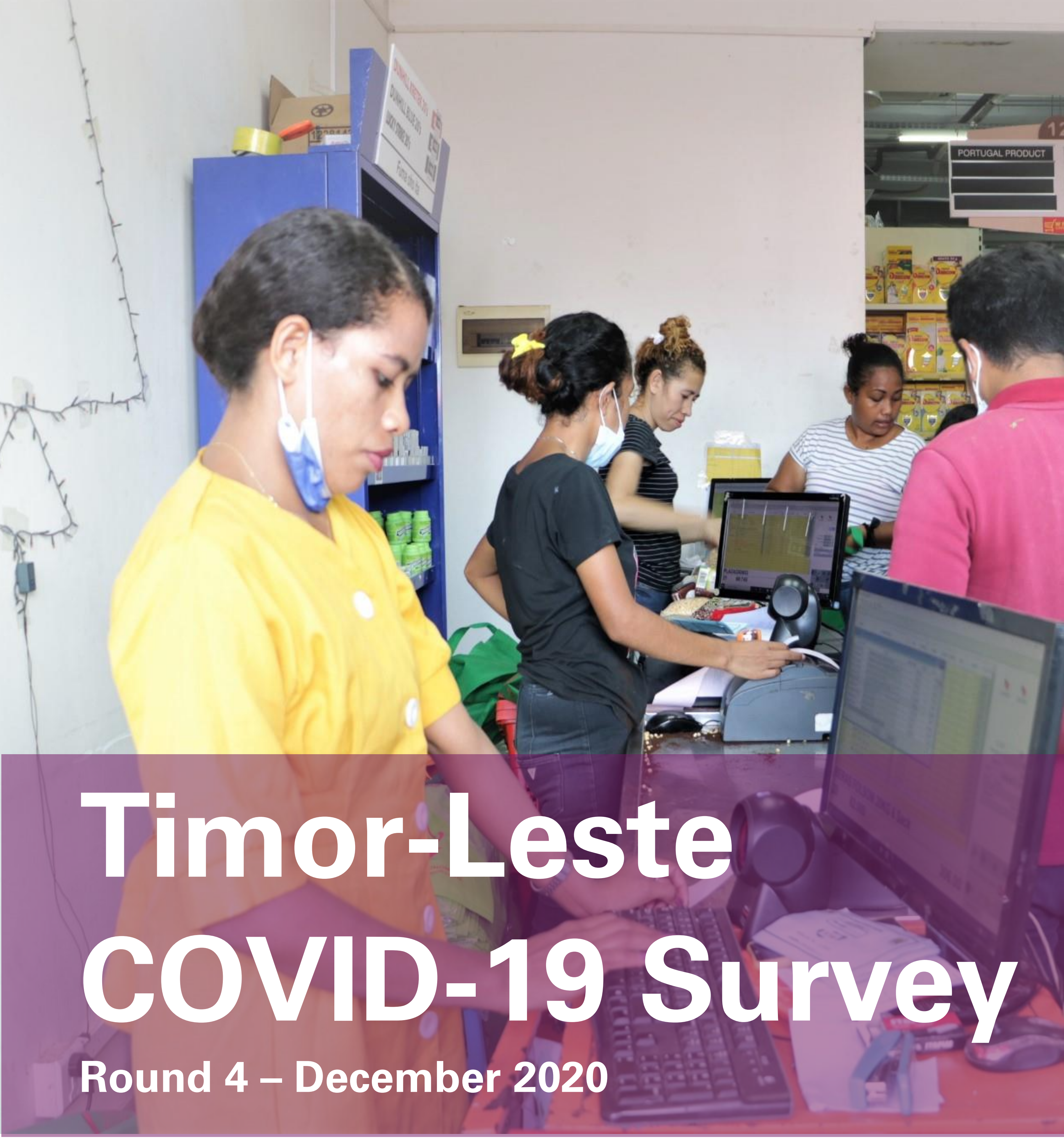


Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

Round 4 – December 2020

Supported by

Australian Aid

Implemented by

The Asia Foundation

Produced by

ORIMA RESEARCH

This publication has been funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, through its Governance for Development program. The views expressed in this publication are the author's alone and are not necessarily the views of the Australian Government.

Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

December 2020 results

This factsheet presents the results of a **telephone survey** of 403 **Timor-Leste adults** conducted from **3-7 December**. During the week of the survey, there was only one active COVID-19 case in Timor-Leste, the 8th State of Emergency had just been decreed to be in effect for the next 30 days, and the government had just launched the Cesta Basica. Results from **December** are compared with previous results where possible.

Biggest challenge for the country remains COVID-19, economy is equal for communities

For Timor-Leste: (single response)

	May	July	Sept	Dec	
	62%	53%	72%	**61%**	COVID-19
	10%	18%	8%	**17%**	Economy
	18%	19%	10%	**11%**	Politics

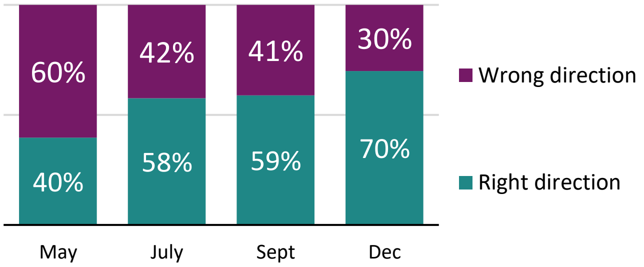
For your community: (multiple response)

	May	July	Sept	Dec	
	76%	70%	64%	**70%**	COVID-19
	64%	72%	62%	**68%**	Economy
	37%	48%	38%	**41%**	Politics

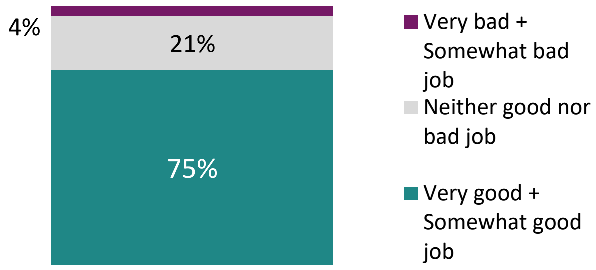
For you as an individual: (multiple response)

	May	July	Sept	Dec	
	80%	75%	79%	**81%**	COVID-19
	63%	74%	62%	**69%**	Economy
	49%	59%	50%	**51%**	Politics

Timor-Leste is increasingly felt to be going in the right direction



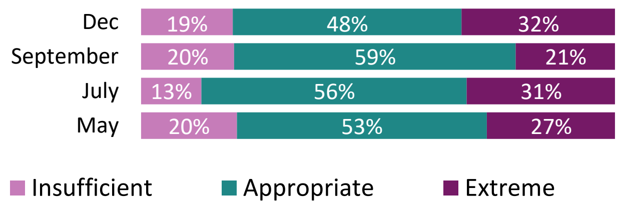
Most think the government is doing a good job carrying out its responsibilities



59% **trust the government to take care of them during COVID-19**

May 49% July: 64% Sept: 83%

Feeling about current government response:



COVID-safe behaviors continue to decline

(% of safe behaviors practiced)

- **55%** Use face mask Sept: 70%
- **52%** Wash hands Sept: 67%
- **51%** Maintain 2m distance Sept: 60%

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

1. End state of emergency – **34%**
2. Provide more cash to households – **33%**
3. More information on accessing support – **32%**

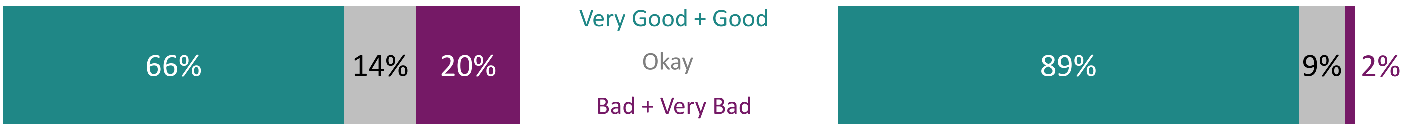
In the past 30 days

60% have **cut meal size** or **skipped a meal** because there wasn't **enough money** for food (December)
(compared to 70% in May)

Have you received the food basket / voucher?				Would you prefer the government distribute a cash payment or food basket / voucher?				
Yes	**No/Not yet**	Could not register	Did not qualify	Food basket	Food voucher	Uma Kain cash payment	Either cash or food basket	**$25 cash (instead of voucher)**
36%	**62%**	1%	0%	0%	4%	22%	31%	**42%**

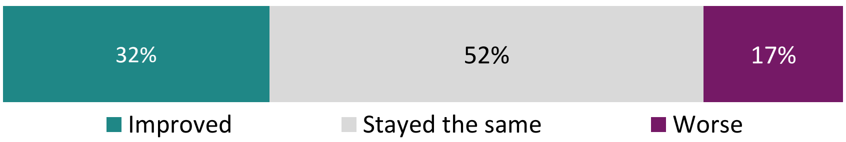
Satisfaction with food basket / voucher:
(who had received)

Satisfaction with Uma Kain cash payment:
(who had received)



Education:		Dec	Feb 2021	Apr 2021
Schools are open and functioning normally	*Always + Very Frequently*	**88%**	-	-
My child has access to water at school	*Always + Very Frequently*	**80%**	-	-
Infrastructure:				
Water pumps at my water station work well	*Always + Very Frequently*	**74%**	-	-
I can access buses and mikrolets	*Always + Very Frequently*	**70%**	-	-
Roads between administrative posts in good condition	*Always + Very Frequently*	**62%**	-	-
Financial Situation:				
Family earns enough to pay for things we need	*Better than before pandemic*	**36%**	-	-
Possible to get a job close to where I live	*Better than before pandemic*	**46%**	-	-

Safety: Since March 2020, how has safety and security in your local community changed?



Most common security threats since March 2020: *Top 3*

1. COVID-19 – **70%**
2. Martial arts groups – **9%**
3. Land disputes – **6%**

Safety: 64% reported conflict in their area

Most common causes of conflict in your area: *Top 3*

1. Injury from physical attack – **29%**
2. Theft of personal property – **15%**
3. Agricultural land disputes – **5%**

We would like to thank the 403 respondents for their time and the 17 interviewers in Dili who conducted the December survey.

Supported by Australian Aid

Implemented by The Asia Foundation

Produced by ORIMA Research

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

Fortunately, Timor-Leste has continued to avoid the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to many other countries, with a reasonably low number of cases and, at the time of the survey, no recorded community transmission. At the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the Government of Timor-Leste (GOTL) responded by declaring a State of Emergency (SoE), which closed schools, suspended public transport and large gatherings, instituted border closures and established requirements for social distancing. These strict precautions were in place during the May data collection. Parts of the State of Emergency were lifted before July fieldwork, returning most freedoms to residents of Timor-Leste but still restricting international travel. In early August, the GOTL reinstituted the State of Emergency primarily aimed at restricting international travel and enabling mandatory quarantine. This decree was reconfirmed in early September and continued throughout both the September and December data collection period. On 31 October 2020 the Australian Government committed $500m for the COVID-19 vaccine for the Pacific and South-East Asia, including Timor-Leste.

Following on the success of the Apoiu Monetáriu ba COVID-19, or *Uma Kain* household cash payment which started distributing payments in June, in September the government announced a new program *Cesta Basica* (basic food basket) program. The new program would provide $25 worth of food or a voucher for every Timorese person for a period of two months. While the *Cesta Basica* program was announced in September, distribution of food baskets/vouchers did not begin until early December 2020.

