



# Brief on COVID-19 Households and Jobs Tracker Wave 3



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## Introduction

This short release summarises ten of the highlights of the third wave of the COVID-19 Household and Jobs Tracker. Data was collected in the first two weeks of December 2021 and all the answers are self-reported. In this release, regions have been combined in geographical zones. Western, Central, Greater Accra, and the Volta Region into the Coastal zone, Eastern, Ashanti, Ahafo, Western North, Bono, Bono East, and Oti Region into the Forest zone and Northern, North East, Upper West, Upper East, and Savannah Region into the Savannah zone. For the releases of the previous wave, please visit the GSS website.

### 1. The majority of Ghanaians never got tested for COVID-19

Only 21.6% of Ghanaians indicate that they have ever been tested for COVID-19. In urban areas, this percentage (21.9%) is slightly higher than in rural areas (19.2%). Of the people who did get tested, most got tested at a government facility (see Figure 1).

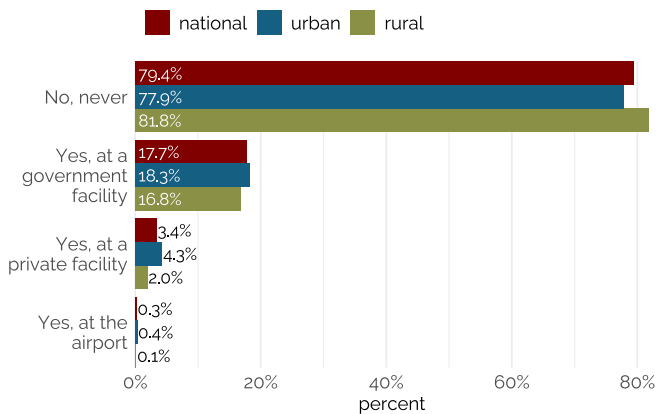


Figure 1: If and where respondents got tested for COVID-19, disaggregated by urban/rural. *Multiple responses were possible.*

When asked if people in their community get tested when showing COVID-19 symptoms, 81.8% indicates that either none or only a few people get tested for COVID-19 (see Figure 2). Once more, a slightly higher percentage is recorded in urban areas.

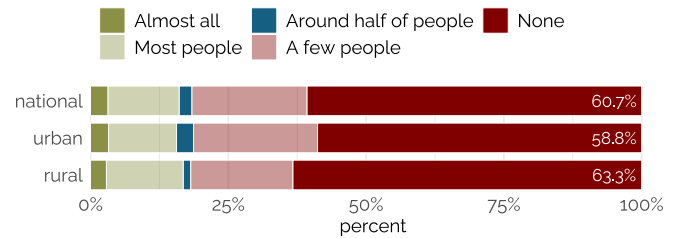


Figure 2: How often people in their community get tested when showing COVID-19 symptoms, disaggregated by urban/rural. *This excludes the people who do not know the testing status of community members.*

### 2. Fear of Stigma is the predominant reason people do not get tested

The most common reason (37.8%) people give for people in their community not getting tested is the stigma around testing positive for COVID-19. Just 5.9% of indicates that the unavailability or distance to a testing facility (3.8%) is the reason people do not get tested for COVID-19 (see Figure 3).

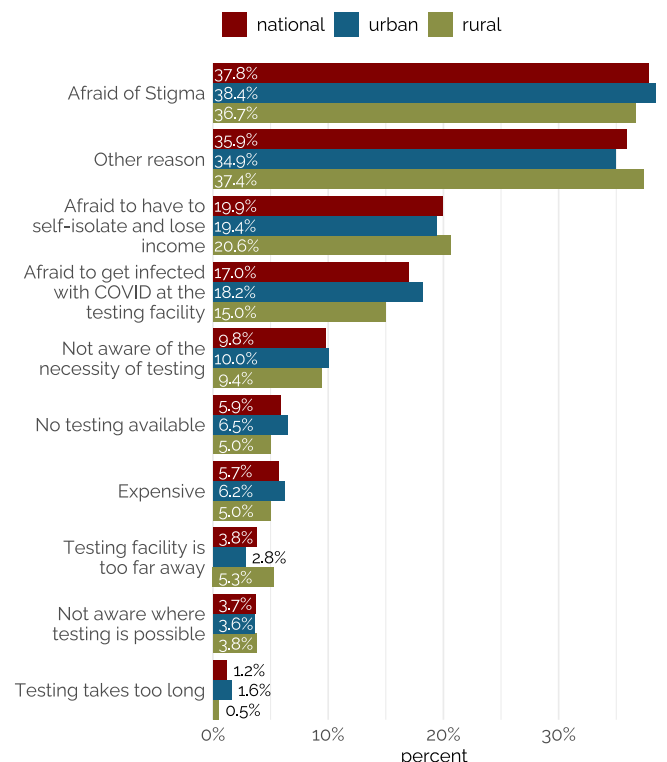


Figure 3: Reasons people in their community do not get tested, disaggregated by urban/rural. *Multiple responses were possible.*



