



Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

Round 7 – June 2021

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Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

June 2021 results




This factsheet presents the results of a telephone survey of 420 Timor-Leste adults, comprising 237 males and 183 females, conducted from 11 to 17 June 2021. At the end of the week of the survey, there were 1,275 active COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste, and the State of Emergency had been renewed for the 14th time. Sanitary fences were in place in four of 13 municipalities, including Dili. Results from June are compared with previous results where possible.

COVID continued to be the biggest challenge for individuals, the community and the country




For Timor-Leste:

	May '20	July '20	Sep '20	Dec' 20	Feb '21	May '21	Jun '21	
 COVID-19	62%	53%	72%	61%	87%	87%	84%	
 Economy	10%	18%	8%	17%	6%	6%	9%	
 Politics	18%	19%	10%	11%	4%	5%	2%	

For your community:




	May '20	July '20	Sep '20	Dec' 20	Feb '21	May '21	Jun '21	
 COVID-19	76%	70%	64%	70%	85%	85%	85%	
 Economy	64%	72%	62%	68%	75%	61%	64%	
 Politics	12%	21%	29%	33%	17%	37%	42%	

For you as an individual:

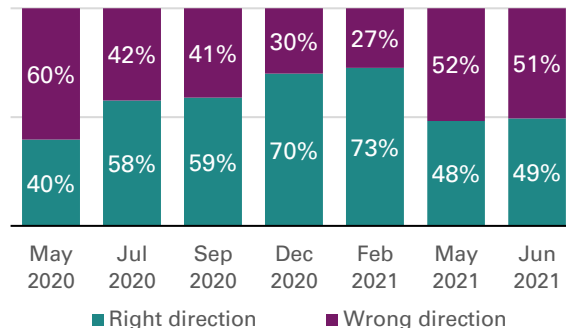
	May '20	July '20	Sep '20	Dec' 20	Feb '21	May '21	Jun '21	
 COVID-19	80%	75%	79%	81%	90%	92%	95%	
 Economy	63%	74%	62%	69%	77%	66%	71%	
 Politics	49%	59%	50%	51%	63%	37%	34%	

COVID-safe behaviours were similar

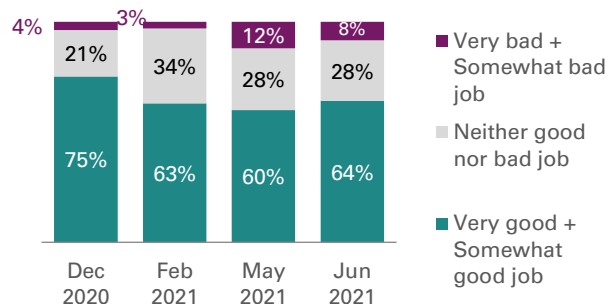
(% of safe behaviors practiced)

 70% Wear face mask	May '21: 66%	Feb: 58%	Dec '20: 55%
 58% Wash hands	May '21: 61%	Feb: 57%	Dec '20: 52%
 53% Maintain 1.5m distance	May '21: 48%	Feb: 46%	Dec '20: 51%

Perceptions that Timor-Leste was going in the right direction remained less positive



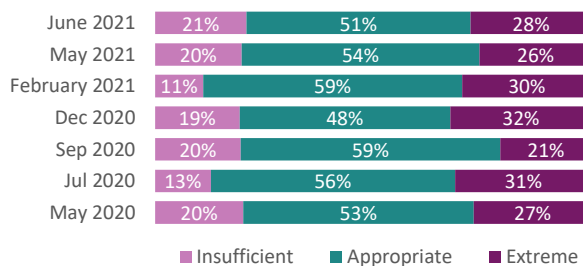
Most still felt the government is doing a good job carrying out its responsibilities



34% trust the Government to take care of them during COVID-19

May '21: 34% Feb '21: 54% Dec '20: 59%
Sept '20: 83% July '20: 64%

Feeling about current Government response:



During this time, what can the government do more to support citizens? Top 3

1. End sanitary fences – **44%**
2. End state of emergency – **34%**
3. End lockdown – **23%**

In the past 30 days,

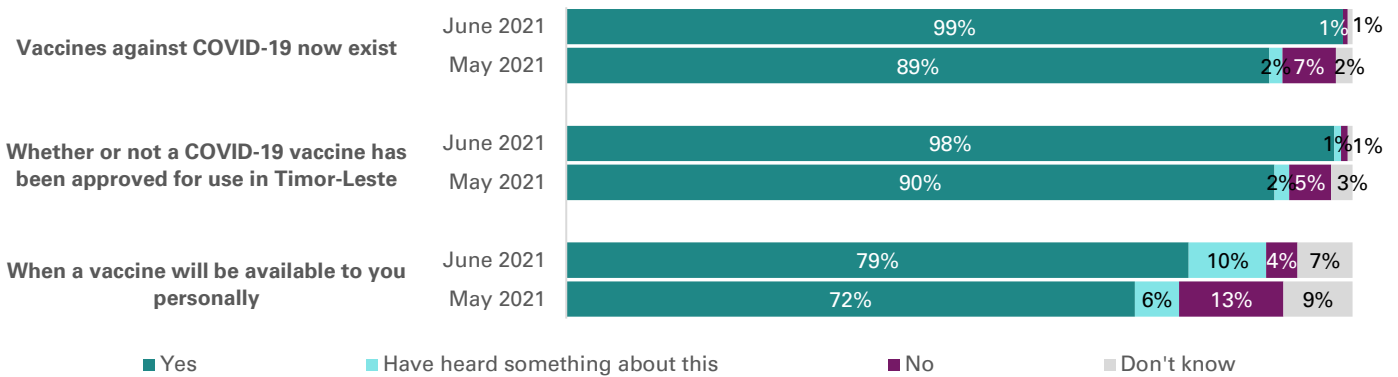


55% have cut meal size or skipped a meal because there wasn't enough money for food

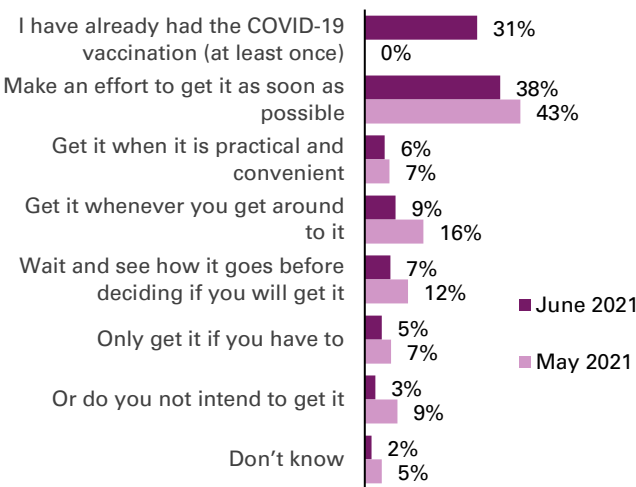
May '21: 74% Feb '21: 62% Dec: 60% Sep: 53% Jul '20: 70%
May '20: 76%



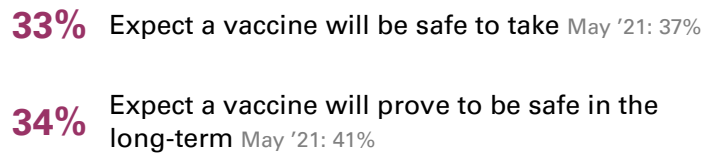
Awareness of the COVID-19 vaccine was very high, and awareness of when it would be available to them personally is also increasing



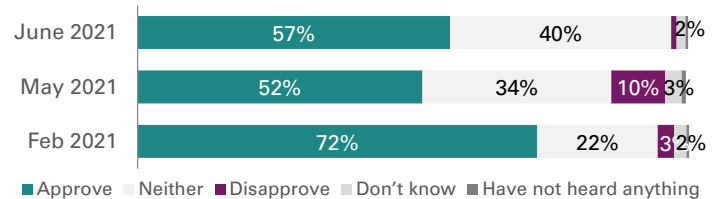
One-in-three have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine



Perceptions of safety of the COVID-19 vaccine decreased



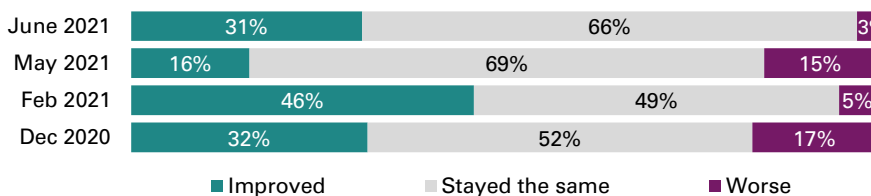
Approval of Timor-Leste's vaccination plan increased slightly



Most respondents' houses were not, or only a little affected by the recent cyclone and flooding



Nearly all feel safety and security in their local communities improved or stayed the same since March 2020



Most common security threats since March 2020: Top 3

- 1. COVID-19 – 82%**
May '21: 91% Feb '21: 77% Dec '20: 70%
- 2. Land disputes – 7%**
May '21: 3% Feb '21: 6% Dec '20: 6%
- 3. Domestic violence – 4%**
May '21: 4% Feb '21: 11% Dec '20: 9%

Safety: 64% reported conflict in their area

Most common causes of conflict in your area: Top 3

- 1. Abandonment – 19%**
- 2. Physical attack resulting in injury – 12%**
- 3. Gangs or groups – 9%**

We would like to thank the 420 respondents (237 men and 183 women) for their time and the 14 interviewers in Dili who conducted the June 2021 survey.

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Background

What is this research about?

The COVID-19, or coronavirus global pandemic, has required huge responses from governments all over the world. Timor-Leste has its own unique requirements when addressing an event of this magnitude.

This research aims to understand:

- The concerns of the people of Timor-Leste
- How well people are adopting prevention measures and taking care of their health
- The level of trust in Government
- The use of, and satisfaction with, Government programs
- The social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- How household tasks have been distributed during the pandemic
- The resilience of individuals and their communities, and
- The sources of news and information the people of Timor-Leste are relying on to stay informed about the pandemic.

Timor-Leste context

At the time of the previous survey held between 1-8 May 2021 (Round VI) Timor-Leste was experiencing a very concerning increase in community transmission of COVID-19, with 1,315 active cases (6 May). Towards the end of this Round VII survey, a continuing focus on border, quarantine, lockdown and sanitary fence measures; together with the vaccination rollout meant that the number of active cases was declining, with 1,275 active cases of COVID-19 (16 June 2021). By 26 July the number of active cases was down further to 652; with 10,354 total cases and 26 deaths over the period of the pandemic (*See* <https://covid19.gov.tl/en/dashboard/>).

States of Emergency (#13, #14 and #15) were renewed respectively on 3 May, 2 June and 2 July 2021. The Declaration of the State of Calamity in Dili Municipality, originally declared on 8 April, in response to the floods and cyclone was renewed and extended until 4 August (Government Resolution N.º75/2021 on 31 of May).¹ On 16 June, toward the end of this Round VII survey period, the GoTL lifted mandatory confinement in Dili and the 'sanitary fence' in the capital. The Government also announced that the sanitary fences in three municipalities (Baucau, Bobonaro and Covalima) would be maintained for a further seven days, thus limiting the movement of people.² By 16 July the sanitary fence was renewed for Dili only until 29 July (Government Resolution No. 97/2021, 14 July).³

At the time of this survey there had been no recorded cases of the more infectious COVID-19 Delta variant but by 23 July Timorese health authorities were announcing four imported cases who had entered Timor-Leste across the land border from Indonesia on 23 June. These cases were identified in 300 samples sent for urgent testing at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and immunity, in Melbourne, Australia.⁴

Management of COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste was considerably complicated by heavy rain from 28 March-4 April accompanying Tropical Cyclone Seroja, resulting in the worst flooding in over 40 years. Revised figures on the impact of the cyclone and flooding include 34 fatalities (including 14 missing people, presumed dead), 22 of whom were in Dili. Updated figures at 15 July indicate that a total of 30,322 households across the country have been affected; 82% in Dili municipality. A total of 4,212 houses were damaged throughout the country.⁵ The number of displaced people fell between the time of the Round VI survey (3,125 people across 17 evacuation centres in Dili municipality) and the Round VII survey (813 people across six evacuation centres). The GoTL and humanitarian partners, including the UN, launched a US\$ 32.7 million Joint Appeal & Flood Response Plan on 2 June to respond to residual humanitarian needs and assist with the early recovery process until December 2021.

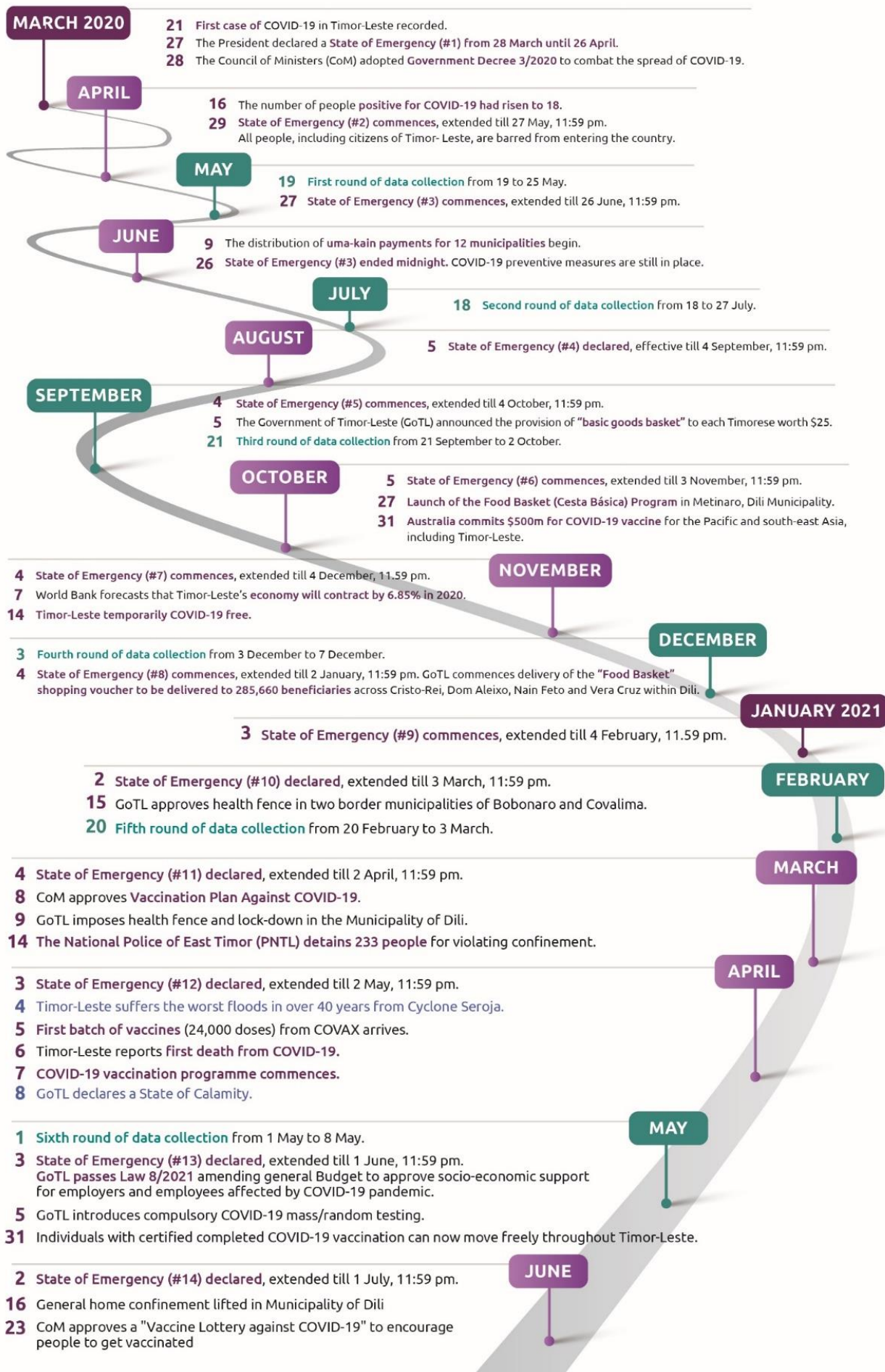
¹ UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste Floods - Situation Report No. 11 (As of 16 July 2021)

² UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste Floods - Situation Report No. 10 (As of 18 June 2021)

³ UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste Floods - Situation Report No. 11 (As of 16 July 2021)

⁴ Tatoli, 2021. 'Timor-Leste records four cases of Delta variant', 23 July 2021

⁵ UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste Floods - Situation Report No. 11 (As of 16 July 2021)



Timor-Leste commenced COVID-19 vaccinations on 7 April 2021, and by 23 July 2021, a total of 238,909 COVID-19 vaccine doses comprising of 262,933 first doses (34.80%) and 74,918 second doses (9.9%) had been administered, predominantly in Dili. Vaccines have been supplied by the COVAX facility and vaccine donations from the Australian, New Zealand and Chinese Governments. By 26 July, 153,773 COVID-19 tests had been carried out, with Australian Government-funded support from the Menzies Institute.⁶

Who is the research being conducted for?

