



Impact of COVID-19 on Households in Nepal

WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development conducted the third round of the mVAM Household Survey in December 2020, following the first round in April, and the second in August 2020. The objective of the survey is to assess the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the food security and livelihoods of Nepalese households.



In all 3 rounds, WFP interviewed households in all 7 provinces, using the random-digit-dialing method, and providing nationally representative results.



IN DECEMBER 2020

4,526 households were interviewed



39.7% of the total survey respondents were female



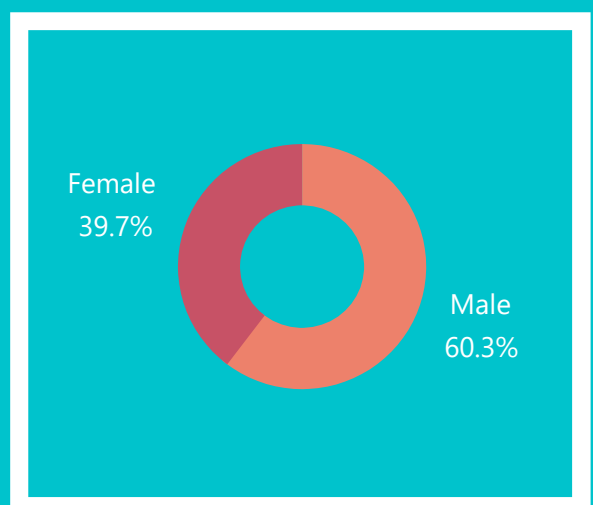
The average size of households included in the survey is 5.04



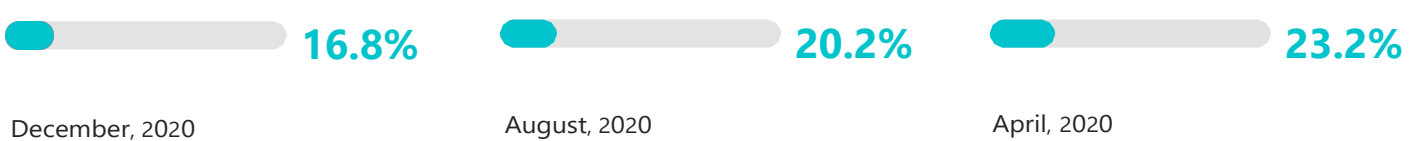
14.7% of households are female headed



The average age of the respondent is 33-years old

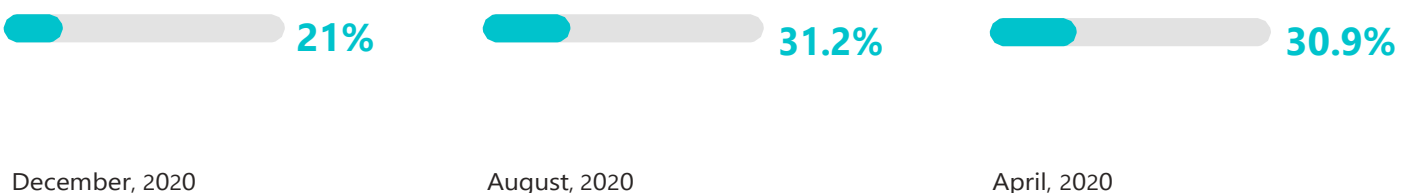


Inadequate Food Consumption (% of households)

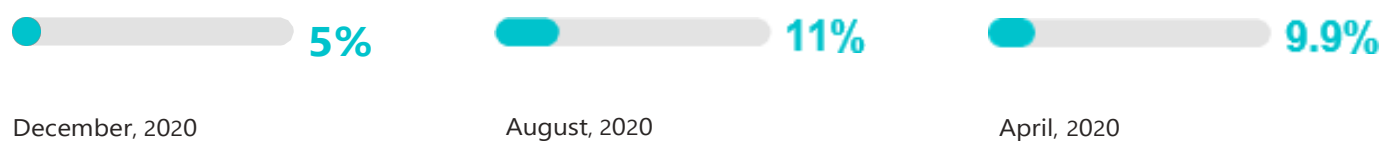


The food insecurity situation across the country has improved in December, compared to April and August 2020, however, remains relatively higher than 4 years ago (14.9 percent). 16.8 percent of households remain food insecure, raising concerns about the prolonged exposure to food insecurity and overall household vulnerability.

