

A stylized world map is positioned in the upper left background. The landmasses are shown in a light blue color, while the oceans are a darker blue. The countries of Latin America, including Mexico, Central American nations, and South American nations, are highlighted in a bright yellow color.

2021 LAC HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEYS

Country Notes - English
Wave 2 (end of 2021)



COVID-19 IN LAC

ARGENTINA

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



September 2022

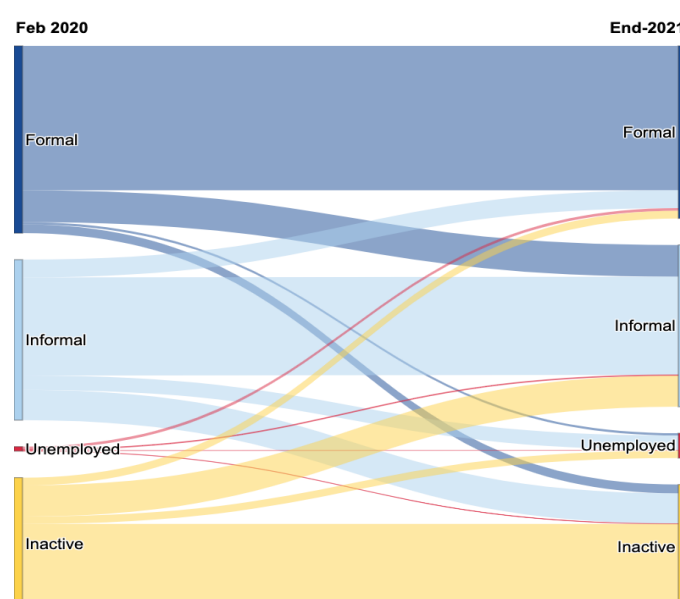
The pandemic hit Argentina hard as it struggled with long-standing macroeconomic instability and growing poverty rates. Two years after the start of the pandemic, 16.0 per cent of people who were employed before Covid struck had lost their jobs. Although this percentage remains high, it has dropped from where it stood six months earlier, at 23.5 per cent. Specifically, 11.2 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether, and 4.7 per cent became unemployed. Job loss was more frequent for women, 25.4 per cent of whom reported having become unemployed. In tandem with these departures from the labour force, 35.0 per cent of those who were inactive transitioned into active employment. The majority of those entering the labour market (84.0 per cent) managed to find work, although most of these jobs were informal. Likewise, 39.4 per cent of those who were formal or inactive employees or unemployed before the pandemic transitioned to informal jobs. By the end of 2021, those entering the labour market accounted for 11.6 per cent of the total employed and 29.8 per cent of the unemployed. Signs of recovery are evident in all these indicators in comparison with mid to late 2021. However, 17.0 per cent of those who were formally employed before Covid transitioned to informal jobs during it. The pandemic triggered an increase in demand for time spent on unpaid work in the home and care work. Some 70.2 per cent of women reported spending more time providing their children support with education compared to 45.5 per cent of men. This pattern improved in the second half of 2021, which brought a 22.8 percentage point drop in respondents reporting spending more time on their children's education.

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	16.0%	35.0%	39.4%	-22.8
Urban	15.5%	31.6%	40.4%	-25.9
Rural	19.8%	60.9%	33.9%	-9.0
Females	25.4%	32.4%	37.7%	-33.8
Males	8.2%	40.6%	40.6%	-8.5
18 to 25 years old	23.6%	63.2%	55.4%	7.1
26 to 45 years old	15.4%	42.7%	40.0%	-30.7
46 to 64 years old	9.7%	25.0%	28.0%	-25.4
65 and older	32.7%	11.2%	30.5%	-8.2
Primary or less	17.6%	20.5%	26.3%	-20.0
Secondary	19.4%	39.2%	42.2%	-23.0
Tertiary and more	8.3%	40.8%	52.1%	-26.4

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

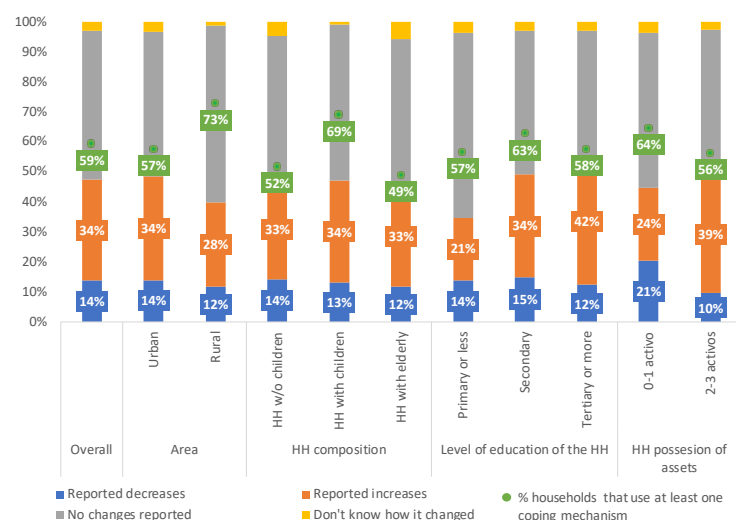
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



The pandemic had a negative effect on household incomes. By June 2021, 38.8 per cent of households reported incomes that were lower than before Covid started. Furthermore, as figure 2 shows, between June and December 2021, 13.7 per cent of households reported a drop in income, and 33.6 per cent reported an increase in income. The poorest families—as measured by their number of assets—were disproportionately impacted. Some 20.6 per cent of households with one or no assets reported a decrease in income, compared to 9.6 per cent of those with two or three assets. Some 59.3 per cent of households used a variety of coping mechanisms in response to this shock, particularly rural households, and households with minors. Indeed, as many as 6.6 per cent of households with underage children reported that one of these alternatives was for a child to seek employment.

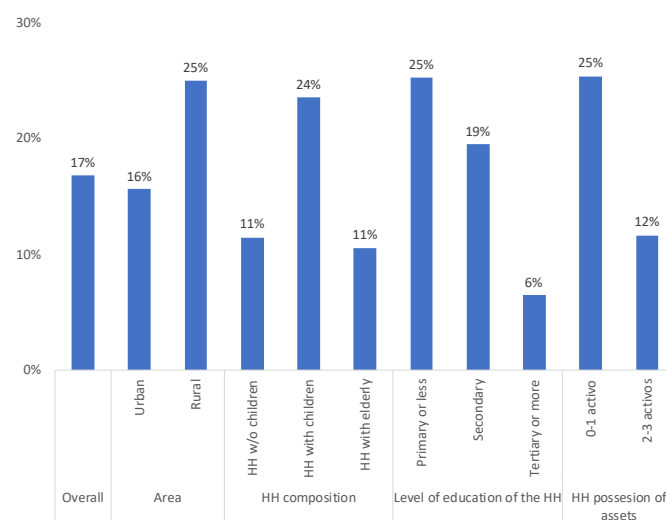
The percentage of food-insecure households doubled compared to pre-pandemic levels. In June and December 2021, 20.0 and 16.8 per cent of households, respectively, reported having gone without food during the 30 days prior to the survey due to a lack of means. These food shortages mainly occurred in rural areas and in households with minor children, with one or fewer assets, and in which the head of the household's education level was low. In the last half of 2021, in-person education coverage increased by 72.2 percentage points. This result is extremely significant: by the end of 2021, 39.0 per cent of respondents perceived that school-age children had lower learning levels than before the pandemic, particularly those in urban areas and those from households where the highest education level reached by the head of the household was secondary school. The return to in-person teaching is likely to have a positive effect on learning outcomes.

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	13.7%	59.3%	6.6%	16.8%	72.2	39.0%
Urban	14.0%	57.4%	5.6%	15.6%	71.3	41.8%
Rural	11.8%	72.6%	12.4%	25.0%	77.9	23.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	14.2%	51.8%	-	11.5%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	13.0%	69.0%	6.6%	23.5%	72.2	39.0%
HH with elderly (65+)	11.9%	48.8%	10.2%	10.5%	74.6	25.9%
HH with 0-1 asset	20.6%	64.5%	13.9%	25.4%	67.8	37.6%
HH with 2-3 assets	9.6%	56.2%	2.6%	11.6%	74.5	39.7%
HH education - Primary or less	13.7%	56.5%	10.7%	25.2%	73.9	31.9%
HH education - Secondary	14.8%	62.6%	6.0%	19.5%	68.4	44.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	12.3%	57.6%	3.5%	6.4%	77.4	38.0%

* 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](#).



COVID-19 IN LAC

BELIZE

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



September 2022

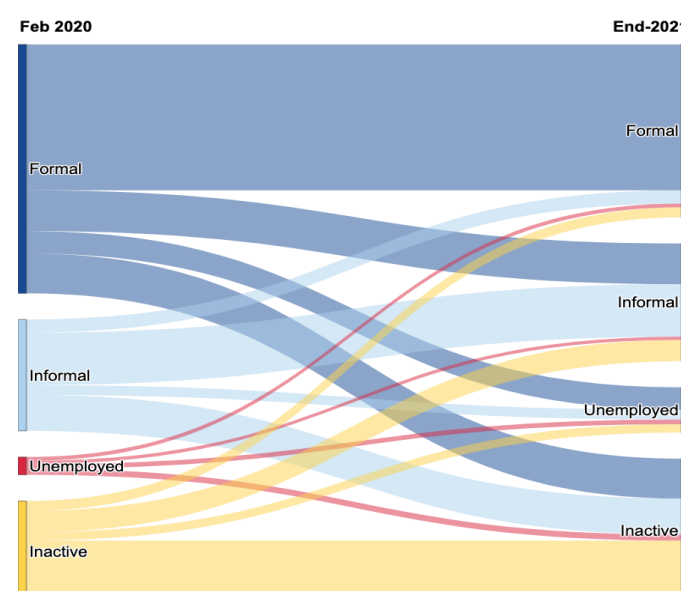
Belize was adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic through a relatively high incidence of Covid-19 cases and a relatively high number of deaths compared to other countries in the Caribbean. The Covid-19 pandemic also led to a strong contraction of the tourism sector, resulting in a GDP reduction of 14 per cent in 2020. The labour market has been slow to recover: 30.0 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic lost their jobs by the end of 2021, 4.6 percentage points more than reported in the middle of the year. While 8.9 per cent remained in the labour force looking for work, 21.1 per cent dropped out altogether. Some 70.1 per cent of older adults lost the job they held before the pandemic, and women were twice as likely as men to become unemployed (41.9 per cent versus 20.9 per cent). In contrast, 65.8 per cent of men who were not economically active before Covid joined the labour force, while only 30.8 per cent of women did so. Overall, 39.3 per cent of the population who were not economically active beforehand entered the labour market. Some 78.8 per cent of those who did so found a job, although a large share of these were in the informal segment (68.0 per cent). Specifically, 55.5 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive pre-Covid moved into informal employment by late 2021. The pandemic also brought changes in how time was distributed within households. In late 2021, 53.4 per cent of respondents reported spending more time helping their children with schoolwork. While this value only grew by 2.6 percentage points from the middle of the year, the increase was 4.2 percentage points for women (reaching 60.4 per cent) and less than 1 percentage point for men (reaching 44.8 per cent). These changes strengthened the trend towards an unequal distribution of the care burden within households.

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	30.0%	39.3%	55.5%	2.6
Urban	27.8%	40.9%	59.9%	2.4
Rural	31.4%	38.3%	52.7%	3.3
Females	41.9%	30.8%	55.0%	4.2
Males	20.9%	65.8%	55.8%	0.7
18 to 25 years old	29.2%	58.2%	57.1%	3.4
26 to 45 years old	27.7%	34.1%	56.5%	0.9
46 to 64 years old	31.0%	28.0%	49.7%	4.3
65 and older	70.1%	24.3%	83.5%	9.7
Primary or less	33.7%	30.1%	55.5%	3.8
Secondary	26.5%	59.7%	56.7%	2.4
Tertiary and more	22.2%	46.4%	52.2%	-1.5

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Despite government responses and private initiatives to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic, the well-being of Belizean households continues to be significantly affected. By late 2021, some 38.6 per cent of households reported that their income levels had dropped compared to the middle of the year. Income loss was more frequent for households with higher dependency ratios (those with children under 18 and/or adults aged 65 or older), those whose heads had secondary education and those with lower asset holdings. To cope with the financial stress triggered by the pandemic and continue covering their basic needs, 73.1 per cent of households had to resort to at least one new coping mechanism. Among the strategies they used are the non-payment of financial obligations, the use of savings and the entry of adults and children who were previously economically inactive into the labour market. Around three out of four urban households (75.9 per cent), with dependent children (76.6 per cent) and whose heads had secondary education or less (75.0 and 75.4 per cent, respectively) resorted to at least one of the aforementioned mechanisms. Specifically, in 12.3 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment during the pandemic. This figure was as high as 18.4 per cent for more vulnerable households (those with more limited asset holdings) and 17.1 per cent for those with less educated heads.

The decrease in household income was associated with higher levels of food insecurity. At the end of 2021, 45.2 per cent of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days leading up to the survey due to a lack of means. Although this figure decreased by 4.0 percentage points compared to mid-2021, it is still 28.7 percentage points above where it stood before the pandemic. At least one out of every two households with dependent children and less educated heads experienced food insecurity. In terms of education, the in-person attendance rate fell 25.0 percentage points, going from 35.9 per cent to 10.9 per cent, the fourth lowest in the region. Face-to-face attendance was even lower among children from households with lower asset availability. The limited levels of in-person teaching that resulted from partial and total school closures have impacted the quality of education in the country. They will most likely have negative implications for the accumulation of human capital and the entry into the labour market of adults with dependent children. The population is aware of these setbacks: 48.9 per cent of respondents said they thought children were learning less than before the pandemic. Those that noted this most markedly were respondents from households with lower asset availability and less educated heads.

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

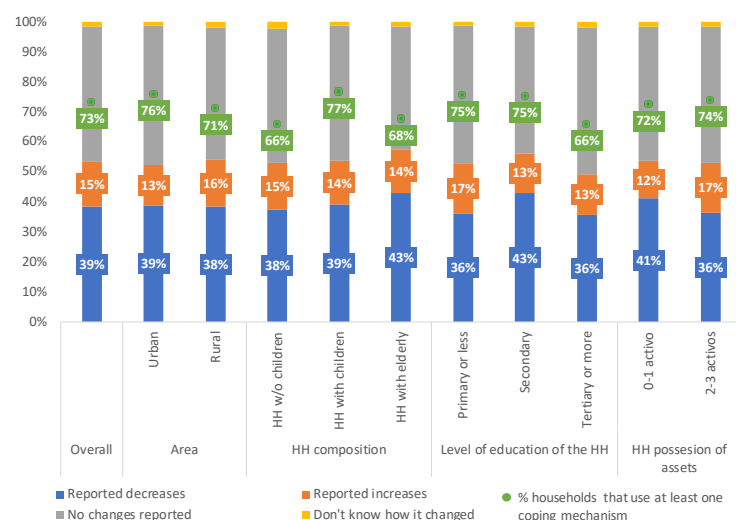
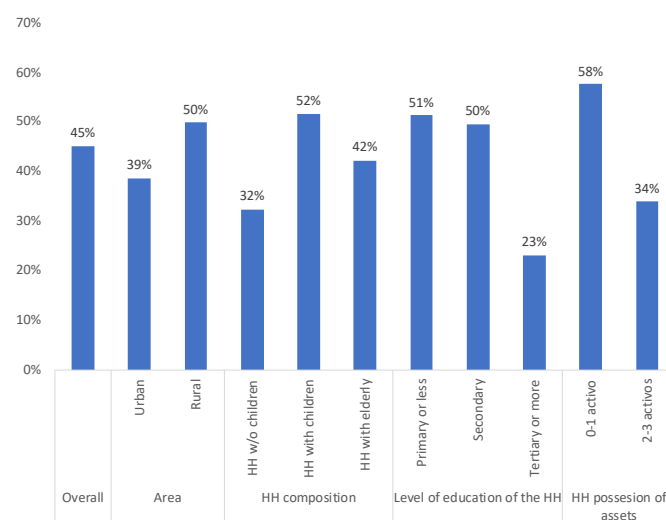


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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	38.6%	73.1%	12.3%	45.2%	-25.0	48.9%
Urban	38.9%	75.9%	8.9%	38.6%	-27.4	48.8%
Rural	38.4%	71.1%	14.4%	49.9%	-23.9	49.0%
HH w/o children (0-17)	37.5%	66.0%	-	32.3%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	39.2%	76.6%	12.3%	51.6%	-25.0	48.9%
HH with elderly (65+)	42.9%	67.6%	12.0%	42.2%	-24.7	57.3%
HH with 0-1 asset	41.2%	72.3%	18.4%	57.6%	-29.9	51.9%
HH with 2-3 assets	36.3%	73.8%	7.4%	33.9%	-22.1	47.1%
HH education - Primary or less	36.1%	75.4%	17.1%	51.3%	-28.1	51.1%
HH education - Secondary	42.9%	75.0%	9.6%	49.5%	-25.9	45.2%
HH education - Tertiary or more	35.7%	65.8%	5.2%	23.1%	-19.1	50.8%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

BOLIVIA

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



September 2022

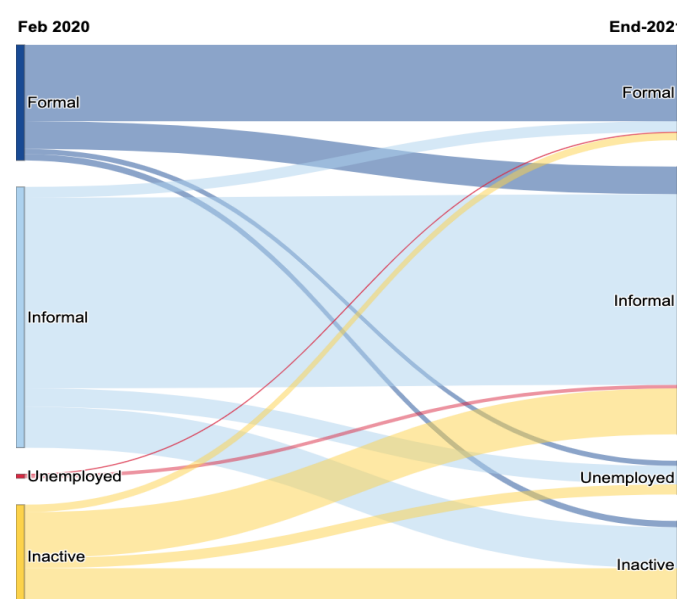
The Covid-19 crisis and falling oil prices led the Bolivian economy to contract by 8.8 per cent in 2020. The country was in lockdown for more than five months, and its Covid death toll was on par with the regional average. Most economic sectors were impacted by these changes, most notably the labour-intensive industry and service sectors. The economy began to recover in 2021, but the labour market has been slower to do so. By late 2021, 18.8 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs, and two-thirds of this group dropped out of the workforce altogether. These job losses were greater among rural workers, women, young people (aged 18–25), and those with primary education or less. An unprecedented share of the economically inactive population—61.7 per cent—transitioned into active employment, mostly people in rural areas between the ages of 26 and 45. Those entering the labour market accounted for 14.7 per cent of the total employed and 30.1 per cent of the unemployed at the time of the survey. It is likely that they entered the labour market to escape poverty. The quality of work also deteriorated. Most of those who entered the labour market ended up with informal jobs (86.0 per cent), and 23.9 per cent of those who were formally employed before the pandemic began moved into informal jobs during it. Likewise, 28.8 per cent of those who were formal or inactive employees or unemployed before the pandemic transitioned to informal work. These signs of recovery in the labour market may also be associated with changes in the demand for care within the household: between June and December 2021, there was an 8.32-percentage-point reduction in the share of households reporting an increase in time spent on their children's education.

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 transitioned 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	18.8%	61.7%	28.8%	-8.3
Urban	18.0%	59.5%	31.3%	-7.7
Rural	21.4%	70.0%	22.0%	-10.0
Females	27.2%	60.4%	35.7%	-9.7
Males	11.4%	63.8%	22.6%	-6.9
18 to 25 years old	23.7%	57.7%	39.3%	-6.6
26 to 45 years old	18.6%	75.7%	28.4%	-15.0
46 to 64 years old	12.9%	50.0%	21.0%	2.9
65 and older	32.3%	41.4%	23.1%	38.5
Primary or less	29.8%	57.3%	17.5%	0.5
Secondary	18.2%	62.8%	27.2%	-10.7
Tertiary and more	18.2%	59.8%	40.7%	-3.9

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

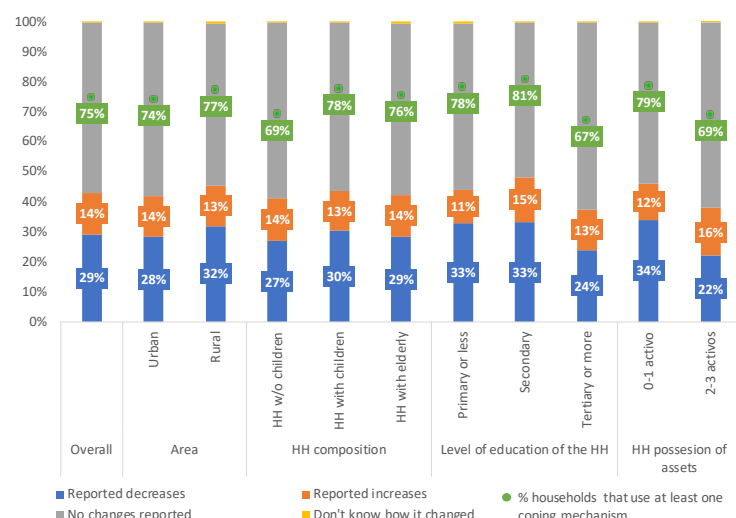
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



The emergency transfers implemented since the outbreak of the pandemic had wide coverage. However, by mid-2021, three out of five households reported a decline in total income compared to before the pandemic. Of these, 29.2 per cent reported a decrease in income, and 13.6 per cent reported an increase in income between mid-2021 and the end of the year. Households with one or no assets, in rural areas and whose heads were less educated were more likely to report income losses. Some 74.9 per cent of households used a variety of coping mechanisms in response to this shock caused by the pandemic, particularly rural households, households with minors and those whose heads had lower education levels. Indeed, seeking child employment was used as a coping mechanism by as many as 10.6 per cent of households with minors. This strategy was particularly prevalent for the most vulnerable households (with lower level of education of the head of the household and households in rural areas).

