



Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste Round 2 (SEIA 2.0)

RESULTS FOR BOBONARO MUNICIPALITY





Bobonaro

12 July to 31 July 2021



17

Sucos



355

Households



60.0%

Agricultural activities



16.0% Households
Headed by women



1821

Individual members

49.9%
Female

50.1%
Male



5 Interviewers
from Bobonaro

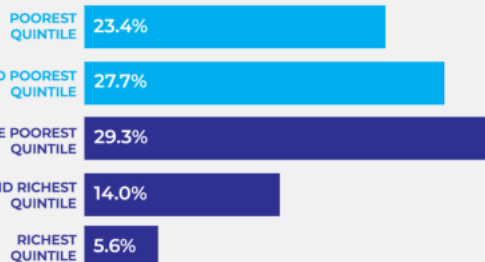
1.2% of individuals aged above 15 years old had a disability.

Data presented in this report are not representative of Bobonaro. The results represent the households interviewed. Caution must be applied in interpreting data. Data is reported only at municipality level- for confidentiality purposes, suco and aldeias included in the survey are not mentioned in this factsheet. For the survey analysis, sample weights were calculated to address the unequal household selection probabilities, non-response and under-coverage. Separate weights were calculated for household-level data, individual-level data and respondent-level data.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR BOBONARO

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

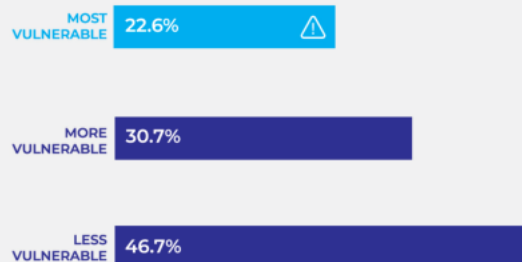
WEALTH QUINTILES IN BOBONARO



The proportion of the poor households is higher than the national average. The number of households belonging to the richest quintile is significantly low.

Economic vulnerability of households was measured through a wealth index and making comparisons between the poorest (lowest wealth quintile) and relatively well-off (highest wealth quintiles) households. The wealth index was calculated based on households' assets, ownership, utilities, and dwelling characteristics.

VULNERABLE GROUPS IN BOBONARO



A social vulnerability index measuring the number of characteristics of persons in the household that place them at higher risk of economic deprivation, exclusion, and social isolation was developed for the SEIA 2.0 analysis.

Households with members of older age, having a disability, female headship of the household and the number of children vis à vis persons in the working-age groups (the child dependency ratio) were measured. Households are divided into 3 groups – most vulnerable, more vulnerable and less vulnerable.



22.6% most vulnerable
households in Bobonaro



21.7% most vulnerable
households in the whole country



44.3%
of the persons living in **MOST VULNERABLE** households were men



55.7%
of the persons living in **MOST VULNERABLE** households were women

Among the people living in 'most' socially vulnerable households, there were more women than men. The proportion of men and women living in 'more' vulnerable households was similar. The 'less' socially vulnerable households had more men than women.

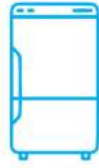
HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did the household have or own one or more of the following items?



39.1%

national average 49.3%



11.9%

national average 30.4%



45.9%

national average 69.9%

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did any member of this household have or own one or more of the following items?



4.4%

national average 16.8%



90.6%

national average 92.7%



41.9%

national average 40.3%

Digital technologies and private transportation have been heavily relied upon to mitigate the effects of physical distancing and movement restrictions. The percentage of households that own or have various digital assets was lower than the national average.

WASH



95.7%

had water available
in the house



84.6%

national average



64.1%

used soap



75.7%

national average

The SEIA 2.0 observed that when households do not have water and soap, symptoms of COVID-19 were more common for these households.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE



23.8%

have some savings



27.8%

borrowed money



17.2%

member(s) with bank accounts

31.8%

national average

30.7%

national average

40.3%

national average

Proportion of households with someone with savings and with bank accounts was considerably lower than the average.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN BOBONARO

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



1071

individuals aged 15+ years

The SEIA 2.0 asked about their current and pre-COVID income and employment situation.



53.6%

labour force participation rate



51.9%

national average

Labour force participation rate is closer to the national average.

Proportion of employed people in the working-age population



45.8%

nationwide employment

41.7% for women



57.5%

nationwide employment

48.6% for men



51.5%

of the working-age population

were employed in Bobonaro



45.2%

national average

More men were employed than women. The employment rate for both women and men were moderately higher than the national average.

