

# Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey

Impacts of COVID-19 and the Cost of Living Crisis

**GUYANA Summary Report | January 2023**



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## GUYANA Summary Report | January 2023

Inflation trends driving the current cost of living crisis are compounding the negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. People in the Caribbean are confronted with this next major crisis as they continue to face challenges to earn a living and meet their critical needs. CARICOM launched the Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods 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 fifth round of data collection, which took place from 19 July to 12 August 2022, and compares findings with survey rounds conducted in April 2020, June 2020, and February 2022. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the online survey was circulated via social media, media outlets, SMS and emails.

### August 2022



### February 2022



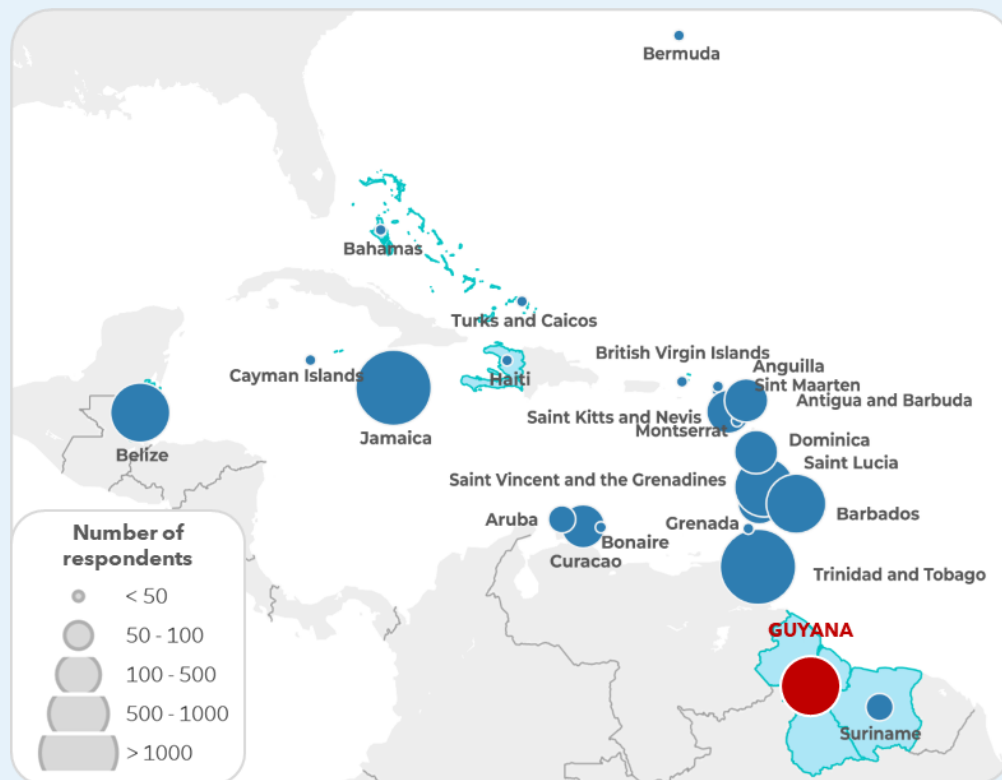
### February 2021\*

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

### June 2020



### April 2020



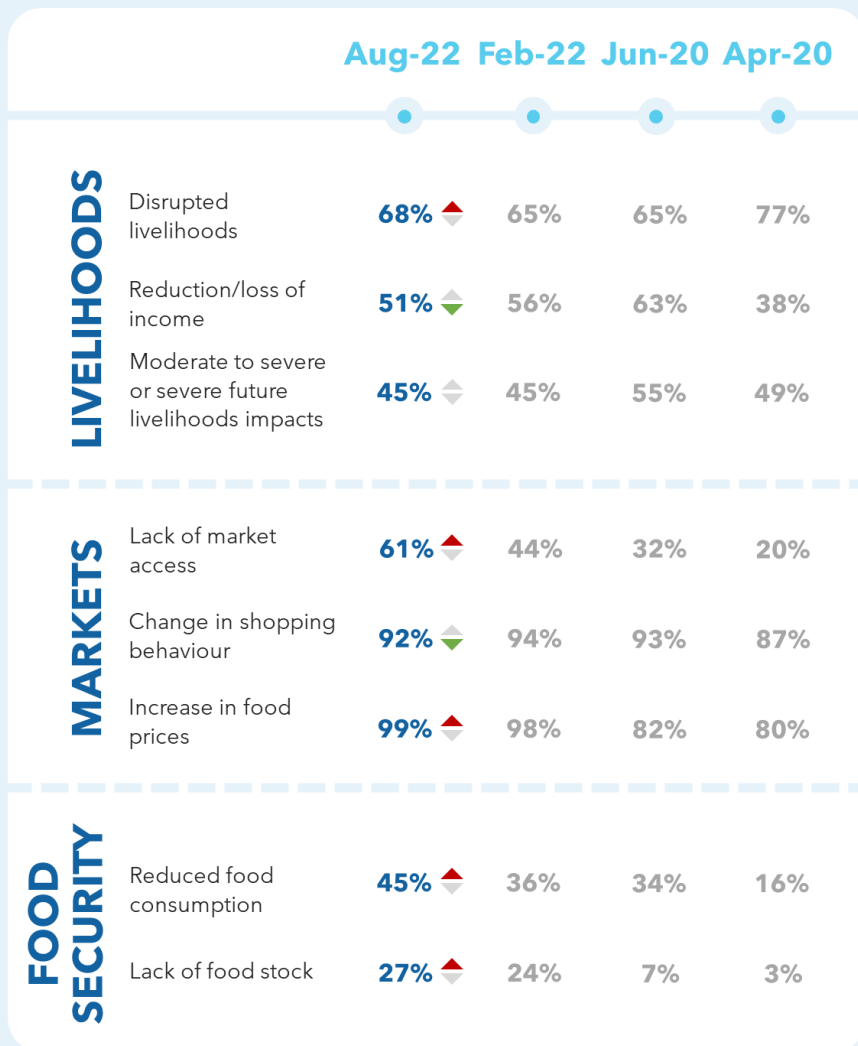
# GUYANA Summary | January 2023

- Global food prices have increased sharply since the start of the Ukraine conflict, driving up local food prices. The increase in food prices has destabilised and impacted access, availability and utilisation of food. Food prices are on the rise in Guyana with 9% food inflation in July 2022. High energy prices are further exacerbating the food price crisis.
- Food consumption and diets have deteriorated, with 76% of respondents skipping meals/eating less, eating less preferred foods, or going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey. This is a higher proportion than in February 2022 (67%). Among the most impacted groups are the poorest households, younger respondents, Spanish speakers and female respondents.
- More respondents than ever (99%) are reporting higher than usual food prices. Respondents also observed a significant increase in the cost of gas (63%), other fuels (55%), transport (41%) and housing (41%) over the six months preceding the survey.
- People are increasingly buying less healthy and diversified foods. Almost a third of respondents reported having no food stock at home.
- The COVID-19 pandemic, now coupled with the cost of living crisis, continues to impact people's livelihoods in Guyana. Half of respondents faced job loss or reduced income in their household, which is slightly lower compared to previous survey rounds. However, more respondents are resorting to alternative or secondary incomes. In addition, over two thirds of respondents also experienced disruption to their livelihoods in the two weeks prior to the survey, mainly due to the unaffordability of livelihood inputs.
- Respondents are compromising their future livelihoods by selling productive assets (48%), spending savings (87%) or reducing expenditures on health and education (54%) to meet their immediate food needs. Three-quarters of respondents predict at least moderate impacts to their livelihoods in the future. Those with the lowest incomes had the most pessimistic outlooks.
- The survey inquired on people's main worries. Inability to meet food (54%) and other essential (46%) needs are the top concerns, followed by fear of illness (30%) and unemployment (27%). Compared to previous survey rounds, fear of illness and unemployment are now less of a concern compared to the previous survey rounds.
- Three out of five respondents reported challenges accessing markets in the week prior to the survey, which also represents the highest share since April 2020. Lack of financial means continues to be overwhelmingly reported as the main reason for limited market access, cited by 93% of those unable to access markets. Respondents are increasingly buying cheaper and less preferred foods and in smaller quantities than usual.
- Two in five respondents have received some form of government support. Cash transfers, income support and vouchers were the most common assistance. However, only 3% of respondents was still receiving assistance at the time of the survey.
- Differences in impacts are most pronounced when comparing income groups. Households with describing their incomes as below and well below average show the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being and are at risk of further falling behind economically.
- While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts of the compound crisis, the data is not representative, and the use of an online questionnaire limits inputs from people without internet connectivity.

# GUYANA Summary | January 2023

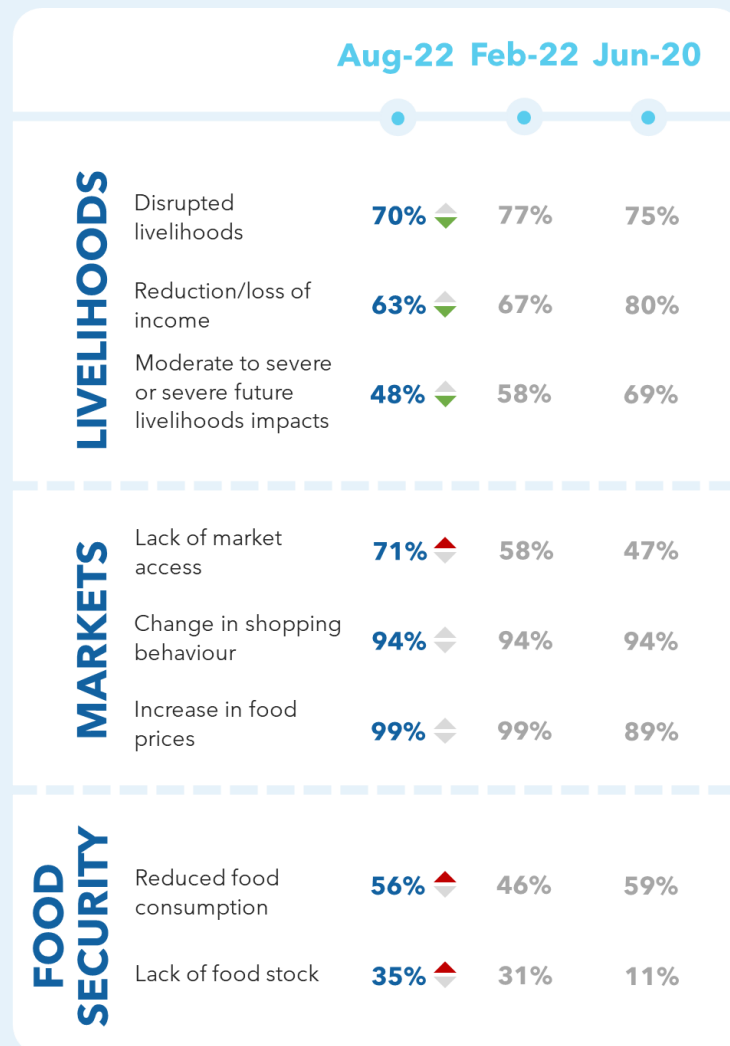
## All respondents

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



## Respondents with below or well below average perceived income

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



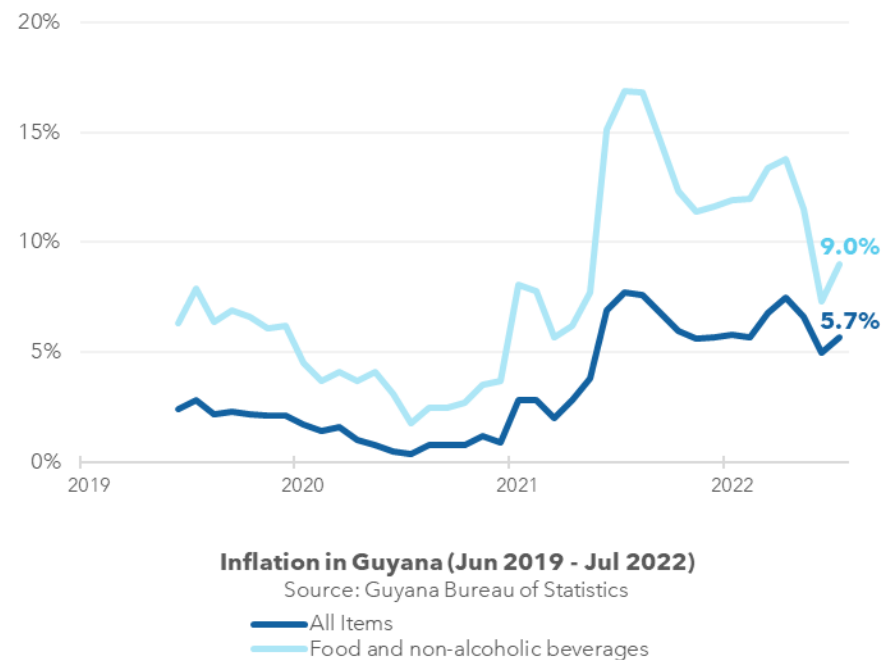
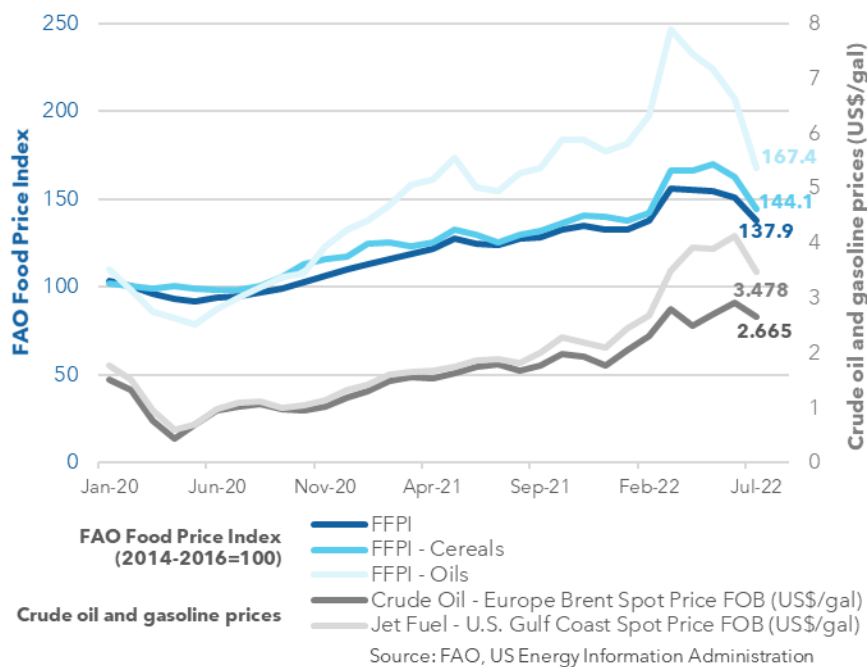
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# Context | Cost of living crisis

According to FAO's Food Price Index, global food prices have increased sharply since the onset of the conflict, reaching a new all-time high in February 2022, and taking another giant leap in March 2022. This has affected local food prices, which in turn negatively impacts access to food. On average, food inflation in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean has risen by 10.2% across 20 countries as of March 2022. Guyana - with its positive balance of trade, and in particular the export-oriented oil sector - has potentially benefited from oil price rises in international markets. However, Guyana imports fuel for electricity generation and transport, which makes it vulnerable to price fluctuations and supply chain shocks in international markets and may translate to inflationary pressure domestically. The majority of respondents in Guyana have all reported significant increases in food, gas, transportation, and other fuel prices (see [page 45](#)).

Energy price dynamics affect food prices through various channels. Fuel is an important input for agricultural production and increasing fuel prices therefore impact on produce prices. Similarly, as energy is necessary for food processing, high prices further add to the cost of households' diets. Higher fuel prices also imply increasing transport costs, which can further add to the upward pressure on the cost of importing food; or of local food that needs to be transported to consumer markets. While FAO's Food Price Index indicated a decrease in global food prices since May 2022, The Guyana Bureau of Statistics reported a 9% inflation rate in food costs in July 2022, which is slightly lower than in April 2022 (13.8%) when global food prices peaked. Due to this, essential food purchases are becoming unaffordable for many in Guyana (see [page 45](#)).



# Context | Cost of living crisis

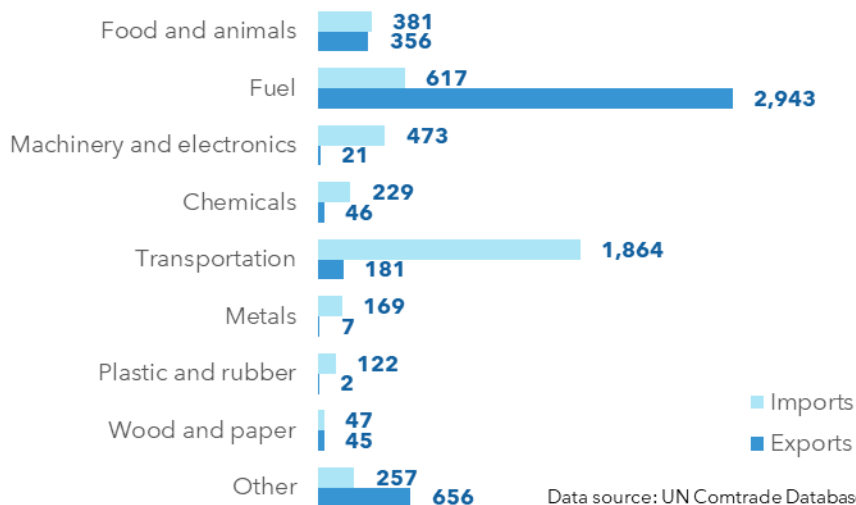
Guyana, unlike most economies of the Caribbean, is currently a net exporter of commodities by US\$ value. In 2021, overall exports were valued US\$ 4.26 billion and were slightly above the value of imports, which amounted to US\$ 4.16 billion. Crude oil was the single most important export product, making up 69% of all exports in 2021. In the same year, gold was the second most exported product in Guyana (making up 86% of 'Other' exports or 13% of all exports). Looking at imports, a floating oil drilling platform from Singapore, with an import value of US\$ 1.66 billion, accounted for 40% of all imports (or 89% of all transportation imports) in Guyana in 2021. Direct imports from Russia or Ukraine in Guyana were almost non-existent or insignificant - however, Guyana imported less than 1% of its fuel and milled products from Ukraine and Russia in 2021.

Guyana relies substantially on imports for foods, fuel, machinery and electronics, chemicals and metals. While the United States, Trinidad and Tobago, China and Japan remain the primary source markets for the importation of commodities in Guyana, Singapore has just in 2021 become one of the main import sources.

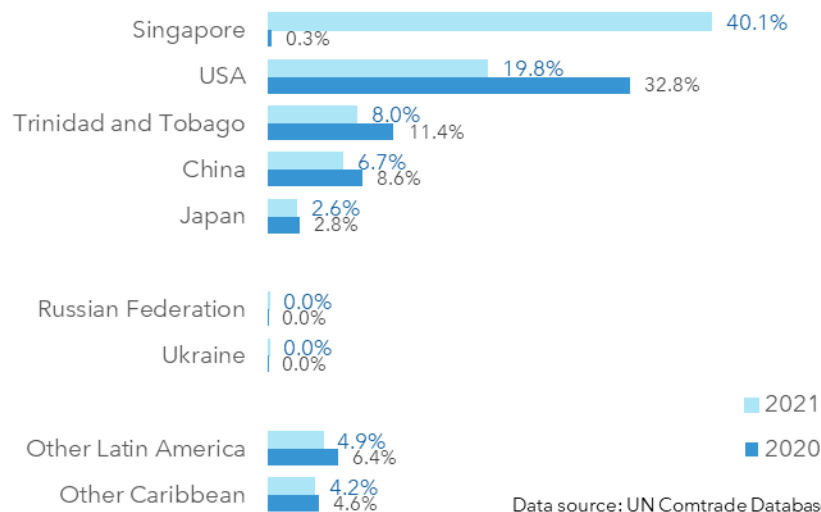
Overall, the United States is the main trading partner of Guyana, contributing to nearly 20% of its total imports and 33% of exports. The US is also the main source market for food (37%) and fuel (42%), and made up the greatest share of cereal imports (97%). At the same time, Guyana is the largest producer of cereals in CARICOM and the third largest in the Caribbean, accounting for 30% of production in 2021, mainly through the cultivation of rice. Cereals presented 59% of all food exports in 2021. Guyana is also a big exporter of beverages, spirits and vinegar (17% of all food-related exports), fish (12%) and sugar (6%). Almost all of its fertilizer is sourced from four countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, while milled products are either imported from countries in the EU or the Caribbean.

The socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic made it harder for people to have enough purchasing power to cope with the cost of living crisis, which is now forcing many to resort to negative food-related coping mechanisms (see [page 50](#)). So far, the Guyanese government has put aside 5 billion Guyanese dollars in the National Budget to respond to the rising cost of living concerns.

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



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



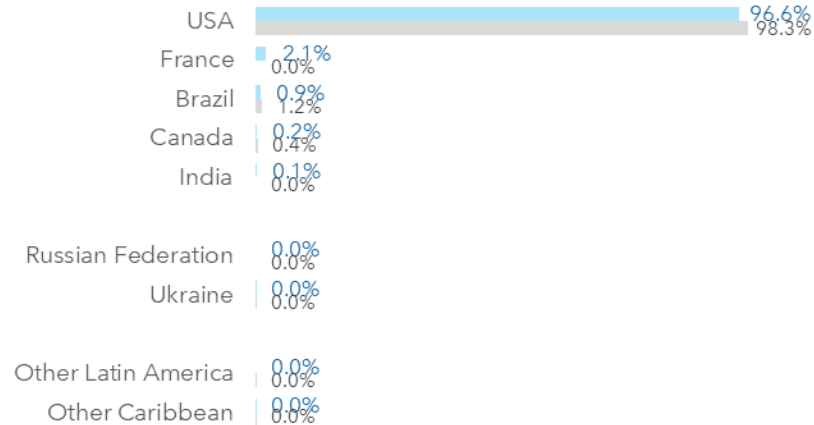
# Context | Cost of living crisis

## Top 5 import sources for Guyana in 2021 and 2020 based on US\$ value, by import share and selected commodities (HS classification standard)

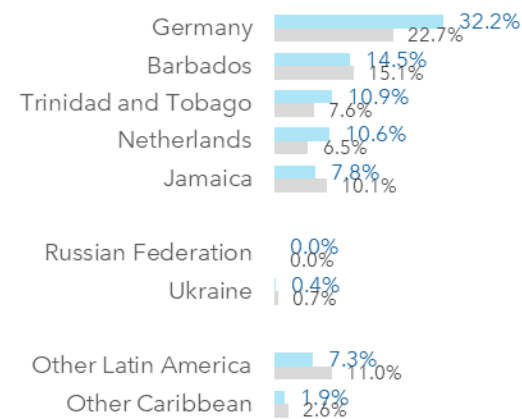
Data source: UN Comtrade Database

■ 2021  
■ 2020

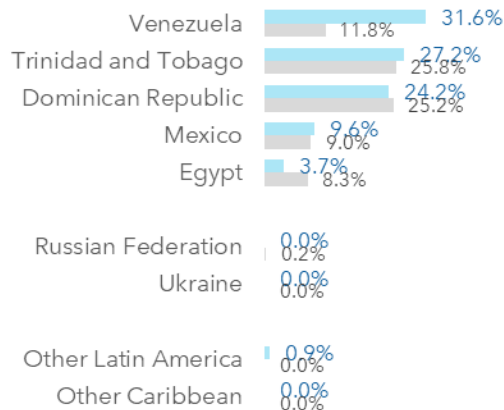
### Cereals - HS10



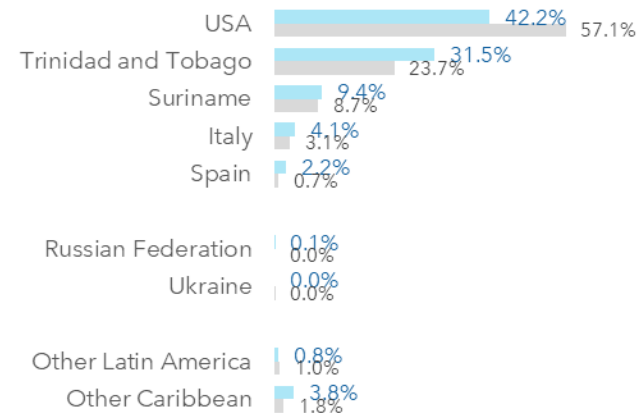
### Milled products - HS11



### Fertilizer - HS31



### Fuels - HS27

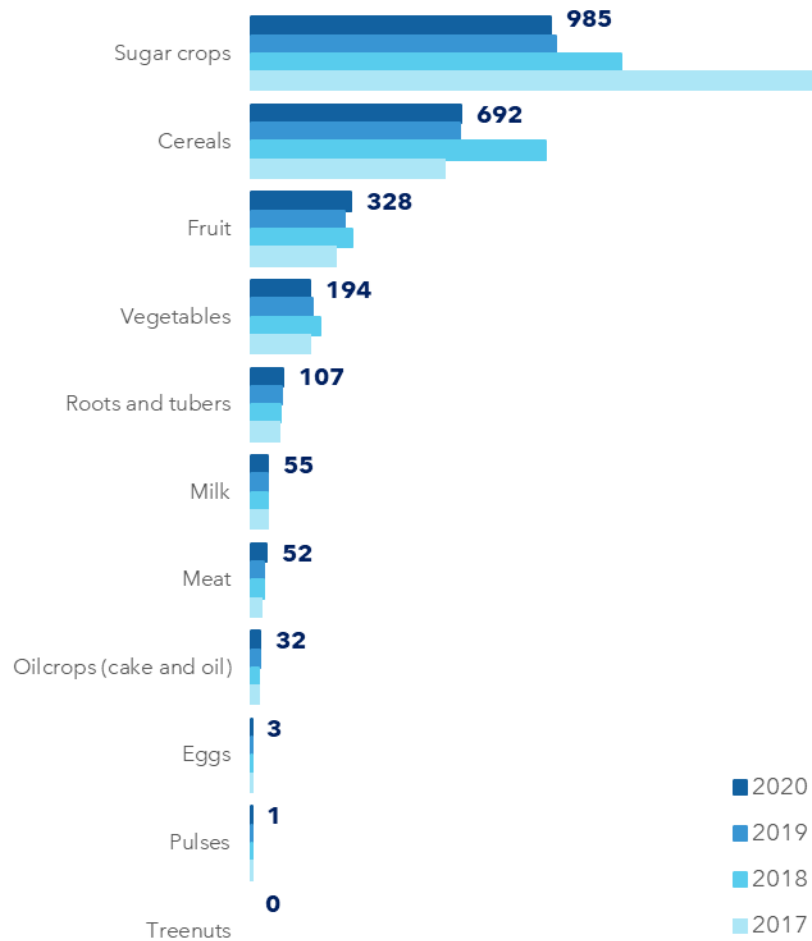




# Context | Cost of living crisis

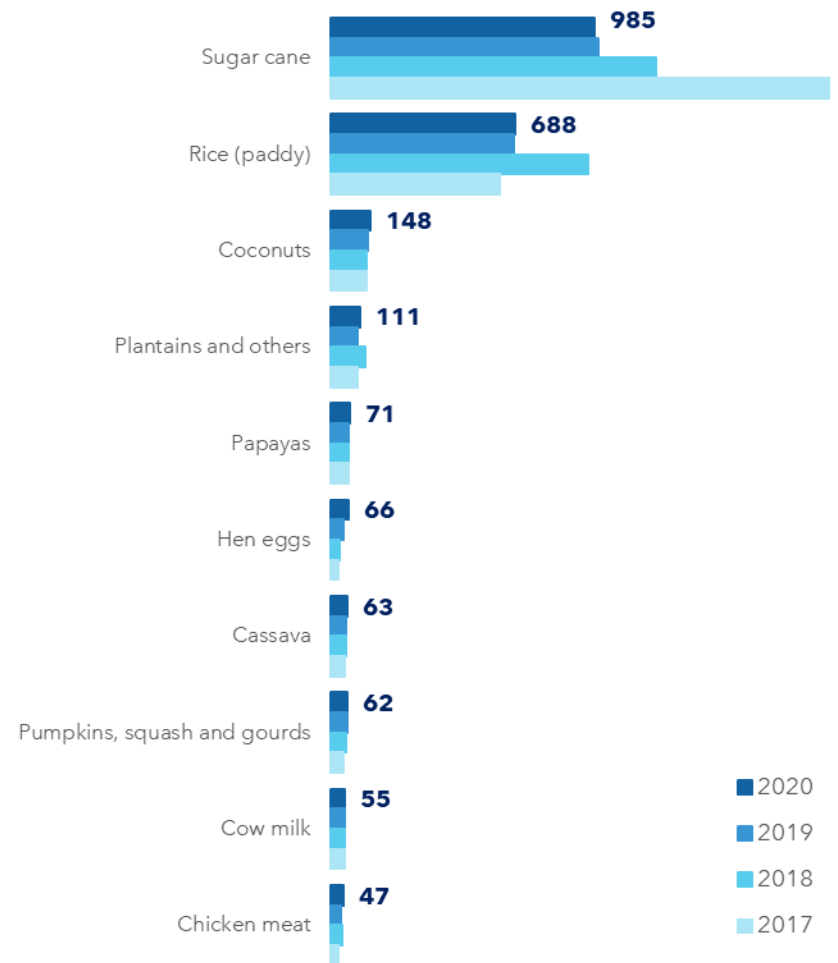
Primary agriculture production (1000 tonnes) in Guyana displayed for 2020, by commodity group