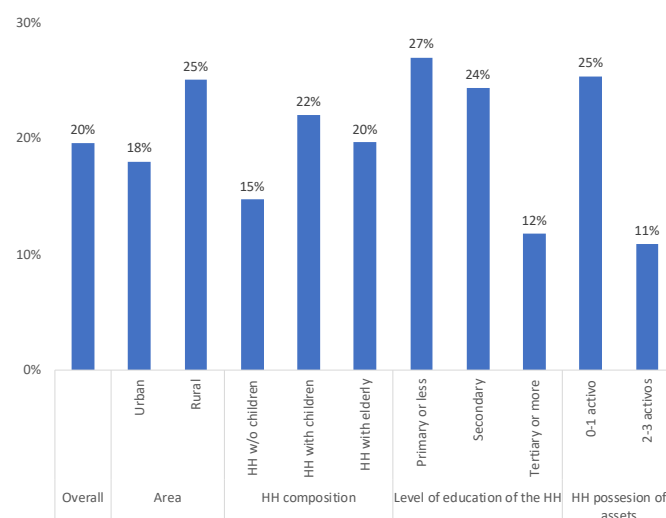
Food insecurity increased: the share of households that reported going without food soared from 17.2 per cent before the pandemic to 43.2 per cent in May 2020 before dropping to 22.7 per cent in mid-2021 and 19.6 per cent by the end of that year. Rural households, households with fewer assets and households with less educated heads experienced greater food insecurity in 2021. By mid-2021, only 25.7 per cent of students reported attending school in person. There were significant improvements in the last six months of 2021, which brought a 17.7-percentage-point increase in face-to-face attendance rates. Despite this, access to in-person learning remains a concern: coverage and perceptions of learning are both low, with 66.0 per cent of respondents believing that children are learning less than they did before the pandemic. Restoring education standards may become one of the most critical public policy issues in the aftermath of the pandemic.

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	29.2%	74.9%	10.6%	19.6%	17.7	66.1%
Urban	28.4%	74.3%	9.5%	18.0%	15.8	67.6%
Rural	32.0%	77.1%	13.9%	25.0%	25.9	61.0%
HH w/o children (0-17)	26.9%	69.3%	-	14.7%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	30.4%	77.7%	10.6%	22.1%	17.7	66.1%
HH with elderly (65+)	28.6%	75.6%	8.5%	19.7%	15.7	71.0%
HH with 0-1 asset	34.0%	78.8%	14.9%	25.4%	21.5	68.2%
HH with 2-3 assets	22.0%	69.1%	4.1%	10.9%	14.4	63.5%
HH education - Primary or less	33.0%	78.3%	18.6%	27.0%	17.0	62.9%
HH education - Secondary	33.1%	80.8%	12.8%	24.4%	24.2	67.2%
HH education - Tertiary or more	24.0%	67.1%	4.3%	11.8%	10.7	66.4%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

CHILE

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



September 2022

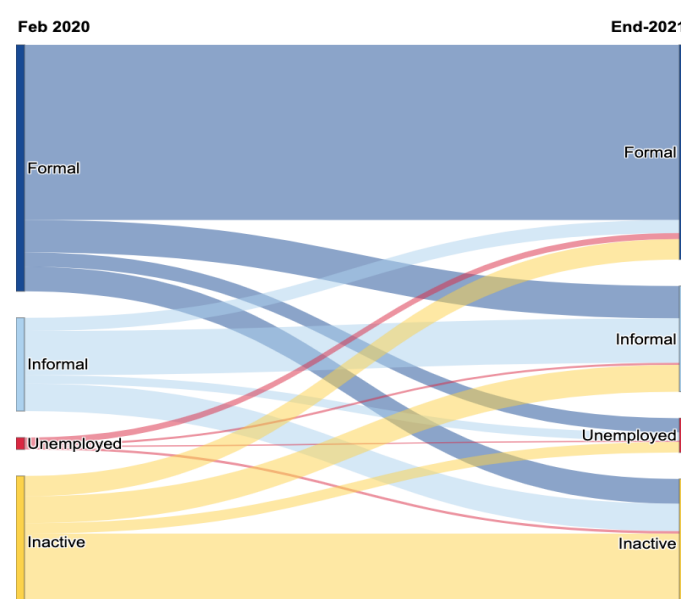
Chile's GDP contracted by 5.8 per cent in 2020. The country implemented policies that helped the economy recover rapidly in 2021, but the labour market has been slower to follow suit. By late 2021, 22.0 per cent of those who were employed pre-Covid had lost their jobs. Of these, 15.4 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether, and the remaining 6.7 per cent became unemployed. Older adults and people with primary education were hit hardest—by the end of 2021, one in every two older adults and one in every three people with primary education no longer held the jobs they had before the pandemic. Conversely, 43.7 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic joined the labour force. Some 68.7 per cent of adults between the ages of 26 and 45 and 58.5 per cent of the most educated adults (those with tertiary education or more) transitioned into the labour market more frequently. Some 81.9 per cent of those who became economically active found employment, 56.8 per cent of whom were in informal jobs. Likewise, 58.0 per cent of those who were previously formal or inactive employees or unemployed moved into informal employment by the end of 2021. Seven out of ten young people (those aged 18–25) and six out of ten men and workers with tertiary education came to hold informal jobs. The pandemic triggered an increase in time spent on care-related activities. By mid-2021, 53.9 per cent of respondents reported that the time they spent helping their children with school activities had increased. While this care burden already mainly fell on women in mid-2021, the gender imbalance increased even more by the end of the year: the share of men reporting spending time helping with school decreased by 14.0 percentage points in the second half of the year (dropping to 34.6 per cent), while the share of women decreased by just 2.8 percentage points (to 54.6 per cent).

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	22.0%	43.7%	58.0%	-7.3
Urban	20.3%	43.2%	55.5%	-7.6
Rural	29.8%	45.5%	65.9%	-5.8
Females	29.6%	39.2%	53.5%	-2.8
Males	16.0%	53.6%	63.5%	-14.0
18 to 25 years old	29.4%	56.6%	71.5%	-0.8
26 to 45 years old	13.4%	68.7%	59.5%	-5.2
46 to 64 years old	23.4%	38.1%	52.4%	-18.6
65 and older	53.3%	15.5%	52.7%	12.6
Primary or less	33.8%	28.2%	53.6%	9.6
Secondary	28.1%	47.0%	59.2%	-13.5
Tertiary and more	7.6%	58.5%	62.6%	-11.8

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

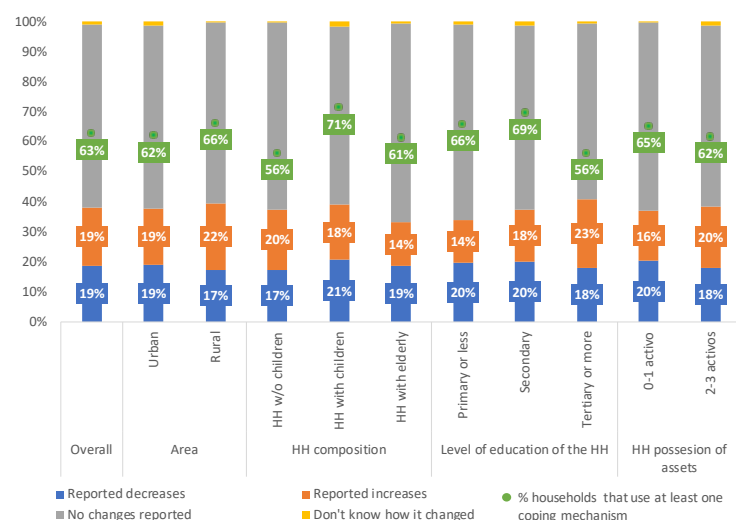
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Conversely, emergency social protection programmes helped to cushion the adverse impacts of the pandemic in terms of both falling household incomes and food insecurity. The government provided significant financial assistance to mitigate the crisis by increasing the coverage and amounts of pandemic-related transfers in 2021. By late 2021, 18.8 per cent of households reported a drop in their income in comparison with halfway through the year, although a similar share reported an increase. Furthermore, 8.5 per cent of households reported having gone without food in the 30 days leading up to the survey due to a lack of means. Food insecurity was more widespread among households with one or no assets (15.4 per cent), those with less educated heads (12.3 per cent), and households with minors (10.0 per cent), as figure 3 shows.

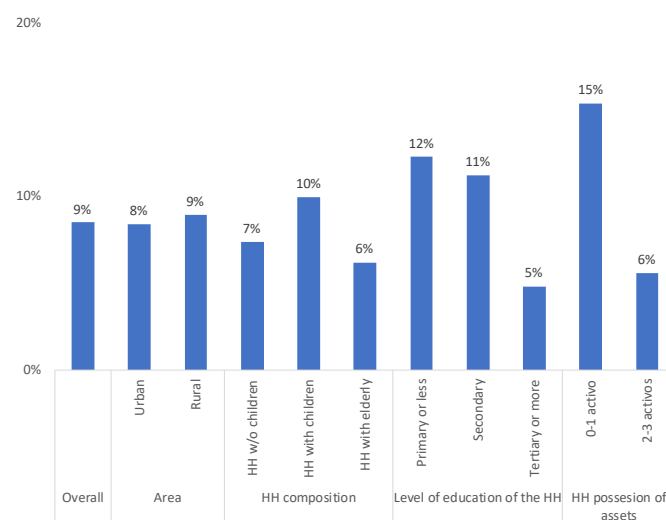
Households used various mechanisms to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic, including the spending of savings, non-payment of financial obligations and entry into the labour force. Some 62.7 per cent of households made recourse to at least one of these mechanisms. Households with dependent children and less educated heads had to resort to them more frequently. In 2.2 per cent of households with school-age children, these coping mechanisms included a child having to seek employment. Schools fully reopened in late 2021, increasing in-person attendance rates to 58.3 per cent in the second half of the year, a 49.5-percentage-point increase. Those whose attendance increased most were children in rural households (57.6 percentage points) and those in households with low asset holdings (61.7 percentage points). Despite the efforts made to provide quality education during the pandemic, 54.9 per cent of respondents said that they thought children were learning less than they had before the pandemic, when teaching was entirely in-person.

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	18.8%	62.7%	2.2%	8.5%	49.5	54.9%
Urban	19.2%	61.9%	2.0%	8.4%	47.7	56.4%
Rural	17.4%	66.0%	2.9%	9.0%	57.6	48.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	17.5%	56.2%	-	7.4%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	20.6%	71.3%	2.2%	10.0%	49.5	54.9%
HH with elderly (65+)	18.7%	61.4%	0.6%	6.2%	49.9	57.3%
HH with 0-1 asset	20.5%	65.0%	3.7%	15.4%	61.7	50.6%
HH with 2-3 assets	18.1%	61.7%	1.8%	5.6%	46.6	55.9%
HH education - Primary or less	19.7%	65.7%	1.1%	12.3%	45.2	54.3%
HH education - Secondary	20.0%	69.5%	2.7%	11.2%	51.9	61.1%
HH education - Tertiary or more	18.0%	56.1%	2.0%	4.8%	48.6	52.2%

* 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](#).



COVID-19 IN LAC

COLOMBIA

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



September 2022

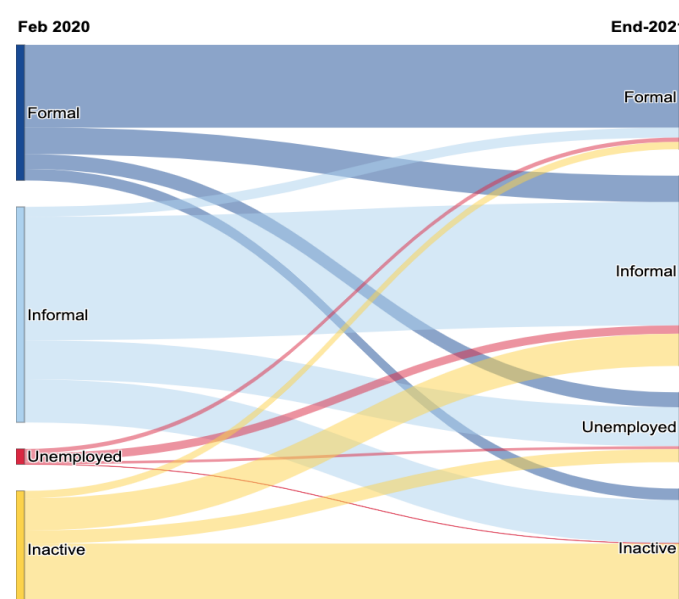
Colombia's GDP fell by 6.8 per cent in 2020, when some 2.4 million jobs were lost. The official unemployment rate was 15.9 per cent, approximately 1.5 times higher than the previous year. The recovery in 2021 was slow: by the end of the year, 30.9 per cent of those who were employed pre-Covid had lost their jobs. Half of them continued to seek employment (15.4 per cent), while the other half dropped out of the labour force altogether. Job loss was much more frequent among older adults (64.6 per cent). The numbers of people leaving the labour market were offset by the entry of 45.1 per cent of those who were previously economically inactive, probably to avoid falling into poverty. About three out of five young people (18–25 years old), adults (26–45 years old) and people with higher education entered the labour force. While 75.2 per cent of those entering the labour market managed to work, four out of five of these jobs were informal (81.2 per cent). More than one-third (35.1 per cent) of those who had held formal jobs or were economically inactive or unemployed before Covid moved into informal employment by the end of 2021. This is particularly concerning given that informal employment rates in Colombia were already quite high before the pandemic. This slow recovery may be associated with the fact that there were only minimal changes in the percentage of the population reporting increased time spent providing support for their children's education. Among respondents in rural areas and those with low educational levels, the amount of this time increased, while those with tertiary education or higher reported a 10.4-percentage-point decrease.

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	30.9%	45.1%	35.1%	0.5
Urban	30.1%	43.6%	38.3%	-2.3
Rural	33.9%	50.6%	26.8%	7.8
Females	40.3%	41.2%	32.5%	-2.7
Males	22.2%	52.2%	37.5%	4.4
18 to 25 years old	28.9%	59.4%	53.8%	-4.8
26 to 45 years old	27.5%	61.7%	33.8%	1.5
46 to 64 years old	27.9%	34.5%	21.6%	6.3
65 and older	64.6%	17.9%	38.9%	-8.4
Primary or less	37.7%	36.3%	20.4%	9.3
Secondary	32.0%	43.7%	36.1%	-0.8
Tertiary and more	23.9%	58.2%	50.9%	-10.4

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

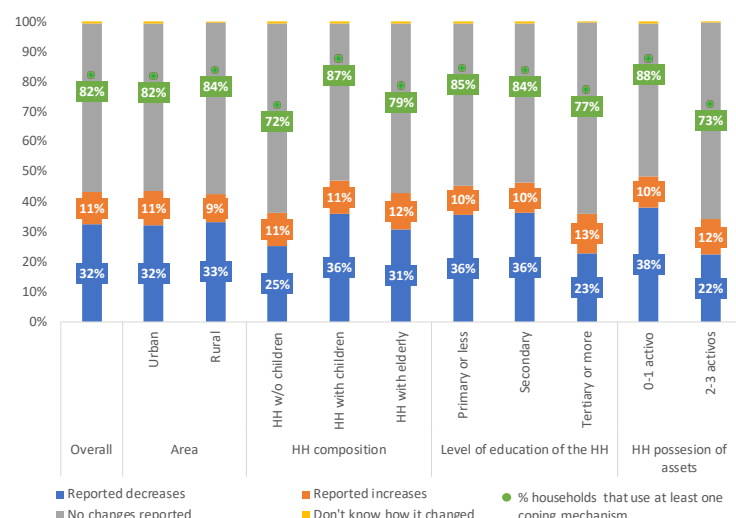
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Despite the government's efforts to contain the impact of the pandemic through emergency transfers, household incomes plummeted, and poverty increased sharply. By late 2021, around one-third of households reported a drop in their income in comparison with halfway through the year. Households with one or no assets reported more frequent income losses. Conversely, 10.8 per cent of households reported an increase in their income during this period. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, some 20.4 per cent of households reported running out of food. This share increased to 44.2 per cent in mid-2021 before shrinking somewhat to 35.3 per cent by the end of the year. Poorer households (those with one or no assets), those with less educated heads, and those in rural areas reported even higher rates of food insecurity. To mitigate income losses and cover their basic needs, 82.3 per cent of households used at least one of the following mechanisms: non-payment of financial obligations, use of savings or entry into the labour force.

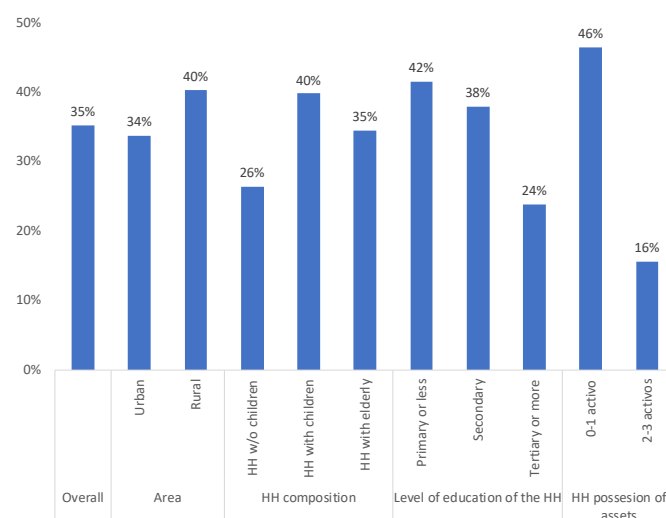
More specifically, nine out of ten households with limited asset ownership and underage children resorted to these mechanisms. Indeed, for 10.8 per cent of households with school-age children, these coping mechanisms included a child having to enter the labour force. This share was even higher for rural households (15.4 per cent). In-person school attendance rates in Colombia rose from 8.9 per cent in mid-2021 to 62.9 per cent at the end of the year. Although this share was higher for households whose heads had secondary education or higher and for those with more assets, the benefits of in-person teaching are not yet evident in children's educations: more than half of the respondents (53.9 per cent) said that their children are learning less than before the pandemic. It is thus likely that the long-term accumulation of human capital will be jeopardised by this crisis.

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	32.5%	82.3%	10.8%	35.3%	54.0	53.9%
Urban	32.2%	81.8%	9.2%	33.7%	53.9	54.2%
Rural	33.3%	84.0%	15.4%	40.3%	53.8	53.3%
HH w/o children (0-17)	25.3%	72.1%	-	26.4%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	36.2%	87.5%	10.8%	39.8%	54.0	53.9%
HH with elderly (65+)	30.8%	78.5%	13.1%	34.5%	44.8	54.3%
HH with 0-1 asset	38.3%	87.8%	12.8%	46.5%	51.8	52.1%
HH with 2-3 assets	22.4%	72.5%	6.7%	15.6%	57.6	57.3%
HH education - Primary or less	35.7%	84.6%	12.1%	41.5%	42.5	59.8%
HH education - Secondary	36.2%	83.8%	10.1%	38.0%	59.4	51.0%
HH education - Tertiary or more	22.7%	77.2%	10.9%	23.9%	57.0	52.8%

* 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](#).



COVID-19 IN LAC

COSTA RICA

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



September 2022

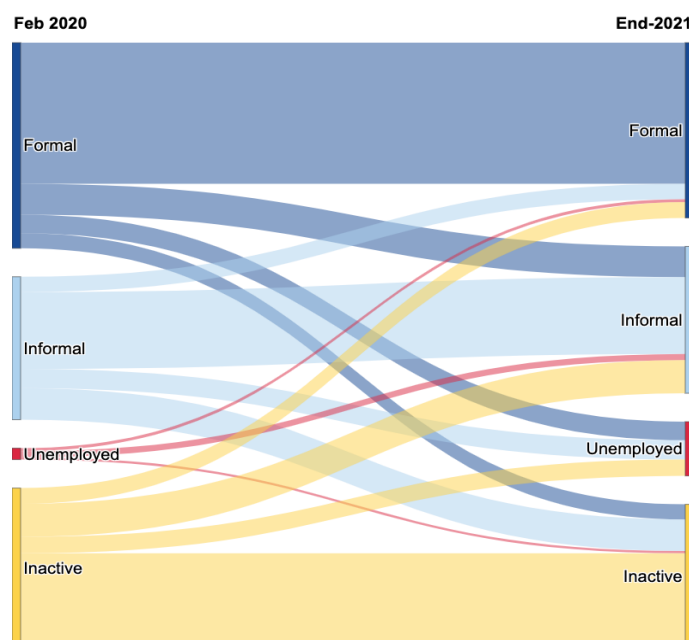
Mobility restrictions and social distancing measures implemented to contain the Covid-19 pandemic hit the tourism industry hard: Costa Rica experienced a 4.1 per cent drop in GDP in 2020. The economic contraction went hand-in-hand with a decline in employment and household income. The labour market has been slow to recover. At the time of the survey, 24.2 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs, a slightly higher share than reported in mid-2021 (27.5 per cent). Of the total job losses, 13.4 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether, and the remaining 10.8 per cent became unemployed. Those who lost their jobs most frequently were women (38.4 per cent), young people (28.8 per cent) and those with lower education levels (28.4 per cent). For men, the second half of 2021 brought a 5.9-percentage-point reduction in job losses (bringing them to 14.7 per cent), while for women it brought an increase of 0.2 percentage points (to 38.4 per cent). Some 40.8 per cent of the population that was inactive pre-Covid entered the labour market, of whom men and young people were the groups who became economically active most frequently. Some 74.8 per cent of those entering the labour market found work, mainly in the form of informal jobs (67.7 per cent). According to the survey, 47.7 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive before the pandemic transitioned to informal work. On the other hand, the time spent on providing support for schooling remains on the rise. In mid-2021, 37.5 per cent of respondents reported that the time they spent helping their children with schoolwork had increased during the pandemic. By late 2021, it had increased by 3.6 percentage points. Although the proportion of men reporting increases during this time grew by 9.6 percentage points (to 33.5 per cent), the care burden was shouldered more by women (46.4 per cent).

