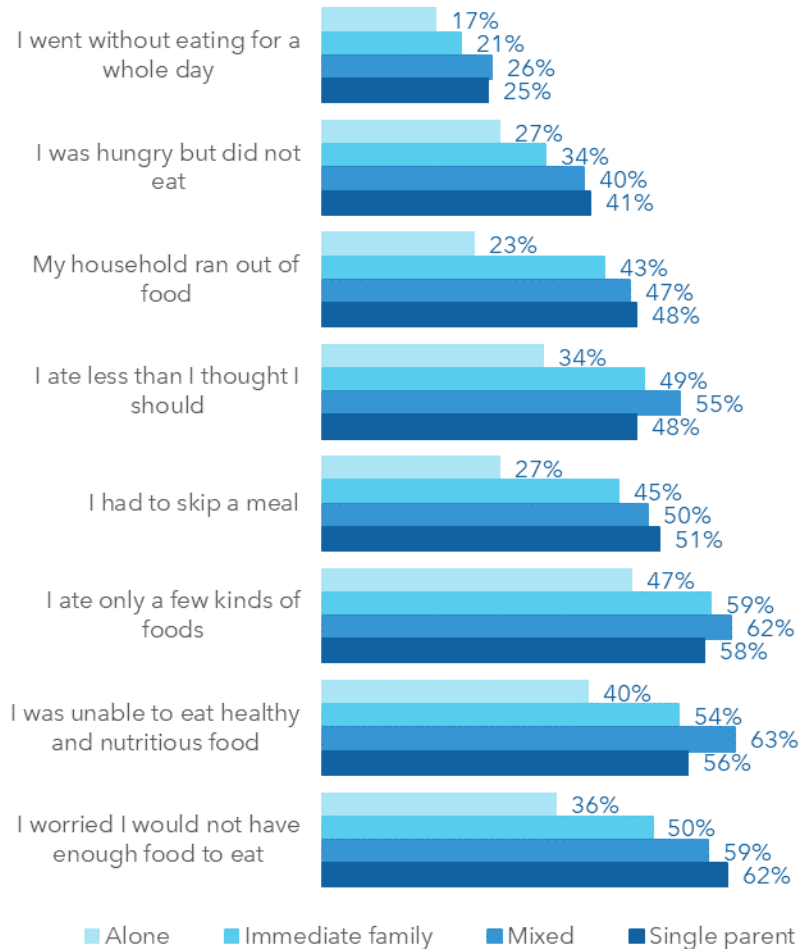


# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

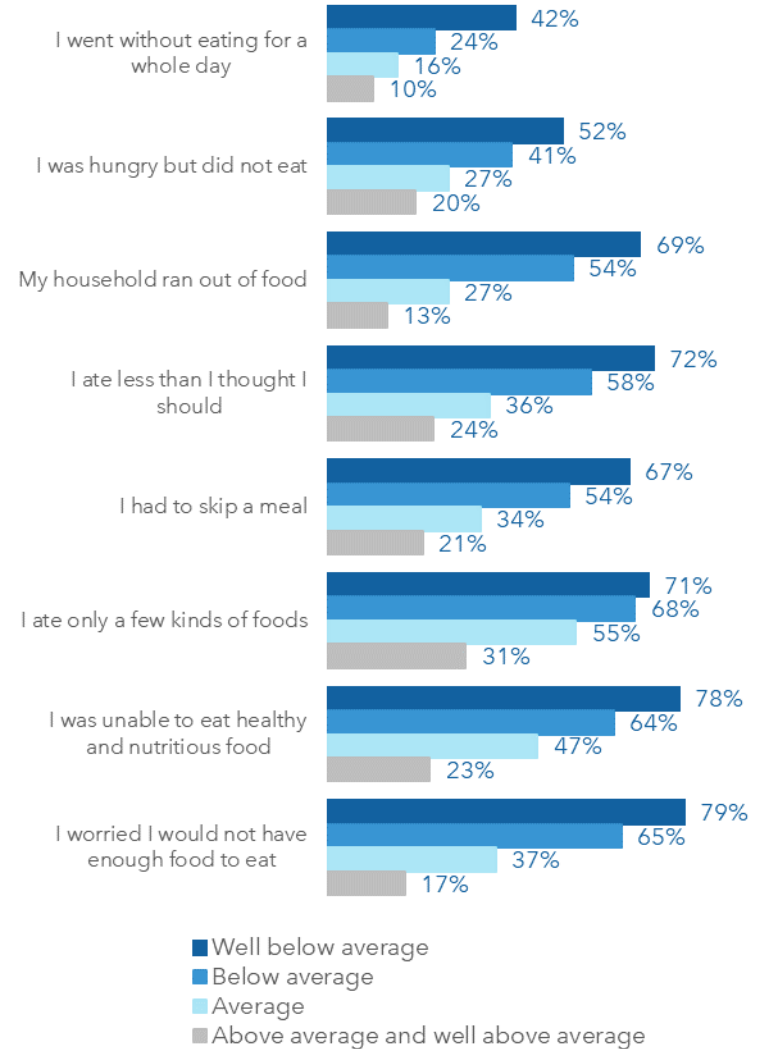
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By household composition



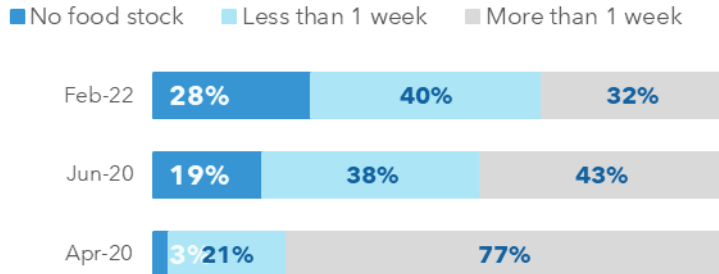
By perceived income level



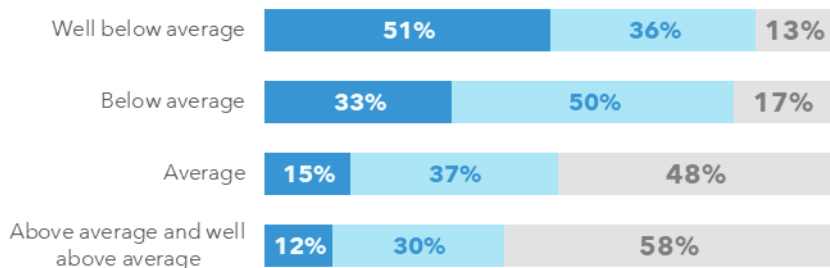
# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

- ▶ An increased proportion of households reported having no food stocks at all or having food stocks for less than a week.

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



**By perceived income level**



In February 2022, 32% of respondents reported having more than a week’s worth of food supplies in their households. This represents a decrease from 43% in June and 77% in April 2020. Similarly, an increased proportion of respondents (28%) reported to have no food stocks compared to the same survey rounds (17% and 3% respectively). While some of these changes are likely driven by people not needing to “stock up” related to lockdowns, people’s eroding financial means are also an influencing factor.

