

# COVID-19 Impact Monitoring

## at the household level

# Burkina Faso



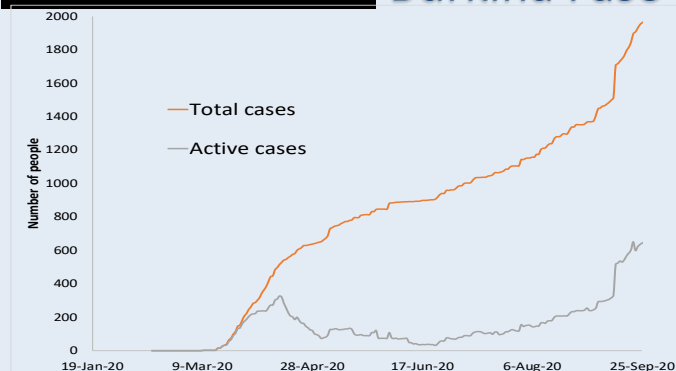
Bulletin No.3 — November 2020

### KEY MESSAGES

- There is a drastic drop in the practice of social distancing and preventive measures;
- Compared to the first round, there has been a huge increase of the proportion of households who are not able to access the main staple foods (from 23.9% to 64.5%). price increase was mentioned as the main constraint in accessing food;
- Despite the Covid-19, there has been no major disruption in the provision of health services; but cost remains a constraints to many;
- There is a substantial increase of the proportion of respondents who are employed (from 75.1% in round 1 to 89.4% in round 3). But this has yet to translate into increase of income;
- Farmers mention that covid-19 related travel restrictions are making it difficult for them to acquire or move inputs; as a consequence they have decided to reduce planted area, to delay planting, to plant crops that take less time to mature, or to abandoned crops.

### Confirmed Cases of COVID-19

### Burkina Faso



**56 Deaths 1,263 Recovered**

Source: INSD (as of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020)



### BACKGROUND

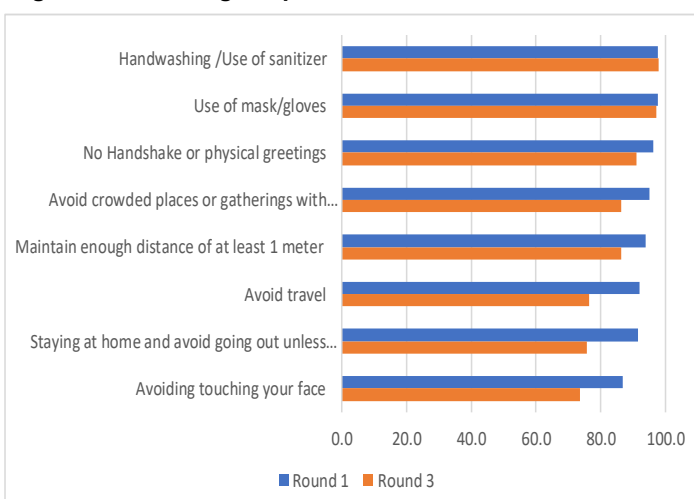
This note presents the results of the third round of a nationally representative telephone survey (HFPS). Data collection took place between September 12 and October 21, 2020. In addition to the 2,037 households successfully interviewed in the second round, in an effort to maintain sample size, additional 173 households that had not been successfully interviewed in previous rounds but did not refuse to participate in the survey were called in this round. 2,037 households (96.08% of the 2,120 attempted) were contacted and 2,013 (94.95%) were successfully interviewed in the third round. The questionnaire includes key modules that were already administered in previous rounds, namely, knowledge of Covid-19 and social behavior, access to food and basic services, employment and income, and social protection. The sub-module on agriculture was expanded to include additional questions on the impact of covid-19 on farms activities.