Source: FAOSTAT



Top 10 primary agriculture products (1000 tonnes) in Guyana displayed for 2020

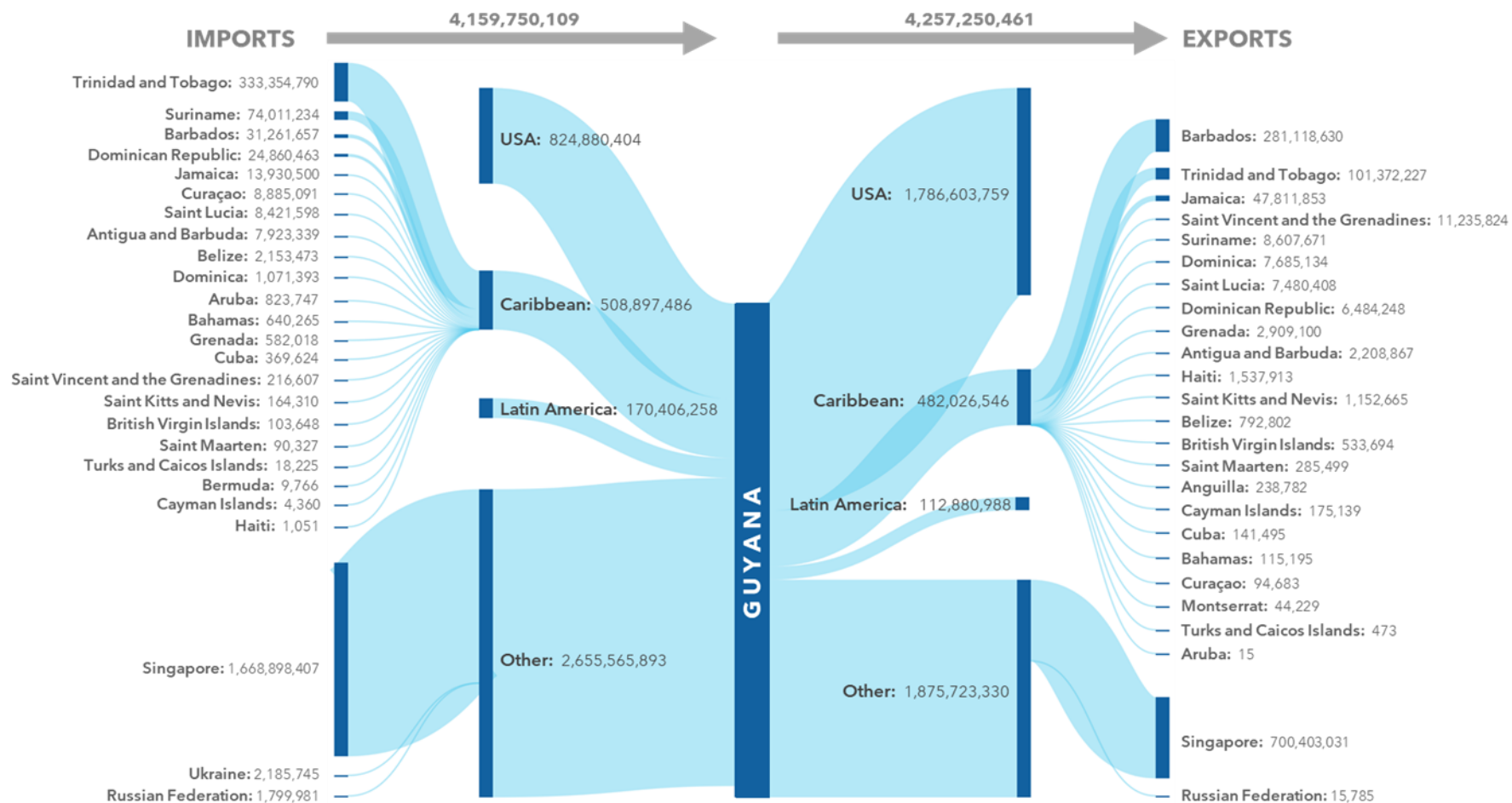
Source: FAOSTAT



# Context | Guyana trade flows

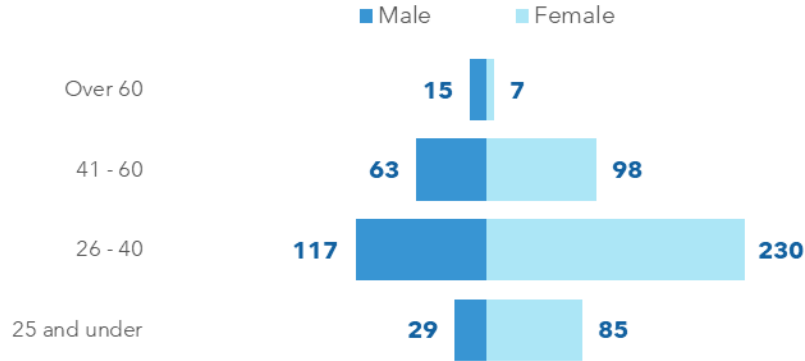
Import and export of all commodities in Guyana in 2021, based on US\$ value

Source: UN Comtrade



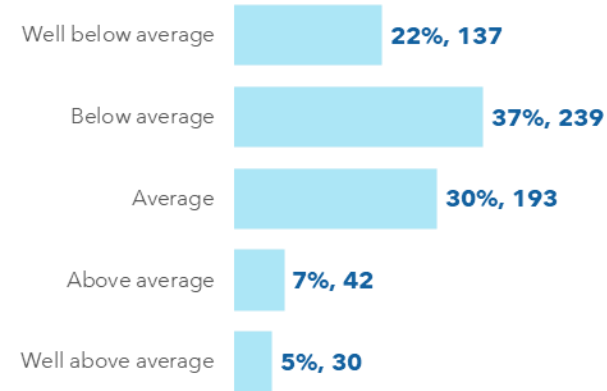
# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

## Age and sex

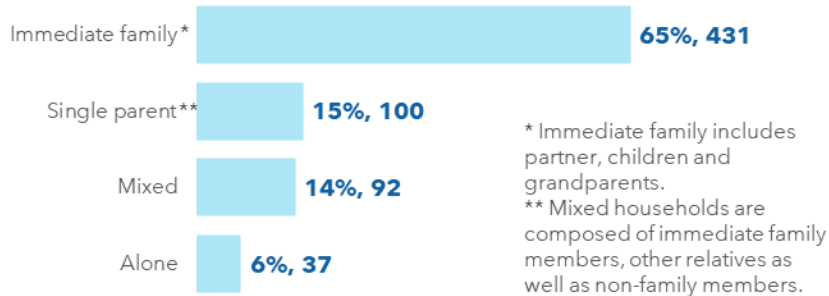


## Perceived income levels

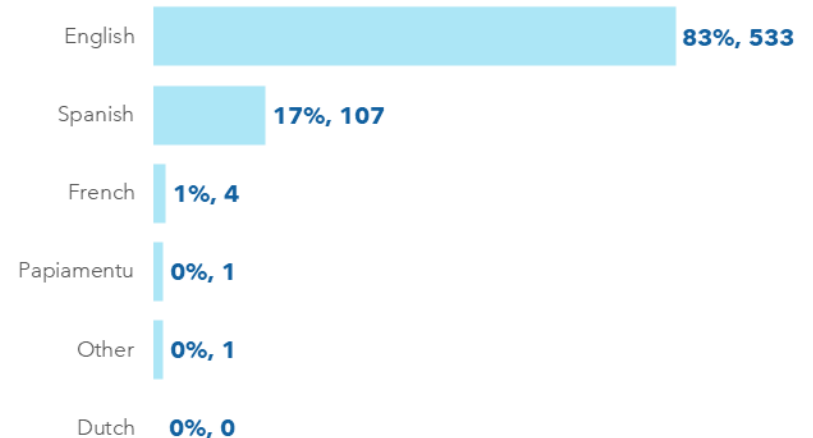
Respondents were asked to compare their household's income with the rest of their country.



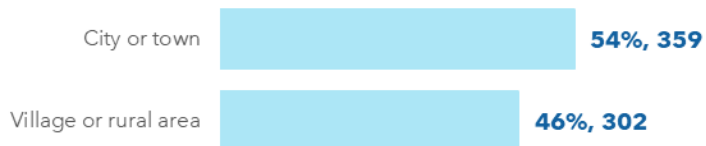
## Household composition



## Language



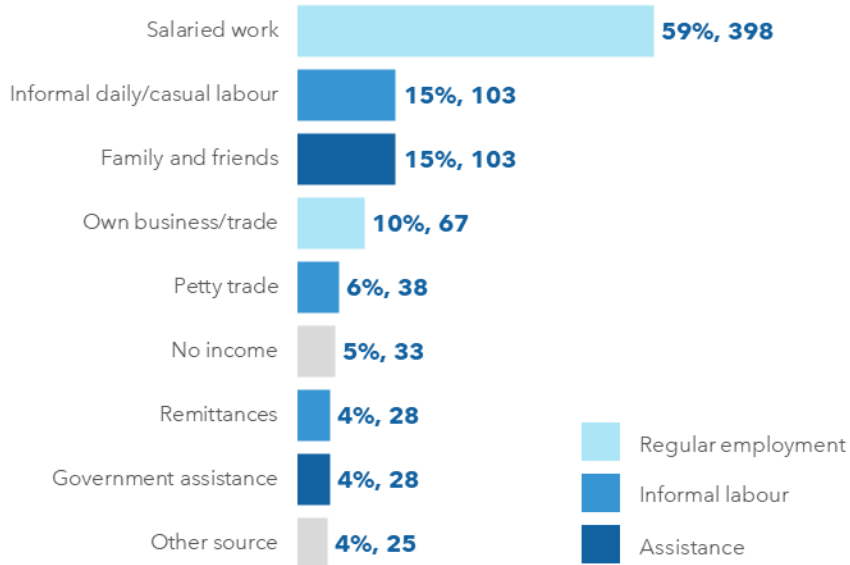
## Urban/rural location



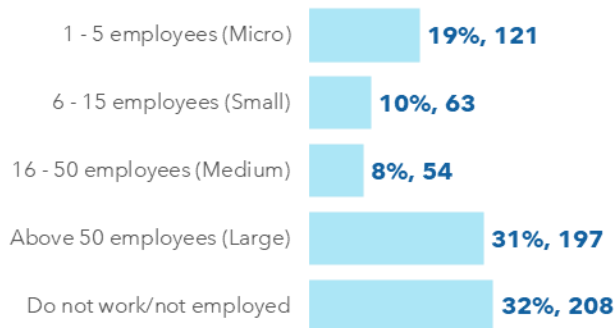
# RESPONDENTS | Demographics

## Main income sources

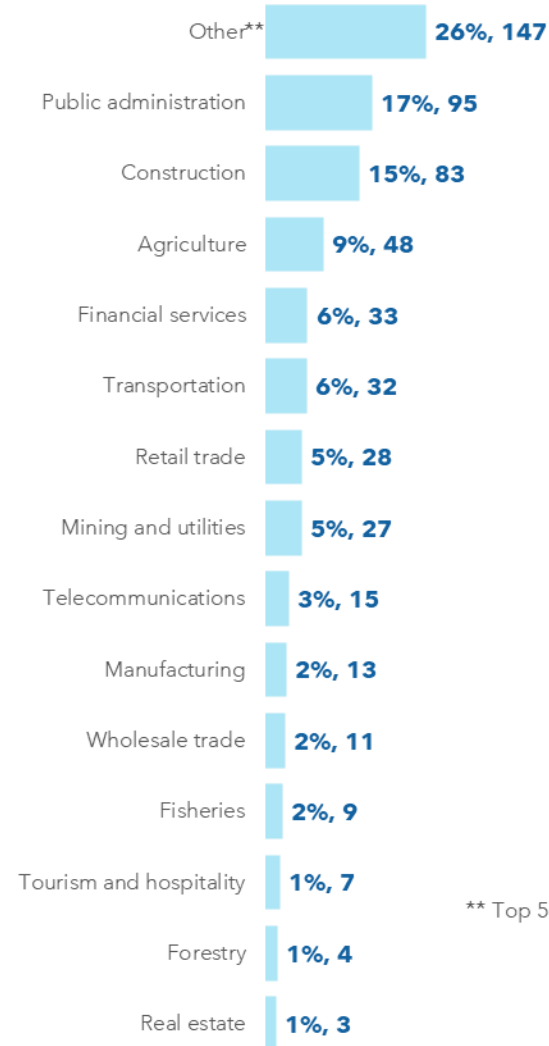
Respondents were asked to indicate the main income source(s) for their household. Multiple choices could be selected.



## Size of employment business or organisation



## Main income sector\*



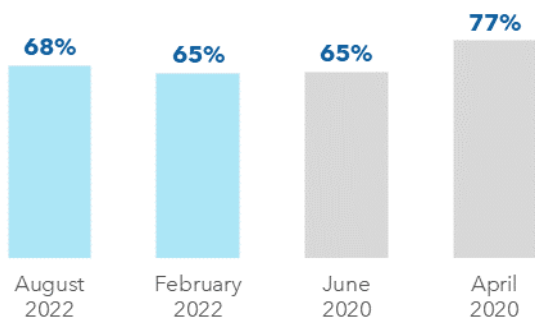
\* The percentages were calculated for the respondents that indicated having an income.

\*\* Top 5 sectors chosen under "Other":  
Education, teaching  
Health, medicine  
Domestic work, cleaning  
Security, enforcement  
Government

# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

- ▶ Impacts to livelihoods remain widespread, with over two thirds of respondents reporting disruptions.

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



*"Well no one in my household didn't work for pass 6 month and we just taking out saving to payroll and groceries." - Female, 27, Guyana*

*"I was unable to do my regular domestic work cause most individuals wouldn't let you into their homes to assist them in their house chores" - Female, 30, Guyana*

*"I'm the sole provider had to work extra hours just to make ends meet" - Female, 29, Guyana*

*"The disruption of the covid 19 affect my children from school affect me from not working ,and change in maintaining my family up to date" - Female, 35, Guyana*

For over two thirds of respondents, the ability to pursue their livelihood was compromised in the two weeks prior to the survey. This proportion remains similar to February 2022 and June 2020 (65%) but lower compared to April 2020 (77%). Livelihood disruptions seem more widespread in Guyana compared to the regional average (55%).

Most impacted by livelihood constraints in Guyana were households with well below (75%) or below (70%) average income levels, compared to the higher income households (64% of average and 60% of above or well above average income households). Correspondingly, those relying on informal labour (72%) or assistance (70%) were also more affected compared to respondents deriving their income from regular employment (65%). Those working in agriculture (75%) or construction (73%) also appear to be more affected by disruptions than those working in other sectors (62%), however this finding should be treated with caution due to the low number of responses in these groups.

There are also significant differences in livelihood disruptions between different age groups of respondents. Those between 26 and 60 years old reported disruptions more often (68-71%) than respondents younger than 25 (57%) or older than 60 years (55%).

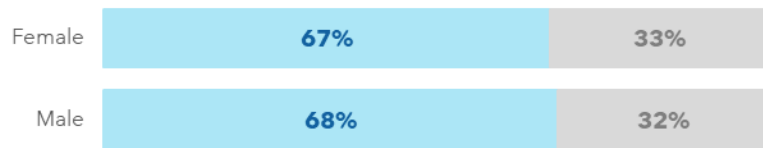
Less stark differences in livelihood disruptions were observed among different groups based on sex, locality, language or household composition.

# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

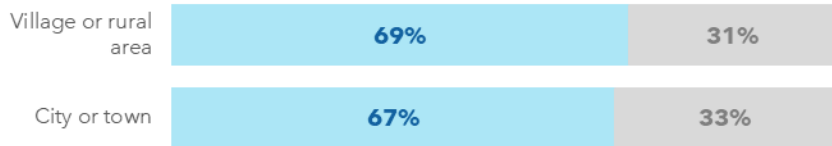
Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey

■ yes ■ no

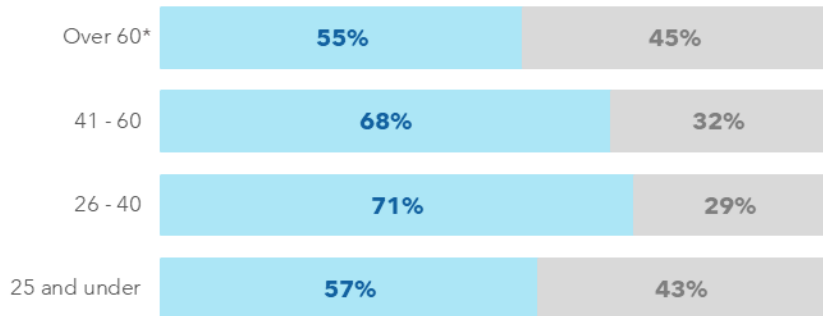
## By sex



## By urban/rural location

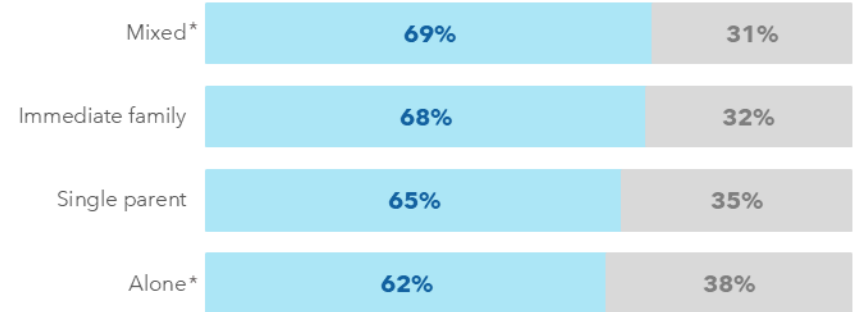


## By age group



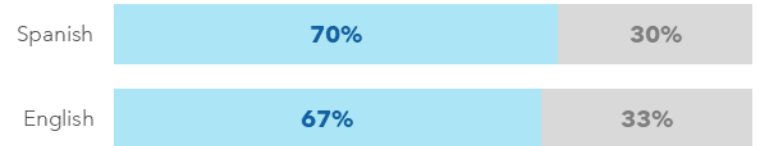
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

## By household composition

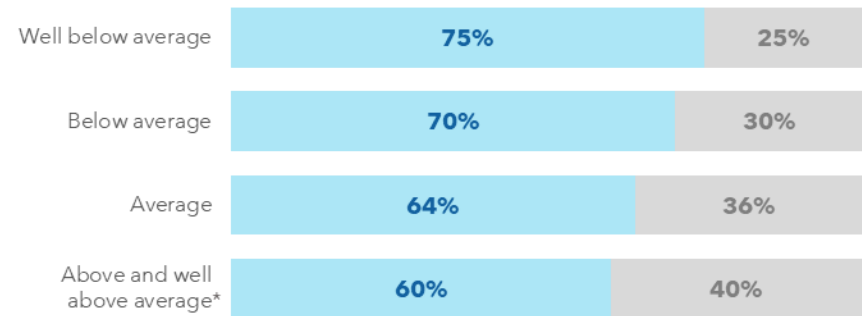


\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

## By language



## By perceived income level



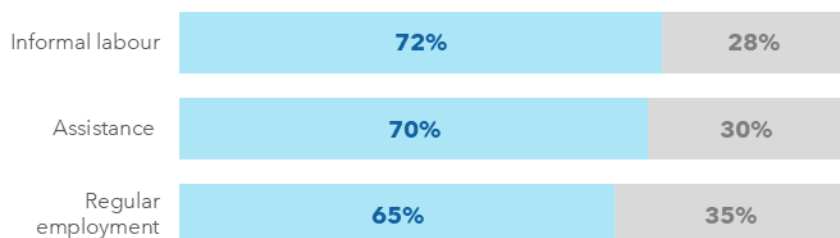
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

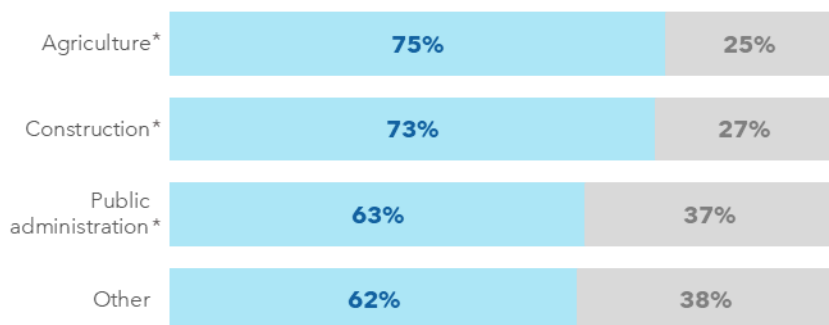
**Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey**

■ yes      ■ no

## By income sources



## By income sector



\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Covid -19 has destroyed my family it have been more than two years I have not work" - Male, 41, Guyana

"Well i was doing taxi work on the road to gain an additional income but had to stop because i care about my family and don't want them to get sick so i has to go into my savings to cope with the high cost of living" - Male, 42, Guyana

"Had to work extra hours and jobs to survive." - Male, 38, Guyana

"I had to learn to adapt how live on quarter my salary I use to work for a year ago." - Female, 41, Guyana

"Working days were cut short along with the hours on the days when I had to work." - Female, 42, Guyana

"Less movements around communities and the country at large, working 2 jobs to help in order to compete with the rising of prices for basic commodities(food, gas etc).."- Male, 31, Guyana

"I had to reduce the amount of food I buy . And have been doing taxi work part time." - Male, 25, Guyana

"I had to change job now I'll far from my children every month." - Female, 33, Guyana

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

- ▶ The unaffordability of livelihood inputs became largely the main factor behind livelihood disruptions.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

	Aug-22	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive	62%	43%	26%	18%
Increased demand for goods/services	28%	18%	15%	19%
Reduced demand for goods/services	16%	15%	22%	16%
Concerned about leaving the house due to outbreak	10%	38%	41%	19%
Transport limitations	10%	11%	18%	18%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	8%	10%	19%	12%
Adult members of the household are unwell	7%	12%	4%	0%
Movement restrictions	7%	24%	54%	34%
Other	6%	6%	16%	12%
No market to sell products	3%	4%	12%	10%

The main driver behind livelihood disruptions in Guyana in the two weeks prior to the August 2022 survey was the unaffordability or inaccessibility of livelihood inputs (reported by 62% of those that experienced livelihood disruptions). This factor has grown in importance compared to the previous survey rounds and is linked to wider trends related to supply chain disruptions and price rises in the Caribbean. The cost of livelihood inputs was also cited as the main driver for livelihood disruptions in the region by similar proportion of respondents as in Guyana (62%).

While respondents across all different characteristics seem to be affected by unaffordability of livelihood inputs in Guyana, English-speaking respondents reported this reason more often (64%) than Spanish speakers (46%). In addition, single parents and younger respondents also appear to be slightly more often affected by the too expensive inputs. However, no significant differences in this impact can be observed across sex or location of respondents.

Concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak and movement restrictions are declining in importance as disruptive factors, and are impacting significantly less respondents compared to the earlier phases of the pandemic. At the same time, increased demand for goods and services has notably grown as a reason for disruptions, particularly among younger respondents (35% of respondents younger than 26 years), mixed households (38%), those relying on income from informal labour (34%) and those living in rural areas (31%).

Differences across other reasons for livelihood disruptions are less significant.

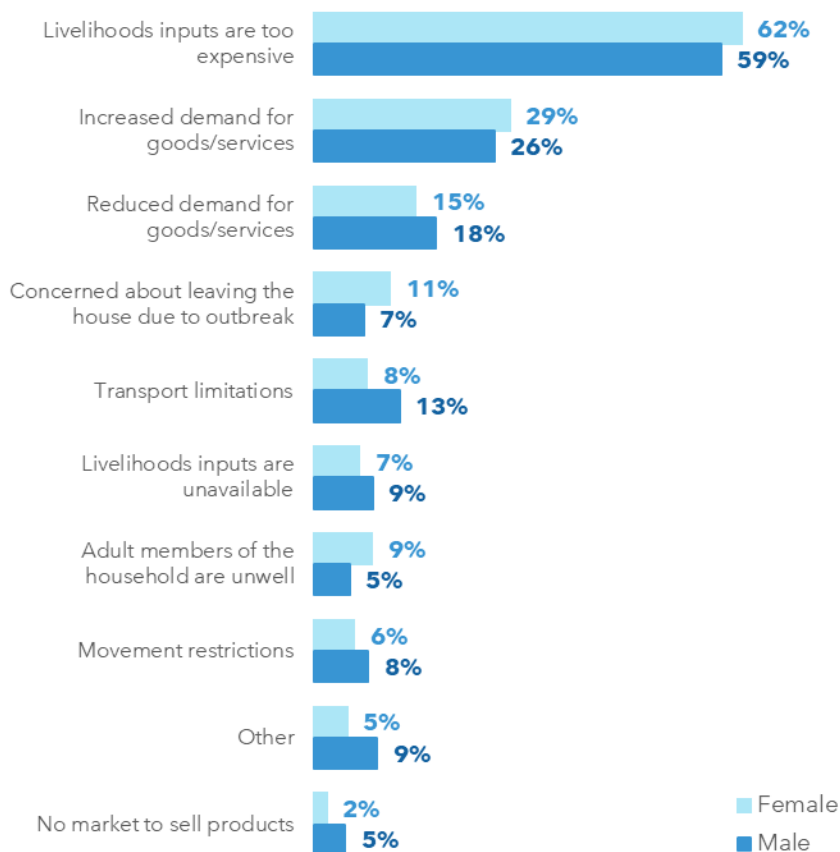


# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

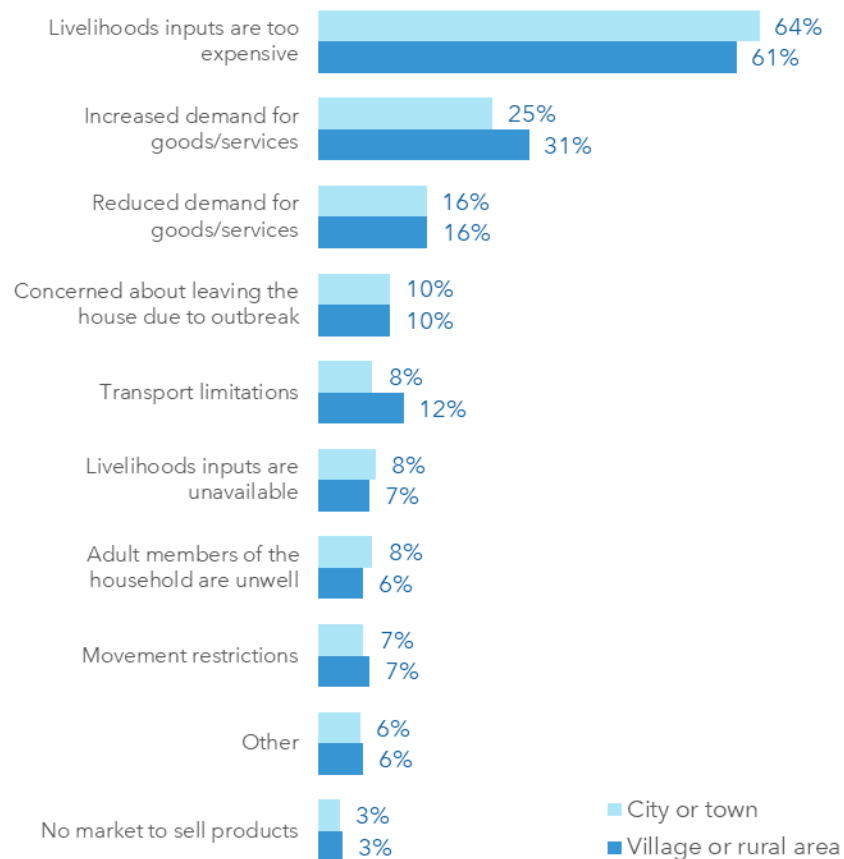
**For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...**

Multiple choices could be selected.

## By sex



## By urban/rural location

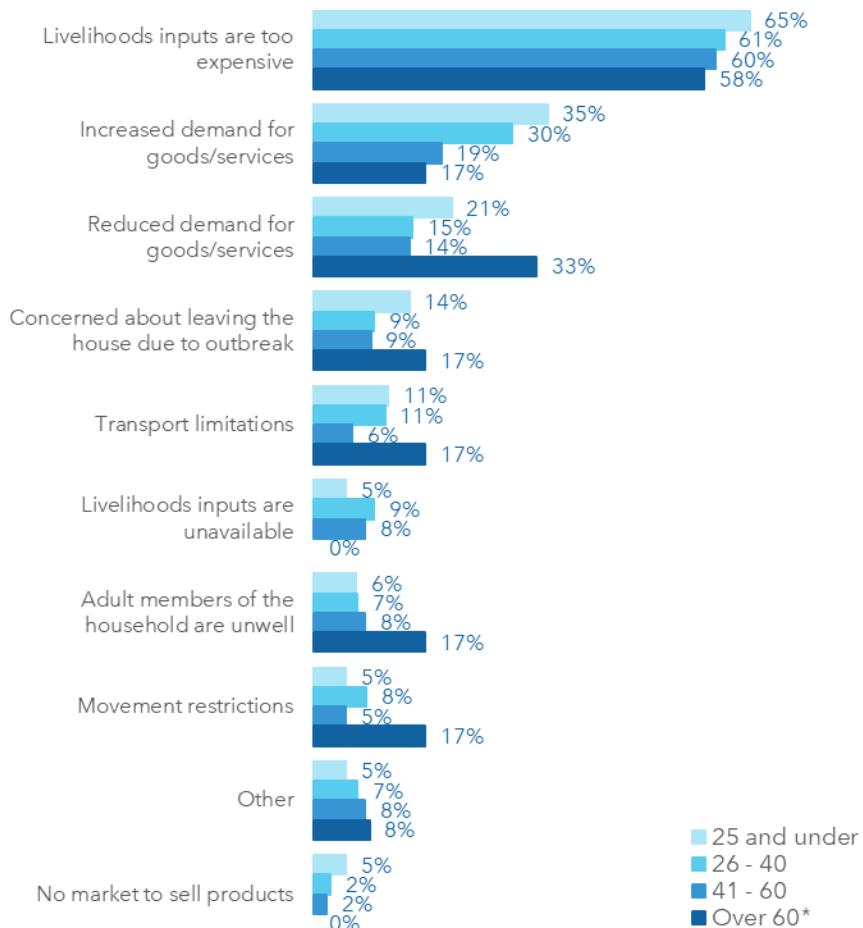


# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

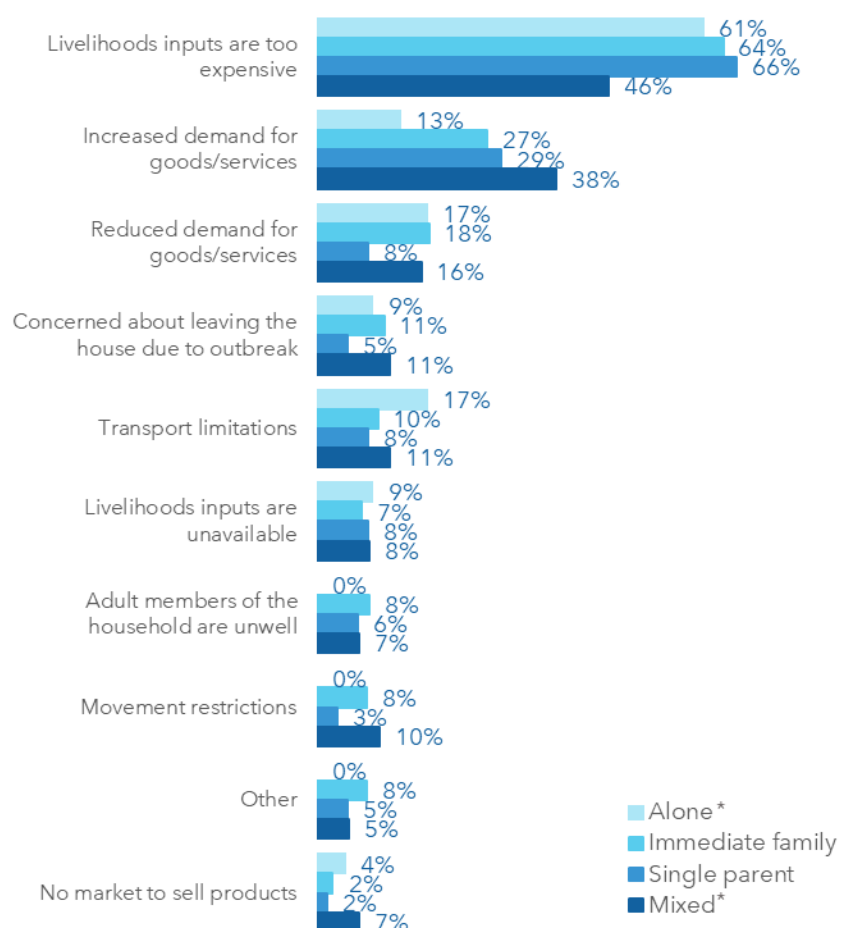
Multiple choices could be selected.

