

COVID-19 Impact Monitoring

at the household level

Burkina Faso



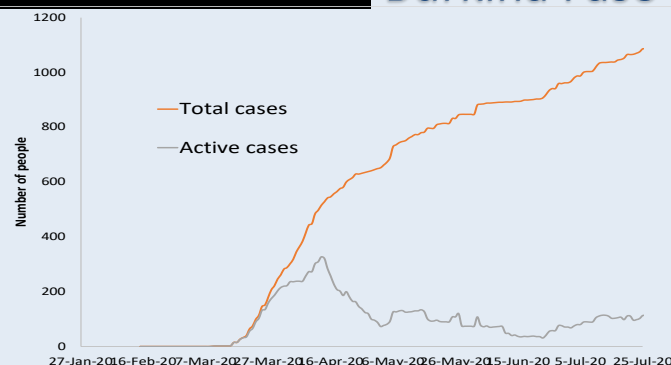
Bulletin No.2 — October 2020

KEY MESSAGES

- In the past 7 days, one in five households was not able to access basic foods;
- Compared to the first round, there is a reduction in the proportion of student who remain intellectually active thanks to TV and radio programs;
- Despite the Covid-19, there has been no major disruption in the provision of health services;
- There is a need to improve the targeting of government transfers. 70.8 percent of beneficiaries are non-poor;
- In this period of the Covid-19 pandemic, many households (especially the rural poor) are unable to meet their food needs;
- Six out of ten households say they have been affected by a negative shock. In a context marked by a limitation of the social protection system, most households suffer without doing anything (26.5%);
- One in four households (24.3%) believe that the state sufficiently meets their security needs.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

Burkina Faso



53 Deaths 920 Recovered

Source: INSD (as of July 25th, 2020)



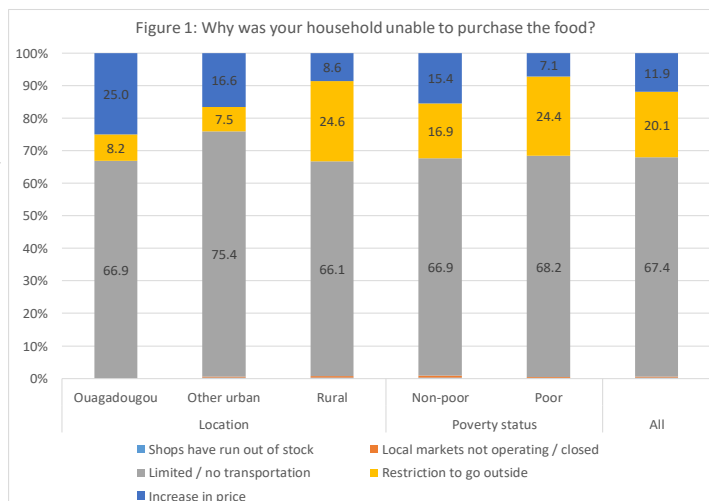
BACKGROUND

This note presents the results of the second round of a nationally representative telephone survey (HFPS). Data collection took place between July 20 and August 14, 2020. The 1,968 households that were successfully interviewed during the first round were called and 1,860 (94.5% of the 1,968) were interviewed with success in the second round. In addition, 242 additional households were sampled in the rural strata during the second round, in order to increase representativeness in this area. Of the 242 households in the sample, 177 households (73.14% of 242 attempts) were contacted and interviewed successfully. The entire sample of the second round includes 2,037 households. For this second round, the questionnaire includes two key modules that were already administered in the first pass, namely, access to food and basic services (health, education, etc.), and employment and income. Four new modules are added, covering the following themes: food security, shocks, fragility, conflict and violence.



ACCESS TO FOOD AND BASIC SERVICES

In the week before the survey, about one in five households (21.4%) were unable to access basic foods. To account for the spatial differences in eating habits, the staple foods in this study vary by location. In Ouagadougou, imported rice, corn grain and corn flour; in other urban areas, corn grain, imported rice, local rice; in rural areas, corn grain, sorghum and millet. Problems related to limited means of transport and restrictions on going outside are the main reasons why some households have difficulty accessing basic foods. In urban areas, rising prices are also a problem. During the first round, the unavailability of staple foods was mainly due to corn. For the second round, in addition to corn, the unavailability is due to sorghum, local rice and millet.



