

SUMMARY REPORT- LRR

GOVERNMENT FOOD ASSISTANCE:

To address access to food difficulties that may arise from the COVID-19 containment measures introduced by the government in March 2020, the government rolled out a nationwide food package targeting 84% of households in the rural areas of The Gambia. Vulnerable households in the urban areas were also eligible to receive the food items. The food items distributed were oil (147494), rice (229846) and sugar (229846). In this survey, respondents were asked series of questions about the government food package. The key results are summarized below:

- 100% of the families surveyed reported that they received all the three food items they were supposed to received, which was not the case for the NBR, Greater Banjul, and West Coast Region.
- The number of missing food items (100%) reported that the number of food items not delivered was between 1 and 10.
- About 3% of the respondents reported that they are either moderately or very satisfied with the assistance.
- About 4% of the respondents in the region reported that they didn't receive their food items on time.
- Over 90% of the respondents in the LRR are reportedly not satisfied with the government food assistance, which is higher than in NBR, Greater Banjul, and West Coast Region.

GOVERNMENT COVID19 MONETARY ASSISTANCE:

In addition, with the support of the World Bank through the Social Safety Net Program, monetary assistance was also delivered to 78000 households in the 30 poorest districts of the country. To reduce the economic impact of the measures, especially on vulnerable households most of whom are in the rural areas. These results are summarized below:

- 100% of the respondents received the monetary aid rolled out by the government, higher than nearby NBR (88%).
- Over 90% of respondents said the aid was not sufficient for meeting their basic needs.
- The overall satisfaction with the monetary aid is very high as nearly 9 out of every 10 respondents are satisfied with the monetary assistance.

Thus, the level of satisfaction with the monetary aid is higher than the food aid. This brings to home the idea that cash transfers are more valued than transfers in kind

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND VULNERABLE HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS:

To help families to cope with the economic hardship of the pandemic, the government provided social support to vulnerable households as well as firms in sectors hit hard by the pandemic such as tourism. In this part of the survey, more perception on the overall government social assistance program was gathered from the respondents. Prioritizing the needs of women and children in households is important in making social assistance, whether in monetary or non-monetary aid form, effective. Therefore, this survey collected information on the special needs of women and children within the household vis-à-vis the social assistance extended to households. The results are presented below:

- 90% of households surveyed the respondents reported that the husband decides on the use of the social assistance.

- More than 60% affirm that women and children protection risk is improved by the social assistance received.
- More than 70% of the household indicate that children benefited most from the assistance received in relation to adults.
- 90% of the household indicate that female members benefitted most in relation to male members of the household.

The needs of physically challenged members of the household, where they exist, are prioritized to some extent. All of these can be summarized by the more than half of the respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that the social assistance received has prioritized the needs of women and children, improved their access to food, and ensured that they receive enough information about the assistance

COVID19 AND HEALTH CARE PROVISION:

The COVID-19 has affected health care delivery, the pandemic has exposed the weak nature of the health care system of the Gambia, particularly public health service delivery, continue to face lot of challenges that ranges from lack of basic equipment, low availability of essential drugs, poor referral systems, lack of well-equipped facilities, insufficient medical doctors, among others. Consequently, the health system in its state at the start of the pandemic, would not have been able to respond to an overwhelming increase in demand for health services due to the COVID-19. The government and its partners have invested lot of funds to strengthen the health system in the form of procurement of essential items such as PPEs for health workers (especially those in the front line), medical equipment for hospitals, ambulances, among others. Assessment on respondents' knowledge/awareness about COVID-19, preventive measures, main source of information, awareness of symptoms and their perception on the effect of the government responses on their communities. Respondents were allowed to choose more than one option from the choices given according to their understanding and conscience. The results indicated that majority of respondents had heard of and were aware of COVID-19 virus.

- About 30% of the respondents understand when they suspect to have contracted the COVID-19 virus they should visit the hospital or stay at home.
- While 37% said going to treatment centers for testing when they suspect Covid19 Symptoms.
- 12% of the respondents said dialing hotline1025 was the best practice.
- While a very minimal rate of 6% of the respondents said doing a Covid19 test was more appropriate.
- Respondents that believed in local treatment were at 2% .
- Majority of respondents over 40% said they get information on COVID-19 from community gatherings plus Radio, TV, and Newspapers.
- Over 40% also reported that NGO, CSO and Internet are also one of the main sources of information on COVID-19 in their region.

Accordingly, there is strong awareness of how to protect oneself from COVID-19 as most respondents reported that this is achieved through regular hand washing about 32%; wearing of facemask about 32%; and frequent use of hand sanitizers about 31% which is a similar percentage to that of NBR.

COVID19 VACCINES:

To gauge respondents' perception about vaccines, especially their awareness of the COVID-19 vaccines, trust of vaccines, perception on vaccine safety, among others. The results on these indicators are reported in the figure below:

- About 100% in the LRR reported that they have heard about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Over 85% reported that the information on COVID-19 vaccines in the LRR is not enough.
- 97% of the respondents agreed that vaccine can protect people.
- Over 92% trust the COVID-19 Vaccines
- Over 90% think that government should purchase vaccine.