SAMOA MICS PLUS, 2022-2023
(Household Phone Survey)

Snapshot of Key Findings
(Wave 1: August–October 2022)

FOREWORD

This statistical snapshot is the first of a series of **2022-23 Samoa MICS PLUS (Household Phone Survey)** Snapshots. MICS Plus is a new initiative under United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) MICS programme to support countries in conducting longitudinal household surveys using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) method for the collection of representative data on the situation of children, families and households on a frequent basis, and real-time reporting . The 2022- 2023 Samoa MICS Plus Survey is based on the sample of the 2021 Census. The Samoa Bureau of Statistics plans to conduct bi-monthly waves during 2022-223 which will enable to collect various information regarding the ongoing situation children and families in Samoa. Samoa Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF are happy to release the **result of MICS Plus wave 1** from the Samoa MICS Plus conducted in August to October 2022. Technical and financial support for the survey is being provided by the UNICEF

Fa'afetai tele lava.

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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN/CEO

Samoa
2022-2023
WAVE 1 (Aug-Oct 2022)

MICS PLUS

The Samoa Bureau of Statistics (SBS), in collaboration with UNICEF, began the implementation of 2022-2023 MICS Plus during the second half 2022. MICS Plus generates data to understand the situation of households, families, and children to inform decision makers and stakeholders accordingly. This statistical snapshot summarizes the results of the first wave of calls during 29 August - 04 October 2022.

Methodology

MICS Plus combines the power of representative, statistically robust household surveys, with the ability to report on a real-time basis over an extended period, using CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing). Essentially, the mode of data collection is based on direct phone calls to respondents*, as opposed to traditional face-to-face interviews.

In essence, MICS Plus methodology is based on:
- Selecting a probability sample of households from an up-to-date household sample frame that includes phone numbers of households/household members
- Interviewing the sample of households over an extended period via direct calls

The Samoa MICS Plus sample was drawn from the Samoa 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC) and has been used as the sample frame. The target sample size is 1,600 households.

Sample size by domain

■ Apia Urban Area 800
■ Rural Area 800

To increase response rates, phone numbers from the Samoa 2021 PHC were validated and households with missing phone numbers were contacted to obtain up-to-date phone numbers. A model-based substitution approach was also used to replace non-responding households during the first wave of MICS Plus.

MICS Plus is nationally representative. Urban and rural areas were defined as the major sample domains and the sample was allocated as follows: 800 households were selected from Apia Urban Area and 800 households from rural areas (Savaii, Northwest of Upolu and Rest of Upolu). The survey will follow the same households in all the subsequent data collection waves, building panel data. During the first wave of calls, households were asked questions about COVID-19 self-protection practices, sources of information, and government benefits during the pandemic. The experiences of household members with employment were one of the thematic highlights of the first wave.
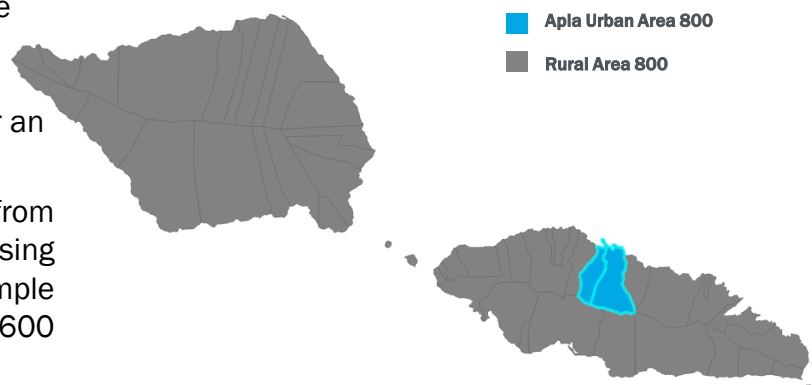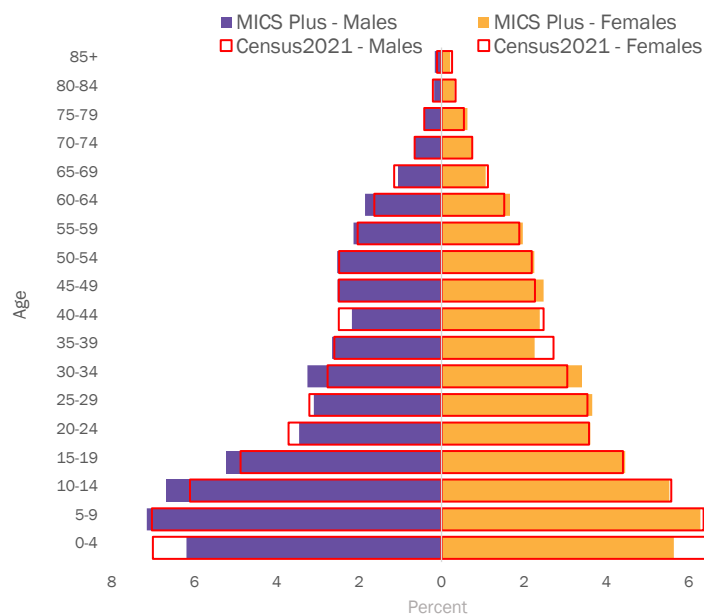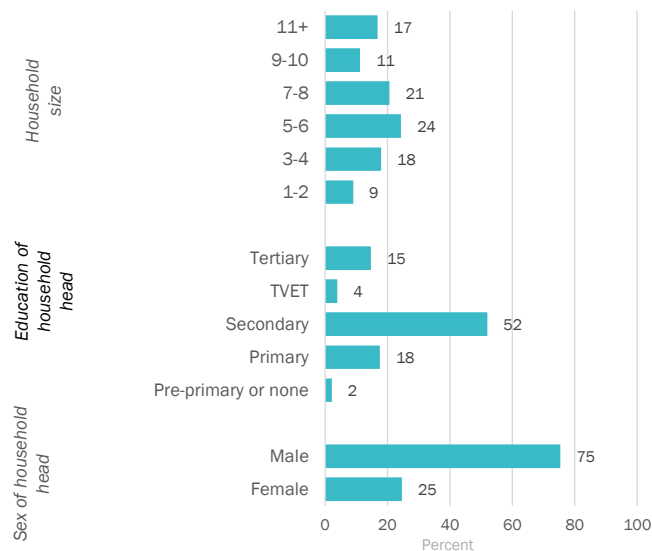
* In each household, calls were conducted with a "knowledgeable adult household member" who was available at the time of the call. Since respondents were not selected randomly, data based on respondent's own characteristics, opinions and behavioural patterns may not be representative of the adult population in Samoa.

