

# **Learning from Rapid Data to Inform Policy on COVID-19 in Zambia and Malawi**

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September 11, 2020



# Today's Panelists



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Using rigorous  
research to reduce  
poverty & improve  
lives

# IPA's Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVR)



**Rapid response surveys to answer critical policy questions (8+ countries)**



**A global hub that centralizes research and policy lessons**



**A portfolio of IPA studies to generate rigorous evidence (80+ studies)**



**Advising 15+ governments on evidence-based approaches**



**Research-on-Research to strengthen the quality of remote data collection**

# RECOVR Survey: Key Takeaways



Over 25% of respondents say they never stayed home in the past week



More than 50% of employed individuals have earned less pay than they did in a typical week before the government closed schools



Over 50% of respondents say they have had to deplete savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020



Over 35% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals at least once in the past week



50% of respondents report their primary school children are spending time on education at home, and over 35% of respondents report their secondary school children are spending time on education at home

# Zambia Survey Information

Dates of survey: June 15-July 6, 2020

Sampling method: *Random Digit Dialing of phone numbers*

Sample size: 1,278 respondents out of 3,213 call attempts

Average respondent demographics:

- % Women: 43%
  - Age: 31.9 years old
  - % that completed secondary school: 80%
  - Household size: 5.2 people
  - % Under national poverty line: 31%
- (Estimated with the [PPI](#))

# Zambia RECOVR: Survey and Policy Timeline

Mar 16      Mar 30      Apr 13      Apr 27      May 11      May 25      Jun 8      Jun 22      Jul 6      July 21      Aug 4