Employed – The ability of the economy to generate paid or for-profit jobs is the employment-to-population ratio, the proportion of the working-age population that is employed

Unemployment and economically inactive people in the working-age population

UNEMPLOYED



1.9%



2.3%

INACTIVE



52.3%



40.2%

More women were economically inactive than men.

Unemployed - refers to persons not in employment in the reference month of the SEIA 2.0 (March 2020), and who, at that time, were seeking employment and were available to start working if an opportunity would have been offered.

Economically inactive - The persons not actively participating in the labour market include those who are not employed and not unemployed

Proportion of employed persons in vulnerable employment



92.8%

individuals in vulnerable employment

The categories of self-employed without employees and contributing family workers are considered as being in vulnerable employment.

The percentage of employed individuals in vulnerable employment is higher than the national average.



3.8%

self-employed (without employees)

87.8%

contributing family workers



2.9%

self-employed (without employees)

91.2%

contributing family workers

86.3%
national average



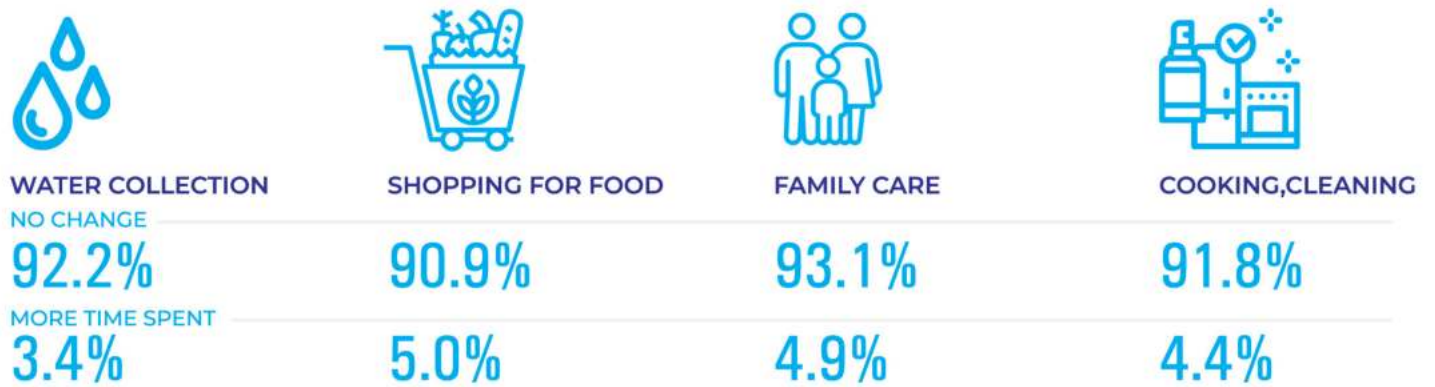
There was no significant difference between women and men in losing a job.

17.5% Did not go to work in fear of COVID-19 infection

17.5% Did not go to work in fear of COVID-19 infection

In many, if not most cases, the recorded 'job loss' should be interpreted as a temporary suspension of work.

CHANGES IN TIME SPENT DOING HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES



For the majority of households in Bobonaro there was no significant change in time spent doing various domestic chores. Among the small number of households reporting change, women spent more time than men.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Has the level of your household expenditures increased or decreased due to the corona situation, or did it remain the same?

COVID-19 has impacted more than 80% of households' expenditure.

The majority of households reported decrease in their expenditure. Poor and vulnerable households were more likely to reduce expenditure.



HOUSEHOLD SOURCES OF INCOME DURING COVID-19



50.1% of the individuals who had an earning said their income was affected by COVID-19

24.6% national average

Of those, 92.2% reported a decrease in their income.

