COVID-19 Impact Monitoring
at the household level

Burkina Faso

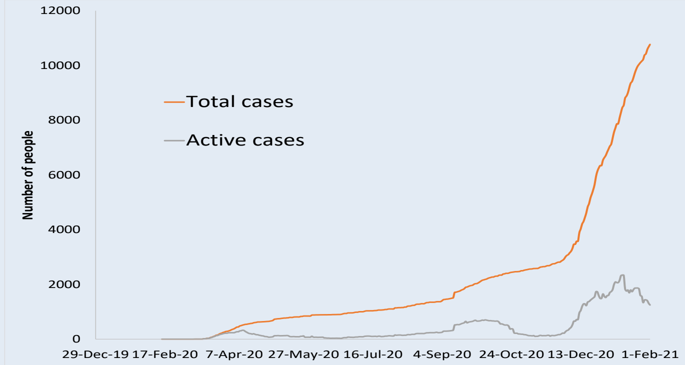
Brief No.6 — February 2021

Public Disclosure Authorized

KEY MESSAGES

- At the start of the pandemic, a very high proportion of households (53%) were food insecure. But over time, with the easing of restrictive measures, and the economic recovery, they were only 26% food insecure during the sixth visit in January / February 2021;
- Agricultural commercialization is not yet rooted in practices. Only one in ten agricultural households (11.9%) say they have sold part of their harvest;
- In nominal terms, the average sale represents 80 percent of the 2018 poverty line. This income would therefore not be enough to live above the poverty line. For an effective fight against poverty, strong actions must therefore be carried out in order to increase agricultural income;
- Three out of ten households say they have been affected by a negative shock. In a context marked by a limitation of the social protection system, most households suffer without doing anything;
- Two in five households (37.4%) believe that the state sufficiently meets their security needs.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 Burkina Faso



121 Deaths **9,397** Recovered

Source: INSD (as of February 1st, 2021)

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BACKGROUND

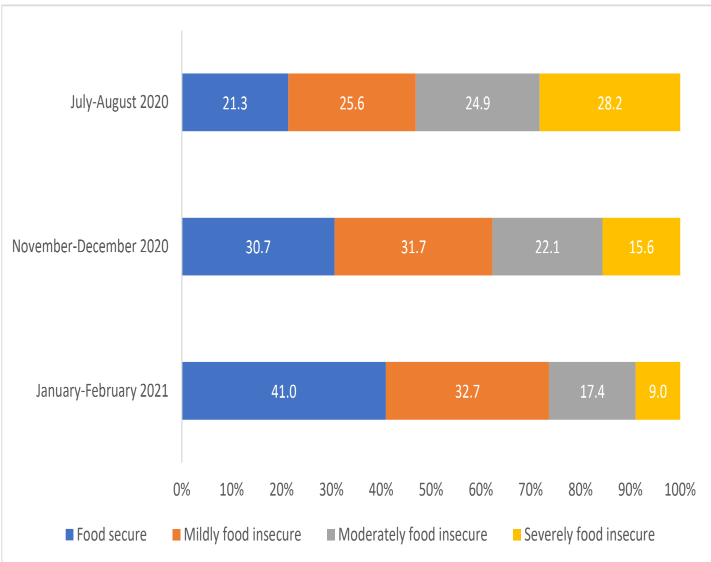
This note presents the results of the sixth round of a nationally representative telephone survey (HFPS). The BFA Covid-19 HFPS - Round 6 was administered between January 15 and February 01, 2021. The following modules were administered during the 6th round: Access to basic services; Employment and income; Agriculture; Food Safety; Shocks; and Conflicts. In addition to the 1,944 households interviewed successfully in the fifth wave, in order to maintain the sample size, 84 other households which had not been interviewed successfully in the previous rounds but who had not refused to participate in the survey. the investigation were called during this sixth wave. 24 households were excluded from the sample for the sixth wave because they refused to participate in the fifth wave. 2008 households (96.96% of 2,071 attempts) were contacted and 1,985 (95.85%) were successfully interviewed. Among those contacted, 18 households categorically refused to be interviewed. For the sake of simplicity, this note focuses on modules related to food security, agricultural income, shocks, and conflicts.

FOOD SECURITY

During Rounds 2, 3 and 4, a questionnaire module made it possible to collect answers to a number of questions on food security. More precisely, the questions asked make it possible to construct a measurement scale of food insecurity (FIES: Food Insecurity Experience Scale in English). At the start of the pandemic, a very high proportion of households (53%), just over half, were food insecure.