Age & Sex Distribution of Household Population

Household Composition & Characteristics of the Head of Household

Legend: ■ MICS Plus - Males ■ MICS Plus - Females □ Census2021 - Males □ Census2021 - Females

Population pyramid, Age groups: 85+, 80-84, 75-79, 70-74, 65-69, 60-64, 55-59, 50-54, 45-49, 40-44, 35-39, 30-34, 25-29, 20-24, 15-19, 10-14, 5-9, 0-4. X-axis: Percent (8 to 0 to 8)

Household size:
- 11+ : 17
- 9-10 : 11
- 7-8 : 21
- 5-6 : 24
- 3-4 : 18
- 1-2 : 9

Education of household head:
- Tertiary : 15
- TVET : 4
- Secondary : 52
- Primary : 18
- Pre-primary or none : 2

Sex of household head:
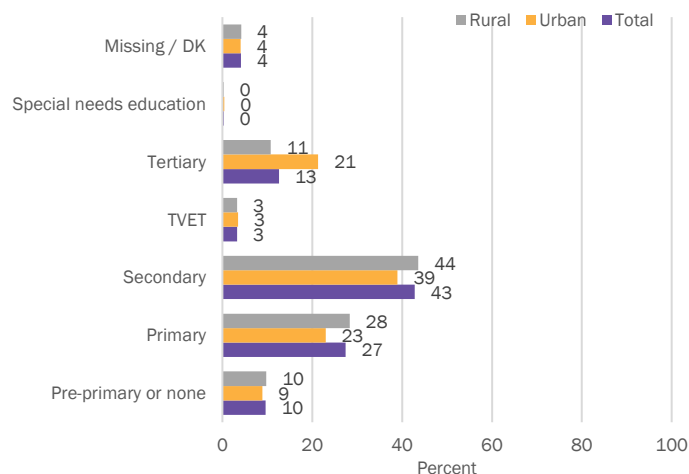- Male : 75
- Female : 25

The MICS Plus sample has an age-sex composition similar to the 2021 Census, as shown in the population pyramid. Nearly a quarter of households are female-headed households. About 17 per cent of households have more than 11 household members.
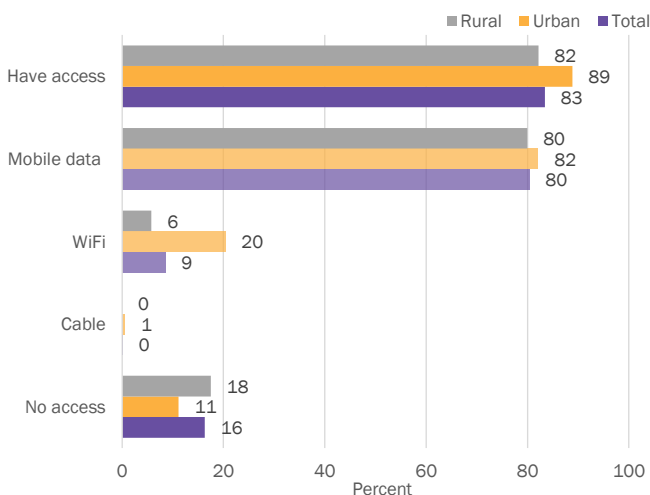
Household Characteristics

Highest education of household population age 3 years or above

Percent distribution of household members age 3 years or above by highest level of education attended, by area of residence

Legend: ■ Rural ■ Urban ■ Total

- Missing / DK : 4, 4, 4
- Special needs education : 0, 0, 0
- Tertiary : 11, 21, 13
- TVET : 3, 3, 3
- Secondary : 44, 39, 43
- Primary : 28, 23, 27
- Pre-primary or none : 10, 9, 10

