



ADHERENCE TO COVID-19 NON-PHARMACEUTICAL CONTAINMENT MEASURES AND IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON LIVELIHOODS IN UGANDA

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ABSTRACT

In response to the fast-spreading nature of the pandemic, a number of non-pharmaceutical measures and guidelines were introduced to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. National and district COVID-19 task forces were set up to coordinate response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Activities included public sensitization on the control measures in an effort to curb the pandemic. Government announced a lockdown that restricted movement of persons from one area to another – no private cars or public means of transport were allowed to operate. These guidelines focused on transmission control using preventive actions like social-distancing, hand washing with soap and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizing gels as well as wearing of face masks. Citizens were encouraged to stay at home with the exception of essential workers who rendered critical services. A population based survey was conducted in the Makerere University’s Iganga Mayuge population-based longitudinal cohort (Iganga Mayuge Health and Demographic Surveillance Site) to understand how community members responded to the non-pharmaceutical interventional measures, and the impact on their livelihood.

TOPLINE FINDINGS

- Community members adhered to COVID-19 non-pharmaceutical control measures that were enforced by the government while adherence to measures that were dependent on individual enforcement was low.
- 70% of the community members reported either a reduction or complete stopping of the income of the household main income earners during lockdown.
- Access to essential service was problematic for specific needs.
- A quarter of the respondents who were taking medication due to a long-term condition ran out of drugs during lockdown and 10% who ran out of drugs prescribed for a long-term condition could not access drugs due to lock down restrictions.
- There was general increase in all kinds of violence and more marital problems were reported during lockdown

ADHERENCE TO COVID-19 NON-PHARMACEUTICAL RESPONSE MEASURES

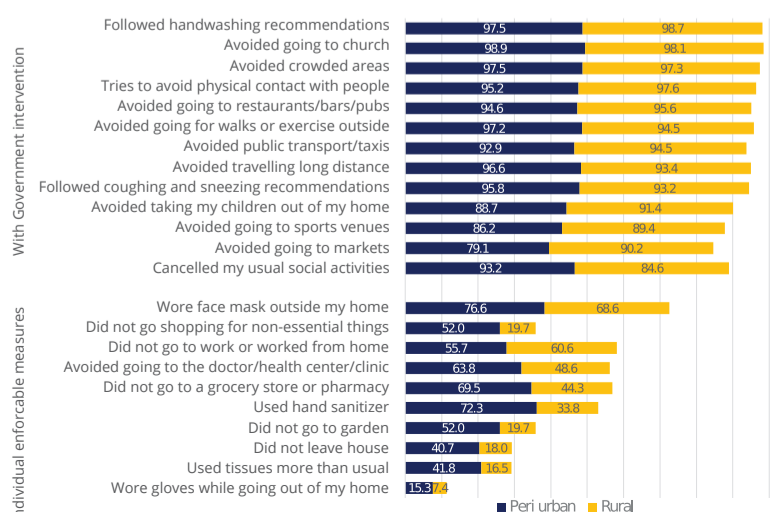
KEY FINDINGS

- Majority of respondents adhered to COVID-19 control measures that were enforced by the government with adherence averaging at 94% whereas adherence to non-pharmaceutical measures that were dependent on individual enforcement averaged at 43%
- 60% of the respondents reported working from home and 50% reported that they avoided seeking medical care at health facility during lockdown
- Practices like using hand sanitizer and using tissue more than usual were adopted more by Peri-urban respondents as compared to rural respondents.

