

Rapid Multi-Sectoral Assessment in Latin America and the Caribbean

Introduction:

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic, urging countries to take measures such as isolation, contact tracing, and preventive measures to mitigate risk of transmission of the virus.¹ Consequently, strict measures were ordered to be taken, contributing to a global economic recession, with effects of unemployment, lower salaries, and an increase in poverty.²

Regional humanitarian actors work to meet the needs of vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic. For this purpose, robust and objective information on the situation is required for decision-making and planning of humanitarian programmes targeting children and adolescents. For this reason, REACH Initiative (REACH), in collaboration with UNICEF, launched an assessment focusing on the household impact of COVID-19 in 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Data collection for the Eastern Caribbean countries (ECA)³ was conducted by telephone between August and September 2020. 385 households with children and 385 households without children were evaluated through simple stratified random sampling. This factsheet presents representative results for ECA (not for individual countries, however), reporting on proportion of households and household income levels to ensure that all economic groups are represented. Each stratum (households with and without children) is representative at a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error.



ṁ Population profile

Proportion of age groups in households with children in ECA:4

- 77% of adults (over 18 years of age)
- 15% children (aged between 5 to 17)
- 8% children (aged between 0 to 4)





2% of households without children reported at least one pregnant woman within the household

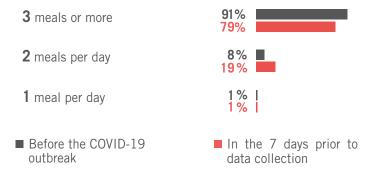
2% of the households with children, reported at least one pregnant woman within the household

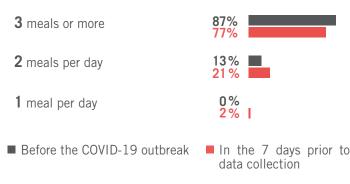


Food security

Proportion of households with children by quantity of meals reported per day:

ty of meals reported per Proportion of households without children by quantity of meals reported per day:





Proportion of households with children which implemented any of the following food shortage strategies in the 7 days prior to data collection:⁵

Proportion of households without children which implemented any of the following food shortage coping strategies in the 7 days prior to data collection:⁵

None	49%	
Reduce portion sizes for adults	46%	
Reduce portion sizes for children	6%	•
Reduce number of meals per day	13%	
Spend days without eating	3%	I
Consume expired foods	0%	
Other	4%	1

None	68%
Reduce portion sizes for adults	29%
Spend days without eating	4% ▮
Consume expired foods	0%
Other	1%





^{1:} John Hopkins University (visit website Click here)

^{2:} CEPAL, Latin America and the Caribbean in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic Economic and Social Effects, 3 April 2020.
3: The countries included in ECA are: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands. Please note that results for

Trinidad and Tobago are reported separately.

^{4:} All households without children comprised of household members who were only adults over the age of 18 years 5: This was a multiple choice question, therefore the sum of the response options may exceed 100%

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Health

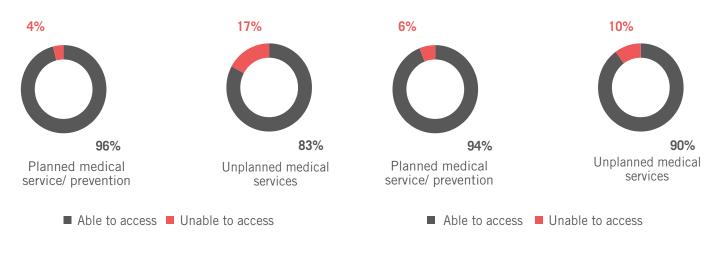
Proportion of households with children where a family member has required access to medical services since the outbreak of COVID-19:6

Proportion of households without children where a family member has required access to medical services since the outbreak of COVID-19:6



Proportion of households with children with people in need of medical services by level of accessibility since the outbreak of COVID-19:

Proportion of households without children with people in need of medical services by level of accessibility since the outbreak of COVID-19:



Reported reasons for inability to access medical services, by proportion of households with children:⁶

Lack of medical personnel or medicines	47%
High cost of service	65%
Fear of contracting COVID-19	45%
Quarantine constraints	0%
Lack of health insurance	0%
The center is too far	0%
Transportation is too expensive	0%
Lack of documentation	0%
Abuse, discrimination, xenophobia	0%
Other	0%

Reported reasons for inability to access medical services, by proportion of households without children:⁶

Lack of medical personnel or medicines	7% ■
High cost of service	50%
Fear of contracting COVID-19	43%
Quarantine constraints	0%
Lack of health insurance	27%
The center is too far	0%
Transportation is too expensive	0%
Lack of documentation	0%
Abuse, discrimination, xenophobia	0%
Other	30%

6: This was a multiple choice question, therefore the sum of the answers exceeds 100%







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Livelihoods

Proportion of household income by quintile ranges of households with children:7

Quintile 1 42% Quintile 2 16% Quintile 3 14% Quintile 4 12% Quintile 5 16% Proportion of household income by quintile ranges of households without children:7

Quintile 1 37% Quintile 2 17% Quintile 3 20% Quintile 4 11% Quintile 5 15%

Three main sources of income reported by households with children:8

Formal employment 77% 68% Informal employment 31% 28% Retirement/pension 6% I 6% **5%** Remittances from family and friends 5% 3% Government or non-governmental organization financial support 7% Donations from family or friends 0% 3% Agriculture 24% 25% Loans or debt 1% Other 0% 0% 0%

