

COVID-19: Impact on households well being monitoring

From October 28 to November 14, 2020

The Gambia

Newsletter No 2. --November 2020



KEY MESSAGES

7 out of 10 households experienced decrease in income from mid-August to October against 9 out of 10 from March to mid-August.



Two out of three family businesses have experienced a decline in sales or revenue since March 2020.



Food insecurity appears to be much more pronounced among the poorest households and in rural areas.



From the period of March to mid-August 2020, to the period of mid-August to October, households reported an improvement in their well-being

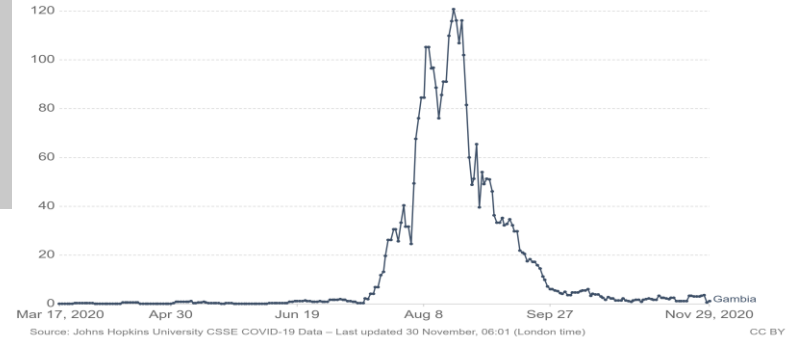
METHODOLOGY



Results of this note use data from the wave 2 of the High Frequency Survey on the COVID-19 Impacts on Households. A sub-sample of 1385 households of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) were interviewed by phone between October 28 and November 14, 2020. These same households have already been interviewed during the wave 1 whose sample consisted of 1437 households. The results are representative at the national level and at strata level (Banjul and Kanifing agglomeration, other urban areas, rural areas).

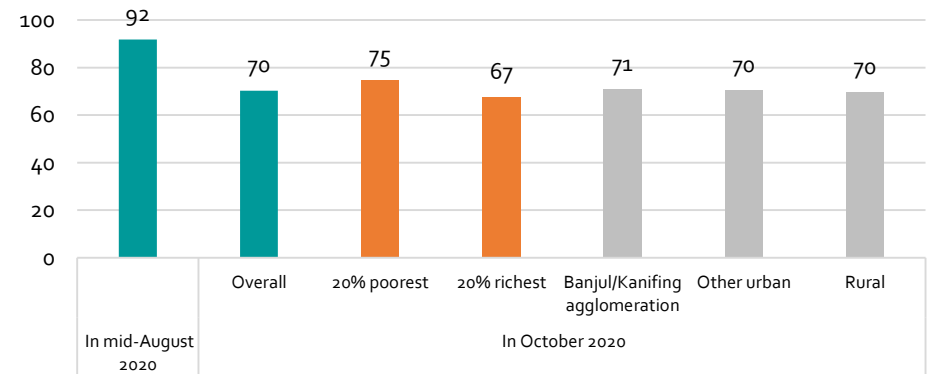
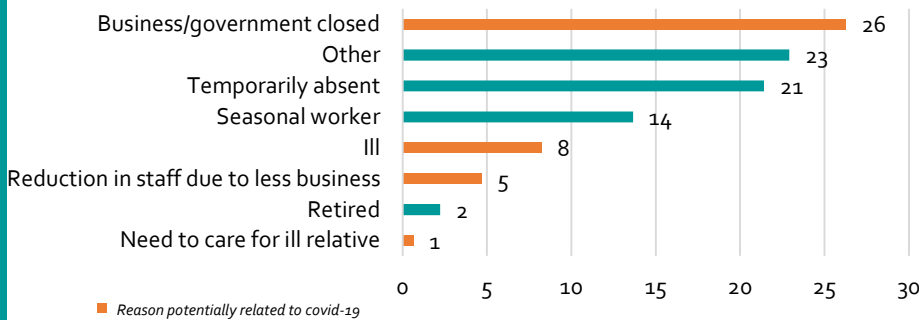
Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.



EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME LOSS

- Only 4% of household heads working in October 2020, had to change jobs between August and October, mainly due to the work interruption in their previous job. On the other hand 40% of household heads who are not working in October 2020, report a reason potentially related to covid-19, the main one being the closure of work establishments.
- Compared to mid-August 2020, when nine out of 10 households had experienced a loss of income, in October 2020, seven out of 10 households experienced a drop in income. In contrast to mid-August 2020, the downward effect on overall income is almost uniform across wealth quintiles and by place of residence (urban and rural areas). The most affected incomes are transfers from abroad and from within the country, as well as various forms of assistance from family and friends. The least affected, on the other hand, are income from wages of employed members and property income.