Other support programs previously announced include an electricity subsidy of $15 per month, a 60% wage subsidy and a $36 monthly payment for self-employed and informal workers provided they register for Social Security.

In the background to the above measures, the Parliament was debating the 2020 Budget which was eventually approved on 19 October 2020. It appropriated $322 million for COVID-19 relief and $109 million for Cesta Basica in November and December 2020. Plenary discussion of the proposed 2021 State Budget began in Parliament on 30 November, and the Parliament approved the proposed law in generality on 2 December.

TAF COVID PULSE SURVEY

MARCH

21 First case of Covid-19 in Timor-Leste recorded.

27 The President declared a State of Emergency (#1) from 28 March until 26 April.

28 The Council of Ministers adopted Government Decree 3/2020 to combat the spread of Covid-19.

APRIL

16 The number of people positive for Covid-19 had risen to 18.

29 State of Emergency (#2) commences, extended till 27 May, 11:59 pm. All people, including citizens of Timor- Leste, are still barred from entering the country.

MAY

19 First round of data collection from 19 to 25 May.

27 State of Emergency (#3) commences, extended till 26 June, 11:59 pm.

JUNE

9 The distribution of uma-kain payments for 12 municipalities begin.

26 State of Emergency (#3) ended midnight. Measures are still in place to prevent the Covid-19 virus from coming into Timor-Leste.

JULY

18 Second round of data collection from 18 to 27 July.

AUGUST

5 State of Emergency (#4) declared, effective till 4 September, 11:59 pm. As before, it restricts travel, and enables mandatory quarantine.

SEPTEMBER

4 State of Emergency (#5) commences, extended till 4 October, 11:59 pm.

5 GoTL announced the provision of "basic goods basket" to each Timorese worth $25.

21 Third round of data collection from 21 September to 2 October.

OCTOBER

5 State of Emergency (#6) commences, extended till 3 November, 11:59 pm.

27 Launch of the Food Basket (Cesta Básica) Program in Metinaro, Dili Municipality.

31 Australia commits $500m for COVID-19 vaccine for the Pacific and south-east Asia, including Timor-Leste.

NOVEMBER

4 State of Emergency (#7) commences, extended till 4 December, 11.59 pm.

7 World Bank forecasts that Timor-Leste's economy will contract by 6.85% in 2020.

14 Timor-Leste temporarily COVID-19 free.

DECEMBER

3 Fourth round of data collection from 3 December to 7 December.

4 State of Emergency (#8) commences, extended till 2 January, 11:59 pm.

GoTL commences delivery of the "Food Basket" shopping voucher to delivered to 285,660 beneficiaries across Cristo-Rei, Dom Aleixo, Nain Feto and Vera Cruz within Dili.

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 Governance for Development (GfD) program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

How was the research conducted?

Between 3-7 December, a Dili-based call centre conducted 403 interviews with Timor-Leste adults, using a sample list of previous respondents to The Asia Foundation Tatoli and Community Policing surveys (see section on "respondent profile" for demographic details of interviewees). This followed up from near-identical surveys conducted in May, July and September, 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. Gender differences are noted in the analysis where these were observed. More detail is available in the methodology section of this report. The full survey results are also available on the Q2i Visualization platform: [Dashboard (asiafoundation.org)]

The future

The survey is expected to run at a 2-month interval until June 2021 to see changes in the community over time. This report and the Q2i visualization platform will be subsequently updated to reflect this data.

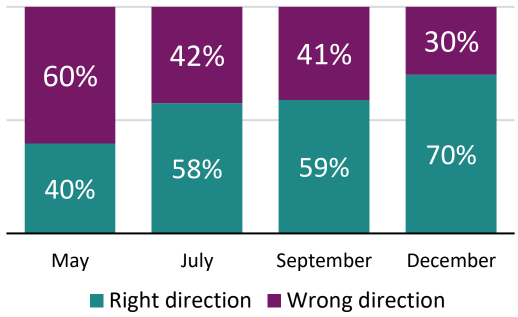
Results

Biggest concerns

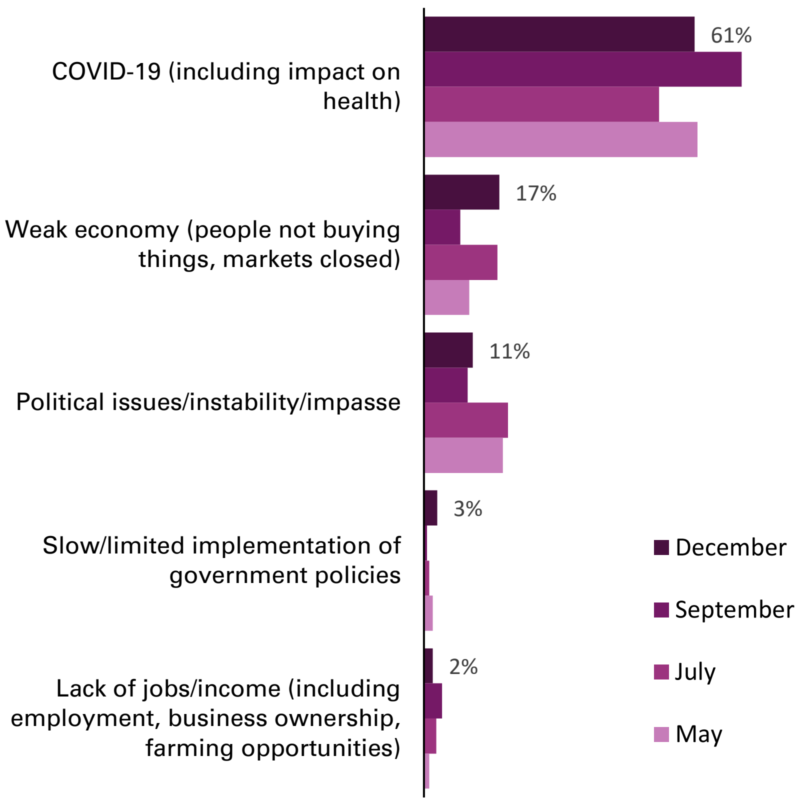
In **December 2020**, more respondents felt that Timor-Leste was going in the **right** direction (70%) than the wrong direction (30%) – giving a net score of +40%. This is the most positive result recorded since the start of the survey.

Perceptions that Timor-Leste was going in the right direction improved among all age groups compared to previous survey rounds, however those aged 45 and over remained the least positive (63%, compared to 73-74% of those aged 17-44).

Generally speaking, Timor-Leste is going in the…



The biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste:

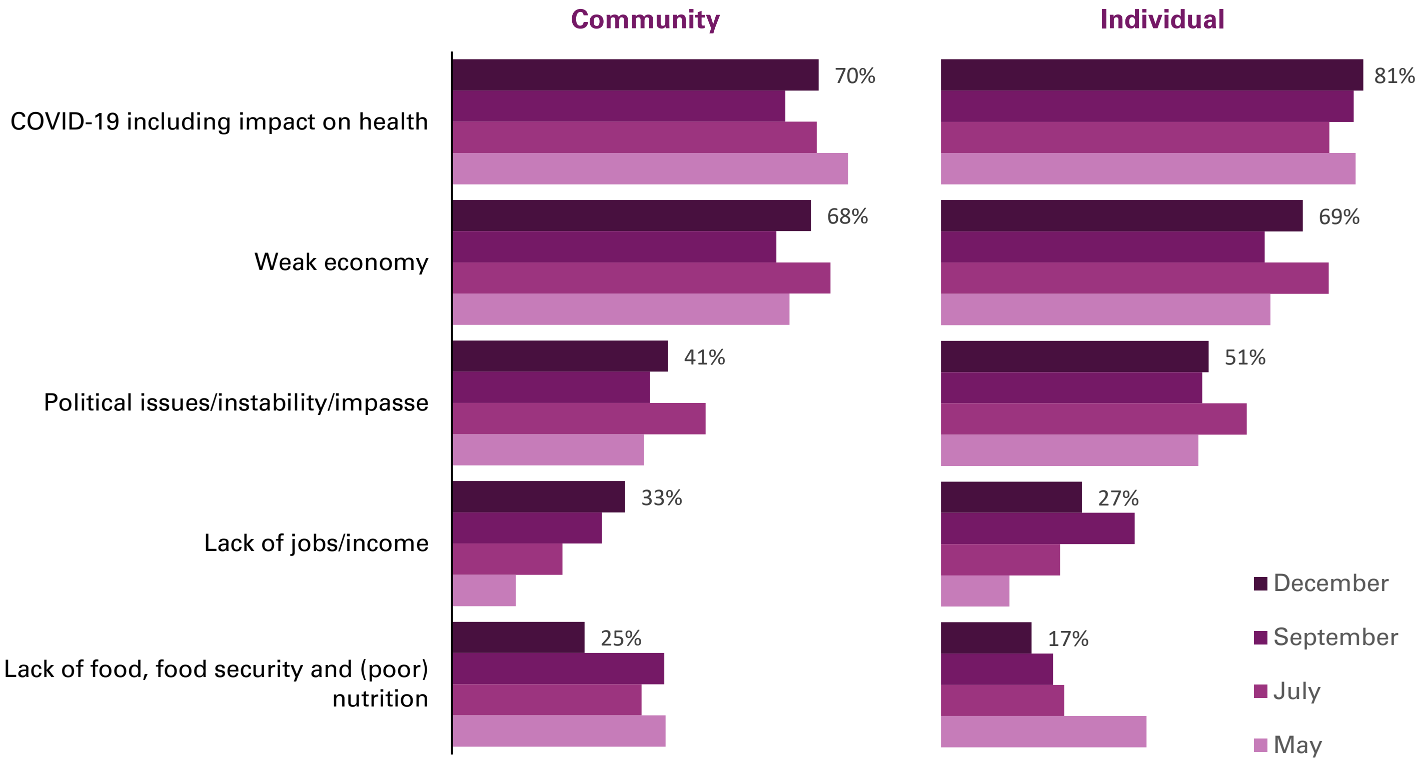


COVID-19 remained the biggest perceived challenge facing Timor-Leste, including the impact on health (61%), however this was to a lesser extent than when it peaked in September at 72%. A weak economy (17%) was considered the second biggest challenge, and more of a challenge than in September (8%). Political issues (11%) remained a significantly lower secondary challenge, with similar perceived impact as in September (10%).

Concern about COVID-19 varied by location, with those living in Dili more likely to report COVID-19 as the biggest challenge (72%) compared to those outside Dili (58%). Those aged 35-44 were most likely to identify COVID-19 as the biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste (77%). Those aged 17-24 were also more concerned about COVID-19 (66%), but to a lesser extent than in September (79%). Those aged 25-34 (54%) and 45+ (56%) were least likely to be concerned about COVID-19.

In December, COVID-19 also remained the most commonly reported concern for individuals (81%, similar to previous survey rounds) and the community (70%, higher than 64% in September but in line with 70% in July). Weak economy, political issues, lack of jobs and lack of food remained the most commonly reported problems both for the community and for individuals. Compared to September, weak economy (68%, up from 62% in September) was considered a greater problem while lack of food (25%, down from 40%) was considered less of a problem among the community. Among individuals, there was lower concern about lack of jobs (27%) compared to September (37%).

