

# Livelihoods under COVID-19: #1

## Livelihoods and inequality

### Ugandan citizens' views and experiences



This data packet presents citizens' views and experiences on livelihoods and agriculture in the time of Coronavirus. How many have continued to work during the outbreak? Do those who have stopped have work to return to when the outbreak is over? How is the outbreak affecting household finances? And how are households responding to financial challenges?

The data comes from *Sauti za Wananchi* survey, a nationally-representative, high-frequency mobile phone panel survey of public opinion and citizens' experiences and were collected by the Food Rights Alliance and Twaweza. Further details are available from [www.twaweza.org/sauti](http://www.twaweza.org/sauti). The Food Rights Alliance was generously supported in this work by Hivos.

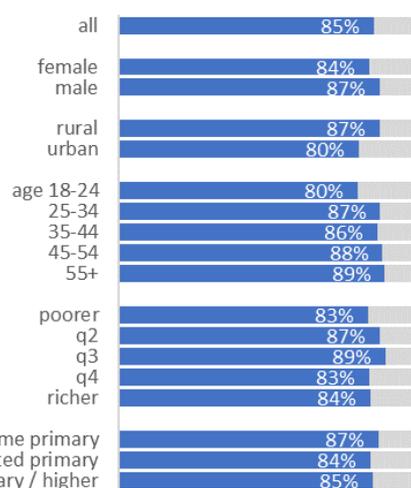
#### Insight 1. Most Ugandans have continued some work during the COVID-19 outbreak

A majority of citizens (85%) have continued some work, whether paid or unpaid (including agricultural work but excluding household chores or hobbies), during the COVID-19 outbreak. This is higher in rural areas (87%) than urban (80%). In urban areas, one out of five residents (20%) did not do even an hour's work over the previous week.

One in ten urban residents (10%) said they did no work because of the lockdown, compared to 5% in rural areas. Overall, 5% said they did no work over this period for health reasons (not shown in charts).

Among those in urban areas who have done no work during this period, one out of three (33%) have depended on their spouse or family and friends for food. Significant numbers have drawn on savings (16%) and others depended on government assistance (14%). In rural areas, depending on family and friends has also been significant (25%) along with harvesting food from their garden (17%) (not shown in charts).

% who did any work (paid or unpaid) in the last complete week, even if only an hour?



Source: *Sauti za Wananchi*, round 16, May-June 2020

#### Insight 2. 1 out of 10 citizens has no work to go back after the lockdown

One out of ten citizens (8%) has no work to go back to after this period. This is slightly higher in urban areas (10%) compared to rural (7%).

Among those who have no work to go back to, four out of ten (39%) say they will have to depend on friends and family, while three out of ten (29%) say they produce more food and/or use food stocks they already have. Women (50%) and those aged 18-24 (50%) or 55 and over (59%) are more likely to say they will depend on others (not shown in charts).

Although you did not do any work during the last week, do you have any economic/income generating activities you will definitely return to?



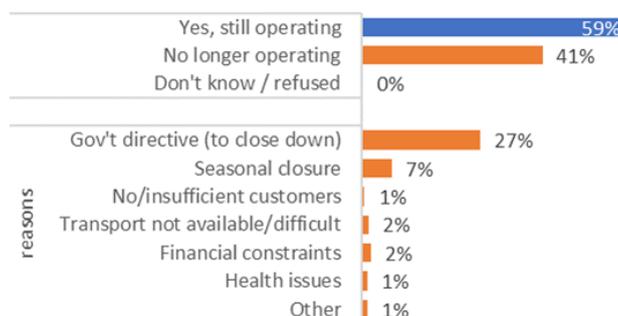
Source: *Sauti za Wananchi*, round 16, May-June 2020

#### Insight 3. Of those who operate a business, 6 out of 10 have continued operating

Of those households who operate a (trading, retail or non-agricultural services) business, six out of ten (59%) are still currently operating these businesses. Four out of ten (41%) are no longer operating.

Among the businesses that are no longer operating, three out of ten (27%) have shut down or suspended operations due to the lockdown, either because they have been directed to do so as part of the national measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, or because such measures (such as transport restrictions) have made it impossible to operate as normal.

Are these enterprises you mentioned still operating? If not, why not?

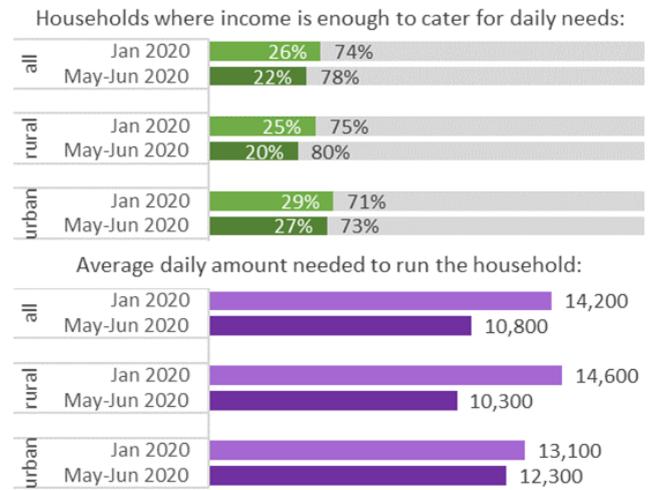


Source: *Sauti za Wananchi*, round 16, May-June 2020

#### Insight 4. More households report feeling financial strain at present compared to the start of the year

A quarter of households (26%) now report that their income is insufficient to cover their basic daily needs, a slight increase from 22% in January 2020. The increased financial strain is more apparent in rural areas.

