

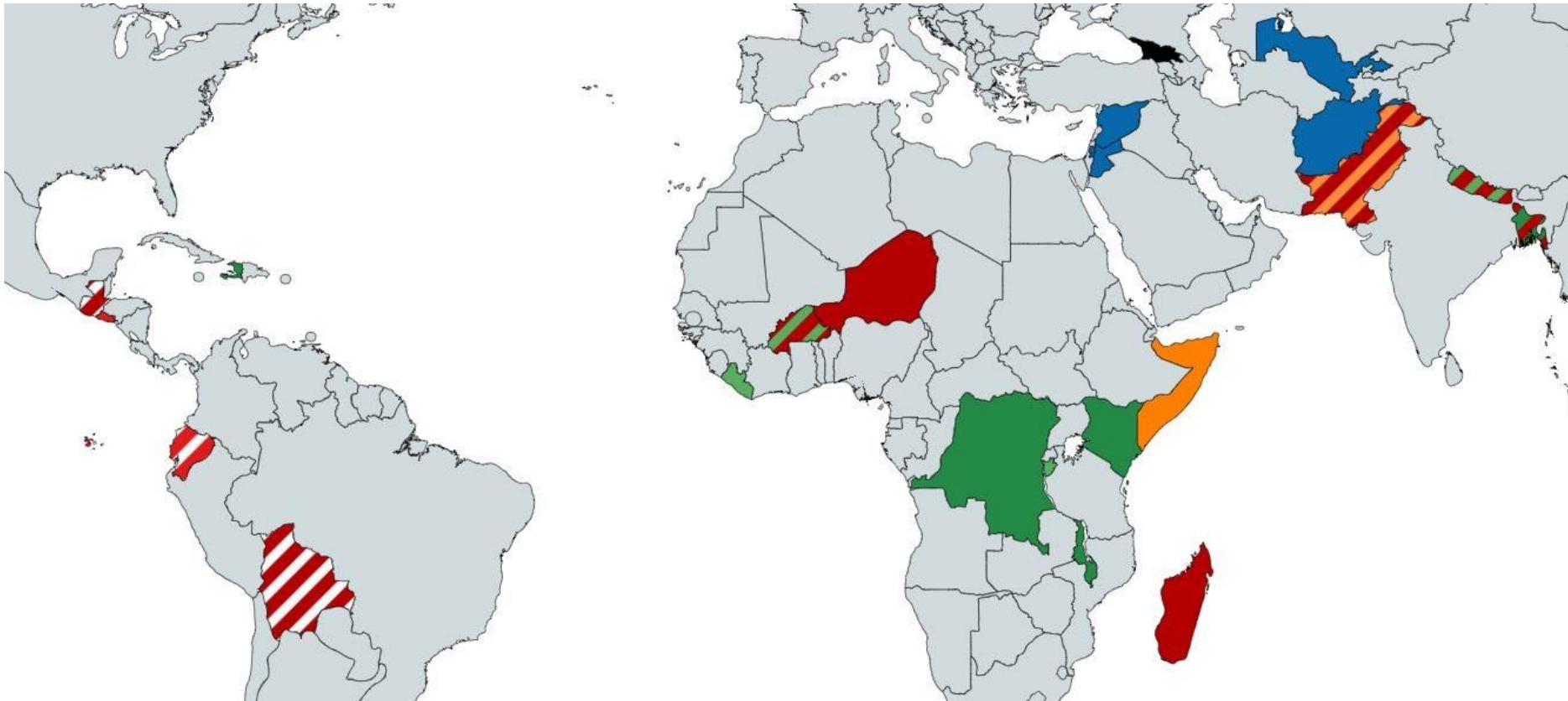
COVID-19 & Community Resilience A Multi-Country Study



Contents

- > Geographic Coverage
- > Methodology, COVID-19 Protection Measures
- > Top Level Findings
 1. Knowledge and Practices
 2. Impact on Incomes
 3. Debt and Sale of Assets
 4. Help from External Agencies
 5. Impacts on Health & Health Seeking Behaviour
 6. Impacts on Education, Future Perspectives
 7. Community Dynamics
 8. Psychological Well-being
- > Conclusions

Geographic Focus



- > Combined effort of the 8 member organisations
- > Simultaneous surveys in 23 countries over October – November, 2020

-  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-  
-  

Methodology

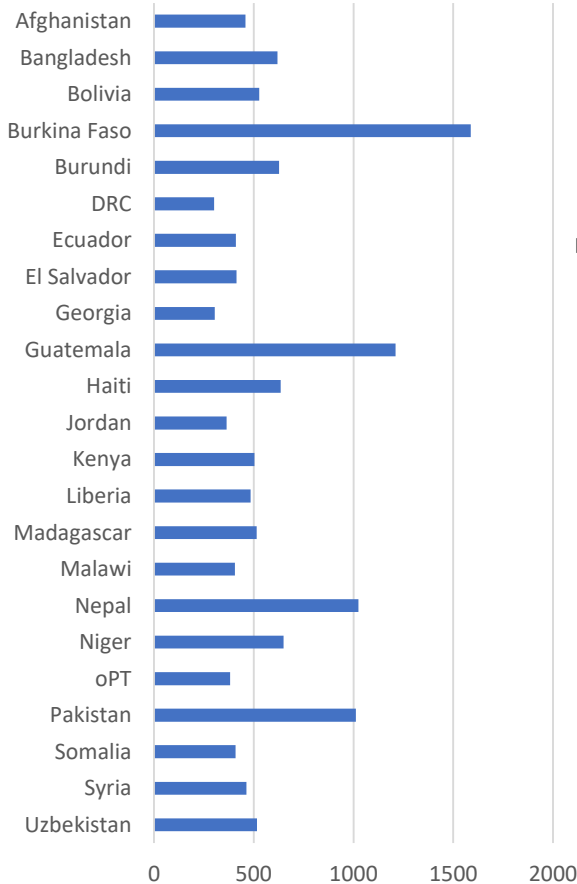
- > Data was collected by country teams of A2015 member organizations using the same questionnaire from:
 - > Program beneficiaries of one or more of the eight member organisations working in that country
 - > Either face to face* or through telephone/zoom interviews



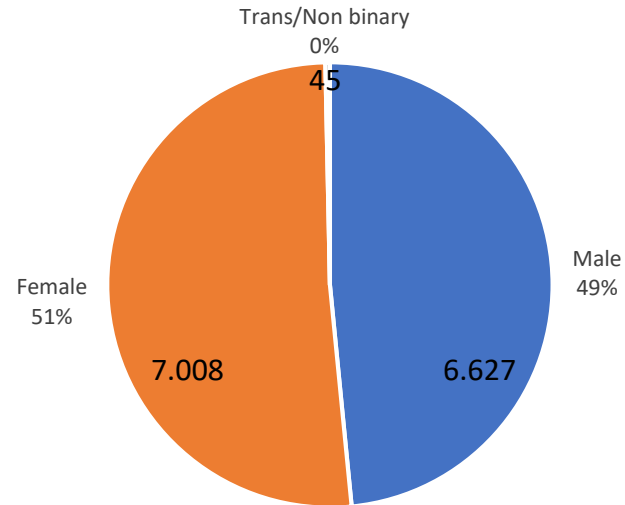
* For face-to-face interviews, precautions against spread of COVID-19 were taken including mask wearing, maintaining distance of 2m between enumerator and respondent and avoiding physical contact through objects such as sharing of pens, drinks etc.

Sample Size and Distribution

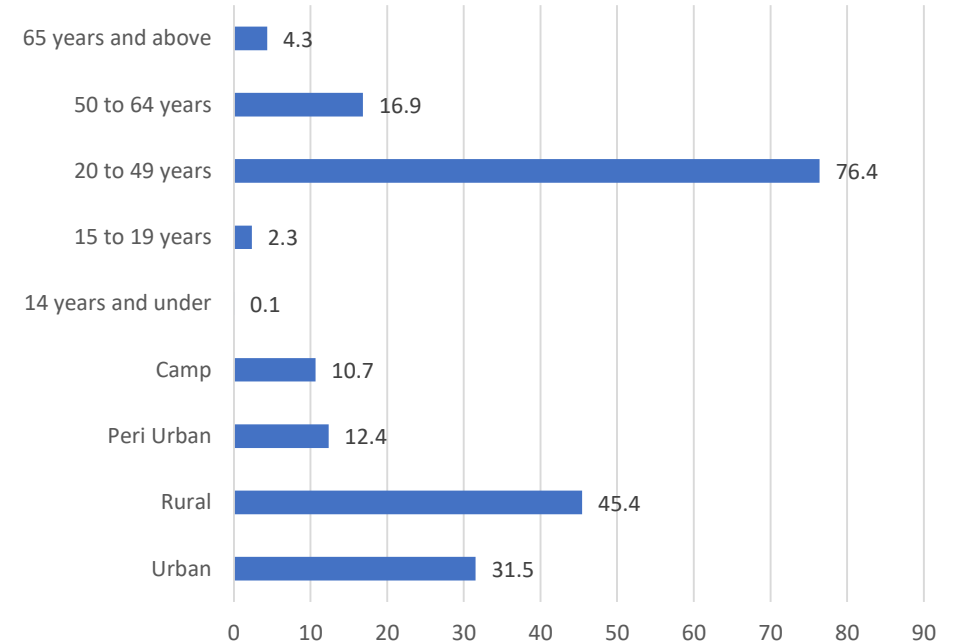
Responses per country



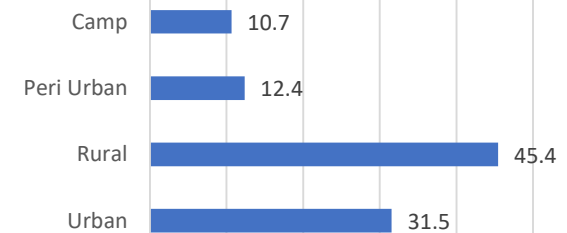
People interviewed



Age group



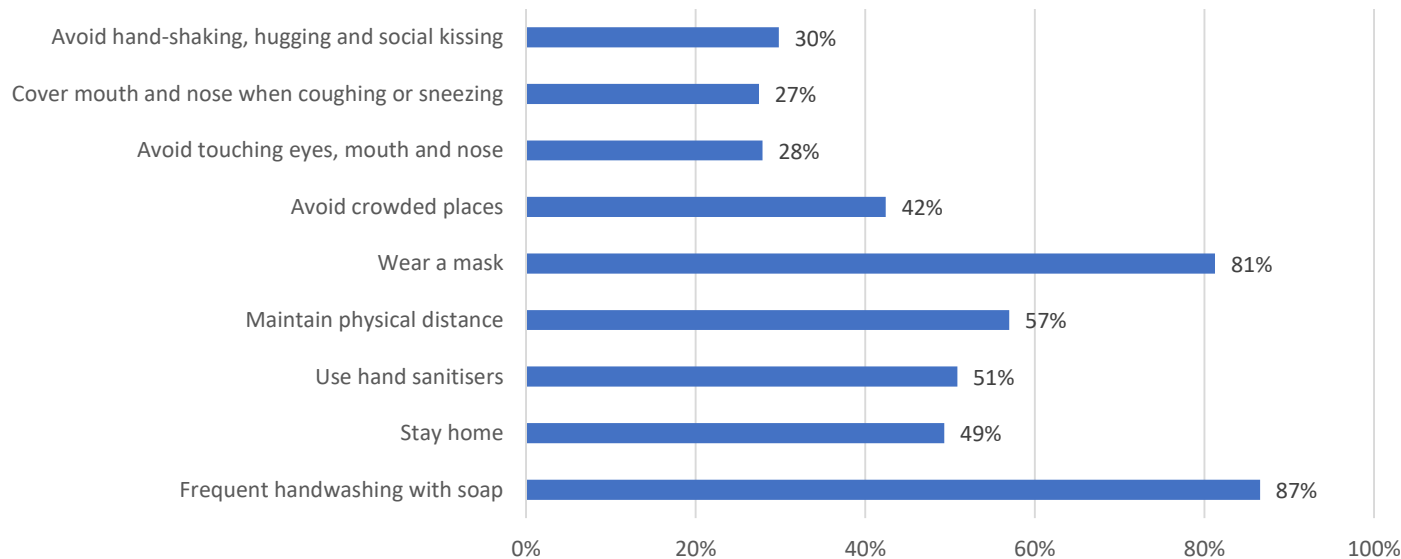
Location



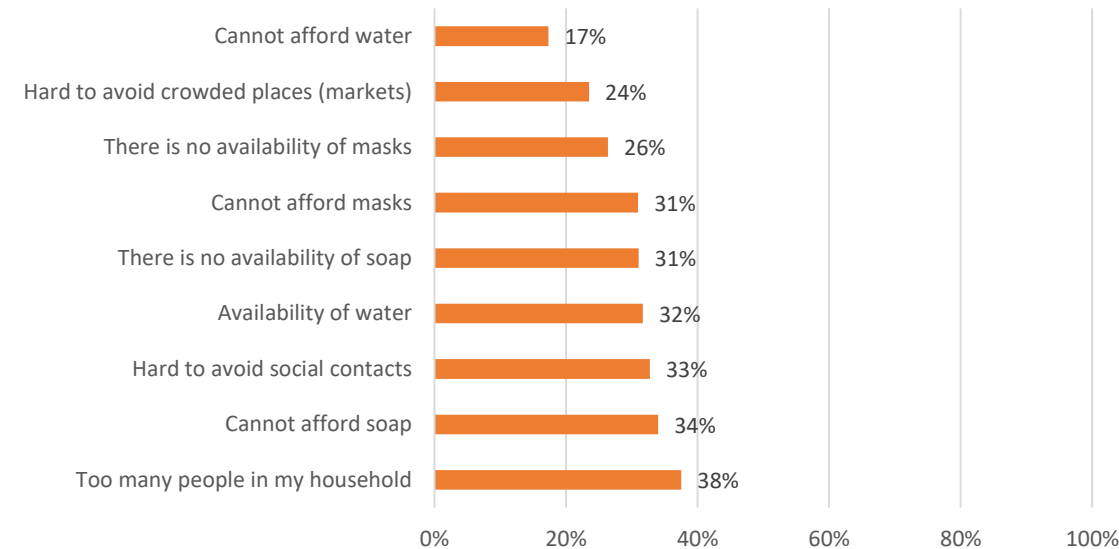
- > Data from 13,680 households, collated and analysed as of 26th November
- > More than half the respondents are women (51%)
- > Respondents of different age groups
- > Living in Rural, Urban, Peri-Urban and Camp setting (refugees and internally displaced persons)
- > A minimum of 300 interviews per country