Adherence to selected COVID-19 pandemic non-pharmaceutical control measures



Adherence to selected COVID-19 control measures by residence

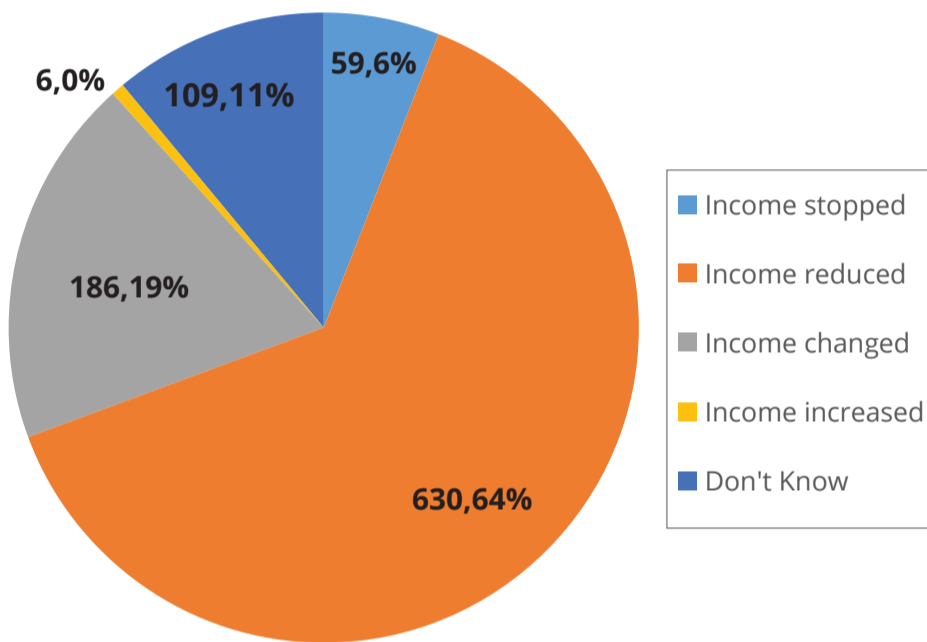


ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19

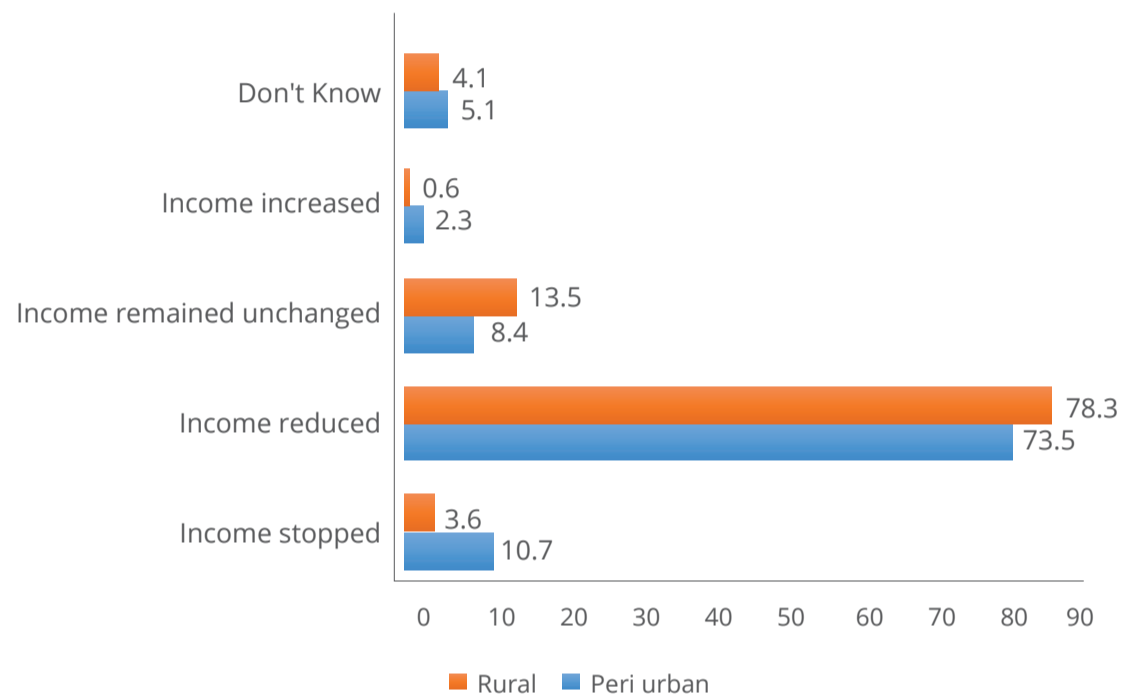
KEY FINDINGS

- There was general reduction in the income of community members and some stopped earning
- More rural residents reported a reduction in income compared to Peri-urban residents.
- Residents did not access what they considered essential needs – majority mentioned communication (airtime) and transport from one point to another