The Asia Foundation has been working with the people of Timor-Leste for nearly 30 years on issues such as employment, women's rights, and community policing, and commissioned this research. The results will be used for advocacy with the Timor-Leste Government and donors on issues relating to COVID-19. This research is supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)-funded Governance for Development Program.

How was the research conducted?

Between 11 and 17 June 2021, a Dili-based call centre conducted 420 interviews with Timor-Leste adults (237 males and 183 females), using a sample list of previous respondents to The Asia Foundation Tatoli and Community Policing surveys. This followed up from near-identical surveys conducted in February and May 2021 as well as May, July, September and December 2020, which will be used to compare change over time. ORIMA Research (Australia) worked with The Asia Foundation on the questionnaire and data collection methodology, performed data quality checks, and conducted the analysis and reporting. All data were gender disaggregated during the analysis, and any gender differences are mentioned in this report. More detail is available in the methodology section of this report. The full survey results are also available on the Q2i Visualization platform: surveys.asiafoundation.org/Dashboard?SurveyCode=TLCV

The future

The survey was expected to recur at two-month intervals until June 2021 to observe changes for the community over time. Given the utility of the surveys, the process will continue for additional months. This report and the Q2i visualization platform are updated each survey round to reflect this data.

Reader Notes

Throughout the report results are shown at the overall level. Where there are statistically significant differences based on gender or location (Dili compared to those living outside of Dili), these are described in the commentary. Where no differences are noted, this means there were no statistically significant differences seen.

Colours are used in some charts to show different waves of the survey. The most recent results are shown in the darkest colours.

Not all questions have been asked in all waves of the survey. Where results are not shown for some questions or some parts of questions, this means they were not asked in that wave.

In some places results may not naturally add up to exactly 100% due to rounding. Where this occurs, results are manually rounded to 100%.

More complete technical information is included in the appendix at the end of this report. A more detailed breakdown of results is available in the Q2i data visualizer.

⁶ <https://covid19.gov.tl/en/dashboard/>

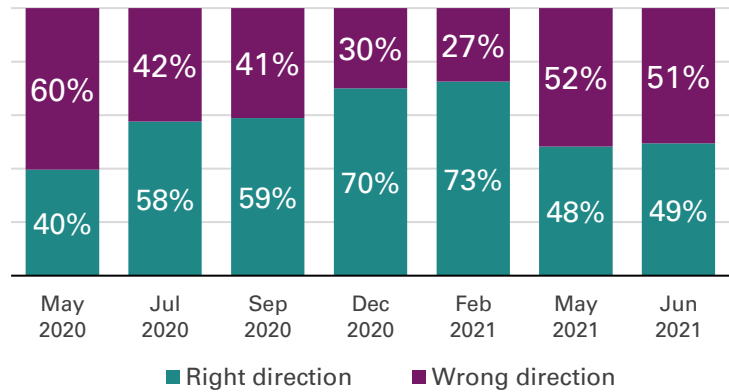
Results

Biggest concerns

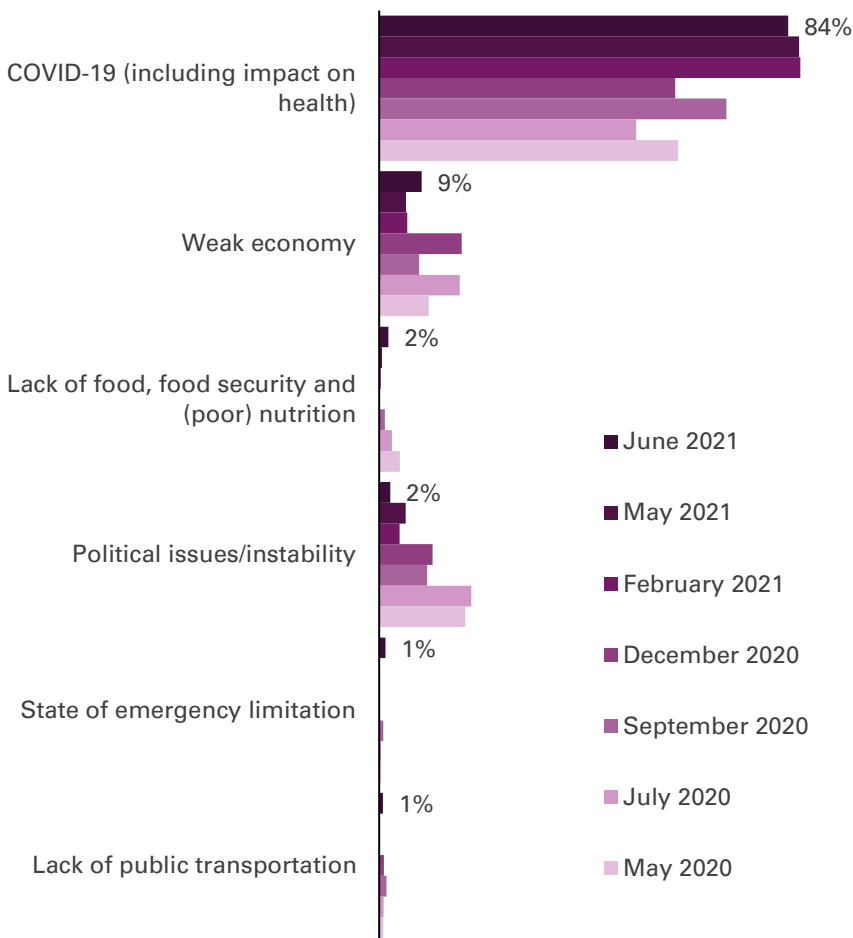
In June 2021, around half (49%) of respondents felt that Timor-Leste was going in the right direction, in line with May 2021 (48%).

As in May 2021, the perception that Timor-Leste was going in the right direction was higher among those living in Dili (68%, compared to 43% outside Dili).

Generally speaking, Timor-Leste is going in the...



The biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste:



COVID-19 (including its impact on health) remained by far the biggest perceived challenge facing Timor-Leste (84%), as in all previous survey rounds.

COVID-19 was considered the biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste across all demographic groups.

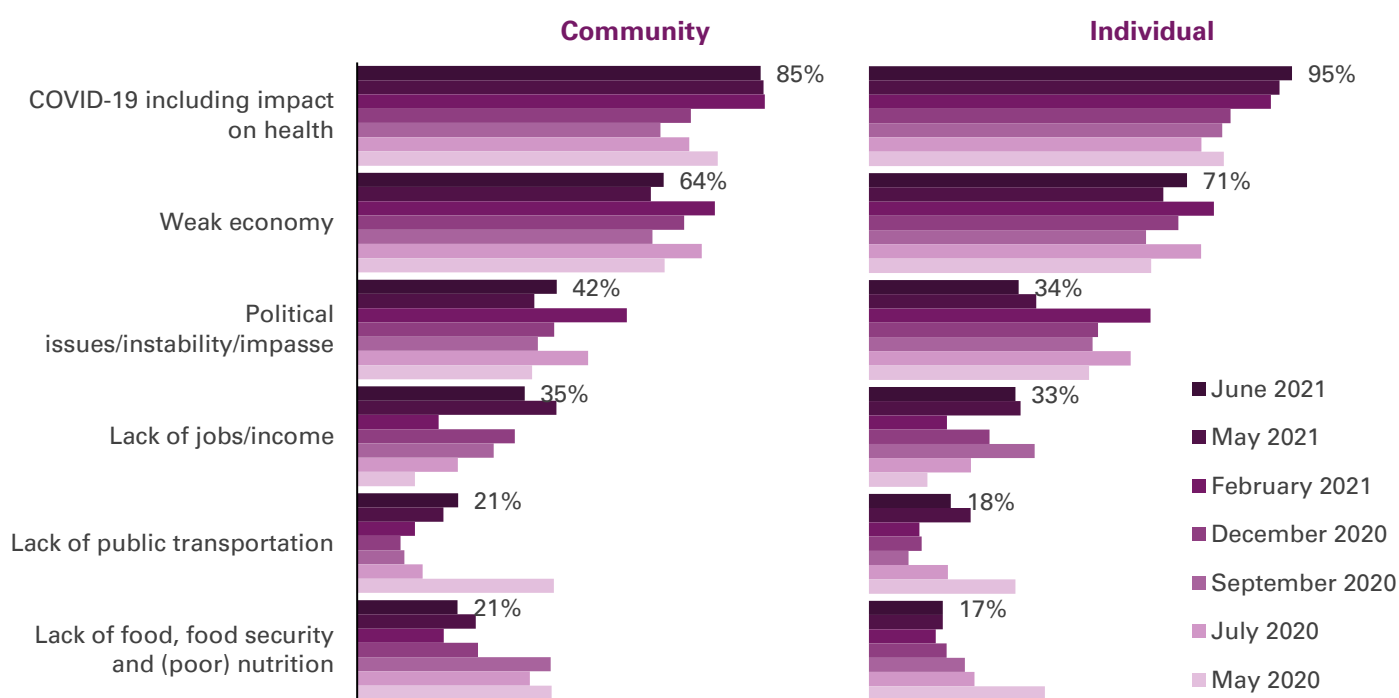
The second biggest perceived challenge was a weak economy (9%), though only a minority of respondents selected this.

In June 2021, COVID-19 was also the most commonly reported concern for individuals (95%) and the community (85%). These figures were consistent with those recorded in February and May 2021; and were higher than those observed in 2020.

A weak economy was the second greatest concern for both individuals (71%) and the community (64%), in line with results from May 2021 (66% and 61%, respectively). Concern about political issues / instability (34% for individuals and 42% for the community) remained largely stable since May 2021, after a peak in February 2021.

Concern about a lack of jobs / income was higher among those living in Dili, compared to those residing outside Dili. Those living outside Dili reported greater concern in relation to political issues and lack of public transportation.

Top 3 problems as an individual and in your community (Multiple response, five most common problems shown)



Respondents were also asked about how concerned they were about various aspects of life. Around 60% of respondents were 'very' concerned about each of the aspects tested. Concern levels were similar to those recorded in May 2021 for most aspects; but have been increasing in relation to having enough money for their family (57% 'very' concerned, up from 46% in May 2021 and 39% in February 2021).

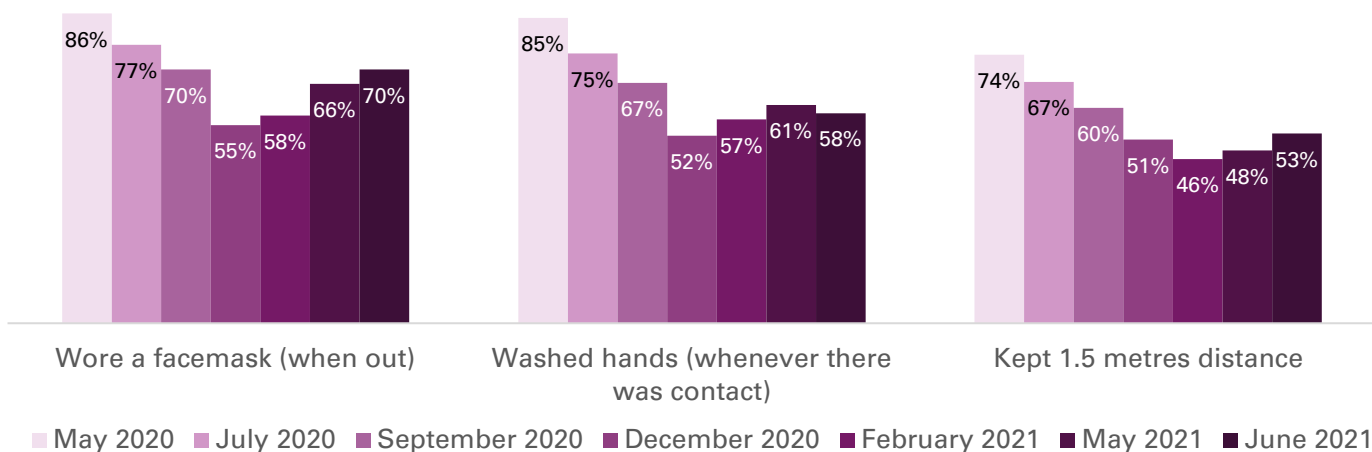
Levels of concern across all aspects were higher among those living in Dili, compared to those living outside Dili.

Prevention measures and healthcare behavior

The proportion of respondents who reported that in the past week they had ‘very much’ practiced wearing a facemask and keeping 1.5 metres distance from others continued to increase, after steadily declining since the first survey in May 2020 through to December 2020. However, the proportion who washed their hands ‘very much’ was down slightly from May 2021.

As in May 2021, those living in Dili were more likely to have worn a facemask ‘very much’ (83%, compared to 66% of those outside Dili).

COVID-19 safe behaviors (applies very much) in past week



In the same time period, similar proportions to May 2021 said they ‘very much’ did not attend social gatherings (52%), avoided public places (51%), and worked from home (51%).

If you had symptoms, would you:

May 2020	July 2020	Sept 2020	Dec 2020	Feb 2021	May 2021	June 2021	
94%	95%	99%	98%	97%	93%	97%	Go to a hospital or health clinic
92%	79%	79%	88%	97%	92%	96%	Inform people around me
85%	79%	77%	86%	87%	86%	91%	Stay home
-	-	63%	89%	85%	87%	83%	Take traditional medicine
-	-	80%	85%	88%	86%	75%	Carry on as usual

Nearly all respondents reported that if they had symptoms of sickness, they would go to a hospital or health clinic (97%) and inform people around them (96%).

