

# Caribbean Food Security & Livelihoods Survey

SAINT VINCENT & THE GRENADINES | JULY 2025



# Overview

## About the survey

Climate change and rising living costs are severely impacting food security and livelihoods in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and across the Caribbean. Unpredictable weather, droughts, and storms disrupt food production and access, especially for vulnerable households reliant on farming and fishing. These climate-sensitive communities face increasing difficulty recovering from shocks and maintaining stable incomes and affordable food sources.

To monitor these evolving dynamics, the CARICOM Caribbean Food Security and Livelihoods Survey has been conducted over seven rounds since April 2020. The survey provides periodic snapshots of people's livelihoods, market access, and food security across the region. Its primary goal is to support evidence-based decision-making by governments and development partners, helping them respond to both immediate needs and long-term risks—particularly those linked to climate change and economic instability.

The seventh round of the survey, conducted between May and June 2025, focuses on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and compares findings with previous rounds. This longitudinal approach helps identify trends and shifts in household resilience, food access, and livelihood stability. While regional patterns offer broad insights, national-level data from Dominica reveal unique local challenges that require tailored responses.

Although the survey provides valuable insights, it is important to note that the data are not nationally representative. The use of an online questionnaire restricts participation to individuals with internet access, potentially excluding voices from more remote or underserved communities.

## Summary

Households in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continue to face persistent challenges related to food security and livelihoods, with the impact disproportionately affecting those with lower household incomes. The high cost of livelihood inputs, particularly for agriculture and fishing, remains the primary driver of disruptions to income-generating activities. Unaffordability of essential inputs such as fuel, fertilizer, and tools has significantly affected the ability of vulnerable households to sustain their livelihoods.

### Main results from the St. Vincent & the Grenadines surveys

	June 2025	April 2024	May 2023	Aug 2022	Feb 2022	June 2020	April 2020
<b>LIVELIHOODS</b>	Disrupted livelihoods	50%	45%	53%	55%	53%	81%
	Reduction/loss of income	57%	34%	29%	48%	55%	70%
<b>MARKETS</b>	Lack of market access	33%	31%	47%	50%	32%	30%
	Change in shopping behaviour	88%	79%	83%	89%	87%	87%
	Increase in food prices	93%	98%	99%	98%	91%	74%
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	Reduced food consumption	35%	32%	41%	41%	37%	35%
	Lack of food stock	23%	29%	26%	28%	25%	18%



**June 2025**

**145**

Respondents

80% Female  
20% Male

**Apr 2024**

**220**

Respondents

69% Female  
31% Male

**May 2023**

**1113**

Respondents

75% Female  
25% Male

**Aug 2022**

**562**

Respondents

72% Female  
28% Male

**Feb 2022**

**995**

Respondents

72% Female  
28% Male

**Feb 2021**

**1507**

Respondents

74% Female  
26% Male

**Jun 2020**

**1198**

Respondents

71% Female  
29% Male

**Apr 2020**

**537**

Respondents

72% Female  
28% Male



## Socio-economic context and vulnerability

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to experience moderate but persistent volatility in both general inflation and food price inflation, as the country remains highly vulnerable to external shocks. While global food prices have shown some signs of moderation, prices continue to rise although at a slower pace than was experienced in 2022.

According to FAO's food price index, in May 2025 global food prices increased by 5.4 percent over the previous 12 months, driven primarily by increases in the indices for dairy (21.6 percent), oils (19.1 percent) and meat (5.2 percent). In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, over the same period, food prices increased by 3.1 percent while the general inflation rate was much lower at 0.5 percent.

Although less severe than recent years, even modest price increases continue to affect household purchasing power and food security, particularly among lower-income groups.

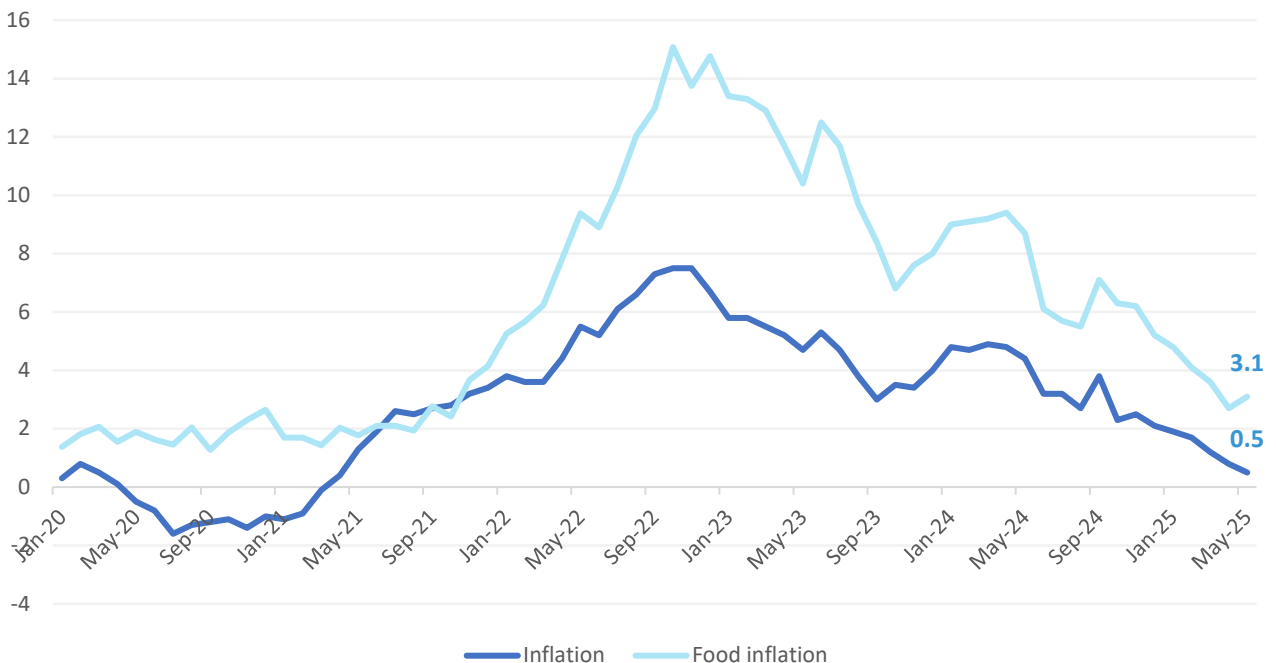
Saint Vincent and the Grenadine's food security challenges are compounded by its heavy reliance on imported foods. Two key indicators of food import dependency underscores this vulnerability.