Access to internet at home

Percentage of households with internet access by type of connection, by area of residence

Legend: ■ Rural ■ Urban ■ Total

- Have access : 82, 89, 83
- Mobile data : 80, 82, 80
- WiFi : 6, 20, 9
- Cable : 0, 1, 0
- No access : 18, 11, 16

Overall, 82 percent of households have access to the internet, with a 6 percentage point difference between urban and rural areas. More than 4 in 10 households in rural areas have no access to internet compared to 2 in 10 in urban areas. The most common mode of access to internet is using mobile data, with more than 4 out of 5 households having this type of internet access.
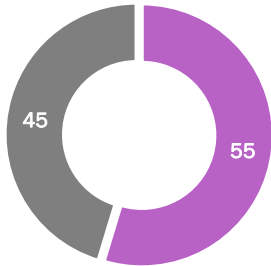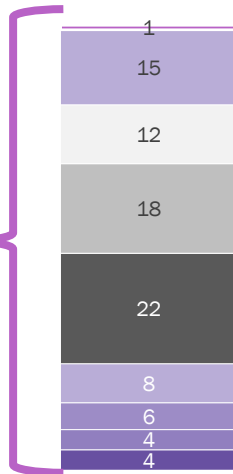
COVID-19

Information about COVID-19 currently needed:

Percent distribution of respondents by whether they currently need information about COVID-19

- Information is needed
- No information is needed

45
55

Percentage of respondents who currently need information about COVID-19 by information needed

1
15
12
18
22
8
6
4
4

- Other
- Disease of COVID -19
- Testing
- Spread/Infection
- Vaccine against COVID-19
- Preventive measures
- Hygiene practices
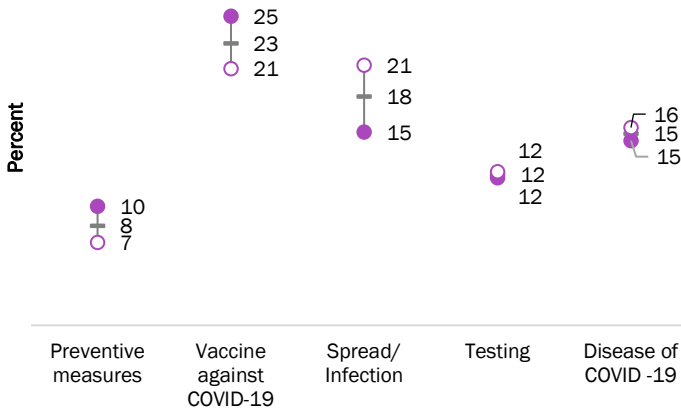- Information about lockdown
- Government benefits

More than half of the respondents felt they need more information about COVID-19.

Type of information that was considered most needed was about vaccines against COVID-19, with more than one in five respondents specifying this - with information on spread/infection, disease of COVID-19, and testing as follow up priority topics.

By sex of respondent

Percentage of respondents who currently need information about COVID-19, by top five information needed, by sex of respondent
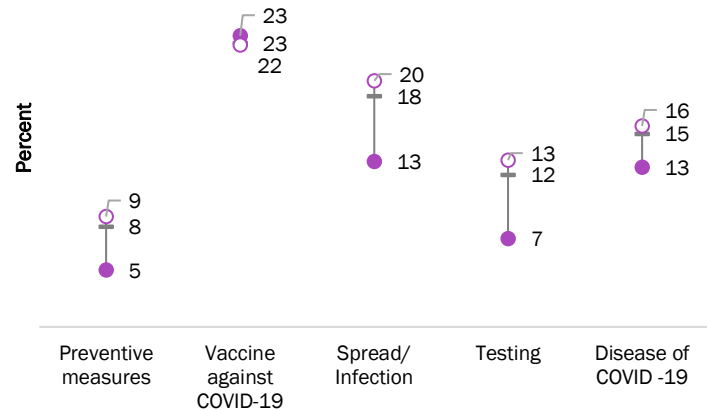
— Total ● Male ○ Female

Percent

| Preventive measures | Vaccine against COVID-19 | Spread/Infection | Testing | Disease of COVID -19 |

Preventive measures: 10 / 8 / 7
Vaccine against COVID-19: 25 / 23 / 21
Spread/Infection: 21 / 18 / 15
Testing: 12 / 12 / 12
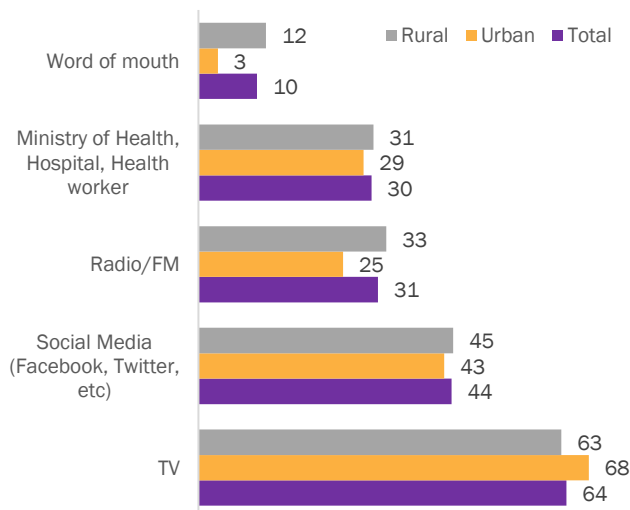Disease of COVID -19: 16 / 15 / 15

