

COVID-19: Impact on households well being monitoring

From August 21 to September 9, 2020

The Gambia

Newsletter No 1. --October 2020



KEY MESSAGES

Households not able to stock up on food as usual



Households experiencing decrease in income



Households feel their well-being got worse



Households are more optimistic about following 12 months



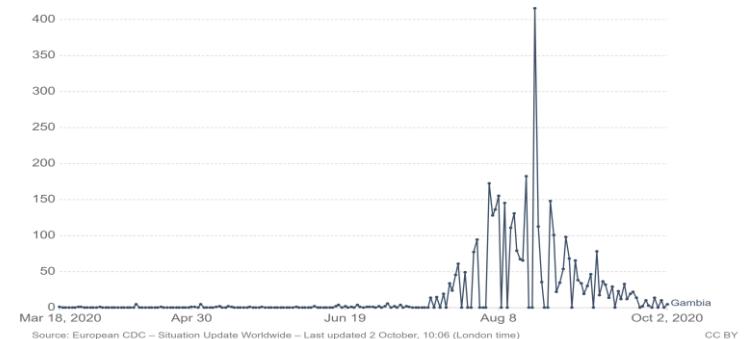
METHODOLOGY



Results of this note use data from the High Frequency Survey on the COVID-19 Impacts on Households, a collaboration between the World Bank, the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) and the State and Peace-building Fund (SPF). A sub-sample of 1437 households of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) were interviewed by phone between August 21 and September 9. The results are representative at the national level and at strata level (Banjul and Kanifing agglomeration, other urban areas, rural areas).

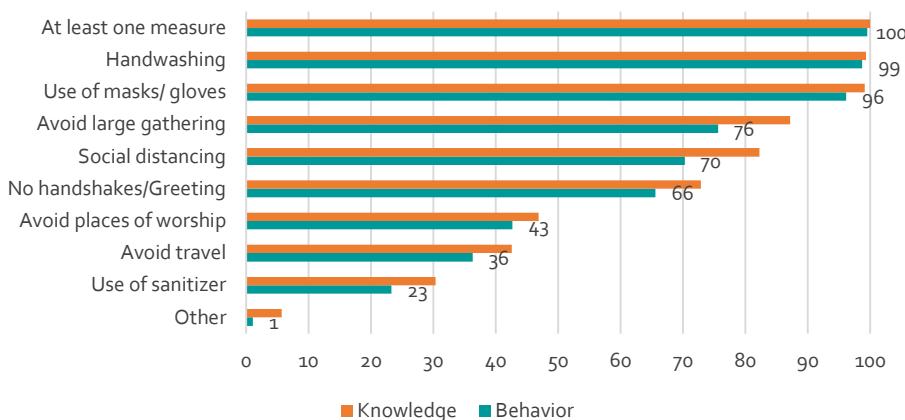
Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

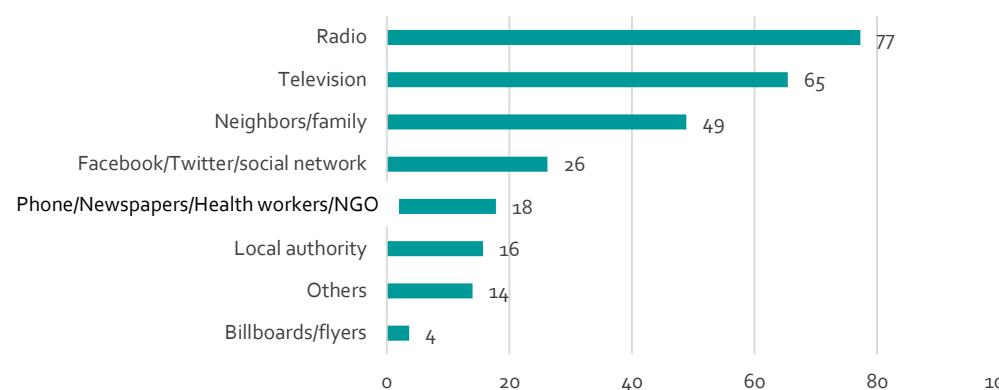


KNOWLEDGE OF COVID-19 AND PREVENTION

- All the households have already heard about the covid-19 pandemic and are aware of at least one preventive measure against covid-19. Nearly all households apply at least one preventive measure, with the most widely applied measure being hand washing and the use of masks and gloves.
- The most widely used channel for disseminating information about covid-19 is radio, cited by 77% of households, particularly 80% of rural households. Next is television, cited by 65% of all households and 85% of households living in Banjul and Kanifing agglomeration.



