



Impact of COVID-19 on Households in Nepal

WFP conducted the fourth round of the mVAM Household Survey in June-July 2021 with an aim to assess the impact of the second wave of COVID-19 crisis on livelihoods and household food security. In 2020, three rounds were conducted - April, August and December.



In all four rounds, WFP interviewed households in **all 7 provinces**, using the random-digit-dialing method, and providing **nationally representative results**.



In June-July 2021
6,005 households were
interviewed



39.4% of the total survey
respondents were female



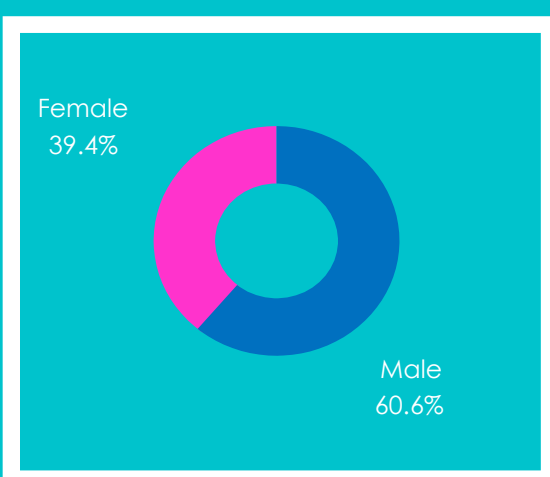
The average size of
households included in the
survey is 5.29



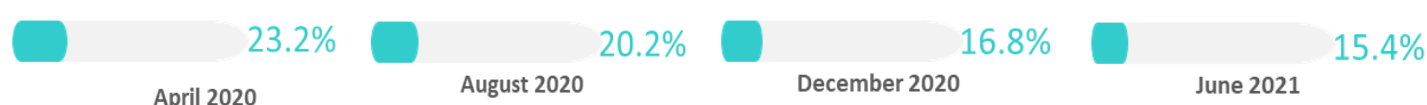
15.4 percent of households
are female headed



The average age of the
respondent is 35 years old

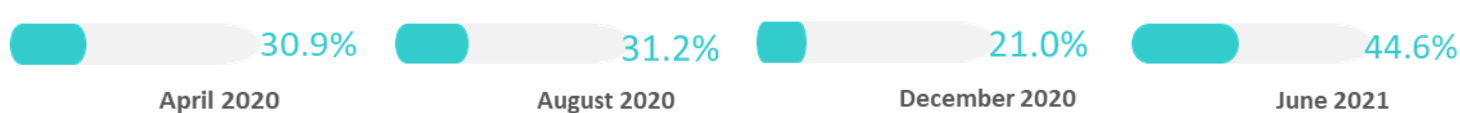


Inadequate Food Consumption (% of households)

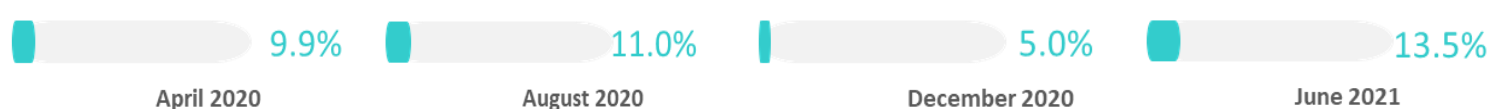


The overall food insecurity situation across the country has improved in June 2021, compared to 2020. However, it has stayed slightly above the pre-COVID-19 levels (14.9 percent), a large proportion of population remains food insecure, household-level food insufficiency has risen, and food security in areas that are chronically most vulnerable lingered at the same level or deteriorated, exposing profound regional disparities.

Income reduction (% of households)



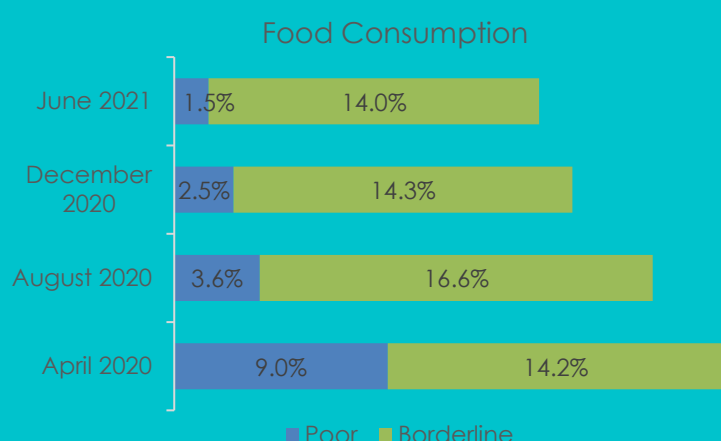
Job loss (% of households)



