



Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste Round 2 (SEIA 2.0)

RESULTS FOR COVALIMA MUNICIPALITY





Covalima

12 July and 31 July 2021



16

Sucos



272

Households



67.1%

Agricultural activities



13.8% Households
Headed by women



1232

Individual members

49.7%
Female

50.3%
Male



6 Interviewers
from Covalima

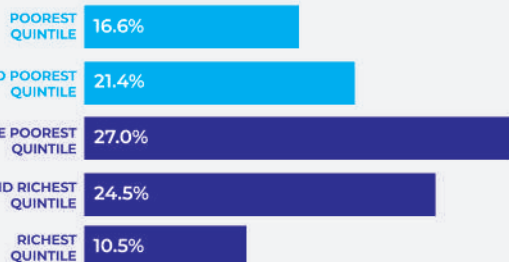
2.8% of individuals aged above 15 years old had a disability.

Data presented in this report are not representative of Covalima. The results represent the households interviewed. Caution must be applied in interpreting data.
Data is reported only at the municipality level. For confidentiality purposes, suco and aldeias included in the survey are not mentioned in this factsheet. For the survey analysis, sample weights were calculated to address the unequal household selection probabilities, non-response and under-coverage. Separate weights were calculated for household-level data, individual-level data and respondent-level data.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR COVALIMA

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

WEALTH QUINTILES IN COVALIMA

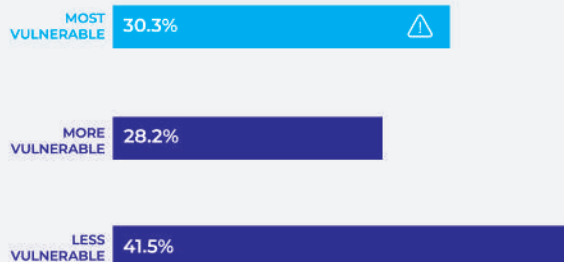


The proportion of the poor households was lower than the national average.

Economic vulnerability of households was measured through a wealth index and making comparisons between the poorest (lowest wealth quintile) and relatively well-off (highest wealth quintiles) households.

The wealth index was calculated based on households' assets, ownership, utilities, and dwelling characteristics.

VULNERABLE GROUPS IN COVALIMA



The social vulnerability index measures the number of characteristics of persons in the household that place them at higher risk of economic deprivation, exclusion, and social isolation.

Households with members of older age, having a disability, female headship of the household and the number of children vis à vis persons in the working-age groups (the child dependency ratio) were measured. Households are divided into 3 groups – Most Vulnerable, More Vulnerable and Less Vulnerable.



30.3% most vulnerable
in Covalima



21.7% most vulnerable
households in the whole country



42.9%
of the persons living in **MOST VULNERABLE** households are men



57.1%
of the persons living in **MOST VULNERABLE** households are women

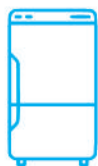
Among the people living in 'most' socially vulnerable households, there were more women than men. The proportion of men and women living in 'more' vulnerable households was similar. In contrast, more than half of the people living in Less vulnerable households were men (53.0% men and 47.0% women).

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did the household have or own one or more of the following items?



39.9%
national average 49.3%



20.2%
national average 30.4%



55.7%
national average 69.9%



9.7%
national average 16.8%



89.5%
national average 92.7%



57.6%
national average 40.3%

Digital technologies and private transportation have been heavily relied upon to mitigate the effects of physical distancing and movement restrictions. The percentage of households that own or have various digital assets is lower in Covalima than the national average.

WASH



82.8%
have water available
in the house



84.6%
national average



99.6%
used soap



75.7%
national average

Number of households with water and soap available in the house was significantly high.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE



20.2%
have some savings



29.5%
borrowed money



36.3%
member(s) with bank accounts

31.8%
national average

30.7%
national average

40.3%
national average

The proportion of households with some savings and with members with bank accounts was considerably lower than average.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN COVALIMA

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



760

individuals aged 15+ years

The SEIA 2.0 asked about their employment situation during the COVID-19 pandemic.



70.0%

labour force participation rate



51.9%

national average

... was higher than the national average.