By area of residence

Percentage of respondents who currently need information about COVID-19, by top five information needed, by area of residence
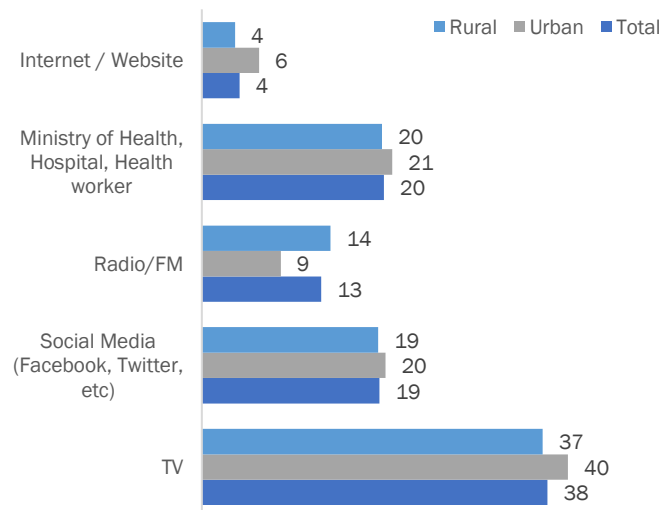
— Total ● Urban ○ Rural

Percent

Preventive measures: 9 / 8 / 5
Vaccine against COVID-19: 23 / 23 / 22
Spread/Infection: 20 / 18 / 13
Testing: 13 / 12 / 7
Disease of COVID -19: 16 / 15 / 13

| Preventive measures | Vaccine against COVID-19 | Spread/Infection | Testing | Disease of COVID -19 |

Sources of information on COVID-19

Percentage of respondents who have heard of COVID-19 by top five source of information

■ Rural ■ Urban ■ Total

Source	Rural	Urban	Total
Word of mouth	12	3	10
Ministry of Health, Hospital, Health worker	31	29	30
Radio/FM	33	25	31
Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)	45	43	44
TV	63	68	64

Percentage of respondents who have heard of COVID-19 by top five most reliable source of information

■ Rural ■ Urban ■ Total

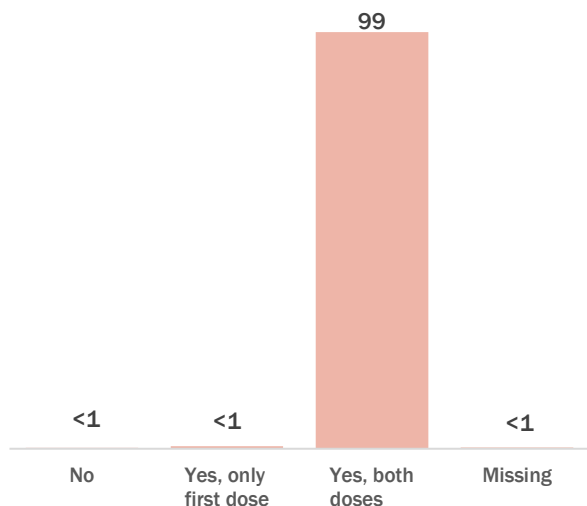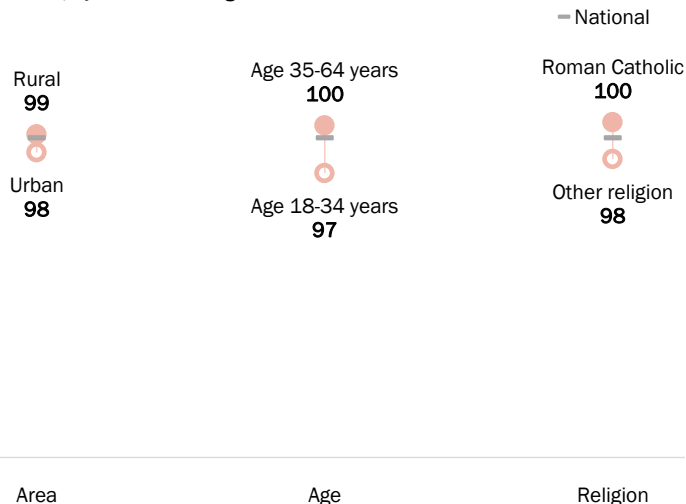| Source	Rural	Urban	Total
Internet / Website	4	6	4
Ministry of Health, Hospital, Health worker	20	21	20
Radio/FM	14	9	13
Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)	19	20	19
TV	37	40	38

COVID-19

COVID-19 vaccine: coverage

Percentage of respondents who have received vaccine against COVID-19, by number of dose(s)

| Category	Percentage
No	<1
Yes, only first dose	<1
Yes, both doses	99
Missing	<1

Percentage of respondents who have received two doses of vaccine against COVID-19, by selected background characteristics

