



COVID-19 IN LAC

BOLIVIA

2021 LAC HIGH FREQUENCY PHONE SURVEYS: Results Phase II, Wave 1



April 2022

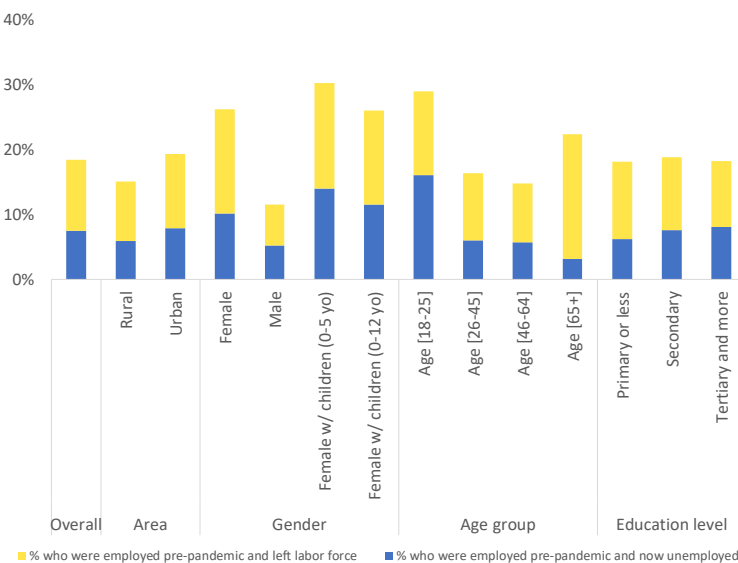
The COVID-19 crisis and a further decline in oil prices led to an economic contraction of 8.8 percent in 2020 in Bolivia. The country was under lockdown for over five months and ranked halfway in deaths in Latin America and the Caribbean. Most economic sectors were affected, and more severely the labor-intensive industry and service sectors.

The economy started to recover in 2021, but the labor market recovery has been slower. By mid-2021, about one in every five pre-pandemic workers had lost their job, and over half of them had left the labor force altogether. These job losses were higher among urban workers, women, and youth (18-25 years old). Indeed, 69.1 percent of the new inactive were women. There was also an unprecedented shift of 57.0 percent of the formerly inactive population into activity. These newcomers represented 11.9 percent of those employed and 21.9 percent of the unemployed at the time of the survey. They likely entered the market to avoid falling into poverty. Women were also most of the new active (59.3 percent). Job quality also deteriorated. Most of the new active who found a job ended up in informality (90.3 percent), and 20.2 percent of pre-pandemic formal workers transited to informal jobs during the pandemic.

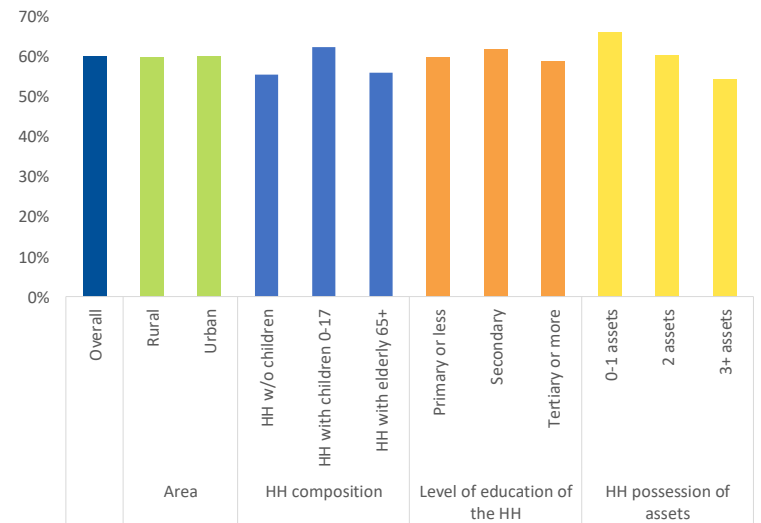
Emergency cash transfers deployed since the onset of the pandemic had high coverage, with over four in every five households reporting receiving some government help. Yet, three in every five households reported a decline in their total income compared to pre-pandemic levels by mid-2021. Poorer households -with ownership of one or no assets- were more likely to report income losses. Food insecurity increased: the share of households reporting running out of food grew from 17.2 percent pre-pandemic to 22.7 percent by mid-2021, after peaking at 43.2 percent in May 2020. Rural households, households with fewer assets, and households with less-educated heads faced higher food insecurity in 2021.

