

Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey

REGIONAL SUMMARY REPORT | July 2025



About the survey

Across the Caribbean, individuals and households continue to navigate complex and compounding pressures that affect their ability to access food, earn a stable income, and sustain livelihoods in sectors such as agriculture and fishing. In a region heavily reliant on food imports and vulnerable to external shocks and natural hazards, even a single shock or event can have deep and lasting impacts on people’s lives and livelihoods. Successive ones erode resilience further.

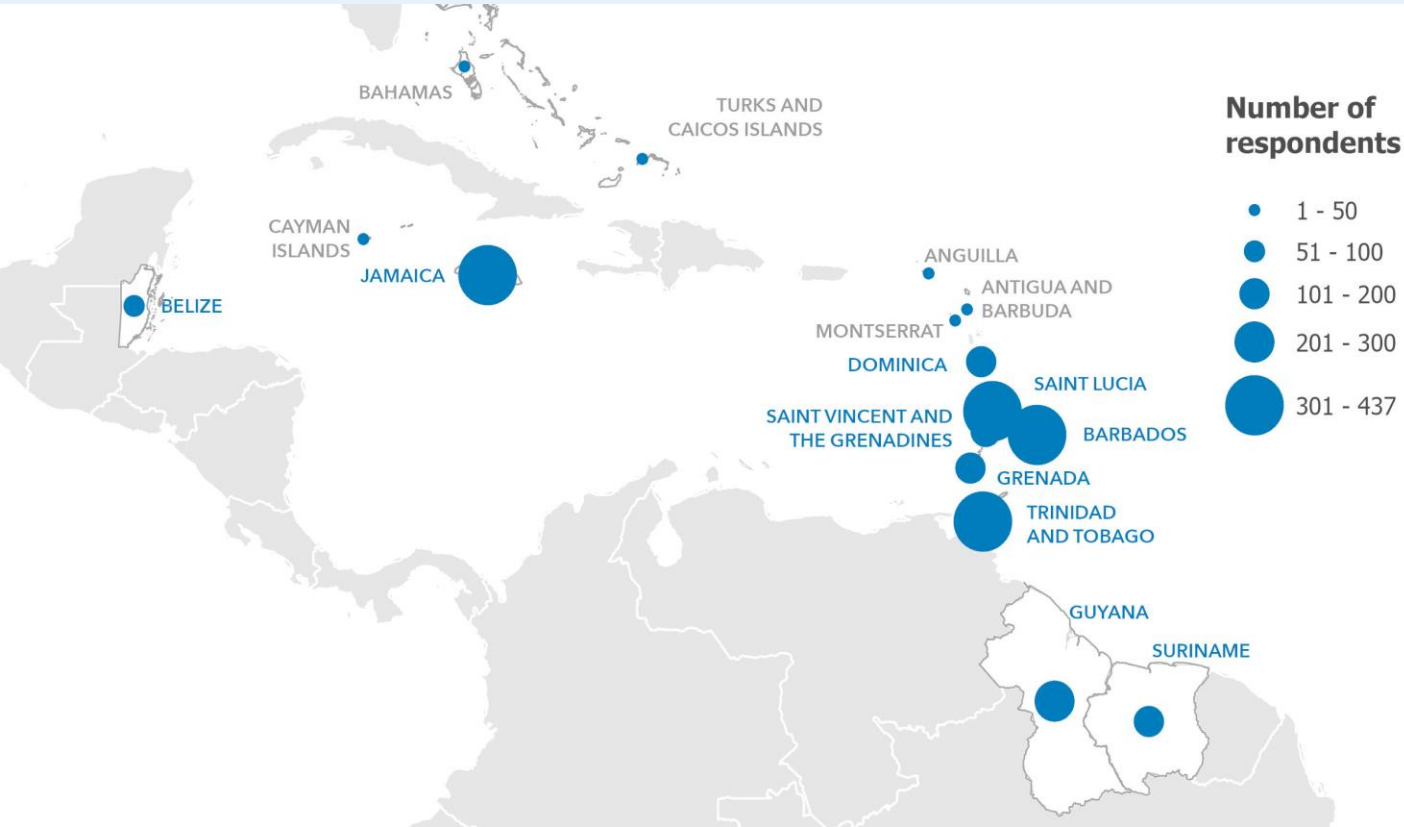
Since 2020, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been partnering with the World Food Programme (WFP) to monitor these evolving dynamics through the Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey. The survey provides valuable insights into people’s access to markets, livelihoods and food security. The findings help inform governments and development partners as they address regional challenges.

The latest edition, the eighth round of the survey, was carried out between 20 May and 20 June 2025. This report compares those results to earlier surveys dating back to April 2020, offering a longitudinal look at the impacts of climate shocks and economic strain over time.

The survey was disseminated online through social media, news outlets, SMS, and email. While it offers a meaningful snapshot of conditions across the region, it’s important to note that the data is not representative. Because the survey relied on internet access, it may underrepresent communities without reliable connectivity.



June-25	2,541 Respondents	74 26% Female Male
Apr-24	4,053 Respondents	71 29% Female Male
May-23	7,734 Respondents	73 27% Female Male
Aug-22	6,316 Respondents	70 30% Female Male
Feb-22	6,010 Respondents	73 27% Female Male
Feb-21	4,186 Respondents	69 31% Female Male
Jun-20	5,707 Respondents	69 31% Female Male
Apr-20	4,501 Respondents	71 29% Female Male



Caribbean people continue to face significant challenges to meet their most basic need - food.

Recent data reveals that an estimated 3.2 million people across the English and Dutchspeaking Caribbean are food insecure. This figure represents 42 percent of that population. The steady decrease in food security which was observed after the global food price crisis in 2022, appears to have stalled.

This eighth round of the Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey, led by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and the United Nations World Food Programme, reflects the lived experiences of over 2,500 people from across the Caribbean. The results indicate that many people are compromising their diets, depleting their savings, and reducing expenditure on health or education to be able afford groceries. A nation's health is its wealth, and these coping mechanisms can have longer-term impacts, especially for children, older persons and those with chronic illnesses.

Small Island Developing States are uniquely vulnerable in this regard. A spike in prices for imported food or from a single hurricane can quickly ripple through local economies. In 2024, the Caribbean was struck by Hurricane Beryl, the earliest Category 4 and 5 Atlantic hurricane on record. The results of the Survey reveal that the main factor disrupting people's livelihoods is the high cost of supplies, specifically for farmers and fisherfolk facing high prices for feed, fuel and other inputs. Through the findings, it is evident that challenges to livelihoods, market access and food security are felt most acutely by those already living below the margins or on the edge.

At the same time, there is hope. Regional efforts continue to gain ground. Through the 25 by 2025 + 5 Agenda, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is advancing food security by increasing production, strengthening intra-regional trade, and improving sectoral financing. In light of the fact that in this Region, the cost of a healthy diet remains the highest in the world, this progress must accelerate. Adaptive social protection and innovative disaster risk financing are essential to protect lives and livelihoods, as the next major shock is not a matter of if, but when.

Evidence and data must continue to guide action. Since 2020, more than 40,000 people have shared their experiences through this survey series, helping to shape the regional understanding of food insecurity trends and drivers. In 2025, CARICOM and the WFP are expanding this effort through the launch of real-time food security monitoring. These tools will help detect early signs of distress to guide timely measures.

Regional efforts to strengthen food systems, driven by collaboration, offer a path forward. As governments and partners work to advance inter-island trade, increase production and support those most vulnerable to shocks, there is hope for a future where food security is a reality for all who call the Caribbean home. The time to accelerate progress is now.

Wendell Samuel, PhD

Assistant Secretary-general (Ag.)
Directorate Of Economic Integration,
Innovation And Development (EIID)

Brian Bogart

Representative & Country Director
World Food Programme
Multi-Country Office for the English & Dutch-speaking
Caribbean

Summary

The 2025 survey sheds light on the continued food security and livelihood challenges in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean.

It is estimated that approximately 3.2 million people out of 7.6 million (42%) in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean are food insecure as of June 2025.

This percentage is unchanged compared to 2024, highlighting a worrying plateau following the initial recovery after the height of the food price crisis in 2022.

Inflation continues to affect people with 94% of respondents reporting higher food prices in the last three months, which can compromise their reliable access to adequate and nutritious diets.

Natural hazards pose a consistent threat with 40% of respondents impacted in the last 12 months, mainly by tropical storms, heatwaves and drought.

Nearly one third of respondents have low resilience capacity to cope with and adapt to natural hazards, especially those from lower income households.

Thirty percent of respondents are skipping meals or eating less than usual, 24% are eating less preferred foods and 6% went an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey.

To meet their needs, 65% of the respondents have spent savings and 48% reduced spending on health and education. A fifth have sold productive assets or means of transport, further compromising their livelihoods.

Thirty-four percent of the respondents experienced job loss or reduced income in their household, while one fifth are resorting to secondary sources of income.

Livelihood disruptions remain widespread, with 41% of respondents facing disruptions. The high cost of livelihood inputs was cited as the main driver. Persons engaged in agriculture continue to face challenges related to the high costs of animal feed and fertilizers.

Respondents mainly worry about their inability to cover essential needs (43%), illness (35%) and unemployment (36%). Concerns about meeting basic needs have been the top reported worry since the August 2022 survey.

Almost a third of the respondents had no food stocks at the time of the survey – a similar pattern to levels reported since August 2022.

The overall picture shows that improvements since the height of the food price crisis in 2022 have stagnated, and all key metrics on food security, coping and access to markets remain worse compared to before the pandemic. As with previous surveys, these challenges disproportionately affect households with lower incomes.

Main results from the survey

		LIVELIHOODS		MARKETS		FOOD SECURITY	
		Disrupted livelihoods	Reduction/loss of income	Lack of market access	Increase in food prices	Food Insecure	Lack of food stock
July 25		41%	34%	41%	94%	42%	29%
Apr-24		44%	32%	38%	96%	43%	28%
May-23		60%	40%	52%	97%	51%	32%
Aug-22		55%	54%	49%	97%	57%	30%
Feb- 22		50%	57%	33%	93%	40%	23%
Feb-21		51%	63%	30%	71%	38%	17%
June-20		54%	69%	27%	78%	41%	13%
Apr-20		74%	48%	38%	59%	24%	3%

*Comparisons of the June 2025, April 2024, May 2023 survey rounds with the previous rounds should be taken with caution due to slight changes in the questions' recall periods.

Table of contents

1. <u>About the survey</u>	1
2. <u>Foreword</u>	2
3. <u>Summary</u>	3
4. <u>Table of contents</u>	
5. <u>Socio Economic Context and Vulnerability</u>	5
6. <u>Findings</u>	
a. <u>Demographics</u>	7
b. <u>Livelihoods</u>	9
c. <u>Markets</u>	15
d. <u>Food security</u>	21
e. <u>Natural Hazards and Resilience</u>	25
f. <u>Safety Nets</u>	29
g. <u>Other Findings: Sentiments and Main Worries</u>	31
7. <u>Conclusion and recommendations</u>	33
8. <u>Acknowledgements</u>	34
9. <u>Methodology</u>	35
10. <u>Annex Main results from the survey by country</u>	37
11. <u>Annex Food Insecurity Experience Scale by country</u>	39

SOCIO ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND VULNERABILITY

- Caribbean households continue to feel the impact of rising food costs, with 94% of respondents reporting higher food prices.

Food prices

While global food prices have moderated from the peaks of 2022, they generally remain above pre-pandemic levels. FAO's Food Price Index indicates that global food prices increased by five points (4.4%) in January 2025 compared to January 2024. This increase was driven primarily by increases in the indices for dairy, oils indices, and meat , while the indices for cereals and sugar show reductions over the same period.

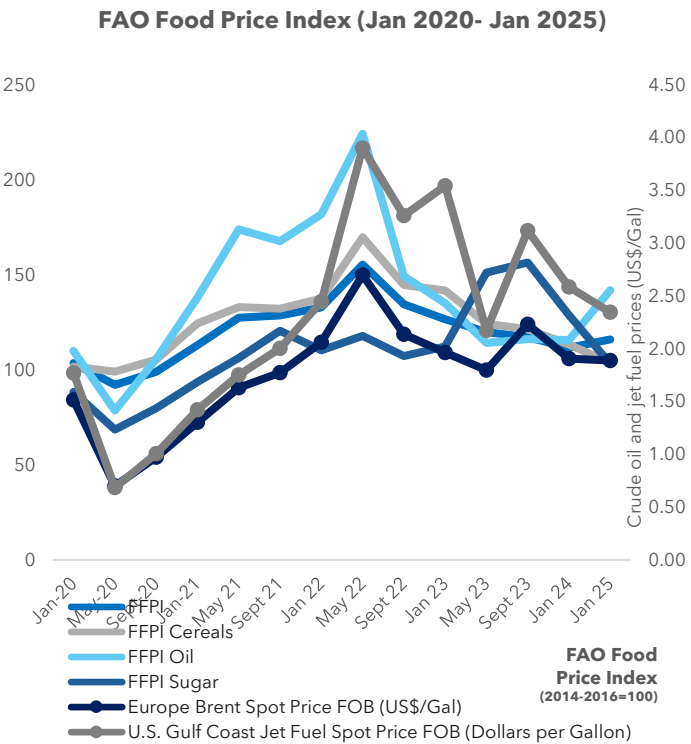
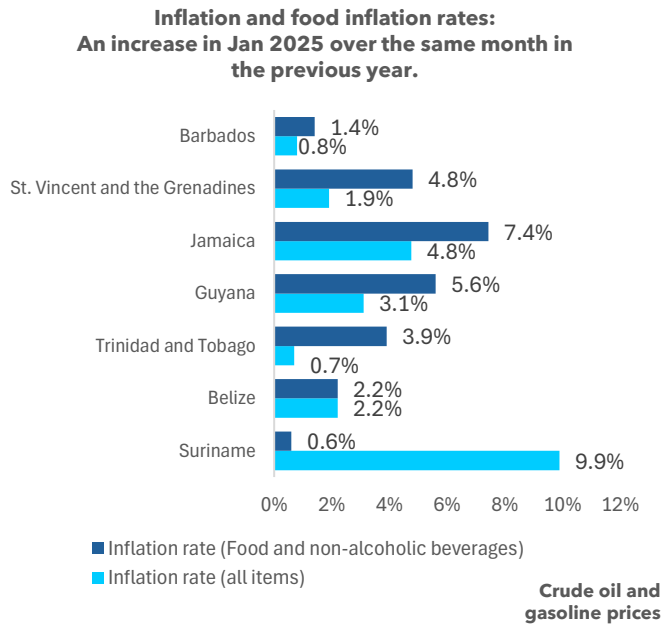
The Caribbean continues to experience increasing food prices, as food inflation tended to be higher than the general inflation rate, except in Suriname. In January 2025, year on year food inflation was particularly high in Jamaica (7.4%) and Guyana (5.6%). Similarly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (4.8%) and Trinidad and Tobago (3.9%) experienced moderate rises in food prices in January 2025 compared to the previous year, while food prices increased at a lower rate in Belize (2.2%) and Barbados (1.4%).

Oil prices fell marginally in 2024 attributable in part to downturns in global consumption, entry of non-OPEC suppliers, and excess capacity in OPEC nations (IDB Trade Trends Estimates for LAC, 2025). Energy prices fluctuations contributes to higher prices for essential commodities, with most respondents reporting higher prices for food (94%), gas and electricity (74%), transport (74%), and housing (73%).

Food import dependency

International trade plays an important role in food security, as imports enables countries to access to food that are difficult or expensive to produce locally, while export earnings can help to finance food purchases. Cereal import dependency ratio is one indicator that directly links trade with food security. Between 2020 and 2022, imports accounted for 86%-100% of cereal consumption across the Caribbean (ECLAC, 2024 - Int'l Trade Outlook for LAC).

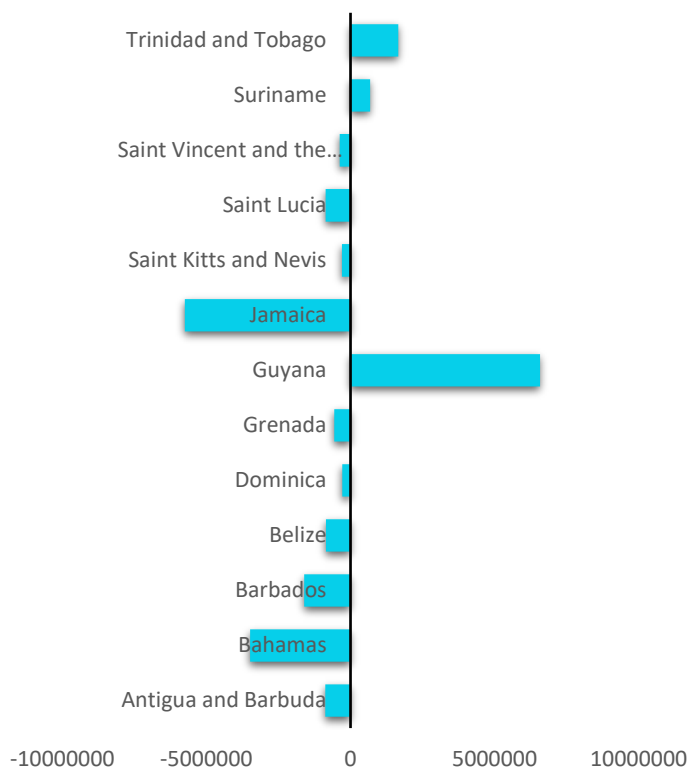
Although Latin America and the Caribbean is the world's leading net food-exporting region, the Caribbean sub-region continues to run a persistent food trade deficit (ECLAC 2024 - Int'l Trade Outlook for LAC). Food import reliance is even more pronounced in the Eastern Caribbean, where the WTO estimated that in 2023 OECS countries imported more than 50% of the food they consumed (WTO, 2023). Overall, food imports in the Caribbean increased moderately by 6.8% from 2022 to 2023, with the largest increases observed in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (59%), Belize (31%), and Guyana (24%). While Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago maintained positive net exports in overall merchandise trade in 2023, all countries recorded food trade deficits (FAOSTAT, 2024).



