

COVID-19: Impact on households well being monitoring

From November 26 to December 24, 2020 **The Gambia**

Newsletter No 3. --January 2020



KEY MESSAGES

The percentage of households who experienced a decline in labor income decreased from 92% during March - mid-August to 44% during October - December 2020.

More than two out of three (65%) households expressed willingness to be vaccinated against covid-19 if a vaccine were to be approved.

In December 2020, almost all households with school-attending member sent them back to school.

From March to December 2020, households perceive an improvement in their well-being and are more optimistic in their forecasts

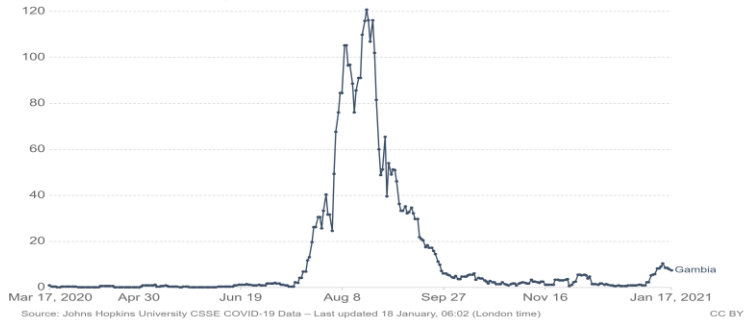
METHODOLOGY



Results of this note use data from the wave 3 of the High Frequency Survey on the COVID-19 Impacts on Households. A sub-sample of 1335 households of the Labor Force Survey (LFS) were interviewed by phone between November 26 and December 24, 2020. These same households have already been interviewed during the wave 1 (August 21 to September 9) and wave 2 (October 28 to November 14) whose sample consisted respectively of 1437 and 1385 households. The results are representative at the national level and at strata level (Banjul and Kanifing agglomeration, other urban areas, rural areas).

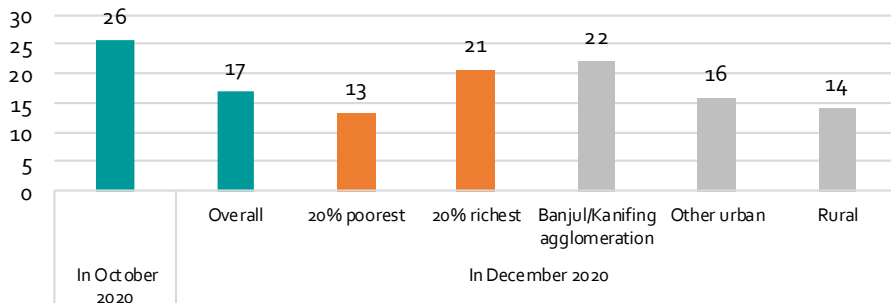
Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases

Shown is the rolling 7-day average. The number of confirmed cases is lower than the number of actual cases; the main reason for that is limited testing.

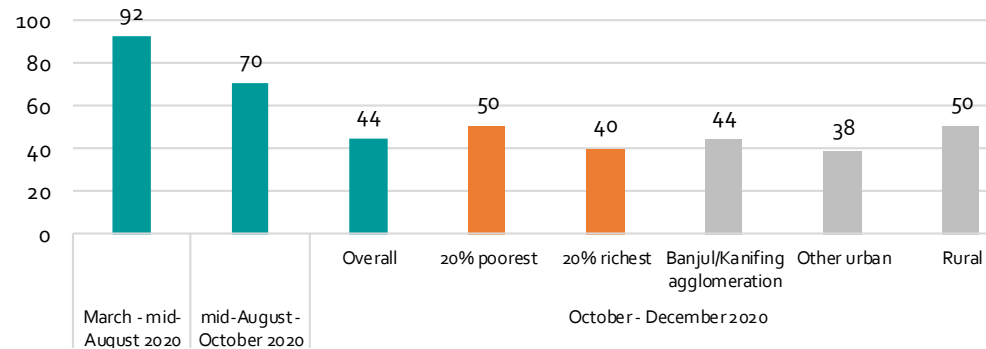


EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME LOSS

- 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. While these results may also be sensitive to seasonality, disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic are still common. For instance, 42 percent of household heads who are not working as of December 2020, cited a reason potentially related to COVID-19, the main one being the closure of work establishments
- Household labor income has improved significantly since mid-August. Indeed, while in mid-August and October, respectively 92% and 70% had experienced a decline in their labor income, in December 2020 less than half (44%) of households experienced a decline in income. This improvement in labor markets is however marked by heterogeneity across the welfare distribution and place of residence. The 20% poorest households (95% and 75% experienced income decline resp. in mid-August and October) and those in rural areas (97% and 70% experienced income decline resp. in mid-August and October) are still more vulnerable to declines in labor income.



