



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

RESULTS FOR ERMERA MUNICIPALITY





Ermera

12 Aug to 03 Sep 2021



22

Sucos



361

Households



90.5%

Agricultural activities



19.9% Households
Headed by women



2334

Individual members

48.9%
Female

51.1%
Male



5 Interviewers
from Ermera

1.6% of individuals aged above 15 years old had a disability.

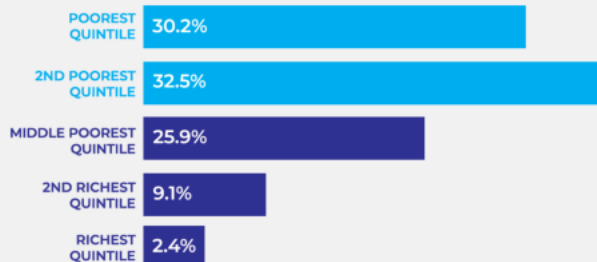
Data presented in this report are not representative of Ermera. The results represent the households interviewed. Caution must be applied in interpreting data.

Data is reported only at the 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 ERMERA

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

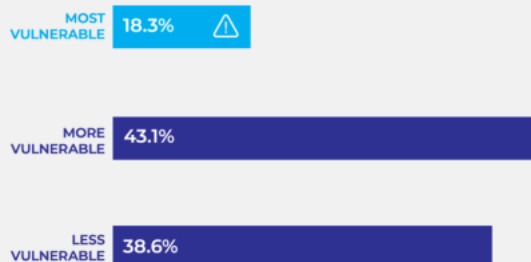
WEALTH QUINTILES



Ermera is one of the municipalities with the highest percentage of households in the two lowest wealth quintiles. One third of households belong to the lowest wealth quintile.

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



The social vulnerability index measures the number of characteristics of persons in the household that place them at higher risk of economic deprivation, exclusion, and social isolation.

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.



18.3% most vulnerable
in Ermera



21.7% most vulnerable
households in the whole country



38.1%
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households were men



61.9%
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households were women

More women live in socially vulnerable households in Ermera. Majority of the individuals living in Most Vulnerable households were women. The proportion of men and women living in More Vulnerable households was the same while more men (54.2%) were living in Less Vulnerable households than women (45.8%).

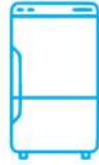
HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

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



27.9%

national average 49.3%



4.5%

national average 30.4%



33.3%

national average 69.9%



4.7%

national average 16.8%



95.8%

national average 92.7%



28.1%

national average 40.3%

Digital technologies and private transportation have been heavily relied upon to mitigate the effects of physical distancing and movement restrictions. However, the number of households that have various electronic and transportation assets and access to electricity was lower than the national average in Ermera.

WASH



75.3%

have water available
in the house

84.6%
national average



35.2%

used soap

75.7%
national average

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

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE



27.9%

have some savings

31.8%

national average



55.1%

borrowed money

30.7%

national average



62.2%

member(s) with bank accounts

40.3%

national average

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN ERMERA

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



1105

individuals aged 15+ years

The SEIA 2.0 asked about their employment situation during the COVID-19 pandemic.



64.5%

labour force participation rate



51.9%
national average

Labour force participation - The proportion of the working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or by looking for work.

Proportion of Employed People in the Working-Age Population



54.3%

nationwide employment
41.7% for women



62.9%

nationwide employment
48.6% for men



58.6%

working-age population were employed in Ermera



45.2%
national average

Employment status among the survey population in Ermera was slightly higher than the SEIA 2.0 national average. More men were employed than women.

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



5.2%



6.3%

INACTIVE



40.6%



30.2%

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



92.6%

individuals in vulnerable employment

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

The proportion of 'self-employed without employees' is one of the highest in the country. More women were in vulnerable employment



48.0%

self-employed (without employees)

42.3%

contributing family workers



41.8%

self-employed (without employees)

