

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

Results from RECOVR Round 2 and  
the Chronic Poverty Advisory Network

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March 29, 2021



# Today's Panelists and Moderator



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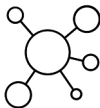


Using rigorous  
research to reduce  
poverty & improve  
lives

# 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 (60+ studies)**



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



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





# RECOVR Zambia



# Zambia Survey Information

Dates of survey: **Round 1:** June 15-July 6, 2020 - **Round 2:** Nov 28-Dec 21, 2020

Sampling method: Random Digit Dialing of a nationally representative sample of phone numbers; panel survey

Sample size: Round 1: 1,278 respondents out of 3,213 call attempts  
Round 2: 752 respondents out of 4,073 call attempts

Average respondent demographics:

Indicator	Round 1	Round 2
% Women:	43%	42%
Age	31.9 years old	32.3 years old
% completed secondary school	80%	84%
Household size	5.2 people	5.4 people
% Under national poverty line*	31%	41%

\* (baseline)(Estimated with the [PPI](#))

# Zambia RECOVR: Survey and Policy Timeline



# Zambia: Key Takeaways



75% of respondents would take the vaccine if available, and 76% would vaccinate their children. There are no significant differences by socioeconomic status or gender in the likelihood of getting vaccinated.



While overall employment did not change significantly from February (Baseline) to June (Round 1) to December (Round 2), respondents were more likely to say that their earnings had increased in Round 2.



To pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020, a higher proportion of respondents in Round 2 reported selling off their assets, skipping required payments on loans, and buying fewer inputs than planned.



Poor and non-poor respondents cite various barriers to food access (amount of food, and variety of food) at similar rates.



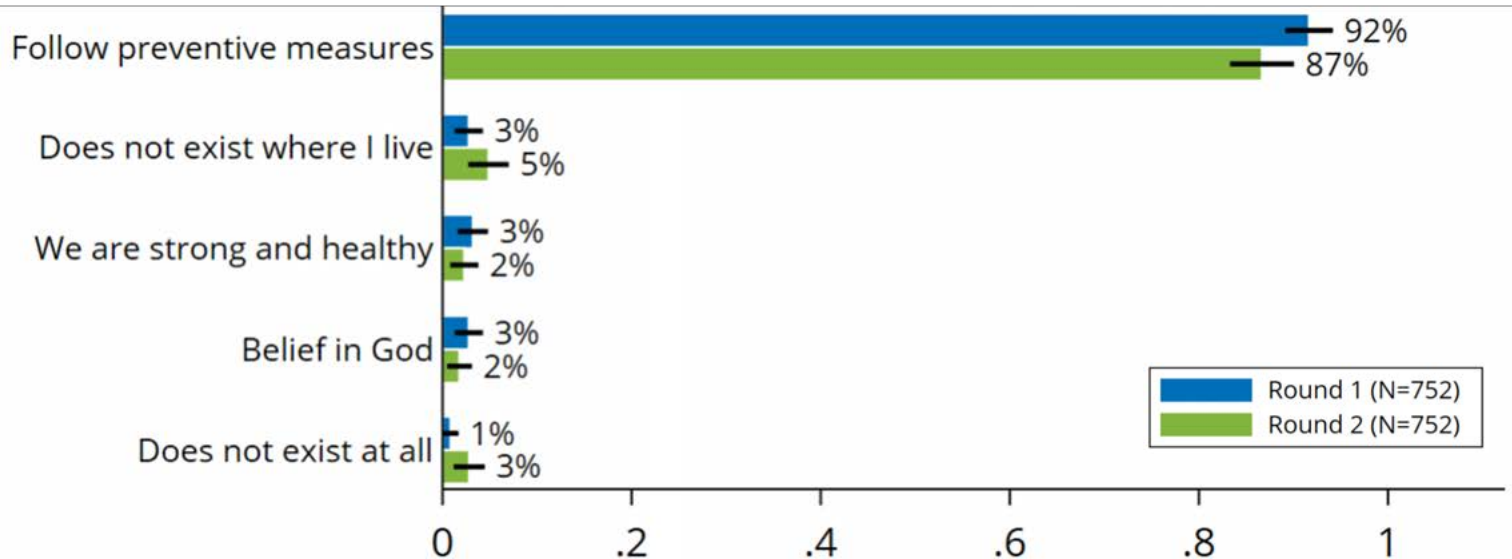
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Health & COVID-19 Mitigation

The proportion of respondents who say they feel their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19 **increased by 10 percentage points.**

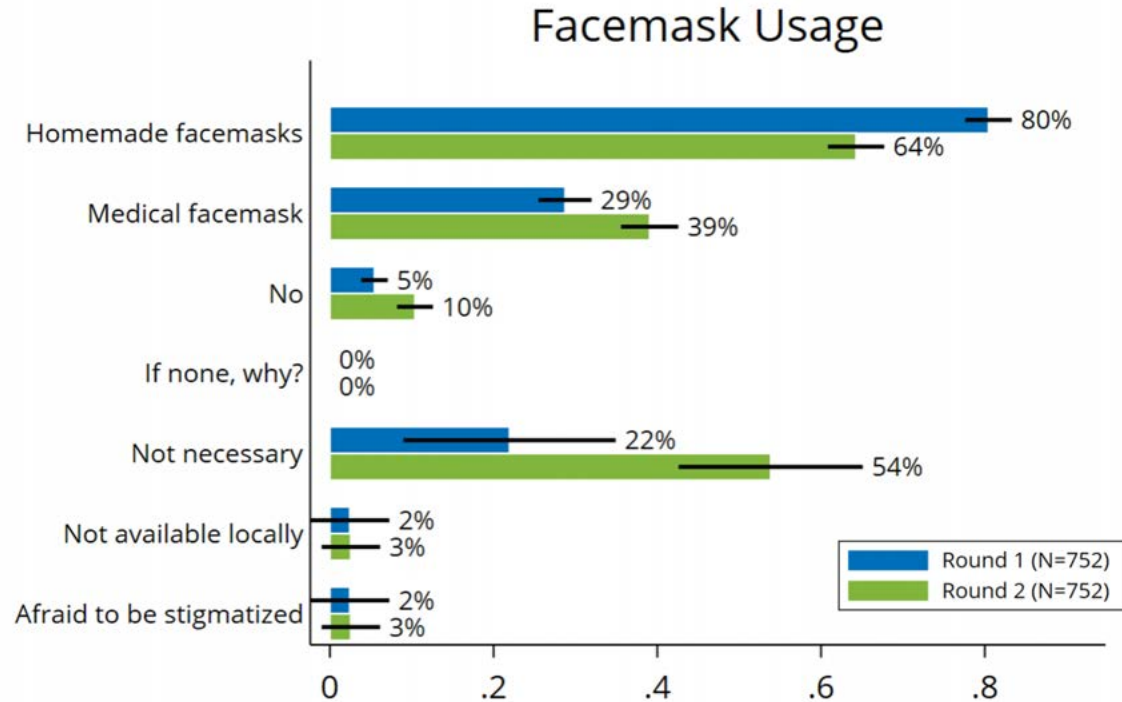


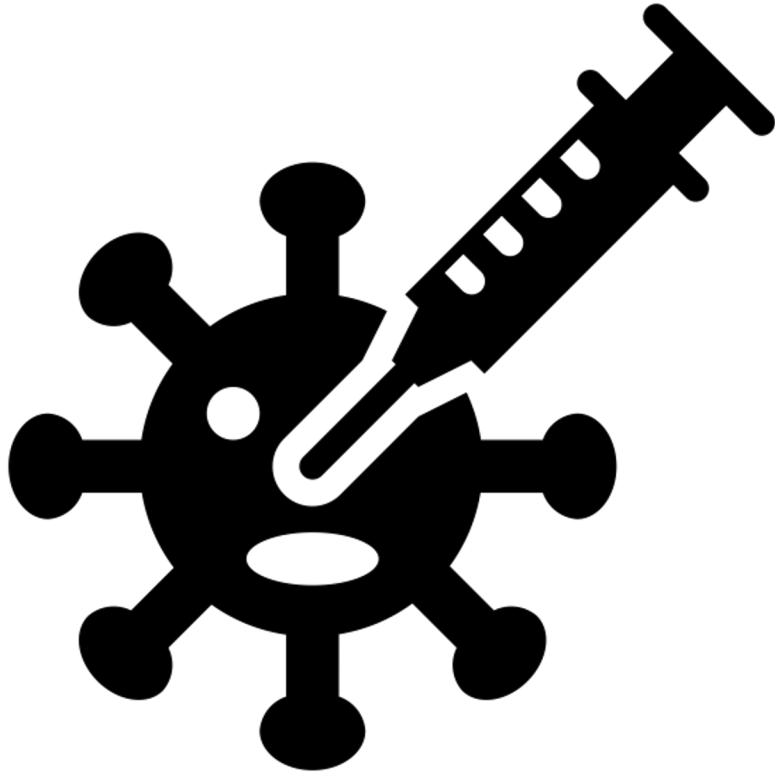
For those who do NOT feel at risk, the majority of respondents maintain that it is because they are following preventive measures.