Despite the observed improvements in food security status, the unremitting impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent widespread disruptions has worsened the livelihoods on Nepali households. More households have now been exposed to income cuts and job loss, and reductions have gained in severity. With prominent reliance of market purchase for food sourcing, increasing negative coping chiefly aimed at income generation, this raises concerns about households' ability to access food, and their overall capacity to withstand further shocks and precarious conditions. Ultimately, this may lead to deepening of pre-existing vulnerabilities, as well as further broadening of exposure to other parts of the population that would be normally less vulnerable.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD STATUS

APRIL, AUGUST, DECEMBER 2020 AND JUNE 2021

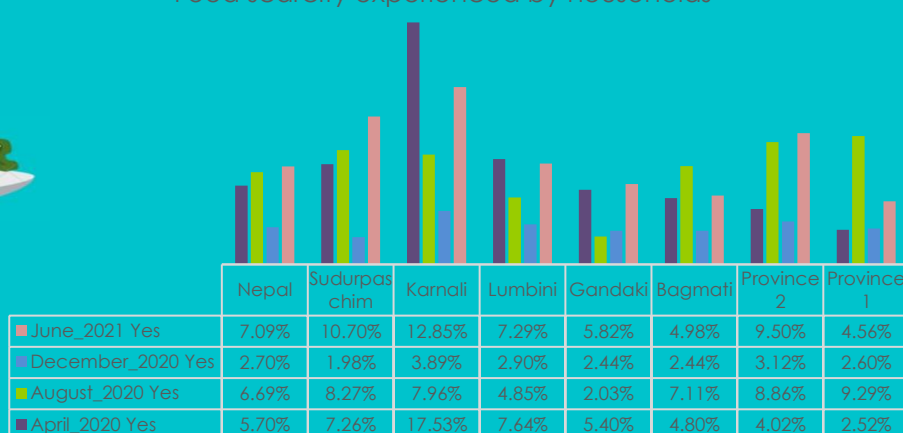


★ In all four rounds of the survey, **food insecurity** was more prevalent among households that experienced **job and income loss, female-headed** and **illiterate** households, **rural** households, and those living with people with **disability**. In June 2021, the survey also assessed wealth status of households and found that the **poorest households** were the most affected.

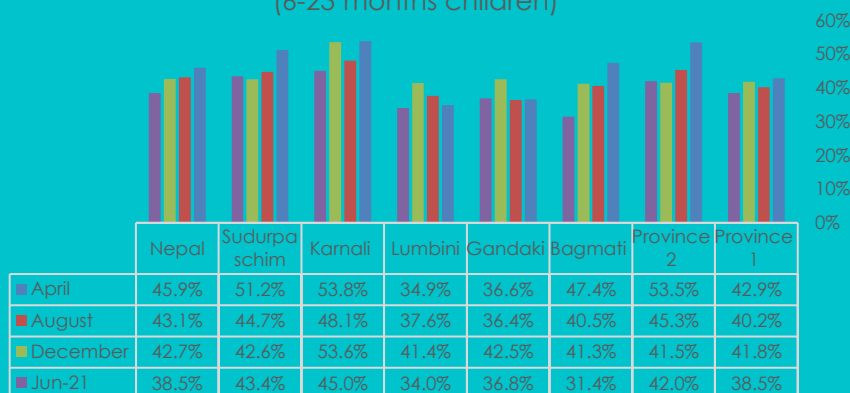


Food scarcity experienced by households

★ **More households did not have enough food to meet their household needs in June 2021, compared to 2020.**



Did not meet minimum dietary diversification (6-23 months children)