## Partial Lockdown

20 Mar-8 May

## IPA RECOVR Survey Round 1

15 Jun- 6 July

### ● Closure of Public Schools

20 Mar

### ● Closure of restaurants, bars, cinemas, and crossborder commercial travel

27 Mar

### ● Facemasks required in public

16 Apr

### ● Suspension of tourist visas

29 Apr

### ● Closure of border with Tanzania

11 May

### ● Enactment of fiscal measures

27 Mar

### ● Enactment of additional fiscal measures

20 Apr

### Launch of Emergency Cash Transfer ●

28 July

## Legend



Public Health Measures



Economic Measures



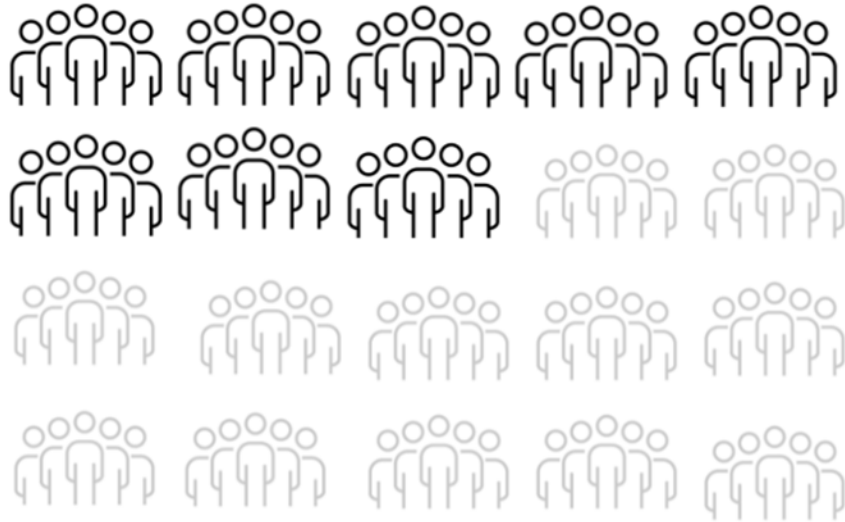
IPA RECOVR

1

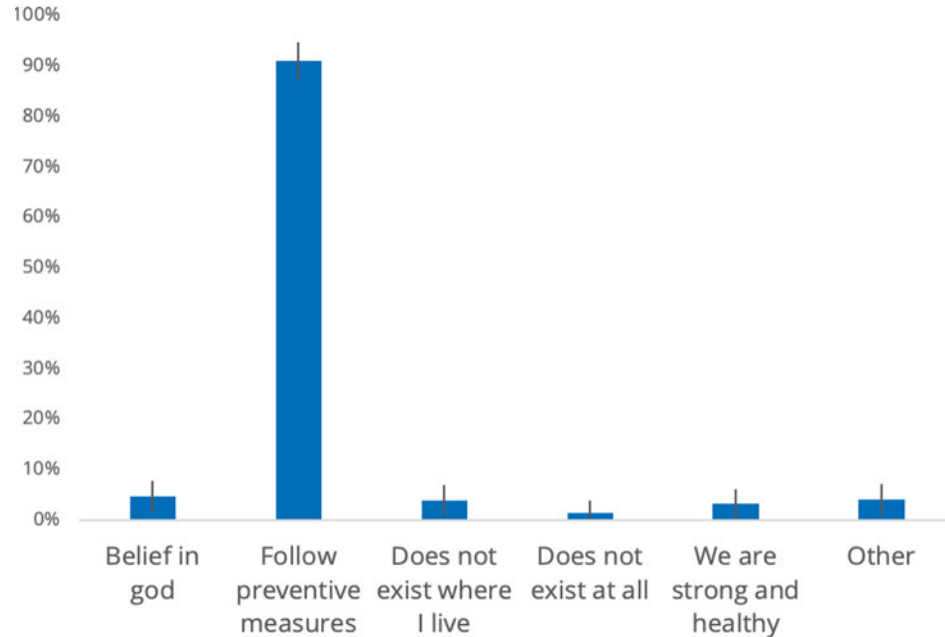
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation



**Almost 40% of respondents say they feel someone in their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19**



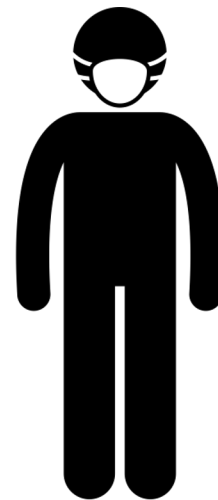
**For those who do NOT feel at risk (64%), over 90% of respondents say that it is because they are following preventative measures**



## Respondents report increases in some virus-mitigating health behaviors



Almost **80%** of respondents report more frequent hand-washing since mid-March



**80%** of respondents report wearing a homemade (cloth) face mask or other covering in public in the last 7 days

## ...and less compliance with other behaviors



Over **25%** of respondents say there was not 1 day in the week in which they stayed entirely at home

- Men were more likely than women to not stay entirely at home, while women were more likely than men to stay home every day in the past week
- Poorer and wealthier respondents were similarly unlikely to stay home in the past week

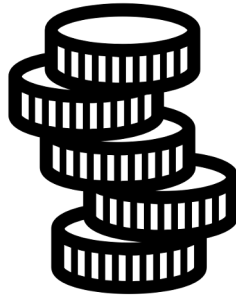
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# **Social Protection & Financial Resilience**

# Respondents have experienced sharp, adverse effects from the economic fallout of COVID-19 restrictions



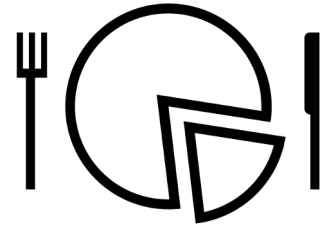
**40%** report shortages in the markets prevent them from buying food