The proportion of respondents reporting usage of homemade facemasks **decreased by 16pp**, while the proportion using medical facemasks increased by 10pp.

However, the proportion of those **NOT** using facemasks also **increased by 5pp**, with more than half of those perceiving they are not necessary.





**75%** of respondents would take the vaccine, and **76%** would vaccinate their children.

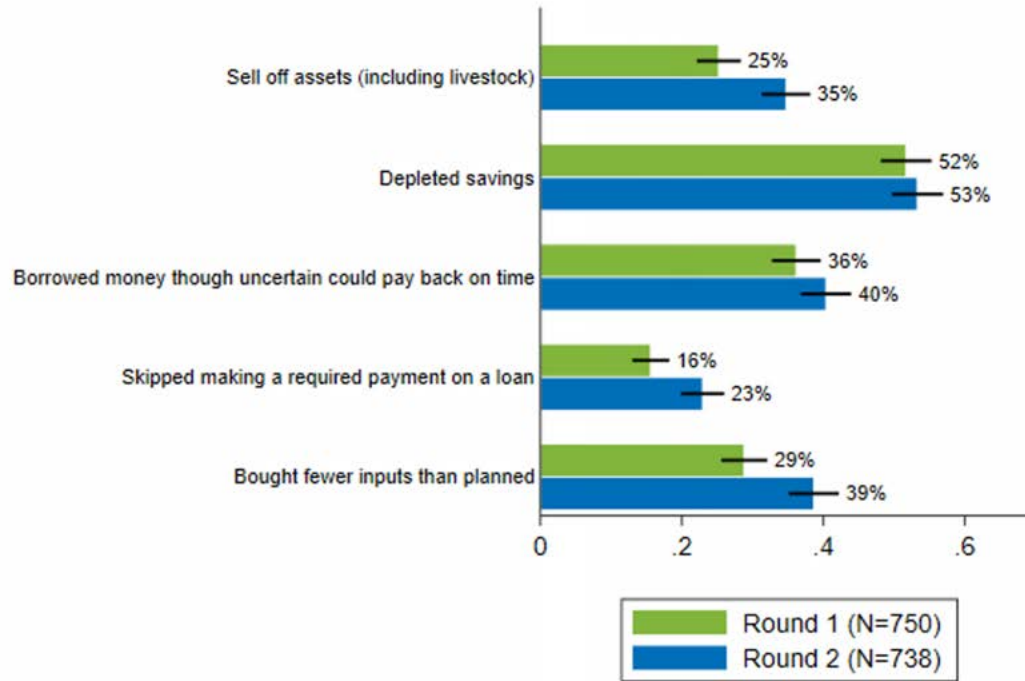
Nevertheless, **less than half** of respondents strongly agree that the vaccine is safe and effective.

**65%** of respondents trust doctors and healthcare professionals for vaccine information.

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# Food Security & Financial Resilience

Across rounds, respondents report increased prevalence of **selling assets (35%), skipping required loan payments (23%), and buying fewer inputs (39%)** to cover basic household expenses.

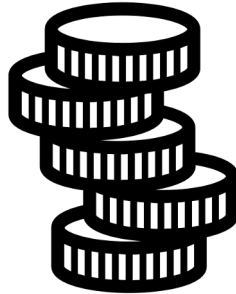




# Respondents have experienced sharp, adverse effects from the economic fallout of COVID-19



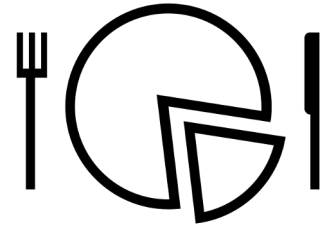
**29%** report shortages in the markets prevent them from buying food



**65%** report drops in income prevent them from buying food

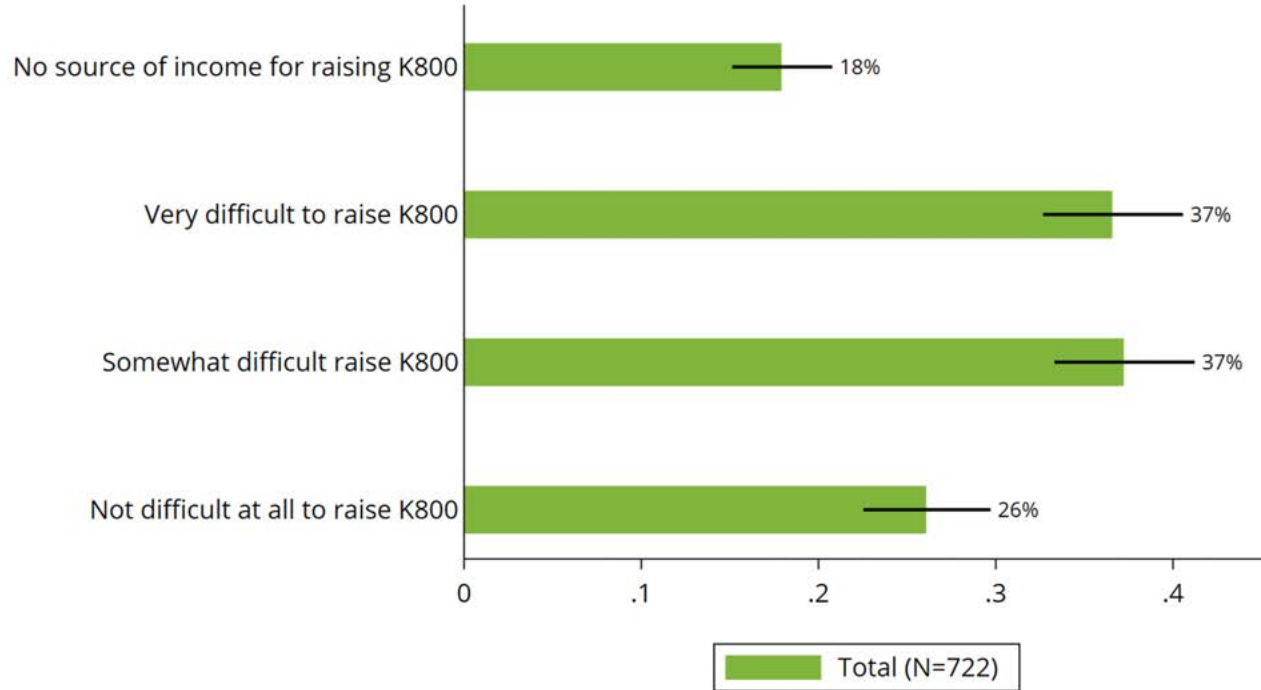


More than **70%** report the price of food was too high



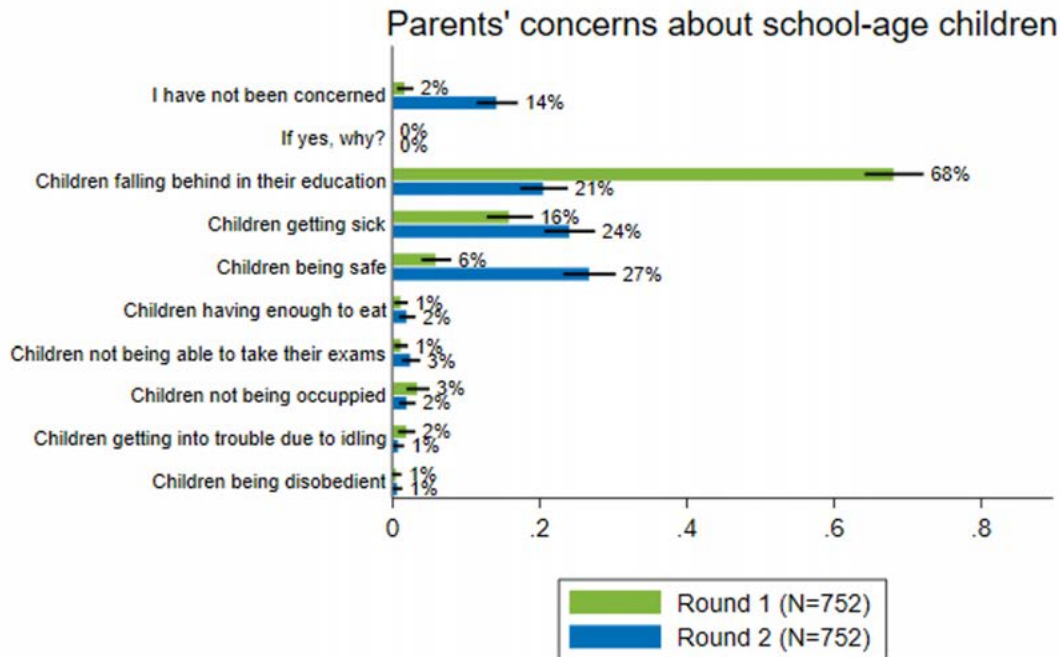
Over **40%** of adults say they've had to limit portion sizes or reduce the number of meals in the past week

**One in five** respondents indicate that they have no source of income for raising emergency funds of K800 within 30 days.