Of respondents with a perceived income of well below average, 51% had no food stocks during the survey and only 13% had more than a week’s worth of food stock, compared to 48% of households with an average income. Households who derive their income primarily from salaried work or their own business/trade tend to have larger food stocks than households that rely mainly on informal sources of income and on support from family and friends.

Households in more urban areas seem to stock up on food more than those living in rural environments. Additionally, those living alone also tend to have larger food stocks available. The stock situation as reported by female and male respondents was relatively similar. 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 64% have food stocks worth more than a week. However, this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of respondents in the oldest age group.

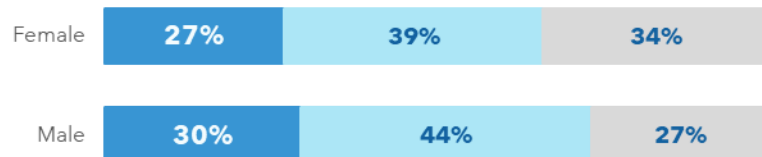
Overall, the trends in food stocks in Jamaica appear to be similar to those in the Caribbean region, with the availability and size of household food stocks decreasing over time. However, the respondents in Jamaica reported a lack of food stock slightly more frequently than the regional average (23%).

# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

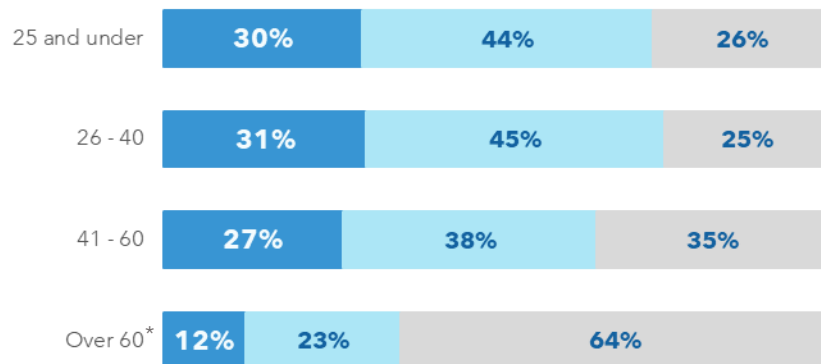
## Does your household have any food stock?

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

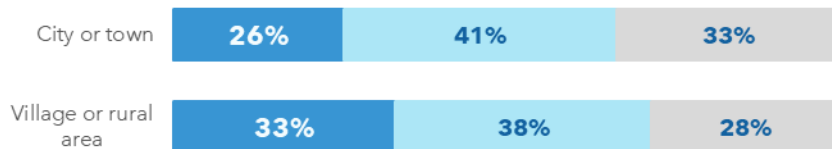
### By sex



### By age group

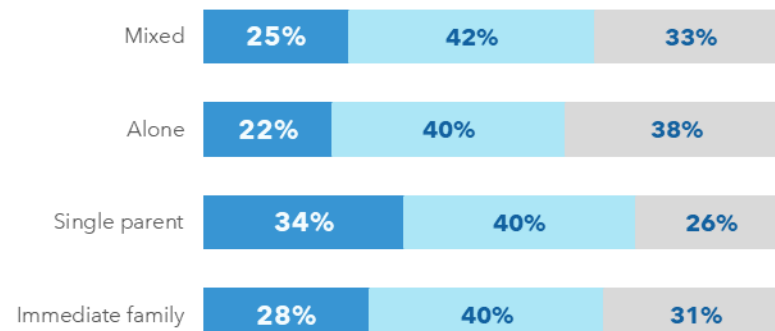


### By urban/rural location

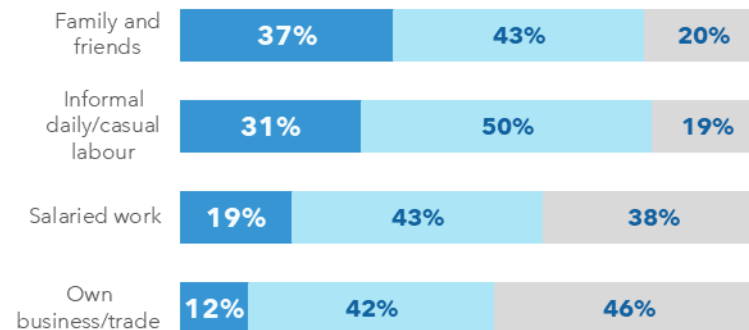


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

## By household composition

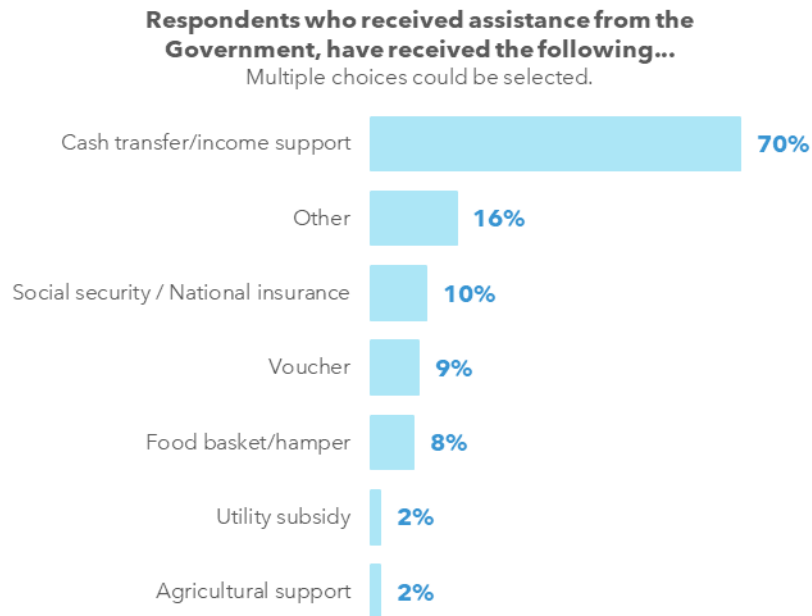
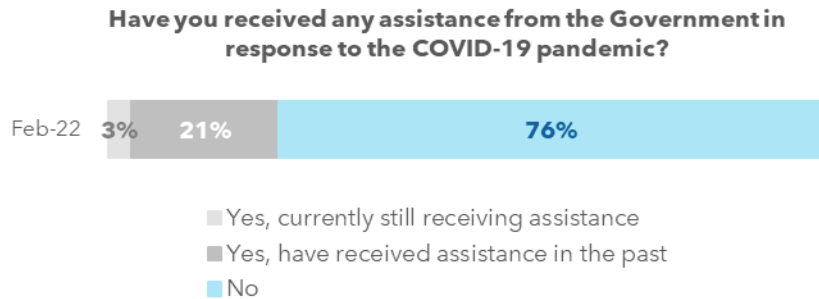


## By income sources



# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

- Cash transfers/income support are the most commonly received forms of government assistance, but few are still receiving support.