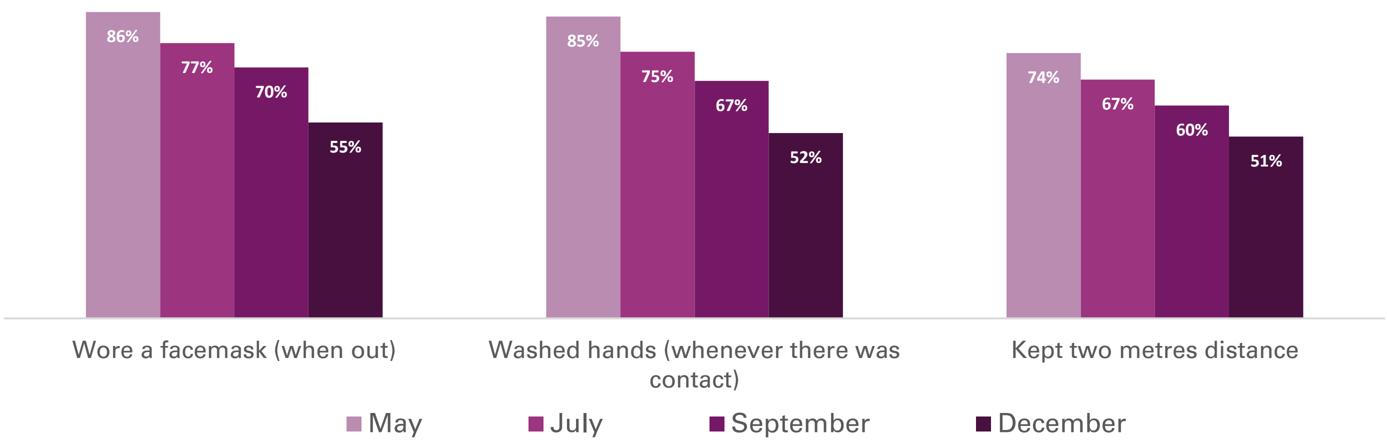
Top 3 problems as an individual and in your community (Multiple response, six most common problems shown)



Respondents were prompted on how concerned they were about various aspects of life. At least half of respondents were 'very' concerned about each of the aspects tested. Respondents were most concerned about not having enough money for their family in the future (60% 'very concerned') and not having enough food to feed their family (58%). Levels of concern across all aspects were generally higher across those living in Dili and males.

Prevention measures and healthcare behavior

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



The proportion of respondents who report 'very much' following COVID-19 prevention behaviours in the last week has declined steadily since the first survey in May. By December, only around half of respondents were still 'very much' wearing a facemask (55%, down from 70% in September), washing their hands after contact (52%, down from 67%) and keeping two metres distance from others (51%, down from 60%). Those living in Dili were more likely to be 'very much' following COVID-19 behaviours compared to those not living in Dili.

If you had symptoms, would you:

May	July	Sept	December	
94%	95%	99%	**98%**	Go to a hospital or health clinic
92%	79%	79%	**88%**	Inform people around me
85%	79%	77%	**86%**	Stay home
-	-	63%	**89%**	Take traditional medicine
	-	80%	**85%**	Carry on as usual

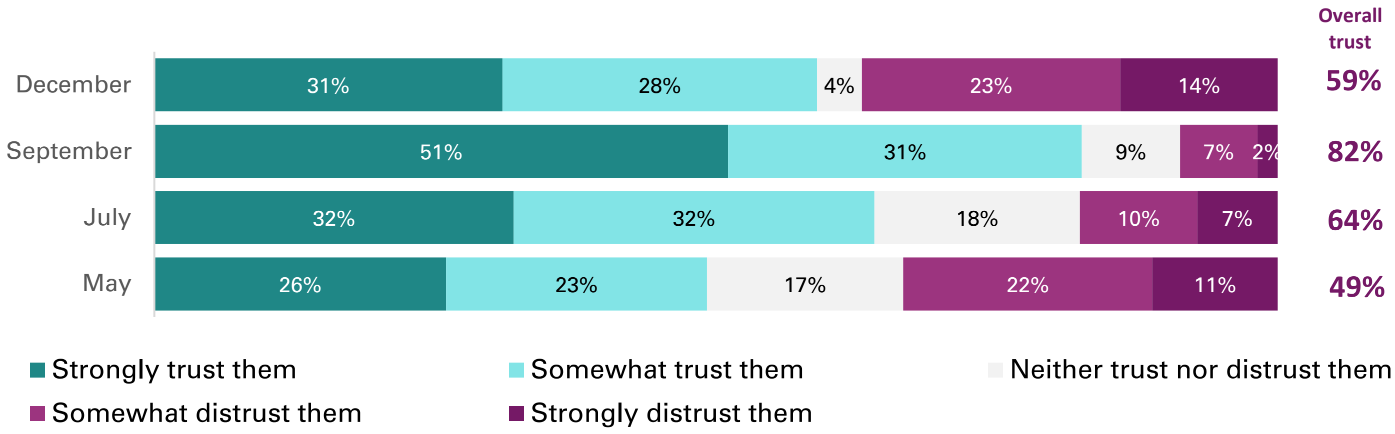
As in previous survey rounds, nearly all respondents (98%) reported they would go to a hospital or health clinic if they found themselves having symptoms of sickness. Most respondents also reported they would take traditional medicine (89%, up from 63% in September), inform the people around them (88%, up from 79% in September but in line with 92% in May) and stay home (86%, up from 77% in September but in line with 85% in May).

However, most (85%) respondents also reported that they would carry on as usual if they showed symptoms, higher than in September (80%). Older respondents were slightly more likely to indicate they would carry on as usual (86-89% for those aged 35+, compared to 81-83% of younger age groups). Those living in Dili were no more likely to carry on as usual than those living outside Dili.

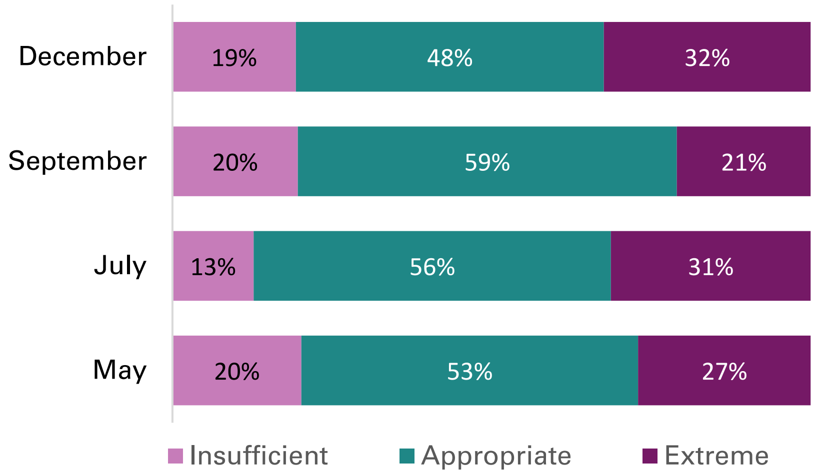
Government trust

Trust in the government of Timor-Leste to take care of its citizens during COVID-19 dropped in December to 59% after steadily improving from May (49%) to September (82%). Distrust in the government was also the highest recorded (37%), after declining in previous survey rounds (9% in September, 18% in July and 33% in May).

Those living in Dili (64%) reported higher trust in the government than those outside Dili (57%). Trust was also higher among younger respondents aged 17-34 (60-63%), compared to 54% of those aged 45+. Trust also increased with numbers of dependent children in the household. Trust was lowest among those with no dependent children (42%), compared to 55% with one dependent child and 60-65% among those with two dependent children or more.



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



The proportion who felt the government reaction to COVID-19 was appropriate declined to 48%, after steadily rising from 53% in May to 59% in September. This decline was led by a greater proportion of respondents who felt the government reaction was **too extreme** (32%, up from 21% in September but in line with 31% in July).

As in previous survey rounds, younger respondents aged 17-24 were more likely to consider the government reaction to be **insufficient** (28%), compared to 13-23% of older age groups.

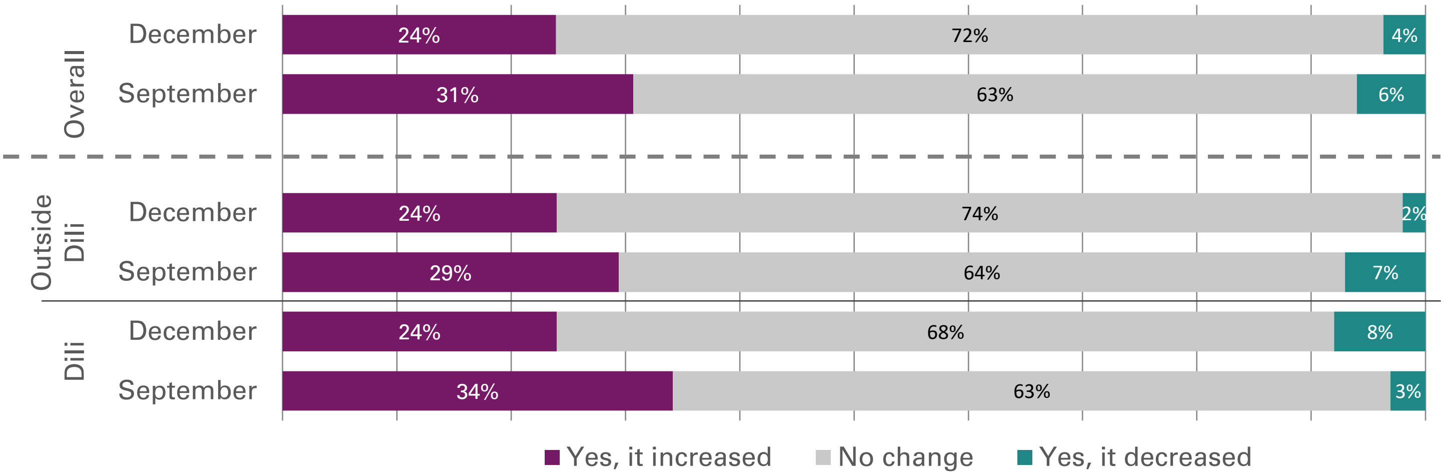
Most respondents (89%) felt the government should continue to restrict people from coming into Timor-Leste from other countries and require mandatory quarantine for people entering the country. Those living in Dili (94%, compared to 87% outside Dili) and older respondents aged 35+ (91-95%, compared to 83-85% of those aged under 35) were more likely to support the government continuing to restrict entry to Timor-Leste.

Use of and satisfaction with government programs

Around one quarter of respondents (24%) indicated that the cost of basic goods such as rice and cooking oils had increased in the past month, down from 31% in September. Although this was people's general perception, this was not reflected in the regular market price monitoring conducted by the World Food Program which showed that for the month before the survey (i.e. week 48/ beginning of 49) prices actually decreased.[1]

Similar proportions of those living in Dili and outside Dili felt the cost of basic goods had increased (24% for both), while those in Dili were more likely to report the cost of basic goods had decreased (8%, compared to 2% of those outside Dili).

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



One of the first COVID-19 programs announced by the government was the **Uma Kain household payment**, also known as 'Apoiu Monetáriu ba COVID-19', which was received by 95% of all respondent households. Those in households without children were less likely to have received the payment (89%, compared to 94-96% of households with one or more children).At the time of the September survey the government was considering distributing **food vouchers or baskets** as a as part of its Economic Recovery Plan, primarily to stimulate local production and the local economy, and secondly to improve food security of Timor-Leste's citizens. At that point around two thirds of respondents indicated they would be satisfied with either option. By the time of the December survey only around one third (31%) of respondents were equally satisfied with either option, and most respondents preferred cash payments over vouchers or food baskets, specifically a $25 cash payment (42%)[2] or the Uma Kain cash payment (22%).