# 3 Education

Across rounds, there was a **12pp** increase in parents' concerns about school-age children.



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

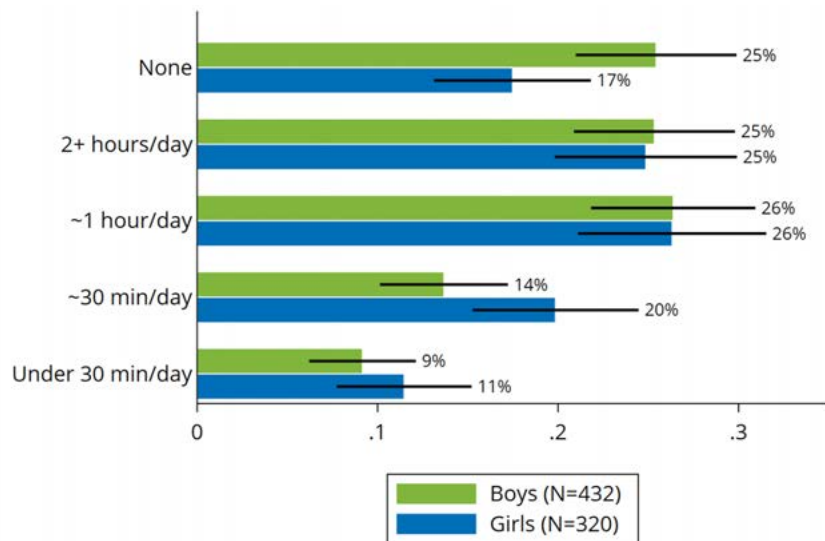


One in four primary students spent **2+ hours per day on education.**

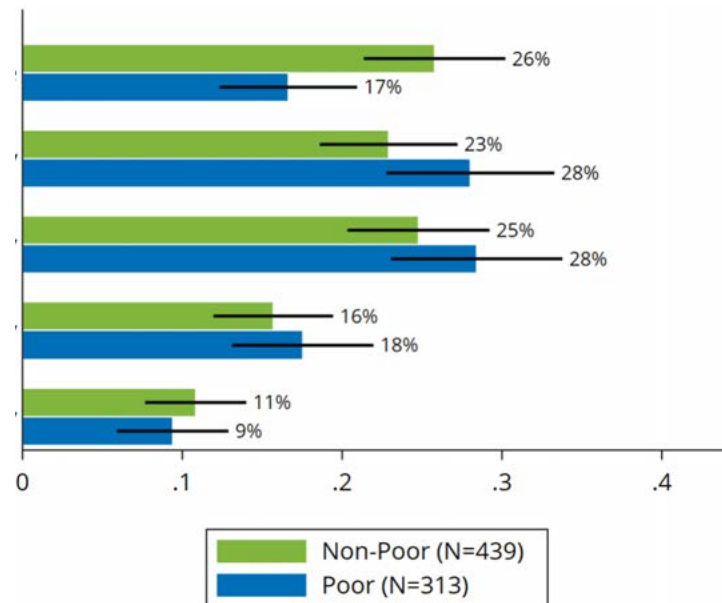
However, 22% spent **no time on education.**



Boys in primary school are more likely to spend **no time** on education (25%) compared to girls (17%).

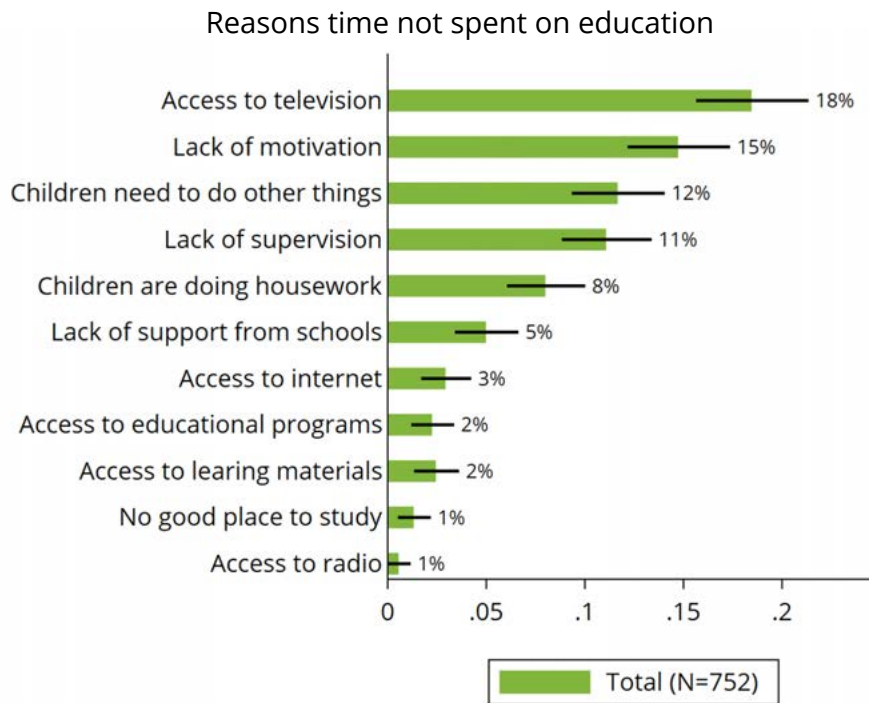


A larger proportion of primary non-poor students spend **no time** on education (26%) compared to poor students (17%).





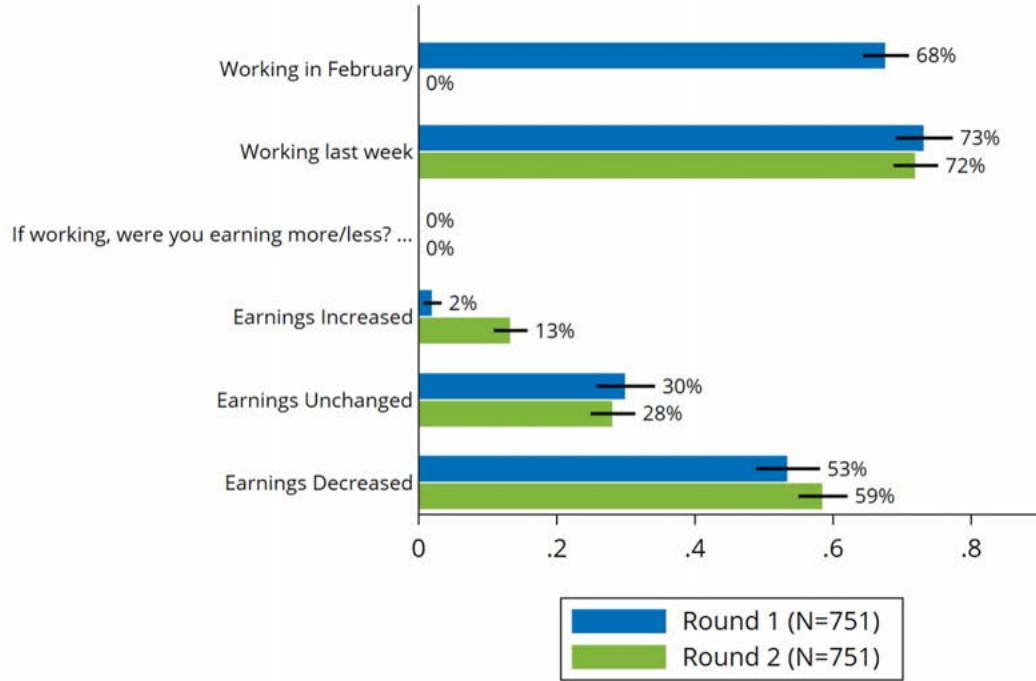
# Access to television, lack of motivation, and competing priorities were the main reasons children did not spend time on education.