Out of the 24% of respondents who reported to have received government assistance, only 3% are currently beneficiaries. This is similar to the regional average where 22% of respondents reported to have received some sort of support and 2% still receiving it.

The most commonly adopted measures have been the cash transfers/income support (70%), CARE grants and vaccine incentives (16%, categorized as Other), and social security (10%). The government of Jamaica launched an economic stimulus package in March 2020 for a total value of over USD 180 million. The programmes under this package were extended in 2021 and a new relief package was totalling over USD 400 million. Among the measures implemented were payroll support through the BEST programme, cash transfers through the SET Cash grant, unemployment support, social protection benefits through CARE programme, distribution of food baskets, a new social pension programme, and additional financial assistance to pensioners, self-employed persons, and PATH programme beneficiaries. See [page 5](#) for more information on government social protection responses in Jamaica.

Respondents over 60 years old were more likely to be the recipients of government assistance than younger respondents. Some form of assistance was received by respondents irrespective of their income levels. Support was also more frequently cited by those with well below average (28%), below average (27%) and average (23%) income compared to those from the wealthier groups (13%). Over two thirds of those who already rely on government assistance reported to have received some form of COVID-19 related assistance since the beginning of the pandemic. However, a large proportion of respondents (80%) who reported to have no income may have fallen through government safety nets as they reported to have not received any form of assistance. While no major differences were observed between sex, female respondents (25%) were slightly more likely to have received the assistance when compared to men (20%).

# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

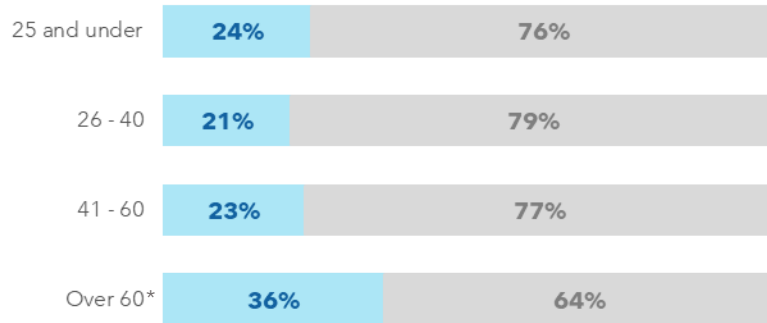
Have you received any assistance from the Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

■ Yes ■ No

## By sex



## By age group

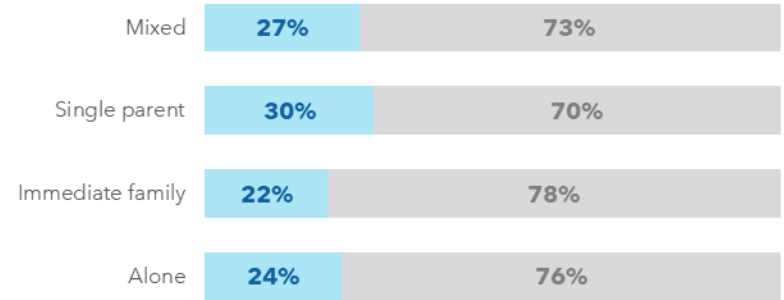


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

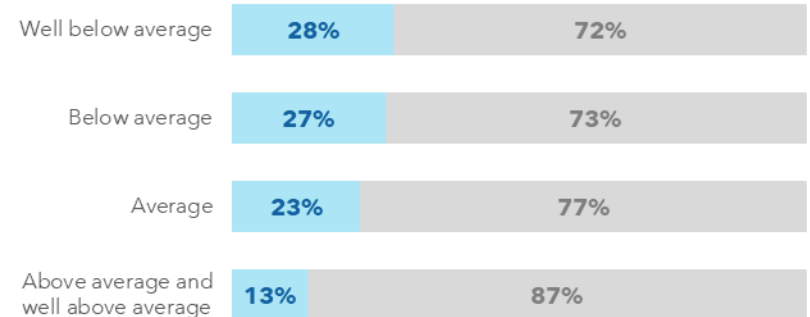
## By urban/rural location



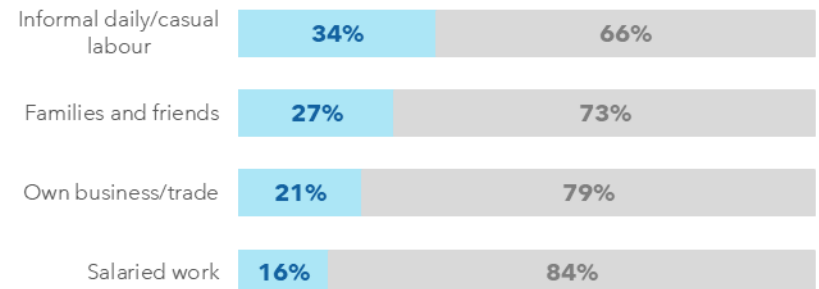
## By household composition



## By perceived income level



## By main income source



# WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

- Fear of illness remains the leading concern among respondents. However, it has decreased in importance since June 2020.

Fear of illness is still the leading cause for concern among respondents, though less so than in June 2020. Fewer respondents also worried about unemployment when compared to June 2020, but it remains a top concern for a significant proportion of the population (36%), alongside the inability to cover needs for essential items (37%) and food (31%). The overall results in Jamaica are consistent with those for the Caribbean region, however in Jamaica more respondents are worrying about the violence in the community (16%) than in the region (9%) or when compared to results in June 2020 (6%).

There are noticeable differences among respondents with different income levels. The main worries of lower income groups relate to meeting food and other essential needs and unemployment, whereas wealthier households are more worried about issues such as illness, violence in the community and social isolation. Concerns about violence in the communities have increased among all income levels, but particularly among the above and well above average income households (from 23% in June 2020 to 29% in February 2022).

There continue to be differences among age groups. Respondents younger than 60 were more concerned about unemployment and meeting food and essential needs, whereas those above 60 had more worries about falling ill and violence. Concerns about meeting food and other needs were also more frequently cited by respondents living in mixed, immediate or single-parent households compared to those living alone. There were no major differences between urban and rural respondents or male and female respondents.

## Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

Main worries	Feb-22	Jun-20
Fear of illness	42%	55%
Inability to cover essential needs	37%	39%
Unemployment	36%	51%
Inability to cover food needs	31%	38%
Social isolation	19%	16%
Disruptions to education	16%	8%
Violence in the community	16%	6%
Having to resort to savings	14%	18%
Child(ren)/dependents care	14%	17%
Movement restrictions	7%	8%
Other worries	1%	0%
Violence in the household	1%	1%
Unable to access services	1%	1%

## By perceived income level

Main worries	Well below average	Below average	Average	Above average and well above average
Fear of illness	31%	35%	52%	61%
Inability to cover essential needs	45%	43%	37%	20%
Unemployment	45%	40%	33%	23%
Inability to cover food needs	46%	40%	25%	10%
Social isolation	12%	15%	22%	37%
Disruptions to education	13%	15%	17%	26%
Violence in the community	9%	13%	18%	29%
Having to resort to savings	10%	13%	19%	12%
Child(ren)/dependents care	17%	14%	13%	13%
Movement restrictions	1%	3%	8%	18%
Other worries	2%	1%	1%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	1%	2%	1%
Unable to access services	1%	2%	1%	2%

# WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

## Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected

### By sex

Main worries	Female	Male
Fear of illness	43%	40%
Inability to cover essential needs	37%	39%
Unemployment	36%	35%
Inability to cover food needs	32%	30%
Social isolation	19%	18%
Disruptions to education	17%	13%
Violence in the community	16%	15%
Having to resort to savings	13%	16%
Child(ren)/dependents care	14%	13%
Movement restrictions	5%	9%
Other worries	1%	2%
Violence in the household	2%	1%
Unable to access services	1%	2%

### By age group

Main worries	25 and under	26 - 40	41 - 60	Over 60*
Fear of illness	39%	39%	41%	67%
Inability to cover essential needs	43%	45%	32%	18%
Unemployment	42%	42%	31%	13%
Inability to cover food needs	38%	37%	25%	13%
Social isolation	20%	16%	22%	30%
Disruptions to education	13%	15%	20%	14%
Violence in the community	8%	13%	20%	27%
Having to resort to savings	12%	16%	14%	13%
Child(ren)/dependents care	8%	17%	15%	6%
Movement restrictions	3%	7%	4%	20%
Other worries	1%	1%	2%	0%
Violence in the household	1%	2%	0%	3%
Unable to access services	2%	2%	0%	3%

\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results

### By household composition

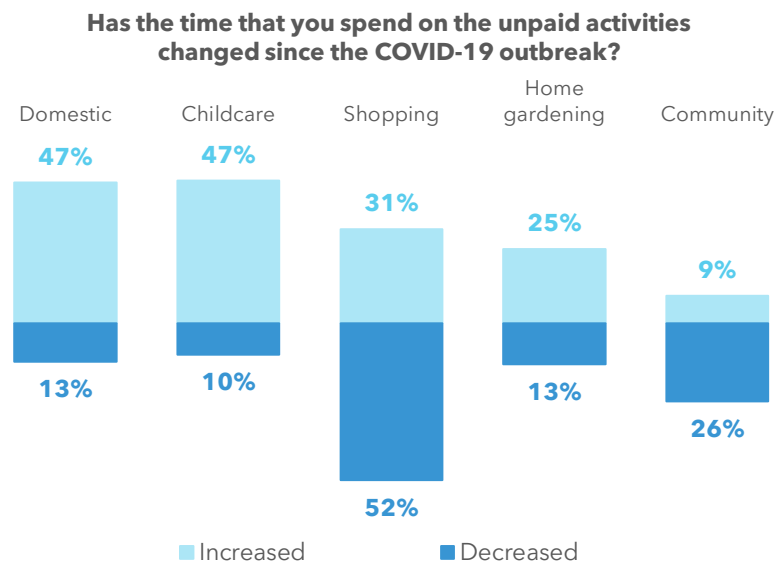
Main worries	Alone	Immediate family	Mixed	Single parent
Fear of illness	54%	41%	43%	37%
Inability to cover essential needs	26%	40%	36%	37%
Unemployment	30%	37%	36%	33%
Inability to cover food needs	19%	31%	35%	35%
Social isolation	32%	19%	19%	10%
Disruptions to education	12%	17%	15%	17%
Violence in the community	23%	14%	17%	15%
Having to resort to savings	13%	15%	11%	13%
Child(ren)/dependents care	5%	14%	13%	22%
Movement restrictions	10%	6%	6%	5%
Other worries	2%	1%	2%	1%
Violence in the household	3%	2%	1%	0%
Unable to access services	1%	1%	1%	1%

### By urban/rural location

Main worries	City or town	Village or rural area
Fear of illness	44%	40%
Inability to cover essential needs	39%	36%
Unemployment	35%	40%
Inability to cover food needs	31%	33%
Social isolation	20%	17%
Disruptions to education	16%	18%
Violence in the community	17%	14%
Having to resort to savings	14%	15%
Child(ren)/dependents care	15%	11%
Movement restrictions	7%	5%
Other worries	2%	1%
Violence in the household	1%	2%
Unable to access services	1%	2%

# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, respondents continue to increase time devoted to domestic work and childcare, while decreasing shopping activities. Forty-seven percent of respondents reported spending more time on domestic work and childcare, and 52% continue to curb their shopping activities. These patterns are largely consistent when compared with the June 2020 results or with average results from the region.

Both female and male respondents reported an increase in time spent on unpaid work due to pandemic. The February 2022 results show that more women are 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. Increased time spent on childcare, however, was reported more often by those classifying their income as well below and below average (47-53%) compared to those with above and well above average income (34%).

When looking at respondents from different types of household compositions, fewer people living alone reported increases in unpaid activities compared to others. Respondents from Jamaica living with immediate family households and single headed households seem to be making more adjustments. Sixty percent of single parent households reported an increase in domestic work and 62% an increase in childcare.

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

Respondents continue to curb their shopping activities, which can be likely attributed to the lack of finances and the changes in how people shop. Respondents with below (57%) and well below (69%) average income more frequently reported a reduction in time spent on shopping activities, compared to 31% of respondents with above and well above average income.



# 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%	47%	31%	25%	9%
No change	35%	21%	15%	38%	35%
Decreased	13%	10%	52%	13%	26%
Not applicable	6%	22%	3%	24%	30%

Feb-21	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	37%	39%	16%	36%	14%
No change	37%	31%	29%	34%	42%
Decreased	13%	5%	54%	9%	20%
Not applicable	12%	25%	1%	20%	24%

Jun-20	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	52%	53%	32%	34%	9%
No change	34%	22%	13%	40%	44%
Decreased	12%	7%	54%	13%	26%
Not applicable	3%	19%	2%	13%	21%

## By sex

Female	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	48%	49%	32%	25%	8%
No change	32%	20%	13%	36%	33%
Decreased	13%	9%	52%	13%	28%
Not applicable	6%	22%	3%	26%	31%

Male	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	42%	42%	28%	23%	13%
No change	41%	23%	19%	42%	41%
Decreased	10%	13%	50%	15%	21%
Not applicable	7%	22%	2%	20%	25%

## By household composition

Alone	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	28%	7%	27%	29%	7%
No change	50%	46%	23%	41%	47%
Decreased	17%	3%	49%	5%	22%
Not applicable	5%	44%	1%	25%	24%

Immediate family	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	48%	52%	33%	25%	10%
No change	34%	18%	15%	39%	35%
Decreased	12%	10%	49%	14%	27%
Not applicable	6%	20%	3%	22%	29%

Mixed	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	46%	42%	30%	21%	9%
No change	35%	23%	14%	35%	36%
Decreased	11%	15%	54%	15%	21%
Not applicable	8%	20%	2%	30%	34%

