RESULTS OF MONGOLIA COVID-19 HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE PHONE SURVEY (ROUND 3)

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WORLD BANK GROUP
Poverty & Equity

NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE OF MONGOLIA

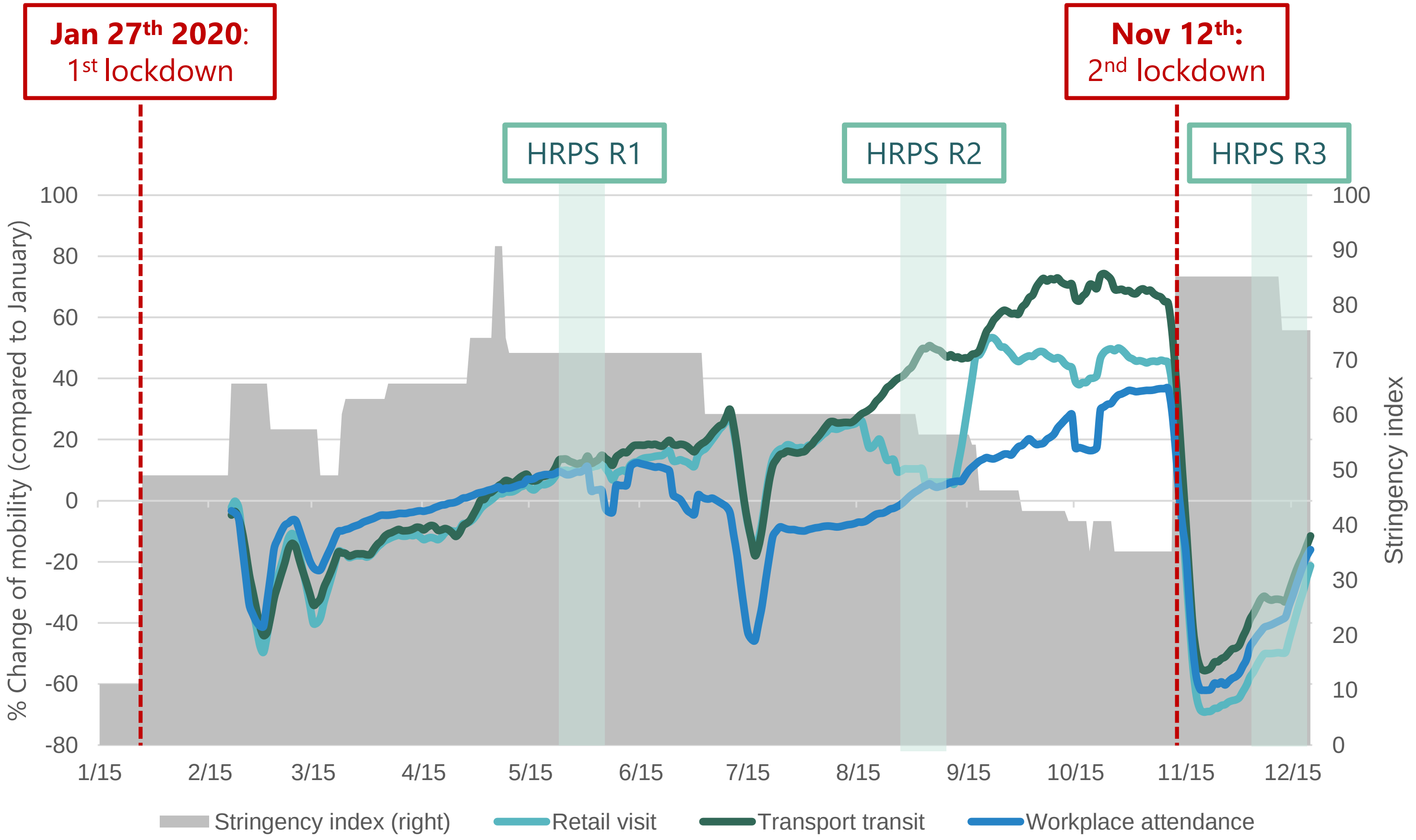
MONGOLIA COVID-19 HOUSEHOLD RESPONSE PHONE SURVEY (HRPS)

- To monitor the household-level impacts of COVID-19 nearly in “real-time”, the National Statistics Office of Mongolia (NSO) and the World Bank have implemented a joint COVID-19 Household Response Phone Survey (HRPS).
- This presentation summarizes key findings of the third round of the survey that was implemented from December 3 to 15, 2020.
  - Round 3 survey of HRPS was based on a sample of 1,147 households in urban and rural areas and across four locations (Ulaanbaatar/aimag center/soum center/countryside).
  - The presentation also includes comparison analysis to previous rounds. Round 1 survey was implemented from May 22 to 29, 2020, and Round 2 survey from August 31 to September 7, 2020.
- The 4th round of the survey is scheduled in February 2021.

SURVEY TIMING AND GOVERNMENT CONTAINMENT MEASURES

- Mongolia took early and decisive measures to prevent the inflow and outbreak of COVID-19 starting from late January 2020, which includes closure of borders with China and cancellations of international flights. Yet, people were still able to go to work. These containment measures were gradually lifted from May 31 and schools reopened on September 1, 2020
- However, following the first domestic transmission of COVID-19, the Government of Mongolia imposed strict lockdown measures from November 12, 2020. The 2nd lockdown included workplace closure. The strict 2nd lockdown was once eased on December 14 but most containment measures including school closure and public gathering ban have remained effective[(2)]
- Round 3 survey (HRPS R3) was implemented during the 2nd lockdown, when respondents' mobility was most restricted. By the end of Round 3 survey, in total, 918 COVID-19 cases were confirmed in Mongolia

Change in mobility and government containment measures (Stringency Index) vs Survey timing (HRPS)[(1)]



Note: (1) Oxford Stringency index reflects levels of Government's containment and closure policies in response to COVID-19 (OxCGRT). Change of mobility shows how visits and length of stay at different places change compared to a baseline period (January 2020) based on Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports.
(2) The strict lockdown measures became effective again from December 23, 2020 and continue as of January 5, 2021

KEY FINDINGS (Round 3)

- **The 2nd lockdown had a substantial impact on working status**
  - Among workers who worked pre-pandemic, nearly 40 percent stopped working by Round 3. Yet, amongst those who stopped working, 61 percent reported they have a job to return to once the lockdown is lifted, signaling temporary labor disruptions under the lockdown
  - The proportion of those who stopped working at the time of Round 3 is highest in the industry sector (48 percent), followed by services (34 percent) and agriculture (32 percent) sectors
  - While there is no significant difference in the share of those stopped working across income groups, a quarter of the bottom 40 workers have already stopped working by Round 1, implying long-term earning losses for poorer workers
- **Prolonged pandemic and lockdown accentuated an already deteriorating business environment**
  - 85 percent of households engaged in non-farm business in Round 3 were not able to operate fully under the 2nd lockdown
  - Among self-employed households with income losses, 27 percent reported experiencing no earnings
  - Deteriorations in business are expected to continue, with 2 in 3 households with businesses expecting their sales to decrease in the next 3 months
- **Livelihoods for agriculture households have also been deteriorating between Round 2 and 3**
  - Amongst households that faced agriculture income losses, nearly 60 percent reported an income loss of 40% or greater compared to the same period last year, while 44 percent experienced such a significant income loss in Round 2
- **While nearly 30 percent of wage workers were not able to work as usual under the 2nd lockdown, half of those are entitled to receive full or partial payment**

KEY FINDINGS (Round 3)

- **Along with employment and income loss, increasing prices in the main food items further worsen food security for the poor**
  - 61 percent of poor households reported they were exposed to price shocks of major food items during the 2nd lockdown while 48 percent of the non-poor did
  - Food security concerns among the poor are rising. Shares of poor households who were uncertain about their ability to obtain enough, healthy and sufficient kinds of food increased from 39 percent in Round 2 to 47 percent in Round 3
- **Awareness of preventive measures is quite high and 4 out of 5 respondents are willing to take an approved COVID-19 vaccine for free**
  - Almost the entire population recognized and adopted preventive and social distancing measures such as handwashing (94 percent), wearing a mask (93 percent), avoiding handshakes (97 percent) and gatherings (96 percent)
  - Once an approved COVID-19 vaccine is available, 80 percent of respondents are willing to get vaccinated for free, while 61 percent would take vaccines even if it is not free. Vaccine hesitancy seems higher in urban than in rural areas
- **Under the 2nd lockdown, households faced disruptions in access to medical services**
  - 1 out of 3 who needed medical treatment did not receive services in Round 3, mainly due to people's concerns of contracting the virus and mobility restrictions, compared to most households (92%) receiving medical treatment in Round 1
  - While schools closed on November 12, no serious disruptions in access to (remote) education and financial services were observed during the 2nd lockdown

Survey Overview (Round 3)

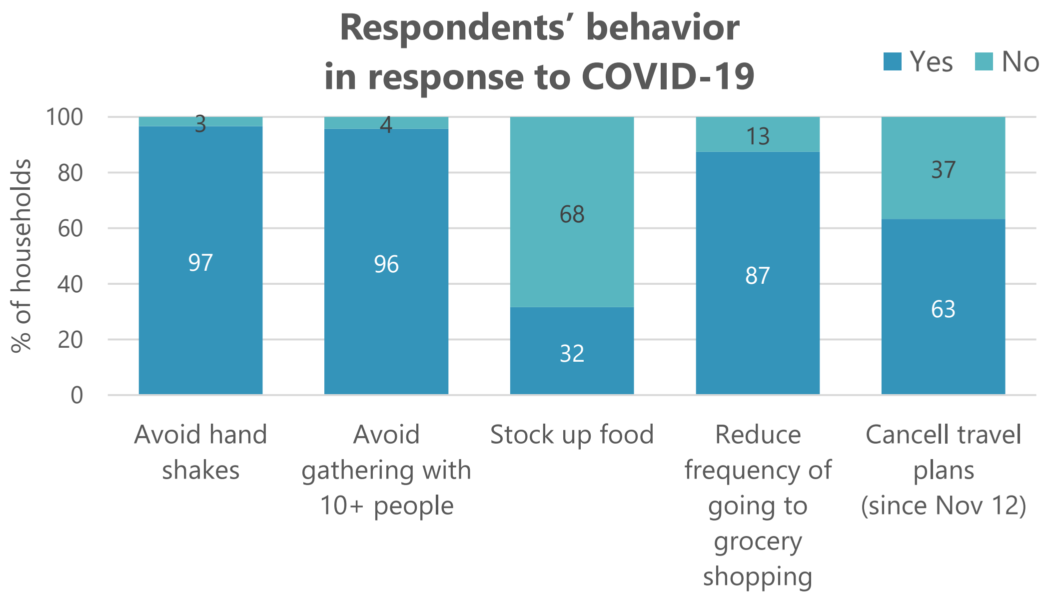
- **Data collection period (Round 3):** December 3-15, 2020
- **Sample frame:** Sub-sample of 2018 Household Socio-Economic Survey (HSES)
- **Sample size and response rate:** 1,147 households, 94.6 percent (out of 1,212 households interviewed in Round 2)
- **Average interview time:** 15.3 min
- **Representativeness:** Nation, urban/rural, and location (UB/aimag center/soum center/countryside)
- **Implementation method:** Computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI)
- **Sampling weights:** Weights were calculated by following the approaches outlined in Himelein, K (2014)[1].