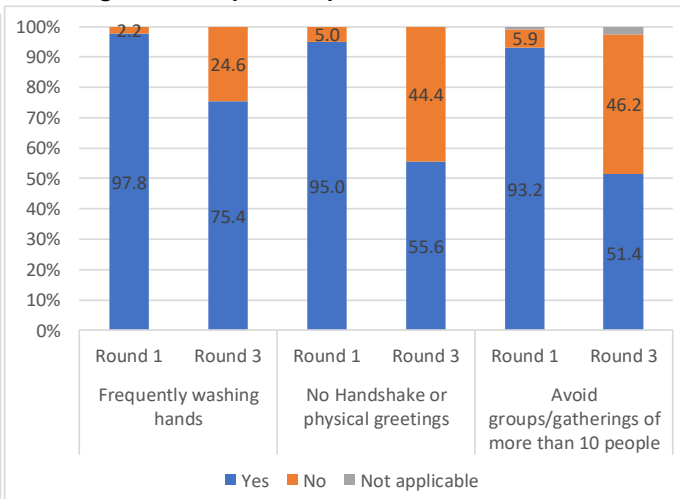
### KNOWLEDGE OF COVID-19 AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

There is a drastic reduction of the practice of preventives and social distancing measures. Compared to the first round for which data collection was conducted in July 2020, there is an overall reduction of the proportion of respondents who are aware of key preventive measures (Figure 1). The decline in knowledge is very pronounced for avoiding crow and gathering, avoiding travel, and to some extent, avoiding handshaking. Worrisomely, there is a sharp decline in the proportion of those adopting these preventive measures. For instance, One in four respondents (24.6%) no longer wash their hands frequently. Close to half of respondents (44.4%) do no longer avoid handshake (Figure 2); against only 5.0% in the first round. There is a similar decline of the proportion of those avoiding crowds and public gatherings. The drastic change was observed across location and poverty status. This call for a need to revamp sensitization, especially when western countries are experiencing a second (or third) wave of the pandemic.

**Figure 1: Knowledge of preventive measures**



**Figure 2: Adoption of preventive measures**

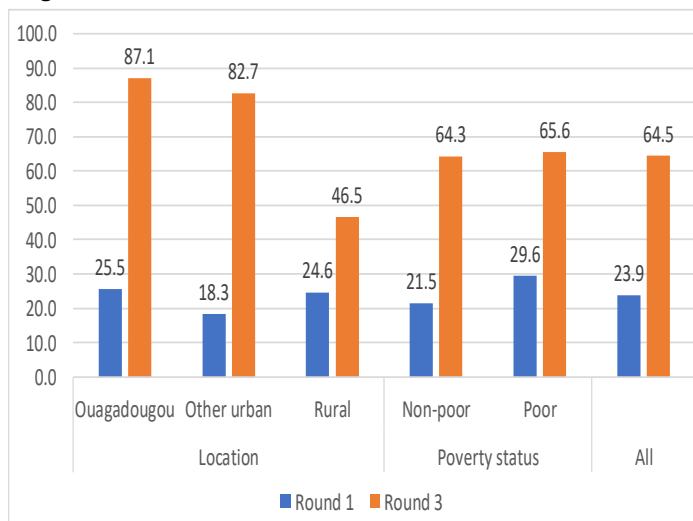




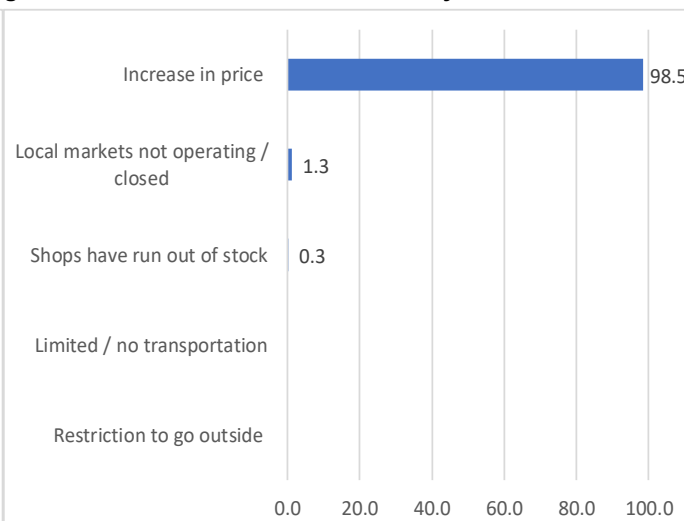
## ACCESS TO FOOD AND BASIC SERVICES

Compared to the first round, there has been a huge increase of the proportion of households who are not able to access the main staple foods. Given differences in consumption habits, The staple foods considered for this study are: (i) for Ouagadougou: imported rice, maize in grain, and corn floor; (ii) for other urban areas: maize in grain, imported rice, and local rice; and (iii) for rural areas: maize in grain, sorghum, and millet. During the third round, two out of three households (64.5%) declared that they were not able to access the selected staple foods (Figure 3). This represents a forty percentage points increase compared to the first round. Urban households are more affected by food accessibility issues. When asked, the quasi-totality of households mentioned price increase as the main reason for which they were not able to access staple food.