Single parent	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	60%	62%	27%	27%	9%
No change	22%	10%	7%	27%	27%
Decreased	13%	12%	63%	19%	29%
Not applicable	5%	17%	3%	27%	35%

# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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

## By perceived income

Well below average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	42%	47%	24%	21%	8%
No change	26%	14%	4%	29%	27%
Decreased	23%	24%	69%	23%	30%
Not applicable	9%	15%	3%	26%	34%

Below average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	49%	53%	31%	21%	10%
No change	29%	17%	9%	35%	32%
Decreased	15%	12%	57%	18%	29%
Not applicable	7%	18%	4%	26%	29%

Average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	49%	47%	33%	30%	9%
No change	39%	21%	18%	40%	40%
Decreased	7%	5%	47%	7%	20%
Not applicable	6%	27%	3%	23%	31%

Above and well above average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	43%	34%	36%	24%	9%
No change	47%	34%	33%	47%	43%
Decreased	8%	2%	31%	8%	28%
Not applicable	2%	29%	0%	20%	21%

*"Can't afford food nor device for my children to do school." - female, 39*

*"Make sure the kids have food and device to do online classes." - female, 24*

*"No social event attendance due to no money and time." - female, 42*

*"Safety. There is more crime in all forms; especially murders in my country." - female, 44*

*"Work from home. There is no adequate mechanism to implement this fully on a large scale. Wasn't entirely feasible for the sector I work in." - female, 42*

*"Covid 19 has increased the levels of anxiety and paranoia within my household. This has further increased frustration and anger which has caused the isolation efforts to take a toll on mental health, effectively making remote working especially challenging." female, 27*

*"I'm too depressed to write how I really feel. Just know that it's bad and there's no sign things are improving." - female, 37*

*"There has been little or no financial assistance from the Jamaican government for persons who are not deemed 'poor'." - female, 42*

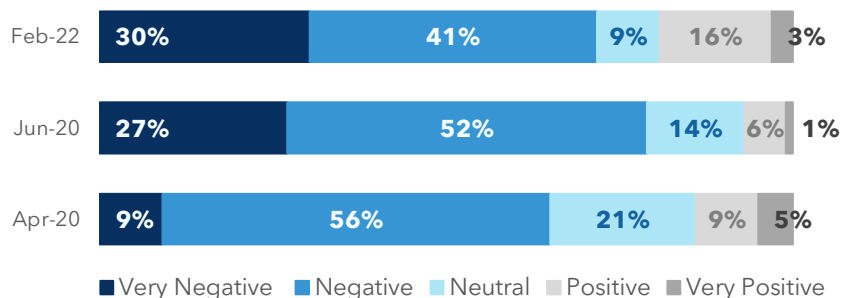
*"My dad is now a retired public servant and my mom is unemployed, therefore my younger sister and I now have the responsibility to manage the household, before the pandemic my dad would have been willing to continue working however as a result of his health condition, for his own safety he has opted for early retirement." - male, 31*

*"Have not been able to travel to visit my parents and family at home. Was made redundant. Daughter not in face-to-face school for almost 2 years." - female, 36*

# WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

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

Distribution of sentiments across open-ended survey responses



Respondents were given the space to provide more nuanced insights on how they are coping with and adapting to the evolving impacts of the pandemic. Out of the 930 respondents, 414 responded to the open-ended question in Jamaica. Their responses were analysed by machine learning algorithms to categorize and determine the degree of positive and negative emotions. This sentiment analysis classifies the overall feeling expressed within each response and how negative or positive it is.

In February 2022, the respondents were expressing negative (41%) and very negative (30%) sentiments similarly often than in June 2020 (52% and 27% respectively). At the same time, slightly more respondents expressed positive or very positive sentiments in February 2022 (19%) than in June 2020 (7%).

The distribution of sentiments in Jamaica is largely following the trends reported in the Caribbean region as a whole.

## Some sample responses:

### Very negative (30%)

"I have to eat less so the food don't finish before time. Hardest time was seeing my child crying because he was hungry and I didn't have anything to give him." - female, 32

### Negative (41%)

"Additional responsibility at work; increased prices with a static salary." - female, 51

### Neutral (9%)

"I wish that people would get more involved in farming so we could help others." - female, 51

### Positive (16%)

"I go out less. I clean more." - female, 47

### Very positive (3%)

"Makes me appreciate relationships more." - female, 53

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

# WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

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

Many respondents stressed concerns about increasing prices and financial burdens; this sentiment was echoed throughout the region. New and increasing financial demands related to food, utilities, childcare, education, healthcare and petrol prices have diminished their resources and purchasing power. Many reported depleting their savings to keep up with their bills. People also raised issues about travel still being difficult. Respondents with children raised major concerns about disruptions to the education system and their children's schooling. Online and homeschooling remain a huge challenge, including for those who are trying to balance working from home.

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

*"I have to incur additional costs amounting to two times my child's regular school fees for extra classes to get him ready for the Grade 4 PEP exams as he was seriously negatively impacted by online classes. He has a huge learning gap and it has put a damper on my finances. Also, the stress from covid has impacted my mental health as it has also resulted in my son being overweight from a lack of sporting activities and I am very concerned about his education. Also, the additional expenses from random covid testing as requested from his school each time there is exposure at school is costly." - female, 35*

*"The social isolation has made me feel sad. Loneliness for many is an issue. I miss my freedom." - female, 51*

*"I am affected badly, it is so sad. I don't have running water at home." - female, 40*

*"The biggest change for me is no travel outside of my immediate community. I stay close to home. Gasoline for personal vehicle is expensive and I am fearful of using public transportation." - female, 64*

*"Unable to provide for my kids the way I should like, give them what they need for school, textbooks. I have to shorten money for school, my rent, fruits and vegetables are more expensive. Work is scarce." - male, 32*

*"Last January my wife bring my son to see a doctor at the hospital and she was sent back home with my 3 year who been throwing up all night even after she explained that, the hospital was only attending to people with covid 19, which my son didn't have, he later passed away because he never got the treatment he need." - male, 31*

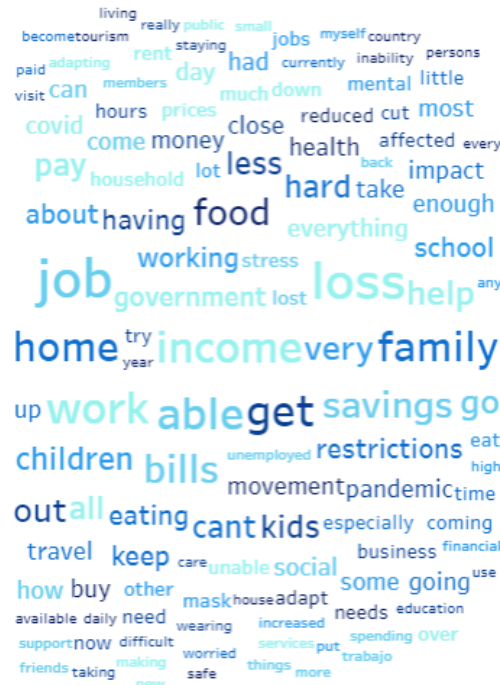
*"This pandemic affect me because my son has a surgery and because of covid it has to be cancelled every time." - female, 22*

# WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping



APRIL  
2020



JUNE  
2020



FEBRUARY  
2022

# CONCLUSION

Since the first survey was launched in April 2020, much has changed in Jamaica. Vaccines have become available, travel has been re-introduced and the Government of Jamaica 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 Jamaica 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, the underlying picture remains deeply troubling.