	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Data collection period	May 22 to 29, 2020	August 31 to September 7, 2020	December 3 to 15, 2020
Number of respondents	1,333 households	1,212 households	1,147 households
Response rate	66.7 percent (out of 2,000 households sub-sampled from 2018 HSES)	90.9 percent (out of 1,333 households interviewed in Round 1)	94.6 percent (out of 1,212 households interviewed in Round 2)

Note: 1. Himelein, K. (2014). "Weight Calculations for Panel Surveys with Subsampling and Split-off Tracking." Statistics and Public Policy

Recognition of COVID-19-related preventive/social distancing measures

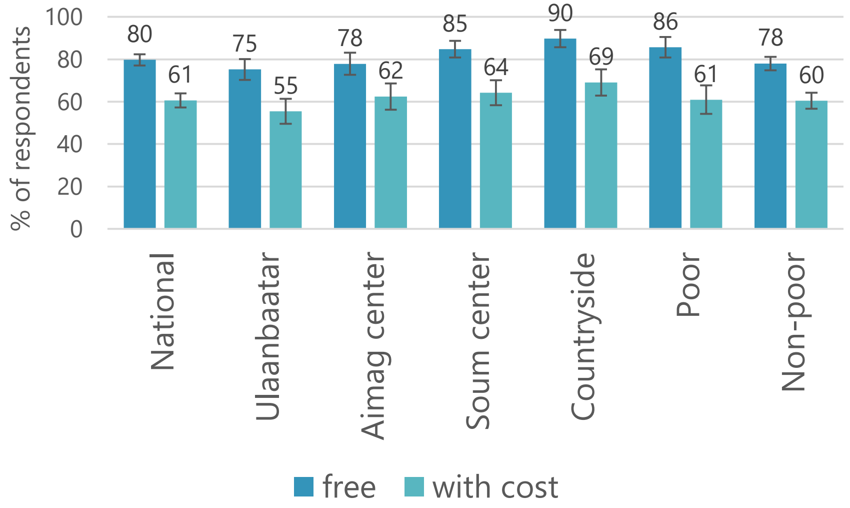
- **Under the 2nd lockdown, the vast majority of people adopted prevention and social distancing measures to protect themselves and others from COVID-19**
  - Nearly all respondents reported they wash hands and wear a mask all or most of the time
  - 97 percent of respondents avoided handshakes and 96 percent avoided group gatherings
  - Grocery shopping becomes a less frequent activity for 87 percent of households and one-third stocked up food under the 2nd lockdown
  - Nearly 2 in 3 respondents who planned travel have cancelled their travel plans since the second lockdown was imposed (Nov 12)
  - No visible difference in these behaviors was seen between urban and rural and between the poor and non-poor



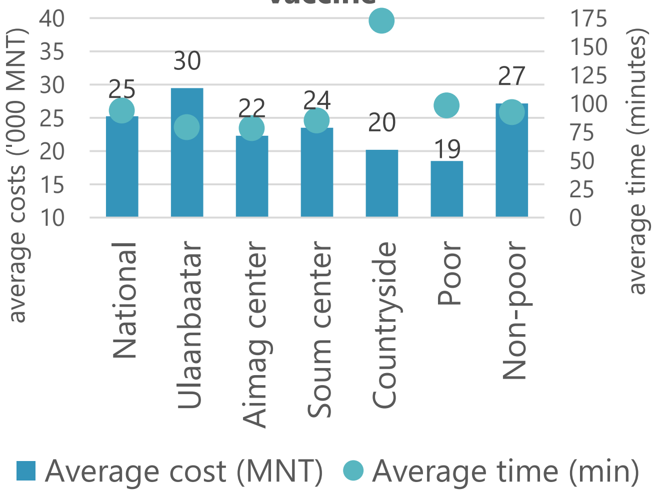
Willingness to take COVID-19 vaccine

- **Overall, 80 percent of respondents are willing to get vaccinated for free, while 61 percent are with costs**
  - Respondents in rural areas are more likely to be willing to take an approved COVID-19 vaccine compared to those in urban areas
  - 86 percent of poor respondents are willing to take vaccine for free, but if they have to pay costs of vaccine, their willingness becomes at the same level as it was for the non-poor
- **On average, respondents are willing to pay MNT 25,000 for COVID-19 vaccine**
  - Respondents in the capital city or non-poor are willing to spend more (MNT 27-30K) for vaccine, while the poor or those in countryside are not willing to spend as much (MNT 19-20K)
- **Concerns of safety and side effects of COVID-19 vaccine affect respondents' willingness to get vaccinated**

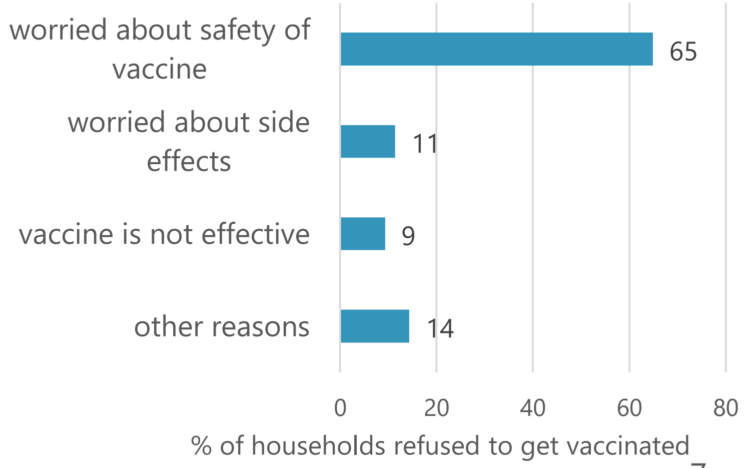
Share of respondents that are willing to take COVID-19 vaccine (with/without cost)



Average costs and time that respondents are willing to spend on vaccine



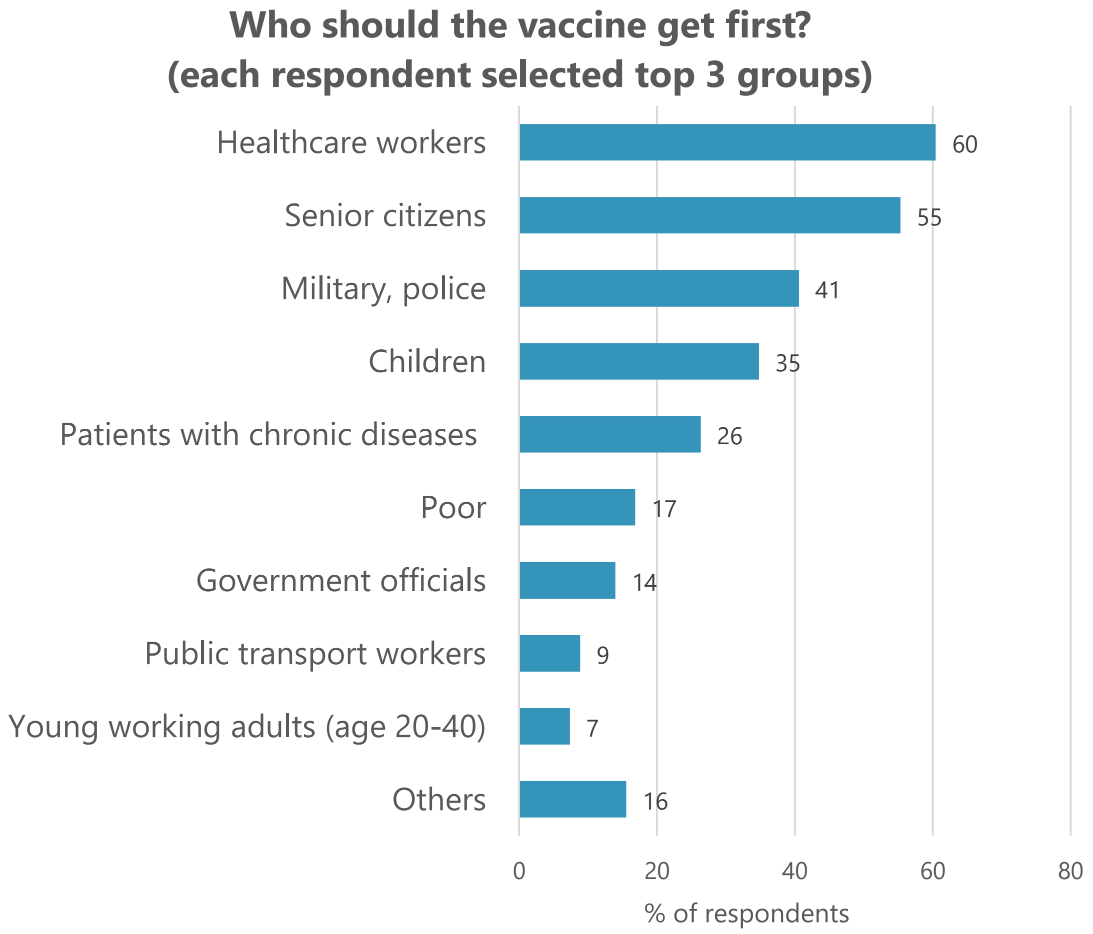
Main concerns for not willing to be vaccinated



Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES.

Priority groups for recipient of COVID-19 vaccine

- **Survey of respondents' preference for COVID-19 vaccine allocation finds that front-line healthcare workers and senior citizen should be highly prioritized as vaccine recipients**
  - Top two priority recipient groups respondents selected are healthcare workers (60 percent) and elderly citizens (55 percent), followed by military/ police (41percent) and young children (35 percent)
  - While high-risk job sector and aged groups are generally prioritized, income group (poor) is not the decisive factor for perceptions of vaccine priorities

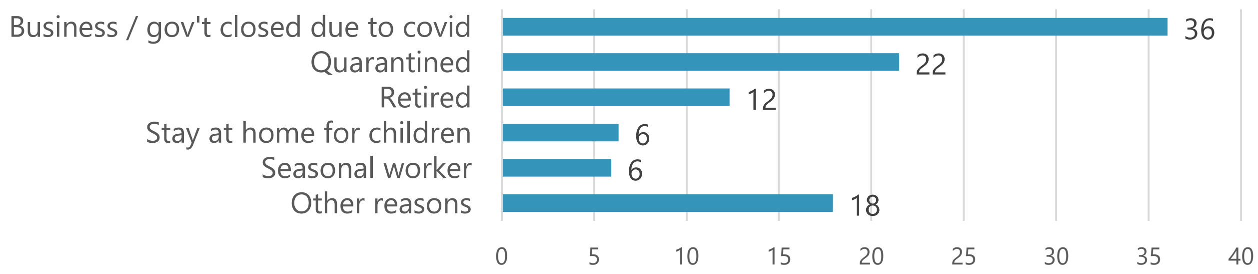


Employment: Stopped working under the pandemic (1)

Amongst respondents working pre-pandemic, nearly 2 in 5 stopped working under the 2nd lockdown, but 3 in 5 of those have a job to return to after the lockdown is eased