SOCIO ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND VULNERABILITY

- ▶ Economic recovery remains uneven across the Caribbean, with oil-exporting countries outperforming tourism-reliant economies.

Food Trade Balances 2023(excl fish)



Source: FAOSTAT

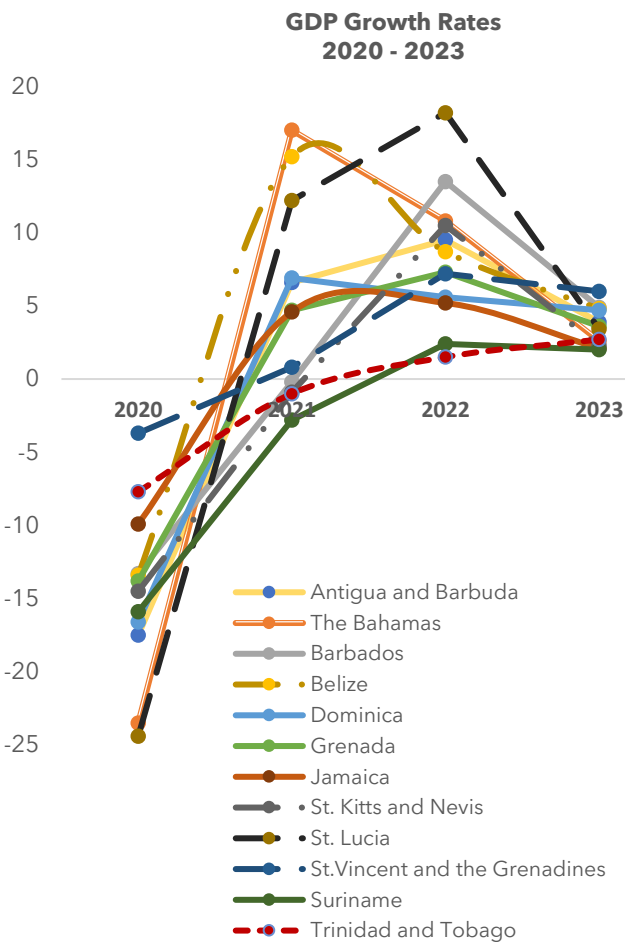
The Caribbean’s reliance on food imports is exacerbated by its extreme vulnerability to extreme weather events. In 2024, for instance, Hurricane Beryl caused devastating losses to crops and livestock, agricultural and fishing infrastructure, long-term damage to agricultural land. Hazards (e.g. hurricanes) also result in significant losses to livelihoods of households reliant on farming and fishing as their primary source of income.

Such heavy reliance on imported food places immense pressure on countries’ foreign reserves, which in turn hinders investments in local agricultural production, and leaves the region more vulnerable to global fluctuations in production, prices and supply chains (Columbia University, Journal of International Affairs, 2024) .

GDP growth and macroeconomic performance

The Caribbean has experienced mixed economic recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic. While tourism-dependent economies like Barbados, Saint Lucia, and The Bahamas saw significant contractions in 2020, partial rebounds were observed in 2022-2023 with growth rates ranging between 3% and 6% depending on the country (IMF, 2023).

Commodity-exporting economies such as Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have performed more robustly. Guyana, driven by oil production, recorded double-digit growth in 2022 and 2023, positioning it among the fastest-growing economies globally (World Bank, 2023). However, most other CARICOM countries have faced more moderate growth trajectories, generally between 2% and 5%.

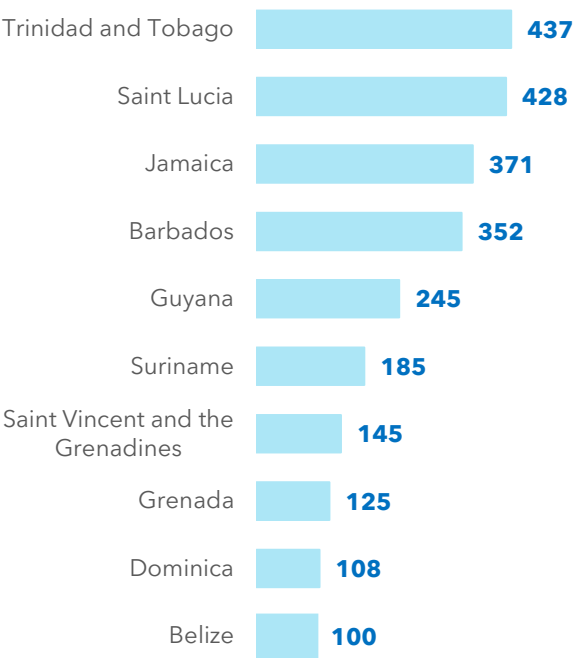


Source: FAOSTAT

DEMOGRAPHICS

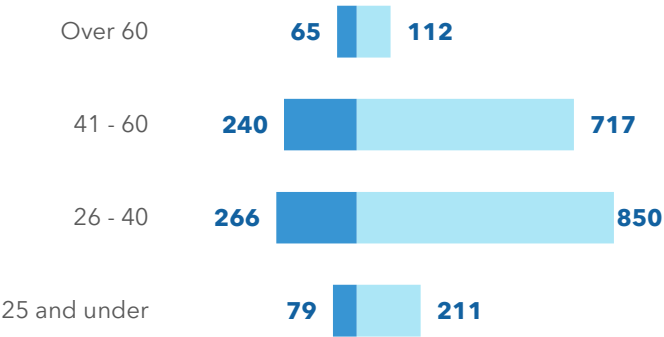
Number of Responses

By country*

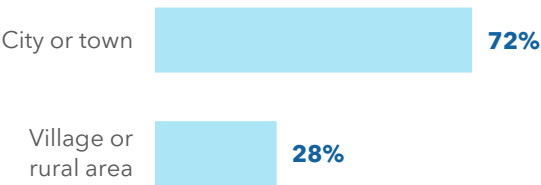


Age and sex

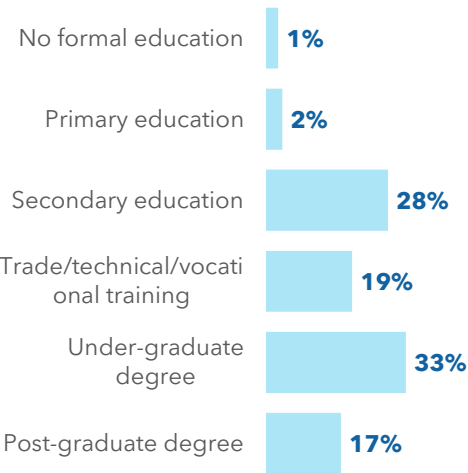
■ Male ■ Female



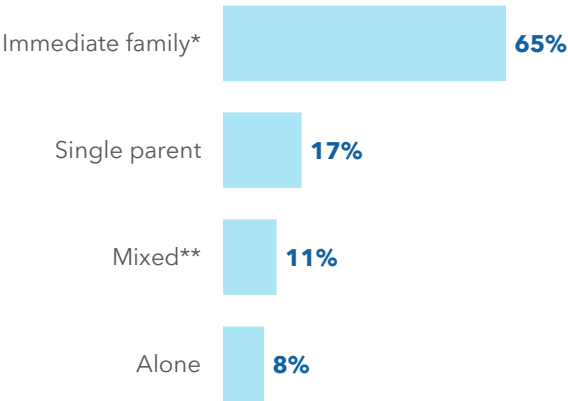
Urban/rural location



The highest level of education achieved in the household



Household composition



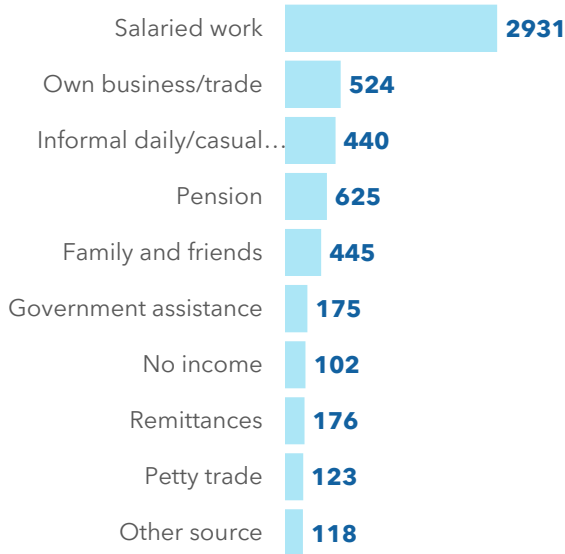
*Countries with less than 100 responses: Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos and, Curaçao.

* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.
** Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

DEMOGRAPHICS

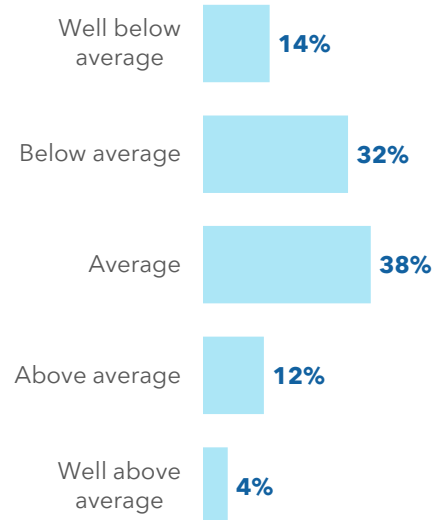
Main income sources

Up to two options could be selected.



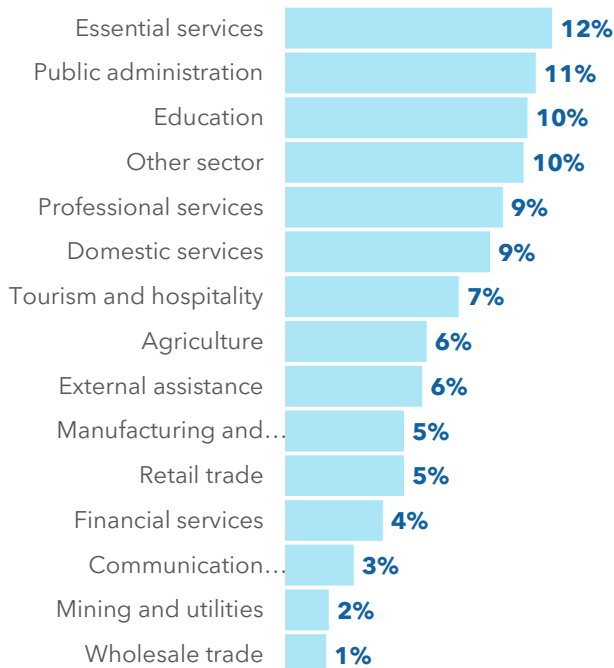
Perceived income levels

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



Main income sector

As a percentage of respondents that indicated having an income.



"Increased food, gas and living expenses has made it extremely challenging to maintain cost of living." - Male, 44, Trinidad and Tobago

"In the past year I've had to be away from my family for long periods of time to help support my husband with finances and that still wasn't enough. It's like the more we make the more expensive things become." - Female, 30, St. Lucia

"Cost of living went up, salaries remained the same. Our quality of life decreased and is unable to enjoy the things we used to. Adjusting to live below our means." - Female, 33, St. Lucia

"Because of the price of foods and health I am eating less good food and not getting the medicine that I need for my kids and wife and me, so I buy cheap medicine that is very dangerous for my family." Male, 38, Suriname

*Top income sectors chosen under "Other" include working in private sector, call center, customer service, security, and receiving pension.

LIVELIHOODS PROFILES | Farming and fishing

► Households' engagement in agricultural activities (livestock raising and fishing/coastal activities)

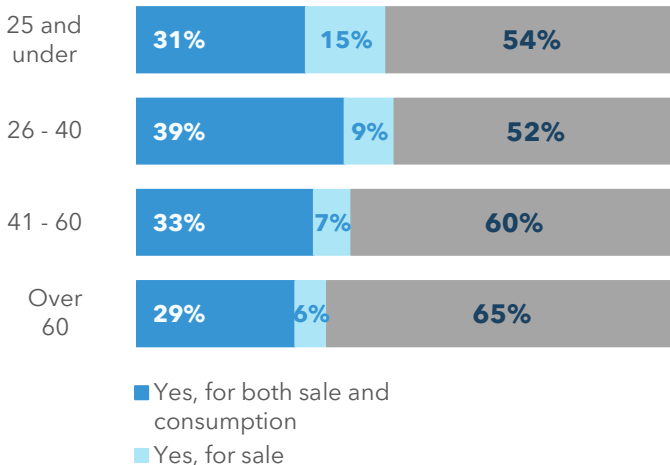
One in four survey respondents (25%) were engaged in farming or livestock rearing. Of those respondents, 56% practice farming mainly for consumption purposes, and 35% were engaged in agriculture for both consumption and sale. Consistent with previous survey rounds, the most common products cultivated by respondents are vegetables (60%), plantains/bananas (51%), fruits (40%), roots and tubers (37%), and poultry (29%). Fewer households (4%) are engaged in fishing, also primarily for consumption. Fishing activities mainly comprise small-scale aquaculture (36%), marine and coastal fishing (35%), and inland fishing (27%). The proportion of households engaged in farming and fishing activities, whether for consumption or sale, has remained stable throughout prior rounds of this survey.

Of those engaging in farming, slightly more younger respondents conduct farming for both consumption and sale (39% of those 26-40 years compared to 29% for those above 60 years). On the other hand, more over 60 (65%) practiced farming mainly for consumption compared to those younger than 25 years (54%). No major differences were observed by sex among for respondents engaged in farming or livestock rearing.

More respondents describing their income as below or well below average (39%) were involved in fishing or coastal activities for both consumption and sale compared to those describing their income as above or well above average (27%). However, more respondents with average income (76%) practiced farming purely for consumption compared to those with below or well below average income levels (55%).

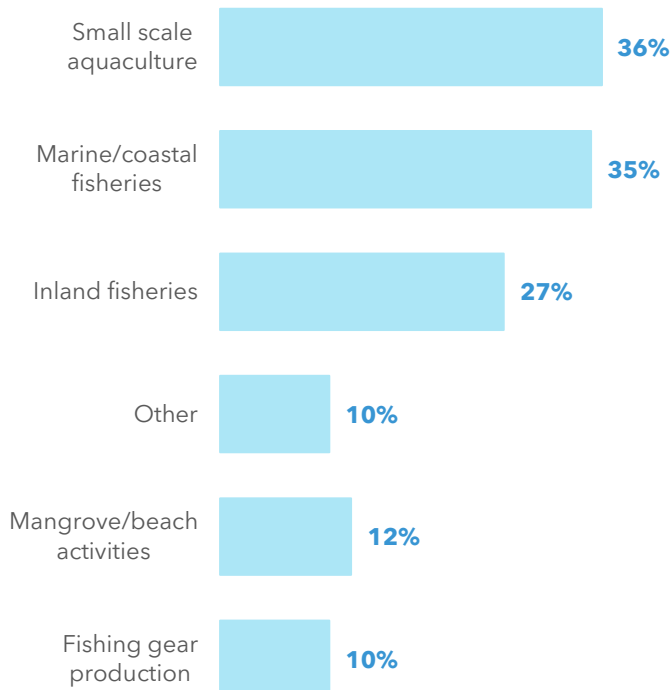
"My wife pass away just beyond the 12 months period. She managed the family business and household affairs, while I contributed to the family business on a part-time basis. I now have to assume her responsibility while carrying for a 3 year and 5 year. In 2022 there was a small drought and 2023 excess rain both cause a decrease in farm production and revenue as such family savings and loans had to be accessed to see the family by." - Male, 56, Trinidad and Tobago

Households engaged in farming/livestock raising By age group



For those that engage in fishing/coastal activities, the activities are...

Multiple choices could be selected.



LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing inputs

► Households engaged in agricultural activities are constrained by the impact of high costs of key inputs including fuel, fertilizers and animal feed

Households engaged in farming and livestock rearing continue to feel the impact of high prices for essential agricultural inputs, though to a lesser extent than was experienced in the previous survey rounds. In the six months prior to the survey, 85% of respondents observed increases in the price of animal feed and tools/machinery, 81% saw higher fertilizer prices, and 73% saw increased seed costs. Notable increases were also observed in the prices of labor, and water and irrigation. Overall perception of price increases for agricultural inputs has increased, with a higher proportion of respondents reporting increased prices across most farming inputs compared to April 2024.

Nearly eight in ten respondents engaged in fishing and coastal activities (78%) were impacted by high cost of fuel for their operations. Similarly, 77% reported increases in prices for fishing nets, tools and machinery, and nearly 65% saw the price of fish feed and bait increase in the six months preceding the survey. Notable increases were also reported in the costs of casual labour, ice, and storage facilities.