COVID-19 Protection Measures: Practices & Challenges

Knowledge of precautions to avoid COVID-19



Challenges identified



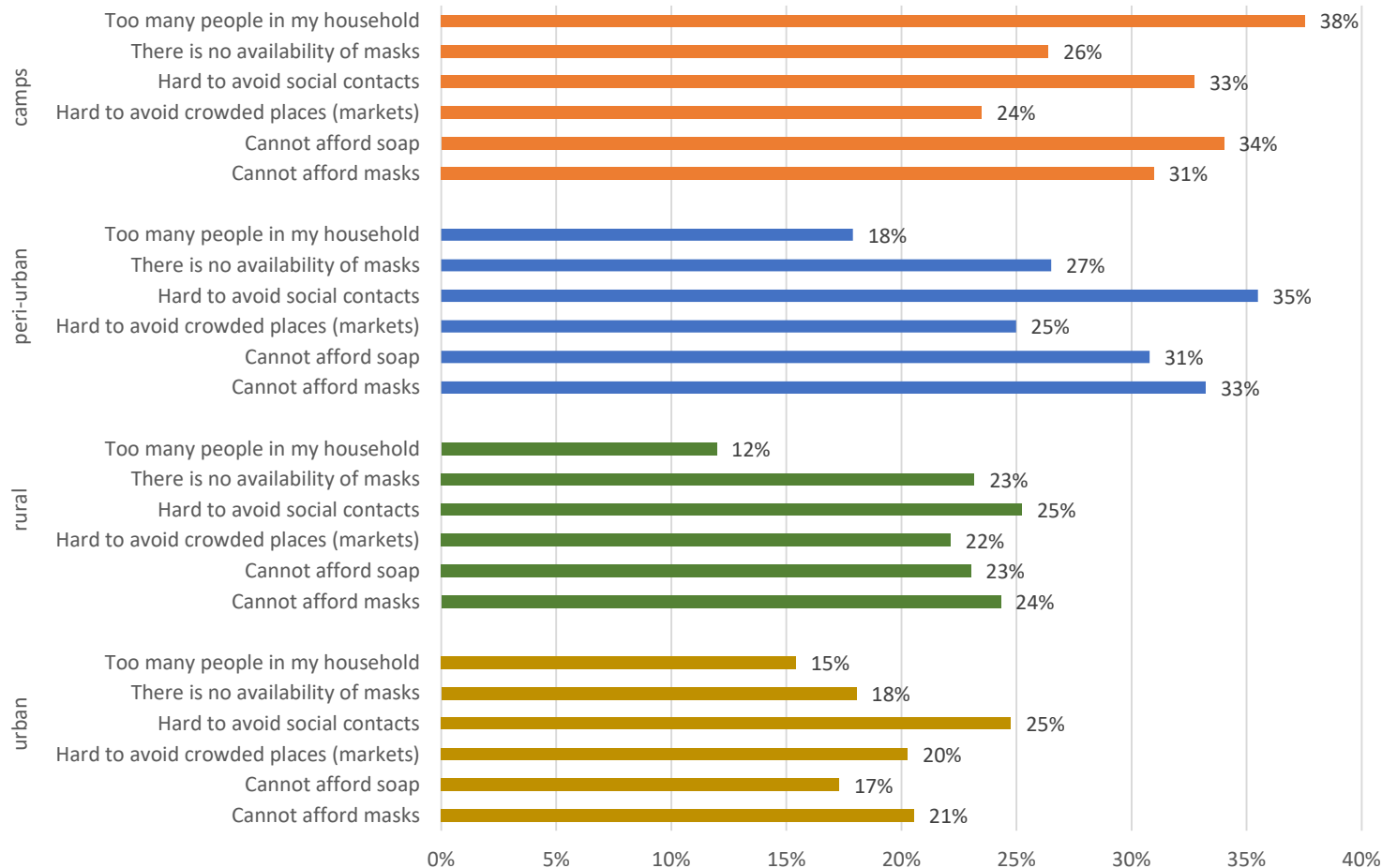
> Most respondents are well informed on measures to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. As the sample was selected from A2015 beneficiaries, awareness may be higher than in the rest of population.

> However, over a third cannot follow hygiene practices due to lack of access to water, soap and masks.

> Almost a quarter of respondents report they cannot avoid crowded places like markets.

Challenges Vary Across Types of Settlements

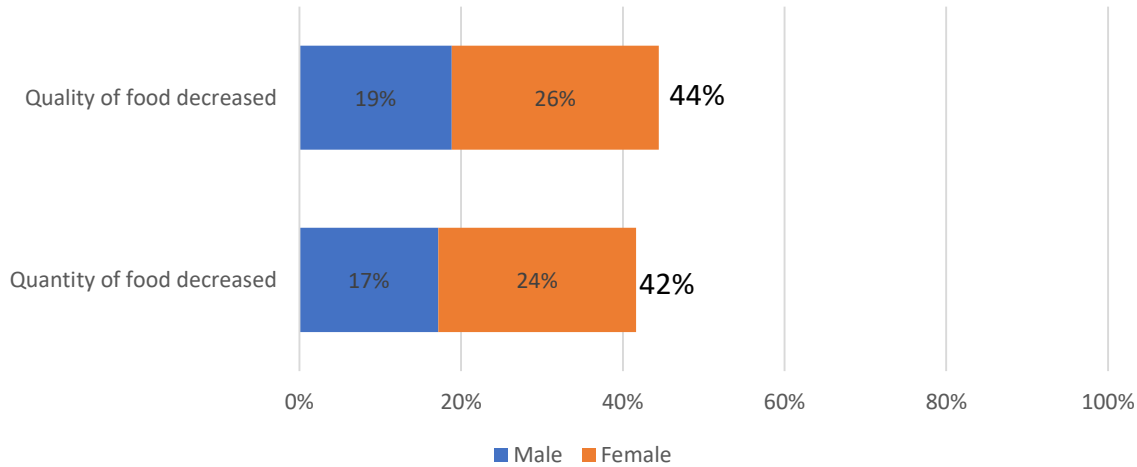
Main challenges faced in different types of settlements



- > Over-crowded homes, public spaces and the density of houses is the main challenges for maintaining physical distance, particularly in peri-urban and camp settings.
- > While people are aware of the benefits of hand washing, over a third report availability and cost of soap is a challenge.
- > Between a quarter and a third of respondents across all types of settlement types report social contacts are hard to avoid.
- > The availability of masks is still a challenge for up to a quarter of all respondents.

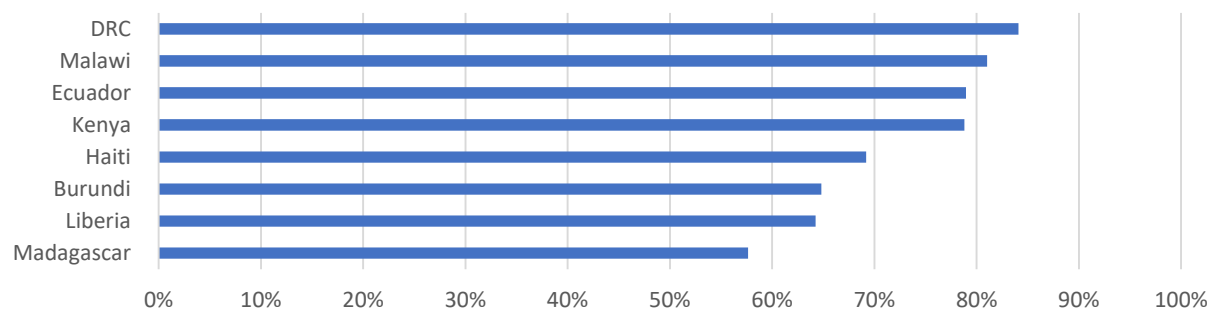
Dealing with the Impacts - Changes in Food Consumption

Decrease in food quantity and quality

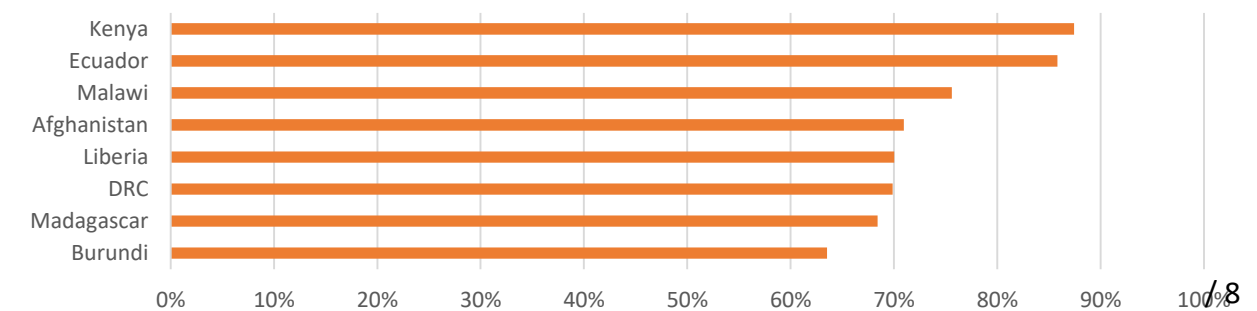


- > Over 40% of all respondents report a decrease in food quantity and quality.
- > Women report this decrease more (24-26% women, 17-19% men).
- > 6 of the 9 countries where food quantity and quality decreased the most are in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- > Ecuador, Haiti and Afghanistan also report significant reduction in quality and quantity of food consumed.
- > 7 months into the pandemic, COVID-19 continues to exacerbate existing challenges to food security affecting the poorest regions of the world the most.

Countries where food quantity decreased the most



Countries where food quality decreased the most



Impact on Incomes

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

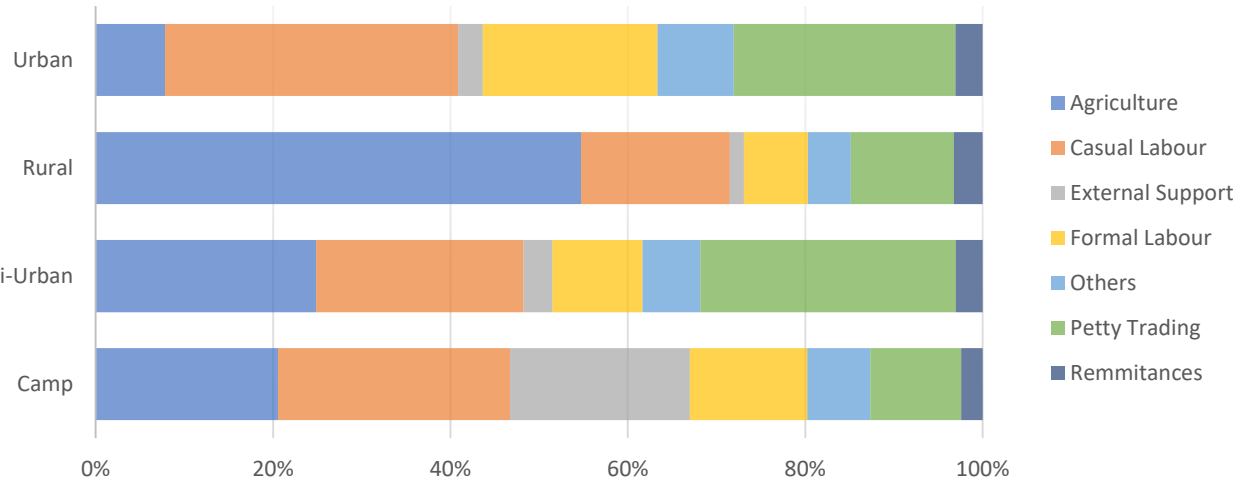
Top level findings:

- > Over 90% of all respondents report a negative impact of COVID-19 on their incomes.
- > Over 75% are worried their incomes will be negatively affected in the future as well due to policy measures taken to control the spread of COVID-19.
- > All occupation groups are highly impacted by these policies. Those who rely on casual labour and petty trade are most affected due to fewer work opportunities, fewer customers and their reduced ability to spend.
- > Farmers report reduced income as they are unable to sell their produce at a good price.
- > Three quarters of all who received remittances say the amount of money received either decreased or stopped completely. Reasons are the relatives sending money lost their jobs, earned less income or experienced higher living costs.

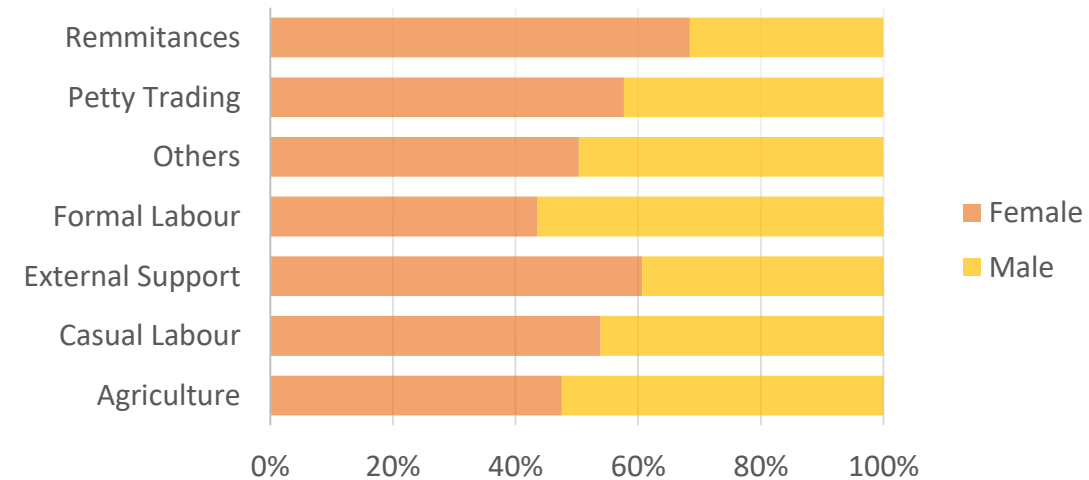


Primary sources of income

Across Settlement Types



Among Women and Men



> Agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for 32% of respondents followed by casual labour (23%) and petty trade (18%).

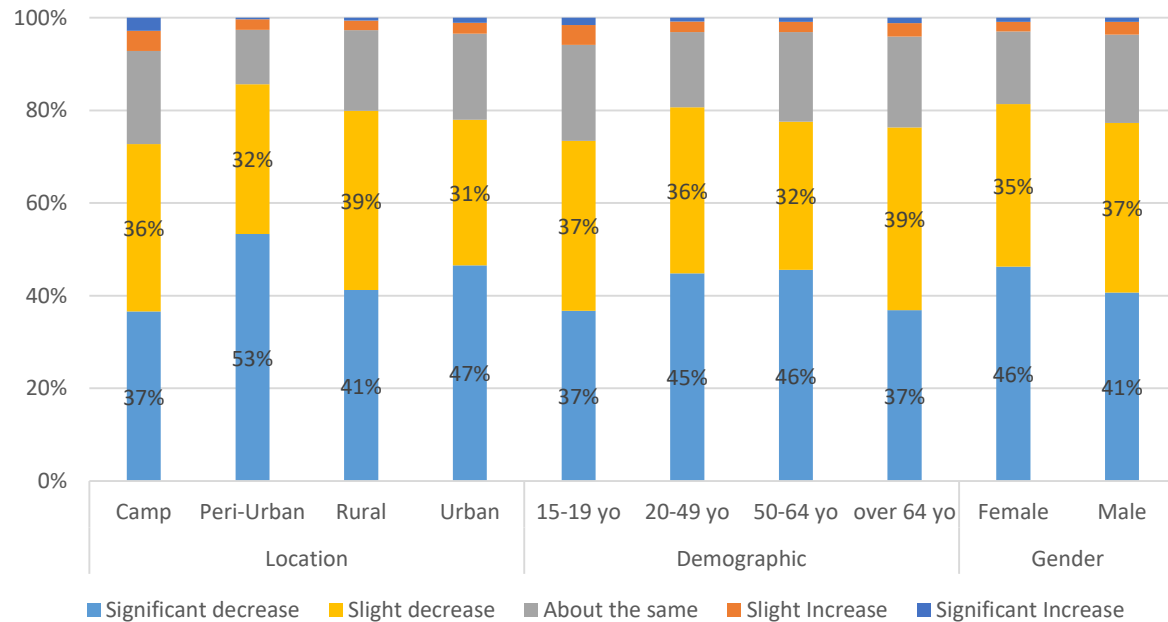
> Casual labour is the primary source of income for many across all settlement types (17% in rural areas to 33% in urban), making them particularly vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19 policy responses.

> 3% of the respondents report remittances as their primary source of income making them particularly vulnerable to the steep decline in this type of financial flows.