## By age group



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

## By household composition



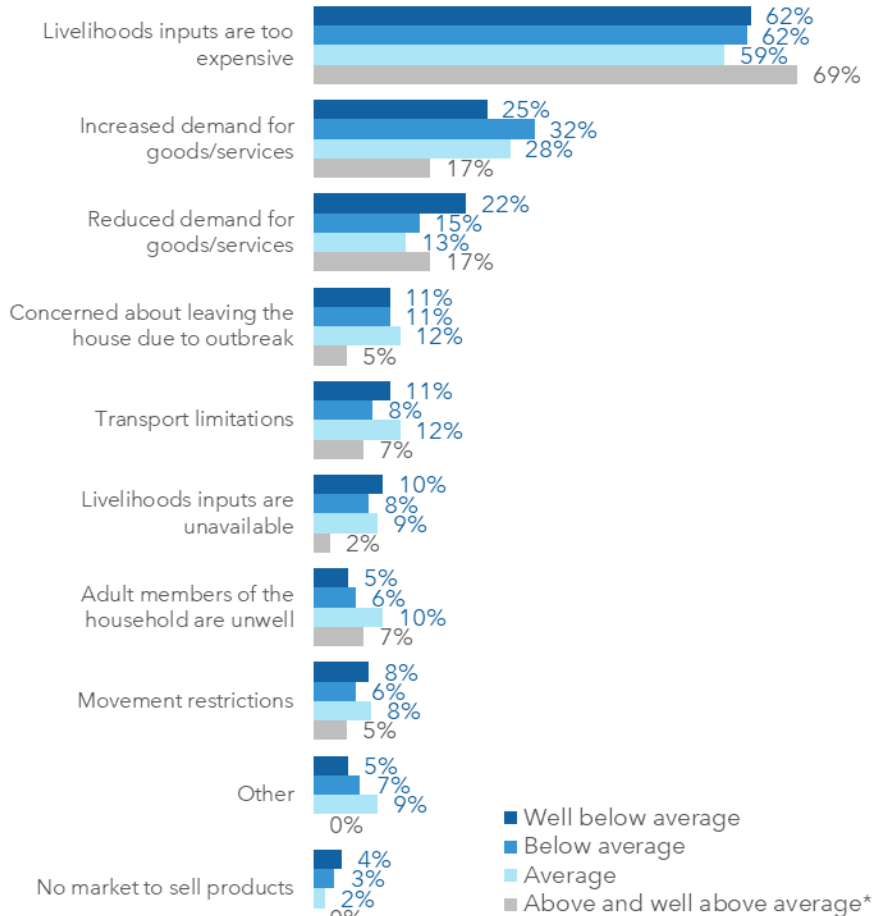
\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

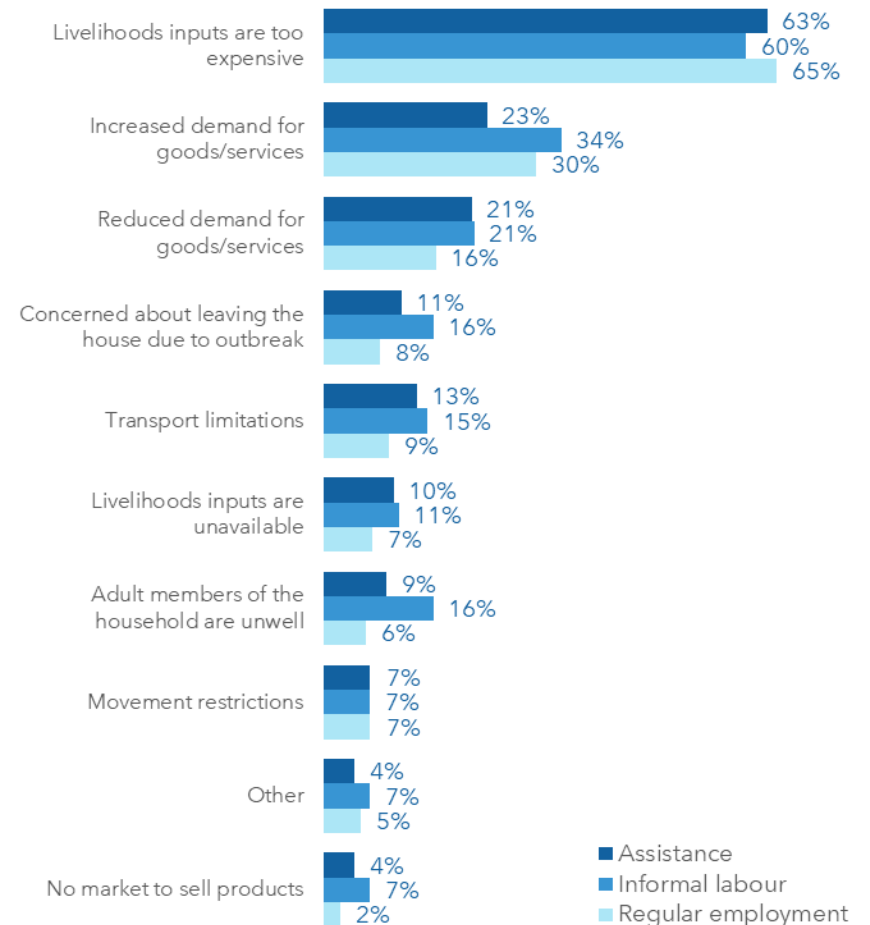
Multiple choices could be selected.

## By perceived income level



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

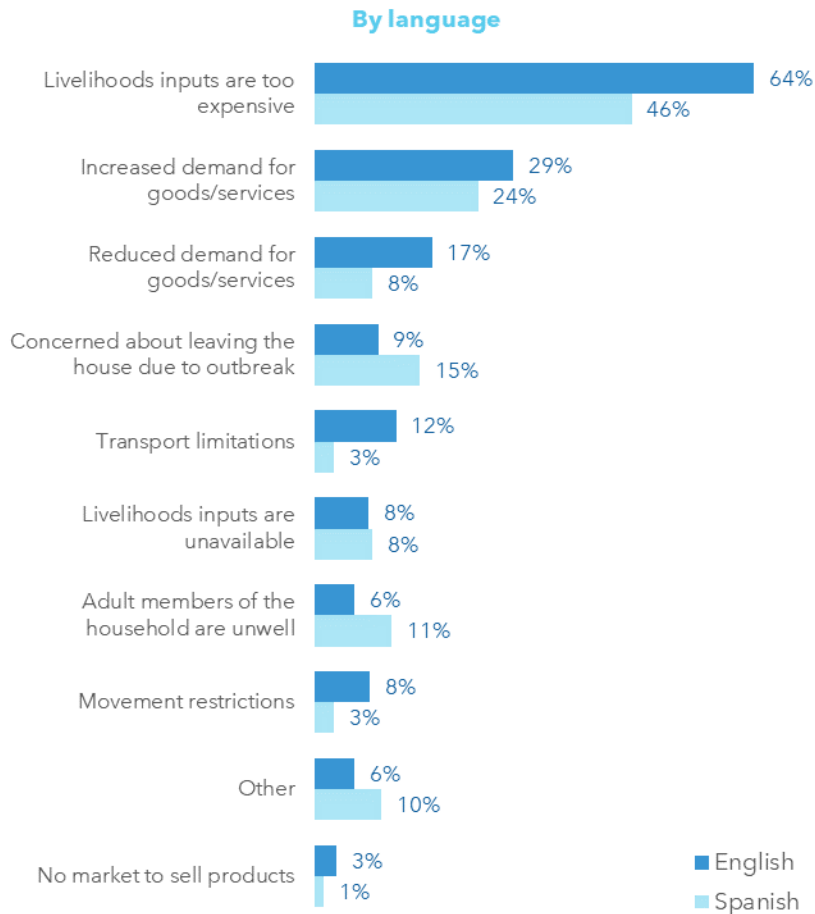
## By main income source



# LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



*"I have moved from my home town to look for job , and already changed three jobs for the year" - Male, 30, Guyana*

*"I lost my job September 29 of last year and have been doing odd jobs." - Female, 36, Guyana*

*"Lost my job and spent all my savings" - Male, 28, Guyana*

*"The rise of cost of living i had to go into saving to pay bills and buy food stuff for household" - Male, 34, Guyana*

*"Lost of job struggling to provide properly for myself and children" - Female, 40, Guyana*

*"My children lose their job so everyone have to live together to survive." - Female, 50, Guyana*

*"Loss my job and had the backing of family, till I found a new job." - Female, 45, Guyana*

*"Use to sell but no longer have the money to start selling and looking after my grandsons" - Female, 54, Guyana*

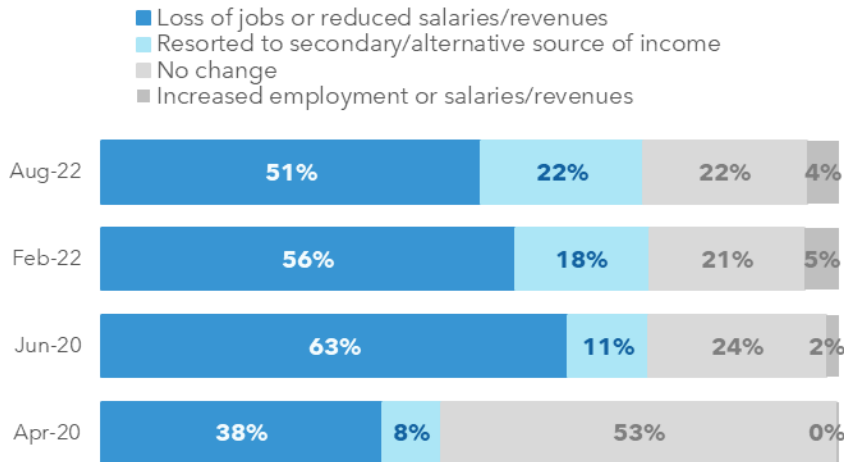
*"Due to covid 19 I have lost my business" - Female, 53, Guyana*

*"Largest disruption was caused by the rising cost of fuel" - Male, 28, Guyana*

# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

- ▶ Half of respondents have faced job loss or income reduction in their households. Additionally, respondents are also increasingly resorting to secondary sources of income.

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



*"I lost my business" - Male, 45, Guyana*

*"Being unemployed was my biggest challenge, i basically had to tap into survival mode. Not only for myself but my immediate family" - Male, 26, Guyana*

*"My husband lost his job due the pandemic. This brings tremendous burden on us because I'm a housewife. We solely depend on our family help." - Female, 23, Guyana*

Impacts on income as a result of the pandemic continue to be widespread in Guyana, with 51% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries in the last year. While this proportion has been slowly declining since June 2020, the proportion of those having to resort to secondary or alternative source of income has been increasing, suggesting the continuation of economic hardship. The overall trends of respondents in Guyana are similar to those in the region, where on average 54% of respondents experienced job loss or reduced salaries.

The starkest differences in responses were observed across language and income level groups. Job loss or reduced income was reported by more Spanish-speaking respondents (71%), compared to English speakers (47%). Job loss or reduced income was also reported by approximately two thirds of respondents describing their household income as below or well below average (61-63%), compared to a third of those with average income levels. Correspondingly, those relying on informal income sources also reported loss more frequently. On the other hand, it appears that those with higher income more often resorted to secondary income sources or even increased their income.

Important differences were also observed across age, sex and household composition groups. Job and income loss was more widespread among female respondents (55%) and respondents under 26 years old (67%). However, male respondents (27%), respondents older than 25 (23-29%) and single parent households (30%) were on the other hand more likely to complement their earnings with a secondary income source.

Less noticeable differences were observed across locality of respondents.

# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

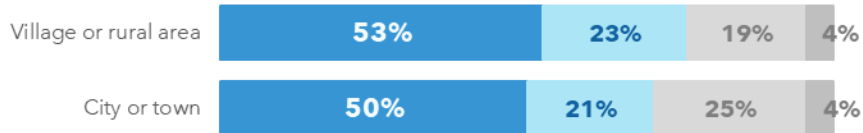
## Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

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

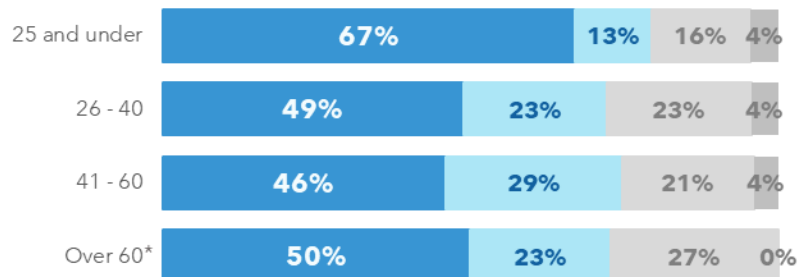
### By sex



### By urban/rural location

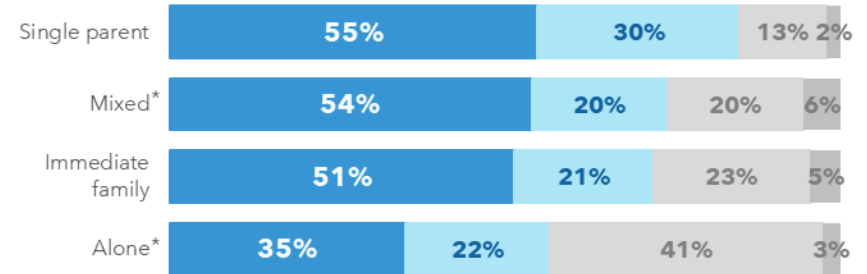


### By age group



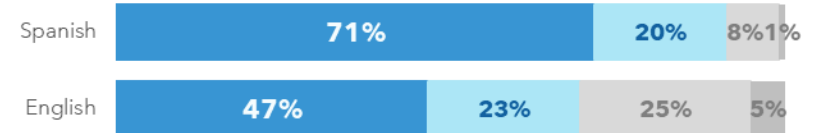
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

### By household composition

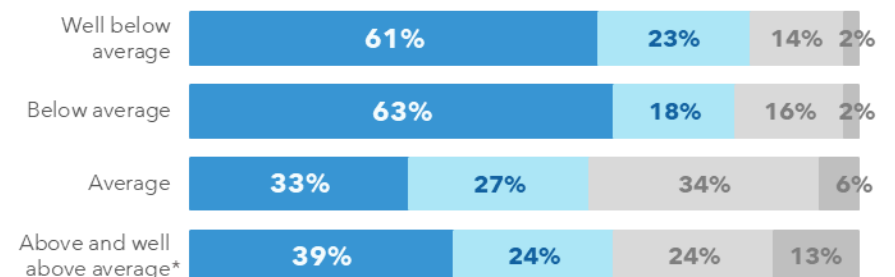


\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

### By language



### By perceived income level



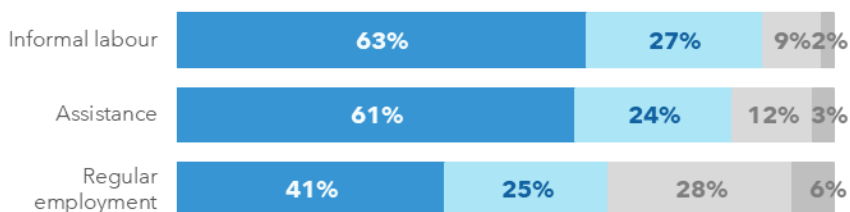
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

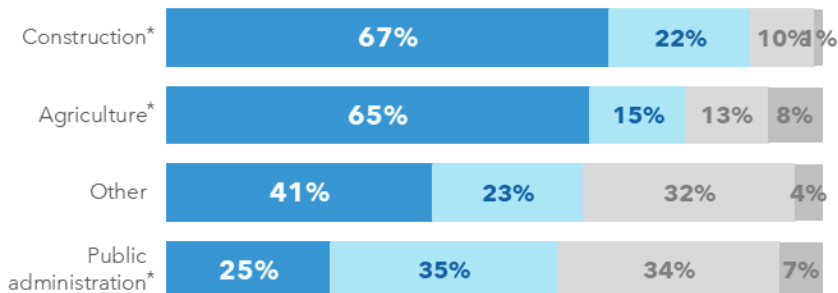
## Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

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

### By income sources



### By income sector



\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Reduced farming,, trying to adapt" - Male, 58, Guyana

"I've been affected by decrease in my income which lead to struggling to keep up with household expenditures." - Male, 28, Guyana

"Had to work extra hours and jobs to survive." - Male, 38, Guyana

"It has affected me severely which means I haven't got enough food in my house cause of us being isolated" - Female, 32, Guyana

"Find alternative ways to earn" - Female, 32, Guyana

"Tried getting multiple jobs" - Male, 31, Guyana

"I was in a low income job now I'm in a better job." - Female, 38, Guyana

"Lost of job" - Female, 23, Guyana

"Loss of my job, less cash spending" - Male, 28, Guyana

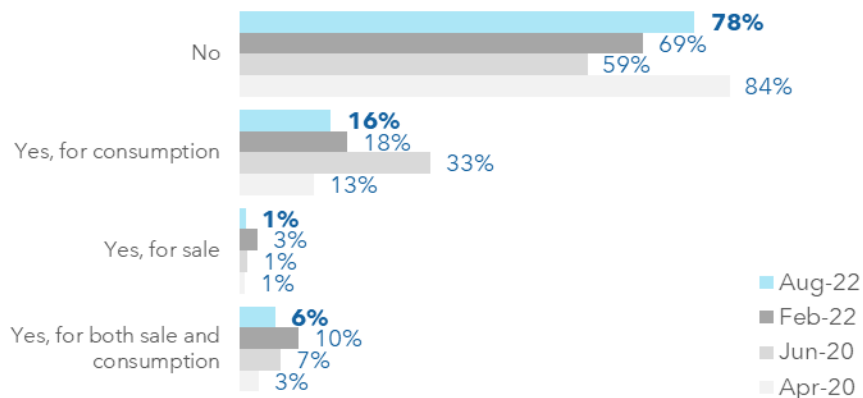
"Increase Job lost within the township." - Female, 43, Guyana

"I was laid off so I'm looking for a job" - Female, 28, Guyana

# LIVELIHOODS | Farming

- ▶ Over one in four respondents are engaged in farming or livestock raising, with a large majority reporting price increases in livelihood inputs.

Is your household engaged in farming/livestock raising?



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

Multiple choices could be selected.

	Aug-22	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Vegetables	71%	72%	84%	68%
Poultry	40%	42%	29%	38%
Banana/plantains	28%	30%	27%	34%
Rice	12%	15%	7%	11%
Small ruminants	11%	8%	1%	9%
Corn	9%	11%	1%	4%
Other	6%	4%	7%	11%
Large ruminants	4%	2%	3%	2%
Swine	3%	6%	4%	4%
Pulses	3%	7%	3%	9%

About one out of five respondents reported being engaged in farming, gardening or livestock raising. These activities are primarily for household consumption, with vegetable growing, poultry farming and banana/plantains production being the main farming and livestock raising activities. Over a third the respondents engaged in farming cultivate their crops on small plots of land (under 0.5 acres). A large majority of respondents engaging in farming or livestock raising derive their household income mainly from regular employment (78%), 22% derive their income from informal labour and 16% from assistance.

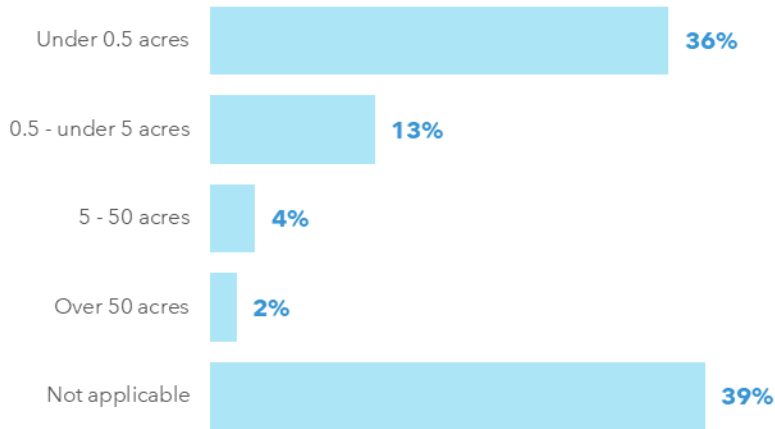
Female respondents more often reported that their households engaged in farming or livestock raising solely for their own consumptions (74%) than male respondents (64%). Male respondent more frequently reported that their households engaged in these activities for a combination of sale and own consumption (33%) than female respondents (22%). Similarly, respondents from wealthier households also appear to be more often engaged in farming and livestock raising for the purpose of own consumption than less wealthy groups which in turn more often resorted to a combination of sale and own consumption.

Majority of respondents engaged in farming and livestock raising noted increases or significant increases in the prices across all livelihood inputs. Around a half of these respondents reported significant increases in fertilizer (52%) and animal feed (49%) prices in the 6 months prior to the survey. Over a third of respondents also observed significant increases in the price of labour (48%), arable land (36%) and tools or machinery (33%). At the same time, over half of respondents that engaged in farming or livestock raising reported an increase or a significant increase in the amount of animal feed (67%) and fertilizer (56%) being used, and in the types of crops grown (51%) in the 6 months prior to the survey.

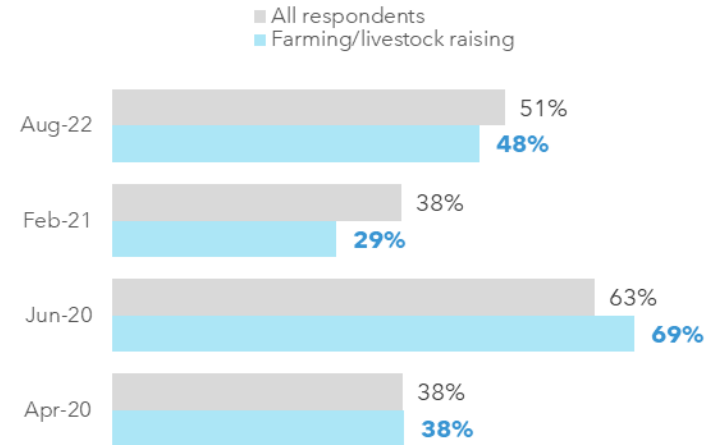


# LIVELIHOODS | Farming

**What is the size of land on which you cultivate crops?  
For those that engage in agriculture/livestock raising**



**Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues among respondents engaged in farming/livestock raising**



"The change I made is to have a kitchen garden. And mind some chicken for house hold use" - Female, 33, Guyana

"Planting a little more kitchen garden" - Male, 57, Guyana

"The cost of everything, sky-rocketed. Which has affected everyday life, for everyone." - Male, 21, Guyana

"Spend less and eat less" - Female, 21, Guyana

"I've been affected by the rising cost of living I've started a kitchen garden to ease the expenses of vegetable" - Female, 26, Guyana

**Food situation among respondents engaged in farming/fishing**

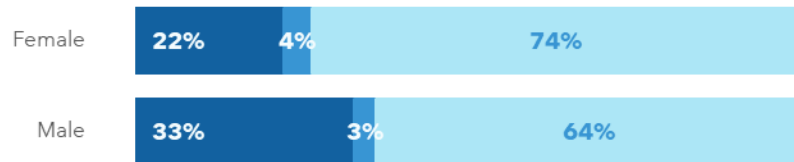


# LIVELIHOODS | Farming

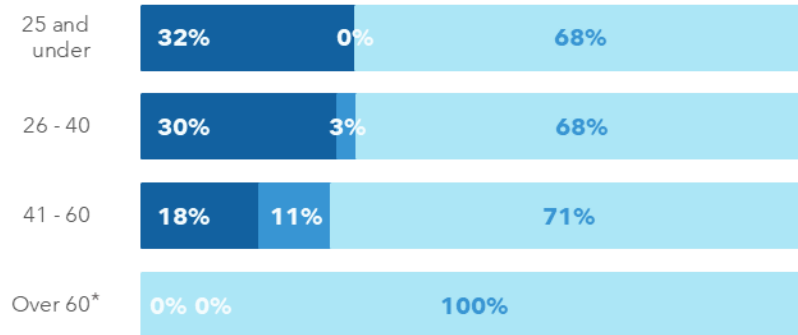
## Households engaged in farming/livestock raising

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

### By sex

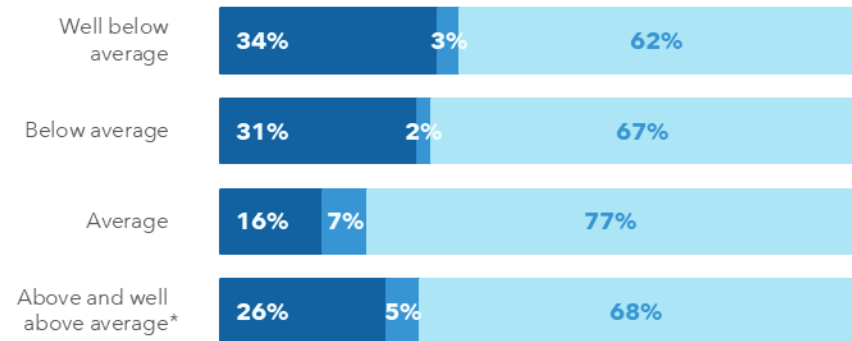


### By age group



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

### By perceived income level



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

"I had to rely on friends and family for assistance" - Female, 30, Guyana

"Since covid 19 cost of living increase an I'm not getting to over grounds to provide enough for my family" - Female, 25, Guyana

"It just really been hard" - Female, 40, Guyana

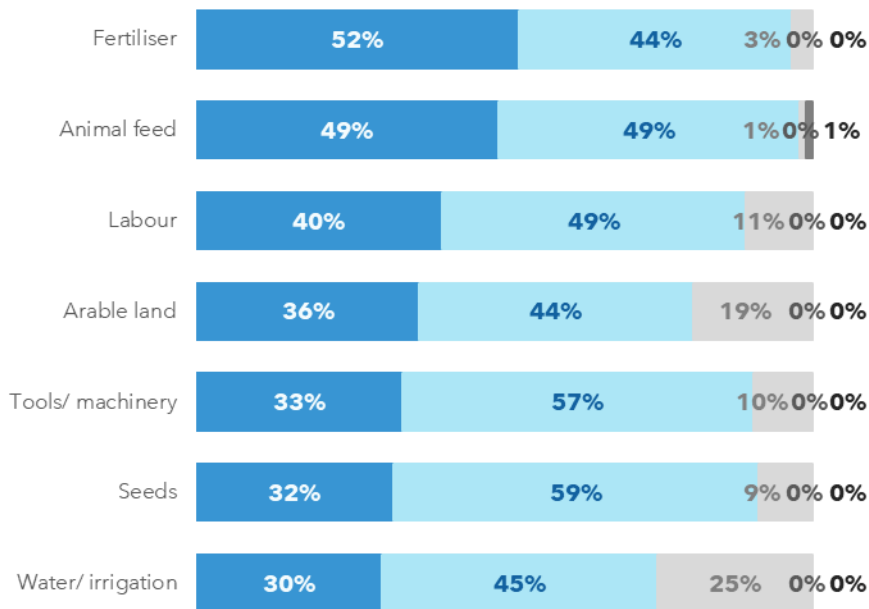
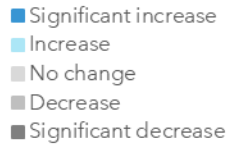
"Moved from double income per month to single income per month." - Male, 42, Guyana

# LIVELIHOODS | Farming

## Have you observed any change in the costs of the following agriculture inputs in the last 6 months?

For those that engage in agriculture/livestock raising

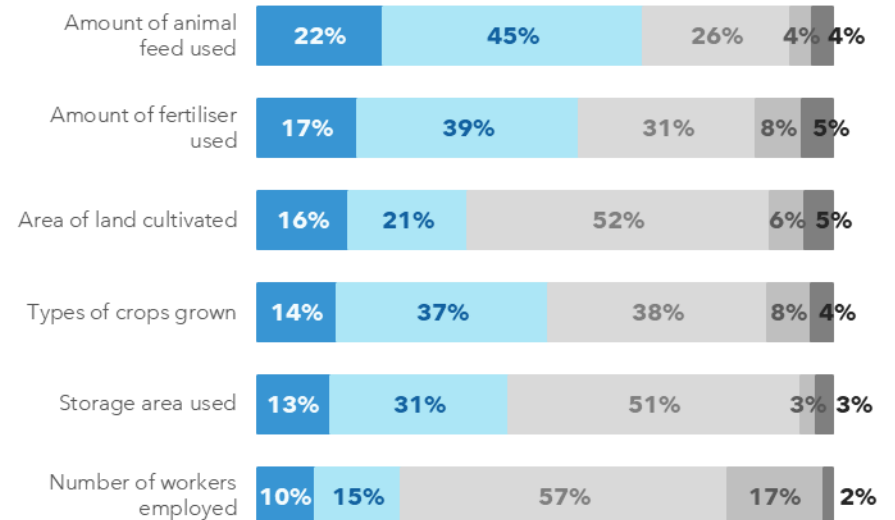
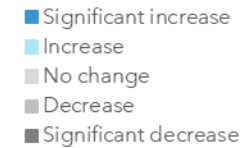
Percentages were calculated only for those respondents engaged in farming that responded to this question and did not select the "Not applicable" option.