### 3. A third of Ghanaians indicates it is hard to get tested for COVID-19 in their community

35.6% of Ghanaians indicate that it is hard to get tested for COVID-19 in their community. Over half (52.6%) of respondents in the Savannah zone indicated that getting tested is easy, as compared to 43.4% on average nationally (see Figure 4). Otherwise there is not much of a difference between the different levels of disaggregation.

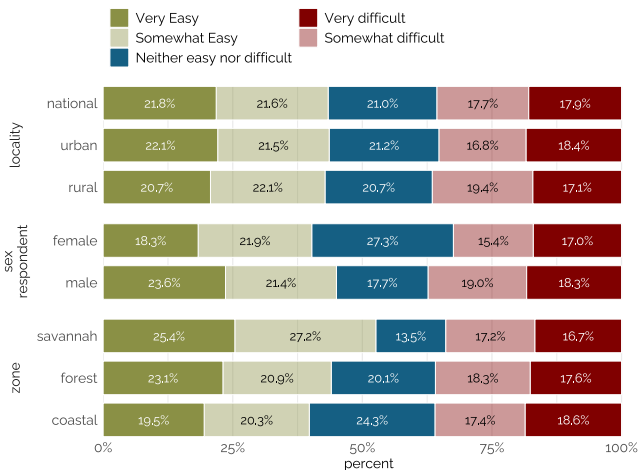


Figure 4: Perceived difficulty of getting tested, disaggregated by urban/rural and zone.

### 4. COVID-19 was not a major reason people did not work

COVID-19 was not a major reason people did not work in the 7 days prior to the interview. Of the 26.7% of people who indicated that they did not work in the previous seven days, only 4.3% gave COVID-19 as a reason for not working. However, business closure (15.9%) was often mentioned. The most common reasons for not working were being temporarily absent or because they are a seasonal worker (see Figure 5).

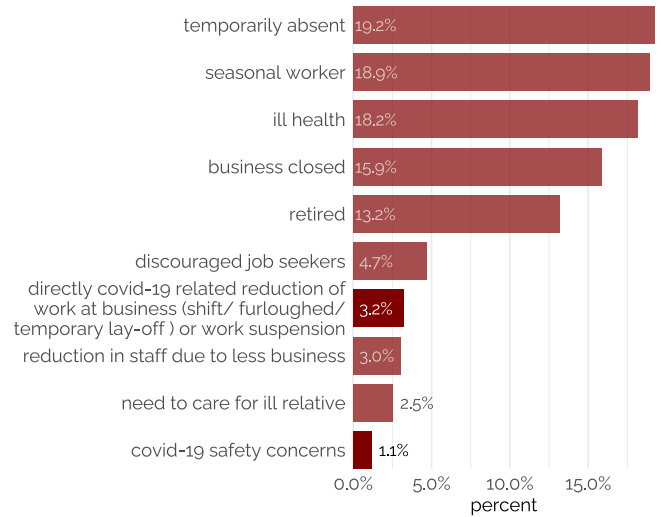


Figure 5: Reasons people who didn't work in the previous seven days did not work.

### 5. Since schools reopened the wellbeing of children improved

On all nine indicators of the wellbeing of children between 4 and 17 years old, improvements are reported compared to the period before January 2021 (when schools were reopened). Children feel less distressed, less afraid and less sad, but also are less likely to experience physical punishment and less likely to work. Only how often children help with chores does not seem to be as affected by the reopening of schools (see Figure 6).