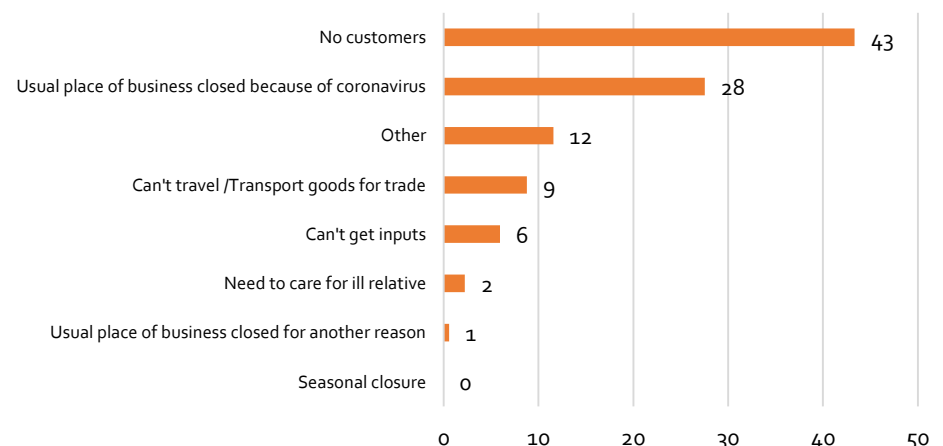
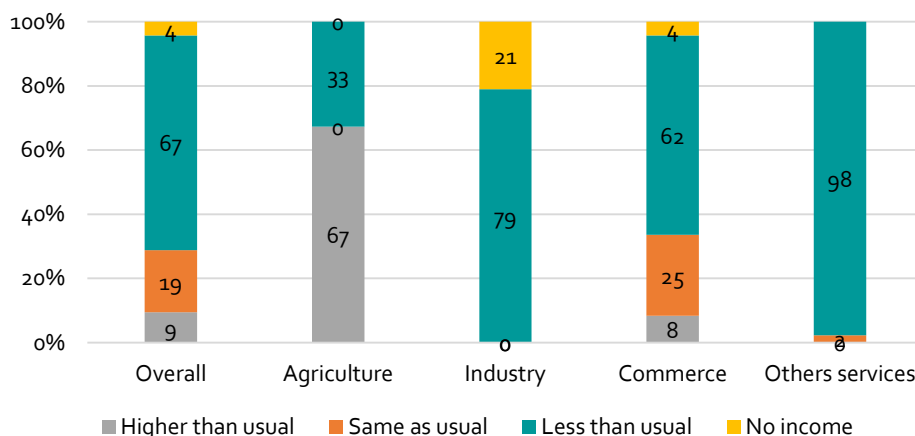
Graph 1: Main reason for stopping work since mid-August 2020

Graph 2: Decline in household income between mid-March and October 2020



BUSINESS SECTOR

- 13% of households declare to run a family business in 2020. Especially in Banjul and Kanifing agglomeration, this figure raises to 18%. Family businesses operate mainly in trade (75%) and other services (16%). Since March 2020, 65% have remained open, 30% temporarily closed and only less than 5% permanently closed.
- However, among the family businesses still open since March 2020, nearly two out of three have experienced a decline in sales or revenues. This trend is much more pronounced among family businesses operating in services other than trade (98%), and much more attenuated among agricultural family businesses (33%). Although agricultural family businesses are less affected, they experience a greater drop in revenue (71%), while the overall rate of decline is around 45%. The decline in income/sales of family businesses is mainly due to the absence of customers (43%) and the closure of usual place of business due to covid-19 (28%).

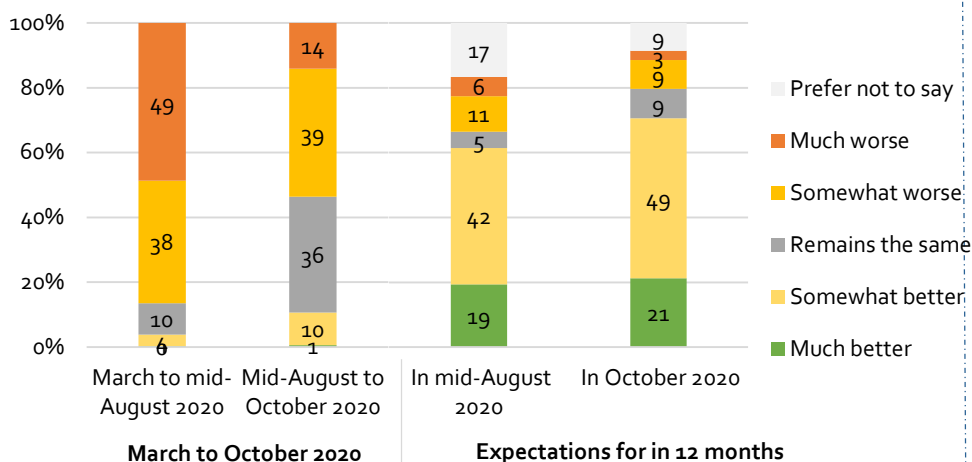


Graph 3: Change in sales/revenues of family businesses (still open) since March 2020