First, the value of food imports as a percentage of total exports measures the country's ability to finance its food imports from export earnings. For Saint Vincent, the value of food imports was 53 percent of total exports between 2020 and 2022, much higher than the regional average for Latin America and the Caribbean of 20 percent (*ECLAC, International Trade Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2024*).

The second indicator is the cereal import dependency ratio, which measures the proportion of cereal consumption met through imports. For Saint Vincent, the cereal import dependency was 98.5 percent between 2021 and 2023 (*FAO Stats, 2025*). This reliance on imported cereal exposes the country to global supply chain disruptions, price volatility and geopolitical tensions.

### Inflation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Jan 2020 - May 2025; %)

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and FAOSTAT





## Natural hazards

Situated in the Lesser Antilles island arc, Saint Vincent and its chain of smaller islands of the Grenadines makes it susceptible to a wide range of hazards. Being within the zone of the Atlantic Hurricane Belt, tropical storms during the storm season poses additional risk of coastal and riverine flooding. Volcanic activity from the active La Soufriere Volcano also presents a threat to the population and infrastructure.

There were 19 major recorded events in the Emergency Events Database (EMDAT) between 1980-2024 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which affected over 87,830 people and resulted in total adjusted damages of USD 638 million. Disasters most frequently reported were meteorological, followed by hydrological. The eruption of La Soufriere Volcano caused the most adjusted damages of USD 351 million with some households still displaced since the eruption in 2021.

On July 1, 2024, Hurricane Beryl passed over southern Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as a Category 4 hurricane. A Global Rapid Post-Disaster Estimation (GRADE) conducted by the World Bank in July 2024 puts the initial estimated economic losses at US \$203 Million, equivalent to 22 percent of SVG's 2023 GDP ([Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation \(GRADE\) Report: Hurricane Beryl 2024 - Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | GFDRR](#)).

The southern Grenadines islands were the worst hit, accounting for a total of US\$ 186.8 million or 81 percent of the country's total damage, with Union Island experiencing the most severe damages. Building damage and infrastructural damages accounted for majority of the direct physical damage, while agricultural damage was relatively minor.

In the aftermath of hurricane Beryl, WFP collaborated with the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to provide cash assistance to affected households to support their recovery.





## Markets

**Almost half of respondents (47 percent) from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reported that they faced challenges accessing markets** in the month prior to the survey, slightly above the 42 reported in March 2024.

**Respondents continue to report increased prices in commodities, especially food.** Nearly six in ten (58 percent) of respondents reported a significant increase in food prices over the three months prior to the survey.

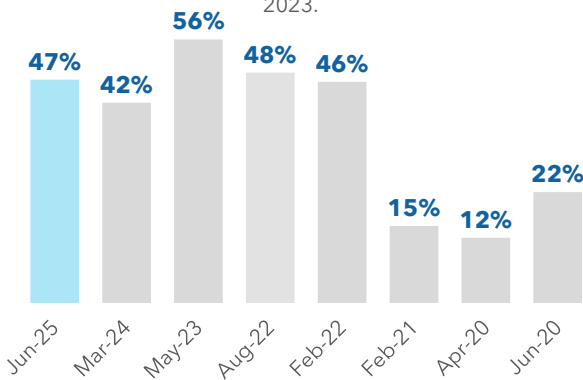
Apart from food, most significant price increases have been observed for electricity (52 percent), housing (41 percent), health (32 percent) and education (30 percent).

**Lack of funds continues to be the overwhelming factor with 90 percent of those facing access challenges, citing it as the main barrier.** This was followed by transportation challenges, mentioned by 19 percent of the respondents.

**The majority of respondents (80 percent) have changed how they shop.** Approximately two thirds of respondents (67 percent) are buying smaller quantities than usual, while 59 percent are purchasing cheaper or less preferred foods, and 42 percent are going to different stores. These behaviours are largely similar to what was reported in March 2024.