**64%** report drops in income prevent them from buying food

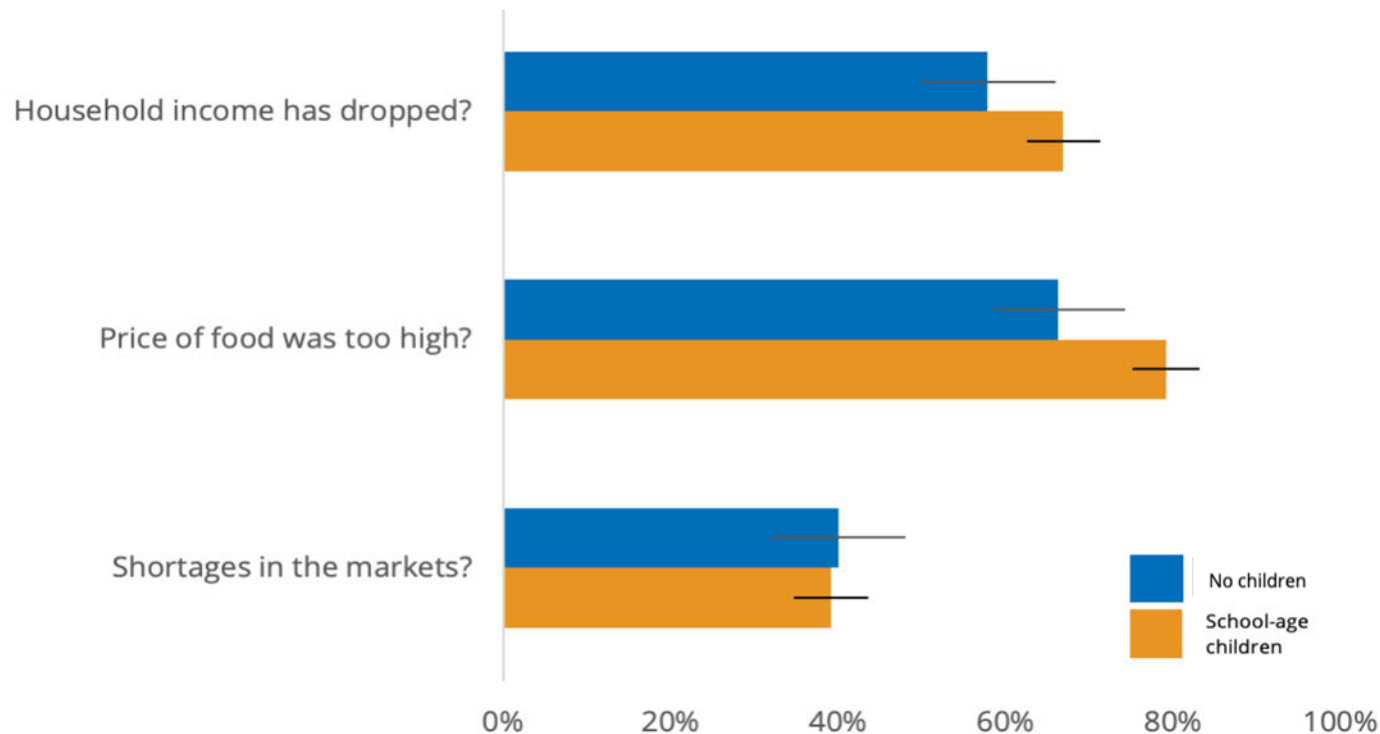


More than **70%** report the price of food was too high

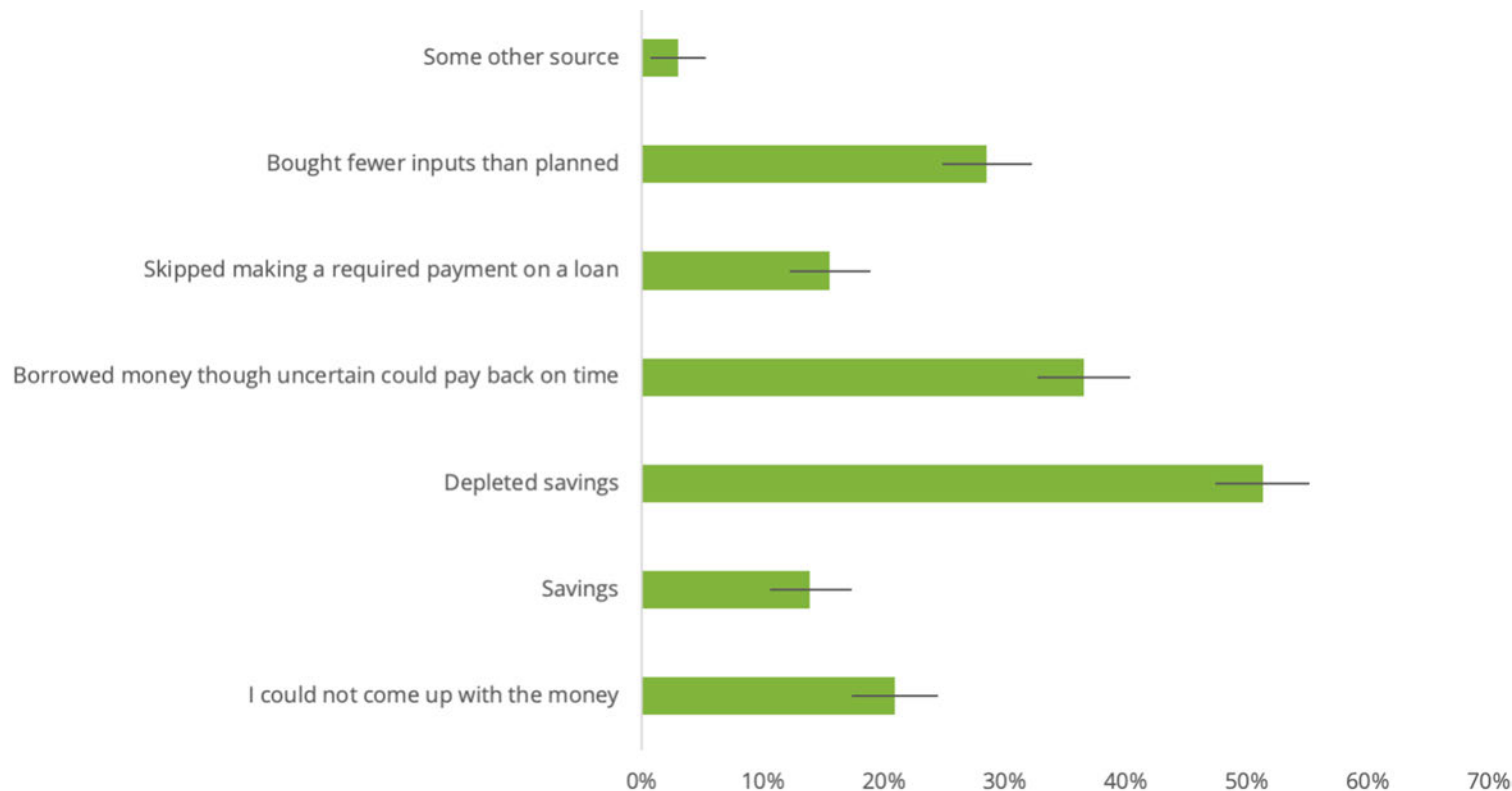


Over **35%** say they've had to limit portion sizes or reduce the number of meals in the past week