As demonstrated in previous notes, the impact of the Covid-19 on employment and household income was very pronounced at the onset of the crisis. Many lost their jobs and experienced a decline in income. Whether it is income from employment, non-agricultural businesses, agricultural income, or even remittances. To deal with the drop in income, many have had no choice but to reduce their food consumption. But over time, the easing of restrictive measures, and the economic recovery, we are witnessing a reduction in the proportion of households that are food insecure. They were only 26% during the sixth visit in January / February 2021. This improvement is undoubtedly due to the combined effect of an adjustment on the part of households, but also of better incomes compared to the beginning of the crisis . It is also important to note the effect of seasonality on income and access to food, especially for rural households involved in agricultural activities. Indeed, the period during which the sixth wave was implemented corresponds to the period just after the agricultural harvest period, when households have more access to self-produced crops.

Figure 1: Distribution of households according to the lived food insecurity measurement scale



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AGRICULTURE

Taking advantage of the crop harvest period, this sixth round of the HFPS survey asked useful questions about the farm, including crop type, area, use of inputs, and commercialization.

Sorghum, corn and millet are by far the most popular crops among farmers (Figure 2). Corn cultivation is more present in urban areas, while sorghum cultivation is more widespread in rural areas. On average, a household operates 2.4 hectares of land. The size of farms varies slightly depending on the area of residence and the standard of living of the household.

Figure 2: Main crops

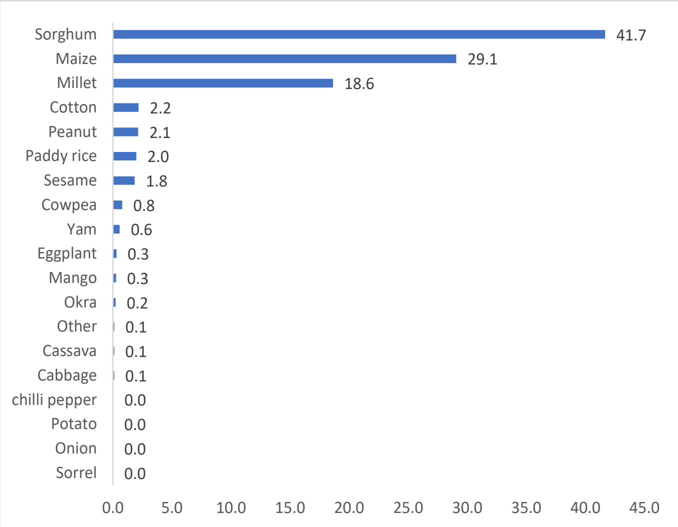
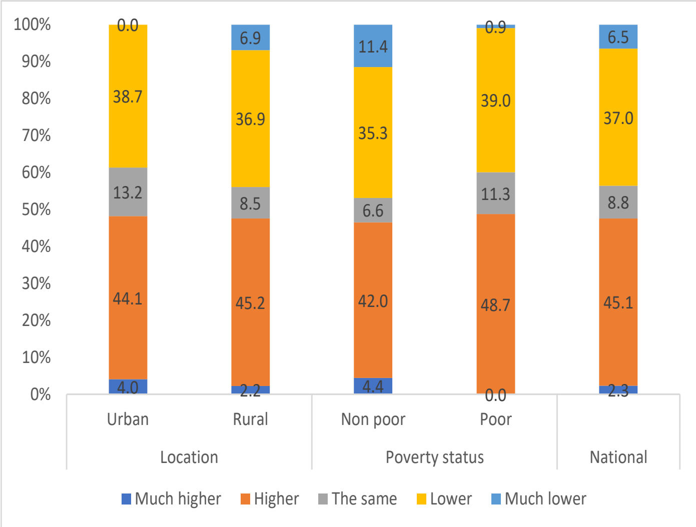


Figure 3: Income compared to past campaigns



Unfortunately, agricultural commercialization is not yet rooted in practices. Only one in ten agricultural households (11.9%) say they have sold part of their harvest. The impact of Covid-19 on farm income is mixed (Figure 3). Compared to the previous crop year, a large proportion of households (47.5%) report that their income has increased. At the same time, another large proportion (43.5%) say that their income is lower compared to past campaigns. Only 8.8% say the income is unchanged. But overall, the proportion for whom income increased is higher than the proportion for whom it decreased.

Regarding the use of agricultural inputs, the most widely used inputs are animal traction (around 80% nationally) and organic fertilizers (76%) (Figure 4). Slightly lower are the use rates for inorganic fertilizers (about 59%) pesticides / herbicides (48%). The use of wage labor is rather limited, especially for households in rural areas and poor households, this is probably due to the significant contribution of family labor. The non-use of inputs is attributable mainly to two reasons: the lack of need (probably due to a large contribution of family labor) and the lack of means to have these inputs (Figure 5). In particular, the economic element is strongly present in the reasons for not using all inputs, especially for organic (57%) and inorganic (73%) fertilizers.