In the last seven days before the survey, about one in five students (21.5%) did not engage in any educational activity. This rate is significantly higher compared to the result of the first round (12.4%). This represents a clear decline. The decline is more important at the level of the sub-group of students who during June / July remained intellectually active thanks to television and radio programs. During the week preceding the survey, one in four students (23.0%) remained in contact with their teacher. Despite a need for social distancing, the vast majority of these students (93.1%) had physical contact with their teacher. This rate of physical contact is much higher, and contrasts somewhat with the results of the first round during which we observed a greater use of ICT.



ACCESS TO FOOD AND BASIC SERVICES

During the week preceding the survey, and despite the Covid-19, most households said they were able to buy drugs; and the majority (54.2%) made this purchase at a formal pharmacy. During the same period, half (45.0%) of households needed health services, mainly because of malaria / fever (72.1%) and stomach problems (10.2%) . As was already the case during the first round, the survey tells us that the vast majority (97.7%) of those who needed health services were able to seek treatment, a sign that there is no had a major disruption in the provision of health services. For the small fraction of those who were not able to access health services, the reason given by the vast majority (82.5%) of households is related to their inability to pay the related costs. Financial accessibility is therefore the greatest constraint, especially for the poor.

Figure 2: Proportion of students participating in educational activities

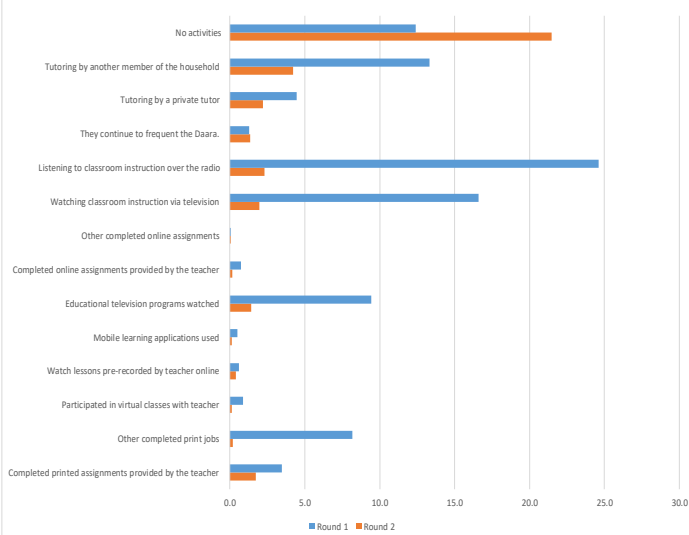
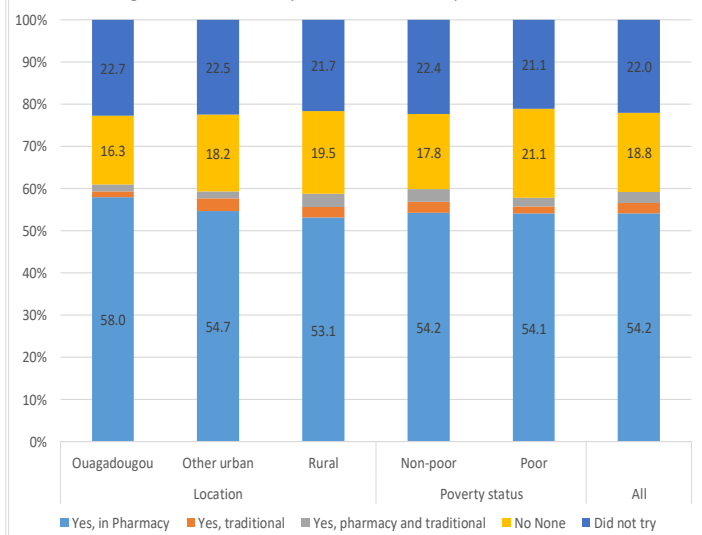


Figure 3: Last week, was your household able to purchase medicine?



EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Compared to the first round, there is a significant increase in the proportion of people who have a job. Possible sign that the economic recovery is underway. In fact, during the first round, the employment rate was 75.1 percent, against 83.3 percent for the second round, an increase of eight percentage points. This increase is mainly driven by rural areas, which saw a 9.9 percentage point increase in the employment rate between the two rounds. The message on the economic recovery is nuanced by a mixed evolution of the incomes of non-agricultural family business. Compared to the previous month, some non-agricultural family business experienced an increase in their revenues (23.2%), while others rather experienced a decrease (32.5%), in the end, between the two rounds, the proportion of non-agricultural family business whose revenues have remained stable has fallen dramatically (from 72.5% to 33.9%). The absence of customers (45.7%) and the seasonal closure (18.5%) are the main reasons cited for the decrease or absence of income. The proportion of farm households who report difficulties in carrying out their activity remains high (86%). However, this proportion is slightly lower compared to the first pass (90%). Insufficient or delayed rainfall is by far the main constraint for farmers. This constraint is mentioned by four out of five agricultural households (79.8%). Difficulties related to access to agricultural inputs come second, and are cited by one in five households (21.8%). The proportion of households receiving transfers has declined. During the first round, 22 percent said they received transfers from another family, compared to just 16.4 percent during the second round. The proportion who received a transfer from the government or an organization also decreased (29% on the 1st visit and 5.6% on the 2nd visit). The majority of those who receive transfers said that compared to the previous month, the amount received remained the same.

Figure 4: Proportion of those currently working

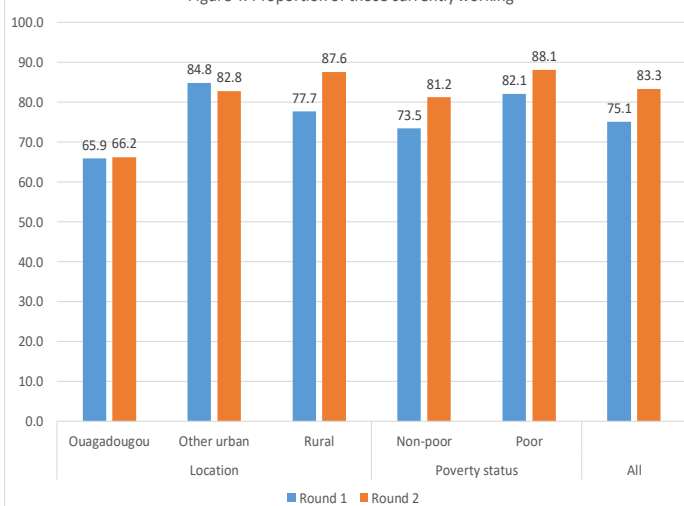
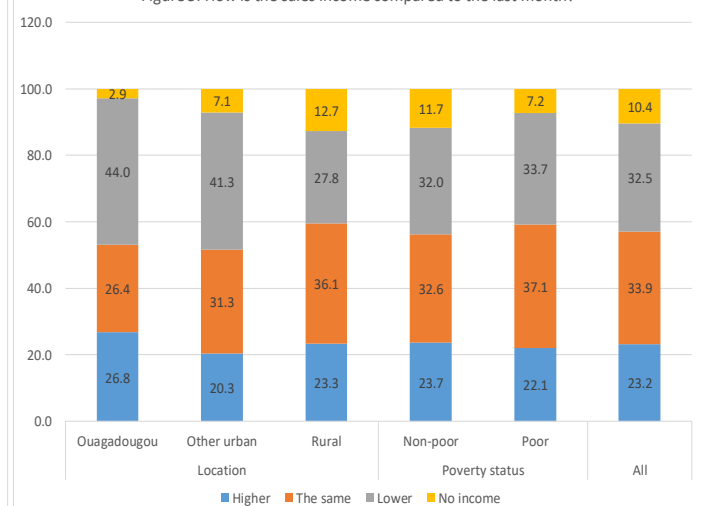