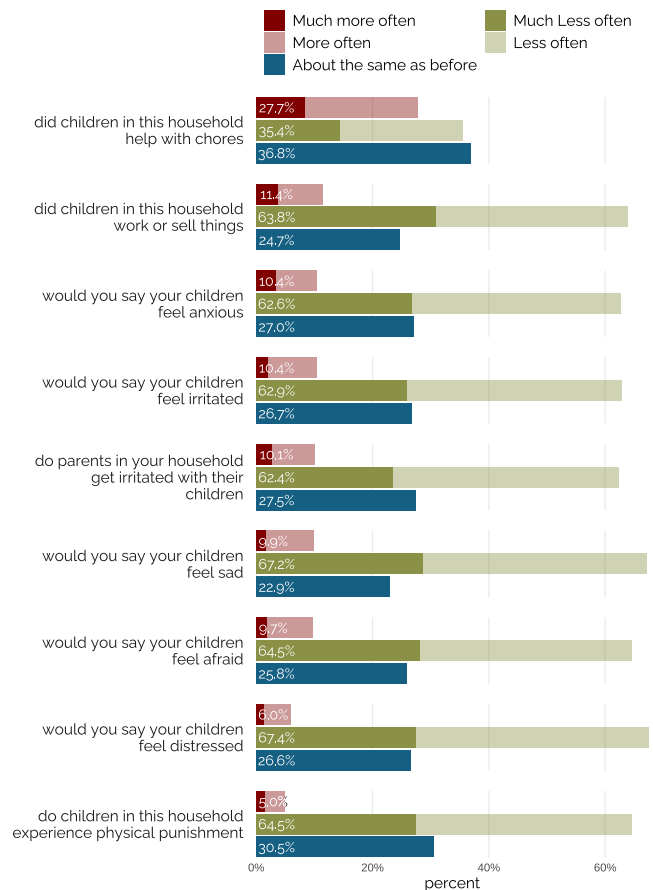


Figure 6: Compared to the period before January 2021 (when schools were reopened), how often ...



## 6. Two-thirds of households indicate that their income has not recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels

Only 26.7% of respondents indicated that their total household income stayed the same as compared to the period before COVID-19 (March 16, 2020). 5.1% of respondents indicated that their total income increased,

while 68.2% indicated that their household income decreased. Of the different sources of income, non-farm family business saw the biggest reduction. 77.3% of households with income derived from a non-farm family business saw a decrease in income and only 4.4% reported an increase in income. The 4.2% of households who got income from pension saw the smallest change of this income source. 76.7% reported no change in pension income, 13.0% a reduction and 10.3% an increase (see Figure 7).

■ Reduced more than half     ■ Increased by less than half  
■ Reduced, but less than half     ■ Increased by more than half  
■ Stayed about the same