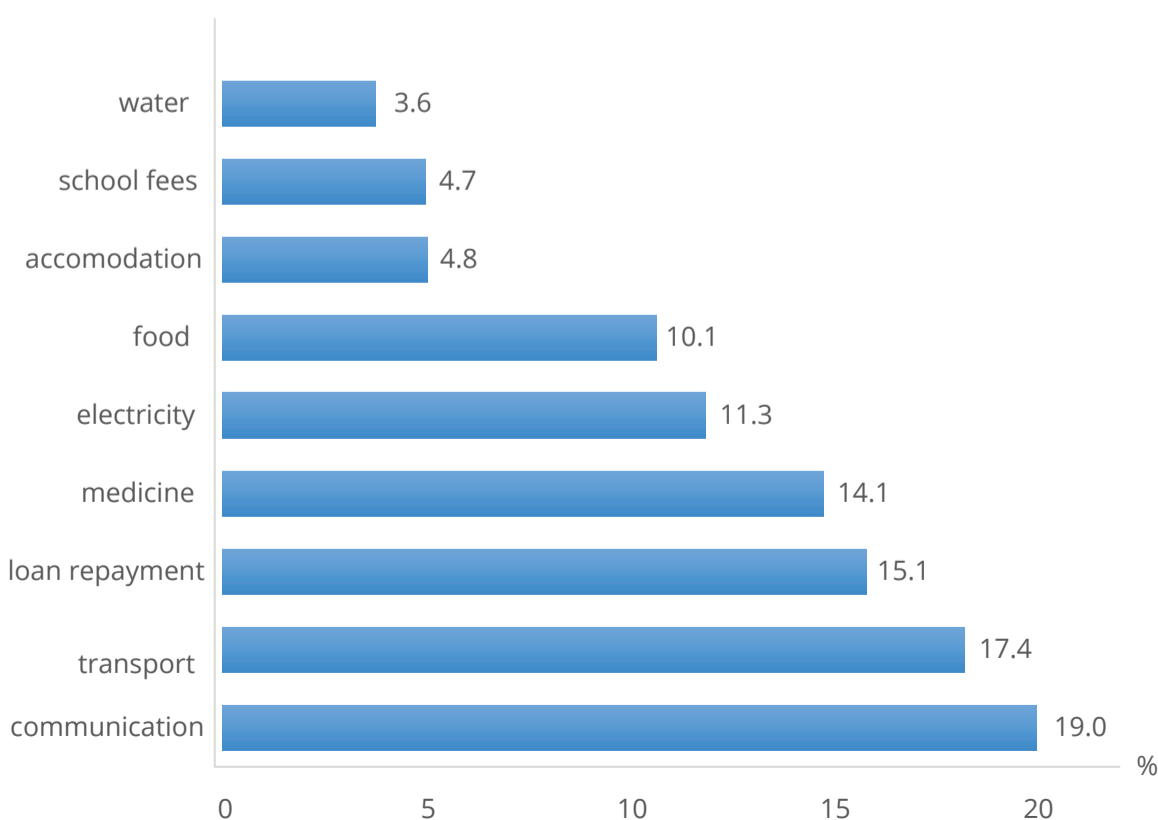
Impact of COVID-19 on the income of the household main earner