Just over one third (36%) had received a food basket/voucher at the time of the survey, however a notable proportion (42%) were still waiting for it. Those living in Dili (47%) were more likely to have received the food basket/voucher, compared to those outside Dili (33%).

Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the Uma Kain and food basket/voucher support payments. Most (89%) of those who had received the Uma Kain payment felt it was 'good' or 'very good'. Satisfaction was higher among those living in Dili (95%, compared to 87% of those living outside Dili). Satisfaction with the food basket/voucher was comparatively lower but the majority were still satisfied (66%), while a proportion (20%) of those who had received it thought it was 'bad' or 'very bad'. Satisfaction with the food basket/voucher was higher among those living in Dili (74%, compared to 64% of those living outside Dili), possibly because those living in Dili were more likely to have received the voucher than those living in rural areas.

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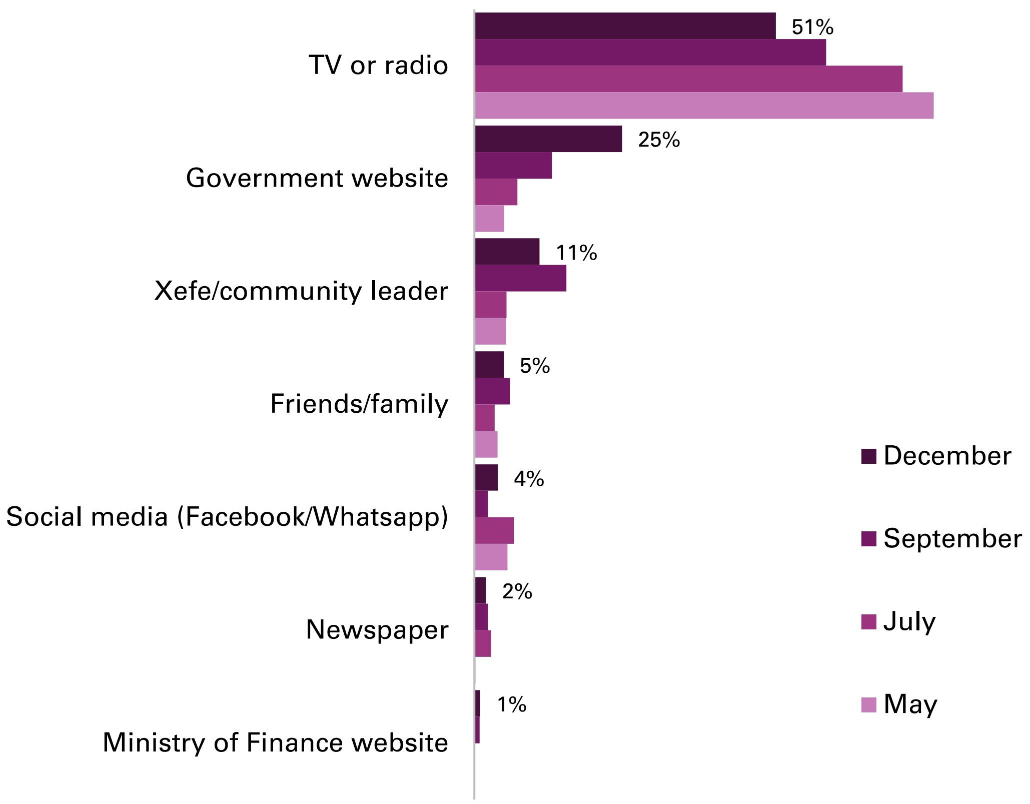
[1] WFP Timor-Leste market monitoring reports accessed on March 1, 2021 available at https://www.wfp.org/publications/timor-leste-market-monitor-reports-2021

[2] Note that this has not currently been offered by the government as an option but was proposed by the respondents themselves.

The majority (68%) of respondents felt that all households should receive the same amount of benefit, regardless of the size of their household or income. Respondents were more likely to indicate benefit amounts should be based on household size (23%) than household income (9%). The proportion who felt all households should receive the same amount of benefit was similar among genders and age groups.

Television and radio remained by far the most common sources of information about government support (51%), though to a lesser extent than in previous survey rounds (down from 60% in September, and 78% in May). By comparison, one quarter (25%) got information from government websites, up from previous survey rounds (13% in September and 10% in July). Xefe/community leaders as a source of information (11%) were slightly less prevalent than in September (16%); but were up from May and July (both 5%).

Where did you find the information to get the government support?



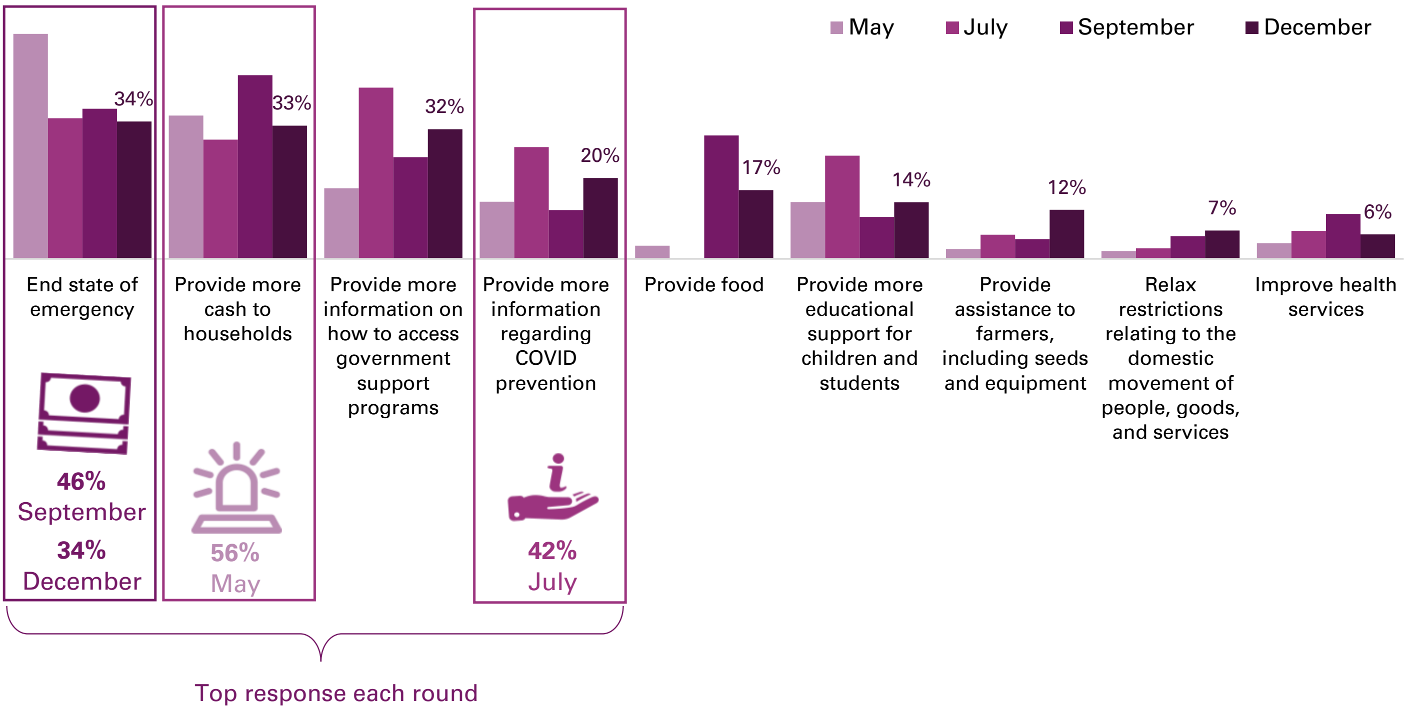
Dili residents were more likely than people outside Dili to get their information from TV or radio (60%, compared to 45%), but less likely to rely on Xefe/community leaders (3%, compared to 18%).

Respondents aged under 25 were less likely to get information from TV or radio (17%, compared to 52-70% of older age groups) and more likely to get information online directly from a government website (38%, compared to 19-24% of those older).

Additional government support

In each survey round respondents have been asked what more the government could do to support its citizens. In December, the leading priorities were in line with previous rounds: end the state of emergency (34%, similar to 37% in September), provide more cash to households (33%, down from 46% in September) and provide more information on how to access government support programs (32%, up from 25% in September). Few respondents considered the government could provide food (17%, down from 31% in September).

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



Males (38%, compared to 30% of females) and older respondents aged 45+ (40%, compared to 28-35% of younger age groups) were more likely to request to end the state of emergency. Those living in Dili were more likely to request cash payments (41%) compared to those living outside Dili (31%).

The survey outlined that the government is planning to make three monthly payments of $36 each to support self-employed and informal sector workers from November 2020, provided they register for Social Security. Awareness of this scheme increased to 44% compared to 35% in September. A further 21% had heard about the program but didn't have any details (down from 28% in September).

Of respondents who would be eligible for the scheme, 28% have already registered, but only another 9% said they would be willing to register for Social Security in order to receive the payment. This combined proportion of 37% is down considerably from 64% in September. 48% of eligible respondents in Dili said they would not be willing to register to receive the payment, compared to 68% outside of Dili.

53% (in line with 54% in September) knew how to gain access to the scheme. As observed in September, respondents from Dili were significantly more aware of the scheme, willing to register and confident in how to access the scheme.

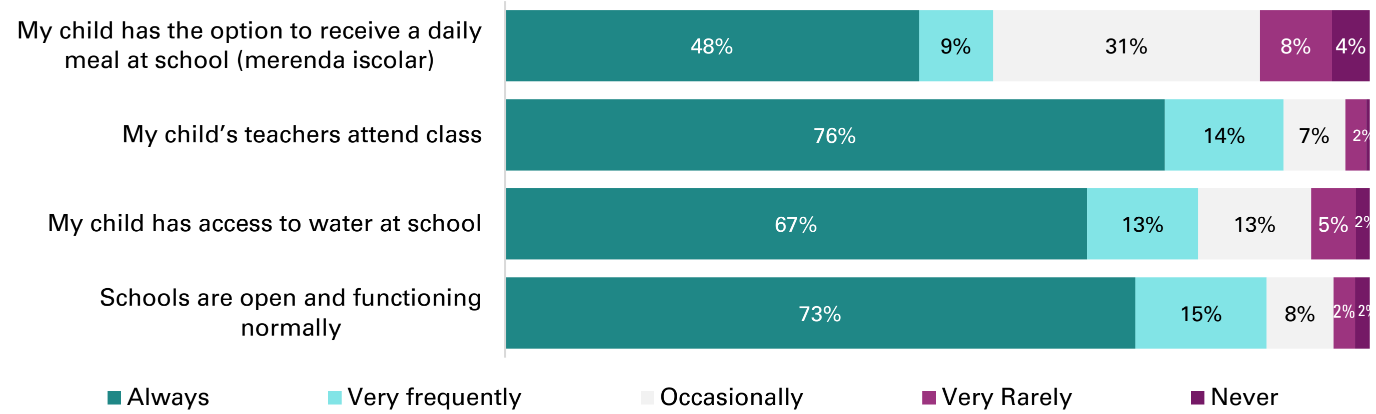
Australian Aid The Asia Foundation ORIMA

Education

The majority (65%) of respondents with children felt safe sending their children to school, however around one quarter (27%) did not due to the risk of COVID-19. Much smaller proportions feel it is not safe to send their children to school due to safety (4%) or because it is a long walk (4%). A greater proportion of Dili residents (70%) felt safe sending their children to school than those outside Dili (63%).