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	24.2%	40.8%	47.7%	3.6
Females	38.4%	34.2%	49.6%	0.1
Males	14.7%	57.1%	46.1%	9.6
18 to 25 years old	28.8%	57.6%	61.0%	5.6
26 to 45 years old	24.1%	52.4%	47.5%	3.4
46 to 64 years old	23.7%	25.7%	47.9%	2.9
65 and older	20.4%	15.5%	26.2%	0.0
Primary or less	28.4%	29.8%	39.8%	0.8
Secondary	25.8%	54.2%	58.0%	4.4
Tertiary and more	10.6%	43.6%	53.7%	7.9

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Labour market dynamics show that government efforts fell short of offsetting the negative effects of the pandemic on household welfare. As figure 2 shows, between June and December 2021, 27.4 per cent of households reported a drop in total income, 10 per cent reported an increase, and 62.0 per cent reported no changes. Households with one or no assets (35.5 per cent) and with less educated heads (34.2 per cent) reported income drops more frequently. The loss of income and other sources of means during the pandemic were associated with increased food insecurity: 21.1 per cent of households reported going without food in the 30 days prior to the survey due to lack of means, 12.9 percentage points below the figure reported in mid-2021 and 0.9 percentage points below pre-pandemic levels. This figure was even higher for households with limited asset holdings (30.8 per cent) and less educated heads (30.2 per cent).

To cope with food insecurity and continue meeting their basic needs, households were forced to resort to coping strategies that included not paying financial obligations, using savings and both adults and children entering the workforce. Some 64.2 per cent of households turned to at least one of these mechanisms, a figure that rose to 73.3 per cent among homes with underage children. Furthermore, in 3.3 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment to get through the pandemic. This share is three times higher if the respondent was an older adult (65 or older). Face-to-face class attendance increased significantly between mid-2021 and the end of the year, 55.3 percentage points, going from 10.2 per cent to 66.5 per cent (18.2 percentage points above the regional average). Although this reflects some improvements in in-person attendance, perceptions of education quality remain substandard. Some 58.3 per cent of respondents believe that children are learning less than before the pandemic, which could jeopardise the accumulation of human capital and well-being in the future. This perception is more pronounced in households with more assets and those with more educated heads.

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

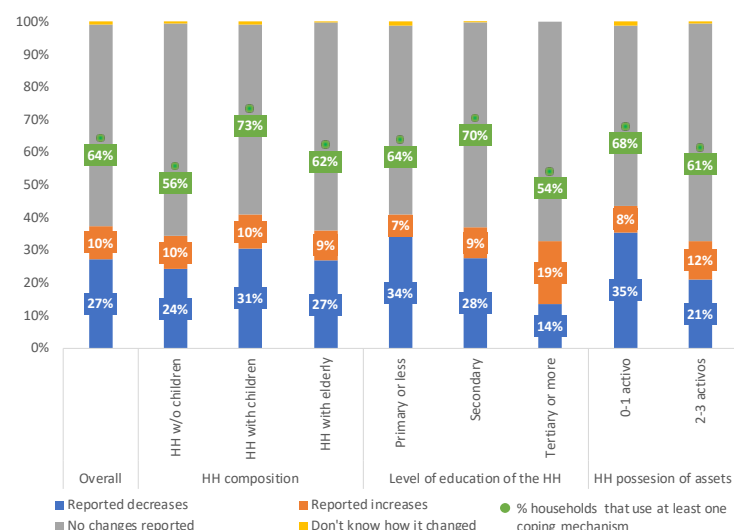
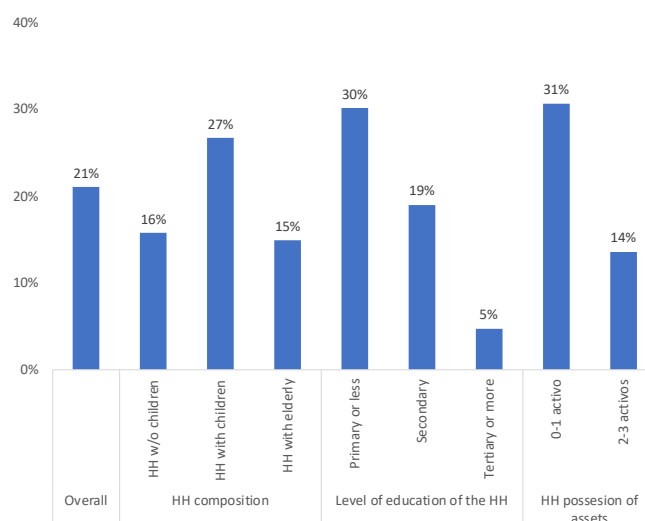


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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 coping mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force as a coping mechanism	% 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	27.4%	64.2%	3.3%	21.1%	55.3	58.3%
HH w/o children (0-17)	24.3%	55.7%	-	15.8%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	30.6%	73.3%	3.3%	26.8%	55.3	58.3%
HH with elderly (65+)	26.9%	62.2%	9.9%	15.0%	74.1	56.7%
HH with 0-1 asset	35.5%	67.8%	5.3%	30.8%	60.1	53.6%
HH with 2-3 assets	21.1%	61.4%	2.0%	13.6%	51.8	61.7%
HH education - Primary or less	34.2%	63.7%	2.7%	30.2%	53.7	47.7%
HH education - Secondary	27.6%	70.3%	4.2%	19.1%	59.2	66.7%
HH education - Tertiary or more	13.7%	54.0%	0.8%	4.8%	52.1	62.0%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

DOMINICA

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



September 2022

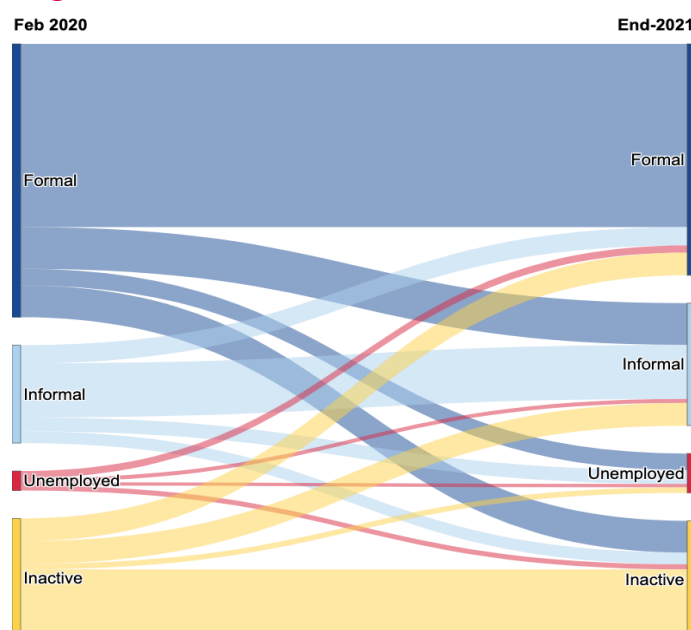
Although initially spared, Dominica ultimately faced a relatively high number of confirmed Covid-19 cases and deaths due to the pandemic. International and domestic mobility restrictions affected the tourism, construction, wholesale, and retail sectors, interrupting the economic recovery from Hurricane Maria and leading to a contraction of 16.6 per cent of GDP in 2020. More than two years since the start of the pandemic, the Dominican labour market is slowly beginning to recover. Job loss rates increased 3.0 percentage points between June and December 2021, going from 17.0 per cent to 20.0 per cent; that is, one in five people who had been employed before the pandemic lost their jobs by the end of 2021. Of these, 11.7 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether, and 8.2 per cent became unemployed. These job losses highlighted the gender gap: women were almost twice as likely to lose their jobs as men (26.4 per cent versus 14.6 per cent). By the end of 2021, 42.7 per cent of the population that had not been economically active also entered the labour force. This rate was especially high among young people and younger adults: four out of every five people aged 25-54 became economically active, as did three out of every five aged 18-25. Some 89.2 per cent of those who joined the labour force found employment; half of them were in informal jobs. Indeed, 55.8 per cent of those who held formal jobs were unemployed or were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment by late 2021, which reveals a significant decline in the quality of employment in the country. Two-thirds of women, people with secondary education, and people between 25 and 54 years of age moved into the informal segment. The pandemic also triggered an increase in domestic unpaid work. In mid-2021, 57.5 per cent of respondents said that the time they spent helping their children with schoolwork had increased, and this figure only dropped by 2.1 percentage points by the end of the year. Despite these reductions, there was a 12.0-percentage-point rise in the share of respondents with primary education or less and aged 18-24 who reported that their care burden had increased. By late 2021, 59.5 per cent of women reported that they were spending more time helping their children with school activities (3.4 percentage points more than in the middle of the year), while 49.9 of men said so (1.3 percentage points less than in the middle of the year).

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	20.0%	42.7%	55.8%	-2.1
Females	26.4%	40.0%	66.6%	-3.4
Males	14.6%	47.0%	50.0%	-1.3
18 to 25 years old	21.6%	63.4%	59.1%	12.2
26 to 45 years old	18.2%	81.5%	66.1%	-8.1
46 to 64 years old	20.3%	37.9%	53.5%	1.6
65 and older	28.7%	14.3%	42.7%	2.3
Primary or less	19.7%	17.8%	47.0%	12.5
Secondary	23.7%	53.9%	66.4%	-5.1
Tertiary and more	16.8%	55.5%	54.2%	-9.0

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Changes in the labour market and government transfers have begun to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic on household welfare. None of the strategies used have made up for the lost income caused by the pandemic; nearly one-third of households (32.2 per cent) reported that their income had declined since the middle of the year. These income losses were even higher for households with children under 18 (39.3 per cent). As a result, 73.9 per cent of households resorted to at least one of the following coping mechanisms to make up for lost income and cover their basic needs: non-payment of financial obligations, the use of savings and entry into the labour force by adults and children who were not previously economically active. These strategies were more frequent in households with dependent children (81.3 per cent) and less educated heads (76.7 per cent). The entry of children into the labour force is noteworthy. Specifically, in 9.7 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment as a strategy to cope with the financial stress triggered by the pandemic. The households that resorted most frequently to this mechanism were those with lower asset ownership rates (17.1 per cent). Despite all these efforts to cover their basic needs, 43.6 per cent of households reported going without food in the 30 days leading up to the survey.

This value was 3.3 percentage points above that reported in mid-2021 and 25.2 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels. The most vulnerable households (those with low asset ownership rates and less educated heads) and those with dependent children were more frequently affected by food insecurity. Dominica was one of the few countries in the region where schools were fully open for the entire first half of 2021, such that its in-person attendance rate was 96.9 per cent, one of the highest in the region at the time. However, the rapid increase in Covid infections in the second half of the year prompted the country to step up measures to contain the spread of the virus. Mobility restrictions and school closures for the remainder of the academic year caused the face-to-face attendance rate to drop by 93.6 percentage points to 3.3 per cent, the lowest in the region. These changes caused significant setbacks to the quality of education—indeed, 43.2 per cent of respondents said they thought children were learning less than before the pandemic. This figure is especially concerning for households with low asset ownership rates, where 58.5 per cent of respondents agreed that the quality of education has declined. All these developments could have negative effects on both long-term human capital formation and future welfare, especially for the most vulnerable households.

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

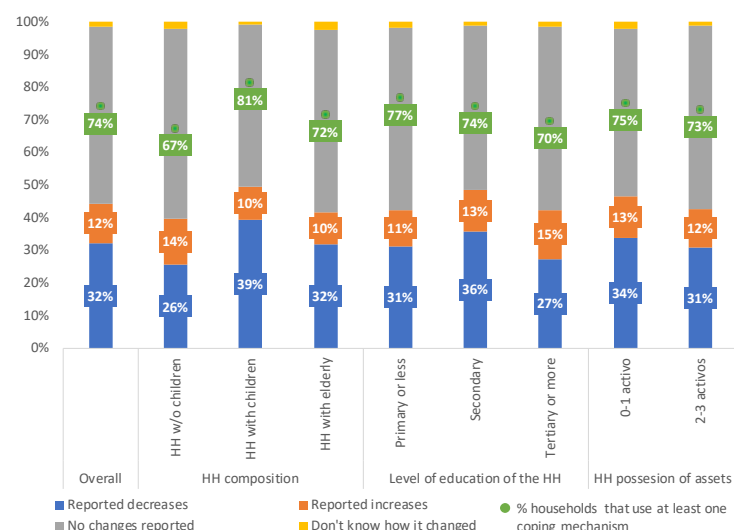
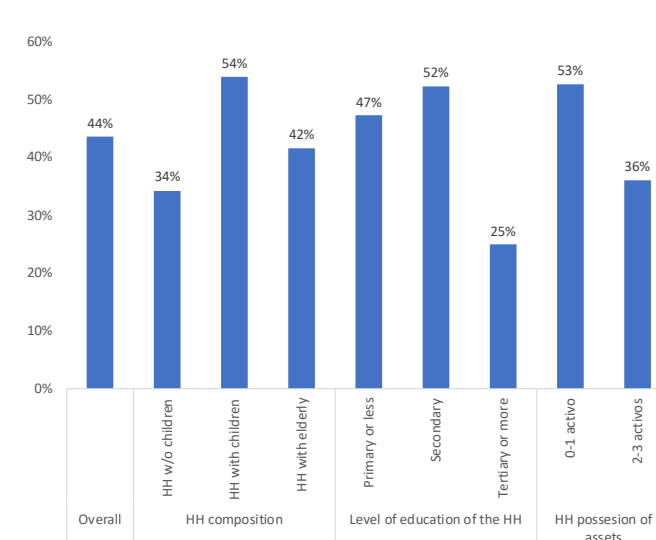


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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 coping mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force as a coping mechanism	% 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	32.2%	73.9%	9.7%	43.6%	-93.6	43.2%
HH w/o children (0-17)	25.8%	67.2%	-	34.2%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	39.3%	81.3%	9.7%	54.0%	-93.6	43.2%
HH with elderly (65+)	32.0%	71.5%	9.3%	41.6%	-92.1	39.8%
HH with 0-1 asset	33.9%	75.0%	17.1%	52.7%	-93.6	58.5%
HH with 2-3 assets	30.8%	73.0%	7.0%	36.1%	-93.8	38.2%
HH education - Primary or less	31.3%	76.7%	10.0%	47.3%	-93.3	44.6%
HH education - Secondary	35.9%	74.0%	10.6%	52.4%	-92.9	42.4%
HH education - Tertiary or more	27.4%	69.6%	5.6%	25.0%	-95.3	41.4%

* 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](#).



COVID-19 IN LAC

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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



September 2022

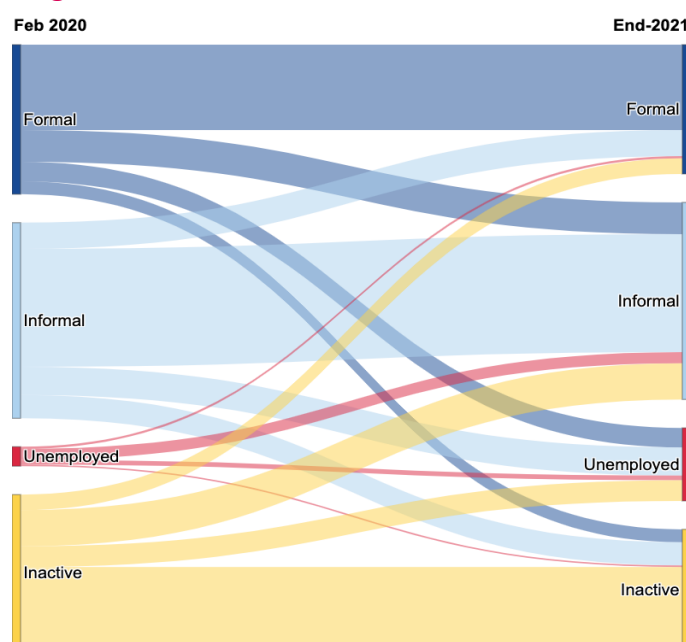
The Dominican Republic was one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America and the Caribbean between 2015 and 2019. As a result, the Covid-19 crisis hit the country when macroeconomic conditions were favourable. GDP contracted by 6.7 per cent in 2020, but the economy had reopened by mid-2021, and tourism was rallying, leading to 12.3 per cent GDP growth in 2021. However, the effects of this rapid economic recovery have been slow to be reflected in the dynamics of the labour market. By late 2021, 24.3 per cent of the population who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. Of these, 13.8 per cent became unemployed, and 10.5 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. Some 27.4 per cent of young people lost their jobs. Some 34.1 per cent of women lost their jobs, double the share of men that did so (17.3 per cent). By late 2021, these departures from the labour force were offset by the entry of 46.7 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic. Entry rates were much higher for men and adults aged 26 to 45. Some 71.5 per cent of those entering the labour market found work. However, for 69.9 per cent, this work was informal, pointing to a deterioration in the quality of employment. Specifically, 40.1 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or who were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment. One out of every two women transitioned to informal employment. On the other hand, there was an overall drop of 14.4 percentage points in the proportion of respondents reporting spending increased time providing their children support with school activities. This may be explained by the reopening of educational establishments in the second half of 2021. Unlike most countries in the region, the change in care burdens compared to the middle of the year was very similar for men and women.

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	24.3%	46.7%	40.1%	-14.4
Females	34.1%	41.0%	50.3%	-13.2
Males	17.3%	61.0%	32.4%	-15.8
18 to 25 years old	27.4%	62.5%	39.3%	-5.7
26 to 45 years old	25.1%	70.8%	37.7%	-17.9
46 to 64 years old	20.9%	39.8%	41.2%	-16.2
65 and older	21.8%	13.8%	55.4%	-4.0
Primary or less	25.0%	35.2%	31.1%	-10.5
Secondary	22.8%	50.5%	41.0%	-13.0
Tertiary and more	26.5%	57.4%	46.9%	-16.0

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

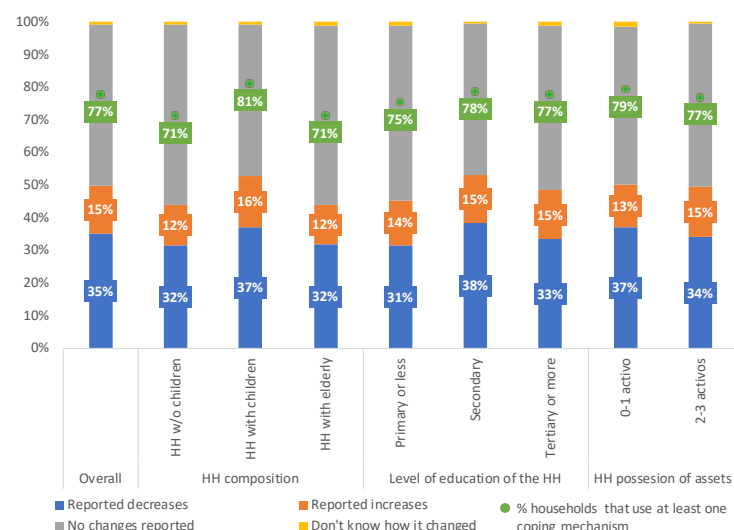
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Some 35.0 per cent of Dominican households reported that their income had dropped between mid- and late 2021, while 15 per cent reported increases. Income loss was more common in households whose heads had secondary education and those with low asset holdings and underage children. The probability of experiencing food insecurity also increased. Some 38.6 per cent of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days prior to the survey due to a lack of means. This figure is 4.6 percentage points higher than was reported in mid-2021 and 16.6 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels. To compensate for pandemic-related income losses and continue meeting their basic needs, 77.5 per cent of households had to resort to at least one new coping mechanism. Among the strategies used were the non-payment of financial obligations, the use of savings and the entry of adults and children into the labour force.

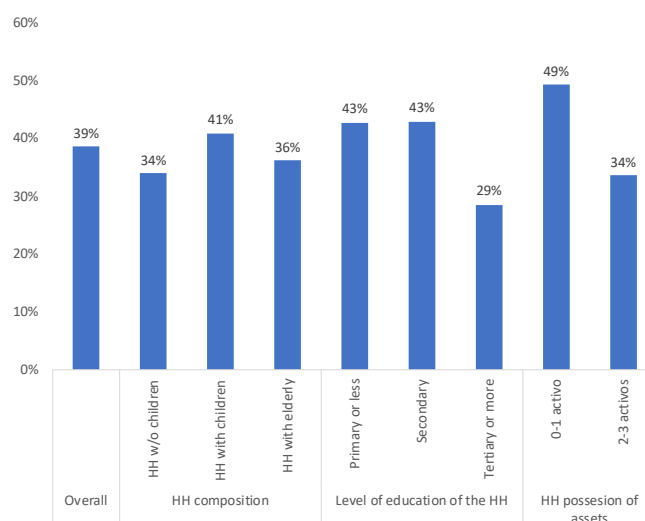
Approximately four out of five households with minor children resorted to at least one of these strategies during the pandemic. One of the most striking data points is that in 8.9 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment as a mechanism to mitigate the financial stress associated with the Covid-19 crisis. This figure was even higher for households with limited asset holdings (12.0 per cent) and those in which the respondent was 65 or older (12.5 per cent). The Dominican education system went from total and partial closures during the first half of 2021 to being almost fully operational in the second half. This prompted the in-person attendance rate to soar by 86.4 percentage points, reaching 94.3 per cent (one of the highest rates in the region). However, a quarter of respondents (24.8 per cent) felt that children are learning less than before the pandemic. This view is more pronounced among households with heads with higher education (34.6 per cent). These perceptions reflect the challenges that still lie ahead regarding the quality of the country's education system.