**Figure 3: Share unable to access food**



**Figure 4: Reason for not been able to buy food**

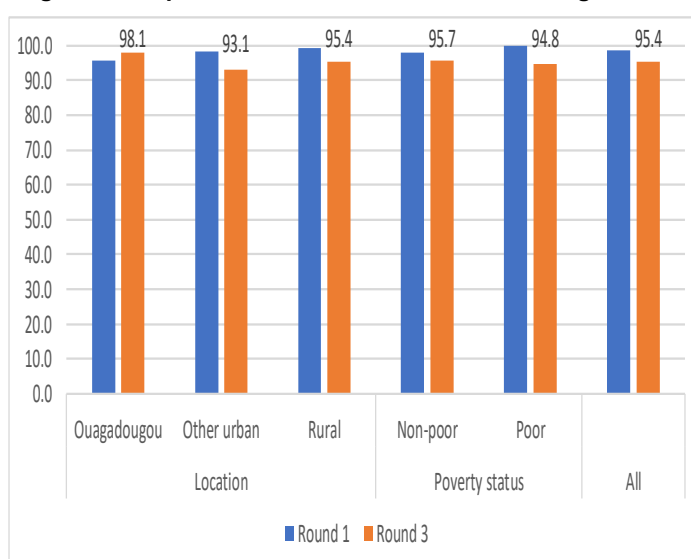


The status of the health sector has remained the same across survey rounds. Despite the covid-19 challenges, health system continued to function. As a consequence, the vast majority of the 56.4% that needed health care where able to access the services (Figure 5). This findings is consistent across location and poverty status. For the few that were not able to access health services, financial affordability is mention as the main barrier to health service (Figure 6). Issues related to availability of medical staff are also mentioned by a non-negligible proportion of respondents (12.3%). The problem of medical staff is by far more pronounced in Ouagadougou.

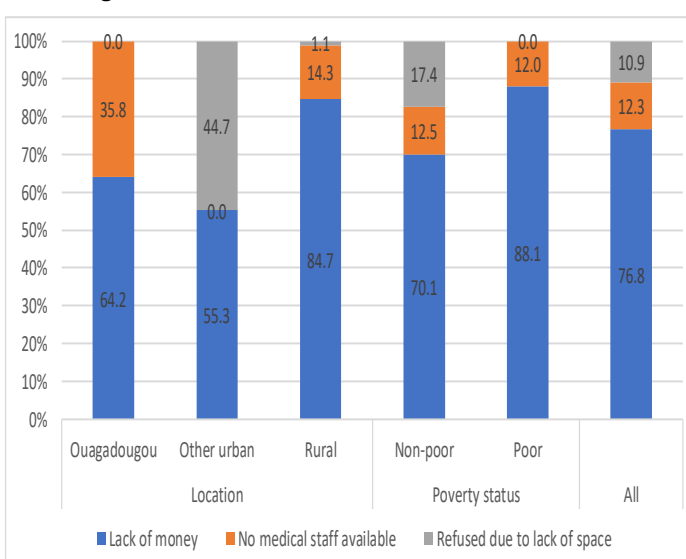
Despite the Covid-19, pharmacies are still functioning properly. Most households (63.6%) declared that they were able to buy medicine in a pharmacy. A non-negligible proportion (5%) resorted to rely on traditional providers to acquire their drugs. It is important to note that 30% declared that they did not need to buy drugs at the time of the survey.

As it was the case for previous rounds, malaria/fever remains the most common illness, affecting 87% of those who need treatment. Other diseases with a high prevalence rate include stomach problems (5.8%), and sore throat, cough, cold, flu (5.2%). Non-communicable diseases such as blood pressure and diabetes are relatively more prevalent in urban areas.