Graph 1: Household head working before March 2020 but not working in October, then December 2020

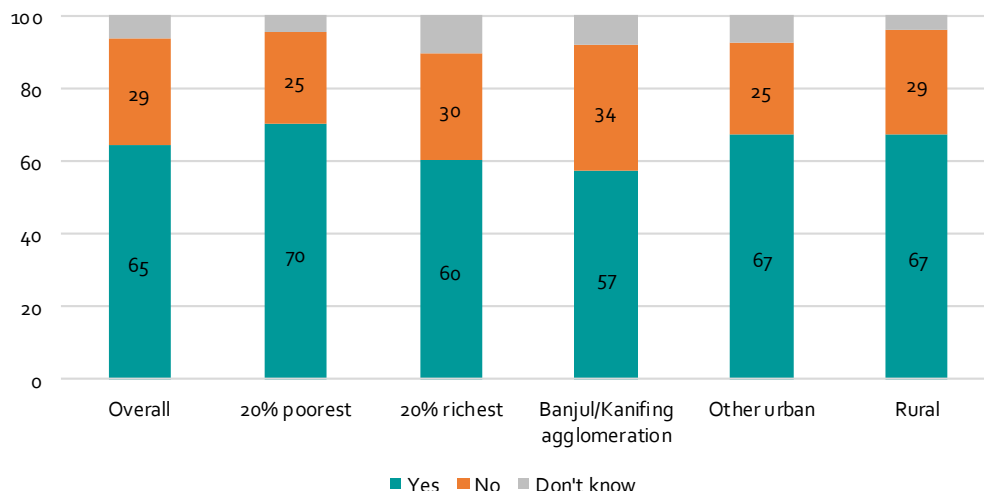


Graph 2: Decline in household income between mid-August and December 2020

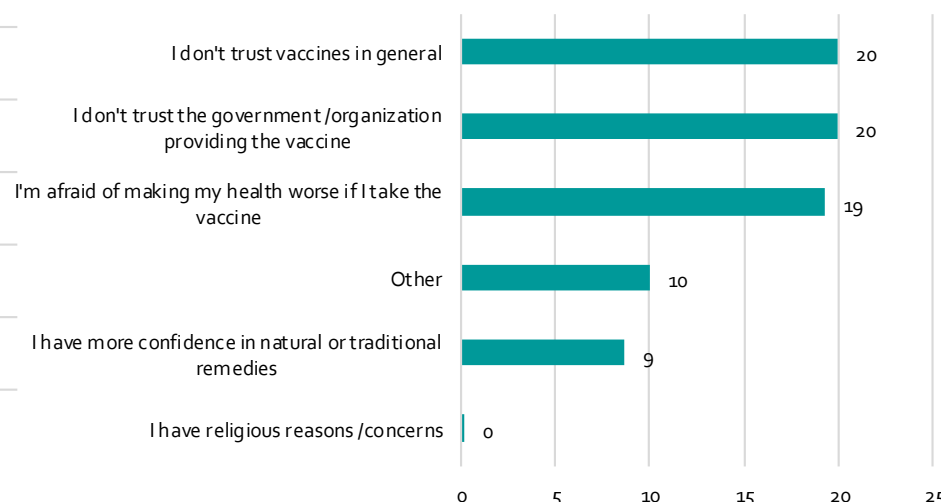


COVID-19 VACCINE

- More than two out of three households expressed willingness to be vaccinated against covid-19 if a vaccine were approved. However, household heads in the wealthiest strata and in urban areas are much less favorable to vaccination. The reasons cited by households reluctant to be vaccinated vary widely, the main reasons being lack of confidence in the vaccine or the authorities responsible for vaccine distribution and fear of deteriorating health.
- Moreover, regarding willingness to pay for vaccination, 58% of households are in favor of it; however, the majority are only willing to pay an amount of less than 500 GMD.