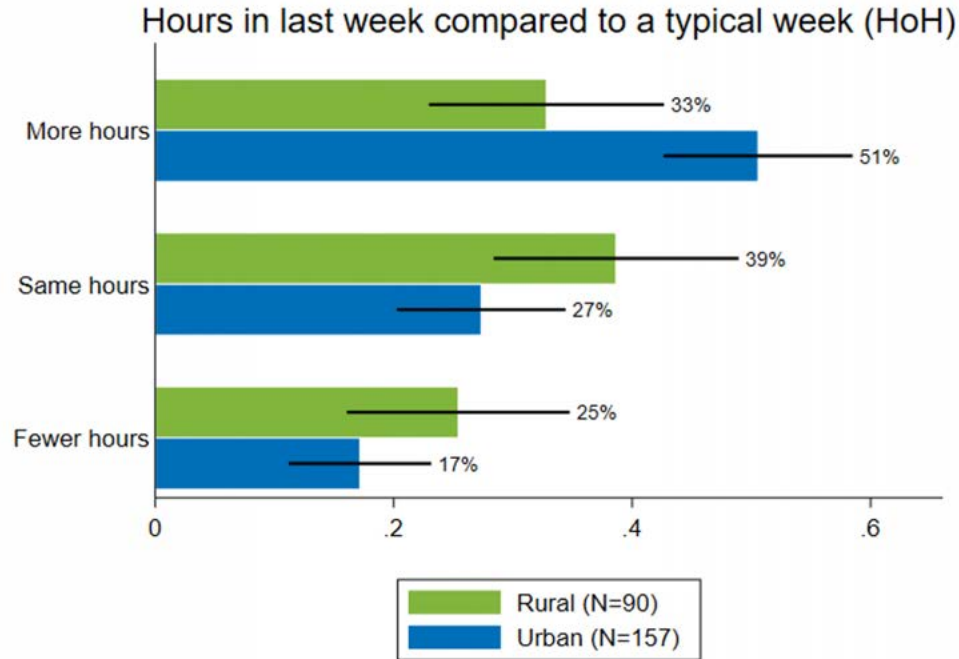
# 4

## Economic Activity and Employment

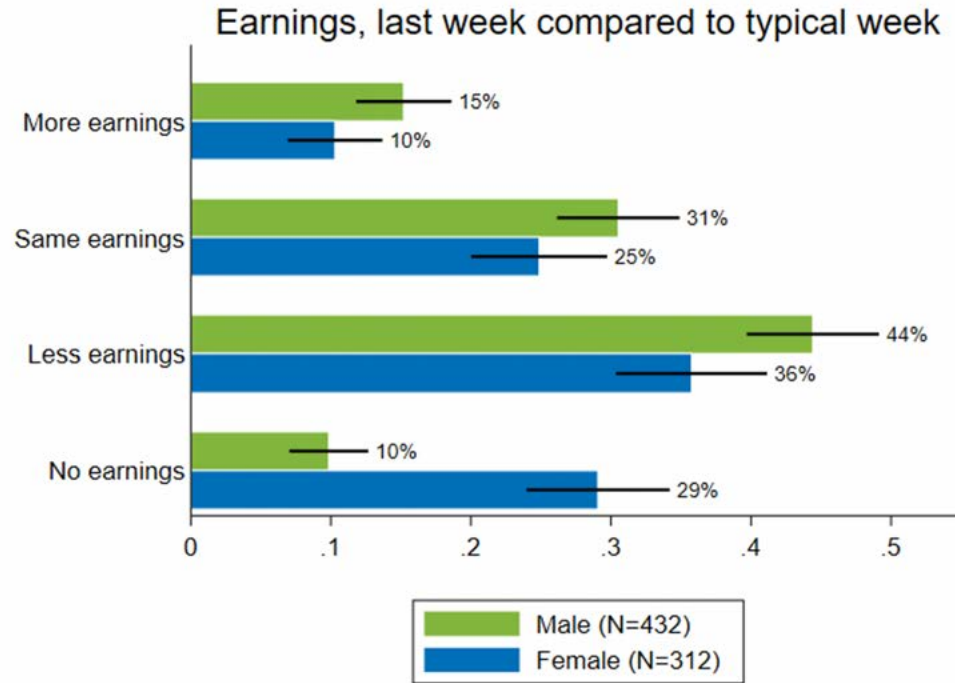
**While respondents indicate largely maintaining employment levels, a majority experienced decreased earnings across both rounds.**



**Urban heads of household were more likely to work more hours in the last week compared to a typical week in Feb 2020 compared to their rural counterparts.**



Compared to a typical week in February 2020, women were **19pp** more likely than men to indicate “no earnings.”



# Policy Implications: Zambia





# Policy Implications and Recommendations

- **Cash Transfers**

- Cash can boost [food security](#) (quantity/quality of diets) and [economic well-being](#) for the poor.
- Cash transfers may also be leveraged to increase uptake of preventive behaviors during the pandemic.

- **Vaccination messaging and uptake**

- Governments can leverage high rates of vaccine acceptance to develop nudge campaigns and reduce barriers to convert intent to action.
- Incentives (in-kind goods and cash transfers) have proven effective in previous contexts.



# RECOVR Rwanda



# Rwanda Survey Information

Dates of survey: October 22-November 6

Sampling method: *Random Digit Dialing of a nationally representative sample of phone numbers, limited to respondents age 18+ (panel survey- follow ups with original respondents)*

Sample size: 1,357 respondents out of 1,484 call attempts

## Average respondent demographics

% women	36%
Average age	30
% that completed secondary school	43%
Household size	4.8
% Under national poverty line:	20% (Estimated with the <a href="#">PPI</a> )

# Rwanda RECOVR: Survey and Policy Timeline



# Rwanda Key Takeaways



85% of respondents would take the vaccine if available, and the majority cite self-protection as the main reason.



There was a 7pp increase in the share of respondents working since Round 1. Among those working, 41% are working fewer hours and 71% experienced decreased earnings.



Between Round 1 and Round 2, the proportion of respondents needing to deplete their savings to cover basic expenses since June 2020 decreased by 17pp.



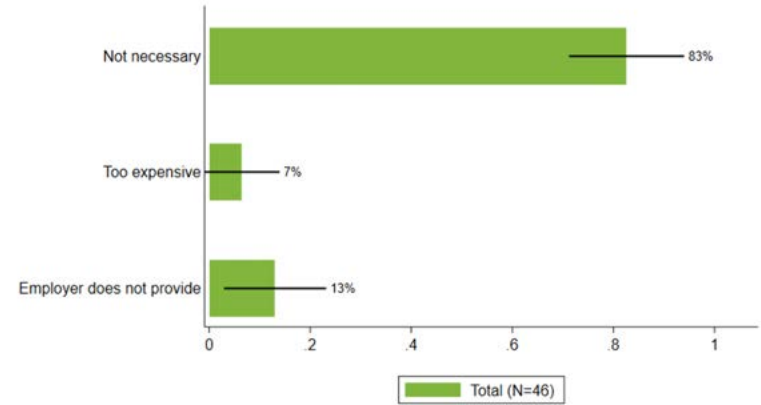
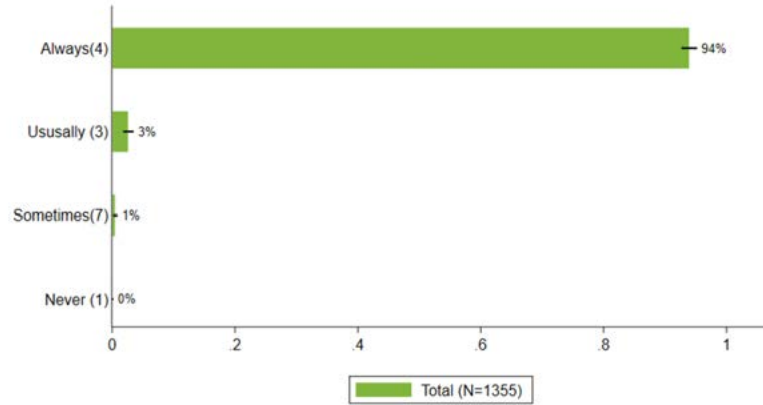
40% of respondents say they've had to reduce the number of meals in the past week.