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 coping mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force as a coping mechanism	% 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	35.0%	77.5%	8.9%	38.6%	86.4	24.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	31.6%	71.0%	-	34.0%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	36.9%	81.0%	8.9%	41.0%	86.4	24.8%
HH with elderly (65+)	31.7%	71.2%	12.5%	36.3%	86.1	19.1%
HH with 0-1 asset	37.0%	79.1%	12.0%	49.3%	85.4	25.4%
HH with 2-3 assets	34.1%	76.7%	8.1%	33.7%	86.4	24.7%
HH education - Primary or less	31.4%	75.1%	11.4%	42.8%	80.8	21.3%
HH education - Secondary	38.4%	78.4%	8.9%	43.0%	88.6	22.5%
HH education - Tertiary or more	33.4%	77.4%	3.2%	28.5%	87.6	34.6%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

ECUADOR

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



September 2022

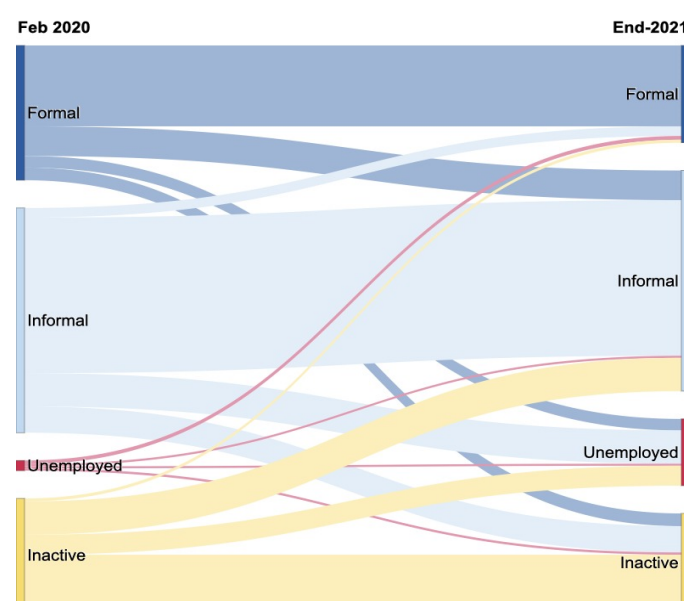
Ecuador was hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. The country's GDP fell by 7.8 per cent in 2020, outstripping the overall contraction in the region (6.7 per cent). The economy began to recover in 2021 when it grew by 4.2 per cent, but the labour market has been slower to do so. By the end of the year, 23.3 per cent of those who had been employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. Of these, 10.8 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether, and 12.5 per cent became unemployed. Job loss was more frequent among women, young people, and older adults. The numbers of people leaving the labour force were offset by the significant share of the economically inactive population that became active: one out of every two in this group entered the labour market by the end of 2021. This figure rose to three out of five among young people (those aged 26–45) and workers with higher education. Some 64.6 per cent of those entering the labour market found work: this was true for 72.1 per cent of men but only 61.7 per cent of women. A large share of the transitions that took place between February 2020 and the end of 2021 were into informal employment (figure 1). Likewise, 29.5 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment. Specifically, 47.8 per cent of young people and 42.3 per cent of the most educated held informal jobs. By late 2021, 27.3 per cent of respondents reported that the time they spent helping their children with school activities had increased. This increased care burden fell most notably on women (54.6 per cent compared to 40.4 per cent for men). This may have contributed to the fact that women's probability of losing their job was more than 20.0 percentage points higher than men's.

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	23.3%	49.7%	29.5%	6.6
Urban	23.2%	45.7%	27.4%	2.0
Rural	23.5%	57.1%	33.1%	13.9
Females	34.8%	50.5%	34.0%	6.0
Males	14.2%	47.7%	25.6%	7.4
18 to 25 years old	33.1%	57.7%	47.8%	8.5
26 to 45 years old	21.3%	62.8%	29.1%	6.5
46 to 64 years old	21.8%	38.0%	20.9%	0.7
65 and older	28.1%	28.2%	31.6%	26.8
Primary or less	22.2%	45.4%	21.9%	10.8
Secondary	24.7%	49.9%	33.2%	0.5
Tertiary and more	20.1%	60.1%	42.3%	3.4

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

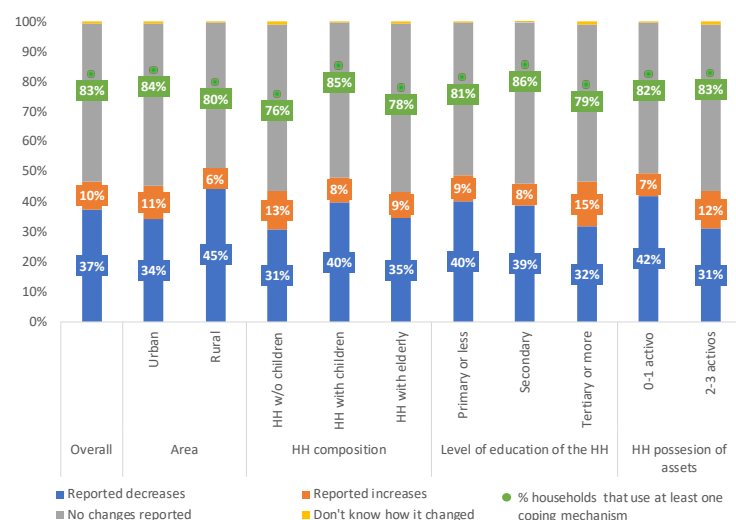
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Public and private efforts to counteract the adverse effects of the pandemic have gradually improved household welfare. Despite this, 37.3 per cent of households reported that their income had decreased compared to mid-2021. Income loss was more frequent among rural households and those with fewer assets and less educated heads. In addition, 39.5 per cent of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days prior to the survey due to a lack of means. Some 49.2 per cent of rural households and 47.9 per cent of households with less educated heads reported experiencing food insecurity. Likewise, 82.5 per cent of households resorted to at least one coping mechanism to meet their basic needs during the pandemic. Households with dependent children and heads with secondary education had to resort to such strategies more frequently.

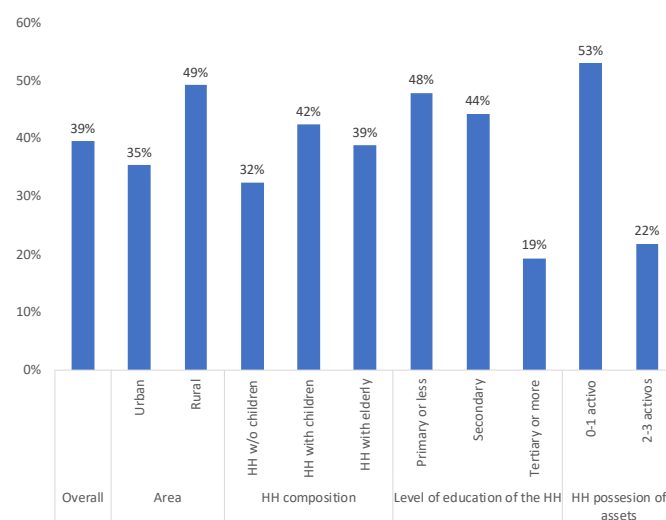
In 8.6 per cent of households with school-age children, these coping mechanisms included a child having to look for work. This strategy was more common among rural households, those with few assets, and less educated heads. Although Ecuadorian schools went from being fully closed in the first half of 2021 to being only partially closed in the second half, the in-person attendance rate increased by just 5.3 percentage points to 6.0 per cent. Although in-person school attendance rates were higher in rural households (10.2 per cent), and those with more educated heads (9.7 per cent), the overall in-person attendance rate in Ecuador is the third-lowest in the region and well below the average (48.3 per cent). The challenge facing the country's education system is not only increasing attendance but also improving the quality of education: 70.4 per cent of respondents believe that children are learning less than before the pandemic. This may imply significant losses for the development of human capital over time.

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	37.3%	82.5%	8.6%	39.5%	5.3	70.4%
Urban	34.1%	83.7%	5.7%	35.4%	3.1	72.2%
Rural	44.8%	79.7%	14.5%	49.2%	9.6	66.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	31.0%	75.8%	-	32.3%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	39.9%	85.3%	8.6%	42.4%	5.3	70.4%
HH with elderly (65+)	34.6%	77.9%	10.4%	38.8%	2.6	66.2%
HH with 0-1 asset	42.1%	82.4%	11.9%	53.0%	3.9	69.0%
HH with 2-3 assets	31.1%	82.8%	4.5%	21.8%	7.1	72.1%
HH education - Primary or less	40.0%	81.3%	11.4%	47.9%	3.0	68.0%
HH education - Secondary	38.6%	85.6%	8.1%	44.3%	4.5	72.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	31.7%	78.8%	5.7%	19.3%	9.5	72.2%

* 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

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This note was prepared by Adriana Camacho, Estefany Hernández, Pablo Hernández, and Laura Tenjo from the SDG and Development Policy Team at the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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COVID-19 IN LAC

EL SALVADOR

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



September 2022

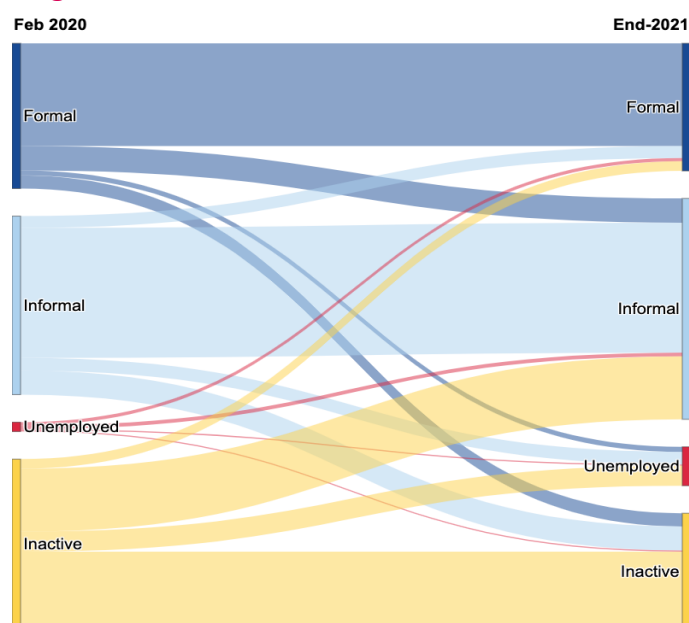
The Covid-19 crisis is expected to reverse the progress on poverty reduction, equality and prosperity that El Salvador has made in recent years. The country managed to enact one of the region's most generous fiscal response packages despite entering the Covid-19 crisis in fragile fiscal circumstances: El Salvador's debt levels were the highest in Central America in 2019 (73.6 per cent of GDP). At the end of 2021, the Salvadoran labour market was still recovering from the devastation caused by the pandemic. By then, 17.0 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. Although this share had increased 2.9 percentage points since the middle of the year, it remains below the regional average (21.7 per cent). Some 5.4 per cent of those who lost their jobs remained unemployed, while the remaining 11.6 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. Women, older adults, and the less educated lost the jobs they had held before the pandemic more frequently. These outflows were offset by the fact that one out of every two people who were economically inactive pre-Covid joined the labour market. The shift to being economically active was most notable among men and the most educated, which were also the groups that were most jeopardised by job loss during the pandemic. However, much of the movement that took place within the labour market was towards informal employment. Some 41.2 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive pre-Covid moved into informal employment by late 2021. This transition was more frequent among the young (53.4 per cent) and the more educated (53.8 per cent). One of the most widespread changes caused by the pandemic was the increase in time spent on unpaid care work. By the end of 2021, 38.7 per cent of respondents said that they were spending more time helping their children with school activities than in the middle of the year. By the end of that year, the figure had only decreased by 1.4 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	17.0%	54.5%	41.2%	-1.4
Females	24.7%	51.0%	47.3%	-5.9
Males	10.3%	63.5%	34.3%	4.8
18 to 25 years old	21.7%	59.6%	53.4%	-4.2
26 to 45 years old	10.5%	60.1%	39.4%	-5.5
46 to 64 years old	20.8%	51.9%	32.6%	10.8
65 and older	37.9%	33.8%	44.8%	-7.9
Primary or less	20.1%	55.2%	34.0%	5.4
Secondary	16.2%	51.5%	40.7%	-5.9
Tertiary and more	16.2%	63.5%	53.8%	2.9

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



However, these efforts failed to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic on household welfare entirely. Some 25.8 per cent of households reported that their income decreased between mid- and late 2021 while 11 per cent reported increases. Furthermore, some 20.5 per cent of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days prior to the survey due to a lack of means. This figure is 7.1 percentage points below the levels reported in mid-2021 and 19.0 percentage points above where they stood at the start of the pandemic. In both cases, the households that were most affected were households with lower asset availability and less educated heads. To cope with the financial stress caused by the pandemic and continue meeting their basic needs, households were forced to resort to coping strategies that included not paying financial obligations, using savings and both adults and children entering the workforce. According to the survey, 63.2 per cent of households used at least one of these mechanisms.

This figure increased to 69.0 per cent for households with less educated heads and to 69.4 per cent for those with underage children. Specifically, in 10.3 per cent of households with school-age children, a child entered the labour market during the pandemic to compensate for lost income. This figure increased to 13.1 per cent among households with older adults and 13.6 per cent among households with less educated heads (those with primary education or less). Between mid- and late 2021, the percentage of school-age children attending in-person classes dropped by 39.8 percentage points to 26.7 per cent (21.6 percentage points above the regional average). This decrease was 45.0 percentage points for households with less educated heads and low asset ownership. This highlights the quality-related challenges that the education system is facing, especially in connection with vulnerable households. Some 46.9 per cent of respondents said they thought that children are learning less than before the pandemic started. For respondents in households with more educated heads, this share increased to 56.3 per cent.

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

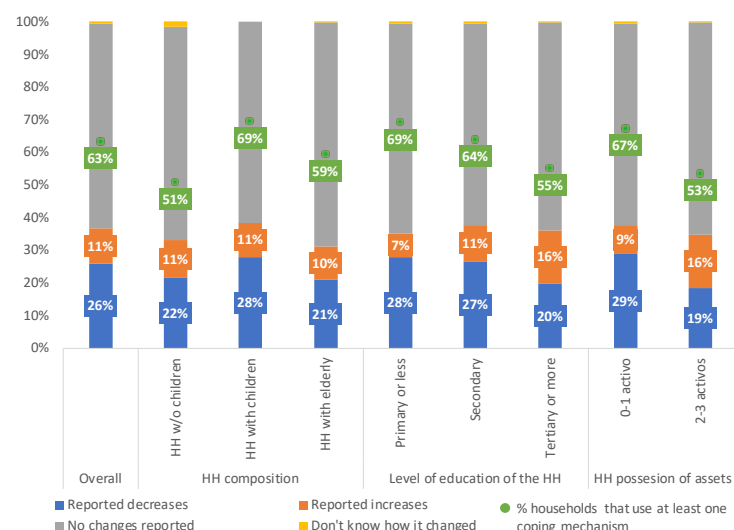
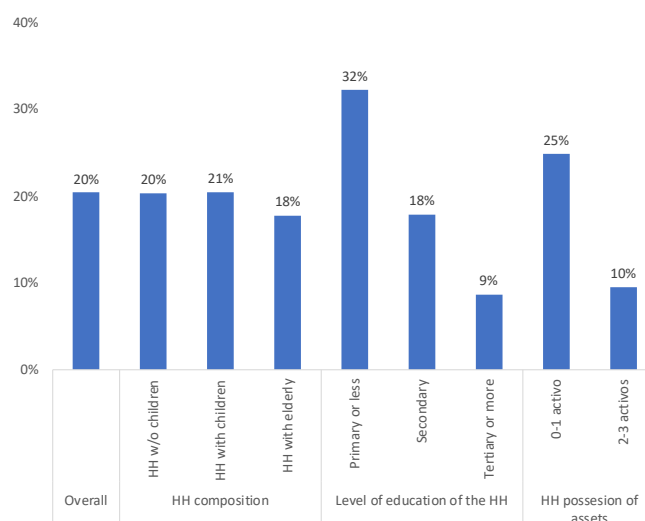


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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 coping mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force as a coping mechanism	% 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	25.8%	63.2%	10.3%	20.5%	-39.8	46.9%
HH w/o children (0-17)	21.8%	50.9%	-	20.4%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	27.9%	69.4%	10.3%	20.5%	-39.8	46.9%
HH with elderly (65+)	21.0%	59.4%	13.1%	17.8%	-29.4	47.4%
HH with 0-1 asset	28.8%	67.2%	11.0%	24.9%	-45.0	48.1%
HH with 2-3 assets	18.5%	53.5%	8.0%	9.6%	-22.2	43.8%
HH education - Primary or less	28.0%	69.0%	13.6%	32.3%	-45.8	48.8%
HH education - Secondary	26.7%	64.0%	11.0%	17.9%	-46.1	43.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	19.8%	55.0%	2.9%	8.7%	-9.9	56.3%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

GUATEMALA

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



September 2022

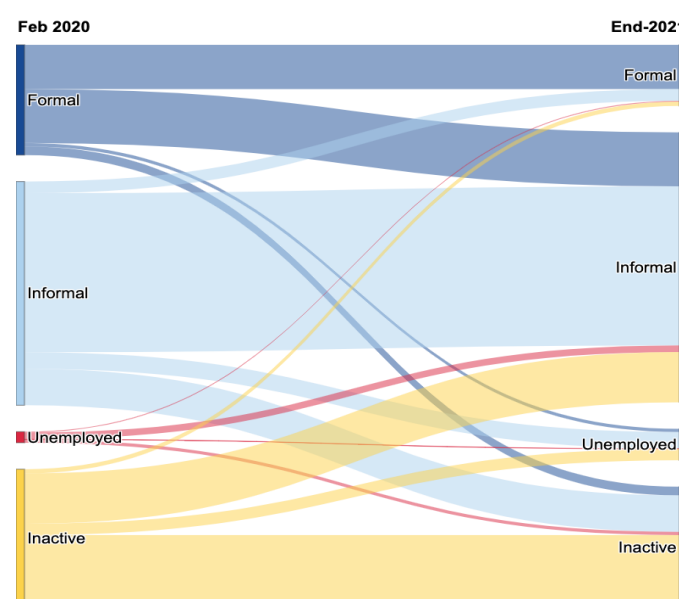
Despite the effectiveness of the government's response and the rapid economic recovery the country has experienced (including GDP growth of 7.5 per cent in 2021), the labour market has been slow to rally. In fact, by late 2021, its performance had declined compared to the middle of the year. By the end of 2021, 19.4 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs (5.0 percentage points more than the number for June 2021). This situation was even more detrimental for women and the elderly. Of those who lost their pre-Covid jobs, 5.6 per cent became unemployed, and the remaining 13.5 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. The number of people leaving the labour market was offset by 47.5 per cent of those who were previously economically inactive entering the labour market during the pandemic. Although 82.8 per cent of those entering the labour market found work, the jobs in question were only formal for 7.9 per cent. Likewise, 41.1 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment. The pandemic also brought changes in the distribution of time within households, notably by prompting an increase in the time spent on care work and other unpaid activities. By mid-2021, 37.7 per cent of respondents reported that they were spending more time helping their children with school activities, a figure that dropped just 1.1 percentage points by the end of the year. It increased by 26.7 percentage points for older adults, which may be associated with a significant drop in their labour force participation rates (they left more often and joined less frequently than the other groups).

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	19.4%	47.5%	41.1%	-1.1
Urban	21.3%	48.8%	45.7%	-1.7
Rural	17.8%	46.2%	37.2%	-0.1
Females	30.5%	39.8%	44.4%	-1.7
Males	11.5%	71.2%	38.5%	0.1
18 to 25 years old	20.3%	51.2%	50.2%	8.2
26 to 45 years old	16.7%	52.6%	37.4%	-6.7
46 to 64 years old	22.7%	40.0%	38.3%	-0.5
65 and older	29.0%	27.6%	44.9%	26.7
Primary or less	22.7%	48.0%	38.0%	-2.0
Secondary	15.0%	47.5%	44.7%	3.8
Tertiary and more	15.3%	45.1%	48.5%	-17.6

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

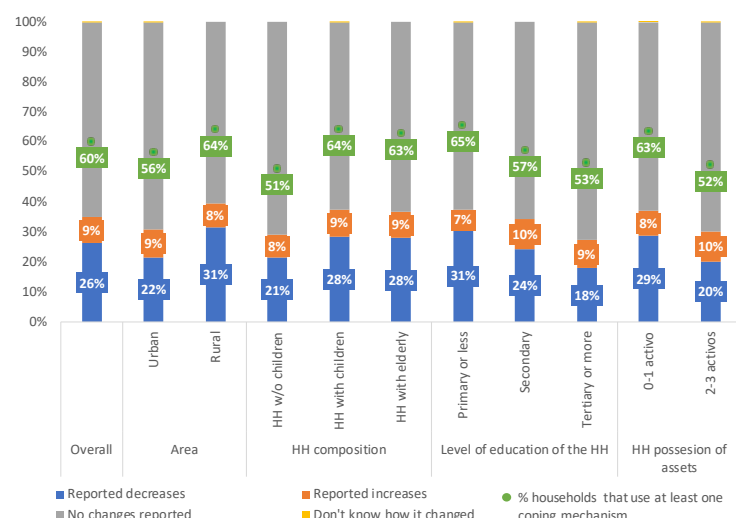
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Despite the efforts made by the government and households to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, household welfare continued to be negatively affected by the end of 2021. By this point, 26.2 per cent of households reported that their total income had decreased compared to mid-2021. At the same time, 20.5 per cent of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days prior to the survey due to a lack of means. About one-third of rural households and households with less educated heads experienced drops in their income. This is associated with a higher probability of experiencing food insecurity (about 27.0 per cent for both groups). To cope with the financial stress caused by the pandemic and to ensure that their basic needs were met, two out of three households resorted to at least one of the following mechanisms: non-payment of financial obligations, using savings and entering the labour force. Households with less educated heads had to resort more frequently to these mechanisms (65.4 per cent).