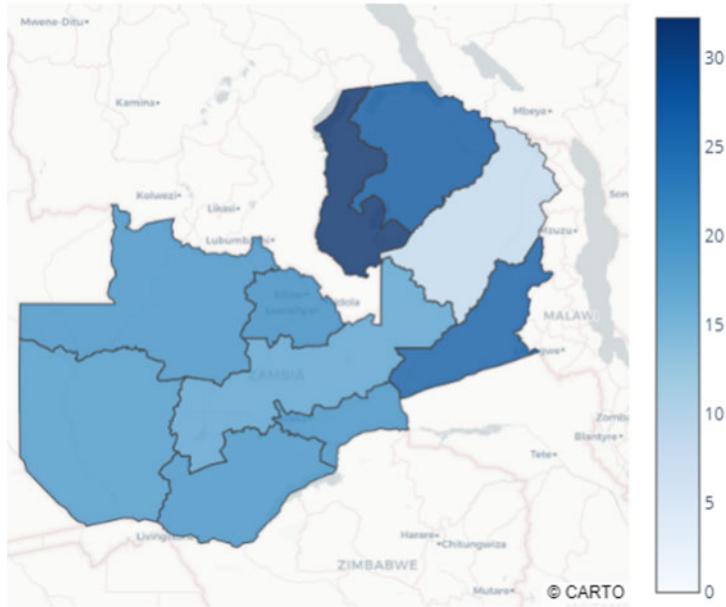
## Households with school-age children are more likely than those without children to report difficulty in buying the usual amount of food because price of food was too high or household income has dropped



