



Impact of COVID-19 on Households in Nepal

WFP conducted the fifth round of the mVAM Household Survey in October-November 2021 with an aim to assess the impact of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic on livelihoods and household food security. In 2021 1st round was conducted in June and in 2020, three rounds were conducted - April, August, and December.



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



In October-November 2021
5,961 households were
interviewed



41.1% of the total survey
respondents were female



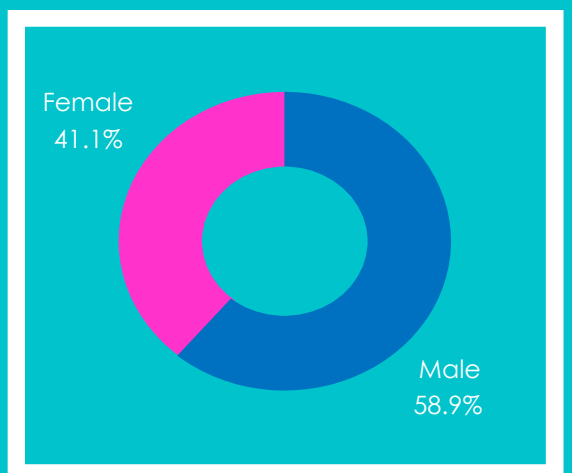
The average size of
households included in the
survey is 5.44



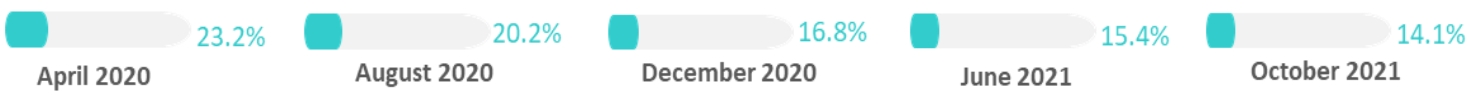
14.1 percent of households
are female headed



The average age of the
respondent is 35 years old



Inadequate Food Consumption (% of households)



The overall food insecurity situation across the country has improved in October 2021, compared to 2020. A large proportion of the population however remains food insecure and highest levels of food insecurity in areas that are chronically most vulnerable expose profound regional disparities.

Income reduction (% of households)



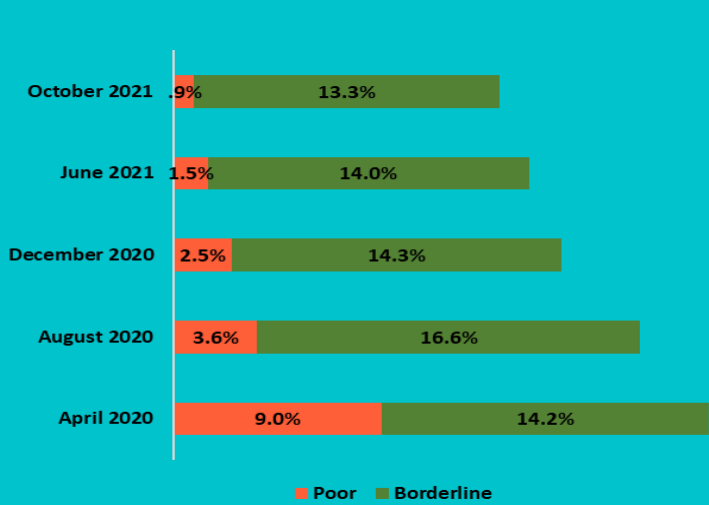
Job loss (% of households)



Despite the observed improvements in food security status, the unremitting impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent widespread disruptions has continued to stress livelihoods of Nepalese households. While less than in the first half of 2021, more households have now been exposed to income cuts compared to 2020. With prominent reliance on market purchase for food sourcing, negative coping chiefly aimed at income generation, households' ability to access food, and their overall capacity to withstand further shocks and precarious conditions remains at risk. Ultimately, this may lead to deepening of pre-existing vulnerabilities, as well as further broadening of exposure to other parts of the population that would be normally less vulnerable.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD STATUS

APRIL, AUGUST, DECEMBER 2020 AND JUNE, OCTOBER 2021

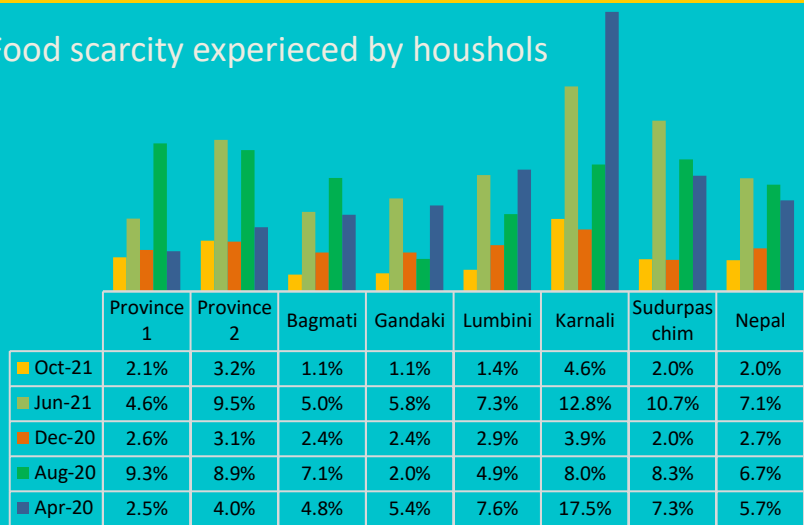


In all five rounds of the survey, **food insecurity** was more prevalent among households that experienced **job and income loss**, and **illiterate** households, **rural** households, and households with persons with **disability**. In 2021, the survey also assessed the wealth status of households and found that the **poorest households** were the most affected.