Figure 4: Rate of use of agricultural inputs

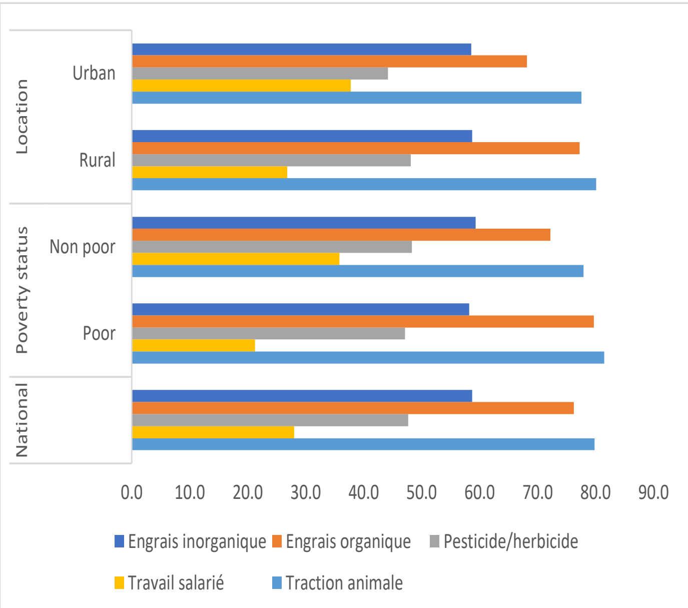
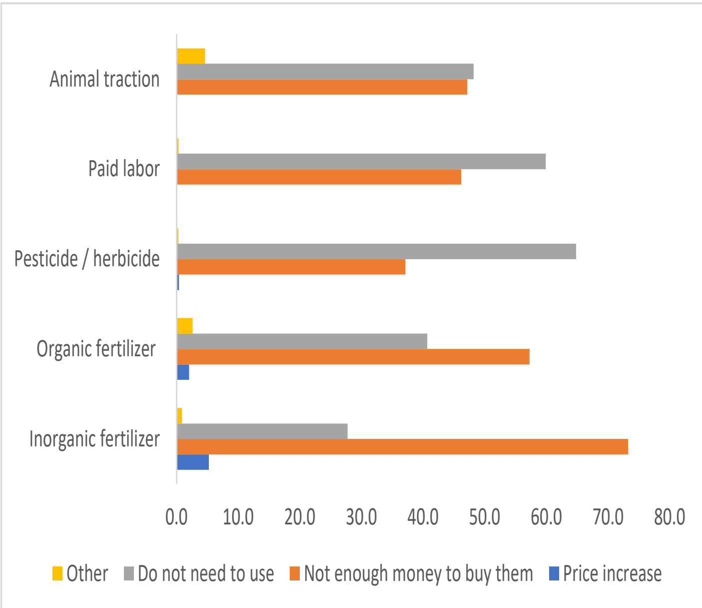


Figure 5: Reasons for not using inputs



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CHOCS

During the sixth round, 30 percent of households reported experiencing at least one shock in the past four weeks. Four types of shocks stand out with high scores (Figure 6). These are: (i) illness of a household member earning an income (38.1%); (ii) the increase in the price of the main foods consumed (23.7%); (iii) poor harvest due to a lack of labor (13.1%); and (iv) theft of crops, money, livestock or other property (10.9%). There are some notable differences depending on location and poverty status. For example, the shocks relating to the increase in the price of the main foods consumed is more pronounced for poor and households outside the capital. Theft of crops, money, livestock or other assets affects non-poor households more. In a context marked by a limitation of the insurance system and the social protection system, most households experience these shocks without doing anything (30.4%). 25% of households relies on help from family or friends, or on their own savings, and 17.2% sells their assets to cope with shocks (Figure 7).