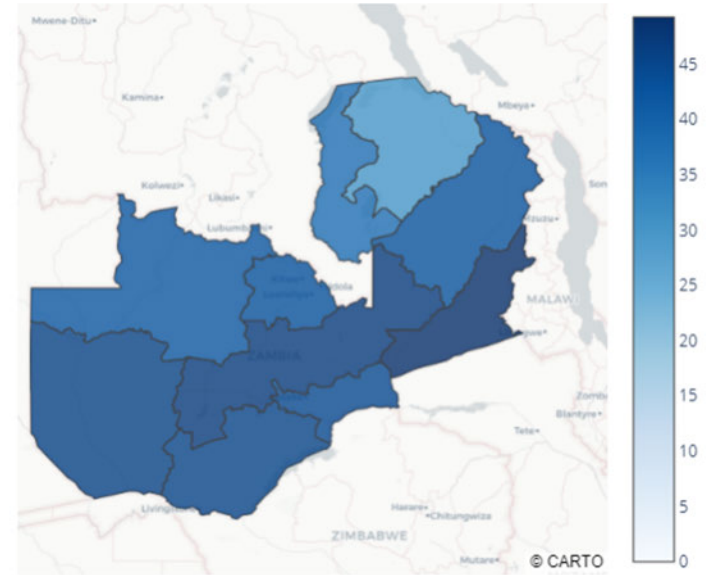
# More than half of respondents say they have had to deplete their savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020



**20% of respondents say they could not come up with 800 kwacha for an emergency within the next 30 days**




**Respondents from Northern Province had the least difficulty in coming up with K800 to pay for an emergency while Eastern region had the most difficulty**







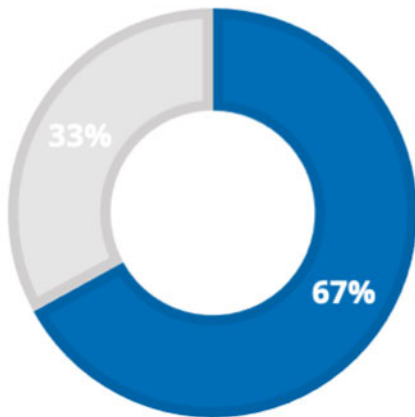
# Policy Implications: Health and Social Protection