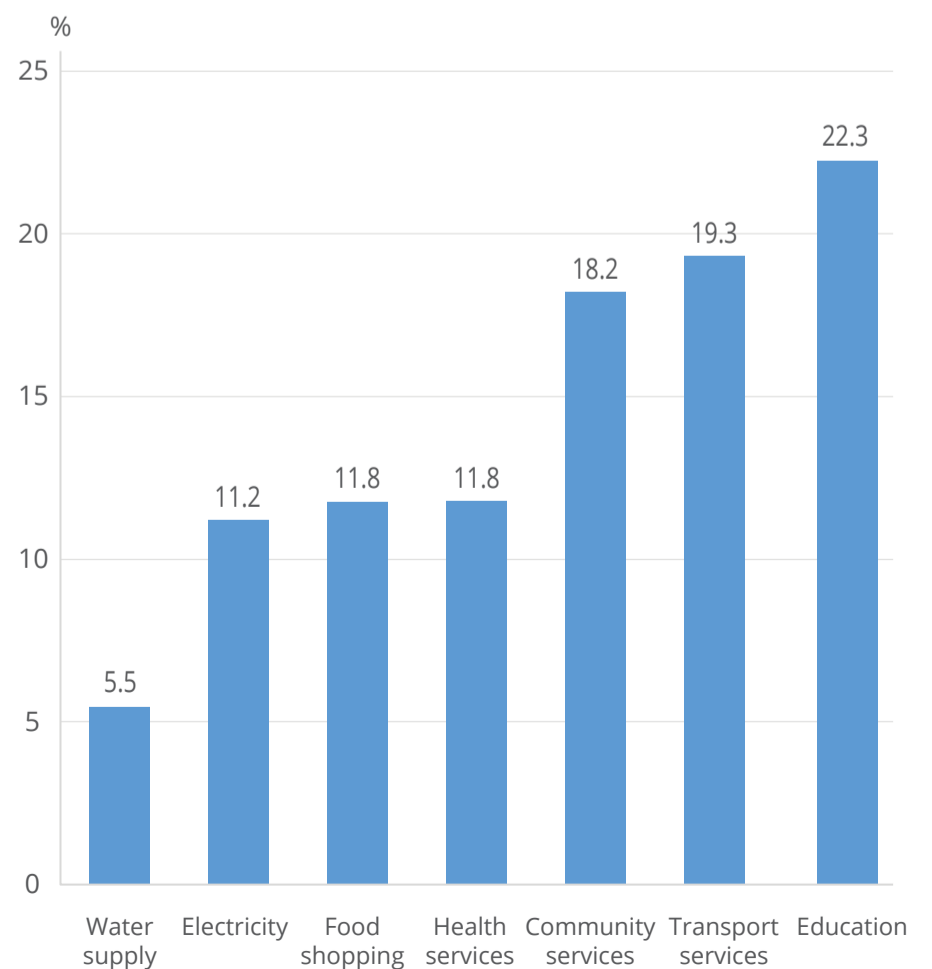
Effect of the lockdown on income status by place of residence



Are there times when the household could not afford some of these essential needs?



Did your access to these services change as a result of lockdown?

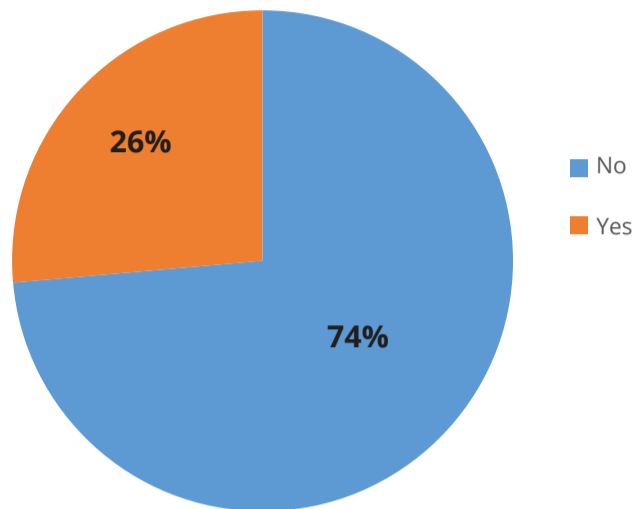


ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

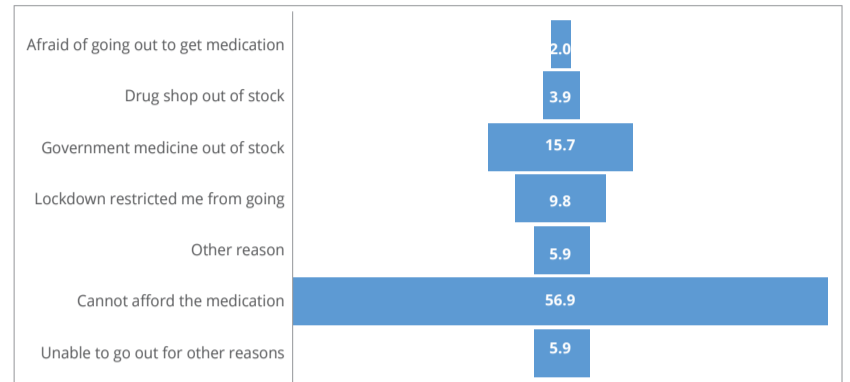
KEY FINDINGS

- 26% of respondents who were taking medication due to a long-term condition ran out of drugs during lockdown.
- While majority could not afford medication, 19% reported stockouts at both public and private health facilities and 10% were restricted by lockdown measures.