Around three quarters of respondents with children indicated their children's teachers 'always' attend class (76%) and schools are 'always' open and functioning normally (73%). In contrast, only around half (48%) of respondents reported their children 'always' had access to a daily meal at school (48%). Respondents in Dili were more likely to report schools were 'always' open and functioning normally (78%, compared to 71% outside Dili) and their children 'always' had access to water at school (72%, compared to 66%).

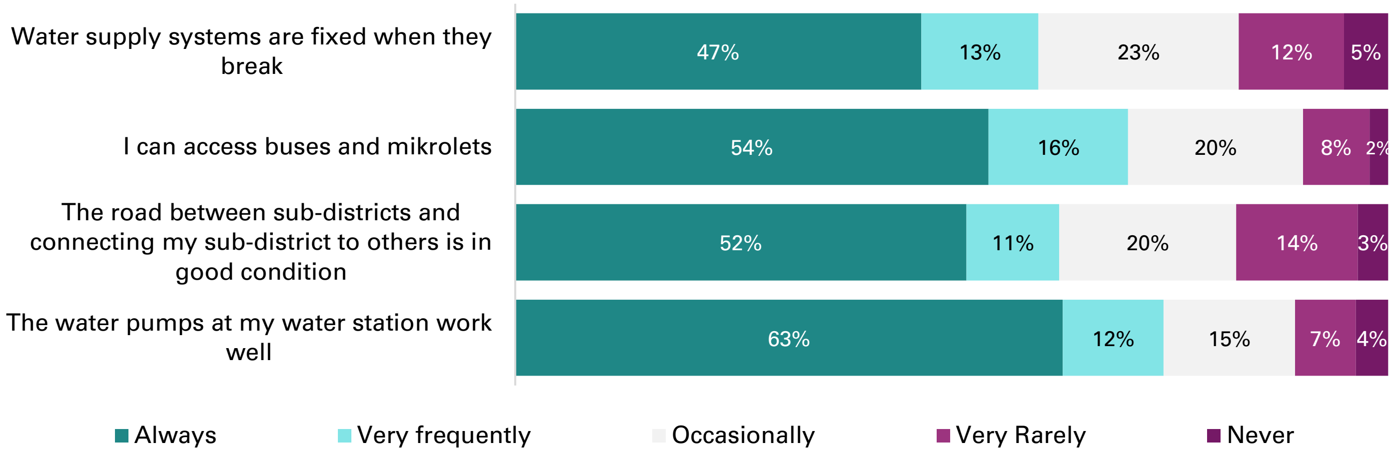
Please tell me whether schools in your area have the following always, sometimes, or rarely, or never



Infrastructure

Around two thirds (63%) of respondents indicated the water pumps at their water station 'always' work well, while only around half reported they could 'always' access buses and mikrolets (54%), the roads in their administrative post (Postu Administrativu) were 'always' in good condition (52%) and water supply systems are 'always' fixed when they break (47%). Ratings for infrastructure were more positive among those living in Dili, compared to those outside Dili.

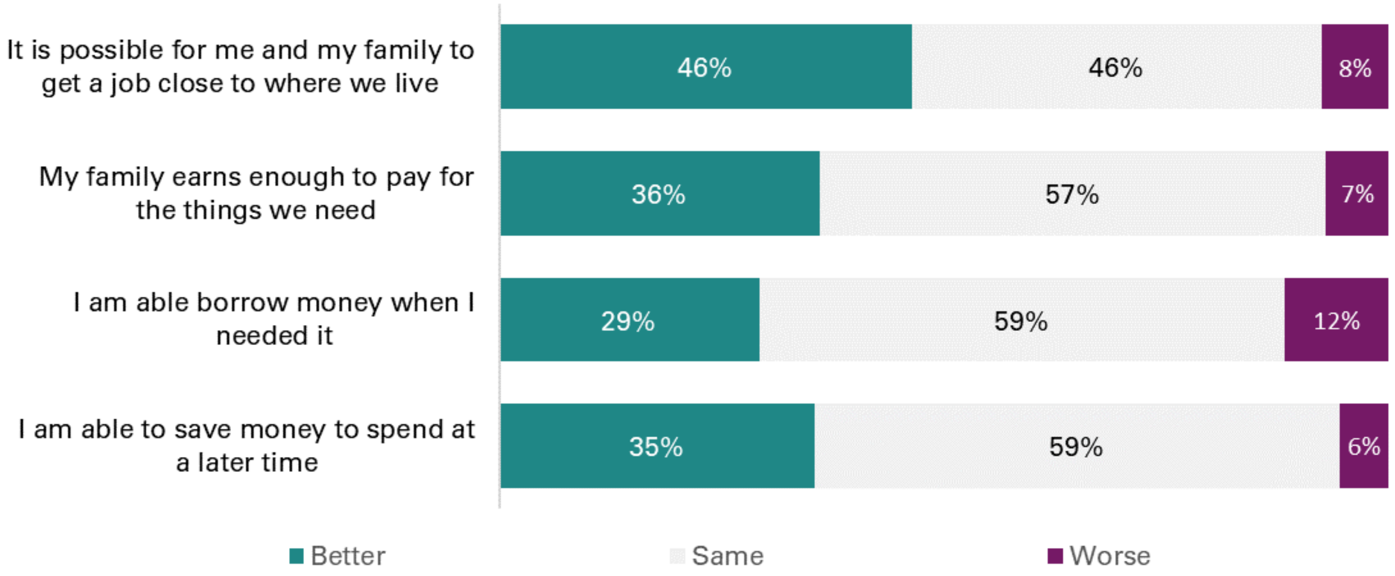
Please tell me whether infrastructure such as water systems, road and bridges in your area have the following always, sometimes, rarely, or never



Financial situation

Most respondents indicated that financial aspects of their life were the same or better than before the pandemic. The greatest improvement compared to before the pandemic was in relation to their family's ability to get a job close to where they live (46% better, 7% worse, a net positive score of 39%). In contrast, the smallest positive impact was in relation to borrowing money if they need it (net positive score of 17%). Perceptions were generally more positive among females and those living in Dili.

Comparing before the pandemic and now are thing better, the same or worse than before the pandemic?

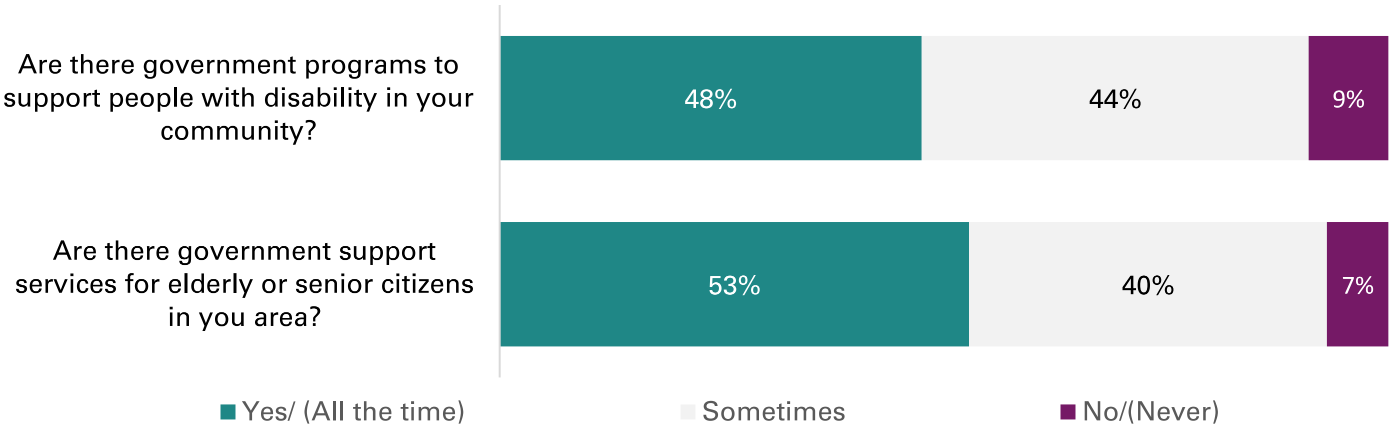


Social services

Nearly all respondents reported there were government programs/services available in their community to support people with disability (91%) and elderly or senior citizens (93%) at least 'sometimes'. Around half of respondents reported there were government programs/services available all the time (48% for people with disability and 53% for elderly or senior citizens).

Availability of government programs was higher among Dili residents for both people with disability (59% 'all the time', compared to 44% outside Dili) and elderly or senior citizens (61%, compared to 50%).

Are there government programs/support services for…?

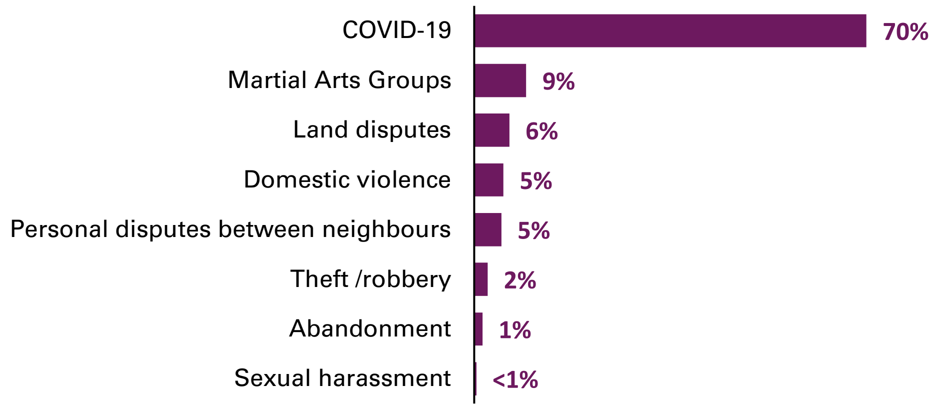


Safety and security

In December, around half of respondents (52%) felt the safety and security situation in their community was about the same as before the first state of emergency and start of COVID in March 2020. Around one third (32%) felt security had improved, while 17% felt it had become worse, a net positive score of 15% on balance. Respondents living in Dili had more positive perceptions of the safety and security in their community (32% net positive score, compared to 9% outside Dili), as well as those aged 25-44 (23-25%, compared to 3% among those aged 45+ and 16% among those aged 17-24).

COVID-19 was by far the most commonly considered threat to security in the community (70%)and was considered a greater threat by Dili residents (76%) compared to those outside Dili (68%).