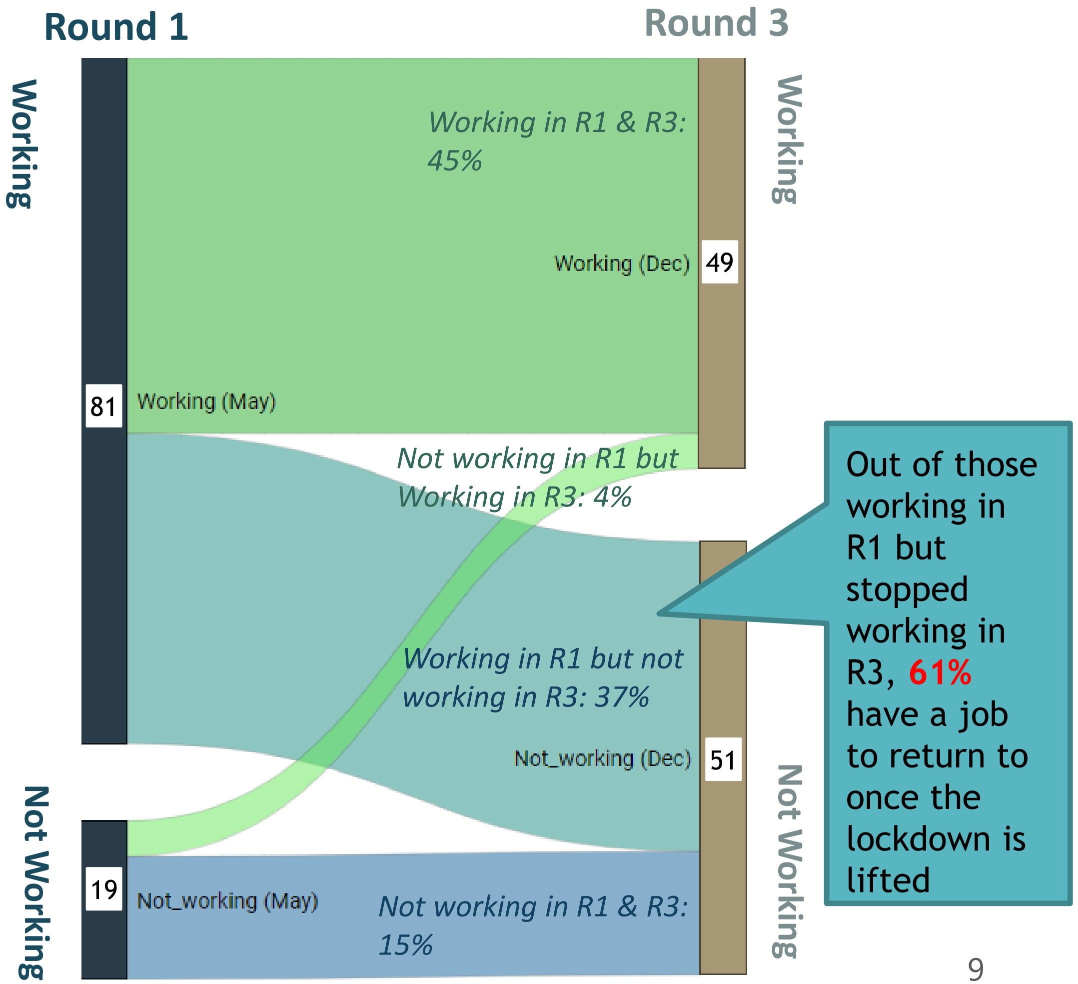
- Among all respondents who worked pre-pandemic, 81 percent were working and 19 were not working in Round 1
- In Round 3, 45 percent of respondents who worked pre-pandemic have continued to work, but 37 percent stopped working
- Out of 37 percent of respondents who stopped working in Round 3, 61 percent have a job to return to. More than half of respondents temporarily stopped working in Round 3 due to COVID-19-related reasons under the lockdown (business closures/quarantine)
- Among respondents who worked pre-pandemic, 15 percent stopped working by Round 1 and continued without work in Round 3. Only 4 percent who did not work in Round 1 returned to work in Round 3, signaling a difficulty of job finding under the pandemic

Reasons for stopping work in R3
(respondents working in R1 but not working in R3)



Note: The sample is restricted to respondents who were the same across rounds and working pre-pandemic (N=720)

Change in employment between R1 and R3
(Among respondents working pre-pandemic)



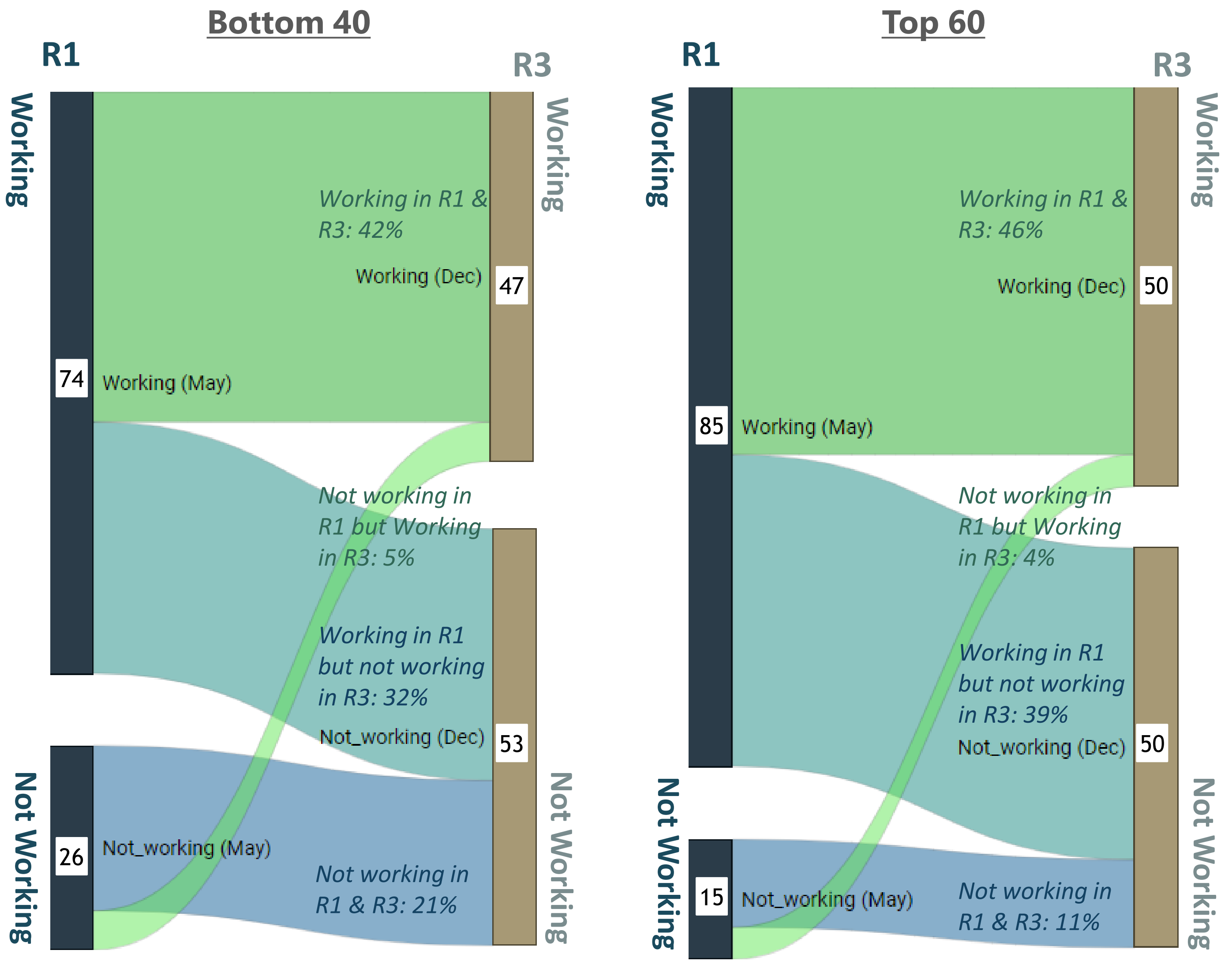
Employment: Stopped working under the pandemic (2)

A sizeable proportion of workers in both bottom 40 and top 60 stopped working between Round 1 and Round 3

- 32 and 39 percent of workers in the bottom 40 and top 60, respectively, stopped working in Round 3
- The majority of those who stopped working have a job to return to after the lockdown. 58 percent of and 63 percent of the bottom 40 and top 60, respectively, have a job to return to

Even during Round 1, a quarter of the bottom 40 workers who worked pre-pandemic had already stopped working, indicating a long-term impact of job loss for poorer workers

- While 15 percent of the top 60 workers stopped working in Round 1, 26 percent of the bottom 40 did so
- For the bottom 40, only 5 percent returned to work and 21 percent remain not working in Round 3



Note: The sample is restricted to respondents who were the same across rounds and working pre-pandemic (N for Top 60 = 474, N for Bottom 40 = 246)

Employment: Stopped working under the pandemic (3)

Workers in the industry sectors sustained the largest shares of employment losses (stopped working) since the pandemic

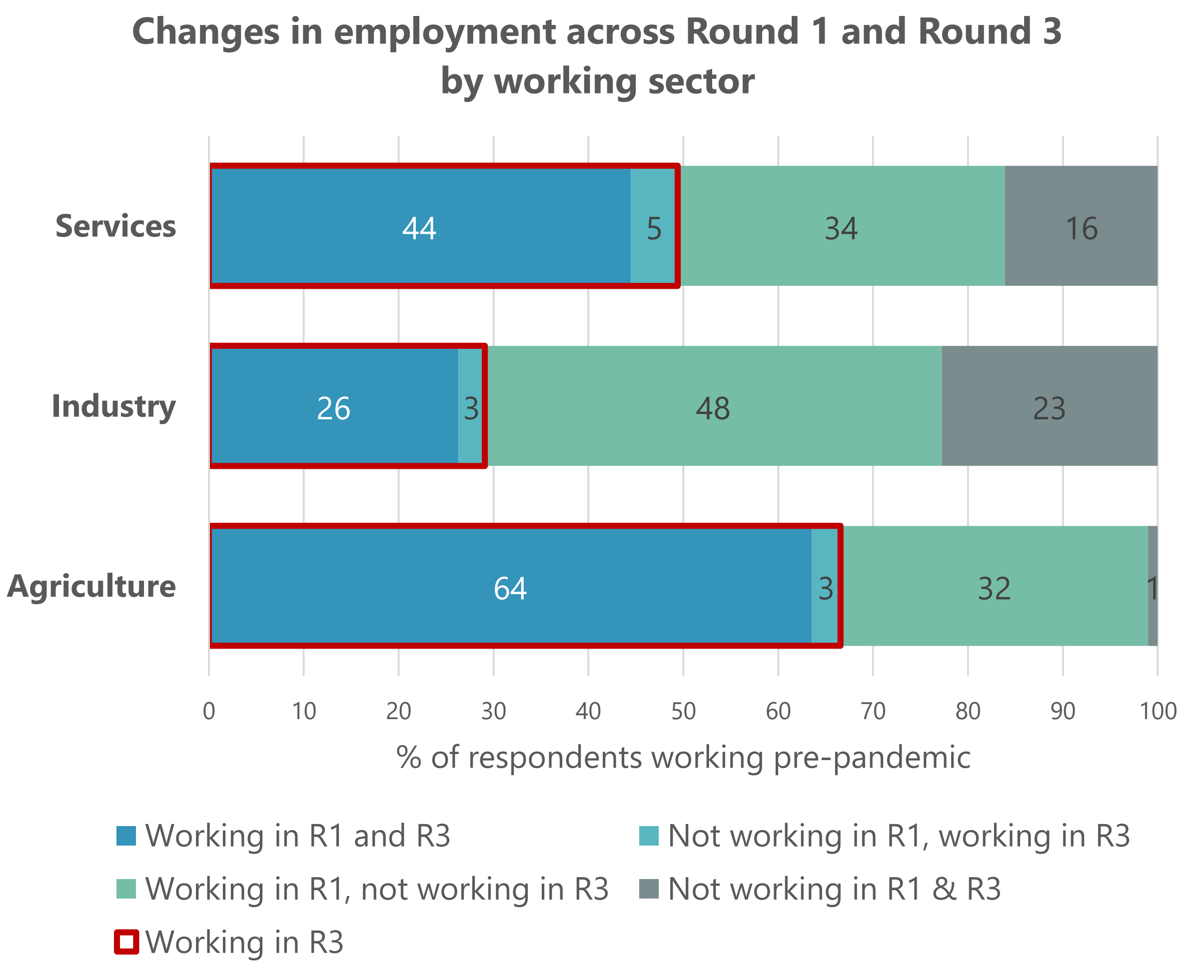
- Three-quarters (74%) of workers in the industry sectors were working in Round 1, but only 29 percent were working in Round 3
    - Half of workers (48%) in the industry sectors stopped working between Round 1 and Round 3. Another 23 percent stopped working between late January and Round 1 and continue to be not working in Round 3

