

Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security & Livelihoods Impact Survey

Bonaire Summary Report | April 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is dramatically altering how people earn a living and meet their critical needs. The Caribbean COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods Impact Survey was launched by the Government of Bonaire in the context of a Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) implemented by the World Bank. Implemented by the World Food Programme, the survey aims to gather data on livelihoods, access to markets and food security. This report analyses data collected from 23 March to 8 April 2021. The short online survey was circulated via social media, traditional media outlets, and emails. The survey link was also distributed by a telecommunications service provider via text messages.



542

Respondents



67 | 33%

Female | Male



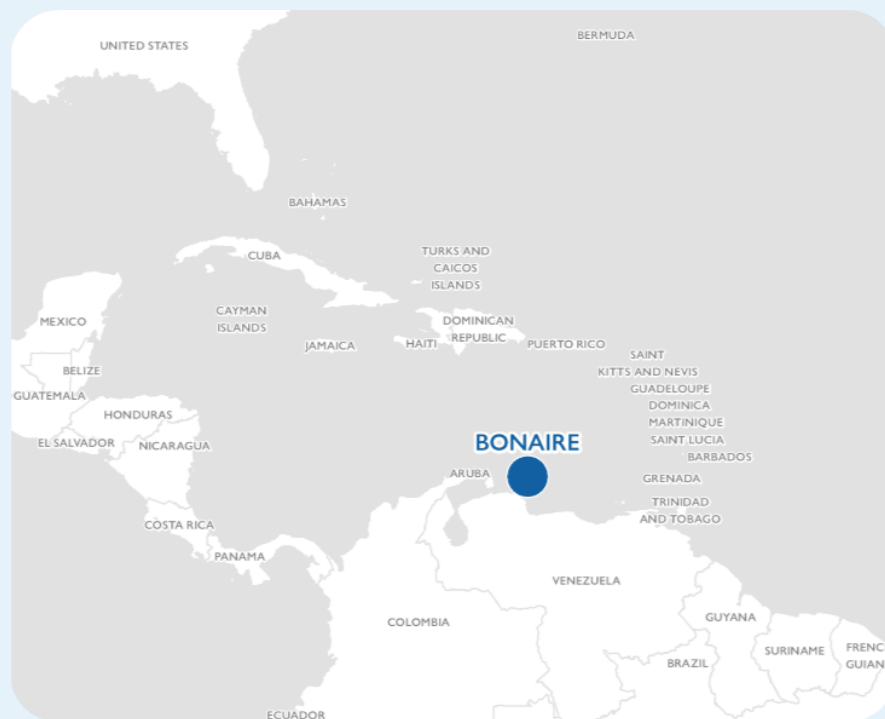
47

Average
age



3

Average
household size



BONAIRE Summary | April 2021

- The impacts of COVID-19 continue to evolve, one year after the initial declaration of the pandemic. Bonaire has endured multiple lockdowns and changes in travel protocols. To mitigate the socioeconomic impact of these measures, the government implemented interventions in support of affected people. One out of four respondents reported receiving government assistance, mainly in the form of income support and cash transfers.
- Livelihoods and incomes continue to be disrupted, affecting every second household, mainly due to movement restrictions and concerns about the outbreak. Low-income households are disproportionately impacted in terms of job losses, income reductions and access to livelihood inputs. They are more pessimistic about livelihood impacts in the future, and unemployment is their biggest worry.
- Every fifth respondent experiences difficulties in accessing markets, primarily due to a lack of financial means, and three out of four respondents have changed their shopping behaviour. Lower income households are most likely to report an increase in food prices, cite the lack of financial means as market access barriers and resort to purchasing smaller quantities and cheaper items than usual.
- Food insecurity is a concern, with 14% of respondents cutting down food consumption in the week prior to the survey. Negative impacts on food security disproportionately affect respondents from low-income households. They are most likely to worry about meeting food and other essential needs and are much more likely to meet food needs only at the expense of selling productive assets and cutting spending on other priorities such as health and education.
- Speakers of Papiamentu appear to be more adversely affected on several key metrics of well-being, such as access to markets and purchasing options, available household food stocks, food consumption and food insecurity experience. They were the most likely to worry about meeting food and other essential needs, but also least likely to have reported receiving some form of COVID-19 assistance, when compared to English and Dutch speakers.

Apr-21		All respondents	Respondents with below or well below average income
LIVELIHOODS	Disrupted livelihoods	49%	71%
	Reduction/loss of income	49%	80%
	Moderate to severe or severe future livelihoods impacts	38%	74%
MARKETS	Lack of market access	20%	33%
	Change in shopping behaviour	77%	87%
	Increase in food prices	60%	67%
FOOD SECURITY	Reduced food consumption	14%	32%
	Lack of food stock	14%	24%

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COVID-19 | Situation and response

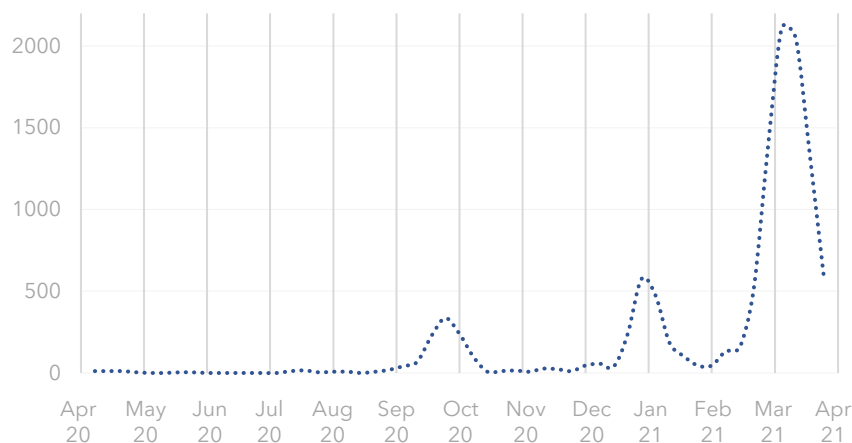
COVID-19 cases and government responses

Following the first registered case of COVID-19 in the Caribbean in early March 2020 and the official declaration of the pandemic, most countries in the region closed their borders to commercial travel, while establishing curfews and business and school closures. These measures were expanded in the months that followed. Bonaire closed its borders to international travel in March 2020 whilst implementing school closures and social distancing protocols.

Beginning in June 2020, many governments began to relax restrictions as the number of cases declined. In June, the Government of Aruba announced the gradual reopening of its borders to international travel, along with other countries in the region. At the same time, other countries continued or reimposed measures as cases increased or reappeared.

New COVID-19 cases in Bonaire

14-day notification rate per 100 000 population



Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, 2021

In mid-March 2021, the Government of Bonaire announced a 2-week lockdown as the number of new infections reached an all-time high. This measure was subsequently extended given the significant pressure on the public health system.

Bonaire launched its vaccination programme in mid-February 2021, initially targeting health care personnel and elderly residents. By mid-April 2021, 67% of Bonaire's population has been vaccinated with the goal of vaccinating 85% of the population by the end of April.

Social protection measures

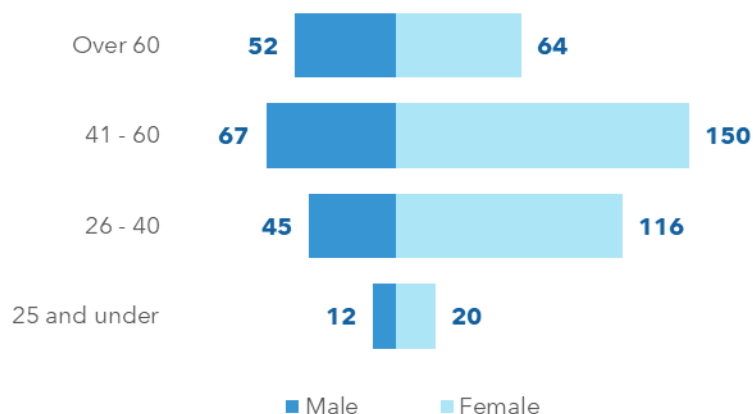
Faced with the widespread economic repercussions of the pandemic, all governments in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean have turned to social protection to support people through existing programmes or ones introduced in the wake of COVID-19. Target groups have been primarily people and businesses who have lost jobs and income as a result of movement restrictions, declining tourism and disruptions to commercial activities.

In Bonaire, the government first announced a support package in March 2020. The measures implemented included a wage subsidy arrangement providing financial support to businesses, entrepreneurs and individuals whose incomes were affected by the pandemic. The government also provided a subsidy for fixed costs to companies and entrepreneurs that suffered a loss in revenues due to the measures taken in connection with the coronavirus. Furthermore, the tax office facilitated the deferment of payments from businesses or individuals unable to meet their obligations as a result of restrictions imposed by the government.

In addition to these measures, the government provided financial support for the distribution of food packages with basic supplies to vulnerable households in need.

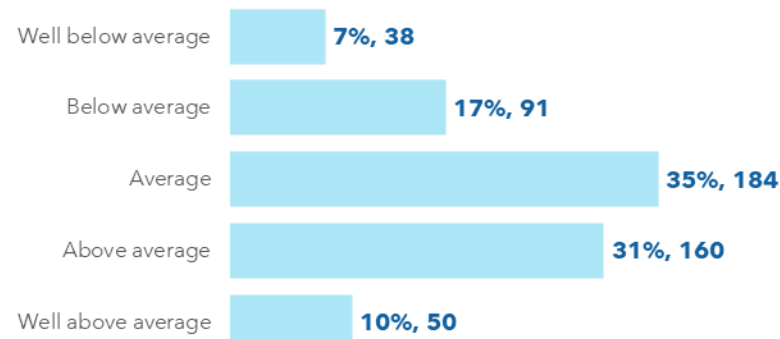
RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Age and sex

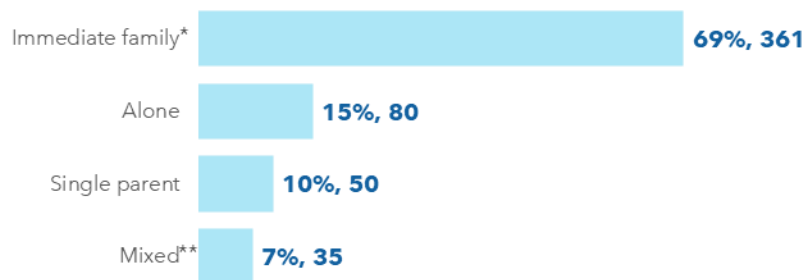


Perceived income levels

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



Household composition

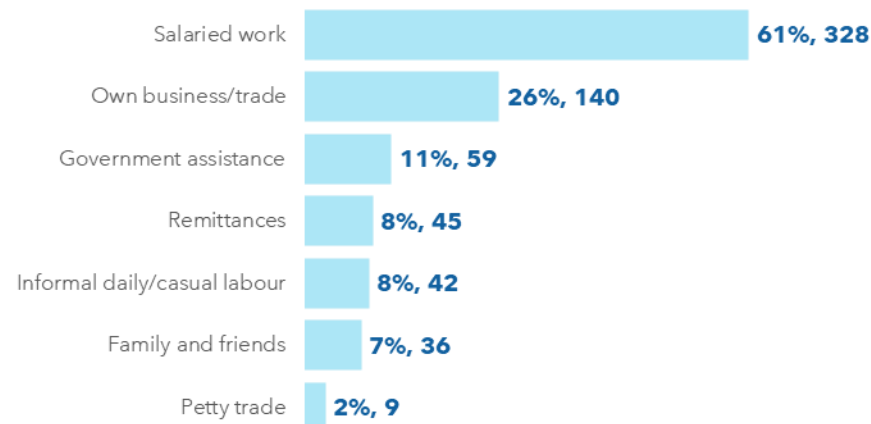


* Immediate family includes partner, children and grandparents.

** Mixed households are composed of immediate family members, other relatives as well as non-family members.

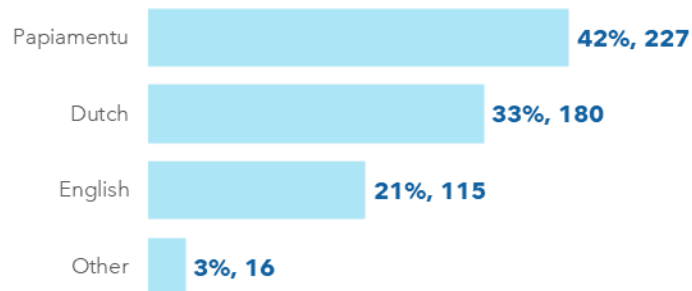
Main income sources

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

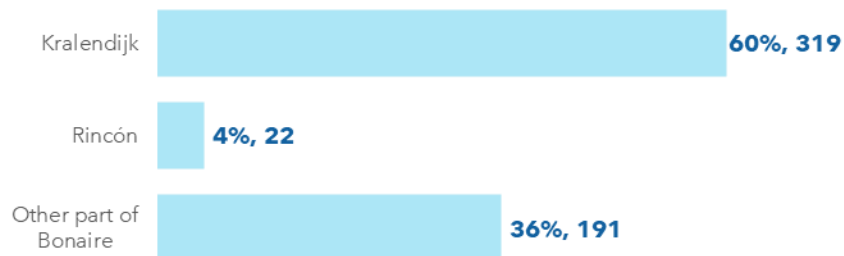


RESPONDENTS | Demographics

Language

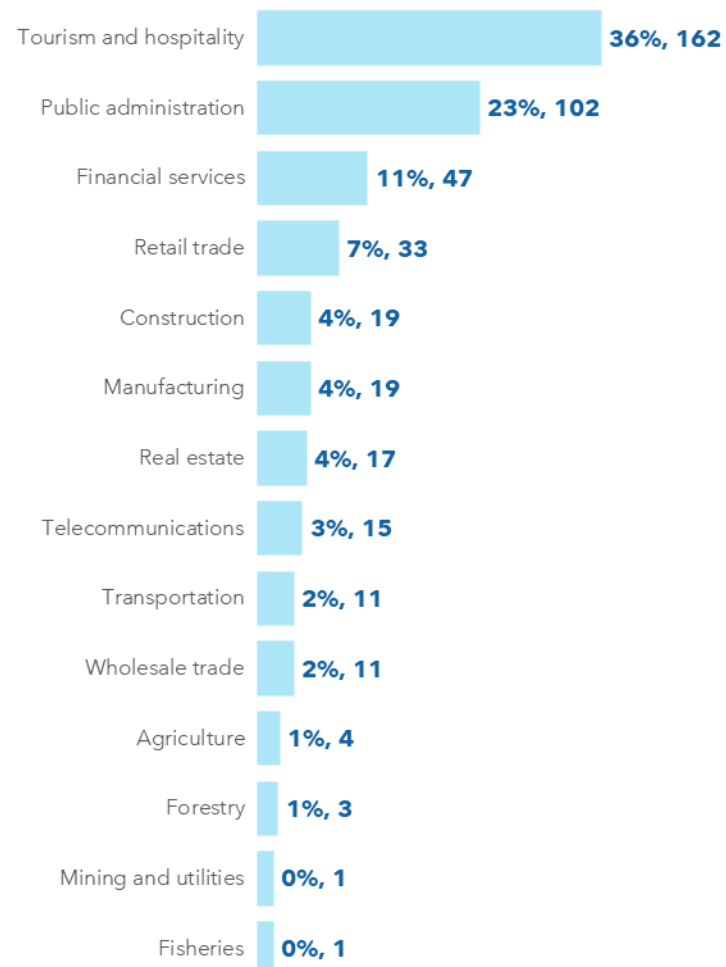


Location



Main income sector

Respondent were asked to indicate the sector that represents their household's main source of income.



LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

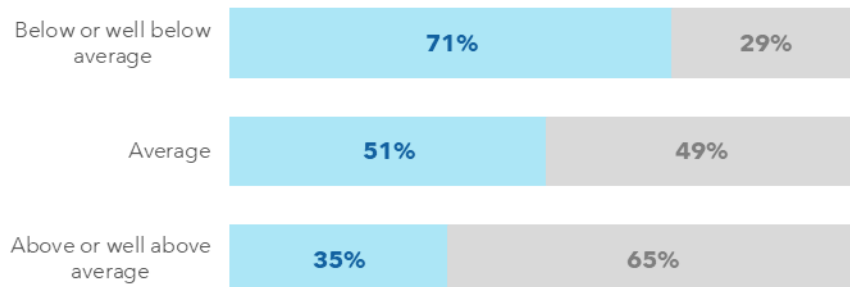
- Impacts to livelihoods are widespread, particularly among low-income households.

Was your ability to carry out livelihoods activities affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey?

■ yes ■ no



By perceived income level



"Now I can't work because there are no tourists and I don't know what is going to happen." – Male, 20 years

"Business closed. No students because of risk for Covid infections." – Female, 73 years

"I just started my own company of childcare for after school, but due to COVID parents decided to keep their children at home. I have accepted the days that when parents have a job that I will have a little income again." – Female, 38 years

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted livelihoods. For half of respondents in Bonaire, the ability to pursue their livelihood was affected in the two weeks preceding the survey, similar to the CARICOM regional average.

When considering the different characteristics of people responding to the survey (such as age, sex, perceived income, household composition) the most marked differences are found related to people's perceived level of income and economic sector. Of respondents who described their income as below or well below average, 71% reported livelihood disruptions, compared to 35% of those who consider their income levels as above or well above average.

Disruptions seem to have been most widespread among respondents with livelihoods in the tourism and hospitality sector (64%) and were also relatively more common among those who rely on their own business/trade for their income (58%) when compared to those with incomes from salaried work (46%).

There are some differences across age groups, with respondents over 60 less frequently reporting livelihood disruptions compared to younger age groups. There is no noticeable difference between men and women respondents, and minimal difference depending on the location of respondents or language spoken.

LIVELIHOODS | Disruptions to livelihoods

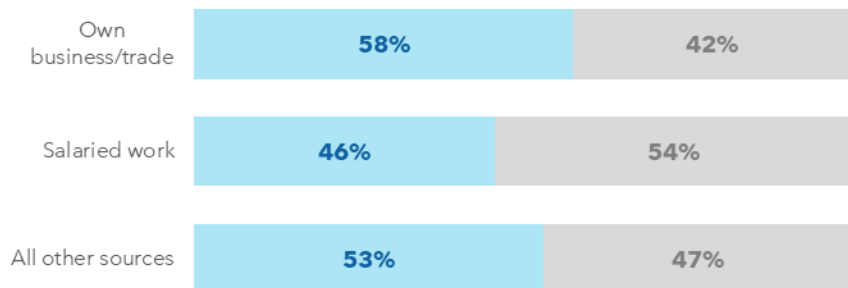
Was your ability to carry out livelihoods activities affected in the 2 weeks prior to the survey?