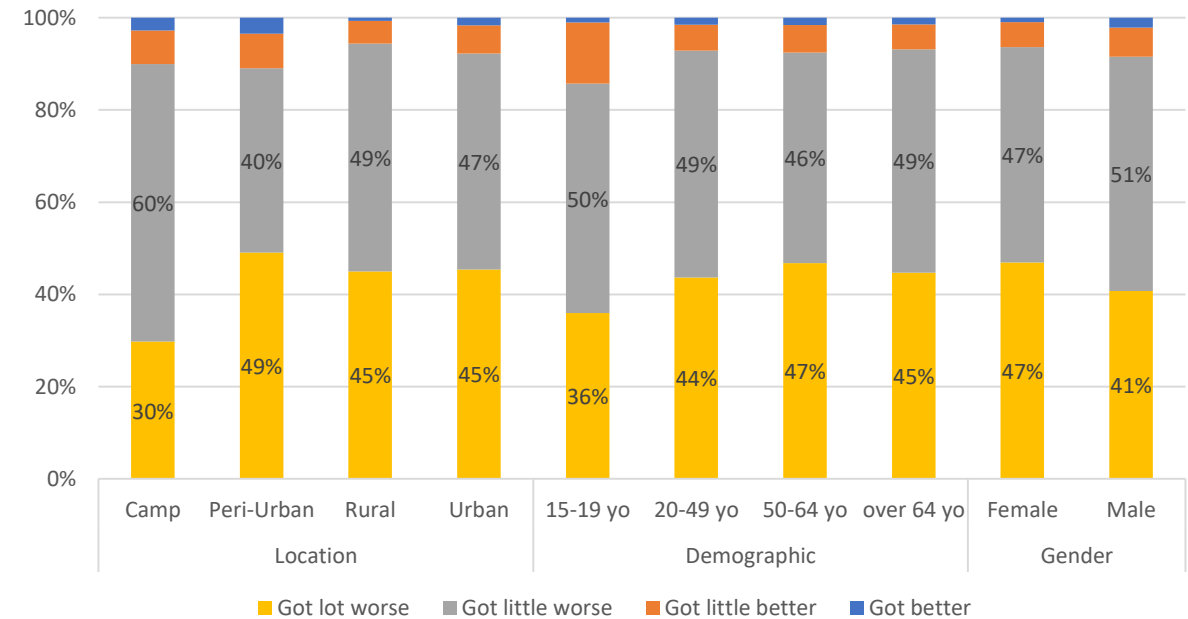
> Women respondents rely more on remittances, external support, petty trade and casual labour than male respondents. These sectors are more impacted by COVID-19 policies than others.

Change in financial situation

Financial situation compared to pre-COVID

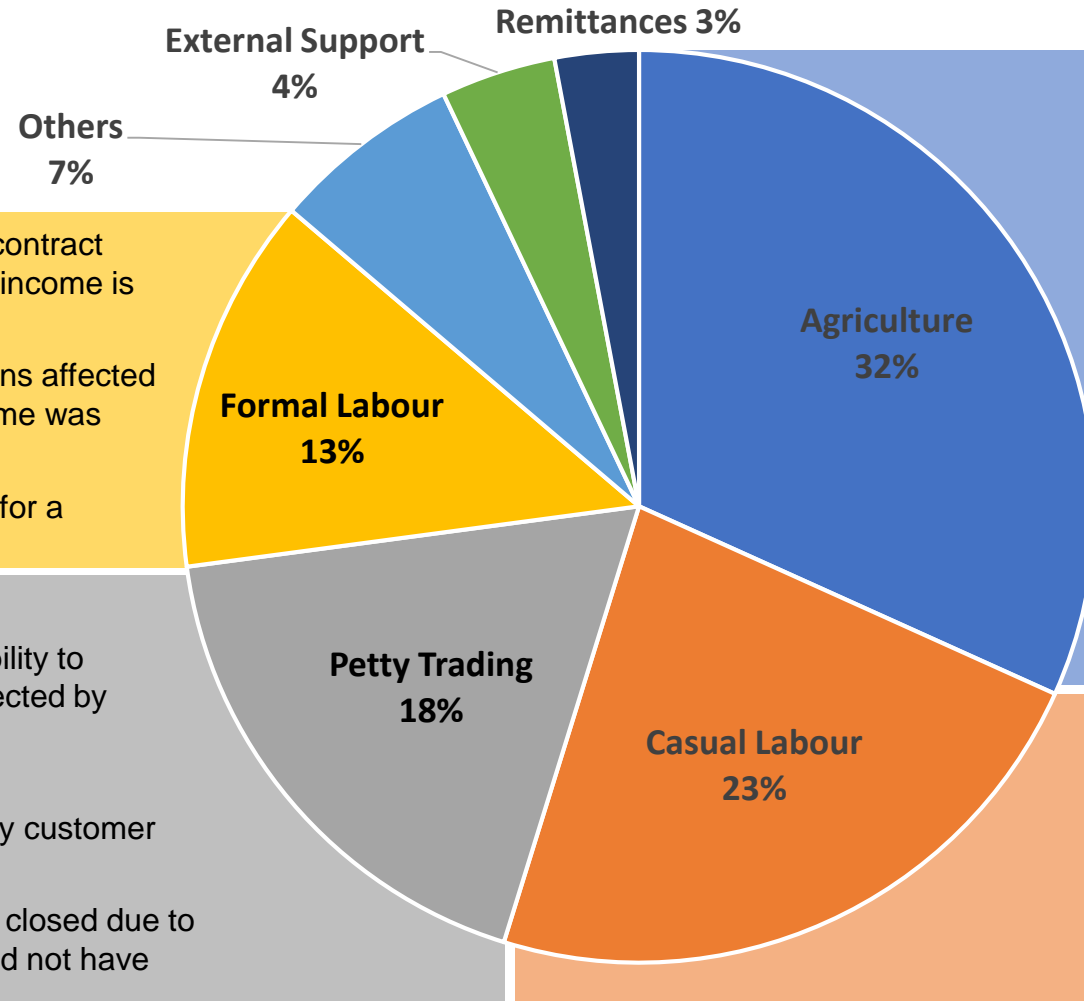


Ability to earn income compared to pre-COVID



- > Across all settlement types, age groups and gender, over 75% of respondents report a decline in their financial situation post COVID-19. In countries such as Ecuador, Kenya, Malawi and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, almost all respondents report a negative impact on their financial situation.
- > Over 80% of respondents across all settlement types, age groups and gender report a decline in their ability to earn an income post COVID-19.

Primary source of income



- > 63% of people with a formal work contract stated that their ability to generate income is negatively affected by COVID-19
- > Of them, 41% stated that lock-downs affected them, 31% stated that paid work time was reduced and 28% lost their jobs
- > 33% stated more than one reason for a reduction in their income

- > 84% of traders stated that their ability to generate income is negatively affected by COVID-19
- > Of them, 52% report lack of customers and another 50% say customer have no money
- > 49% stated that marketplaces are closed due to COVID-19 restrictions and 34% did not have access to the usual goods
- > 74% stated more than one reason

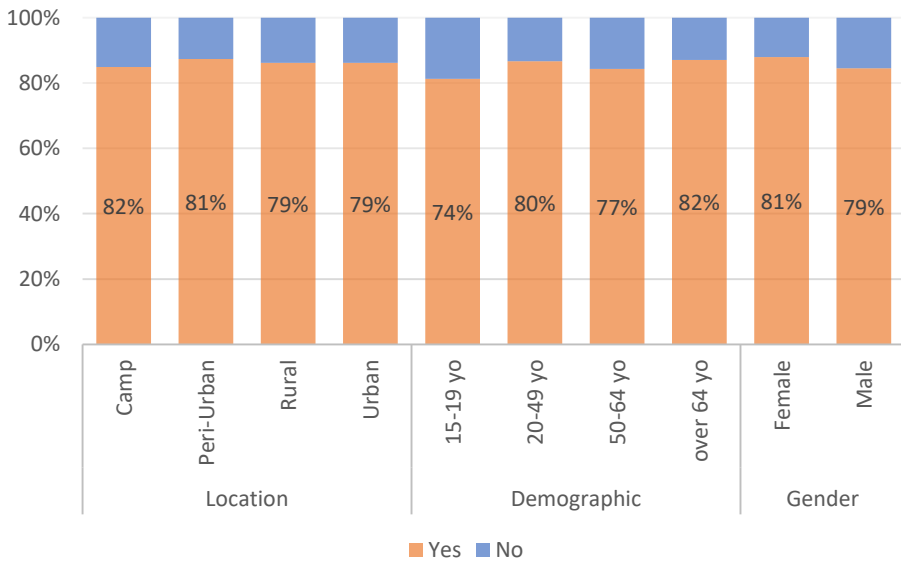
Gender disaggregation shows minimal variation (+/-2%). In formal labour women see more challenges than men

- > 77% of farmers stated that their ability to generate income is affected negatively by COVID-19
- > Of them, 51% report the negative impact was due to inability to sell their produce
- > Other reasons mentioned were delayed planting (31%) and smaller cultivated area (24%)
- > 50% stated more than one reason

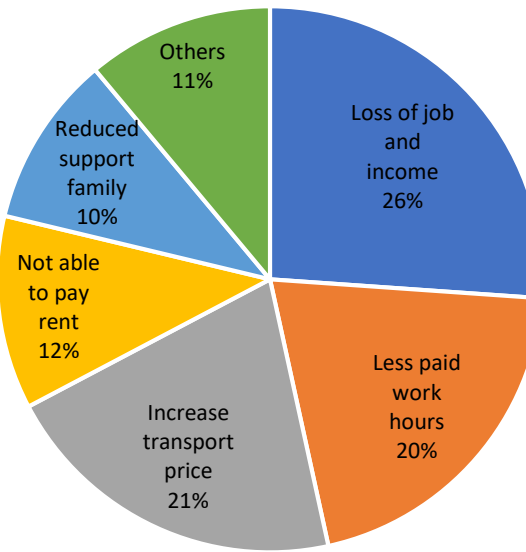
- > 84% of casual labour stated that their ability to generate income is affected negatively by COVID-19
- > Of them, 77% say this was due to fewer work opportunities
- > 48% report lower wage rates affected their incomes while 17% stated other reasons
- > 39% stated more than one reason

Long term concerns regarding income

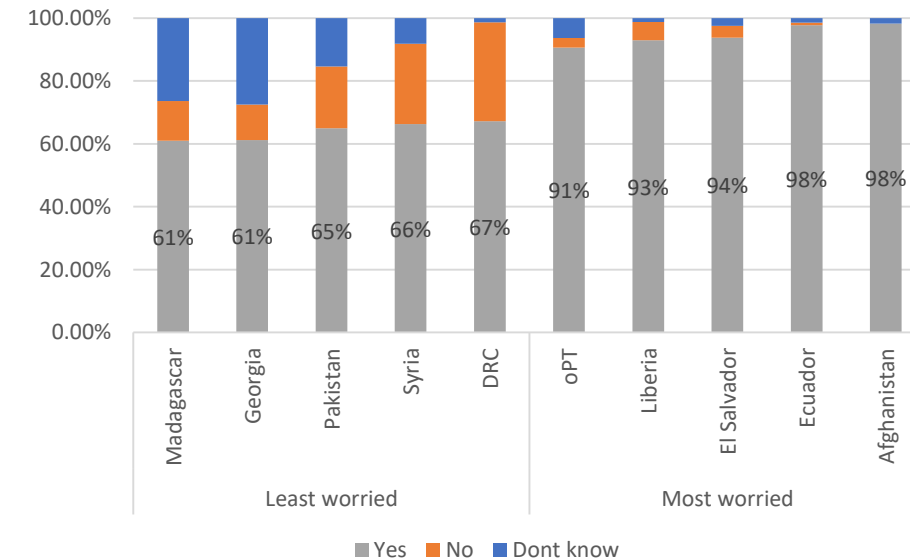
Respondents worrying about negative effects of COVID-19 on income



Categories of future concerns

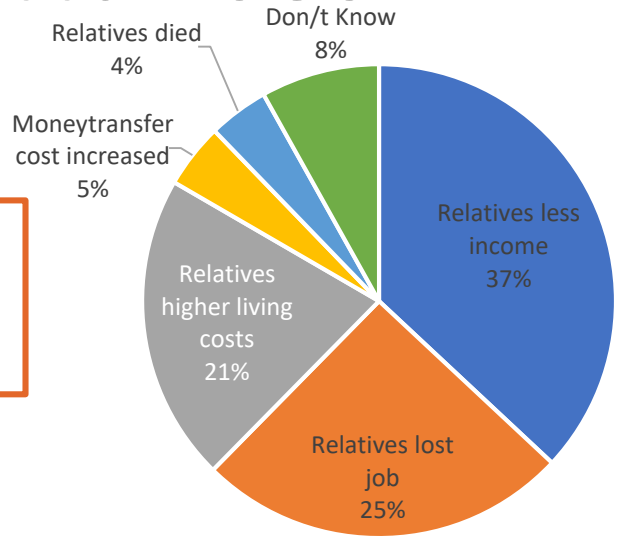


Least to most worried countries



- > 79% of worried respondents clearly identified their concerns while 71% have more than one source of concern
- > Fears about loss of job is lower in camps (at 24%) than in other locations, but worries about getting fewer paid work hours is higher (34%)
- > Urban areas are on average more concerned about an increase in prices than other locations, but are less worried about loss of family support
- > Twice as many people in rural and peri-urban areas fear an increase of transportation costs (34% for both) than in urban areas and camps.
- > 29% of urban and 19% of peri-urban respondents are worried about their ability to pay the house rent.

Remittances

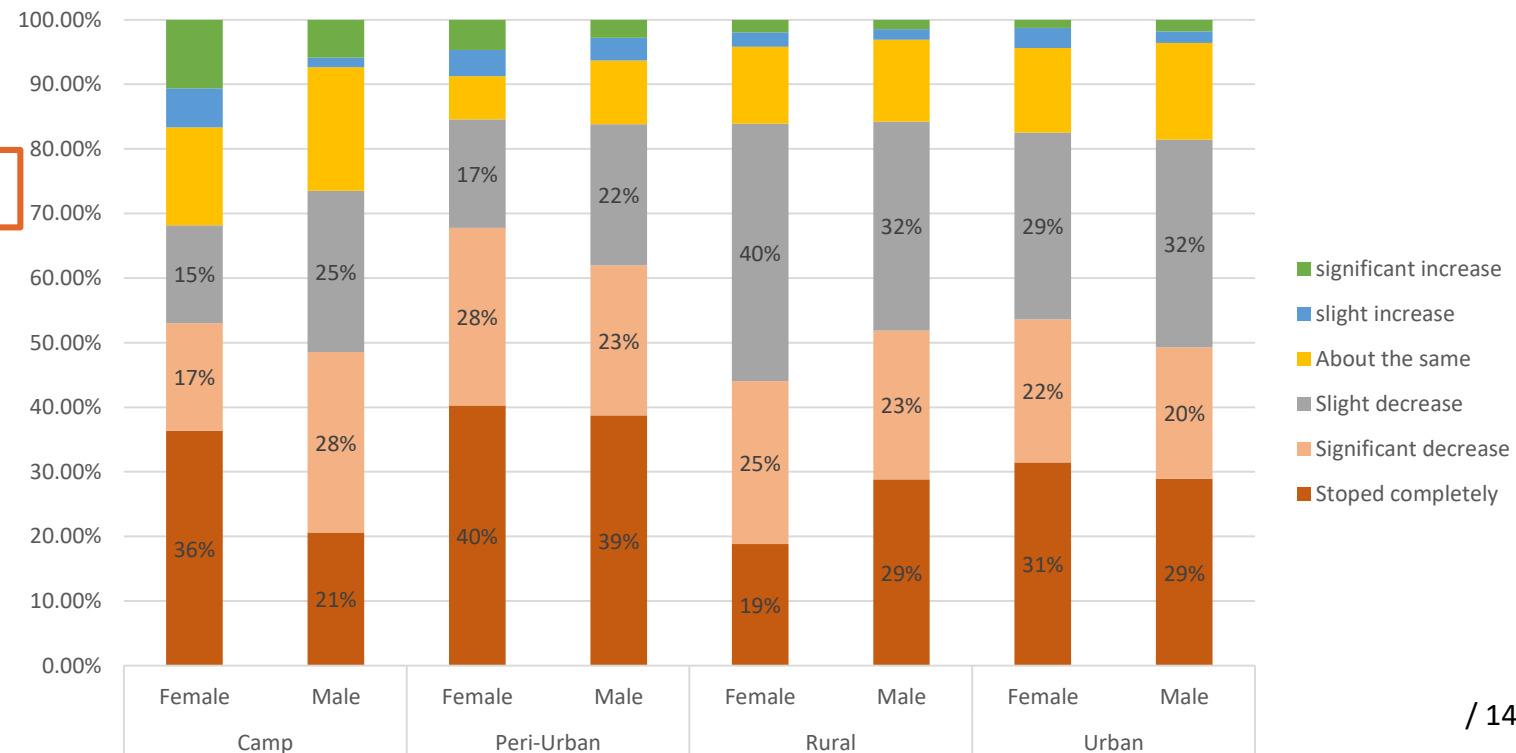
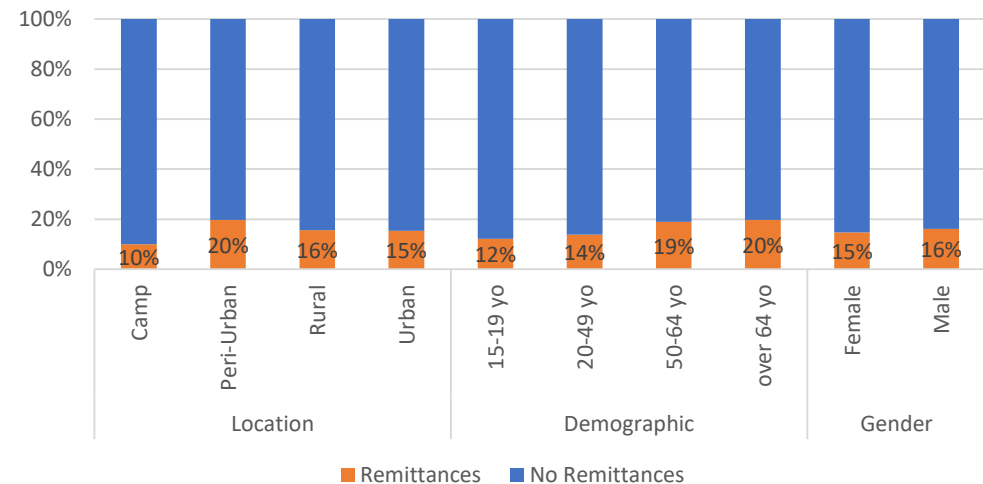


Reasons for decline in remittances

- > 15% of all respondents stated they receive remittances
- > Up to 40% report remittances have stopped completely
- > 77% of all recipients could explain why remittances are negatively affected by COVID-19. 43% mentioned more than one reason for this.
- > No significant difference in reasons for decline in remittances across gender, location or age although women reported greater reliance on remittances than men.