53.4%

contributing family workers

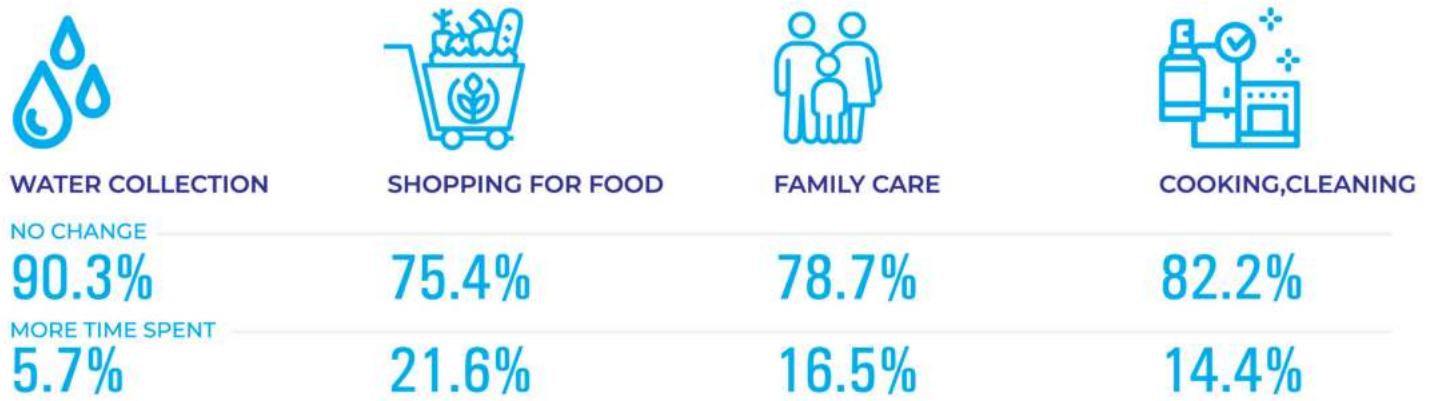
86.3%
national average



More than one third of those employed had lost their jobs due to COVID related reasons. Slightly more men were affected by job loss than women (40.5% and 37.7%).

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

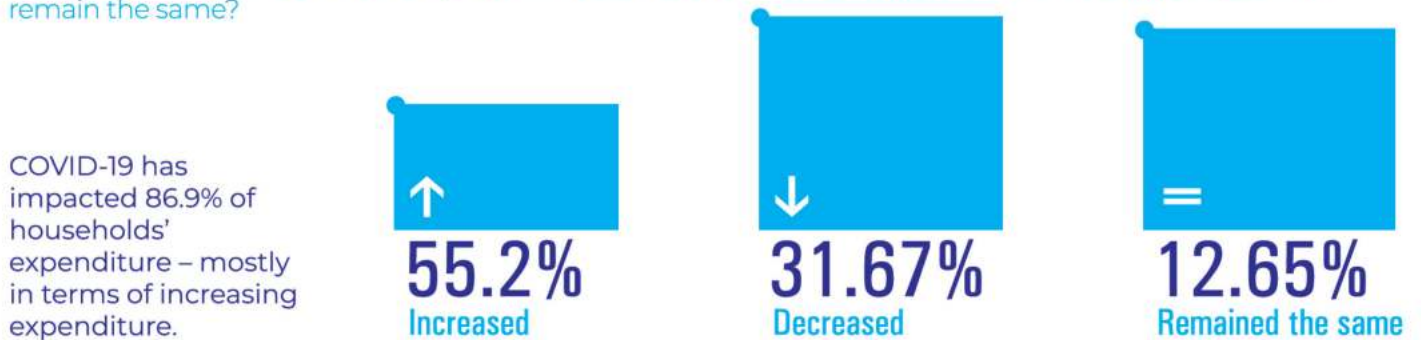
CHANGES IN TIME SPENT DOING HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19



The proportion of households reporting time increased to collect water, cooking and cleaning and family care were lower than the national average. The majority of persons who were most affected by a change in time spent on domestic chores were women.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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



HOUSEHOLD SOURCES OF INCOME DURING COVID-19



Households can have several income sources. Most frequently mentioned sources were old-age pension, income from work or sale of products and Bolsa de Mae.



55.5% household members had an earning, said their income was affected by the COVID-19

24.6% national average Of those, 73.2% reported their income decreased.

FOOD INSECURITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Was there a time during this last one month when you or others in your household [the corresponding experiences presented below] because of a lack of money or other resources?



