



COVID-19 IN LAC

HONDURAS

2021 LAC HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEYS: Results Phase II, Wave 1

A year and a half into the pandemic, the adverse effects on welfare in Honduras were still evident, according to the High-Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS). By mid-2021, about 1 in 3 workers had lost their pre-pandemic job, and 61.4 percent of them had left the labor force altogether. Job loss rates were higher for women (50.5 percent), the elderly of 65+ (45.2 percent), and individuals between 18 and 25 years of age (37.0 percent). Among those who lost their job and transitioned to inactivity, 68.9 percent were low-skilled people with primary education, and 66.8 percent are women.

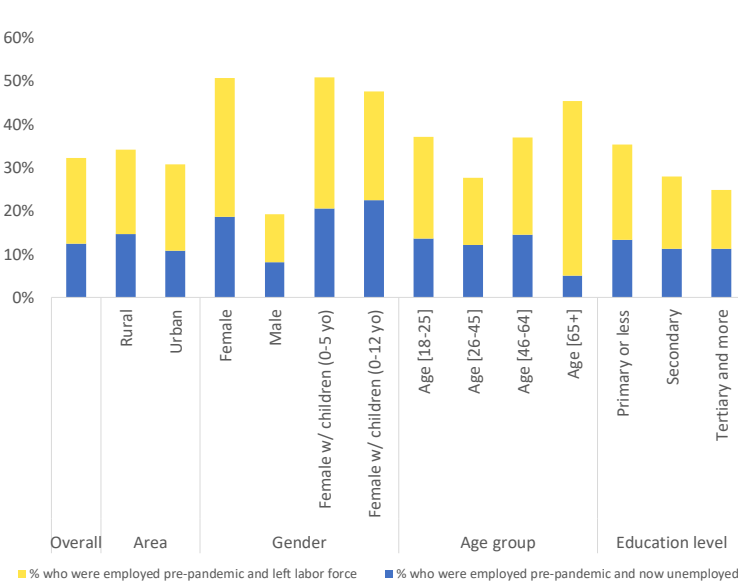
There was also a large share of previously inactive people entering the labor force during the pandemic (43.7 percent). About 57.9 percent of the entrants into activity were women across all age ranges, most of them with primary education (64.9 percent) and with children under 18 (60.5 percent). The new active, who likely entered the labor market to avoid falling into poverty, represented 21.1 percent of the employed and 25.7 percent of the unemployed by mid-2021. Workers also transited between formality and informality, a sign of job quality deterioration. Of the previously formal workers, 12.9 percent became informal, particularly women (18.6 percent) and the youngest cohort (16.0 percent).

Despite substantial support from the government in the form of regular and emergency transfers (such as Bono Vida Mejor), which covered two out of every five households in Honduras, about 40.9 percent of households still reported that their income was below the pre-pandemic level. Together with transits from inactivity into activity, these findings suggest emergency transfers were insufficient to compensate for income loss. However, Honduras was successful in containing increased hunger in 2021. Food insecurity lessened compared to its level at the beginning of the pandemic, although it remains above its pre-pandemic level. By mid-2021, more than one-third of households ran out of food during the 30 days preceding the survey. The incidence was higher for families with primary-educated heads (41.6 percent) and lower asset ownership (46.5 percent).

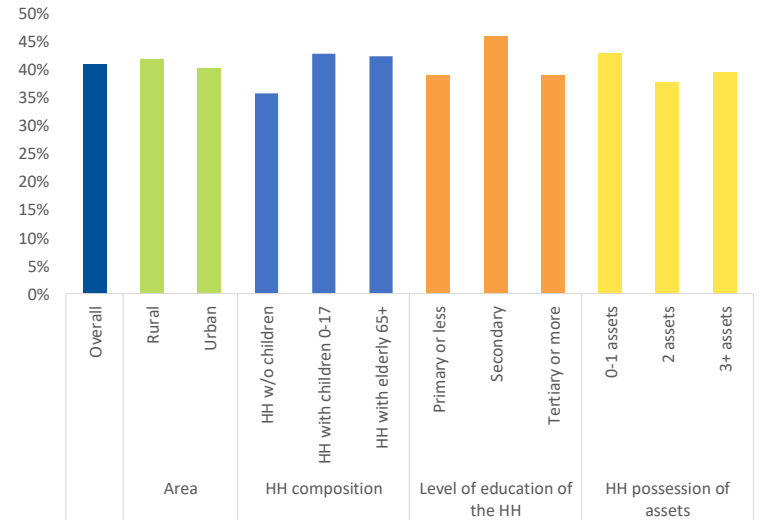
Only 73.6 percent of school-age children were attending school at the time of the survey (in person or virtually). Moreover, only 55.7 percent had a direct interaction with a teacher. Limited connectivity likely diffculted virtual learning as 61.6 percent of households with an internet connection (40.2 percent of the total) reported poor service quality. Unequal intra-household arrangements, coupled with schooled closures, resulted in 47.0 percent more women than men reporting an increase in the time spent supporting children's education during the pandemic. However, the burden increased for both women (36.6 percent) and men (24.9).