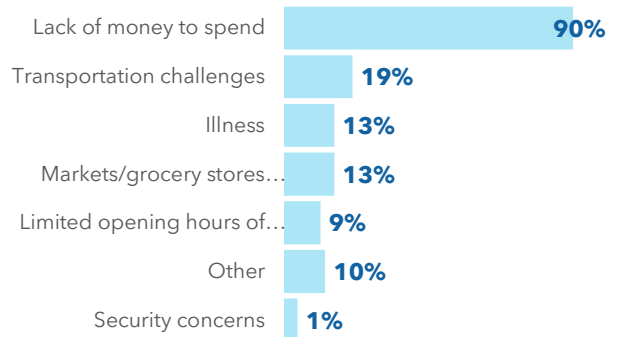
### Respondents unable to access markets in the 30 days prior to the survey

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

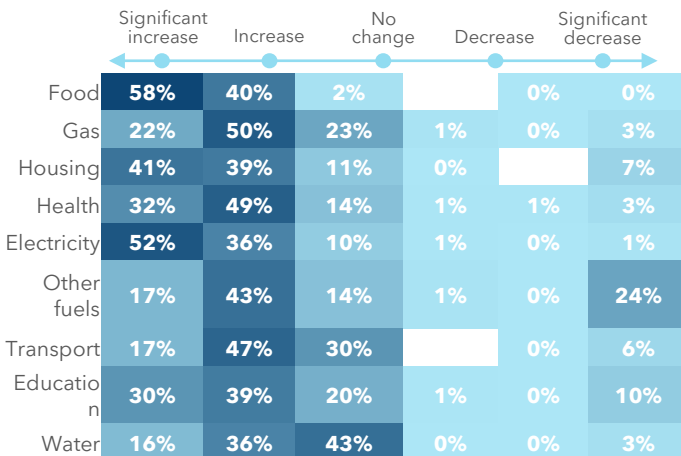


### For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 30 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

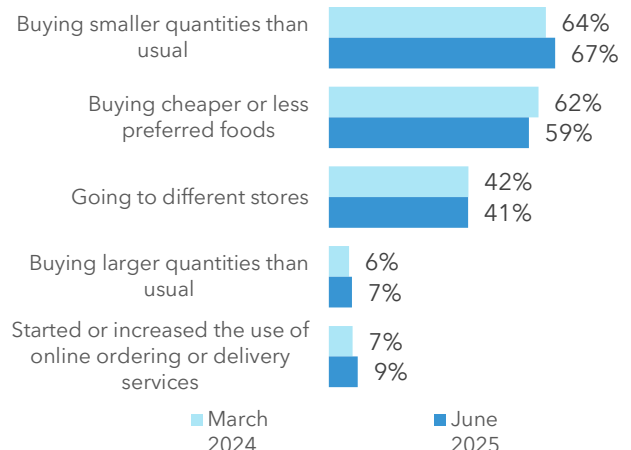


### Respondents reporting a change in the costs of the commodities in the 3 months prior to the survey



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

Multiple choices could be selected.





## Livelihoods

**Almost four out of ten (37 percent) respondents from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continue to experience disruptions to their livelihood activities in the 30 days prior to the survey.** Households with incomes well below average (64 percent) report to face more disruptions when compared to those who perceive well above average income (21 percent). Households relying on informal/casual labour and petty trade, with no formal education, with disabilities and with single parents were also more likely to be affected. There were no major differences between sex or locality of the respondents on disruptions.

**Unaffordability of livelihood inputs remains the main driver across most respondents,** cited by 68 percent of those affected by disruptions. Respondents involved in agriculture and fishing report high costs of inputs, especially for fuel, fertilizer, and tools/machinery.

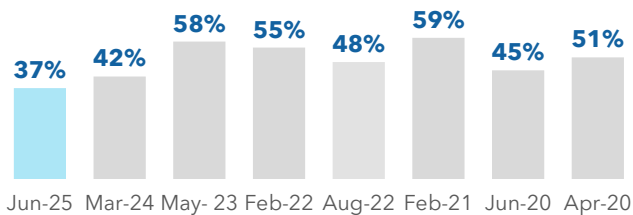
**More than one third of respondents (34 percent) experienced job loss or reduced salaries in their households in the six months prior to the survey,** a slight reduction from March 2024 (39 percent).

**There were some marked differences in household income changes related to income levels of the respondents. More than half of respondents describing their household income as well below average (56 percent) experienced job loss or income reduction when compared with those describing their household income as well above (17 percent).**

Furthermore, respondents from single-parent households, those engaged in petty trade, and households where at least one member has a disability or chronic illness were also more likely to experience a loss of job or reduction in income in the six months prior to the survey.

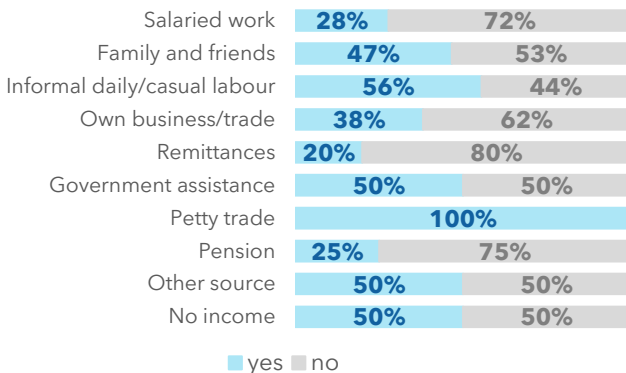
### Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 30 days prior to the survey

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



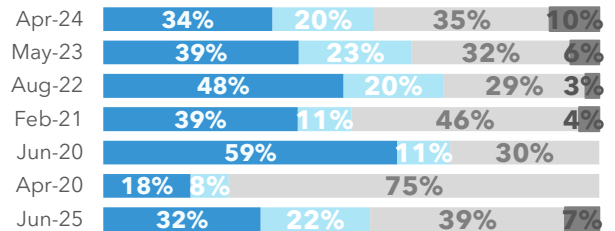
### Respondents reporting that their ability to carry out livelihood activities was affected in the 30 days prior to the survey