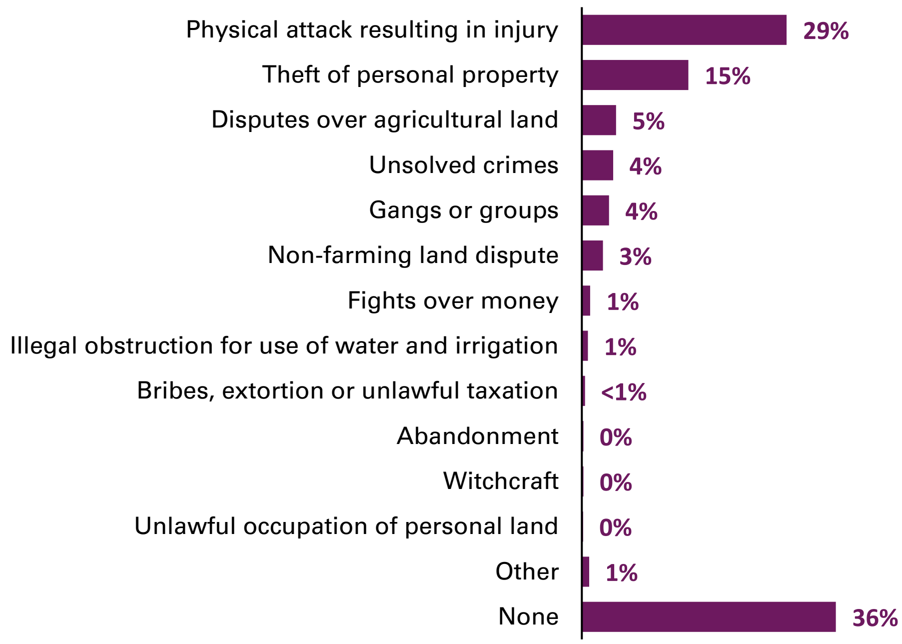
Since March, what has been the most common threat to security in your area?



The majority (64%) of respondents felt there was at least one cause of conflict in their area. Dili residents (73%), compared to those outside Dili (61%), were more likely to perceive at least one cause of conflict in their area; as were respondents aged 45+ (75%), compared to those aged 17-24 (50%).

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

The most common perceived causes of conflict were physical attack resulting in injury (29%), followed by theft of personal property (15%). Perceived threat of physical attack was higher among Dili residents (34%, compared to 27% outside Dili) and among females (32%, compared to 26% of males).

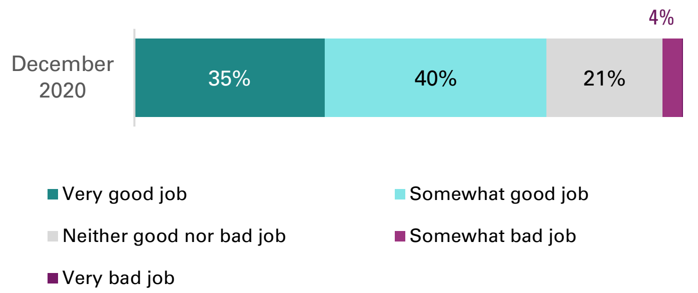


Governance and participation

Overall perceptions of the government of Timor-Leste were positive. Three quarters (75%) felt the government was doing a 'very' or 'somewhat' good job carrying out its responsibilities. In addition, nearly all respondents (96%) agreed the National Parliament represents the people.

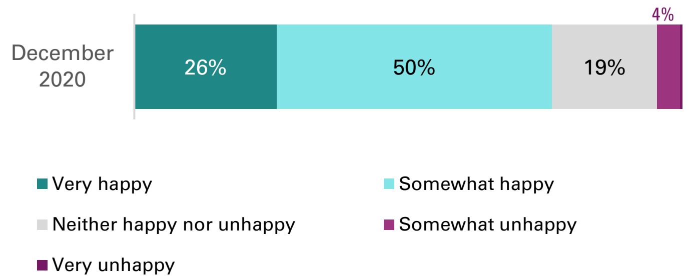
Those living in Dili (81%, compared to 73% outside Dili) and females (84%, compared to 67% of males) were more likely to feel the government was doing a 'very' or 'somewhat' good job. No differences by demographic groups were observed in agreement the National Parliament represents the people.

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



The majority of respondents were also happy with the way the government engages with citizens to address problems facing the country (76% 'very' or 'somewhat' happy). Satisfaction with government consultation was higher among those living in Dili (83%, compared to 74% outside Dili), females (79%, compared to 73% males) and households with two or more children (78-79%, compared to 69% of those with one or no children).

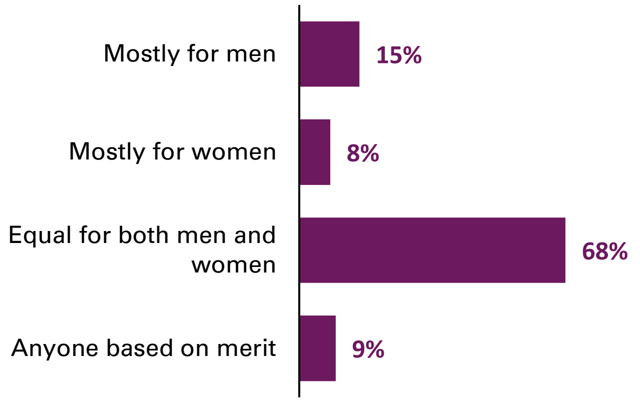
What would you say about the current level of government consultation with the citizens to address important problems facing the country?



Respondents were asked whether they think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men or mostly for women, shared equally between men and women, or be open to anyone, based on merit. The majority (68%) felt that political leadership positions should be shared equally between men and women. Those living in Dili were more likely to feel leadership positions should be shared equally (74%, compared to 65% outside Dili), while those outside Dili were more likely to feel leadership positions should be mostly for men (19%, compared to 4% in Dili).

Some differences in perceptions by gender were also observed. A greater proportion of females (71%, compared to 65% of males) felt leadership positions should be shared equally, while a greater proportion of males felt leadership positions should be mostly for men (20%, compared to 10% of females).

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men or mostly for women, or shared equally between men and women, or should leadership positions be open to anyone, based on merit?

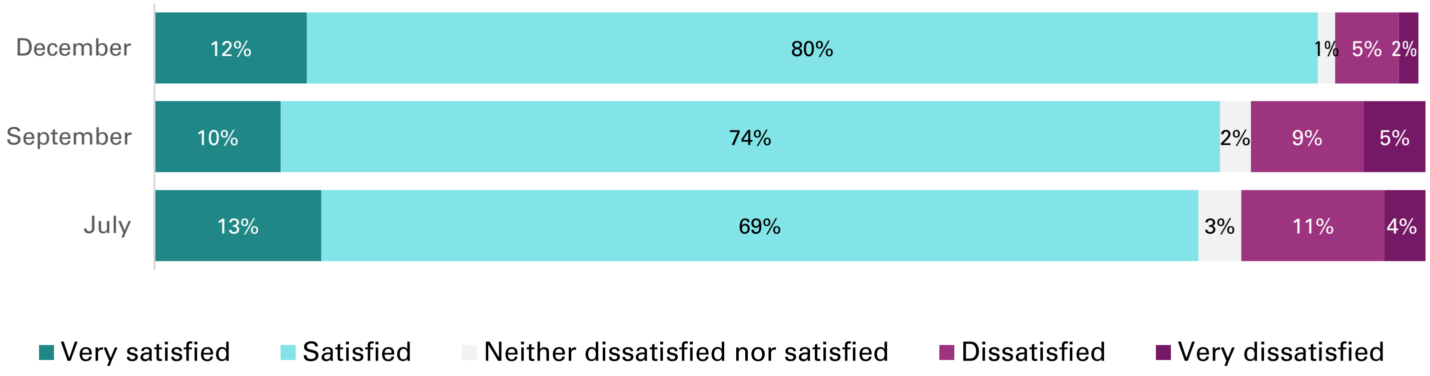


Household duties

Satisfaction with the way household tasks are divided up between them and their spouse or partner increased (92%, up from 84% in September and 82% in July). Conversely, dissatisfaction has decreased (7%, down from 14% in September and 15% in July).

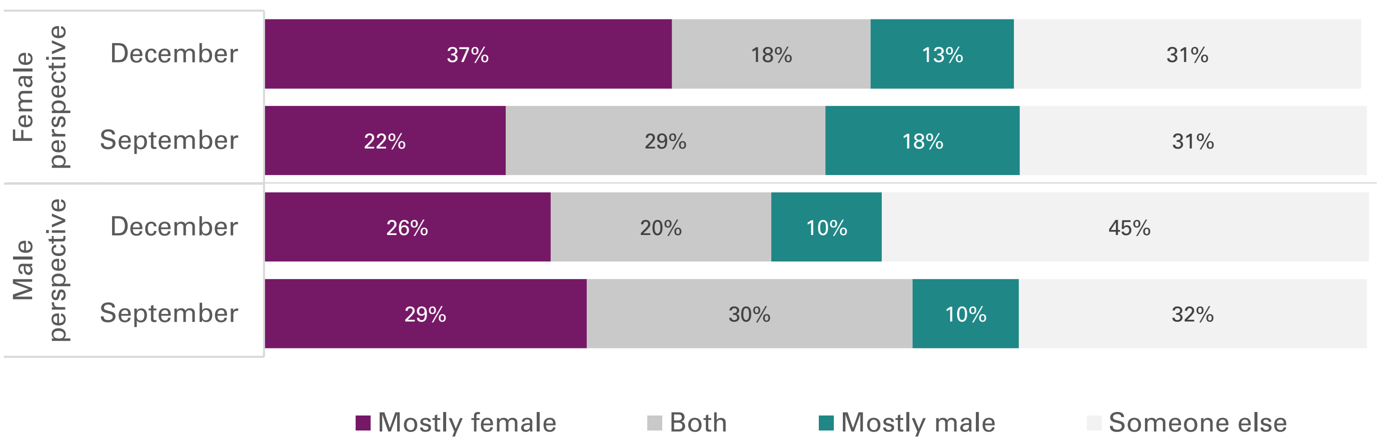
As observed in previous survey rounds, satisfaction with the division of work between individuals and their spouse or partner was similar among men and women (92% for both), despite uneven distributions of male and female labor across household tasks.

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 26% of the work to their partners, and 10% to themselves) and women attribute more work to themselves (attributing 13% to their partners, 37% to themselves). On average, similar proportions of women and men say that the work is shared equally (18-20%), however men were more likely to attribute the work to someone else (45% of males, compared to 31% of females).