■ yes ■ no

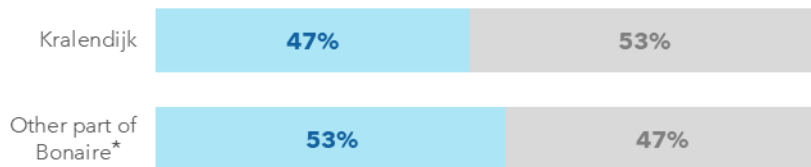
By sex



By income sources

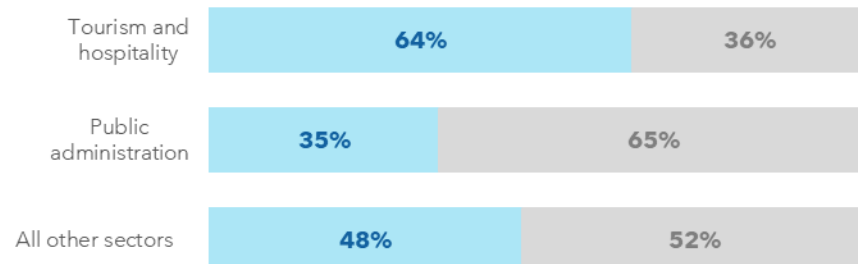


By location

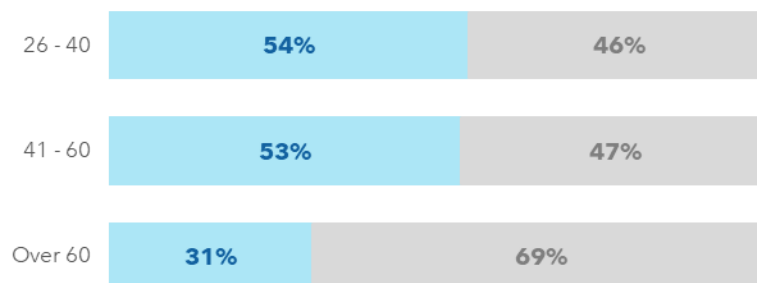


*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

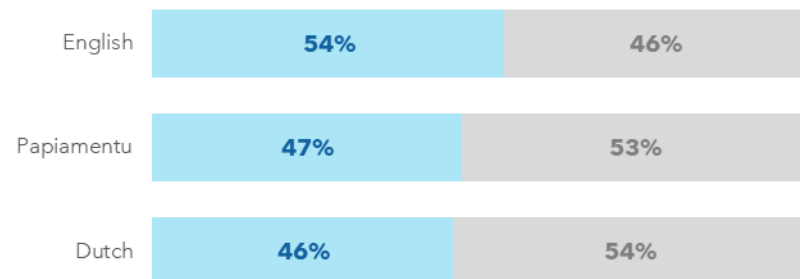
By income sector



By age group



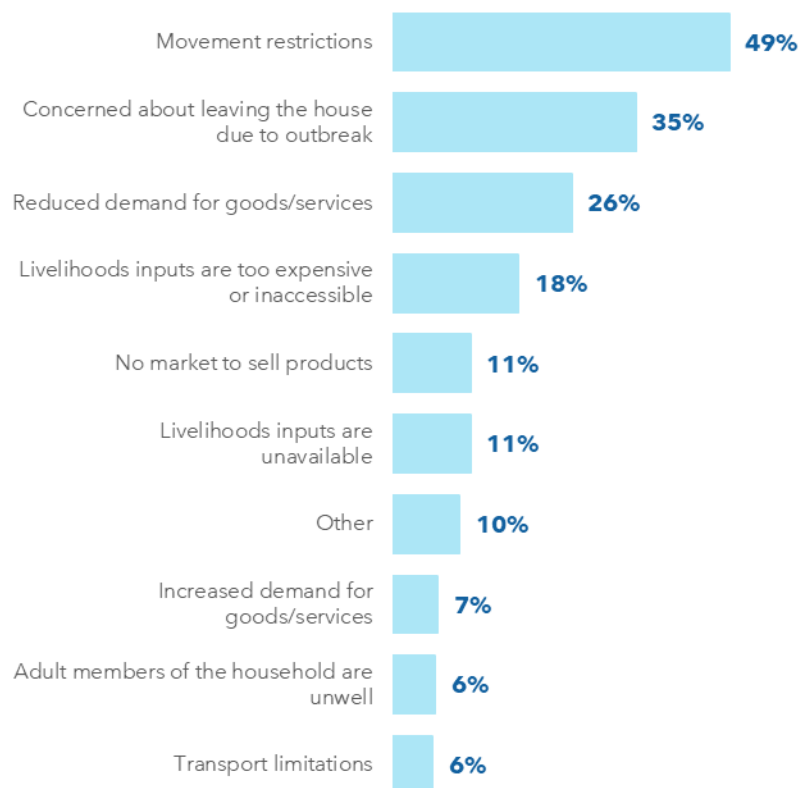
By language



LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

- Movement restrictions and concerns about the outbreak are the main drivers behind disruptions to livelihoods. Expensive livelihood inputs and lack of market access to sell products mostly affect low-income households.

For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...
Multiple choices could be selected.



Movement restrictions, reported by about half of respondents who faced disruptions to livelihoods, are the main reason behind those disruptions. For one third of respondents concerns about leaving the house due to the outbreak is also an important reason. Respondents with above or well above average income levels and English speakers are most likely to cite these as major disruptive factors.

Movement restrictions are also the most common disruptor among men and respondents aged 60 or above while concerns about leaving the house due to outbreak were most likely to be cited by women respondents and people living outside of Kralendijk.

Reduced demand for goods and services has been a major disruption factor for people engaged in own business/trade, younger and male respondents.

Expensive or inaccessible livelihood inputs were a major livelihood disruptor for respondents with a below or well below average income, women respondents, those mainly speaking Dutch and living in Kralendijk. Those with income from salaried work or own business less frequently cited the cost of livelihood inputs as a reason when compared to those with other income sources (e.g. remittances, informal labour).

"Great concerns about our company, a very low occupancy rate. Worrying about not being able to pay off the mortgage. Second mortgage therefore higher debts. Personnel costs keep increasing, in addition to the subsidy. In constant survival mode. Worry about when tourists come again especially US. Mentally heavier every day for me and my husband. We have now cancelled our house and live in one room in our company to reduce costs." – Female, 51 years

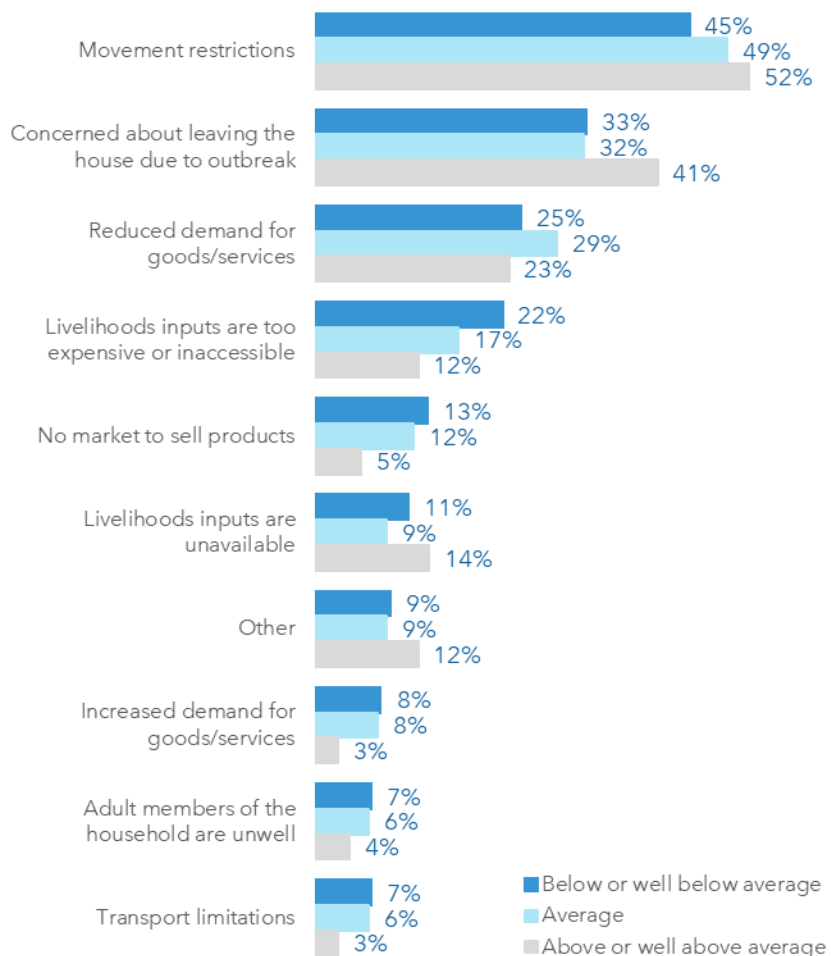
"That more strict measures will come that I am not able to leave my house and not being able to go to work and then you don't have a salary to cover your costs that will become a huge problem for us here on Bonaire." – Female, 41 years

LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

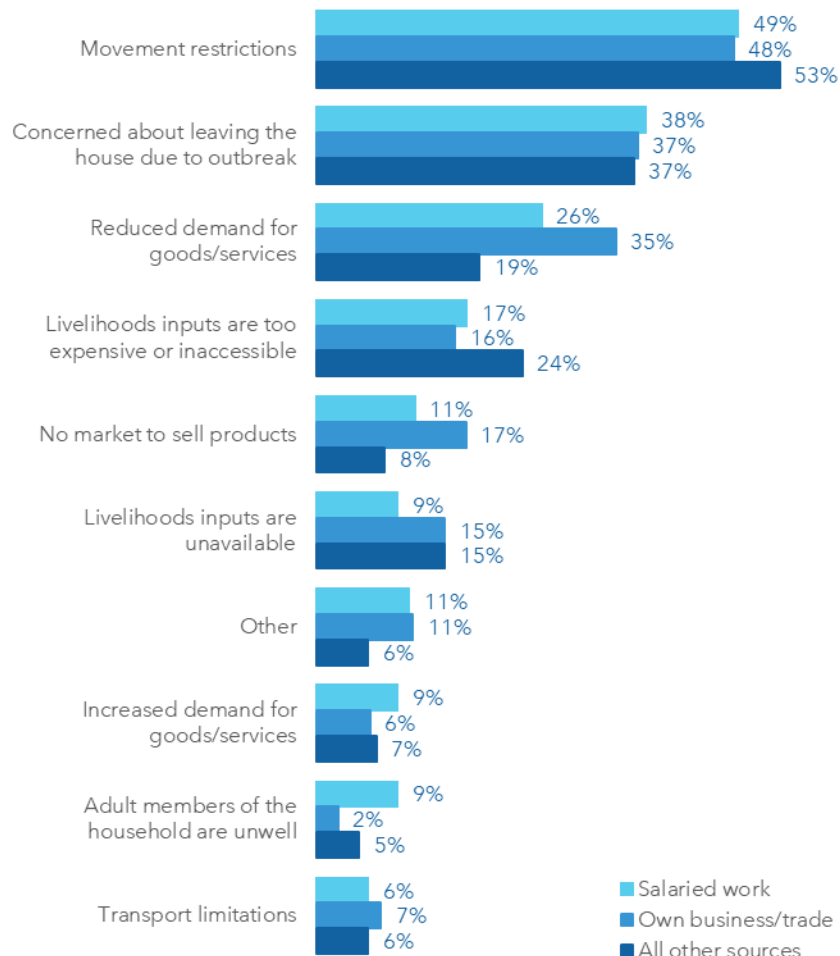
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level



By main income source

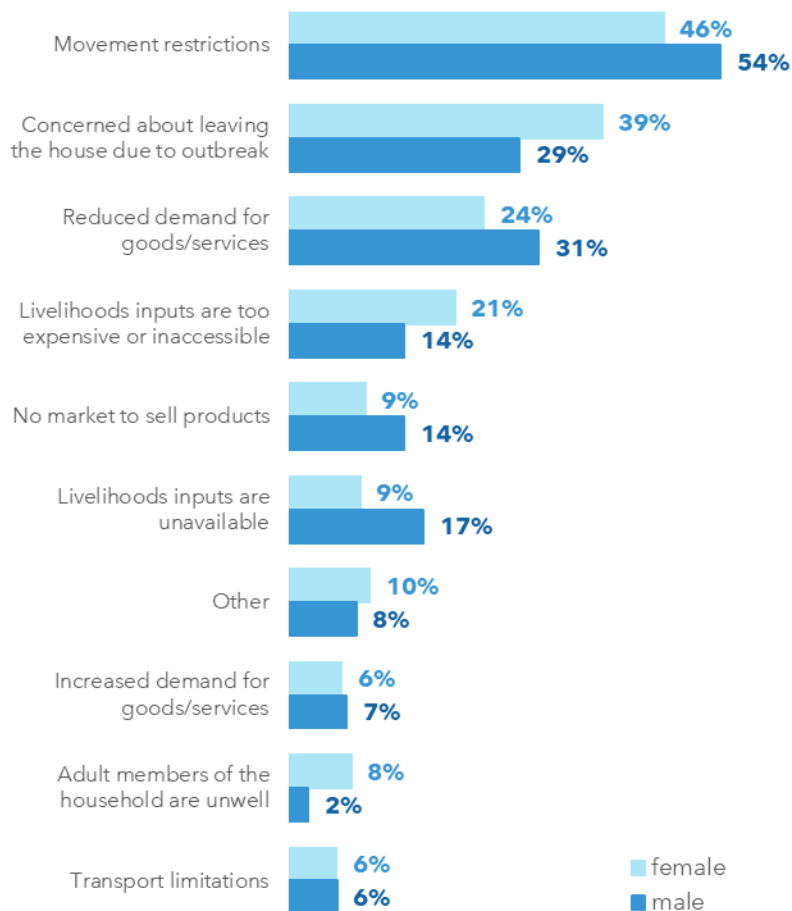


LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

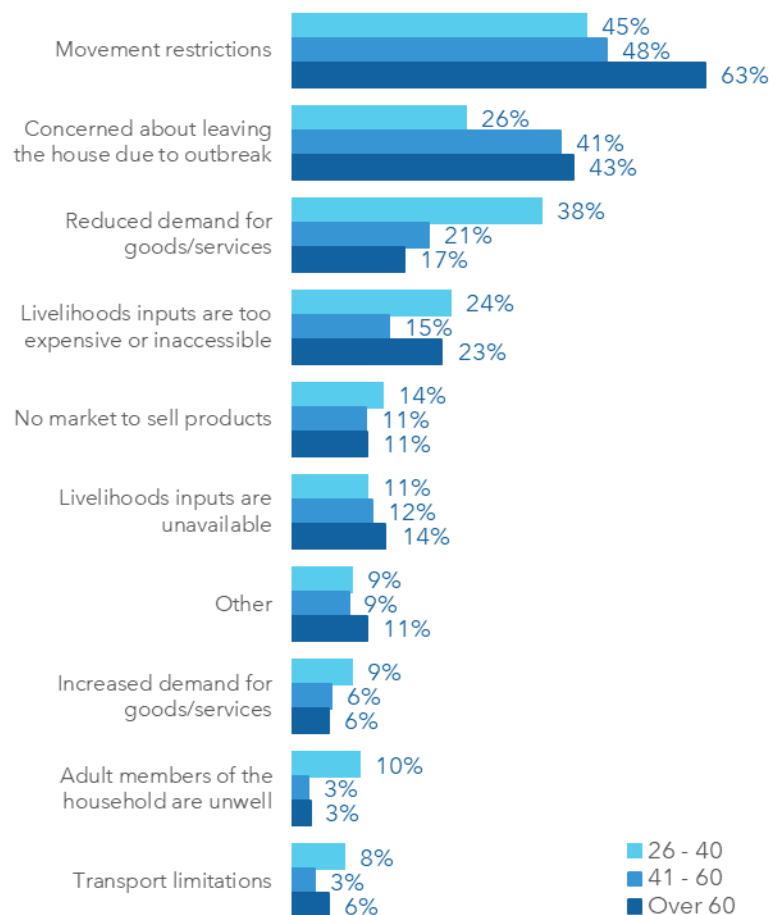
For those that reported livelihood disruptions, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

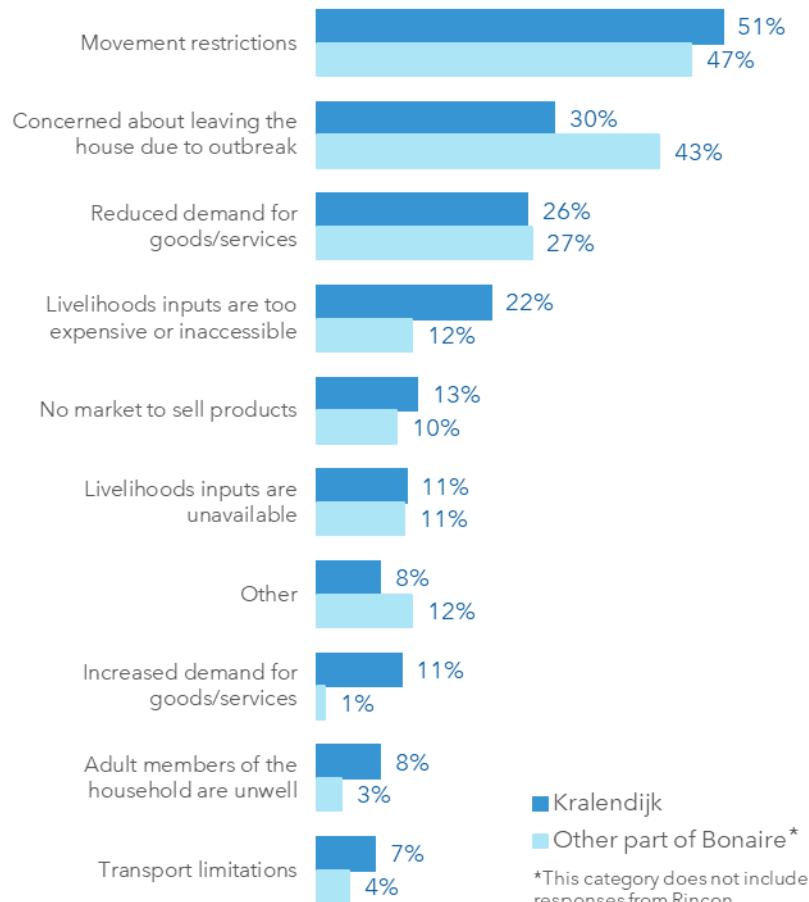


LIVELIHOODS | Reasons for livelihood disruptions

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

By location

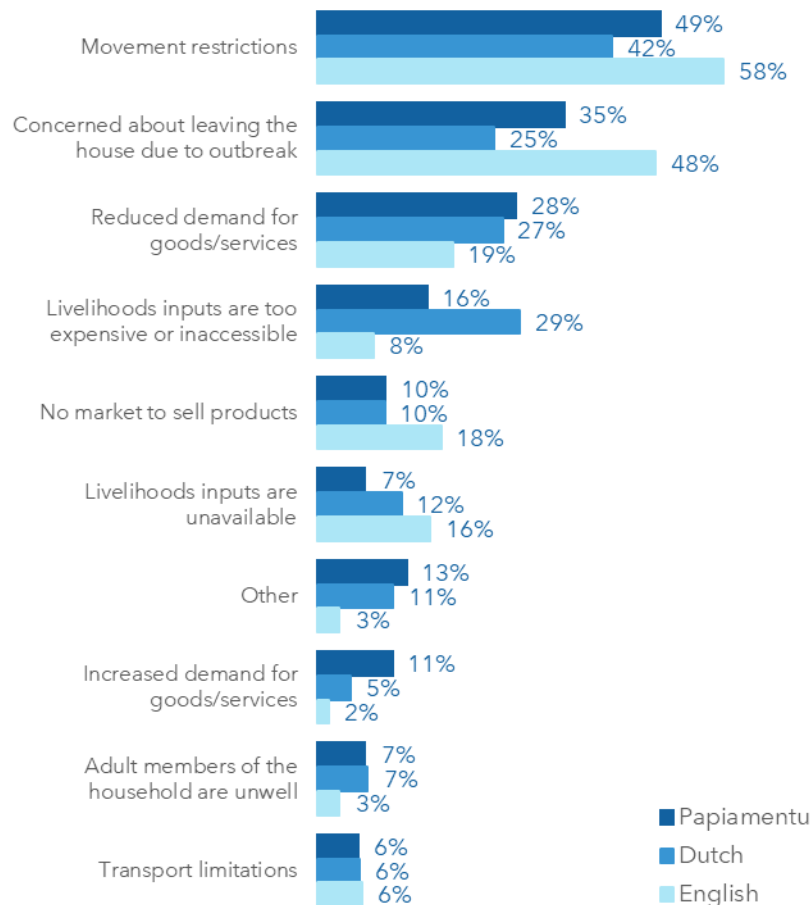


■ Kralendijk

■ Other part of Bonaire*

*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

By language



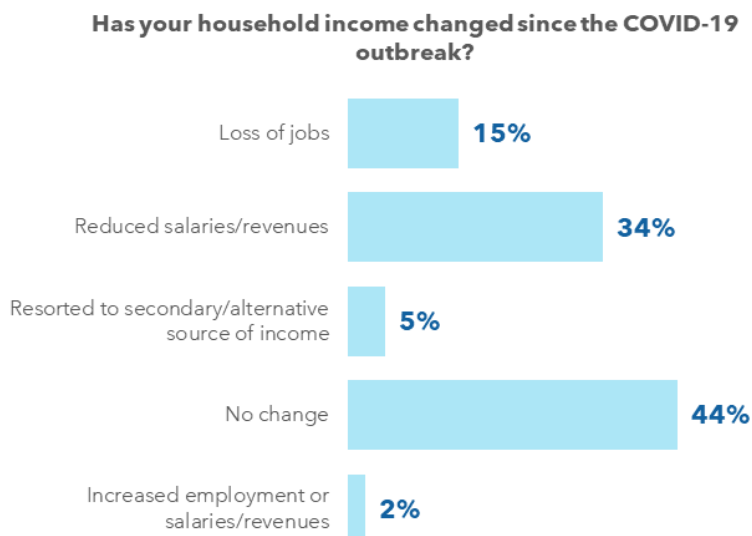
■ Papiamentu

■ Dutch

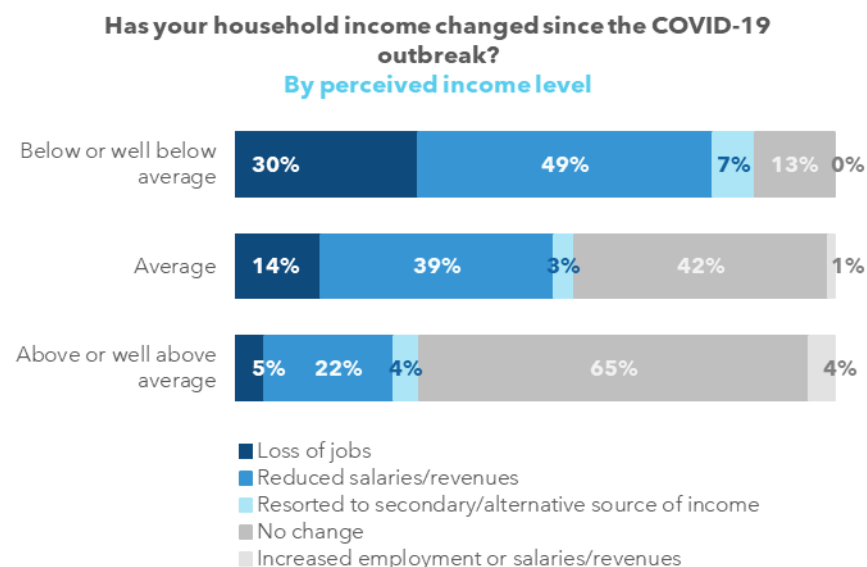
■ English

LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

- Half of respondents have faced job loss or income reductions in their households.