#### By income sources



### Has your household income changed in the 6 months prior to the survey?

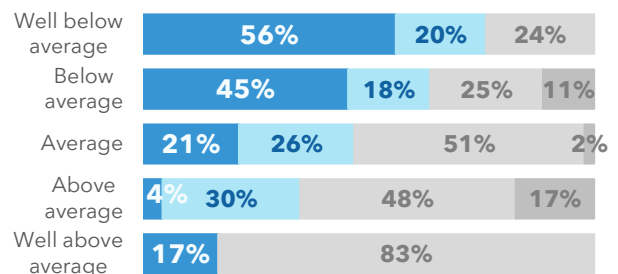
Recall period changed from "since Covid-19" to "in the 6 months prior to the survey" in May 2023 survey round



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

### Has your household income changed in the 6 months prior to the survey?

#### By perceived income level





## Coping Strategies

**Respondents from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are resorting to various coping strategies to address immediate needs.**

Respondents are having to dip into their savings (54 percent), reducing expenditure on health and education (32 percent), and sell productive assets and means of transport (12 percent).

**Lower income households were significantly more likely to apply negative coping strategies** than those with higher income. In the 7 days before the survey, 74 percent of respondents from lower income households utilized savings to meet essential food needs, compared to 38 percent of higher income households. Moreover, 55 percent of respondents relying on informal labour as their main source of income reduced spending on essential non-food expenditure such as health and education and 30 percent sold productive assets to meet immediate food needs.



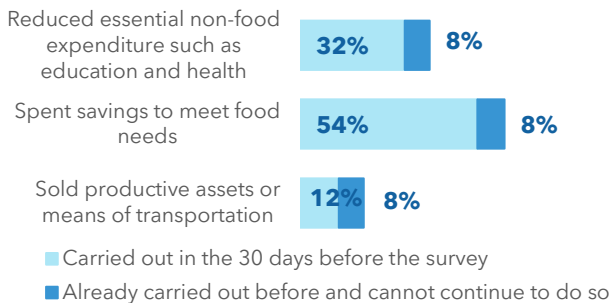
## Food consumption

**Food consumption patterns remain similar to the past rounds of the survey.** Nearly two thirds of respondents are skipping meals, eating less preferred foods, or going an entire day without eating in the week leading up to the survey.

These results show a marginal increases in the proportion of respondents going an entire day without eating and eating less preferred foods, compared to March 2024. Among respondents describing their household income as below or well below average, 13 percent went an entire day without eating and 42 percent reported skipping meals or eating less than usual.

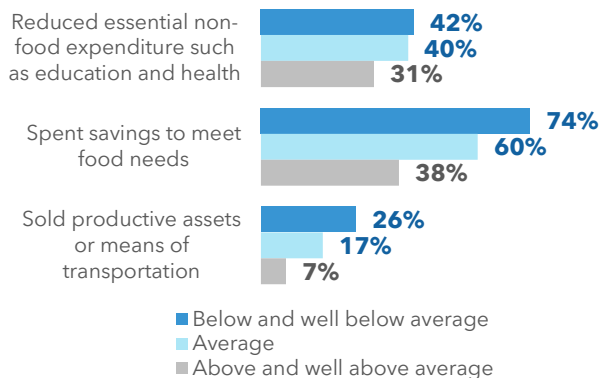
**Thirty percent of respondents have no food stocks at home.** Respondents from single parent households and those relying on informal or casual labour are more likely to report no food stocks.

**Households' coping strategies**  
Multiple choices could be selected.

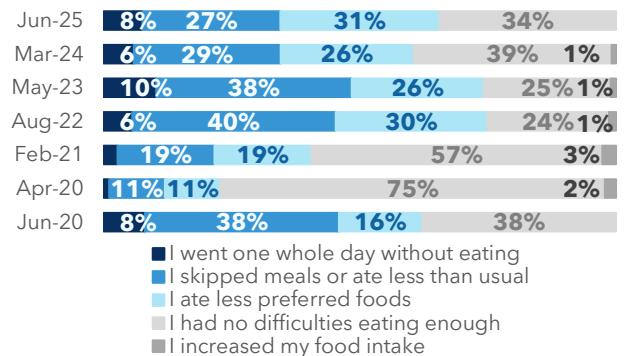


**Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey**  
Multiple choices could be selected.

**By perceived income level**

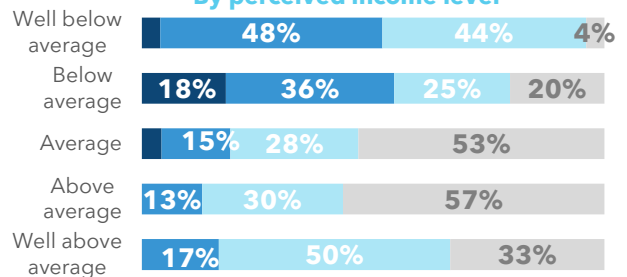


**Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?**



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

**By perceived income level**





## Food Insecurity Prevalence

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

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.

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 percent of the current food consumption domain, 25 percent of economic vulnerability domain, and 25 percent of the livelihood coping domain (see page 37 of the Food security and Livelihoods Regional Report for the CARI methodology).