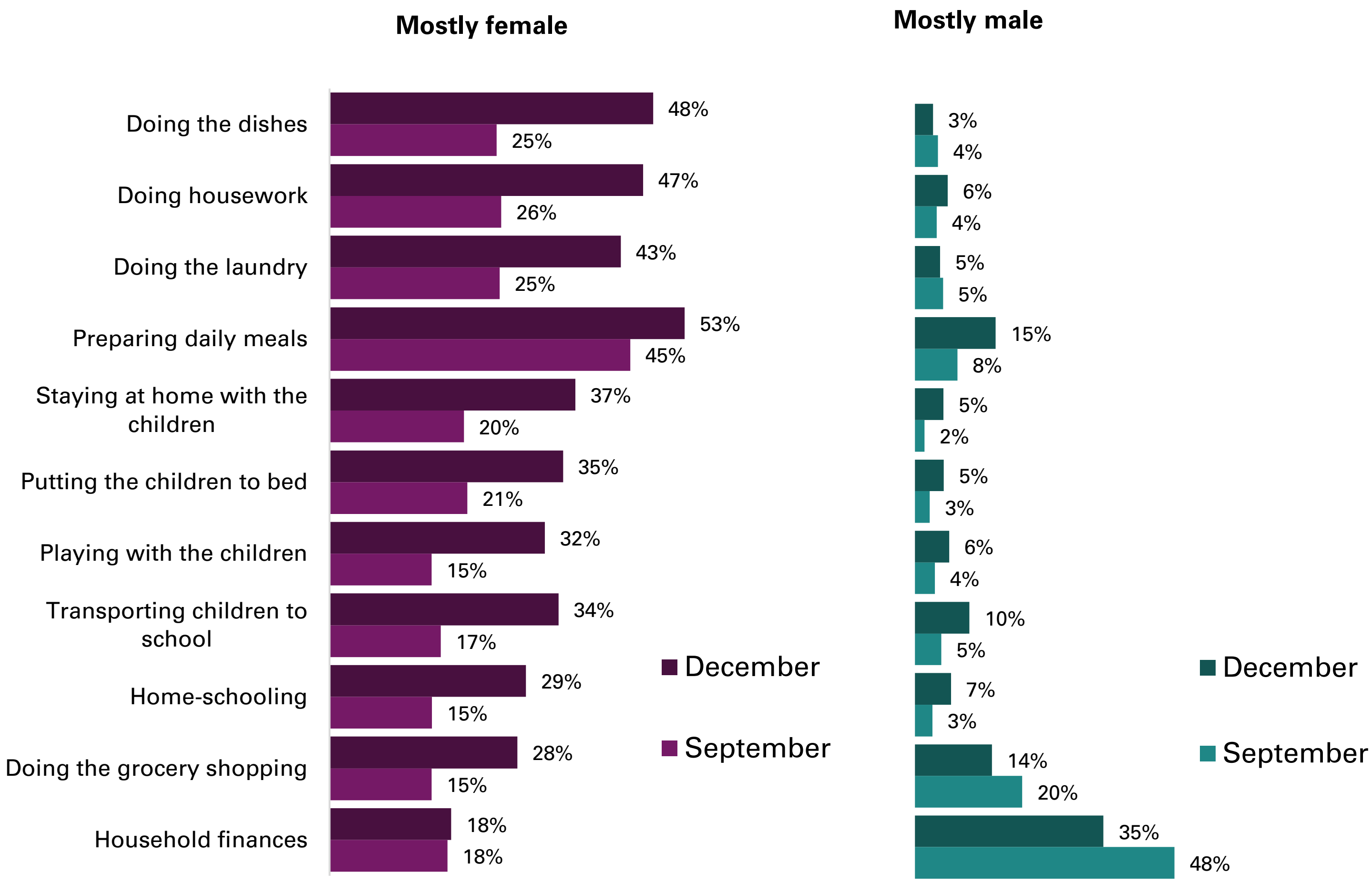
Perception of task distribution (average across all items)



All but one task were performed mostly by women more often than they were performed mostly by men — particularly preparing daily meals (mostly women in 53% of respondents' households vs mostly men in 15%), dishes (48% vs 3%), housework (47% vs 6%), and laundry (43% vs 5%).

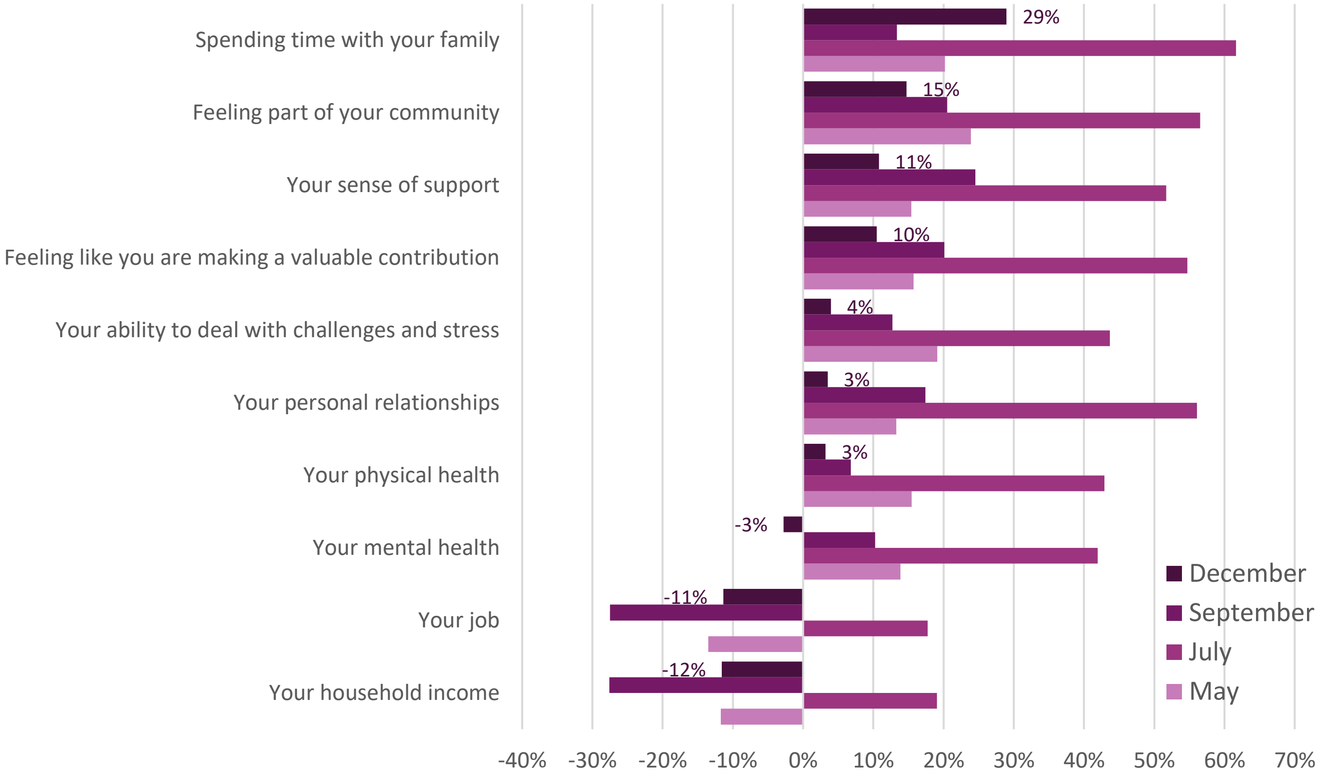
Males were more likely to be responsible for household finances (mostly performed by men in 35% of households, mostly by women in 18%). Household tasks involving caretaking of children were most likely to be equally shared (both); but were still more likely to be the primary responsibility of women.

Task distribution (perception from own gender)



Social and economic impacts

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



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 in most respects, people were more likely to view the impact of COVID-19 on their life as somewhat more positive rather than negative.

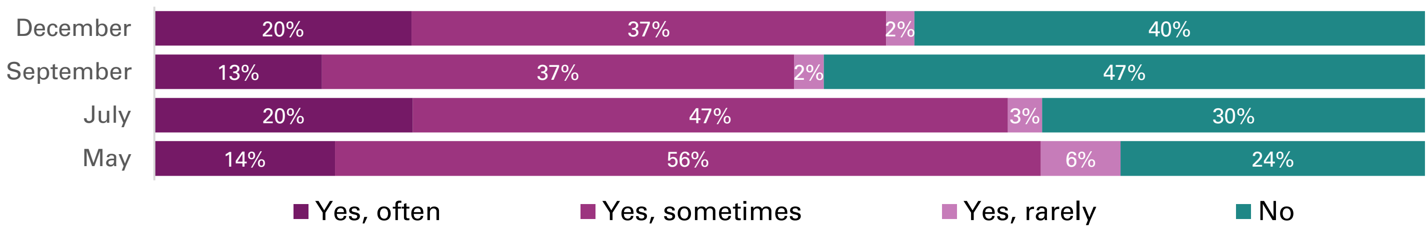
This effect could be seen across all survey rounds, but for the most part was less pronounced in December compared to previous survey rounds. Respondents were most favorable about the impact of COVID-19 on time spent with their family (61% indicated a positive impact, 32% a negative impact, with a net balance of 29% positive, up from 13% in September), their feeling part of the community (15% net balance positive, down from 21%) and their sense of support (11%, down from 25%).

The two main life aspects respondents on balance thought had a negative impact remained their household income (38% thought the impact positive, 50% thought it negative—a net balance of *minus* 12%, but less negative than minus 28% in September) and their job (net balance of minus 11%, less negative than minus 27% in September).

In general, both positive and negative impacts are less pronounced in December compared to September.

Six-in-ten respondents (60%) 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. This proportion was higher than in September (53%) but still considerably lower than in July (70%) and May (76%). Larger households were more likely to have skipped/cut the size of meals compared to those with fewer people (64% of households with five or more people, compared to 59% of those with four people, and 40-45% of those with two or three people).

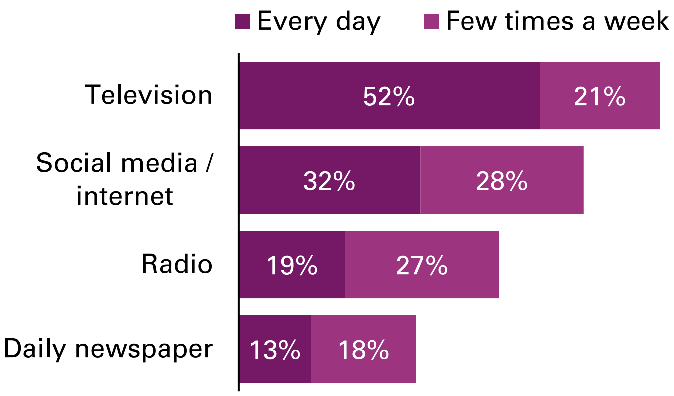
In the past 30 days, had to cut the size of a meal or skip a meal because there wasn`t enough money for food?



News and information

In December, television remained the most frequently used channel for media and entertainment (73% at least a few times per week, in line with 76% in September). Compared to September, respondents were somewhat more likely use social media and the internet (60%, slightly up from 54%) and read newspapers (31%, up from 22%).

Dili residents were more likely to use all types of media and entertainment at least a few times a week compared to those living outside Dili. Younger respondents aged 17-24 were more likely to use social media or the internet (68%, compared to 51-63% of those aged 25+) and less likely to use all other types of media and entertainment.



At least a few times a week

	Dec	Sept	July	May
Television	**73%**	76%	83%	82%
Social media / internet	**60%**	54%	65%	64%
Radio	**46%**	41%	55%	59%
Daily newspaper	**31%**	22%	31%	28%

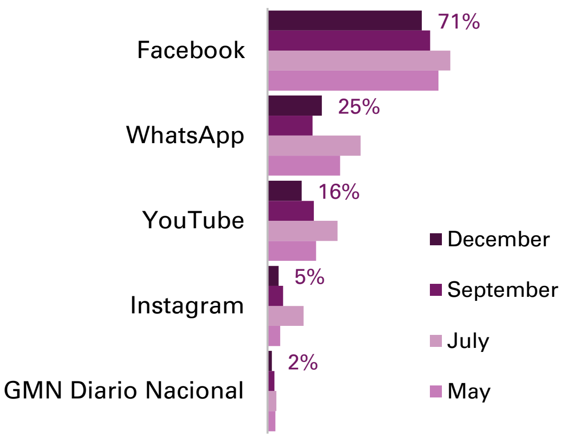
In their household…

79% Do not share their phone with others, and

84% Access the internet using a phone

74% Often use websites or apps

Top 5 most used websites or apps



Around eight-in-ten respondents (79%) had their own phone, and a similar proportion (84%) accessed the internet or social media on their phone themselves or someone in their household did.[3]

Dili residents (87%, compared to 76% of those living outside Dili) were more likely to have their own, dedicated phone.