FOOD INSECURITY



43.5%
households were affected by moderate or severe food insecurity

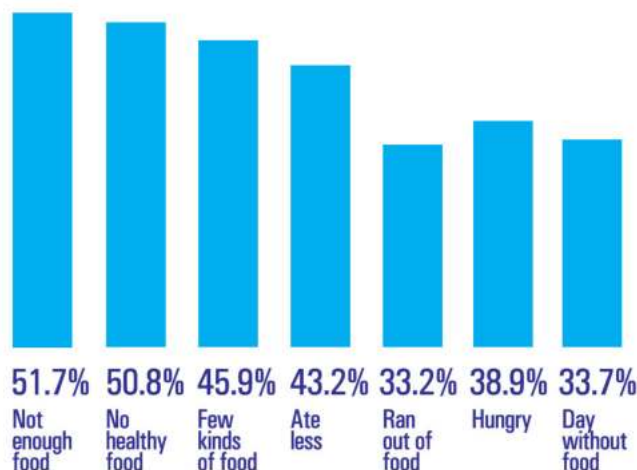


24.2%
were affected by severe food insecurity

41.4%
national average

19.3%
national average

Food concerns experienced in the last one month



One out of every three households reported 'there was a time when household members were hungry and went without eating for a whole day' due to lack of money or other resources for food'.

LIVELIHOOD COPING MECHANISMS

Because of a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food, did your household in the last one month had to ...?



Most common coping strategies used were selling more livestock, reducing education and health costs and spending savings. Poor households used more coping mechanisms than relatively well-off households. Due to their deprived economic position, they are more frequently forced to cope differently to put food on the table.



50.9%
households mentioned they faced major difficulties or shocks affecting their lives since the COVID-19 State of Emergency



25.9%
households experienced poor harvest



14.4%
households experienced serious illness and catastrophic health expenditure



13.8%
could not sell or go to markets

Further 5.0% of respondents' main concern was about growing unsafety or unrest due to COVID-19, and 3.4% with the negative effects of the COVID-19 on the national economy. 3.1% said they did not have concerns related to COVID-19.



What is your main concern about COVID-19?



The proportion of those prioritizing health as major concern was significantly higher than the national average.

EASTER FLOOD

Over the Easter weekend in the beginning of April 2021, Timor-Leste suffered devastating floods and landslides. The combination of the pandemic and the Easter Flood created a perilous situation that posed a direct threat to people's health and livelihood.



14.4%
households had their dwelling damaged by the Easter Flood



70.7%
agricultural households interviewed had their standing crops and harvest destroyed due to Easter flood



61.7%
persons who had an income indicated that their income had changed because of the Easter Flood (national average 62.8%)

SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19

HEALTH



55.0%
households interviewed needed medical treatment
national average 60.8%



64.0%
could access health services
ALWAYS



31.4%
could access
SOMETIMES



4.6%
household mentioned they are NEVER able to access health services

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, what has been the change in your household's utilization of health services?



77.8%
No change



13.6%
Increased



6.3%
Decreased

Have any of the children below age 10 in this household missed vaccinations (immunization) since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?



28.8%
missed child vaccination (immunization)
national average 20.3%



Did any female members of the household aged between 15-49 miss family planning or any other reproductive health service since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?



33.5%
missed reproductive health services
national average 29.3%

Of the households that missed child vaccination, 84% mentioned COVID-19 Emergency was the main reason.

Further 38.1% of household respondents said 'don't know' whether household member(s) have missed family planning or reproductive health services during COVID-19 Emergency.

90.9%
have heard about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 91.7%

65.9%
had concerns about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 50.3%

47.8%
were worried about health side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines
national average 46.2%

34.2%
were worried about death or serious illness related to the COVID-19 vaccines

Bobonaro is one of the municipalities with highest number of respondents with concerns about COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine advocacy and socialization programmes should continue to keep the economy open and protect the people.

EDUCATION

The SEIA 2.0 tried to identify the impact of COVID-19 on education services in the country by looking at missed in-person learning opportunities and sources of distance learning. Education-related questions were asked 897 persons (50.5% male and 49.5% female) aged between 4 and 25 years in the survey in Bobonaro.



897

persons aged 4-25 years in the survey in Bobonaro



50.5%

male



49.5%

female

Educational attendance after school reopening in 2021



83.0%

students were attending schools regularly



1.1%

attending schools irregularly



15.9%

did not attend at all

Majority of students have been attending schools regularly when the schools reopened in 2021



86.2%

students continued studying at home on a daily basis during school closures
national average 62.6%



42.5%

used student workbooks of the Ministry of Education
national average 48.6%



23.6%

used online material 'Learning Passport' online platform
national average 13.3%



5.5%

used 'Eskola Ba Uma' TV programme
national average 10.4%

The use of 'Learning Passport' online education platform was higher among the students in Bobonaro than the national average.