The price increases for fishing inputs are comparable to those reported in April 2024, when 79% of respondents reported increases in the price of fuel and more than 71 experienced increase in the price of nets, tools, and other machinery.

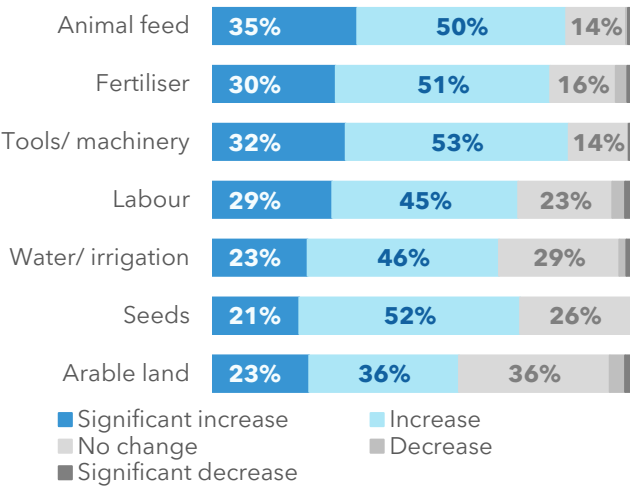
"Difficulties with road access to my farm. Increase in transportation costs. High food costs. High power cost. Low revenue. Low productivity. High cost of necessities. Planting of more crops. Risking my life on dangerous road conditions to get to inland farms. Carrying stones to try and repair government abandoned farm roads and bridges (which rainfall undone frequently)." - Male, 42, Dominica

"Cannot get anyone to work on the farm. We plant less, produce less and have less income. Both of us have had major health problems and farm labour is very demanding and poorly remunerated. The world market price for cocoa is soaring but farmers are paid a pittance for a crop that is highly labour intensive to harvest." - Female, 65, Grenada

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

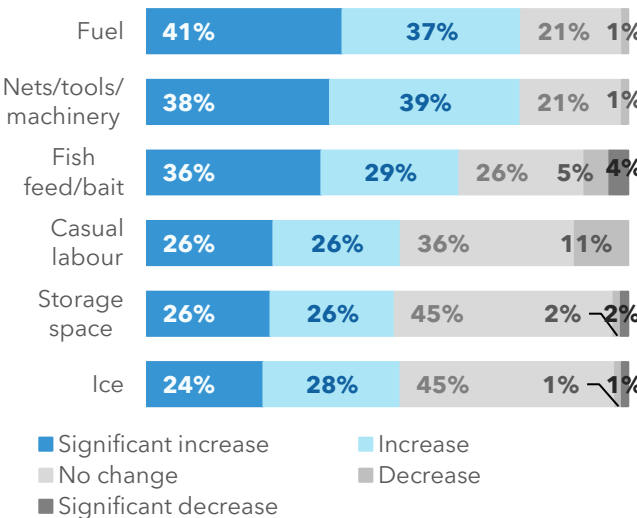
Percentages were calculated only for those respondents engaged in farming that responded to this quest



Have you observed any change in the costs of the following inputs for fishing/coastal activities in the last 6 months?

For those that engage in fishing/coastal activities

Percentages were calculated only for those respondents engaged in fishing that respond



LIVELIHOODS | Income changes

► Reports of loss of jobs or reduced incomes have remained relatively similar to last year but still impact a little over a third of respondents.

Thirty-four percent of respondents suffered from job loss or reduced salaries/revenues in the past year, relatively similar to last year's thirty-two percent. This indicates a stagnation from last year and it remains a concern for the limited income opportunities available to households.

One-fifth of respondents reported turning to secondary or alternative sources of income as a way of coping, a similar observation from the last two years with a slight downward trend. (22% in April 2024 and 24% in May 2023).

A higher proportion of respondents 25 and under (40%) experienced income reduction compared to other age groups such as respondents 26-40 (36%), 41-60 (31%), and over 60 (23%).

Respondents with income levels well below average (57%) and below average (42%) were more likely to report loss of job or reduced income than those with above average (16%) or well above average (28%) income levels.

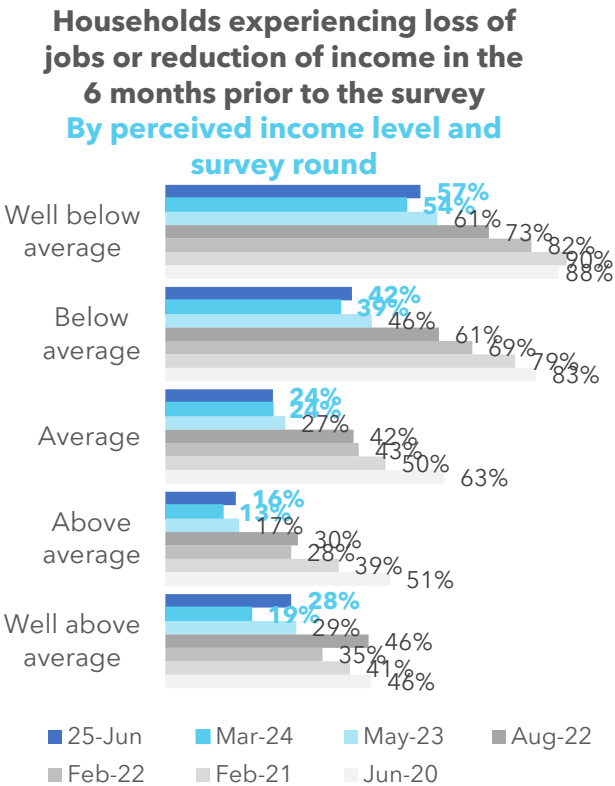
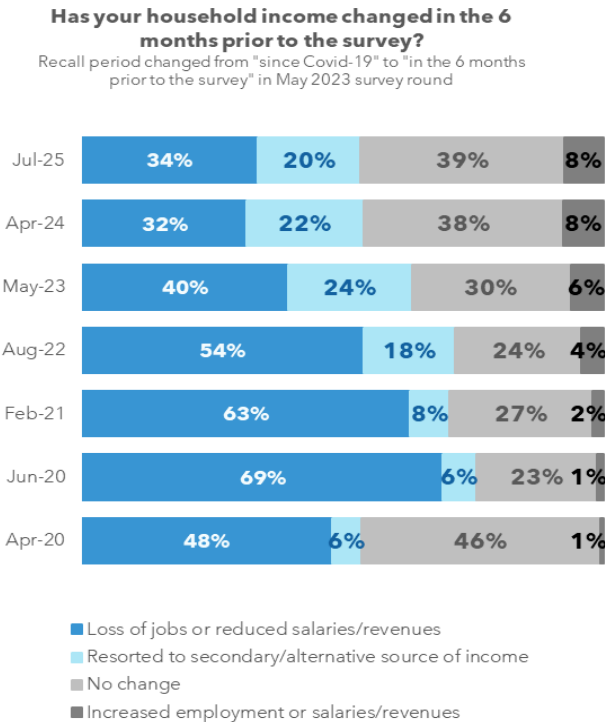
Some variations were also observed across the countries surveyed, with slightly more respondents from Jamaica (38%) and St. Lucia (37%) reporting income reduction and job losses than those from Suriname (28%) and Belize (19%).

The sectors that represent respondents' main source of income that had higher occurrences of job loss come from manufacturing and construction (48%), retail trade (47%), and domestic work (45%).

"Loss of income has impacted my family harshly...bills are piling up...food is limited...rent is due"- Female, 38, Trinidad and Tobago

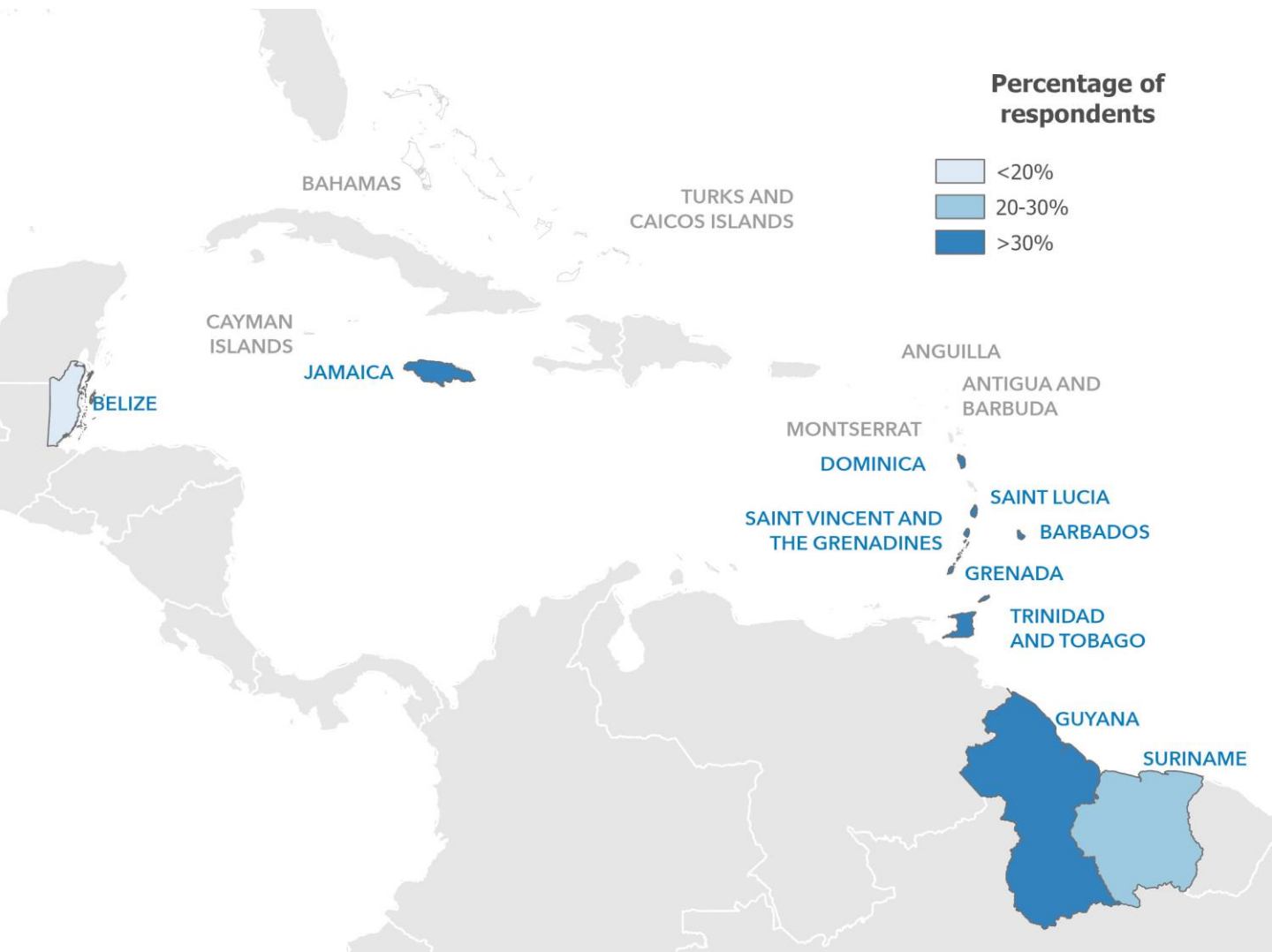
"Well since I've lost my job, I'm unable to maintain my utility bills and buy food for my household. [My] electricity was disconnected and I had to bridge it. I'm unable to enroll and finish up my level 4 food preparation certificate"- Male, 32, Jamaica

"After taking out a mortgage for my house, I lost my job. I haven't adjusted to the current situation because I'm still trying to cope."- Female, 36, St. Lucia



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING LOSS OF JOB OR REDUCTION IN INCOME IN THE 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY

For countries that received over 100 responses in the June 2025 survey round.



"The value of[o]ur income has decreased significantly. Having to make hard decisions and denying myself things." - Female, 42, Guyana

"We are working to collect a salary that isn't sufficient to run the household. We are barely covering expenses especially with children" - Female, 45, Belize

LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

► Respondents continue to grapple with livelihood disruptions, due to high costs of essential livelihood inputs

In the 30 days prior to the survey, 41% of respondents reported disruptions to their livelihood activities, relatively similar to last year, April 2024. Among those reporting livelihood disruptions, 58% have attributed those disruptions to the high cost of livelihood inputs, a drop from last year's 66%.

Substantial disparities were observed among respondents with different income levels. Respondents describing their income as well below (62%) and below average (49%) continue to be more widely affected by livelihood disruptions compared to those with income levels of above (20%) and well above average (35%).

Similarly, respondents whose main source of income was petty trade (53%) and support from family and friends (55%) experienced higher incidences of livelihood disruptions compared to those with pension (33%) and salaried employment (37%).

The prevalence of livelihood disruptions also varied significantly by sector of employment, with the highest levels of disruptions reported by those involved in manufacturing and construction (48%), agriculture (48%), domestic work (49%), and retail trade (50%).

Disruptions to livelihoods varied significantly by country, with more respondents from Dominica (52%) and Guyana (51%) reporting disruptions to livelihood activities compared to Grenada (34%) and Belize (36%).

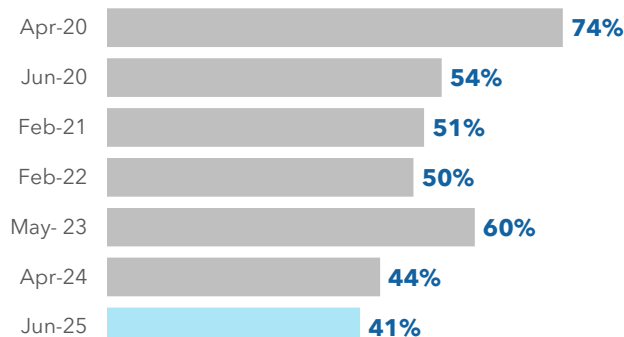
"With the increase in food prices, my family had to skip a meal, I had to use my little savings to buy electricity and send my kids to school"- Female, 28, Dominica

"Things have become more expensive in the market, groceries and other shops. It has become harder to fulfill other needs such as house and car repairs. We have cut down on the variety of fruits, vegetables and other food items that we need. We have also cut back on health care eg. Blood tests, doctor visits and postponed much needed repairs or tried quick fixes with car and house repairs"- Female, 54, Trinidad and Tobago

"Decreased savings due to the cost of goods and services. Go out and buy less and ask for increased remittances"- Male, 24, Jamaica

Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 30 days prior to the survey

Recall period changed from 2 weeks to 30 days in the May 2023 survey round.



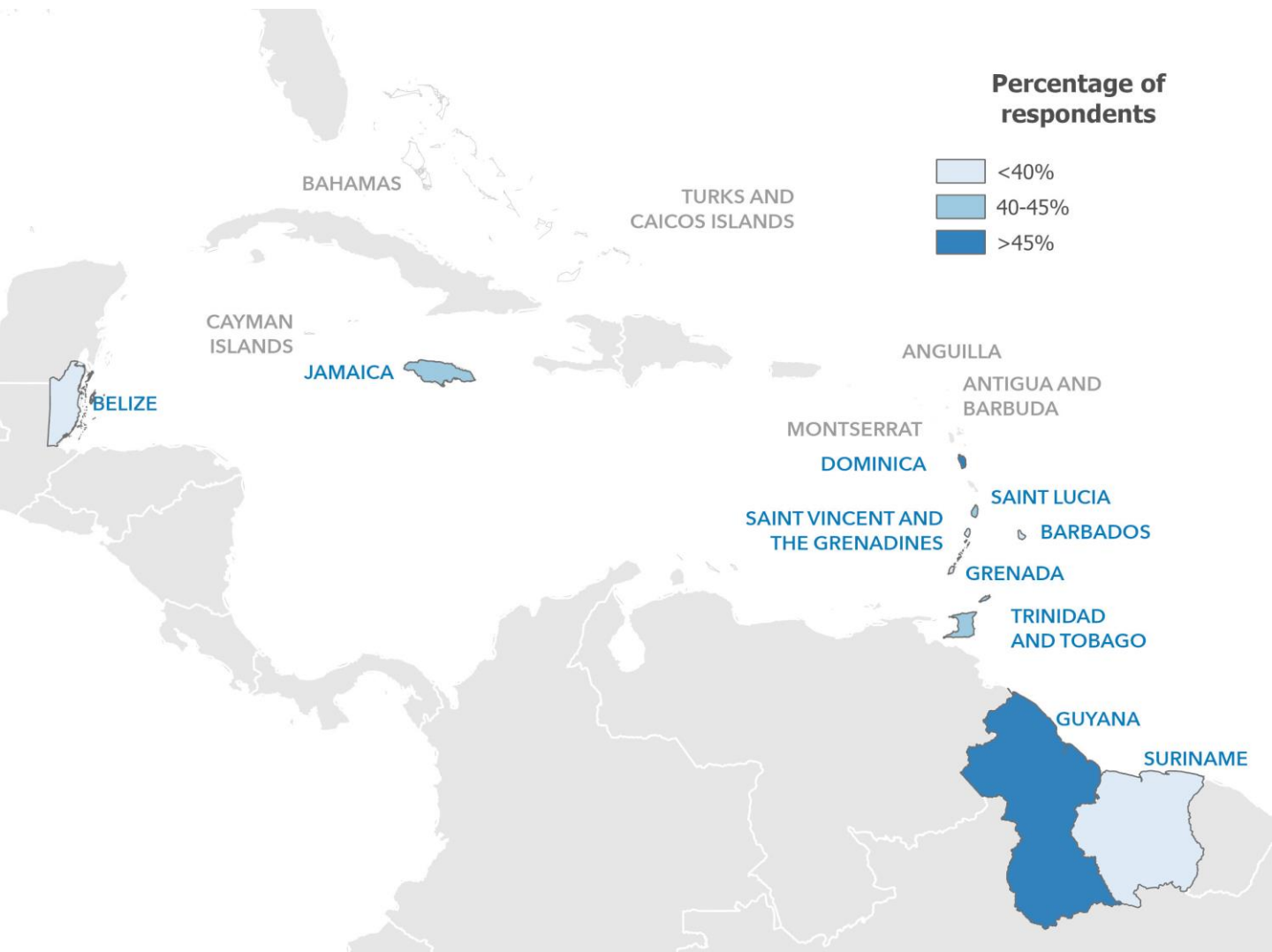
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected. Answer options were adjusted in May 2023, adding new options for selection which were not included in the previous rounds and removing Covid-19 related options that are now displayed as "Other".