Income Reduction (% of households)



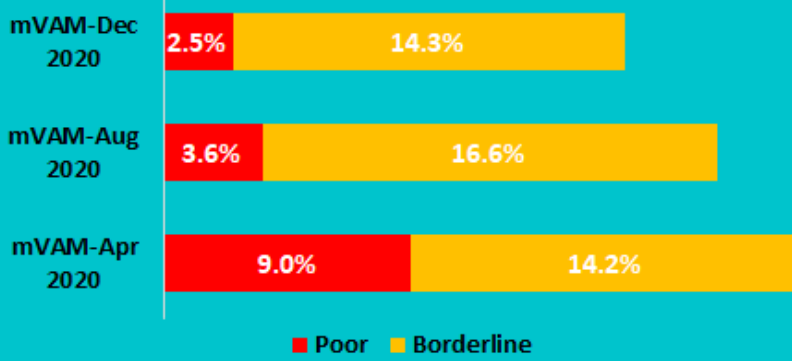
Job Loss (% of households)



Despite the observed improvements, the COVID-19 crisis continues to negatively impact the livelihoods of Nepali households. The prolonged exposure can lead to increasing pressure on households' ability to access food and a greater risk of vulnerability. While there might be fewer households that continue to be negatively affected by the crisis in terms of job loss and income reduction, their capacity to respond to shocks and overall resilience is at risk.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS STATUS APRIL, AUGUST, DECEMBER 2020

Food consumption groups in April, August and December 2020

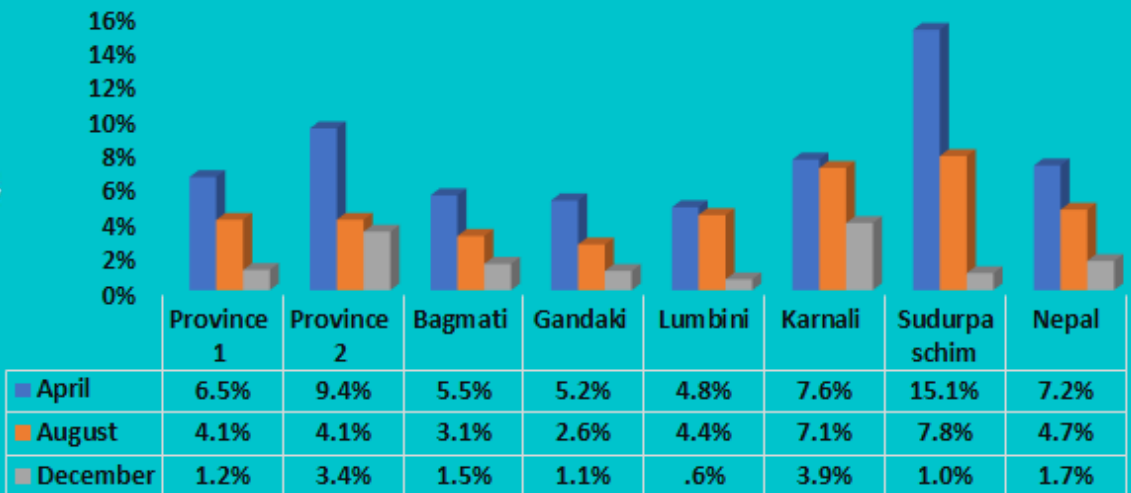


In all 3 rounds of the survey, **food insecurity** was more prevalent among households that experienced **job and income loss**, and **female-headed** and **illiterate** households

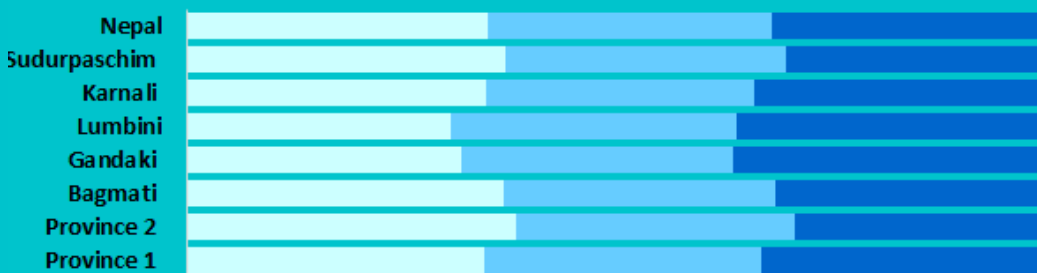


Household with Poor Dietary Diversity

Prevalence of poor dietary diversity **declined significantly** in December 2020 compared to August and April.



Did not meet minimum dietary diversification (6-23 months children)

