



# COVID-19 IN LAC

## HAITI

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

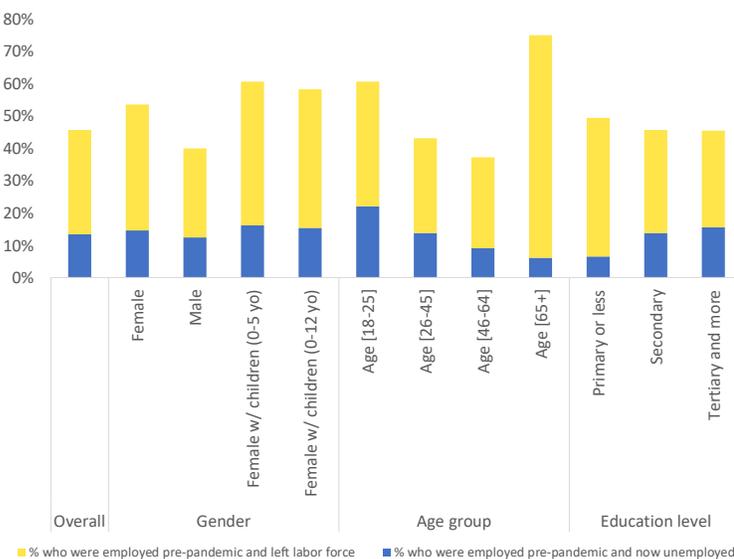
In Haiti, the pandemic was yet another shock to an already weakened economy that had shrunk by 1.7 percent in 2019. Deteriorating conditions have been marked by instability, reductions in external financing, high inflation and depreciation, social unrest, and exogenous hazards such as Hurricane Mathew in 2016. Before the pandemic, the country had been engulfed in turmoil resulting in the halt of economic activities, suspension of schooling activities, and shortages of fuel, water, food, and medicine. These were further exacerbated by the global spread of the virus and the assassination of President Moise in July 2021.

The High-Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) reveals adverse impacts from these multiple shocks. In mid-2021, 45.6 percent of workers had lost their pre-pandemic job, and three-quarters of them had left the labor force altogether. Women in peak productivity ages (26-45 years old) represented more than a quarter of the workers entering inactivity. Job losses were accompanied by increased informality: 13.8 percent of previously formal workers had transitioned into informal employment at the time of the survey. Conversely, 44.7 percent of formerly inactive individuals had joined the labor force by mid-2021, likely forced by income loss. Two-thirds of them found a job, but most new jobs were informal (92.9 percent). At the time of the survey, the newly active population made up 28.5 percent of the employed and 39.9 percent of the unemployed.

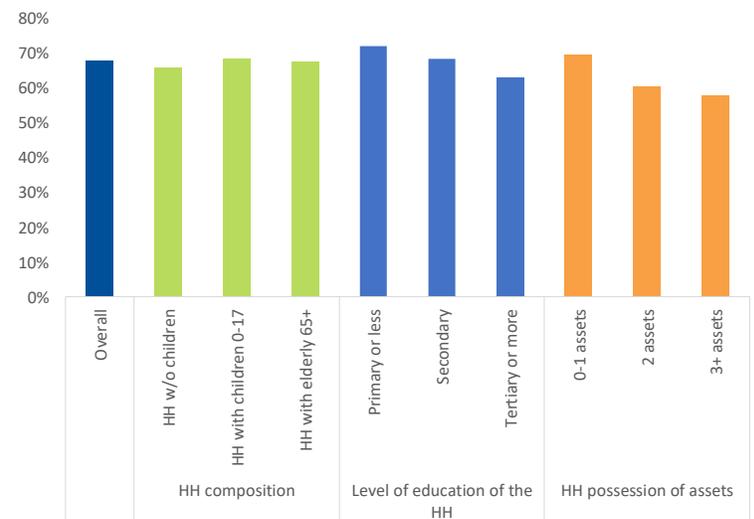
In line with job loss and increased informality, total household income was severely affected, with 67.7 percent of households experiencing a reduction in total income compared to before the pandemic. In April 2020, the government announced that 1.5 million households would receive a one-time cash transfer. However, according to the HFPS, only 2.6 percent of households received emergency assistance during the pandemic. The erosion of household resources and limited reach of emergency coverage has likely worsened an already critical food insecurity scenario. According to the HFPS, half of Haitian households recalled having faced food insecurity pre-pandemic, but by mid-2021, this figure increased to 66.4 percent of households.

Only 5.6 percent of households have an internet connection, and 75.8 percent of them report problems related to service quality. Lacking connectivity has likely contributed to an increased educational lag. Only 78.3 percent of school-age children attended school (in person or virtually) in mid-2021, and 63.8 percent participated in learning activities involving direct interaction with a teacher (in person or via online sessions). Access to healthcare is limited: 1 in every 10 Haitians needing services reported not having access. Moreover, Haiti has the lowest vaccination rate in the region, while vaccination hesitancy was very high: According to the HFPS, 59.4 percent of the population reported not planning on getting the vaccine or being unsure about it.

### 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	45.6%	44.7%	13.8%	39.2%	59.4%	56.5%
Females	53.5%	40.6%	9.6%	40.2%	66.3%	52.8%
Males	39.8%	51.3%	16.6%	38.1%	51.9%	60.4%
18 to 25 years old	60.5%	37.3%	9.0%	37.2%	59.4%	52.3%
26 to 45 years old	43.0%	54.9%	15.4%	42.9%	61.3%	59.3%
46 to 64 years old	37.0%	41.4%	14.8%	35.9%	57.4%	56.0%
65 and older	74.8%	28.9%	0.0%	17.8%	47.5%	50.9%
Primary or less	49.4%	42.9%	13.0%	31.1%	55.2%	47.9%
Secondary	45.6%	44.4%	14.7%	38.8%	58.1%	52.0%
Tertiary and more	45.3%	43.6%	13.3%	43.8%	64.4%	73.4%

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	67.7%	2.6%	66.4%	78.3%	64.1%	75.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	66.0%	1.7%	60.1%	-	-	79.0%
HH with children (0-17)	68.4%	3.0%	69.0%	78.3%	64.1%	74.5%
HH with elderly (65+)	67.5%	3.5%	70.8%	78.6%	63.0%	72.7%
0-1 assets	69.6%	2.6%	70.6%	76.9%	62.7%	72.4%
2 assets	60.4%	2.4%	51.7%	83.0%	67.7%	80.5%
3+ assets	58.0%	3.9%	41.8%	88.0%	75.7%	72.4%
HH education - Primary or less	72.0%	2.5%	72.5%	71.1%	58.5%	74.5%
HH education - Secondary	68.3%	3.0%	66.6%	80.9%	65.3%	72.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	62.8%	2.6%	55.8%	85.6%	70.3%	80.8%

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 \(2021\)](#).