Main reason for livelihood disruptions	25-Jun-24	Mar-24	May-23	Aug-22	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Livelihoods inputs are too expensive or inaccessible	58%	66%	65%	62%	39%	23%	21%	9%
Increased demand for goods/services	12%	17%	16%	21%	12%	8%	8%	12%
Reduced demand for goods/services	16%	15%	13%	15%	13%	18%	21%	20%
Transport limitations	18%	16%	12%	13%	10%	9%	16%	22%
Illness	19%	17%	11%	5%	11%	4%	3%	0%
Other	11%	9%	9%	23%	56%	66%	70%	83%
Livelihoods inputs are unavailable	9%	9%	7%	8%	8%	8%	11%	11%
No market to sell products	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	5%	8%	11%
Natural hazard	4%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING THAT THEIR ABILITY TO CARRY OUT LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITIES WAS AFFECTED IN THE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY

For countries that received over 100 responses in the June 2025 survey round



"Food and bills have been very difficult to take care of for the past year. I am the sole bread winner of my family and things have been very difficult for me and my family. I have to reach out to friends or family for support and most times no one can help, and if anyone can help it's barely enough to feed my family much less to take care of any bills." - Male, 31, St. Lucia

"I am struggling to survive on a minimum wage salary. Started planting seamoss to sell to make ends meet. However, there has been a drop in the price of seamoss leading to the price being very unstable and unavailability of markets to sell." - Female, 45, St. Lucia

MARKETS | Access and shopping behaviour

► Nearly half of respondents reported challenges accessing markets in June 2025, with financial constraints cited as the main barrier.

In June 2025, 43% of respondents indicated that they had challenges accessing markets/grocery stores in the 30 days prior to the survey. While this finding reflects an improvement over the 53% observed in May 2023, it also marks a slight increase over the 40% reported in April 2024. It is important to note that, starting in May 2023, the recall period was changed from seven to thirty days, which should be considered when comparing the results across the survey rounds.

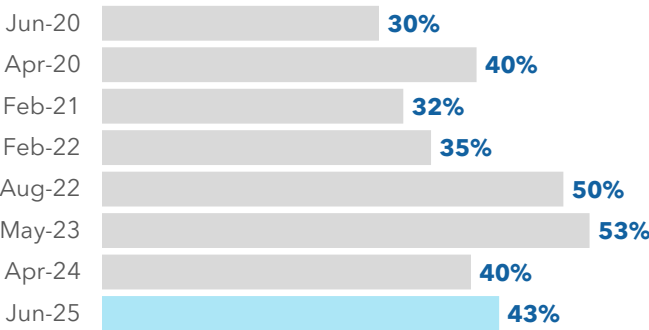
Consistent with previous rounds, limited finances (94%) was the primary reasons respondents had challenges accessing the market. Other limitations included transportation (19%) and illness (9%).

Some of the key socio-demographic variables associated with the inaccessibility of markets were age, sex, household income levels, and main source of income. Forty-five percent of female respondents had difficulty accessing markets, compared to 36% of male respondents. Moreover, 62% of respondents describing their household income levels as below or well below average had challenges related to market accessibility compared to just 20% for those whose perceived income levels were above or well above average. Similarly, 74% of respondents who relied primarily on assistance as their main income source reported challenges accessing markets compared to 35% among those with regular income. Further, more respondents 25 years and under (45%) reported challenges accessing the markets compared those 60 years and older (18%).

In the three months preceding the survey, 79% of respondents reported changes in their shopping behaviour. The main changes reported were buying cheaper or less preferred foods (64%), buying smaller quantities than usual (63%) and going to different stores.

Respondents unable to access markets in the 30 days prior to the survey

Recall period was changed from 7 to 30 days in May 2023.



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

Multiple choices could be selected. Answer options were adjusted in May 2023, adding new options for selection which were not included in the previous rounds and removing Covid-19 related options that are now displayed as "Other".

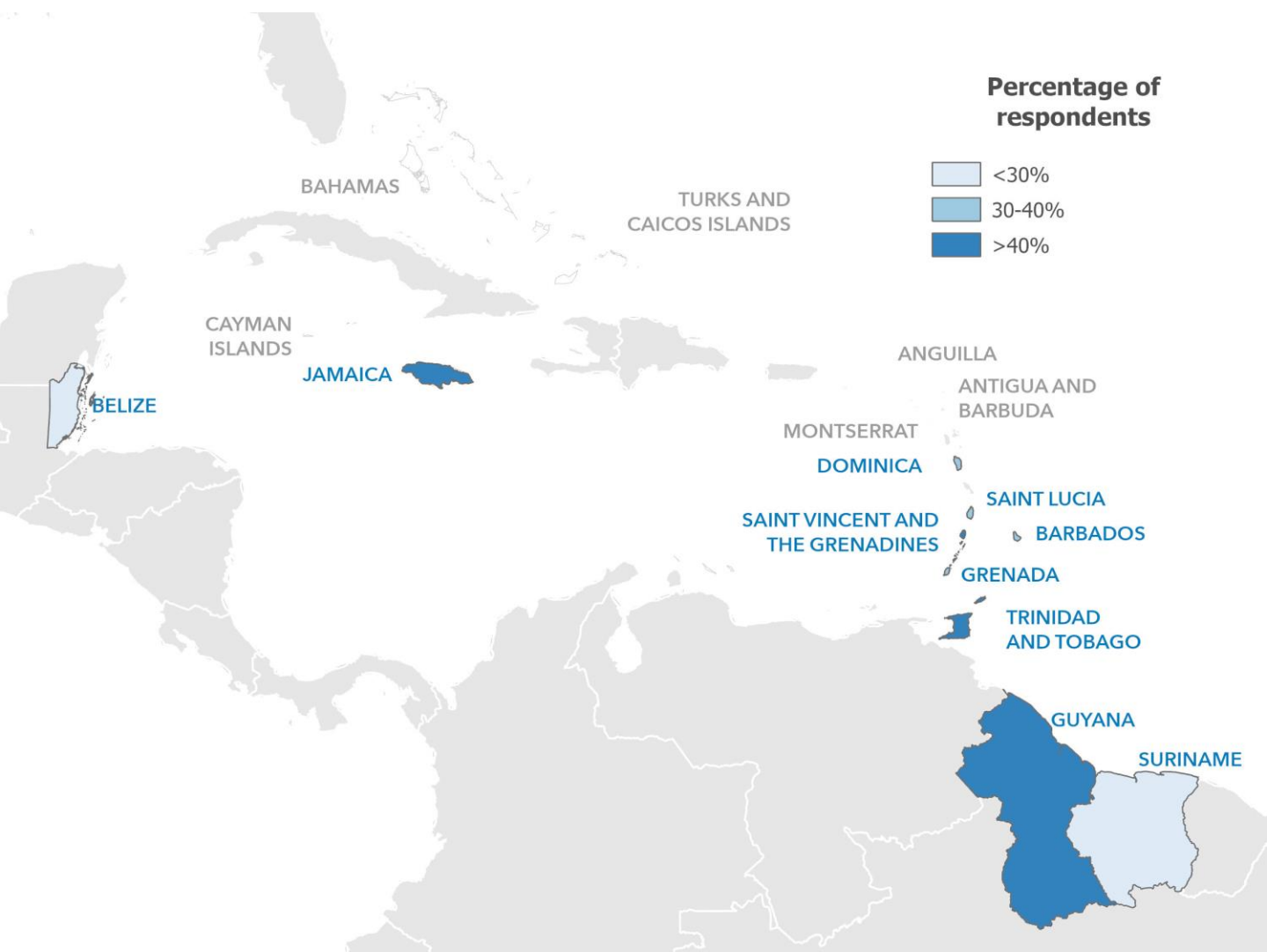
Main reasons for limited market access	25-Jun	Mar-24	May-23	Aug-22	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20	Apr-20
Lack of money to spend	94%	95%	96%	91%	81%	85%	37%	4%
Transportation challenges	19%	16%	10%	8%	5%	4%	14%	25%
Illness	12%	8%	5%	3%	6%	1%	3%	4%
Markets/grocery stores too far away	9%	7%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Limited opening hours of market/grocery stores	6%	5%	4%	3%	5%	6%	15%	55%
Other	6%	5%	4%	12%	30%	24%	47%	85%
Security concerns	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	7%	15%

"Increased taxi fare and internet bill so have to spend less money on food at supermarket; also have to go the market less and beg ground provisions from neighbours or friends." - Female, 46, Jamaica

"The prices of food have steadily increased so I now go for cheaper brands, lower quality items, different stores, smaller quantities of food and less nutritious foods to be able to meet my household's needs."-Female, 43, St. Lucia

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING A TIME WHEN THEY COULD NOT ACCESS MARKETS IN THE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY

For countries that received over 100 responses in the June 2025 survey round.



"Cost of living is so high. Just trying to scrape by. Well-being is second priority, survival is first" - Female, 27, Trinidad and Tobago

"The prices of food are too high. Especially during certain seasons vegetables are unaffordable." - Female, 43, Suriname

- Nearly all respondents perceived significant increases in the cost of food and other essential items in July 2025.

Similar to prior survey round, almost all respondents (94%) reported significant increases in food prices in the three months prior to the survey.

In addition, 77% of respondents reported increases in the cost of healthcare, 73% reported increases in the cost of housing, 74% felt increases in the cost of electricity, and 67% saw increases in gas prices.

These findings are consistent with previous rounds of the survey and indicate a continuing challenge faced by households in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean regarding the cost of food and essential items.

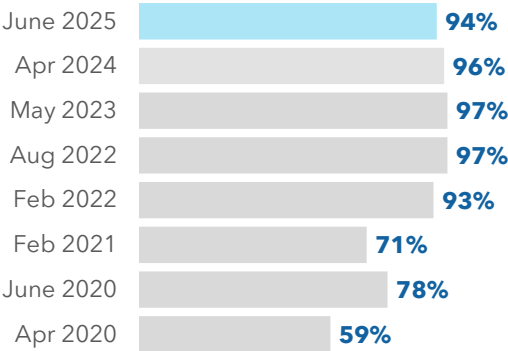
Furthermore, the perceptions on prices of food and other essential items were consistent across demographic characteristics including age, sex, perceived household income level and country of residence.

"There was a time we could take our family to a restaurant at least once monthly for a treat. Now we cannot . We usually eat twice a day during the weekends so as to spend less. There is not funds for entertainment for our family. Price of gasoline has even taken the pleasure of maybe taking a drive instead of going to a restaurant. Cost of living is going up and the salaries remain the same. To make payments for college for our children I have had to offer my cooking services to friends to make ends meet." - female, 47, Belize

"Just the cost of food have been increaseing slowly but surely I have to put more money aside to get the same amount or less goods " - male, 37, Trinidad and Tobago

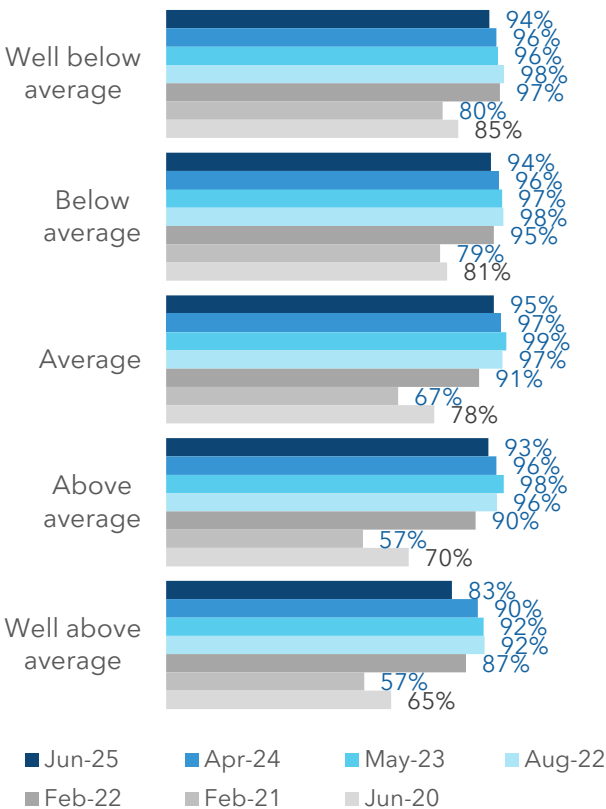
Respondents who reported an increase in food prices in the 3 months prior to the survey

Recall period was changed from 2 weeks to 3 months in July 2025.

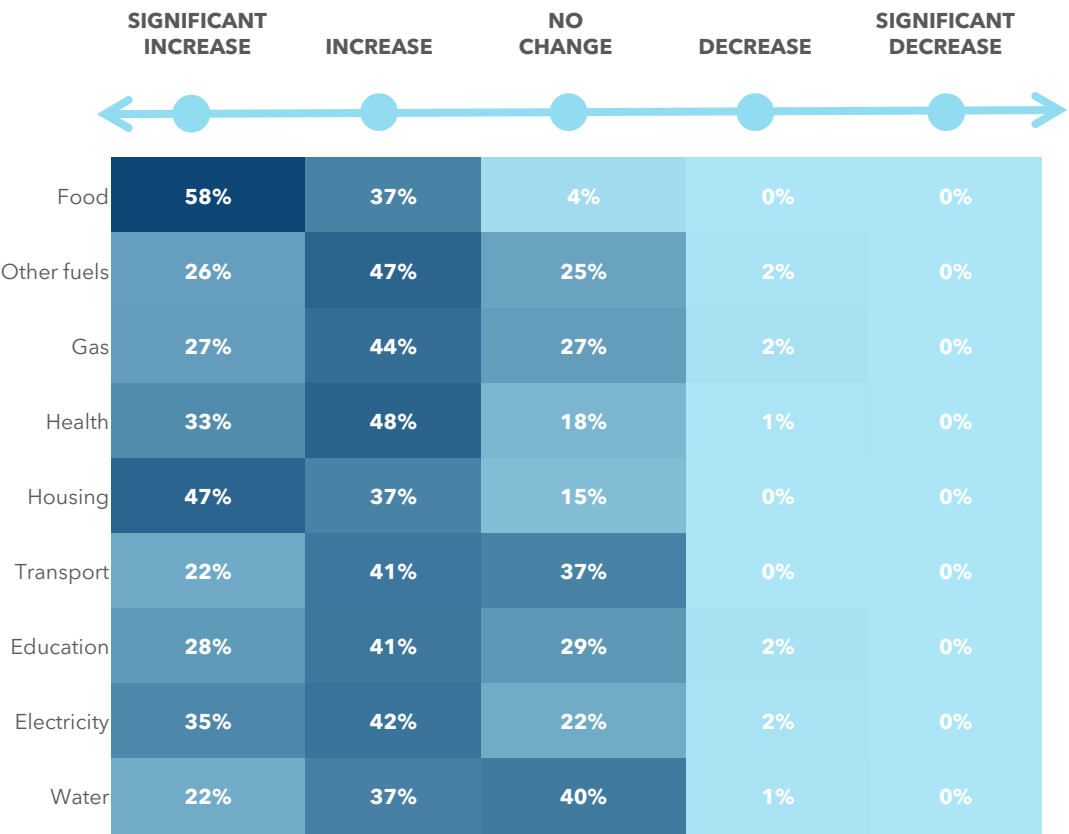


Respondents who reported an increase in food prices in the 3 months prior to the survey

By perceived income level and survey round



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING A CHANGE IN THE COSTS OF THE FOOD AND NON-FOOD COMMODITIES/SERVICES IN THE 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY*



*Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect absolute figures.

*"I've noticed that price keeps increasing on basic daily necessities, yet paychecks refuse to increase.
The government refuse to give basic help to the community and is putting the area in debt" - Male, 20, Saint Lucia*

"The past year I experienced higher prices on everything. Being sick and has changed my life. It's hard to buy food and medicine due to high prices " - Female, 36, Trinidad and Tobago

HOUSEHOLD CAPACITIES | Coping mechanisms

► Over sixty percent of respondents are spending savings or have exhausted them to meet their food needs

Households across the Caribbean are adopting a range of coping strategies to manage economic pressures, many of which may compromise long-term well-being. Sixty-five percent of households reported using their savings to meet food needs, while 48% reduced spending on essential services such as education and healthcare. Additionally, 20% of respondents reported selling productive assets or means of transportation—actions that can erode future income-generating capacity.