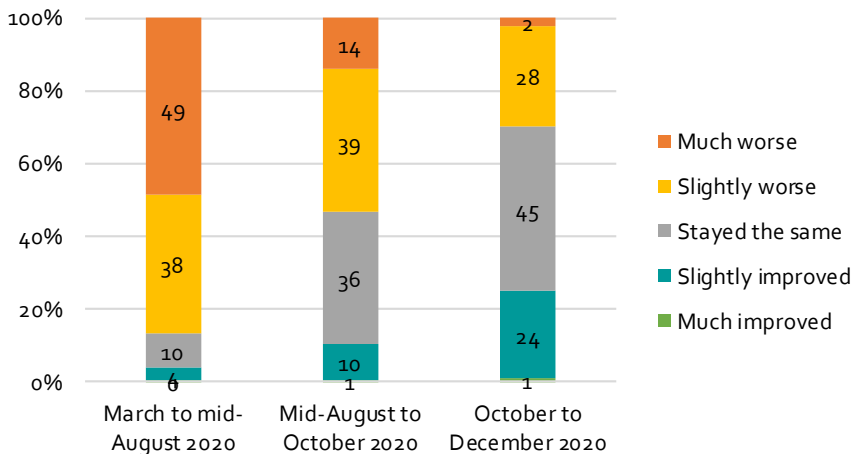
Graph 3: Agree to be vaccinated if an approved vaccine available



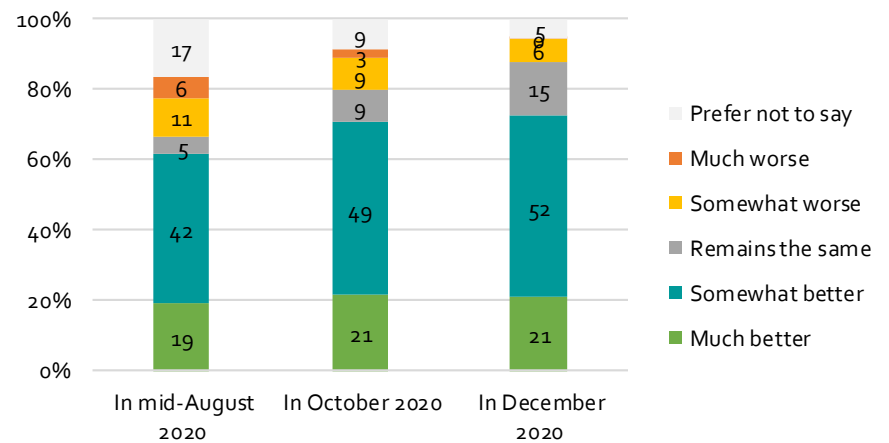
Graph 4: Reason for not agreeing to vaccination

PERCEPTION OF WELL-BEING

- From March to December 2020, households perceive an improvement in their well-being. Indeed, from the period March to mid-August 2020 to the period October-December 2020, the share of households experiencing decline in their well-being fell from 49% to only 2%. On the other hand, the share that perceive an increase went from 4% to 24%. The forecasts of households are also in clear improvement between their mid-August and December 2020 estimates.



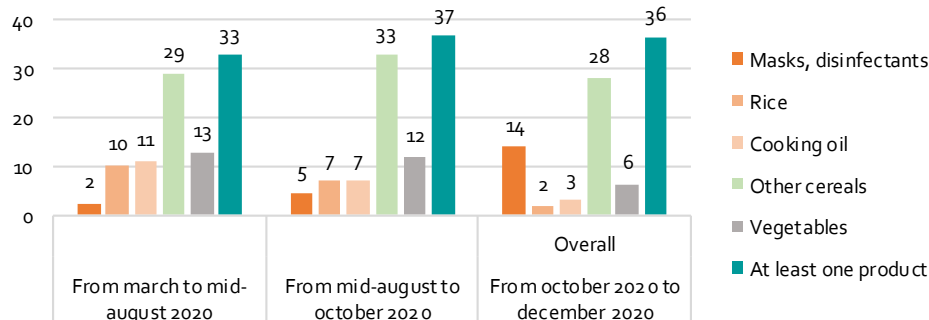
Graph 5: Perception of household wellbeing from March to December 2020



Graph 6: Subjective forecast of the evolution of household wellbeing

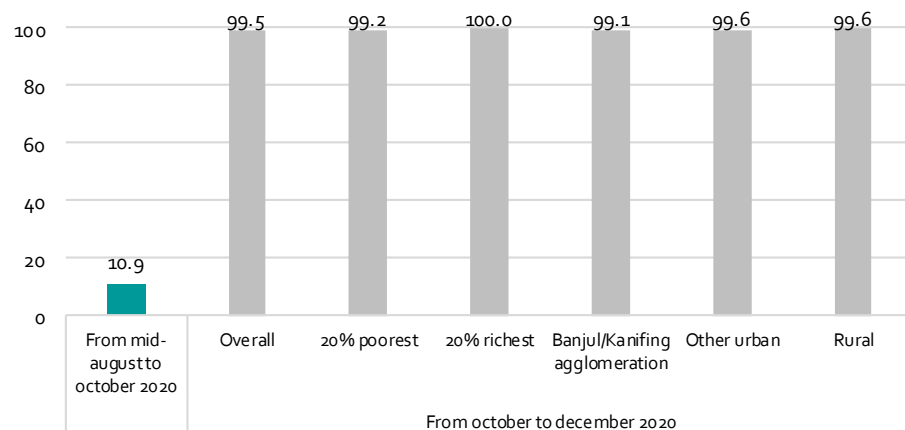
ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