Considerable shares of workers in the service sectors also stopped working under the 2nd lockdown

- While 78 percent of workers in the service sectors were working in Round 1, only 49 percent were working in Round 3

Farmers and herders are less affected, yet 1 out of 3 were not able to work in Round 3

- 96 percent of workers in the agriculture sector were able to work in Round 1, but only 67 percent were working and one third stopped working in Round 3



Note: The sample is restricted to respondents who were the same across rounds and working pre-pandemic (N for Agriculture = 167, N for Industry = 120, N for Services = 433)

Employment: Non-farm Business (1)

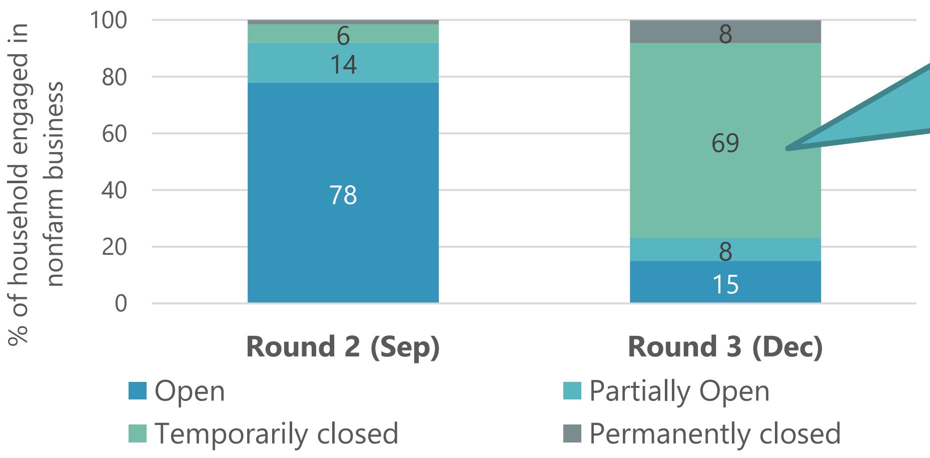
85 percent of households engaged in non-farm business in Round 3 were not able to operate fully under the 2nd lockdown

- 23 percent of households are engaged in non-farm business activities in Round 3
- While most self-employed households (78%) were able to operate in Round 2, only 15 percent of households fully opened business in Round 3. Another 85 percent partially opened or closed their business, mainly due to government's order under the 2nd lockdown

Business closures are more likely to be seen in urban areas and services sectors

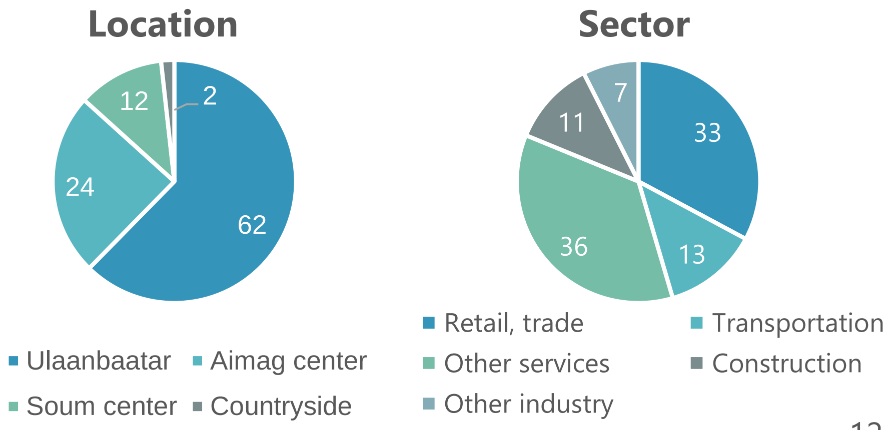
- Since households with businesses are generally concentrated in urban areas and service sectors, business closures are more likely to be observed in these locations and sectors. Out of self-employed households that were unable to operate in Round 3, 86 percent are located in urban areas and 81 percent operate business in the services sectors

Status of non-farm business (1)



85% reported the main reason for not fully opening business is due to government's order of business closures under the 2nd lockdown

Location and sector for those unable to fully operate business in Round 3

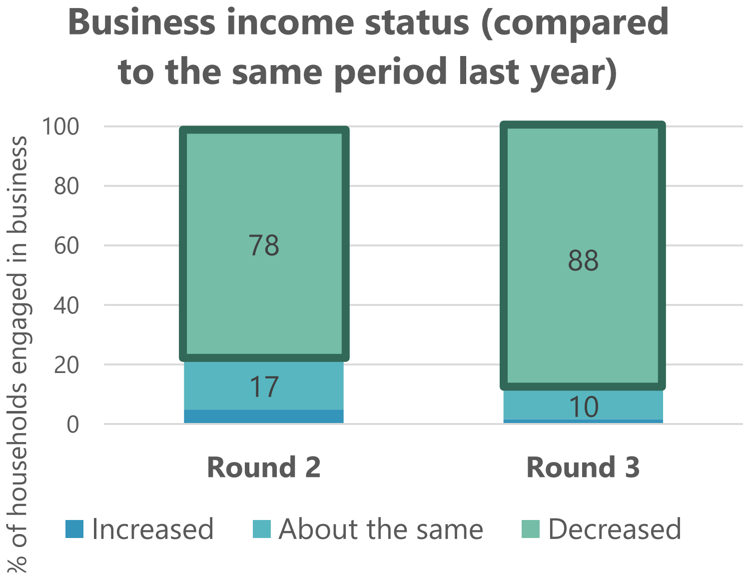


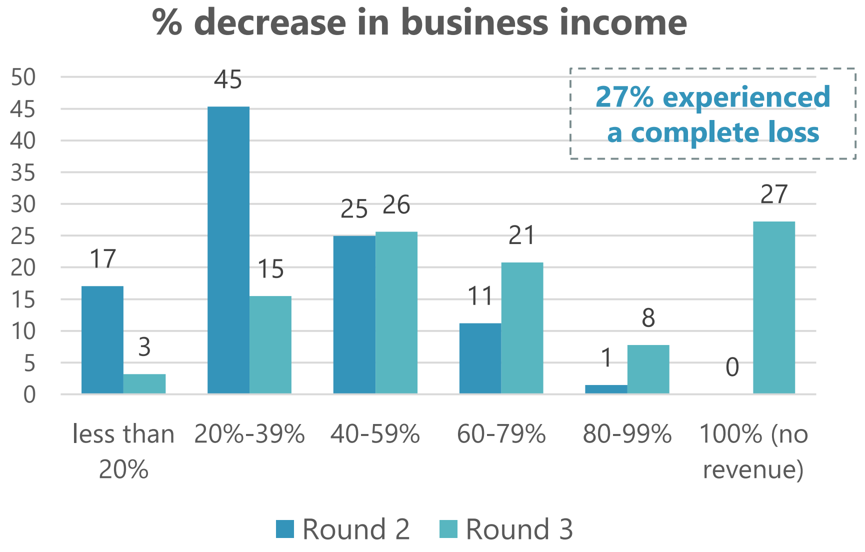
Note: (1) included panel households

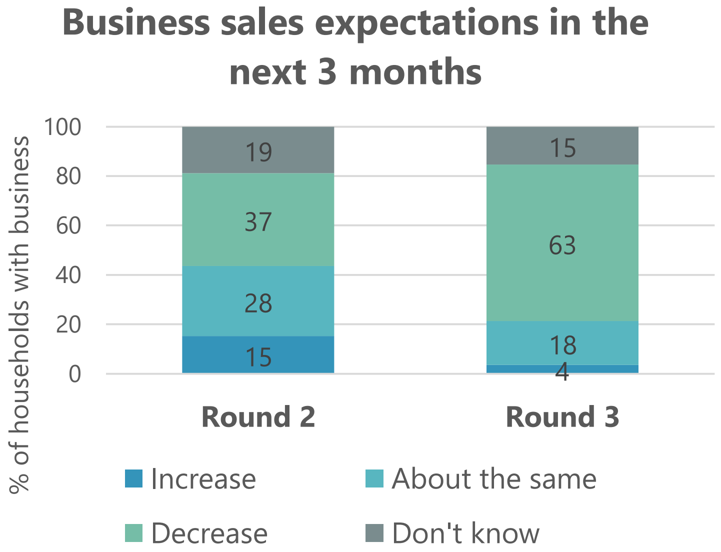
Employment: Non-farm Business (2)

Business income and outlook have further deteriorated in Round 3

- The 2nd lockdown exacerbated a loss of business income compared to Round 2
  - Nearly 90 percent of households with an open (fully or partially) business had lower revenues compared to November 2019
  - 27 percent reported experiencing no earnings and another 30 percent experienced 60% loss or greater of business income in Round 3
  - The main reasons for a reduction in revenue were due to COVID-19 restrictions (70%) and a decline in customers (15%)
- Business sentiment is also affected. Nearly 2 in 3 households with businesses expect their business sales to decrease between January and March 2021, while only 1 in 3 households expected a decline in Round 2



