

SUMMARY REPORT – BJL,KMC & WCR

COVID19 FOOD AID:

The Gambia Government Covid-19 response included distributing food aid to households in the rural and urban areas of the country through the National Disaster Management Agency. All LGAs were divided into distribution points- usually a convenience point for households to converge- where food assistance in the form of bags of rice, sugar and cooking oil was distributed to household. Accordingly, larger households received higher quantities of food assistance to help parse the effect of Covid-19 on food security. In the survey households were asked if they received government food, and the results was analyses according to local government area and food item type. The results are summarised below:

- More than 60 percent of households in BJL, Brikama, and KM confirm receiving government food assistance, while household in Brikama got the highest coverage and households in Banjul the lowest.
- On the food items received by households, rice is the most widely distributed, followed by sugar and then oil. These results conform to expectations in that Banjul being the capital and relatively the wealthiest, government assistance is less needed in comparison to Brikama (WCR).
- In the LGA, Banjul, followed by KM and then Brikama face the greatest problem with missing food items in terms of magnitude of food items missing.
- In Banjul 1 in 2 household reported above 20, while only 10 percent reported such in Brikama
- 80 percent of household in KM and Brikama agree that food aid was received on time as compared to just 60 percent in Banjul.

COVID19 MONETARY AID TRANSFERS:

The Gambia Government has distributed some cash or monetary aid among household as part of the packages to respond to the Corona virus pandemic and the issuing lock-down. The survey asked households whether they received cash transfers, and the results are summarised below:

- About 10 percent of households reportedly received cash transfer, all of whom reside in Brikama and report to have received the cash transfer due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Overall satisfaction with the monetary aid is very high generally, and among both male and female headed households.
- Government cash transfers attracted more satisfaction from the public than its food aid, which collaborate the evidence that cash transfers boost consumer utility than gifts in kind of equivalent value.

COVID19 SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN:

This aspect of the survey focused on gauging respondent's perception on various issues regarding the social assistance program provided by the government such as whether the social assistance was used to prioritize the need of women and children, which household members benefited the most, whether it improved women protection risk, among others. The results are summarized below:

- More than 60 percent of the households surveyed that received the government social assistance reported that the transfers were used to a great extent to prioritize the needs of women and children.
- Over 80 percent of the respondents reported that women benefited more from the social assistance program.
- In terms of age group, over 55 percent indicate that adults benefited the most from the government COVID-19 social assistance program followed by children with the young benefiting the less.
- About 80 percent of respondents' who received either the government food aid package or the cash transfer indicated that the receipt of these transfers has improved women and children protection risk with less than 1 percent of respondents indicating that it has not done so.
- Overall, most respondents (about 58 percent) reported that the wife mostly decides on the use of social assistance followed by husband (about 38 percent) and other household members (about 4 percent).
- This finding is in contravention with lot of evidence, especially in developing country context, that men rather women make most of the decision on the distribution of household wealth.
- Furthermore, a wife deciding on the use of the social assistant is more in KM than in other regions.
- A substantial majority of respondents (over 60 percent) indicated that the social assistance was to a great extent used to prioritize the need of physically challenged members.

PERCEPTION ON COVID19:

- About 50% of the households understand that when they contract the Covid-19 virus they need to report it, or visit a clinic 35% .
- Radio, TV, and Newspaper is the main source of information in all LGA, rumours are significant source of information on Covid-19 in Banjul, and the internet as a source of information is most prominent in KM.
- There is strong awareness of Covid-19 symptoms among households in KM, BJL and Brikama, and among rural and urban, and the awareness does not differ much in the rural and urban areas.

PERCEPTION ON VACCINES:

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic when all countries are desperate to contain the virus transmission, The Gambia received the first consignment of 36,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (AstraZeneca COVAX), a significant step in controlling the pandemic. Households were asked question about the Covid-19 vaccine and the answers drawn therefrom are analysed below:

- A significant majority of households believe that generally vaccines, not specifically Covid-19 vaccine, protect people. This is greatest in KM and lowest in Brikama and Banjul.
- The Covid-19 information is well heard of in all three regions, especially in Banjul where 100 percent of households reportedly have heard of Covid-19.
- On the issue of Covid-19 vaccine, more than 40 percent of households do not generally trust Covid-19 vaccines, and the distrust is highest in Banjul. A greater dive into the reason for not trusting indicate that household believe that Covid-19 can cause health complication.

- The number of households that have their members receive zero dose of the first jab is significant at 70% which is greatest for KM & Brikama, and lowest for Banjul.
- The coverage rate is even lower for the second jab as more than 80 percent of the households reported to have not receive a second jab. Like the first jab, the second jab coverage is highest in Banjul than in Brikama and KM.
- More than 70 percent think that government should purchase vaccine. The level of agreement with this statement is highest in Brikama and among those who got vaccinated.
- Almost 50% of the households claim to not have received enough information about Covid-19 vaccine.