



# COVID-19 IN LAC

## PERU

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



April 2022

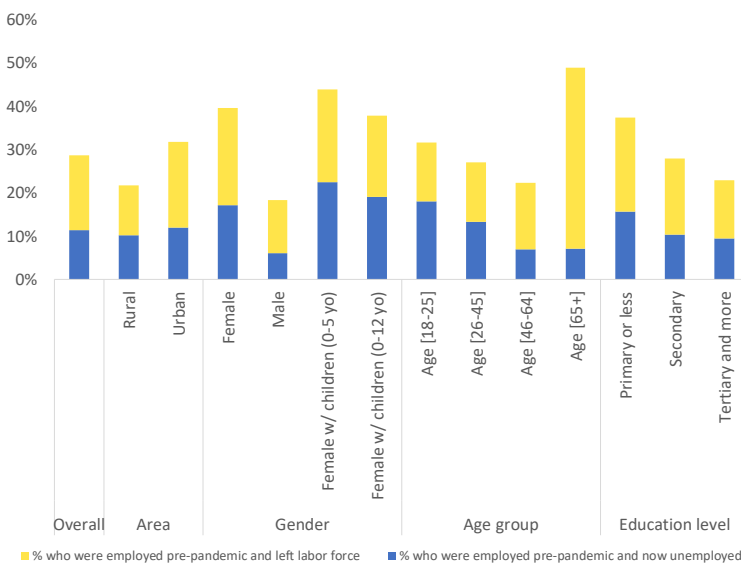
Peru is one of the countries hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis. With over 200,000 deaths due to COVID-19, it has the most deaths per million globally. The strict lockdowns imposed by the government to contain the spread of the virus affected labor-intensive sectors the most. The latter, coupled with external demand and supply shocks, led to an economic contraction of over 11.1 percent of GDP in 2020, well above the median slowdown in the region. According to the National Household Survey, poverty had increased by 12 percentage points by the end of 2020. Recovery has been slow, and the government's efforts to contain poverty and reactivate the economy - emergency cash transfers, debt payment facilities, and credit guarantees- have been insufficient to bring the country back to its pre-pandemic state.

By mid-2021, more than one-quarter of workers reported having lost their pre-pandemic jobs, and 60.1 percent of them reported leaving the labor force altogether. Among the new inactive, 63.4 percent were women across all age ranges and education levels, more than half of whom did not have children under 18. Job quality also deteriorated, with almost one-third of the formally employed workers transiting to informal jobs. Also, most jobs landed by the previously unemployed (73.7 percent) were informal. Most extraordinary, however, was the large share of the previously inactive people who entered the labor force during the pandemic (57.4 percent). While 11.7 percent of them had not been able to secure a job, most of them found a job, although mainly in the informal sector. The new active workers represented 15.7 percent of the currently employed workers and 13.4 percent of the unemployed. Among them, 56.0 percent were women across all age ranges and education levels, more than half of whom had children under 18. The dynamics observed in the labor market pointed at the insufficiency of emergency cash transfers to contain the fall into poverty.

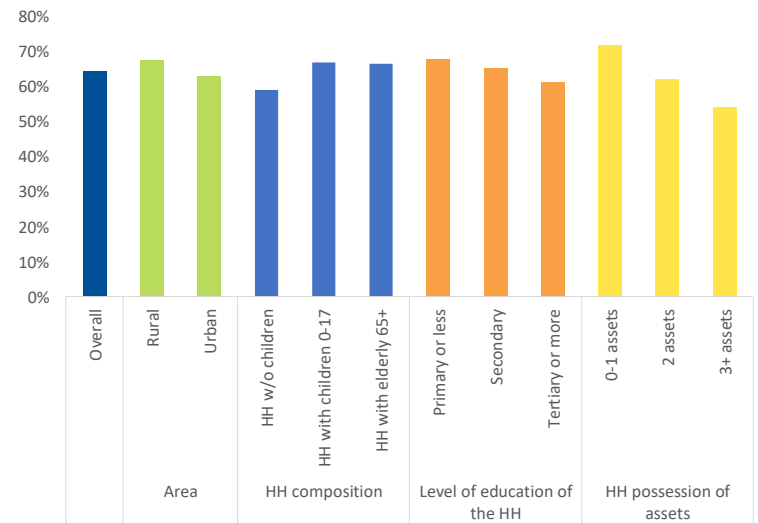
More than half of the surveyed households had received government emergency aid by mid-2021. However, 64.3 percent of households reported their income remained below pre-pandemic levels. In addition, 35.8 percent of households reported running out of food in the month preceding the survey: a figure more than 15 percentage points above the pre-pandemic level. Food insecurity was more frequent among households in rural areas, with fewer assets, and less educated heads.

Food insecurity and lack of access to education will have long-term impacts on the welfare of Peruvian households. Schools remained closed for almost two years in Peru, one of the most prolonged school closures in the world during the pandemic. By mid-2021, only 0.9 percent of the school-age children had gone back to in-person education. Moreover, access to quality remote learning has been limited due to the lack of access to an internet connection at home (only 49.1 percent of households reported having it) and by the poor quality of service. Indeed, 79.8 percent of households with an internet connection reported problems with their internet service. Improving connectivity may increase human capital accumulation and reduce learning gaps in the country as it transits out of the pandemic.

### 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	28.5%	57.4%	27.8%	45.5%	11.2%	25.2%
Rural	21.6%	76.7%	35.4%	44.0%	13.4%	16.0%
Urban	31.7%	47.8%	25.7%	46.3%	10.1%	29.4%
Females	39.5%	53.5%	17.9%	51.3%	12.2%	25.7%
Males	18.2%	63.3%	34.8%	38.8%	10.1%	24.6%
18 to 25 years old	31.5%	66.4%	33.6%	48.2%	17.1%	46.4%
26 to 45 years old	27.0%	73.5%	29.7%	50.4%	10.7%	25.8%
46 to 64 years old	22.2%	43.2%	27.9%	36.9%	12.5%	17.3%
65 and older	48.8%	17.9%	12.6%	20.7%	0.0%	7.3%
Primary or less	37.3%	63.1%	20.9%	34.6%	16.4%	7.9%
Secondary	27.8%	53.9%	33.8%	44.1%	10.8%	20.9%
Tertiary and more	22.8%	57.7%	26.0%	56.9%	7.7%	42.1%

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	64.3%	54.8%	35.8%	95.2%	91.3%	79.8%
Rural	67.6%	64.1%	49.9%	97.0%	89.2%	81.6%
Urban	63.0%	51.0%	30.0%	94.4%	92.2%	79.2%
HH w/o children (0-17)	59.1%	48.1%	27.1%	-	-	76.3%
HH with children (0-17)	66.9%	58.1%	39.9%	95.2%	91.3%	81.5%
HH with elderly (65+)	66.4%	55.8%	26.6%	93.8%	89.9%	79.3%
0-1 assets	71.7%	60.6%	55.5%	95.1%	88.0%	83.7%
2 assets	62.1%	61.0%	29.1%	93.4%	92.9%	75.5%
3+ assets	54.3%	41.8%	9.5%	96.4%	95.6%	78.1%
HH education - Primary or less	67.7%	73.8%	50.6%	97.2%	89.1%	87.6%
HH education - Secondary	65.4%	61.2%	41.1%	96.1%	91.5%	82.3%
HH education - Tertiary or more	61.2%	40.5%	25.6%	95.1%	94.2%	75.8%

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 \(2021\)](#).

Produced by the World Bank Group and UNDP.

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