**Figure 5: Proportion that needed and where able get treatment**



**Figure 6: Reason for not been able to access care**



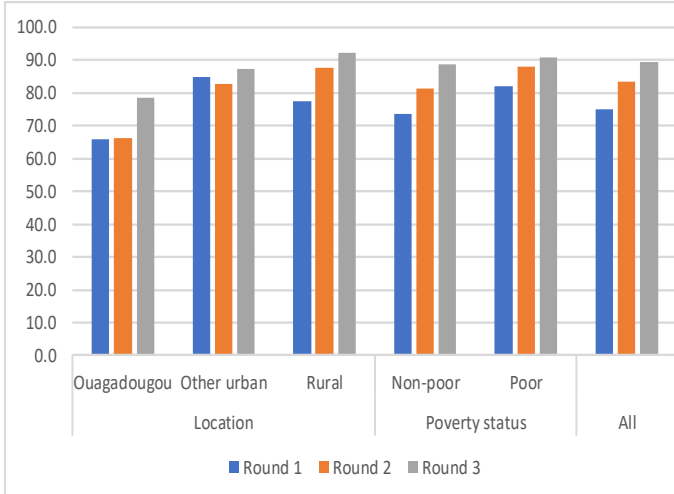


## EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

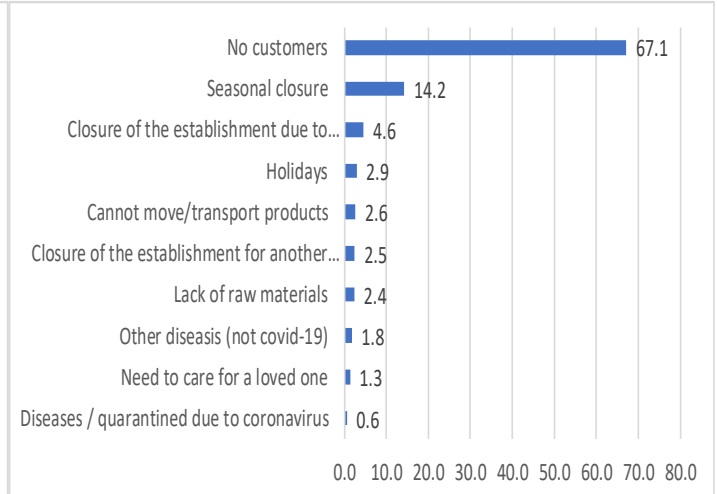
The proportion of respondents who are employed has increased significantly, from 75.1% in the first round to 83.3% during the second round, and 89.4% in the third round (Figure 7). This represents a 14.3 percentage points increase between the first and the third round. This is a clear sign that the economic recovery is underway. However, the non-poor seems to have benefitted more from this positive shift of the labor market. Between the first and third rounds, the proportion of non-poor who are employed increased by 15.2 percentage points, against only 8.9 percentage points for the poor.

But this improvement of the labor market has yet to translate into a clear increase of incomes. For instance, up to 11% of employees mentioned that during the previous week, they were forced to work less than usual. Only 62% of wage earners mentioned that during the last month, they did receive the full normal payment of their salary. One in three non-family businesses (32.8%) noted that compared to the previous month, there was a reduction in their revenues. The absence of customers is by far the main reasons put forward by respondents to justify the reduction or lack of revenues (Figure 8).

**Figure 7: Share of respondents who are employed**



**Figure 8: Main reason for having lower income**

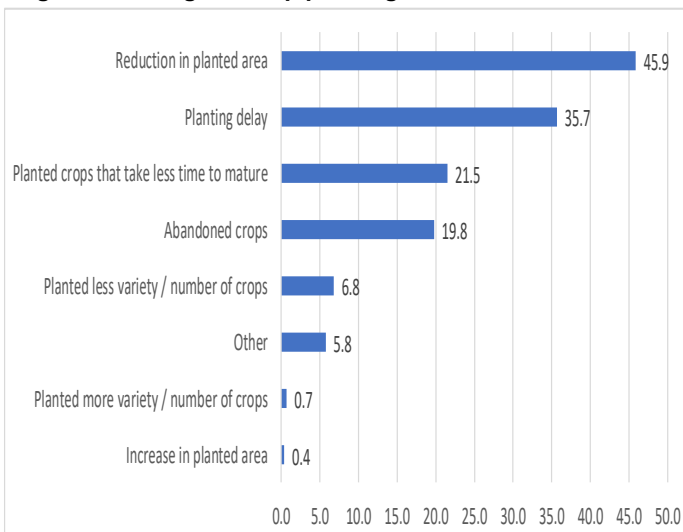


7.2% of farmers declared that because of the covid-19 pandemic, they were obliged to change their plans regarding the agricultural activities. Four types of adjustments stand out (Figure 9): reduction in planted area (cited by 45.9%); planting delay (cited by 35.7%); planted crops that take less time to mature (cited by 21.5%); and abandoned crops (cited by 19.8%). These types of adjustments will for sure result in reduced production, and consequently, food insecurity is something to watch out for in the near future.