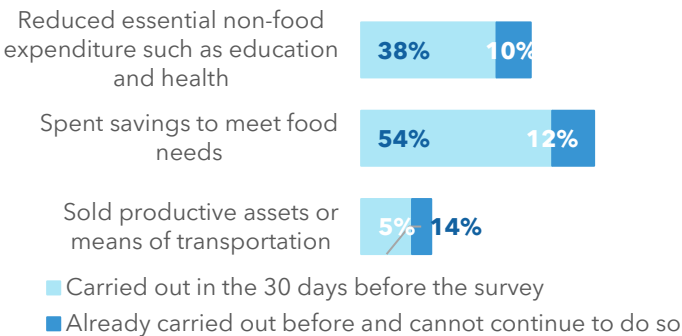
Lower-income households are disproportionately affected. Among those who perceive their income as well below average, 81% reported spending savings, compared to 77% of those with below-average income. These groups were also more likely to reduce essential non-food expenditures.

Educational attainment also influenced coping behavior. Respondents with technical, trade, or vocational training were more likely to deplete savings (73%) than those with postgraduate degrees (52%). Similarly, single-parent households, individuals relying on social assistance, and those with irregular income sources showed a higher tendency to exhaust savings and cut back on non-essential spending.

While coping patterns were broadly similar across sex, locality, and households with or without persons with disabilities, certain vulnerable groups warrant closer attention. According to regional studies, individuals employed in the informal sector, women-headed households, and youth are particularly at risk due to limited access to social protection and fewer economic buffers. These groups often lack stable employment, formal savings mechanisms, or access to credit, making them more susceptible to shocks and slower to recover.

Households' coping strategies

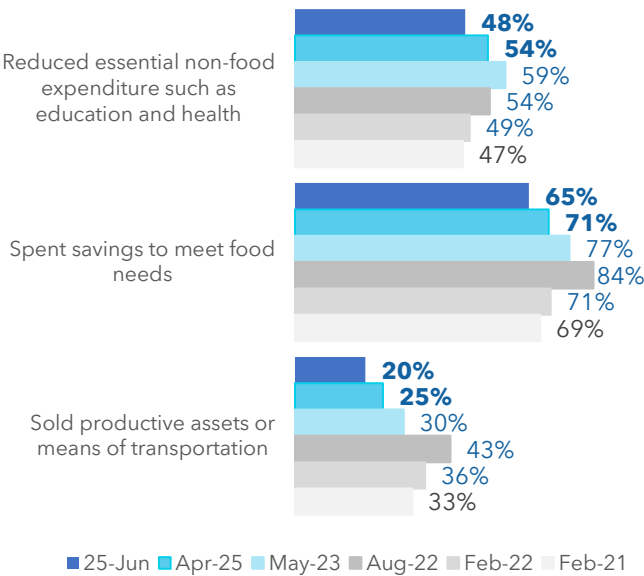
Multiple choices could be selected.



*Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect absolute figures.

Households' coping strategies

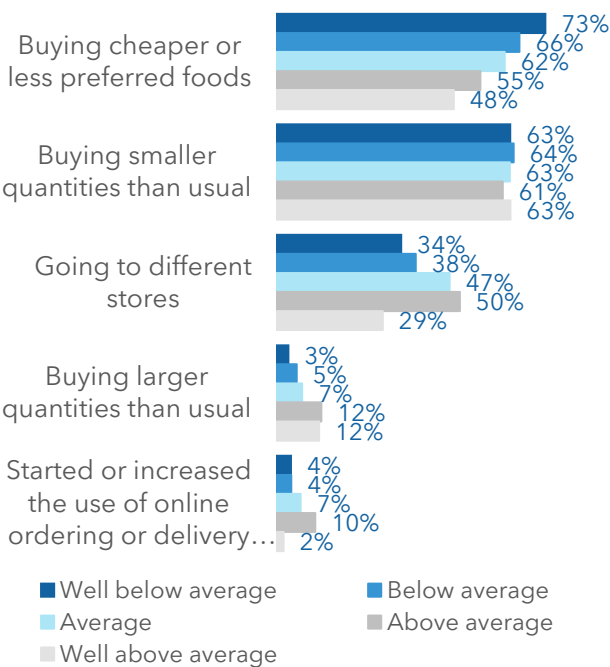
Multiple choices could be selected. New answer option added in May 2023- "already carried out and cannot continue to do so" in addition to "yes", both are interpreted as if the strategy has been carried out.



Respondents who reported a change in their shopping habits in the past 3 months are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS ON HOW RESPONDENTS ARE COPING WITH AND ADAPTING

"My challenges that I have to adapt to get jobs that can help sustain my family in education, food, and health, and now I still can't full adapt due to ,the increase in taxes."- Female, 35, Belize

"Well the challenges that I experience was I was unemployed not able to rend the assistance to my children the way they needed it and so I decide to go out to get a job so I can assist them the way I should"- Female, 39, Jamaica

"My expenses is more than what I make, I worry about how I will pay for my surgery"- Female, 37, Jamaica

"Difficulties to build/buy a house because the salaries don't compensate enough for that. Medicines have become rare to find so the process went up. Fuel has been skyrocketing and saving little by little does not help, because you will still be needing that money if prices go up"- Male, 22, Suriname

"Most of the food items have increased beyond the regular income making it difficult to shop food necessities regularly"- Female, 35, Guyana

"As the prices of food and cleaning supplies continues to soar, I have reduced my spending by growing some food and finding cheaper alternatives at other locations (buying directly from farms/plantations other than markets and supermarkets)"- Female, 64, Barbados

"We are just surviving and getting by, one income generator in the household divided by total members really places a stress on our family "- Male, 38, Belize

"An increase in the price of food/grocery items had me to cut out many items to continue maintaining my basic needs."- Male, 44, St. Lucia

"Food prices are outrageous, I have stopped buying unessential food items and only shop when necessary"- Female, 25, Trinidad and Tobago

"Transportation to access markets from remote areas is challenging. My family has started carpooling."- Female, 32, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

"We recently experienced Hurricane Beryl and the country is still undergoing and trying to overcome from that shock. Cost of living has skyrocketed and access to healthcare and achieving a better standard of living has become increasingly difficult and expensive, normally leaving you in debt. Markets remain volatile and global influences has made things even more dire, especially inflation. " - Male, 28, Grenada

"Over the years it's just mainly the economy and the cost-of-living that's high today an item maybe for \$40, and next week it's \$100. I find this challenging cause sometimes there's many things that I can't buy"- Female, 29, Guyana

"Taxes increase, food price increase, no changes to any income. Adapting it through less consumption"- Male, 20, Suriname

"Times are challenging but I am getting by. I have stopped buying some items to afford other. The other day the clinic did not have my son's asthma medication, and I had to buy it out of my own pocket. That was financially difficult at that time"- Female, 34, Trinidad and Tobago

"The challenge I have experienced over the past year is like a roller-coaster ride and the changes I have made to adapt is to plant crop and try to use less of food item that I can provide"- Female, 38, Jamaica

"The increase of basic need in terms clothes water light and shelter for a single parent household have it challenges. One must able to provide on a low income with the increase in expenditure. Changes have to made in order to adapt buying basic commodities, use less water and the usage of electricity and also start home garden, make sure sure around for cheaper product, stop the wastage of food, reuse and recycle and also change lifestyle to fit budget. These can help make the challenges and adapt to the increase changes of the global community "- Female, 49, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

► Respondents' food consumption patterns have improved since May 2023 but remain at a concerning level.

Food consumption and diets continue to be a concern, with 30% of respondents skipping meals or eating less than usual, 24% eating less preferred foods and 6% going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey.

These findings represent a controvert improvement in the food consumption of respondents compared to 2024, but a slight deterioration when compared to February 2021. More than half (60%) of respondents resorted to not eating for a whole day, skipping meals, or eating less preferred foods over the week prior to the survey.

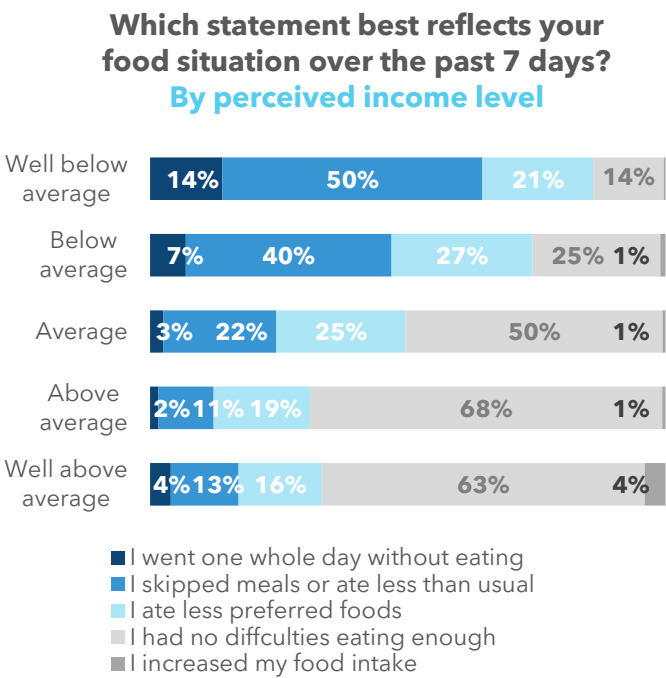
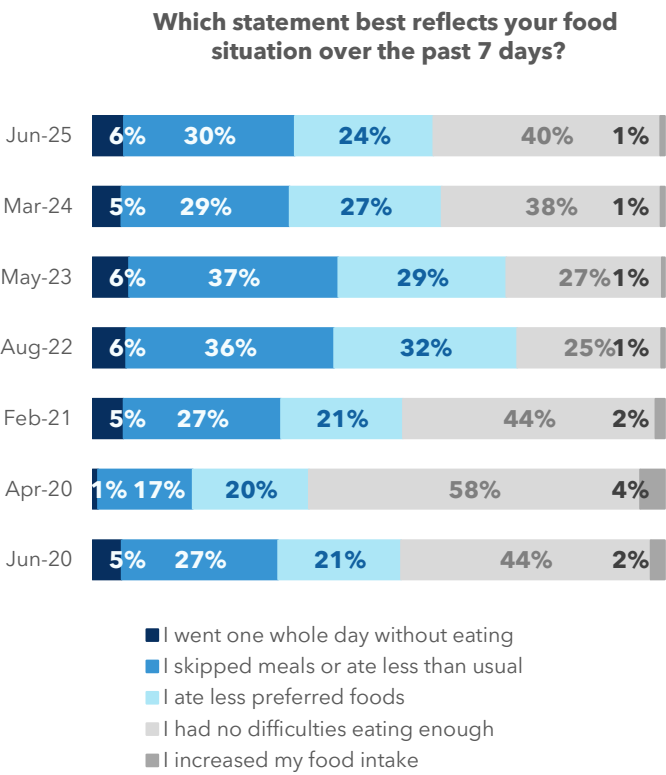
The most notable differences were observed across income levels. Respondents perceiving their income as well below average had the most challenges, with 14% going a day without eating, and 50% skipping meals or eating less than usual. Only 14% had no difficulty eating enough compared to 63% of households classifying their income as well above average.

Differences in food consumption patterns varied across age groups, household types, income by sector, and education. Considering age, younger respondents were the most likely to reduce their food consumption, with over half (63%) skipping meals, eating less than usual or going a full day without food compared to 33% of those over 60 years.

Respondents from single-parent and mixed households more frequently reported cutting consumption compared to those living alone or with immediate family.

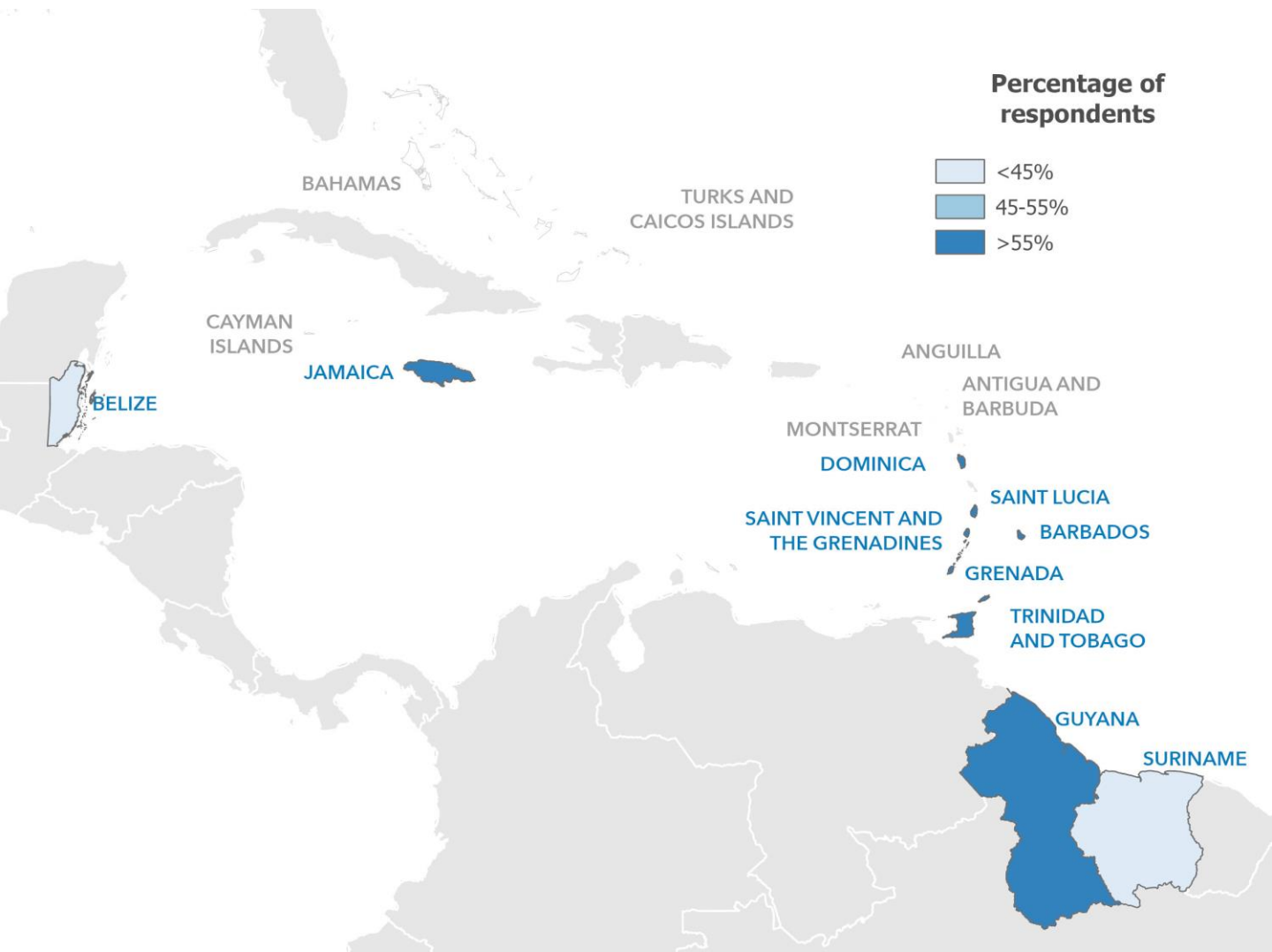
Linked to income levels, there was also significant variation across sources of income by sector, with over half of respondents doing domestic work (56%) and more than half (52%) of respondents in retail trade had negative coping strategies. Less than half of respondents who worked in professional services and public administration (25%) and education (21%) resorted to these measures.

Differences between the sexes were less pronounced with slightly more female respondents (63%) reporting to have skipped meals or eaten less than usual compared to male respondents (57%).



PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS NOT EATING FOR A WHOLE DAY, SKIPPING MEALS OR EATING LESS PREFERRED FOODS OVER THE 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY

For countries that received over 100 responses in the June 2025 survey round.



"Price has been rapidly increasing and causing me to have a higher food expense which is insufficient for my household. One of the things I did is to skip a meal so the food can last longer. Another is the high rise in utility bill especially electricity. I am now considering exploring a cheaper electricity source."
Female, 41, Jamaica

"Within the past year, I struggle to purchase proper foods as the prices are now too high and my salary can not afford. I have tried backyard garden. However, it is not as flourishing as the area where I reside is very dry and I have limited ware. So, I purchase affordable food and skip meals."
Female, 43, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity estimates

- Approximately 3.2 million people are estimated to be food insecure in the English-speaking Caribbean.

The rCARI, an adapted remote version of the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI), was used to assess the overall level of food insecurity across the English-speaking Caribbean.

The rCARI assesses two dimensions: (1) the current status of households' food consumption (based on food consumption patterns over the previous week), and (2) the current coping capacity of households to meet future needs (assessed based on economic vulnerability and the adoption of livelihood coping strategies). The composite score is comprised of 50% of the current food consumption domain, 25% of economic vulnerability domain, and 25% of the livelihood coping domain (see [page 37](#) for the CARI methodology).

The overall number of food insecure people estimated to be about 3.2 million in June 2025. The estimated number of moderately and severely food insecure people represents 42% of the population in the English-speaking Caribbean.