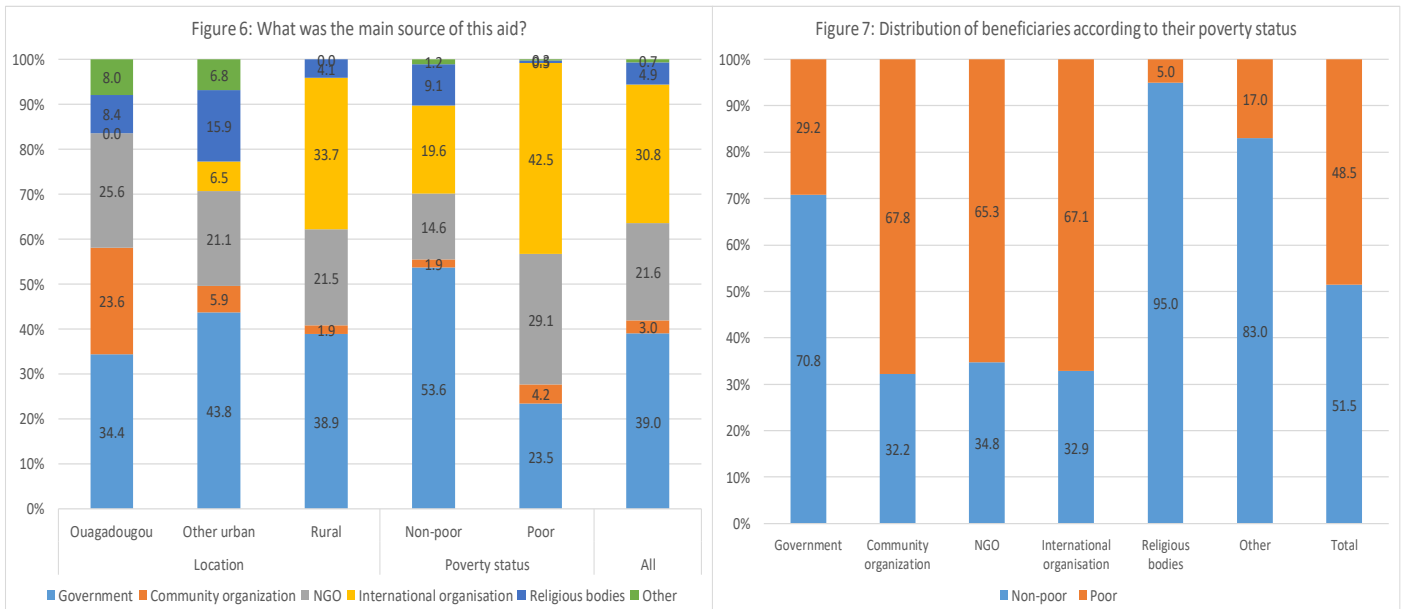
Figure 5: How is the sales income compared to the last month?





EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

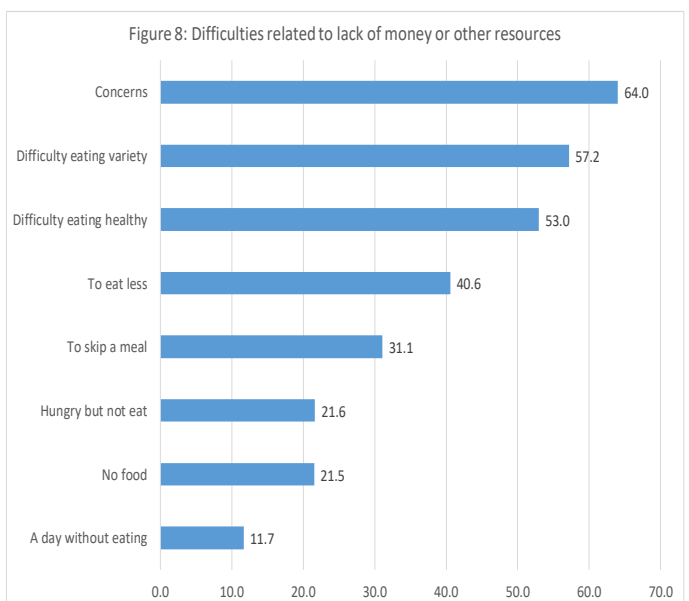
Regarding transfers from government and organizations, there is a great diversity of sources. The most important donors are: the government (39.0% of beneficiaries), international NGOs (30.8% of beneficiaries) and local NGOs (21.6% of beneficiaries). These three account for 91.4% of transfers from State/organizations. There is a great disparity according to place of residence and poverty status. Government interventions are relatively more concentrated in urban areas, while those of NGOs are more focused on the poor. These results suggest that there is a serious problem with targeting government transfers. In fact, three in four (70.8%) recipients of government transfers are non-poor. Community organizations and NGOs do a much better job of targeting the poor. In fact, for these three, between 65% and 67% of the beneficiaries of their transfers are poor.



