

## SUMMARY REPORT- NBR

### 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:

- A substantial majority of about 81% of households in the NBR said they received at least one of food items,
- About 18% of the respondents in this region or local government area said they didn't receive any food item.
- The number of missing food items reported ranges from 1 to 10 to above 20 with over 90% reporting missing 1 to 10 food items, which is highest for oil.
- About 46% also reported that they don't think the food aid was delivered on time.
- Almost 50% in this survey reported that there were not satisfied with the program. This is in sharp contrast with the findings in WCR and the GBA.

### GOVERNMENT MONETARY ASSISTANCE:

The COVID-19 lockdown measures introduced by the government in March 2021 to control the spread of the COVID-19 in the Gambia forced people to stay home thereby leading to loss of income for many families, especially those that depend on daily income. To reduce the economic impact of the measures, the government rollout an unconditional cash transfer program called the "Nafa Quick" program. The program targeted 78000 households in the 30 poorest districts of the Gambia and each eligible household received a bi-monthly cash transfer of GMD 3000 from July to October (World Bank, 2021). Since it is part of the government COVID-19 response, information about this program was also collected from respondents. The main findings are reported below:

- The results indicate that the coverage of the monetary aid in NBR is high as 88% of respondents of the survey said they received the monetary aid.
- Over 80% 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:

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. The results are summarized below:

- 90% reported that the husband decides on the use of the social assistance.
- In 40% of female headed households, the wife decides on use of the social assistance
- Over 20% also reported that the children benefit the most from social assistance.
- Respondents in households with the physically challenged members reported that the social assistance is used to prioritize the needs of the physically challenged.
- 48% of respondents in the NBR reported that the social assistance has not improved women and children protection risk.
- Only 48% of women in NBR strongly agreed that women got enough information on social assistance.
- Assistance has not improved women and children access to food.

This shows that social assistance can reduce gender-based violence caused by economic factors, which according to some studies has increased during the pandemic. Furthermore, the respondents also reported that the needs of women and children are prioritized greatly in the use of the social assistance. However, they also indicated that the assistance has not improved women and children access to food. Social assistance. On whether the women received enough information on the social assistance, majority of the respondents (about 48%) in NBR strongly agree that women got enough information of the social assistance.

#### **COVID19 AND HEALTH CARE PROVISION:**

The COVID-19 has affected health care delivery in the Gambia. 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. Here are summary of the main findings:

- 48% understand that when they suspect that they may have contracted the COVID-19 virus that they need to visit a clinic and 28% said one should report the case by dialing the government hotline 1025
- Source of information on COVID-19: community gatherings (35%); radio TV Newspapers (35%)
- Protecting oneself from COVID-19: regular hand washing (38%); wearing of facemask (31%); frequent use of hand sanitizers (31%).

#### **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 97% in the NBR reported that they have heard about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Over 60% reported that the information on COVID-19 vaccines in the NBR is not enough.
- 100% of the respondents agreed that vaccine can protect people.
- However, only 50% trust the COVID-19 Vaccines
- 94% don't trust the COVID-19 vaccine because they don't believe in COVID-19; About 3% said is West propaganda; 3% don't trust because of the health complications.
- 59% think that government should not purchase vaccine.