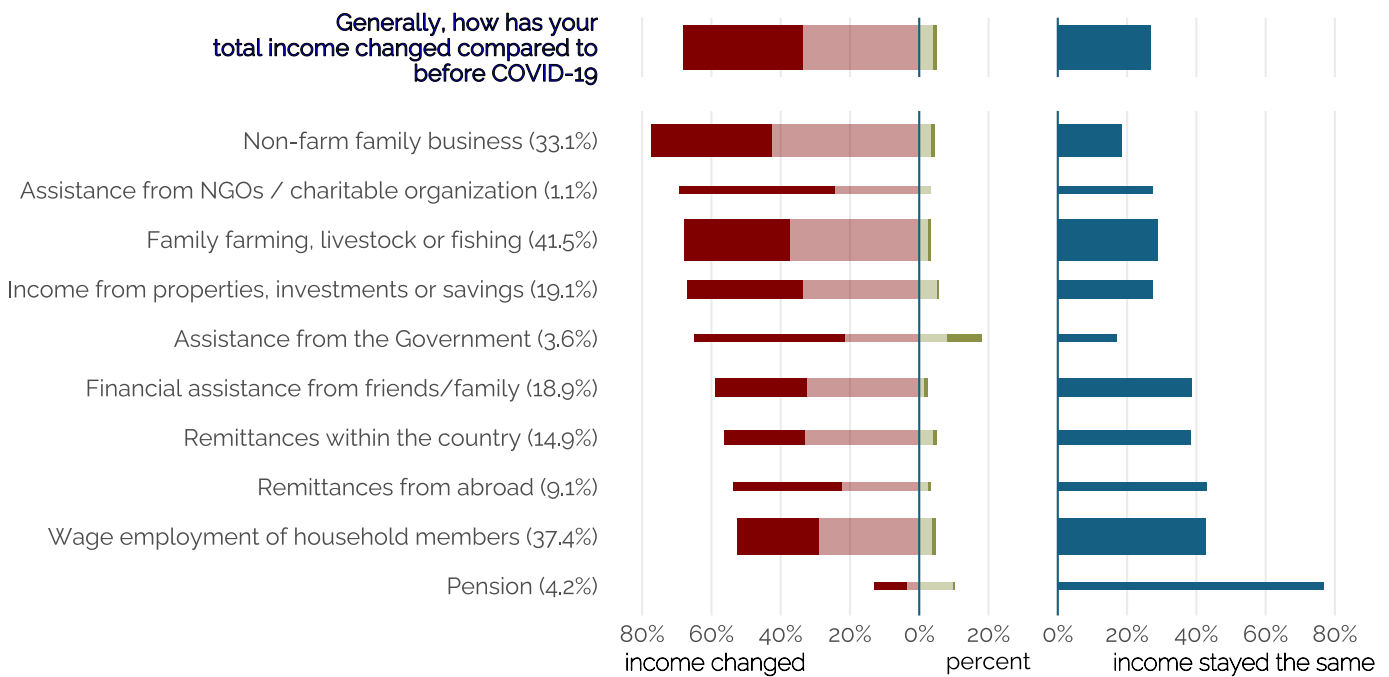


Figure 7: Impact of COVID-19 on different sources of income. The width of the bars indicates the percentage of households that rely on that source of income

## 7. On average households spent 12 cedis on PPE per week

The median expenditure on PPEs (masks, sanitisers, face shields, etc.) per household on the seven days before the interviews was 12.0 Ghana Cedis (GHC) and the mean expenditure 22.0 GHC. Median expenditure is slightly higher in urban areas (14 GHC) than in rural areas (10.3 GHC). Of the zones both the median (15 GHC) and mean (25.3 GHC) expenditure was the highest in the coastal zone (see Figure 8).

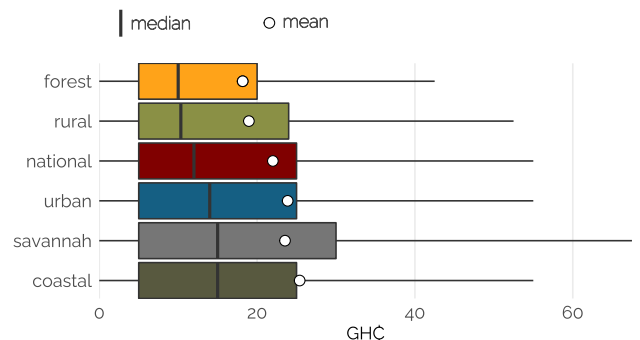


Figure 8: Cedis spent on PPE, disaggregated by urban/rural and zone.



## 8. Borrowing became more frequent coping strategies in 2021

Approximately eighty-seven percent (86.7%) of households used some sort of coping strategy to deal with the negative effects of COVID-19 since March 2020.

The most common coping strategies included relying on savings (43.0%) and reducing food consumption (42.9%). Respondents reported that most types of coping strategies were used more often in 2020 than in 2021. The exception to this is the borrowing of friends and family and the use of credited purchases (see Figure 9).

