



COVID-19 IN LAC

HAITI

2021 LAC HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEYS: Results Phase II, Wave 2



September 2022

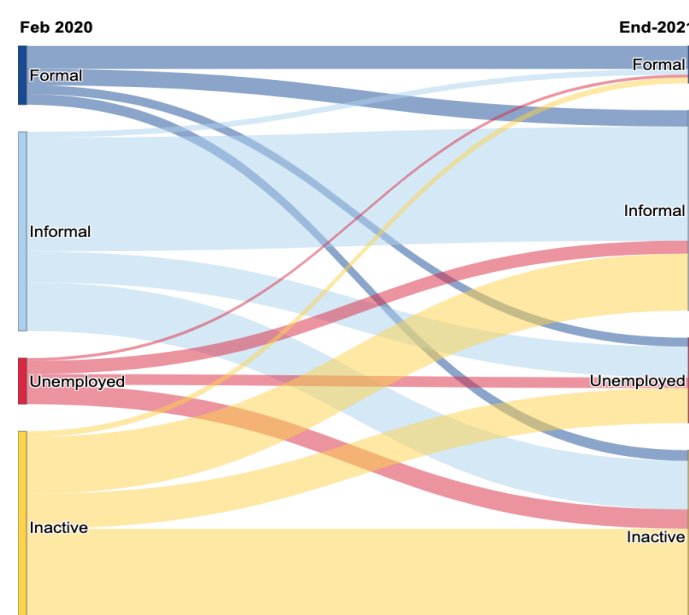
In Haiti, the pandemic dealt a further blow to a weakened economy that had already contracted by 1.7 per cent in 2019. The decline in the country's situation included instability, reduced external financing, inflation and high depreciation, social unrest and exogenous risks such as Hurricane Mathew in 2016. Before the pandemic struck, the country was sunk in social unrest that led to the shutting down of economic activities, school closures and shortages of fuel, water, food and medicine. These were exacerbated by the global spread of Covid and the assassination of President Moïse in July 2021. Haiti has been slow to recover from the pandemic. By the end of the year, 38.4 per cent of those who had been employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. Of these, 15.4 per cent became unemployed, and the remaining 22.9 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. Those who lost the jobs they held before the pandemic most frequently were women (56.4 per cent) and adults over the age of 65 (50.3 per cent). Conversely, one out of every two economically inactive people before the pandemic joined the workforce by late 2021. This figure increased to three out of every five people in the most productive age group (26–45 years old). Some 64.2 per cent of those entering the labour market found work. However, in 90.8 per cent of these cases, the jobs in question were informal. By late 2021, 43.1 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or who were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment. This situation was more frequent for young people: three out of five became informal workers. The pandemic triggered an increase in time spent on care-related activities and other unpaid work. By mid-2021, 39.2 per cent of respondents reported spending more time helping their children with school activities. Unlike most countries in the region, the change in care burdens was very similar for men and women. By the end of 2021, this share had increased by 6.0 percentage points.

Key indicators: Individuals (18+ years old)

Distribution among groups	Labour		Childcare	
	% of employed population (pre-pandemic) who lost their pre-pandemic job	% of inactive population (pre-pandemic) who entered the labour market	% of formal, unemployed or inactive (pre-pandemic) who were working and transited into informality	Change in % of population reporting an increase in time spent supporting children's education activities (compared to pre-pandemic) between mid-2021 and end of 2021(pp)
Overall	38.4%	50.7%	43.1%	6.0
Urban	38.5%	53.2%	44.3%	-
Rural	38.2%	47.1%	41.1%	-
Females	43.3%	46.9%	47.6%	6.4
Males	34.6%	56.6%	39.4%	5.7
18 to 25 years old	56.4%	44.9%	59.9%	7.3
26 to 45 years old	36.8%	60.4%	43.1%	5.9
46 to 64 years old	29.8%	43.3%	30.7%	1.1
65 and older	50.3%	30.3%	51.5%	25.9
Primary or less	39.7%	49.5%	42.0%	9.4
Secondary	40.5%	50.8%	42.3%	6.3
Tertiary and more	32.9%	51.5%	46.8%	5.4

Source: LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2

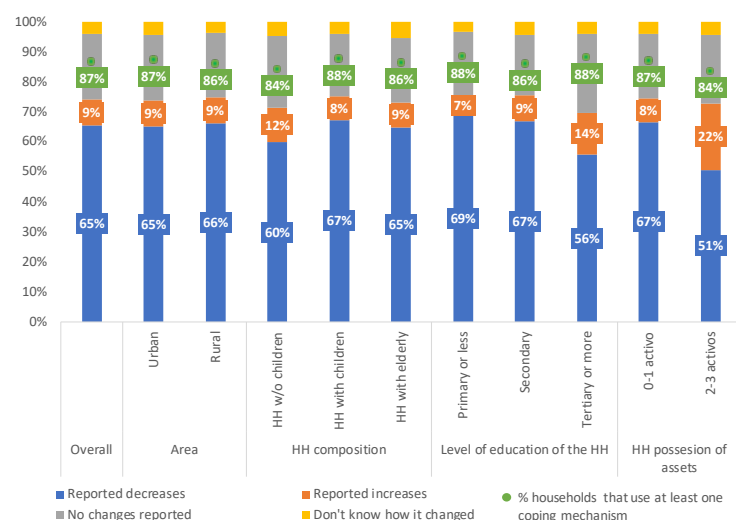
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



