COVID-19: Impact on households well being monitoring
From March to April, 2021
The Gambia
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KEY MESSAGES

COVID-19 UPDATE

- There appears to be a decline in the compliance with COVID-19 prevention guidelines. The share of households who are either no longer applying various measures or applying them less regularly increased between February and April 2021. For instance, the share of households who are no longer or less frequently wearing masks increased from 36% in February 2021 to 44% in April 2021. Compliance with other measures such as washing hands, social distancing and stock up food have also declined during the same period.

- Although awareness about the arrival of vaccines is high - 94%; the share of households willing to be vaccinated declined from 65% in December 2020 to 55% in April 2021. The poorest households and those living in urban areas other than Banjul and Kanifing appear to be more supportive of vaccination (59% and 57% respectively). For household heads who are willing to be vaccinated, protecting themselves and/or those living with them are their main reasons.

- It appears the main reason for vaccine hesitancy in The Gambia revolve around doubts and misinformation about the vaccines. 66% of households cited not trusting the vaccines as their main reason for their unwillingness to be vaccinated; whereas 26% said they heard the vaccines have negative side effects.

EMLOYMENT

- The share of household heads who were working before the start of COVID-19 (March 2020) but who stopped working fell from 26% in October 2020 to 17% in December 2020, then rose to 21% in April 2021. These results may be highly sensitive to seasonality especially for activities in the agriculture sector. Among the poorest households and those living in rural areas, the share of household heads who are out of work is higher (33% and 26% respectively) probably because they are more likely to engage in seasonal agricultural activities.

- The reasons for work stoppages in April 2021 support this view, as reasons related to covid-19 are down from December 2020. Reasons related to business closures and staff reduction move down from 20% to 12% and 5% to 1% respectively.
### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)

- About one in ten households has a member with a disability. This type of household is more common within the 20% poorest (15%) and in rural areas (15%). Walking difficulties are the most widespread among households (4%).
- In nearly three out of four households (74%), the usual source of livelihood for persons with disabilities (mostly family and friends support) have been affected by the coronavirus epidemic, especially for those belonging to the poorest households and those living in the Banjul and Kanifing areas. In this case, the latter are the most severely affected (65% severely affected against 38% at the national level).
- Persons with disabilities are also facing difficulties in accessing basic services—especially health care; since COVID-19 outbreak. Persons with disabilities have difficulty accessing food (74%, of which 29% to a very high degree), the medicines they need (76%, of which 30% to a very high degree) and medical care (81%, of which 29% to a very high degree).

### IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON POVERTY AND SOCIAL COHESION

- In April 2021, 6 out of 10 household heads feel they are ‘very poor’. More than half of household heads (52%) feel that their household’s living conditions have deteriorated over the previous 12 months—reflecting the protracted nature of the effects of the pandemic. The share of households who reported deterioration in their standard of living is higher among households in the poorest quintile of the asset index-based welfare distribution (65%) and those in rural areas (56%).
- When asked about the main issues affecting young people, most respondents cited inadequate access to opportunities to fulfill their aspirations; and inadequate representation in community decision-making—65% and 54% respectively. Furthermore, more than half of respondents (60%) consider that the treatment of women has not changed compared to the pre-COVID-19 period—27% think the treatment of women has worsen.
- Households’ perception about government actions since the pandemic is generally mixed. Households are dissatisfied, particularly with economic and social actions related to job creation (47% very unfavorable), the improvement of living conditions (40% very unfavorable), and the reduction of the gap between rich and poor (38% very unfavorable). The opinions are more favorable towards the measures to fight the spread of COVID-19—62% and 52% of households report satisfaction with the government’s measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus and vaccine awareness and acquisition, respectively.

For further details, visit [https://www.gbosdata.org](https://www.gbosdata.org).

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### Additional Information

- [Graph 6](#): Degree to which persons with disability normal livelihood have been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak (%)
- [Graph 7](#): Difficulties encountered by persons with disability since becoming aware of the coronavirus outbreak (%)
- [Graph 8](#): Kind of support persons with disability would be most interested in receiving (%)
- [Graph 9](#): Change in household's living standard during last 12 months (%)
- [Graph 10](#): Perception of government actions during the pandemic (%)