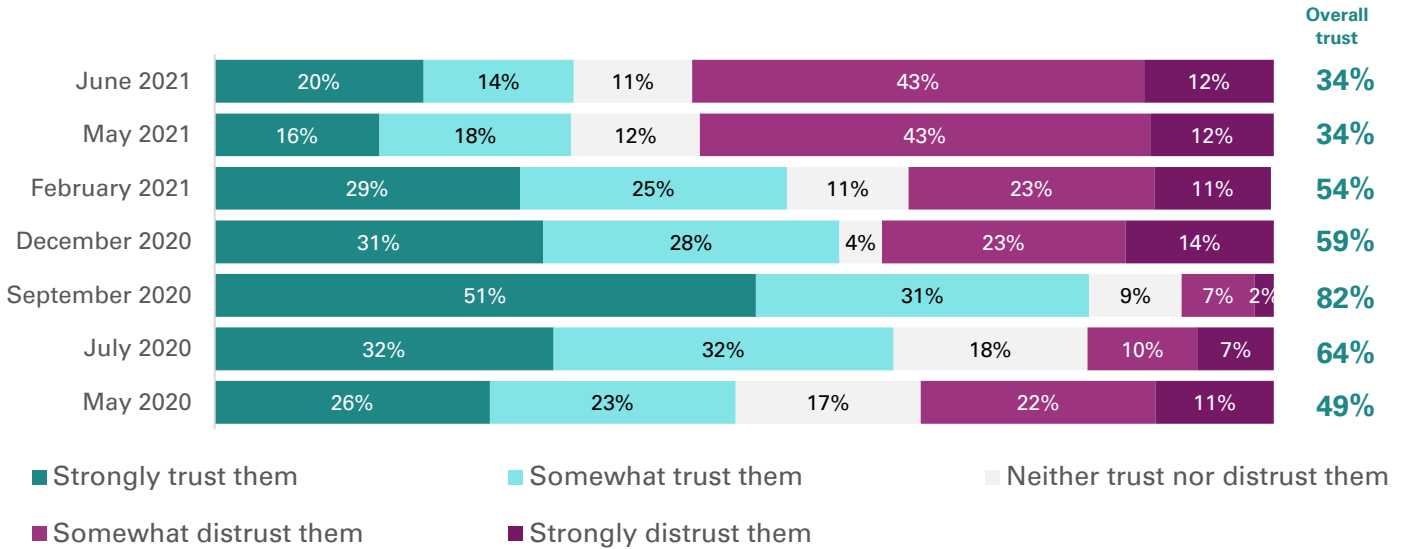
Most respondents also reported they would stay home (91%) and take traditional medicine (83%), in line with previous rounds of results.

While the majority of respondents (75%) reported they would carry on as usual if they showed symptoms, this figure was the lowest recorded since September 2020. Those living in Dili (70%) and aged 17-24 (70%) were *less* likely to report they would carry on as usual.

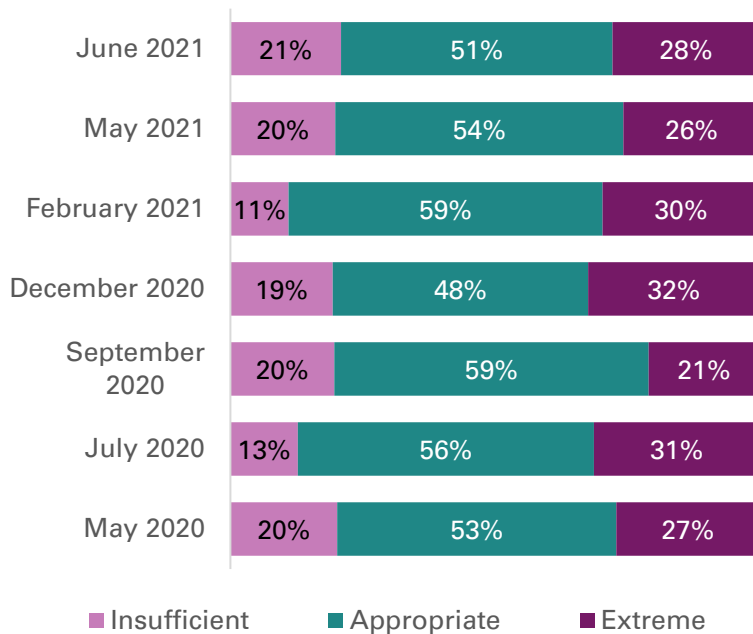
Government trust

Trust in the GoTL to take care of its citizens during COVID-19 remained consistent with levels recorded in May 2021 (34%, with a slightly higher proportion indicating strong trust) after declining since September 2020. The proportion who reported distrust in the Government also remained stable since May 2021 (55%, no change).

Those living in Dili reported lower trust in the government (23%, compared to 38% of those outside Dili), while those living outside Dili reported slightly higher distrust (57%, compared to 50% of those in Dili).



What do you think of the current reaction of the Government to COVID-19



Despite lower levels of overall trust in the Government to take care of citizens, perceptions of the Government's current reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak were similar to those observed in previous rounds (21% felt it was insufficient, 51% felt it was appropriate and 28% felt it was too extreme).

When asked about how the Timorese people reacted to the COVID-19 outbreak, 22% felt it was insufficient, 49% felt it was appropriate and 29% felt it was too extreme (not charted).

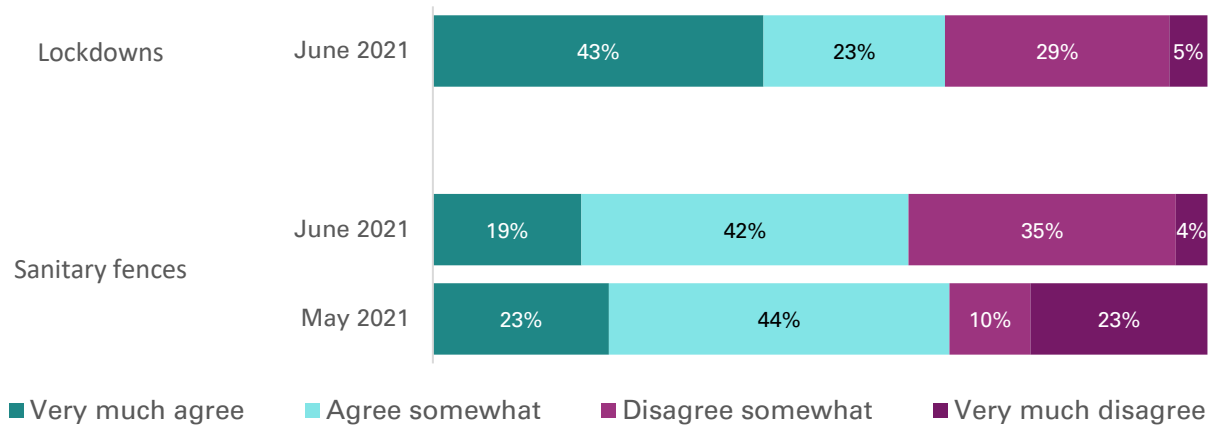
Older respondents aged 45+ years were more likely to feel the reaction of the Government and the Timorese people was appropriate (respectively – 58%, compared to 47-49% among younger age groups; and 58%, compared to 37-52% among younger age groups).

Government response to COVID-19

On 9 March the GoTL implemented sanitary fences in Dili and has since implemented them in nine municipalities as a way of responding to COVID-19. The majority of respondents (61%, slightly lower than 67% in May 2021) indicated they 'very much agree' or 'agree somewhat' with the use of sanitary fences. As in May 2021, those living in Dili (69%) were more likely to be supportive of the use of sanitary fences than those living outside Dili (59%).

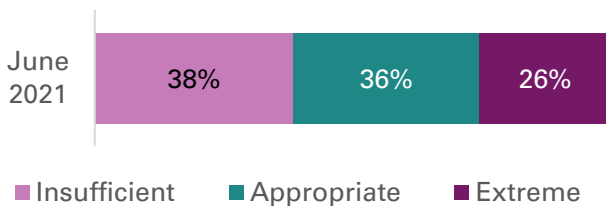
The Government has also used lockdowns (having to stay home) at different times in Timor-Leste as a way of responding to COVID-19. The majority (66%) of respondents agreed with this response. Those living in Dili (73%) were more likely to agree than those living outside Dili (64%).

Do you agree with the Government's use of...



Most respondents (91%) also felt the Government should continue to restrict people from coming into Timor-Leste from other countries (consistent with 92% in February 2021 and 89% in December 2020). However, most (91%) felt there should be a regular schedule for Timorese outside the country to be able to return to Timor-Leste.

What do you think of the current reaction of the PNTL to COVID-19



The National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) are responsible for enforcing COVID-19 restrictions in the community. Responses were mixed – 36% felt the reaction of the PNTL was appropriate, while 38% felt it was insufficient and 26% felt it was too extreme.

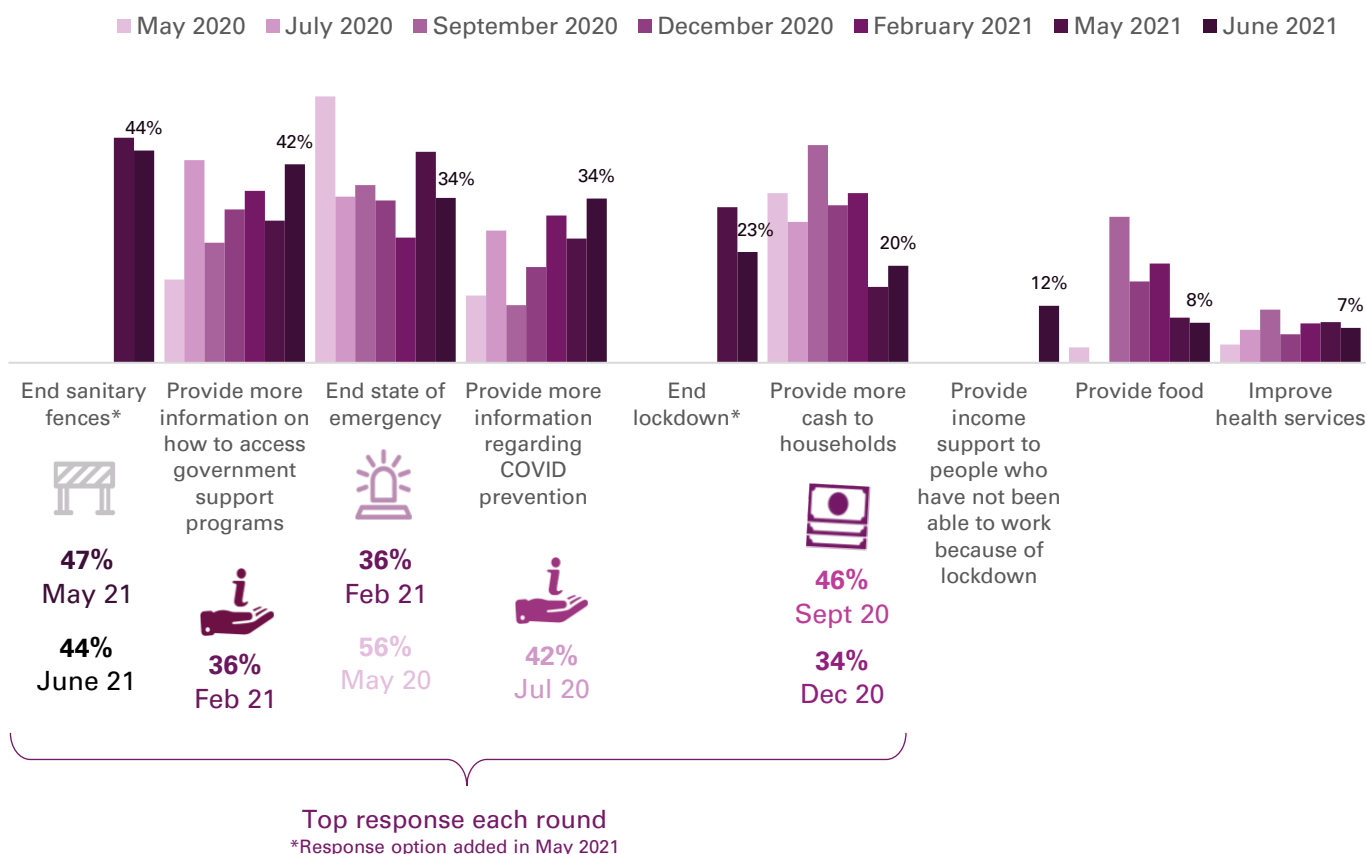
Those living in Dili (49%) were more likely to consider the reaction of the PNTL was insufficient, compared to those outside Dili (35%).

Additional Government support

In each survey round, respondents have been asked what more the Government could do to support its citizens. In June 2021, ending sanitary fences remained the most common suggestion (44%), followed by providing more information on how to access Government programs (42%), ending the state of emergency (34%) and providing more information on COVID-19 prevention (34%).

As observed in previous rounds of research, those living outside Dili were more likely to feel the Government should end sanitary fences (47%, compared to 36% of Dili residents) and end the state of emergency (39%, compared to 21%). Those living in Dili were more likely to report that the Government should provide more cash to households (32%, compared to 16% of those living outside of Dili).

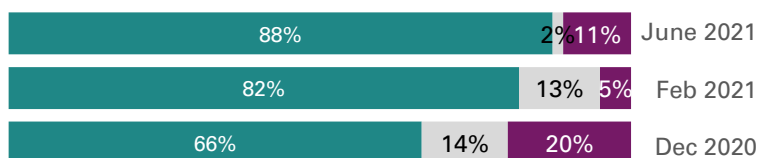
During this time, what could the Government do more to support its citizens? (Multiple responses allowed)



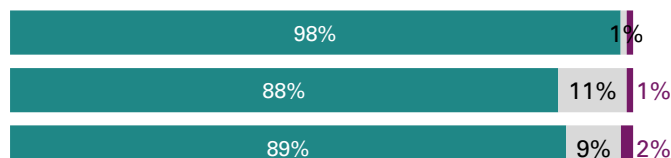
In response to COVID-19, the GoTL distributed the Uma Kain cash payment to citizens, followed by a food basket / voucher (Cesta Basica). Among those who received it, satisfaction with each program had increased since December 2020. While satisfaction with both was high, respondents reported greater satisfaction with the Uma Kain cash payment (98%) compared to the food basket / voucher (88%).

Satisfaction with...

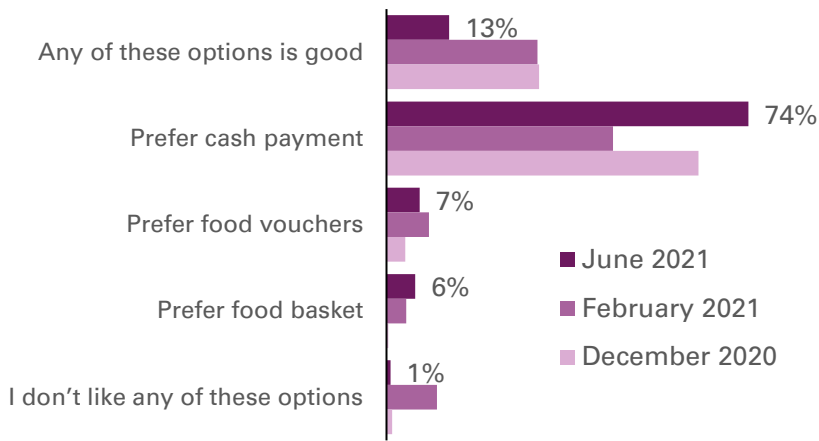
Food basket / voucher (Cesta Basica)



Uma Kain cash payment



■ Very good + Good ■ Okay ■ Bad + Very bad



Respondents were asked what their preference would be out of a cash payment, food voucher or food basket. The majority of respondents (74%) had a preference for cash payments. This preference was particularly pronounced among those living in Dili (86%), compared to 69% of those living outside Dili.

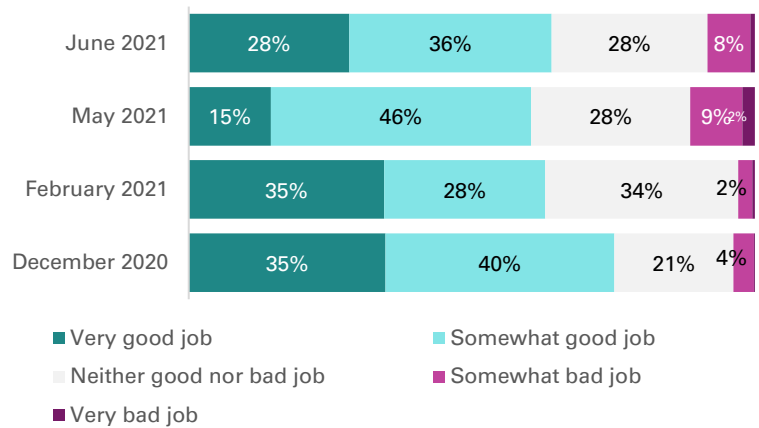
Governance and participation

The majority (64%) of respondents felt the GoTL was doing a 'very' or 'somewhat' good job in carrying out its responsibilities. This figure was in line with May 2021 (60%) and February 2021 (63%), noting that the percentage who said the Government was doing a very good job increased from 15% to 28%.