Proportion of Employed People in the Working-Age Population



73.6%

nationwide employment

41.7% for women



62.6%

nationwide employment

48.6% for men



68.2%

working-age population

were employed in Covalima



45.2%

national average

The employment rate for both women and men were significantly higher than the national average. More men were employed than women.

Employed – The ability of the economy to generate paid or for-profit jobs is the employment-to-population ratio, the proportion of the working-age population that is employed

Unemployment and Economically Inactive People in the Working-Age Population

UNEMPLOYED



2.0%



1.8%

INACTIVE



35.5%



24.6%

Unemployed - refers to persons not in employment in the reference month of the SEIA 2.0 (March 2020), and who, at that time, were seeking employment and were available to start working if an opportunity would have been offered.

Economically inactive - The persons not actively participating in the labour market include those who are not employed and not unemployed

Proportion of Individuals in Vulnerable Employment



87.8%

individuals in vulnerable employment

The categories of self-employed without employees and contributing family workers are considered as being in vulnerable employment.



1.4%

self-employed (without employees)



0.4%

self-employed (without employees)



86.3%
national average

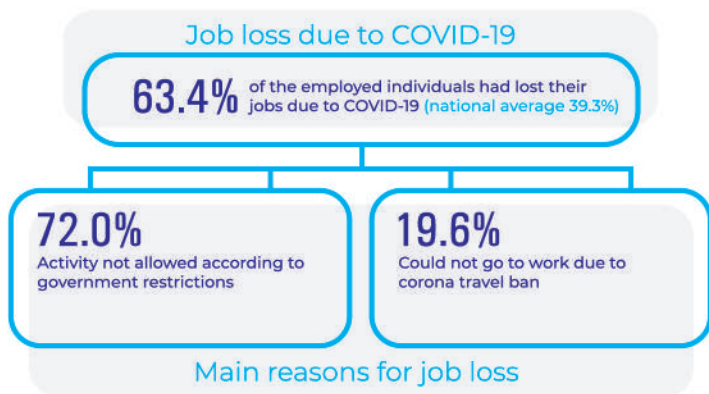
More women are contributing family workers than men.

84.8%

contributing family workers

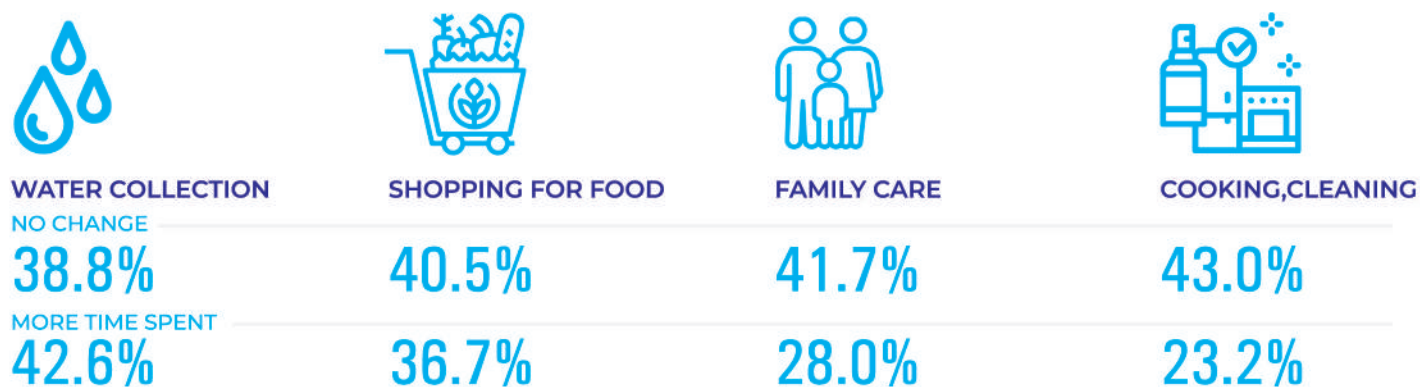
89.4%

contributing family workers



In many, if not most cases, the recorded 'job loss' should be interpreted as a temporary suspension of work.