61.5%
households in Ermera
were affected by moderate
or severe food insecurity

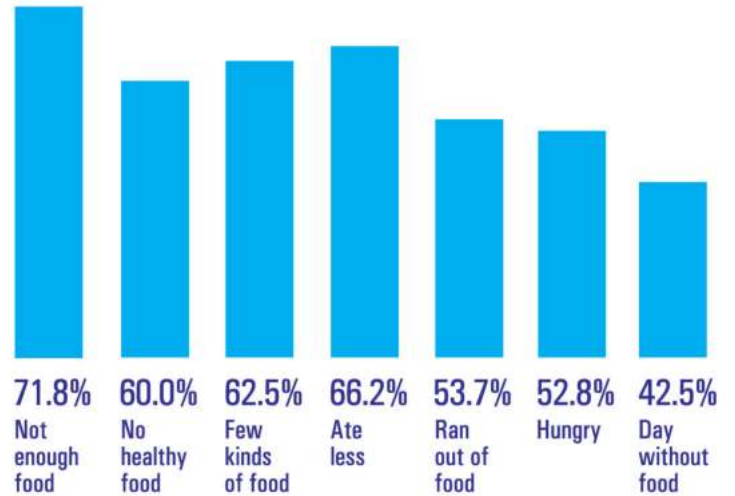


32.8%
were affected
by severe
food insecurity

41.4%
national average

19.3%
national average

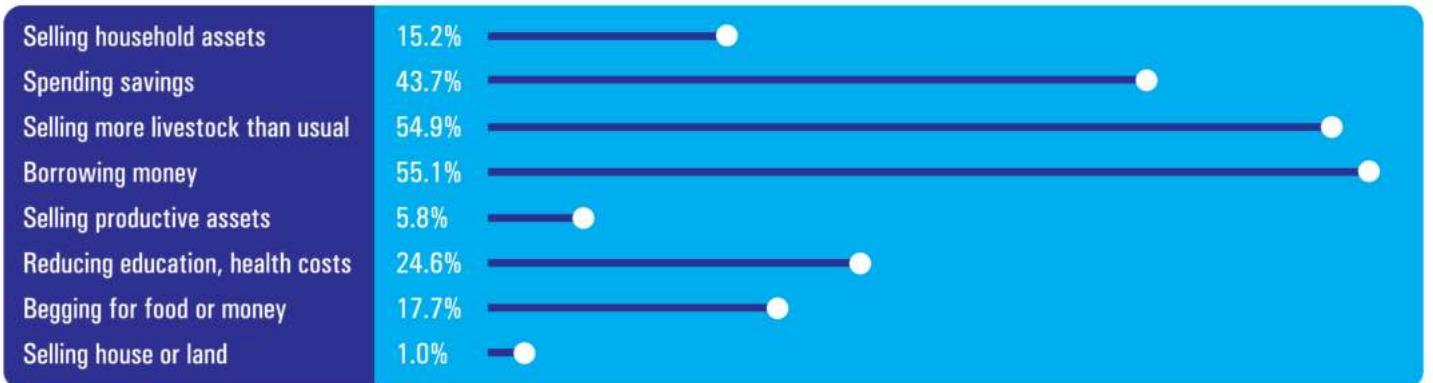
Food concerns experienced in the last one month



The percentage of households affected by moderate and severe food insecurities was significantly high. More than half of households surveyed reported that '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 AND MAJOR DIFFICULTIES

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



Around 89% of households in Ermera had to use at least one of the coping strategies to overcome lack of food or money. A larger percentage of the economically vulnerable households had used different coping mechanisms. Due to their deprived economic position, they are more frequently forced to cope differently to put food on the table.



66.1%
households mentioned they
faced major difficulties or shocks
affecting their lives since the
COVID-19 State of Emergency.



31.4%
households experienced
serious illness and
catastrophic health
expenditure



13.1%
households reported
fuel/transportation
prices too expensive
to afford



28.8%
households mentioned they
faced major difficulties or shocks
affecting their lives since the
COVID-19 State of Emergency



63.2% health
19.5% lack of
money or food

Further 1.8% of respondents cited growing insecurity while only 1.4% of respondents cited 'negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the national economy' as main concerns. 13.7% said they are not worried.

FLOOD IMPACT

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.



3.0%
households had their dwelling damaged by the Easter Flood



63.5%
agricultural households interviewed had their standing crops and harvest destroyed due to Easter flood

The proportion of agricultural households impacted by the Easter Flood was one of the highest in Timor-Leste



80.1 %
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 IN ERMERA

HEALTH



73.9%
households interviewed needed medical treatment
national average 60.8%



46.3%
could access health services
ALWAYS



52.7%
could access
SOMETIMES



1.0%
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?



72.4%
No change



3.0%
Increased



24.6%
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?

Reason children missed vaccination was mainly due to the COVID-19 situation (81.5%).



34.0%
missed 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?



46.2%
missed reproductive health services
national average 29.3%

84.2% said women missed reproductive health services only because of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Views on COVID-19 Vaccination

93.3%
have heard about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 91.7%

63.1%
had concerns about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 50.4%

62.4%
Respondents were mostly worried about health side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines

30.9%
were worried about death or serious illness

This shows 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 to all household members aged between 4 and 25 years.