Impacts on income are widespread, with 49% of respondents reporting that their household has experienced job loss or reduced salaries since the COVID-19 outbreak. Respondents with a below or well below average income have been disproportionately affected by job and income losses (79%), as were Dutch speaking respondents (60%), those who generate their income mainly through own business/trade (66%) and those working in the tourism and hospitality sector (87%). Job and income losses seem to have been least widespread among respondents aged 60 and older (31%) and among those who are employed in public administration (16%).



Compared to CARICOM countries, job and income loss affects an overall smaller proportion of the population in Bonaire but the negative impact on tourism and hospitality is similarly widespread.

"Reduction in the labor field, little income." - Male, 33 years

"Income has almost completely disappeared. Fortunately, I have access to a large piggy bank, which should actually be a pensionfund. It is slowly but surely disappearing." - Female, 54 years

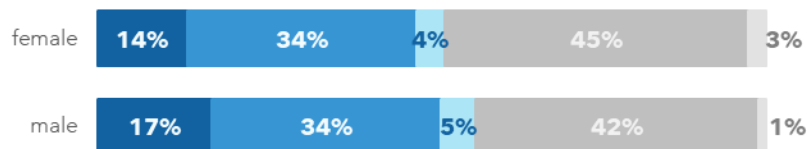
"Hardly any work. Almost no money left." - Male, 21 years

LIVELIHOODS | Impacts on income

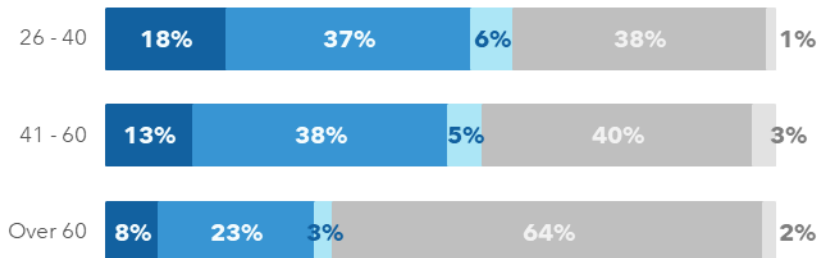
Has your household income changed since the COVID-19 outbreak?

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

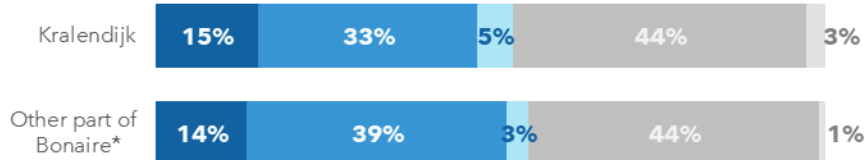
By sex



By age group

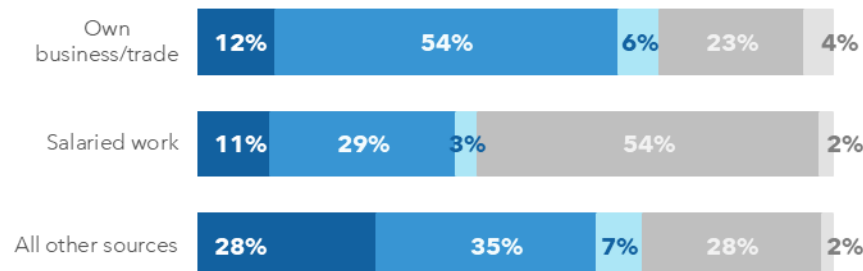


By location

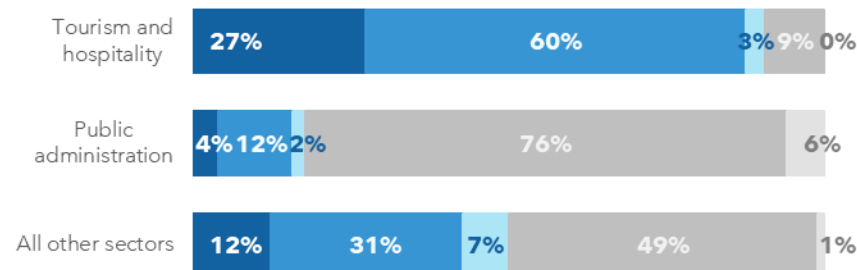


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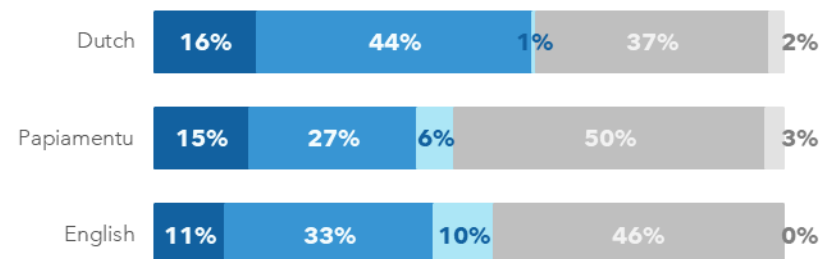
By income sources



By income sector



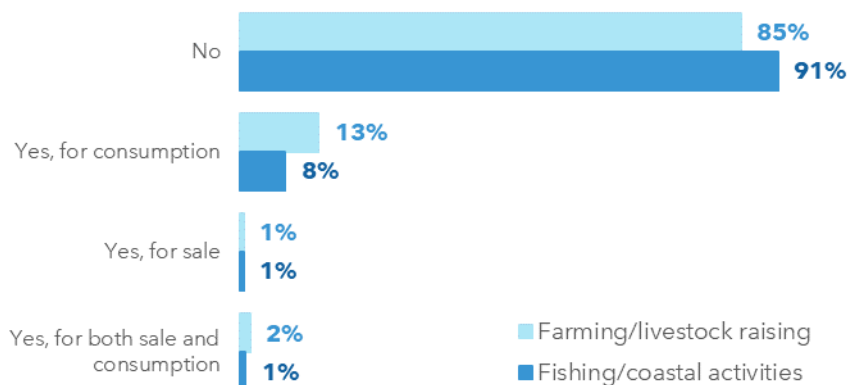
By language



LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

- Respondents engaged in fishing activities seem among the hardest hit, but more detailed and representative assessments are needed.

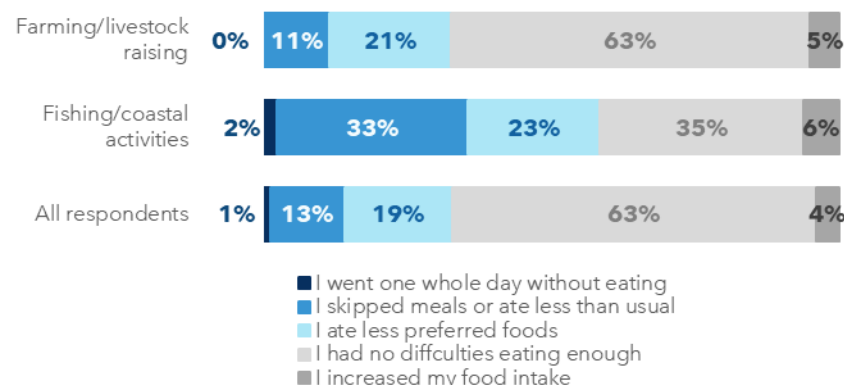
Is your household engaged in farming/fishing?



As small proportion of respondents reported engaging in farming, gardening or livestock raising (15%) and in fisheries/coastal activities (9%). In both cases these activities are primarily for own consumption, with vegetable production being the main farming activity and marine/coastal fishing the main fishing activity.

Most respondents undertaking farming (53%) or fishing (54%) also have household income from salaries, and nearly one out of five pursue their own business or trade. Respondents aged 25 years or younger are most likely to be engaged in farming and those between 26 and 40 years in fishing activity.

Food situation among respondents engaged in farming/fishing



Those engaged in fishing/coastal activities appear to be facing more challenges related to income-generation and food security. They were more likely to report loss of jobs and a reduction of food consumed compared to farming and average respondents.

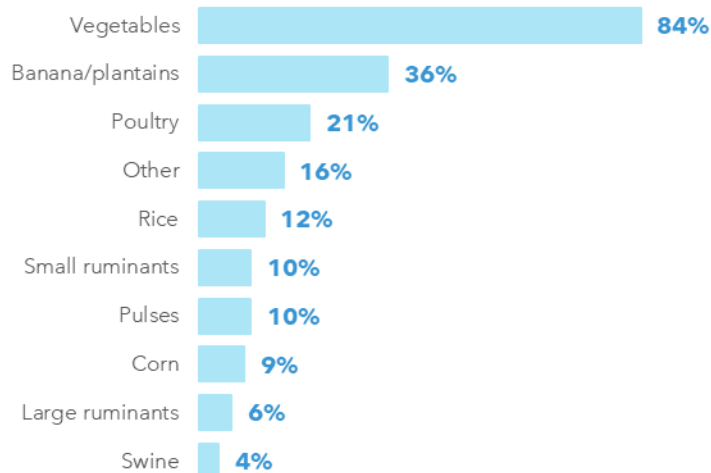
Among respondents engaged in fishing, 35% reported to have skipped meals or ate less than usual in the week prior to the survey, compared to 14% of respondents on average.

More information on how governments in Latin America and the Caribbean have supported small-scale fisheries facing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring the continuity of livelihoods is available through [additional resources](#).

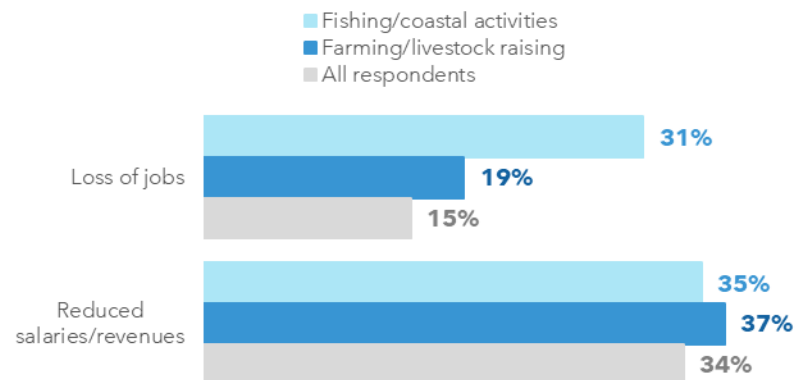
LIVELIHOODS | Farming and fishing

For those that engage in agriculture/livestock raising, the products are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

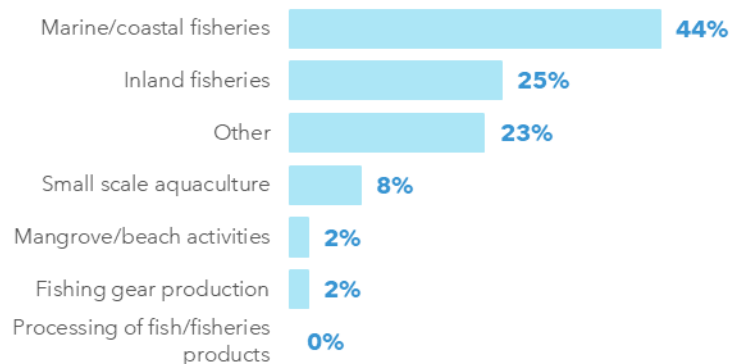


Loss of jobs or reduced salaries/revenues among respondents engaged in farming/fishing



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

Multiple choices could be selected.



LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

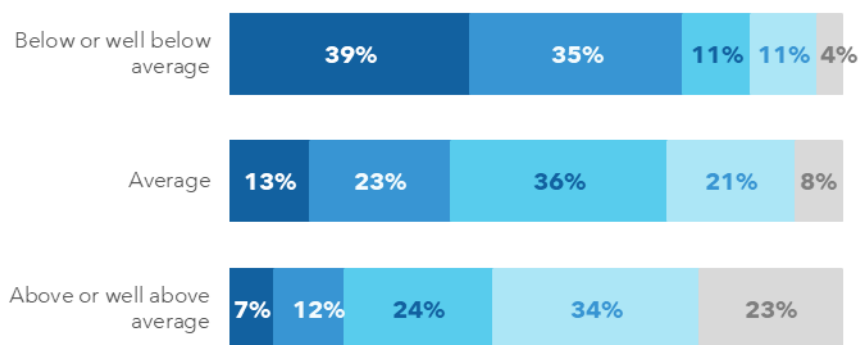
- ▶ Two out of three respondents expect at least a moderate impact on their livelihoods. For four out of ten low-income households, this impact is expected to be severe.

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

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



By perceived income level



Respondents expect that the COVID-19 pandemic will impact their livelihoods in the future. Looking ahead, 38% anticipate “moderate to severe” or “severe” impacts to their livelihoods and only 13% expect little or no impact.

Respondents with different levels of income varied substantially in their perspectives. Of those with incomes perceived as below or well below average, 39% expect their livelihoods to be severely impacted in the future, much higher compared to households with above or well above average income (7%). A more pessimistic outlook on their livelihood is prevalent among respondents in working age as well as among those working in the tourism and hospitality sector. When looking at respondents' income sources, those with an income from salaried work have a less pessimistic outlook than respondents with other income sources.

There are minimal differences in such expectations between women and men respondents and across language groups.

Perspectives in Bonaire are slightly less negative compared to the average in CARICOM countries.

“Now I don't have a regular job and I don't get a jobs for my own company and I am afraid to loose my house because for months now I can't pay my bank.” – Male, 41 years

“It is hard for me because I have 4 kids and my mother is single and I am not working right now it is very hard.” – Female, 28 years

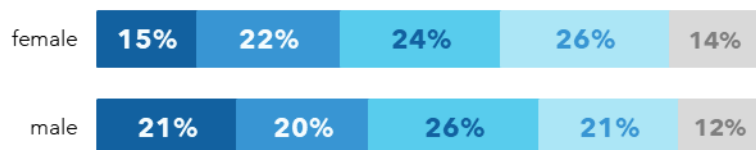
“The rent of my house is very expensive and I do not have enough money.” – Female, 26 years

LIVELIHOODS | Future livelihood impacts

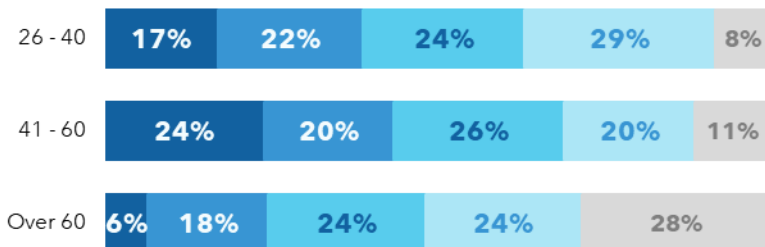
How do you expect your livelihood will be impacted as a result of disruptions from COVID-19?

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

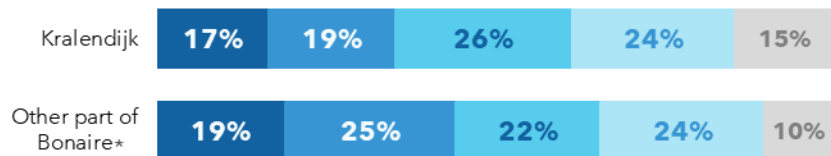
By sex



By age group

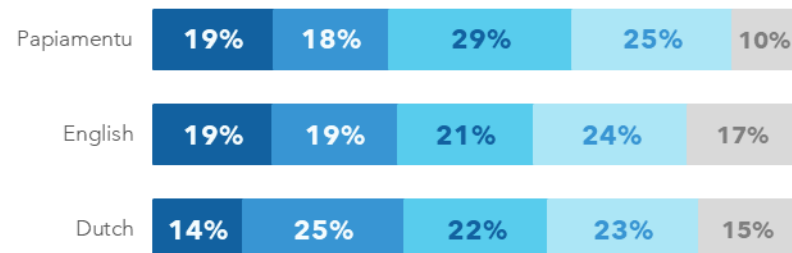


By location

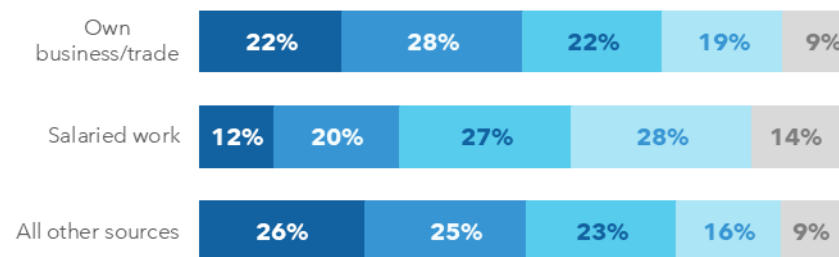


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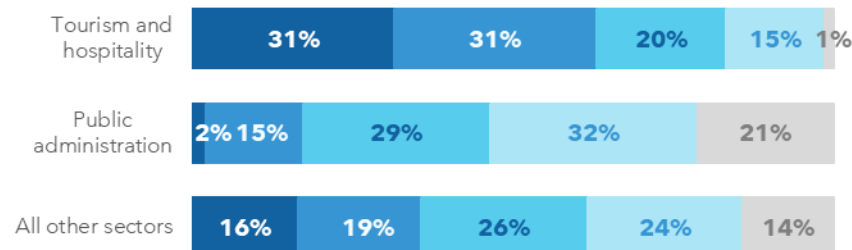
By language



By income sources



By income sector



MARKETS | Access

- One out of five respondents still experiences difficulties in accessing markets due to COVID-19. Low-income households are more likely to face market access barriers.

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

■ yes ■ no

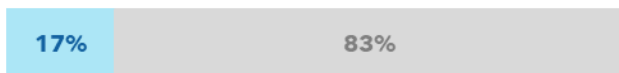


By perceived income level

Below or well below average



Average



Above or well above average



"Larger numbers in groceries, so now I bought per month instead of biweekly groceries." - Female, 46 years

"Limited freedom of movement, many more plans, avoid shops and places where there are many people." - Female, 68 years

COVID-19 and measures to contain the virus are impacting market access, with 20% of respondents reporting that they could not access stores and markets at some point in the seven days prior to the survey.

Clear differences in market access were found across income levels. Difficulties in accessing markets were most prevalent among respondents reporting below or well below average incomes (33%), compared to 13% for respondents with average to well above average income.

Respondents aged 26-40, women and those speaking primarily Papiamentu were also disproportionately more affected by lack of access to markets, relative to respondents with other age, gender or language characteristics.

No significant differences were found based on respondents' income sector and income source.

Market access barriers are less widespread in Bonaire compared to the average in CARICOM countries, both among the average and low-income respondents.

MARKETS | Access

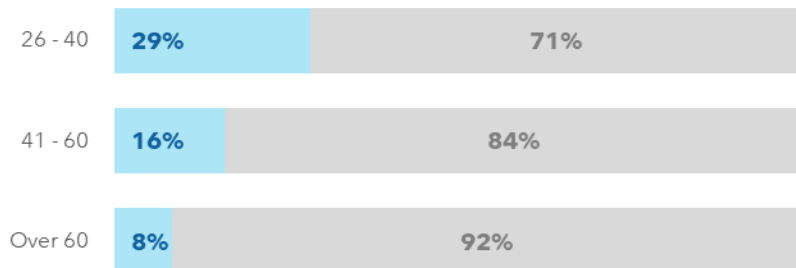
In the past 7 days, was there a time when your household could not access the markets?