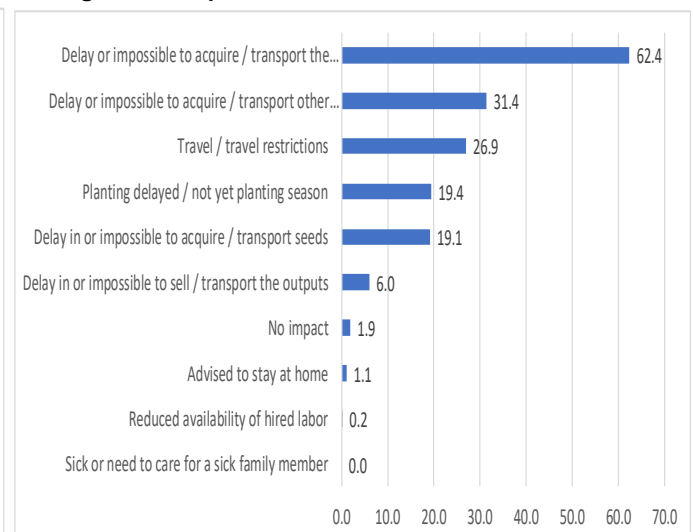
When asked how the covid-19 is impacting farming activities, farmers mention a set of factors, most of which are related to travel restrictions (Figure 10), and difficulties to acquire or move inputs such as fertilizers (cited by 62.4%), or to acquire other inputs such as seeds (cited by 31.4%). These factors affect farmers equally, irrespective of their location or poverty status. Farmers also mention the price increase of seeds as being the main constraint in accessing seeds, while transport-related restrictions are the main constraints in accessing fertilizers.

When asked about the impact of the locust crisis, one in ten farmers declared that during the year 2020, part of their production was destroyed by the locust.

**Figure 9: Change of crop planting activities due to Covid-19**



**Figure 10: Impact of Covid-19 on farms activities**



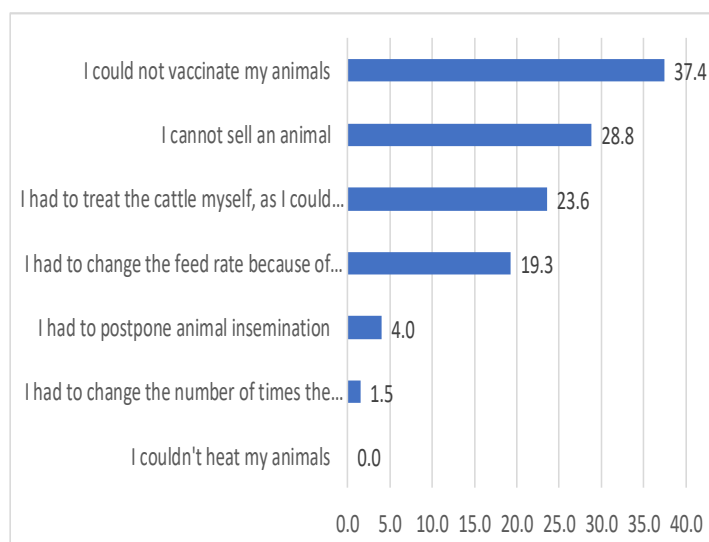


## EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

The Covid-19 pandemic and the related social distancing and travel restriction measures is also affecting those involved in animal husbandry. Households involved in this activity mentioned four main channels through which they are being affected by the covid-19 (Figure 11). The first and most important channel is the difficulty to access vaccine for their animals (cited by 37.4%). The second channel is the reduce access to market for their production (cited by 28.8%). The third channel is the difficulty to access veterinary services (cited by 23.6%). The fourth important channel is the difficulty to access and to provide food for their animal, mainly because of increase cost (cited by 19.3%). This last issues related to animal feeding is more pronounced in urban areas.

Only 0.7% of those involved in animal husbandry mentioned that during the year 2020, their pastoral land was affected by the locust invasion. Poor are those in rural areas were slightly more affected by the locust.