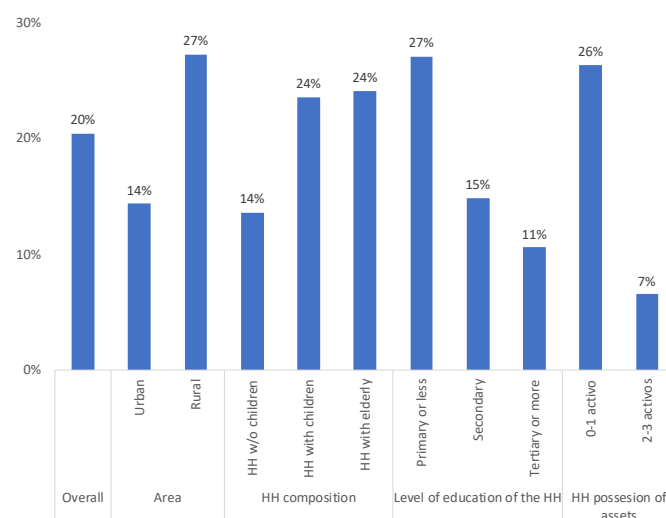
One of the coping strategies used was the entry of school-age children into the labour force—this was the case in 12.3 per cent of households. It was even higher for households with older adults (15.9 per cent) and those with limited assets (15.2 per cent). In the field of education, in-person class attendance rates fell from 20.6 per cent in the first half of 2021 to 14.8 per cent in the second half, well below the regional average (48.3 per cent). This drop was most evident in rural areas, where it fell by 12 percentage points, and in households whose heads had secondary or tertiary education, where it fell by 10.8 and 16.5 percentage points, respectively. Changes in school attendance have probably had a negative impact on the quality of education: 65.2 per cent of respondents believe that children are learning less than before the pandemic.

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	26.2%	60.0%	12.3%	20.5%	-5.8	65.2%
Urban	21.5%	56.5%	11.5%	14.3%	-2.6	66.6%
Rural	31.3%	64.0%	13.2%	27.3%	-12.0	63.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	21.3%	51.1%	-	13.6%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	28.4%	64.1%	12.3%	23.6%	-5.8	65.2%
HH with elderly (65+)	27.9%	62.7%	15.9%	24.1%	-7.3	65.6%
HH with 0-1 asset	28.8%	63.4%	15.2%	26.4%	-6.3	66.5%
HH with 2-3 assets	20.1%	52.2%	4.4%	6.5%	-5.5	61.8%
HH education - Primary or less	30.5%	65.4%	14.8%	27.1%	-0.4	64.4%
HH education - Secondary	24.3%	57.2%	8.2%	14.9%	-10.8	64.9%
HH education - Tertiary or more	17.9%	53.1%	7.9%	10.6%	-16.5	64.9%

* 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](#).



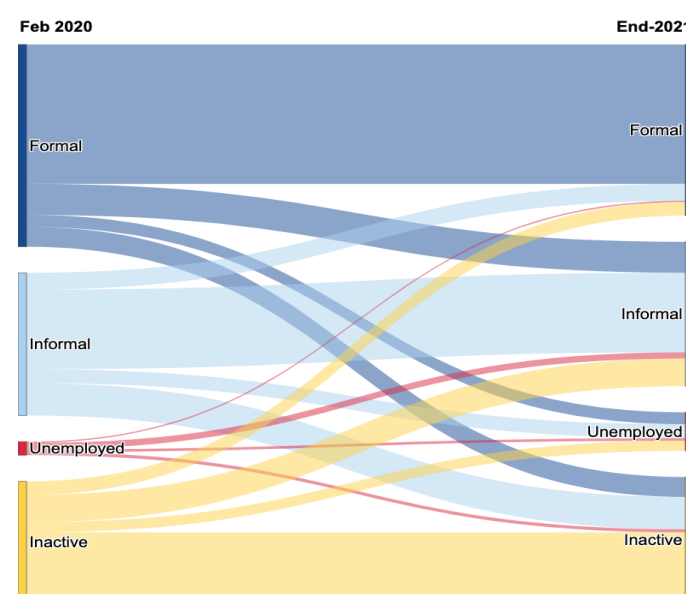
Contrary to global and regional trends, Guyana was one of the fastest-growing economies in 2020. Primarily due to the start of oil production after recent offshore discoveries, GDP grew by 43.5 per cent in 2020 and 21.2 per cent in 2021. Nevertheless, the negative consequences of containment measures implemented during the pandemic on household welfare, as well as demand and supply disruptions, have persisted almost two years after. It has proved extremely difficult for the labour market to return to its pre-Covid dynamics. By late 2021, 22.6 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. Of these, 7.5 per cent continued to seek work, while the remaining 15.1 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. Nearly half of older adults (47.5 per cent) lost the jobs they held before the pandemic, and women were more affected by job loss than men (31.1 per cent versus 17.0 per cent). Conversely, 42.0 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic entered the labour market by late 2021. Men and those with a higher education transitioned into the labour force more frequently: at least one out of every two became economically active. Four out of every five found work; however, a considerable proportion of these new hires (67.0 per cent) were in the informal segment, suggesting a significant deterioration in the quality of employment in the country. Furthermore, 44.8 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal work by the end of 2021. Moreover, 54.1 per cent of respondents reported spending more time supporting their children's schooling; 0.6 percentage points below the figure reported halfway through the year. While the time that women spent on care work rose, for men it fell: 62.1 per cent of women said they were spending more time providing support for schooling (4.1 percentage points more than in mid-2021), but only 44.5 per cent of men did so (5.3 percentage points less than in mid-2021). These differences reveal a significant imbalance in the childcare burden.

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	22.6%	42.0%	44.8%	-0.6
Urban	25.6%	39.5%	55.3%	-
Rural	21.6%	42.7%	42.4%	-
Females	31.1%	38.7%	53.2%	4.1
Males	17.0%	52.4%	38.1%	-5.3
18 to 25 years old	24.1%	47.9%	64.2%	-6.0
26 to 45 years old	20.9%	49.1%	42.5%	-0.1
46 to 64 years old	20.7%	44.8%	34.4%	2.8
65 and older	47.5%	14.6%	54.3%	-1.4
Primary or less	22.4%	49.9%	34.5%	9.7
Secondary	25.0%	37.2%	48.4%	-5.4
Tertiary and more	14.8%	53.4%	53.5%	2.7

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

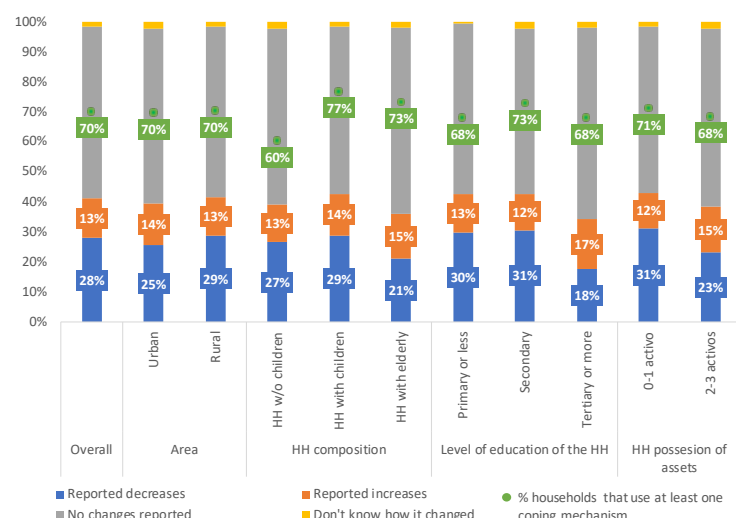
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Government efforts and changes in the labour market have helped mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic on household welfare. However, the situation has not yet returned to its pre-Covid state. By late 2021, some 27.9 per cent of households reported that their income level had dropped compared with the middle of the year. The households that were most affected by these changes were those with lower asset availability and less educated heads. To cover their basic needs after the pandemic caused their incomes to drop, 70.0 per cent of households resorted to at least one of the following coping mechanisms: non-payment of financial obligations, the use of savings and entry into the labour force by adults and children who were not previously economically active. Some 76.7 per cent of households with children under the age of 18 made use of at least one of these strategies. Specifically, in 14.8 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment to offset the financial stress caused by the Covid-19 crisis. This figure increased to 18.8 per cent for households with low asset ownership and 18.7 per cent for households with less educated heads and adults over the age of 65.

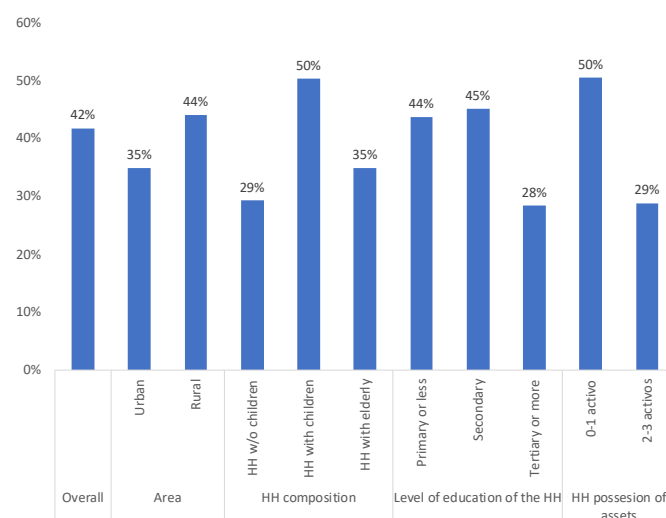
Despite these efforts to offset the loss of income and other means, 41.8 per cent of households reported going without food in the 30 days leading up to the survey. One out of every two households with dependent children experienced food insecurity. By late 2021, the food insecurity rate was 1.1 percentage points higher than was reported in mid-2021 and 26.0 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels. Regarding education, the in-person attendance rate increased 43.9 percentage points between mid- and late 2021. Attendance increased even more among children from households with lower asset ownership rates (51.1 percentage points). The face-to-face attendance rate reached 70.0 per cent, a 43.9-percentage-point increase compared to mid-2021. This rate is 21.7 percentage points higher than the regional average. Despite this, the Guyanese education system still faces significant challenges in terms of quality. Nearly half of the respondents (48.3 per cent) said they thought children were learning less than before the pandemic. These setbacks in children's learning could affect their performances and well-being in the future.

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	27.9%	70.0%	14.8%	41.8%	43.9	48.3%
Urban	25.5%	69.6%	9.8%	34.9%	-	51.7%
Rural	28.8%	70.2%	16.0%	44.1%	-	47.5%
HH w/o children (0-17)	26.5%	60.3%	-	29.3%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	28.9%	76.7%	14.8%	50.3%	43.9	48.3%
HH with elderly (65+)	21.1%	73.2%	18.7%	34.9%	45.2	55.1%
HH with 0-1 asset	31.2%	71.2%	18.8%	50.5%	51.1	51.9%
HH with 2-3 assets	23.1%	68.4%	9.0%	28.8%	36.0	43.3%
HH education - Primary or less	29.7%	67.8%	18.7%	43.8%	43.6	44.5%
HH education - Secondary	30.6%	72.6%	12.2%	45.1%	45.1	51.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	17.5%	67.9%	13.2%	28.4%	41.4	43.2%

* 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

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This note was prepared by Adriana Camacho, Estefany Hernández, Pablo Hernández, and Laura Tenjo from the SDG and Development Policy Team at the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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COVID-19 IN LAC

HAITI

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



September 2022

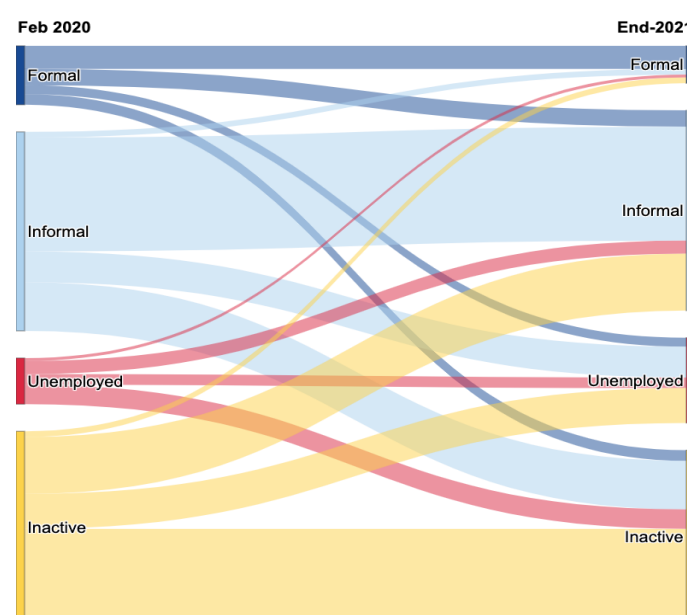
In Haiti, the pandemic dealt a further blow to a weakened economy that had already contracted by 1.7 per cent in 2019. The decline in the country's situation included instability, reduced external financing, inflation and high depreciation, social unrest and exogenous risks such as Hurricane Mathew in 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

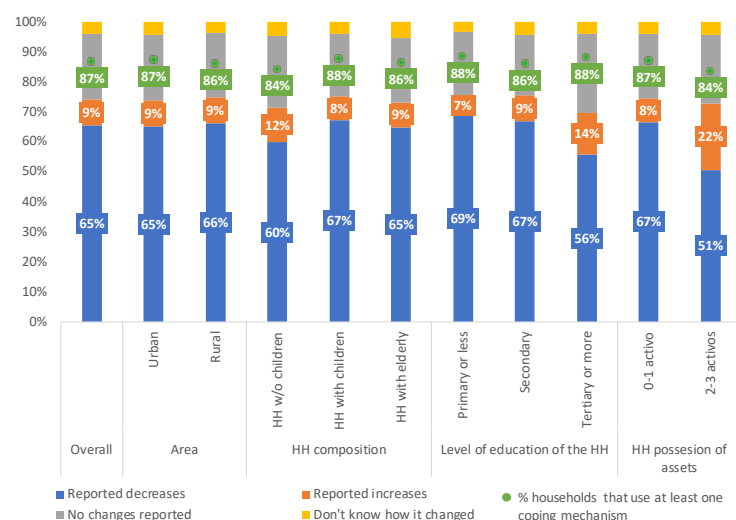
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



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).

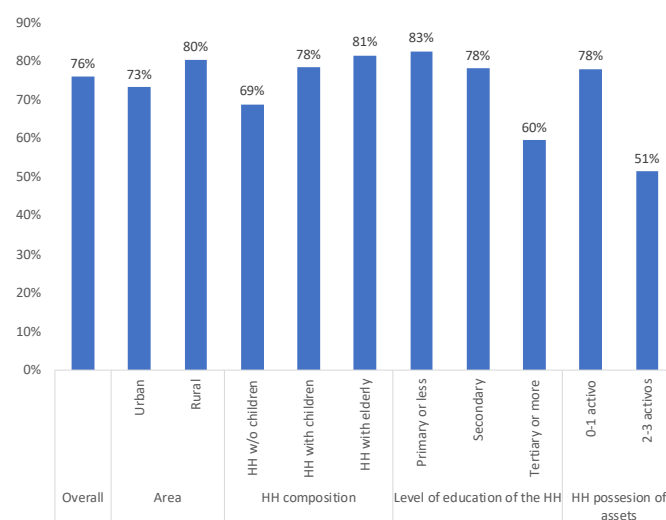
The different ways that households coped with the adverse effects of the pandemic included the non-payment of financial obligations, use of savings and adults or children entering the labour force. According to the survey, 86.8 per cent of households used at least one of these strategies. Specifically, 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

HONDURAS

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



September 2022

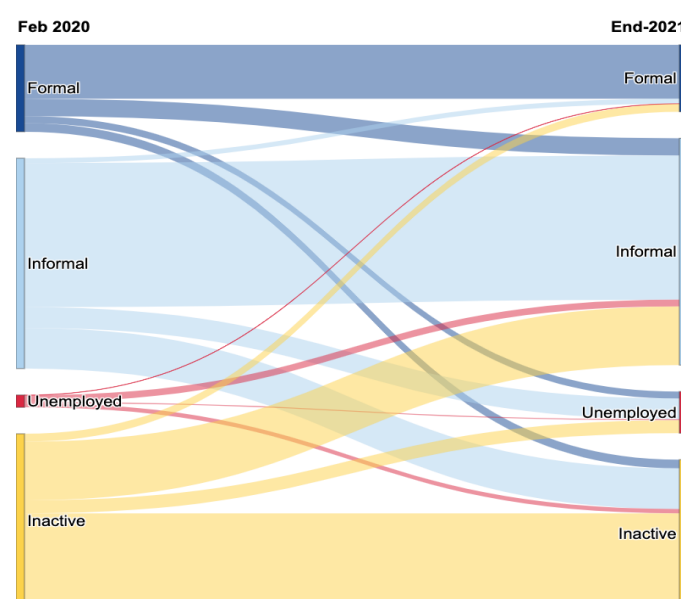
The labour market in Honduras has undergone considerable changes in the more than two years since the Covid-19 pandemic began. More than a quarter of those who were employed before the pandemic lost their jobs (25.9 per cent). Those who lost their jobs most frequently were women (39.9 per cent) and older adults (35.0 per cent). Of those who lost their jobs before the pandemic, 9.3 per cent became unemployed, and the remaining 16.6 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. Outflows from the labour force were offset by the entry of those who were previously economically inactive. By the end of 2021, 45.7 per cent of the latter group had entered the labour market, a figure as high as 73.0 per cent for men and 62.1 per cent for young people. Although 83.7 per cent of those entering the labour market found work, 73.9 per cent of these jobs were informal. Indeed, 36.5 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or who were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment by the end of 2021. Those that became informal workers most frequently were the more educated (47.6 per cent), women (45.0 per cent) and young people (44.2 per cent). The pandemic prompted an increase in time spent on unpaid work such as care activities. By the end of 2021, 32.7 per cent of respondents reported that they were spending more time helping their children with schoolwork than in the middle of the year. Although this figure grew by less than 1 percentage point for the population in general in comparison with mid-2021, for older adults it increased by 15.2 percentage points (going from 8.4 to 23.6 per cent). This may be because this group has a lower labour force participation rate.

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	25.9%	45.7%	36.5%	1.0
Urban	22.8%	44.2%	32.8%	3.6
Rural	29.1%	46.8%	39.6%	-0.1
Females	39.9%	35.8%	45.0%	1.9
Males	16.4%	73.0%	30.5%	0.7
18 to 25 years old	28.3%	62.1%	44.2%	-3.5
26 to 45 years old	27.3%	53.6%	39.0%	3.0
46 to 64 years old	18.8%	31.9%	25.3%	-3.6
65 and older	35.0%	13.6%	33.3%	15.2
Primary or less	27.5%	40.5%	32.5%	-1.0
Secondary	24.4%	56.9%	42.7%	4.4
Tertiary and more	20.3%	49.8%	47.6%	2.0

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

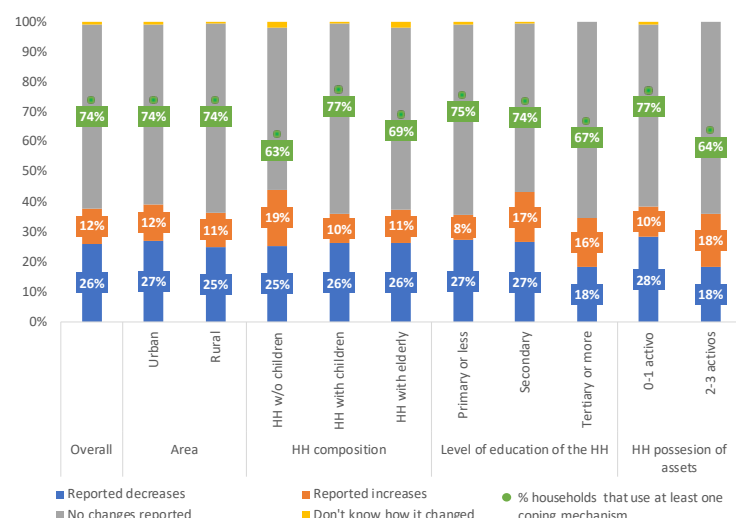
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



By the end of 2021, the adverse effects of the pandemic on household welfare were still evident. One in four households reported that their income had decreased since the start of the year, and one in three reported having experienced some food insecurity. Running out of food supplies due to a lack of means was more common for households with less educated heads (42.7 per cent), those with limited assets (42.1 per cent) and those located in rural areas (41.2 per cent). This suggests that government support and entry into the workforce have not been enough to offset the negative effects of the pandemic. For this reason, households had to resort to coping strategies such as non-payment of financial obligations, spending their savings and child labour to continue meeting their basic needs. According to the survey, some 73.9 per cent of households made recourse to at least one of these mechanisms.

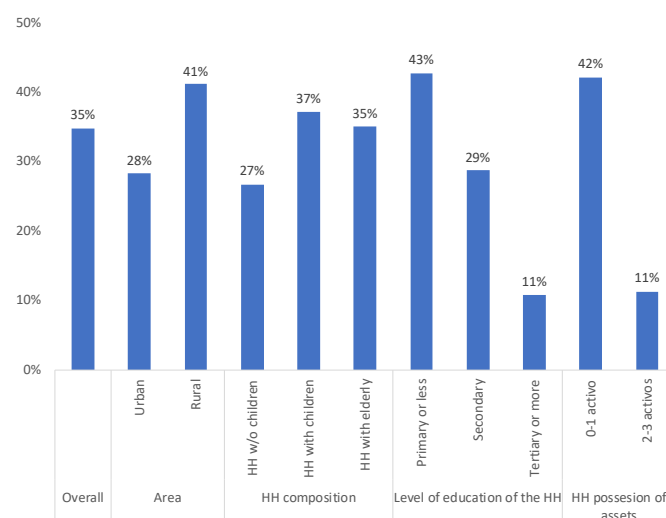
Specifically, in 21.6 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment as a way to cope with the financial stress caused by the pandemic. This figure rose to 27.4 per cent among households with less educated heads and 26.7 per cent among those with older adults. Conversely, it stood at 7.2 per cent for households with tertiary education or higher. Turning to education, the in-person attendance rate fell 2.2 percentage points between mid- and late 2021 (from 19.1 per cent to 16.9 per cent). This is one of the lowest attendance rates in the region and is well below the regional average (48.3 per cent). The low rate of in-person education has had adverse consequences on the quality of education: 63.9 per cent of respondents believe that children are learning less than before the pandemic. This view is even more pronounced among respondents belonging to households with more assets (75.5 per cent) or those with more educated heads (75.1 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	26.0%	73.9%	21.6%	34.8%	-2.2	63.9%
Urban	27.0%	73.8%	18.5%	28.3%	-2.1	65.8%
Rural	25.0%	74.0%	24.6%	41.2%	-3.5	62.0%
HH w/o children (0-17)	25.3%	62.5%	-	26.7%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	26.2%	77.3%	21.6%	37.2%	-2.2	63.9%
HH with elderly (65+)	26.4%	69.1%	26.7%	35.0%	-1.7	66.0%
HH with 0-1 asset	28.3%	77.1%	25.3%	42.1%	-2.9	60.5%
HH with 2-3 assets	18.5%	63.6%	7.8%	11.3%	1.0	75.5%
HH education - Primary or less	27.2%	75.5%	27.4%	42.7%	-1.4	62.4%
HH education - Secondary	26.6%	73.6%	14.2%	28.7%	-8.2	63.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	18.4%	66.9%	7.2%	10.9%	7.3	75.1%

* 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](#).