Perceptions of the way the Government was carrying out its responsibilities became less positive with age. Those aged 17-24 years were most positive (75% felt they were doing a good job), while those aged 45+ years were least positive (56%).

Although those living in Dili were more positive than those living outside Dili in May 2021, perceptions of the Government were similar in June 2021 (68% among those living in Dili compared to 63% among those living outside Dili).

Overall, how do you feel about the way the government of Timor-Leste is carrying out its responsibilities?

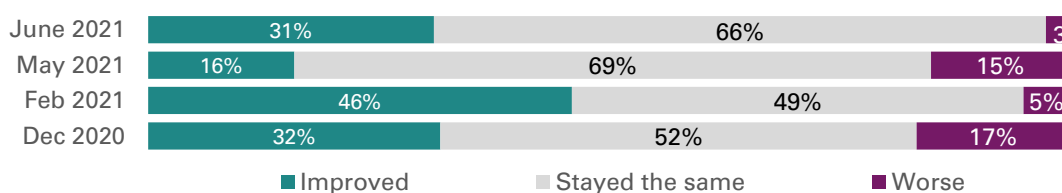


Safety and Security

Perceptions of the safety and security situation in local communities were more positive than in May 2021. The majority (66%) of respondents felt safety and security had stayed the same since the start of COVID-19 in March last year, and a notable proportion felt it had improved (31%, up from 16% in May 2021). Only three percent of respondents felt it had gotten worse.

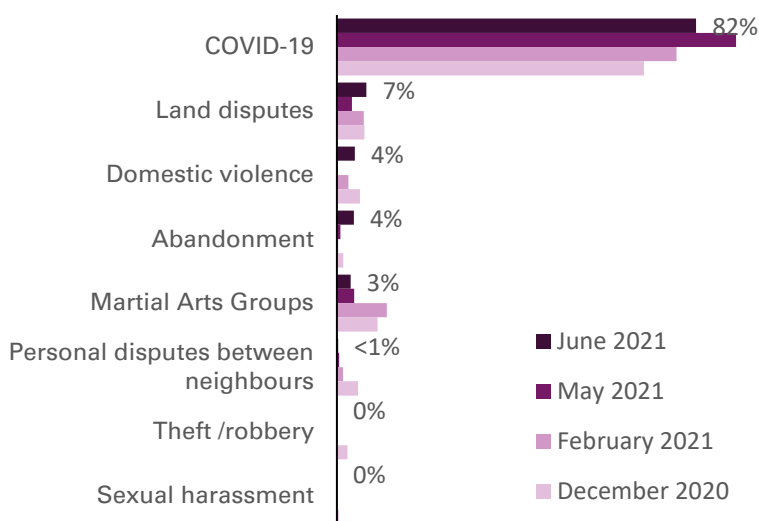
Perceptions of the safety and security in their community were similar among all demographic groups in June 2021.

How would you describe the safety and security situation in your local community compared to before the first SOE and start of COVID-19 in March last year?



COVID-19 (82%) remained by far the most common perceived **threat to security in respondents' local area**, though to a lesser extent than in May 2021 (91%). The perceived threat of COVID-19 was higher among those living in Dili (91%), and among younger respondents aged 17-24 (92%).

Since March 2020, what has been the most common threat to security in your area?

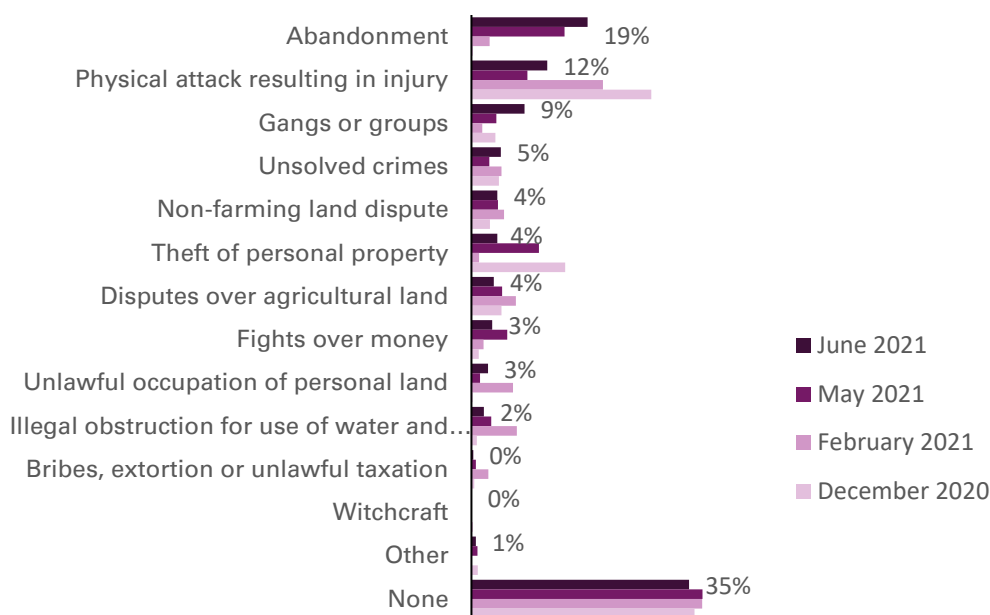


The majority of respondents (65%, similar to previous rounds) felt there was at least one **cause of conflict in their area**.

Abandonment⁷ remained the most common perceived cause of conflict (19%), which has been steadily increasing since December 2020. Those living outside Dili (21%) were more likely to perceive abandonment as a cause of conflict, compared to those in Dili (12%).

Physical attack resulting in injury was the second most common perceived cause of conflict (12%). This was more commonly reported among males (19%) compared to females (6%).

What are the most common causes of conflict in your area?

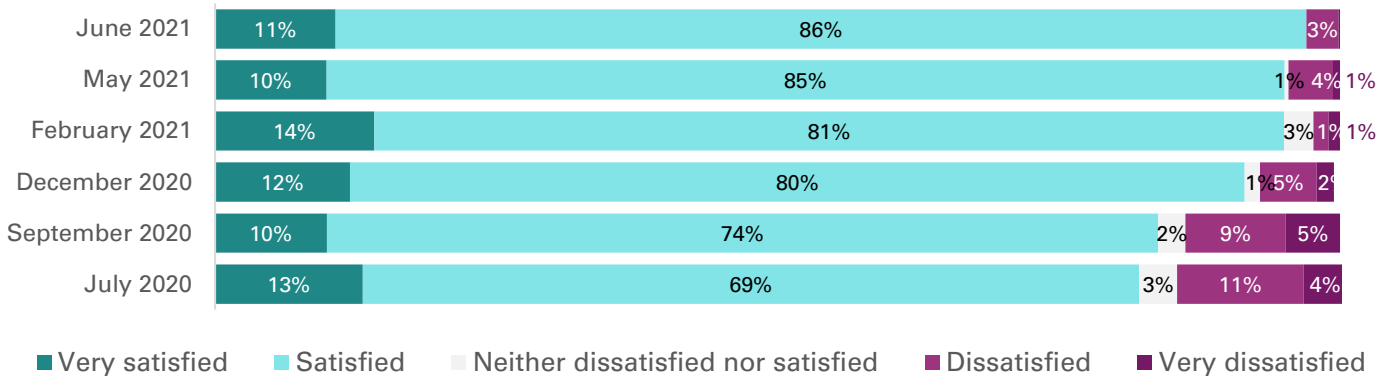


⁷ Abandonment in the Timor-Leste context often refers to men leaving their wife/partner and/or children without material support. It includes paternity cases where a pregnant woman is seeking material support from someone who promised to marry her; as well as in sexual assault cases resulting in pregnancy where the perpetrator refuses to pay maintenance.

Household duties

As in previous rounds, satisfaction with the way household tasks were divided up between the respondent and their spouse or partner remained very high (97%). As also observed in previous rounds, satisfaction with the division of work between respondents and their spouse or partner was similar among males (98%) and females (96%), despite uneven distributions of male and female labor across household tasks.

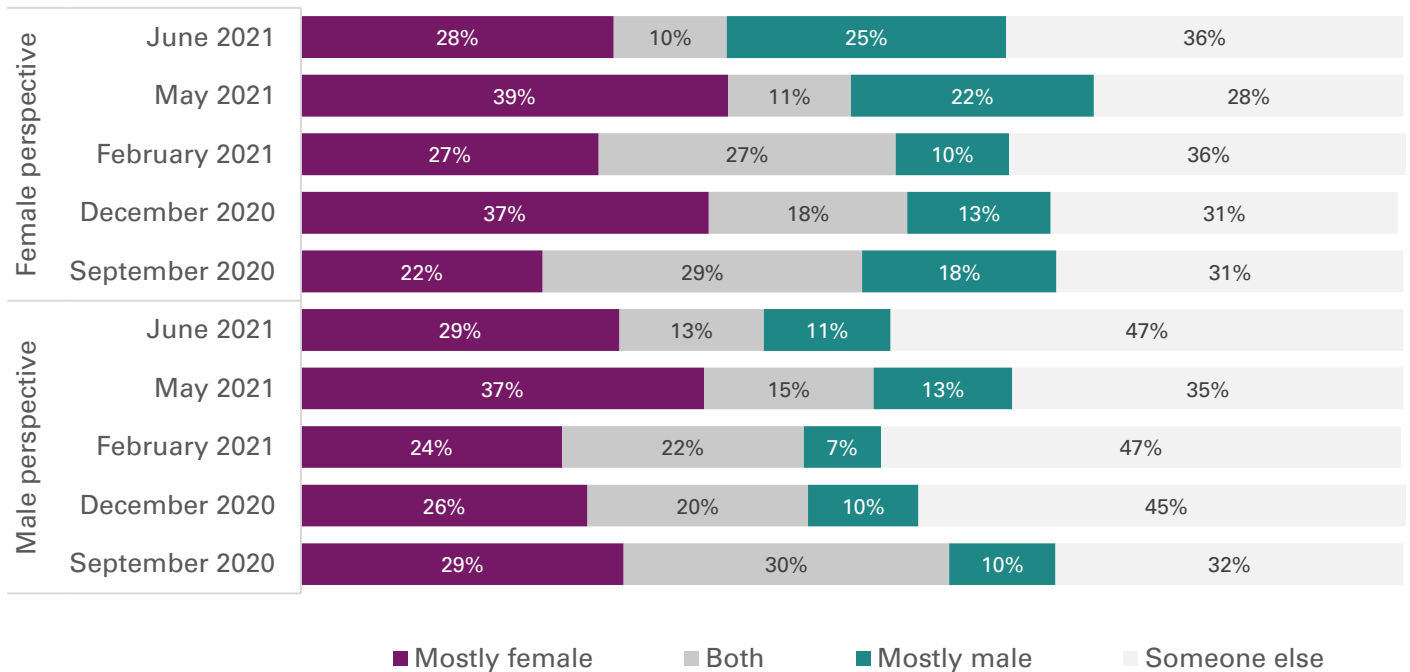
How satisfied are you with the way household tasks are divided between you and your spouse or partner?



Respondents were asked about the distribution of various household chores between themselves, their spouse or partner, or someone else (such as a relative, child or roommate). As in previous survey rounds, men tended to attribute more work to their partners than to themselves (on average, across all household tasks, men attribute 29% of the work to their partners, and 11% to themselves). However, in contrast to previous rounds, women attributed a similar proportion of work to themselves (28%) as to their partners (25%).

In June 2021, notable proportions of respondents reported that someone else performed household chores (47% among males and 36% among females), rather than themselves or their partners.

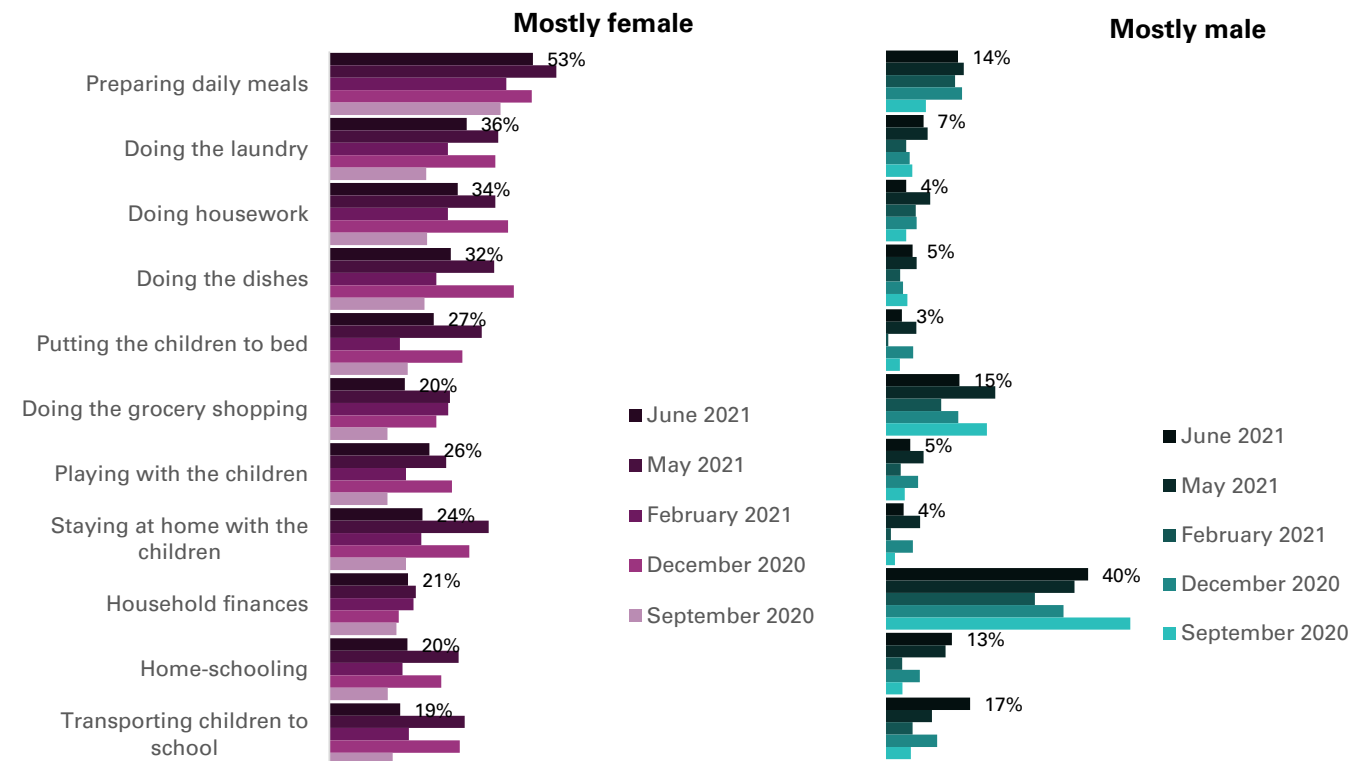
Perception of task distribution (average across all items)



As in previous rounds, all tasks were performed mostly by women except for household finances (mostly performed by men in 40% of households, mostly by women in 21%).

The proportion who indicated home-schooling children and transporting children were performed mostly by males was higher than in previous rounds (13% and 17%, respectively) but these tasks were still more likely to be performed by women (20% and 19%, respectively).