■ yes ■ no

By sex



By age group

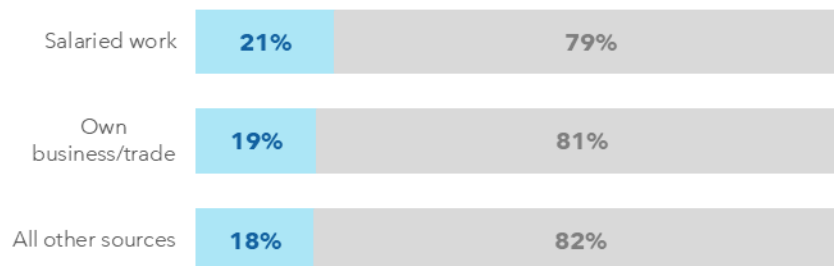


By location

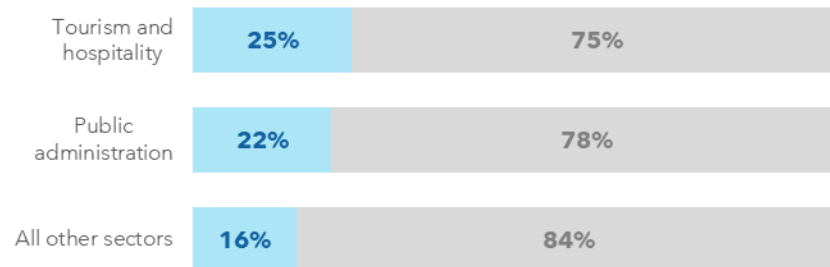


*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

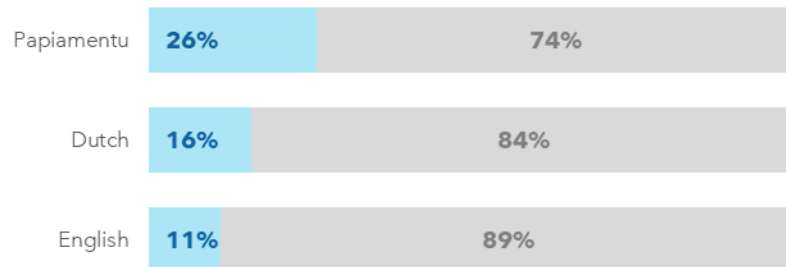
By income source



By income sector



By language

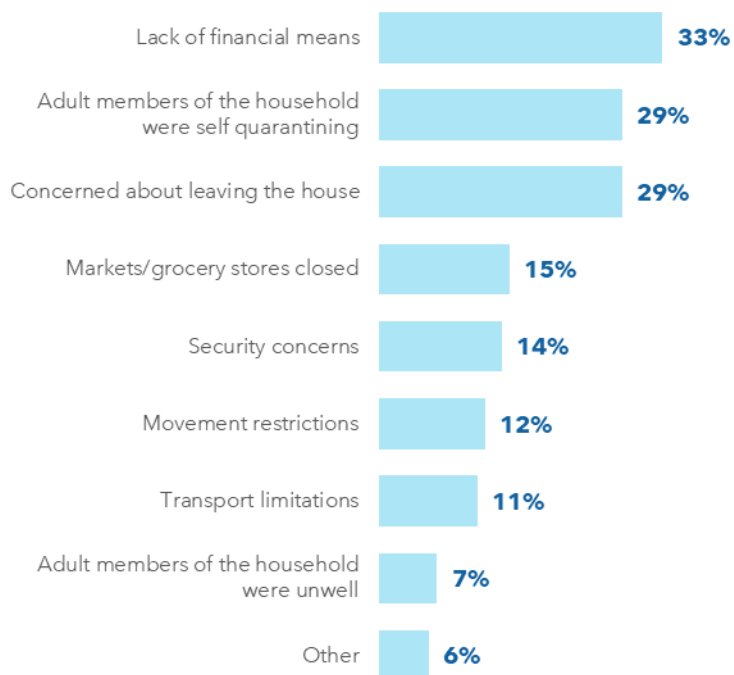


MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

- Lack of financial means is the main limiting factor to market access.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



Lack of financial means is the main reason for limited market access, cited by 33% of those who faced a time when they could not access markets in the week prior to the survey (all percentages noted in this section are of those reporting issues accessing markets).

There are notable differences across age, gender and income levels. Respondents who described their income as being below average or well below average reported lack of financial means as a reason for limited market access much more frequently (55%) than average (28%) or wealthier respondents (7%) while transport limitations posed a similarly disproportionate obstacle to them. The lack of financial means was a less commonly cited reason among those with income from salaried work or their own business (27%) when compared to those with other income sources such as informal labour, remittances or support from family/friends (46%).

For respondents aged 60 or above, movement restrictions and transport limitations were a much greater barrier to market access than lack of financial means, compared to respondents in working age. Among women respondents, self-quarantine of adult household members posed the biggest obstacle to market access, while men respondents were much more likely to cite closed markets and grocery stores, movement restrictions and transport limitations as a reason.

Dutch speakers were over four times less likely to choose lack of financial means as a main reason for limited market access compared to respondents who preferred to speak in English or Papiamentu.

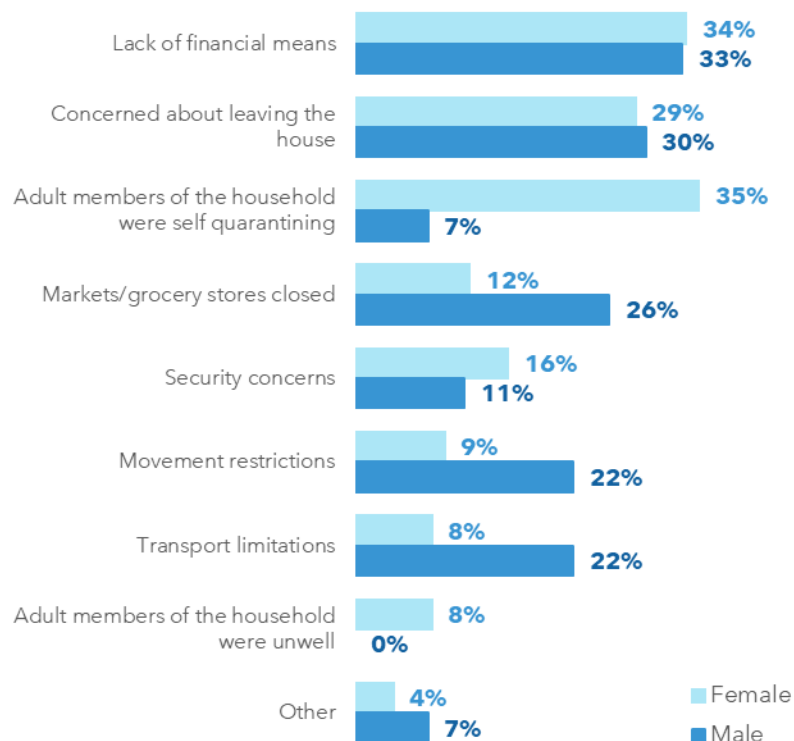
Lack of financial means is a much less widespread barrier to market access in Bonaire (33%), compared to the average in CARICOM countries (84%).

MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

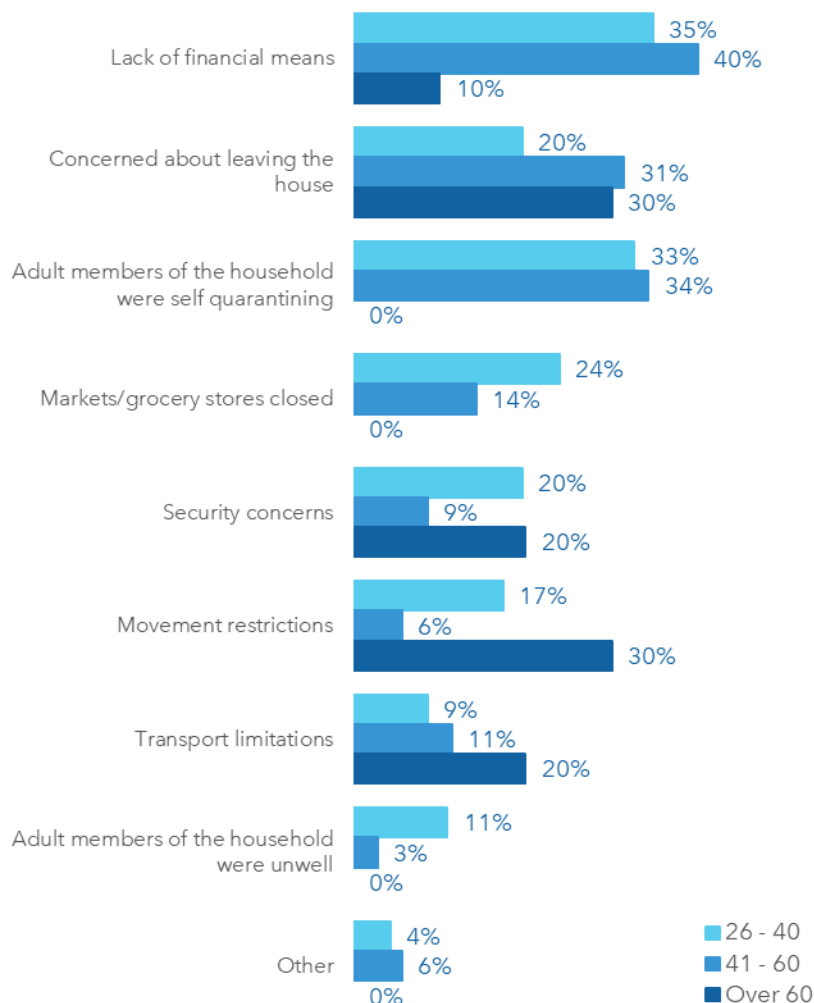
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

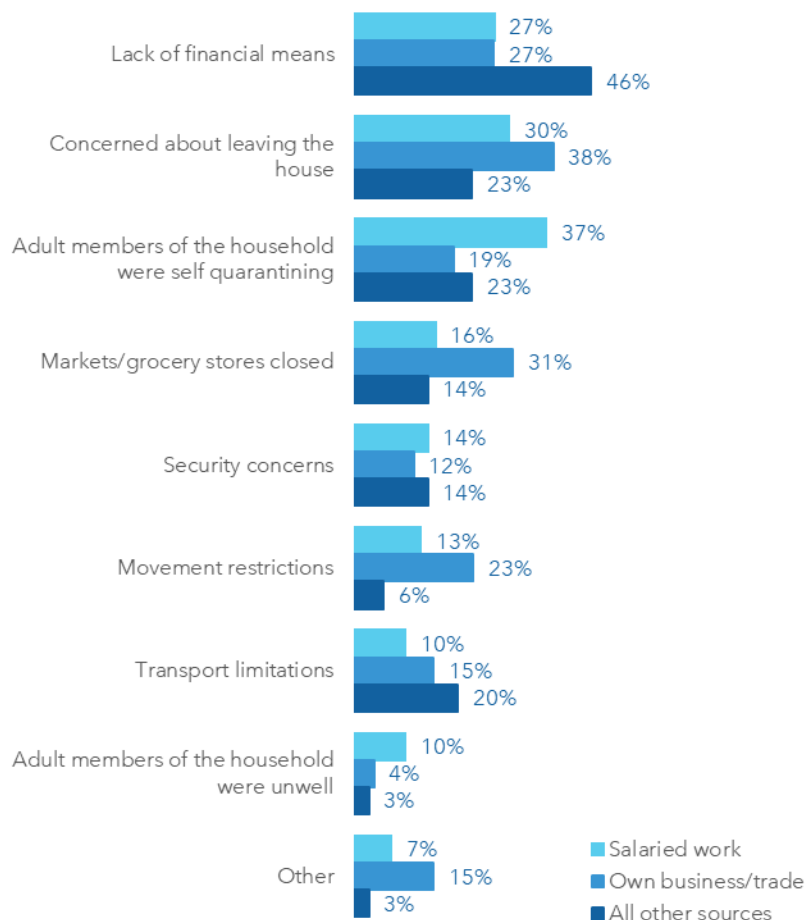


MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

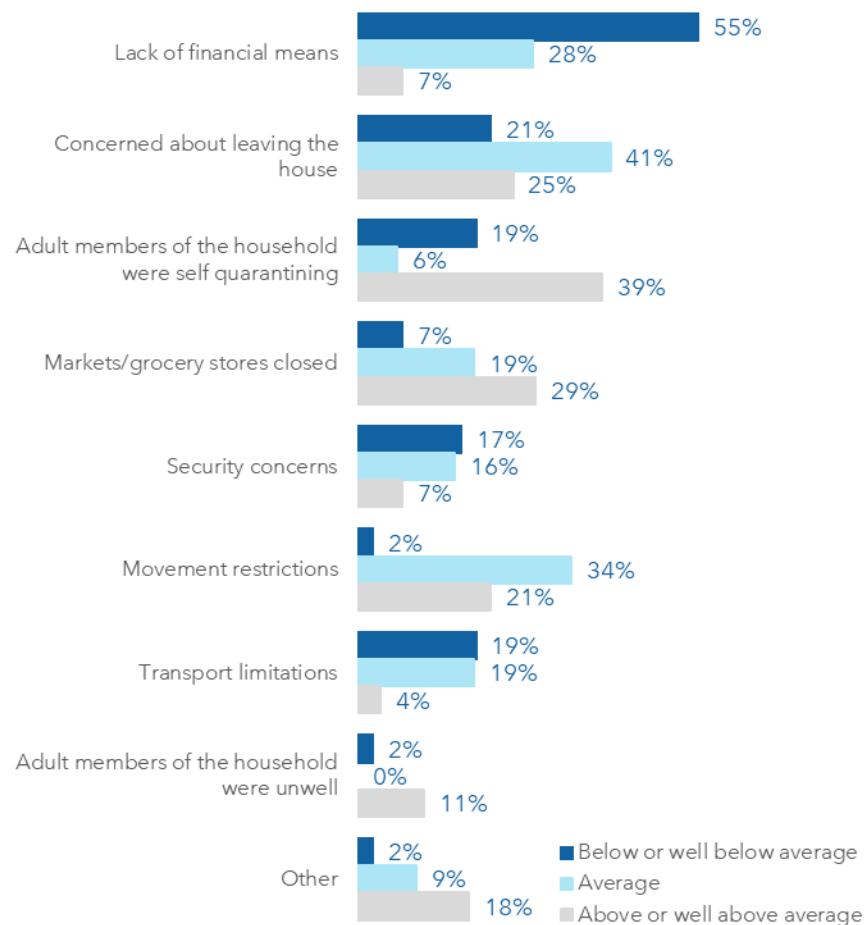
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By main income source



By perceived income level

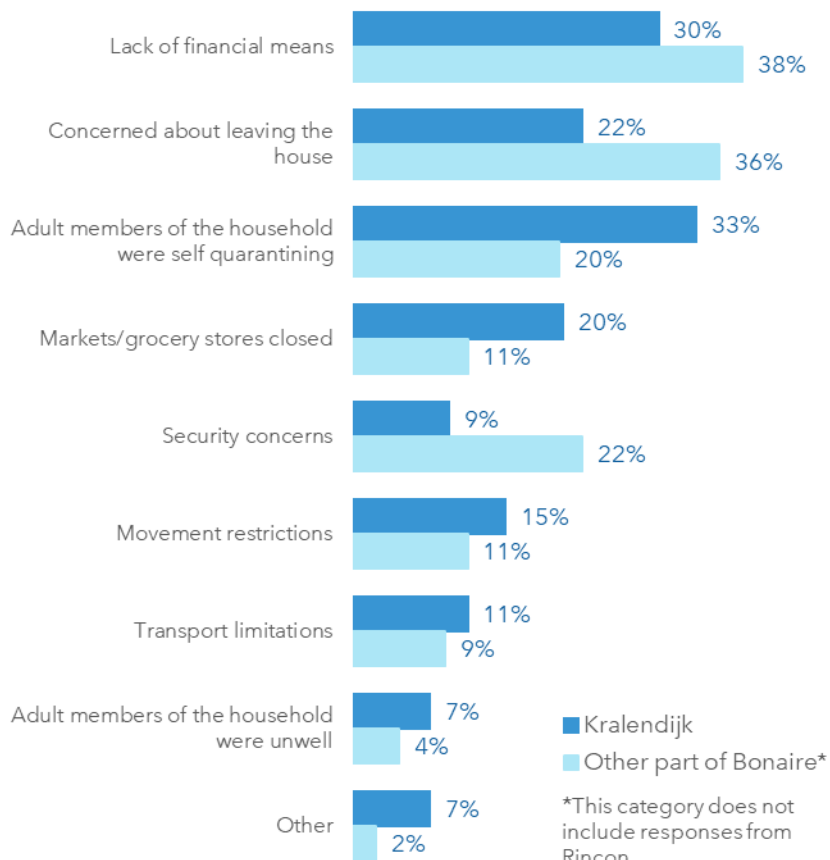


MARKETS | Reasons for limited market access

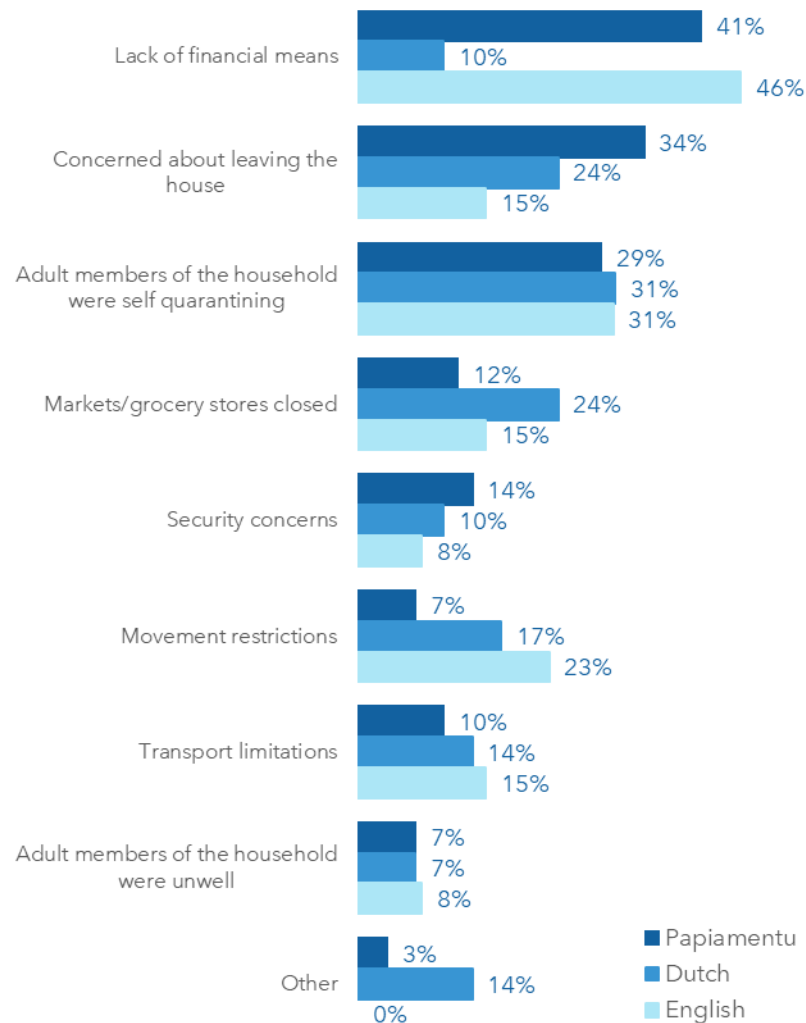
For those that faced a time when they could not access markets in the past 7 days, the main reasons were...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By location



By language



MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

- Respondents are buying cheaper or less preferred foods more frequently than at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020.