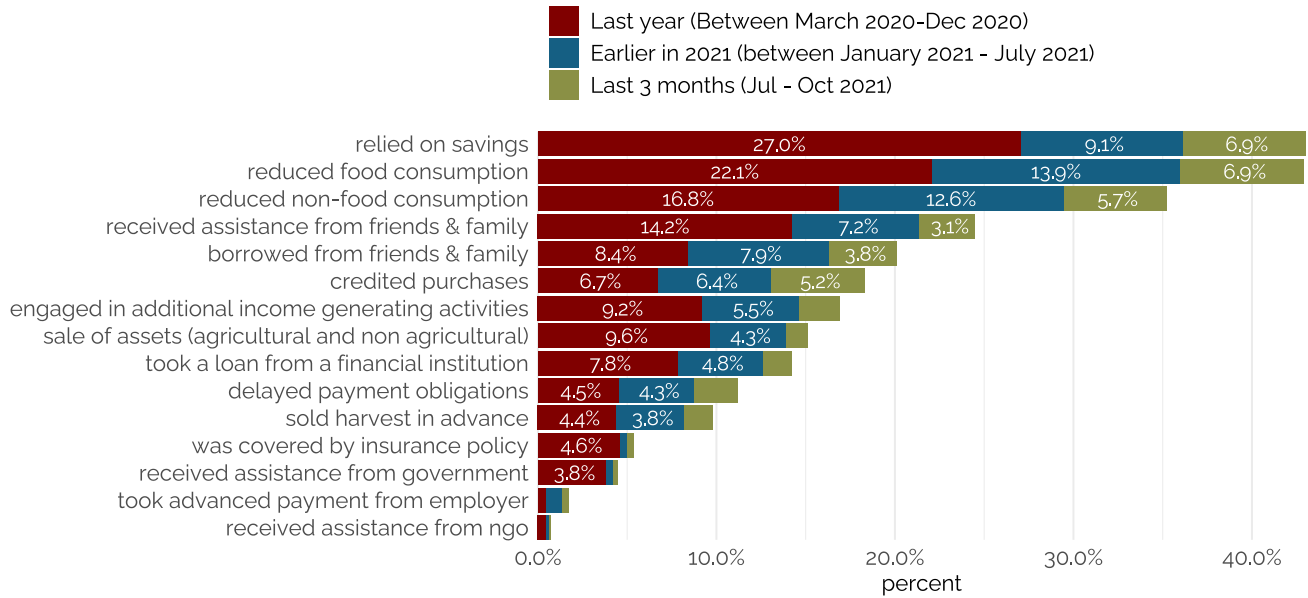


Figure 9: Types of coping mechanism used by household, disaggregated by the time this coping mechanism was used.

## 9. An increase in prices is the most common shock experienced by households

When asked about what shocks households experienced due to COVID-19 since March 2020, 73.4%

indicated that they experienced an increase in the price of major food items consumed and 46.5% indicated that they were affected by the increase of the price of inputs. 58.7% of households indicated that they were affected by the school closures, but the majority (92.1%) of households indicated that this shock occurred in 2020. Other shocks were felt more evenly throughout 2020, and the first and second half of 2021 (see Figure 10).

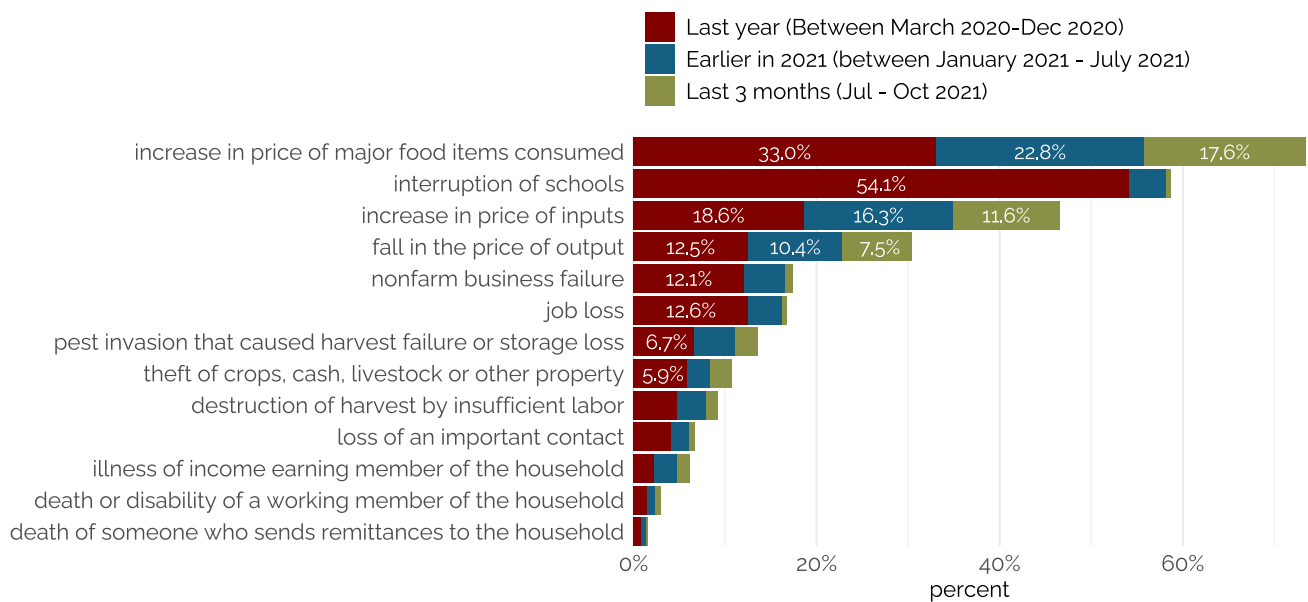


Figure 10: Types of shock experienced by household, disaggregated by the time this shock was felt

## 10. Households in the Savannah Zone indicated most commonly on experiencing aspects of food insecurity

On all eight questions around food insecurity, households in the savannah zone reported most to

commonly to struggle with food insecurity. On all indicators, rural households were less food secure than urban households and the coastal zone was more food secure on all indicators than the national average with the exception of the percentage of households that indicated they ran out of food (see Figure 11).