Task distribution (perception from own gender)



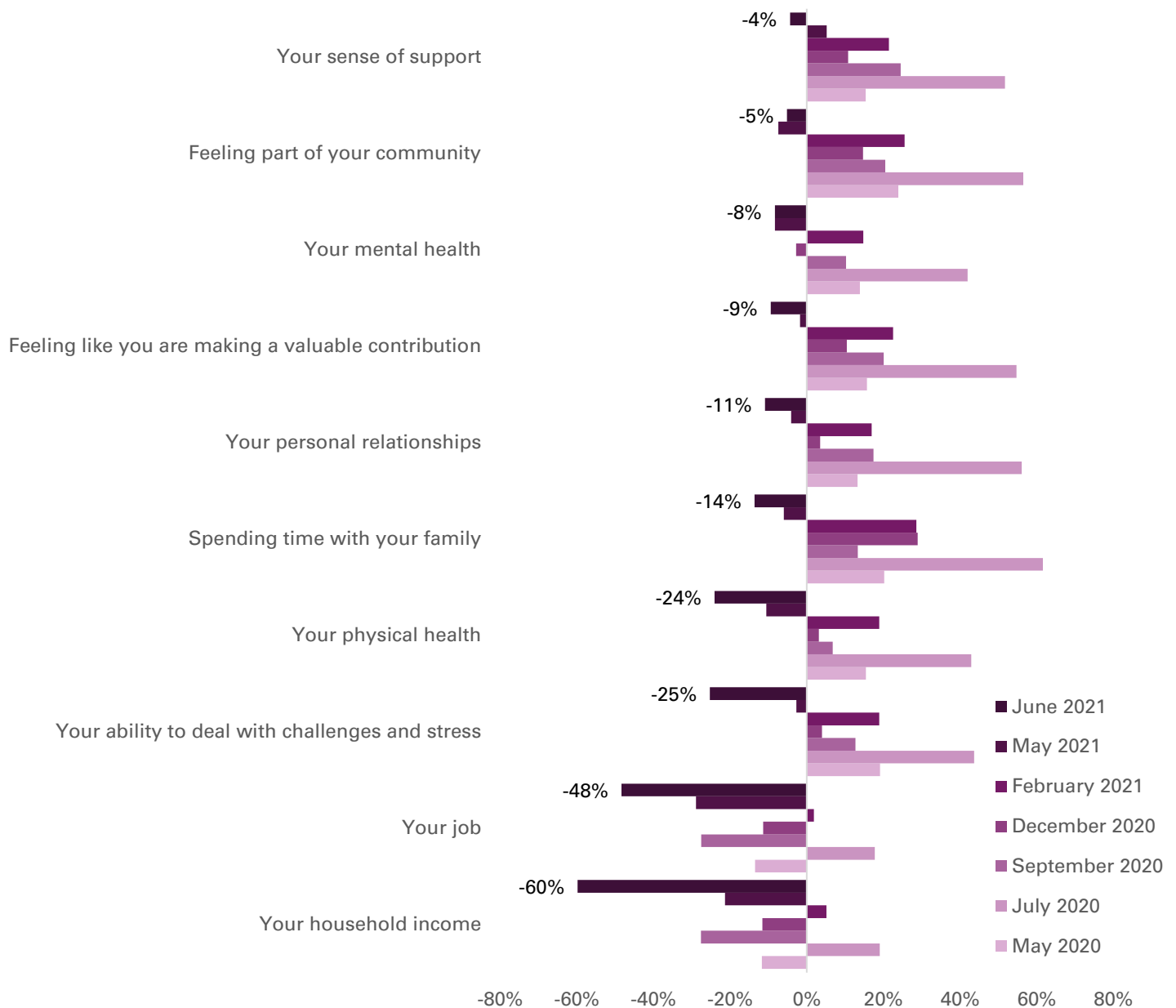
Social and economic impacts

Respondents were asked to identify how COVID-19 had impacted them personally across a range of aspects of their life—whether they had been impacted positively, negatively, or not really affected at all. The resulting *net balance* scores (positive sentiment minus negative sentiment) show that for the first time, respondents viewed the impact of COVID-19 on their life as somewhat more *negative* than positive across all aspects of their life. While this pattern was observed in May 2021, it was more pronounced in June 2021.

Between 46-76% of respondents said they had been negatively impacted by COVID-19 on each aspect, while between 16-42% felt each aspect had a positive impact.

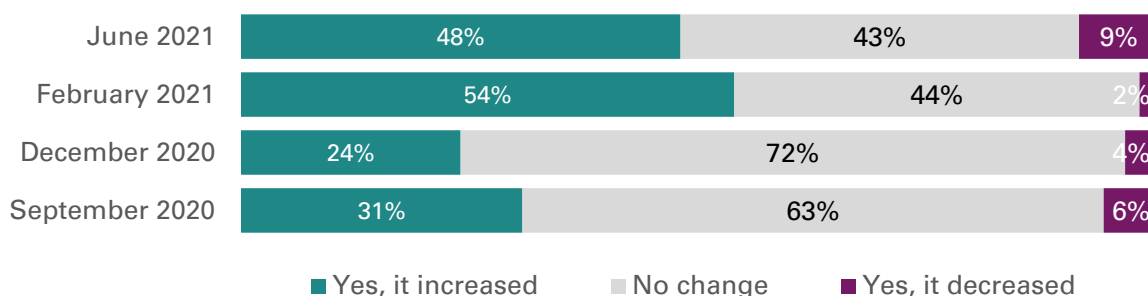
Net scores for nearly all aspects were the lowest recorded across all previous survey rounds. Respondents reported the most negative impacts on their household income (-60%) and job (-48%).

Perceived personal impact of COVID-19 [Net balance: positive impact *minus* negative impact]



Around half of respondents (48%) indicated the cost of things like rice or cooking oil had increased in their local markets, slightly lower than in February 2021 but higher than in 2020.

In the past month did the cost of things like rice or cooking oil and others, change in your local markets?

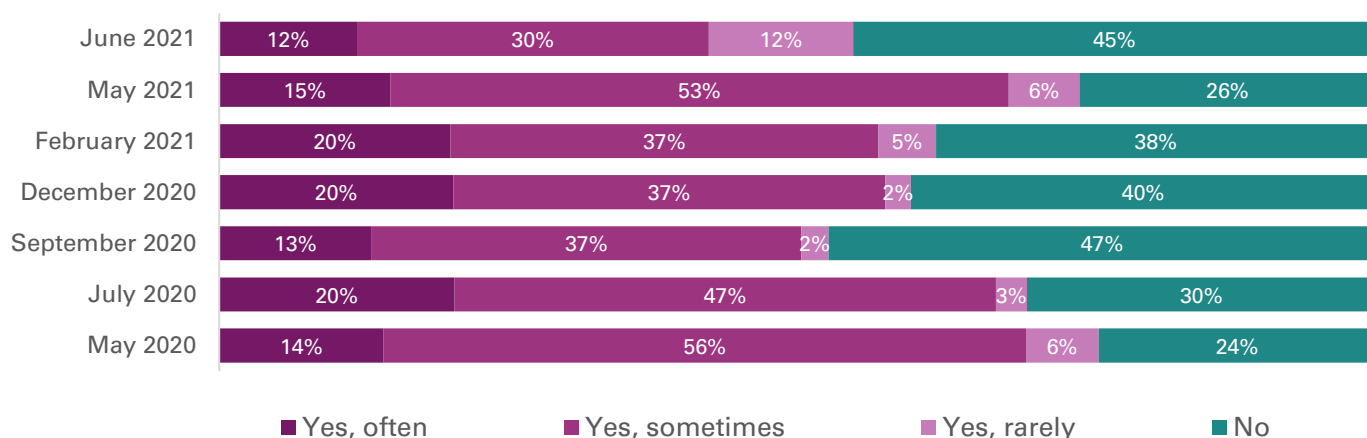


The proportion who indicated they had been forced to skip or cut the size of a meal at least once in the past month because of a lack of money dropped in June 2021 (55%), the lowest figure recorded since May 2020 (except for September 2020).

The same proportion (55%, down from 75% in May 2021, not charted) said that someone else in the household had also skipped or cut the size of a meal in that time due to lack of money.

Those living in Dili were more likely to report that they (79%, compared to 47% of those living outside Dili) or somebody else in the household (78%, compared to 48%) had skipped or cut the size of a meal. Females (61%) were also more likely than males (48%) to have skipped or cut the size of a meal themselves.

In the past 30 days, had to cut the size of a meal or skip a meal because there wasn't enough money for food?

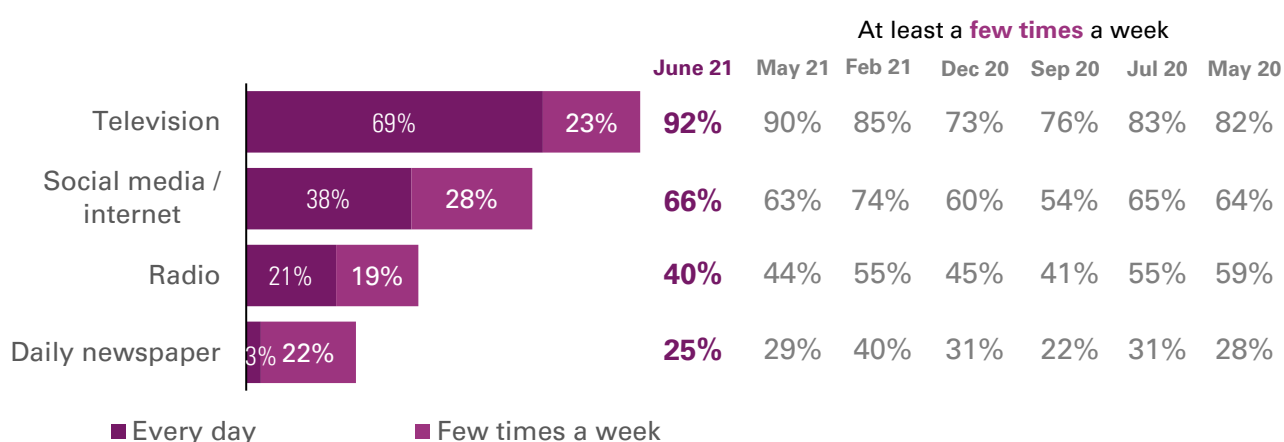


News and information

Television remained by far the most frequently used channel for media and entertainment (92% used this at least a few times per week, the highest figure recorded since the start of the survey in May 2020). Similar proportions of respondents as in May 2021 reported that they used social media and the internet (66%, in line with 63% in May 2021), listen to the radio (40%, in line with 44%) and read newspapers (24%, in line with 29%) at least a few times a week.

Those living in Dili reported using social media / internet (80% 'every day' or 'few times a week', compared to 61% of those outside Dili) and watching television (97%, compared to 90%) more frequently than those outside Dili. However, those outside Dili reported listening to the radio more frequently (42%, compared to 34% of those in Dili).

As in previous rounds, social media usage was highest among younger respondents aged 17-24 (84%) and declined with age. However, younger respondents aged 17-24 were less likely to use all other channels compared to older age groups.



Most respondents (85%) had their own phone, similar to previous rounds (79-82%).

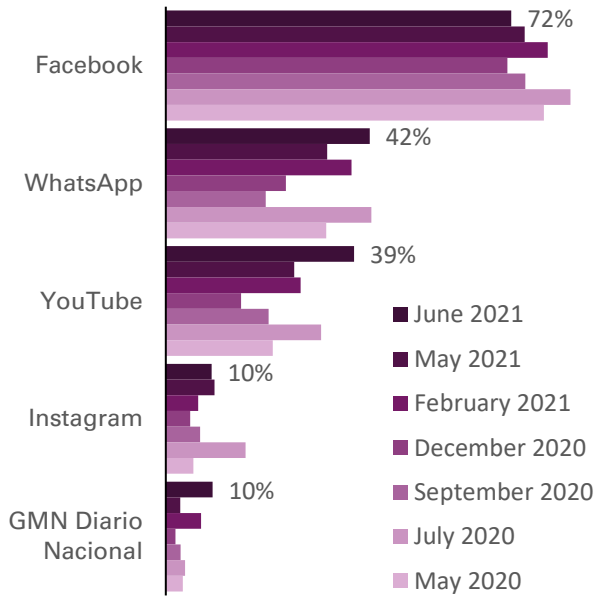
Eighty-five percent reported that they or someone in the household accessed the internet or social media on their phone.⁸ This figure was similar to previous rounds of the survey. Dili residents (96%, compared to 87% of those living outside Dili) were more likely to access the internet via their phones.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents indicated using some apps or websites frequently (whether on their phone, someone else's phone, or by other means), in line with previous rounds. As observed previously, those living in Dili (92%) and aged 17-24 (91%) were more likely to use websites or apps regularly.

Facebook (72%) remained the most popular app, followed by WhatsApp (42%) and YouTube (39%). While usage of most websites / apps was similar to previous rounds, the proportion who used YouTube was the highest recorded in June 2021.

⁸ As the survey was conducted over the telephone, all respondents had access to a telephone. As a comparison, in the 2018 Tatoli Survey, 76% of respondents provided a mobile phone number and only 33% of respondents said they had access to the internet.

Top 5 most used websites or apps



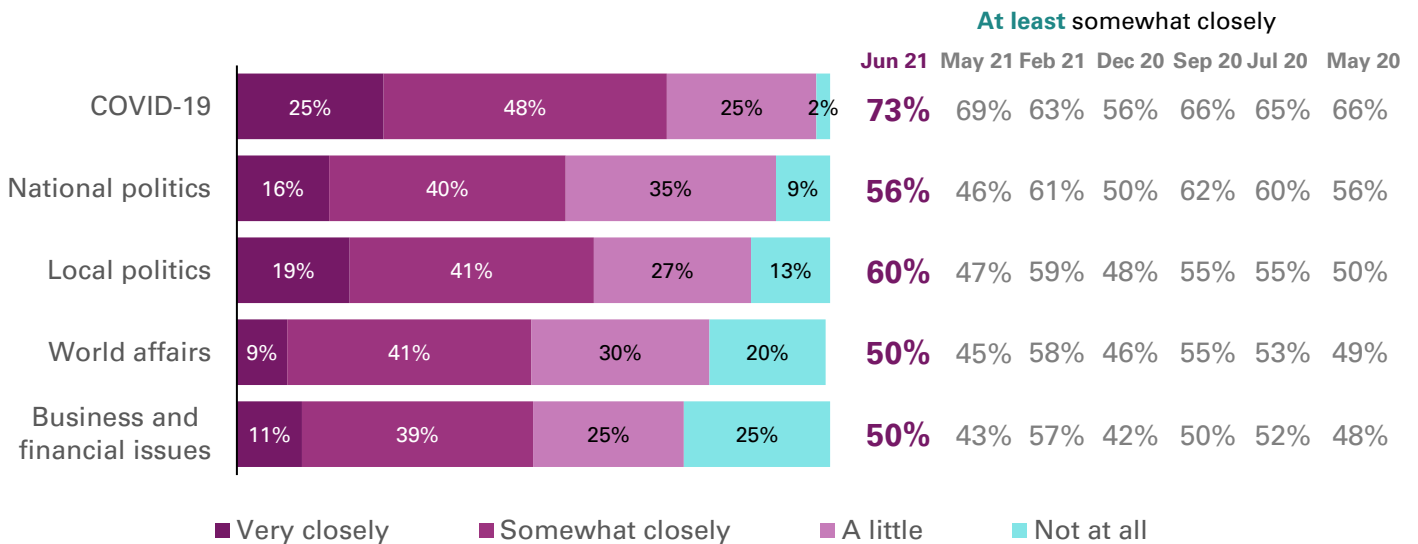
In their household...

- 85%** Do not share their phone with others
- 85%** Access the internet using a phone
- 73%** Often use websites or apps

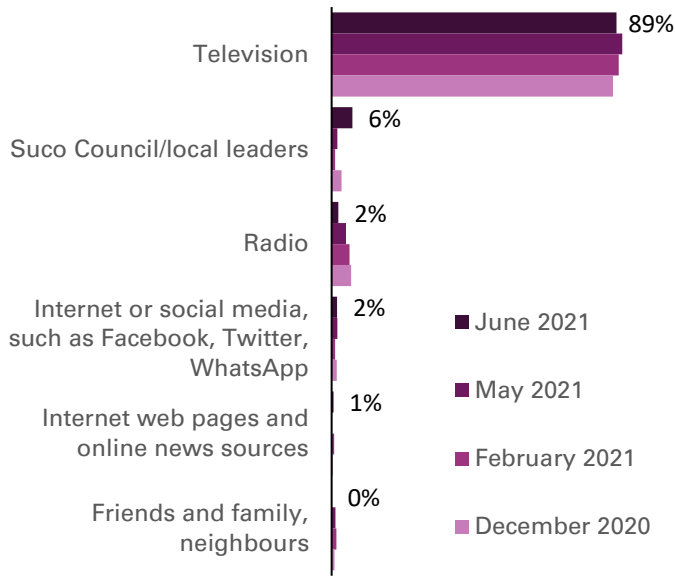
COVID-19 remained the most closely followed news topic in June 2021, and the proportion who followed it at least 'somewhat' closely (73%) was the highest recorded since May 2020. Compared to May 2021, respondents were more likely to be following other topics at least somewhat closely – most notably, local politics (60%, higher than in all previous rounds).