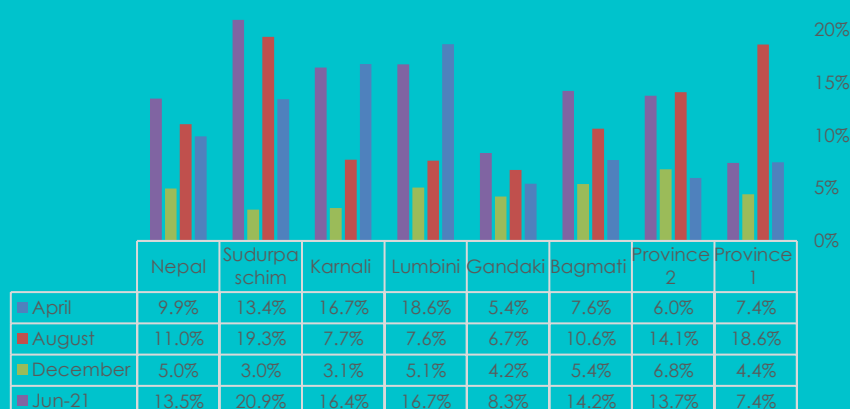


★ Proportion of children between 6 and 23 months of age that did not meet the minimum dietary diversity **declined** in June 2021.

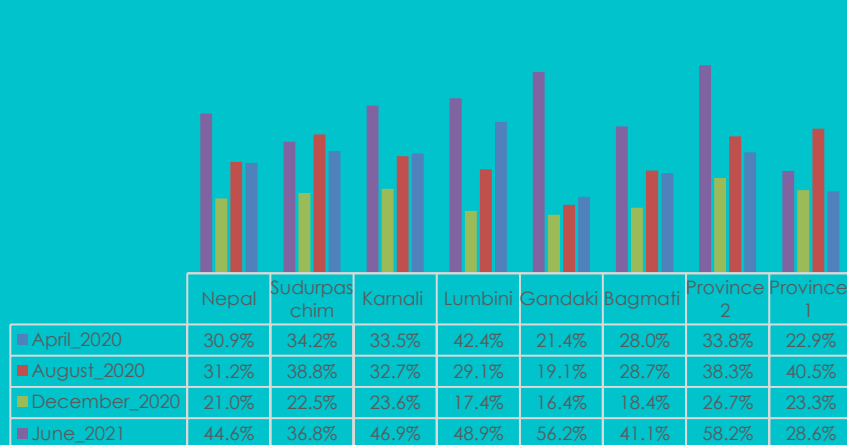


Job Loss

★ Proportion of household experiencing income reduction and job loss **greatly increased in June 2021**, compared to the previous rounds.










Income Reduction



★ In all four rounds, **job loss and income reduction** were more common among **daily wage labourers, tourism sector, households receiving remittance and medium-size businesses.**

▶ While the survey indicates some improvement, the aggravated conditions persist and continue to affect Nepalese households. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on job loss and income reduction remains notable and can put further pressure on income generation and livelihoods. The volatile economy and slow growth will likely continue to pressure livelihoods and income generation beyond the most vulnerable groups. Ultimately, this may lead to deepening of pre-existing vulnerabilities, as well as further broadening of exposure to other parts of the population that would be normally less vulnerable. Such prolonged exposure to adversary conditions, can in turn lead to further risk of food insecurity in Nepal, particularly for certain types of households. Adequate and timely response and targeting of assistance will be therefore critical.

Additional Findings | June-July 2021

-  59.3 percent of surveyed households are from **rural areas**, 40.7 percent from urban.
-  About 22.7 percent of the household heads in the survey had secondary **education**, 22.1 percent were illiterate, 16.8 percent had primary education and 14.6 percent were non-formal literate.
-  A higher proportion of **female-headed households** (40.5 percent) were illiterate, compared to male-headed households (18.8 percent).
-  Nearly 6 percent of the households had at least one **disabled person** in the household, while over 24 percent of the surveyed households have at least one member with **chronic illness**.
-  10.9 percent of households adopted a **negative coping behaviour** to address food shortages, with coping strategies chiefly aimed at income generation - an increase compared to December 2020, when 7.4 percent of households adopted negative coping strategies.
-  More than 18.4 percent of surveyed households reported at least one member in the household being **sick**, of which 20.5 percent sought a **COVID-19 test**.
-  Nearly 2.8 percent of respondents reported **safety risks** related to access to markets, hospitals, clinics, and healthcare centers for women and girls.

For more information, visit www.wfp.org/nepal