The changes in the labour market had a negative impact on total household income. Some 65.4 per cent of households reported that their income at the end of 2021 was lower than in the middle of the year, while less than 10 per cent reported revenue increases over the same period. The households that were most affected were those with less educated heads. These changes in household income and the limited scope of the emergency transfers provided by the government exacerbated the country's food security problems. By the end of 2021, 76.0 per cent of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days leading up to the survey due to a lack of means. This figure is 10.4 percentage points higher than was reported in mid-2021 and 26.0 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels. Food insecurity was more frequent among households with less educated heads (82.5 per cent) and higher dependency ratios (households with older adults or underage children).

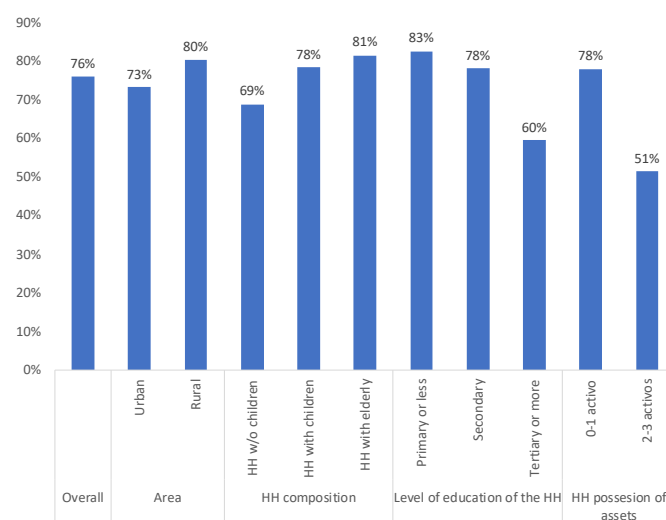
The different ways that households coped with the adverse effects of the pandemic included the non-payment of financial obligations, use of savings and adults or children entering the labour force. According to the survey, 86.8 per cent of households used at least one of these strategies. Specifically, in 8.1 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment as a strategy to cope with the lost income associated with the pandemic. This figure increased to over 10 per cent for households with less educated heads, older adults and in rural areas. Turning to education, the in-person attendance rate fell 13.8 percentage points between mid- and late 2021, going from 75.9 per cent to 89.7 per cent, the fourth-highest rate in the region. Despite these improvements, 36.7 per cent of respondents said they thought that children were learning less than before the pandemic. This view was more frequent for households with more educated heads (42.4 per cent).

Figure 2: Households reporting a change in income (%)
End of 2021 vs. Mid 2021



Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2

Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



Key indicators: Households and children

Distribution among groups	Income	Coping	Food Insecurity		Education (6-17 yo)	
	% households that report a reduction in total income (End of 2021 vs. Mid 2021)	% of households that resorted to at least one mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force	% households that ran out of food (last 30 days)	Change in the % of school-age children who attended face-to-face classes (End 2021 vs. Mid 2021) (pp)	% of enrolled children who are learning less than before the pandemic
Overall	65.4%	86.8%	8.1%	76.0%	13.8	36.7%
Urban	65.0%	87.2%	6.3%	73.3%	-	39.7%
Rural	66.1%	86.1%	10.6%	80.4%	-	32.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	59.9%	84.2%	-	68.8%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	67.3%	87.6%	8.1%	78.4%	13.8	36.7%
HH with elderly (65+)	64.7%	86.4%	10.6%	81.5%	14.3	35.7%
HH with 0-1 asset	66.7%	87.0%	8.0%	78.1%	13.6	37.6%
HH with 2-3 assets	50.6%	83.6%	9.5%	51.4%	15.7	26.7%
HH education - Primary or less	68.9%	88.4%	10.9%	82.5%	11.8	40.0%
HH education - Secondary	66.8%	85.8%	7.8%	78.1%	16.0	33.7%
HH education - Tertiary or more	55.9%	88.1%	3.5%	59.5%	15.0	42.4%

* Coping mechanisms are the strategies used to cope with the financial stress generated by the reduction in income during the pandemic. Particularly, non-payment of financial obligations, use of savings and entry into the labour force.

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 2

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 second wave was collected between November and December 2021, and the data is nationally representative for 22 countries: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, 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 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. For further information see [Chapeau Phase II, wave 2](#).