− National

Area
Rural: 99
Urban: 98

Age
Age 35-64 years: 100
Age 18-34 years: 97

**Religion**
Roman Catholic: 100
Other religion: 98

COVID-19 vaccine: side effects

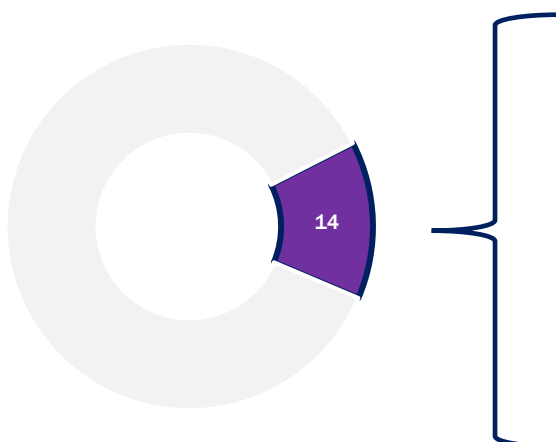Percentage of respondents who have received vaccine against COVID-19, and had any side effects

35
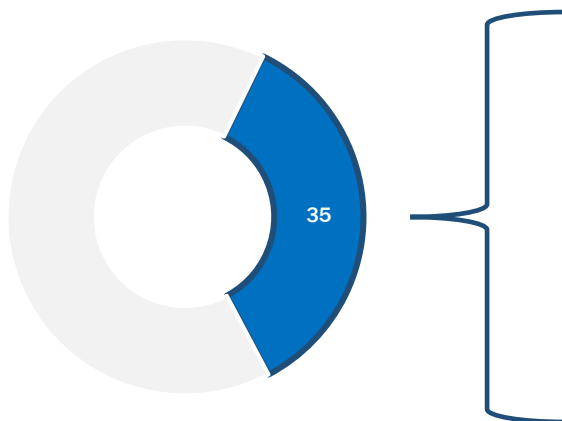
Percentage of respondents who have received vaccine against COVID-19, and had any side effects, by top five side effects

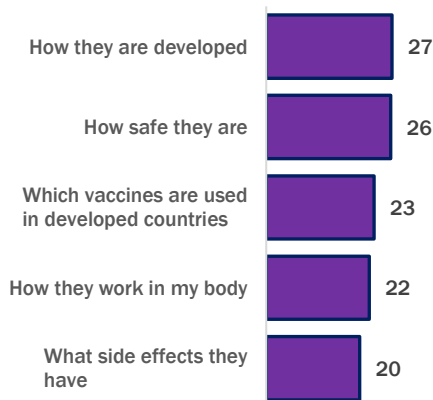| Side effect	Percentage
Headache	60
Fever	38
Muscle pain	21
Local pain	20
Fatigue / Tiredness	19
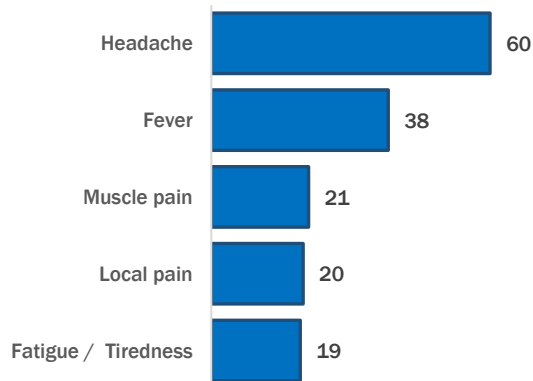
COVID-19 vaccination: information

Percentage of respondents who need more information about the vaccine against COVID-19

14

Percentage of respondents who need more information about vaccine against COVID-19 by top five information needed

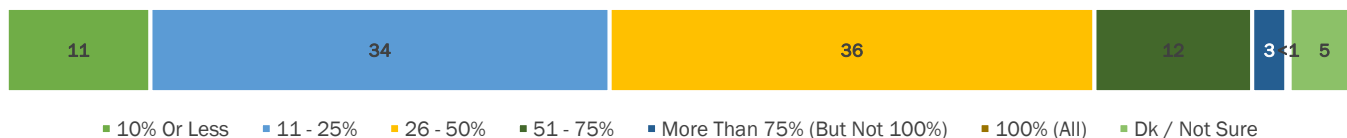| Information needed	Percentage
How they are developed	27
How safe they are	26
Which vaccines are used in developed countries	23
How they work in my body	22
What side effects they have	20

Decline in household income

Percentage of households with decline in average monthly income since March 2021

74

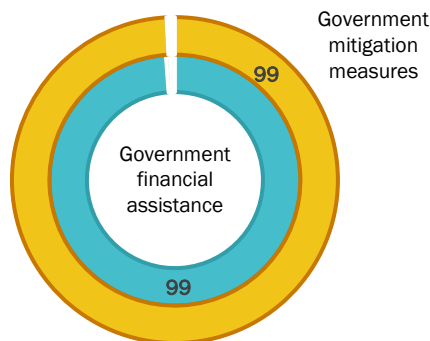**Percentage of households with decline in average monthly income since March 2021 by reasons for decline**