Change of remittances for people who received remittances

% of respondents who received remittances



Indebtedness, Sale of Assets...

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

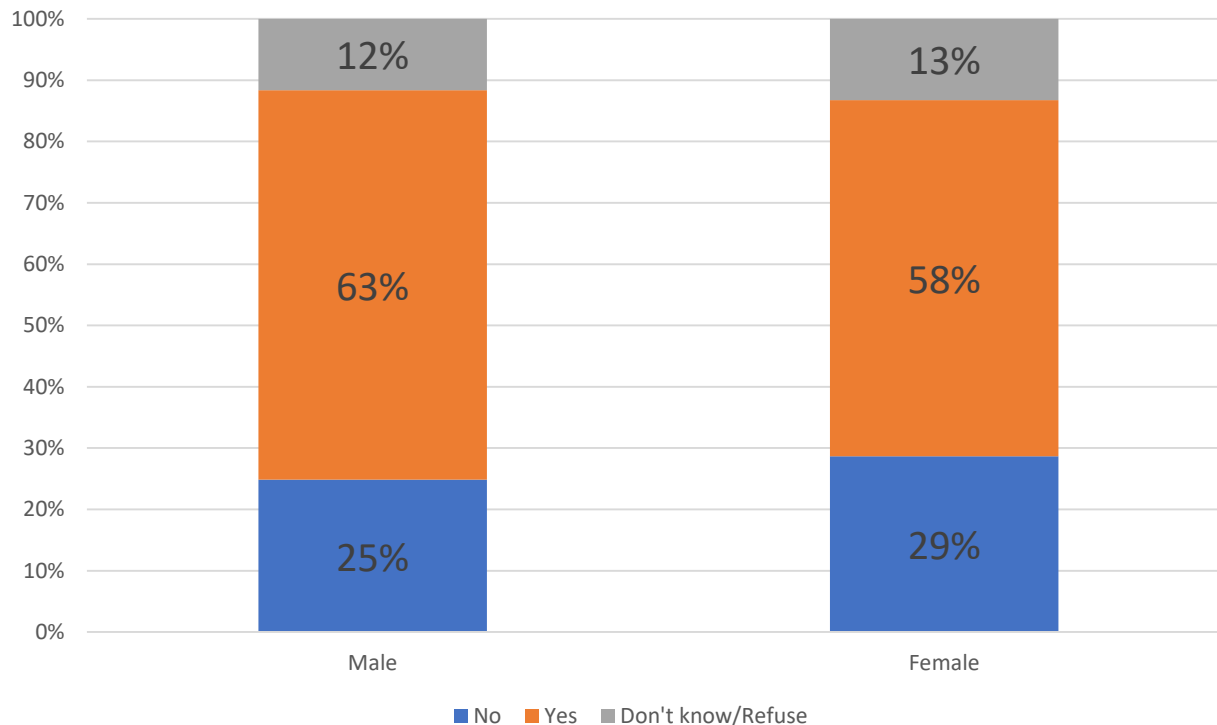
Top level findings:

- > Over two thirds of respondents had to borrow money, buy on credit or ask family and neighbours for financial help
- > Urban dwellers report more challenges in coping with the financial impacts of COVID-19 than others
- > More research is required on Coping Mechanisms at individual country level.
- > Over 75% of respondents report community or family-based institutions as their source of credit. Social capital has played a significant role in enabling people to cope with the financial burdens from COVID-19.



Household ability to cope with the impacts of COVID-19

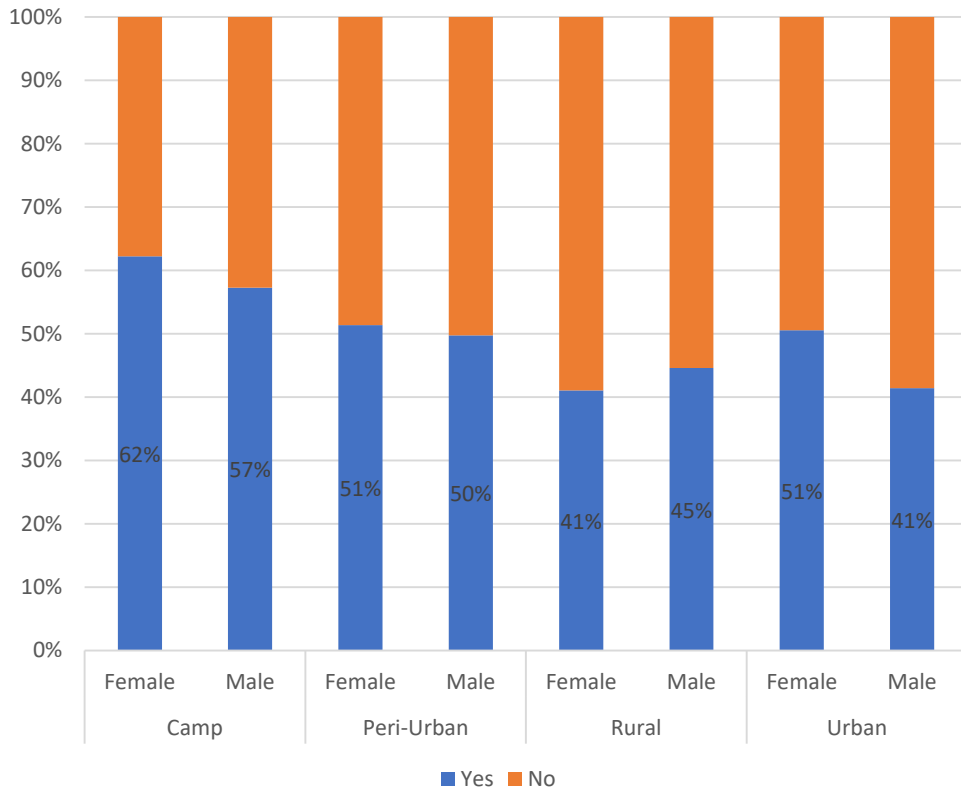
Household ability to cope



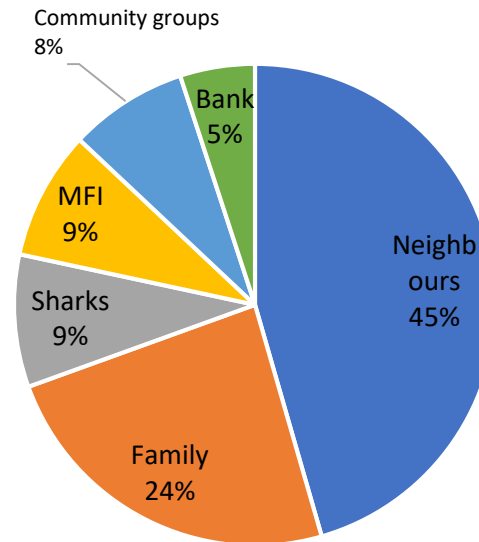
- > Although a majority of respondents say they can cope with the impacts of the pandemic, a large percentage (42% women, 37% men) also say they will not be able to cope or are unsure/do not want to respond.
- > 29% of women (25% men) respondents say their household does not have the ability to deal with the impacts of COVID-19.
- > External support will be necessary to ensure these households are not left behind.

Sources of Credit

Likelihood to borrow money



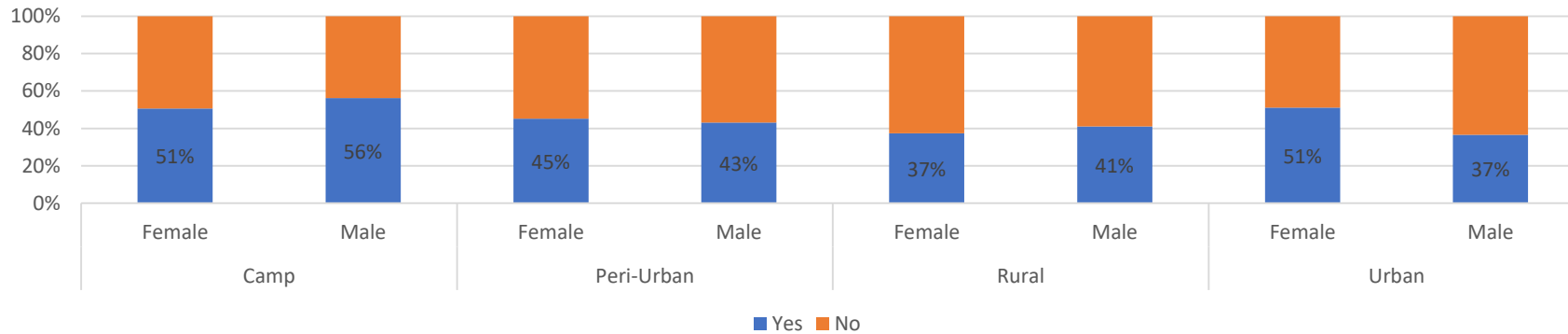
Institutions people borrow money from



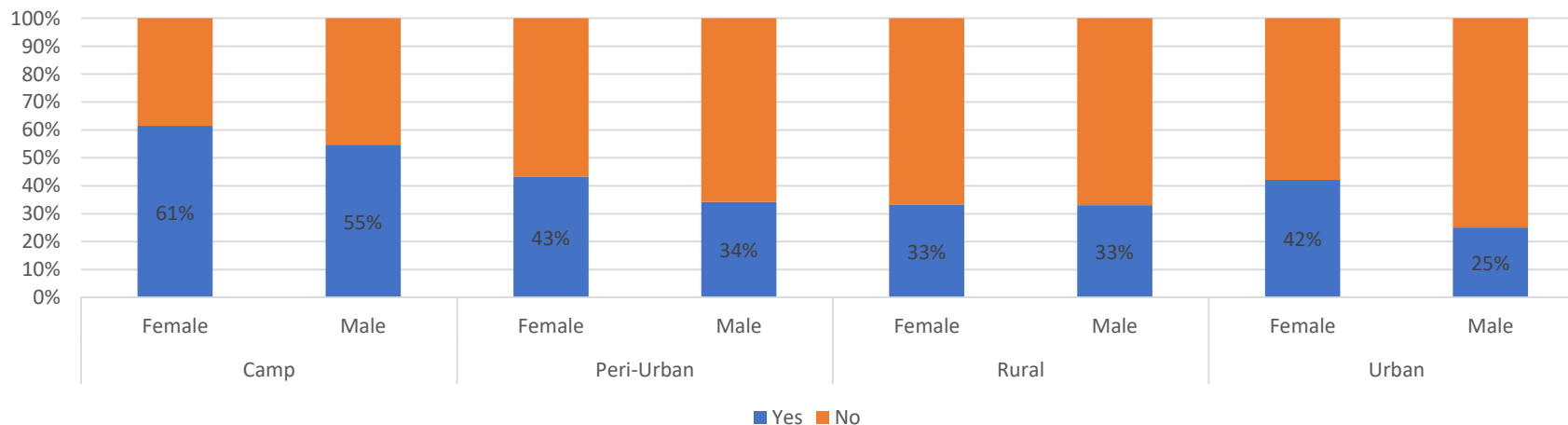
- > Neighbours are the main source of credit for most respondents followed by family.
- > Access to formal sources of credit is reported by only 14% of respondents. These are more frequently used by men than women.
- > Loan 'sharks' play as important a role as MFIs and a slightly larger percentage report them as the source of credit than community groups (8%).
- > 52% of respondents from camps think they will not be able to repay the money and 22% don't know if they can.
- > Urban young men are 4 times more likely (20%) to borrow from MFIs than young urban women respondents. In peri urban setting 29% of young men borrow from MFI while no young women report access to them.

Buying on credit and help from neighbours

People buying on credit



Relying on neighbours



- > Urban women (51%) are 14% more likely to buy goods on credit than their male counterparts. The highest rate on buying goods on credit is found within the camps (56%) and the lowest in rural areas (39%).
- > Relying on help of neighbours is 9% higher for female peri-urban respondent (43%) than for men and even 17% higher for urban women (42%) than for urban men.
- > The combined (male and female) highest rate to rely on neighbours is within camps (58%). The rate is lowest in rural areas (33%) followed by urban areas (34%).

External Support

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

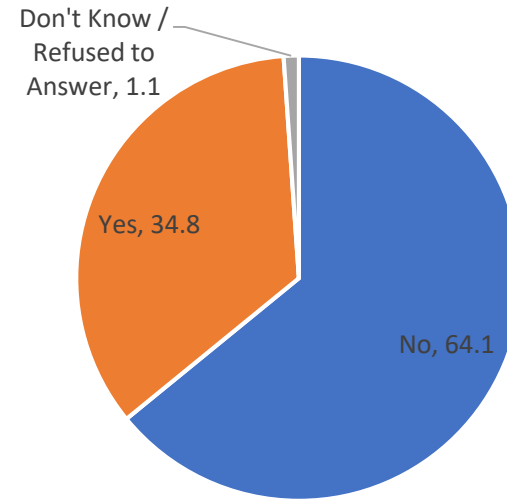
Top level findings:

- > 35% of those interviewed have received support in form of food or cash from their government, an international agency or an INGO since the start of the pandemic
- > 84% of respondents found this support helpful
- > 51% of respondents said someone in their community had received food, cash or other support

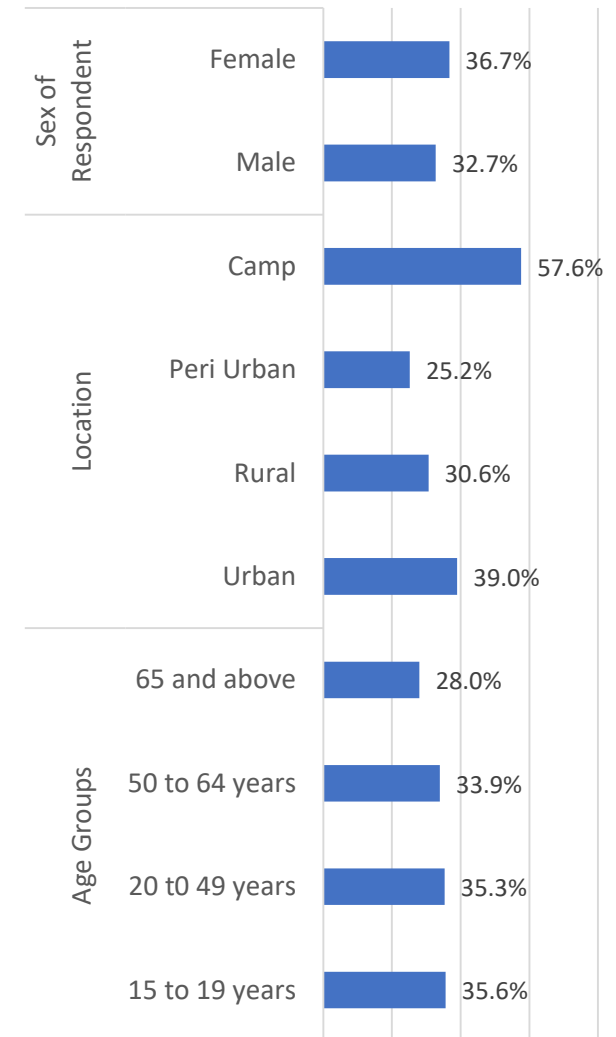


Have you or your household received a cash or goods transfer from any government, international organization, or NGO assistance programme since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic?