## Has any of the following aspects of farming/livestock raising changed for you in the last 6 months?

For those that engage in agriculture/livestock raising

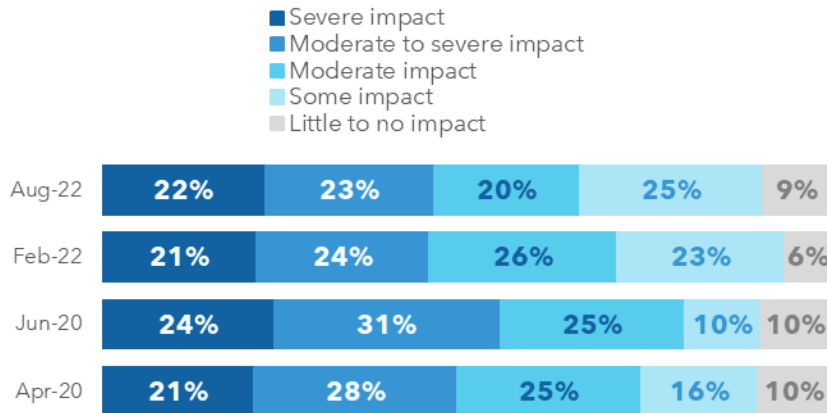
Percentages were calculated only for those respondents engaged in farming that responded to this question and did not select the "Not applicable" option.



# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

- ▶ Almost half of respondents anticipate severe or moderate to severe impacts on their livelihoods, with the lowest income households expecting the most severe impacts.

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



*"Children was unable to attend school." - Female, 25, Guyana*

*"Going to school in small numbers and on rotation" - Male, 30, Guyana*

*"Business had dropped significantly in my area." - Male, 41, Guyana*

*"Loss of family and friends" - Female, 31, Guyana*

Respondents continue to expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will negatively impact their livelihoods in the future. Looking ahead, 47% anticipate "moderate to severe" or "severe" impacts to their livelihoods, which is very similar to the prior survey round and to the regional average (50%). Only 9% expect little or no impact.

The perspective of respondents with different levels of income varied substantially. Respondents with the lowest income anticipated the most severe impacts to their livelihoods. Of those with income levels perceived as well below average, 38% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, which is substantially higher than the 17-19% of respondents with higher household incomes.

The perspective of respondents from different age and household composition groups also varied substantially. Respondents under 26 years old were noticeably less pessimistic in terms of future livelihood impacts with only 14% expecting severe future impacts compared to 23-24% for respondents older than 25 years. Those living with their immediate or mixed family were also less pessimistic (19-20% are expecting severe impacts) compared to single parents or those living alone (31-32%).

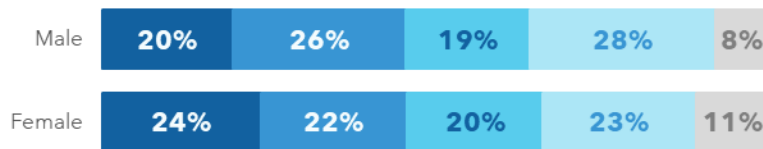
Less significant differences can be also observed across language, locality, sex, and income sources. English-speaking respondents, female respondents, those living in urban areas, and those relying on assistance appear to report severe future livelihood impacts slightly more frequently.

# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

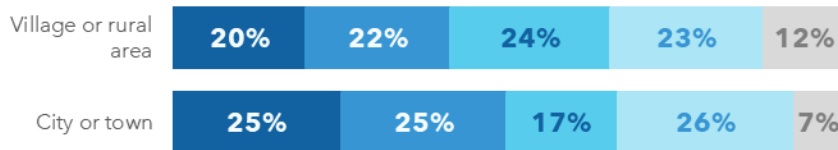
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

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

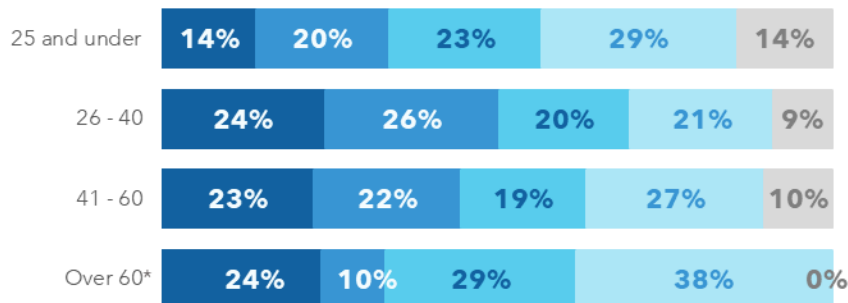
## By sex



## By urban/rural location

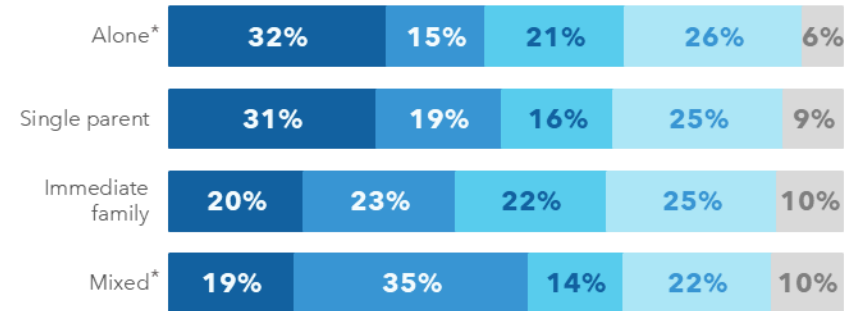


## By age group



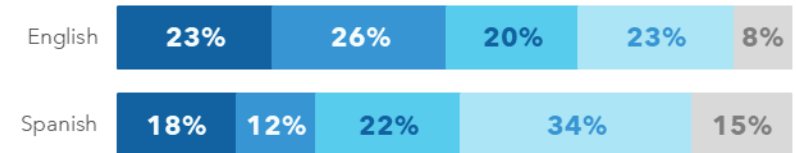
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

## By household composition

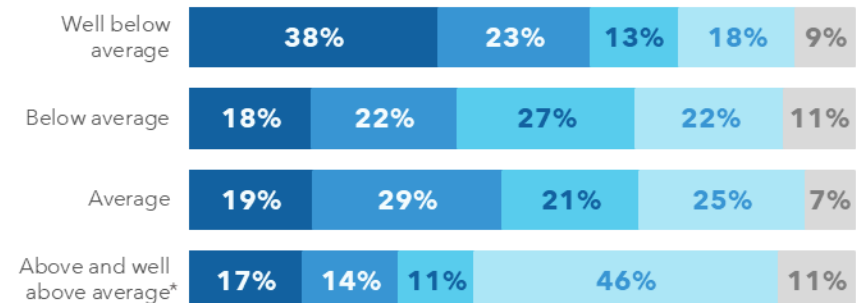


\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

## By language



## By perceived income level



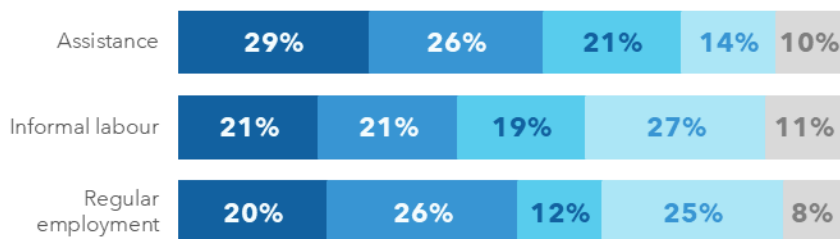
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

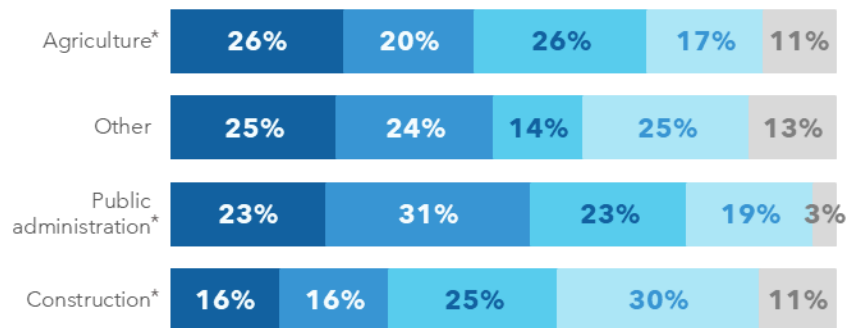
## How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

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

### By income sources



### By income sector



\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Been isolated scared to go around. More cleaning be careful with the kids and most of all with kids home is like walking up the walls" - Female, 51, Guyana

"Unable to save money" - Male, 26, Guyana

"Loosing my job n confine to a mask as long as I'm on the road" - Female, 41, Guyana

"Give up social life" - Male, 27, Guyana

"Movement restrictions" - Female, 31, Guyana

"I was laid off so I'm looking for a job" - Female, 28, Guyana

"Social life-style and eating habits" - Female, 48, Guyana

"Introvert behaviour due to being isolated for 2 years." - Male, 34, Guyana

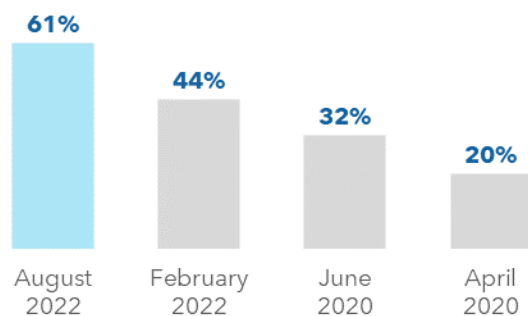
"Covid19 affects us a lot over the past year" - Female, 50, Guyana

"Restriction of movements" - Female, 57, Guyana

# MARKETS | Access

- ▶ Market access has worsened and is now a challenge for over half of respondents.

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



*"The prices increase on everything" - Female, 31, Guyana*

*"Everything gets more expensive an my salary isn't enough" - Male, 31, Guyana*

*"Increase in prices of necessary material and gas prices" - Male, 24, Guyana*

*"I am not able to do proper shopping due to covid and because I have a baby and transportation are not very clean ." - Female, 22, Guyana*

The combination of shocks continues to impact market access, with 61% of respondents stating that they were unable to access markets in the seven days prior to the August 2022 survey. In line with regional survey results, people's access to markets has worsened compared to previous survey rounds, with the proportion of respondents who experienced market access problems reaching the highest levels thus far. As described in more detail in the next section, households' challenges in accessing markets are clearly linked to limited financial means and declining incomes. Market access disruptions affect a slightly larger proportion of respondents in Guyana than at the regional level (49%).

When comparing respondents' market access in Guyana, the most marked differences are found across income levels and sources. Market access challenges were most widely experienced by respondents with the lowest income levels, as reported by 79% of those who describe their household income as well below average. In comparison, only 45% of those with a perceived average income faced market access constraints. Correspondingly, market access problems were more common among those relying on assistance (77%) or informal labour (62%) compared to respondents with regular employment (54%).

Differences in market access can also be found based on respondents' first language and their sex. Market access problems were more frequently reported by Spanish-speaking respondents (72%) than by English-speaking respondents (59%) . Similarly, female respondents were more likely to report market access problems (65%) than their male counterparts (54%).

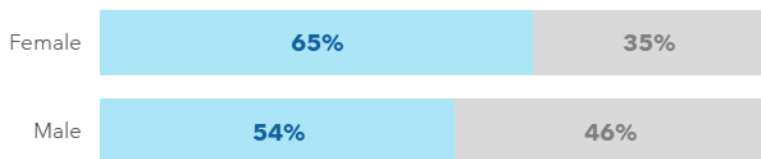
By contrast, no major differences in market access can be seen across age groups or between respondents from rural and urban areas.

# MARKETS | Access

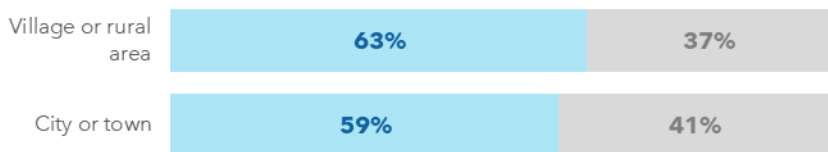
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

■ yes ■ no

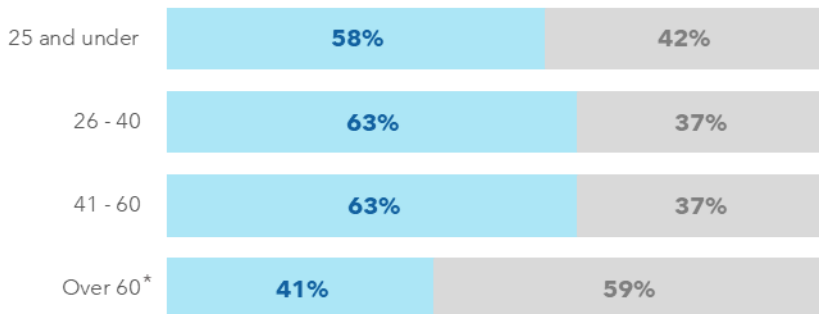
## By sex



## By urban/rural location

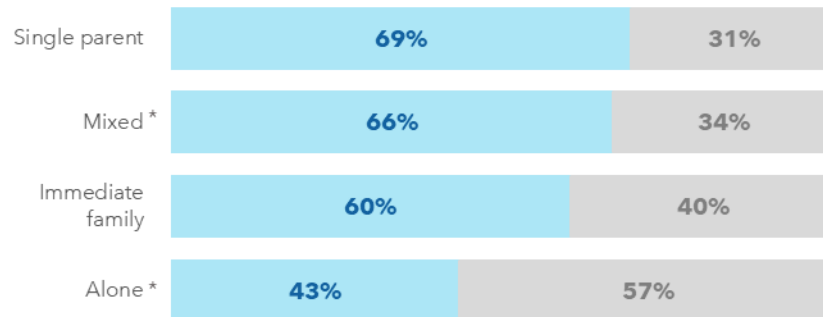


## By age group



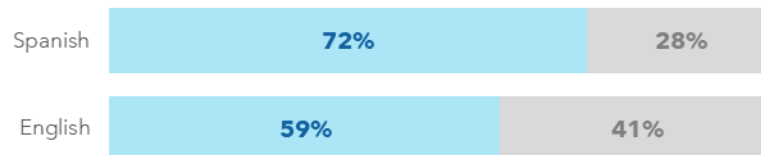
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

## By household composition

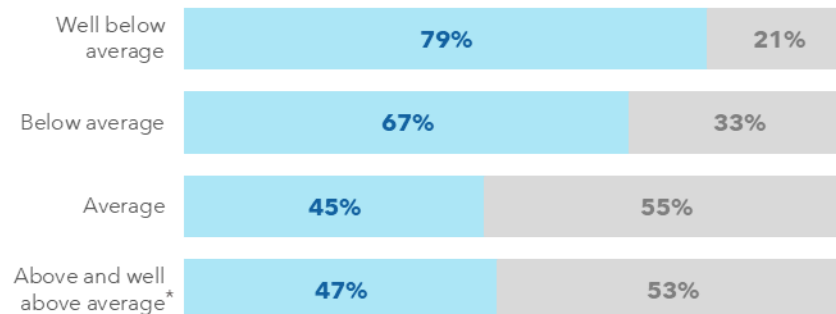


\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

## By language



## By perceived income level



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

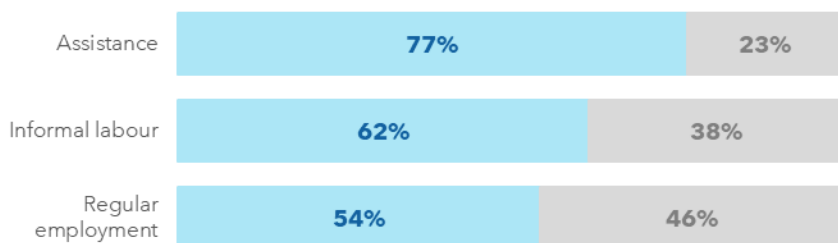


# MARKETS | Access

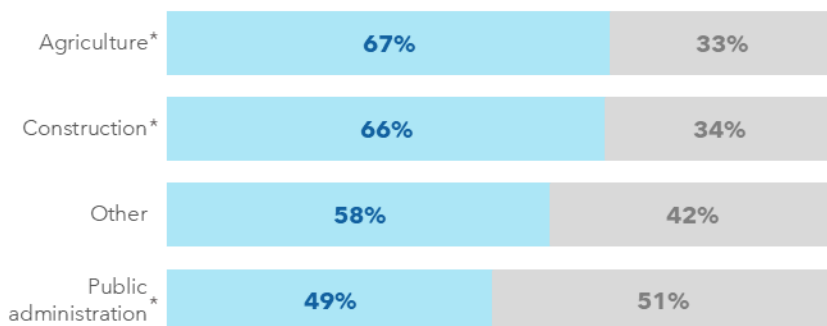
**In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?**

■ yes    ■ no

## By main income source



## By income sector



\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Food items and all other items have tremendously increased in prices" - Male, 29, Guyana

"All cost has gone up, it's almost 3yrs with Covid ppl have g9ne numb to it. Due to oil prices transportation and everything that surrounds it is pretty expensive." - Female, 34, Guyana

"Cost of living is rising" - Male, 19, Guyana

"Minimise spending. Socialise less" - Female, 47, Guyana

"cost to living is too high" - Female, 23, Guyana

"Unable to provide healthy food for my children, because i am a single parent" - Female, 40, Guyana

"Unable to have savings, which will a problem in case of emergencies, such as medical, etc. Had to adapt to only purchasing cheap basic needs and forego healthy foods, which cannot afford" - Female, 46, Guyana

"Not getting paid enough to afford cost of living because of covid." - Female, 24, Guyana

"It had been real tough I had to battle through" - Male, 29, Guyana

"My husband not have a permanent job and the cost of living on the rise" - Female, 39, Guyana

# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

- ▶ Lack of financial resources remains the main barrier to accessing markets.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

	Aug-22	Feb-22	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of financial means*	93%	82%	14%	3%
Concerned about leaving the house	5%	22%	37%	74%
Transport limitations	4%	8%	21%	21%
Other	4%	7%	7%	9%
Adult members of the household were unwell	3%	6%	4%	3%
Markets/grocery stores closed	2%	5%	33%	52%
Security concerns	1%	4%	14%	19%
Movement restrictions	1%	5%	26%	22%
Adult members of the household were self quarantining	0%	10%	2%	14%

\* 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.

Lack of financial means continues to be the primary factor limiting market access in Guyana, as indicated by 93% of respondents who faced a time when they could not access markets in the week prior to the survey. This trend is similar to the Caribbean region as a whole, where the lack of financial means remains by far the biggest obstacle to households' market access. Similar to the region as a whole, the main reasons for market access problems have shifted since the early months of the pandemic from widespread concerns about the disease and the closure of shops to lack of financial means emerging as the main barrier to market access. Accordingly, in August 2022, only 5% of respondents who experienced market access problems in Guyana cited concerns about the disease as the reason, down from 74% in April 2020.

The lack of financial means is by far the main reason for market access problems in Guyana, irrespective of respondents' sex, age group, income level and source, first language, household composition, and location in urban/rural areas.

There are some minor differences in the reasons for market access problems between Spanish- and English-speaking respondents who experienced difficulties accessing markets in the week prior to the August 2022 survey. Spanish speakers were slightly more likely to cite the lack of financial means (97%) as a barrier than English speakers (91%). At the same time, transport limitations were mentioned as a market access barrier slightly more often by English speakers (6%) than by Spanish speakers (0%).

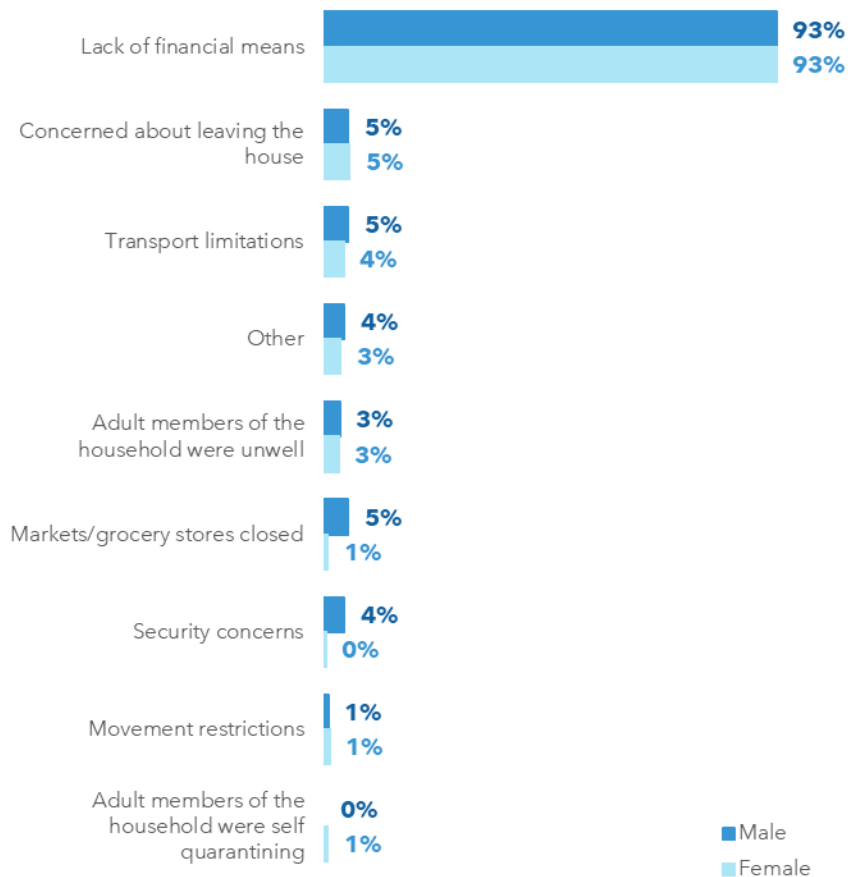
No significant differences can be seen in the reasons for market access difficulties based on respondents' income level and source, sex, age group, household composition or location.

# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

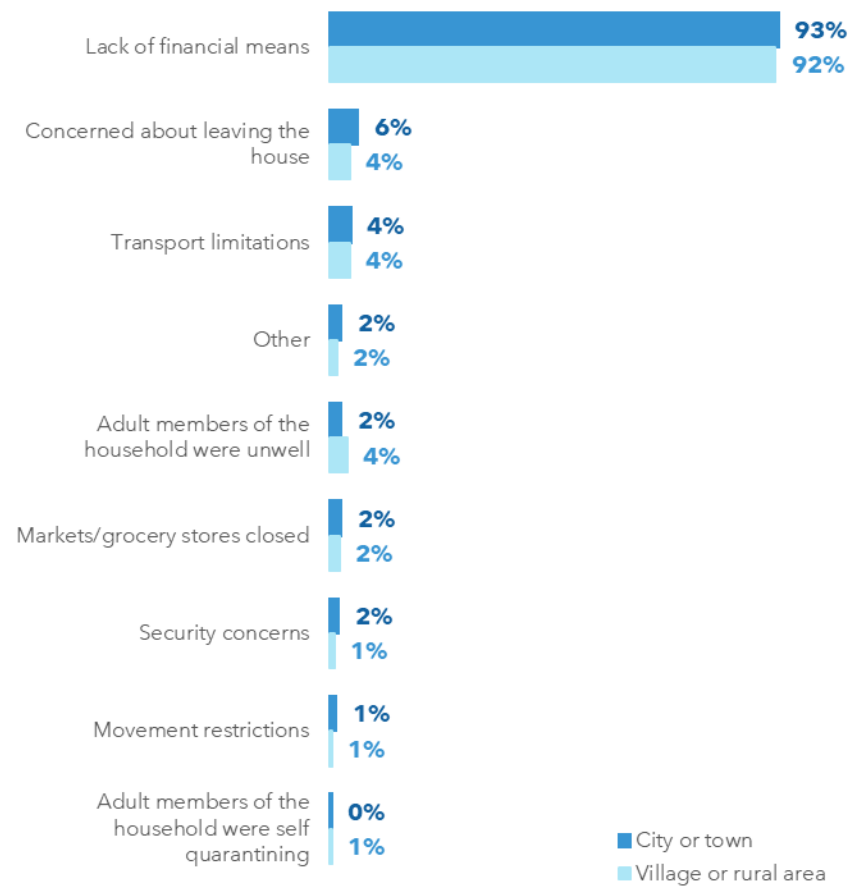
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

## By sex



## By urban/rural location

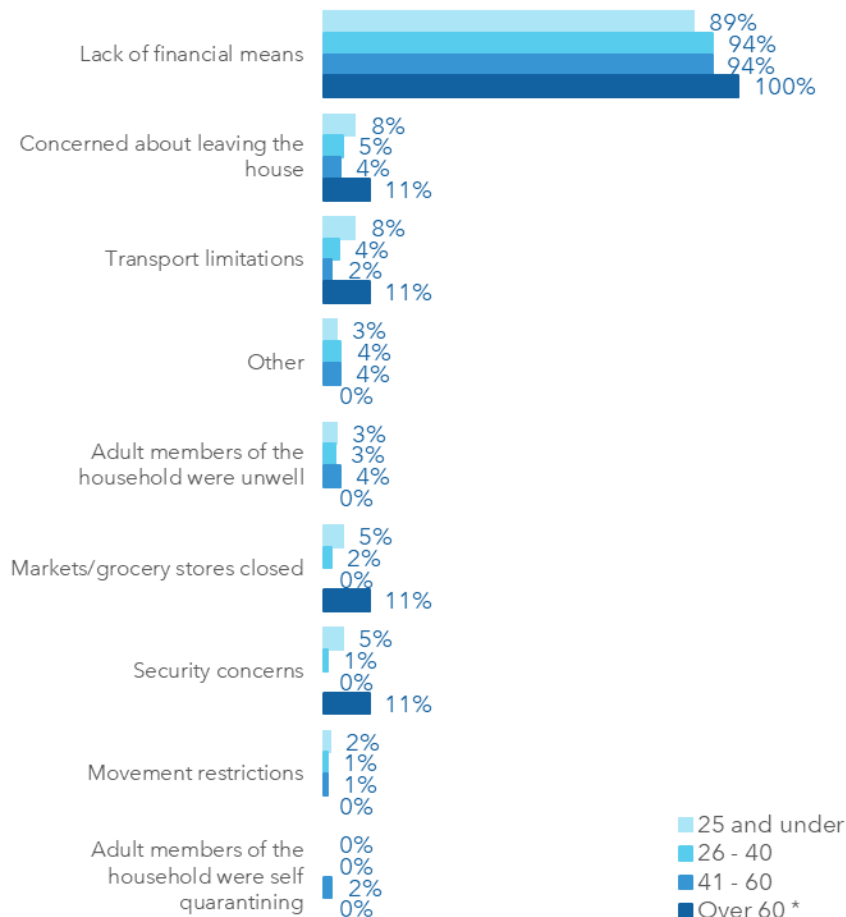


# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

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

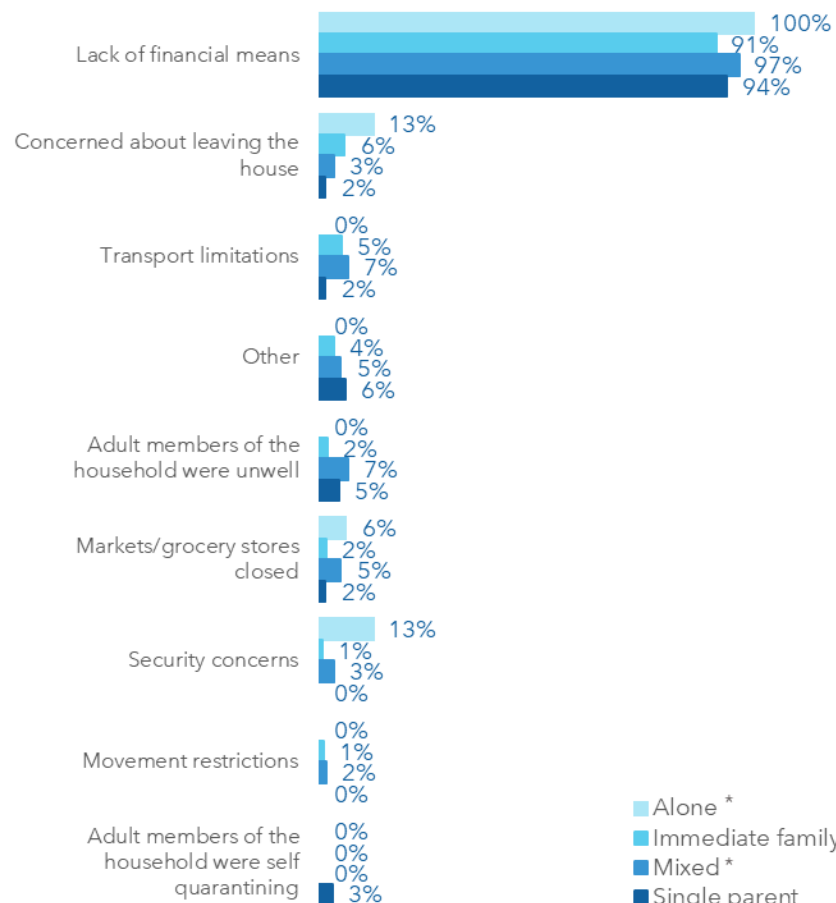
Multiple choices could be selected.