Access to learning remains a concern. By mid-2021, 94.2 percent of school-age children attended school in person or virtually, and 91.4 percent of them had direct interaction with a teacher, in-person or online. However, only 25.7 percent of enrolled students reported attending school in person. Direct interaction with teachers was less frequent in rural households and households with one or no assets. While Bolivia's reported virtual school attendance was high, internet access remains a challenge for remote learning: 72.0 percent of the households with internet services at home (54.6 percent of all households) reported poor quality of service. Long-term pandemic effects on human capital will likely affect the poor and vulnerable the most. School closures also increased the burden of care, particularly for women. Indeed, 54.1 percent of women reported an increase in the time spent accompanying children's education compared to 42.6 percent of men.

JOB LOSS (% OF PRE-PANDEMIC WORKERS)



HOUSEHOLDS (%) WITH REDUCED INCOME



Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

KEY INDICATORS: INDIVIDUALS (18+ years old)

Distribution among groups	Labor		Childcare responsibilities		Health	Finance
	% of employed population (pre-pandemic) who lost their pre-pandemic job	% of inactive population (pre-pandemic) who became active (employed or unemployed)	% of formal workers (pre-pandemic) who became informal	% of population who spent more time accompanying children's education	% of population who is not planning to get vaccinated or unsure (vaccination hesitancy)	% of population using mobile wallets
Overall	18.4%	57.0%	20.2%	48.8%	23.7%	18.4%
Rural	15.1%	60.7%	13.7%	46.1%	26.3%	16.7%
Urban	19.3%	56.0%	21.3%	49.7%	22.9%	18.9%
Females	26.2%	51.6%	18.4%	54.1%	25.9%	15.2%
Males	11.5%	67.3%	21.7%	42.6%	21.4%	21.7%
18 to 25 years old	28.9%	61.5%	33.9%	39.6%	26.7%	22.8%
26 to 45 years old	16.3%	59.7%	25.6%	57.6%	26.6%	21.0%
46 to 64 years old	14.8%	53.4%	11.3%	37.8%	20.2%	12.4%
65 and older	22.3%	37.8%	0.0%	11.6%	8.2%	10.5%
Primary or less	18.1%	21.8%	31.0%	37.3%	26.6%	13.4%
Secondary	18.8%	61.8%	27.0%	49.6%	26.3%	16.8%
Tertiary and more	18.1%	60.0%	14.8%	53.7%	17.6%	23.0%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

KEY INDICATORS: HOUSEHOLDS AND CHILDREN

Distribution among groups	Income		Food Insecurity	Education (6-17 yo)		Connectivity
	% HH that report a reduction in total income (current v. pre-pandemic)	% HH that received Emergency Government Transfers during the pandemic	% HHs that ran out of food (last 30 days)	% of children in school age who attended school (in person or virtually)	% of children in school age who interacted with teacher (in-person or online classes)	% HHs that had problems with internet service due to poor access quality / speed
Overall	60.0%	83.4%	22.7%	94.2%	91.4%	72.0%
Rural	59.8%	86.0%	28.6%	90.8%	85.5%	72.4%
Urban	60.1%	82.8%	21.2%	95.3%	93.2%	72.0%
HH w/o children (0-17)	55.5%	77.3%	19.7%	-	-	69.6%
HH with children (0-17)	62.2%	86.3%	24.2%	94.2%	91.4%	73.2%
HH with elderly (65+)	55.9%	78.6%	22.5%	93.5%	92.2%	78.6%
0-1 assets	66.0%	87.9%	39.2%	91.6%	87.0%	75.2%
2 assets	60.4%	80.8%	19.5%	93.6%	92.5%	75.9%
3+ assets	54.3%	80.9%	9.5%	97.6%	95.5%	69.6%
HH education - Primary or less	59.9%	90.5%	35.2%	90.6%	89.0%	77.6%
HH education - Secondary	61.8%	86.9%	26.7%	92.1%	87.8%	70.0%
HH education - Tertiary or more	58.7%	75.8%	12.2%	98.5%	96.4%	71.8%

Source: World Bank and UNDP LAC High Frequency Phone Surveys, Phase II, Wave 1.

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 first wave was collected between May and July 2021, and the data is nationally representative for 24 countries: Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, 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 data for Brazil was collected between July 26 and October 1. 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. Key indicators on socioeconomic effects are available at the [COVID-19 monitoring global dashboard](#), which provides 96 harmonized indicators across 50 countries in Latin America and the world. For further information, see [World Bank and UNDP \(2021\)](#).