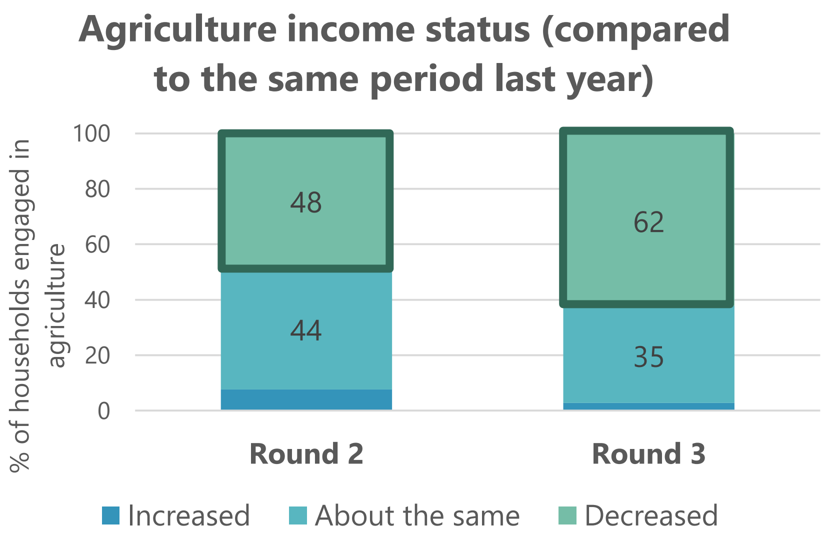


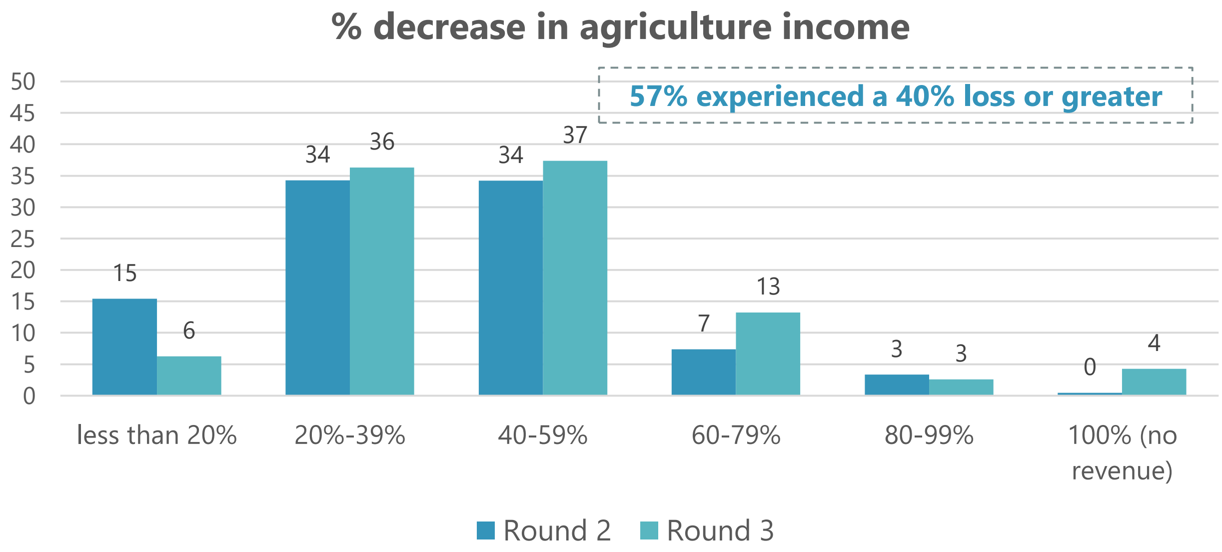


Employment: Agriculture

Despite limited impacts compared to business activities, livelihoods for agriculture households have also been deteriorating between Round 2 and Round 3

- About 18 percent of households were working in agricultural (farming and livestock) activities between Round 2 and 3
- More than 3 out of 5 farmer and herder households reported experiencing income losses compared to the same period last year
  - Impacts on income loss are getting worse compared to Round 2. Among households that faced income loss, nearly 60 percent experienced a loss of 40% or greater in Round 3, while 44 percent reported experiencing such a significant loss in Round 2
- Livestock production and processing are less active during the winter months and milk production is the main livestock processing activity at the timing of Round 3 survey. It seems more than half of milk producers are suffering from both price and quantity reductions compared to the same period last year

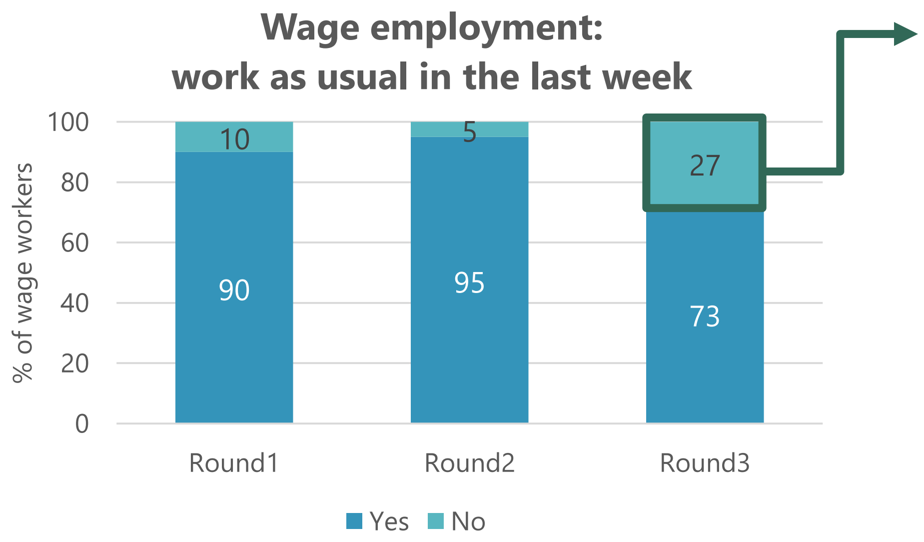


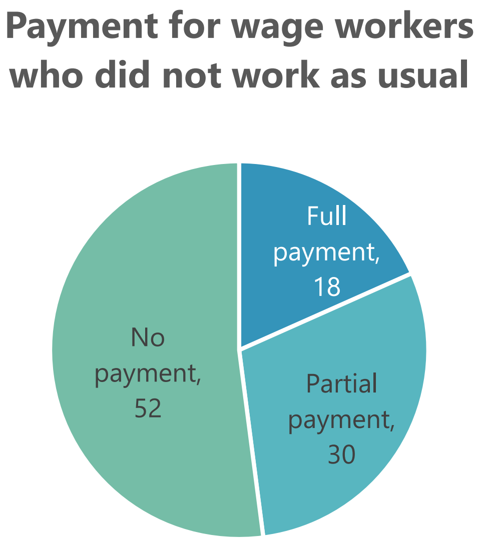


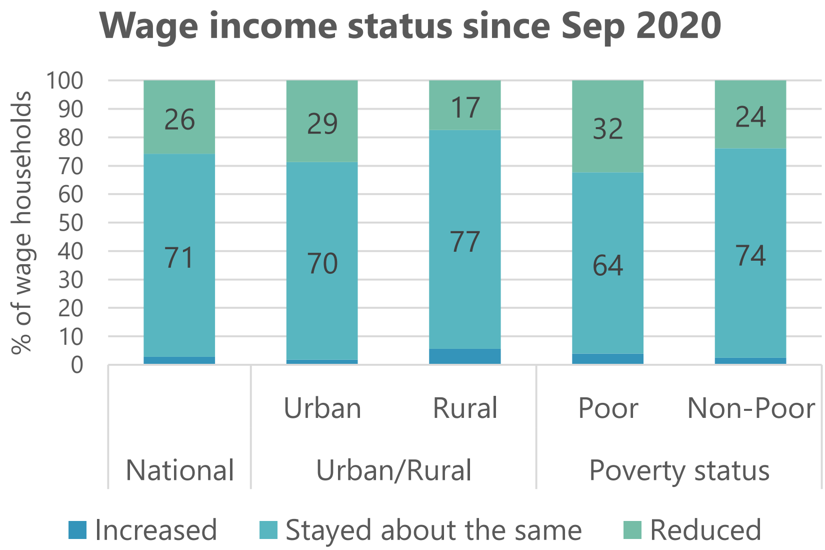
Employment: Wage

While the 2nd lockdown measures also affected wage employment, nearly half of wage workers who were not working as usual are entitled to receive full or partial payment

- In the previous rounds of the survey, more than 90 percent of wage workers were able to work as usual, but in Round 3, nearly 30 percent were unable to work as usual under the lockdown
- Even though wage workers did not work as usual, 18 percent were eligible for full-payment and another 30 percent were able to receive partial payment
- 71 percent of wage workers were able to maintain the same level of wage income and one quarter experienced wage income losses for the last 3 months
- Poor and urban wage workers are more likely to suffer from wage income losses for the last 3 months







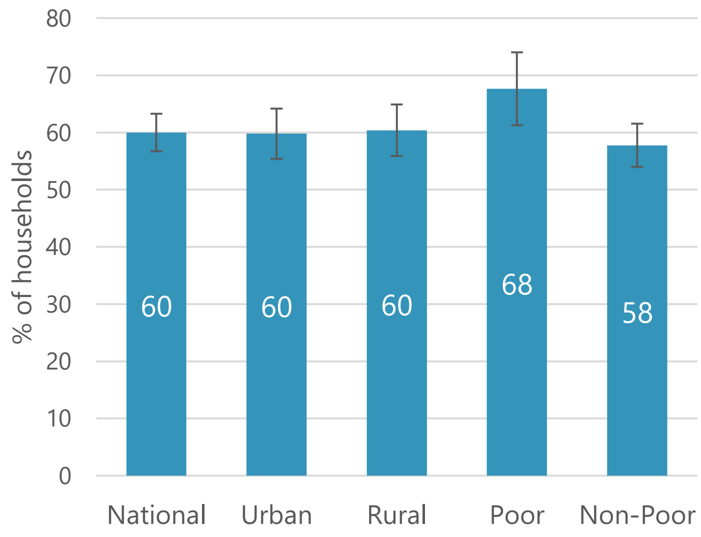
Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES.

Shocks and Coping strategies (1)

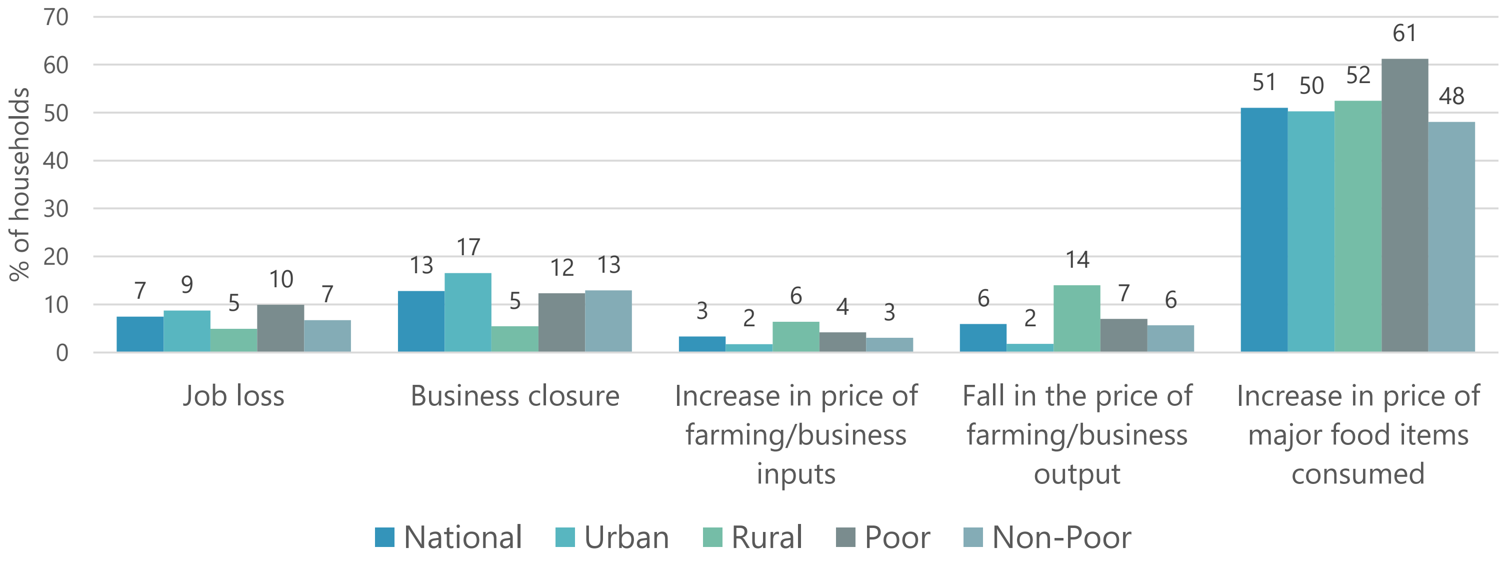
Overall, 3 in 5 households experienced some sort of shocks and half experienced a price increase of major food items since the 2nd lockdown

- Particularly, the poor (68%) are more likely to experience any shocks compared to the non-poor (58%)
- Also, 61 percent of poor households reported experiencing a price increase shock of major food items while 48 percent of non-poor households did
- Business closure is more prevalent in urban (17%) than in rural (5%)
- 14 percent of rural households reported experiencing a price decline in farming/business outputs

Share of households experienced any shocks since Nov 12



Has your household been affected by [SHOCK] since Nov 12, 2020?