FOOD SECURITY

Regarding food security, several questions were asked to respondents to find out if their household had problems with money or other resources during the last 30 days, and how these problems impacted the household's ability to meet its basic food needs.

It appears that problems of money and lack of resources seriously affected households in the 30 days leading up to the survey. First of all, on the psychological level, the absence of money puts households in a situation of uncertainty which means that, day by day, they have apprehensions about their ability to meet their food needs. These concerns affect around six in ten households (64.0%). Due to financial difficulties, 57.2 percent of households report that they have not been able to eat a variety of foods as they would have liked. Another large fraction say they have not been able to eat healthy food due to lack of resources.



During the last 30 days, a large proportion of households declared having had to eat less (40.6%), or to skip a meal (31.1%) or not to eat when they were hungry (21.6%) or have gone without any food (21.5%). As might be expected, food insecurity problems are more pronounced among rural and poor households.

These results suggest that in this period of the Covid-19 pandemic, due in particular to the reduction in income, many households are not able to make ends meet, in particular a large proportion can no longer meet the dietary needs. Expanding and improving the targeting of existing social safety nets would be a good way to reduce the risk of a food crisis and its short, medium and long term consequences, especially on malnutrition and early childhood development.



SHOCKS

On a daily basis, households face shocks that affect them negatively. In Burkina Faso, the incidence of shocks is very high, with six in ten households (61.2%) declaring to have been affected by a negative shock between March and August 2020. The increase in food prices is by far the biggest shock. This shock hit one in three households (31.3%). Four other types of shocks stand out with high scores. These are: (i) the increase in the price of inputs (15.2%); (ii) thefts (11.7%); (iii) disease (10.2%); and (iv) the bankruptcy of a non-agricultural family business (7.3%). There are some notable differences depending on the area of residence and the poverty status. For example, shocks related to rising input prices and theft affect rural households more. Rising food prices affect non-poor households more.

In a context marked by a limitation of the insurance system and the social protection system, most households suffer shocks without doing anything (26.5%). Those who can tap into their savings (20.5%) or sell one of their assets (18.3%) to deal with shocks. A significant proportion (17.9%) seek help from friends and family. The strategies adopted to minimize the impact of shocks vary by standard of living and place of residence. The poor are more likely to do nothing. The non-poor are more likely to dip into their savings. Recourse to the help of friends or family is more present in Ouagadougou the capital.