## By age group



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

## By household composition



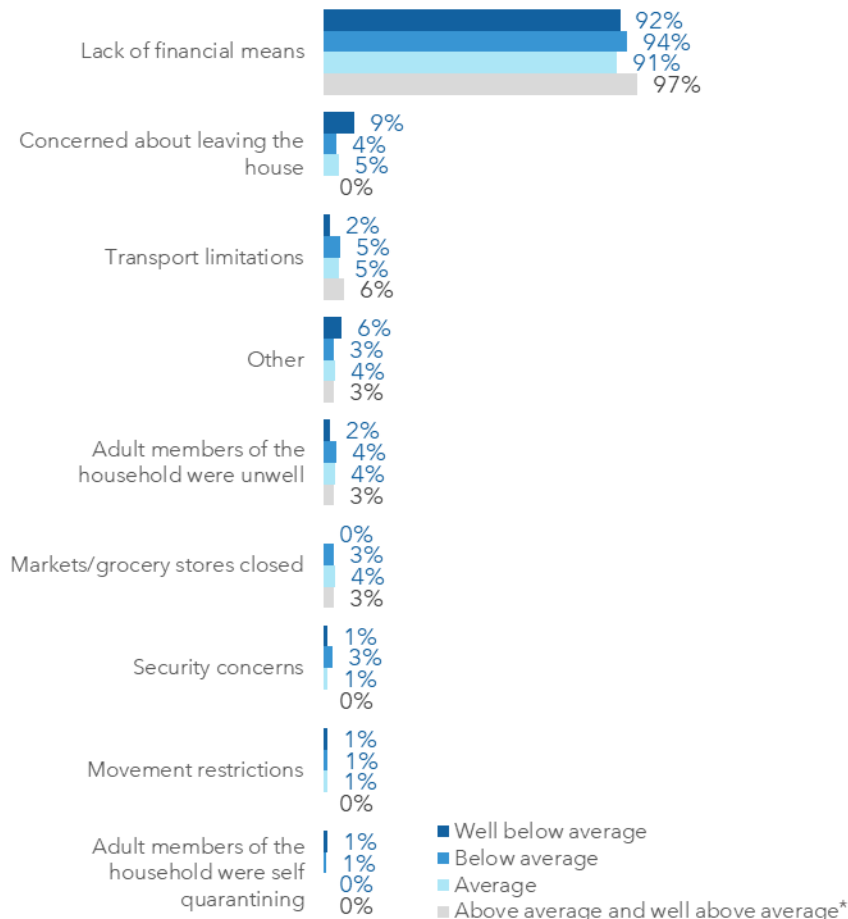
\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

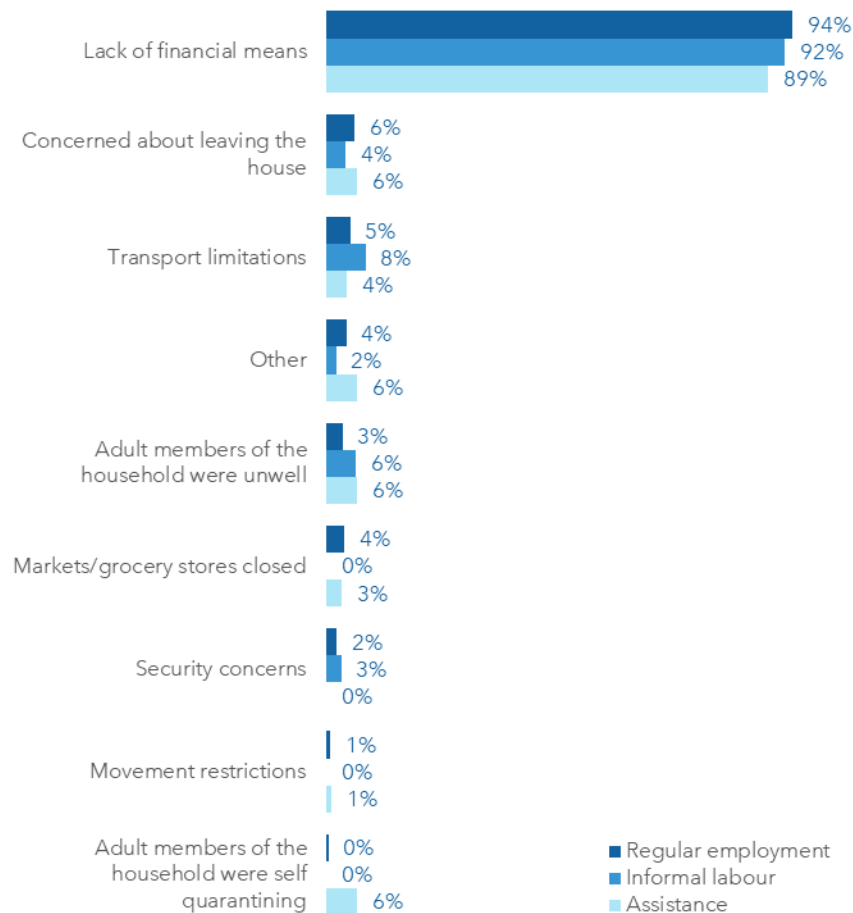
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

## By perceived income level



## By main income source



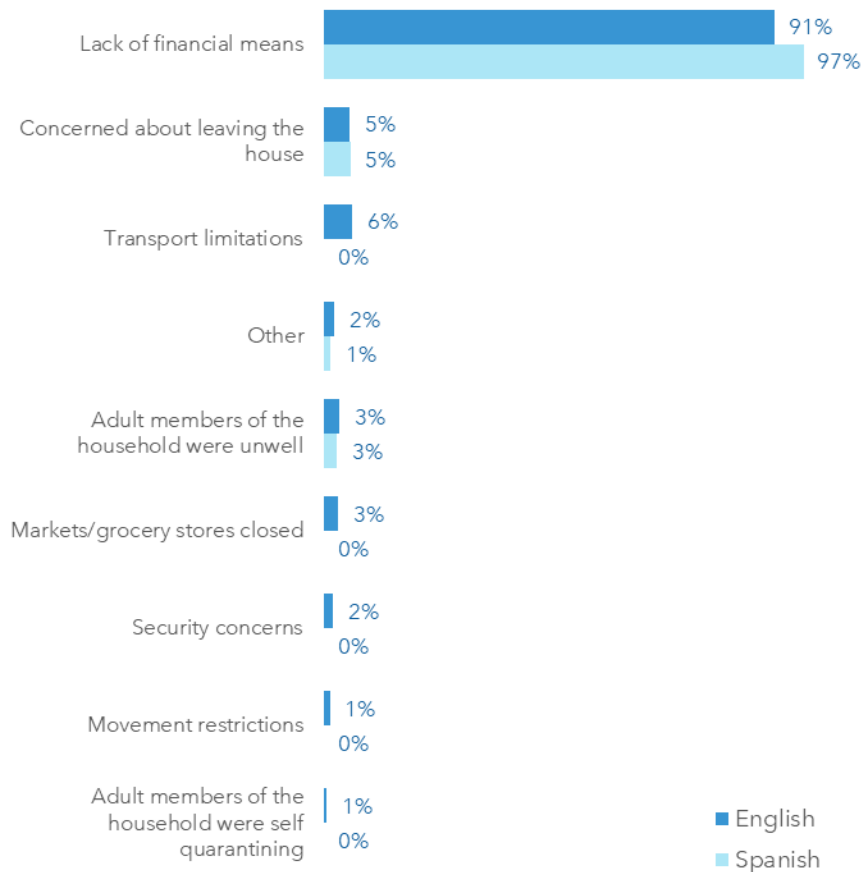
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# MARKETS | 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 language



"Essential items (gas, transportation, food) the increasing cost have affected the way i shop and how much I can provide for my family." - Male, 33, Guyana

"Honestly the food crisis has been more effective than the COVID 19 and the minimum wage of just merely \$60,147 when rent alone is 30,000" - Female, 32, Guyana

"The rise of cost of living I had to go into saving to pay bills and buy food stuff for household" - Male, 34, Guyana

"Financial problem in getting salary on time and for food" - Female, 41, Guyana

"Food increase , food shortage" - Female, 25, Guyana

"With the increase of prices had to stop buying extra food stuff and just purchase basic needs." - Male, 24, Guyana

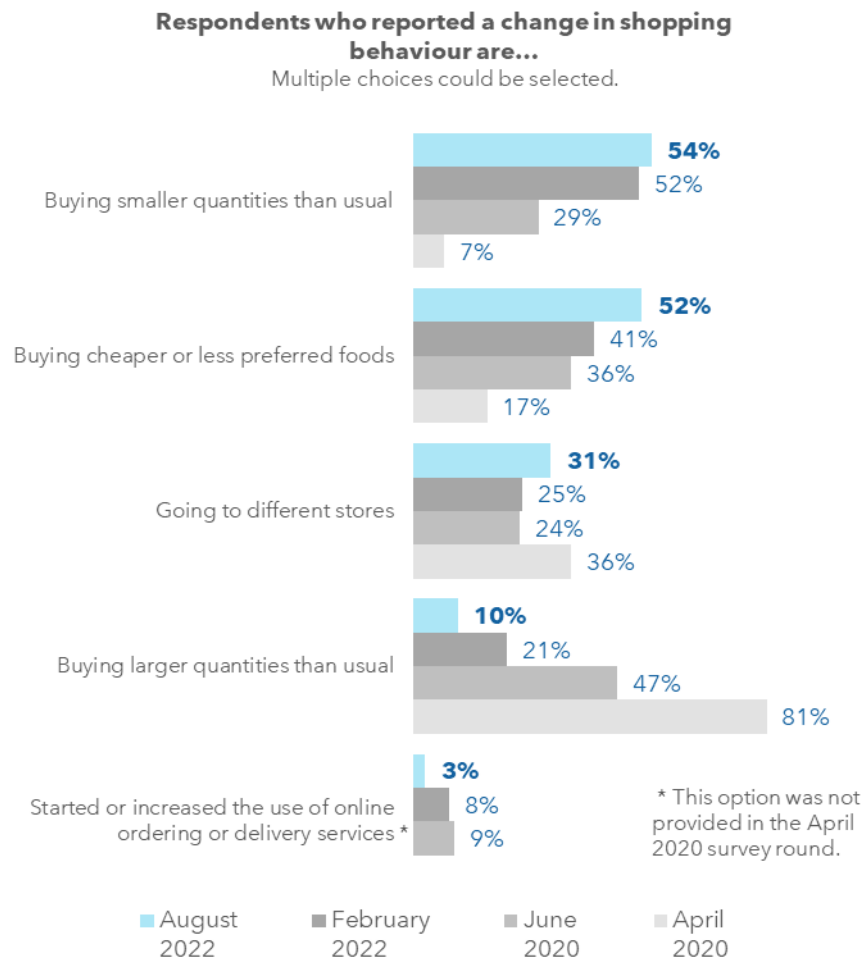
"The disruption and changes that I have from COVID-19, I was very fearful for my live and my lives one also don't enough money for food, health care needs etc." - Female, 34, Guyana

"Loss of income has caused us to cut back a lot on food and other necessities" - Female, 54, Guyana

"Cost of living, i.e. Food supply, rent increased by landlord, cost for water rates increased, medical expenses" - Female, 24, Guyana

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

- ▶ Respondents continue to adapt by buying cheaper foods and smaller quantities than usual.



The cost of living crisis and the pandemic continue to impact people’s shopping behaviour, but the actual changes they are making have shifted since the onset of the pandemic. In August 2022, the majority of respondents from Guyana (92%) reported having changed how they shop compared to before the pandemic. This share is in line with the region and with previous survey rounds in Guyana, but has increased slightly since the start of the pandemic (87% in April 2020).

Shopping behaviour of respondents in Guyana has shifted from stockpiling at the start of the pandemic to more compromises as the economic impact worsens. Of the respondents who have changed their shopping behaviour, 54% indicated buying smaller quantities than usual and 52% buying cheaper or less preferred foods (all subsequent percentages in this section refer to respondents who have changed their shopping behaviour). Respondents are also adapting by going to different stores, as indicated by 31% in August 2022. In contrast to the early months of the pandemic, only 10% of respondents indicated buying larger quantities than usual, down from 81% in April 2020.

Overall, changes in shopping patterns are similar across all key demographics, with some minor differences across certain groups. Respondents aged 25 and under were more likely to shift their shopping patterns to cheaper or less preferred foods (62%) compared to older age groups. English speakers were more likely to report buying smaller quantities than usual or cheaper or less preferred foods (53-56%) than Spanish speakers (43-46%), but they were also more likely to purchase larger quantities than usual (12%) compared English speakers (4%).

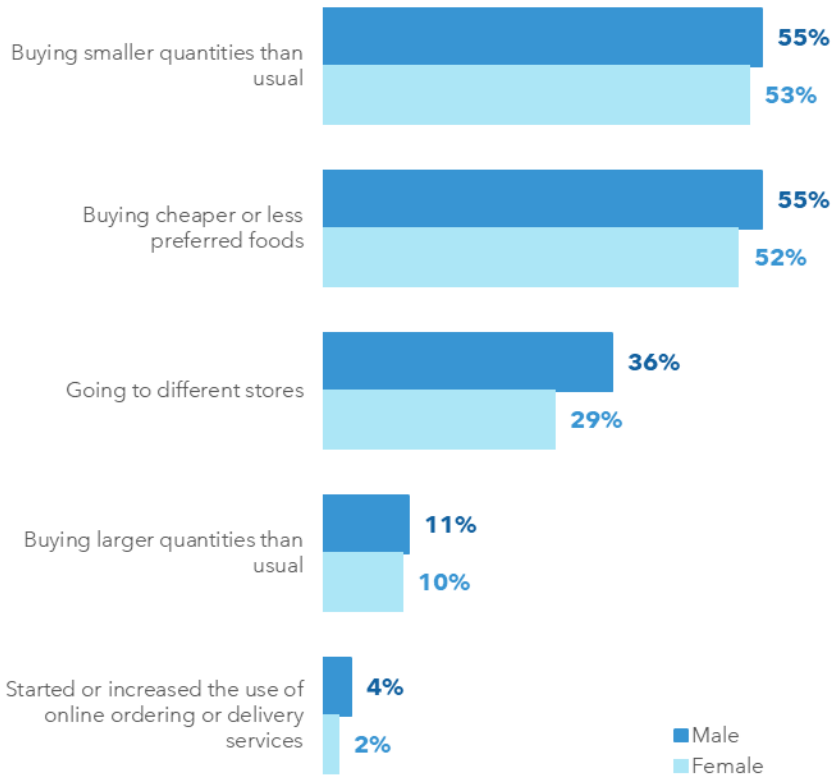
Unlike many other survey variables, specific changes in shopping behaviour do not differ significantly by respondents’ perceived income level.

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

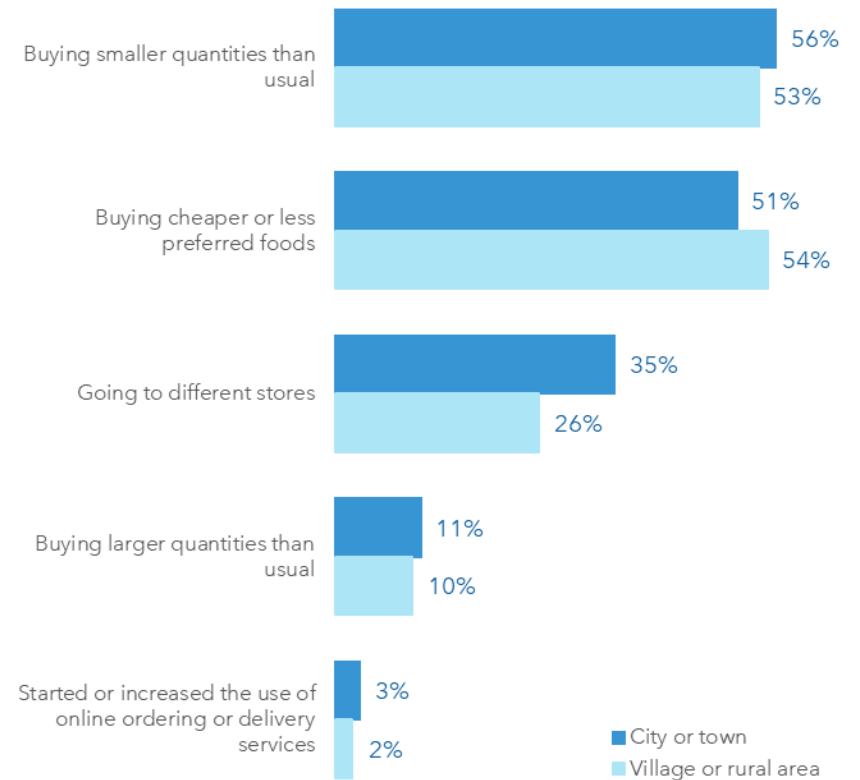
## Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By sex



### By urban/rural location



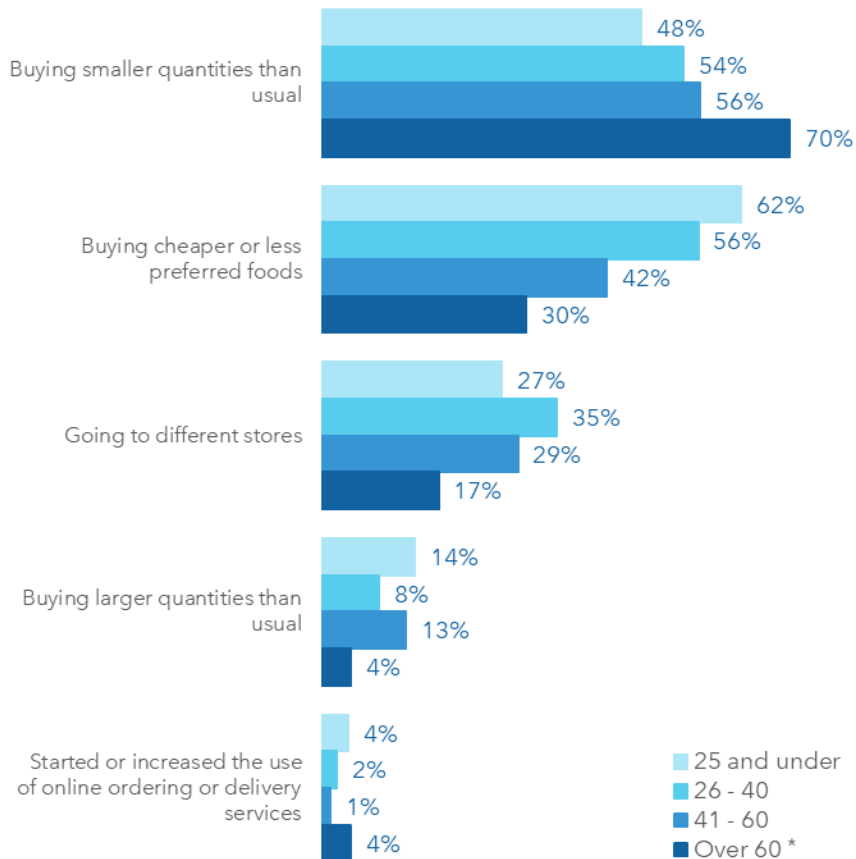


# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

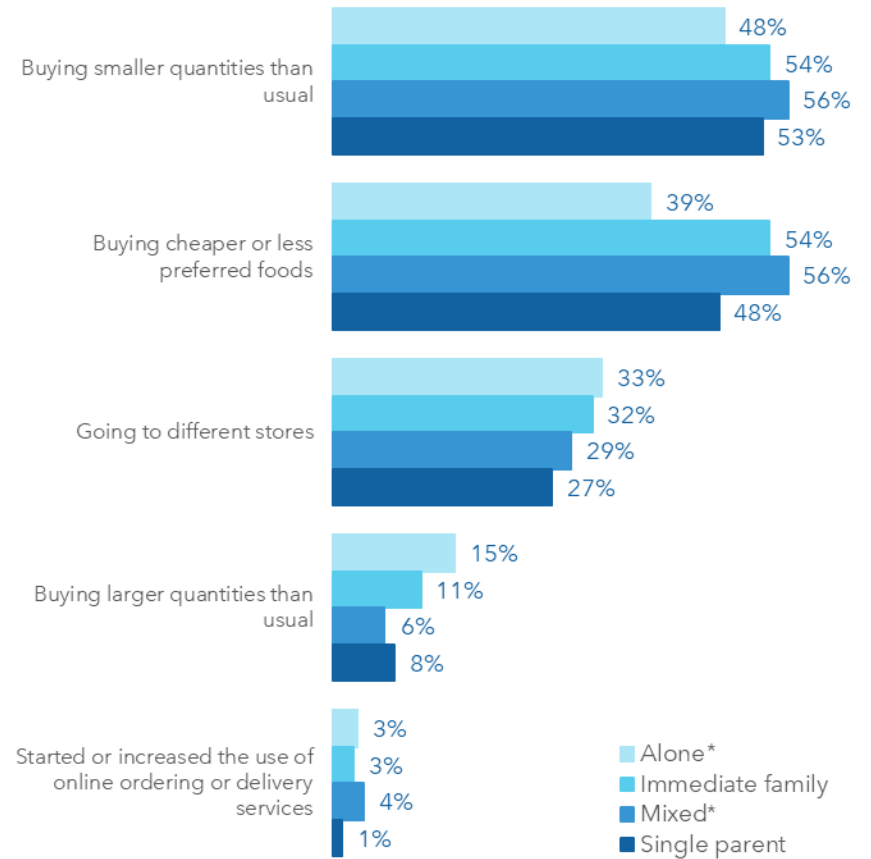
Multiple choices could be selected.

### By age group



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

### By household composition



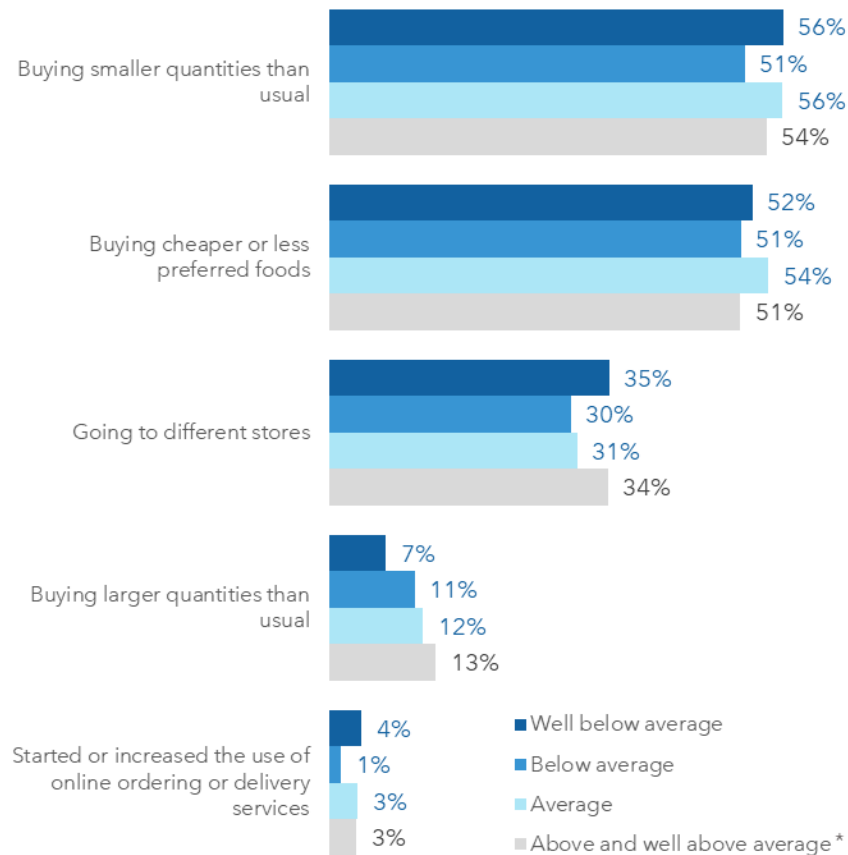
\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

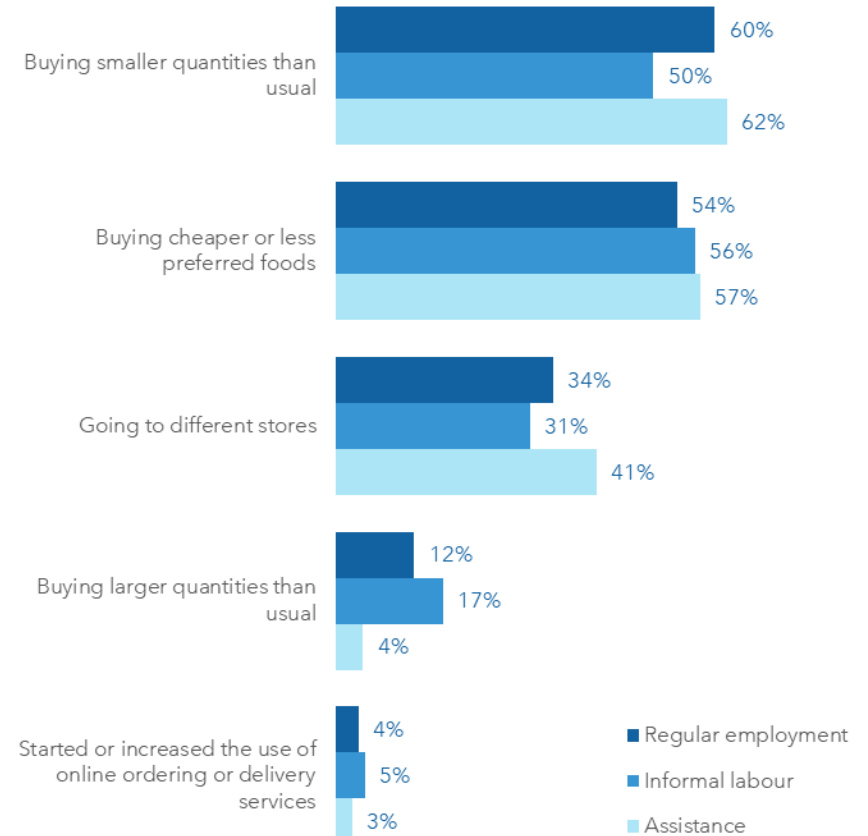
Multiple choices could be selected.

### By perceived income level



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

### By main income source

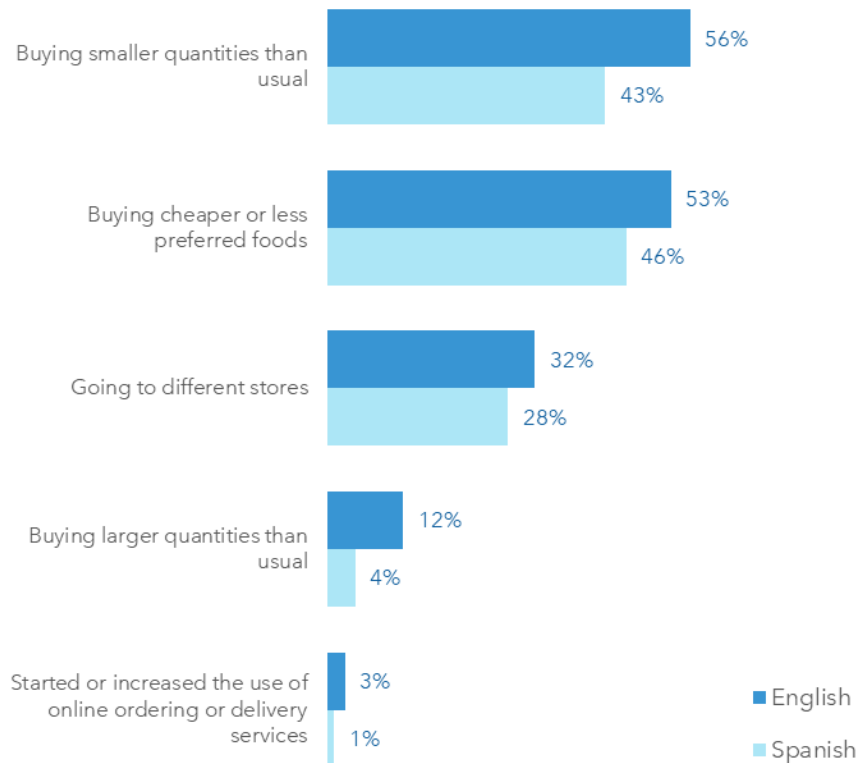


# MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By language



"Stricter budget and buying food, like rice, sugar, flour, etc, at whole sale" - Female, 35, Guyana

"COVID hit us very hard and the prize change so height for food supply" - Female, 38, Guyana

"Covid-19 has changed everything. Cost of living has sky rocketed and my food bill has doubled over the past year" - Female, 32, Guyana

"The biggest change is the market price on a small Salary" - Female, 37, Guyana

"I eat what I can afford" - Male, 61, Guyana

"cost of living is increasing every single day!!!" - Female, 26, Guyana

"Scale back on spending" - Male, 30, Guyana

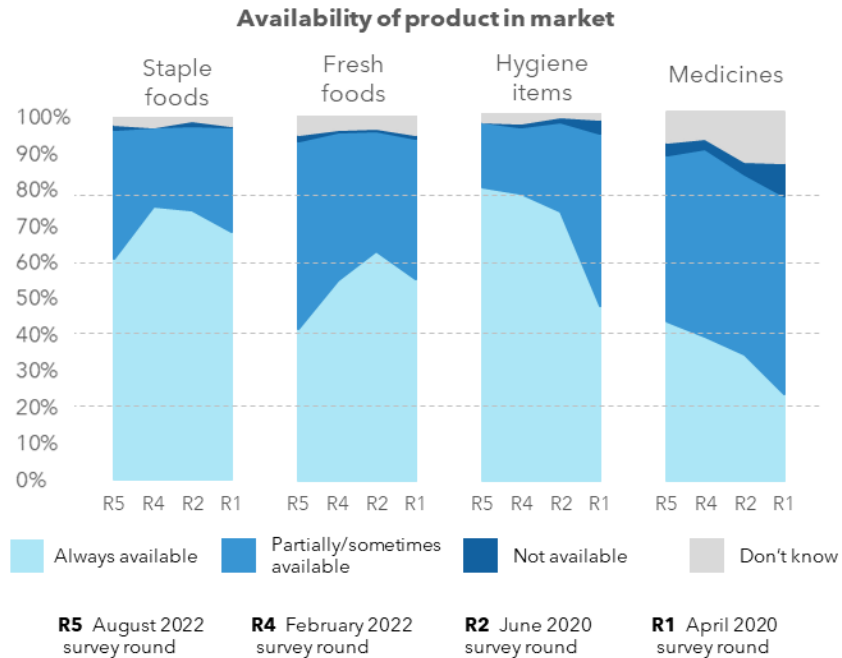
"Due to the rise in cost of living I have had to cut down on my grocery list." - Female, 30, Guyana

"Significant reduction in spending power, and restricted social interaction." - Male, 73, Guyana

"Learning how to conserve on my income to pay rent and utilities and eating less than usual" - Male, 44, Guyana

# MARKETS | Availability

- ▶ Availability of food and medicines in markets is limited, with a clear downward trend for staple and fresh foods.