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





## Food Insecurity Prevalence

**Using the rCARI methodology to determine the levels of food insecurity, it is estimated that in June 2025, 2 percent of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' population are severely food insecure, and 24 percent are moderately food insecure, lower than the regional average.**

The results for indicate a heterogeneous food security situation, with a significant share of households experiencing different degrees of stress. While some households appear, food secure depending on their categories, there is a non-negligible proportion under stress and a smaller but concerning portion facing crisis-level food insecurity.

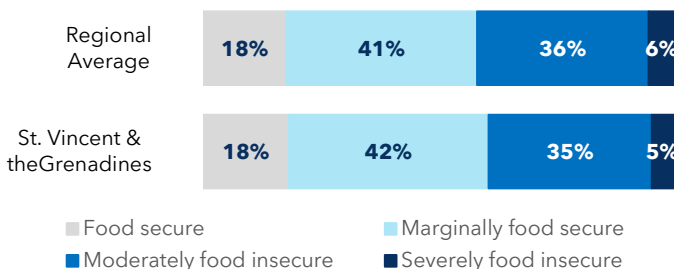
Based on rCARI results Saint Vincent and the Grenadines's food security is fragile with underlying risks. The presence of stressed and crisis households signals the need for preventive action before external shocks escalate the situation.

Income is a key factor linked to food insecurity, with households in the below average (9 percent) and much below average (4 percent), with a higher proportion of household's with severely food insecurity, when compared with zero percent in the above average and well above average incomes, respectively.

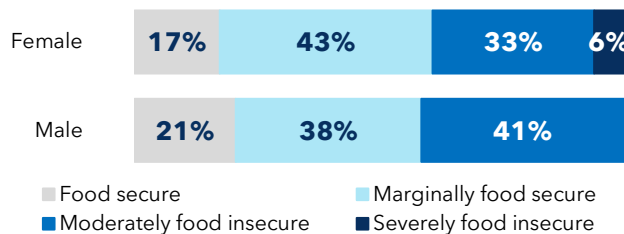
A higher prevalence of food insecurity (severely plus moderately), was also found among households with one or more members with a disability or suffering from chronic illness (45 percent), when compared with those without (35 percent).

Female headed households showed a slightly higher prevalence of food insecurity (6 percent), when compared with their male counterparts.

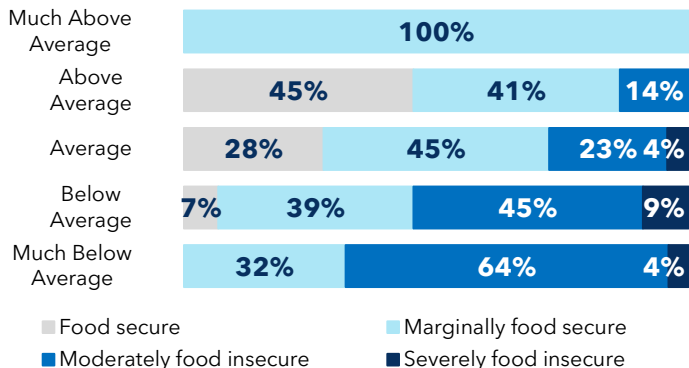
**Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology**



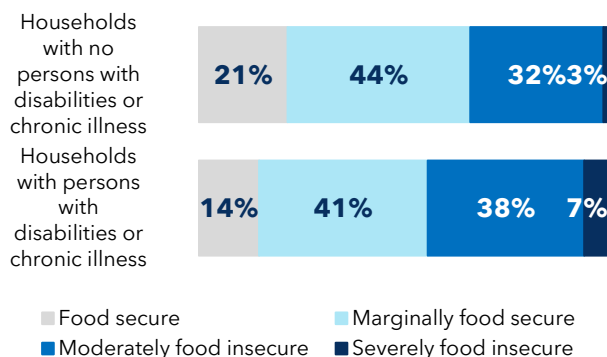
**Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology By sex**



**Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology By perceived income level**



**Prevalence rates of food insecurity based on the rCARI methodology - By households with a disability or person with chronic illness**





## Food Insecurity Experience

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), provides an additional picture of food insecurity experienced by respondents during the 30 days preceding the survey.

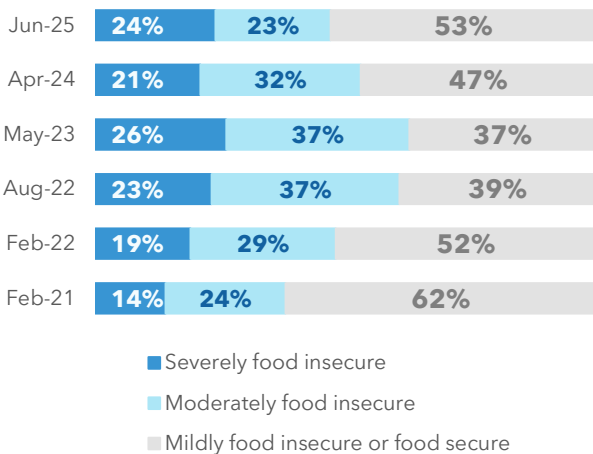
The FIES also measures food insecurity and is an indicator for the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2) Zero hunger. It relies on people's self-reported food related behaviors and experiences associated with increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints.

**Using the FIES methodology, it is estimated that 61 percent of the respondents in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are experiencing food insecurity.** Out of these, 24 percent are estimated to be severely and 37 percent moderately food insecure. The prevalence of severe and moderate food insecurity in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is relatively consistent with the regional survey average.