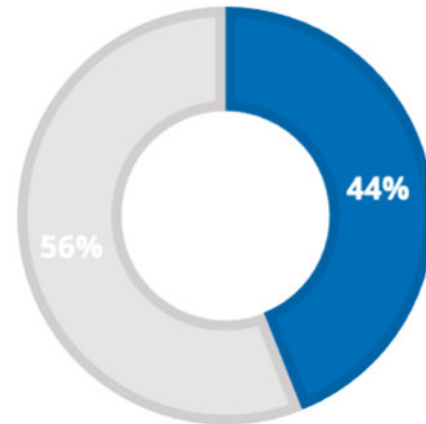
# **Economic Activity & Employment**

# While 67% of respondents report working in February, 44% of households report working in the past 7 days

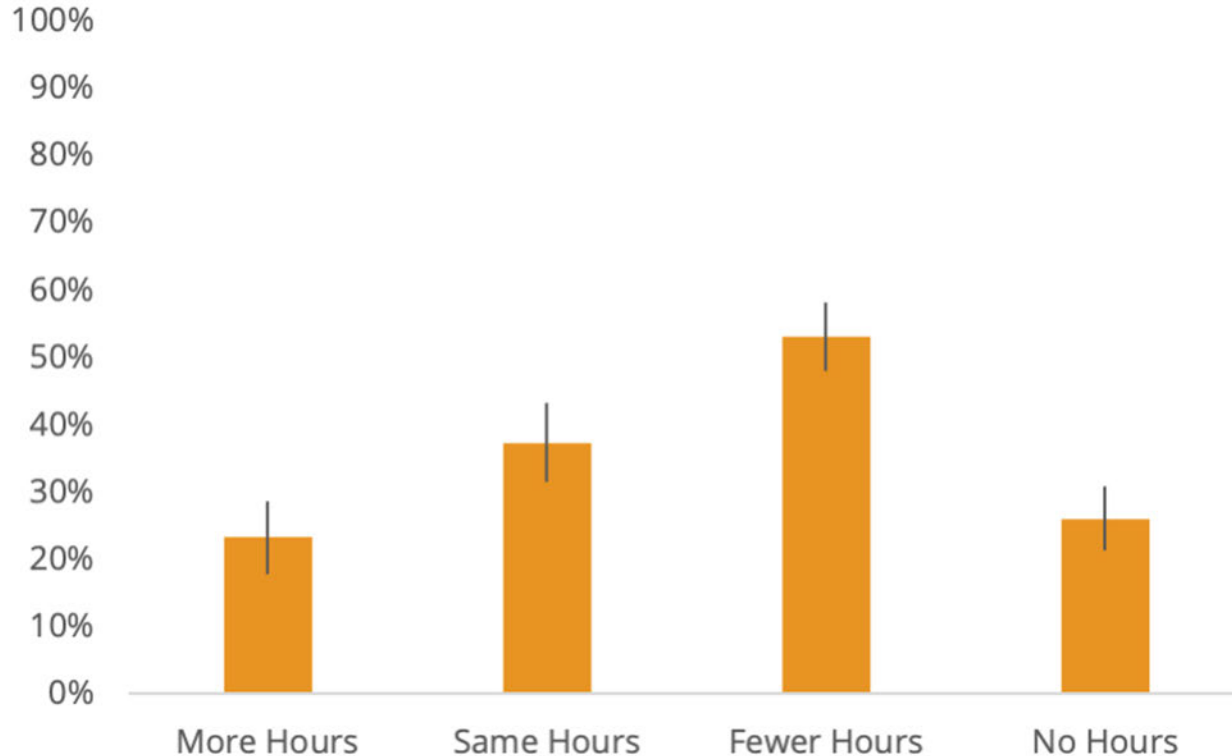
■ Working in February   ■ Not working in February



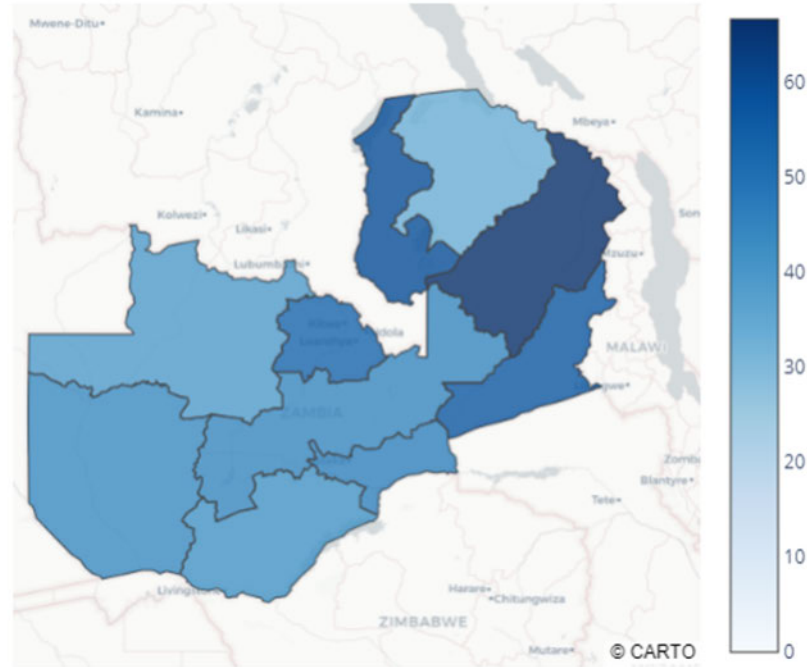
■ Working past 7 days   ■ Not working past 7 days