In contrast to previous rounds, respondents living outside Dili were more likely to be following each topic at least somewhat closely compared to those living in Dili. Engagement with each topic was also generally higher among males.

How closely do you follow each of the following topics?



What source of news and information do you trust the most?



Television remained by far the most trusted source of information (89%, in line with previous rounds).⁹ As observed in previous rounds, Dili residents were more likely to report television was their most trusted source (97%, compared to 86% of those living outside Dili).

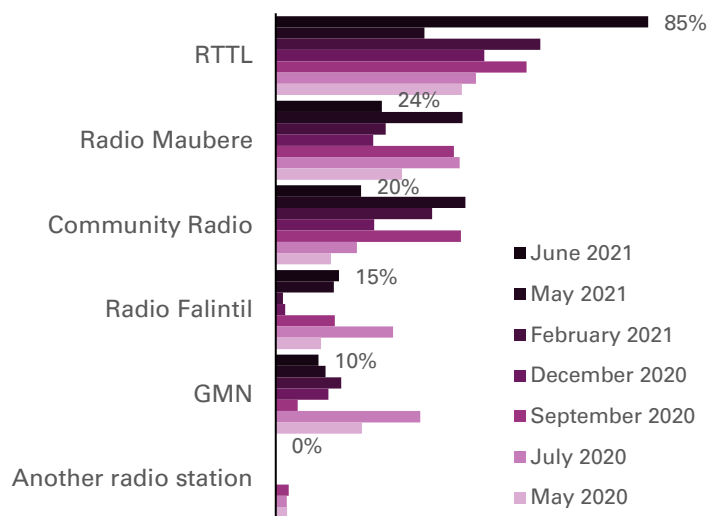
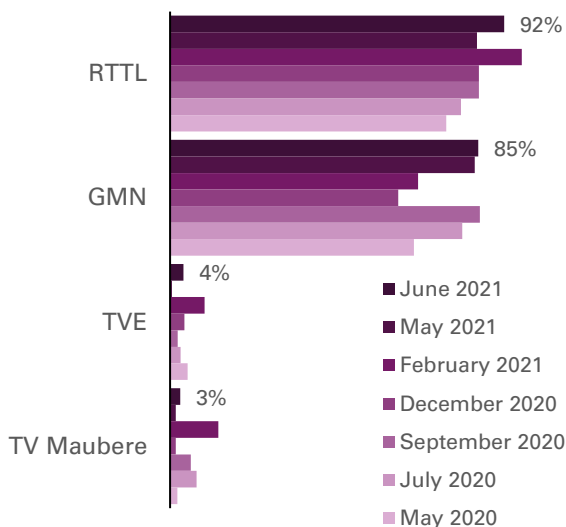
While only cited as the most trusted source among a minority, those living outside Dili were more likely to trust Suco Council / local leaders (8%, compared to 1% of those living in Dili).

RTTL (92%) and GMN (85%) remained by far the most commonly watched television channels. The proportion of respondents who watched GMN most often has been steadily increasing from 63% in December 2020. As observed in previous rounds, respondents living outside Dili were more likely to watch RTTL (97%, compared to 81% of those living in Dili).

Among those who listened to radio, RTTL was the most popular station in June 2021 (85%), much higher than in previous rounds. This was led primarily by those living in Dili (100%, compared to 83% of those living outside Dili). Community Radio (24%, down from 43% in May 2021) and Radio Maubere (20%, down from 43%) were the next most popular stations, but were less popular than in May 2021.

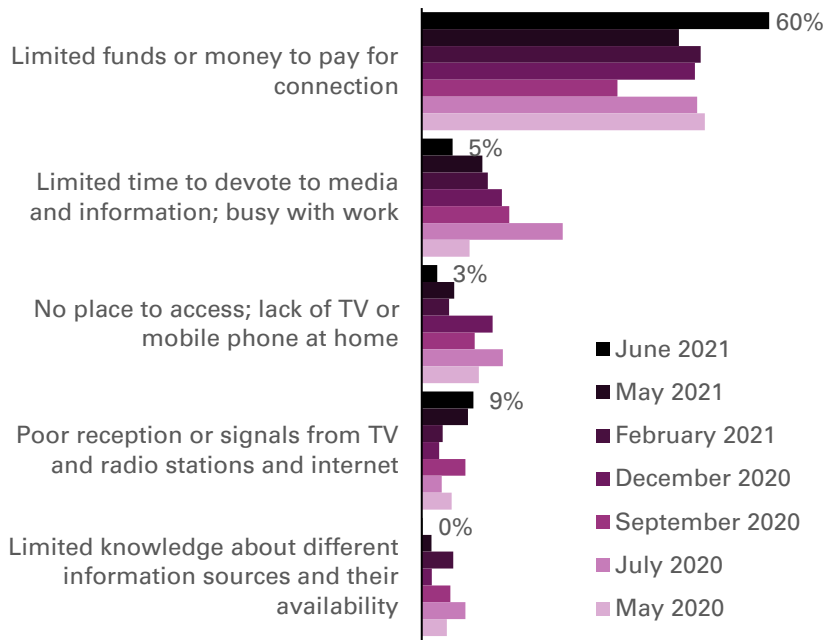
What television channels do you most often watch?

What radio stations do you most often listen to?



⁹ Please note that in Round 4 this question was asked about sources of news and information in general. In previous rounds, this question was asked in relation to COVID-19 and other news information separately.

Top 5 challenges in accessing information



Most respondents in June 2021 reported at least one challenge in accessing information (79%), in line with May 2021 (77%).

Limited funds or money to pay for a connection remained the most common challenge (60%), but to a greater extent than in May 2021 (44%).

As in previous rounds, limited funds was more commonly reported as a challenge among those living in Dili (75%) than those outside Dili (54%).

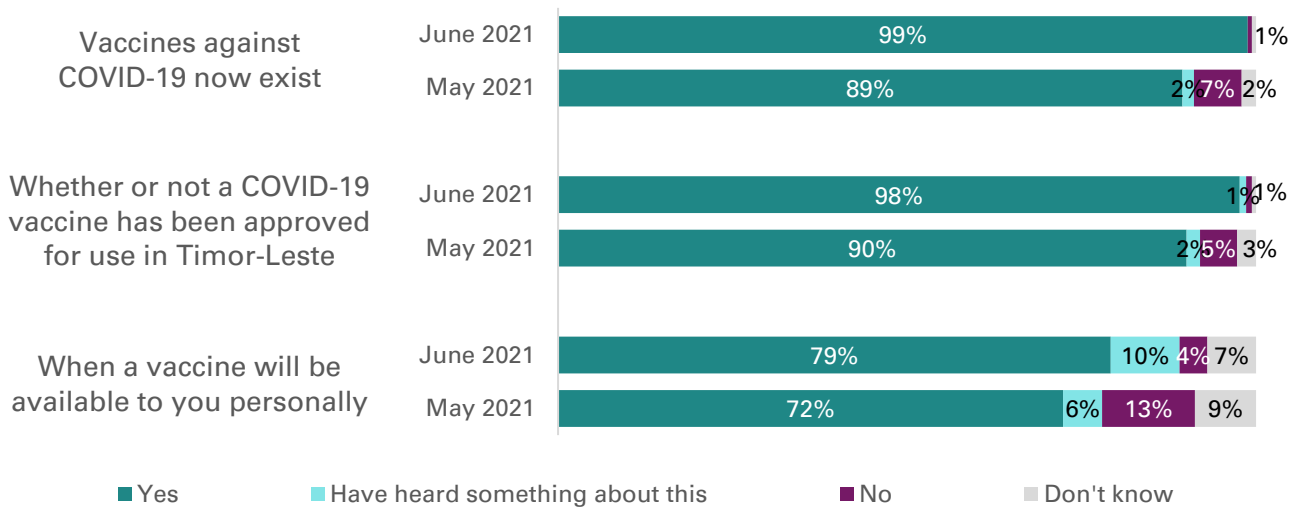
Vaccination questions

Awareness of information about the COVID-19 vaccine was higher than in May 2021. Nearly all respondents were aware that vaccines against COVID-19 now exist (99%, up from 89% in May 2021) and whether a COVID-19 vaccine had been approved for use in Timor-Leste (98%, up from 90%). As in May 2021, respondents were less likely to be aware of when a vaccine would be available to them personally (79%), but this figure has also increased compared to May 2021 (72%).

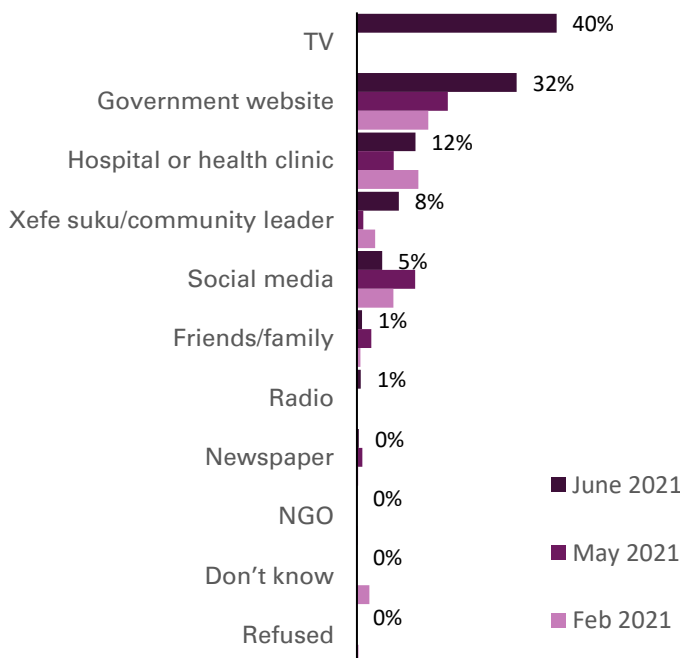
While awareness of the vaccine itself was similar among all demographic groups, respondents' awareness of when it would be available to them personally was higher among those living in Dili (91%, compared to 75% of those outside Dili) and females (84%, compared to 74%).

Note: Don't know and refused responses are included in the base size for all questions in this section.

Do you know:



Where did you hear about the COVID-19 vaccine?¹⁰

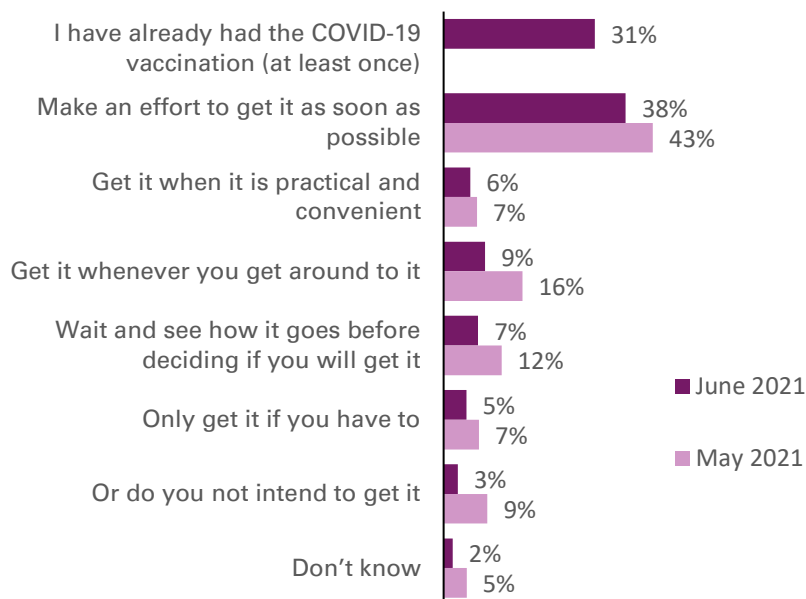


Those who had heard of the vaccine were most likely to have heard about it on TV (40%) or from a Government website (32%). The proportion who heard about it from a Government website has increased each round since February 2021.

In contrast to previous rounds, respondents in Dili were more likely to have heard about the vaccine on TV (56%, compared to 36% of those outside Dili), while those living outside Dili were more likely to have heard about it on a Government website (37%, compared to 17% of those in Dili).

¹⁰ In May 2021 and February 2021 'TV or radio' was combined, hence no comparable results are available for TV or radio separately.

Which of the following best describes how you feel about getting the COVID vaccine?



Around one third (31%) of respondents had already had at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Among those who already had it, 60% had just one dose, three percent had two doses and 27% were unsure.

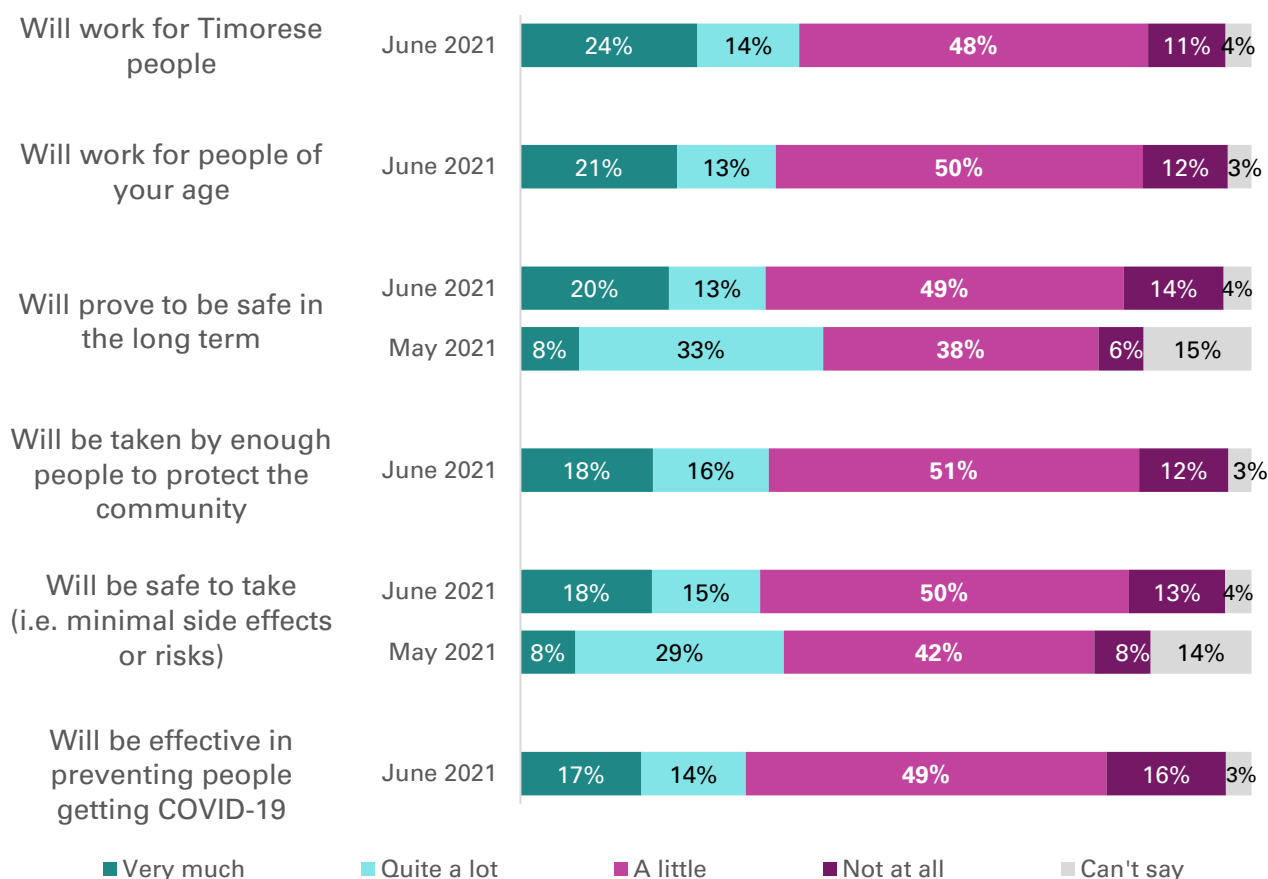
Those living in Dili (58%, compared to 22% of those outside Dili) were more likely to have already had the vaccination.