1122

persons aged 4-25 years in the survey in Ermera



49.4%

male



50.6%

female

Educational attendance after school reopening in 2021



84.7%

students were attending schools regularly



13.3%

attending schools irregularly



1.9%

did not attend at all when schools reopened

40.0%
mentioned

School was not considered as a safe environment' as the main reason for not attending schools



87.3%

students continued studying at home on a daily basis during school closures

national average 62.6%



55.3%

used student workbooks of the Ministry of Education

national average 48.6%



12.1%

used TV programme 'Eskola Ba Uma'

national average 10.4%



9.1%

used online platform 'Learning Passport' of the Ministry of Education

national average 13.3%

2.2% used educational broadcasts of the Ministry of Education on radio (national average 2.6%)

The use of digital forms for distance learning is significantly low.

One student can use multiple sources of distance learning materials, the percentage does not add up to 100%.

12.7% did not continue studying or studied irregularly at home

56.5% mentioned 'Lack of printed materials at home' as the main reason for not continue studying at home

16.1% mentioned 'No TV, mobile phone or internet connection' as the main reasons for not continuing studying at home.

Whilst focusing on improving digital learning, the Government should also support different platforms and methods of distance learning. Supporting digital education of the population to ensure meaningful use of the Internet is important.

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

TRUST AND SUPPORT



98.0%
strongly trust
or trust others
in their
community
national average 89.6%



97.0%
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%



52.4%
of the households
received help of
some kind
national average 68.1%



12.7%
of the households
had given help of
some kind to others
national average 30.2%

There was no significant difference based on gender.

Households that were affected by the Easter Flood and most vulnerable households were slightly more likely to both receive and provide help.

Top 2 types of support received by households

Of households that received help



Food

93.6%



Cash

53.8%



Food

38.3%



Cash

22.0%

Of all households surveyed in Ermera

The percentage of households that received cash support was relatively high in Ermera.

Top 2 support providers to the households



80.3%

National
government



7.3%

Relatives



For the households that received support, most common provider was 'relatives' in Ermera

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 one day before the interview.

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



male

78.7%



female

78.0%

In total, 78.4% of all respondents said they are satisfied with their life as a whole these days.



sad

34.7%



worried

35.0%



tired

58.1%



felt happy

72.9%

36.7%

32.7%

64.5%

74.0%

Most respondents said they felt tired the day before the interview. Greater proportion of women reported feeling tired than men.

73.5% of all respondents had felt happy the day before the interview.

SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY MEASURES

The results show satisfaction of people in Ermera 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.



14.2%
found the information timely
national average 44.9%



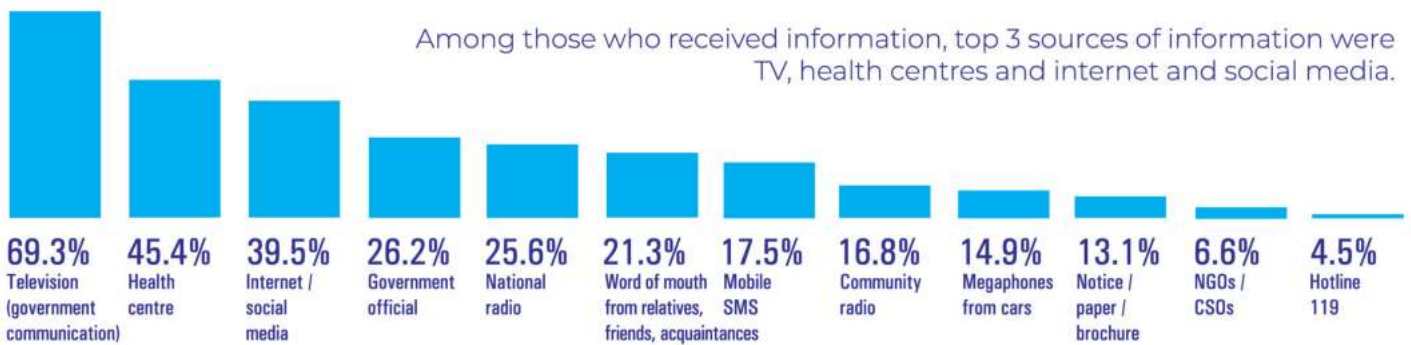
30.8%
found the information somewhat timely
national average 36.8%



84.3%
found the information useful
national average 55.6%

Ermera had the highest proportion of households indicating they received information late (48.5%) compared to other municipalities.