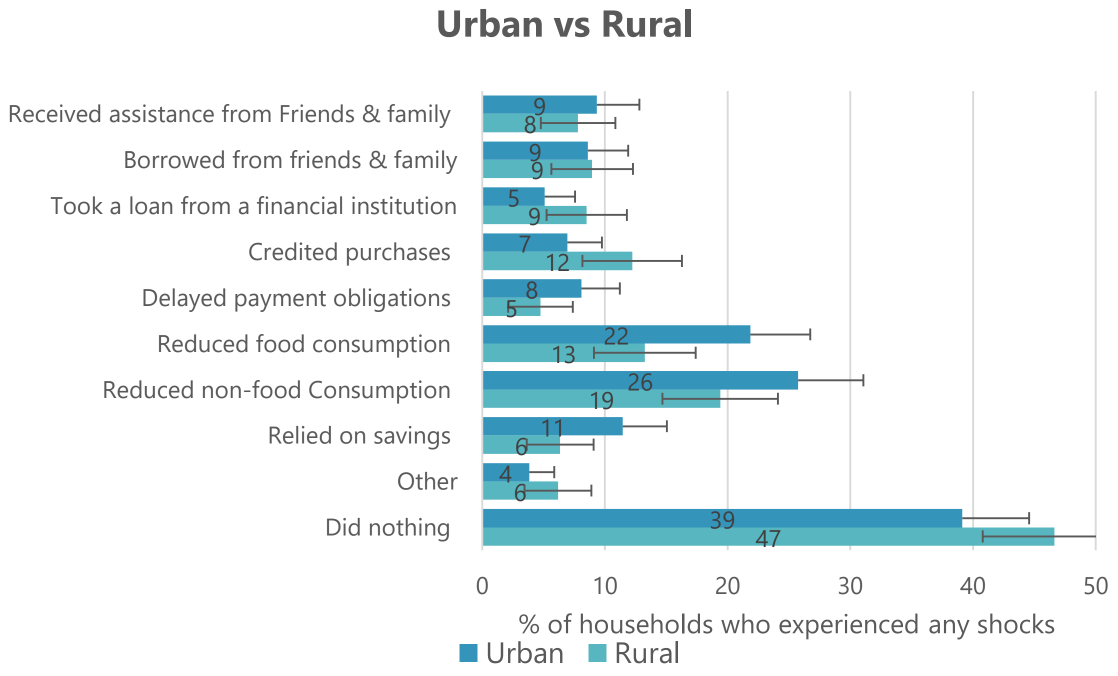


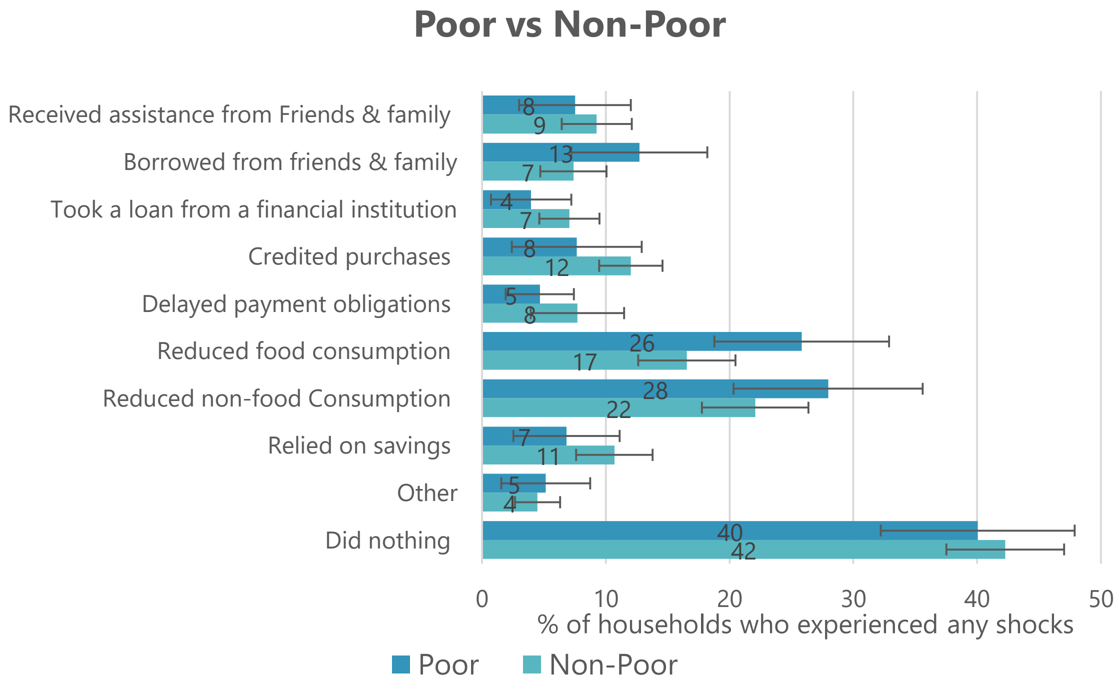
Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES.

Shocks and Coping strategies (2)

- **Different coping strategies were taken by location and income status**
  - Among households coping with shocks, urban and poor households tend to reduce consumption of both food and non-foods, while rural and non-poor households are more likely to take a loan or make credited purchases. Also, poor households tend to borrow from friends and family rather than relying on formal financial instruments
- **At the same time, 2 out of 5 households did not take any actions against shocks they experienced**

How did your household cope with shocks? (multiple answers)

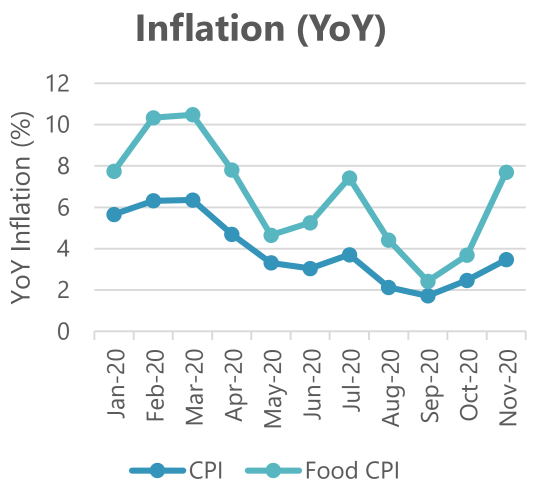


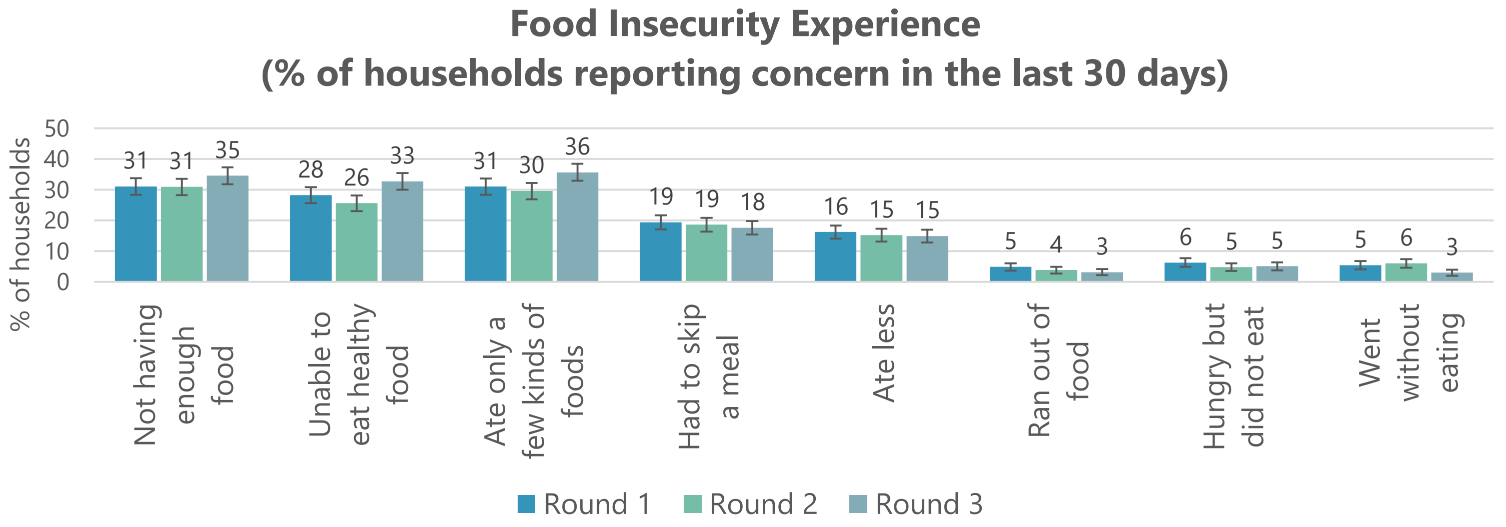


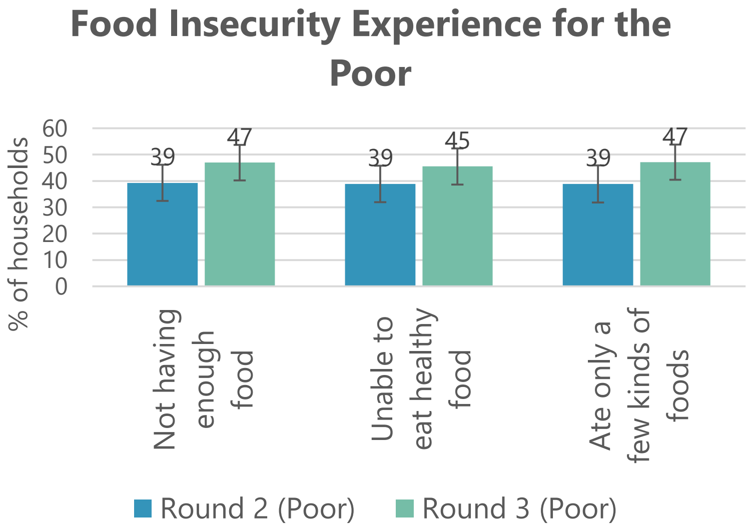
Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES.