Only three percent reported they did not intend to get it, down from nine percent in May 2021. Those who did not intend to get it most commonly reported they could not get it for health reasons (48%) or they were afraid of short or long term side effects (34%).

When asked about the perceived safety and effectiveness of the vaccine, less than 40% of respondents indicated that they expected the vaccine would be effective at preventing COVID-19 for people of all ages, be safe in the short and long term, be taken by enough people to protect the community. However, most respondents felt the vaccine would be at least 'a little' effective against each aspect.

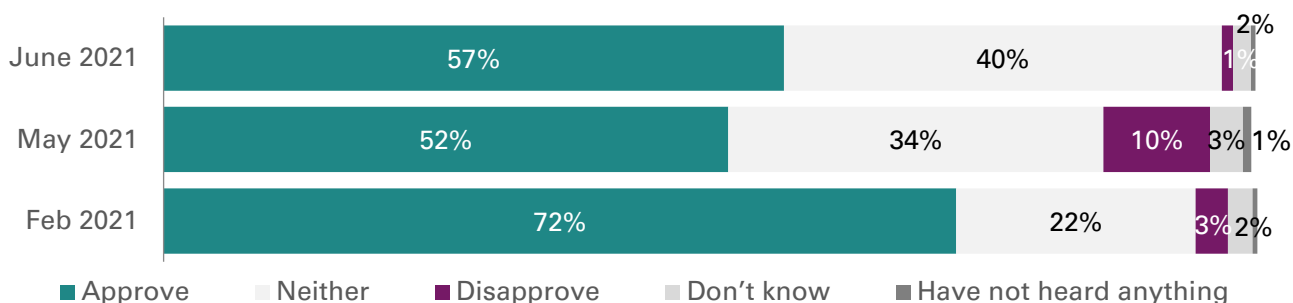
Perceptions that the vaccine would be safe to take or prove to be safe in the long term diminished compared to May 2021.

From what you have seen and heard at the moment, how much do you expect a vaccine...



Just over half (57%) of respondents approved of Timor-Leste’s vaccination plan, up from May 2021. Younger respondents aged 17-24 (65%), and those living in Dili (66%) were more likely to approve of the plan, noting that this was due to greater proportions of their counterparts providing neutral responses, rather than disapproval of the plan.

From what you have seen, read, or heard, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of Timor-Leste’s vaccination plan?



Note: In February 2021 this question was only asked of those aware of the vaccine but was asked of all respondents in May and June 2021.

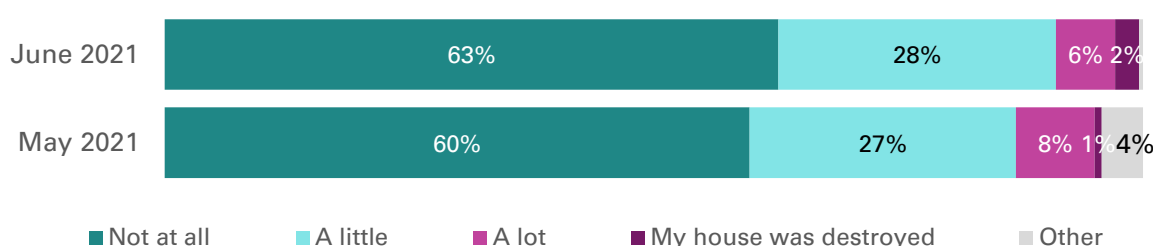
Impact of flood and cyclone

Similar to May 2021, the majority (63%) of respondents indicated the house they normally live in was not affected by the cyclone and/ or flooding, while around one quarter (28%) indicated their house was 'a little' affected. Eight percent reported their house was affected 'a lot' or was destroyed. As in May 2021, those living outside Dili were less likely to be affected at all (75% 'not at all', compared to 27% of those living in Dili).

Nearly all (97%) respondents were still living in their own house. This figure was slightly lower among those living in Dili (92%), compared to those outside Dili (98%). Those living in Dili were slightly more likely to be living in a friend or family member's house.

Eleven percent (slightly down from 16% in May 2021) indicated there had been more people living in their household since the cyclone and flooding. In nearly all cases (99%) these additional people were still in their household.

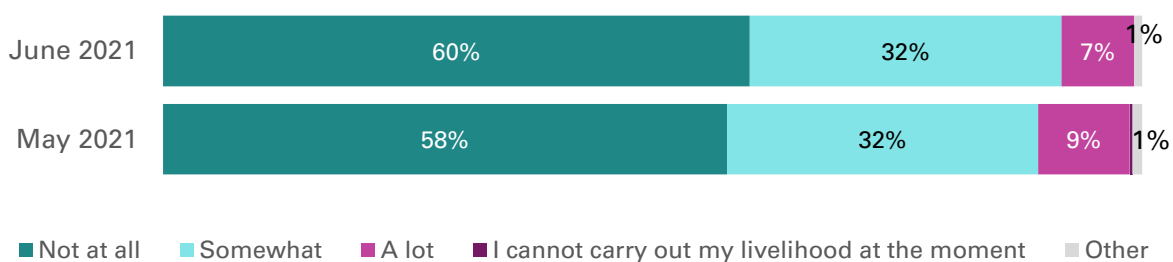
Was the house you normally live in affected by the Cyclone and/or flooding?



The majority (60%, in line with 58% in May 2021) of respondents reported their ability to earn their livelihood was 'not at all' affected by the cyclone and flooding, while around one third (32%, no change) reported it was 'somewhat' affected. Seven percent were affected 'a lot', but none indicated they could not carry out their livelihood.

As in May 2021, those living outside Dili were less likely to report earning their livelihood had been affected (70% 'not at all', compared to 32% of those living in Dili).

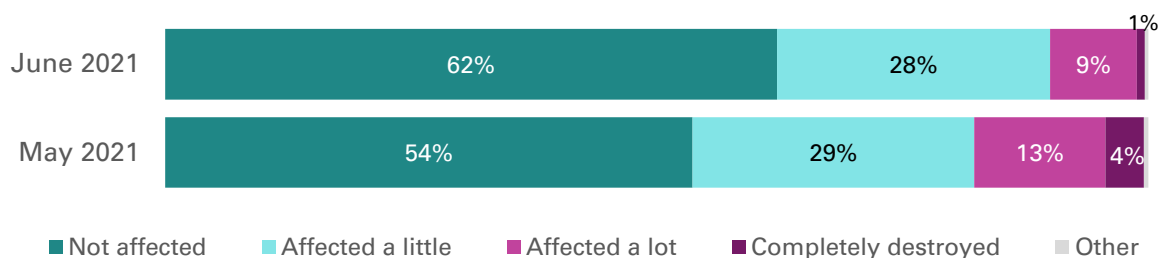
Has earning your livelihood been affected by the cyclone and flooding?



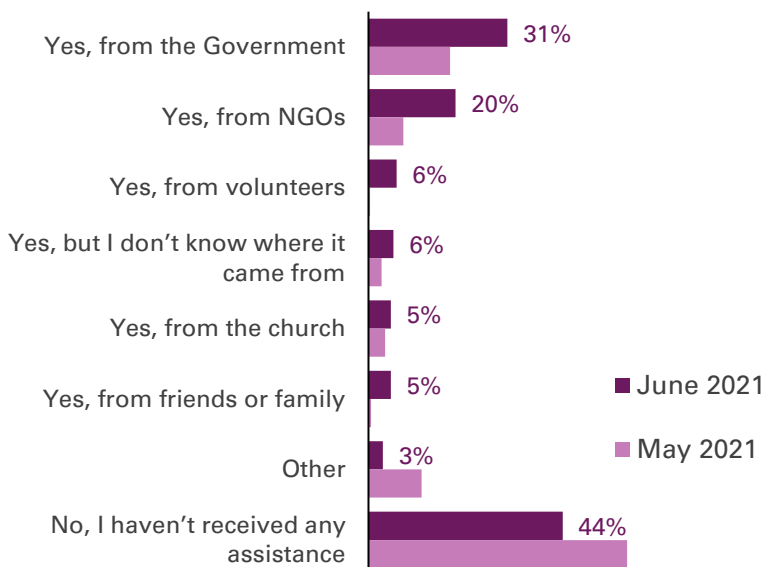
Respondents were asked whether they usually buy or grow more of their household's food. Around half (54%) of respondents bought more of their household's food, while 44% grew more food. Those living in Dili were more likely to buy more (92%), while those living outside Dili were more likely to grow more (56%).

Among those who usually grew more food, a greater proportion (62%) reported their crops had not been affected at all by the cyclone and flooding compared to May 2021 (54%). Ten percent reported their crops had been affected 'a lot' or been completely destroyed, down from May 2021 (17%).

How were your crops affected by the cyclone and flooding?



Have you received any assistance directly as a result of the cyclone or flooding?

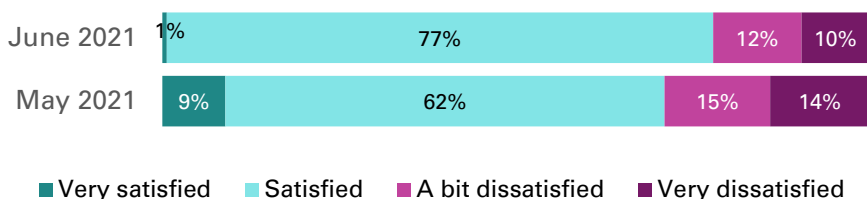


Just over half (56%) of those affected by the cyclone or flooding had received some form of assistance, higher than in May 2021 (42%). Most commonly these respondents had received assistance from the Government (31%, up from 18%) or NGOs (20%, up from 8%).

The proportion who had received assistance overall was similar between demographic groups, but some differences in the types of assistance received were observed. Those living in Dili were more likely to have received assistance from NGOs (27%) and the church (11%).

Compared to older age groups, younger respondents aged 17-24 were less likely to have received assistance from the Government (22%), but more likely to receive assistance from friends and family (12%) or to be unsure where assistance came from (13%).

How satisfied are you with the response of the Government to the cyclone and flooding?



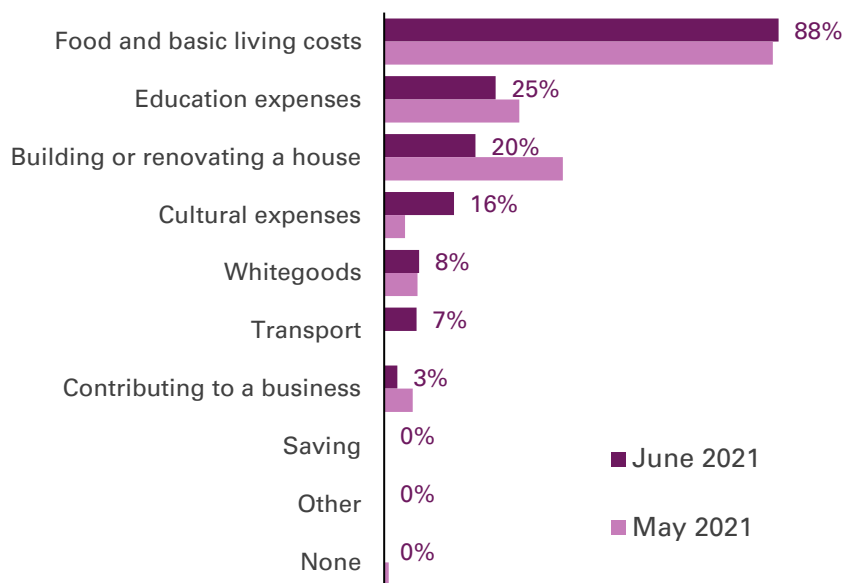
Overall satisfaction with the Government's response to the cyclone and flooding (78%) was higher than in May 2021 (71%). Satisfaction was similar among those living in Dili (75%) and outside Dili (79%).

Income support from family/ friends overseas

In June 2021, only 11% of respondents reported receiving money from a friend or family overseas since the State of Emergency began in March 202, lower than in May 2021 (20%, not charted). Those living in Dili (17%, compared to 9% of those outside Dili) and females (15%, compared to 7% of males) were more likely to have received money.

The majority (62%) of those who had received money had received less than USD 1,000. Meanwhile, 19% received between USD 1,001-3,000, and 14% had received between USD 3,001-6,000.

What have you used this money for?



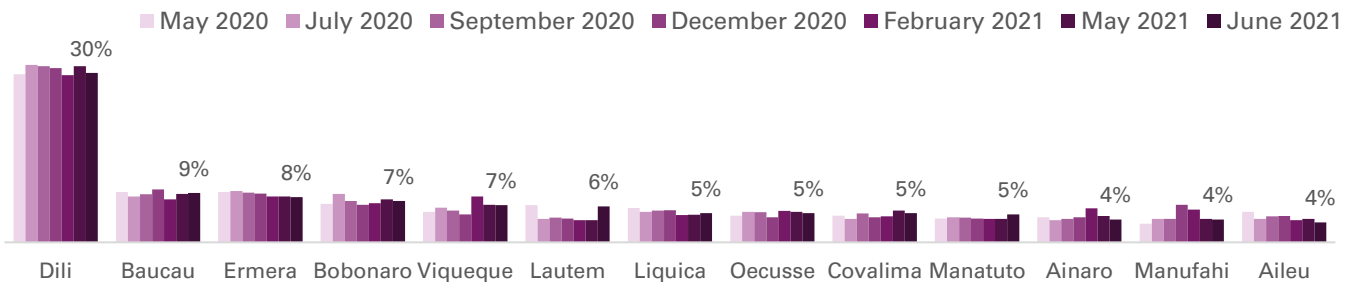
In line with results from May 2021, money received from friends or family overseas was most commonly used for food and basic living costs (88%).

Compared to May 2021, those who received money were less likely to use it for building or renovating a house (20%, down from 40%) and more likely to use it for cultural expenses (16%, up from 5%).

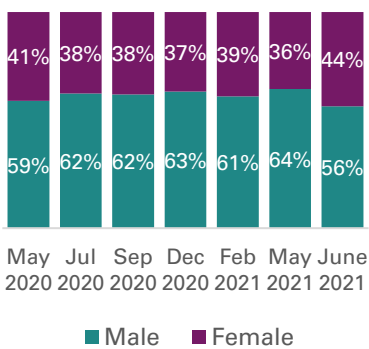
Respondent profile

The profile of respondents below is based on **unweighted** data (raw counts of respondents, not adjusted to reflect the Timor-Leste population).