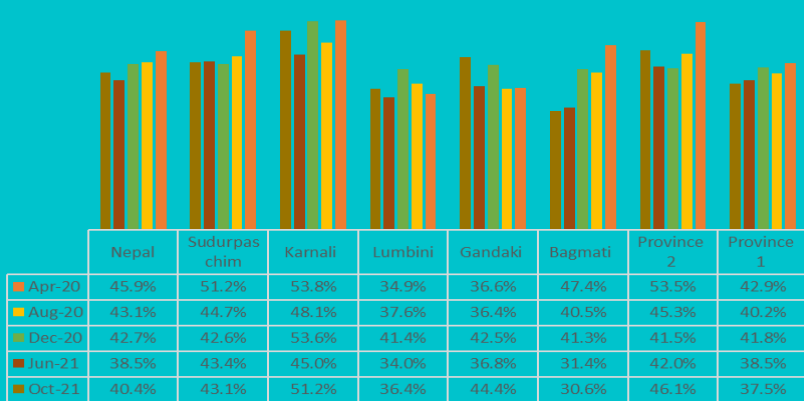


Less households did not have enough food to meet their household needs in October 2021, compared to 2020.

Food scarcity experienced by households



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



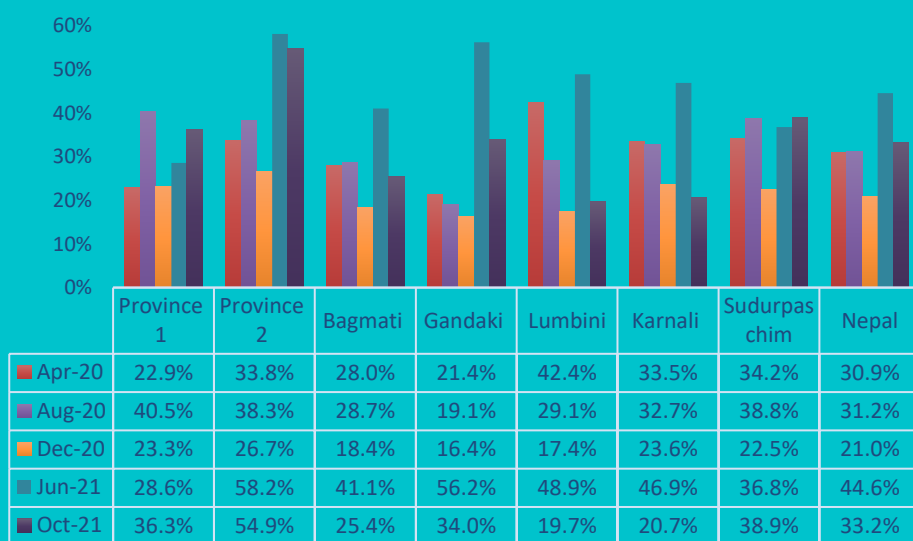
The proportion of children between 6 and 23 months of age that did not meet the minimum dietary diversity **increased** in October 2021 compared to June 2021.



Proportion of household experiencing job loss **declined in October 2021**, compared to the previous rounds. Income reduction, while lower than in June 2021, remained above the 2022 levels.



Income reduction



In all five rounds, **job loss and income reduction** were more common among **daily wage labourers, tourism sector, households receiving remittance and small - and medium-size businesses**.

While the survey indicates improvement, the aggravated conditions persist and continue to affect Nepalese households. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on job loss and income reduction remains notable and can put further pressure on income generation and livelihoods. The volatile economy and slow growth will likely continue to pressure livelihoods and income generation beyond the most vulnerable groups. Ultimately, this may lead to deepening of pre-existing vulnerabilities, as well as further broadening of exposure to other parts of the population that would be normally less vulnerable. Such prolonged exposure to adversary conditions, can in turn 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.

Additional Findings | October-November 2021

- 60.7 percent of surveyed households are from rural areas, 39.3 percent from urban.
- About 24.1 percent of the household heads in the survey had secondary education, 22.1 percent were illiterate, 16.7 percent had primary education and 11.9 percent were non-formal literate.
- A higher proportion of female-headed households (41 percent) were illiterate, compared to male-headed households (19.1 percent).
- Nearly 5.4 percent of the households had at least one disabled person in the household, with the highest rate in Province 1 (7.8 percent), followed by Karnali (6.8 percent).
- Over 26.9 percent of the surveyed households have at least one member with chronic illness. The highest prevalence was in Gandaki (31.8 percent), followed by Province 2 (31 percent).
- 2.7 percent of households adopted a negative livelihood coping behaviour to address food shortages, it was decreased compared to June 2021, when 10.9 percent of households adopted negative coping strategies.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has also raised concerns among the population:
 - 25.8 percent of respondents were concerned about the increase in food prices
 - 14.5 percent about reduction in income
 - 14.2 percent about disruption of education institutions
 - 13.5 percent about getting sick
- More than 23.6 percent of surveyed households reported at least one member in the household being sick, of which 25.8 percent sought a COVID-19 test.
- It is noteworthy to highlight that over 79 percent of surveyed households have improved toilet facility, and more than 96.9 percent of respondents reported that they observed good hand washing practices.
- Nearly 1.9 percent of respondents reported safety risks related to access to markets, hospitals, clinics, and healthcare centers for women and girls.
- Nearly 18.6 percent of surveyed households have at least one migrant member.
- Assistance to address the adverse effects of the COVID-19 crisis was received by nearly 6.62 percent of respondents, either from government or non-government organizations

For more information, visit www.wfp.org/nepal