CHANGES IN TIME SPENT DOING HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19



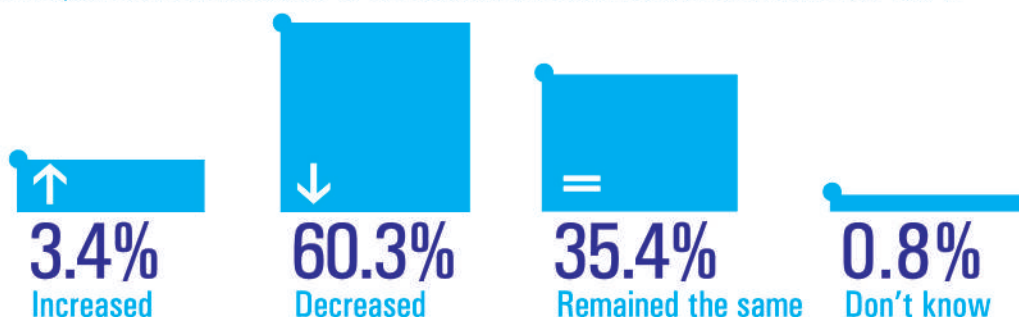
When asked if there has been any change in the amount of time spent on various household chores because of the COVID-19 Emergency, the most affected household chore in Covalima was water collection. In contrast to other municipalities, time spent in cooking and cleaning and child care or caring for sick family members had reduced for nearly one third of the households.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

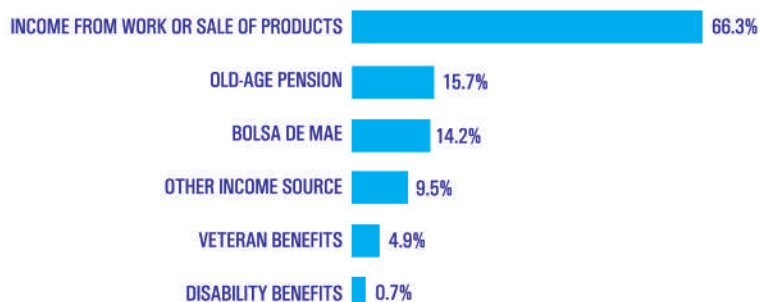
Has the level of your household expenditures increased or decreased due to the corona situation, or did it remain the same?

Nearly two third of the households' expenditure was affected by COVID-19.

The majority of the households' expenditure had decreased.



HOUSEHOLD SOURCES OF INCOME DURING COVID-19



The most common source of income was income from work or sale of products.



24.3% household members had an earning, said their income was affected by the COVID-19

24.6% national average

FOOD INSECURITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

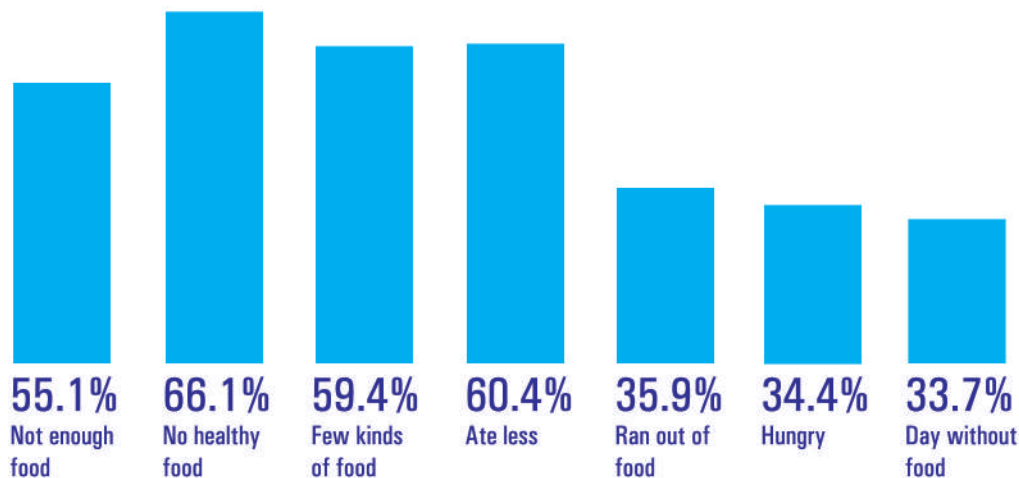
Was there a time during this last one month when you or others in your household [the corresponding experiences presented below] because of a lack of money or other resources?