The availability of food and commodities has been a concern in the Caribbean since the start of the pandemic, due to global supply chain issues. In Guyana, the availability of basic commodities improved fairly steadily from April 2020 up to February 2022. They survey results suggest that food supplies in markets have declined in amount or diversity, likely owing to global supply chains were again impacted by the war in Ukraine. Overall, very few respondents (1-5%) indicated that essential goods were not available at all.

In August 2022, the level of availability of key commodities in Guyana varied by items. Medicines were only partially or sometimes available for 45% of respondents, with no significant change from February 2022. Similarly, fresh foods were only partially or sometimes available for 52% of respondents, compared to 41% in February 2022. Correspondingly, the proportion of those who said that fresh foods were always available fell from 52% to 41% during that period. A similarly strong decline in overall availability could be observed for staple foods. These were always available for 61% of respondents in August 2022, down from 75% in February 2022.

On the other hand, hygiene items were more consistently available in markets, with only 17% of respondents finding these products partially unavailable, similar to results in February 2022.

*"Everything become expensive even the essential products become extremely expensive" - Male, 25, Guyana*

*"Budgeting our finances" - Female, 20, Guyana*

# MARKETS | Prices

## ► Prices of food and other basic goods and services are on the rise in Guyana.

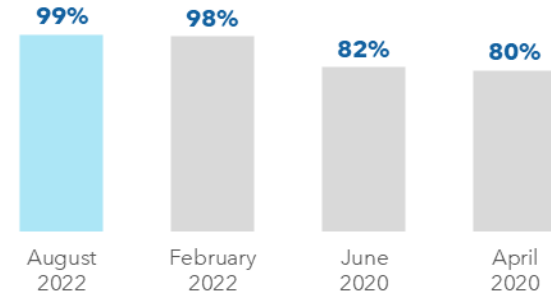
Increasing food prices are being observed by respondents across all demographics, with nearly all respondents (99%) reporting an increase in the two weeks prior to the August 2022 survey. This is the highest level reported across all survey rounds, which is in line with the regional survey results.

Respondents in Guyana across all income levels consistently noted increases in food prices. Compared to June 2020, the proportion of respondents reporting an increase in food prices increased significantly across all income groups. This suggests that the increased cost of living is felt widely across all socioeconomic groups, though those in lower income groups have fewer resources to manage the impacts.

In the six months prior to the survey, respondents in Guyana also observed price increases in non-food items. A significant increase in the cost of gas was noted by 64% of respondents and 57% for other fuels, which is in line with the region as a whole. Overall, 98% of respondents noted some increase in the cost of gas. The rising costs of gas and other fuels have had significant knock-on effects on most basic services and commodities.

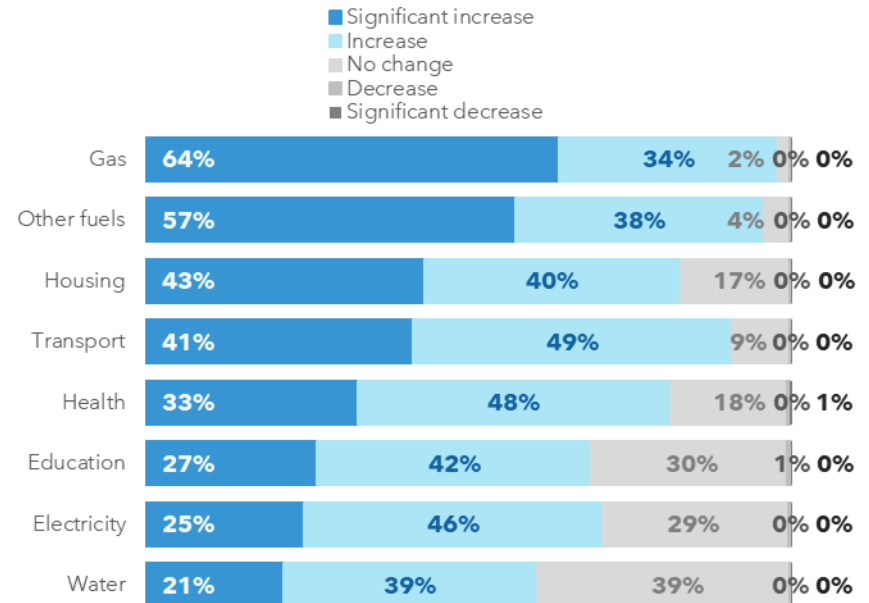
A significant increase in housing and transport costs was noted by 43% and 41% of respondents, and 33% reported a significant increase in the cost of health services. These general trends in the cost of non-food services and commodities are consistent with the Caribbean region. However, the reported increase in the cost for electricity and education was somewhat less pronounced in Guyana compared to the region as a whole.

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



Have you observed any change in the costs of the following commodities/services in the past 6 months?

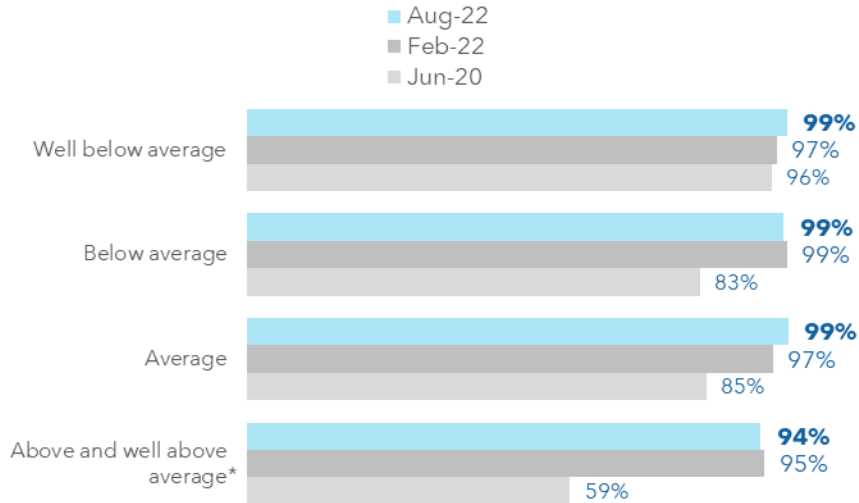
Percentages were calculated only for those respondents that responded to this question and did not select the "Not applicable" option.



# MARKETS | Prices

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

By perceived income level and survey round

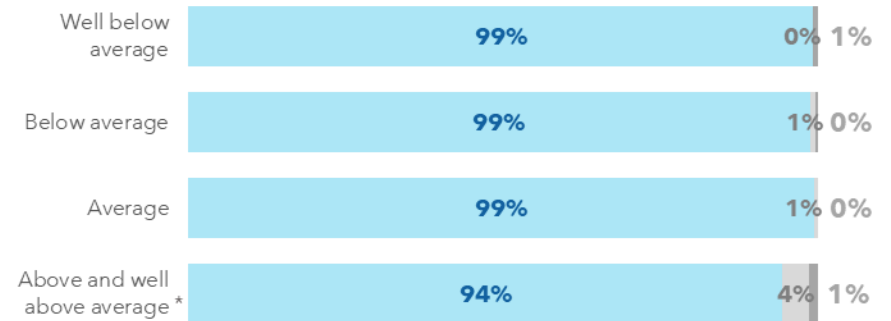


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

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

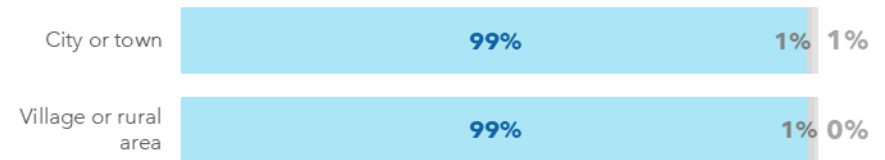
Food prices have increased (light blue), No changes (light grey), Food prices have decreased (dark grey)

By perceived income level



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

By urban/rural location



"Budget with a passion to make much out of the little" - Female, 52, Guyana

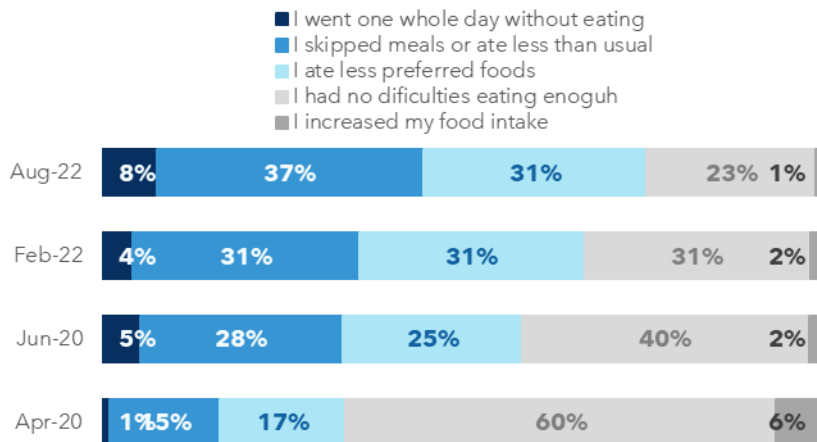
"Honestly the food crisis has been more effective than the COVID 19 and the minimum wage of just merely \$60,147 when rent alone is 30,000" - Female, 32, Guyana

"Cost of living has increased tremendously and salaries have not increased to help cope with this" - Female, 30, Guyana

# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

- ▶ Food consumption patterns remain worrying among low income and single parent households.

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



"I had to adapt to eating 1 meal a day" - Female, 51, Guyana

"Leave my self with out food so my daughter can get to eat" - Female, 43, Guyana

"Not able to purchase enough food stuff for week nor able to purchase clothing etc" - Female, 43, Guyana

The combined shocks of COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crisis are impacting diets. Survey results on food consumption are the most negative since the surveys began, with 37% of respondents skipping meals or eating less, 31% eating less preferred foods and 8% going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey.

Respondents with well below average incomes continue to be the most affected, with 14% going a whole day without eating and 49% skipping a meal or eating less than usual (compared to 27% of those with above or well above average income) in the week preceding the survey. Only 10% of the lowest income respondents had no difficulty eating enough compared to 49% of households classifying their income as above or well above average.

Younger respondents also appear to be more affected by negative food consumption than older respondents. Over half of those under 26 years old reported to not have eaten for a whole day, skipped a meal or eaten less than usual compared to 27% of those over 60 years old.

Differences in the impacts on food consumption also varied across households' sources and income sectors. Those relying on less stable income sources (informal daily/casual labour or assistance) were most impacted, with 53-54% having gone an entire day without eating, skipping meals or eating less than usual compared to 37% of those with more stable income sources (regular employment).

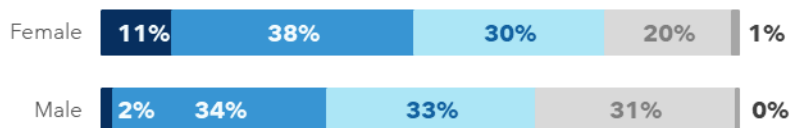
The food consumption pattern of female respondents also appear to be more negatively affected with 11% reporting to have gone a whole day without eating compared to male respondents (2%). Those from single parent households more often reported (16%) having gone a day without eating when compared to respondents living in other household settings. Spanish speakers (58%) also experienced higher rates of negative food consumption as compared to English speaking respondents (41%).

# 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

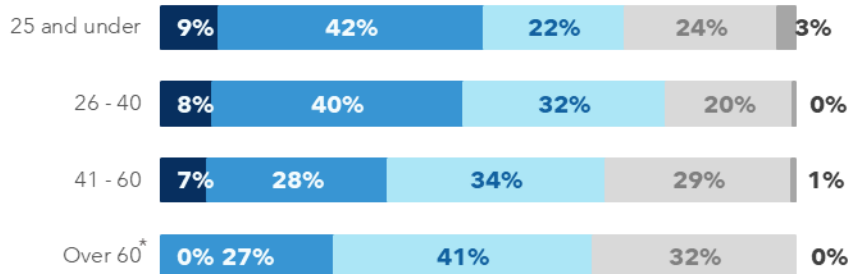
## By sex



## By urban/rural location

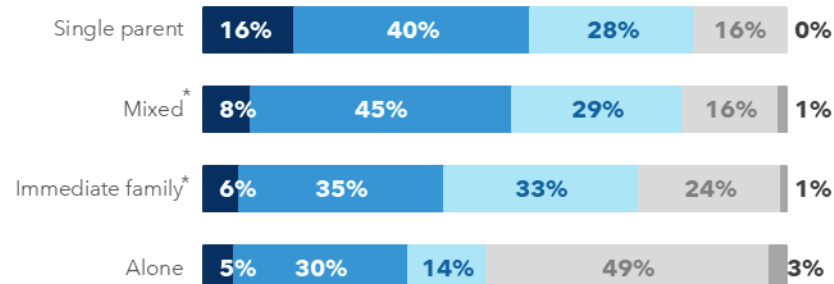


## By age

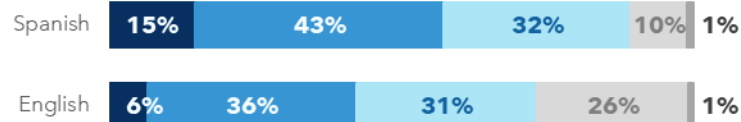


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

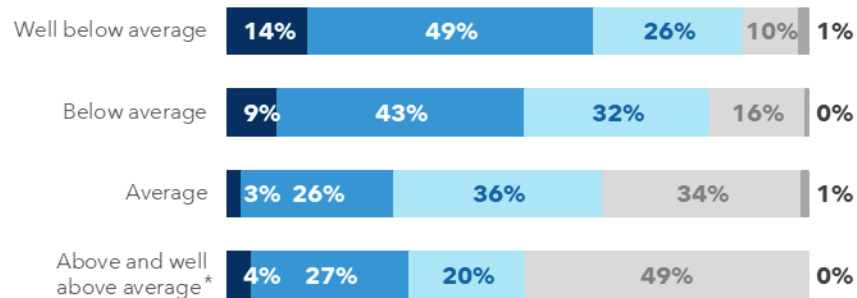
## By household composition



## By language



## By perceived income level



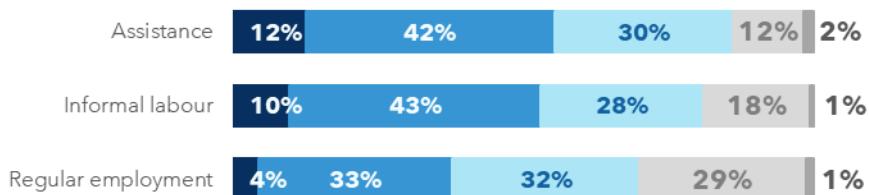


# FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

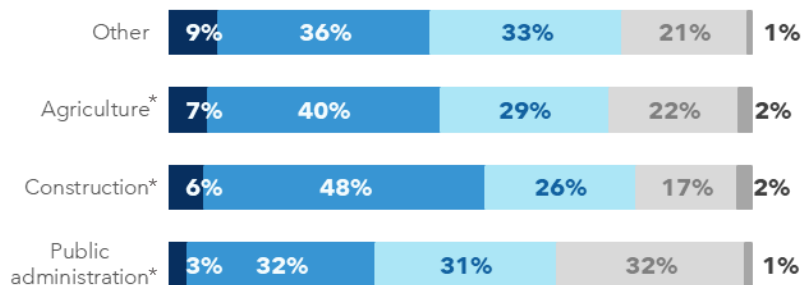
## Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

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

### By income sources



### By income sector



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

"Income is too small, prices increasing for latterly everything and we just going days without eating. Government promised covid assistance or funds but did not get any." - Female, 26, Guyana

"Mainly the rising prices affected me the most. I had to give up certain things that I wanted. I stopped baking small treats and snacks for me and my son. I cooked with mess flour. We started using more rice. I did not really visit any of my friends that live out of my administrative region since the cost is too high, so I just messaged them." - Male, 27, Guyana

"I've resorted to eating a lot of noodles and stews" - Female, 40, Guyana

"I try to eat a small amount so other can eat all the money spent on food and bills" - Female, 37, Guyana

"My kids did not receive enough nutrients due to food cost. We had to adapt to eating less.." - Female, 37, Guyana

"Less exercise, consumption of the wrong and cheaper food. Health concern" - Male, 30, Guyana

"Cost of living and shortage of food items" - Female, 31, Guyana

"The rise of cost of living i had to go into saving to pay bills and buy food stuff for household" - Male, 34, Guyana

"The rise of cost of living i had to go into saving to pay bills and buy food stuff for household" - Male, 34, Guyana

# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

## ► Respondents are adopting negative coping strategies to meet their immediate food needs, and reducing future coping capacities

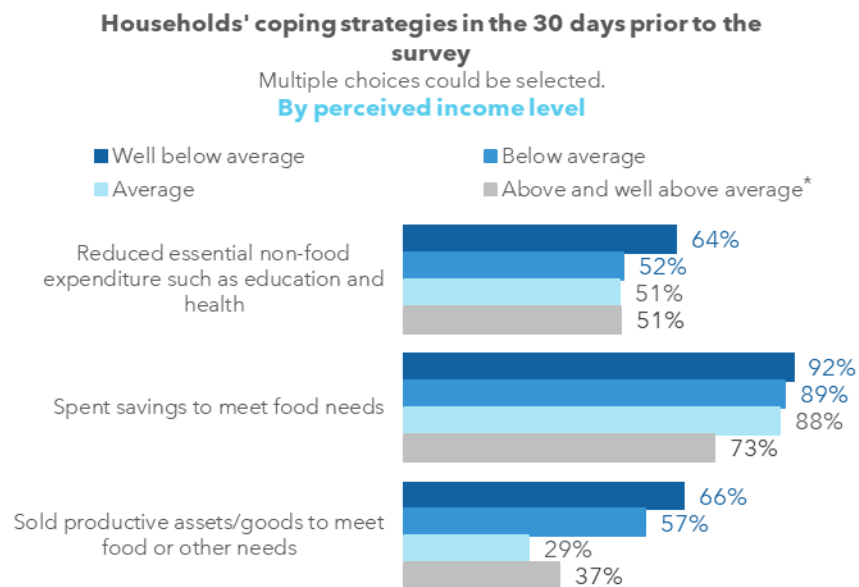
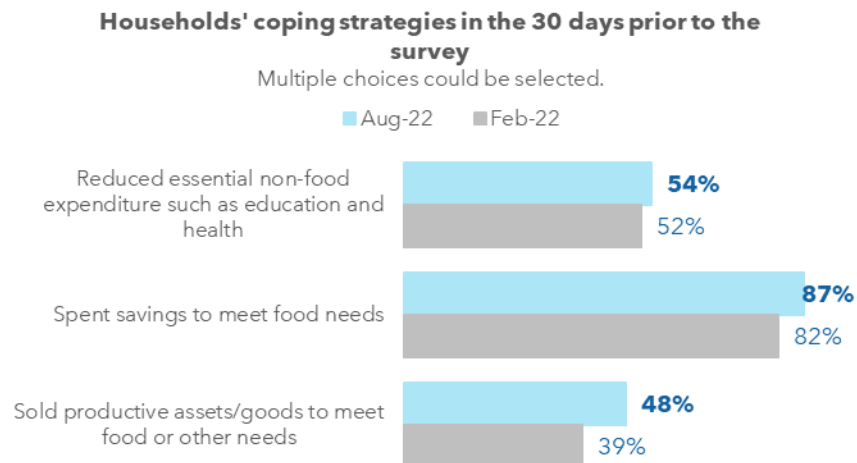
Survey respondents were asked whether in the 30 days prior to the survey they had reduced essential non-food expenditures, spent savings or sold productive assets to meet their food needs.

Nine in ten respondents resorted to spending savings in Guyana, and 54% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. Furthermore, an increased 48% of respondents sold productive assets and goods to meet food or other needs. The trends in Guyana are largely consistent with those of the regional average, with slightly more households spending savings and selling productive assets in Guyana, which are highly compromising strategies affecting people's future well-being, resources and resilience.

The adoption of negative coping strategies was also dependent on income level and age. Respondents with well below average income levels more often resorted to the three negative coping strategies to meet their essential needs. This will be further widening income gaps in the future. Respondents younger than 25 are more likely to spend savings to meet their food needs while those 26-40 are more likely to sell productive assets.

Those working in the informal labour sector are more likely to adopt compromising coping strategies to meet their essential needs with 91% of respondents reporting having spent savings to meet food needs and 62% having sold productive assets.

More Spanish speaking respondents are more often resorting to all three negative coping strategies as compared to English speaking respondents who are primarily resorting to spending savings to meet food needs (88%).



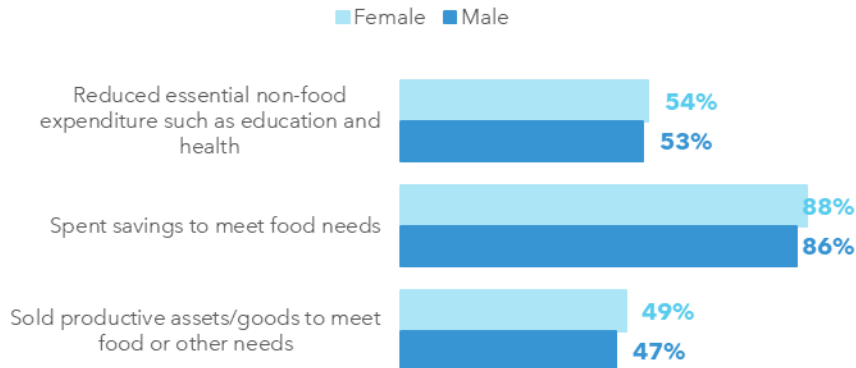
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

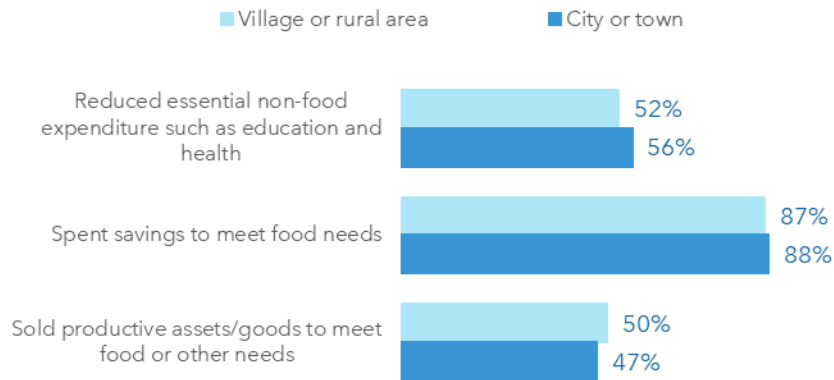
## Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By sex

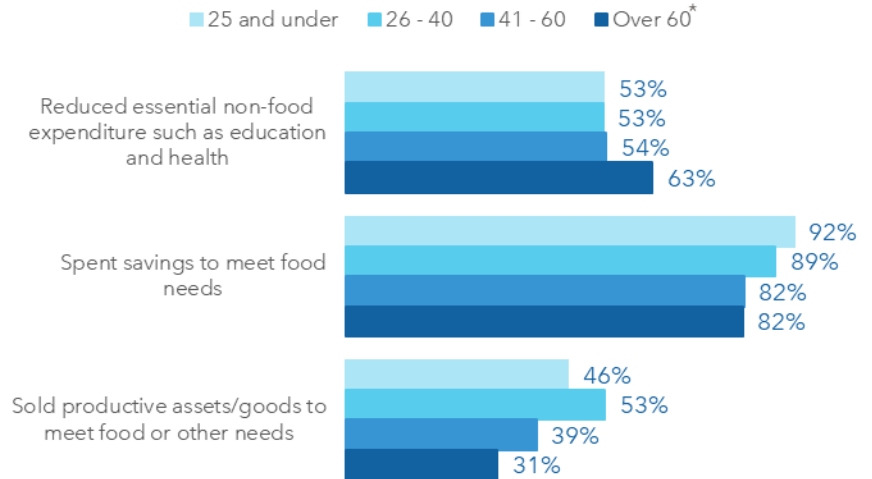


### By urban/rural location

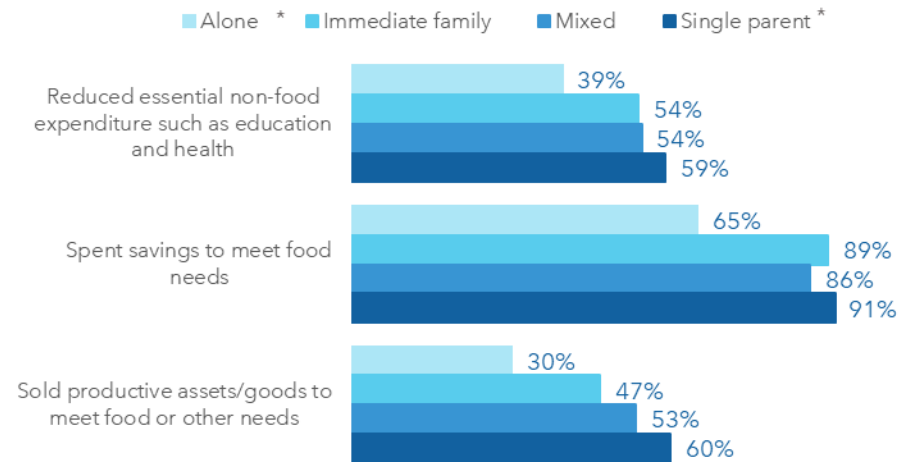


\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

## By age group



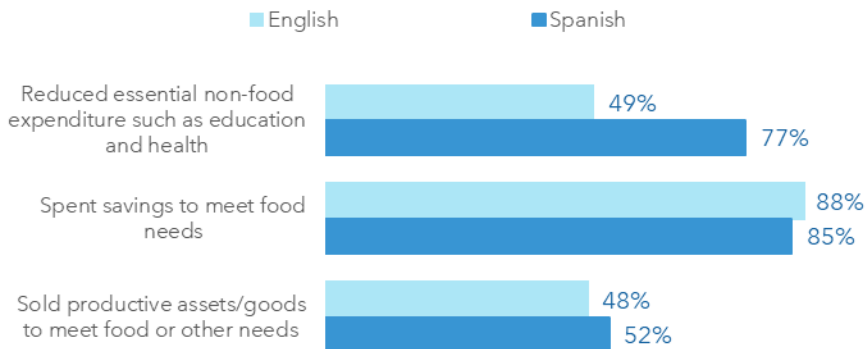
## By household composition



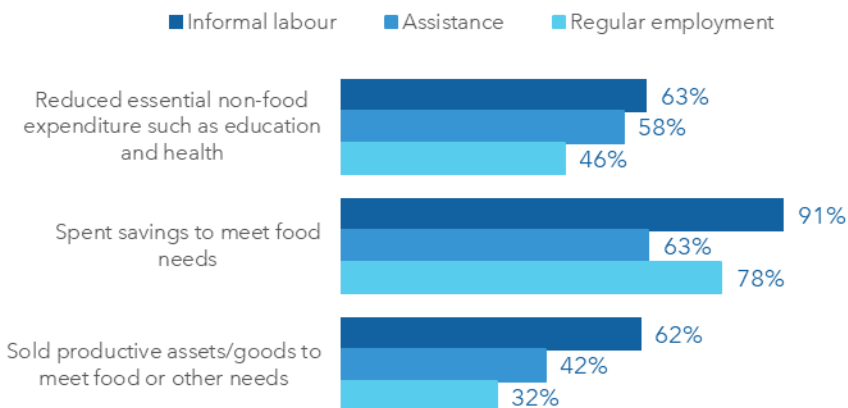
# FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

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

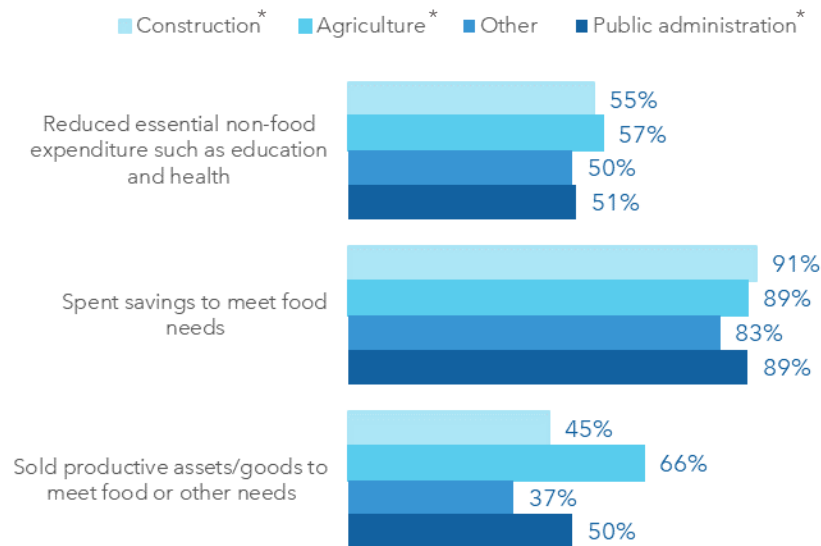
### By language



### By income source



## By income sector



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

"Spending lots of money on sanitary products and protection masks" - Female, 30, Guyana

"I had to spend all my savings and sold all my jewellery and I am still in debt" - Female, 37, Guyana

"Only buy essential groceries" - Male, 38, Guyana

"I had to spend from my saving to feed my family and was out of job" - Female, 24, Guyana

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

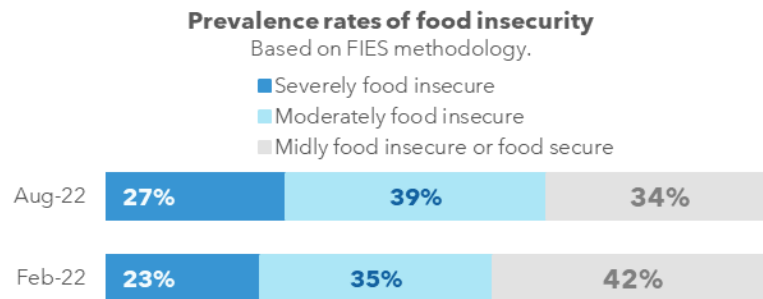
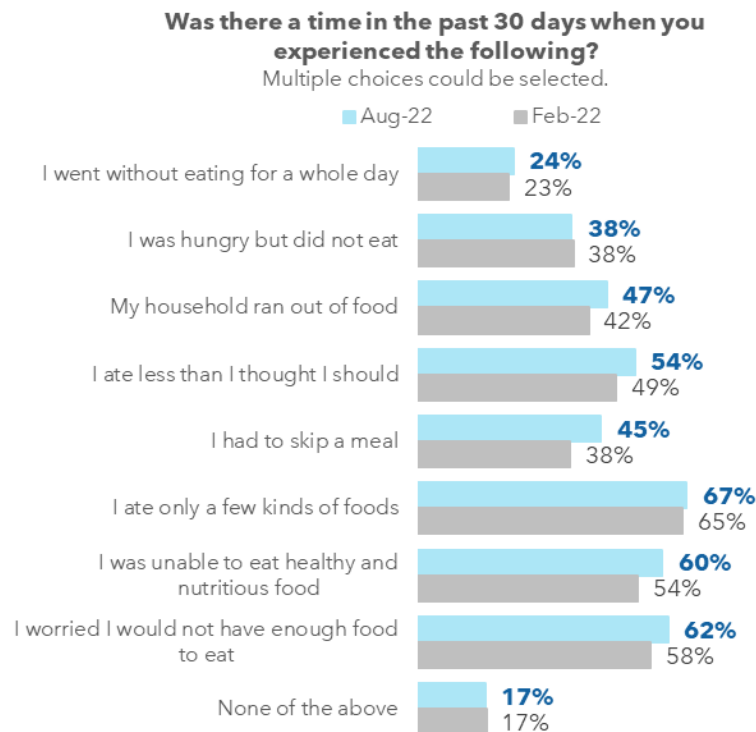
- ▶ A significant proportion of people in Guyana is struggling to access food and meet their food and nutritional needs on a monthly basis.