Figure 9: Share of households affected by the shock

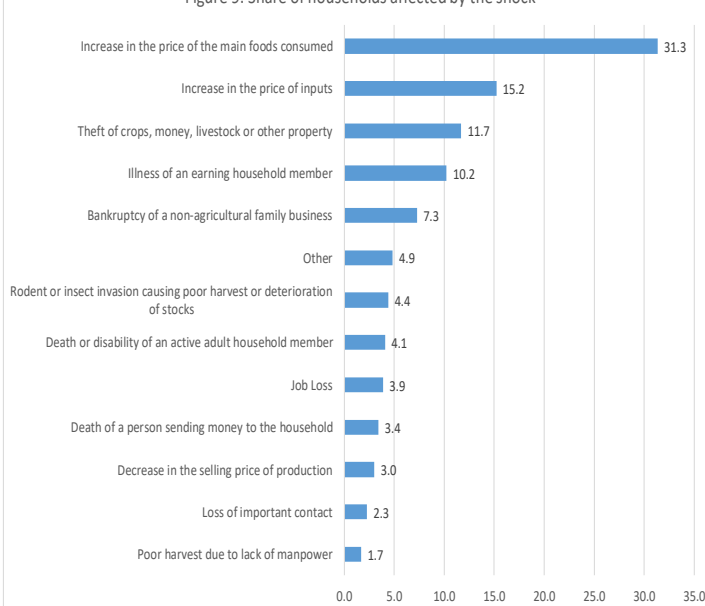
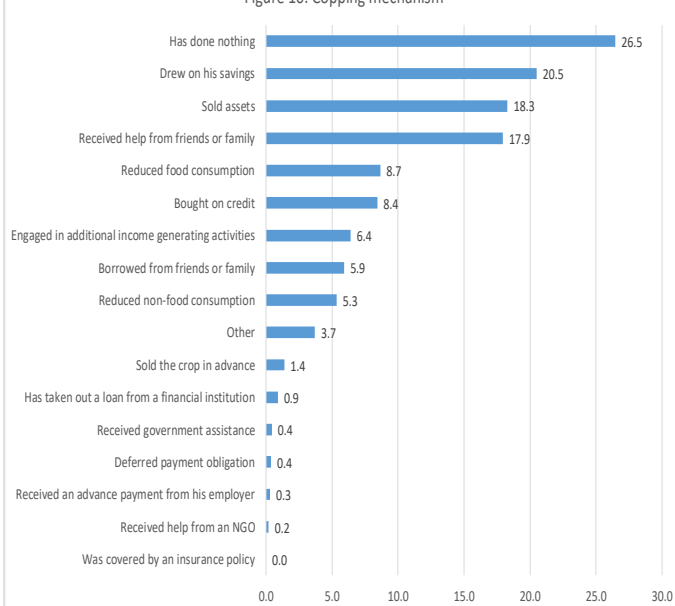
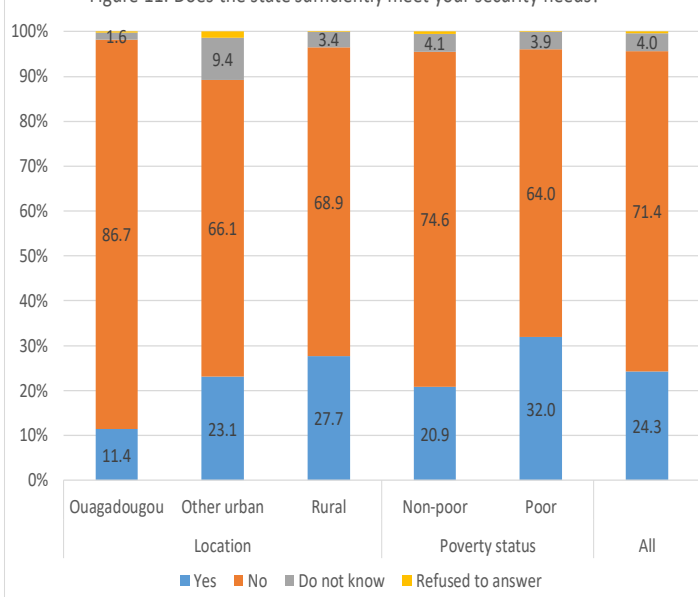


Figure 10: Coping mechanism



CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE

Figure 11: Does the state sufficiently meet your security needs?



The majority of Burkinabè households believe that they live in a locality where the level of security is high or very high (56.0%). But it should be noted that in Ouagadougou, only 36.7 percent of households believe that the level of security is high or very high. The poor are more convinced of the safety of their locality compared to the non-poor. Most households (68.5%) report that the level of social relations and trust in their locality is high or very high. However, a non-negligible proportion (11.5%) say that in the last month there has been an increase in crime. The increase in crime is more pronounced in Ouagadougou where it is mentioned by one in five households (21.4%).

Only one in four households (24.3%) believe that the state sufficiently meets their security needs. The assessment of the quality of government action varies by place of residence and poverty status. Those who live in Ouagadougou are the least satisfied (11.4% satisfied). The non-poor tend to be more demanding and consequently less satisfied (20.9% satisfied) compared to the poor (32.0% satisfied).



This brief was prepared by Clarence Tsimpo Nkengne, Marco Tiberti, and Prospere Backiny-Yetna from the World Bank, Zakaria Koncobo from the INSD, and Adama Tiendrebeogo from the WAEMU Commission. The team benefited from useful advice and comments from Christophe Rockmore. The report was prepared with guidance from Souk-eyna Kane, Maimouna Mbow Fam, Kofi Nouve, Pierella Paci, Jean-Pierre Chauffour, Boureima Ouedraogo. For further details on the data, visit <http://surveys.worldbank.org/covid-19> or <http://www.insd.bf/n/>



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