1

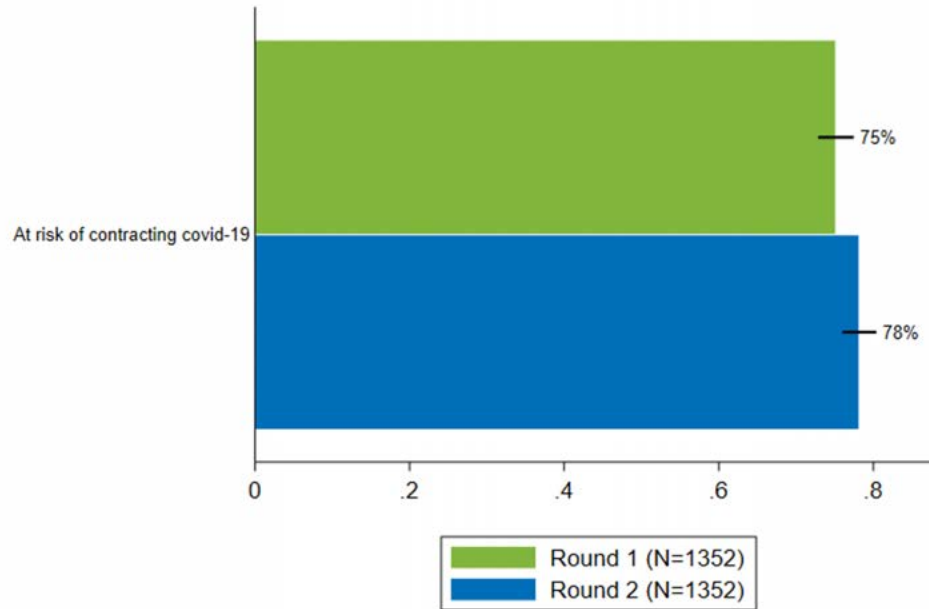
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation

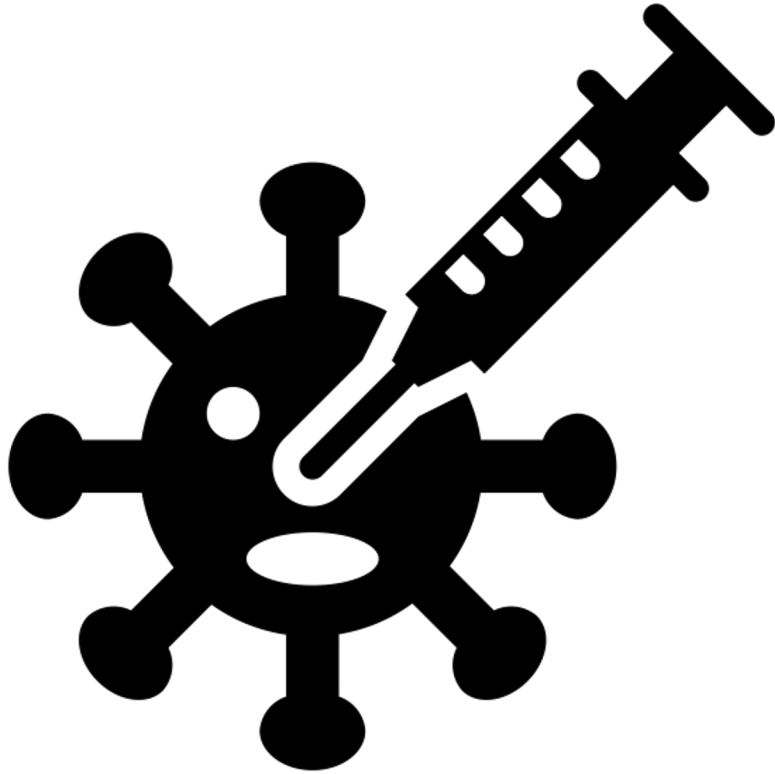


**94%** of respondents report always using a facemask.  
For those who do not regularly use a facemask, **83%**  
indicate it is not necessary.



# 78% of respondents report feeling at risk of contracting COVID-19, a slight increase from Round 1





**85%** of respondents indicate that they would take a COVID-19 vaccine. The majority of respondents would take the vaccine because of self-protection, followed by family protection.

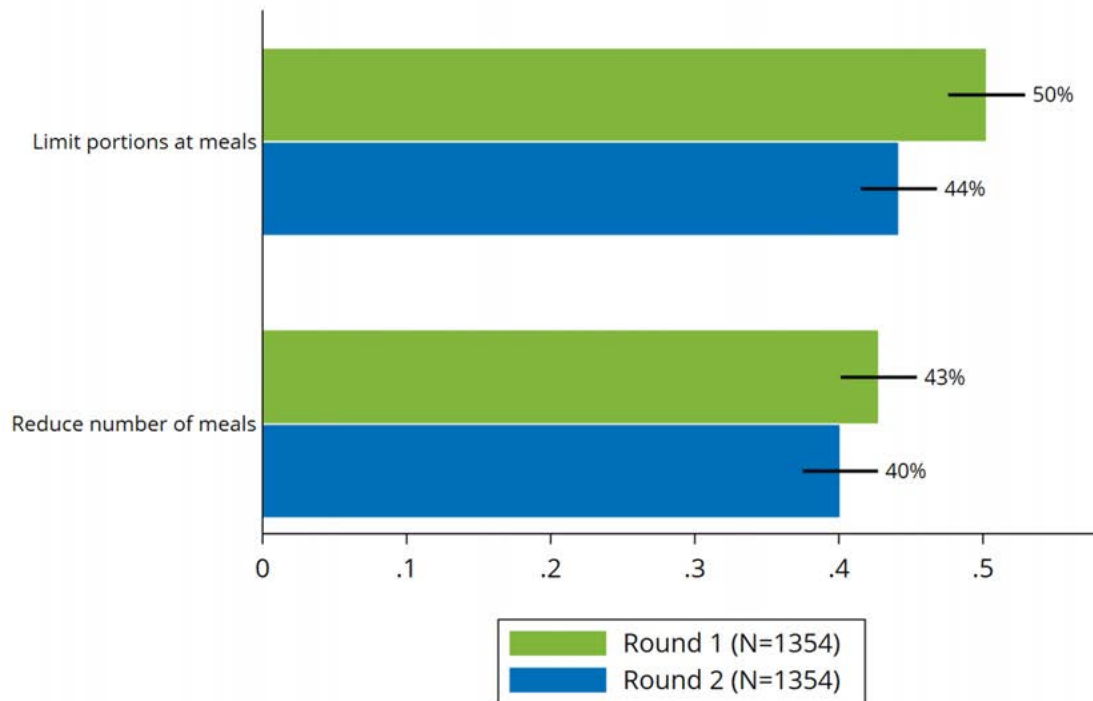
Of the **5%** of respondents who would not take the vaccine, almost **40%** cite worries about its side effects.

**23%** of respondents trust doctors and healthcare professionals for vaccine information. **34%** do not trust any persons or institutions for vaccine information.

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# Food Security & Financial Resilience

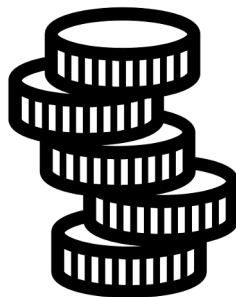
Across rounds, there was a **6pp** decrease in the share of respondents that had to limit portions at mealtimes.