Reason	Percent
Company / bussines I / another member owned worked closed	42
Reduced hours of work	28
Could not receive remittances as the person sending it could not work	26
Had to close company / bussines I / another member owned	19
Reduced salary	15
Decreased demand to company / business I / another member work or own	9
Other	5
COVID-19 positive and could not work	3
Under quarantine and could not work or could not go to work	3
Had to take care of others / other members and could not work	1

Percent distribution of households with average monthly income declined by level of decline

11	34	36	12	3	<1	5

■ 10% Or Less ■ 11 - 25% ■ 26 - 50% ■ 51 - 75% ■ More Than 75% (But Not 100%) ■ 100% (All) ■ Dk / Not Sure
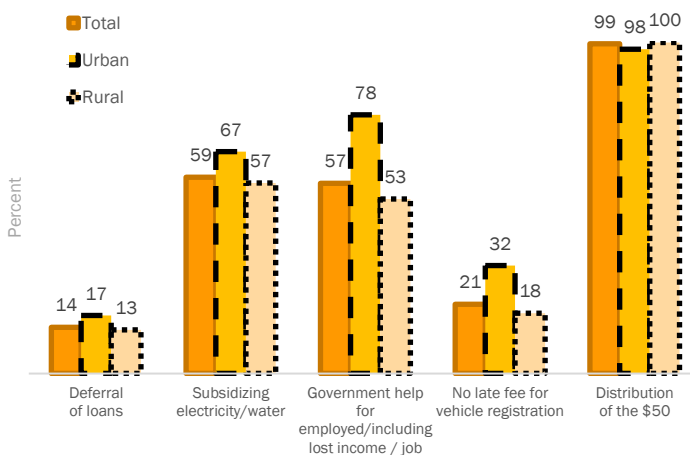
Some level of decline in average monthly household income was reported by 74 per cent of the respondents to protect themselves since March 2021, as the effect of COVID-19. Two thirds of the respondents stated their average monthly income has decreased between 11 and 25 percent (34 per cent of the respondents) or between 26 and 50 per cent (36 per cent of the respondents).

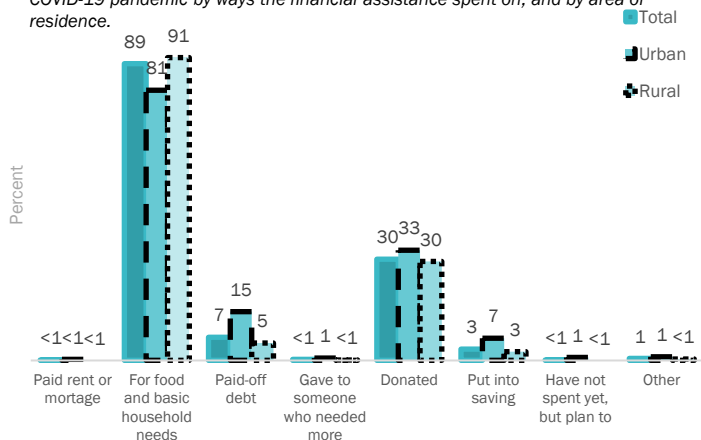# Government benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic

Percentage of households with a member who benefited from Government mitigation measures and Government financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic

Government mitigation measures — 99

Government financial assistance — 99

Percentage of households who received Government financial assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic by ways the financial assistance spent on, and by area of residence.

■ Total ■ Urban ■ Rural

	Total	Urban	Rural
Paid rent or mortage	<1	<1	<1
For food and basic household needs	89	81	91
Paid-off debt	7	15	5
Gave to someone who needed more	<1	1	<1
Donated	30	33	30
Put into saving	3	7	3
Have not spent yet, but plan to	<1	1	<1
Other	1	1	<1

Percentage of households who received different Government introduced benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic, by area of residence.

■ Total ■ Urban ■ Rural

	Total	Urban	Rural
Deferral of loans	14	17	13
Subsidizing electricity/water	59	67	57
Government help for employed/including lost income / job	57	78	53
No late fee for vehicle registration	21	32	18
Distribution of the $50	99	98	100