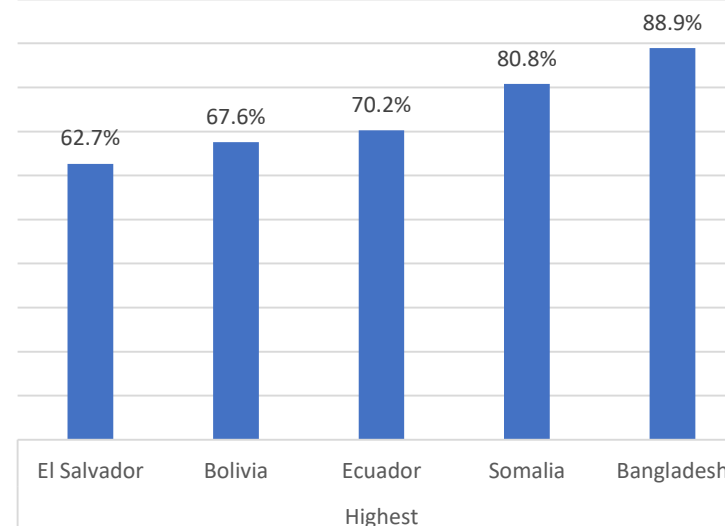
- > 34.8% of those interviewed had received some form of support since the start of the pandemic
- > This was highest amongst those who were living in camps (57.6%) and lowest amongst those in peri-urban areas (30.6%)
- > More women respondents identified that they or their household had received support than men
- > 84.3% of respondents found this support helpful
- > The highest proportion of respondents identified receiving assistance in Bangladesh and Somalia



% of respondents saying that had received assistance

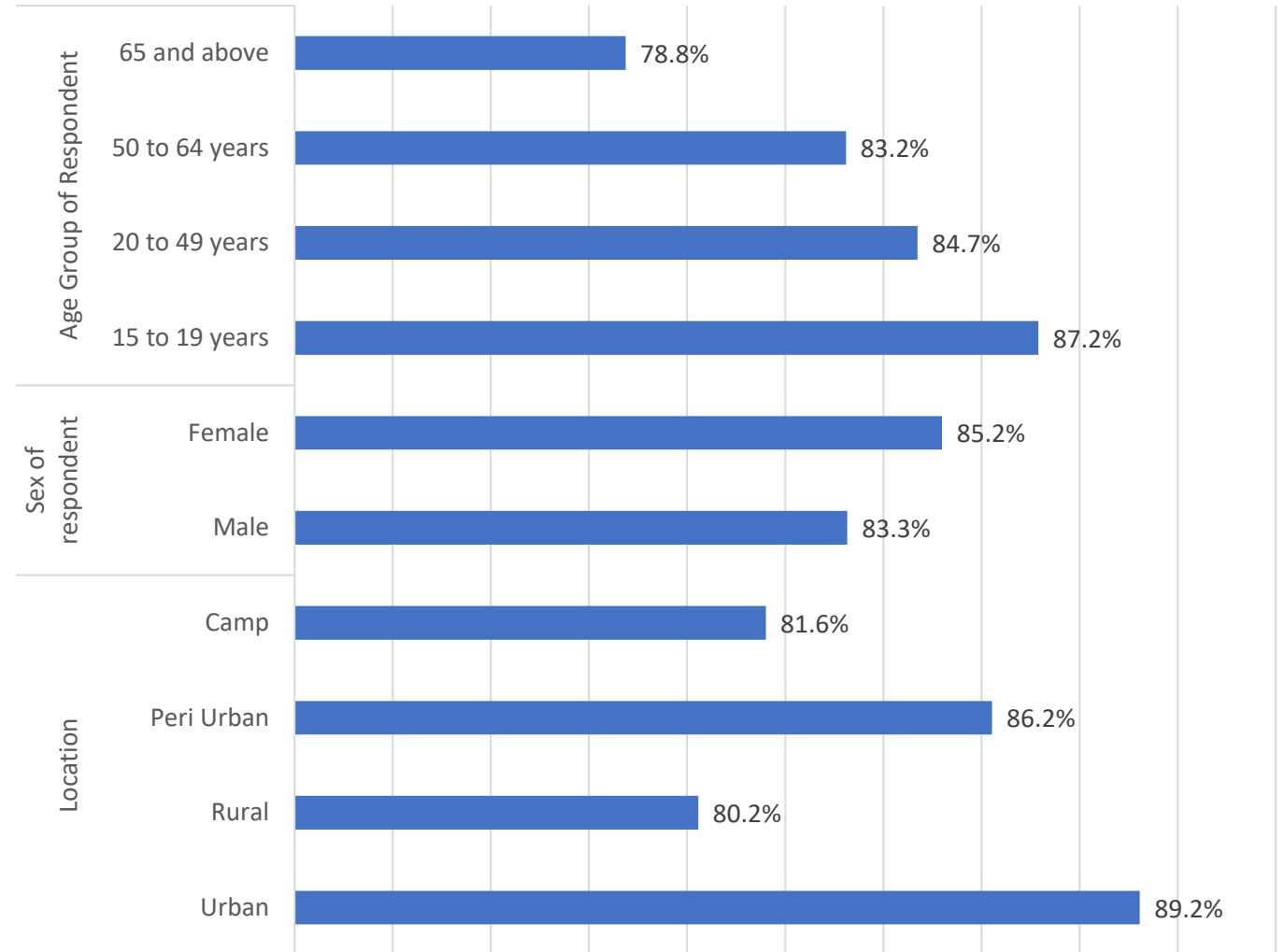


Countries with the highest % of respondents saying that had received assistance



Has this assistance been helpful in increasing your ability to deal with the effects of COVID-19?

Has this assistance been helpful in increasing your ability to deal with the effects of COVID-19?

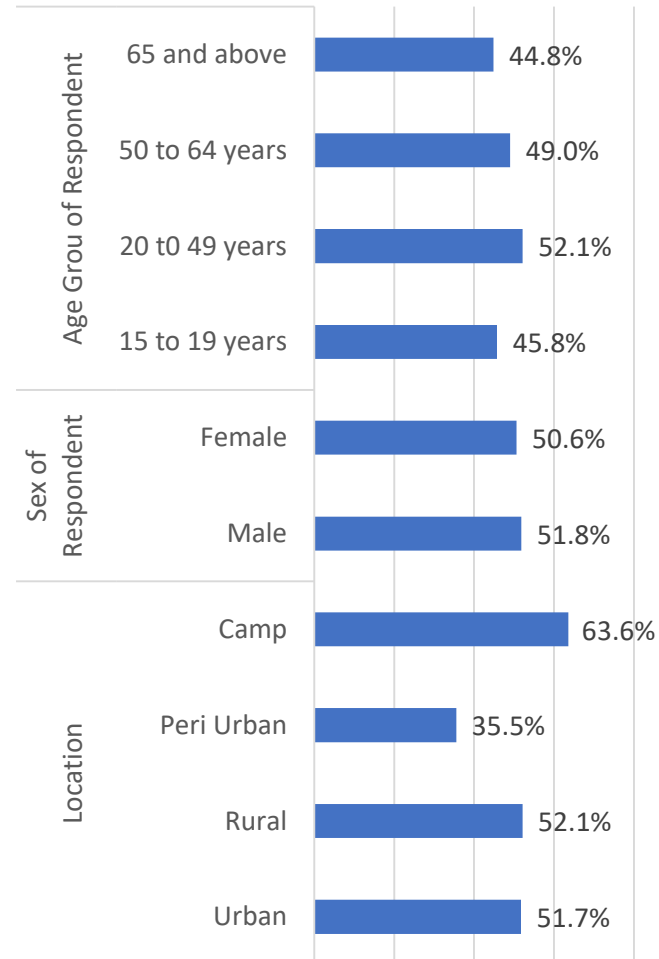


- 84.3% of respondents found this support helpful

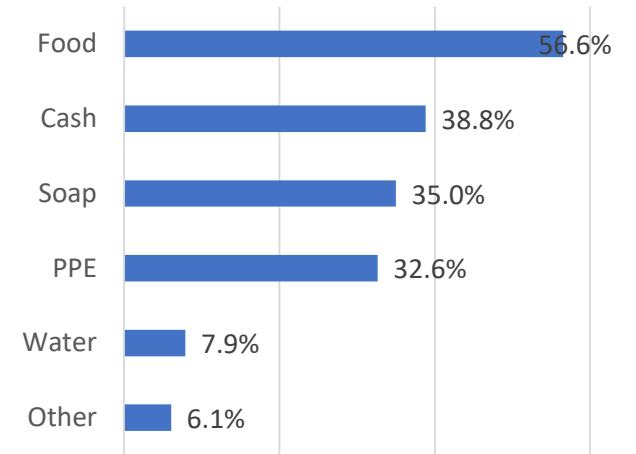
Have others in the community received support

- 51% of respondents said that to the best of their knowledge, someone in their community had received food, cash or other support from government, an international organization, or an NGO in the past three months related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 57% felt this was distributed to those who needed it the most but 16% said this was not the case.

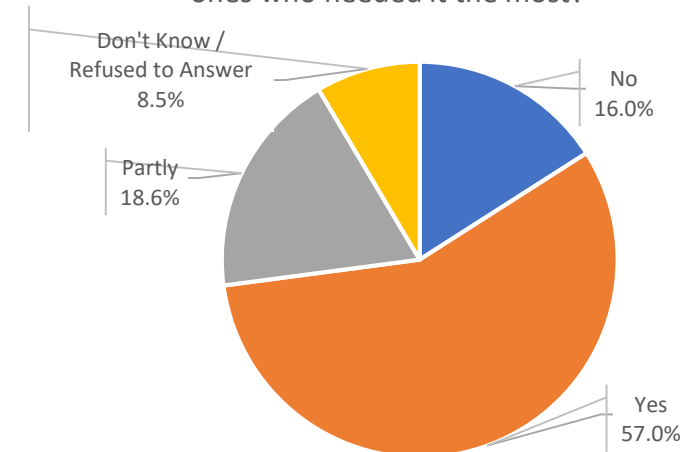
% responding that anyone in their community has received assistance



What was this support (multiple answers possible)



Do you think this was distributed to the ones who needed it the most?



Top Level Findings: Health

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

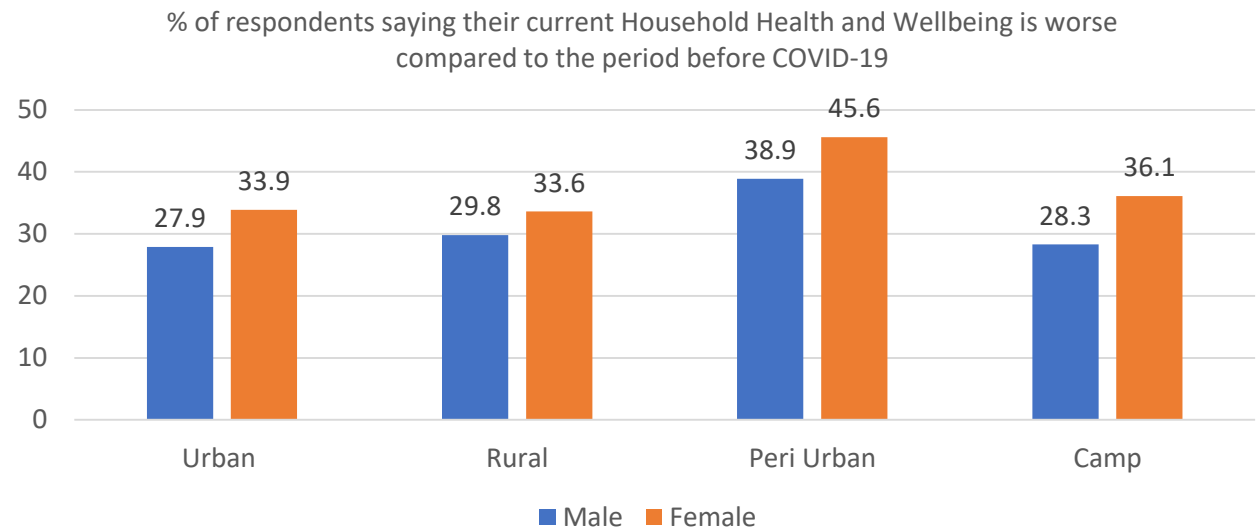
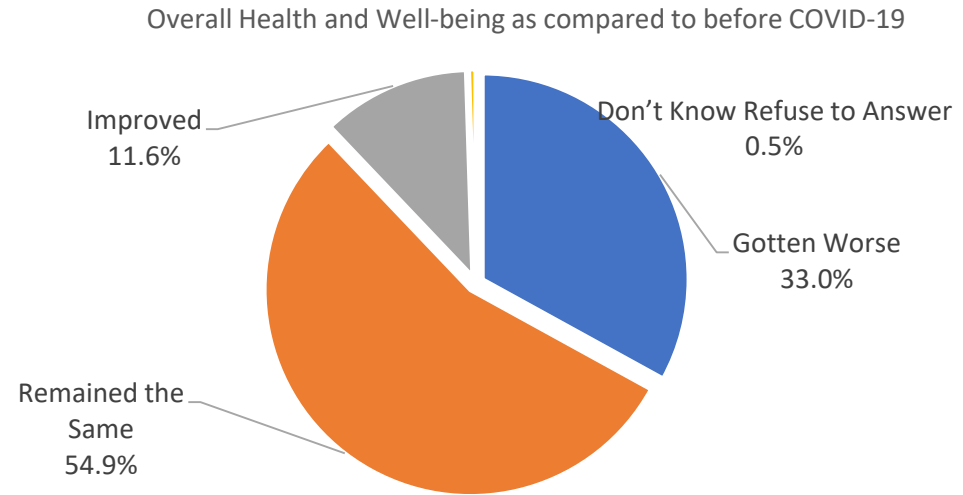
Top level findings:

- > 33% of respondents consider that the health and well-being of their family to be worse now when compared to the time before COVID-19.
- > Overall, 35% of respondents report having delayed, skipped or been unable to complete needed health care visits since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- > 62.5% of those did so due to fear of contracting COVID-19.
- > 29% of respondents report that they would not feel comfortable taking a sick member of their household to the health facility at the time of the survey.
- > 63.3% of those gave to fear of contracting COVID-19 as a reason for this.