This increase in financial strain is despite households also reporting that their daily financial needs are considerably lower than was the case in January. Households reported requiring an average of UGS 14,100 per day in January, but now report needing UGS 10,800. The drop in reported daily needs is sharper in rural households (from 14,600 to 10,300) than urban households (13,100 to 12,300).



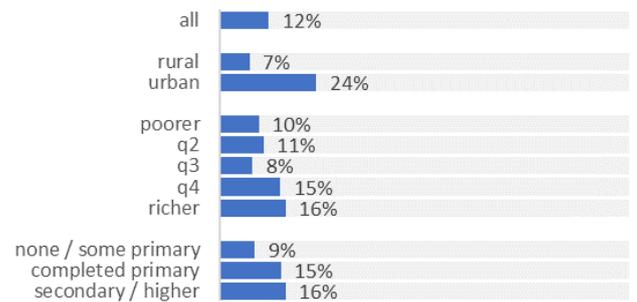
Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020

#### Insight 5. Urban households are three times as likely as rural to benefit from support from government, NGOs or others

One out of ten households (12%) have received some form of support (cash or in-kind) in the previous two months from government or an NGO, faith organisations, company, foundation or individual not known to them. This is three times more common in urban areas (24% of households) than rural (7%). Wealthier households are also more likely to receive such support than poorer households (15-16%, compared to 8-11%), and better-educated households are more likely to attract support.

Most of the support reported has been in the form of food aid. One out of ten households (9%) nationally has received food aid in the past two months, rising to two out of ten (21%) in urban areas and falling to one out of twenty rural households (4%) (not shown in charts).

% of households that have received any gifts/support (cash, in kind etc) in the past two months from government, NGO, FBO, private sector, foundation or individual not known to them:



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020

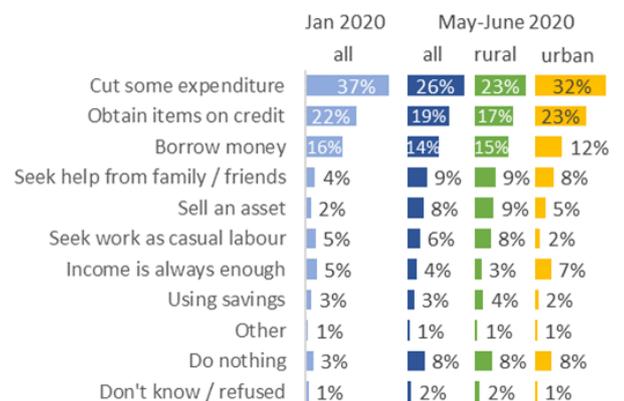
#### Insight 6. The most common response to difficult household finances is to cut spending

A quarter of households (26%) report that when there is not enough money to cover daily needs they find ways to cut expenditure. This is more common in urban areas (32%) than rural (23%). Urban households are also more likely to get items on credit while those in rural areas are more likely to borrow money, sell something or seek casual work.

Compared to January 2020, households are now less likely to say they would cut expenditure, but more likely to seek help from family or friends or to sell something.

Among those who would borrow money, the main source is friends and neighbours (56%), followed by savings groups (17%) and family (10%) (not shown in charts).

What happens when the amount to run the household on a daily basis is not enough?

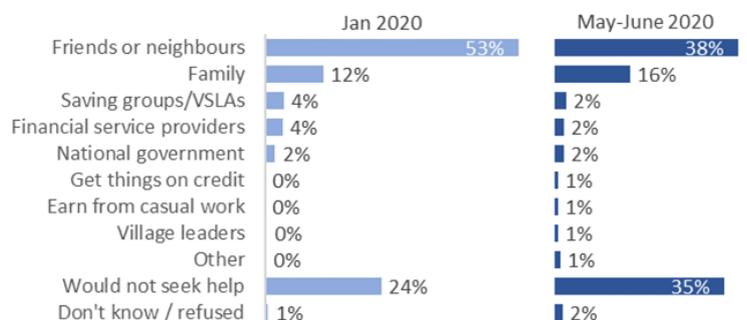


Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020

#### Insight 7. Households are now less likely to seek assistance if they are short of money than at the start of the year

One out of three households (35%) now say they would not seek assistance if they lacked the money to feed their family, up from one out of four households (24%) in January 2020. At that time, half (53%) said they would seek help from friends or neighbours; this has now dropped to four out of ten (38%).

When you do not have enough money to feed your family and meet other household needs, who would you seek help from?



Source: Sauti za Wananchi, round 16, May-June 2020