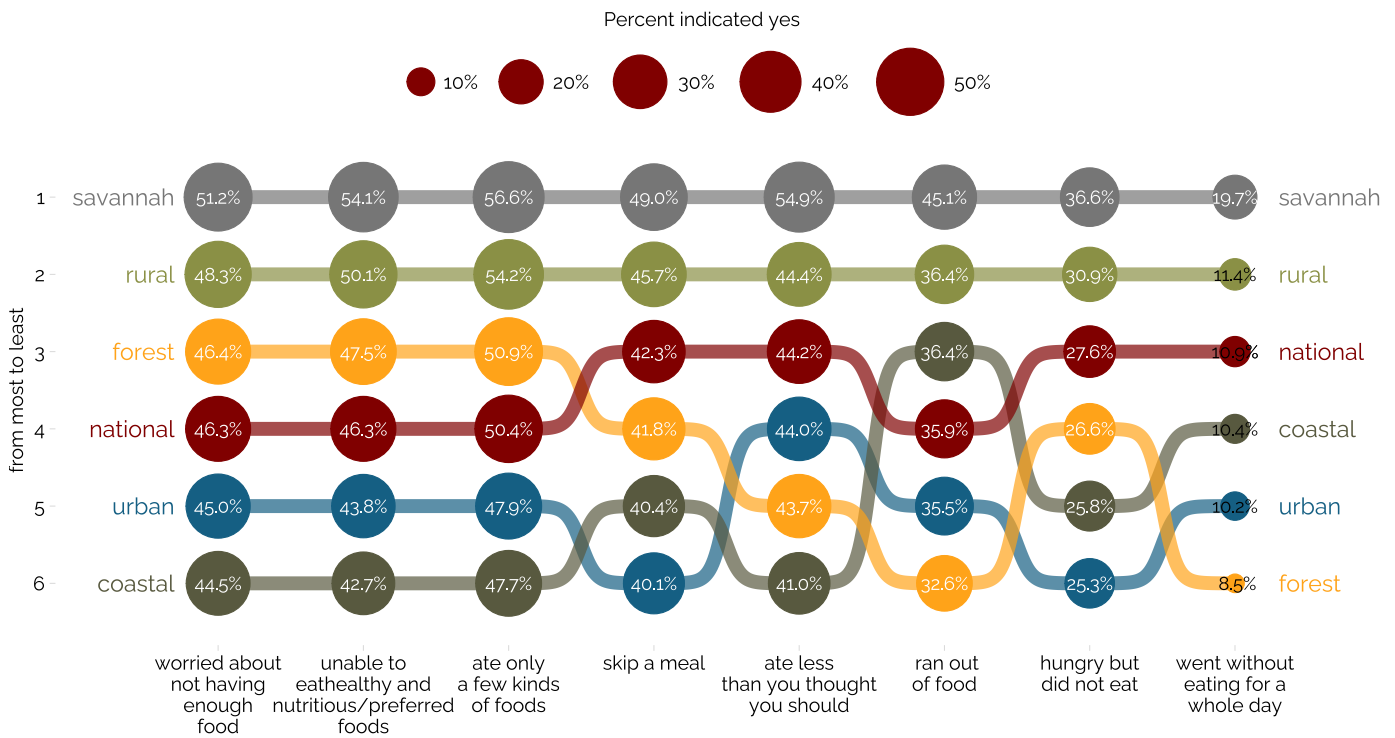


Figure 11: Bump chart showing the different indicators of food insecurity, disaggregated by urban/rural and zone. The size of the bubbles indicate prevalence, and the position their relative rank per indicator

## Notes on methodology

- This is the third of multiple waves of this survey.
- The survey consisted of two modules. Module A focused on the (economic) impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on households and Module B on the impact on children and family situations. Households were only asked to complete module B if they completed module A and if there were children (0-17 years) in that household.
- Phone numbers of respondents were collected through the contact details of an earlier nationally representative survey (Ghana Living Standards Survey Round Seven, GLSS7).
- A total of 7,999 households were sampled from the GLSS7 respondents with phone numbers and contacted during wave 1.
- During this wave of the survey the sample size totalled 2,370 households for Module A, of which 1,684 also completed module B.

- The results in this brief have been weighted using propensity weights.
- Households from all 16 regions were included and interviews were conducted in local languages from December 1 to December 13, 2021.

## Partners

This project comes from a continuous cooperation between GSS, UNICEF and The World Bank with technical support from Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA).