Food security

- **Food prices have been increasing since the 2nd lockdown**
  - In November 2020, food CPI inflation rate (YoY) surged to 8 percent
- **Food security status for having sufficient, healthy and enough kinds of food has slightly worsened since last August (Round 2)**
- **In particular, food security is deteriorating for the poor**
  - In Round 3, nearly half of the poor were uncertain about their ability to (i) obtain enough food, (ii) obtain healthy food and (iii) obtain enough kinds of food, while about 40 percent of the poor were in Round 2



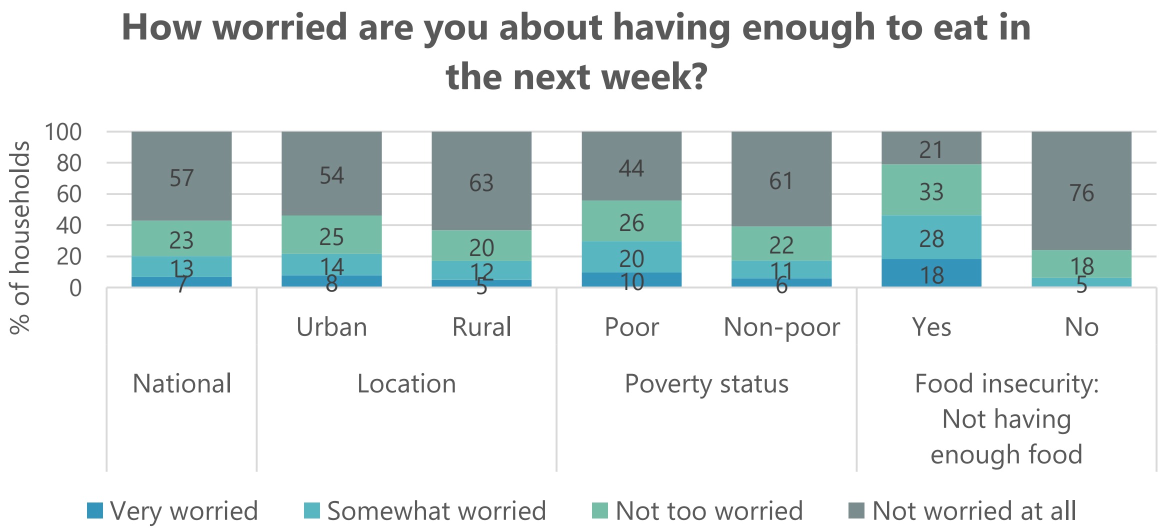


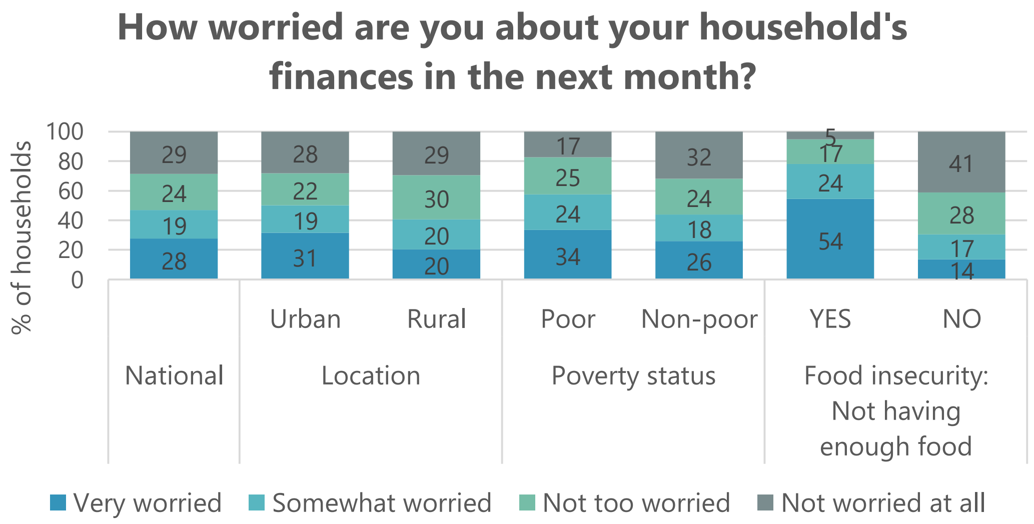


Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES. Included only households interviewed both in Round 1, Round 2 and Round 3 (1147 households).

Concerns

- **A substantial portion of poor and food-insecure households are worried about future food security and finances**
  - 30 percent of the poor or 46 percent of households with low food security reported concerns on food security in the next week (following the survey)
  - Food-insecure households' concern regarding finances is significant – more than half of households are very worried and a quarter are somewhat worried of their finances in the next month
- **Compared to Round 1 and 2, the overall level of concern in finances is increasing in Round 3**
  - 37-40 percent of households are worried about their finances in the previous 2 rounds, but it increased up to 47 percent in Round 3





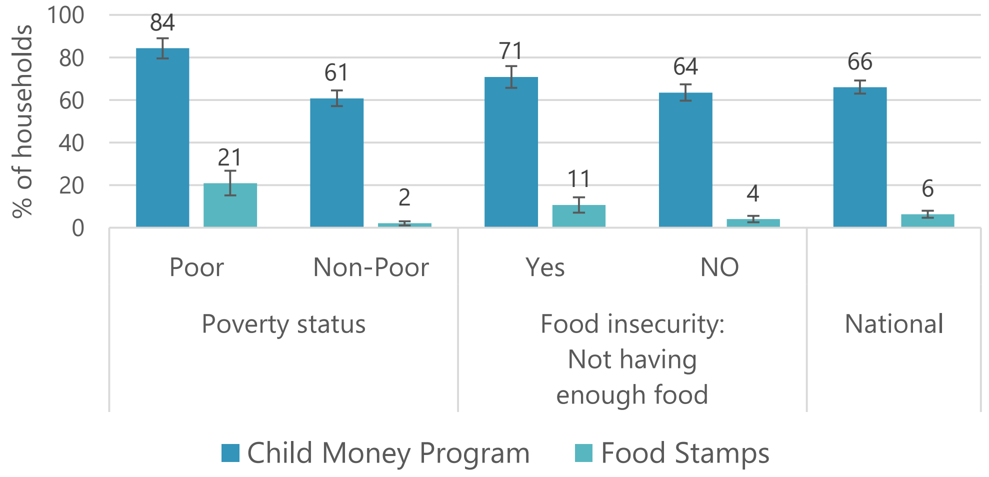
Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES.

Safety Nets: Social assistance (1)

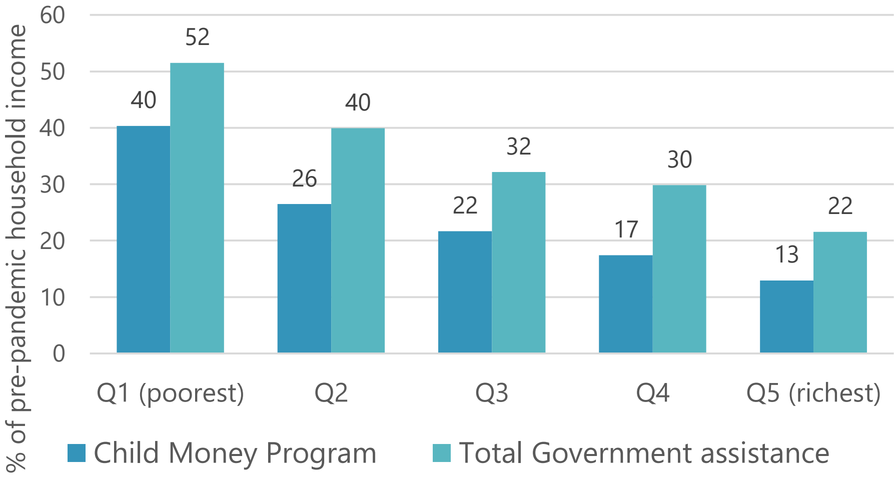
Child Money Program (CMP) covers most poor households (84%) but targeting households based on the current status (by food security) might be a challenge

- The survey indicates nearly 84 percent of poor households received Child Money Program (CMP), while 60 percent of the non-poor did
- However, despite the wide coverage of CMP, almost 30 percent of households with food insecurity are not covered. Also, only 11 percent of those with low food security were able to receive food stamps compared to 21 percent of the poor
- The average recipient amount of government assistance has not changed since Round 2. On average, households in the bottom 20% received 259 thousand tugrug as CMP in the 30 days preceding the survey, which is equivalent to 40% of their pre-pandemic household income(1). In total, they received 331 thousand tugrug from the Government, accounting for 52% of their pre-pandemic income

Coverage of social protection programs (% recipient since March 2020)



Share of government assistance to pre-pandemic household income

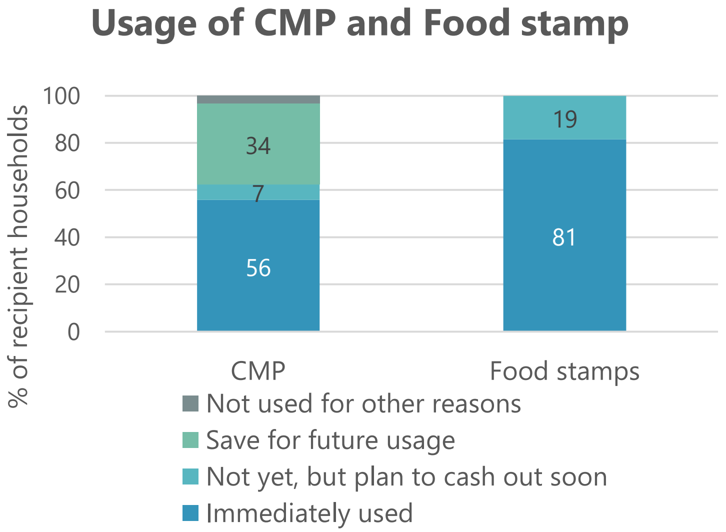


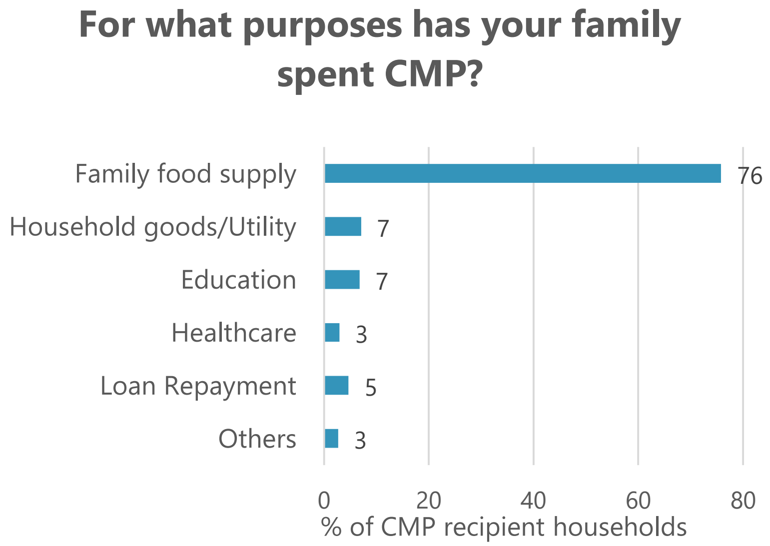
Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES. (1) Average pre-pandemic (nominal) household income was calculated from the 2018 HSES