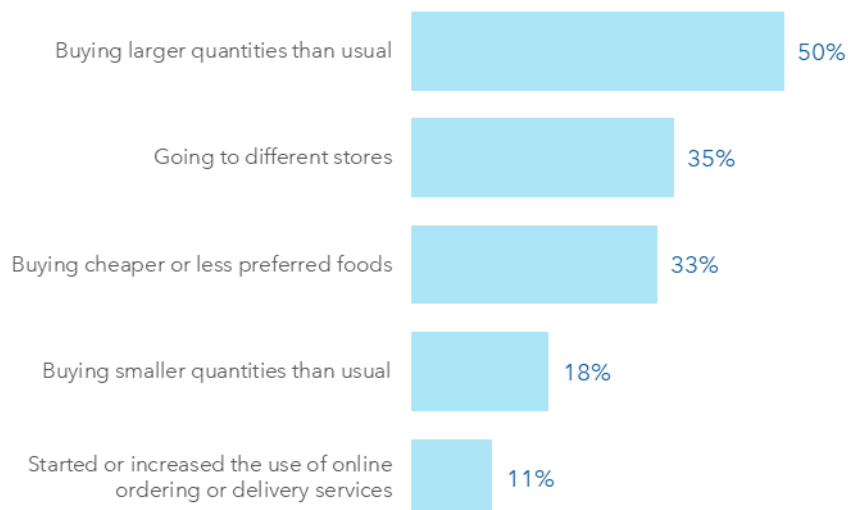
Have you changed your shopping behaviour compared to before COVID-19?

■ Yes ■ No



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

Multiple choices could be selected.



The pandemic has changed how most people in Bonaire shop and affordability played a major role in how respondents adapted and dealt with infection risk.

In April 2020, among 77% of respondents who had changed their shopping behaviour, half reported buying larger quantities of food than usual – possibly to deal with quarantine measures and to reduce the need to shop frequently due to concerns about leaving the house. Respondents who perceived their income levels as above or well above average were nearly twice as likely to buy larger quantities than usual compared to other respondents and more frequently report using online ordering/delivery services than respondents with lower income levels.

A sizeable minority of respondents also indicated buying cheaper or less preferred foods (33%) or smaller quantities than usual (18%), likely to deal with income related effects of the pandemic. Both changes in shopping behaviour were also much more widespread among low income respondents (48% and 25% respectively) compared to wealthier respondents (17% and 11% respectively).

Respondents in working-age and speakers of Papiamentu were also more likely to introduce such changes compared to other age and language groups.

When looking at respondents' income sources, those relying on salaried work or their own business less frequently resorted to buying cheaper or less preferred goods (31-35%) when compared to those relying on other income sources such as remittances, informal labour or government assistance (47%).

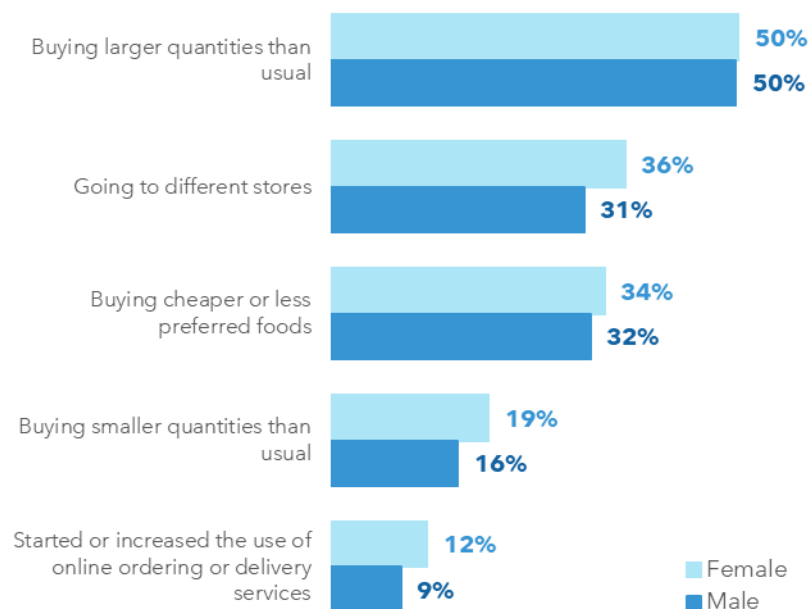
Compared to the average in CARICOM countries, survey respondents in Bonaire were more likely to shop larger quantities than usual and less likely to buy cheaper or less preferred foods or smaller quantities.

MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

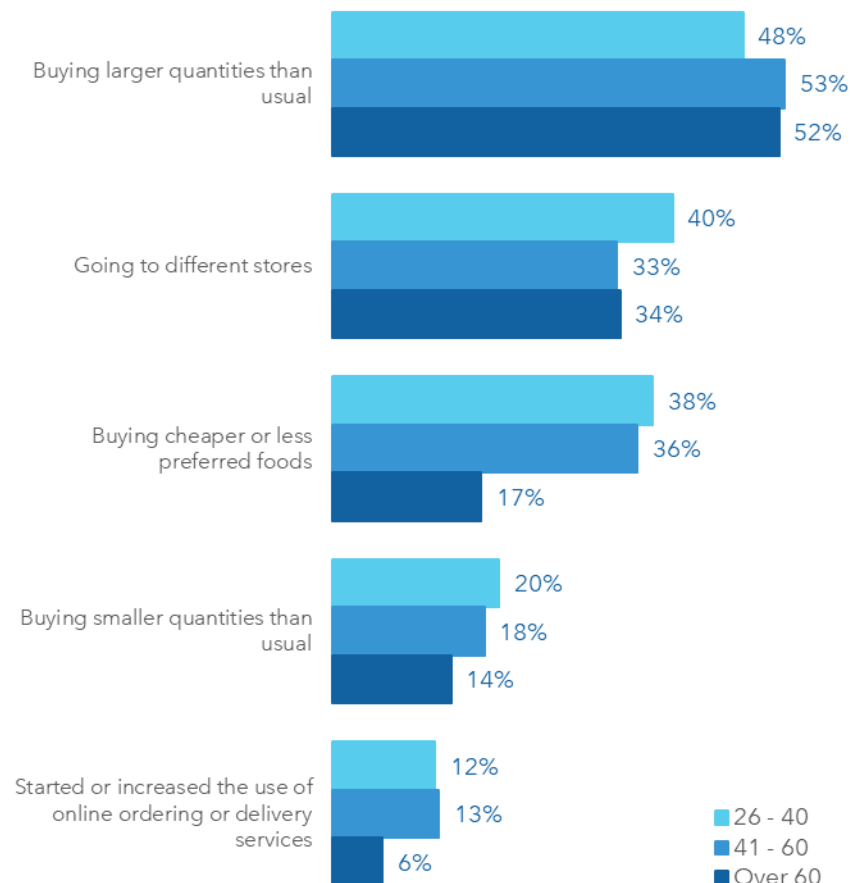
Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

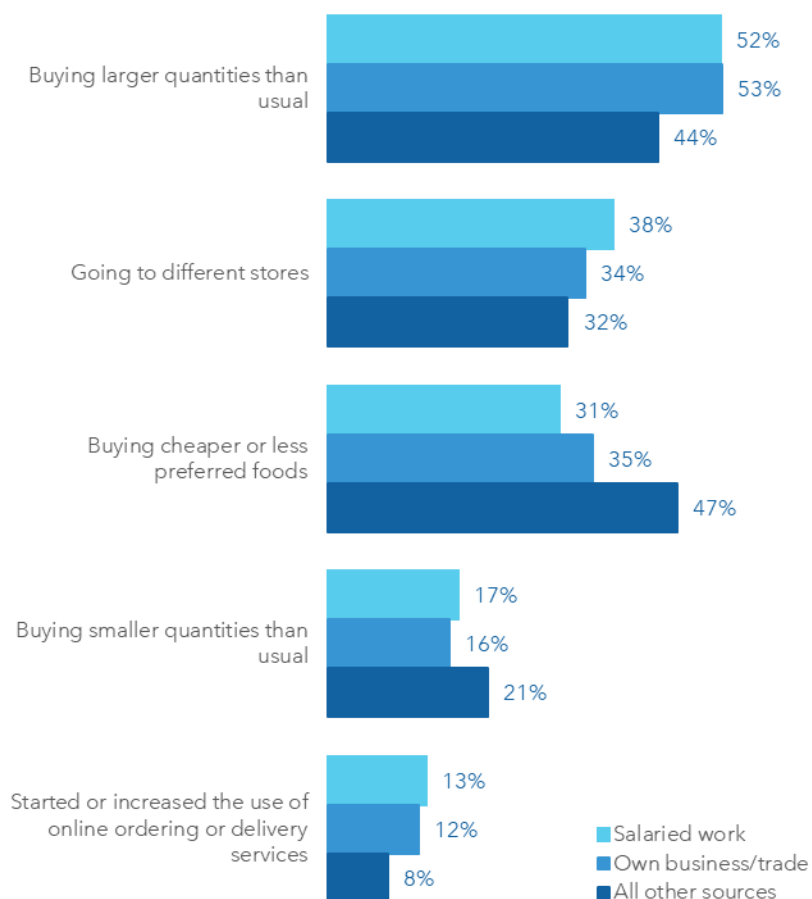


MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

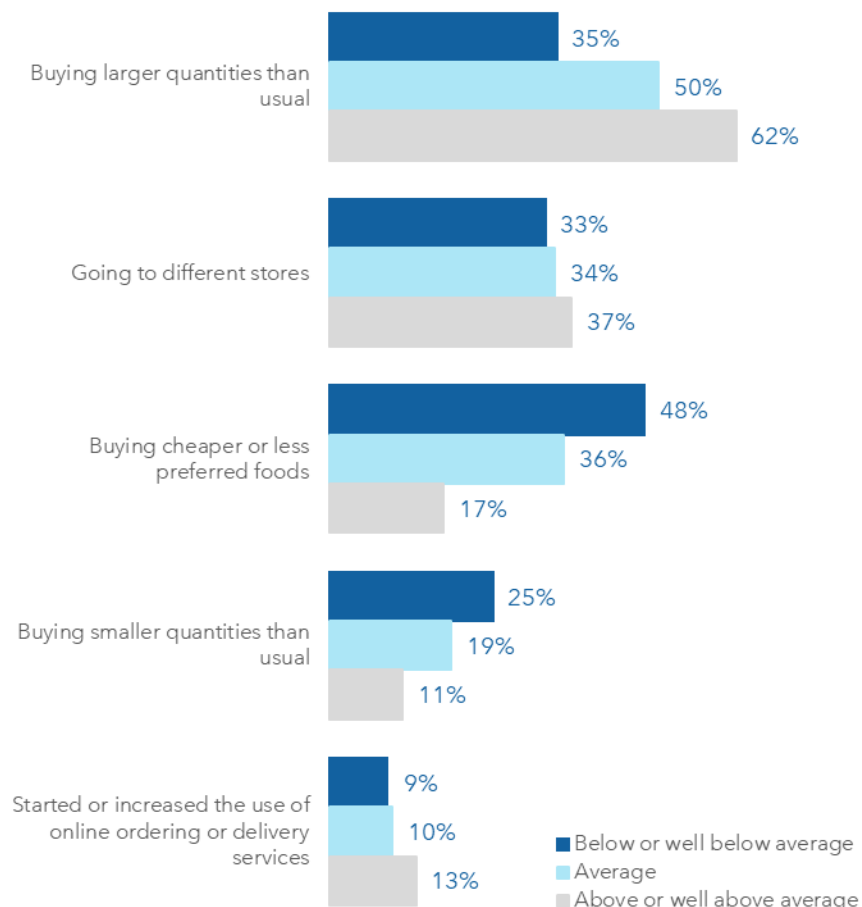
Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By main income source



By perceived income level

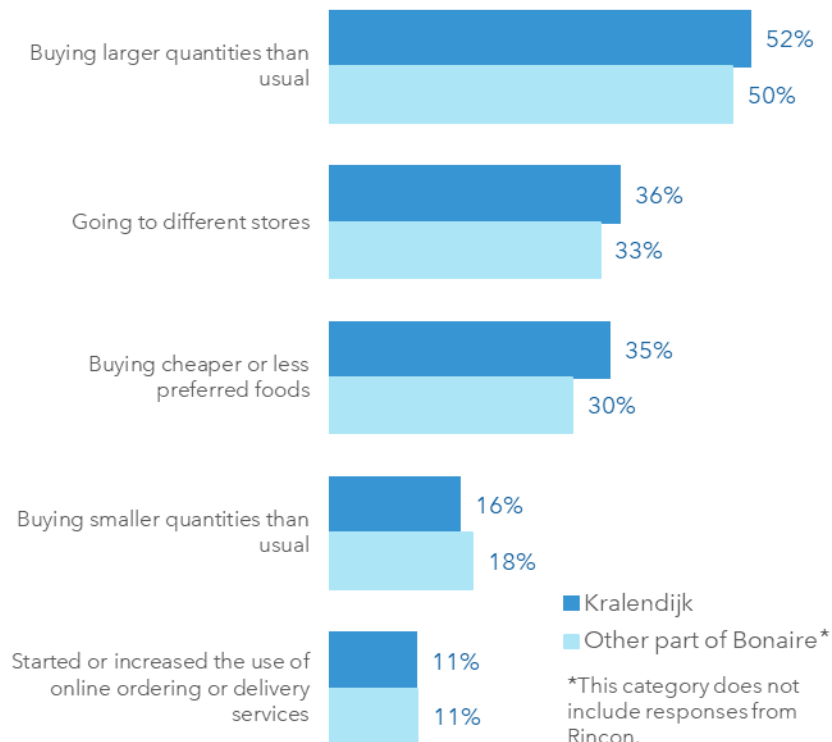


MARKETS | Shopping behaviour

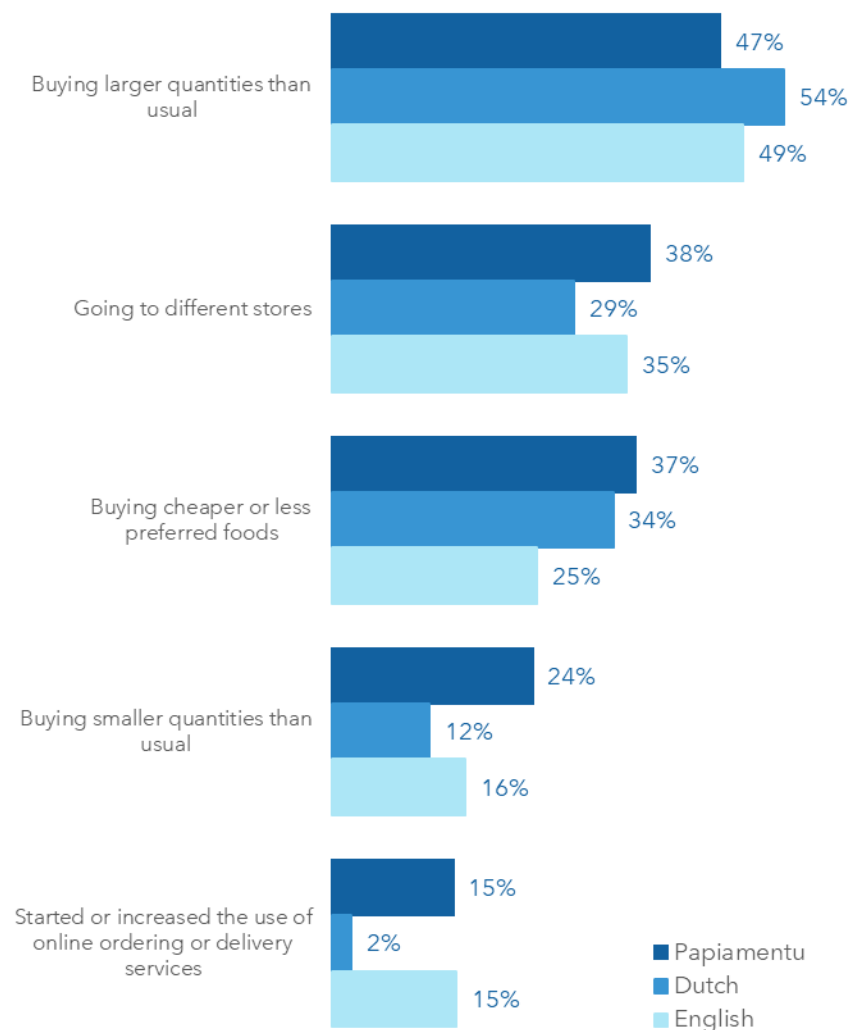
Respondents who reported a change in shopping behaviour are...

Multiple choices could be selected.

By location

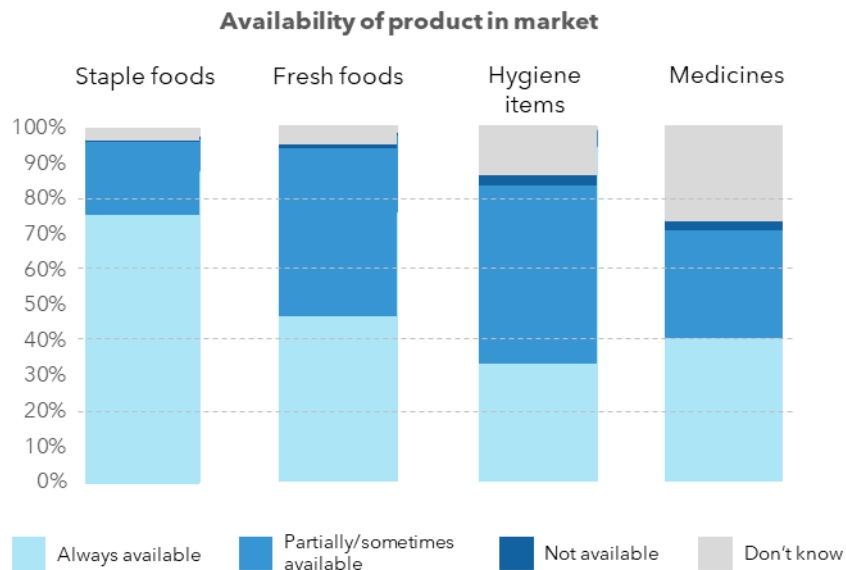


By language



MARKETS | Availability

- Key products – such as fresh foods, hygiene items and medicines – are fully available only for the minority of the population.



The availability of key products in markets is a cause for concern. While three out of four respondents indicated continuous availability of staple foods in markets, less than half of respondents indicated the same for fresh foods, hygiene items and medicines.

Despite similar trends across product categories, the availability of key items in markets and the awareness thereof among survey respondents appears overall lower in Bonaire compared to the average in CARICOM countries.

MARKETS | Food prices

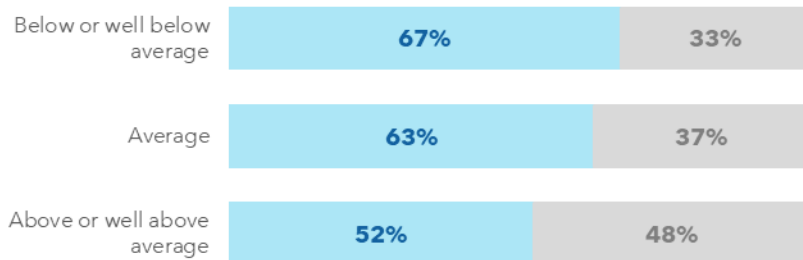
- Six out of ten respondents identified an increase in food prices.

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

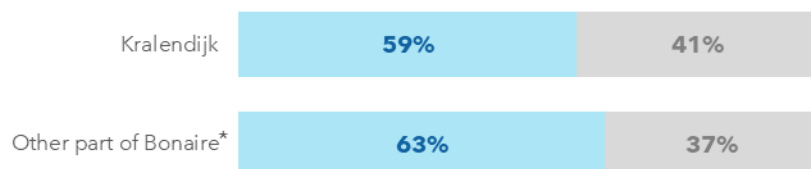
■ Food prices have increased
■ No changes



By perceived income level



By location



*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

Food prices appear to be increasing, with 60% of respondents indicating an increase in the two weeks prior to the survey. Respondents with a below or well below average income seem to be more price sensitive and are more likely to observe food price increases (67%) compared to high-income respondents (52%).

Respondents from the younger working age group (25-40 years) were more likely to report price increases (69%) relative to middle-aged respondents (58%) and those aged 60 or more (52%).

There are no stark differences between those reporting food price increases who live in Kralendijk (59%) or other parts of Bonaire (63%) as well as among women (61%) and men respondents (59%).

Food price increases were slightly less widely reported in Bonaire compared to CARICOM countries, both among average and low-income respondents.

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

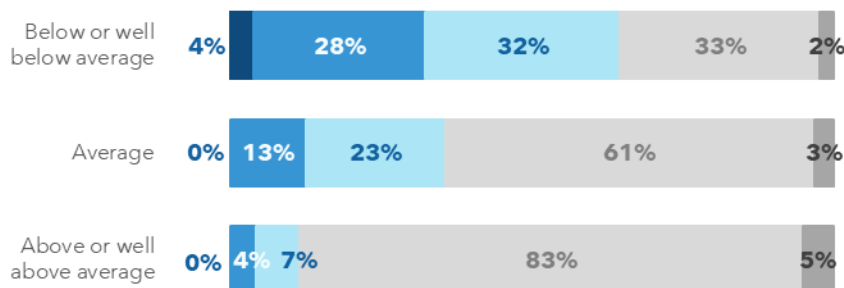
- Food security is a concern with impacts on food consumption, particularly among lower income households.