51.8%
households in Covalima
were affected by moderate
or severe food insecurity

41.4%
national average

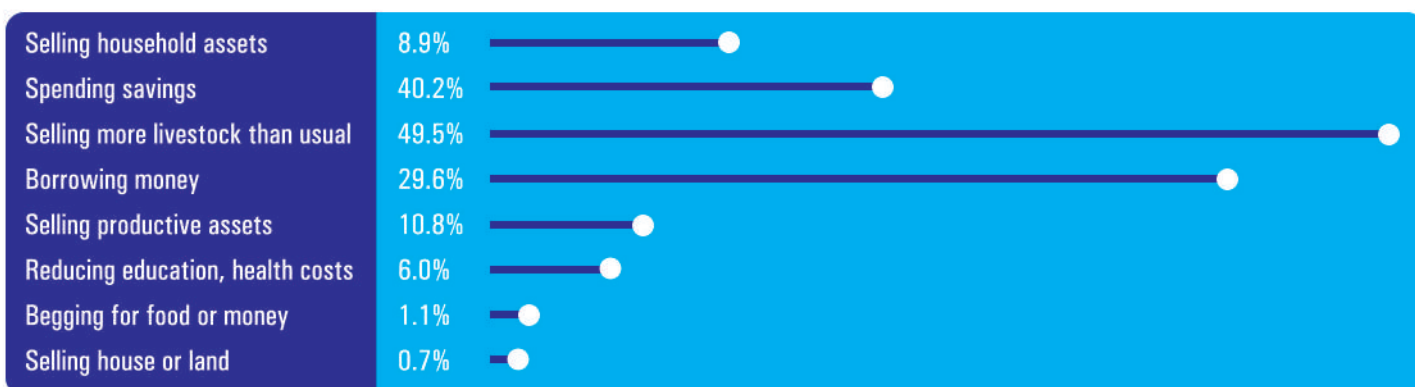
Food concerns experienced in the last one month



Covalima was one of the municipalities with higher levels of food insecurity during the SEIA 2.0 survey.

LIVELIHOOD AND MAJOR DIFFICULTIES

Because of a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food, did your household in the last one month had to ...?



Most common coping strategies used were selling more livestock, spending savings and borrowing money. Households belonging to the poorest wealth quintiles had to use coping mechanisms than those in the richest quintile.



54.4%
households mentioned they faced major
difficulties or shocks affecting their lives
since the COVID-19 State of Emergency



24.5%
households
experienced Erratic
rainfall / dry spells



21.4%
households
experienced
poor harvest



18.1%
households experienced serious
illness / catastrophic health
expenditure

When asked to reveal their major worries during the COVID-19, majority of respondents mentioned 'my health and those of my close ones' as the main concern over other concerns.



What is your main
concern about COVID-19?

63.3%
health

34.2% lack of
money or food

Further 1.3% of respondents
cited the main concern related
to COVID-19 was the negative
effects of the pandemic on the
national economy

FLOOD IMPACT

Over the Easter weekend in the beginning of April 2021, Timor-Leste suffered devastating floods and landslides. The combination of the pandemic and the Easter flood created a perilous situation that posed a direct threat to people's health and livelihood. Covalima was one of the municipalities less affected by the natural disaster.



2.5%

households had their dwelling damaged by the Easter Flood



30.8%

agricultural households interviewed had their standing crops and harvest destroyed due to Easter flood



51.4 %

persons who had an income indicated that their income had changed because of the Easter Flood (national average 62.8%)

SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN COVALIMA

HEALTH



80.7%

households interviewed needed medical treatment national average 60.8%



18.8%

could access health services ALWAYS



80.7%

could access health services SOMETIMES



0.0%

The number of households that indicate they were able to access health services anytime was considerably low.

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, what has been the change in your household's utilization of health services?



37.2%

No change



60.2%

Increased



1.6%

Decreased

Have any of the children below age 10 in this household missed vaccinations (immunization) since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?



17.1%

missed child vaccination (immunization)

national average 20.3%



Did any female members of the household aged between 15-49 miss family planning or any other reproductive health service since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?