Many people continue to face disruptions to their livelihoods, and the impact on incomes remains pervasive. The resources that people have are not going as far with 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, they report skipping meals, going to bed hungry and being worried about feeding their families.

Impacts to jobs and unemployment remain a critical concern. With many restrictions ended or being significantly reduced 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 struggles related to employment and concerns about the future, especially for those already living in poverty or on the edge. The decrease of incomes, lost jobs and increased costs of living or for pursuing livelihoods have recalibrated the baseline of where people are. It will also take substantial effort and directed investment to make sure that those already in difficulty are not left even further behind as Jamaica seeks to turn the corner on the pandemic.

These impacts are hitting hardest those who can least afford it – particularly families with the lowest incomes, those who rely on informal means or family support for their living, single parent households or younger respondents compared to other age groups.

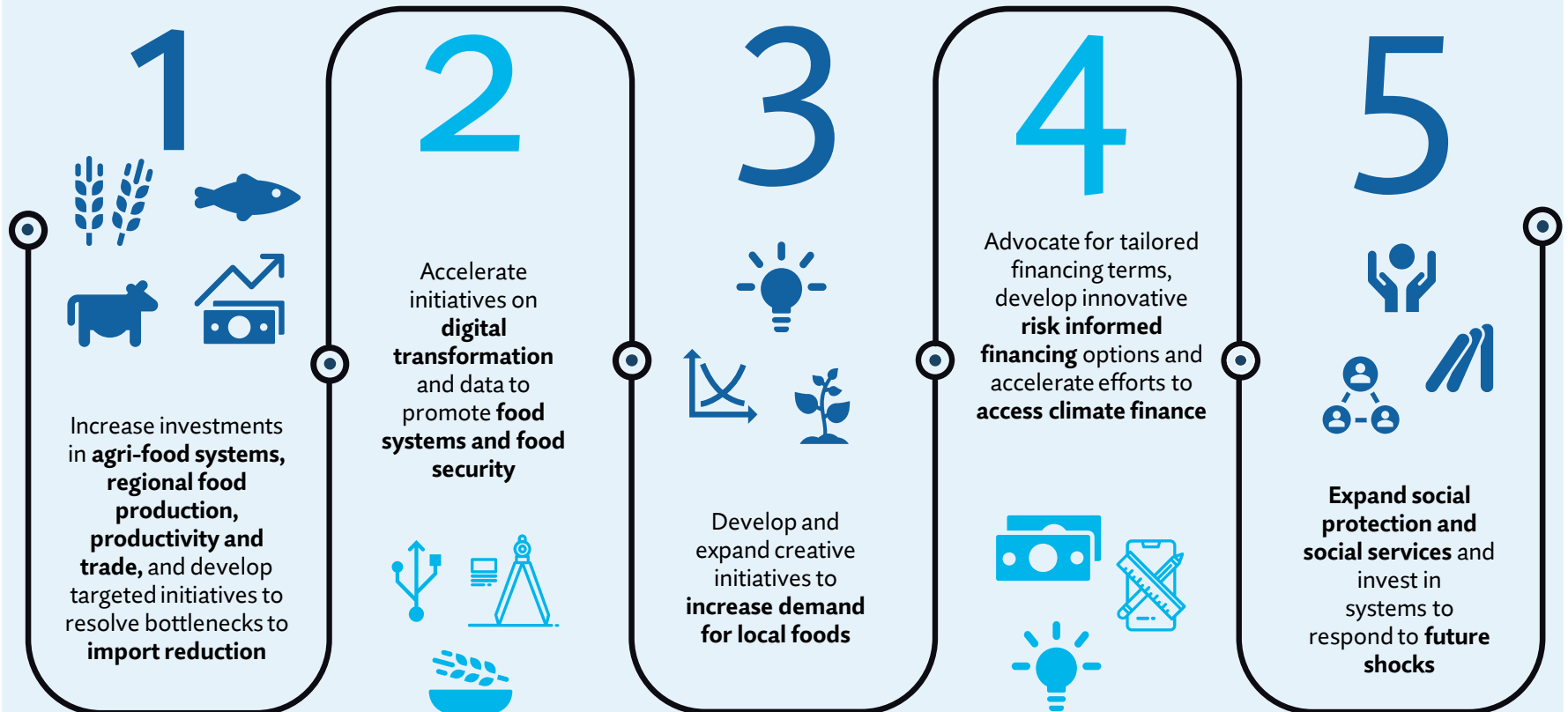
The survey also highlights that unpaid time spent on childcare and domestic work are still greater than before the pandemic, and these activities are disproportionately shouldered by women. Concerns about violence in the community have also risen, and are more pronounced among elderly respondents, single headed and more affluent households. Continued and deepened analysis on gender and community dynamics remains a priority to ensure that recovery processes are inclusive, sustainable, gender-responsive and support women's empowerment.

The Government of Jamaica 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, Jamaica is highly exposed to global and regional shocks. The combination of COVID-19 impacts on household economy, supply chain disruptions, rising inflation, as well as the anticipation of another active hurricane season and the global economic reverberations of the Ukraine crisis present Jamaica with a serious 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

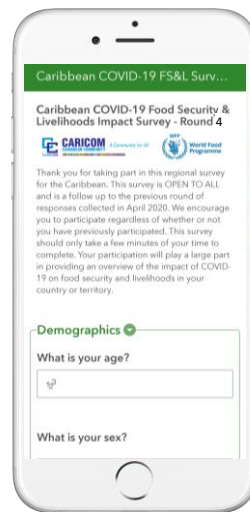
The fourth round of the CARICOM Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 25 January to 8 February 2022. The survey was circulated via email, social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

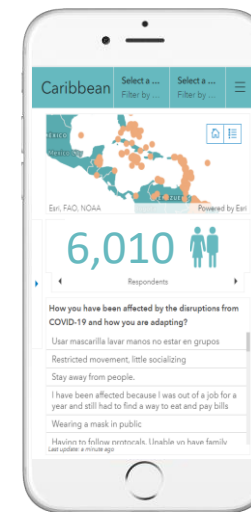
WFP expresses warm appreciation to Flow and Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Barbados and Grenada. Special thanks to the International Telecommunication Union for their support in facilitating the SMS distribution. Thanks to UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago for circulating the survey link.