# The economic fallout from COVID-19 continues to hamper respondents' ability to access sufficient food.



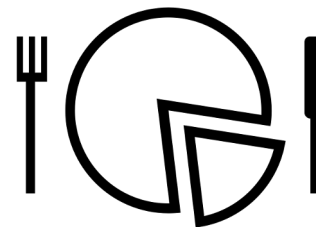
**16%** report shortages in the markets prevent them from buying food



**59%** report drops in income prevent them from buying food

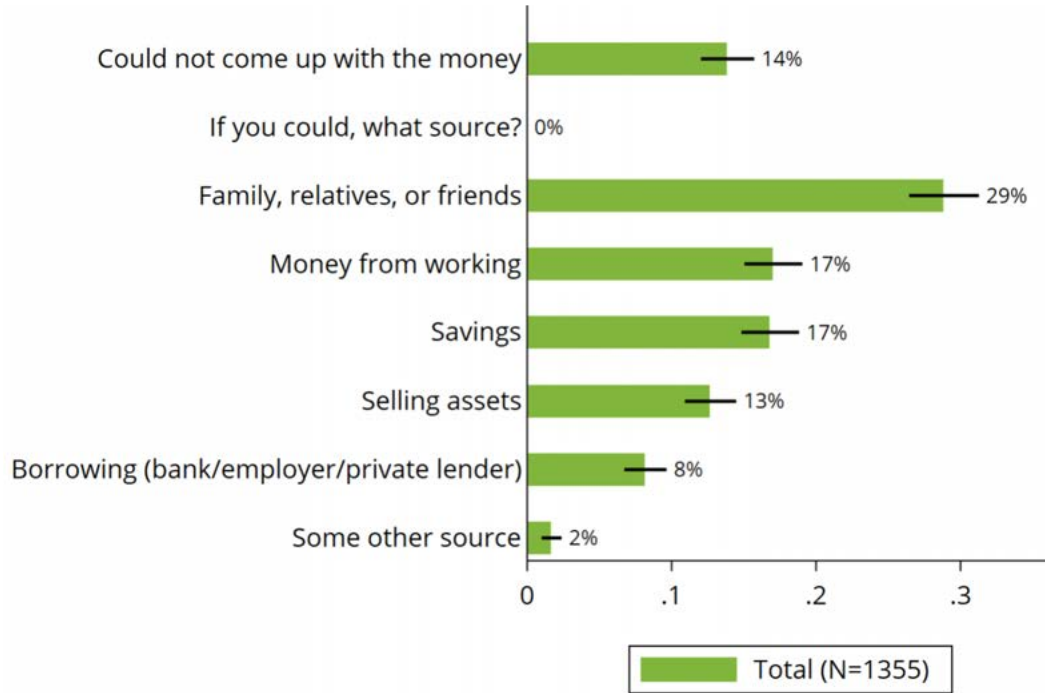


**55%** report the price of food was too high

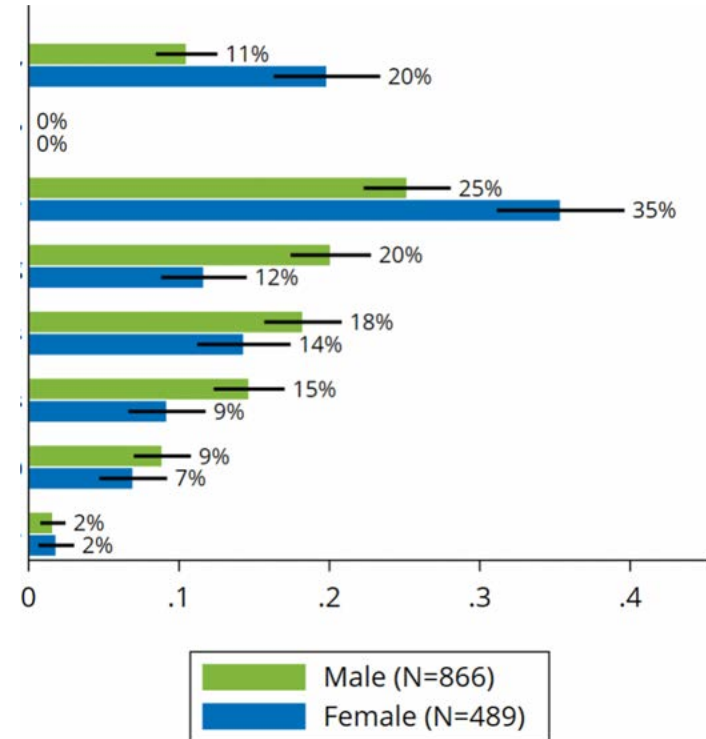


**40%** of respondents say they've had to reduce the number of meals in the past week

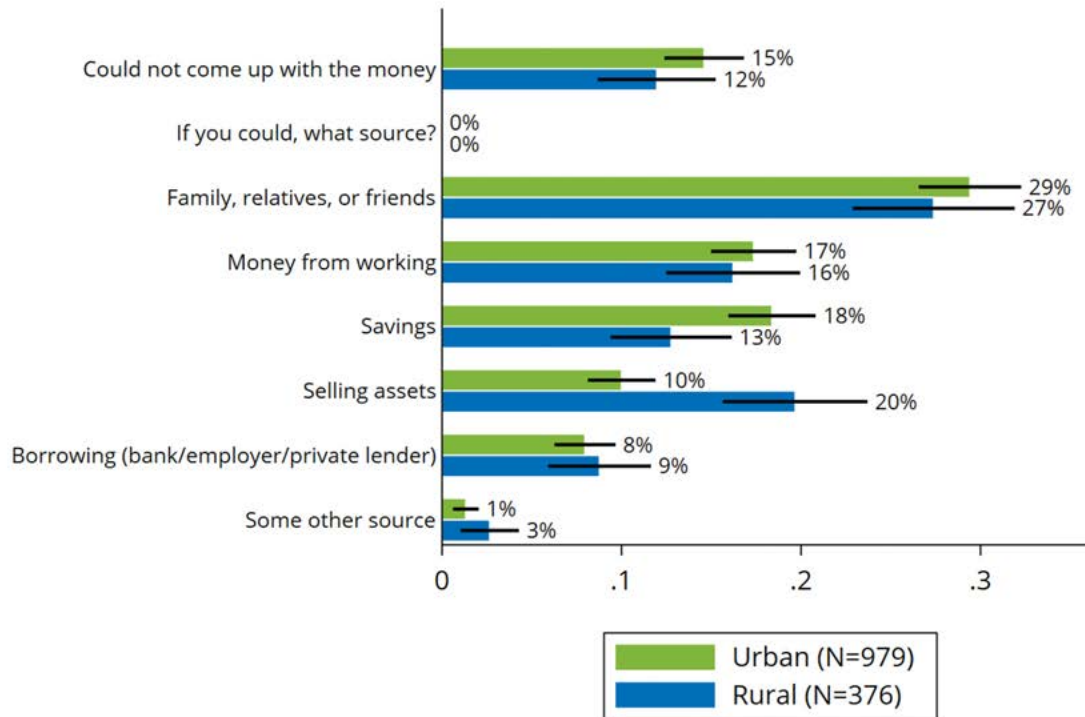
**14% of respondents could not come up with Fr35,000 within 30 days.**



**One fifth of female respondents could not come up with Fr35,000 within 30 days.**

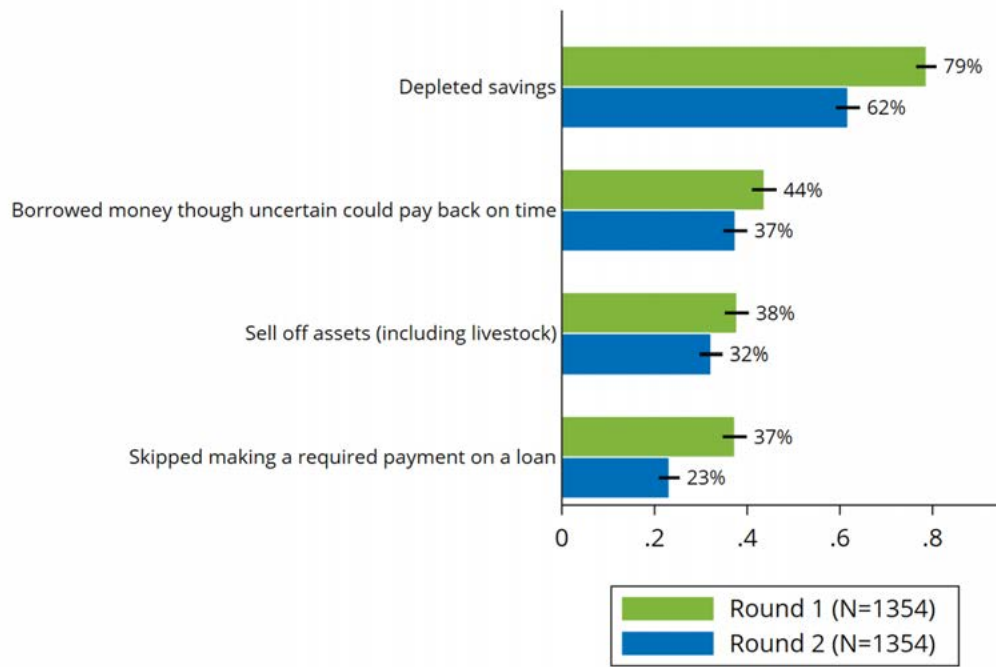


## While urban and rural respondents could access emergency funds at similar rates, urban respondents are more likely to rely on their savings and rural respondents are more likely to sell their assets