29.4%

missed reproductive health services

national average 26.2%

55.6% said women missed reproductive health services because of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

95.8%

have heard about COVID-19 vaccines

national average 91.7%

58.9%

had concerns about COVID-19 vaccines

national average 50.4%

39.8%

Respondents were mostly worried about health side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines

37.3%

were worried about death or serious illness

EDUCATION

The SEIA 2.0 tried to identify the impact of COVID-19 on education services in the country by looking at missed in-person learning opportunities and sources of distance learning. Education-related questions were asked to all household members aged between 4 and 25 years.



620

persons aged 4-25 years in the survey in Covalima



51.0%

male



49.0%

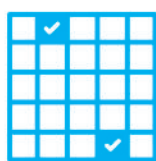
female

Educational attendance after school reopening in 2021



86.2%

students were attending schools regularly



10.6%

attending schools irregularly



3.2%

did not attend at all when schools reopened

Majority of students

have been attending schools regularly when the reopened in 2021.



68.8%

students continued studying at home on a daily basis during school closures

national average 62.6%



33.9%

used student workbooks of the Ministry of Education

national average 48.6%



9.5%

used TV programme 'Eskola Ba Uma'

national average 10.4%



21.5%

used online material 'Learning Passport' of the Ministry of Education

national average 13.3%

The use of student workbooks was lower while those who used online learning platform was higher than the national average.

29.6% studied irregularly

1.6% did not continue studying or studied irregularly at home

75.9% mentioned 'Lack of printed materials at home' as the main reason for not continue studying at home

Among those who studied irregularly or did not study, 'No one available to help the person study' was the second most mentioned reason (12.1%).

Improving the production and distribution of printed learning materials across the country, reaching the poorest households, and remote locations is important. Messages for parents and caregivers on how they can support their children during home schooling should be strengthened.

There was no significant difference based on gender of the students.

TRUST AND SUPPORT

Trust and support in community was strong, yet individual well-being is lower among people experiencing livelihood difficulties



49.6%
strongly trust
or trust others
in their
community
national average 89.6%

There was no
difference in the
response by gender.



46.9%
of all respondents said
people's trust in each
other got better since the
start of the COVID-19
State of Emergency
national average 72.9%

Slightly more men than
women considered trust in each other improved (48.8% of men and 41.5% of women)



37.9%
of households
received help of
some kind
national average 68.1%

The number of households that both received
and given help to others outside their household
was lower compared to other municipalities.



16.1%
of households
had given help of
some kind to others
national average 30.2%

Top 2 types of support received by households



Food

100%
of those that received help / 13.9% of all households
in Covalima



Cash

26.0%
of those that received help / 3.8% of all households
in Covalima

Top 2 support providers to the households



91.2% National
government

Among the households that received support, national government was the
main source of support during the COVID-19 Emergency.

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

How people view their life and how they feel is important to understand the social conditions of the society. Therefore, the SEIA 2.0 asked how people evaluate various aspects of their lives and how they felt just a day before the interview.

Overall, how satisfied
are you with life as a
whole these days?

99.2%
male

97.5%
female

Nearly all respondents (98.2%) said
they are satisfied with their life as a
whole these days.



sad

59.0%

47.2%

A high number of respondents mentioned they felt tired and
more men than women had felt sad at some point the day
before the interview.



worried

38.0 %

35.4 %



tired

80.2%

73.9%



felt happy

86.8%

90.6%

A large number of
respondents indicated
they felt happy.

SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY MEASURES

The results show the satisfaction of the people in Covalima with the government response and how the national and local Government worked closely with the communities to disseminate information about COVID-19 and relevant support measures