Three main sources of income reported of households without children:8

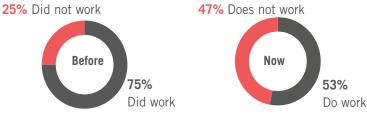
Formal employment 66% 55% Informal employment Retirement/pension Remittances from family and friends Government or non-governmental 2% organization financial support 4% Donations from family or friends 2% 4% Agriculture 19% 19% Loans or debt Other None ■ Before the COVID-19 outbreak
■ In the 7 days prior to data

■ Before the COVID-19 outbreak ■ In the 7 days prior to data collection

Proportion of adults reporting undertaking some kind of activity in

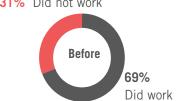
exchange for money or payment in kind before COVID-19 and in the last 7 days prior to data collection in households with children:

47% Does not work



7: The income ranges were subdivided into five quintiles, ranking population groups according to their income before COVID-19, where Q1 is the population group with the least economic resources and Q5 the group with the greatest

Proportion of adults reporting undertaking some kind of activity in exchange for money or payment in kind before COVID-19 and in the last 7 days prior to data collection in households without children: 31% Did not work 47% Does not work



Nnw 53% Do work

collection

8: The question included up to 3 sources per household, for this reason the sum of the sources exceeds 100%.



None



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Livelihoods

Proportion of households with children reporting maximum time in which Proportion of households without children reporting maximum time their income or savings can cover the households's basic expense:9

More than 3 months	10%	
2 - 3 months	3%	I
1 - 2 months	9%	
Up to 1 month	39%	
Up to 2 weeks	22%	
Up to 1 week	15%	
Up to 1 day	1%	I

Proportion of households with children reporting to apply any of the following strategies to address a lack of income in the 7 days prior to data collection:9

No strategy applied	29%	
Spending savings	56 %	
Receiving donations	10%	
Selling personal items	12%	
Borrowing from the community	4%	I
Borrowing from an institution	7%	
High-risk work	1%	I
Begging	0%	
Performing illegal jobs	0%	
Another strategy	3%	I

in which their income or savings can cover the households's basic

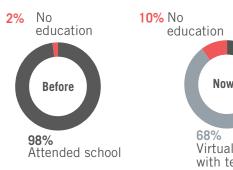
More than 3 months	18%	
2 - 3 months	8%	
1 - 2 months	7%	
Up to 1 month	44%	
Up to 2 weeks	12%	
Up to 1 week	8%	
Up to 1 day	1%	

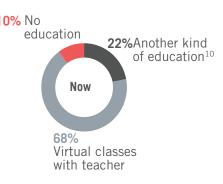
Proportion of households without children reporting to apply any of the following strategies to address a lack of income in the 7 days prior to data collection:9

No strategy applied	49%	
Spending savings	42%	
Receiving donations	9%	
Selling personal items	4%	I
Borrowing from the community	2%	I
Borrowing from an institution	5%	I
High-risk work	1%	I
Begging	0%	
Performing illegal jobs	0%	
Another strategy	1%	I

Education

Proportion of school-aged children who were reported to have had access to education services before the outbreak of COVID-19 and in the 7 days prior to data collection:9





Reported barriers to education by households where at least one child between 5 and 17 years of age was reported to not have access to

educational services since the outbreak of COVID-19:9		
	8%	No educational options
	11%	Cannot pay the monthly fee
	0%	Lack of internet in household
	ns 0 %	Insufficient electronic devices in household Child does not know how to use the virtual platform Child does not want to use virtual class platforn
	ad 0 %	Child must help with household chores instead Household does not see the need for the
	20%	child to participate Child did not study before the outbreak of COVID-19

9: This was a multiple choice question, therefore the sum of the answers exceeds 100%.

10: Other education refers to: virtual classes without a teacher, radio or TV classes, or homework assignments.

Other



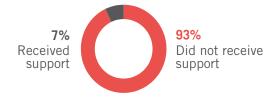
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🖒 Priority Needs

Proportion of households with children reporting that they received government support since the outbreak of COVID-19:

Proportion of households without children reporting that they received government support since the outbreak of COVID-19:





Main priority needs reported by households with children:11

Main priority needs reported by households without children:11

None	11%	None	26%
Livelihoods	50%	Livelihoods	33%
Food	65%	Food	47%
Housing support	27%	Housing support	18%
Medical services	14%	Medical services	21%
Education	13%	Sanitation and Hygiene related needs	8%
Sanitation and Hygiene related needs	8% ■	Government support	0%
Government support	0%	Biosecurity supplies	1%
Biosecurity supplies	0%	Mental health support	1%
Mental health support	1%	Services to manage intra-family conflicts	0%
Services to manage intra-family conflicts	0%	Fuel	2%
Fuel	0%	Legal services	0%
Legal services	0%	Other	18%
Childcare	12%		
Support for parenting	2%		
Other	20%		

This document was prepared with the financial support of the European Union. The views expressed herein do not in any way reflect the official position of the European Union. Furthermore, the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

About REACH responses to COVID-19

As an initiative deployed in several vulnerable and crisis-affected countries, REACH is concerned about the devastating impact that the COVID-19 pandemic may have on the millions of affected people it seeks to serve. Currently, REACH is working with partners to expand programming in response to this pandemic, with the goal of identifying practical ways to inform humanitarian responses in the countries where it operates. Updates on the REACH response to COVID-19 can be found on the REACH website, in the dedicated discussion forum. For more information on the results of this regional assessment please visit our Resource Center or contact geneva@impact-initiatives.org.





^{11:} This was a multiple choice question, therefore the sum of the answers exceeds 100%.