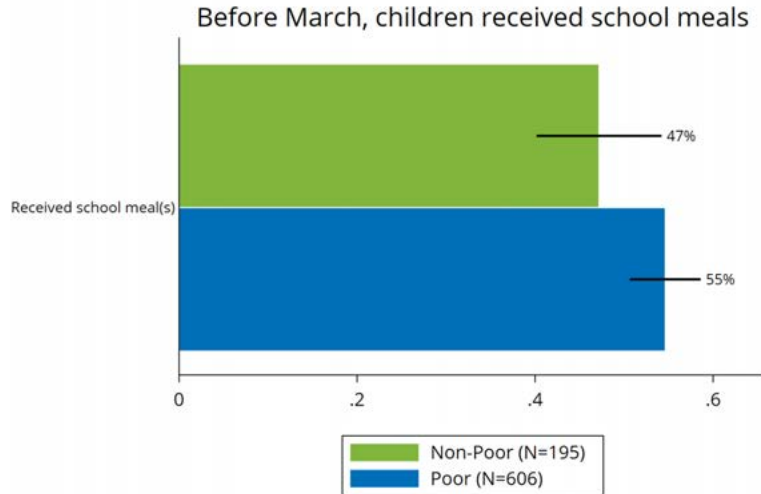


**Between Round 1 and Round 2, the proportion of respondents needing to deplete their savings to cover basic expenses since June 2020 decreased by 17pp.**

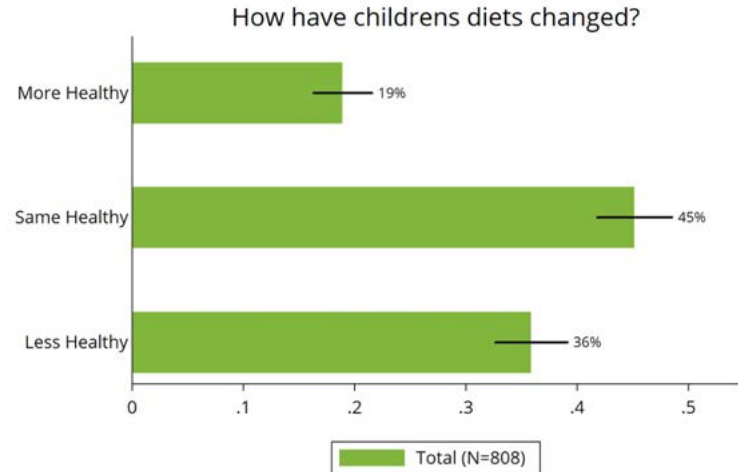


# 3 Education

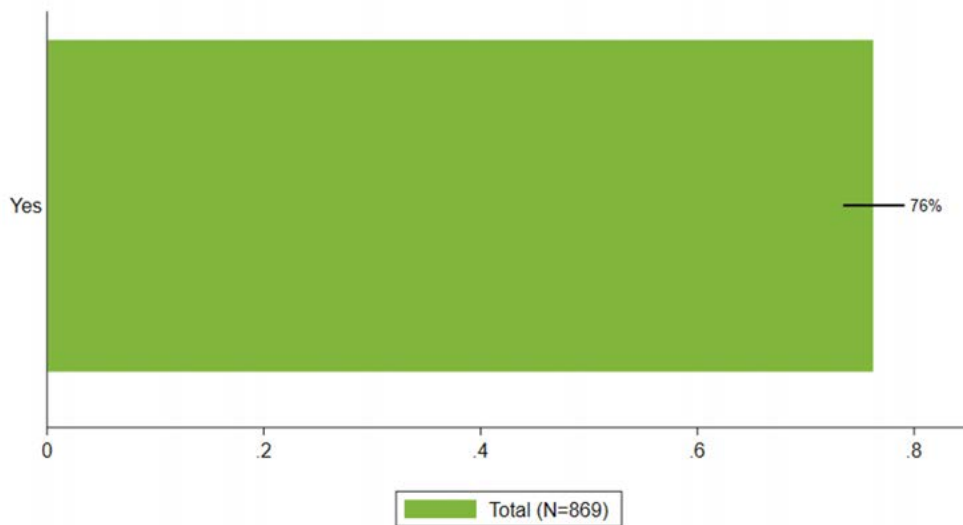
**55% of poor respondents' children received school meals before March 2020, when schools closed.**



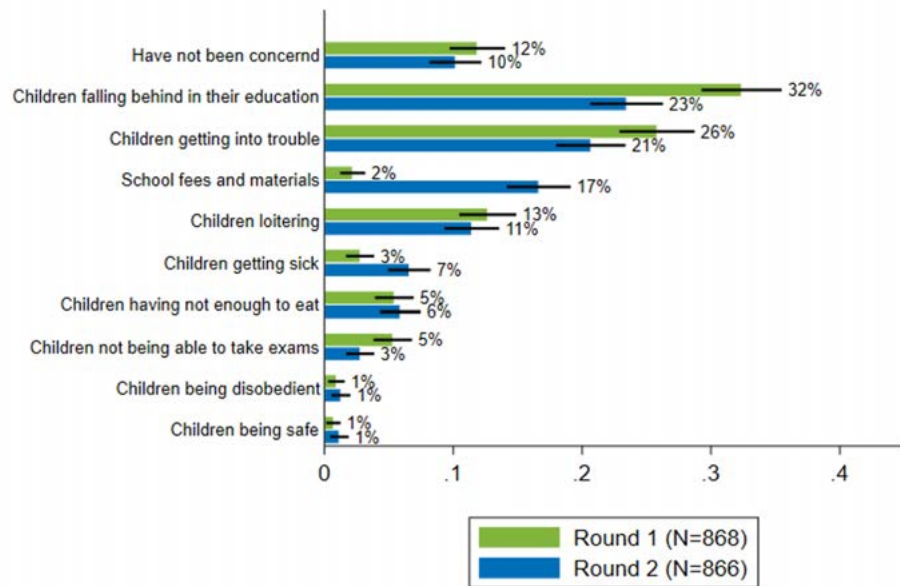
**Since schools closed, 45% of children's diets were reported to have maintained their level of nutrition.**



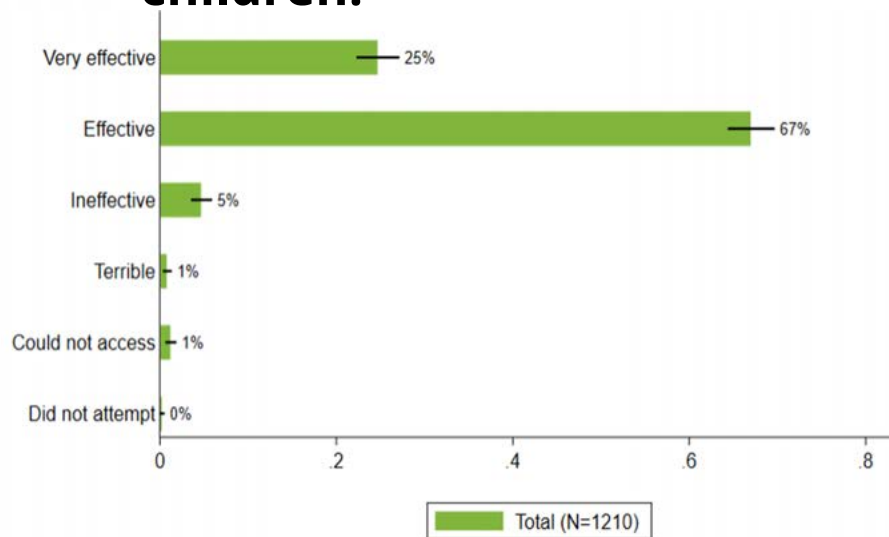
**76%** of parents indicate receiving sufficient and timely information from children's schools.



