In Haiti, the political and institutional crisis, widespread insecurity, high inflation, currency depreciation, natural shocks, and Covid-19 pandemic have hindered the county's economic performance with adverse impacts on the livelihoods and welfare of the population. The High Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) captures some of the key adverse impacts of these multiple shocks on the Haitian population. Although the HFPS in Haiti asks households about their situation in the pre-pandemic and end-2021 periods as done with the HFPS in other Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries, it is difficult to disentangle the effects of the pandemic from the other major shocks in Haiti.

The various shocks have adversely impacted Haitian livelihoods. At the end of 2021, 38.4 percent of those who were working in early 2020 were still out of work. Of these, 23.0 percent were unemployed while the remainder had left the labor force and stopped seeking employment. The share not yet back to work by December 2021 was larger among females (43.3 percent) than males (34.6 percent), and most pronounced for workers aged 18 to 25 (56.4 percent). Notably, at the end of 2021, half of the population that had been economically inactive in early 2020 had become active and was either employed or looking for a job. This shift into the labor market may have been a coping strategy. Indeed such a strategy was mentioned by over half of households as an approach they had taken to pay for essential expenses such as food, health or education.

Informal employment, already high in the first months of 2020, had increased further to 84.3 percent by the end of 2021. While high across the whole working population, informality rates were particularly pronounced for females, young workers and those with lower education.

The worsening economy and labor market conditions have taken a toll on household income. The majority of households (65.4 percent) reported a decline in their income since mid-2021. Already in mid-2021 about two-thirds of Haitian households had reported income reductions compared to early 2020, according to information from wave 1 of the HFPS. Thus, a large proportion of the population has suffered progressive deteriorations in household income since early 2020.

The data suggest that the vast majority of the population was unable to cover their basic needs at the end of 2021. Almost 9 in 10 households reported that this was the case for them. And a similarly high proportion of households reported resorting to at least one coping mechanism in an effort to cover their basic needs, including using savings, previously inactive household members looking for work, or halting payments for rent or debt installments. At the same time, about 3 in 4 households reported running out of food at least once in the 30 days prior to the survey. This represented a substantial increase from the 53.4 percent of households who recalled having been in a similar situation in early 2020.

Evidence points to potential large negative long term impacts on human capital. The data also shows that school attendance remained below early 2020 levels, although it had increased from the 78.3 percent observed in mid-2021 to 82.3 percent at the end of the year. The proportion of children interacting with a teacher in-person was below the LAC average. At the end of 2021, three-quarters of school age children interacted with a teacher in person including hybrid teaching modes.

JOB LOSS (% OF PRE-PANDEMIC WORKERS)
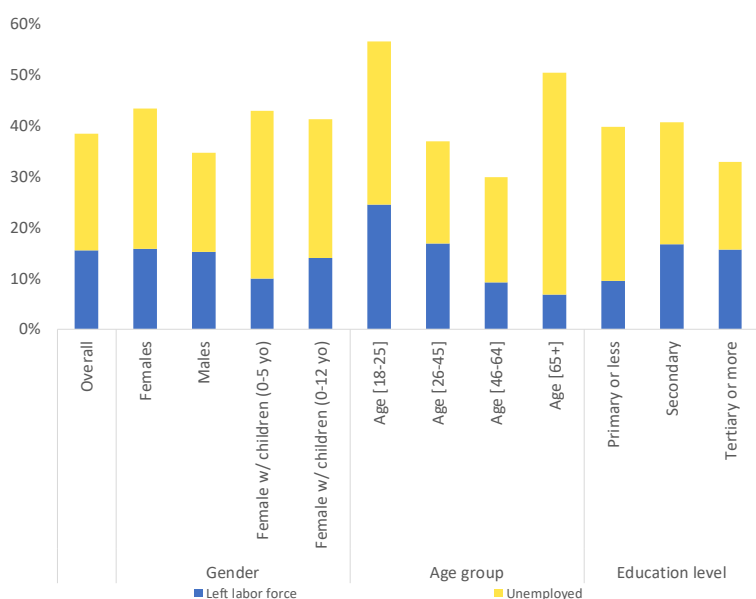
CHANGES IN TOTAL INCOME (%HH) SINCE MID-2021
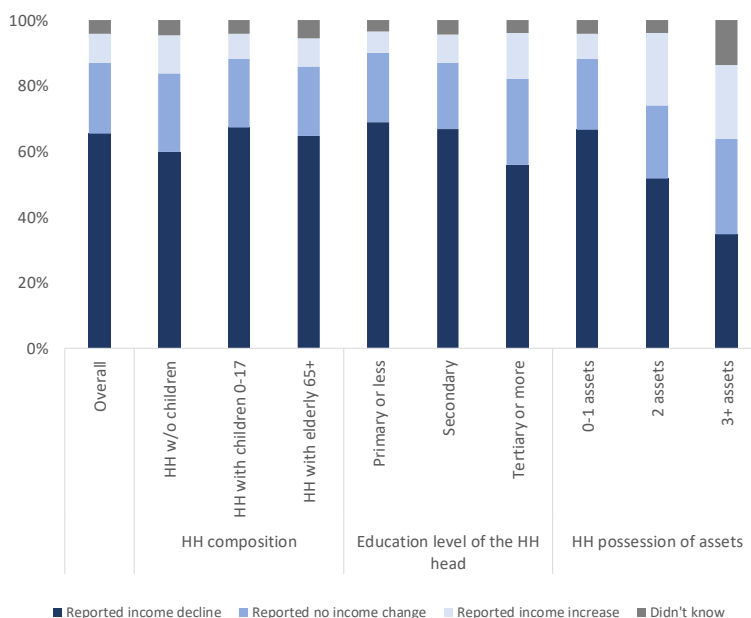
Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2.