**Of those working in the past week, over 50% report working fewer hours and earning less than they did in February, before schools closed**



# Almost 50% of respondents say their business/place of work is open with business as usual



# 4

## Education

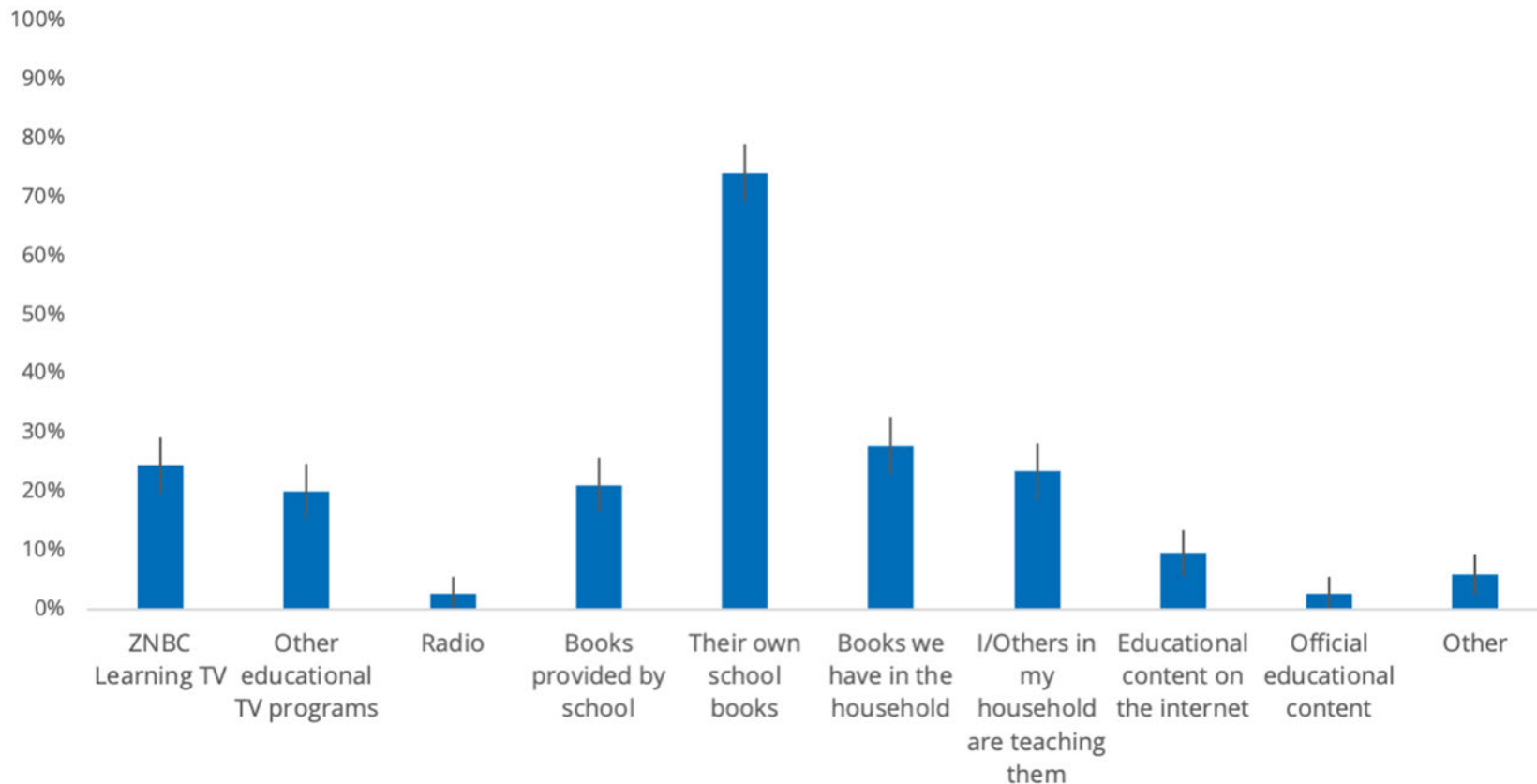
Approximately **50%** of respondents report that primary school children are spending time on education at home since schools were closed.