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

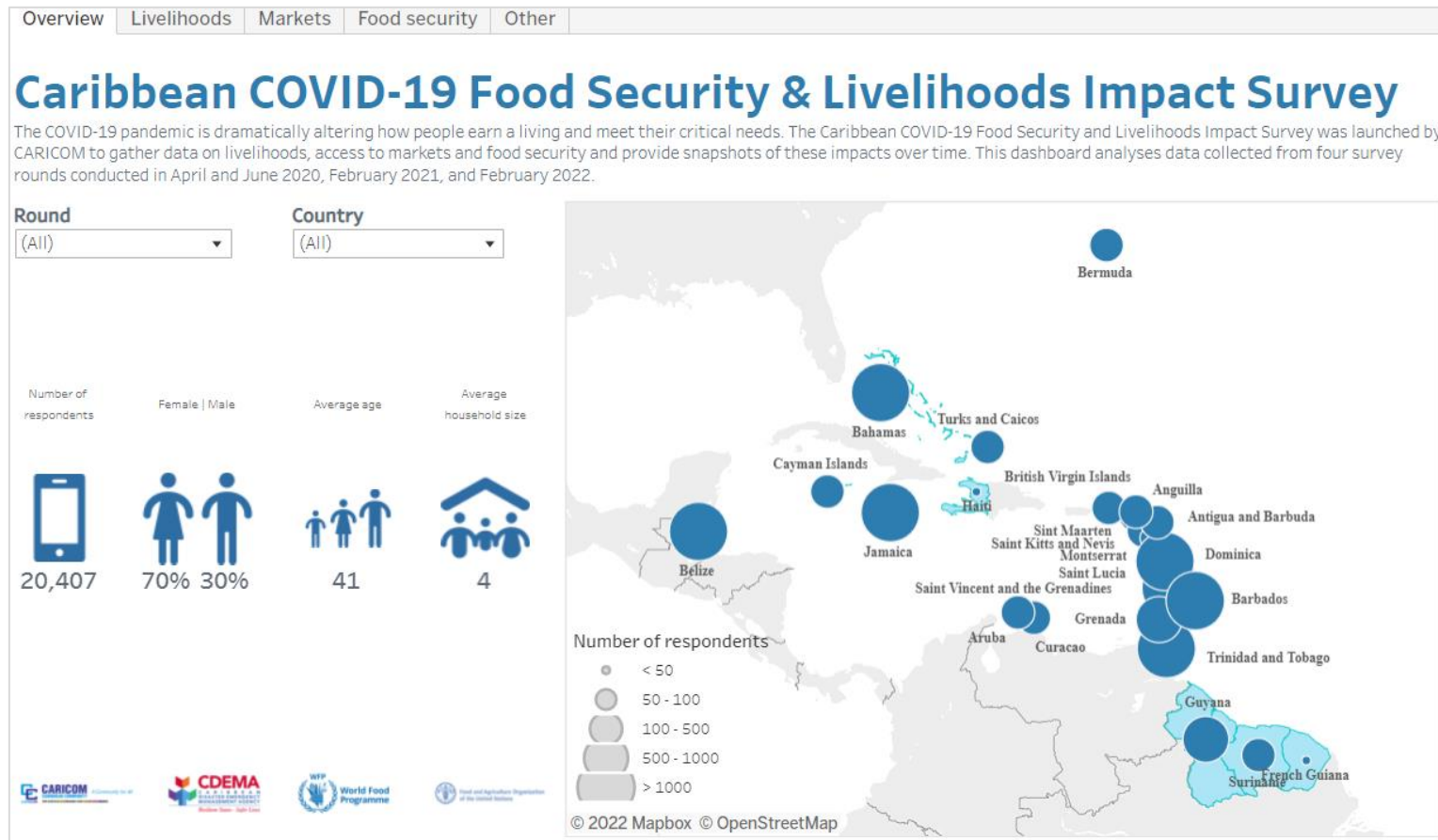


# METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

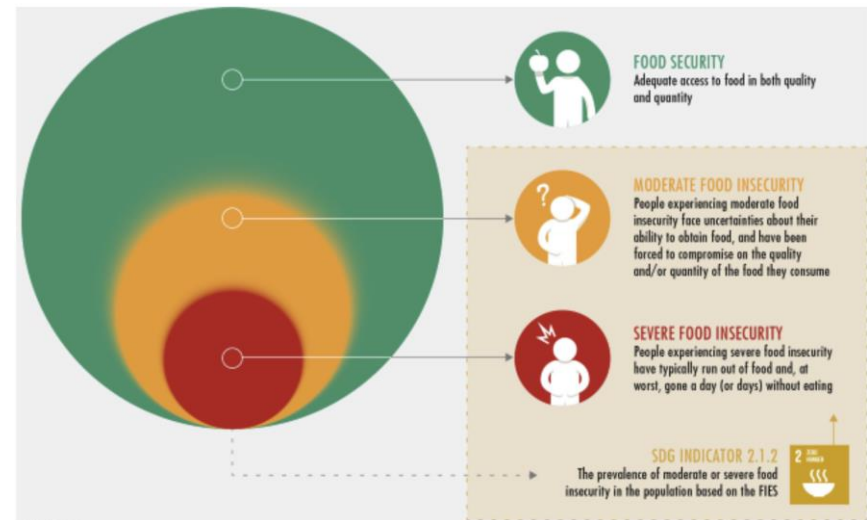


# CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was used for calculating food insecurity estimates presented in this report. The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) is an experience-based metric of food insecurity severity at the household or individual level, which is used for global food security monitoring and aligned with food security targets outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It relies on people's direct responses to eight questions during a 12 months or 30 days recall period: while the 12 months recall period is typically used for SDG monitoring, reference to the past 30 days is in order to assess recent food insecurity and its risk factors or consequences.

The eight questions focus on self-reported food-related behaviours and experiences during 30 days prior to the survey. They reflect increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints. A concept essential to the FIES is that the eight items and respondents are positioned on the same underlying scale of severity of food insecurity. Therefore, the probability of a respondent answering "yes" to a FIES item depends on the distance along the scale between the food severity experienced by the respondent and the severity of the item. A respondent's raw score (an integer number ranging from zero to eight) is the sum of affirmative responses given to the eight FIES questions. It is the basis for estimating the respondent parameter, which provides an interval measure of the severity of food insecurity and makes it possible to produce comparable measures of food insecurity. For this report, prevalence rates of moderate and severe food insecurity were calculated based on survey data using FAO's methodology and [FIES online App](#).

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



Interpreting FIES indicators (Source: FAO).