23.2%
found the information timely
national average 44.9%



75.1%
found the information somewhat timely
national average 36.8%

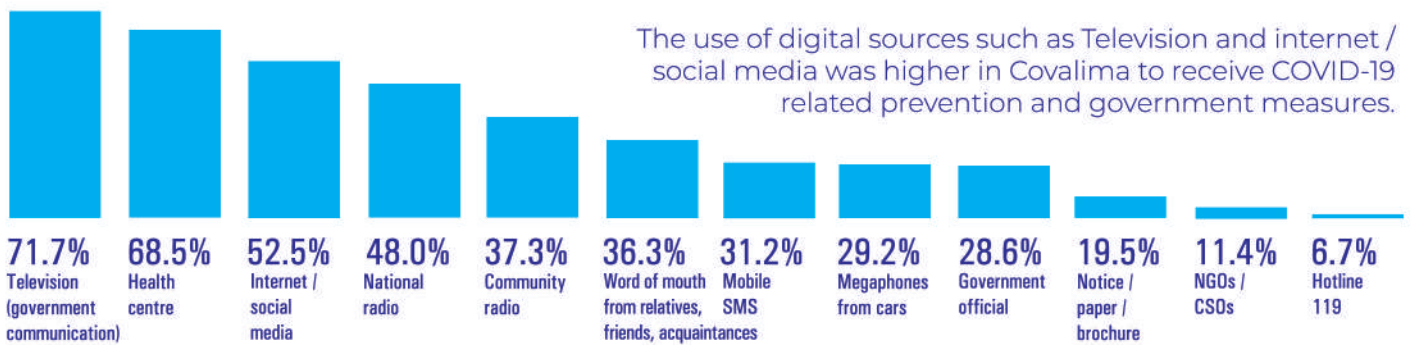


21.4%
found the information useful
national average 55.6%



73.5%
found the information somewhat useful
national average 40.9%

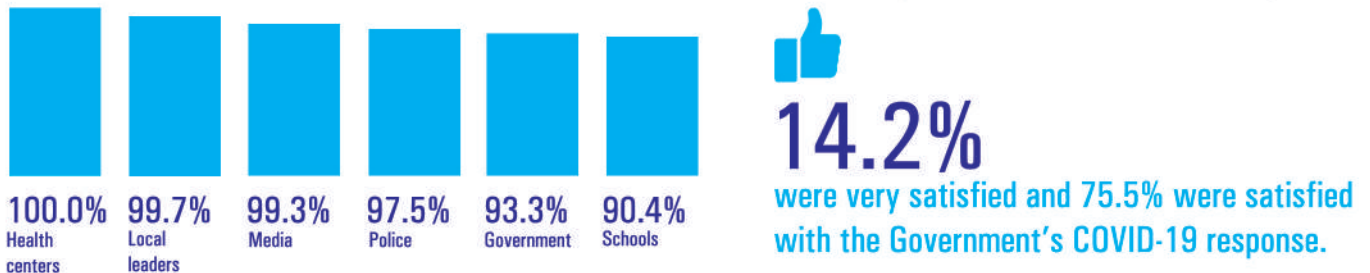
Households' sources of COVID-19 information



How satisfied are you with the response of the <following institutions> to COVID-19 in supporting citizens?

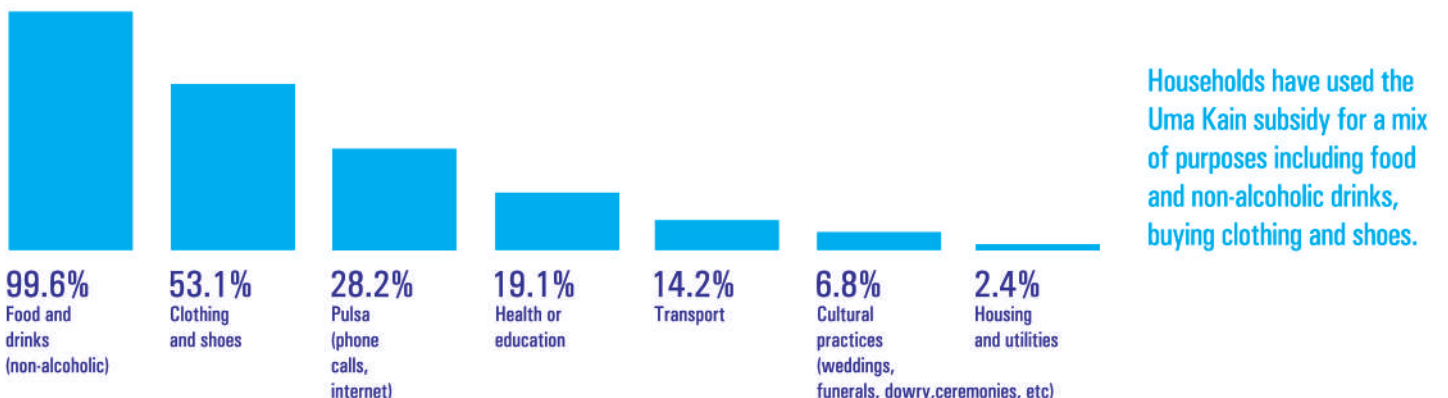
Proportion of respondents satisfied with institutions' responses to COVID-19