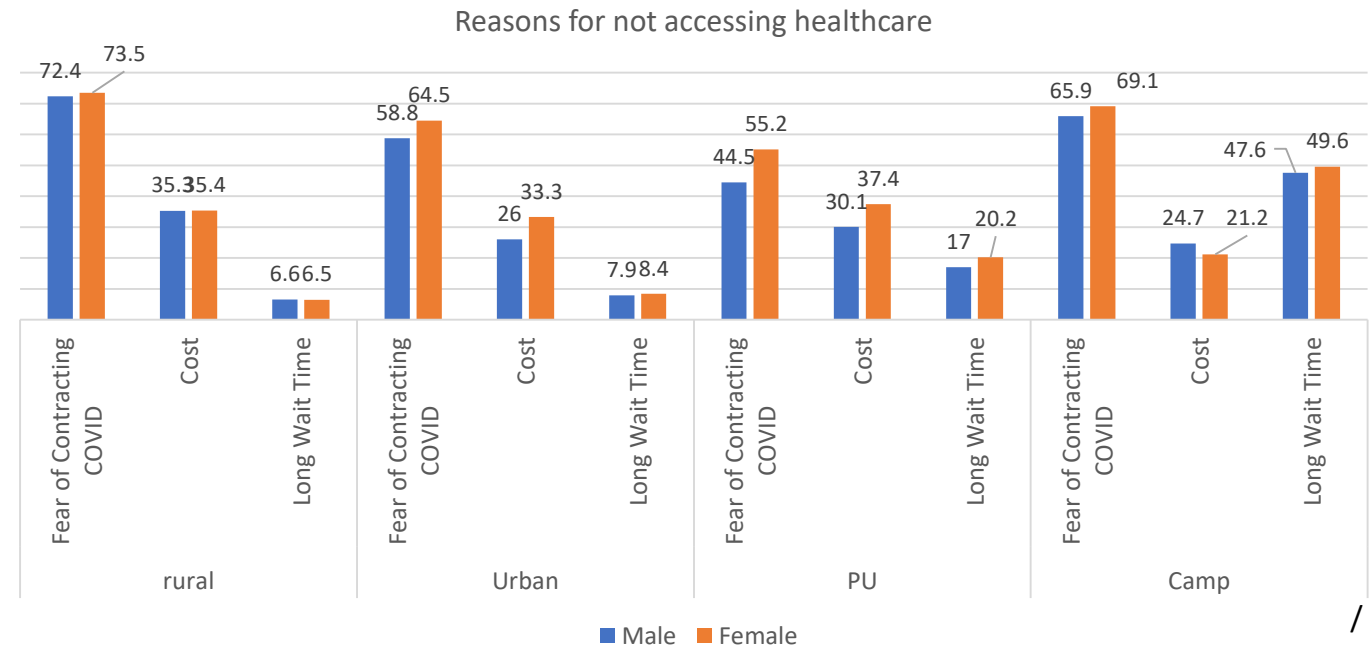
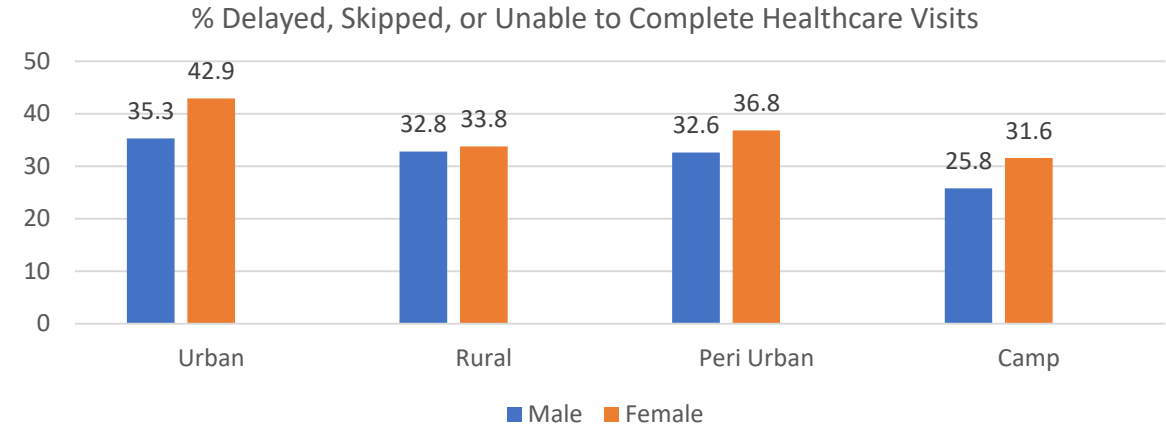
Compared to the period before COVID-19 how would you describe the health and well-being of your family members overall ?

- Overall, the majority (55%) of respondents stated their health and well-being has remained the same.
- However, 33% of respondents consider that the health and well-being of their family has gotten worse compared to the time before COVID-19.
- In all contexts a higher proportion of women than men state that their health and well-being has gotten worse since the start of COVID-19.
- A higher proportion of both men and women in the Peri-Urban contexts state that their health and well-being has gotten worse as compared to any other context



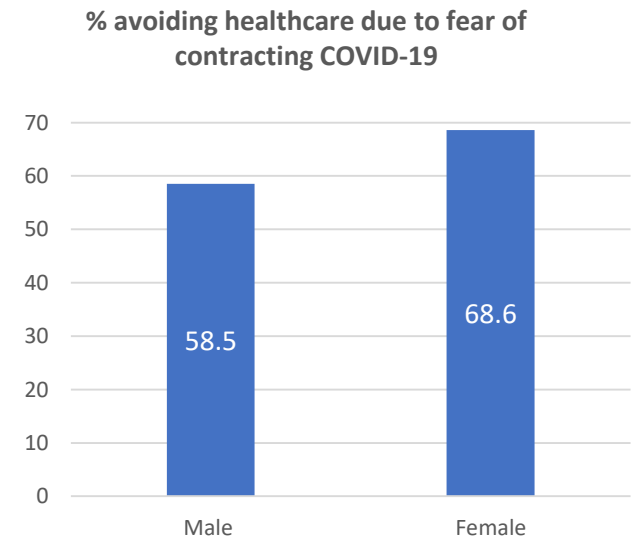
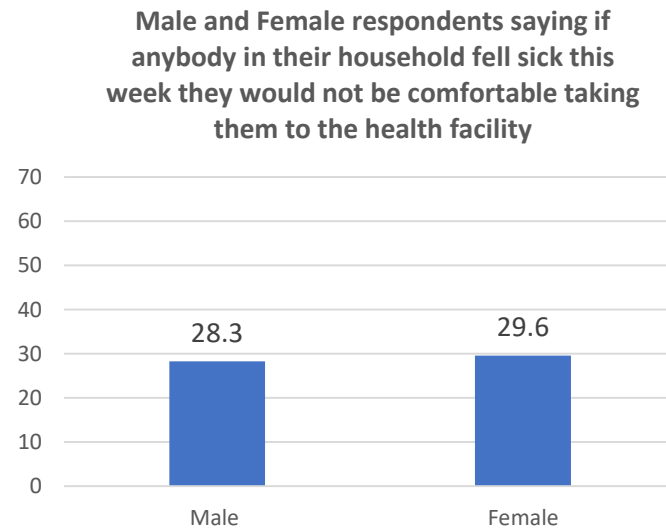
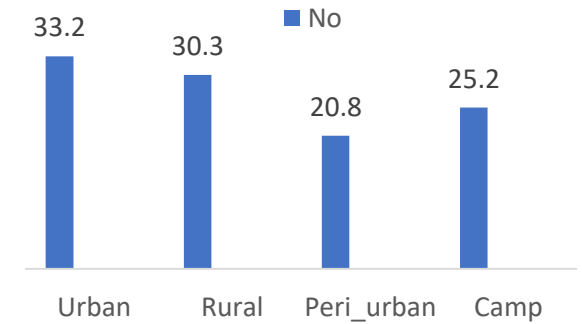
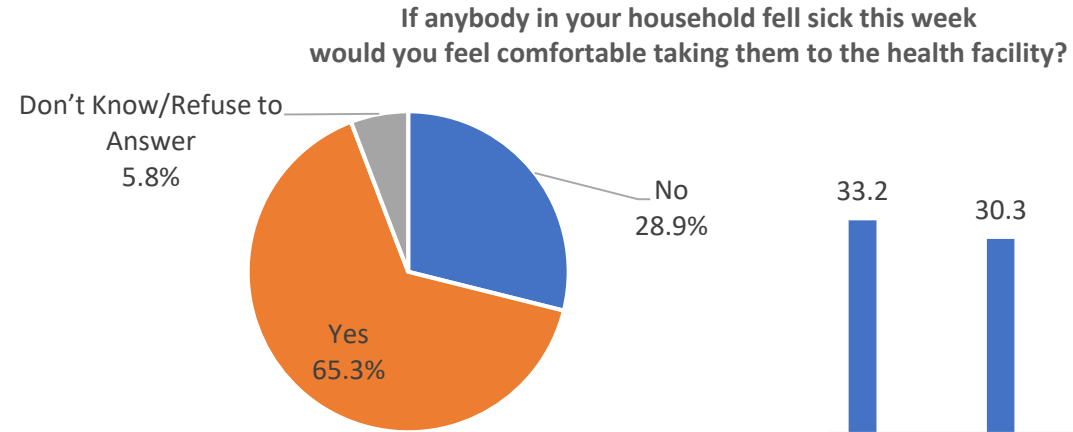
Have you or any other person in your household delayed, skipped or been unable to complete needed health care visits since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Overall, 34.5% of respondents said they had delayed, skipped or been unable to complete needed health care visits since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Women in urban areas in particular were affected with almost 43% delaying, skipping or unable to complete needed healthcare visits
- 62.5% of those respondents cited fear of contracting COVID-19 as the reason for doing so
- Fear of contracting COVID-19 was particularly high among both men and women in rural and camp settings
- Long wait times were also a significant factor in camp settings



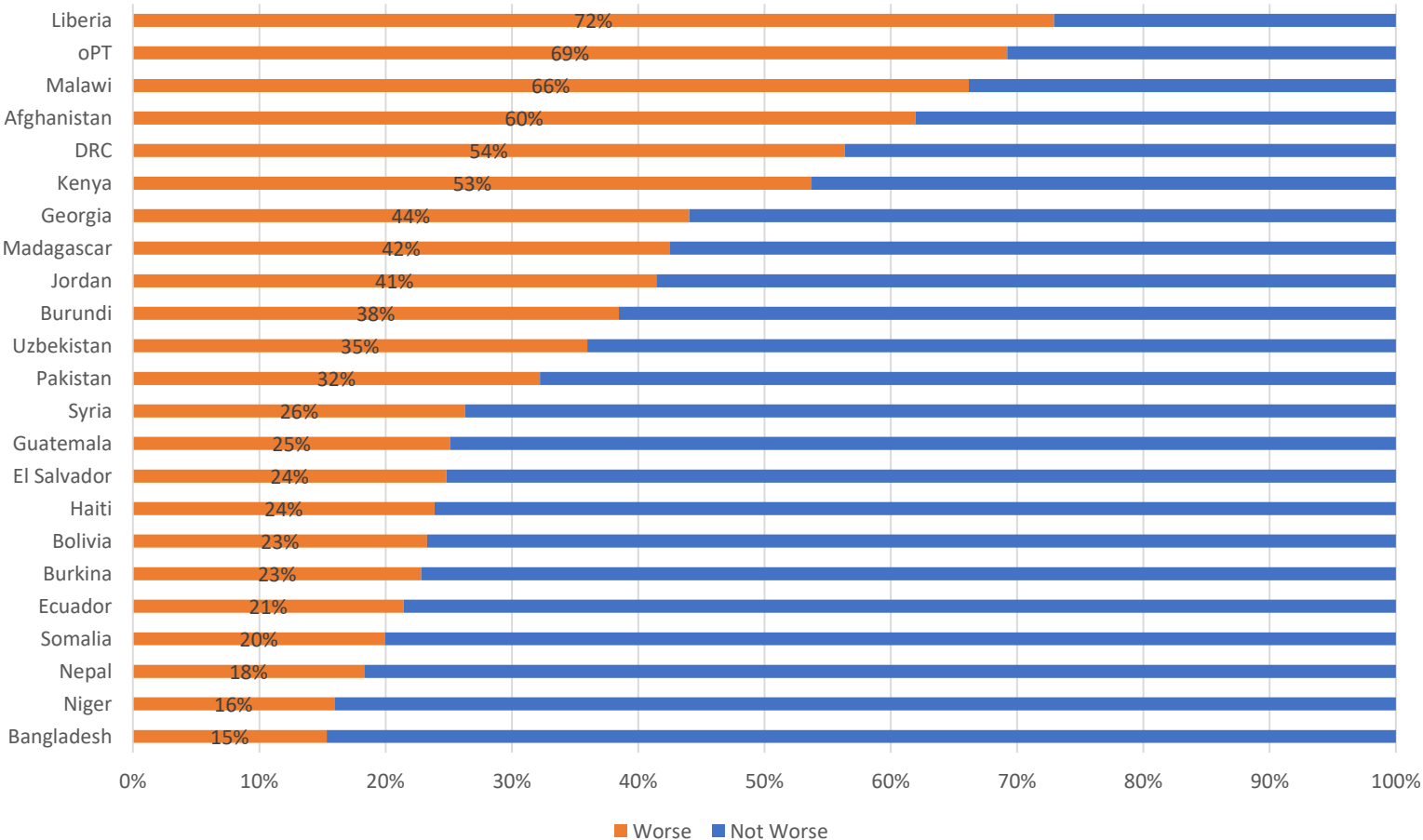
If anybody in your household fell sick this week would you feel comfortable taking them to the health facility?

- Overall, 29% of respondents stated that they would not feel comfortable taking a sick member of their household to the health facility at the time of the survey
- This was higher in urban areas (33%) compared to 21% in peri urban areas
- There were minimal differences between Male and Female respondents in terms of the proportion saying they would not take anybody to the health facility.
- The main reason for reluctance to access healthcare was due to fear of contracting COVID-19 (given by 63% of those who expressed reluctance).
- Women were more likely to give fear of contracting COVID-19 as a reason for not seeking healthcare in the future



Well-being

Health and well-being of families compared to before COVID-19



> While the percentage of people reporting a change in health and well-being varies significantly across countries more than 50% of respondents observed a deterioration of their situation are Liberia, Palestine, Malawi, Afghanistan, Republic of Congo and Kenya