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

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



By perceived income level



COVID-19 has had a negative impact on people's diets. When asked about their food situation in the week leading up to the survey, 13% of respondents reported skipping meals or eating less than usual, and 19% reported eating less preferred foods.

Impacts in Bonaire appear less widespread when comparing them to survey findings for the CARICOM region, where 27% of respondents reported skipping meals or eating less than usual.

The impact on food consumption is not uniform, and the most striking differences are found across income groups. Respondents with perceived household incomes below or well below average are most widely affected, with 28% skipping meals or eating less than usual and 4% not eating for a whole day. By contrast only 4% of respondents with a perceived income above or well above average reported skipping meals or eating less than usual. This overall trend is in line with findings from the CARICOM region.

"Not being able to pay in the bank and payment of services, water, electricity, and not having food." – Female, 58 years

FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

Impacts on food consumption also vary across age groups. Respondents between 26 and 40 years of age being twice as likely to skip meals or eat less than usual (18%) in the week prior to the survey when compared to those over 60 years of age (9%).

Some differences can be observed across income sectors. Of those respondents working in tourism and hospitality, 19% reported skipping meals compared to 11-12% of those working in public administration and other sectors. Accordingly, respondents employed in public administration less frequently resorted to eating less preferred foods (11%) when compared to those working in tourism (22%) and other sectors (21%).

Responses also vary depending on respondents' sources of income. Of those with income from their own business/trade or employment, 63-68% said they had no difficulty eating enough, while this proportion was lower (57%) for all other sources of income (e.g., remittances, support from family/friends, government assistance).

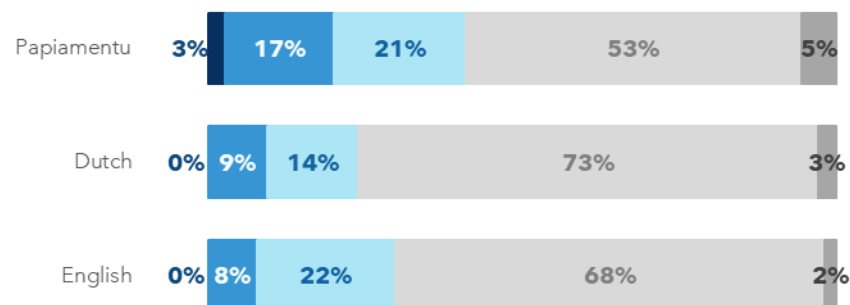
In terms of respondents' language, Papiamentu speakers were twice as likely to report skipping meals or eating less than usual (17%) when compared to Dutch speakers (9%) and English speakers (8%).

The survey results did not reveal any differences in food consumption between female and male respondents or between those living in Kralendijk compared to those living in other parts of Bonaire (excluding Rincon)

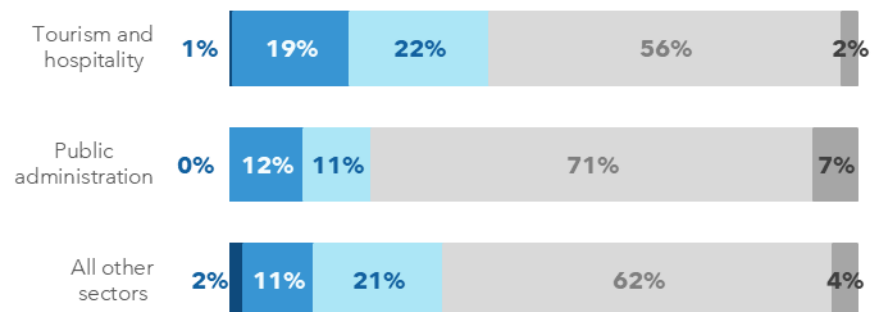
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

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

By language



By income sector

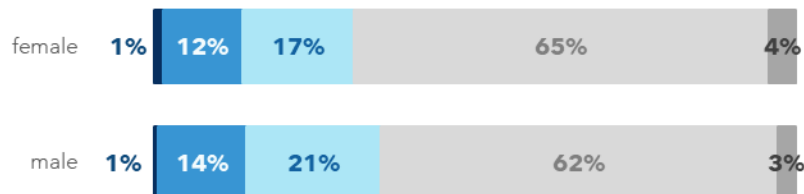


FOOD SECURITY | Food consumption

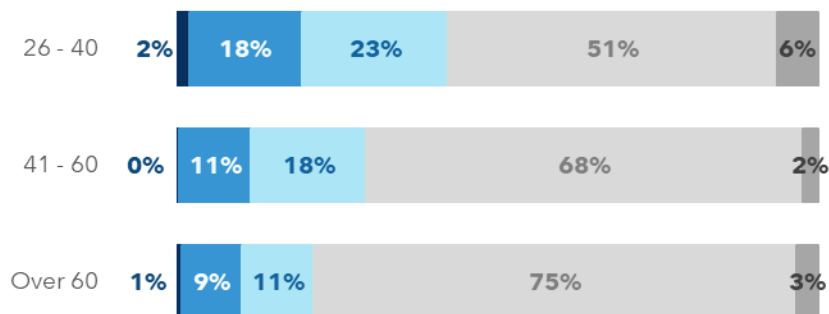
Which statement best reflects your food situation over the past 7 days?

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

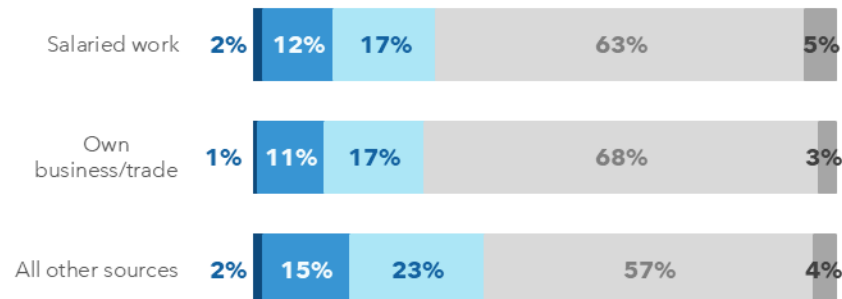
By sex



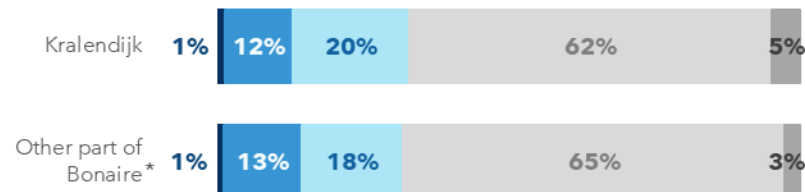
By age group



By income sources



By location



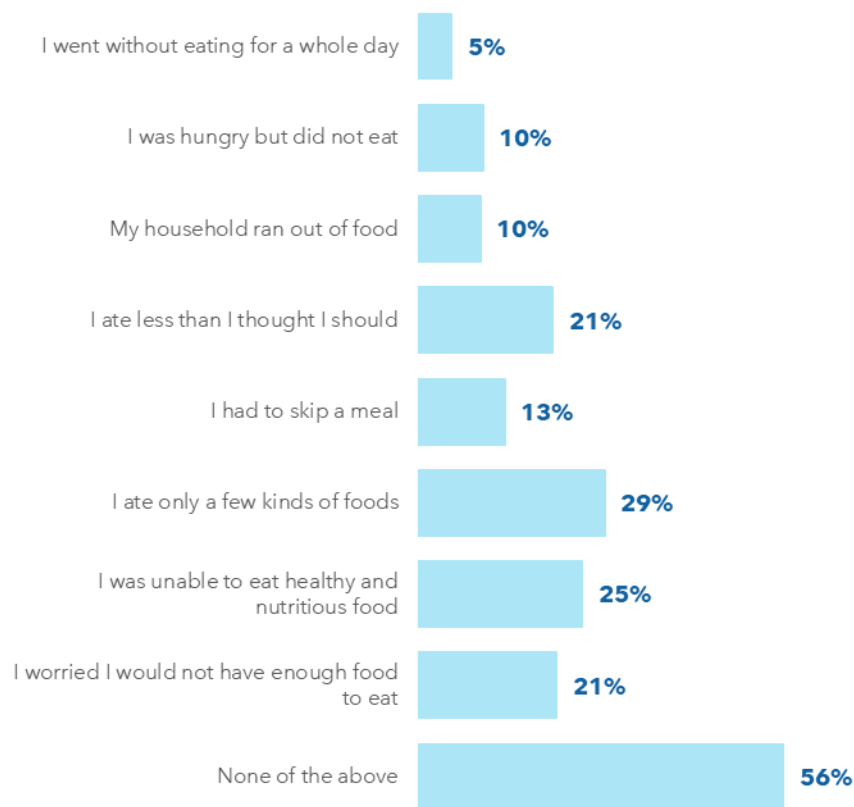
*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

- Many respondents are struggling to meet their food and nutritional needs on a monthly basis.

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

Respondents were asked to select "yes" or "no" for each statement. Numbers shown are the percentage of respondents selecting "yes" for each of the statements.



The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was used to provide a picture of food insecurity experienced by respondents during the 30 days preceding the survey. The FIES, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, is a metric of severity of food insecurity at the household or individual level that relies on people's direct yes/no responses to eight brief questions regarding their access to adequate food during a specified recall period.

When asked about the 30 days leading up to the survey, 5% of respondents reported experiencing a time when they went a whole day without eating. Similarly, 21% of respondents experienced a time when they ate less than they thought they should and/or when they were worried that they would not have enough food to eat. Nutrition and the variety of foods are also concerning, with 25% of respondents reporting a time when they were unable to eat a healthy and nutritious diet, and 29% reporting a time when they ate only a few kinds of food. The overall picture, however, appears better when compared to the CARICOM region.

Using the FIES methodology and survey data, it is estimated that 14% of respondents are moderately food insecure and 3% are severely food insecure (see [page 53](#)).

Prevalence rates of food insecurity by perceived household income

Based on FIES methodology



FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

Food insecurity does not appear to be uniformly experienced.

When comparing responses to the different items of the food insecurity experience scale (FIES), differences across income groups are the most striking. Of those respondents who describe their household income as below or well below average, 16% experienced a time in the 30 days preceding the survey when they went a whole day without eating, compared to 1% of those describing their income as above or well above average. Likewise, 24% of these respondents experienced a time when they were hungry but did not eat in previous 30 days, which is well above the survey average of 10%. Respondents from low-income households were the most affected across all of the FIES items which is in line with findings from the CARICOM region.

There are also important differences across age groups. Of respondents in the age group 26-40 years, 18% experienced a time when they were hungry but did not eat, compared to 2% of those over 60 years of age. These respondents were the most frequently affected across all FIES items while those over 60 years appear to be the least widely affected. At CARICOM level, younger respondents were also disproportionately affected compared to older age groups.

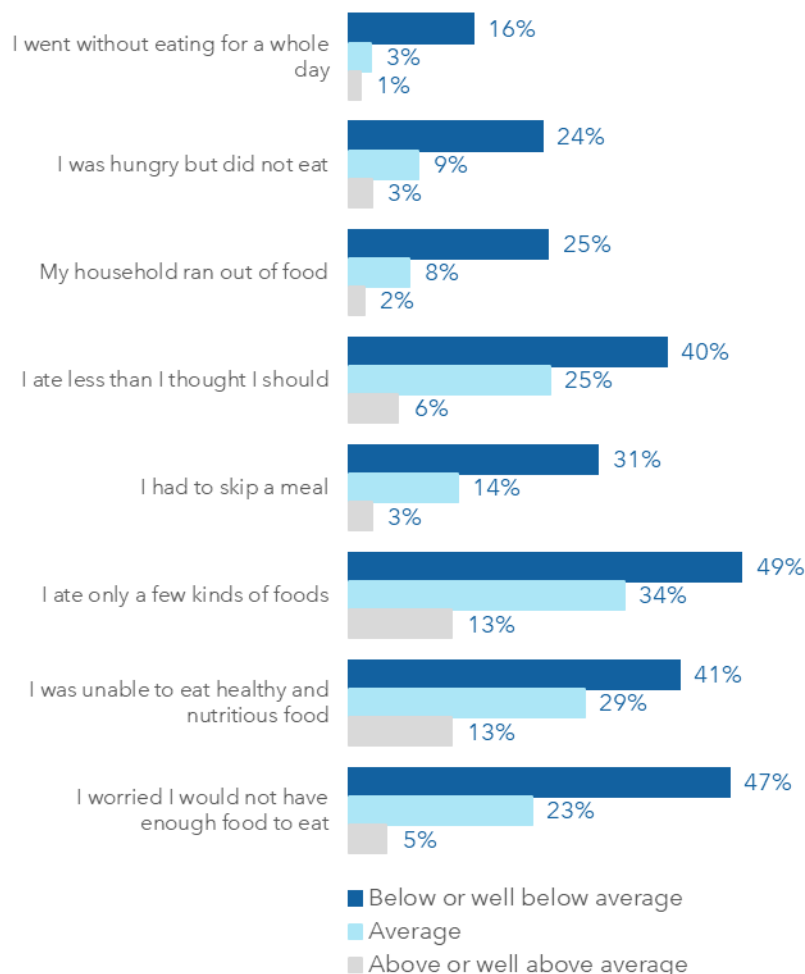
While differences in terms of respondents' language are less pronounced, Papiamentu speakers appear most disadvantaged across FIES items, while Dutch speakers are the least widely impacted.

There appears to be no major difference across FIES items between female and male respondents and between those living in Kralendijk compared to those living in other parts of Bonaire (excluding Rincon).

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

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level

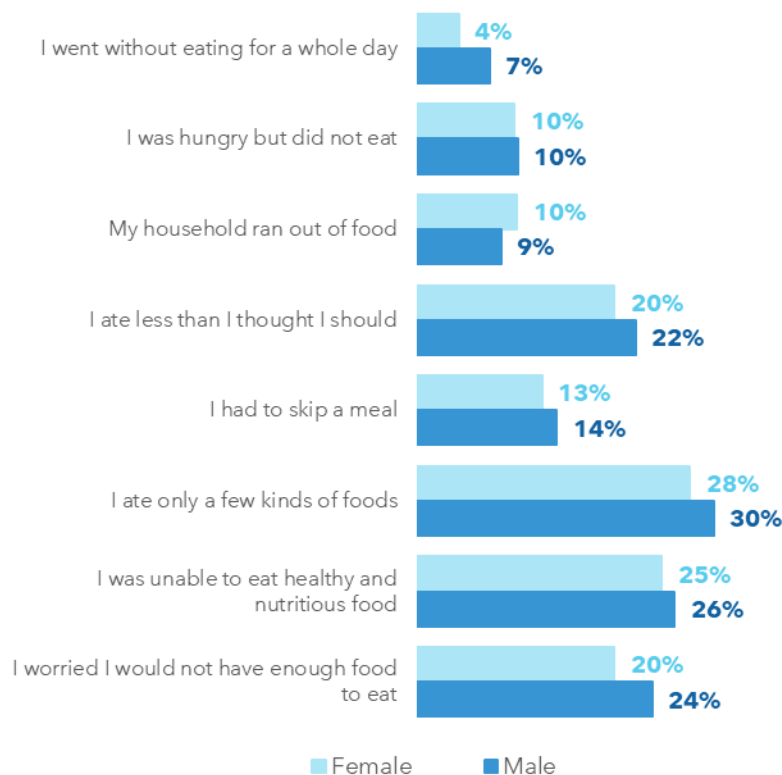


FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

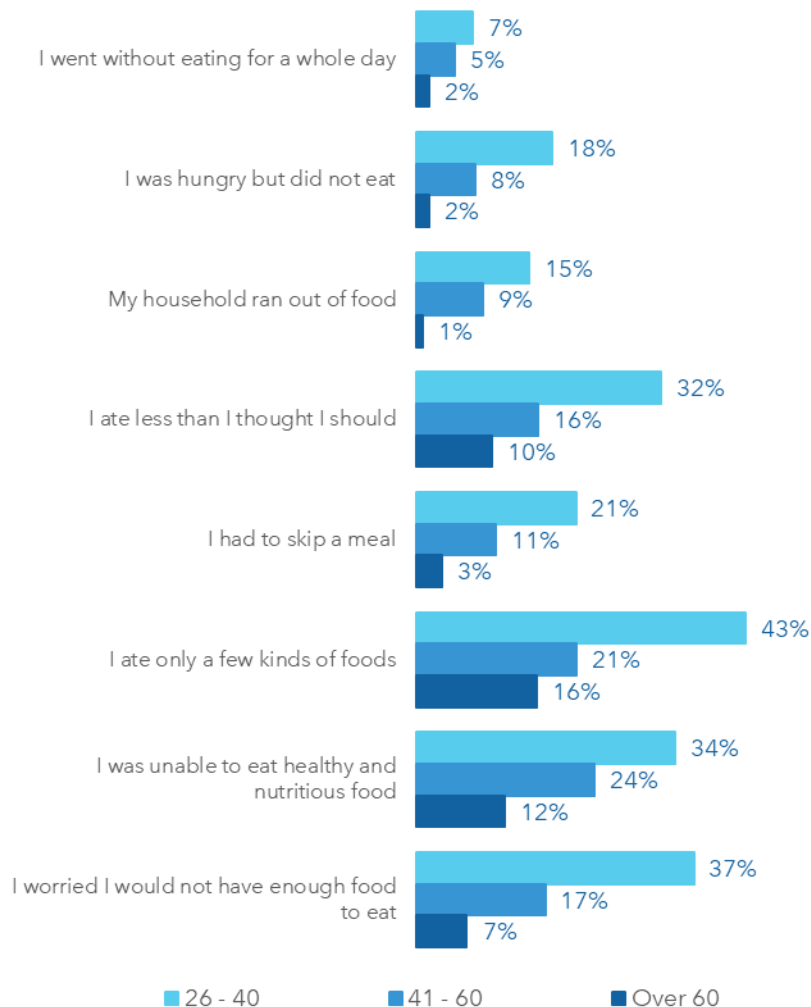
Was there a time in the past 30 days when you experienced the following?