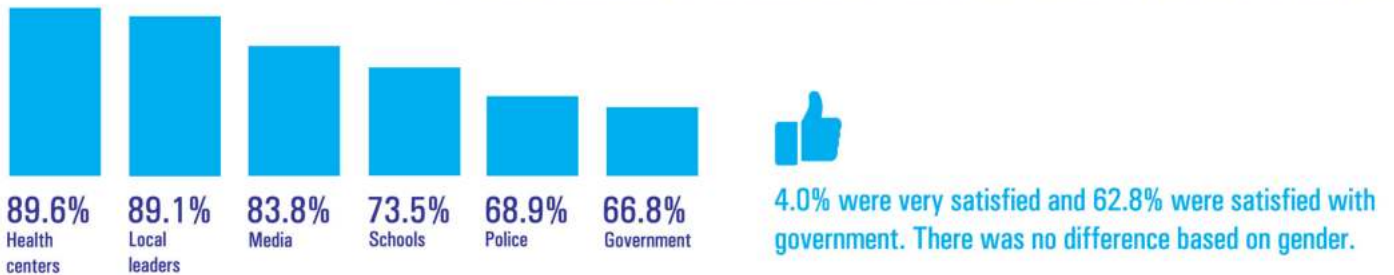
Households' sources of COVID-19 information



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

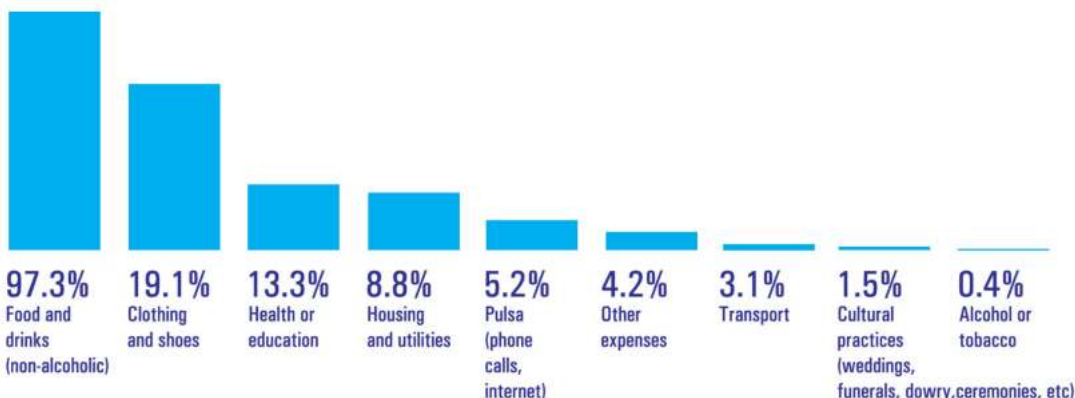
Proportion of respondents satisfied with institutions' responses to COVID-19

Ermera is one of the municipalities with the lowest proportion of respondents were satisfied with the Government's COVID-19 response after Dili and Ainaro.



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

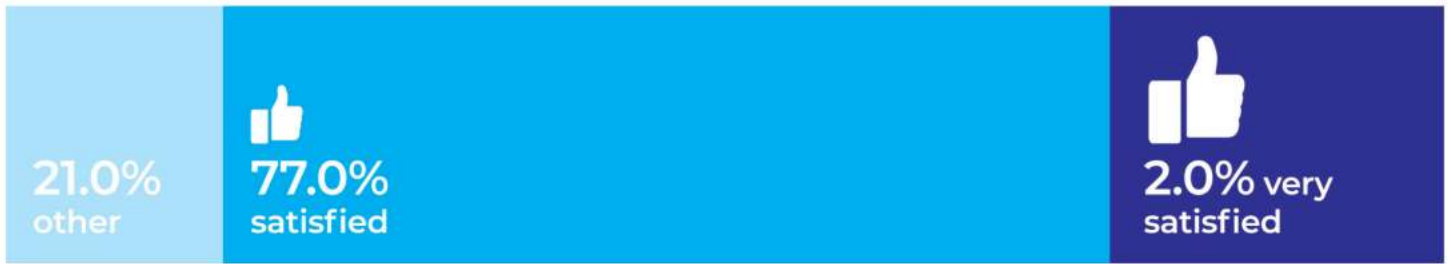
Households' spending of the Uma Kain subsidy



97.3%
households used the Uma Kain subsidy to buy food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Second and third most common uses were buying clothes and shoes and health or education services.

Satisfaction with Cesta Básica was high both for women and men in Ermera.



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

Top 3 preferred livelihood support measures



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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