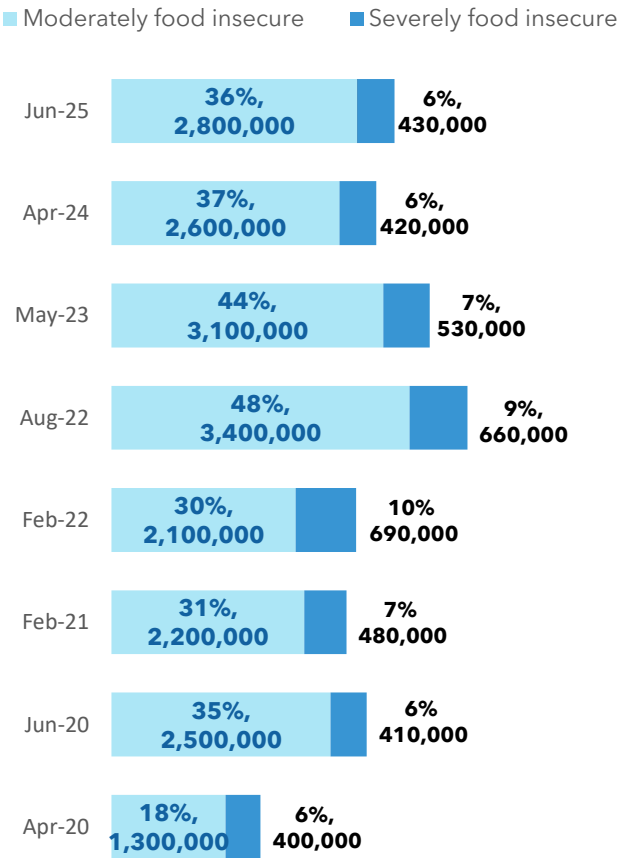
The levels of food insecurity have shown a steady decline since August 2022 when it was estimated that 57% of people were food insecure even if we observed a slight increase this year compared to 2023 and 2024, driven by the impacts of the Russo-Ukrainian war on global food prices compounded by lingering socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. However, food insecurity estimates of 42% for July 2025 are higher than all survey rounds conducted between April 2020-February 2022 and April 2024.

Income is a key factor linked to food insecurity, with more households in the below average (53%) and well below average (78%) income group, classified as food insecure, compared with 21% and 14% in the well above average and above average income groups respectively.

Similar trends were observed for households with no food stocks (91%), with low resilience capacity to cope with natural hazards* (68%) recognizing that these are variables that are often linked to one another. No significant differences were found by sex of the respondent.

Similar trends were observed when using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) (see next page for findings).

Estimated number of food insecure by survey round



"Food prices are extremely high, and during certain seasons, even basic vegetables become unaffordable." - Female, 43, Suriname

"Being low on income. Which is currently spread thin throughout the household and also having to support the neighbour. With water and food at times. We adapt to the changes by constant fasting in order to keep food a bit longer. Not being wasteful and also being contented for the sake of my kids health." - Female, 23, Guyana

*Calculation include Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, Anguilla, Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos and, Curaçao

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

► Using the Sustainable Development Goal’s Food Insecurity Experience Scale methodology, around one fifth of respondents are severely food insecure.

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was introduced in the third survey round in February 2021 to provide an additional picture of food insecurity experienced by respondents during the 30 days preceding the survey (see [page 37](#) for methodology). 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 behaviors and experiences associated with increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints.

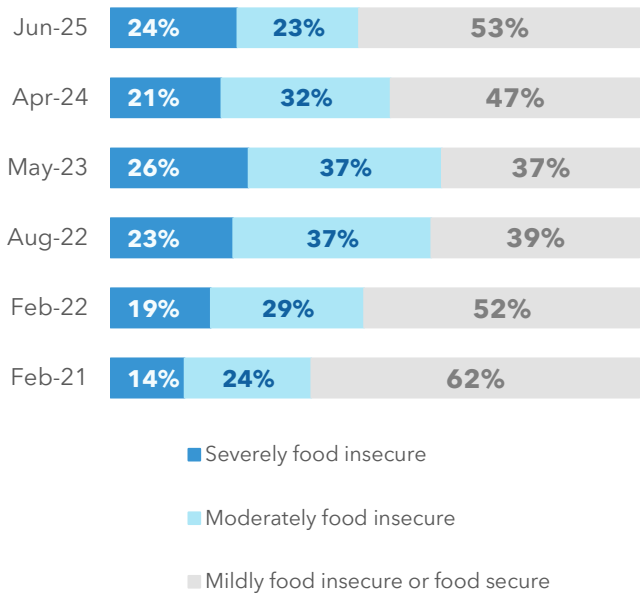
Using the FIES methodology and survey data to calculate food insecurity prevalence rates, it is estimated that 47% of respondents are either moderately (23%) or severely (24%) food insecure across the surveyed countries in the English-speaking Caribbean. The trends are similar to results using the r-CARI methodology.

The FIES methodology asks people to identify if they faced different experiences related to food insecurity. The experience most frequently cited by respondents was “eating only a few kinds of foods”, followed by “I was unable to eat healthy and nutritious food”. In comparison to April 2024, it is evident that the most severe experiences endured by many remain distressingly persistent. Instances of all the most severe experiences including being hungry but not eating, running out of food and going without eating for a whole day – persist at a comparable level. This continuity underscores the ongoing challenges being faced particularly among the lowest income households, younger respondents, mixed and single parent and households with disability. Female respondents also reported these experiences more prevalently than male respondents – particularly their household running out of food.

"I usually buy food and other essential items as soon as I receive my salary. However, by the 2nd week it finishes and I find myself in a quarry if there is an emergency like vehicle breakdown or illness to support my family. My income does not allow for savings with the HCOL." - Female, 46, Trinidad and Tobago

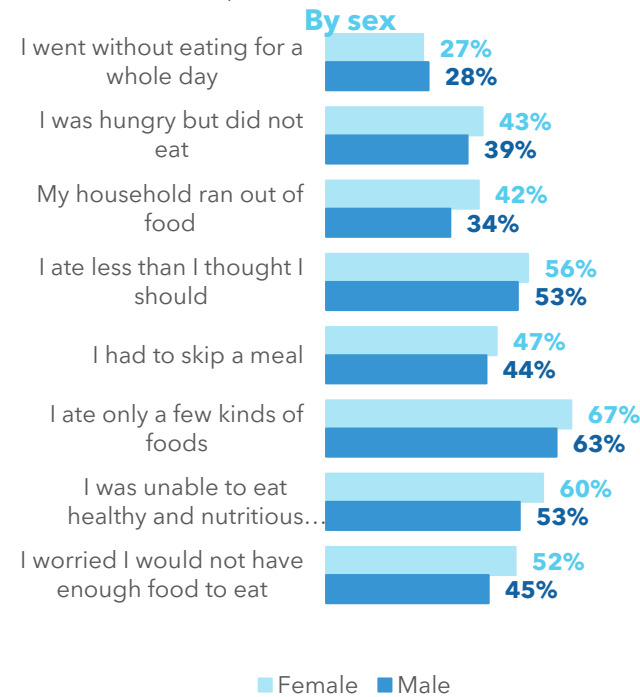
"Over the past year, I've faced several challenges, especially financial. My income has been very low, which made it difficult to provide enough food for my family and access proper healthcare." - Female, 39, Jamaica

Prevalence rates of food insecurity
Based on FIES methodology.



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

Multiple choices could be selected.



NATURAL HAZARDS | Impacts

► Natural hazards continue to impact over one third of respondents across the region.

Livelihoods in the Caribbean remain highly vulnerable to a wide array of natural hazards. Survey findings reveal that 40% of respondents reported their households were affected by at least one natural hazard within the 12 months preceding the survey. The most frequently cited events were hurricanes and tropical storms (17%), heatwaves (13%), and droughts (10%). Other hazards—including sargassum influxes, earthquakes, volcanic activity, wildfires, and landslides—were mentioned less often.

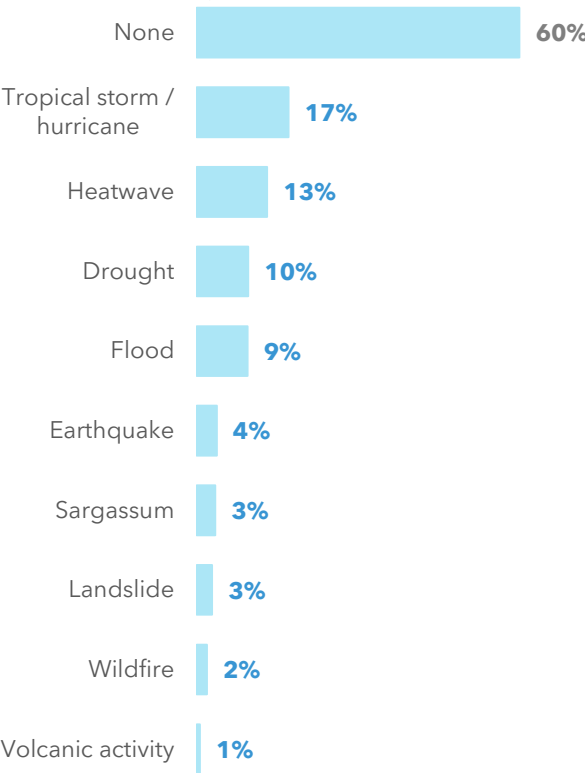
These findings reflect the impacts of an active 2024 hurricane season, during which several Caribbean countries experienced significant disruption. Regional variation was notable, with the highest proportions of affected respondents reported in Jamaica (23%), Saint Lucia (15%), and Trinidad and Tobago (11%).

Among those affected, nearly half (47%) reported moderate impacts on their livelihoods or income, while 14% experienced severe effects. These figures are consistent with results from Round 7 of the survey. Of the hazards reported, the most significant impacts on livelihoods were attributed to floods (74%), hurricanes and tropical storms (62%), and heatwaves (40%).

The severity of these impacts was closely tied to household income levels. Respondents in lower-income brackets were disproportionately affected, with 28% reporting severe impacts, compared to just 6% among higher-income households.

Natural hazards that affected respondents in the 12 months prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.



Level of impact on livelihoods or income

For respondents that were affected by natural hazards in the 12 months prior to the survey



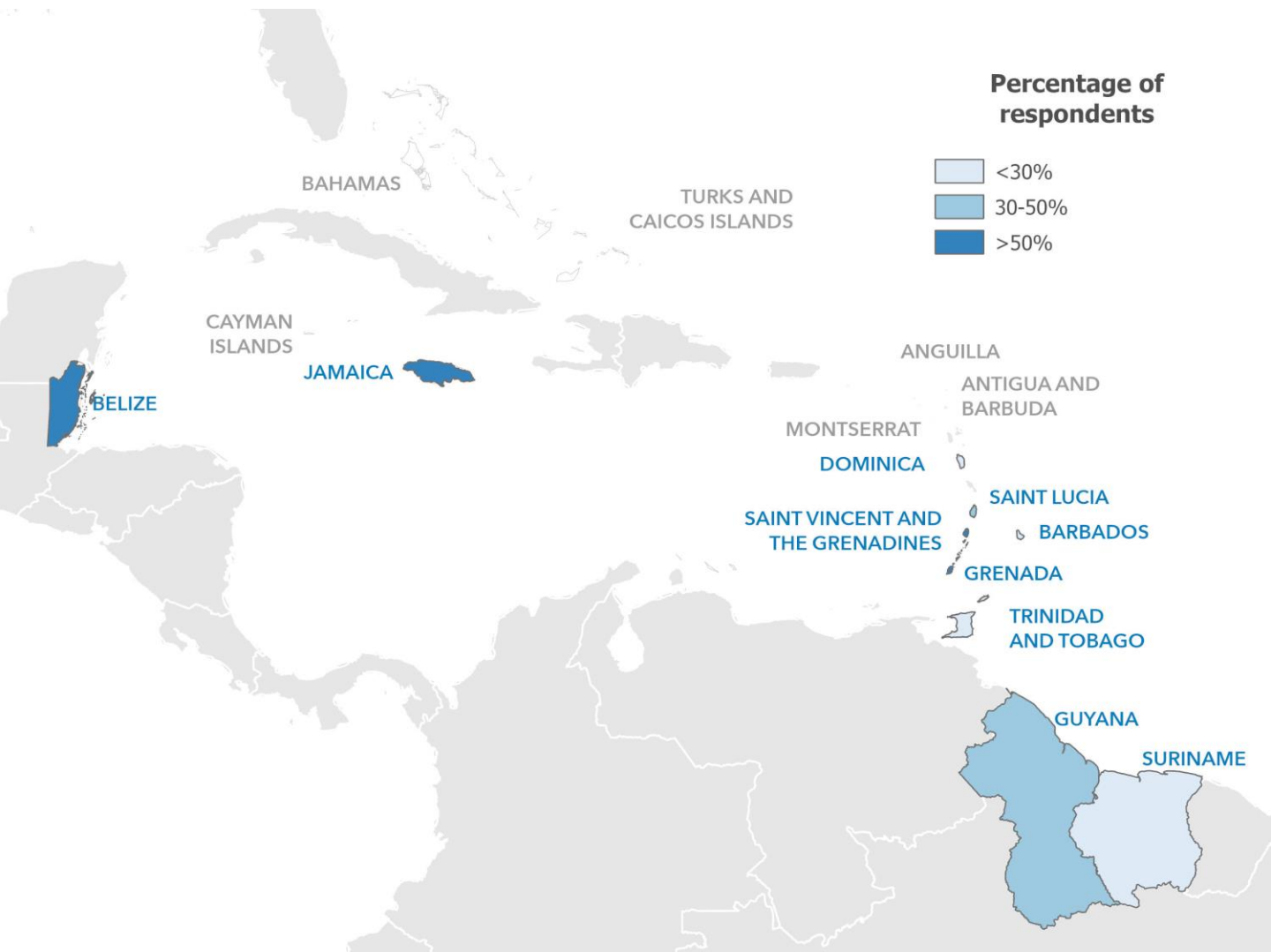
"Unknown persons setting widespread fires during the dry season to the back of my home. Fruit trees have been burned down and damage to our health and imminent danger to our home. Many times fire services are unable to respond in a timely manner and we have to fight the fires ourselves. It seems no government institution wants to stop them. We have installed a larger water tank and purchased additional water hose to assist us in containing these fires." - Female, 67, Trinidad and Tobago

"Hurricane Beryl took off my house roof and I've been unable to repair it, I went for government assistance and have yet to receive it. I don't have enough money to fix it myself and I am seeing warnings for more Hurricanes to come" -Female, 28, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

- High (Severely affected)
- Medium (Moderately affected)
- Low (Barely affected)

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS AFFECTED BY NATURAL HAZARD(S) IN THE 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY

For countries that received over 100 responses in the June 2025 survey round.



"Flooding in the area was reported to the relevant authorities. That flooding is out of my control, the relevant authorities need to fix the drainage in the area"-Female, 49, Trinidad and Tobago

"Climate change has had a great effect on agricultural production. I have tried to implement eco-friendly methods and protect agriculture to limit external factors."-Female, 27, Barbados

NATURAL HAZARDS | Resilience capacity

► A third of respondents have low capacity to absorb and rebound from natural hazards.

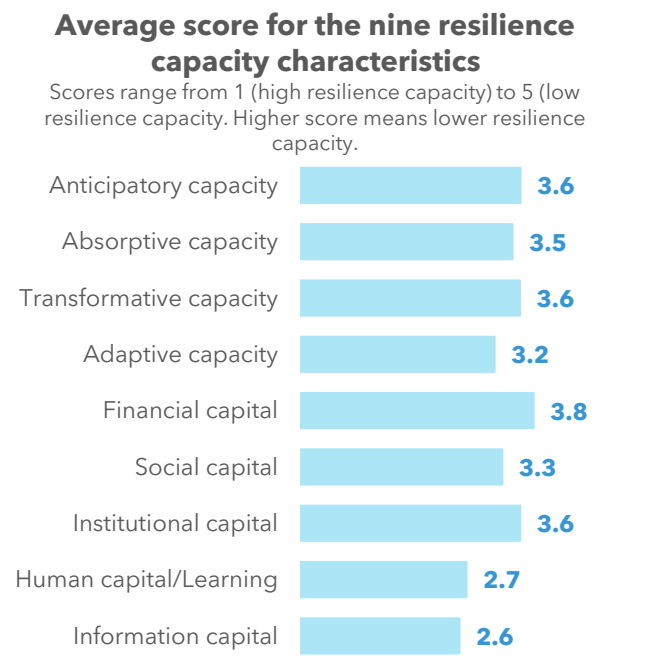
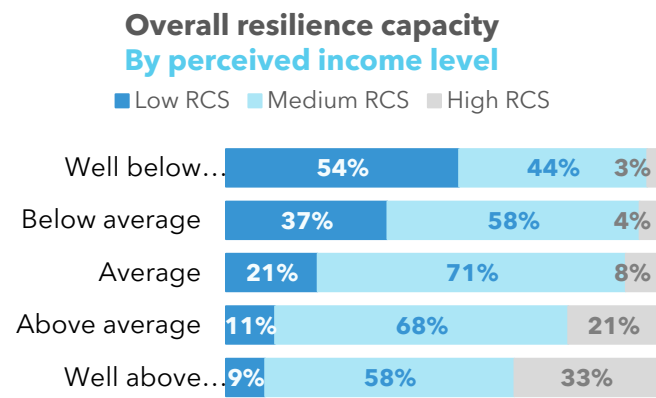
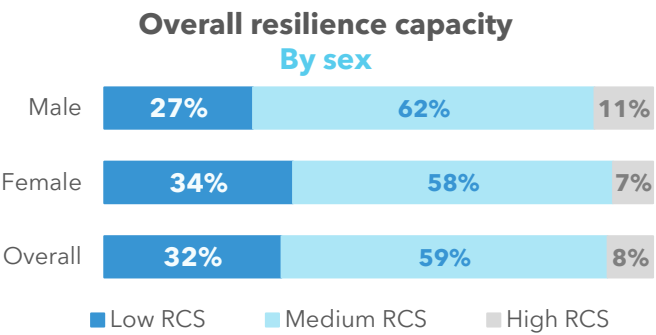
The Resilience Capacity Score (RCS), developed by MLU, was used to assess respondents’ perceived ability to withstand and recover from natural hazards. This indicator reflects individuals’ capacity to mitigate the long-term negative consequences of such events, based on nine key resilience-related characteristics. Respondents rated their level of agreement with a set of statements—ranging from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree”—to generate a composite score representing their overall subjective resilience.