**Between rounds, parents' concern of their children falling behind in their education decreased by 11pp.**



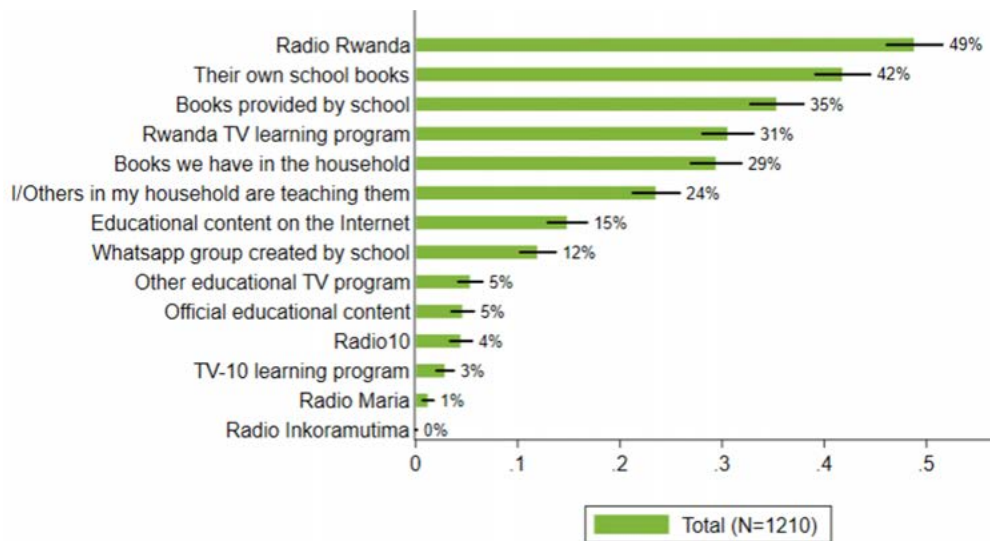
**92% of respondents considered distance learning (March-October) to be effective or very effective for their children.**



**42%** of children spend at least two hours per day on education.



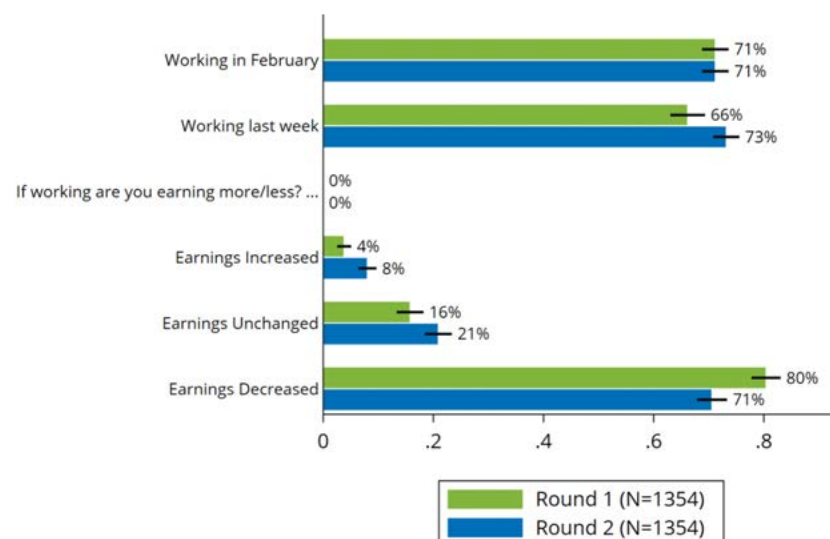
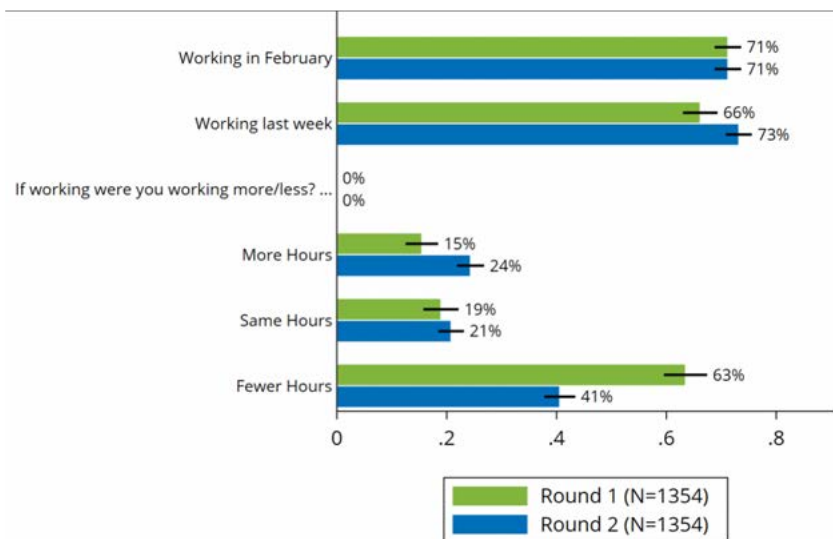
**Radio Rwanda and students' own school books were reported to be the most popular distance learning tools.**



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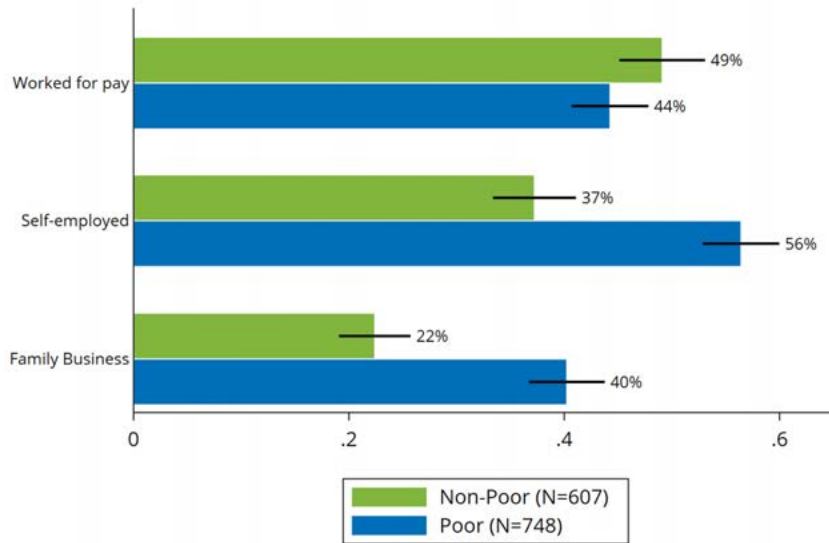
# **Economic Activity & Employment**

There was a **7pp** increase in the share of respondents working in the last week since Round 1. Among those working, **41%** are working fewer hours and **71%** experienced decreased earnings.

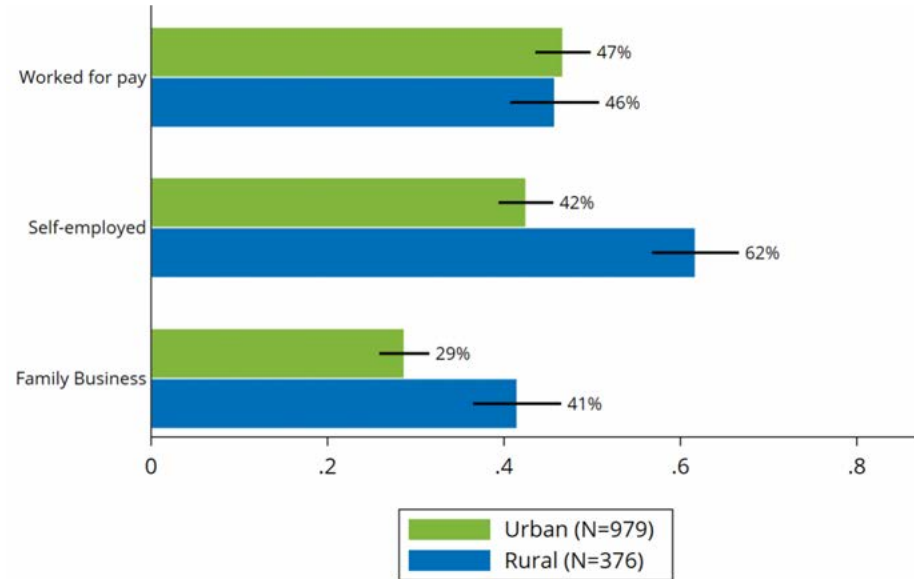




**Poor respondents and heads of household are more likely to be self-employed or have worked on a family business or farm in the past 7 days.**



**Respondents and heads of household from rural areas are more likely to be self-employed or work for a family business.**



# Policy Implications and Recommendations

- **Education-Meeting students at their learning level**
  - One-on-one assessments are particularly effective to assess reading and numeracy skills. (eg: [ASER](#), [ICAN](#), and [Uwezo](#) )
- **Cash Transfers**
  - Cash can boost [food security](#) (quantity/quality of diets) and [economic well-being](#) for the poor.
- **Vaccination messaging and uptake**
  - Leverage high rates of vaccine acceptance to develop nudge campaigns and reduce barriers to convert intent to action.

# Questions and Answers Session



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# Thank you



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