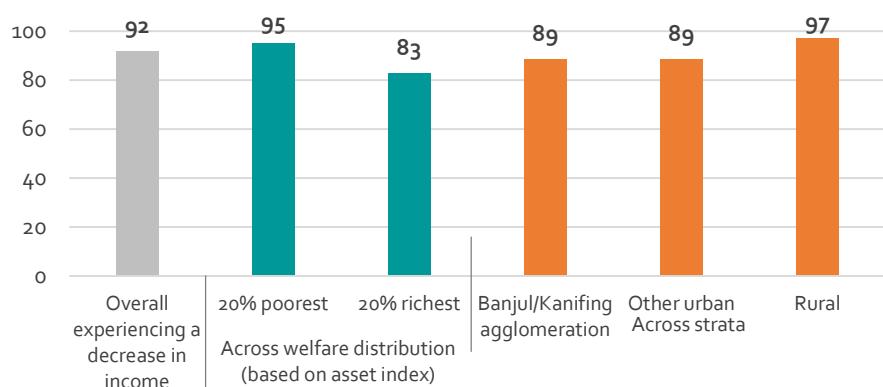
Graph 1: Knowledge of measures and behavior against the spread of covid-19



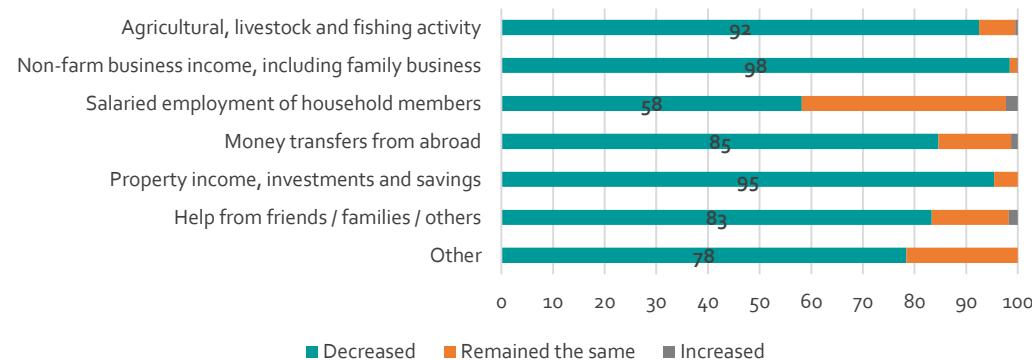
Graph 2: Channels for receiving covid-19 information

INCOME LOSS

- More than nine out of ten households (91.8%) have experienced a decrease in income since March 2020, 7.8% have maintained their income level and less than 1% (0.4%) have experienced an increase in their income. Despite this general downward trend in income, households from rural areas seem to be much more affected than those from urban areas (97% versus 90% households experienced a drop in income). Similarly, across the welfare distribution (where welfare is constructed as an index of asset ownership), the 20% poorest households are more affected than the 20% wealthiest (95% vs. 83% experienced a drop in income).
- In terms of sources of income (income from labor markets and income from transfers), the least affected is the salaried income of employed members, as more than half (58%) of the 36% of households receiving income from this source report a decrease in their income. Conversely, non-farm family business owners (56% of households) and agricultural households (33% of households) appear to be relatively more affected by the pandemic as more than nine-tenths of those households report a decrease in those kind of income. Decrease in farm income, could however be a combined effect of covid-19 factors (prices freezing mandated by the government, mobility constraint, limited access to input and output markets) and non-covid-19 factors (seasonality of farm activities, august being during the rainy season when most agricultural products are yet to be harvested).



Graph 3: Decline in household income between mid-March and August 2020



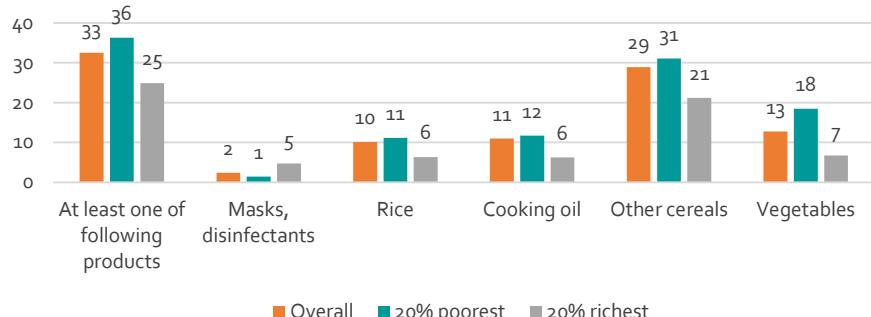
Note: Only the sources of income declared by at least 2% of the households have been reported.