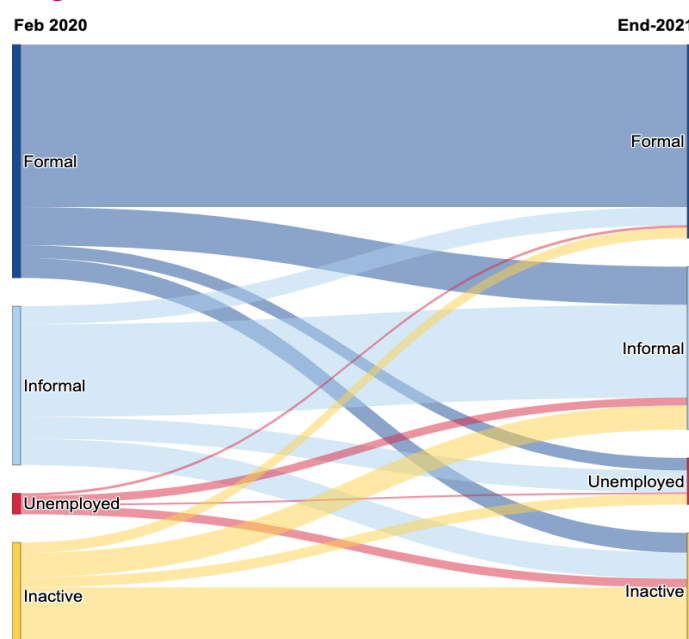
The pandemic severely impacted the Jamaican economy by disrupting the tourism and service sectors. Jamaica's GDP recorded negative growth of -10.0 per cent in 2020, with adverse effects being felt along many different welfare dimensions and likely increased poverty and inequality among Jamaicans. More than two years after the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, the deterioration of labour market conditions remains evident. By late 2021, 20.5 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. Although this percentage is high, the indicator stood at 25.8 per cent halfway through the year. More specifically, 11.7 per cent of those who were economically active before the pandemic dropped out of the labour force altogether, and 8.8 per cent became unemployed. Some 38.3 per cent of older adults who were employed pre-Covid jobs lost their jobs—of these, just 9.2 per cent chose to remain in the labour force, while 29.1 per cent opted to leave it altogether. The number of people leaving the labour market was offset by the entry of 42.2 per cent of those who were previously economically inactive. This share was exceptionally high for inactive young people (those aged 18–24 years), 61.8 per cent of whom became part of the economically active population during the pandemic. The labour market entry rate for men was 57.1 per cent, 22.6 percentage points higher than that of women. Some 77.0 per cent of those entering the labour market found work. However, 69.6 per cent of these jobs were in the informal segment. Likewise, 43.1 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive pre-Covid had become informal workers by late 2021. This shift was particularly prevalent among young people (81.9 per cent) and households whose heads had tertiary education or higher (55.8 per cent). The pandemic brought an increase in the time respondents spent on unpaid care work. In late 2021, some 55.2 per cent of respondents reported spending more time helping their children with school activities; 4.2 percentage points below the figure reported halfway through the year. In mid-2021, the burden of care fell primarily on women (64.3 per cent versus 53.1 per cent of men), but this trend was reversed by the end of the year, at which point 56.4 per cent of men and 54.4 per cent of women said they were spending more time providing support for children's education.

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	20.5%	42.2%	43.1%	-4.2
Females	27.7%	34.5%	43.7%	-9.9
Males	14.2%	57.1%	42.8%	3.3
18 to 25 years old	35.3%	61.8%	81.9%	4.3
26 to 45 years old	17.5%	47.9%	33.3%	-12.1
46 to 64 years old	16.6%	41.4%	35.1%	13.4
65 and older	38.3%	19.5%	61.2%	-37.5
Primary or less	23.0%	35.2%	35.7%	9.6
Secondary	24.3%	50.3%	41.2%	-2.7
Tertiary and more	13.8%	29.6%	55.8%	-12.9

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Despite government efforts to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic, household welfare continued to be affected. Some 30.2 per cent of households reported drops in their income compared with the middle of 2021. Households with dependent children and low asset holdings experienced income losses more frequently. To offset lost revenue, households were forced to resort to coping strategies that included not paying financial obligations, using savings and adults and children who were previously economically inactive entering the workforce. According to the survey, 71.2 per cent of households turned to at least one of these coping mechanisms. This figure was even higher for households with dependent children (76.9 per cent). It is concerning that a child had to seek work to offset lost income in 9.1 per cent of households with school-age children. The households that resorted most frequently to this mechanism had lower asset ownership rates (12.4 per cent).

Despite these efforts, the decrease in income was associated with 43.9 per cent of households reporting having gone without food in the 30 days leading up to the survey due to lack of means. More worryingly, this figure only decreased by 1.7 percentage points compared to mid-2021 and remains 23.6 percentage points above where it stood before the pandemic started. Households with dependent children, fewer assets and less educated heads were affected the most: one in every two of these households experienced food insecurity. Partial and total school closures continued throughout the school year, as a result of which there was no significant variation in the in-person attendance rate. By late 2021, this rate stood at 25.2 per cent (23.1 percentage points below the regional average). Finally, three out of every five respondents thought that children were learning less than before the pandemic. This figure was as high as 67.8 per cent for households with heads with primary education or less, which reveals the huge challenge that lies ahead for the Jamaican education system in terms of quality, especially for the most vulnerable populations.

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

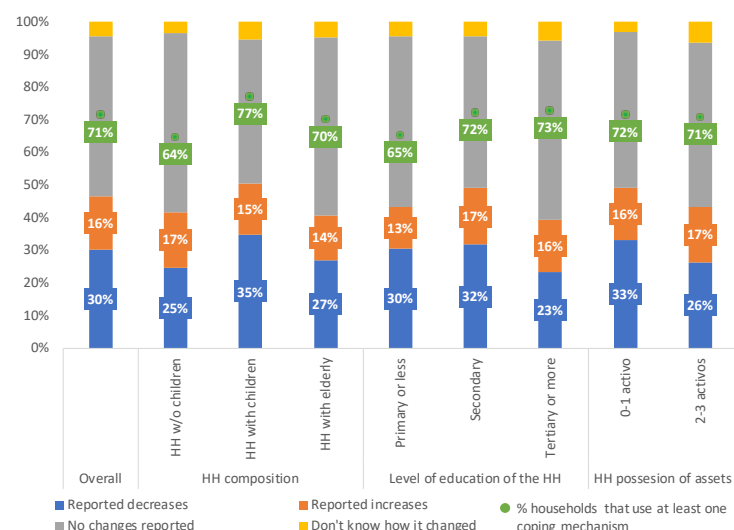
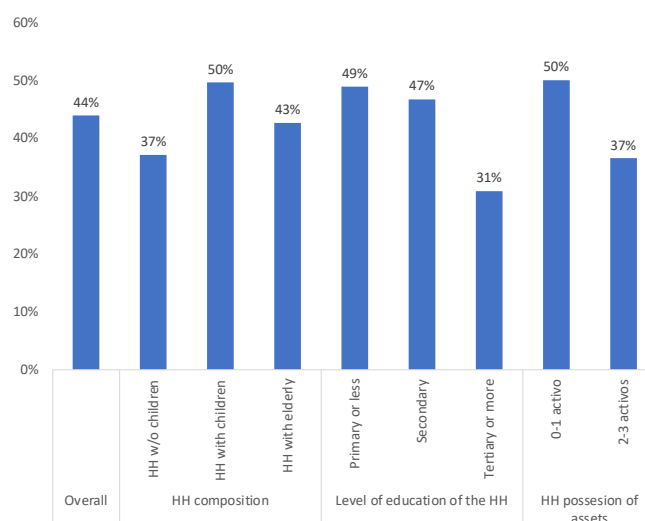


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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 coping mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force as a coping mechanism	% 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	30.2%	71.2%	9.1%	43.9%	0.0	59.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	24.6%	64.4%	-	37.2%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	34.8%	76.9%	9.1%	49.7%	0.0	59.8%
HH with elderly (65+)	27.0%	69.9%	10.9%	42.7%	0.4	60.7%
HH with 0-1 asset	33.3%	71.5%	12.4%	50.1%	3.1	60.6%
HH with 2-3 assets	26.4%	70.8%	6.3%	36.6%	-1.6	59.3%
HH education - Primary or less	30.4%	65.3%	10.7%	49.0%	-7.6	67.8%
HH education - Secondary	31.7%	72.0%	10.2%	46.9%	-2.0	58.6%
HH education - Tertiary or more	23.4%	72.7%	4.4%	31.0%	8.6	62.3%

* 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](#).



COVID-19 IN LAC

MEXICO

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



September 2022

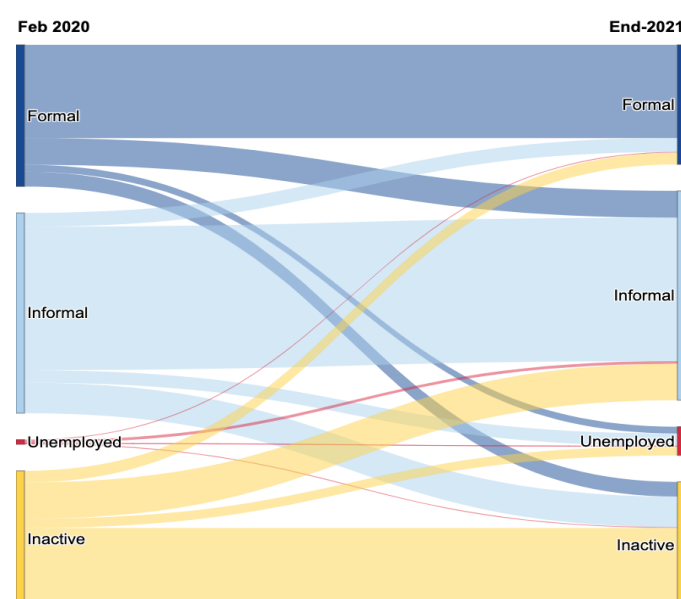
Mexico was severely impacted by the initial outbreak of Covid-19. The country's real GDP contracted by 8.3 per cent in 2020, but has since recovered, growing by an estimated 5.7 per cent in 2021. However, the labour market has been slow to recover. By late 2021, 18.9 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs. While 5.7 per cent chose to remain in the labour force, 13.2 per cent opted to leave it altogether. Young people between the ages of 18 and 25 and older adults were affected most by job loss (29.7 per cent in both cases). Women were more than twice as likely to lose their jobs and drop out of the labour force as men (19.6 per cent versus 8.0 per cent). At the same time, 41.7 per cent of the population that was economically inactive before the pandemic entered the workforce. Some 84.0 per cent of those entering the labour market found work. Men were twice as likely as women to become economically active (63.0 per cent versus 32.9 per cent), although it was more difficult for them to find a job. The jobs that 75.7 per cent of those entering the labour market found were informal. Indeed, 31.5 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or who were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment by late 2021. Young people (those aged 18–25) became informal workers more frequently than other population groups (46.5 per cent). The pandemic also affected the way in which activities are distributed within households. In mid-2021, 46.4 per cent of respondents reported that they were spending more time helping their children with schoolwork. By the end of the year, this share had increased to 47.6 per cent. This childcare burden fell mainly on women (54.2 per cent versus 39.1 per cent for men).

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	18.9%	41.7%	31.5%	1.2
Urban	18.3%	41.5%	32.0%	-0.8
Rural	20.9%	42.7%	30.4%	6.7
Females	26.0%	32.9%	34.4%	0.7
Males	13.1%	63.0%	28.5%	1.3
18 to 25 years old	29.7%	58.4%	46.5%	-0.6
26 to 45 years old	15.5%	53.6%	33.0%	2.3
46 to 64 years old	16.8%	37.1%	22.1%	-5.1
65 and older	29.7%	12.2%	29.3%	18.3
Primary or less	23.4%	26.4%	27.2%	6.3
Secondary	19.6%	43.8%	31.3%	-0.5
Tertiary and more	14.0%	57.4%	37.3%	4.4

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

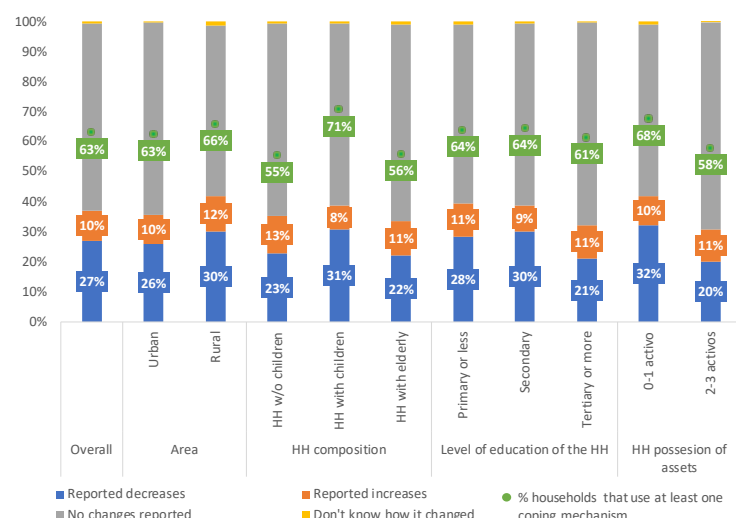
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Government transfers to counter the negative effects of the pandemic have fallen short. In late 2021, 27.0 per cent of households reported that their incomes had dropped since the middle of the year. Households with fewer assets, those with children under the age of 18 years and those located in rural areas were hit hardest. To cope with the financial stress triggered by the pandemic, 63.2 per cent of households resorted to at least one of the following mechanisms: non-payment of financial obligations, using savings and entering the labour force. This figure increased to 70.5 per cent for households with dependent children and to 67.6 per cent for those with few assets. One of the coping mechanisms reported was the entry of children into the labour force, which was used in 12.4 per cent of households with school-age children. This strategy was most commonly used in households with older adults (18.6 per cent).

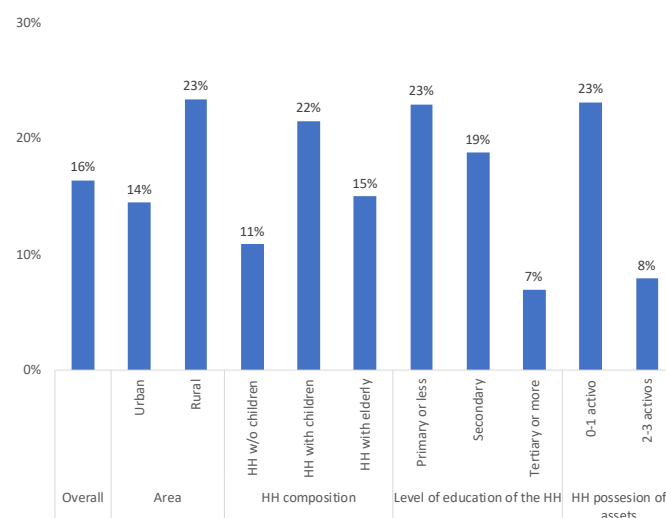
Despite these efforts to mitigate the income loss and other means, 16.4 per cent of households reported going without food in the 30 days prior to the survey. Food insecurity was more common among rural households, those with fewer assets, and those with less educated heads. After half a year in which schools were only partly open, the face-to-face attendance rate increased 35.3 percentage points, reaching 43.5 per cent by the end of 2021. Despite these improvements, the attendance rate in Mexico is still below the regional average (48.3 per cent). The fact that children only participated moderately in face-to-face school activities has affected their learning process. Three out of every five respondents thought that children are learning less than they did before the pandemic. The panorama is even more complex for children in rural areas, where perceptions that children are learning less run as high as 70.8 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	27.0%	63.2%	12.4%	16.4%	35.3	60.7%
Urban	26.1%	62.5%	11.8%	14.5%	36.8	57.0%
Rural	30.1%	65.7%	14.2%	23.4%	31.1	70.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	22.7%	55.3%	-	10.8%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	30.9%	70.5%	12.4%	21.5%	35.3	60.7%
HH with elderly (65+)	22.1%	55.8%	18.6%	15.0%	40.5	56.3%
HH with 0-1 asset	32.3%	67.6%	16.3%	23.1%	32.6	60.3%
HH with 2-3 assets	20.2%	57.7%	8.1%	7.9%	38.3	61.2%
HH education - Primary or less	28.5%	63.9%	17.2%	22.9%	34.2	58.0%
HH education - Secondary	30.0%	64.3%	13.3%	18.8%	38.8	61.8%
HH education - Tertiary or more	21.0%	61.4%	6.0%	6.9%	30.2	61.5%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

NICARAGUA

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



September 2022

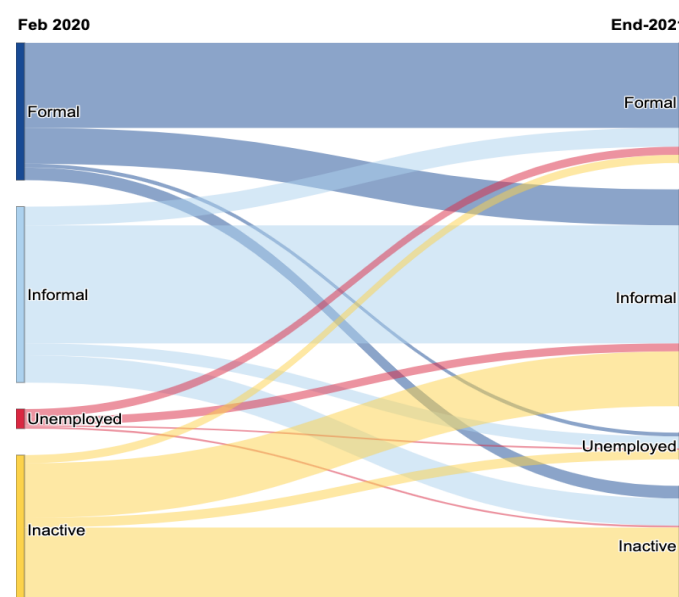
After a three-year recession triggered by socio-political upheaval and prolonged by the Covid-19 pandemic, Nicaragua's economy began to recover in 2021. GDP is estimated to have grown by 10.3 per cent that year in response to fiscal stimuli and recovering private demand. However, new waves of Covid infections and ongoing social unrest may delay a full economic recovery yet further. At the end of the year, the labour market was only recovering slowly and showed little sign of improvement in comparison with mid-2021. Some 17.7 per cent of those who had been employed before the pandemic lost their jobs. Of these, 12.7 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether and the remaining 5.0 per cent were seeking work. Job losses were greater for women, young people and the less educated. However, a large proportion of people who were previously economically inactive entered the labour force during the pandemic (48.1 per cent). A significant proportion of the changes that took place in the labour market during the pandemic were towards informality, affecting the quality of employment. Some 45.5 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive moved into informal employment by late 2021. Informal jobs were more frequent among the more educated and young people. The pandemic also brought changes in the distribution of time within households. Some 28.1 per cent of respondents reported that they were spending 4.0 percentage points more time helping their children with schoolwork than in the middle of the year. Unlike in the vast majority of countries in the region, the extra care burden caused by the pandemic is distributed equally between men and women. By the end of 2021, older adults were entering the labour force less frequently, and were more often responsible for supporting children's education.

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	17.7%	48.1%	45.5%	4.0
Urban	17.1%	44.8%	44.0%	3.8
Rural	18.8%	53.6%	47.8%	4.6
Females	23.3%	43.9%	49.3%	3.5
Males	13.6%	58.8%	42.1%	4.8
18 to 25 years old	30.7%	52.5%	52.5%	4.7
26 to 45 years old	11.1%	53.4%	44.4%	1.3
46 to 64 years old	22.3%	51.3%	46.1%	3.8
65 and older	24.3%	18.6%	30.9%	32.2
Primary or less	24.3%	39.0%	36.5%	2.5
Secondary	21.8%	53.0%	43.6%	6.4
Tertiary and more	9.4%	52.5%	56.7%	1.0

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

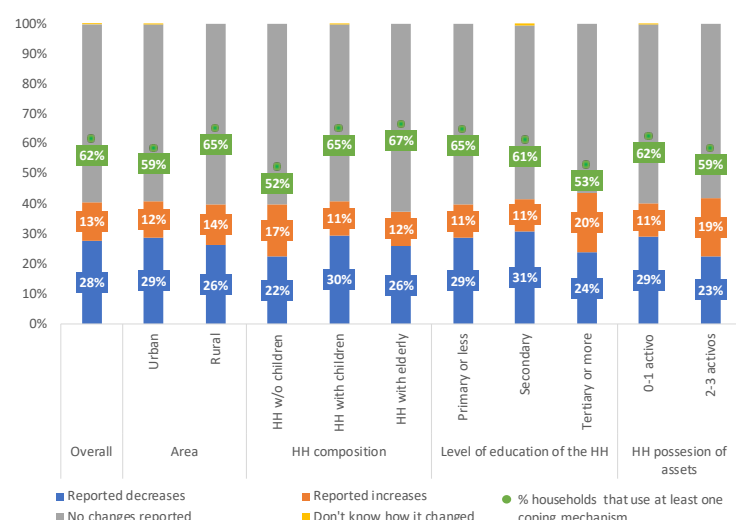
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



The public and private initiatives that were implemented were not enough to offset the drop in income. Some 27.7 per cent of households reported declines in their income compared with the middle of the year. Households whose heads had secondary education, fewer assets and dependent children were affected the most. This decline in income was associated with increased food security risks: 22.1 per cent reported having gone without food in the 30 days leading up to the survey. Food insecurity was more commonplace in rural households, which had fewer assets and heads with low education levels. To cover their basic needs during the pandemic, 61.6 per cent of households resorted to at least one of the following coping mechanisms: non-payment of financial obligations, using savings and entering the labour force. Using any of these strategies was more common among households with high dependency ratios, those whose heads were less educated and those located in rural areas.