The negative food experience most often reported by respondents in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was "eating only a few kinds of food" (77 percent), followed by being "unable to eat healthy and nutritious food" (68 percent) and "eating less than they should" (62 percent). Alarming, over a quarter (28 percent) of respondents went a whole day without eating in the 30 days prior to the survey.

While the indicators should be analysed collectively as a scale and individual statements should only be looked at as reference, there were some differences between sex of respondents, whereby female respondents were more likely to reduce the kinds of foods consumed, more frequently reported to inability to eat healthy and nutritious foods and ate less than they thought they should.

**Prevalence rates of food insecurity**  
Based on FIES methodology.

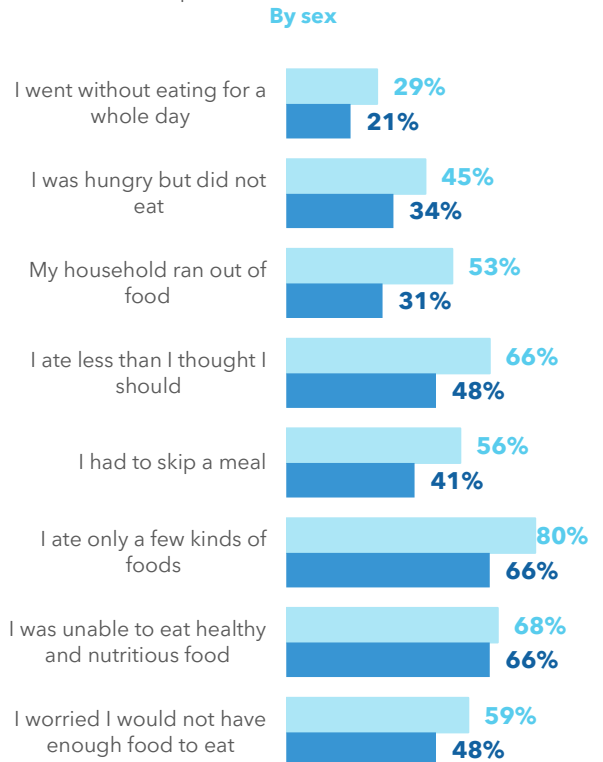


\*For more information on the FIES, see FAO's [The Food Insecurity Experience Scale: Measuring food insecurity through people's experiences](#).

"Had to juggle my finances to make ends meet. Had to buy substitute due to the prices of the regular items." -female, 54

"Inability to eat fruits and vegetables. Started planting different types of vegetables and fruit trees" - male, 43

**Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?**  
Multiple choices could be selected.



■ Female ■ Male



## Resilience capacity

The Resilience Capacity Score (RCS), developed by MLU, was applied as a composite indicator to assess perceived household resilience to natural hazards. This tool captures individuals' self-assessed ability to withstand, adapt to, and recover from hazard-related disruptions, emphasizing their capacity to mitigate long-term impacts.

The score is derived from responses to nine targeted statements reflecting key dimensions of resilience—such as preparedness, financial access, adaptive livelihoods, and social or institutional support. Participants rated their agreement on a Likert scale, enabling the aggregation of subjective perceptions into a single, comparable metric.

To evaluate household-level resilience to natural hazards, a structured perception-based survey was conducted using nine targeted questions designed to capture preparedness, adaptive capacity, and access to support systems. The questions were formulated to reflect key dimensions of resilience, including anticipatory action, recovery potential, livelihood flexibility, and social and institutional support.

Responses were aggregated to generate a composite resilience score, enabling comparative analysis across regions and demographic groups. This approach provides insight into perceived household capacity to manage and recover from hazard-related disruptions, informing targeted interventions and policy design.





## Resilience capacity

**Livelihoods in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continue to be affected by a wide range of natural hazards with nearly a half reporting having experienced a hazard.** Tropical storm/hurricane was the most reported hazard experienced by 65 percent of the respondents, most likely from Hurricane Beryl in 2024. This was followed by heatwave (10 percent), and drought, sargassum, and landslide all equal (6 percent). Of respondents who were affected, 25 percent reported to have severe level of impact on their livelihoods, while 35 percent anticipate a medium level of impact.

*"Transportation to access markets from remote areas is challenging. My family has started carpooling."* - female, 32

*"Unable to save from my salary for myself"* - female, 28

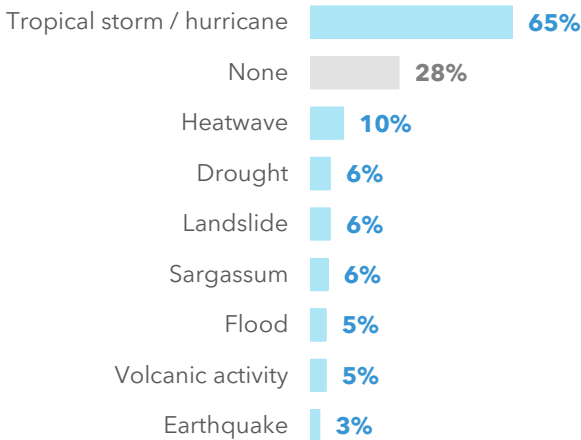
**Based on the RCS, 24 percent of respondents have low capacity to cope with, recover from and adapt to natural hazards.** Only six percent of respondents are highly resilient, while 70 percent of the respondents have medium resilience capacity.