- Access to food is clearly improving. While between March and mid-August half of the households were unable to stock up food as usual, between October and December this figure dropped to 35% of households. Especially for rice, oil and vegetables, non-access rates are declining, particularly for rice, oil and vegetables, although disparities are appearing to the disadvantage of the poorest households and those living in rural areas for oil and vegetables. On the other hand, households perceive less access to masks and disinfectants, which could simply reflect a decrease in the perception of the need for such products and/or declining compliance with the covid-19 guidance.



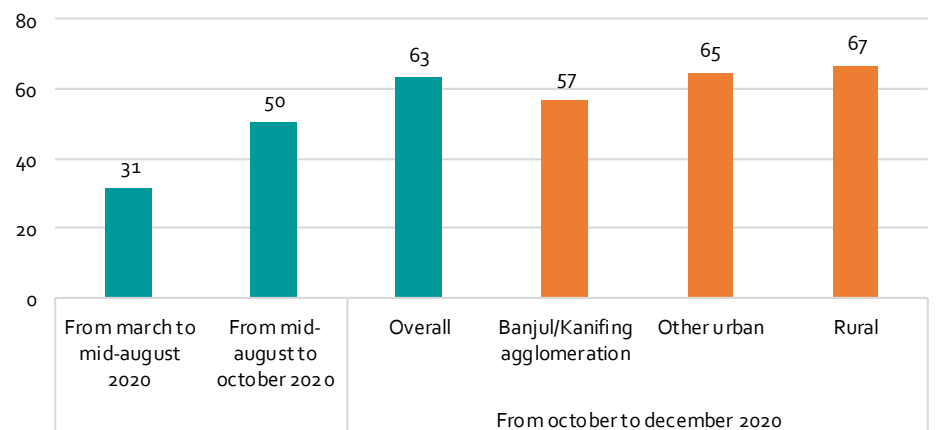
Graph 7: Household non access to commodities since mid-March 2020

- In December 2020, regardless of wealth quintile and place of residence, almost all households with at least one school-attending member sent them back to school, compared to only 11% in October.



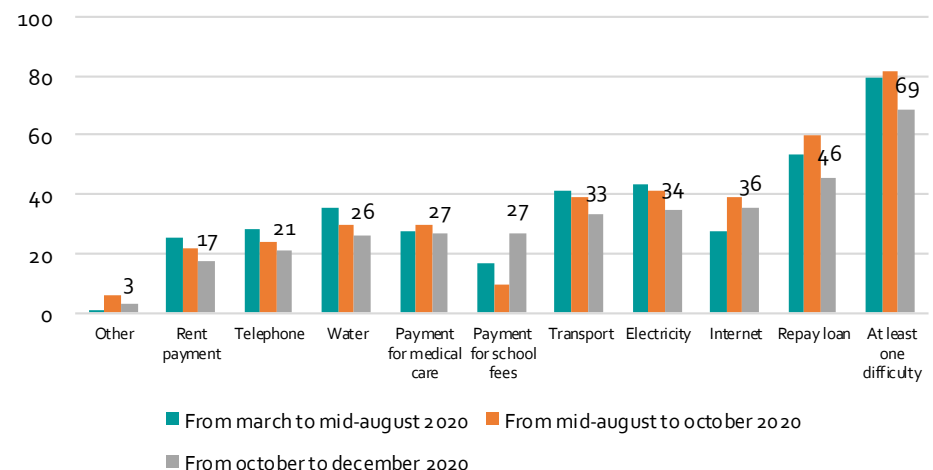
Graph 9: Households with children back to school

- Need of medical care expressed by households increased from the period March to mid-August 2020 to the period October to December 2020 from 31% to 63% of households, probably revealing a restrained need during the peak of the first wave of COVID-19 cases. In December only 1.2% of the households were unable to access medical care, mainly due to lack of money and fear of covid-19.



Graph 8: Need of medical care since From March to December 2020

- From mid-August to December, the share of households experiencing difficulties in meeting their financial commitments dropped from nearly 80% to 70% of households. Repayment of loans remains however the major difficulty for households in December 2020 (46%).



Graph 10: Household facing problems of honoring payment of services



For further details, visit <https://www.gbosdata.org>

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