Graph 4: Change in household income by source of revenue between mid-March and August 2020



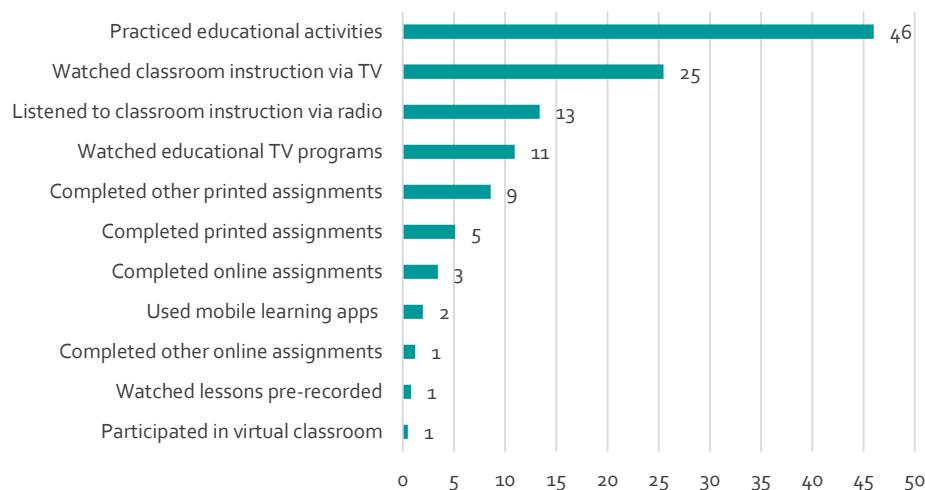
ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

- Nearly one out of two households was unable to stock up on food as usual, with more than nine out of ten households citing lack of money as one of the reasons.
- Among the commodities mentioned by the survey, those being the most difficult to access by households are cereals other than rice (29%) and vegetables (13%), especially for the one fifth poorest households. Only 2% of households have difficulty accessing masks and disinfectants.



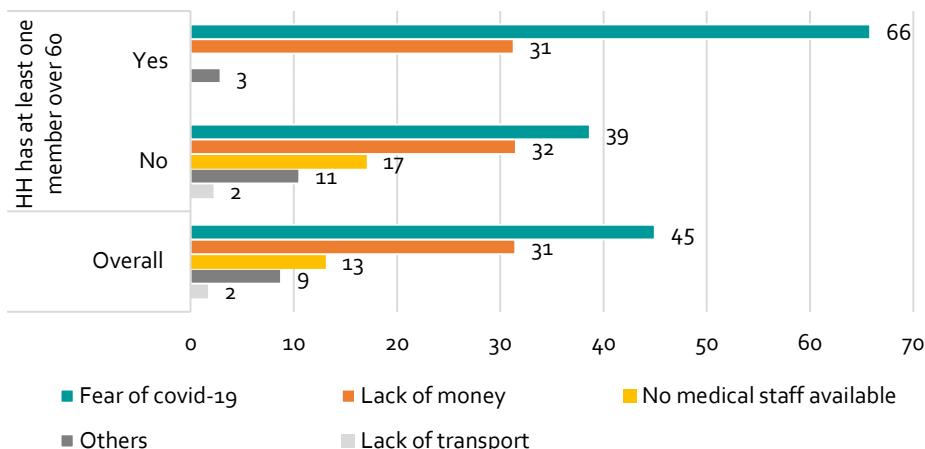
Graph 5: Household non access to commodities since mid-March 2020

- Since the closure of schools, in 46% of households with at least one school member, learners are engaged in at least one educational activity at home. This figure drops to 36% in rural areas.



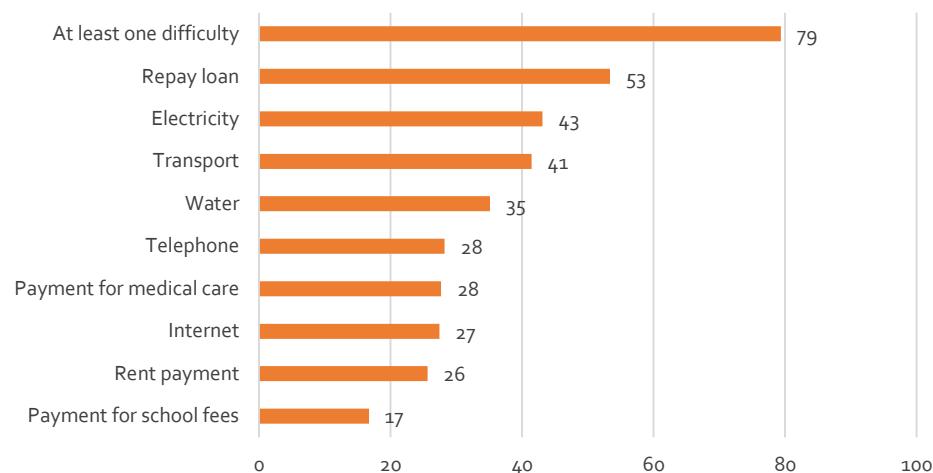
Graph 7: Types of educational activities carried out since school closures

- Three out of ten households have needed medical care since March 2020, but only 5% of those households have not had access to it. The main reasons given were fear of covid-19 (45%) and lack of money (31%). Fear of covid-19 is largely (65%) more pronounced within households with at least one member over 60 years of age.