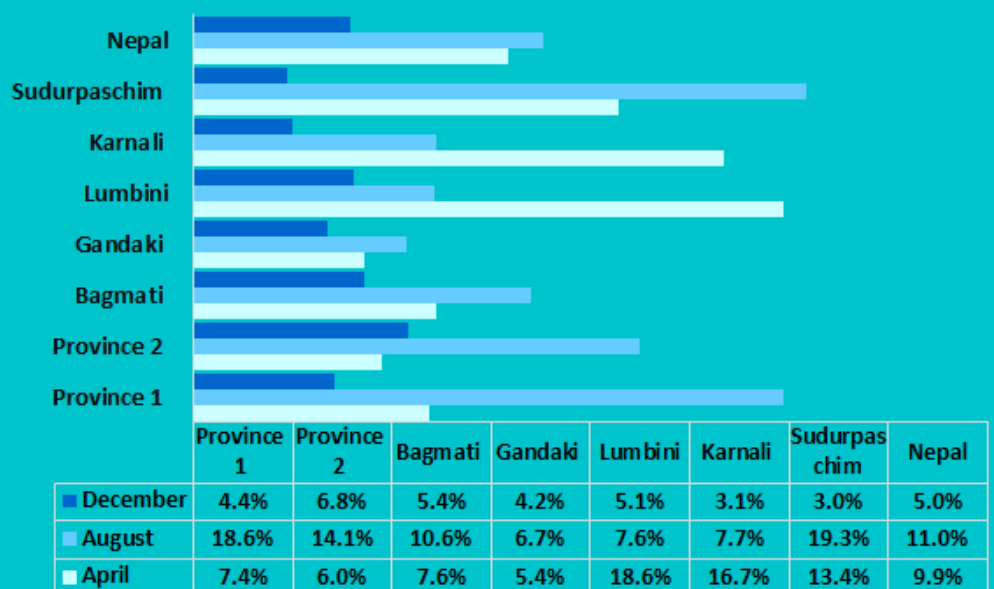


Proportion of children between 6 and 23 months of age that did not meet the minimum recommended **did not change substantially** in December 2020 compared to August, however, was slightly lower than in April.

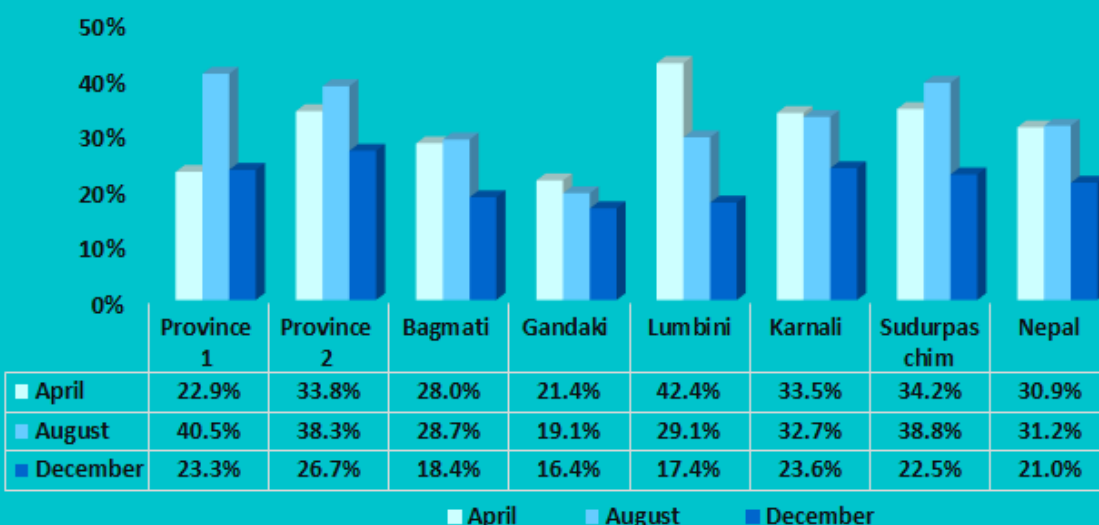
Job loss



In all 3 rounds, **job loss and income reduction** were common among **daily wage labourers**, households receiving **remittances** and **medium-size businesses**.



Income reduction



Proportion of household experiencing income reduction was **smaller in December** than in previous rounds; however, **over 20%** of household still reported **some income loss**.

While the survey indicates a gradual improvement regarding the COVID-19 crisis, the aggravated conditions persist, and continue to Nepalese households. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on job loss and income reduction remains notable and can further put pressure on income generation and livelihoods. Such prolonged exposure to adversary conditions, together with the upcoming lean season, can in turn can lead to further risk of food insecurity in Nepal, particularly for certain types of households. Adequate and timely response and targeting of assistance will be therefore critical.

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS (DECEMBER)

- ➔ 58.7% of surveyed households are from rural areas, 41.3% from urban.
- ➔ About 25 percent of the household heads in the survey had secondary education, 21% were illiterate, 16.5% had primary education and 13.5% were non-formal literate.
- ➔ A higher proportion of female-headed households (37.1%) were illiterate, compared to male-headed households (18.4%).
- ➔ Nearly 7 percent of the households had at least one disabled person in the household, with the highest rate in Karnali (11.4%), followed by Sudurpaschim (9.6%)
- ➔ More than 21 percent of the surveyed households have at least one member with chronic illness. The highest prevalence was in Bagmati (26.7%), followed by Province 2 and Lumbini (22.9%).
- ➔ More than 20 percent of surveyed households reported at least one member in the household being sick, of which 75 percent sought a COVID-19 test.
- ➔ It is noteworthy to highlight that more than 98 percent of surveyed households have at least toilet access of some kind and more than 97 percent of respondents reported that they observed good hand washing practices.
- ➔ Nearly 30 percent of respondents reported safety risks related to access to markets, hospitals, clinics, and healthcare centers for women and girls, 11 percent higher than the last survey conducted in August and 17 percent higher than the last survey conducted in April 2020.
- ➔ Nearly 16 percent of surveyed households have at least one migrant member.



Ministry of Agriculture and
Livestock Development