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex



By age group

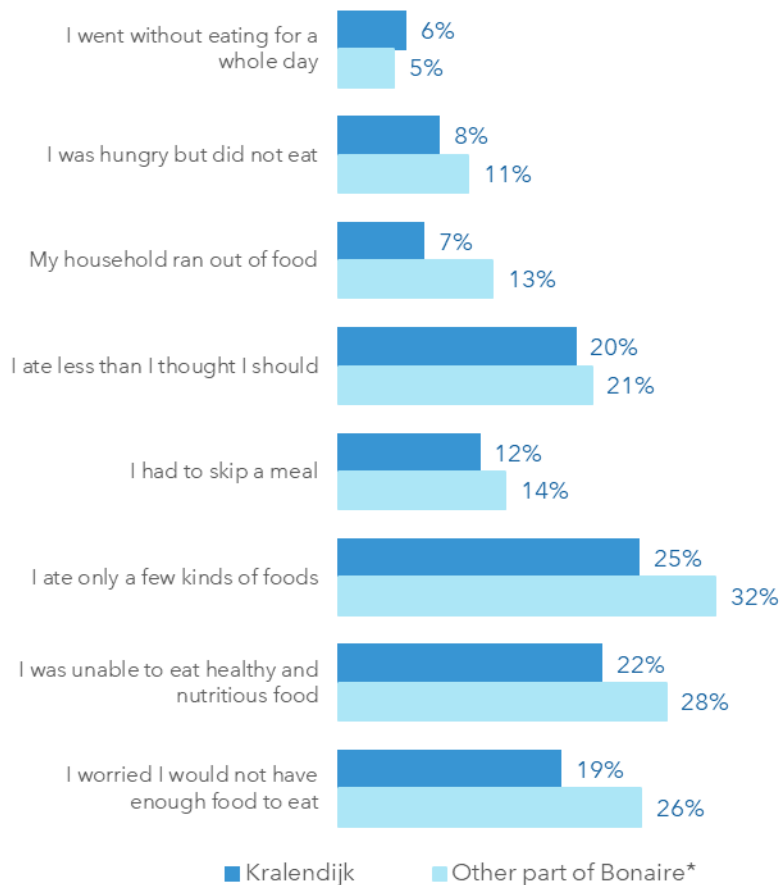


FOOD SECURITY | Food insecurity experience

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

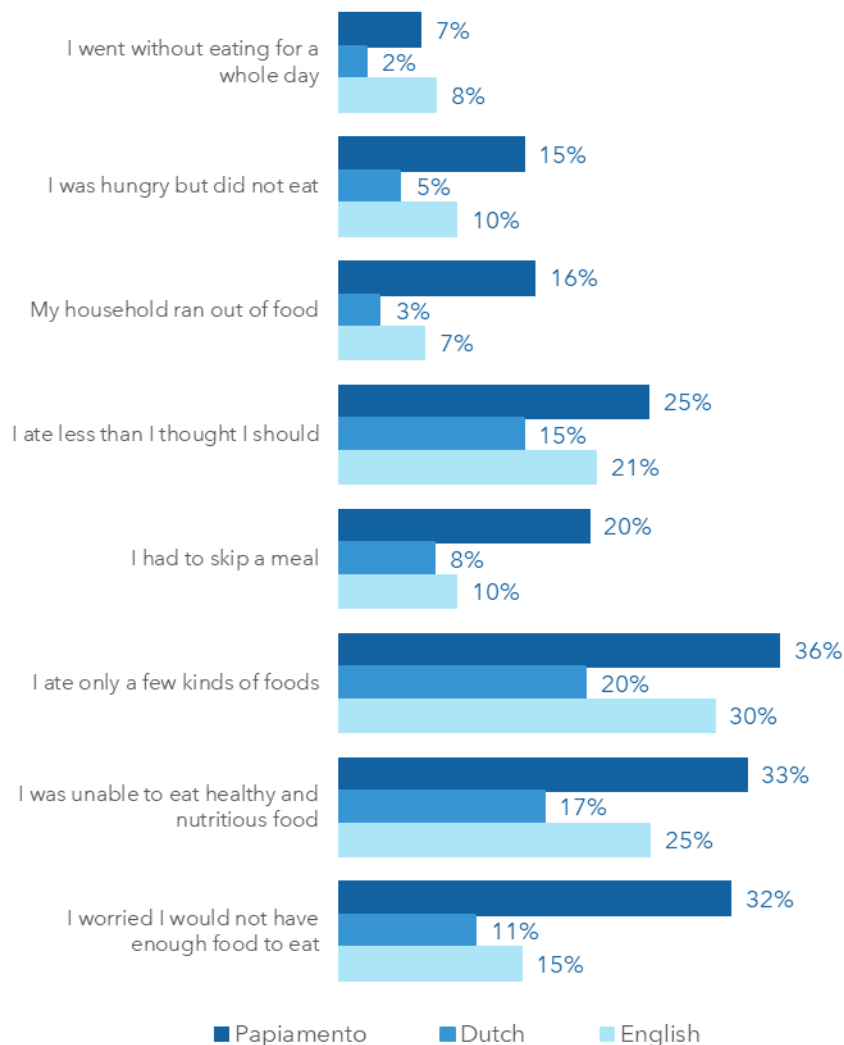
Multiple choices could be selected.

By location



*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

By language



FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

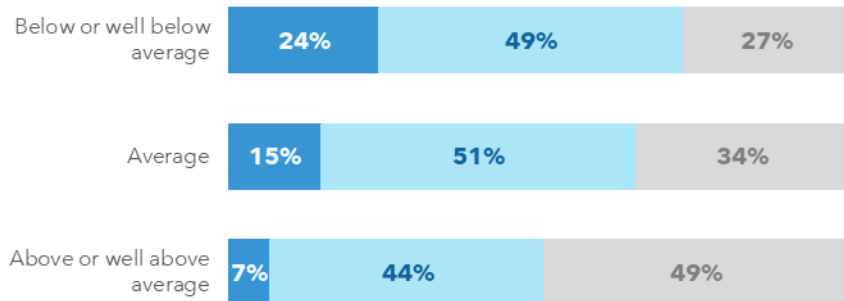
- Most households have some food supplies, but especially among low-income households, some report a lack of food stocks.

Does your household have any food stock?

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



By perceived income level



Of all respondents, 38% reported having more than a week's worth of food supplies in their household, while 48% had less than a week's worth in food stocks. At the same time, 14% of households had no food stocked at the time of the survey. These findings are broadly in line with the CARICOM region.

Differences in food stocks seem to reflect disparities in household income, with low-income households appearing to have less food stock than higher income households. Of respondents with a perceived income below or well below average, 24% had no food stocks at all at the time of the survey compared to 7% of those describing their income as above or well above average.

The availability of food stocks in households also varies depending on respondents' language. Papiamentu speakers were the most frequent to report a lack of food stocks (23%), when compared to English speakers (10%) and Dutch speakers (6%).

The size of food stocks also varies according to respondents' age. Respondents over 60 years tend to report larger food stocks than those from younger age groups. Half of respondents in this age group had more than a week's worth in food stocks, compared to 35-36% of those in the age groups between 26-40 years and 41-60 years.

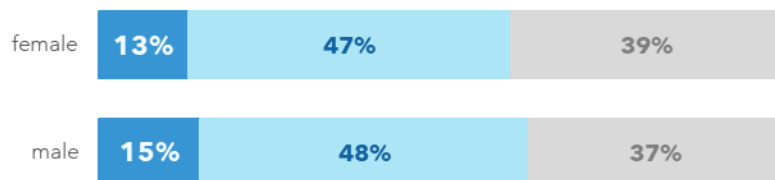
There appear to be no major differences based on respondents' sex, geographic location, and no clear trends can be identified based on respondents' income sources.

FOOD SECURITY | Food stocks

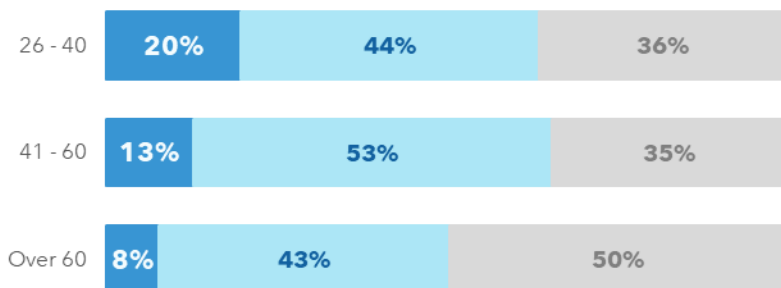
Does your household have any food stock?

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

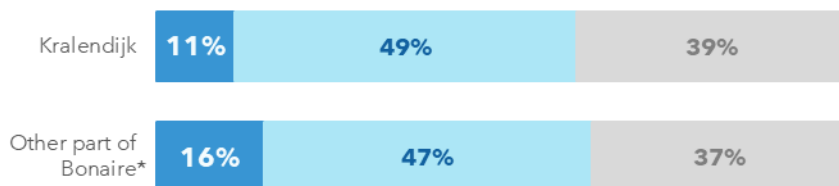
By sex



By age group

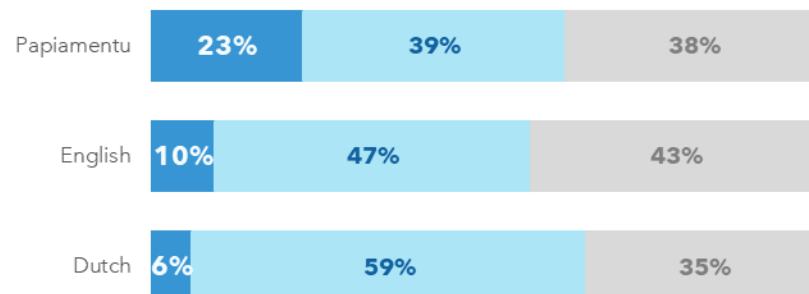


By location

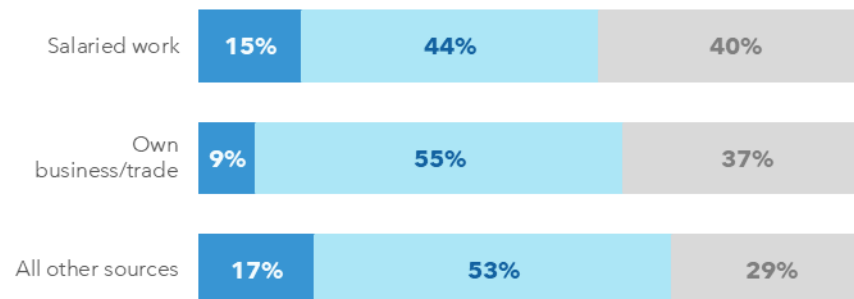


*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

By language



By income sources



FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

- People are finding ways to meet food needs, but many are doing so at the expense of health, education or long-term income generation.

Respondents were asked if in the 30 days prior to the survey they reduced other expenditures, spent savings or sold productive assets to meet their food needs. Nearly half of respondents resorted to spending savings, and 30% reduced essential non-food expenditures, such as on education and health. A fifth of respondents sold productive assets to meet food or other needs, potentially undermining long-term income generation. These findings are concerning, even though the overall picture appears less severe when compared to findings from the CARICOM region.

Households describing their income as below or well below average are more frequently resorting to these measures, which could lead to a widening gap between economically better and worse off households. Of these households, 84% spent saving in order to meet food needs and nearly half sold productive assets or reduced essential non-food expenditure.

Differences can also be observed across age groups. Respondents between 26-40 years were much more likely to sell productive assets compared to older age groups. Similarly, respondents in working age were more likely to spend savings to meet foods needs and to reduce essential non-food expenditures when compared to those over 60 years of age.

When looking at respondents' language, Papiamentu speakers were more likely than Dutch and English speakers to resort to negative compromises to meet essential needs.

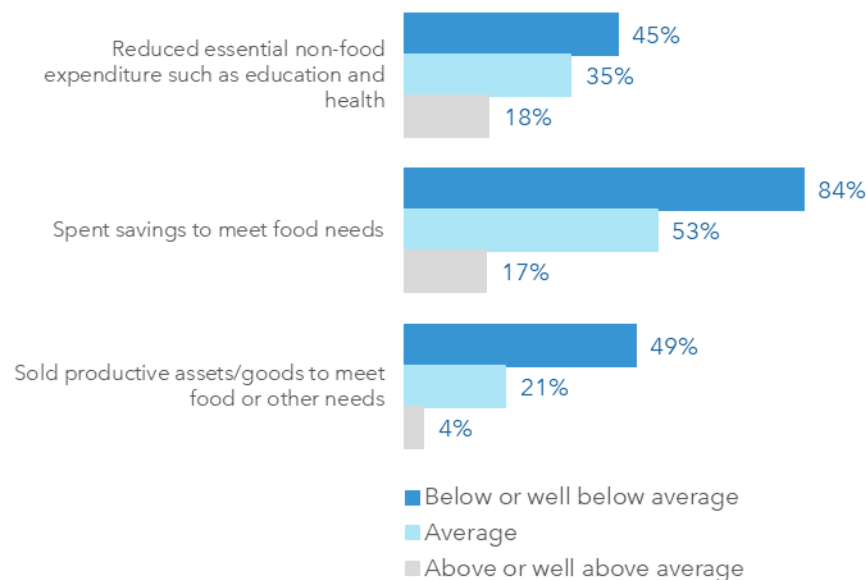
There are no significant differences between men or women respondents.

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

Multiple choices could be selected.



By perceived income level

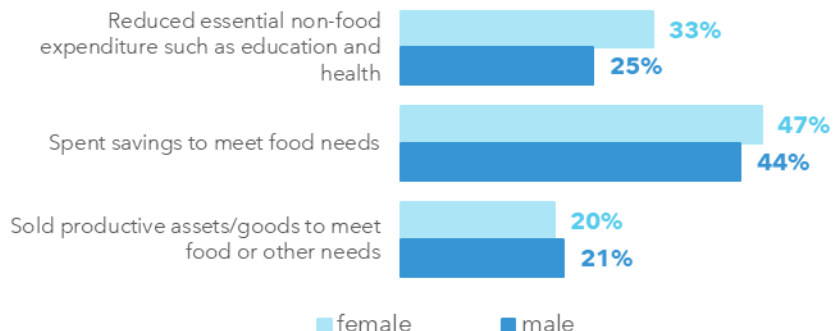


FOOD SECURITY | Coping strategies

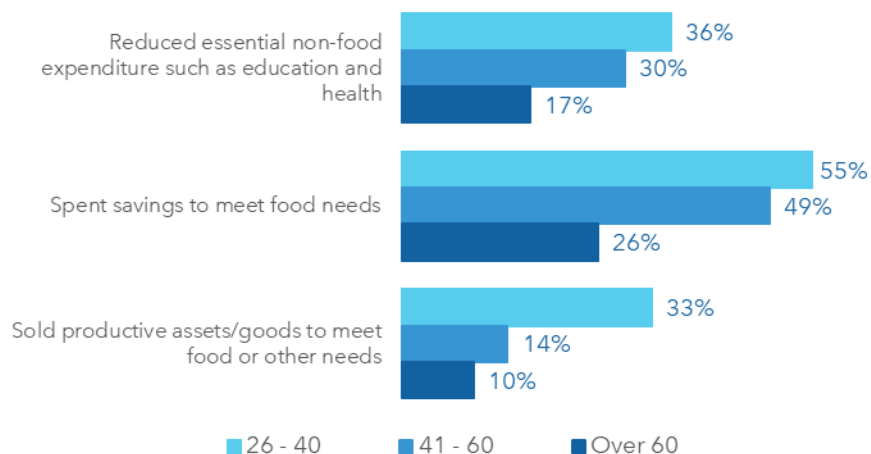
Households' coping strategies in the 30 days prior to the survey

Multiple choices could be selected.

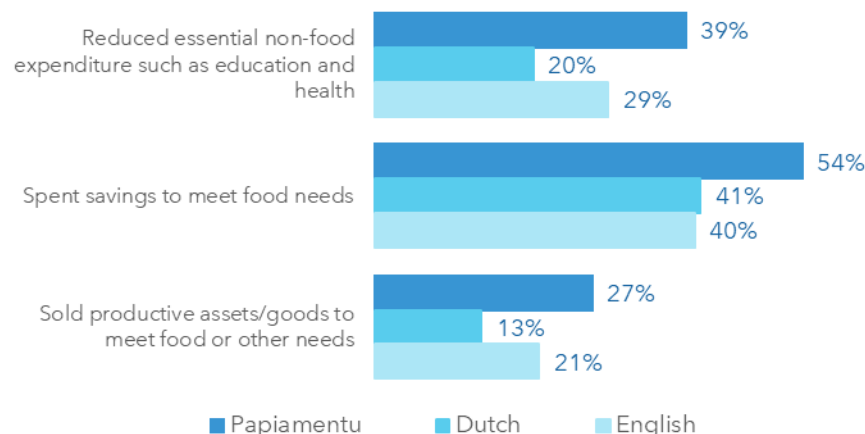
By sex



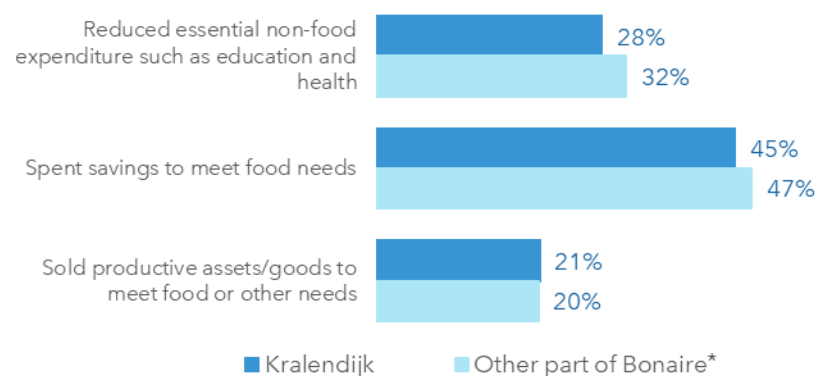
By age group



By language



By location

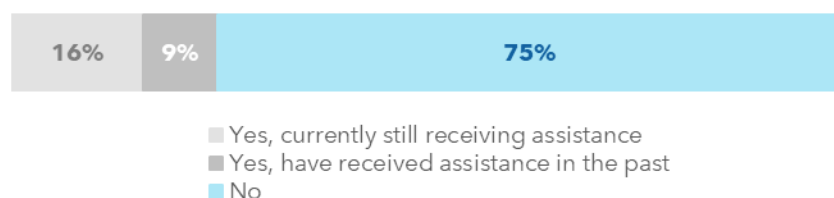


*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

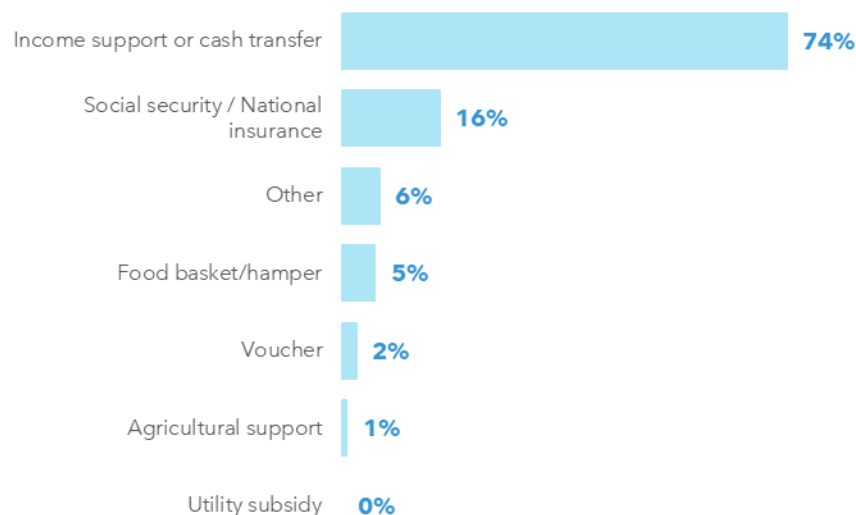
WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

- Income support and cash transfers were the most commonly received form of government assistance.

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



Respondents who received assistance from the government, have received the following...
Multiple choices could be selected.



The COVID-19 pandemic galvanised governments in the Caribbean to expand and put in place new programmes to support people facing its economic repercussions (see [page 4](#) for more information on government social protection responses in Bonaire).

These trends are also reflected in the survey results. Out of all respondents in Bonaire, 25% reported receiving some form of government assistance in response to COVID-19, though only 9% were still receiving assistance when the survey was implemented. By far the most common form of support reported is income support or cash transfers (74%), followed by social security benefits (16%).

Respondents describing their income as below or well below average (33%) were more likely to receive assistance when compared to those perceiving their income as above or well above average (17%).

When considering respondents' main income sources, those relying on salaried work less frequently received assistance (22%) when compared to those with their own business/trade (33%) and all other income sources (e.g. informal labour, remittances, support from family/friends) (33%).

Papiamentu speakers were less likely to receive assistance (21%) compared to English speakers (31%) despite being more negatively impacted across most indicators of wellbeing. This finding points to potential inequities in terms of access to assistance.

Those over 60 years of age were less likely to receive assistance (16%) compared to respondents in working age (26-27%).

No significant differences are found based on respondents' sex and place of residence.

WIDER IMPACTS | COVID-19 assistance

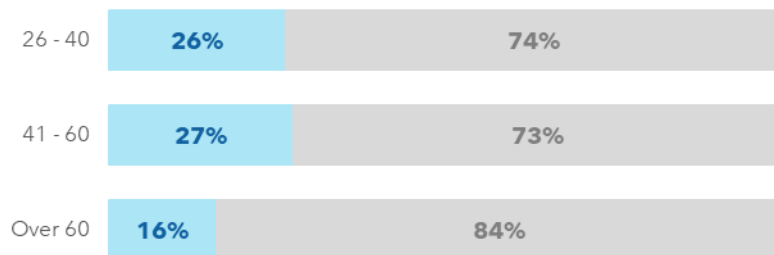
Have you received any assistance from the government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic?