Education

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

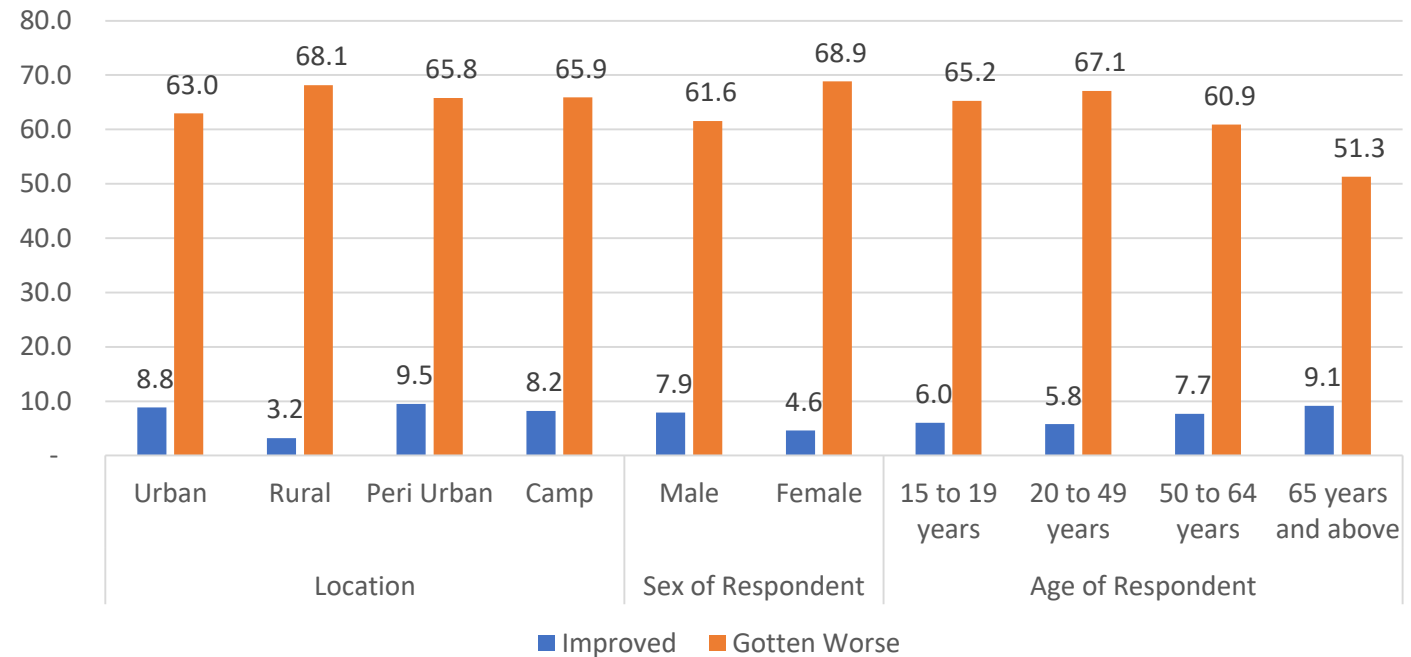
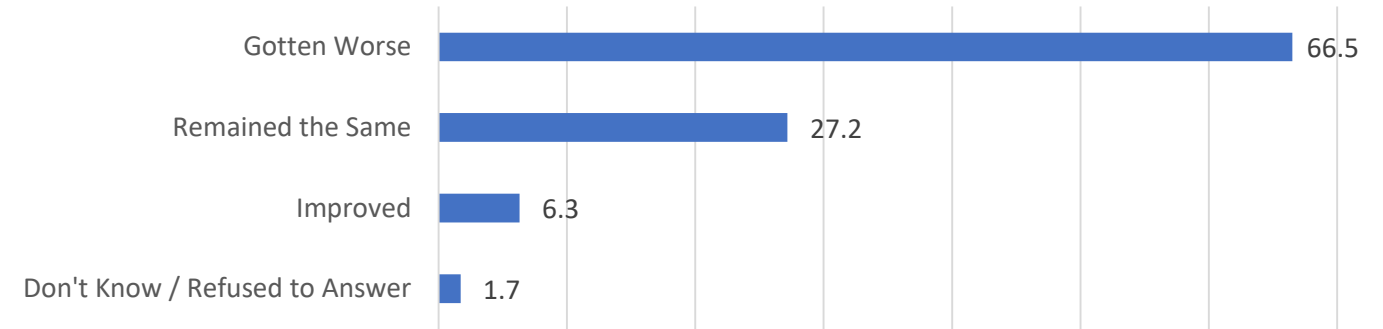
Top level findings:

- > 66.5% of respondents who live in households with children (of any age) consider their children's access to education has gotten worse when compared to the time before COVID-19
- > Overall, 90.5% of respondents living in households with children between the ages of 4 and 16 identified that schools had been closed in their locality due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This affected all countries except Burundi. 51.9% of respondents said either some or all schools are reopened now – but in six countries over 90% of respondents reported that schools had not yet reopened
- > Amongst all respondents, 22.5% identified that none of the children between 4 and 16 years of age in their household were currently accessing education. This is much higher where schools are currently closed (30.3% vs 17.3%).
- > Where respondents identified schools were not yet reopened 72.3% expected the children (aged 4 to 16) in their household to return to school when they do reopen.
- > 78% of respondents felt that boys and girls had been affected the same by school closures, 14% said girls had been affected more and 8% boys.



Compared to the period before COVID-19 how would you describe access to school for the children in your household?

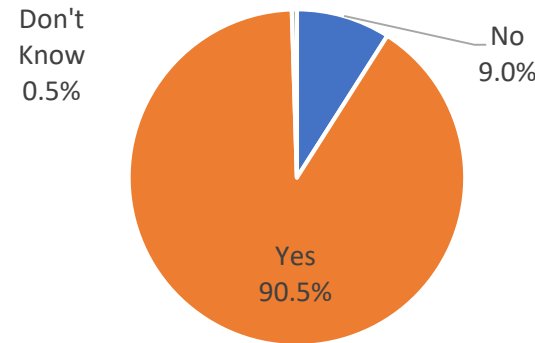
- Overall, 90.8% of respondents lived in households with children
- Amongst these respondents 66.5% said access to school for children was worse than before the pandemic
- Respondents in rural areas were more likely to give this response (68.1%) as were female respondents (68.9%) and younger respondents (67.1%)



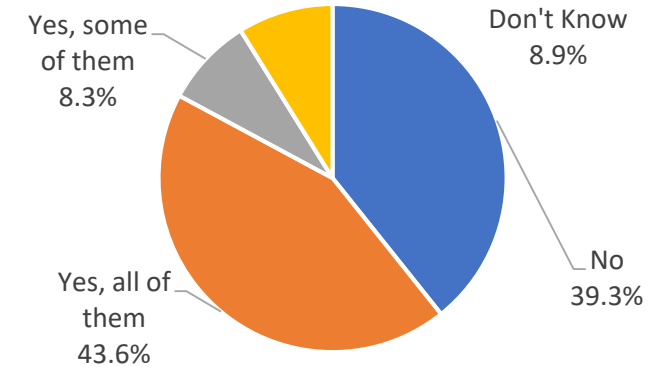
Were schools closed and are the open now

- 76.8% of respondents said they lived in a household with children between the age of 4 and 16
- In all countries, except Burundi, a large majority of these respondents identified that schools had been closed in their locality due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 51.9% of respondents said either some or all schools are reopened now – but in six countries over 90% of respondents identified schools have not yet reopened

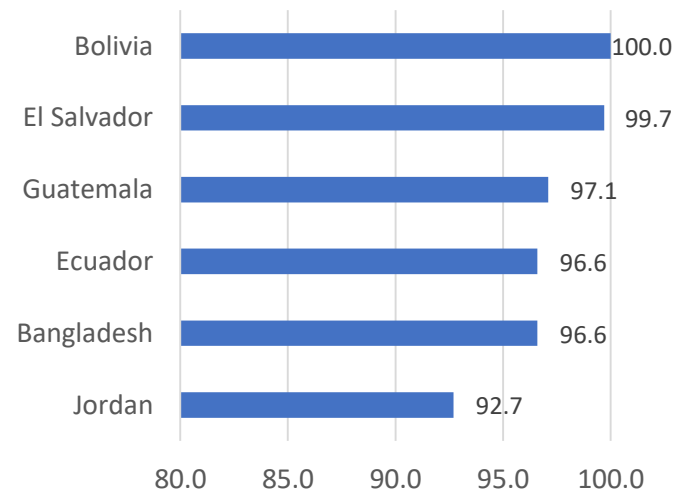
Were schools in your locality closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic



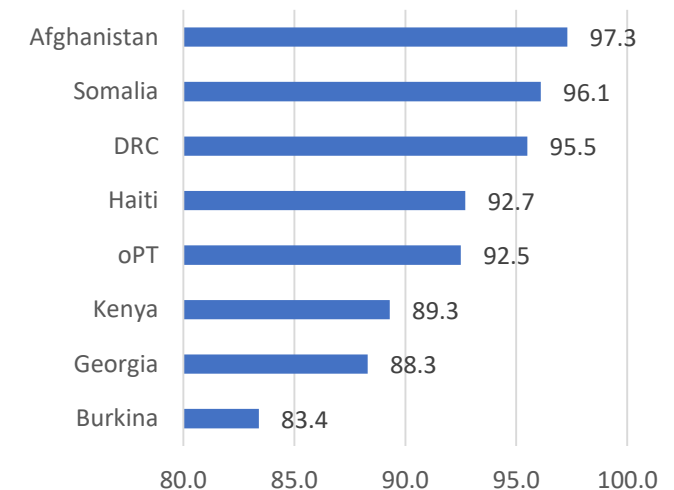
Are schools reopened now



Countries with highest proportion of respondents saying schools have not yet reopened

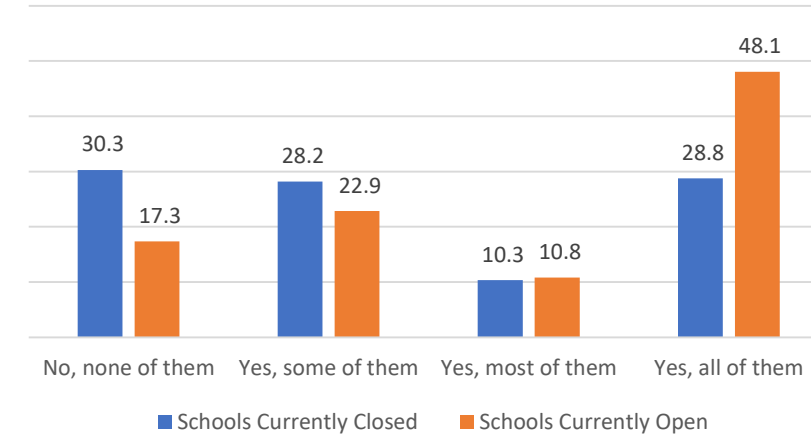
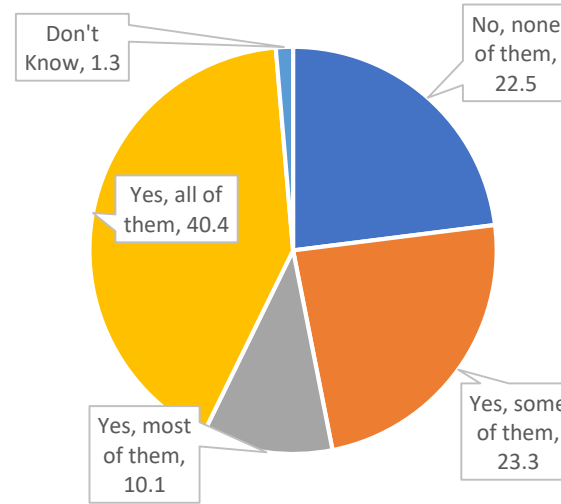


Countries with highest proportion of respondents saying all or some schools have reopened

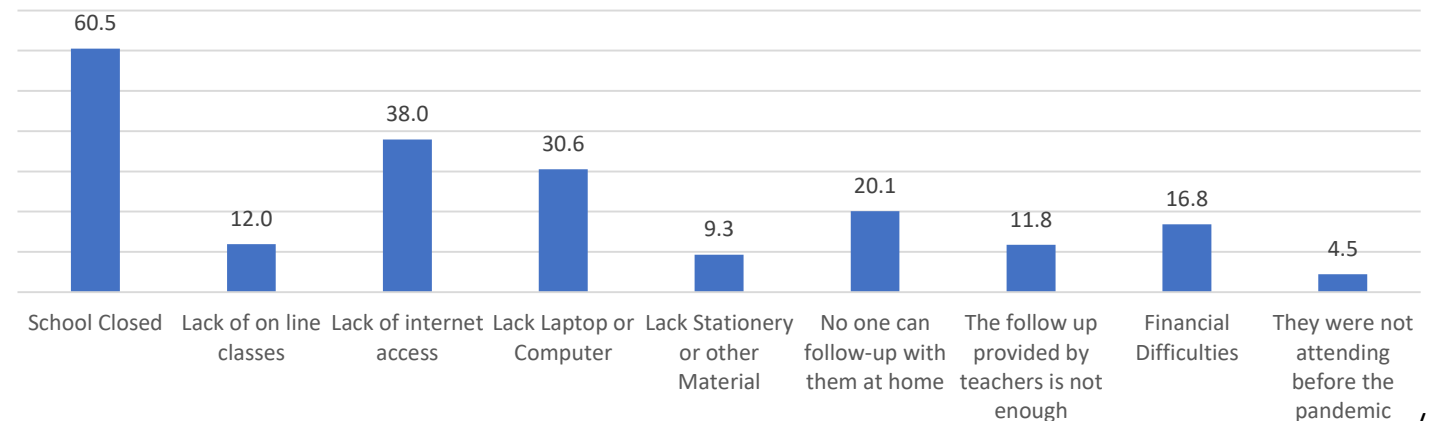


Are children between 4 and 16 accessing some form of education

- In households where respondents identified there were children between 4 and 16 years of age
 - 22.5% said none of them were currently accessing education (including remotely).
 - This is much higher where schools are currently closed (30.3% Vs 17.3%)
 - Where schools have not yet reopened this is the main reason for not accessing any education (identified by 60.5% of respondents) but
 - 38.0% said lack of internet access
 - 30.6% said lack of laptop or computer
- Were also reasons for not accessing alternative forms of education.



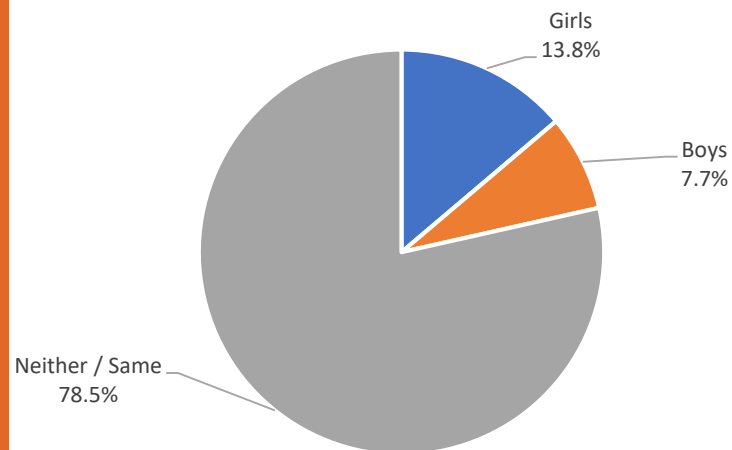
Where school have not reopened why are children not accessing any form of education



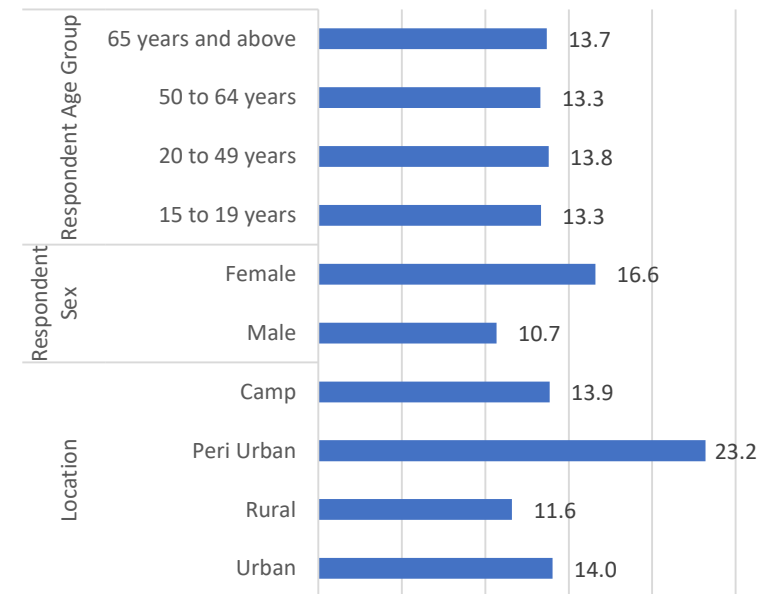
Longer Term Impacts

- In households where respondents identified schools were not yet reopened almost 28% were unsure whether children will return to school when they do reopen
- Most respondents felt boys and girls have suffered the same from school closures – though differences in responses can be seen based on location and sex of respondent.
- Particularly high numbers of respondents in Kenya and Liberia felt girls had suffered most.