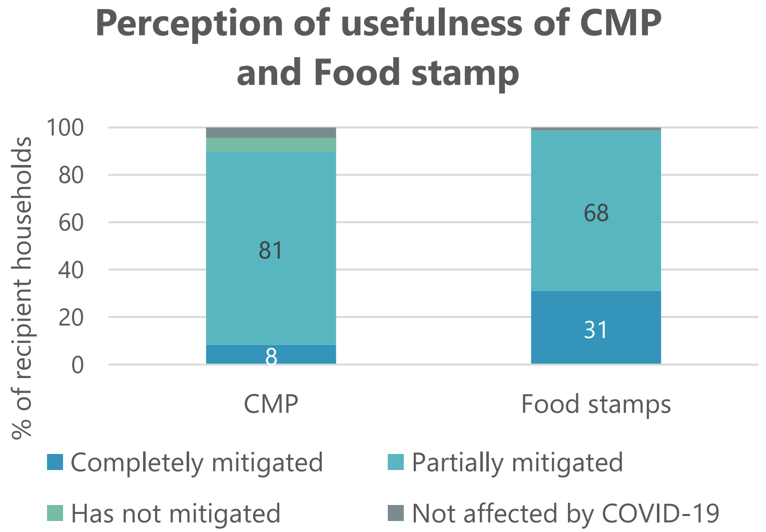
Safety Nets: Social assistance (2)

2 in 3 CMP recipient households were planning to use benefits immediately or soon, and benefits were used primarily on purchasing food

- Nearly 2 in 3 CMP recipient households were planning to use CMP benefits immediately or soon, while 1 in 3 recipients plan to save the money for later use. Particularly, 3 in 4 CMP recipients with low-food security reported they planned to use benefits immediately or soon
- As food stamps were intended to be for immediate usage, 81 percent reported using the benefits immediately
- Out of beneficiaries who immediately used CMP, three-quarters (76%) used CMP benefits for purchasing food for their families
- Government assistance has helped households to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic
    - 81% of CMP recipients reported CMP partially mitigated the negative impacts
    - 31% of food stamp recipients reported it completely mitigated the negative impacts and 68% reported it partially compensated impacts



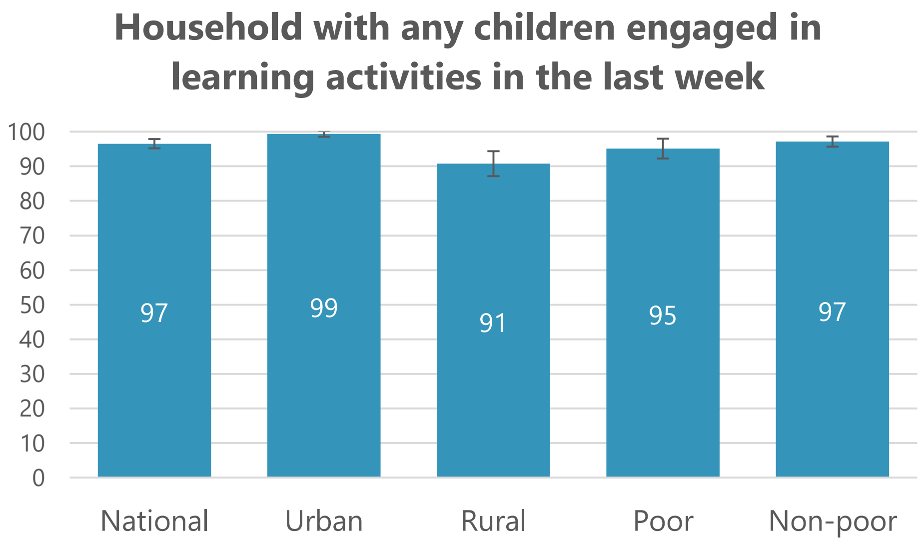


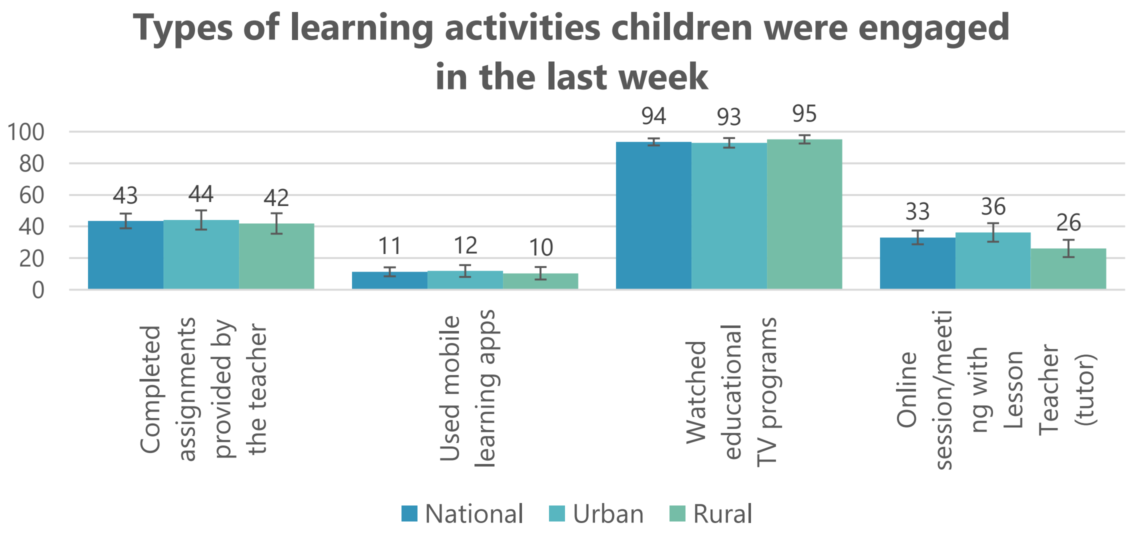


Education (1)

All schools have been closed since November 12. During the 2nd lockdown, almost all households with any school-enrolled children (97 percent) were engaged in distance learning activities, mainly through educational TV programs

- Every urban household with children (99%) participated in learning activities, while rural households' participation rate (91%) was slightly lower
- The most popular learning activity is educational TV program (94%), followed by assignments provided by the teacher (43%) and online sessions (33%)
    - While 36 percent of urban households joined online sessions provided by teachers, only 26 percent of rural households did.

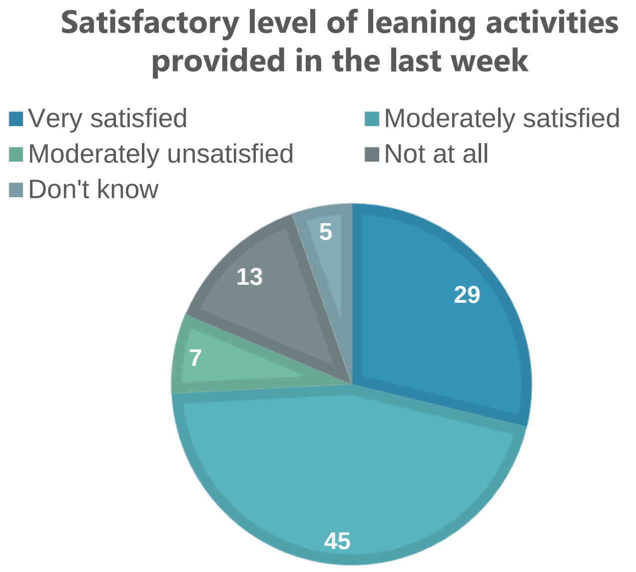


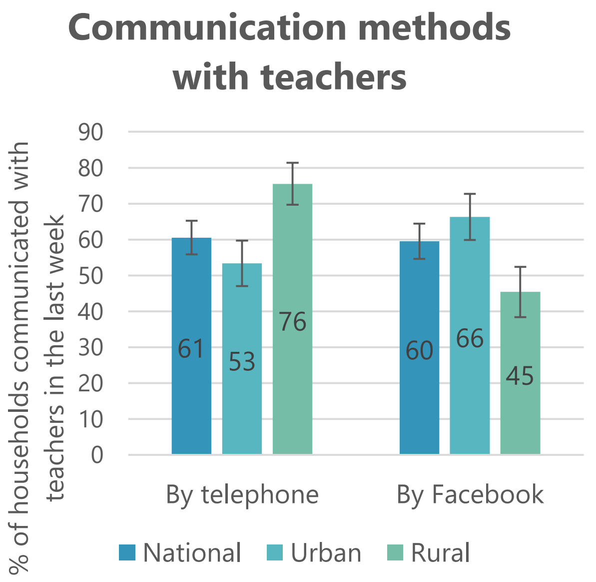


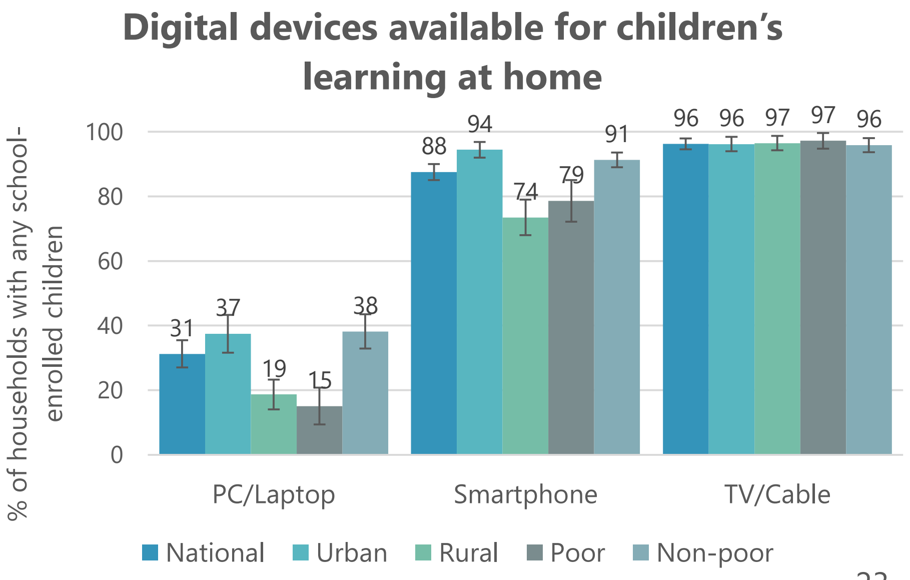
Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES.

Education (2)

- **Most Households (74%) are largely satisfied with the quality and implementation of learning activities, while 1 in 5 are not satisfied**
  - The overall satisfaction rate has slightly deteriorated since Round 1. During the previous school closure period (Round 1), only 7 percent expressed strong dissatisfaction, while 13 percent did so under the second lockdown (Round 3)
  - Communication method with teachers is slightly different between urban and rural. In rural areas, 3 in 4 households received a direct call from teachers while urban households are more likely to utilize SNS (Facebook).
- **A clear divide in access to digital devices for children's learning at home is evident**
  - While TV is widely available across the country, the poor and rural households are less likely to own computer, tablet and smartphones







Note: Poverty status is based on the 2018 HSES.

Access to health and financial services

- **1 out of 3 households were not able to take medical treatment in Round 3, while most households (92%) who needed medical treatment received services in Round 1**
  - The main reasons are due to households' concerns of contracting the virus outside (51%), followed by mobility restrictions (22%)
- **On the other hand, no serious disruptions in access to financial services were observed**
  - 92 percent of those who needed services were successfully able to access financial institutions or other financial services