■ Yes ■ No

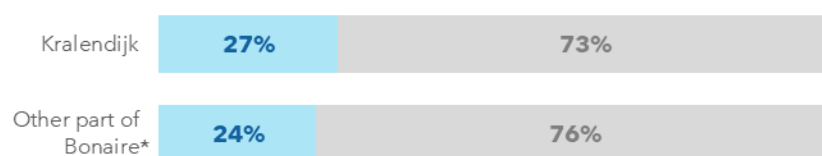
By sex



By age group

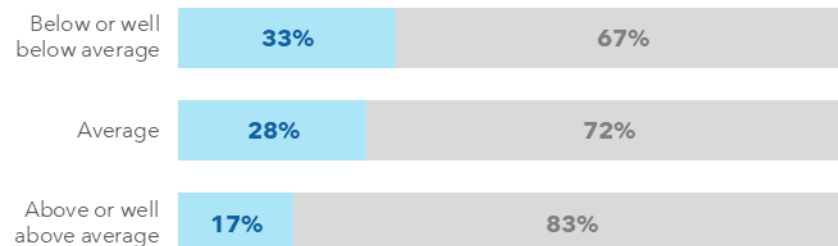


By location

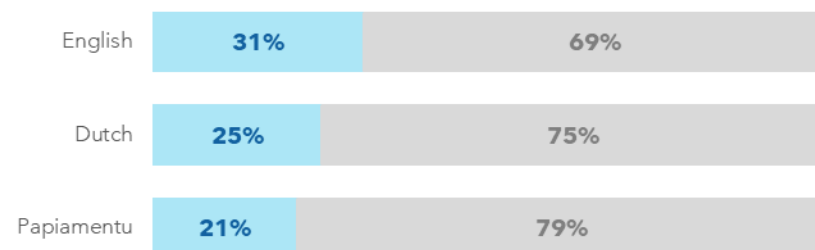


*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

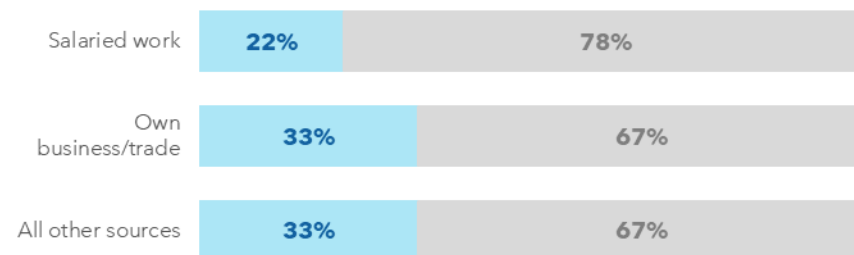
By perceived income level



By language



By income sectors



WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

- Fear of illness is a widespread worry, followed by unemployment and social isolation.

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.



Fear of illness (62%) was respondents' primary worry, followed by unemployment (35%) and social isolation (34%). Similarly, in the CARICOM region, illness and unemployment were the leading worries. Respondents' main worries vary depending on their household income. Of those who describe their income as below or well below average, 25-30% worried about their inability to cover food and other essential needs compared to only 3-4% of those describing their income as above or well above average.

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

By perceived income level

Main worries	Below or well below average	Average	Above or well above average
Fear of illness	53%	64%	69%
Unemployment	57%	41%	18%
Social isolation	24%	34%	43%
Movement restrictions	10%	21%	38%
Having to resort to savings	31%	21%	10%
Inability to cover essential needs	30%	16%	3%
Inability to cover food needs	25%	10%	4%
Child(ren)/dependents care	9%	14%	10%
Disruptions to education	2%	11%	17%
Violence in the community	7%	9%	10%
Violence in the household	1%	3%	3%
Unable to access services	2%	1%	1%
Other worries	5%	4%	8%

Women respondents were more likely to worry about illness, meeting food needs and childcare, while men were concerned about movement restrictions and having to resort to savings which suggests gendered roles and access to resources. Respondents between 26-40 years of age were more likely to worry about unemployment (48%) than those between 41-60 years (35%). Younger respondents were also more likely to worry about their inability to cover essential needs and child/depends care. When looking at respondents' language, Papiamentu speakers were more likely to worry about meeting their food needs (16%) compared to Dutch (8%) and English speakers (6%).

WIDER IMPACTS | Main worries

Main worries expressed by respondents

Multiple choices could be selected.

By sex

Main worries	Female	Male
Fear of illness	66%	57%
Unemployment	34%	37%
Social isolation	33%	37%
Movement restrictions	20%	32%
Having to resort to savings	16%	23%
Inability to cover essential needs	15%	13%
Inability to cover food needs	14%	6%
Child(ren)/dependents care	14%	6%
Disruptions to education	11%	12%
Violence in the community	8%	10%
Violence in the household	3%	1%
Unable to access services	1%	2%
Other worries	6%	5%

By age group

Main worries	26 - 40	41 - 60	Over 60
Fear of illness	58%	67%	69%
Unemployment	48%	35%	17%
Social isolation	39%	34%	31%
Movement restrictions	19%	24%	39%
Having to resort to savings	17%	21%	15%
Inability to cover essential needs	24%	13%	3%
Inability to cover food needs	16%	12%	1%
Child(ren)/dependents care	20%	9%	5%
Disruptions to education	13%	12%	7%
Violence in the community	6%	11%	9%
Violence in the household	3%	3%	1%
Unable to access services	1%	1%	1%
Other worries	3%	5%	10%

By language

Main worries	Papiamentu	Dutch	English
Fear of illness	65%	53%	71%
Unemployment	33%	38%	33%
Social isolation	34%	30%	42%
Movement restrictions	17%	33%	26%
Having to resort to savings	11%	27%	20%
Inability to cover essential needs	17%	10%	14%
Inability to cover food needs	16%	8%	6%
Child(ren)/dependents care	16%	8%	6%
Disruptions to education	7%	14%	13%
Violence in the community	9%	6%	13%
Violence in the household	3%	3%	1%
Unable to access services	2%	1%	2%
Other worries	5%	6%	6%

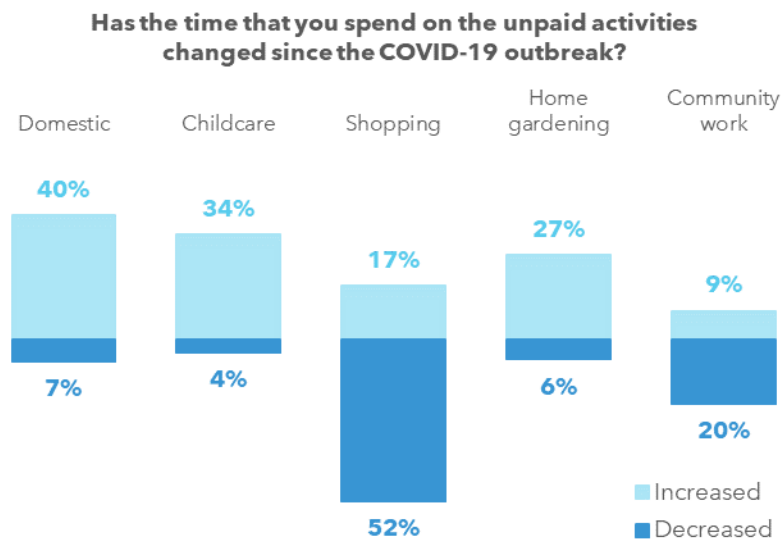
By location

Main worries	Kralendijk of Bonaire*	Other part
Fear of illness	64%	62%
Unemployment	34%	39%
Social isolation	36%	32%
Movement restrictions	27%	23%
Having to resort to savings	19%	18%
Inability to cover essential needs	15%	15%
Inability to cover food needs	11%	10%
Child(ren)/dependents care	11%	11%
Disruptions to education	12%	9%
Violence in the community	9%	7%
Violence in the household	1%	5%
Unable to access services	1%	3%
Other worries	6%	4%

*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

- Many households increased time for domestic work and childcare, while time spent on shopping decreased.



"Because of the measures, I can't go to the gym, eat out, go to the store. Walking outside is an option. But not what I really like." - Female, 40 years

"Restriction to visit my family abroad including my elderly father. The online education leaves a lot to be desired. I am concerned about the development of our school-aged children. The education at that school is already not great." - Female, 52 years

The unprecedented scale of the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing the amount of unpaid work at home, placing an additional burden on some household members. Time devoted to domestic work has increased for 40% of respondents, and 34% reported an increase in the time spent on childcare. At the same time, over half of respondents indicated to have reduced time spent on shopping. These trends are broadly in line with the CARICOM region.

Increased time spent on childcare was most frequently reported by respondents in the 26-40-year age group. Half of these respondents increased the time spent on childcare. Women respondents also more frequently reported an increase in the time dedicated to childcare (37%) compared to men (28%). It should be taken into account that women may already be shouldering disproportionate unpaid care work. Papiamentu speakers were also more frequent to report increased time spent on childcare (48%) compared to Dutch (23%) and English speakers (26%).

The pandemic led to an overall increase in home gardening, with 27% of respondents indicating that they have increased the amount of time spent on these activities. Time spent shopping was reduced by 52% of respondents. This was more frequently reported by households describing their income as below or well below average (61%), compared 49% of those describing their income as average, above or well above average. This may be due to the reasons for limited market access, such as lack of money.

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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

	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	40%	34%	17%	27%	9%
No change	49%	27%	30%	47%	43%
Decreased	7%	4%	52%	6%	20%
Not applicable	5%	36%	1%	19%	27%

By sex

Female	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	40%	37%	20%	28%	11%
No change	48%	25%	27%	48%	41%
Decreased	7%	4%	53%	6%	20%
Not applicable	5%	34%	1%	19%	27%

Male	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	40%	28%	13%	26%	6%
No change	50%	28%	36%	48%	47%
Decreased	5%	4%	48%	7%	20%
Not applicable	4%	40%	3%	20%	27%

By age group

26 - 40	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	42%	50%	24%	24%	9%
No change	44%	26%	24%	51%	41%
Decreased	8%	3%	51%	6%	22%
Not applicable	6%	20%	1%	19%	27%

41 - 60	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	42%	34%	16%	32%	8%
No change	49%	27%	29%	48%	48%
Decreased	4%	3%	53%	4%	21%
Not applicable	4%	37%	1%	16%	23%

Over 60	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	29%	10%	7%	27%	13%
No change	60%	25%	42%	44%	40%
Decreased	6%	5%	49%	4%	13%
Not applicable	5%	61%	2%	25%	34%

"Working more online, behind a laptop, causing health complaints. Contact with supervisor outside working hours." - Female, 61 years

WIDER IMPACTS | Unpaid care and work

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

By perceived income level

Below or well below average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	43%	34%	17%	28%	8%
No change	40%	24%	19%	41%	37%
Decreased	14%	6%	61%	14%	24%
Not applicable	3%	36%	3%	17%	31%

Average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	43%	36%	19%	29%	10%
No change	46%	29%	30%	50%	50%
Decreased	3%	4%	49%	5%	16%
Not applicable	8%	31%	2%	16%	24%

Above or well above average	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	35%	30%	14%	24%	8%
No change	56%	26%	36%	50%	42%
Decreased	5%	3%	49%	3%	22%
Not applicable	3%	41%	0%	24%	27%

"I stay home with my kid and only go to the supermarket to buy food." - Female, 49 years

"No problem. Takes time to do household chores that are never covered." - Female, 54 years

By language

Papiamentu	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	37%	48%	31%	28%	8%
No change	47%	22%	28%	45%	33%
Decreased	6%	6%	41%	7%	26%
Not applicable	9%	23%	1%	20%	34%

Dutch	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	36%	23%	6%	24%	14%
No change	55%	26%	34%	52%	52%
Decreased	7%	1%	58%	5%	14%
Not applicable	2%	49%	2%	20%	21%

English	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	50%	26%	14%	31%	7%
No change	42%	34%	24%	45%	47%
Decreased	6%	3%	63%	7%	22%
Not applicable	2%	38%	0%	17%	24%

By location

*This category does not include responses from Rincon.

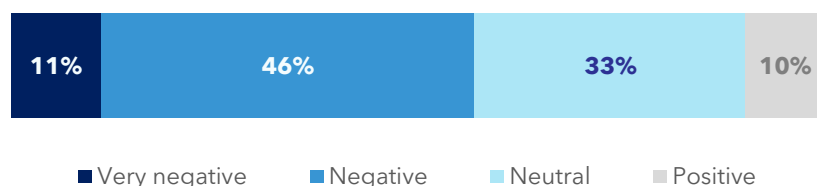
Kralendijk	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	40%	32%	14%	28%	9%
No change	49%	30%	29%	49%	48%
Decreased	8%	2%	56%	5%	19%
Not applicable	4%	36%	1%	17%	25%

Other part of Bonaire*	Domestic	Childcare	Shopping	Home gardening	Community work
Increased	41%	34%	22%	24%	10%
No change	47%	23%	32%	45%	37%
Decreased	5%	8%	46%	7%	21%
Not applicable	6%	36%	1%	23%	31%

WIDER IMPACTS | Coping and adapting

- Feelings of anxiety and stress are widespread, mainly caused by uncertain future prospects, financial worries and social isolation.

Distribution of sentiments across responses to open-ended survey questions



Respondents were given the space to provide more nuanced insights on how they are adjusting to the impacts of the pandemic a year following its global declaration. Out of the 542 respondents, 135 responded to the open-ended question, of which 74 responses were in Dutch, 52 in Papiamentu and 9 in others.

Income, work and family or social life are the most common themes. Uncertain future prospects are a source of anxiety among respondents as their livelihoods and incomes continue to be impacted. Some people describe the mental toll the pandemic is taking as they face uncertainty about the future, loneliness, fatigue and stress about their finances.

Some comments are more nuanced, with respondents acknowledging the challenges and disruptions caused by the pandemic, but also accepting certain changes and the need to adapt.

Some sample responses:

Very negative (11%)

"Personally depression has affected me."

"It is hard for me because I have 4 kids and my mother is single and I am not working right now it is very hard."

Negative (46%)

"Less income, company on hold regarding growth expectations."

"Isolation."

"Direct reduction of clients."

Neutral (33%)

"More at home, no social contacts and appointments."

"Less income but not too bad and instead money more free time for myself."

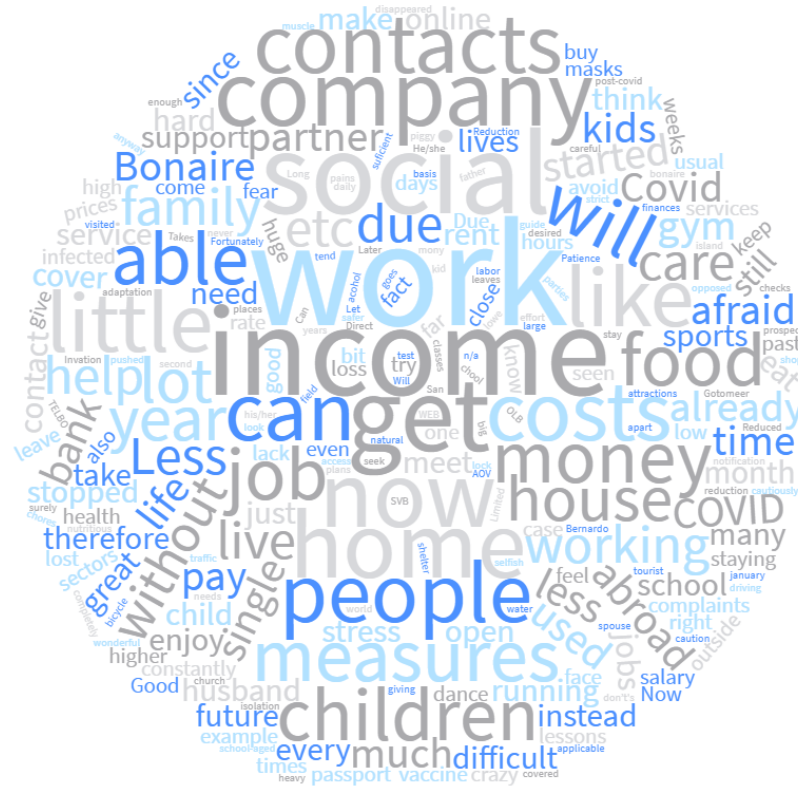
Positive (10%)

"The fact that I work at home I work harder."

"Innovation and adaptation constantly when giving a service at work."

The analysis of the responses was performed in collaboration with Google's AI unit.

Common themes on how respondents are adapting and coping



**APRIL
2021**

CONCLUSION

COVID-19 has had profound impacts on how people in Bonaire meet their most pressing needs and try to earn a living, following multiple lockdowns, movement restrictions and drastic declines in tourism. One year from the global declaration of the pandemic, the socio-economic impacts in Bonaire continue to be a matter of great concern.

Many people continue to face disruptions to their livelihoods, and the impacts to income remain widespread. People are worried about contracting the virus, unemployment and meeting basic needs and most look pessimistically at the future of their livelihoods. They are making compromises and sacrifices to get by, often at the expense of their long-term productivity and well-being.

Access to markets and food insecurity remains a concern. People notice increasing food prices and most of them adapt their shopping behaviour, depending on what they can afford. Some are struggling to meet their food needs and have to reduce the amount they eat.

These impacts consistently hit low-income households the hardest. Speakers of Papiamentu also appear to be more adversely affected on several key metrics of well-being, as are younger respondents, compared to other language and age groups. While some people have received support from the government, very few continue to receive it. Findings also suggest the existence of inequities among assistance beneficiaries.

While the survey found little difference between responses from women and men, there are concerns that gender disparities present before the pandemic risk being exacerbated, and more specific analysis is needed.

Vaccination efforts have begun in Bonaire in February 2021 and by the end of April 85% of people are supposed to be vaccinated. Along with their vital role in preventing deaths and illnesses, vaccines are a step on the path to revitalising tourism and commercial activities that are so critical to the economy of Bonaire.

At the same time, recovery may not come at the same pace for all, suggesting growing disparities and deepening inequality. It is therefore crucial that continued efforts and investments are made to ensure that assistance reaches people living in poverty and facing vulnerable conditions.

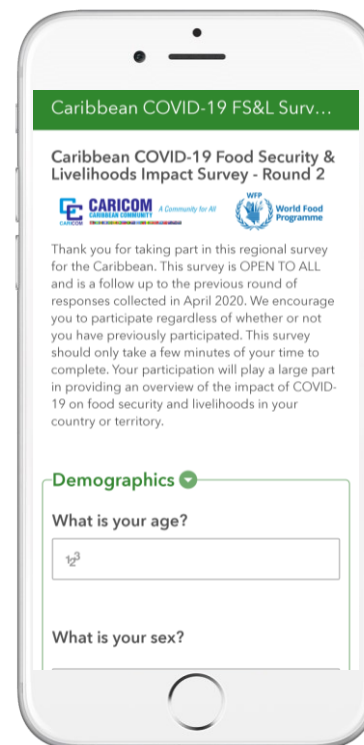
METHODOLOGY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Bonaire COVID-19 Food Security and Livelihoods impact survey was launched via a webform, which was accessible on mobile/smartphones and PC/desktops. The data collection period was inclusive of 23 March to 8 April 2021. The survey was circulated via email, social media, SMS, media and other communication channels. The World Food Programme (WFP) performed the data collection, monitoring and analysis. Data validation methods were designed into the survey form to mitigate against data entry errors and/or unintentional outliers.

The qualitative analysis was performed in collaboration with Joseph Xu from Google's AI unit using Natural Language Processing (NLP). NLP, a branch of AI which analyses and interprets human languages, provided: (a) a sentiment analysis to determine the distribution of very negative to very positive responses and (b) auto-categorisation of responses. To moderate the non-representative nature of the data, the analysis team further refined the classifications presented by the algorithm.

WFP expresses warm appreciation to Digicel for distributing the survey link by SMS in Bonaire. While the survey contributes to a better overview of impacts, the data are not representative, and the use of a web-based questionnaire limits inputs from those without internet connectivity. In Bonaire, 73% of the population are internet users through any digital device.

This report was prepared by WFP Caribbean – Amy Chong, Irina Bird Reddiar, Elisaveta Gouretskaia, Darko Petrovic, Sarah Bailey and Regis Chapman.



Survey form

CALCULATION OF FOOD INSECURITY ESTIMATES

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) was used for calculating food insecurity estimates presented in this report ([see page 34](#)).

The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) is an experience-based metric of food insecurity severity at the household or individual level, which is used for global food security monitoring and aligned with food security targets outlined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It relies on people's direct responses to questions regarding their access to adequate food during a given recall period. The eight questions focus on self-reported food-related behaviours and experiences during 30 days prior to the survey. They reflect increasing difficulties in accessing food due to resource constraints. A concept essential to the FIES is that the eight items and respondents are positioned on the same underlying scale of severity of food insecurity. Therefore, the probability of a respondent answering "yes" to a FIES item depends on the distance along the scale between the food severity experienced by the respondent and the severity of the item. A respondent's raw score (an integer number ranging from zero to eight) is the sum of affirmative responses given to the eight FIES questions. It is the basis for estimating the respondent parameter, which provides an interval measure of the severity of food insecurity and makes it possible to produce comparable measures of food insecurity. For this report, prevalence rates of moderate and severe food insecurity were calculated based on survey data using the FIES online App ([page 34](#)).

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

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