**Out of the nine resilience characteristics, respondents scored the worst on the financial capital, followed equally by institutional, anticipatory and transformative capital.** This implies respondents are less readily able to access of funds or rely on government safety nets to buffer themselves from shocks.

On the other hand, **respondents feel they are better equipped with information** (i.e., through early warning information) and **human/learning capacity** (i.e. in that they learned lessons from past hardships.).

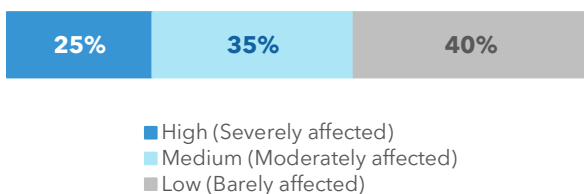
### Natural hazards that affected respondents in the 12 months prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

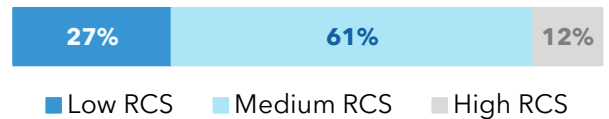


### Level of impact on livelihoods or income

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



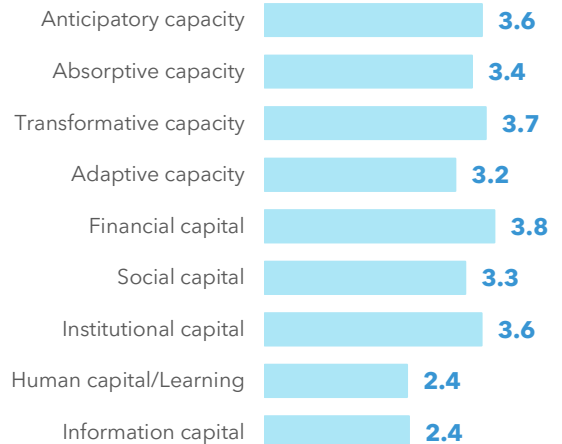
### Overall resilience capacity



*\*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 [Resilience Capacity Score](#) guidance.*

### Average score for the nine resilience capacity characteristics

Scores range from 1 (high resilience capacity) to 5 (low resilience capacity). Higher score means lower resilience capacity.





## Worries and sentiments

The main worries expressed by respondents from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were decreasing savings (39 percent), inability to cover essential needs (37 percent) and illness (34 percent).

Respondents were also concerned about unemployment or loss of income (30 percent), inability to cover food needs (29 percent) and natural hazards (27 percent). **Only eight percent of respondents reported receiving assistance from the government** in the 12 months prior to the survey, a moderate increase from March 2024, when only two percent of respondents reported receiving assistance from the government. **Nearly three-quarters (74 percent) of respondents expressed negative or very negative sentiments.** Respondents were given the space to provide further insights on how they are coping and adapting. More than half of the 116 respondents shared their sentiments.



## Main differences

Differences in results among respondents were most pronounced when comparing with income levels.

Households that reported below or well below average incomes indicate the poorest results on all key metrics of well-being and are at risk of further falling behind economically. Respondents with no formal education, those relying on informal labour and younger respondents also appear to be experiencing greater challenges across the majority of metrics.

While disaggregated findings should be treated with caution due to the number of respondents from the country, the findings appear mostly in line with regional survey trends.

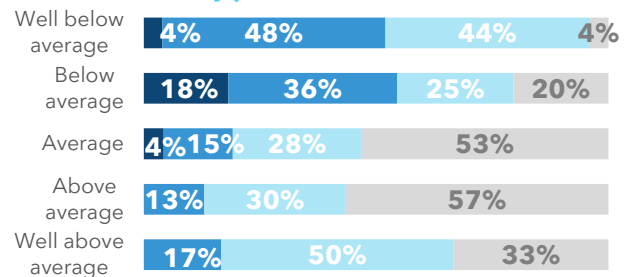
### Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected. Answer options were adjusted in May 2023, adding new options and removing Covid-19 related options that are now displayed as "Other worries".

Main worries	25-Jun	24-Apr	May-23	Aug-22	Feb-22	Feb-21
Inability to cover essential needs	37%	39%	48%	46%	33%	23%
Illness	34%	36%	33%	25%	48%	69%
Unemployment / Income loss	30%	31%	30%	33%	42%	44%
Decreasing savings	39%	40%	28%	30%	18%	19%
Inability to cover food needs	29%	29%	41%	55%	37%	17%
Inability to receive or repay loans	11%	13%	12%			
Violence/crime in the community	12%	15%	12%	7%	4%	4%
Child/dependent care	15%	17%	14%	19%	19%	7%
Natural hazards	27%	20%	13%			
Inadequate infrastructure	7%	15%	8%			
Inadequate housing	4%	4%	5%			
Disruption of public services (education, health)	1%	2%	1%	8%	25%	21%
Other worries	2%	2%	1%	15%	21%	29%
Violence/abuse in the household	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
No access to services due to migration status	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%

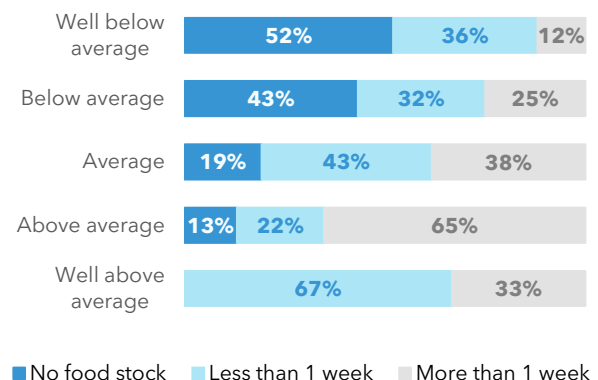
### Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