Access to digital financial services is still elusive to households in Honduras and a significant challenge looking forward: only 29.2 percent of individuals reported using mobile wallets in mid-2021. Finally, a full recovery will depend on an effective vaccination campaign. Vaccination hesitancy in Honduras (at 15.6 percent) is above the LAC average (at 8.0 percent) and is higher among the youth and the less educated groups.

JOB LOSS (% OF PRE-PANDEMIC WORKERS)



HOUSEHOLDS (%) WITH REDUCED INCOME



Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

KEY INDICATORS: INDIVIDUALS (18+ years old)

Distribution among groups	Labor		Childcare responsibilities		Health	Finance
	% of employed population (pre-pandemic) who lost their pre-pandemic job	% of inactive population (pre-pandemic) who became active (employed or unemployed)	% of formal workers (pre-pandemic) who became informal	% of population who spent more time accompanying children's education	% of population who is not planning to get vaccinated or unsure (vaccination hesitancy)	% of population using mobile wallets
Overall	32.1%	43.7%	12.9%	31.7%	15.6%	29.2%
Rural	34.1%	46.1%	15.9%	28.3%	16.8%	26.4%
Urban	30.6%	41.5%	10.9%	34.5%	14.6%	31.3%
Females	50.5%	33.9%	18.6%	36.6%	17.0%	27.5%
Males	19.2%	72.1%	10.1%	24.9%	14.0%	31.0%
18 to 25 years old	37.0%	58.1%	16.0%	29.8%	21.8%	37.5%
26 to 45 years old	27.5%	45.7%	14.5%	32.8%	15.2%	26.7%
46 to 64 years old	36.8%	39.6%	4.6%	34.7%	9.4%	29.4%
65 and older	45.2%	13.1%	0.0%	8.4%	16.3%	21.0%
Primary or less	35.2%	37.6%	12.8%	27.7%	17.1%	25.0%
Secondary	27.9%	53.6%	12.5%	37.4%	14.1%	35.2%
Tertiary and more	24.7%	57.3%	14.0%	50.6%	10.2%	38.4%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

KEY INDICATORS: HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

Distribution among groups	Income	Food Insecurity		Education (6-17 yo)		Connectivity
	% HH that report a reduction in total income (current v. pre-pandemic)	% HH that received Emergency Government Transfers during the pandemic	% HHs that ran out of food (last 30 days)	% of children in school age who attended school (in person or virtually)	% of children in school age who interacted with teacher (in-person or online classes)	% HHs that had problems with internet service due to poor access quality / speed
Overall	40.9%	38.5%	34.8%	73.6%	55.8%	61.6%
Rural	41.8%	40.5%	36.3%	75.3%	57.7%	61.8%
Urban	40.3%	37.1%	33.7%	72.2%	54.2%	61.5%
HH w/o children (0-17)	35.8%	39.8%	29.1%	-	-	58.3%
HH with children (0-17)	42.8%	38.1%	36.9%	73.6%	55.8%	62.8%
HH with elderly (65+)	42.4%	37.0%	32.7%	81.8%	67.4%	60.0%
0-1 assets	42.9%	41.8%	46.5%	67.9%	46.7%	63.7%
2 assets	37.7%	41.0%	27.6%	77.0%	60.3%	60.9%
3+ assets	39.6%	27.2%	13.0%	88.9%	81.2%	58.8%
HH education - Primary or less	39.1%	42.2%	41.6%	68.0%	49.2%	62.8%
HH education - Secondary	45.8%	39.4%	31.7%	82.0%	66.0%	62.4%
HH education - Tertiary or more	38.9%	20.1%	14.6%	86.4%	70.2%	59.1%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

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. 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 96 harmonized indicators across 50 countries in Latin America and the world. For further information, see [World Bank and UNDP \(2021\)](#).