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

Using the FIES methodology and survey data to calculate food insecurity prevalence rates, it is estimated that 56% of respondents are either moderately (39%) or severely (27%) food insecure across Guyana. When compared to the February 2021 survey round, the prevalence of severe and moderate food insecurity was very similar.

The behaviour most reported by respondents over the past 30 days prior to the August 2022 survey round is eating only a few kinds of foods (67%), followed by being worried about not having enough food to eat (62%).

The reporting of the individual FIES categories varies across respondents. The most striking differences emerge across age group and income levels. 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. In addition, younger respondents also appear to be more severely affected than older respondents.

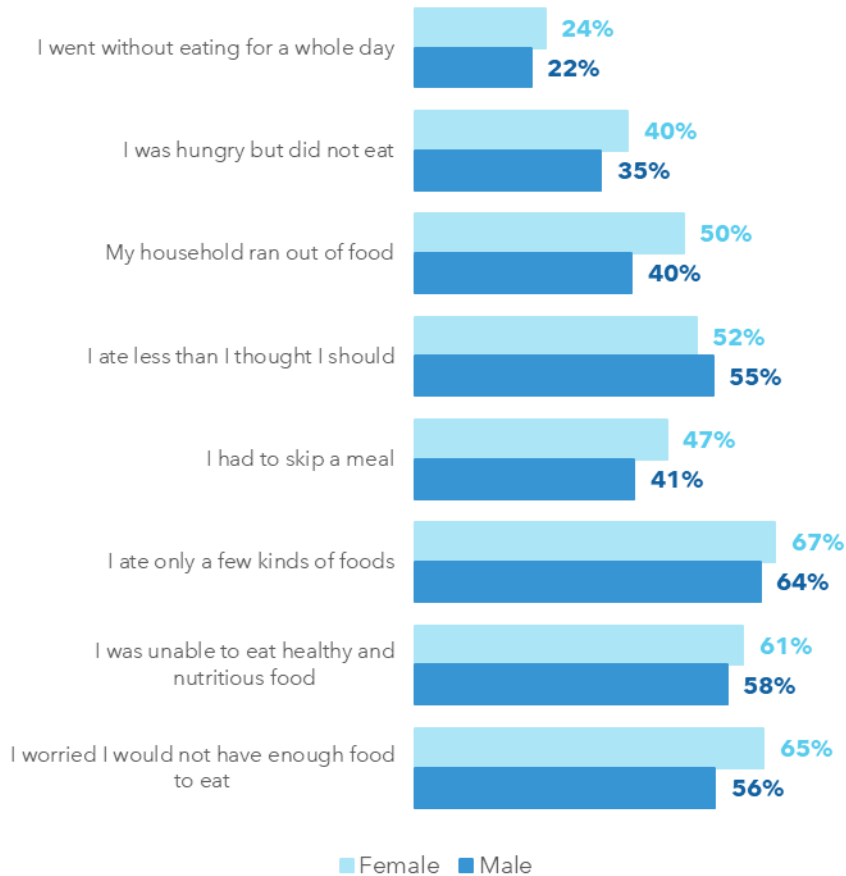


# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

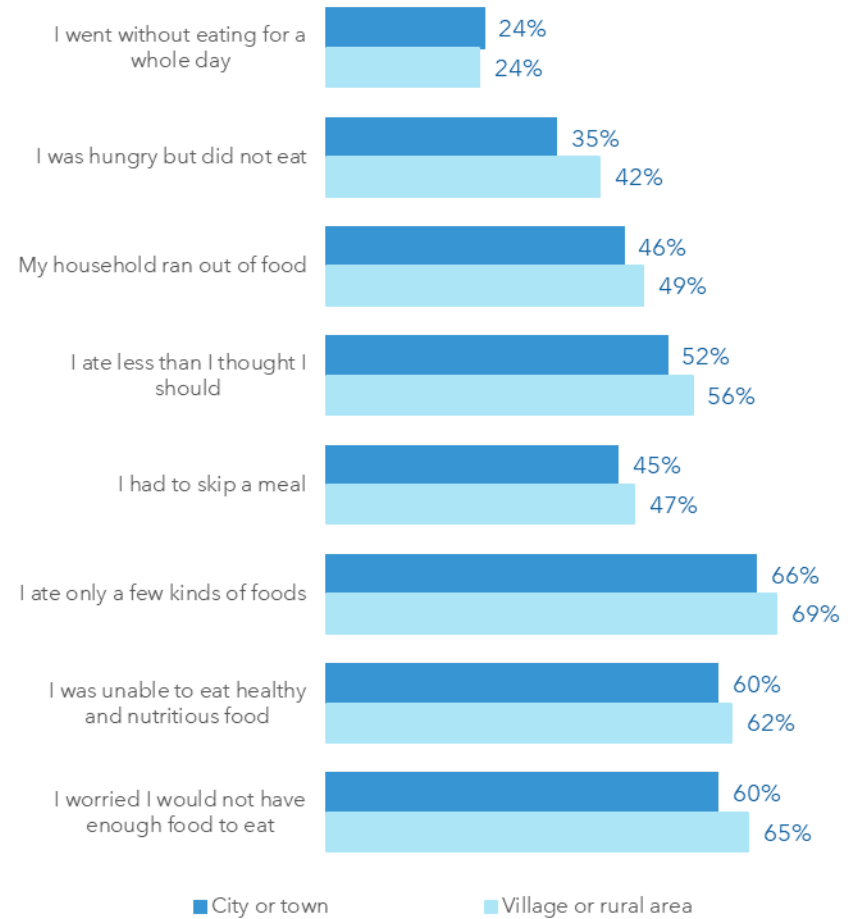
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By urban/rural location

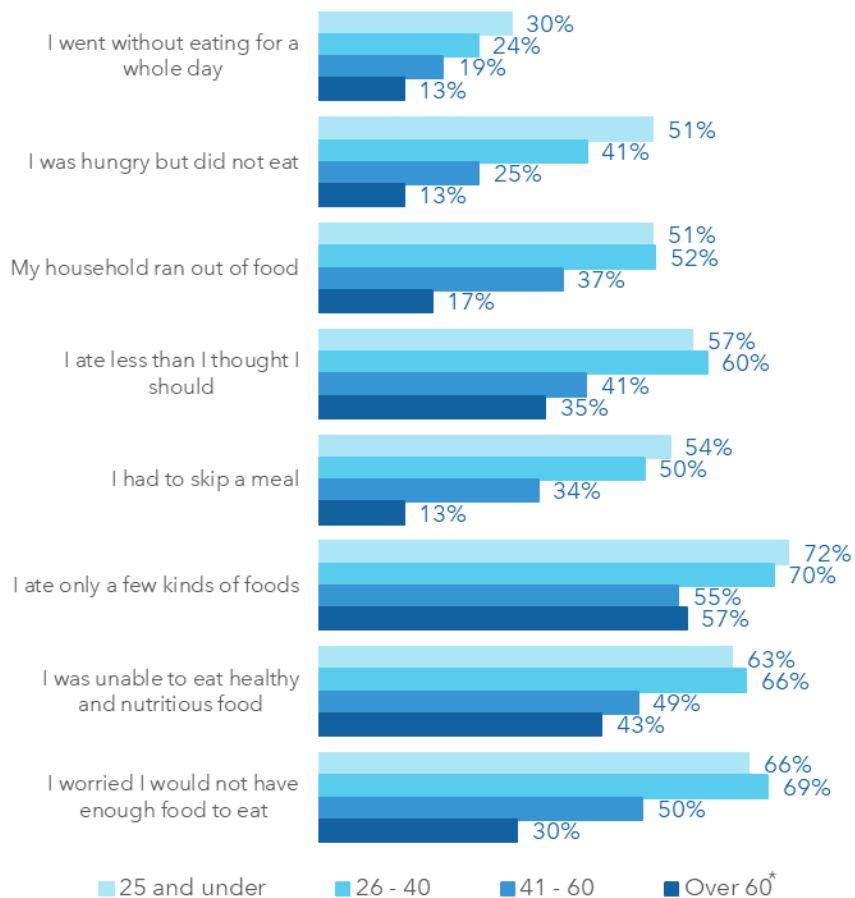


# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

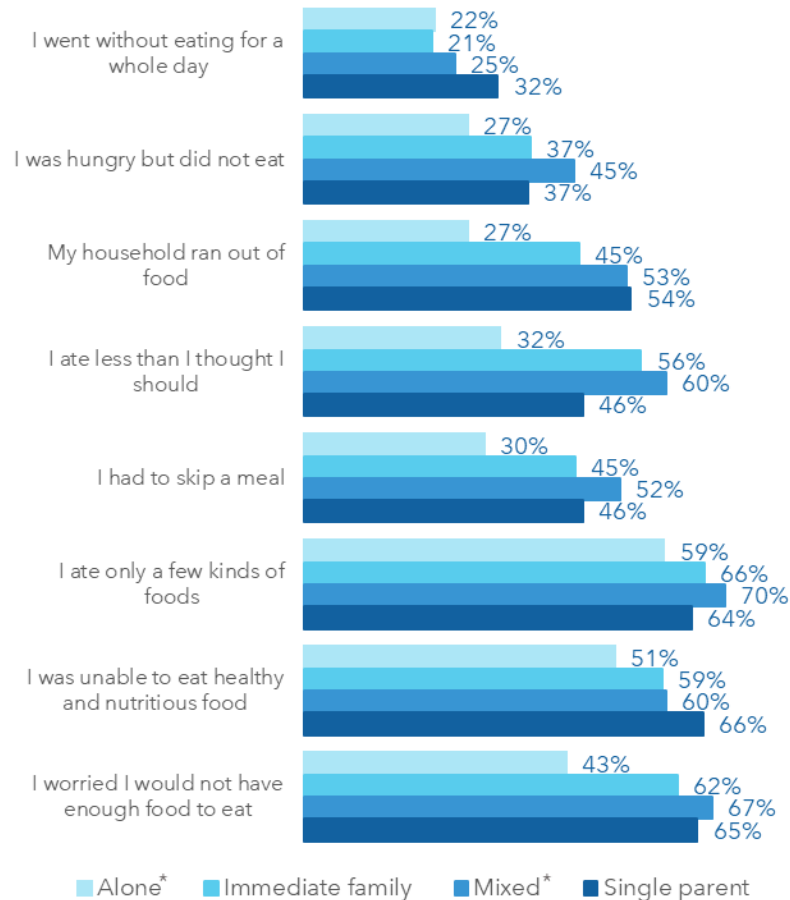
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By age group



By household composition



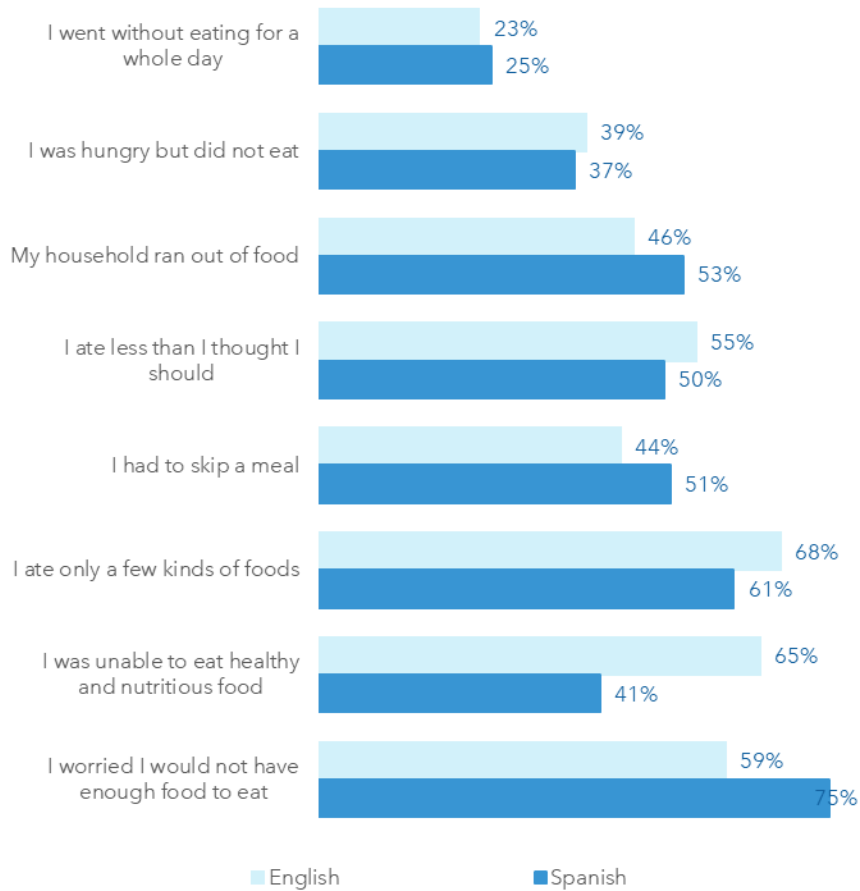
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

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

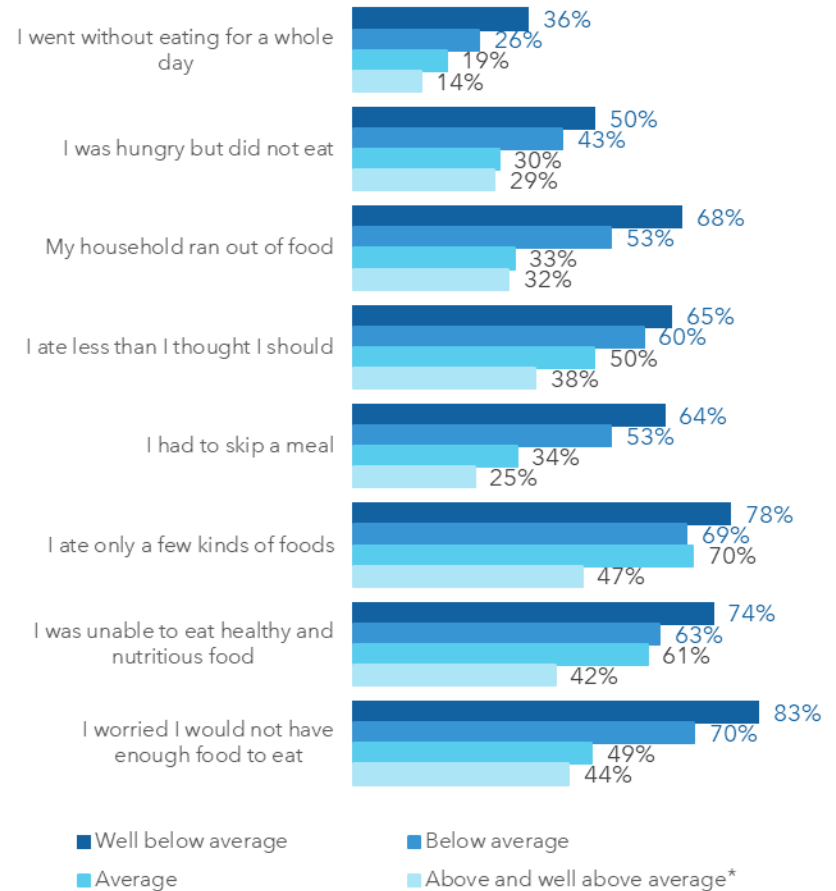
Multiple choices could be selected.

By language



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

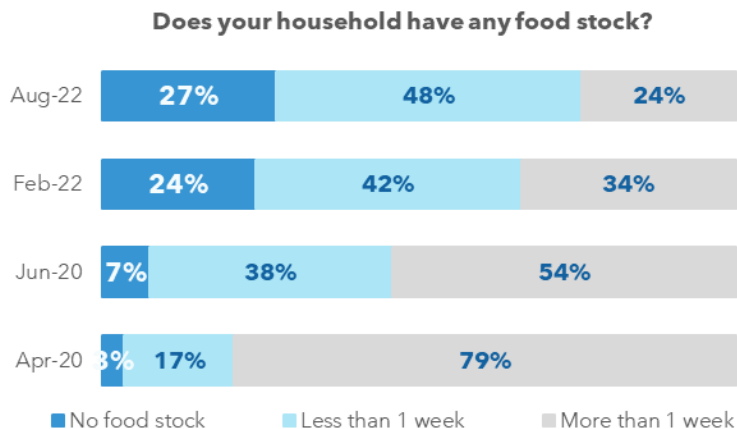
By perceived income level





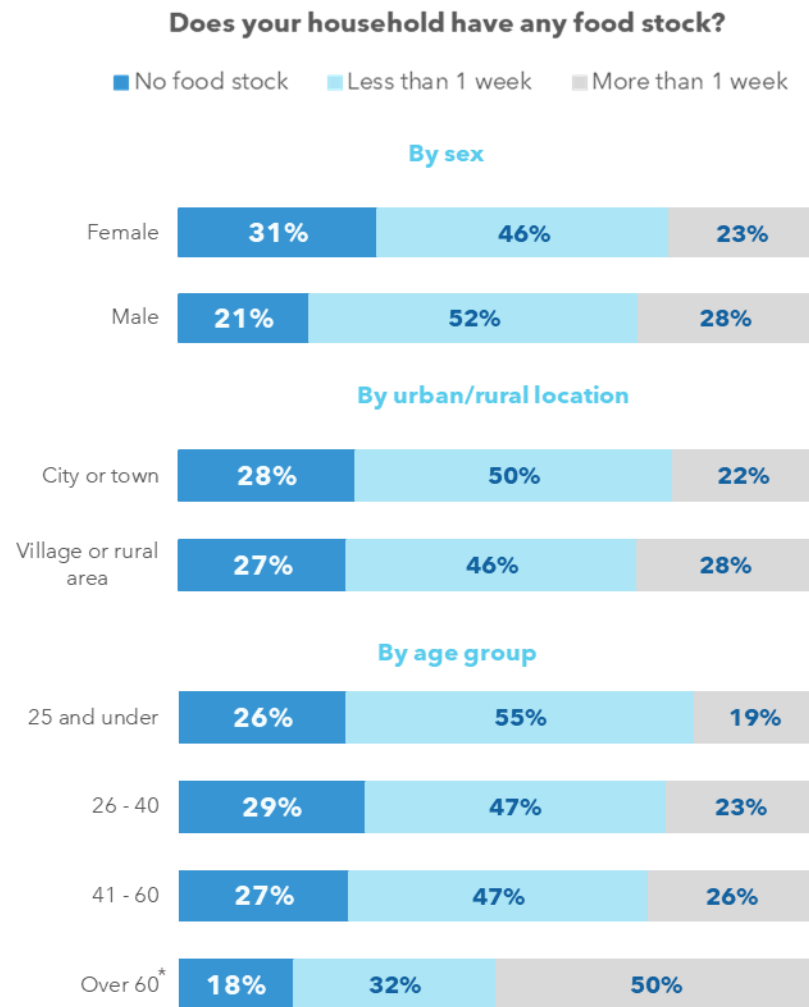
# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

- ▶ Three out of four households report having no food stocks at all or having food stocks for less than a week.



In August 2022, 27% of respondents reported that their household had no food stock, while 24% of respondents reported having more than a week's worth of food supplies in their households. These results are consistent with the findings from February 2021. 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 reporting well below average income, 44% had no food stocks during the survey, and only 15% had more than a week's worth of food stock. Households that derive their income primarily from regular employment (29%) also have larger food stocks than households relying mainly on informal income sources (16%) or assistance (17%).



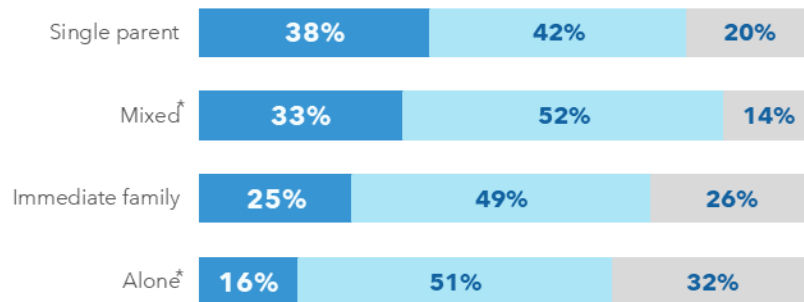
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

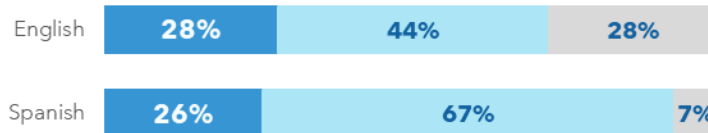
## Does your household have any food stock?

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

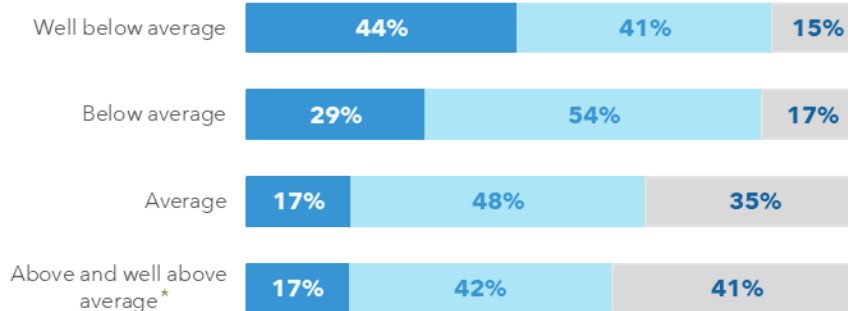
### By household composition



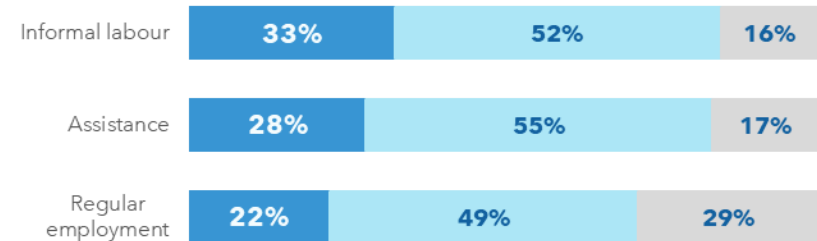
### By language



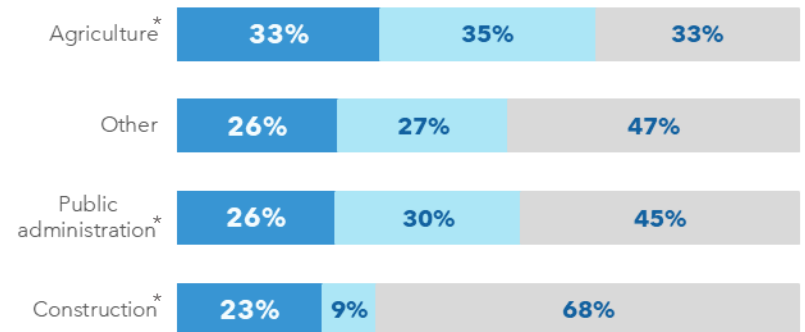
### By perceived income level



### By income sources



### By income sector



<sup>\*</sup> Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

- Worries about the inability to cover food and other essential needs continued to be the main worries among the respondents in Guyana

## Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

	Aug-22	Feb-22	Jun-20
Inability to cover food needs	54%	35%	35%
Inability to cover essential needs	46%	35%	28%
Fear of illness	30%	58%	69%
Unemployment	27%	34%	45%
Having to resort to savings	21%	18%	18%
Child(ren)/dependents care	11%	11%	7%
Social isolation	8%	20%	27%
Disruptions to education	6%	18%	17%
Movement restrictions	5%	8%	15%
Unable to access services	4%	1%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	1%	1%
Violence in the community	0%	0%	0%
Other worries	0%	0%	0%

In light of the cost of living crisis, the inability to cover food and other essential needs has superseded the fear of illness (which was the main concern in February 2022). Inability to cover food needs (54%) and well as essential needs (46%) has increasingly become the main concern of respondents. These worries were followed by fear of illness (30%) and unemployment (27%).

While households from the well below average income group continue to experience different magnitudes of impact when compared to others, the inability to cover food needs and essential needs were the top main concerns across all groups. Well below income households mainly worried about inability to cover essential needs (68%) followed by inability to cover food needs (55%). In contrast with the round done in February 2022, respondents from varying income levels indicated at that time that their main concerns were fear of illness and inability to cover food needs.

While both sexes cited inability to cover food and other essential needs as their main worries. A higher proportion of male respondents (34%) expressed fear of unemployment compared to female respondents (24%). Inability to cover food needs are the leading worry for all age groups. Inability to cover essential needs are the secondary worry for all age groups.

Differences can also be observed between localities. Respondents from rural areas (48%) are more worried about inability to cover food needs compared with respondents from city or towns (32%). In contrast, fear of illness is more of a worrisome main matter for urban dwellers (42%) when compared to rural dwellers (30%).

The inability to cover food needs was the main concern for both English and Spanish speakers, having a higher level of concern for Spanish speakers. It is noteworthy to mention that being unable to access services was of greater concern for Spanish speakers than English speakers.

# WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

## Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By sex

	Female	Male
Inability to cover food needs	54%	53%
Inability to cover essential needs	48%	44%
Fear of illness	29%	31%
Unemployment	24%	34%
Having to resort to savings	21%	23%
Child(ren)/dependents care	11%	11%
Social isolation	9%	8%
Disruptions to education	7%	3%
Movement restrictions	4%	6%
Unable to access services	4%	2%
Violence in the household	1%	0%
Violence in the community	0%	0%
Other worries	0%	0%

### By urban/rural location

	City or town	Village or rural area
Inability to cover essential needs	49%	41%
Inability to cover food needs	32%	48%
Unemployment	30%	40%
Fear of illness	42%	30%
Having to resort to savings	23%	16%
Disruptions to education	11%	12%
Social isolation	12%	10%
Child(ren)/dependents care	10%	8%
Movement restrictions	2%	5%
Unable to access services	2%	1%
Violence in the household	0%	1%
Violence in the community	0%	0%
Other worries	0%	0%

### By age group

	25 and under	26 - 40	41 - 60	Over 60*
Inability to cover food needs	57%	59%	44%	43%
Inability to cover essential needs	44%	51%	41%	30%
Fear of illness	30%	27%	33%	39%
Unemployment	30%	28%	25%	26%
Having to resort to savings	22%	22%	21%	35%
Child(ren)/dependents care	8%	11%	14%	4%
Social isolation	9%	8%	8%	17%
Disruptions to education	3%	7%	4%	4%
Movement restrictions	3%	5%	3%	17%
Unable to access services	1%	3%	5%	9%
Violence in the household	1%	1%	1%	0%
Violence in the community	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other worries	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

### By household composition

	Alone*	Immediate family	Mixed*	Single parent
Inability to cover food needs	38%	56%	57%	50%
Inability to cover essential needs	35%	46%	45%	53%
Fear of illness	49%	28%	34%	25%
Unemployment	35%	27%	27%	24%
Having to resort to savings	16%	24%	15%	20%
Child(ren)/dependents care	0%	12%	10%	12%
Social isolation	16%	7%	12%	10%
Disruptions to education	3%	6%	7%	4%
Movement restrictions	19%	3%	9%	2%
Unable to access services	5%	4%	3%	1%
Violence in the household	0%	1%	1%	0%
Violence in the community	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other worries	0%	0%	0%	0%

\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

# WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

## Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

### By perceived income level

	Well below average	Below average	Average	Above and well above average*
Inability to cover food needs	55%	46%	51%	35%
Inability to cover essential needs	68%	58%	49%	33%
Fear of illness	22%	31%	35%	32%
Unemployment	27%	27%	27%	32%
Having to resort to savings	17%	20%	27%	25%
Child(ren)/dependents care	12%	13%	11%	11%
Social isolation	13%	5%	8%	14%
Disruptions to education	5%	6%	7%	6%
Movement restrictions	3%	4%	5%	8%
Unable to access services	3%	3%	4%	3%
Violence in the household	1%	3%	1%	1%
Violence in the community	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other worries	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

### By language

	English	Spanish
Inability to cover food needs	51%	66%
Inability to cover essential needs	45%	53%
Fear of illness	30%	31%
Unemployment	29%	20%
Having to resort to savings	26%	2%
Child(ren)/dependents care	12%	7%
Social isolation	9%	8%
Disruptions to education	6%	3%
Movement restrictions	4%	5%
Unable to access services	1%	12%
Violence in the household	1%	2%
Violence in the community	0%	0%
Other worries	0%	0%

"Frequent hand washing; wearing of face mask; always having sanitiser on hand; not shaking hands, especially that of strangers; however, my biggest change is not using public transportation..." - Male, 60, Guyana

"My life style with family and friends change." - Female, 35, Guyana

"I mainly restricted my social engagement and movements within the community." - Male, 49, Guyana

"Low income in home loss of job" - Female, 26, Guyana

"Paying more critical attention to my health and lifestyle changes" - Male, 44, Guyana

"It's affecting my mental capacity. Caused depression and anxiety" - Female, 23, Guyana

"Stay home more and try to spend less." - Male, 37, Guyana

"I'm Single mother of three kids and it's really hard on me to provide for them" - Female, 26, Guyana

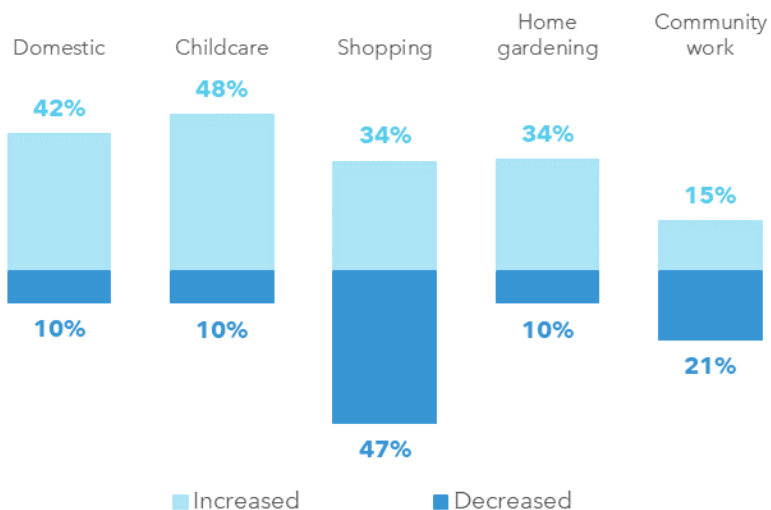
"Increase crime due to increased cost of living yes" - Male, 45, Guyana

"I had to suffer in silence because I had no one to ask for help because everyone thinks that I jus wanted money n didn't understand how hard life was" - Female, 32, Guyana

# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

- ▶ Respondents continue to spend more time on childcare and domestic work, while shopping activities increased compared with the past round.

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



"I'm finding it very hard to overcome the problems I'm facing with regard to many things" - Male, 59, Guyana

"Everything slowed down" - Male, 58, Guyana

"Working from home while taking care of elderly parent." - Female, , Guyana

The amount of time that people spend on care and unpaid work has changed since the pandemic. Respondents in Guyana continue to decrease their shopping activity and increase childcare and domestic chores. Forty-eight percent of respondents reported spending more time on childcare while indicating to spend 42% in domestic chores. Though when compared with February 2022 the amount of childcare undertaken has decreased with respondents now reporting 48% compared to 60% previously.

The changes were relatively consistent across sexes, although a slightly higher percentage of women (49%) cited an increase in time spent on childcare activities when compared to men (45%). The February 2022 results show that more women were reporting an increase in time spent on domestic work and childcare when compared to men.

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 (48%) and well below (58%) average income more frequently reported a reduction in time spent on shopping activities, compared to 37% of respondents with above and well above average income.

When looking at respondents from different types of household compositions, respondents from Guyana living with immediate family households and single headed households seem to be making more adjustments. Fifty three percent of single parent households reported an increase in domestic work and 35% an increase in childcare.

# 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

Aug-22	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	42%	48%	34%	34%	15%
No change	42%	30%	17%	40%	43%
Decreased	10%	10%	47%	10%	21%
Not applicable	6%	12%	2%	17%	21%

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

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

## By sex

Female	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	43%	49%	34%	33%	15%
No change	42%	30%	16%	37%	43%
Decreased	10%	10%	48%	10%	20%
Not applicable	5%	11%	2%	19%	23%

Male	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	40%	45%	33%	34%	15%
No change	43%	30%	20%	42%	42%
Decreased	9%	9%	44%	9%	23%
Not applicable	9%	15%	3%	14%	20%

## By language

English	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	42%	49%	36%	38%	15%
No change	44%	30%	16%	39%	44%
Decreased	8%	9%	46%	9%	22%
Not applicable	6%	12%	1%	13%	18%

Spanish	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
Increased	40%	44%	20%	8%	11%
No change	34%	29%	25%	43%	37%
Decreased	18%	16%	46%	13%	14%
Not applicable	8%	12%	9%	37%	38%

"Everything about my life change" - Female, 29, Guyana

"Trying to avoid traveling in overloaded public transportation" - Female, 49, Guyana

"I became unemployed" - Female, 25, Guyana

"Fear of contracting the virus and the stigma that comes with it." - Guyana

# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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

## By age group

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>25 and under</b>					
Increased	42%	34%	28%	29%	15%
No change	42%	32%	21%	36%	36%
Decreased	6%	9%	46%	9%	21%
Not applicable	9%	24%	5%	27%	28%

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>26-40</b>					
Increased	42%	56%	37%	33%	15%
No change	41%	27%	14%	41%	42%
Decreased	11%	10%	48%	10%	22%
Not applicable	6%	7%	1%	15%	21%

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>41-60</b>					
Increased	40%	41%	29%	37%	15%
No change	45%	31%	22%	37%	48%
Decreased	12%	12%	47%	12%	17%
Not applicable	3%	16%	2%	15%	20%

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>Over 60*</b>					
Increased	41%	23%	29%	38%	20%
No change	53%	62%	29%	56%	47%
Decreased	0%	8%	35%	0%	27%
Not applicable	6%	8%	6%	6%	7%

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

## By household composition

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>Alone*</b>					
Increased	34%	15%	28%	37%	21%
No change	53%	48%	28%	37%	34%
Decreased	6%	7%	44%	7%	28%
Not applicable	6%	30%	0%	20%	17%

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>Immediate family</b>					
Increased	43%	51%	32%	33%	13%
No change	41%	29%	16%	42%	44%
Decreased	10%	7%	49%	8%	21%
Not applicable	7%	13%	3%	16%	23%

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>Mixed*</b>					
Increased	46%	42%	36%	32%	19%
No change	42%	34%	21%	39%	45%
Decreased	7%	13%	41%	11%	21%
Not applicable	5%	11%	1%	19%	15%

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community
<b>Single parent</b>					
Increased	35%	53%	36%	37%	19%
No change	46%	23%	13%	27%	33%
Decreased	15%	21%	48%	20%	22%
Not applicable	3%	3%	3%	15%	26%

\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.



# WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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

## By perceived income level

<b>Well below average</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Childcare</b>	<b>Shopping</b>	<b>Home gardening</b>	<b>Community</b>
Increased	48%	51%	28%	34%	21%
No change	36%	26%	14%	36%	35%
Decreased	13%	13%	58%	16%	25%
Not applicable	3%	10%	0%	14%	18%

<b>Below average</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Childcare</b>	<b>Shopping</b>	<b>Home gardening</b>	<b>Community</b>
Increased	44%	50%	34%	32%	17%
No change	35%	23%	13%	38%	38%
Decreased	11%	14%	48%	9%	19%
Not applicable	9%	14%	5%	21%	26%

<b>Average</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Childcare</b>	<b>Shopping</b>	<b>Home gardening</b>	<b>Community</b>
Increased	36%	46%	36%	36%	10%
No change	53%	38%	19%	43%	50%
Decreased	5%	4%	43%	6%	21%
Not applicable	6%	12%	1%	15%	19%

<b>Above and well above average*</b>	<b>Domestic</b>	<b>Childcare</b>	<b>Shopping</b>	<b>Home gardening</b>	<b>Community</b>
Increased	46%	44%	37%	35%	15%
No change	46%	38%	26%	42%	48%
Decreased	6%	8%	37%	11%	19%
Not applicable	2%	11%	0%	11%	18%

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

"Completely abandoned socialising.. stayed at home 80% of d time. Only outside for work...." - Female, 54, Guyana

"My movement changed stayed at home much more." - Male, 66, Guyana

"Had to learn technology and how to use it to keep in touch." - Female, 47, Guyana

"No job available" - Female, 53, Guyana

"felt secluded and alone most times" - Female, 42, Guyana

"Lifestyle changes" - Female, 36, Guyana

"Covid19 has affected everyone with its disruption on society" - Female, 40, Guyana

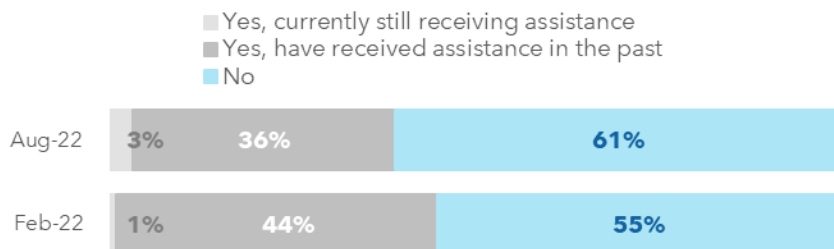
"Spread of it contagiously i was affected & had to take precautions & still work to survive" - Male, 36, Guyana

"I have not been able to socialize." - Female, 67, Guyana

# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

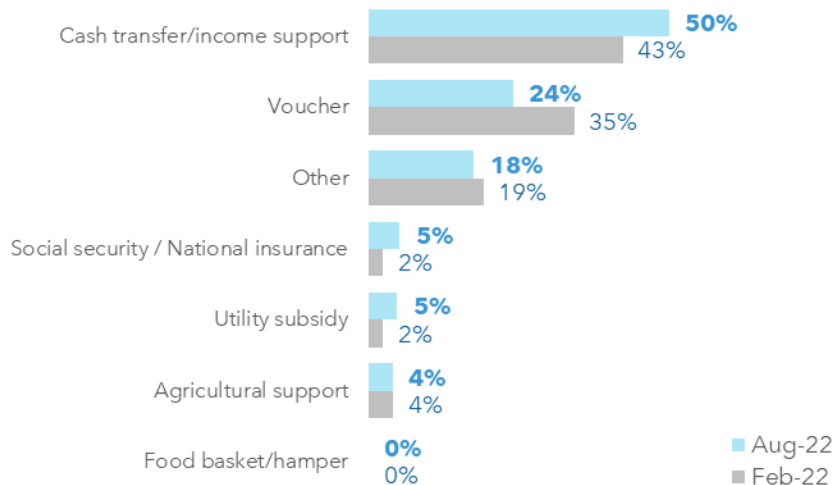
- Cash transfer and income support continue to be the leading form of assistance in response to COVID-19 in Guyana.

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



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

Multiple choices could be selected.



The Government of Guyana has provided assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of living crisis through implementing both social protection measures and subsidies. In an effort to mitigate the impact of rising global fuel prices on domestic consumers and the productive sectors the government implemented fuel subsidies during March and October 2022. These actions lowered the Excise Tax rate on gasoline and diesel from 10% to 0% followed by measures implemented through the Ministry of Finance providing a cut of 20% on gasoline and 15% on diesel prices at State-owned Guyana Oil Company Limited (GuyOil) pump stations. In addition, the government is also engaging private sector diesel and gasoline suppliers to also provide price cuts on their types of fuel.

In response to COVID-19 The Government of Guyana implemented a set of social protection measures to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic. Initiatives such as The Pandemic Assistance Vouchers Programme, The COVID-19 Cash Grant, and the “Because We Care” assisted vulnerable households throughout Guyana. In partnership with the World Food Programme, the government also implemented a programme to provide cash grants to support women’s empowerment.

At the time of this survey, 36 percent of respondents reported to have received government assistance with 3% still receiving support. Respondents indicated that cash transfer/income support was the most common form of assistance (50%), followed by vouchers (24%) and other forms of assistance (18%).

Recipients included households who already rely on assistance as their primary income source (45%) as well as Single headed households (47%). Respondents across all income groups reported to have received government assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. No major differences were reported between men and women.

# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

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

■ Yes ■ No

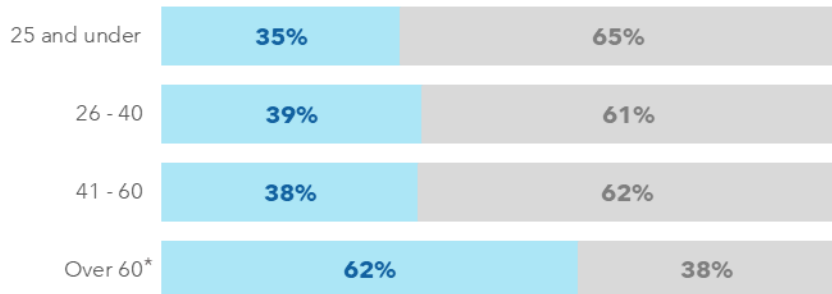
By sex



By urban/rural location

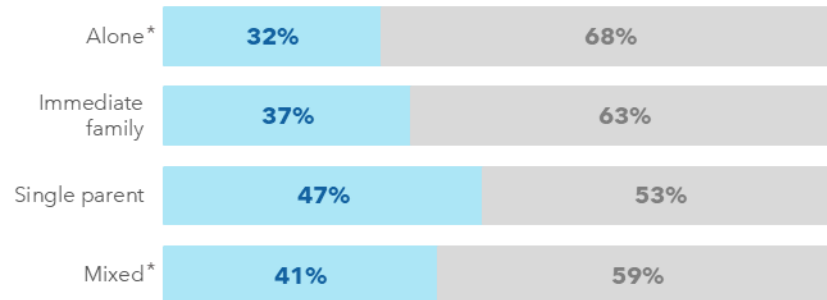


By age group



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

By household composition

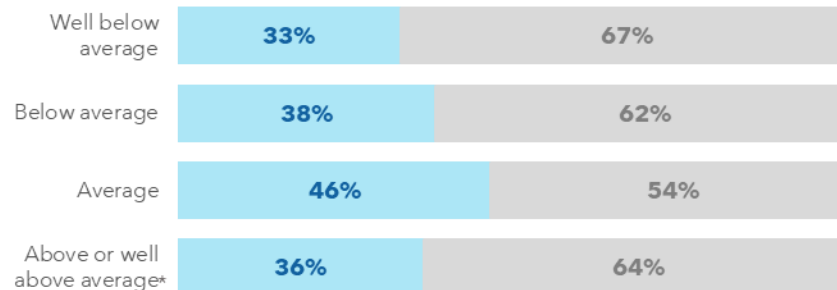


\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

By language



By perceived income level



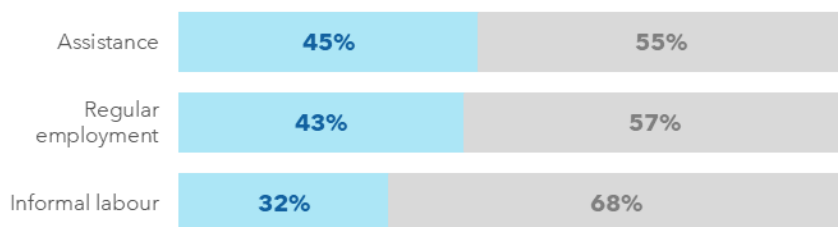
\* Low response numbers in this category may affect results.

# WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

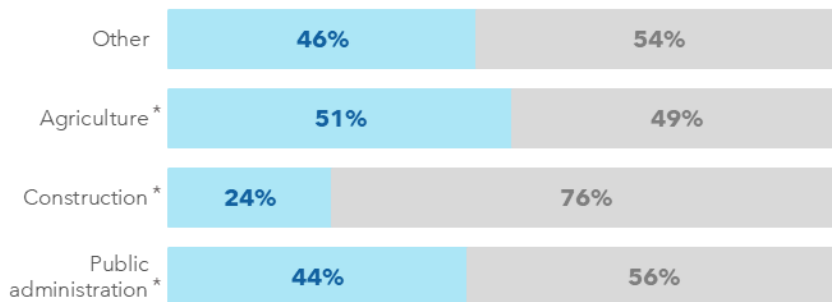
Have you received any assistance from the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

■ Yes ■ No

By main income source



By income sector



\* Low response numbers in these categories may affect results.

"Need financial assistance or increase public servant wage and salaries" - Male, 30, Guyana

"Need more assistance from Government financially" - Female, 43, Guyana

"Loss of income" - Male, 45, Guyana

"I hope our government do a cash grant to every individual over the age of 18, to help with cost of living in 2022" - Male, 38, Guyana

"Cost of living is rising" - Male, 38, Guyana

"I lost my job" - Male, 30, Guyana

"My biggest challenges was financed" - Female, 26, Guyana

"Bad for the past years" - Female, 57, Guyana

"Can't plan/budget ahead" - Male, 35, Guyana

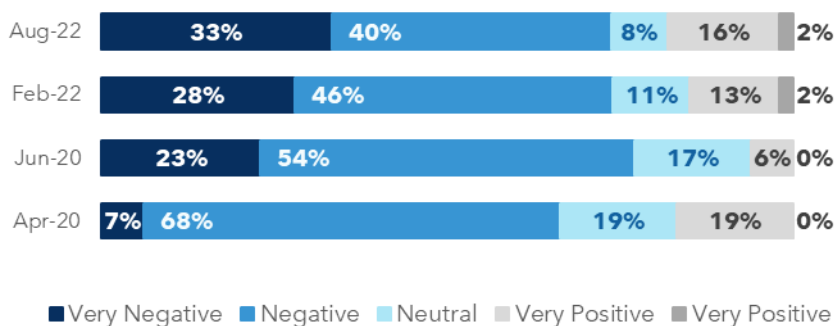
"cost to living is too high" - Female, 23, Guyana

"Loss of job" - Female, 38, Guyana

# 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 (English speaking respondents)



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 675 respondents 281 responded to the open-ended question in Guyana, 231 were English speaking responses. 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 August 2022, the respondents were expressing mainly negative (40%) and very negative (33%) sentiments, which have shown an increasing trend over survey rounds. Slightly more respondents expressed positive or very positive sentiments in August 2022 compared to February 2022.

## Some sample responses:

### Very negative (33%)

"The cost of everything just keeps rising and the government is not increasing our salaries. I had to pawn and sell family generation jewellery to make ends meet....help needed" - Male, 36, Guyana

### Negative (40%)

"Stay home more an try to spend less." - Male, 37, Guyana

### Neutral (8%)

"I eat what I can afford" - Male, 61, Guyana

### Positive (16%)

"Be proactive and take all necessary precautions" - Male, 73, Guyana

### Very positive (2%)

"I started my own business" - Male, 23, Guyana

*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.

*"The cost of everything just keeps rising and the government is not increasing our salaries. I had to pawn and sell family generation jewellery to make ends meet....help needed" - Male, 36, Guyana*

*"Very restricted and unhappy" - Female, 45, Guyana*

*"It's really hard" - Female, 24, Guyana*

*"Got depression from being lock down" - Female, 51, Guyana*

*"Decrease in income" - Male, 56, Guyana*

*"I lost my job" - Male, 24, Guyana*

*"My household has become more introverted." - Male, 36, Guyana*

*"Having to practice social distancing and not being able to socialize with friends and family" - Female, 40, Guyana*

*"Budget with a passion to make much out of the little" - Female, 52, Guyana*

*"Restrictions of movement" - Female, 43, Guyana*

# WIDER IMPACTS | Sentiments

Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping

AUGUST  
2022



FEBRUARY  
2022



JUNE  
2020



APRIL  
2020



# CONCLUSION

The food security and livelihoods of people in Guyana have undergone significant changes in the past two years. This survey shows that while the effects of COVID-19 had a profound impact on how people in Guyana meet their most pressing needs and earn a living, its impact has been significantly aggravated by the cost-of-living crisis. Many people continue to recover from the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving them ill-equipped to cope with yet another crisis. Incomes are still depressed, labour markets are still struggling to recover, and the prices of food, fuel and fertilizers have climbed to record levels.

The cost-of-living crisis is impacting food security in Guyana. Increasing food prices compounded with observed increases in the cost of fuels and transport have put an added strain on people's resources making it more difficult for them to meet their needs. As a result, people continue to employ negative coping strategies by means of drawing on savings, selling productive assets and reducing other critical expenditures on health and education to get by, further threatening their ability to cope with future shocks and posing risks to their future livelihoods. As a result, people continue to buy smaller quantities and cheaper, less healthy or fewer kinds of food and eat less than they should. The inability to cover food and other essential needs is a growing concern as people experience first-hand the effects of increasing prices.

Guyana also relies heavily on imports for fuel, fertilizer, machinery and electronics, chemicals and metals. The steadily growing price of livelihood inputs are the main reasons causing disruptions to people's livelihoods, and the impact on incomes and well-being remains pervasive.

The significant reduction of COVID-19 related restrictions in Guyana brings cause for optimism on economic recovery, as shown by the slightly reduced number of persons who reported losing their job or having a reduced income. However, the picture in August 2022 is an

extremely worrying one for the future, as a greater proportion of respondents resorted to secondary/alternative sources of income, which will affect their livelihood prospects. Looking towards the future, almost half of respondents anticipate severe or moderate to severe impacts on their livelihoods, with the lowest income households expecting the most severe impacts.

These impacts are hitting hardest those who can least afford it, particularly the families with the lowest incomes, those working in the informal sector and those 25 and under. Spanish-speakers in Guyana are still faring worse than others. As highlighted in previous rounds of this survey, unpaid time spent on childcare and domestic work are still greater than before the pandemic, and these activities often are disproportionately shouldered by women.

While the government is implementing targeted relief measures to support consumers and the most vulnerable households dealing with the consequences of the cost-of-living crisis, the situation points to greater needs to buffer economies. Social protection has played a critical role in response to the limiting the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19. While many of the measures deployed have ended, people's incomes and lives are once again being challenged by the cost-of-living crisis. Continued investments into people's resilience by governments and development partners will allow the most vulnerable people to cope with these recurrent economic shocks.

The new challenges unleashed by the cost-of-living crisis will mirror much of those encountered in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Government can reinvigorate their current efforts and engage in new solutions to address the needs of those living in poverty and facing vulnerability. Social protection, agricultural support and financial inclusion can offer sustainable solutions to curb the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis.



# METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fifth round of the CARICOM Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 19 July to 12 August 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 analyses and interprets human languages, which provided sentiment analysis to determine the distribution of very negative to very positive 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 UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana for circulation of the survey. Appreciations also to Alejandra Moreno (University of Aruba), Rendell de Kort (University of Aruba), Benjamin Visser (University of Curacao) and Eugene Hoogstad (University of Sint Maarten) for translation and outreach support in the Dutch-speaking islands.

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 23% of responses coming from Trinidad and Tobago and another 19% from Jamaica. While this report refers to the results of previous survey rounds, the varying demographics of respondents limit comparability across survey rounds.

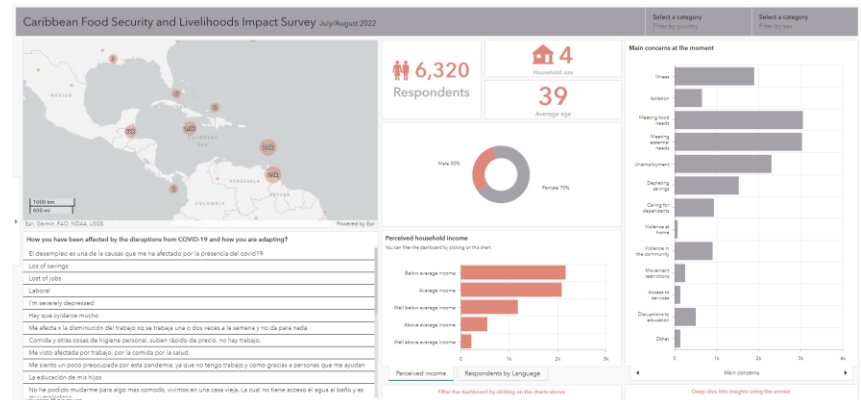
This report was prepared by WFP Caribbean - Trisandhi Gosine, Irina Bird Reddiar, Elisaveta Gouretskaia, Melissa Delph English, Amy Chong, Sarah Bailey and Regis Chapman.



Survey form



Dashboard for Smartphones



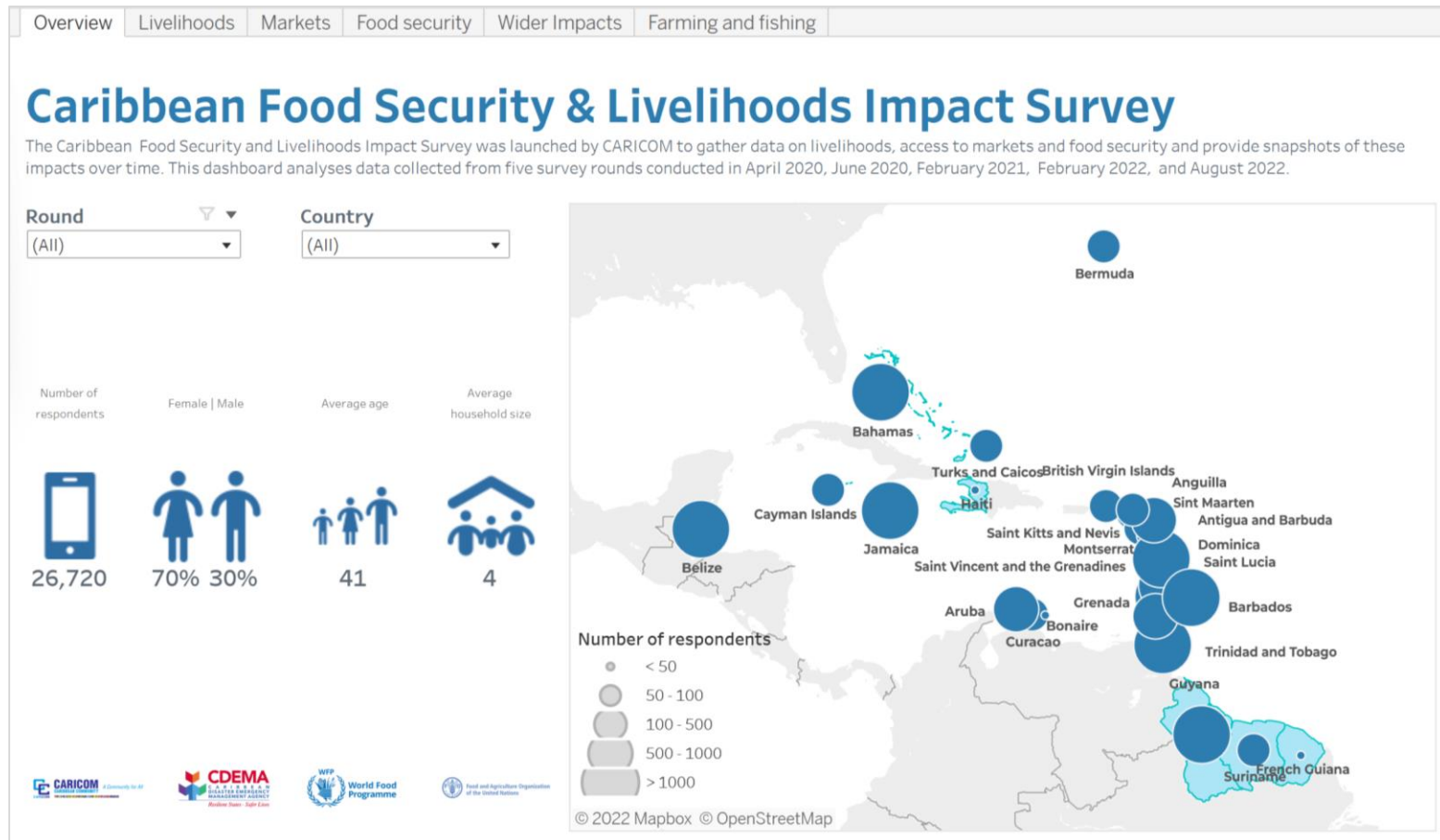
Dashboard for PCs/Laptops

# METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A feature introduced in the fourth survey round is the development of a Tableau dashboard which analyses data collected from five rounds of the Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Survey conducted in April 2020 (Round 1), June 2020 (Round 2), February 2021 (Round 3), February 2022 (Round 4) and August 2022 (Round 5). 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 Survey dashboard online. It may take a second to load. Alternatively, follow this link: <https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/CaribbeanFoodSecurityLivelihoodsImpactSurvey/Overview>



# CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

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

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

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

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

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

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