Covalima was one of the municipalities with highest levels of satisfaction with various institutions' response to COVID-19, including schools.



The SEIA 2.0 asked how the households used the Uma Kain subsidy. (One household can choose several options)

Households' spending of the Uma Kain subsidy



Satisfaction with Cesta Básica was high both for women and men in Covalima.

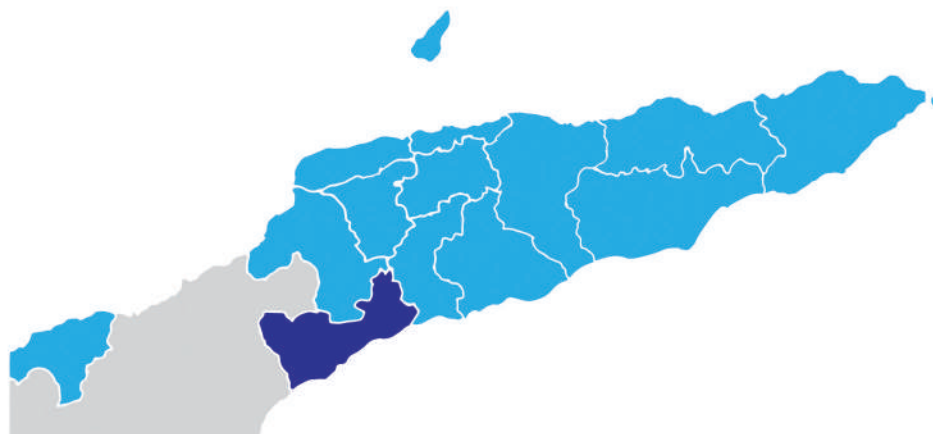


In your opinion, what are the two most important measures the government should implement to support household livelihoods or micro businesses?

Top 2 preferred livelihood support measures



14.9% of respondents mentioned they 'do not know' which measures should be prioritized. The Respondents from richest households were more likely to say 'Don't know'.



The study shows how the COVID-19 situation has exacerbated underlying issues within the country, including large gaps in development between different income groups, rural and urban settings, the effects of climate hazards, and limited access to education, health services, social protection programmes and markets.

To cope with the confluence of the pandemic, Easter Flood and major difficulties, households have employed coping strategies that hinder further improvement in their lives.

The study also finds resilience among communities, the important role of the national government in social support, and continued efforts of various government and civil society organisations to reduce these negative impacts.

During the entire COVID-19 pandemic period, the Government of Timor-Leste has taken proactive measures to protect the population from spread of the virus and has implemented concrete steps to counteract the worst socio-economic consequences of twin shocks.

Using the SEIA 2.0 findings, a series of recommendations for policymakers to consider in developing strategy for a robust socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are proposed in the full report.

ABOUT THE SEIA 2.0 PROJECT

This Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, Round 2 (SEIA 2.0) was led by UNDP and UNFPA and conducted in collaboration with UN Women, UNICEF, UN Timor-Leste Resident Coordinator's Office, and the General Directorate of Statistics of the Ministry of Finance in Timor-Leste.

The nationwide SEIA 2.0 was conducted between April 2021 and October 2021 covering 4292 households with 23,362 members from 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste. The SEIA 2.0 seeks to inform what livelihood, healthcare, and other essential services are necessary to allow planners and practitioners from all sectors to target their responses to the needs of the population.

Full reports and executive summaries in English and Tetum can be accessed here:

https://www.tl.undp.org/content/timor_lemte/en/home/library/poverty/socio-economic-impact--assessment-of-covid-19--in-timor-lemte--r.html



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