By perceived income level



### Does your household have any food stock?

By perceived income level



## COMMON THEMES ON HOW RESPONDENTS ARE COPING AND ADAPTING



"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

"Indirect effects of Hurricane Beryl which mainly impacted the southern Grenadine islands and the effects on government expenditure and also expenditures to carry out necessary reconstruction works." - male, 62

"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

"Cost of living increased and salary cannot cover the expenses, I am a police officer for 18 yrs, can't get promotion nor work another job because of my job, I had to cut back on a lot of things like food. I had to pay sometimes half of the bills every month just to get by, trying to learn a new trade and apply it to hopefully help." - male, 37



"Cost of living is getting too high and am getting the same pay I start with 3 years ago no rise in pay" - male, 39

"This is the first time in my life that I am experiencing difficulties in the maintenance of my vehicle and home even though they are being used. I am reducing my spending on treating myself at the end of the work week" - female, 51

"The cost of living is so high while the customer service care is slow here. People are depressed and have no place to vent to psychological problems because we don't monitor mental health over here." - female, 30

"Level at which prices increase on items at the supermarket weekly. Use less or allow my son to eat the item and I will not." - female, 47

## Conclusion

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to face a complex and persistent set of challenges that underscore the fragility of its economic and social systems. Inflationary pressures, though moderated compared to the sharp increases of 2022, remain a significant concern, particularly in food prices where even modest rises erode household purchasing power. The country's heavy reliance on imported foods amplifies this vulnerability, exposing households to global supply chain disruptions, geopolitical tensions, and commodity price volatility.

Survey data paints a sobering picture of household realities. Nearly half of respondents report difficulties accessing markets, with lack of funds cited overwhelmingly as the primary barrier. Rising costs across food, electricity, housing, health, and education compound these access challenges, forcing households to adopt coping strategies that undermine long-term resilience. The majority of respondents have altered their shopping behaviours, buying smaller quantities, opting for cheaper or less preferred foods, or shifting to different stores. These adjustments, while pragmatic, reflect constrained choices and declining dietary diversity. Alarming, food consumption patterns reveal that many households are skipping meals, eating less than they should, or going entire days without food. Among households with below-average incomes, the prevalence of such negative food experiences is markedly higher, underscoring the link between poverty and food insecurity.

Livelihood disruptions remain widespread, with informal and vulnerable groups—such as single-parent households, those engaged in petty trade, and households with disabilities—bearing the brunt of shocks. High costs of agricultural and fishing inputs, particularly fuel and fertilizer, further strain productive activities. Job losses and income reductions, though slightly lower than in previous survey rounds, continue to affect a significant proportion of households, especially those already struggling with below-average incomes. Coping strategies such as dipping into savings, reducing essential non-food expenditures, and selling productive assets highlight the precarious balancing act households must perform to meet immediate needs. Lower-income households are far more likely to resort to these negative strategies, which erode their capacity to recover from future shocks.

Food insecurity remains widespread, with six in ten respondents estimated to be affected, including nearly one quarter severely food insecure. The most common negative food experiences—limited dietary diversity, inability to access nutritious foods, and eating less than required—reflect both affordability constraints and structural vulnerabilities in food supply. The fact that over a quarter of respondents went an entire day without eating in the month prior to the survey is particularly alarming, pointing to acute deprivation among the most vulnerable groups. Female-headed households and those with members living with disabilities or chronic illness show higher prevalence of food insecurity, highlighting the intersection of gender, health, and poverty in shaping vulnerability.

Resilience capacity is uneven. While respondents demonstrate adaptive behaviours and draw on lessons from past hardships, financial and institutional capital remain weak. Limited access to funds, inadequate safety nets, and constrained institutional support reduce households' ability to buffer themselves against shocks. Although respondents report stronger capacities in information access and human learning, these are insufficient to offset the structural weaknesses in financial and anticipatory systems. Exposure to natural hazards compounds these challenges, with nearly half of households reporting impacts from events such as hurricanes, heatwaves, droughts, and sargassum influxes. The severe impacts reported by one quarter of affected households underscore the destructive potential of climate-related shocks in eroding livelihoods and food security.

Taken together, these findings highlight the urgent need for targeted interventions that strengthen resilience at both household and national levels. Expanding social protection systems, diversifying livelihoods, and reducing import dependency are critical to safeguarding food security. Investments in agricultural productivity, local food systems, and climate adaptation measures can help buffer households against external shocks. Equally important is the strengthening of institutional and financial capital, ensuring that households have access to safety nets and resources to recover from crises. Without such measures, the convergence of inflationary pressures, import reliance, livelihood disruptions, and climate risks will continue to undermine household well-being and national stability. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stands at a critical juncture where building resilience is not only a matter of economic necessity but also a social imperative to protect the most vulnerable and secure a more sustainable future.

## 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.

\*Recommendations are adapted from regional survey report





#### **INTERACTIVE DASHBOARD**

The dashboard contains additional country-level data and analysis beyond the present report on the Food Security and Livelihoods Survey. It may take a second to load. Scan the QR code to access it or follow this link:

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

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#### **REPORTS**

The website contains links to all current and past regional and country reports on the Food Security and Livelihoods Survey. Scan the QR code to access it or follow this link:

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