Have you run out of any of the drugs prescribed by a doctor for a long-time condition?



Reasons for running out of drugs/medication

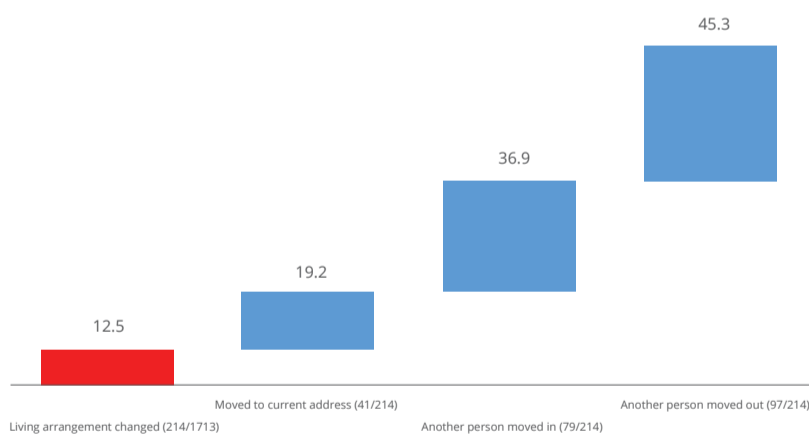


SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

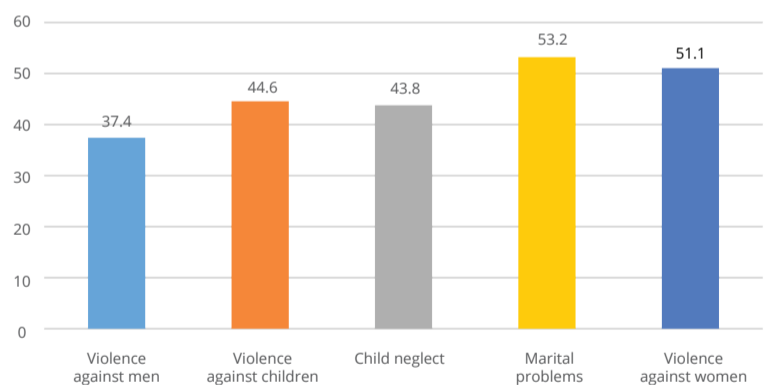
KEY FINDINGS

- There was change in living arrangement in One out of every ten households. Most of this was because someone moved out of the household.
- There was increase in violence in a number of areas. More respondent reported increase in marital problems. Violence against women during lockdown was reported by half of the respondent and was reported more by rural residents than in Peri-urban residents.

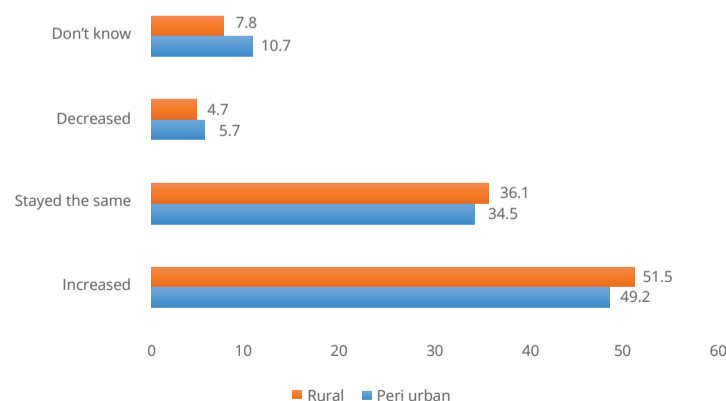
Did your living arrangement change in any of these ways due to COVID 19?



Increase in violence during Lockdown



Change in violence against women by place of residence



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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