Findings from the latest round indicate stability in resilience levels compared with April 2024. Thirty two percent of households reported low overall resilience to natural hazards, while only eight percent reported high resilience.

Among the nine resilience dimensions, the most challenging for households were financial capital, anticipatory action, transformative capacity, and institutional capital. This suggests that many households face difficulties in accessing emergency funds, are inadequately prepared for future hazards, struggle to pivot livelihoods, or lack access to supportive institutional systems following a shock.

Conversely, stronger performance was noted in areas such as information capital and human capital/learning—suggesting that households are more likely to access timely, relevant information and adapt based on past experiences.

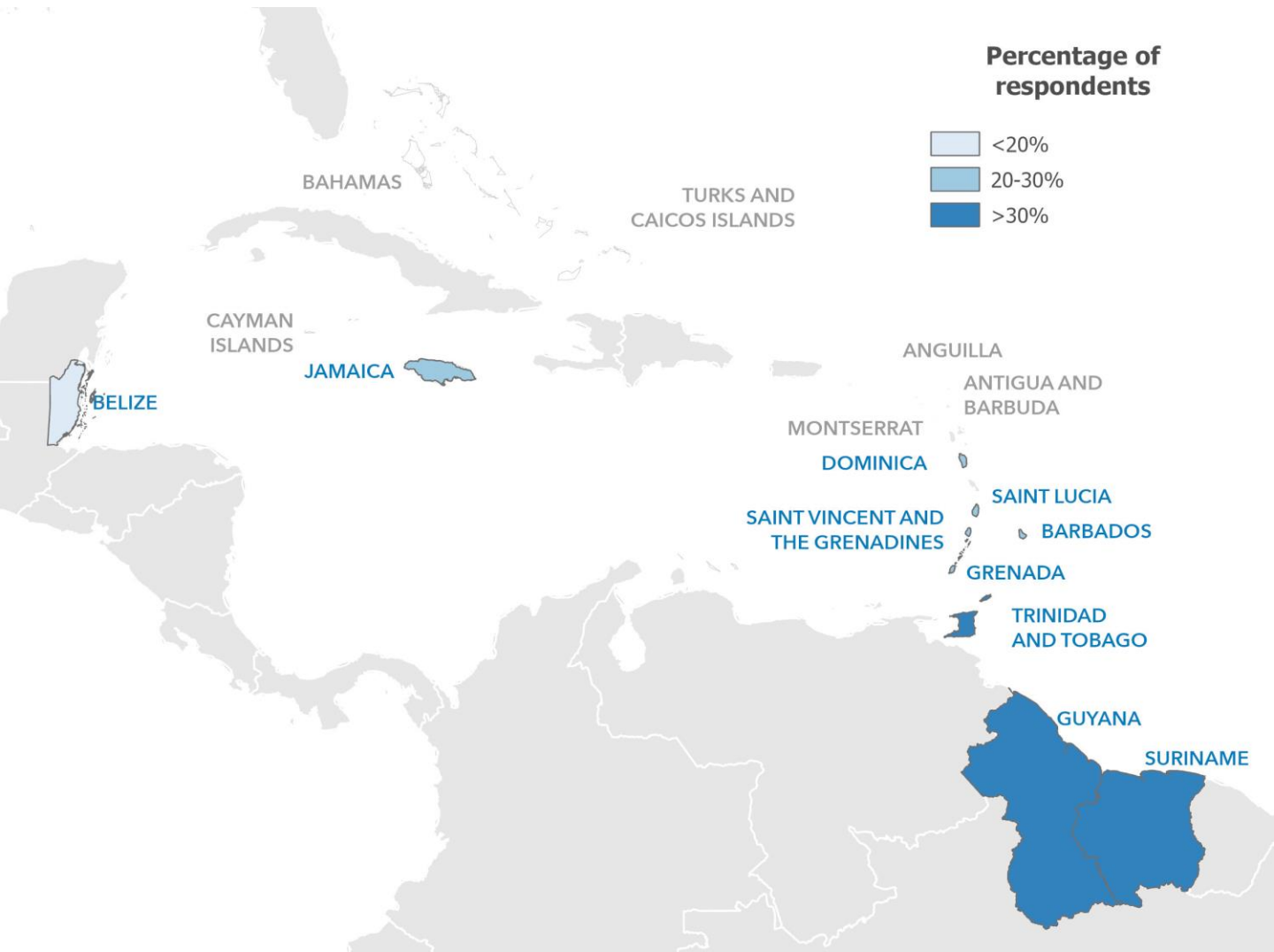
Disparities across demographic groups were evident. More than half (54%) of lower-income households exhibited low resilience, compared to 21% among wealthier respondents. Women were slightly more likely to report lower resilience (30%) than men (28%). Lower resilience was also more prevalent among younger respondents (under 40), single-parent households, and those without postgraduate education. No significant differences were observed between households with and without persons living with disabilities.



*The RCS is based on the Subjectively Evaluated Resilience Score (SERS) designed by L. Jones (2019) and WFP’s Climate Resilience Capacity Score. For more information, see WFP’s [Resilience Capacity Score](#) guidance.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WITH LOW RESILIENCE CAPACITY TO COPE WITH NATURAL HAZARDS

For countries that received over 100 responses in the June 2025 survey round.



"Food prices are increasing so I've started stocking up on dry foods. However, I always have to take from what I've stored and can't replenish. If a disaster where to occur, I won't have enough food to last 6 months"-Female, 44, Dominica

"I have less discretionary income and a reduction in the amount that I am able to save. This is an issue considering that retirement is just around the corner for me. One of my children is currently working but the others still need to complete their studies. I am concerned about their employment prospects." - Male, 61, Barbados

► Fifteen percent of people received government assistance

Fifteen percent of people have received government support in the last year, out of which a third are still receiving such assistance at the time the survey was implemented. There was a significant rise in the percentage of respondents receiving government assistance as compared to the last round. With the occurrence of Hurricane Beryl in 2024, there was assistance from governments and disaster partners to aid in recovery.

Cash transfers (35%), vouchers (25%), and social security or national insurance (16%) were the most common forms of support, as reported by respondents who received government assistance in the previous six months. A little over a quarter (26%) of respondents received other forms of assistance, such as scholarships, medication support, small business grants, food cards, school uniform vouchers, and home repair materials.

There were significant variations observed within income levels, with respondents whose income levels were well below average (21%) being much more likely to have received government assistance than those with above average income (8%). There was a slight variation in assistance received between households with person with a disability or chronic illness and those without (7% and 5% respectively).

Respondents with only a primary education (19%) more widely received government assistance than those with an undergraduate (12%) or post-graduate (8%) education. More single-parent households (20%) reported receiving government assistance compared to ten percent of those who lived alone.

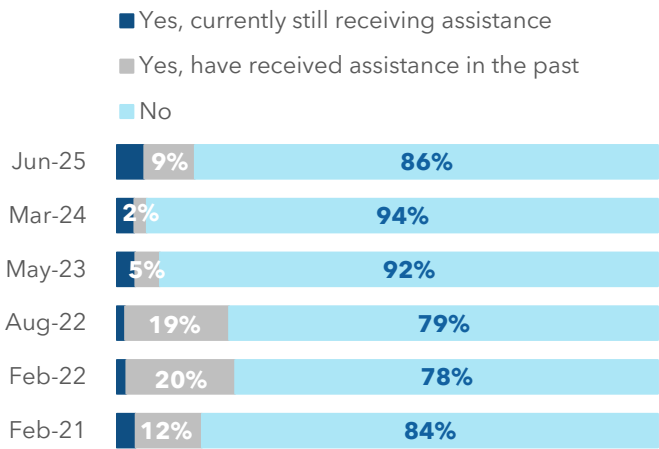
"Government assistance or care is very poor. I have learned to not have high expectations for their assistance sadly!"- Female, 30, St. Lucia

"Trinidad and Tobago food prices are way too high, jobs are very difficult to get and government assistance is very minimal!"- Female, 27, Trinidad and Tobago

"Noticing the changes, in the economic of inflation of increasing prices of food items and a decrease in Agriculture production of farm produce, I believe is not good for the country. There should be implementation and strategies to help with this concern for the country."- Female, 38, Grenada

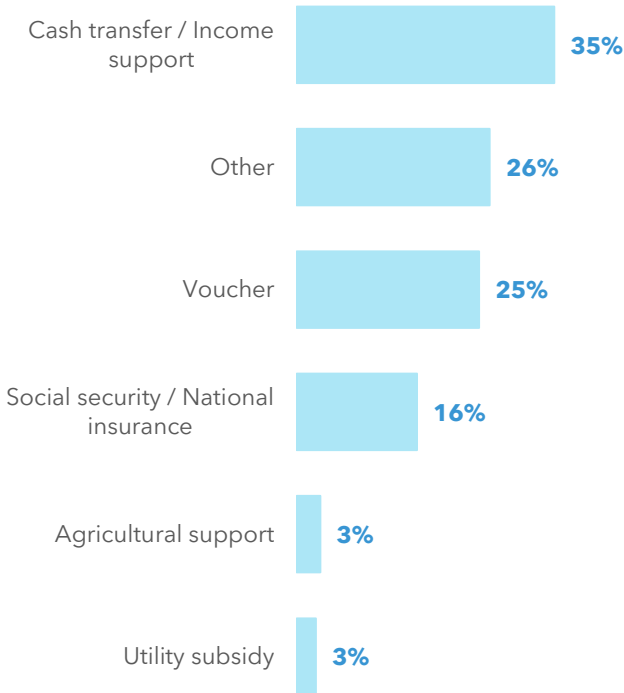
Have you received any assistance from the government in 12 months prior to the survey?

Recall period changed in May 2023 from "in response to Covid-19" to "in the last 12 months".



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

Multiple choices could be selected.



► Close to a third of households do not have food stocks.

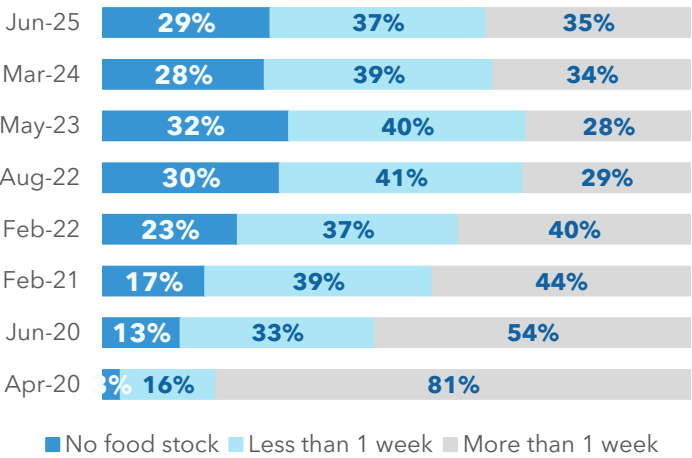
When asked about food stocks at home, 29% of respondents reported having none, and 37% had less than a week's supply. These figures have remained largely unchanged since August 2022, indicating that many households continue to live hand-to-mouth. Although the need to stockpile due to pandemic-related lockdowns has eased, having some reserves remains important for coping with future shocks, such as natural disasters.

Income remains a strong influencing factor. Respondents within the well below average (55%) and below average (36%) income brackets more commonly report having no food stocks. These figures are significantly higher when compared with those having above average (8%) and well above average (24%) income levels.

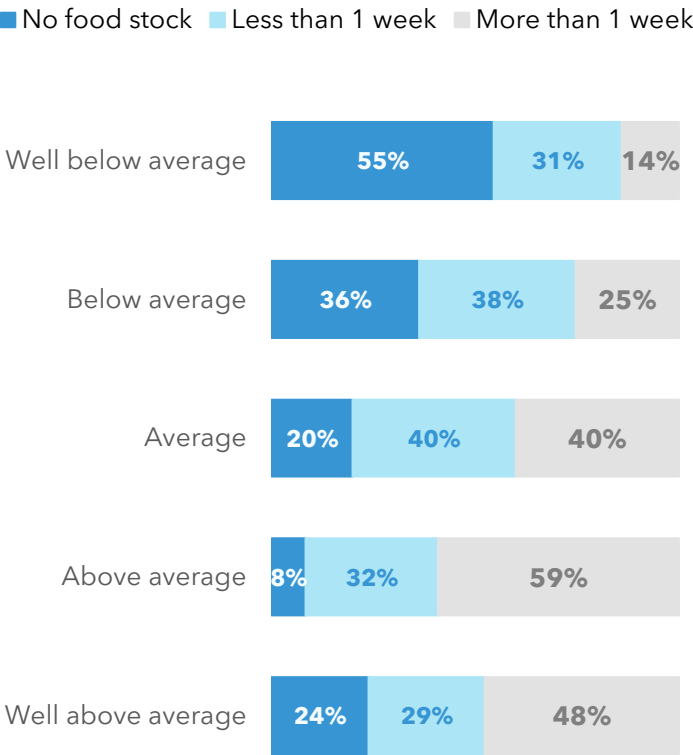
Around 31% of respondents aged 26–40 and 28% of those under 25 had no food reserves, compared to only 11% of those over 60. The likelihood of having no food stock was also higher among those with no income (58%) or reliant on petty trade (54%), informal labor (42%), government assistance (45%), or support from family and friends (40%). By contrast, salaried workers and business owners were more likely to have food reserves.

Responses did not vary much by different household compositions, households with or without disability, locality or female and male respondents.

Does your household have any food stock?



Does your household have any food stock?
By perceived income level



"I was job hunting for almost a year before moving into consulting, which is my main source of income now. There have been periods where some foods like eggs, chicken, some fish have been either too expensive to purchase amounts normally bought, or where they were unavailable on supermarket shelves. This leads to stocking up larger quantities when available in anticipation of future shortage and also resorting to canned foods not usually bought or used in high quantities. Fresh fruits and vegetables also have been increasingly expensive, leading to lessening purchases of these"- Female, 45, Barbados

"I learn to adapt to skipping meals because of the food shortage in our home." - Female, 33, Trinidad and Tobago

OTHER FINDINGS | Sentiments

- Some of the major challenges faced by respondents include cost of living issues, reduction in disposable incomes, and the long-lasting effects of hurricanes

As with previous rounds, respondents were given the opportunity to leave a comment expressing their thoughts about issues raised in the survey. Overall, 926 (36%) of the 2,541 survey respondents answered the open-ended question. Responses were analysed using OpenAI’s machine learning platform - an artificial intelligence tool with features comparable to the Microsoft Azure platform used in the April 2024 survey - to gauge the positivity or negativity of the responses. They were classified on a scale from very negative to very positive, based on the emotional tone of the statement expressed.

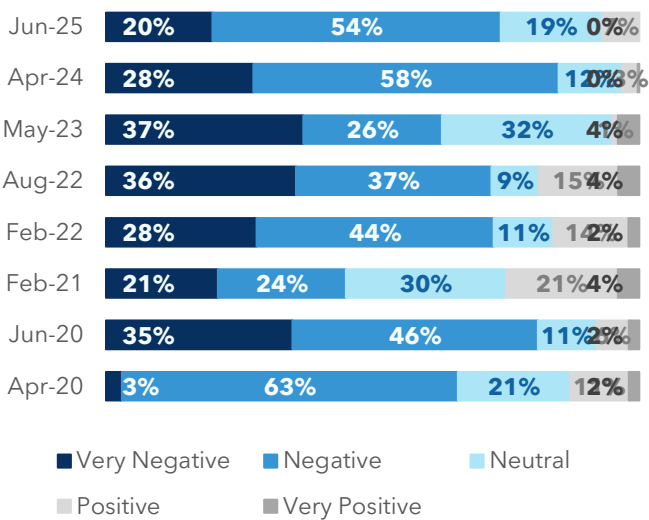
Respondents expressed very few positive sentiments. In fact, 74% of the 926 respondents had negative/very negative sentiments, most of which were related to the struggles with food prices increases, health care, housing, transportation costs, long-lasting hurricane effects, and challenges paying bills and adequately providing for their basic needs and that of their family.

Unemployment, stagnant wages and a lack of job opportunities were among the most common themes. Many respondents claimed that they have been in the job market for a significant amount of time and unable to find jobs, some claimed to have been let go from their job or left because their salaries were not increasing with inflation. Respondents describe cutting down on their expenses, prioritising their "needs" over "wants." Some actions respondents take to combat job loss and the costs of living include cutting down on grocery purchases, pulling from savings accounts, asking friends and family for money, investing in job training, and requesting additional assistance from their government.

Developmental/infrastructural challenges (e.g. road access, public transit, quality of roadways), climate-related issues (e.g. hurricanes, extended droughts, limited water supply and increasing temperatures) and crime/violence were also themes found amongst respondents. For respondents involved in agriculture, many reported lower crop yields than in years past and being affected by climate change.