0.6% studied irregularly

13.1% did not continue studying at home during school closures

21.5%

mentioned 'No information on available TV/radio/online resources' as the main reason for not continuing studying at home.

Support or guide materials for households in 'home schooling' should be strengthened. Whilst focusing on improving digital learning, the Government should also support different platforms and methods of distance learning.

There was no significant difference based on gender of the students.

TRUST AND SUPPORT



95.1%
strongly trust or trust others in their community
national average 89.6%



83.3%
of all respondents said people's trust in each other got better since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency
national average 72.9%



83.1%
of households received help of some kind
national average 68.1%



36.4%
of households had given help of some kind to others
national average 30.2%

The number of households that received help from others outside their household was high in Bobonaro.

There was no significant difference based on gender of the respondent.

Top 2 types of support received by households

Of those that received help



Food

94.8%



Cash

87.0%



Food

46.6%



Cash

42.5%

Top 2 support providers to the households



91.2%

National government



3.3%

International organizations



Among the households that received support, national government was the main source of support during the COVID-19 Emergency.

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

How people view their life and how they feel is important to understand the social conditions of the society. Therefore, the SEIA 2.0 asked how people evaluate various aspects of their lives and how they felt just a day before the interview.

Overall, how satisfied are you with life as a whole these days?



male **89.5%**



female **92.0%**

In total, 90.8% of respondents said they are satisfied with their life as a whole these days.

Proportion of the respondents saying they felt... yesterday



sad

11.0%



worried

20.3%



tired

50.6%



felt happy

77.3%

31.8%

30.9%

64.8%

83.5%

The difference between men and women in feeling sad, worried and tired was large. More women had felt sad, worried and tired the day before the interview.

The majority of men and women had felt happy at some point during the day before the interview.

SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE

The results show the satisfaction of the people in Bobonaro with the government response and how the national and local Government worked closely with the communities to disseminate information about COVID-19 and to provide relevant support measures.



45.6%
found the information timely

national average 44.9%



48.4%
found the information somewhat timely

national average 36.8%



49.4%
found the information useful

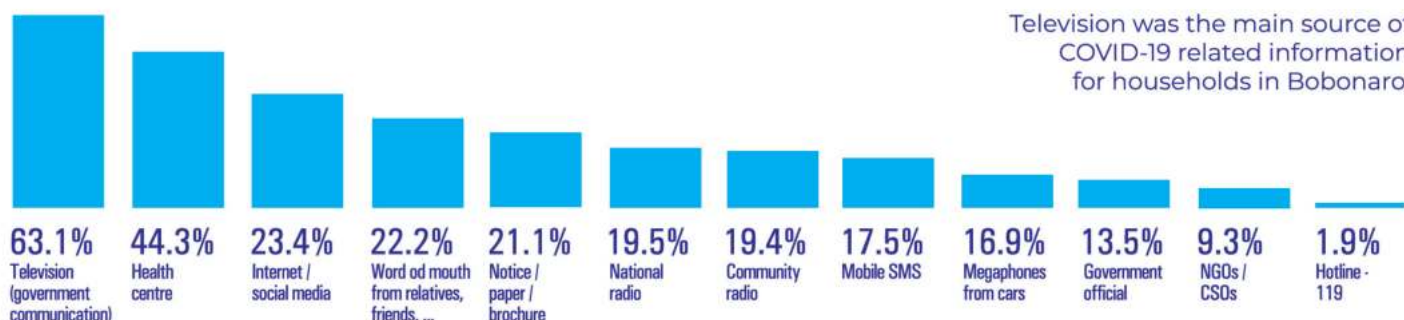
national average 55.6%



46.8%
found the information somewhat useful

national average 40.9%

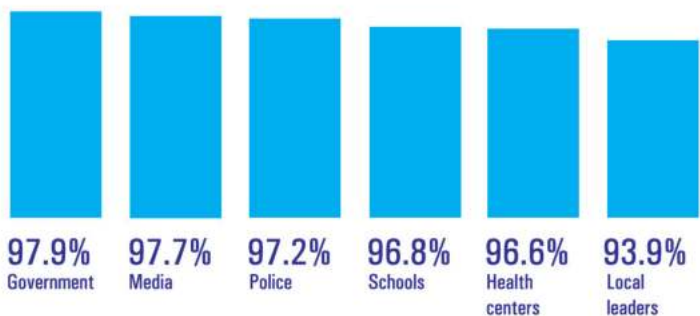
Households' sources of COVID-19 information



Television was the main source of COVID-19 related information for households in Bobonaro.