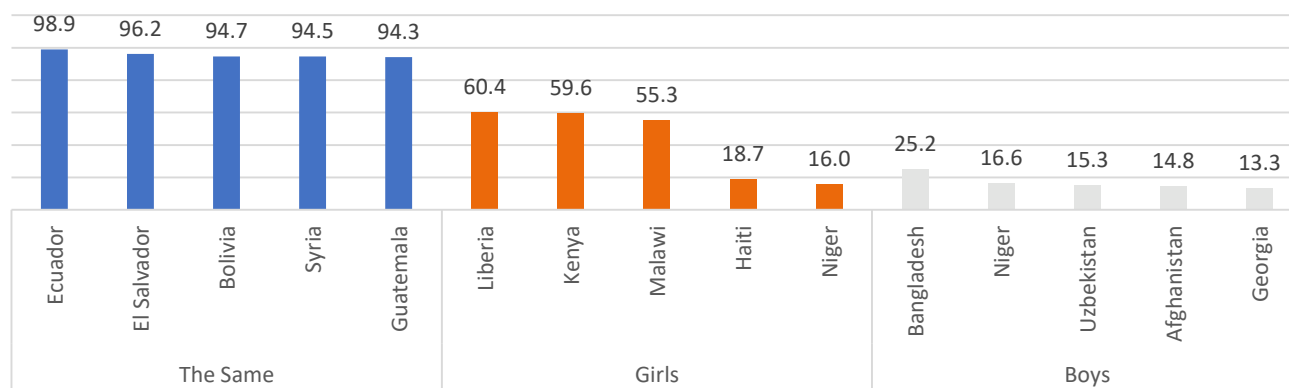
Who has been affected more by school closures



Who says girls suffer more



Countries with the highest proportion of respondents saying boys or girls have suffered more



Community dynamics

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

Top level findings:

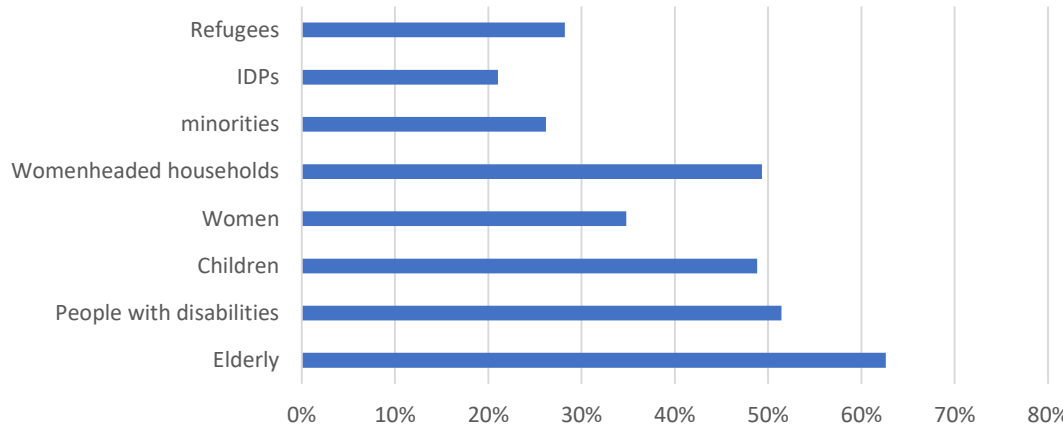
- > Elderly, persons with disabilities, children and women were considered the most negatively affected groups.
- > While solidarity in rural (57%) and urban (51%) areas was observed by more than half of respondents, in camps (47) and peri-urban areas (44) this was less.
- > An increase of conflicts within the communities and within the families was observed by up to 70% of all interviewees



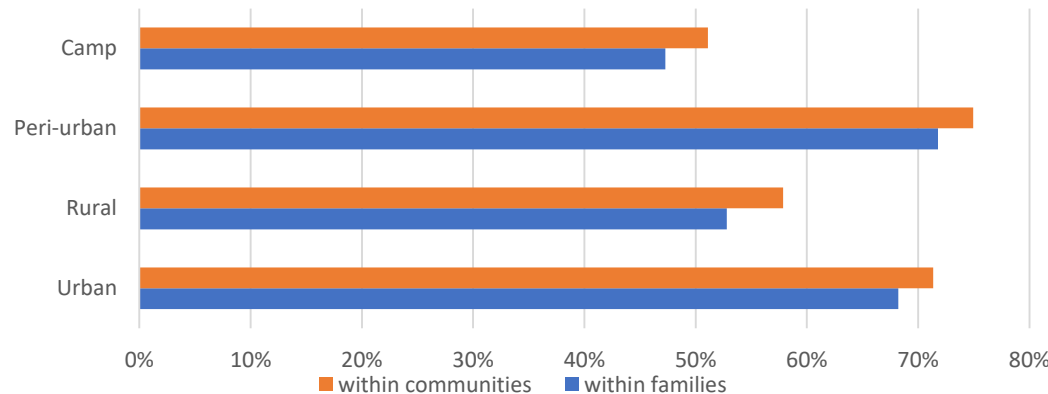
Community dynamics

- > 60% of the respondents believes elderly are affected the most by the impacts of the pandemic.
- > 57% of respondents in rural perceive that their communities help individual households going through the pandemic.
- > Increases in arguing in communities and families are reported by a large number of respondents
- > Urban and peri-urban areas especially affected

Groups affected the most

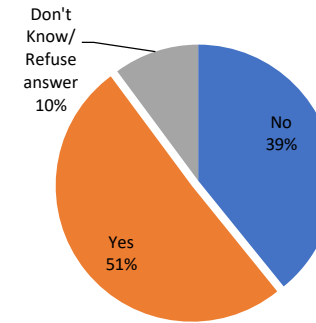


Increased arguing per location

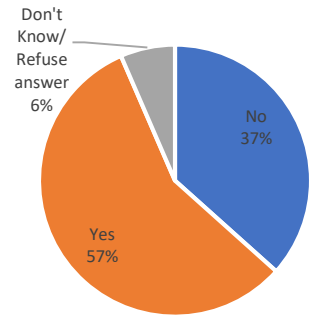


Are people in your community helping each other more since the COVID-19 pandemic?

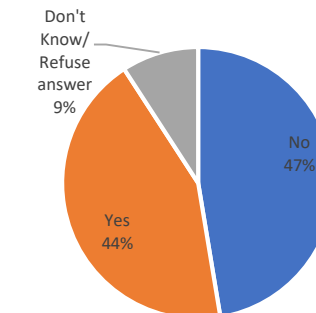
Urban areas



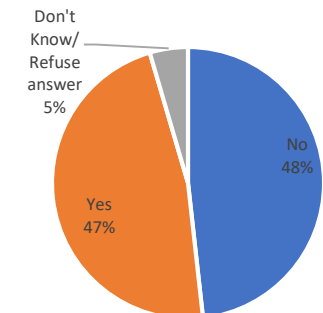
Rural areas



Peri-urban areas



Camps



Personal well-being

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

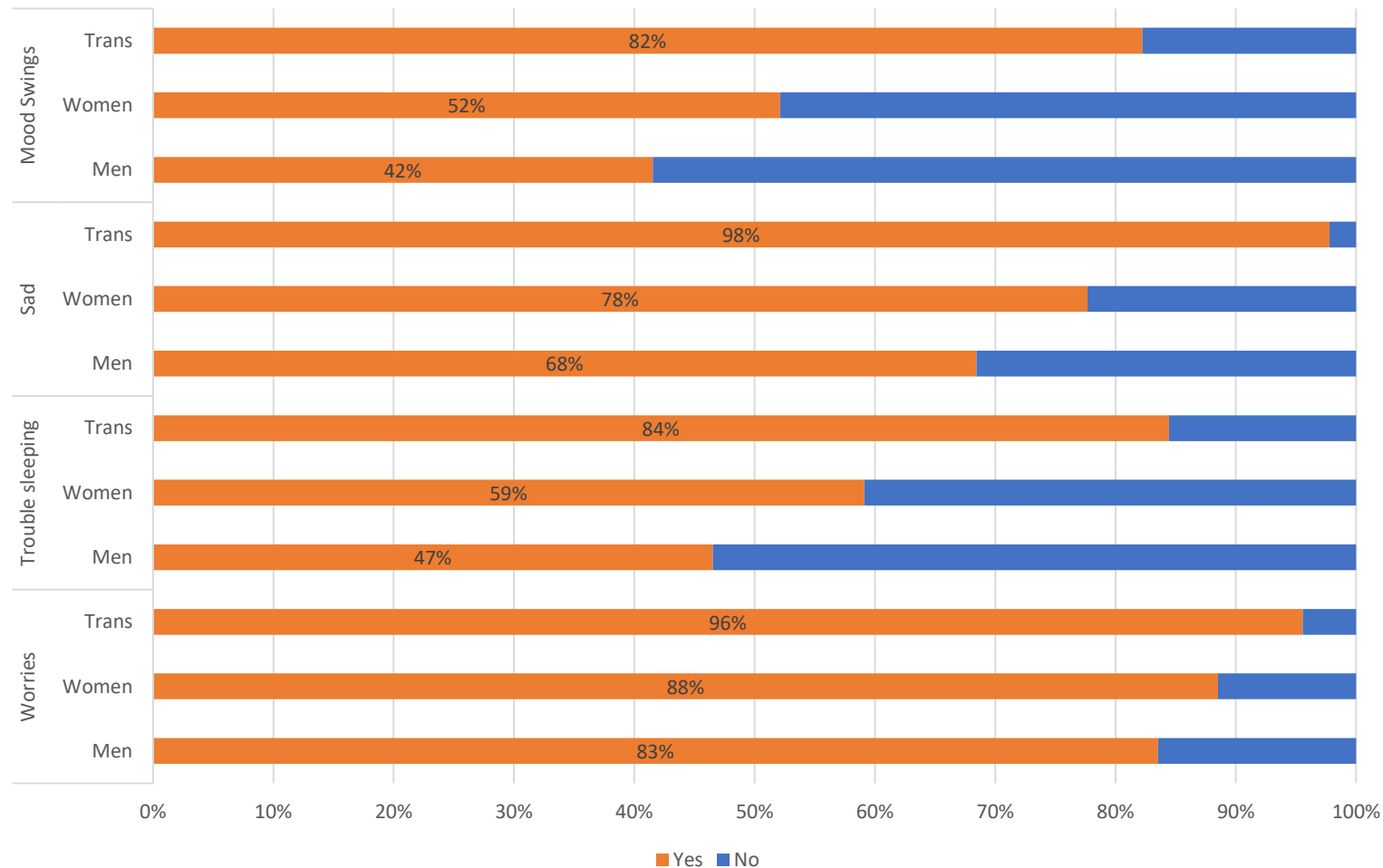
Top level findings:

- > Many respondents (80%) were worried
- > 78% of women stated to be sadder than before the crisis
- > Transgender persons and those that consider themselves non-binary note most the impact of COVID-19 on their mental health



Personal well-being

Feelings experienced by gender



- > Most respondents admitted to feeling more worried than usual.
 - > Over 80% of respondents admitted to feeling more worried
- > Many report more trouble in sleeping than before (47% of men, 59% women, and 84% trans/non-binary people, although over a smaller sample)
- > Feelings of sadness also increased due to the pandemic
 - > 98% trans/non-binary, 68% men and 78% women admitted to feel more sad
- > Regarding mood swings, the numbers are more balanced. Nearly half the respondents (42% men, 52% women) answered they more frequent mood swings
 - > 82% of Trans/non-binary respondents claimed they had more frequent mood swings than before the pandemic

Conclusions

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

Top level findings:

- > Over 40% of all respondents report a decrease in food quantity and quality.
- > More than 90% of all respondents stated that their ability to earn income is worse today as compared to the time before COVID-19.
- > 33% of respondents consider that the health and well-being of their family is worse now as compared to pre-COVID.
- > 66.5% of respondents who live in households with children consider their children's access to education has gotten worse when compared to the time before COVID-19.
- > An increase in conflicts within communities and within families is reported by up to 70% of all respondents.



Top Level Findings: A final word on women's responses

Alliance 2015

towards the eradication of poverty

- Every effort was made to have an equal representation of men and women respondents in the overall sample.
- This is not the same as saying the household is headed by a man or woman – it is just the differences of opinions of men and women.
- Women appear to have been affected more in every facet examined.



A final word on women's responses

Alliance 2015

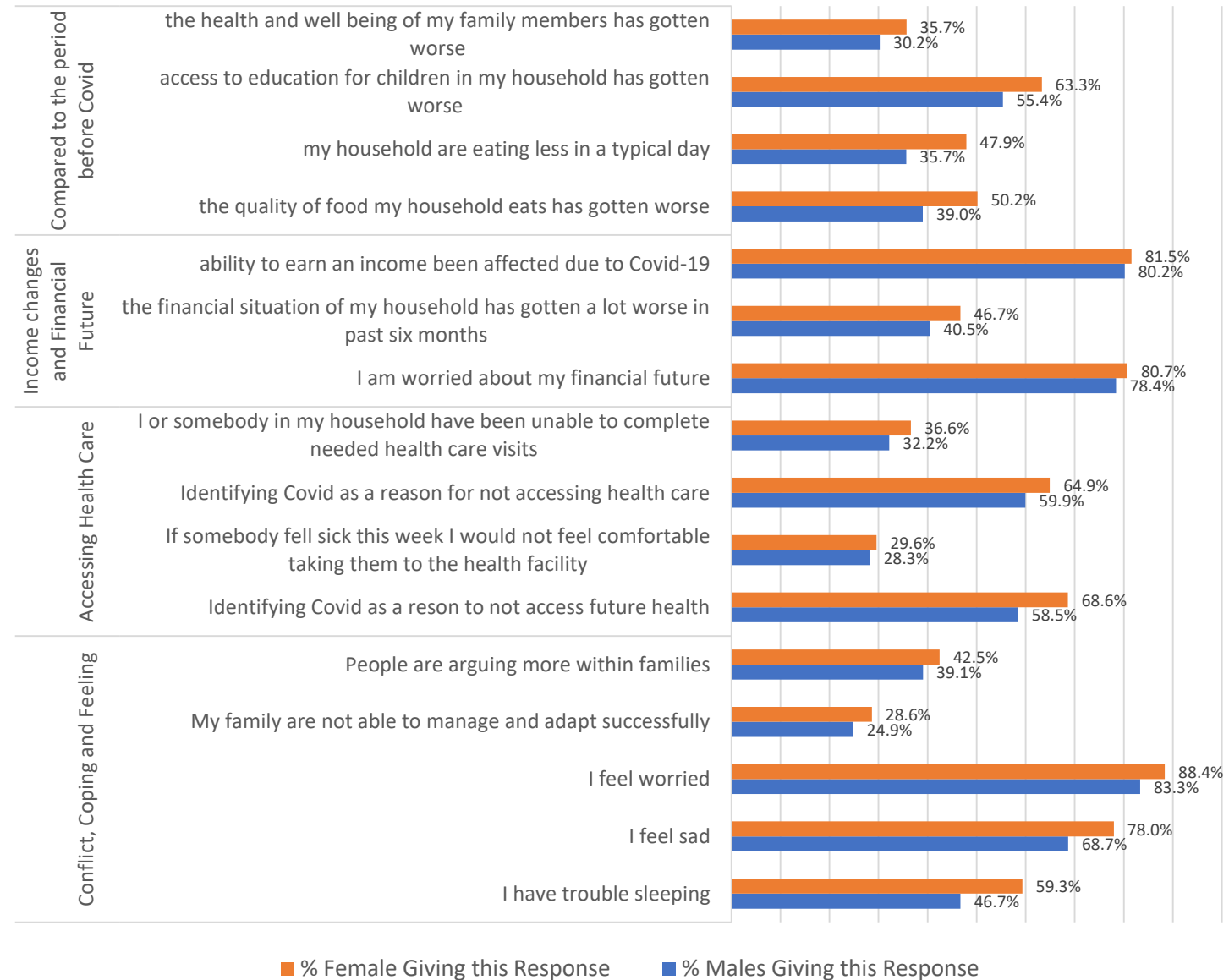
- Women were more likely to say the health and well-being of their family has gotten worse, that their households are eating less and the quality of food has gotten worse.

- While a large proportion of respondents said their ability to earn an income has declined, this was worse for women. More women responded that their financial situation has gotten a lot worse and that they are worried about their financial future.

- Women were more likely to say there has been an increase in the frequency of arguments within families.

- More women said they had experienced feeling of worry, sadness and experiences trouble sleeping.

- More analysis on the specific impacts on women is required.



Contacts

Residence Palace, boîte 48, Rue de la Loi 155,
1040 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 235 23 25

E-mail: info@alliance2015.org

Website: www.alliance2015.org

Twitter: [@Alliance_2015](https://twitter.com/Alliance_2015)