Increased governmental assistance and the creation of more jobs were among the main recommendations provided by respondents. A small number of respondents remained positive, resolute in their faith and “hopeful” for the future, despite the varying issues. The word cloud and quotes highlighted in this section and throughout this report provide additional insights and further highlight the struggles and current coping mechanisms being utilized across the region.

Distribution of sentiments across open-ended survey responses* Sentiments from rounds 1-5 were analysed using Google’s AI Unit Natural Language Processing.



Common responses on how respondents are adapting and coping

"Both my husband and I work and it is still very difficult to pay rent, bills and event medical bills. We can't even afford to go out because everything is so expensive. We had to sell our car just to make it through Christmas and pay off some debt."- Female, 35, Guyana

"The increase of basic need in terms clothes water light and shelter for a single parent household have it challenges. One must able to provide on a low income with the increase in expenditure. Changes have to made in order to adapt buying basic commodities, use less water and the usage of electricity and also start home garden, make sure around for cheaper product, stop the wastage of food, reuse and recycle and also change lifestyle to fit budget. These can help make the challenges and adapt to the increase changes of the global community."- Female, 49, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

OTHER FINDINGS | Main worries

- The inability to cover essential needs continues to be the leading concern of respondents.

When asked about their concerns, the most frequently mentioned issue was the inability to meet essential needs, reported by 43% of respondents. This result shows a slight improvement the previous survey round. In fact, the five main concerns remained unchanged compared to one year ago, though the emphasis on each has shifted slightly. The proportion of respondents identifying unemployment or income loss as a key concern remained consistent with a slight increase of 35% to 36% between rounds. The following top concerns, after essential needs and unemployment/income loss, were illness (35%), declining savings (32%), and inability to meet food needs (29%). Of these five leading concerns, four are directly tied to financial pressures.

Respondents with below average incomes were more likely to be concerned about meeting essential needs. Meanwhile, the dominant concern for those with well above average incomes was unemployment or income loss (42%), whereas respondents with above average incomes were primarily worried about illness (46%).

The most common worries among respondents over 60 years old were illness (48%), declining savings (44%) and natural hazards (32%). Those aged 41 to 60 were primarily concerned about being unable to cover essential needs (43%), followed by illness (38%) and decreasing savings (35%). By contrast, respondents aged 18 to 25 were less likely to be worried about illness (29%) and more likely to be concerned about unemployment or income loss (45%), inability to cover essential needs (43%) and inability to afford food (35%).

Mixed households and single parent households shared the same top concern—being unable to cover essential needs (53%). Among mixed households, the next most common worry was unemployment or income loss (41%), while for single parent households it was inability to cover food needs (36%). For households where the respondent lived alone, the leading worries were declining savings and illness (40%).

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected. Answer options were adjusted in May 2023, adding new options for selection which were not included in the previous rounds and removing Covid-19 related options that are now displayed as “Other worries”.

	Jun-25	Apr-24	May-23	Aug-22	Feb-22	Feb-21	Jun-20
Inability to cover essential needs	43%	46%	48%	48%	34%	37%	38%
Illness	35%	36%	30%	30%	49%	57%	52%
Unemployment / Income loss	36%	35%	33%	36%	37%	44%	53%
Decreasing savings	32%	34%	31%	24%	16%	14%	17%
Inability to cover food needs	29%	31%	35%	48%	31%	32%	32%
Inability to receive or repay loans	12%	14%	14%				
Violence/crime in the community	12%	15%	13%	14%	9%	7%	9%
Child/dependent care	14%	13%	13%	15%	13%	10%	11%
Natural hazards	18%	13%	11%				
Inadequate infrastructure	8%	8%	7%				
Inadequate housing	7%	6%	5%				
Disruption of public services (education, health)	3%	4%	2%	8%	17%	12%	11%
Other worries	2%	2%	1%	15%	30%	30%	0%
Violence/abuse in the household	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
No access to services due to migration status	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	5%	4%

CONCLUSION

While there have been signs of gradual stabilization in some areas, food insecurity remains deeply entrenched in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The findings from this eighth round of the Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey reveal a troubling reality. Conditions have not worsened since 2024, but there has been no meaningful improvement. An estimated 3.2 million people, or 42 percent of the population, remain food insecure. This signals a concerning plateau following the initial recovery after the peak of the food price crisis in 2022.

In fact, the similarities to last year's survey data are striking. Almost an identical percentage of respondents skipped meals (6% in 2025; 5% in 2024) or went a whole day without eating (30% in 2025; 29% in 2024), had no food stock (29% in 2025; 28% in 2024), faced job or income loss in the household (34% in 2025; 32% in 2024). When asked about their main concerns, the most common response again was people's ability to meet their essential needs – as it has been since the April 2022 survey round.

The data shows clearly that households with limited financial means continue to face the greatest hardship. These families report higher rates of meal skipping, reduced spending on health and education, and depletion of savings. Such coping strategies may help in the short term, but they can carry lasting consequences.

Across all rounds of the survey since 2020, the evidence has pointed to persistent disparities and the disproportionate impact of food insecurity on those already living with the fewest resources. While the survey collects information at the household level, this inevitably masks important differences in vulnerability and capacity within households, especially for women and girls. These differences must be addressed in the design of policies and programmes.

Food price increases, income losses, and exposure to shocks remain the key drivers of food insecurity. Nearly half of all respondents reported a job loss, reduced income, or the need to turn to secondary income sources in their household. Two out of five people reported a disruption to their livelihoods. Meanwhile, access to markets is worse than during the pandemic, with cost remaining the main barrier. Climate-related hazards such as hurricanes and drought continue to undermine agricultural production and strain household budgets. The impact is especially severe for farmers and fisherfolk, who continue to face rising input costs that reduce both productivity and profits.

Despite these challenges, progress is underway. Regional and national efforts to boost food production, implementing agricultural policies, increase intra-regional trade, invest in more adaptive social protection, and develop innovative climate and disaster risk financing instruments are all laying the groundwork for more robust food systems and improving responses to future shocks.

Accelerating the 25% by 2030 initiative is more important than ever to reduce import dependence, ease price pressures, and improve access to affordable food. Continued investment in emergency preparedness and flexible response systems will be essential to protect people's access to food when disruptions occur. Improved access to financing on terms that reflects the realities of Caribbean states must continue to be a top priority given the high debt burden and investment priorities.

Evidence and data must continue guide these efforts. With eight rounds completed and more than 40,000 survey responses collected, this Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods series provides a unique window into trends and space to give voice to people's experiences in their own words. The launch of a new real-time monitoring system by CARICOM and WFP marks an important step forward, allowing for earlier detection of stress and more timely action to support those at risk.

To reduce food insecurity and build resilient food systems, it is critical to advance coordinated, forward-looking solutions that bring together public institutions, the private sector and communities. Strengthened collaboration, targeted investment, and inclusive approaches will be key to ensuring that everyone in the Caribbean can meet their most basic need: safe, affordable and nutritious food.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Accelerate progress under the **CARICOM 25 by 2030 agenda** by investing in **regional food production**, addressing bottlenecks to **intra-regional trade**, and scaling up **public and private sector investments** across the agri-food value chain.

Continue to strengthen the **productive capacities** of **smallholder farmers and fisherfolk** through improved access to **financing, climate-resilient technologies and practices**, and linkages to **institutional markets**.

Promote the participation of **youth and women** in **agriculture and food systems**

Strengthen **linkages between social protection, agriculture and disaster risk reduction** to promote inclusive recovery and resilience, including through improved **policy coordination** and **locally tailored programmes**.

Develop and scale **inclusive disaster risk financing tools**, including **risk-layered approaches**, to protect livelihoods and ensure timely support to people affected by hazards. Build on and expand experiences **linking financing to shock-responsive social protection**.

Continue to invest in **shock-responsive social protection systems** and link programme design and scale-up to **early warning systems** and to enable **early, targeted action** when shocks occur.

Leverage **public employment and social assistance programmes** to support **recovery and resilience-building**, particularly in vulnerable communities, by linking these schemes to **local disaster risk reduction** and **climate adaptation efforts**.

Institutionalize **anticipatory action** by linking **food security and climate indicators** to **pre-defined actions** that mitigate the impacts of shocks. Improve **inter-agency coordination** to enable **timely and effective responses**.

Expand efforts to promote **healthy diets** and increase **demand for local nutritious food**, including through **school feeding programmes, awareness campaigns**, and **policy incentives** that support **local production** and connect **farmers to institutional markets**.

Invest in a **comprehensive regional platform for food security monitoring** and analysis. Build on the real-time food security monitoring system, this survey series, and other data sources to produce and disseminate analytical products and **facilitate direct access to data** by governments.

Acknowledgements

WFP appreciates the support our UN partners such as UNHCR in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana for circulation of the survey and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for their contributions to the agricultural livelihoods components of the survey tool.

Warm gratitude to Juan Carlos Lopez for the Spanish translations, Salifou Boulkassim for the French translations, and Roxanna Hiljaard for Dutch translation.

This report was prepared by Abigail Durand, Matthew Steigauf, Shameza David, Salifou Boulkassim, Trisandhi Gosine, and Sarah Bailey from WFP, with support from Shaun Baugh of CARICOM. Thanks to Jonathan Cullen Rivers from WFP for his review and support.

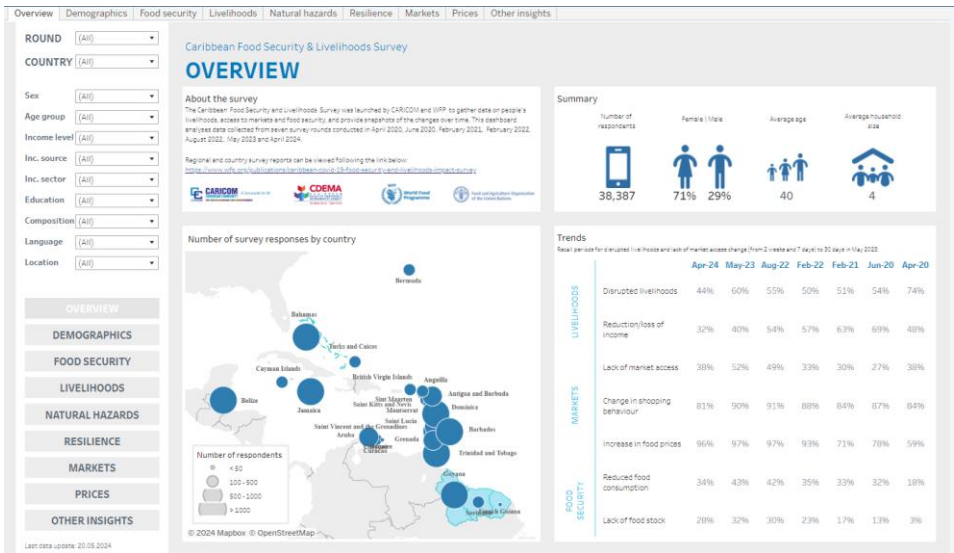
Additional insights

The report is supplemented with a dashboard which analyses data collected from all seven rounds of the Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey. The dashboard can be accessed through the link or the QR code to the right.



SCAN the QR code to see the Food Security & Livelihood Survey dashboard online. It may take a second to load. Alternatively, follow this link:

<https://analytics.wfp.org/#/site/Public/views/CaribbeanFoodSecurityLivelihoodsSurvey/Overview>



Methodology

The eighth round of the CARICOM Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey was conducted between 20 May and 20 June 2025 using a mobile- and desktop-friendly webform. The survey was distributed through a variety of channels—including email, social media, SMS, and media outlets—to reach participants across the region.

The World Food Programme (WFP) led data collection and analysis efforts. An interactive dashboard enabled real-time monitoring and visualization of incoming responses. To enhance data quality, the survey form incorporated validation mechanisms aimed at minimizing entry errors and filtering out outliers.

Qualitative data underwent sentiment analysis powered by Microsoft Azure Machine Learning, which categorized responses across a scale from very negative to very positive. This analysis also surfaced recurring themes and solutions proposed by respondents. The WFP team subsequently reviewed, validated, and adjusted the findings as needed.

See the following link for further details on [UN Principles for the Ethical Use of AI](#).

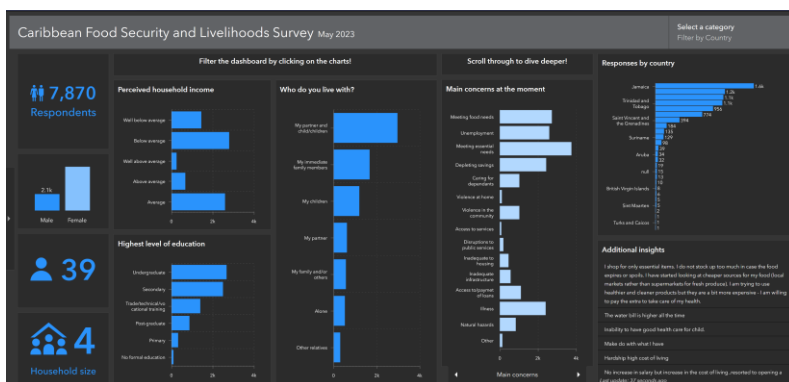
While the survey improves understanding of regional food security impacts, it is not nationally representative. Reliance on online data collection limits participation among populations without internet access. Moreover, responses were disproportionately concentrated in three countries: Jamaica (21%), Trinidad and Tobago (17%), and Guyana (15%).

This report is accompanied by an interactive dashboard that analyzes data from all eight rounds of the survey. You can explore the dashboard here:

[Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey Dashboard](#)

The image shows a mobile phone screen displaying the survey form. At the top, it says 'Caribbean CARICOM FS&L Survey ...'. Below that, it says 'Caribbean CARICOM Food Security & Livelihoods Survey'. There are logos for CARICOM and the World Food Programme. A message thanks the user for participating and states that the survey is open to all who currently live in the Caribbean. It mentions that this is a follow-up to previous rounds in April and June 2020, February 2021, and February and August 2022. It encourages participation regardless of whether or not the user has previously responded. Below this, there is a 'Demographics' section with a question 'What is your preferred language?' and two radio button options: 'English' and 'Spanish'. At the bottom, there are three icons representing '2 to 3 Respondents', '39' (likely the number of respondents), and '4 Household size'.

Survey form



[Live dashboard](#) for PCs/Laptops

METHODOLOGY | Food insecurity calculations (rCARI)

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 standardized 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 in the past 6 months?" and "What are your household's main income sources over the past year?". The recall period for the household income change indicator was adjusted from the previous rounds which gathered responses for "Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?".

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.

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

METHODOLOGY | Food insecurity calculations (FIES)

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) is an experience-based metric of food insecurity severity at the household or individual level, which is used for global food security monitoring and aligned with food security targets outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It relies on people's direct responses to eight questions during a 12 months or 30 days recall period: while the 12 months recall period is typically used for SDG monitoring, reference to the past 30 days is in order to assess recent food insecurity and its risk factors or consequences. The eight questions focus on self-reported food-related behaviours and experiences during 30 days prior to the survey. They reflect increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints.

A concept essential to the FIES is that the eight items and respondents are positioned on the same underlying scale of severity of food insecurity. Therefore, the probability of a respondent answering "yes" to a FIES item depends on the distance along the scale between the food severity experienced by the respondent and the severity of the item. A respondent's raw score (an integer number ranging from zero to eight) is the sum of affirmative responses given to the eight FIES questions. It is the basis for estimating the respondent parameter, which provides an interval measure of the severity of food insecurity and makes it possible to produce comparable measures of food insecurity. For this report, prevalence rates of moderate and severe food insecurity were calculated based on survey data using FAO's methodology and FIES online App.

**For more information on the FIES, see FAO's 'The Food Insecurity Experience Scale: Measuring food insecurity through people's experiences' and FAO's 'Implementing the FIES in surveys'.*

Cross-country comparison*

*The overview is provided only for countries in the region that received over 100 responses during the April 2024 survey.

	LIVELIHOODS		MARKETS		FOOD SECURITY	
	Disrupted livelihoods	Reduction/loss of income	Lack of market access	Increase in food prices	Food Insecure	Lack of food stock
Regional Average	41%	34%	41%	94%	43%	29%
Barbados	36%	35%	34%	93%	36%	28%
Belize	36%	19%	26%	96%	41%	23%
Dominica	52%	32%	39%	93%	42%	19%
Guyana	51%	34%	53%	95%	41%	24%
Jamaica	42%	38%	51%	92%	54%	39%
St. Lucia	42%	37%	40%	97%	46%	29%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	37%	32%	47%	98%	45%	30%
Trinidad and Tobago	40%	33%	46%	95%	42%	26%

*Comparison of the May 2024 survey round with the previous rounds should be taken with caution due to slight changes in the questions' recall periods.

CARICOM

Caribbean Community Secretariat
Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown
PO Box 10827 Guyana
www.caricom.org

**World Food Programme
Caribbean Multi-Country Office**

UN House, Marine Gardens,
Christ Church, Barbados

wfp.caribbean@wfp.org
www.wfp.org/countries/caribbean
www.facebook.com/WFPCaribbean
www.twitter.com/wfp_Caribbean

Cover photo credit: WFP/ Irshad Khan

SCAN the QR code to see the Food Security & Livelihood Survey Report online. Alternatively, follow the link below:



<https://www.wfp.org/publications/caribbean-covid-19-food-security-and-livelihoods-impact-survey>