Graph 6: Reason of non access to medical care

- Since March 2020, almost 80% of households have had problems honoring the payment of their commitments. Especially, households have had difficulty repaying their loans (53%), paying electricity bills (43%), and paying for transportation (41%).

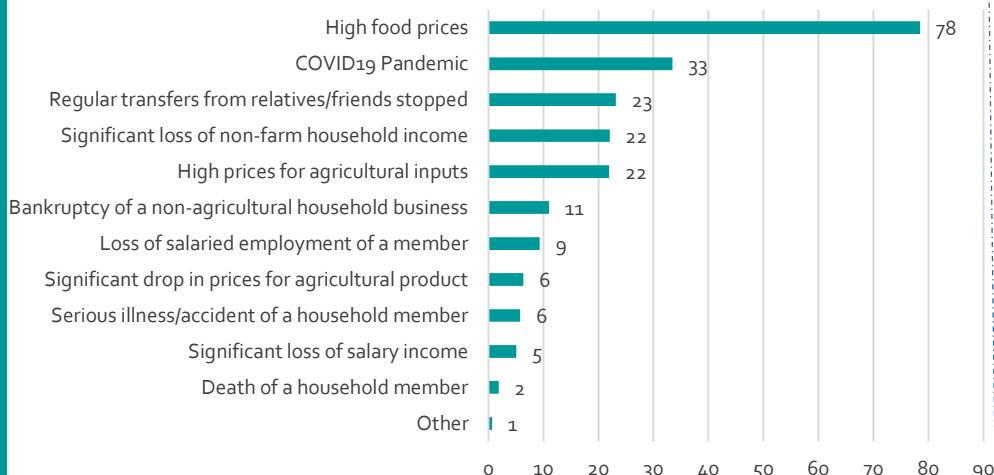


Graph 8: Household facing problems of honoring payment of services



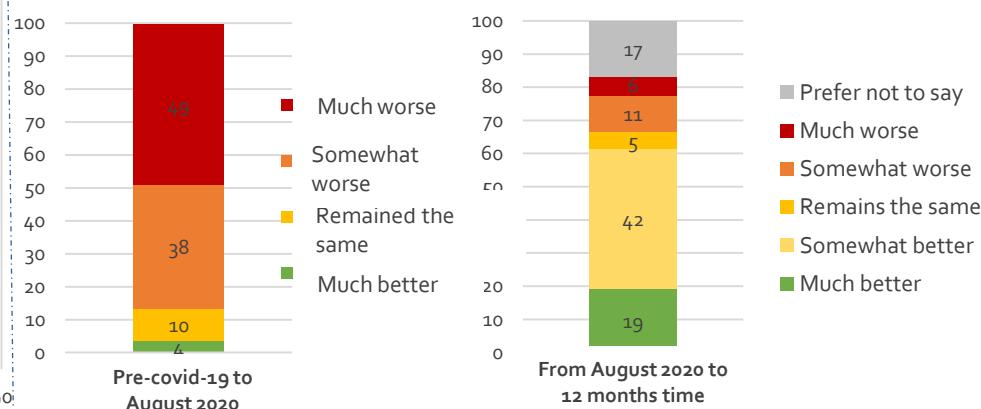
SHOCKS AND PERCEPTION OF WELL-BEING

- Nearly eight out of ten households declare they have been negatively affected by the rise in food prices, compared to only one-third who say they have been negatively affected by the covid-19 pandemic. Between 22% and 23% of households have also suffered from the suspension of cash transfers from relatives or friends, and from the increase in the price of agricultural inputs.



Graph 9: Shocks negatively affected household since March 2020

- Nearly nine-tenths of households feel that their well-being has deteriorated between pre-covid period and August 2020, compared to 4% who feel their well-being has improved. Nonetheless, households appear to be optimistic about the next 12 months as 20% of households believe their well-being will be much better in 12 months time. However, the vast majority (42%) believe that their situation will remain the same. Only 17% of households are pessimistic and project a deterioration in their well-being over the next 12 months.



Graph 10: Perception of evolution of household well-being



For further details, visit <https://www.gbosdata.org>

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