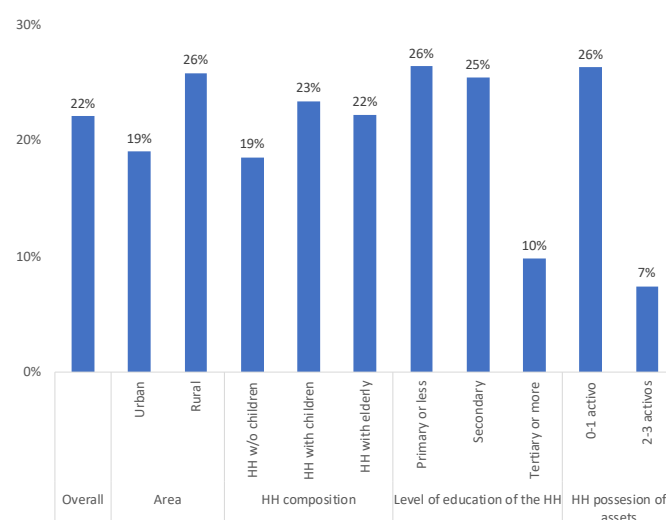
In 11.4 per cent of households with school-age children, these coping mechanisms included a child having to seek employment. This share rose to 15.1 per cent for households whose heads had primary education or less. Nicaragua was the only country in the region whose schools were fully open throughout 2021. Although the in-person attendance rate fell slightly between mid- and late 2021 (by 1.7 percentage points), the country continued to have one of the highest face-to-face attendance rates in the region (91.2 per cent). However, these attendance levels did not guarantee complete satisfaction with the quality of education. According to 28.9 per cent of respondents, children are learning less than before the pandemic. This view is even more pronounced among households with more assets (40.5 per cent) or those whose heads have tertiary education or higher, which are the groups that reported the most significant decrease in face-to-face attendance.

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	27.7%	61.6%	11.4%	22.1%	-1.7	28.9%
Urban	28.8%	58.7%	12.7%	19.0%	-4.2	32.2%
Rural	26.2%	65.1%	10.0%	25.8%	1.9	24.2%
HH w/o children (0-17)	22.4%	52.2%	-	18.5%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	29.6%	65.0%	11.4%	23.4%	-1.7	28.9%
HH with elderly (65+)	25.9%	66.5%	12.2%	22.2%	-5.3	34.3%
HH with 0-1 asset	29.1%	62.4%	12.8%	26.3%	-0.4	26.0%
HH with 2-3 assets	22.7%	58.6%	5.5%	7.4%	-7.5	40.5%
HH education - Primary or less	28.9%	64.8%	15.1%	26.4%	-0.1	23.2%
HH education - Secondary	30.9%	61.3%	5.4%	25.4%	-1.2	32.1%
HH education - Tertiary or more	23.7%	53.1%	12.6%	9.8%	-7.0	34.8%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

PANAMA

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



September 2022

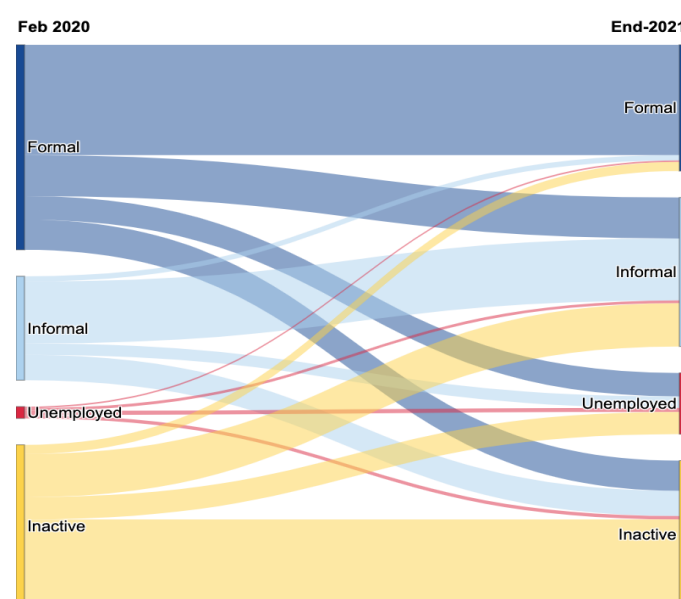
With one of the highest per capita infection rates in Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama was hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis, which had a significant impact on the country's main economic sectors: construction, logistics, retail and tourism. GDP contracted sharply in 2020 (-17.9 per cent), and although the economy began to recover in 2021, significant challenges remain. In late 2021, the labour market remained in decline. Nearly one-third (29.2 per cent) of the population had lost the job they held before the pandemic. While 11.3 per cent of these individuals continued to seek employment, the remaining 17.9 per cent opted to leave the labour force. Those who lost their jobs most frequently were women (41.4 per cent), young people (41.9 per cent) and those with lower education levels (33.2 per cent). Conversely, 45.8 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic entered the labour market. This was more common among men (61.6 per cent) and young adults (54.1 per cent). The quality of work also deteriorated during the pandemic. Some 58.4 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive pre-Covid were holding informal jobs by late 2021. The most affected were older adults, four out of five of whom moved into informal employment. The pandemic affected the amount of time spent on unpaid care work. This redistribution mainly affected women: in mid-2021, 53.2 per cent reported spending more time providing support for their children's learning, compared to 38.2 per cent of men. This trend was heightened in the second half of 2021, when the percentage of women reporting these increases increased by 6.5 percentage points, while the percentage of men decreased by 4.6 percentage points compared with June of the same year.

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	29.2%	45.8%	58.4%	1.8
Urban	25.2%	45.4%	57.3%	-0.3
Rural	37.8%	46.7%	60.7%	5.2
Females	41.4%	38.9%	66.4%	6.5
Males	21.4%	61.6%	53.3%	-4.6
18 to 25 years old	41.9%	54.1%	71.8%	7.7
26 to 45 years old	23.6%	64.4%	55.2%	1.6
46 to 64 years old	34.7%	28.5%	45.6%	-8.2
65 and older	29.9%	30.7%	80.9%	19.5
Primary or less	33.2%	36.6%	61.5%	22.5
Secondary	34.5%	55.3%	54.8%	-0.8
Tertiary and more	22.5%	35.7%	63.9%	-3.6

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

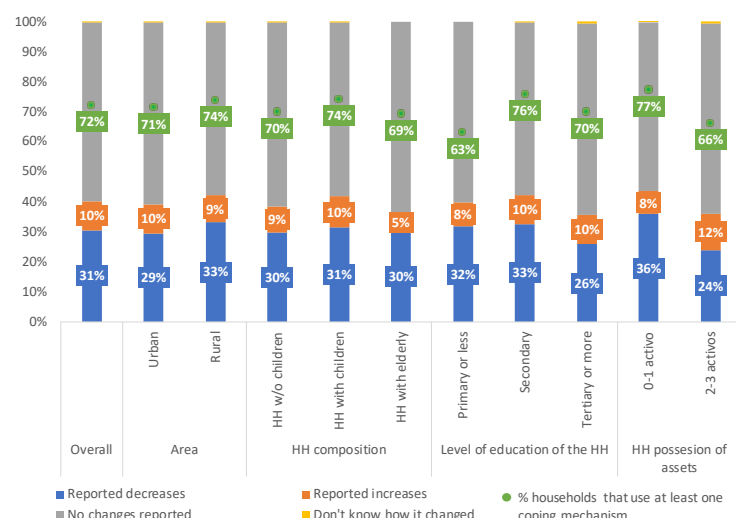
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



The dynamics observed in the labour market show that emergency transfers fell short of offsetting the negative effects of the pandemic on household welfare. In late 2021, one-third of households reported a drop in their income and 1 in 10 households reported an increase in income in comparison with mid-2021. This situation was more common among rural households, those with less educated heads, and those with lower asset holdings. In addition, nearly a quarter of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days prior to the survey due to a lack of means. Rural households were the ones that experienced food insecurity most frequently. To mitigate the effects of the pandemic, households were forced to resort to strategies that included not paying financial obligations, using savings and both adults and children entering the workforce. According to the survey, some 72.2 per cent of households made recourse to at least one of these mechanisms to cope with the financial stress caused by the pandemic.

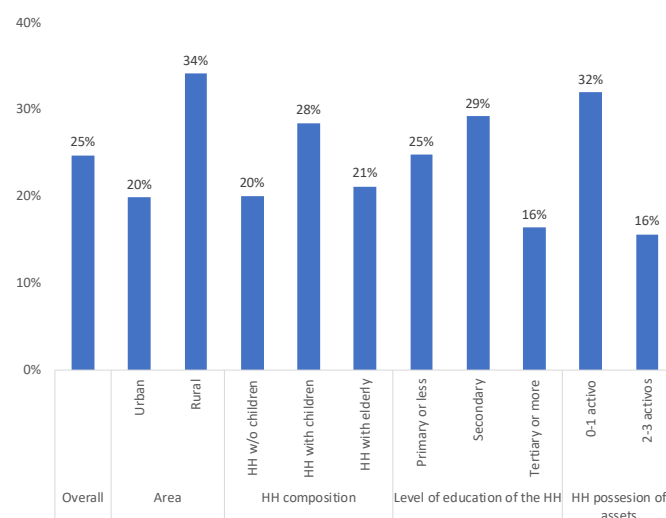
Specifically, in 4.8 per cent of households with school-age children, these coping mechanisms included a child having to seek employment. This figure stood at 7.0 per cent for households with low asset ownership and 12.0 per cent for households with less educated heads. Furthermore, the partial reopening of schools in the second half of the year prompted an 8.5 percentage point increase in school attendance rates by the end of 2021, taking them to 11.8 per cent, still well below the regional average (48.3 per cent). Consequently, the Panamanian education system still has many challenges ahead when it comes to face-to-face attendance. This is reflected in public perceptions of the quality of education: 56.7 per cent of respondents believe that children are learning less than before the pandemic. This view is even more prevalent among respondents from households in urban areas.

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	30.6%	72.2%	4.8%	24.7%	8.5	56.7%
Urban	29.3%	71.5%	4.6%	19.9%	6.2	60.3%
Rural	33.2%	73.7%	4.9%	34.1%	12.1	51.8%
HH w/o children (0-17)	29.7%	69.8%	-	20.0%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	31.4%	74.1%	4.8%	28.4%	8.5	56.7%
HH with elderly (65+)	30.3%	69.3%	3.9%	21.1%	5.5	53.0%
HH with 0-1 asset	35.9%	77.2%	7.0%	31.9%	16.2	55.4%
HH with 2-3 assets	24.0%	66.0%	2.7%	15.6%	3.8	57.4%
HH education - Primary or less	31.7%	63.2%	12.0%	24.8%	9.4	54.8%
HH education - Secondary	32.7%	76.0%	3.3%	29.2%	9.2	58.6%
HH education - Tertiary or more	25.9%	69.9%	3.6%	16.4%	8.4	55.9%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

PARAGUAY

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



September 2022

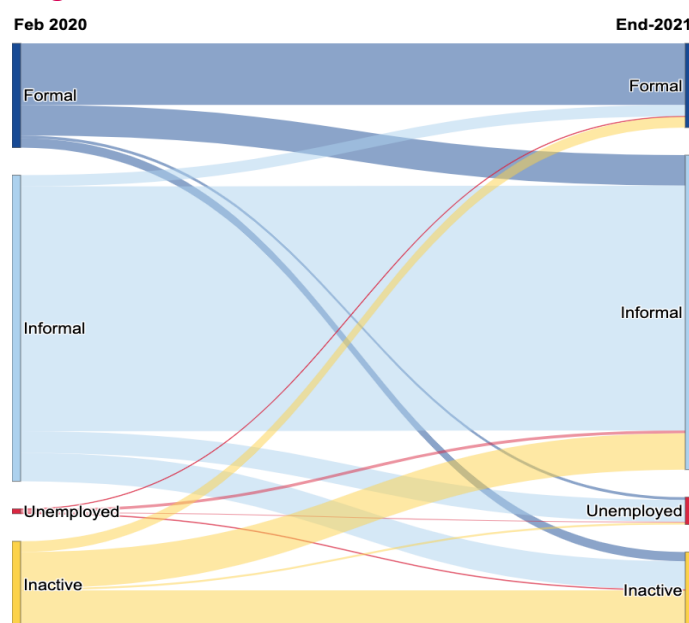
Paraguay experienced a slight economic contraction in 2020 (0.6 per cent), which contrasts with a much larger average decline in the region in general (6.7 per cent). However, the Paraguayan economy grew by 4.3 per cent in 2021, below the average for LAC (6.7 per cent). The labour market continued to experience the effects of the pandemic in the second half of 2021, although there was some improvement compared to the first half of the year. By the end of the year, 15.2 per cent of those who had been employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs (10 percentage points less than in mid-2021). Of those who lost their jobs, 6.0 per cent became unemployed, and 9.2 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. More than one-third of older adults (those aged 65 and older) lost their pre-Covid employment. Likewise, two out of ten women lost jobs, compared to one out of ten men. At the same time, 56.1 per cent of the population that was economically inactive before the pandemic entered the labour market. Specifically, four out of five men and young people (those aged 18 to 25) who had been economically inactive pre-Covid became part of the workforce. Some 96.0 per cent of those entering the labour market found work, although for 77.1 per cent this was informal. Some 22.2 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive pre-Covid were holding informal jobs by late 2021. Young people (18–25 years old) moved into informal jobs at twice the rate of the general population. By late 2021, 51.2 per cent of respondents reported that they were spending more time helping their children with school activities (2.9 percentage points more than in the middle of the year). The percentage of women who said this was the case increased by 5.8 percentage points, while the percentage of men decreased by 0.02 percentage points (to 62.4 and 41.7 per cent, respectively). While the population with secondary education or less reported greater increases in time spent providing educational support in the second half of 2021; the share of the more educated population reporting these increases decreased by 13.3 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	15.2%	56.1%	22.2%	2.9
Females	20.4%	46.9%	26.7%	5.8
Males	10.9%	80.7%	18.2%	0.0
18 to 25 years old	24.5%	81.3%	43.4%	11.9
26 to 45 years old	10.6%	71.1%	20.8%	3.1
46 to 64 years old	13.3%	24.0%	13.9%	-1.8
65 and older	34.4%	0.0%	0.0%	-2.5
Primary or less	13.7%	36.9%	15.7%	5.0
Secondary	17.3%	68.9%	24.6%	10.8
Tertiary and more	13.3%	67.3%	27.3%	-13.3

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Government and private efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of the pandemic on household welfare have been effective, and this positive outcome has been furthered by the recovery of the labour market. In mid-2021, some 61.7 per cent of households reported drops in their income levels, but this figure shrunk to 30.6 per cent by the end of the year. However, 17.2 per cent of households experienced food insecurity: although this figure was down slightly from mid-year (-2.4 percentage points), it has remained above pre-pandemic levels (9.7 per cent). Households with fewer assets and less educated heads were affected the most, experiencing both income reductions and food insecurity more frequently. In response to this drop in income, 68.2 per cent of households resorted to at least one of the following coping mechanisms to get through the pandemic: non-payment of financial obligations, the use of savings and entry into the labour force by adults and children.

The households that turned to these strategies most frequently were those with lower asset ownership (75.6 per cent), and households with less educated heads (secondary education: 72.5 per cent; primary or less: 68.4 per cent). One of the most striking strategies was the entry of school-age children into the labour force, a coping mechanism that was used in 6.2 per cent of households. The households that had to resort to this mechanism most frequently were those with lower asset holdings (7.6 per cent) and less educated heads (10.6 per cent). Turning to education, between mid- and late 2021, the percentage of school-age children attending in-person classes increased by 58.2 percentage points to 71.6 per cent (23.3 percentage points above the regional average). Despite these increases in face-to-face learning, 56.7 per cent of respondents said they thought that children are learning less than before the pandemic. Perceptions of gaps in the quality of children's education were more frequent among households with higher asset holdings (62.8 per cent) and those with heads with higher education (57.8 per cent).

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

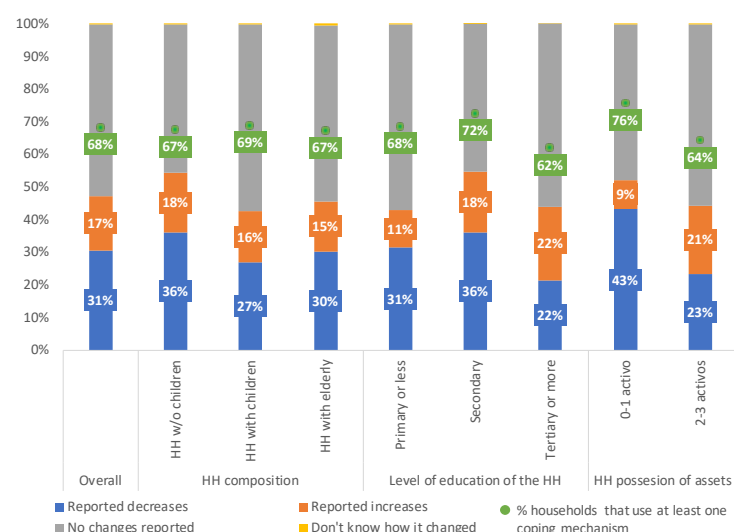
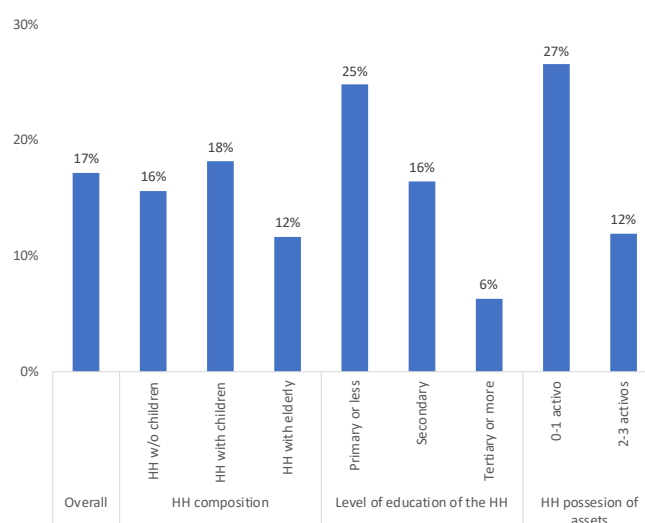


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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 coping mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force as a coping mechanism	% 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	30.6%	68.2%	6.2%	17.2%	58.2	56.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	36.1%	67.4%	-	15.7%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	27.0%	68.8%	6.2%	18.3%	58.2	56.7%
HH with elderly (65+)	30.3%	67.1%	5.7%	11.7%	51.4	53.5%
HH with 0-1 asset	43.4%	75.6%	7.6%	26.6%	56.9	43.9%
HH with 2-3 assets	23.3%	64.0%	5.6%	12.0%	58.8	62.8%
HH education - Primary or less	31.5%	68.4%	10.6%	24.8%	63.2	56.0%
HH education - Secondary	36.2%	72.5%	2.6%	16.5%	62.6	56.8%
HH education - Tertiary or more	21.5%	61.9%	3.1%	6.3%	41.8	57.8%

* 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

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COVID-19 IN LAC

PERU

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



September 2022

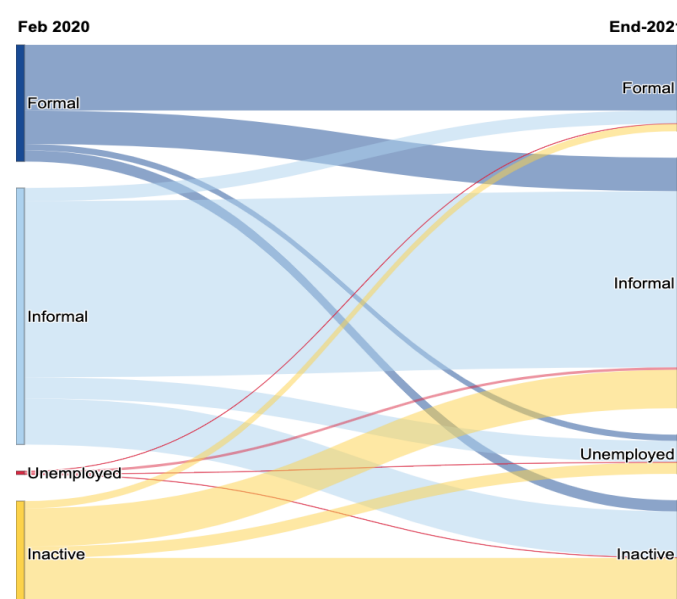
Peru was one of the countries that was hit hardest by the Covid-19 crisis, experiencing more deaths per million inhabitants than any other country in the world. The strict isolation measures imposed by the government to contain the spread of the virus affected labour-intensive sectors the most. These impacts were compounded by supply shocks and the drop in external demand, leading the economy to contract by more than 11.1 per cent of GDP in 2020, above the average downturn in the region. The government's efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic helped the economy to rally, but the recovery has been slow. By the end of 2021, 22.7 per cent of those who were employed before the pandemic had lost their jobs, 15.4 per cent of whom abandoned the workforce altogether. Job loss was more frequent among older adults, women and the less educated. Conversely, one out of every two people who were economically inactive before the pandemic joined the labour market. Some 70.1 per cent of young people and two-thirds of people in rural areas and with higher levels of education became economically active. Some 29.7 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive before the pandemic moved into informal employment, as did 64.7 per cent of those entering the labour force, pointing to a decline in the quality of employment in the country. The pandemic also triggered significant changes in the time spent on care work, especially for women. By the end of 2021, 45.8 per cent of respondents reported that they were spending more time helping their children with schoolwork. At 54.4 per cent, this figure was higher for women (up 3.3 percentage points from mid-2021), but stood at 34.8 per cent for men (down 4.1 percentage points from mid-2021).