Over 30% of respondents report that primary school children in the household are spending an average of more than **2 hours per day on education.**

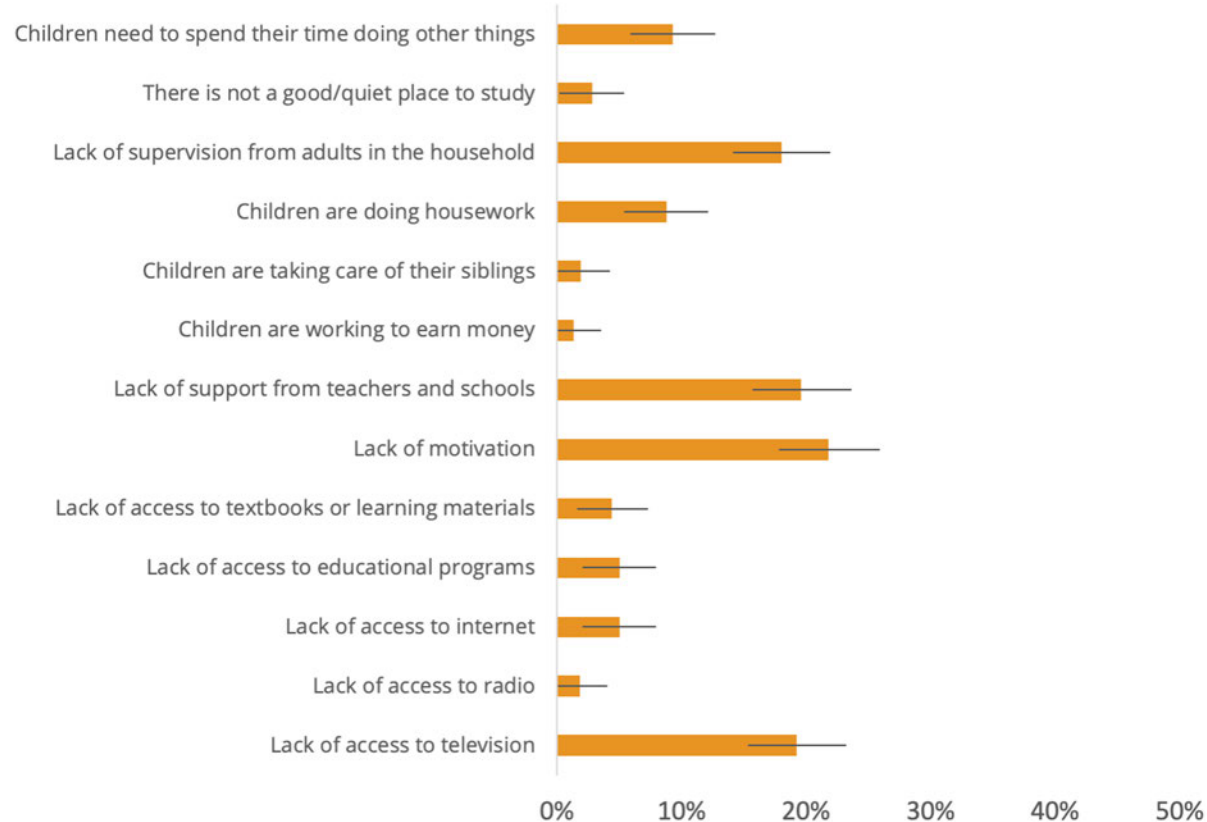


## Among children in primary school engaged in distance learning, the majority are using their own school books





# Households report that the main reasons why children are not spending more time on education include lack of motivation, lack of support from teachers and schools and lack of access to television





# Policy Implications: Education

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- We connect researchers with partners, assist with research design, implement data collection, and much more.

## As a Practitioner:

- We can help answer your questions and support you in using evidence to make your programs or policies as effective as possible.

## As a Funder:

- Our funders make it possible for us to generate evidence and inform debates about how to effectively reduce poverty and improve lives.

Get in touch at [contact@poverty-action.org](mailto:contact@poverty-action.org)

# Thank you



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