How satisfied are you with the response of the <following institutions> to COVID-19 in supporting citizens?

Proportion of respondents satisfied with institutions' responses to COVID-19

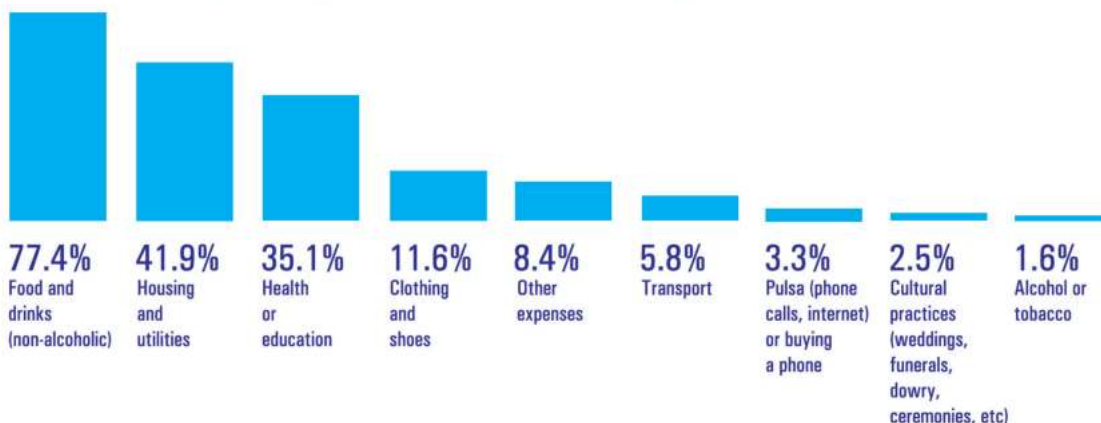


10.3% were very satisfied and **87.6%** were satisfied with the Government's COVID-19 response.

Bobonaro was the municipality with the highest level of satisfaction with different types of institutions.

The SEIA 2.0 asked how the households used the Uma Kain subsidy. (One household can choose several options)

Households' spending of the Uma Kain subsidy



Households have used the Uma Kain subsidy for a mix of purposes including food and non-alcoholic drinks, housing and utilities and health and education expenses.

Cesta Básica overall satisfaction



There was no difference in satisfaction level between women and men.

In your opinion, what are the most important measures the government should implement to support household livelihoods or micro businesses?



75.5% Food support



40.5% Cash support



16.1% Don't know

Respondents from poorer households were more likely to respond 'Don't know' which measures would be important to support livelihoods and micro businesses.



The study shows how the COVID-19 situation has exacerbated underlying issues within the country, including large gaps in development between different income groups, rural and urban settings, the effects of climate hazards, and limited access to education, health services, social protection programmes and markets.

To cope with the confluence of the pandemic, Easter Flood and major difficulties, households have employed coping strategies that hinder further improvement in their lives.

The study also finds resilience among communities, the important role of the national government in social support, and continued efforts of various government and civil society organisations to reduce these negative impacts.

During the entire COVID-19 pandemic period, the Government of Timor-Leste has taken proactive measures to protect the population from spread of the virus and has implemented concrete steps to counteract the worst socio-economic consequences of twin shocks.

Using the SEIA 2.0 findings, a series of recommendations for policymakers to consider in developing strategy for a robust socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are proposed in the full report.

ABOUT THE SEIA 2.0 PROJECT

This Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, Round 2 (SEIA 2.0) was led by UNDP and UNFPA and conducted in collaboration with UN Women, UNICEF, UN Timor-Leste Resident Coordinator's Office, and the General Directorate of Statistics of the Ministry of Finance in Timor-Leste.

The nationwide SEIA 2.0 was conducted between April 2021 and October 2021 covering 4292 households with 23,362 members from 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste. The SEIA 2.0 seeks to inform what livelihood, healthcare, and other essential services are necessary to allow planners and practitioners from all sectors to target their responses to the needs of the population.

Full reports and executive summaries in English and Tetum can be accessed here:

https://www.tl.undp.org/content/timor_lemte/en/home/library/poverty/socio-economic-impact--assessment-of-covid-19--in-timor-lemte--r.html



SCAN ME

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