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	22.7%	53.3%	29.7%	0.3
Urban	23.2%	49.9%	33.2%	-0.9
Rural	21.5%	61.3%	22.7%	2.7
Females	31.0%	54.2%	34.9%	3.3
Males	15.5%	51.8%	24.8%	-4.1
18 to 25 years old	27.3%	70.1%	51.1%	7.0
26 to 45 years old	19.0%	55.4%	28.2%	-0.8
46 to 64 years old	20.3%	46.6%	22.9%	-0.7
65 and older	44.9%	19.5%	20.3%	7.9
Primary or less	29.6%	34.3%	17.2%	3.2
Secondary	25.7%	63.3%	30.1%	1.0
Tertiary and more	14.9%	60.2%	39.9%	-3.1

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



In late 2021, 31.1 per cent of households reported a drop in their income, while just one in ten households reported an increase compared to the middle of the year. These decreases were more frequent in rural households and households with less educated heads. Furthermore, 30.6 per cent of households reported having gone without food in the 30 days prior to the survey due to a lack of means—more than 10 percentage points above the pre-Covid level. Food insecurity rates were higher among households in rural areas and those with less educated heads. To cope with the adverse effects of the pandemic, four out of five households resorted to at least one of the following mechanisms: non-payment of financial obligations, use of savings and adults or children entering the labour force. Rural households, those with high dependency ratios and those with less educated heads had to resort to such mechanisms more frequently.

In 11.0 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek work during the pandemic to offset these income reductions. This figure reached 19.8 per cent for households with less educated heads and 15.9 per cent for households in rural areas. Peruvian schools were partially closed for most of 2021. As a consequence, between the middle and the end of the year, the in-person attendance rate increased by just 4.5 percentage points to 5.5 per cent, placing it well below the regional average of 48.3 per cent. The slow return to in-person teaching and the other changes brought by the pandemic seem to have had a negative impact on the quality of education in the country: 70.7 per cent of respondents believe that children are learning less than before the pandemic.

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

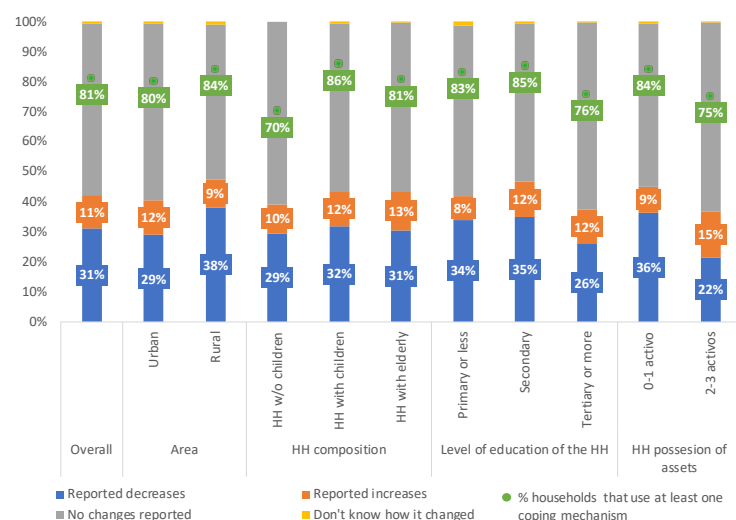
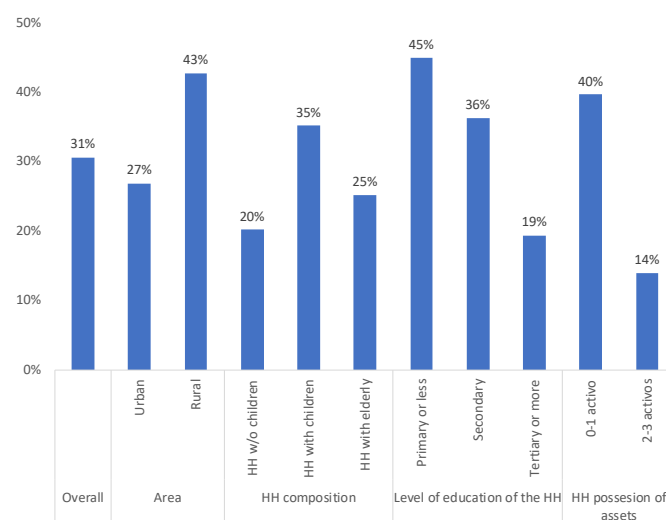


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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	31.1%	81.1%	11.0%	30.6%	4.5	70.7%
Urban	29.0%	80.1%	9.5%	26.8%	2.8	70.9%
Rural	38.0%	84.3%	15.9%	42.8%	12.4	69.6%
HH w/o children (0-17)	29.3%	70.2%	-	20.2%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	31.9%	85.9%	11.0%	35.2%	4.5	70.7%
HH with elderly (65+)	30.6%	80.6%	12.4%	25.2%	4.8	73.9%
HH with 0-1 asset	36.4%	84.3%	15.0%	39.7%	6.4	73.2%
HH with 2-3 assets	21.5%	75.2%	2.8%	14.0%	1.5	66.3%
HH education - Primary or less	34.1%	83.1%	19.8%	44.9%	12.9	73.3%
HH education - Secondary	34.9%	85.2%	13.4%	36.3%	2.7	66.4%
HH education - Tertiary or more	26.0%	75.7%	4.4%	19.4%	2.9	73.5%

* 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

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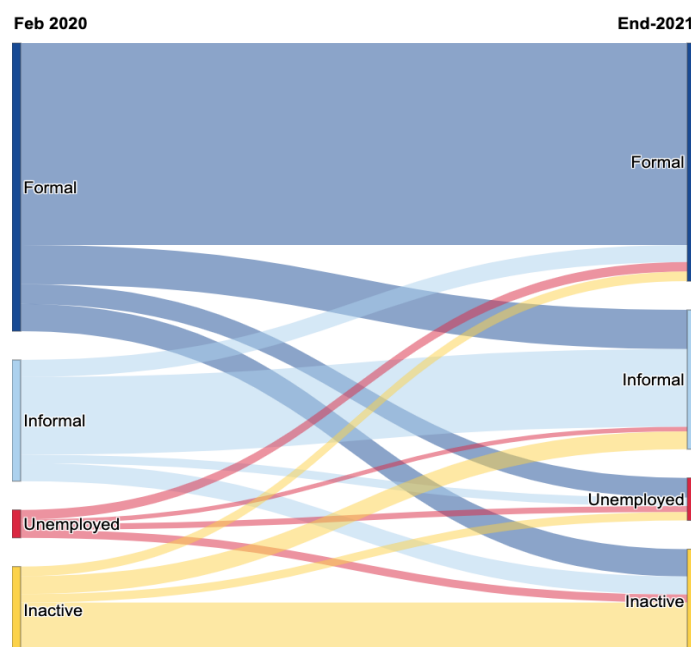
Saint Lucia is one of the countries in the Caribbean most heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, with cases and deaths being among the highest in the subregion as of February 2022. The economic consequences of the pandemic have also been dire for the island, which relies heavily on international tourism. In 2020, the contraction in real GDP of 20.4 per cent was the second largest in Latin America and the Caribbean. The recovery, in turn, has been far from complete: GDP is estimated to have grown by 6.6 per cent in 2021. By the end of 2021, the effects of the pandemic on labour market dynamics were still evident, and the recovery was proving slow—some 18.0 per cent of those who had been employed before the pandemic lost their jobs. While 6.9 per cent of these chose to remain in the labour force, 11.1 per cent opted to drop out altogether. Older adults were hit hardest by these changes: 41.4 per cent lost their jobs. Conversely, 41.2 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic entered the labour market. Three out of every four young people (those aged 18–24) and three out of five people with secondary education became economically active. Some 76.6 per cent of those entering the labour market found work. Of these, only 34.9 per cent were formal jobs. According to the survey, some 44.2 per cent of those who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive pre-Covid had become informal workers by late 2021. Three out of four young people (those aged 18–24) moved into informal employment during the pandemic, revealing a deterioration in employment conditions. The time spent on unpaid care work in the home increased as a result of the pandemic, especially for women. In mid-2021, 58.4 per cent of women and 48.6 per cent of men reported that they were spending more time providing support for their children’s schooling. This gap narrowed slightly by the end of the year when the share of women doing so dropped to 51.1 per cent (down 7.3 percentage points) and that of men to 44.0 per cent (down 4.6 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	18.0%	41.2%	44.2%	-5.8
Females	22.5%	36.0%	48.7%	-7.3
Males	14.0%	54.6%	40.5%	-4.6
18 to 25 years old	18.7%	75.8%	75.5%	2.6
26 to 45 years old	16.2%	55.1%	45.6%	-5.7
46 to 64 years old	16.8%	19.4%	32.5%	-11.9
65 and older	41.4%	17.0%	49.3%	3.6
Primary or less	24.3%	19.6%	44.2%	-0.3
Secondary	20.7%	59.9%	45.4%	-3.4
Tertiary and more	10.1%	45.7%	42.3%	-22.5

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

Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



Government transfers and changes in approaches to generating income for the population have fallen short of mitigating the adverse effects of the pandemic on household welfare. By late 2021, some 34.9 per cent of households reported drops in their income compared with the middle of the year. These changes had the greatest impact on households with lower asset availability and less educated heads. To offset them, households were forced to resort to coping strategies that included not paying financial obligations, using savings and adults and children who were previously economically inactive entering the workforce. Specifically, some 72.8 per cent of households made recourse to at least one of these mechanisms to cope with the financial stress caused by the pandemic. This figure was as high as 81.0 per cent in households with children under 18. Specifically, in 6.1 per cent of households with school-age children, a child had to seek employment during the pandemic. This figure was even higher among households with lower asset holdings (11.1 per cent).

Despite all these efforts to meet their basic needs, one-third of households (33.2 per cent) experienced food insecurity in the 30 days leading up to the survey due to a lack of means. This figure is just 1.9 percentage points lower than in mid-2021 and remains 19.5 percentage points above where it stood before the pandemic started. Food insecurity was even more severe for households with low asset ownership (45.3 per cent) and those whose heads had primary education or less (40.0 per cent). Turning to education-related indicators, although the in-person school attendance rate fell by 1.3 percentage points between mid- and late 2021, Saint Lucia had the highest face-to-face schooling rates in the region (96.2 per cent). Despite this, the country's education system is yet to recover fully from the ravages of the pandemic. Some 39.2 per cent of respondents said they thought children were learning less than before the pandemic. This downturn in the quality of education could affect not only the future welfare of households but also the accumulation of human capital over time.

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

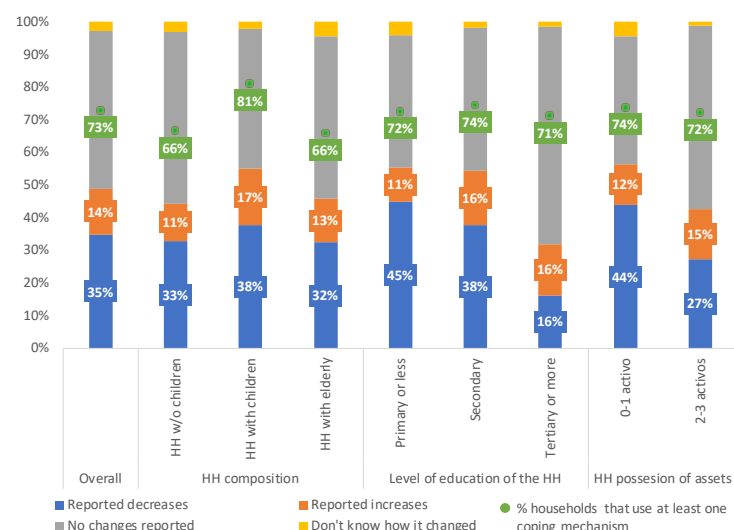
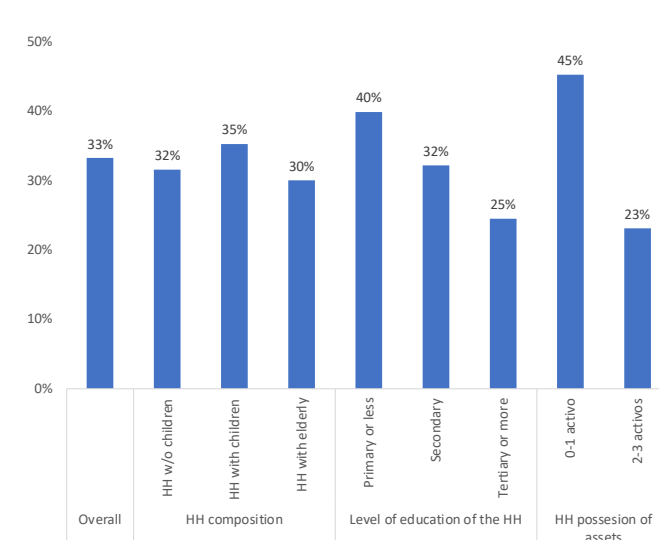


Figure 3: Household that ran out of food (%)
End of 2021



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

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 coping mechanism to manage financial stress in 2021*	% of households reporting school-age children entering in the labour force as a coping mechanism	% 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	34.9%	72.8%	6.1%	33.2%	-1.3	39.2%
HH w/o children (0-17)	32.9%	66.5%	-	31.6%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	37.6%	81.0%	6.1%	35.3%	-1.3	39.2%
HH with elderly (65+)	32.4%	66.0%	1.6%	30.1%	6.3	37.6%
HH with 0-1 asset	44.0%	73.7%	11.1%	45.3%	-7.3	33.5%
HH with 2-3 assets	27.4%	72.0%	3.6%	23.2%	1.7	41.9%
HH education - Primary or less	44.8%	72.4%	8.5%	40.0%	1.1	33.5%
HH education - Secondary	37.8%	74.4%	7.1%	32.3%	-4.6	41.7%
HH education - Tertiary or more	16.3%	71.1%	1.0%	24.5%	1.4	42.8%

* 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](#).



COVID-19 IN LAC

URUGUAY

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



September 2022

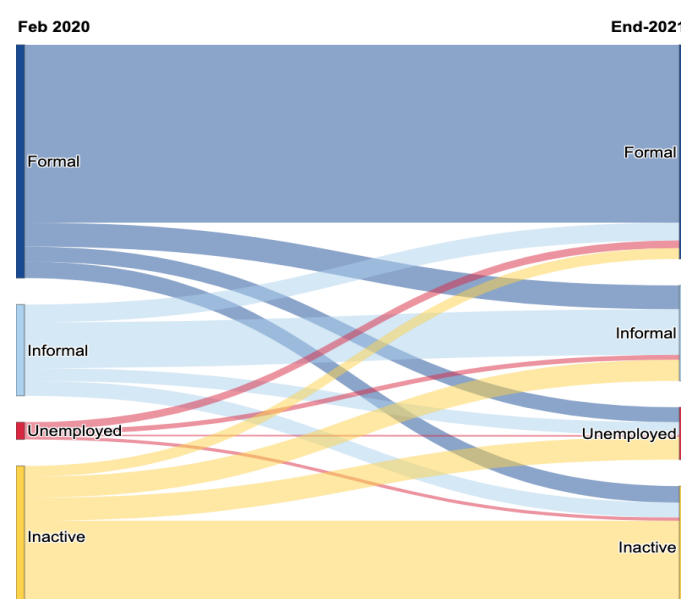
Although Uruguay was relatively successful in containing the spread of Covid-19 in 2020, its GDP fell by 5.9 per cent that year. In 2021, an exceptionally high number of Covid-19 cases per capita in early 2021 dashed expectations of a rapid recovery, even though the country's vaccination roll-out was good and exports increased substantially. Although GDP grew by 4.4 per cent in 2021, the adverse effects of the pandemic on the labour market were still being felt at the end of the year. Some 18.3 per cent of workers had lost their pre-Covid jobs—of these, 8.6 per cent became unemployed, and the remaining 9.7 per cent dropped out of the labour force altogether. Job loss was more frequent among women, young people and the less educated. These departures from the labour market were offset by the entry of 38.7 per cent of those who were economically inactive before the pandemic. This situation was more frequent in rural areas, where one out of every two of those who had been economically inactive became active. The rate of entry into the labour force was 68.8 per cent for young people and 67.8 per cent for younger adults. Some 52.2 per cent of workers who held formal jobs, were unemployed or were economically inactive moved into informal employment, revealing a clear decline in labour market conditions. Three out of every five workers in rural areas, aged 65 or older or with higher education moved into informal employment by the end of 2021. The pandemic also increased the amount of time spent on unpaid care work. By mid-2021, more than half of the respondents considered that the time spent helping their children with school activities had increased, but by the end of the year, this figure had decreased by 18.5 percentage points to 33.7 per cent. This decrease was more marked for the population with higher education, for whom it dropped from 70.2 per cent to 29.8 per cent.

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	18.3%	38.7%	52.2%	-18.5
Urban	17.8%	36.8%	50.2%	-18.9
Rural	21.6%	53.6%	63.6%	-14.7
Females	23.7%	39.1%	57.4%	-15.9
Males	13.3%	38.1%	47.4%	-24.0
18 to 25 years old	25.0%	68.8%	47.6%	-13.2
26 to 45 years old	15.6%	67.8%	57.6%	-24.9
46 to 64 years old	16.9%	35.9%	45.2%	-13.6
65 and older	31.8%	13.5%	65.8%	27.9
Primary or less	28.5%	30.1%	51.7%	-10.9
Secondary	19.9%	45.8%	49.1%	-15.9
Tertiary and more	9.0%	32.0%	65.3%	-40.4

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

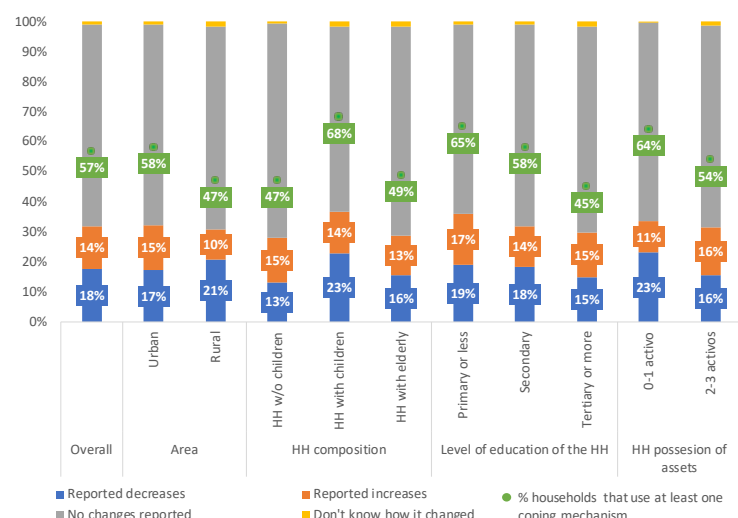
Figure 1: Transitions in the labour market



According to the National Household Survey, poverty levels had increased by 12.0 percentage points by the end of 2020. By the end of 2021, the negative effects that the pandemic was having on household welfare were still evident, albeit to a lesser extent. Some 17.6 per cent of households reported drops in their income levels compared with the middle of the year. Households with dependent children, those with lower asset holdings and those in rural areas were hit hardest by income losses. At the same time, 14 per cent of households reported that their income increased over the same period. Furthermore, 12.6 per cent of households reported having gone without food during the 30 days prior to the survey. Rural households, those with underage children and less educated heads were the most likely to experience food insecurity. Some 56.7 per cent of households had to resort to at least one new mechanism to make up for reduced means as a result of the pandemic.

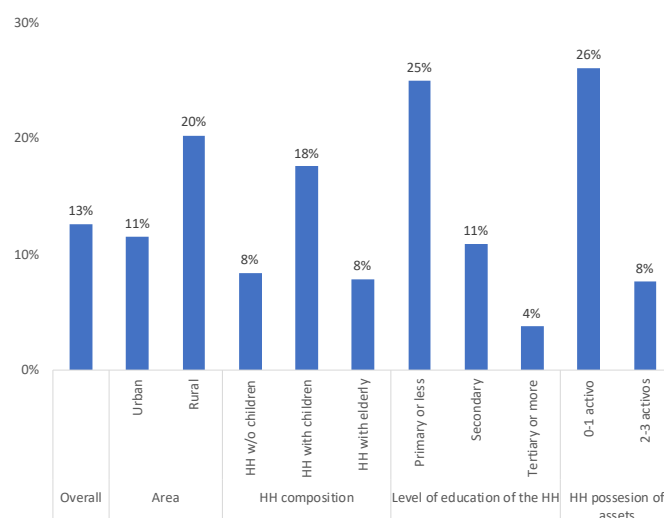
This figure was higher for households with dependent children, less educated heads and lower rates of asset ownership. One of the strategies used to cope with the financial stress triggered by the pandemic was the entry of school-age children into the labour force. Although this mechanism was used by only 4.5 per cent of total households, the share increased to 11.7 per cent for households with lower rates of asset ownership. Between mid-2021 and the end of the year, the proportion of school-age children attending face-to-face classes increased by 67.2 percentage points to 94.6 per cent, one of the highest rates in the region, as a result of schools reopening fully during the second half of 2021. Despite this increase in the in-person attendance rate, one-quarter of respondents said they thought that children are learning less than before the pandemic. This view is particularly high for households with a higher level of education.

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	17.6%	56.7%	4.5%	12.6%	67.2	24.5%
Urban	17.2%	58.1%	4.2%	11.5%	66.4	25.5%
Rural	20.9%	47.0%	5.8%	20.3%	72.5	20.7%
HH w/o children (0-17)	13.2%	47.0%	-	8.4%	-	-
HH with children (0-17)	22.9%	68.3%	4.5%	17.6%	67.2	24.5%
HH with elderly (65+)	15.6%	49.0%	1.5%	7.9%	53.3	23.9%
HH with 0-1 asset	23.1%	64.2%	11.7%	26.1%	66.3	25.4%
HH with 2-3 assets	15.6%	53.9%	3.1%	7.6%	67.4	24.4%
HH education - Primary or less	19.1%	65.0%	6.8%	25.0%	55.3	17.5%
HH education - Secondary	18.3%	58.0%	4.3%	10.9%	69.7	28.5%
HH education - Tertiary or more	15.0%	45.0%	1.8%	3.8%	76.7	27.0%

* 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

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