KEY INDICATORS: INDIVIDUALS (18+ years old)

Distribution among groups	Labor				Childcare responsibilities	Health
	% of employed population (pre-pandemic) who lost their pre-pandemic job	% of inactive population (pre-pandemic) who became active (employed or unemployed)	% of employed population who is in informal employment		% of population who spent more time accompanying children's education than pre-pandemic	% of population who reported mental health problems
			Pre-pandemic	End-2021		
Overall	38.4%	50.7%	77.2%	84.3%	45.3%	65.3%
Females	43.3%	46.9%	80.4%	87.0%	46.6%	65.4%
Males	34.6%	56.6%	74.7%	82.1%	43.8%	65.1%
18 to 25 years old	56.4%	44.9%	89.9%	92.2%	44.6%	66.7%
26 to 45 years old	36.8%	60.4%	75.0%	82.4%	48.9%	67.3%
46 to 64 years old	29.8%	43.3%	75.9%	81.7%	37.0%	62.4%
65 and older	50.3%	30.3%	74.2%	100.0%	43.7%	49.3%
Education: Primary or less	39.7%	49.5%	86.8%	95.8%	40.5%	61.7%
Education: Secondary	40.5%	50.8%	82.6%	89.8%	45.1%	64.3%
Education: Tertiary or more	32.9%	51.5%	60.5%	65.9%	49.2%	70.6%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2.
Note: National level results are compared against the regional LAC average: **Green** *indicates that the country performs better than the LAC average in terms of preferred outcome, e.g. less informality, while* **red** *indicates that the country performs worse than the LAC average.*

KEY INDICATORS: HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

Distribution among groups	Income & Coping		Food Insecurity		Education (6-17 yo)		
	% HH without enough resources to cover basic needs (self-reported)	% HH that resorted to at least one coping mechanism	% HHs that ran out of food		% of children in school age who attended school (in person or virtually)		% of children in school age who interacted with teacher in person (incl. hybrid teaching modes)
			Pre-pandemic	End-2021 (Last 30 days)	Pre-pandemic	End-2021	
Overall	88.6%	87.1%	53.4%	76.0%	88.0%	82.3%	74.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	87.2%	84.2%	48.7%	68.8%	-	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	89.0%	88.1%	55.0%	78.4%	88.0%	82.3%	74.7%
HH with elderly (65+)	88.2%	86.8%	58.6%	81.5%	87.1%	83.4%	76.1%
0-1 assets	89.8%	87.4%	55.1%	78.1%	88.0%	81.4%	74.0%
2 assets	75.7%	84.3%	35.4%	52.2%	87.5%	92.0%	81.8%
3+ assets	49.9%	82.4%	10.7%	39.6%	96.2%	100.0%	95.8%
HH Head Edu: Primary or less	87.6%	88.7%	60.0%	82.5%	89.4%	75.9%	67.4%
HH Head Edu: Secondary	89.3%	86.2%	54.3%	78.1%	86.6%	83.0%	77.0%
HH Head Edu: Tertiary or more	86.4%	88.1%	41.0%	59.5%	92.9%	93.8%	85.3%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2.
Note: National level results are compared against the regional LAC average: **Green** *indicates that the country performs better than the LAC average in terms of preferred outcome, e.g. fewer households running out of food, while* **red** *indicates that the country performs worse than the LAC average.*

HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEY

The World Bank and UNDP conducted a multi-wave High-Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) in 2021 to assess the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the welfare of Latin American and Caribbean households. The first wave was collected between May and July 2021, and the data is nationally representative for 24 countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia and Uruguay. The data for Brazil was collected between July 26 and October 1. Data for the second wave was collected between October 2021 and January 2022 and included all countries except for Antigua & Barbuda and Brazil. The HFPS provides information on the welfare impacts that households experienced with respect to food insecurity, changes in employment, income changes, access to health and education services, and coping mechanisms. Key indicators on socioeconomic effects are available at the COVID-19 monitoring global dashboard, which provides harmonized indicators across all world regions. Further information on the LAC HFPS II can be found here.

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