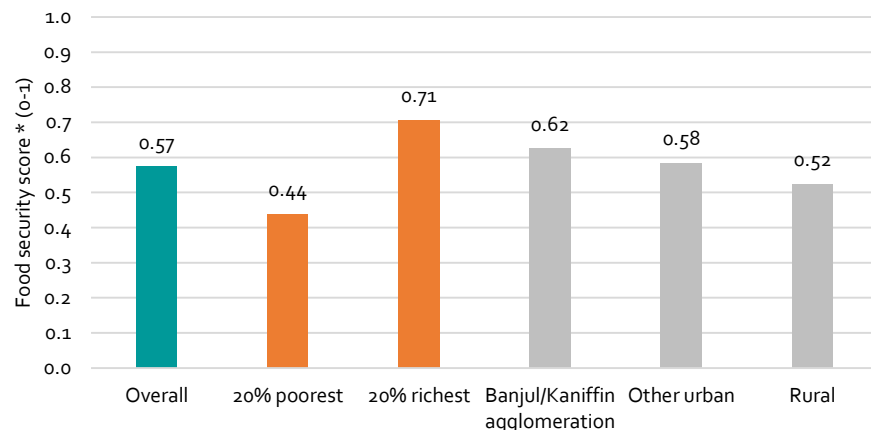
Graph 4: Reason of decrease in sales/revenues of family businesses since March 2020

PERCEPTION OF WELL-BEING AND FOOD SECURITY

- From the period of March to mid-August 2020, to the period of mid-August to October, households reported an improvement in their well-being. Indeed, the proportion of households that felt that their welfare had declined sharply fell to almost a third of households (49% to 14%). As for forecasts for the next 12 months, the proportion of uncertainty is down from 17% to (9%), indicating a less uncertain view of the future. In addition, from mid-August to October households were slightly more optimistic about next 12 months.
- Household food insecurity appears to be much more pronounced among the poorest households (especially the 20% poorest) and in rural areas.



Graph 5: Perception of evolution of household well-being

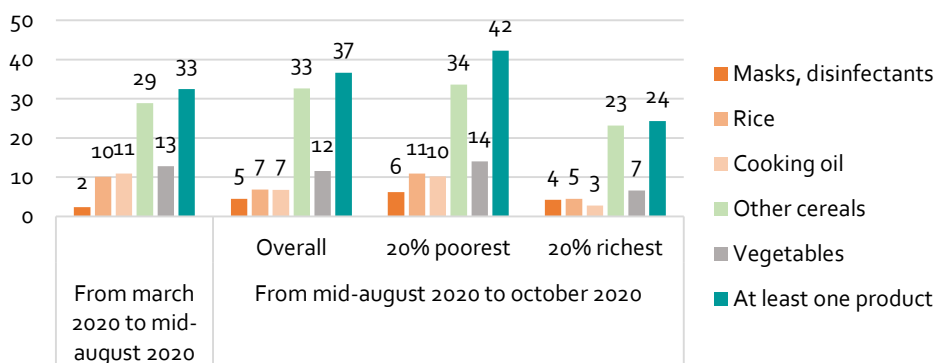


* The higher the food security index, the better households have access to sufficient and nutritious food.

Graph 6: Global food security index (0-1)

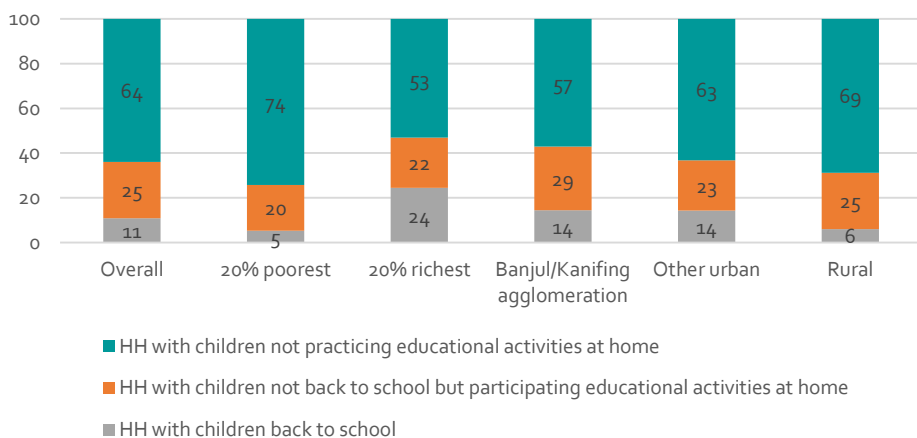
ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

- From mid-August to October, about one out of two households (51%) was unable to obtain food as usual. The trend is almost stable compared to the period March to mid-August 2020 (50%). As in the period of March to mid-August 2020, the most difficult food items to access are vegetables and cereals other than rice. Moreover, access to rice and oil has improved to the detriment of masks, probably due to a reallocation of household income. The reasons for lack of access to food remain lack of money.