Figure 11: Impact of Covid-19 on animal husbandry



## SOCIAL PROTECTION

Social protection is very limited in Burkina Faso. As a consequence, only 8.8% of households declared that they have received any form of assistance from an institution since March 2020 (Figure 12). The proportion received such assistance is much higher in rural areas (11.6%) compared to Ouagadougou (2.2%) and other urban areas (4.0%). Predominantly, the assistance received was in form of free food (Figure 12). Other type of transfers, including cash transfers, are almost non existent. Only 1.2% of respondents declared that they did received a direct cash transfer from an institution since the covid-19 outbreak.

The social protection sphere is dominated by local NGOs (34.3), the Government (32.8%), international NGOs (16.8%), and religious bodies (11.8%). Religious bodies are more present in urban areas. Local NGOs and international NGOs are predominately present in rural areas. The government presence is spread across all the three residence areas identified here.

Interventions from these institutions are not well targeted. For instance, two in three (68%) beneficiaries of government' assistance are non-poor. Among the institutions listed, only transfers from international NGOs are relatively well targeted, with 54.8% of beneficiaries who are poor.

Figure 12: Assistance from an institution since March

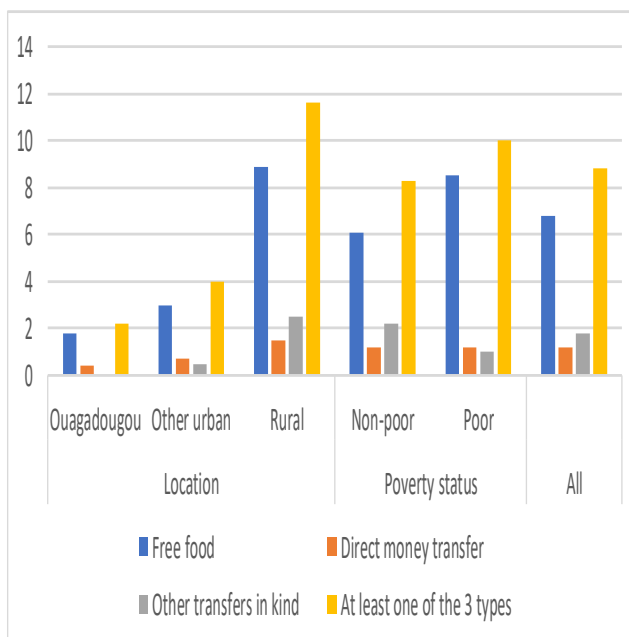
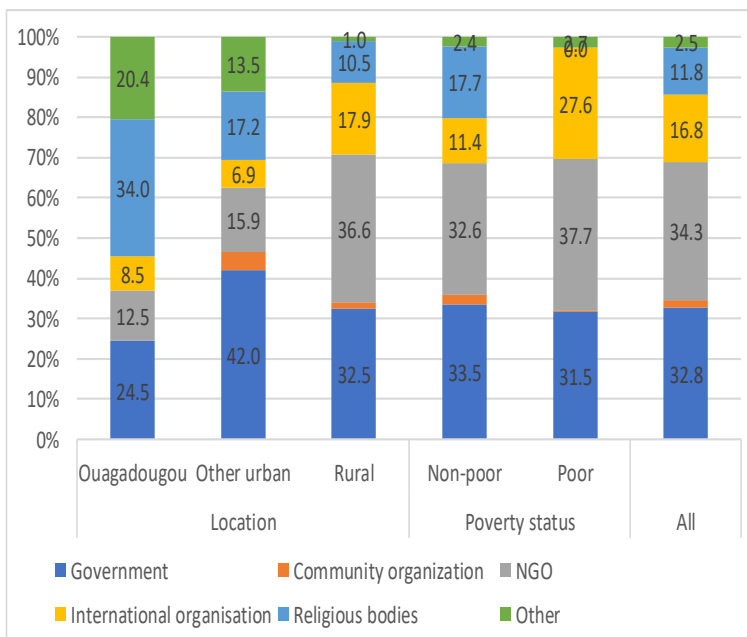


Figure 13: Main source of assistance



This brief was prepared by Clarence Tsimpo Nkengne, Marco Tiberti, and Prosper Backiny-Yetna from the World Bank, Zakaria Koncoba 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 Nove, Pierella Paci, Johan A. Mistiaen, Jean-Pierre Chauffour, Boureima Ouedraogo, and Jean Edouard Odilon Doamba.

For further details on the data, visit <http://surveys.worldbank.org/covid-19> or <http://www.insd.bf/n/>



WORLD BANK GROUP