Almost all households benefited from Government mitigation measures during the COVID-19 pandemic (99 percent). Households in the urban area benefited more compared to rural households from Government help for employment for unemployed/including lost income/job (78 vs 53 percent), no late fee for vehicle registration (32 vs 18 percent), and subsidizes for electricity/water (67 vs 57 percent).
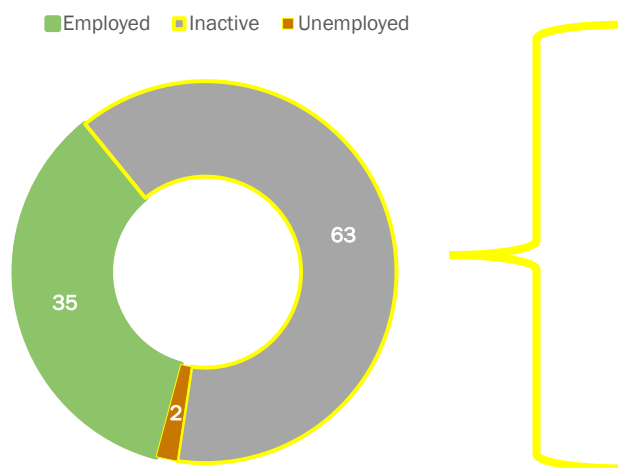
Most of the households spent Government's financial assistance on food and basic household needs (89 percent), and/or it was donated (30 percent).
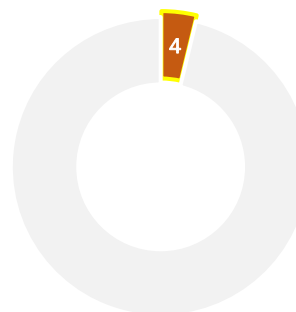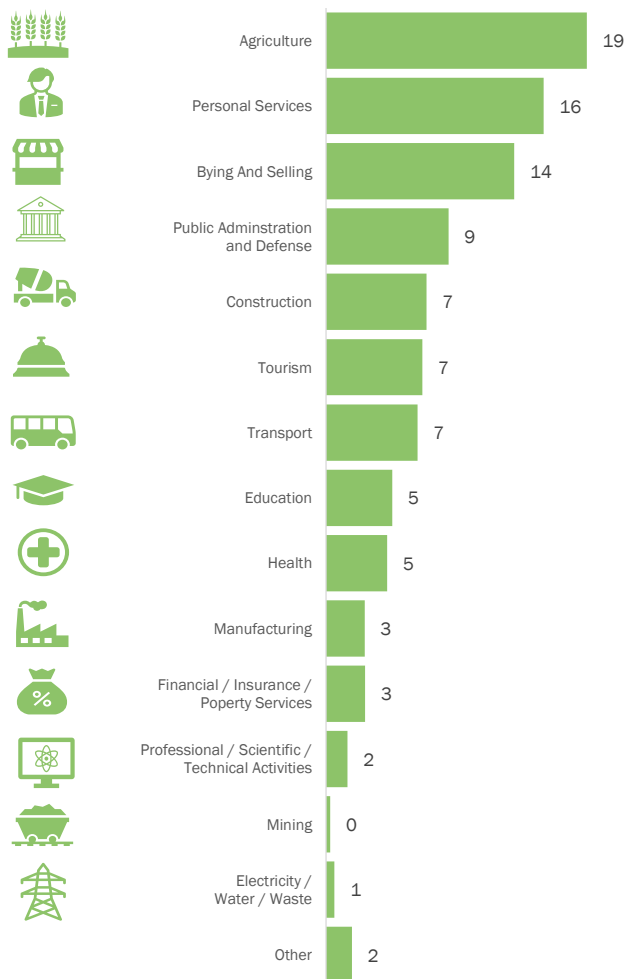
Status in employment (aged 15+)

Percent distribution of household population age 15 years or above, by main activity
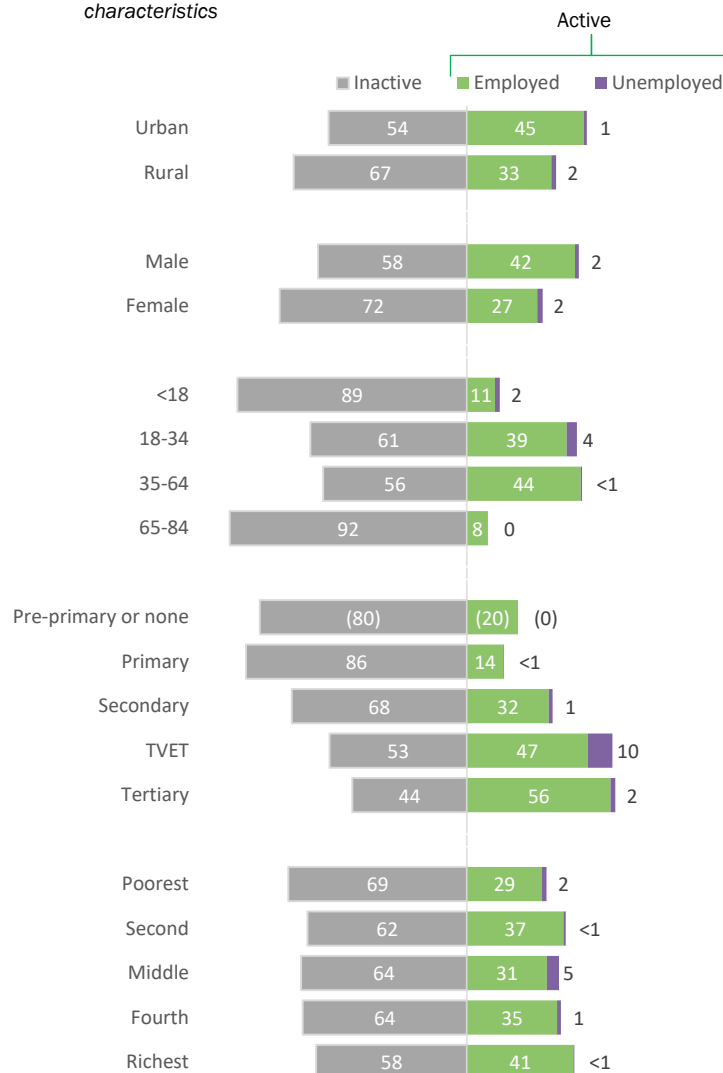
Legend: ■ Employed □ Inactive ■ Unemployed