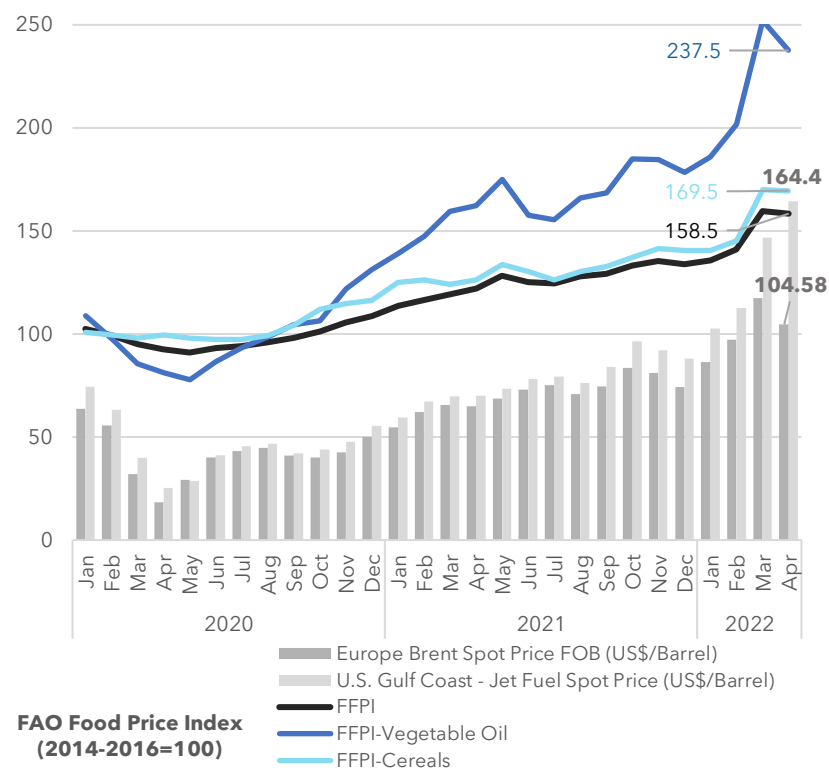
# Annex | Regional implications of Ukraine crisis

Promoting recovery and food security will be paramount against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis. While the full range of implications remains uncertain, repercussions are expected to be felt widely, including in the Caribbean. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicts for the year 2022 at least a 1 percent reduction in global economic growth and up to 2.5 percent higher inflation on aggregate across the world, on top of current inflationary trends. Most acutely affected will be global prices of energy and commodities, such as grains and metals, due to additional disruptions in supply chains and volatilities in financial markets. The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) has already reached an all time high in March 2022 with 159.7 points and remains elevated.

The Russian Federation is a major producer of natural gas, oil, and solid fuels and together with Ukraine is a primary exporter of key agricultural commodities, such as wheat and maize, rapeseed, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil. Both countries are also major producers of fertilizers and export disruptions may further impact agricultural production and food security, particularly in import-dependent countries. Reverberations of the conflict on global supply chains and food systems are also expected to be felt in this region. Heavy import dependency among most Caribbean economies on fuel, food products and agricultural inputs means that global changes in oil, jet fuel, shipping and commodity prices will further drive inflationary trends. This will particularly affect small island states, people living in poverty and vulnerable households, who are still reeling from the effects of COVID-19.

For most Caribbean countries, the primary source markets for the importation of food, fuel and chemicals are the United States of America, countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union. While overall direct trade with Russia and Ukraine is negligible, increasing international prices for basic staple foods and fertilizer is expected to have cascading effects in this region.

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

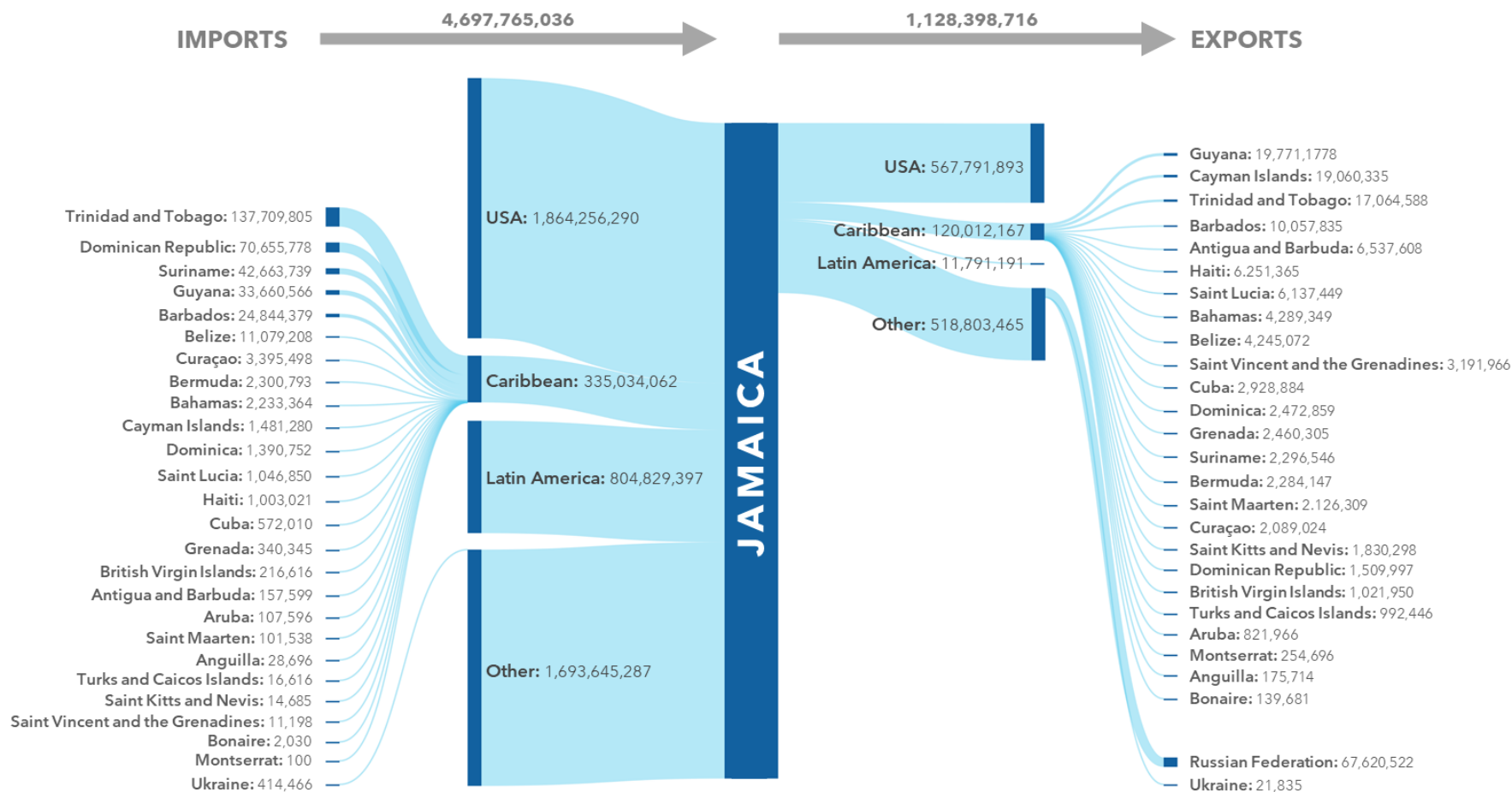


Source: FAO, US Energy Information Administration

# Annex | Jamaica trade flows

## Import and export of all commodities in Jamaica in 2020, based on US\$ value

Source: UN Comtrade



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**UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME**

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