Figure 6: Type of shock affecting households

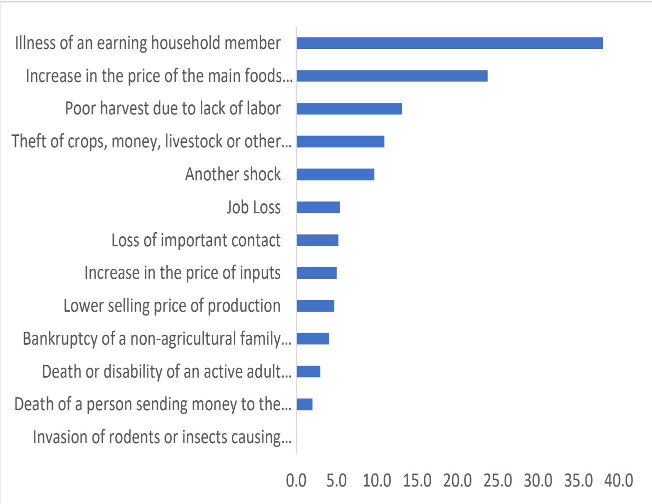
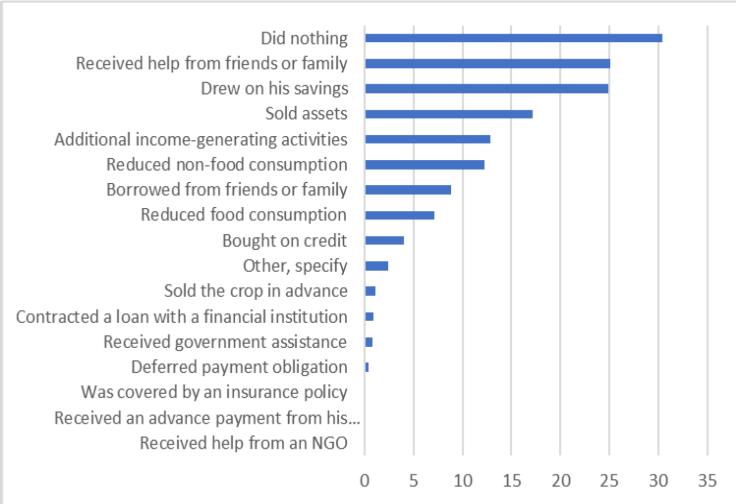


Figure 7: Strategy adopted to cope with the shock



CONFLIT AND VIOLENCE

The majority of Burkinabè households believe that they live in a locality where the level of security is high or very high (72.2%). But it should be noted that in Ouagadougou, only 46.6 percent of households think that the level of security is high or very high (Figure 8). The poor are more convinced of the safety of their locality compared to the non-poor. Most households (81.5%) report that the level of social relations and trust in their locality is high or very high (Figure 9). Only 37.4% of households believe that the state sufficiently meets their security needs. Those who live in Ouagadougou are the least satisfied (21.3% satisfied) with the actions of the state. The non-poor tend to be more demanding and consequently less satisfied (33.5% satisfied) compared to the poor (42.8% satisfied).

Figure 8: Perceived level of security in the locality

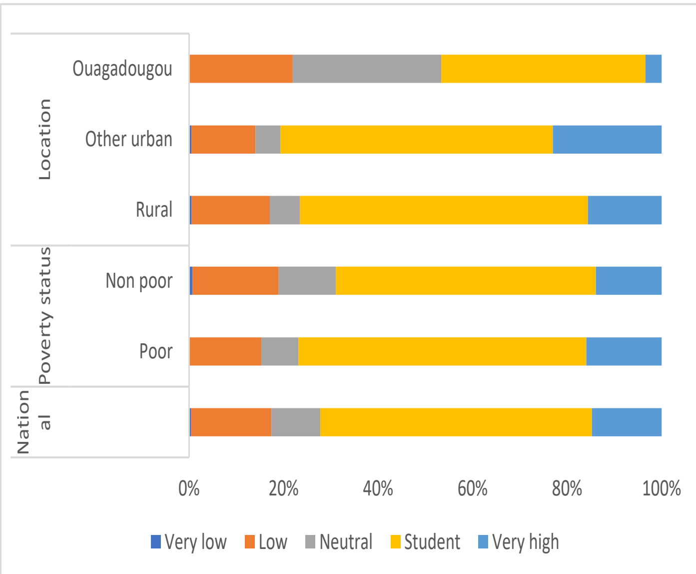
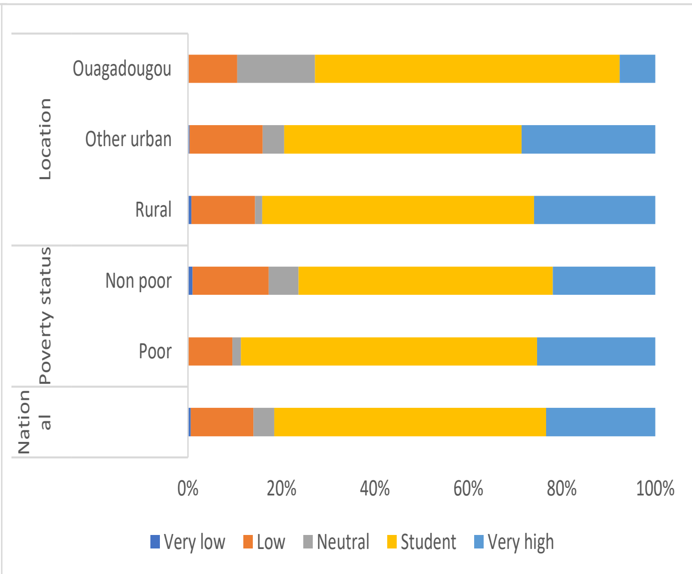


Figure 9: Social relations and trust in the locality



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For further details on the data, visit http://surveys.worldbank.org/covid-19 or http://www.insd.bf/n/

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