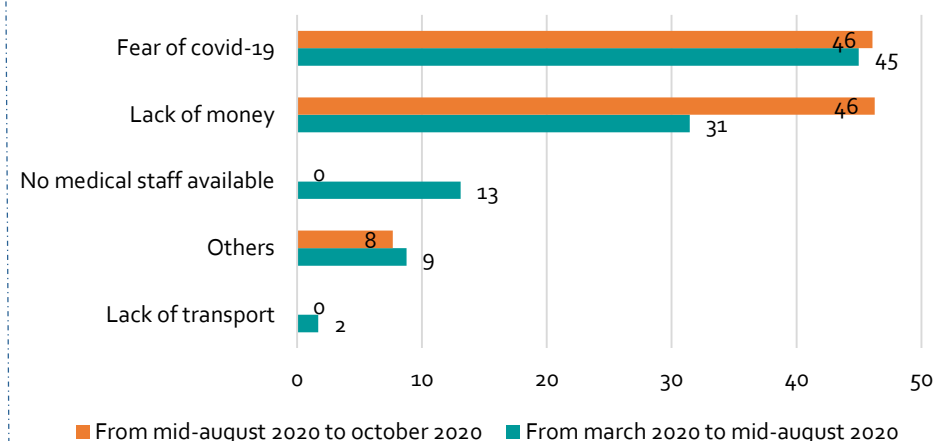
Graph 7: Household non access to commodities since mid-March 2020

- Among households with a member who attended school before March 2020, in only about 10%, students are back to school. In the majority (64%) of households, children remain at home without carrying out any educational activities. This trend is much more pronounced among the poorest households (74% among the 20% poorest) and in rural areas (69%).



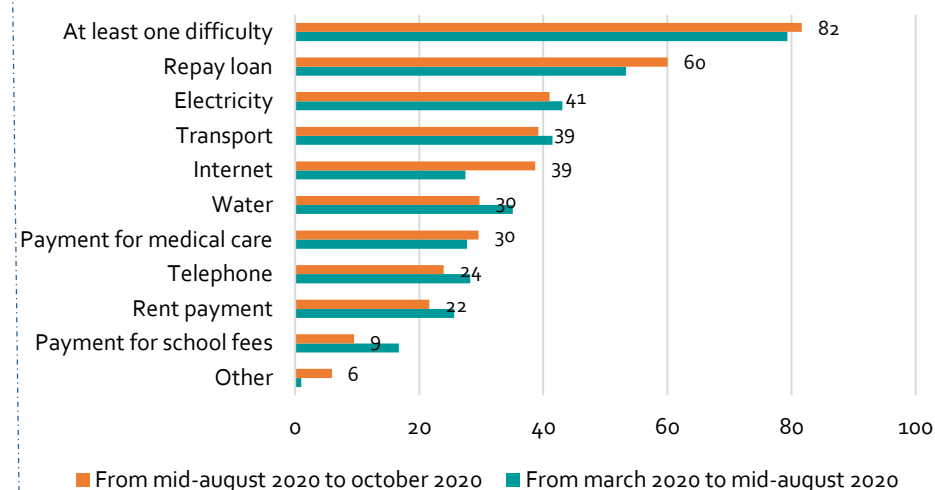
Graph 9: Restrictive measures related to the Coronavirus: effects on education

- Need of medical care expressed by households increased from the period March to mid-August 2020 to the period mid-August to October 2020 from about one over three to one over two households. Among the households that needed medical care only 3% did not have access to it and this was mainly due to fear of covid-19 and lack of financial resources.



Graph 8: Reason of non access to medical care

- From March to mid-August, the share of households experiencing difficulties in meeting their financial commitments remained almost stable at around 80% of households. Repayment of loans remains the major difficulty for households (60%).



Graph 10: Household facing problems of honoring payment of services



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

Contact GBoS: Lamin Dibba lamin.dibba77@gmail.com (7981811/3984571)

Contact World Bank: Djibril Ndoye dndoye@worldbank.org; Moritz Meyer; mmeyer3@worldbank.org; Sering Touray stouray@worldbank.org

Prosper Backiny-Yetna pbackinyyetna@worldbank.org; Yra Fonton kfonton@worldbank.org; Sidi Sawadogo ssawadogo2@worldbank.org