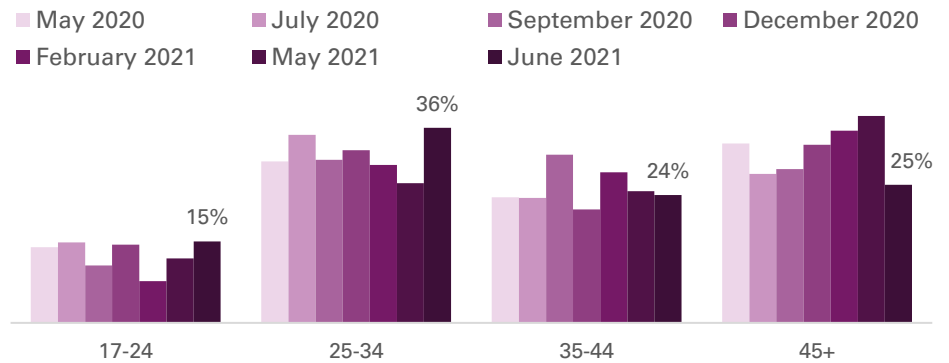
Municipality



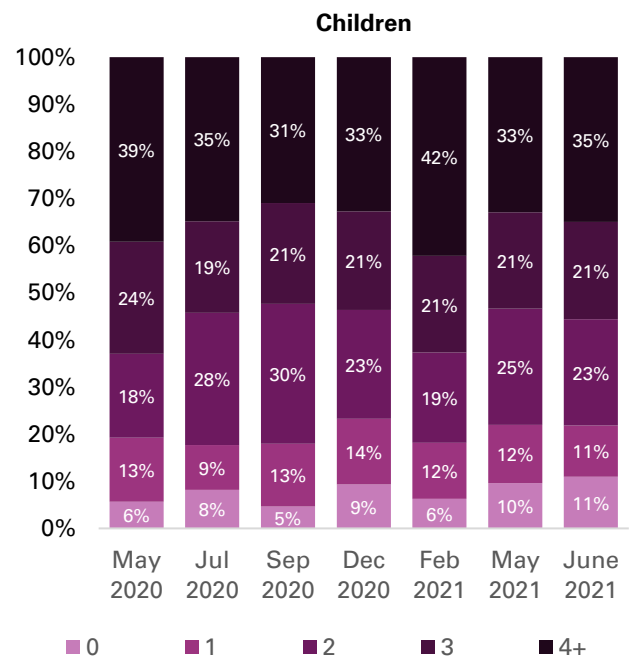
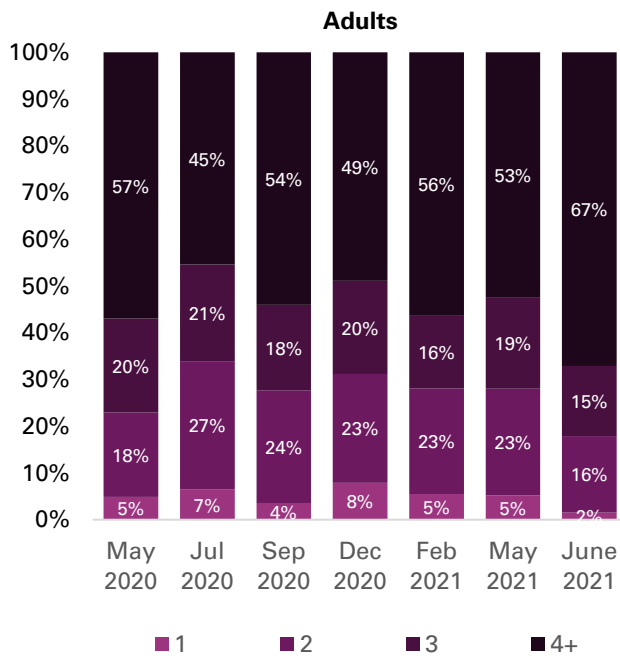
Gender



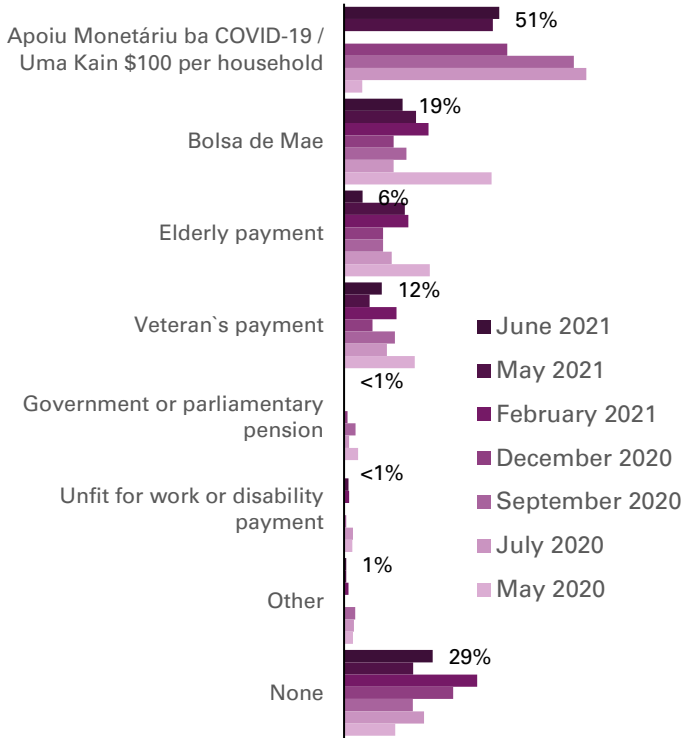
Age



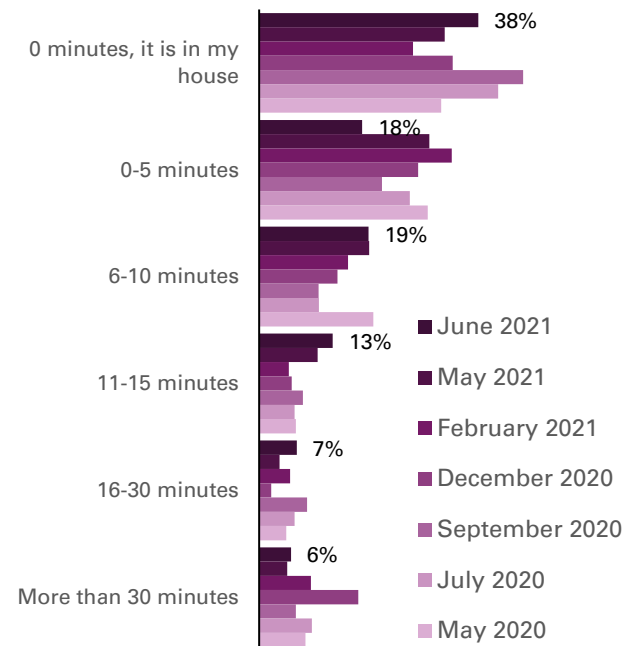
Number of people in your household



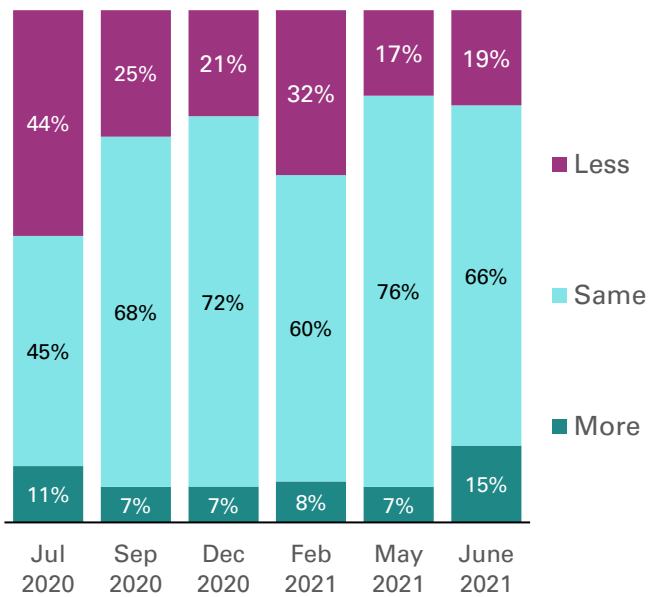
Does your household receive any Government payments?¹¹



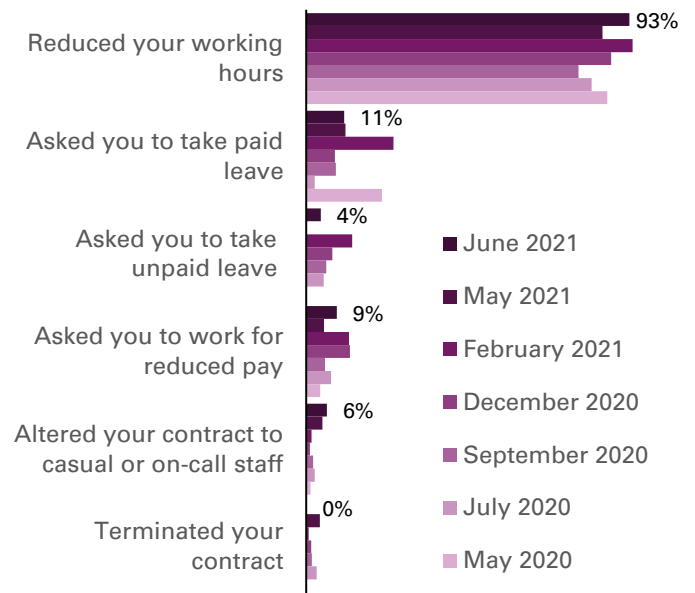
On an ordinary day, how long does it take you to walk to fetch water?



Hours worked (if employed) since start of State of Emergency



(If hours have been reduced) Has your employer...



¹¹ Please note Apoiui Monetariu ba COVID-19 / Uma Kain \$100 per household payment was not included as a response option for this question in February 2021, hence no comparable data is available.

Methodology

How was the questionnaire developed?

The Asia Foundation led the development of the questionnaire, with ORIMA Research providing advice where appropriate. Questions were drawn from previous research The Asia Foundation had conducted, as well as the ORIMA Research COVID-19 Recovery Tracker survey, amongst other international COVID-19 surveys. The Asia Foundation oversaw the programming and translation of the questionnaire into Open Data Kit (ODK), an open-source survey software platform.

How was the sample frame developed and how effective was it?

The sample frame for this survey was drawn from past Tatoli and Community Policing surveys The Asia Foundation had conducted face-to-face. Cleaning of the sample involved the removal of blank / invalid / duplicate numbers (n=6,344).

When a number was dialed and a different person answered, this person was able to also complete the survey. Whilst steps have been taken to make this survey as representative as possible, the sample from this project is classified as non-probability.

	Proposed minimum	May 20	Jul 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Feb 21	May 21	Jun 21
Males in Dili	38	70	78	80	73	72	70	56
Females in Dili	38	57	50	48	52	56	57	71
Males non-Dili	150	179	174	172	181	189	179	181
Females non-Dili	150	117	102	107	96	112	117	112

How were the telephone interviews conducted?

To conduct the fieldwork, The Asia Foundation partnered with a Dili-based NGO called Mata Dalan Institute (MDI). Most interviewers had previously worked on projects with The Asia Foundation, and many have now worked on multiple rounds of this survey. Staff from The Asia Foundation undertook callback recontact for validation purposes, with no major issues found. Monitoring was also conducted by staff from The Asia Foundation.

	May 20	Jul 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Feb 21	May 21	Jun 21
Sample list	2,307	1,192	534	681	442	414	423
Refusals	30	47	66	87	2	4	0
Non-working numbers	1,666	619	60	188	11	6	3
Final dataset	423	404	407	402	429	404	420
Response rate¹²	19.9%	32.6%	76.2%	59.0%	97.1%	97.6%	99.3%
Fieldwork start	19 May 20	18 July 20	21 Sept 20	3 Dec 20	20 Feb 21	1 May 21	11 Jun 21
Fieldwork end	25 May 20	17 July 20	2 Oct 20	8 Dec 20	2 Mar 21	8 May 21	17 Jun 21
Median length of interview¹³	47m25s	41m30s	43m23s	47m57s	42m12s	57m21s	49m8s
Number of interviewers	14	19	11	17	13	11	14

Nearly all surveys were conducted in Tetum, with only a handful conducted in Fataluku, Bahasa Indonesia or Baikenu. Respondents were sent a \$2 telephone credit for participating in the research.

¹² The response rate is calculated by the number of final survey completes coming from the sample frame divided by the number of valid phone numbers used from the sample frame.

¹³ Median length calculated after excluding 10-29 cases per wave where length was over 4 hours, most likely due to not pressing the final "submit" button.

What steps have been taken to ensure the data is representative of the Timor-Leste population?

The research was designed to be as representative as possible of the adult (17+) population of Timor-Leste as defined by the 2015 Census. Considerations in the sampling included the need to enable comparisons between Dili and other municipalities, as well as being practical within the relatively short timeframe and limited sample.

Minimum quotas (see above) were set to ensure appropriate gender and geographic coverage. One quota, in relation to females outside of Dili, has never been met. Additionally, individual municipalities outside of Dili had minimum quotas proportionate to their population. The minimum quota required for each municipality was 10. Municipalities with higher populations (such as Baucau and Ermera) had minimum quotas of 25.

In each round, the sample was weighted to population benchmarks as defined in the 2015 census. This is to correct response bias from males and middle ages, as well as slight Dili over-sampling. Random Iterative Method (RIM) weighting using the anesrake package in R studio was chosen as the most appropriate weighting method with consideration to future

	Population (N=662,285)	May 20 UW (n=423)	Jul 20 UW (n=404)	Sep 20 UW (n=407)	Dec 20 UW (n=402)	Feb 21 UW (n=429)	May 21 UW (n=404)	Jun 21 UW (n=420)
Age								
17-24	28%	14%	15%	11%	14%	8%	12%	15%
25-44	41%	53%	58%	61%	53%	57%	50%	60%
45-120	31%	33%	27%	28%	33%	35%	38%	25%
Gender								
Male	50%	59%	62%	62%	63%	61%	64%	56%
Female	50%	41%	38%	38%	37%	39%	36%	44%
Location								
Dili	26%	30%	32%	31%	31%	30%	31%	30%
Not Dili	74%	70%	68%	69%	69%	70%	69%	70%

comparability, simplicity and representation of the population. The variables used for weighting, the proportions within population and unweighted proportions are shown to the right.

What data processing steps were taken?

Once ORIMA received the data, the following data processing steps were conducted:

- A duplicate check and speeder check was conducted.
- String question responses in Tetun were translated by The Asia Foundation.
- "Don't know" answers in multiple-response question were made exclusive.
- Back-coding was conducted where appropriate.
- Variable labels and value labels were checked and modified for the purposes of reporting.
- Weighting was conducted as above.

Answers indicating a type of non-response (such as "Don't know", "Not applicable" and "Refused") have been removed from the base in this report, unless indicated otherwise.

How confident can I be in the results?

	May 20	Jul 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Feb 21	May 21	Jun 21
Number of responses	423	404	407	402	429	404	420
Statistical margin of error	±4.8%	±4.9%	±4.9%	±4.9%	±4.8%	±4.9%	±4.8%

The statistical margin of error is calculated using a proportion percentage of 50% at the 95% confidence level. While margin of error does not technically apply to non-probability samples, this can still be used as a general guide when determining whether results are actually different or only different by chance. Other factors, such as the sampling method, non-response bias and measurement error should also be taken into consideration when interpreting results. Figures within text that are flagged as different amongst sub-groups were found as significant to at least one other category when using a Welch T-test at a 95% confidence interval with a Bonferroni correction within the cTables interface of SPSS. Analysis of differences amongst sub-groups are subject to higher margins of error and these tests take this into account. However, they must only be used as a general guide. Tests are not highlighted where no sub-group difference existed. For example, there were few differences by gender. Within this report, not all figures will add up to 100% due to rounding.

About The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Working through our offices in 18 countries and informed by deep local expertise and six decades of experience, we address the critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century by: strengthening governance, expanding economic opportunity, increasing environmental resilience, empowering women, and promoting international cooperation. In Timor-Leste, the Foundation is currently focused on strengthening governance and policy, ending violence against women, developing inclusive tourism, and promoting peace and justice.

For more information about The Asia Foundation please visit asiafoundation.org, or contact:

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About ORIMA Research

ORIMA Research is an Australian social research company that specializes in the government and not-for-profit sectors. ORIMA has worked extensively with The Asia Foundation since 2015, including on data processing, survey methodology and analysis and reporting.

For more information about ORIMA Research please visit our website www.orima.com.au, or contact:

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