- 63
- 35
- 2

Percentage of household population age 15 years or above who are currently unemployed or inactive, but were employed before COVID-19 pandemic

- 4

Employment by industries (population age 15 years or above)

Industry	Value
Agriculture	19
Personal Services	16
Bying And Selling	14
Public Adminstration and Defense	9
Construction	7
Tourism	7
Transport	7
Education	5
Health	5
Manufacturing	3
Financial / Insurance / Poperty Services	3
Professional / Scientific / Technical Activities	2
Mining	0
Electricity / Water / Waste	1
Other	2

Percentage of active (employed and unemployed), and inactive household population age 15 years or above, by background characteristics

Active

Legend: ■ Inactive ■ Employed ■ Unemployed

| Characteristic	Inactive	Employed	Unemployed
Urban	54	45	1
Rural	67	33	2
Male	58	42	2
Female	72	27	2
<18	89	11	2
18-34	61	39	4
35-64	56	44	<1
65-84	92	8	0
Pre-primary or none	(80)	(20)	(0)
Primary	86	14	<1
Secondary	68	32	1
TVET	53	47	10
Tertiary	44	56	2
Poorest	69	29	2
Second	62	37	<1
Middle	64	31	5
Fourth	64	35	1
Richest	58	41	<1

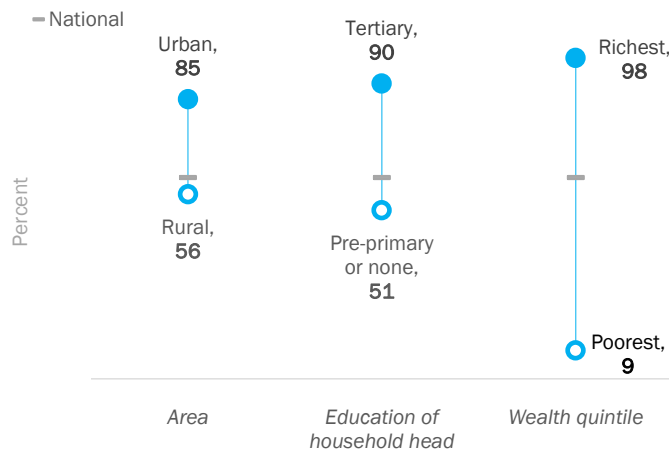*( ) Figures that are based on 25-49 unweighted cases*

ENERGY USE

Primary reliance on clean fuels

Percentage of household members living in households using clean fuels and technologies for cooking, and lighting

61%

of population living in households that primarily rely on clean fuels and technologies for cooking and lighting
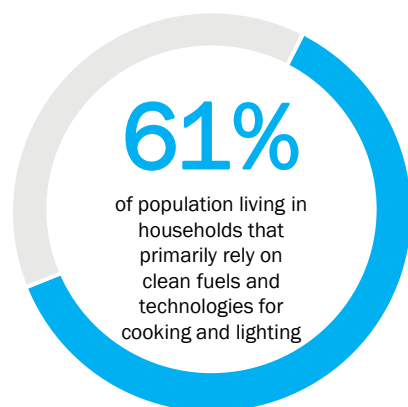
Percentage of household members living in households using clean fuels and technologies for cooking, and lighting, by background characteristics
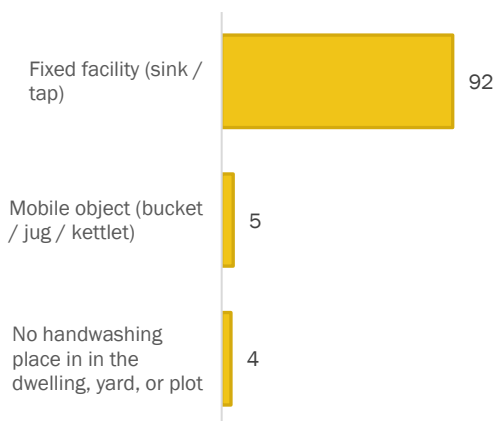
— National

Urban, **85**
Rural, **56**

Tertiary, **90**
Pre-primary or none, **51**

Richest, **98**
Poorest, **9**

Percent

Area | Education of household head | Wealth quintile

WATER AND SANITATION

Use of water and sanitation

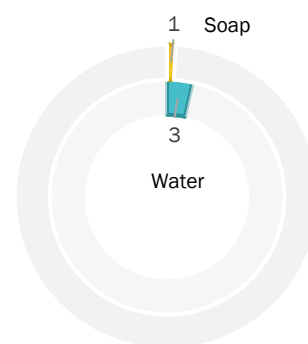Percentage of household members living in households using improved water and sanitation services

Improved water — 100
Improved sanitation — 100

Handwashing, and availability of water and soap

Percent distribution of household members by type of handwashing facility

Fixed facility (sink / tap) — 92
Mobile object (bucket / jug / kettlet) — 5
No handwashing place in in the dwelling, yard, or plot — 4

Percent

Percentage who did not have sufficient water and soap to wash hands when needed

Soap 1
Water 3