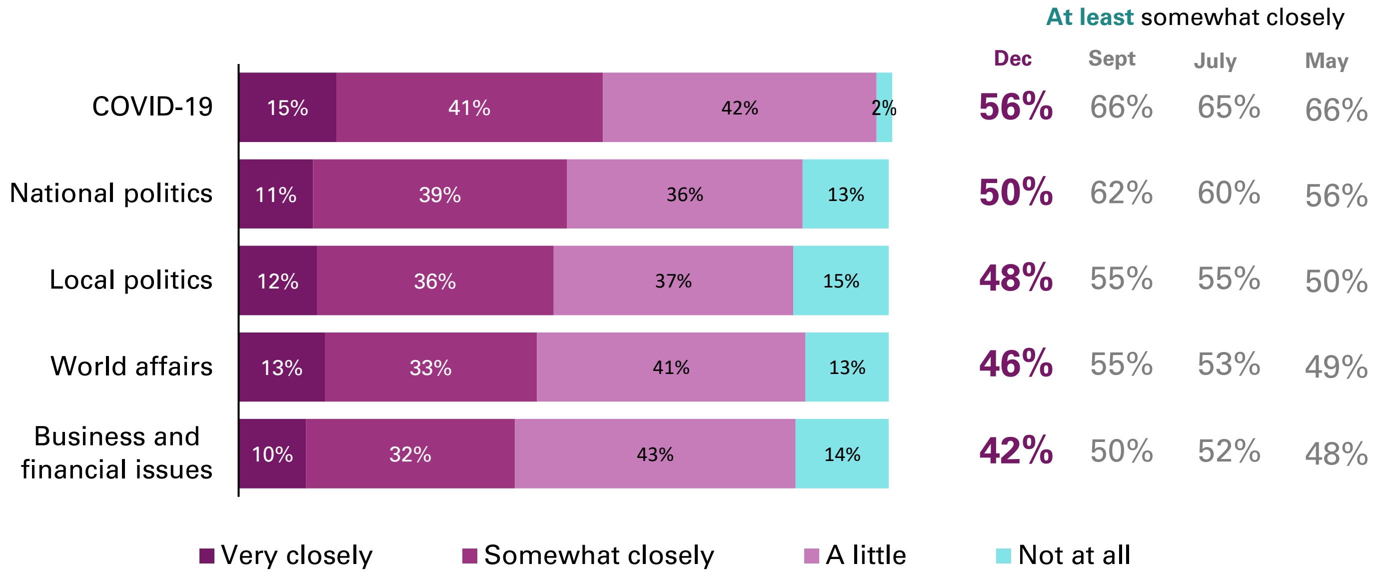
Overall, 74% of respondents indicated using some apps or websites frequently (whether on their phone, someone else's phone, or by other means)—down from 85-95% in previous rounds. Those living in Dili (91%) and aged 17-24 (86%) were more likely to use websites or apps regularly.

Facebook (71%) remained by far the most commonly used website or app, followed by WhatsApp (25%) and YouTube (16%).

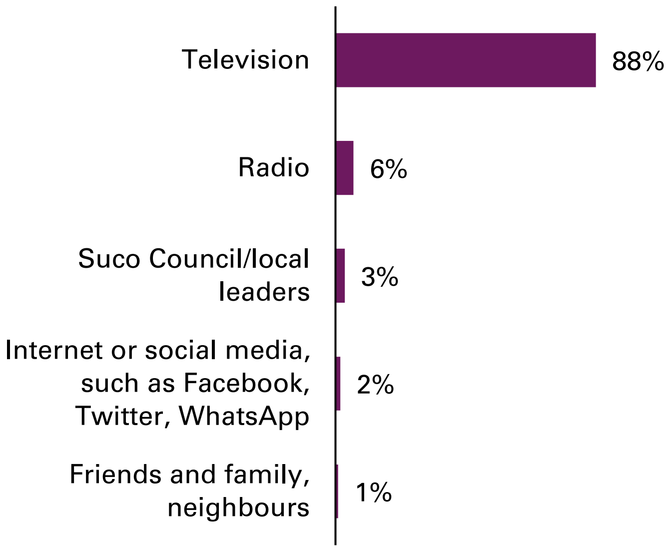
[3] As the survey was conducted over the telephone, all respondents had access to a telephone. As a comparison, in the 2018 Tatoli Survey, 76 percent of respondents provided a mobile phone number and only 33 percent of respondents said they had access to the internet.

COVID-19 remained the most closely followed news topic in December, however a lower proportion (56%) of respondents at least 'somewhat closely' followed it compared to previous survey rounds (65-66%). The proportions at least 'somewhat closely' following other topics also declined compared to September: national politics (51%, down from 62% in September), local politics (48%, down from 55%), world affairs (46%, down from 55%) and/or business and financial news (43%, down from 50%). Those living in Dili were more likely to be following each topic more closely than those living outside Dili. Males were also more likely to be following each topic than females, except for COVID-19 (54%, compared to 57% of females).

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 (88%)[4]. Television was more likely to be a trusted source among Dili residents (94%, compared to 85% of those living outside Dili) and females (91%, compared to 84% of males).

Radio (6%) and Suco Council/local leaders (3%) were the next most trusted sources of news and information.

Sample sizes are very small within individual municipalities, but there were some variations seen. While television was the most trusted source of information in all municipalities, trust in radio and Suco Council/local leaders varied considerably by municipality. Trust in radio was highest amongst respondents from Ainaro (19%), Viqueque (17%) and Oecusse (16%), while trust in Suco Council/local leaders was highest amongst respondents from Aileu (34%).

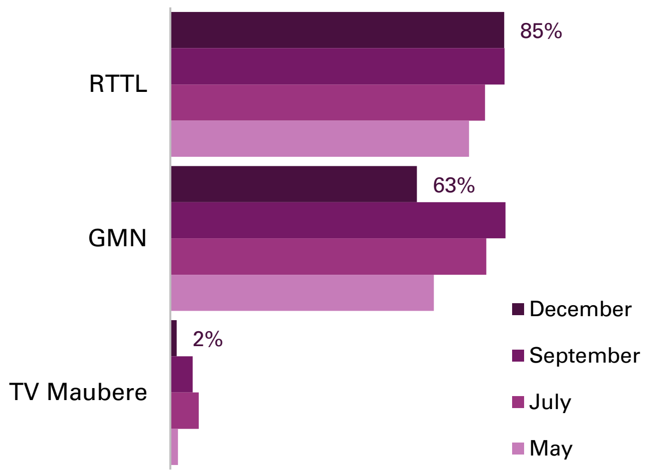
[4] Please note that in Round 4 this question was asked about sources of news and information in general. In previous rounds, this question was asked in relation to COVID-19 and other news information separately.

When asked which television channels respondents watch most often, RTTL (85%) was the most commonly watched channel, followed by GMN (63%). Those living in Dili more commonly watched GMN (73%, compared to 59% outside Dili), whereas those living outside Dili more commonly watched RTTL (89%, compared to 76% in Dili).

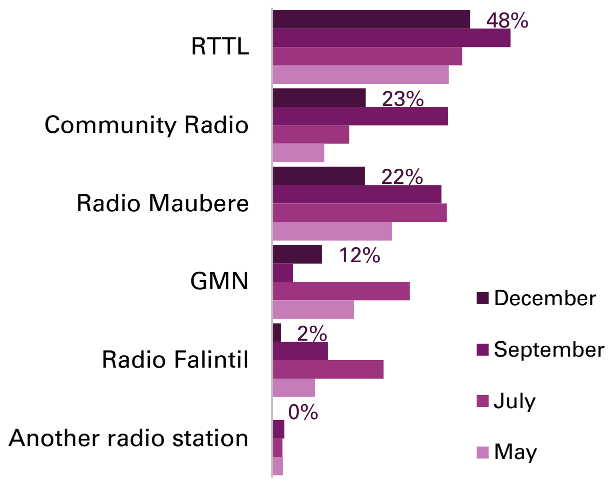
Respondents were also asked what radio stations they listened to. RTTL was the most popular station (48%), followed by Community Radio (23%) and Radio Maubere (22%). Those living in Dili were somewhat more likely to listen to Community Radio (30%, compared to 20%), Radio Maubere (29%, compared to 20%) and GMN (18%, compared to 10%).

Only a minority of respondents read newspapers. Respondents most often read Jornal Independente (9%), followed by Diário Nacional (5%) and Suara Timor Lorosae (4%). Those living in Dili and aged 25-44 were more likely to read each newspaper.

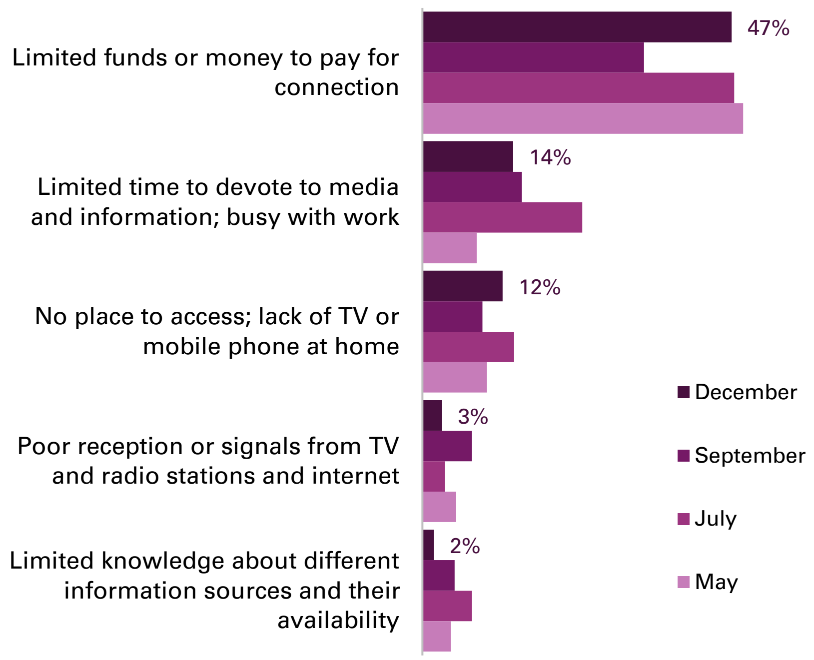
What television channels do you most often watch?



What radio stations do you most often listen to?



Top 5 challenges in accessing information



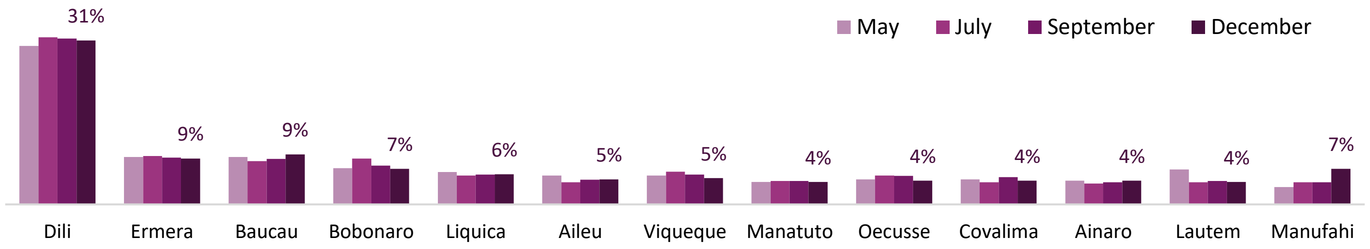
Most respondents in December (88%) reported at least some challenges in accessing information, higher than in previous survey rounds (69-82%). Limited funds or money to pay for a connection was the most common challenge (47%, up from 34% in September but in line with 47-49% in previous rounds). This was more commonly a challenge among those living in Dili (60%) than those outside Dili (42%).

Having no place to access information was more commonly an issue for those outside Dili (15%, compared to 4% of Dili residents). Specifically, lack of places to access information was most commonly an issue for respondents from Oecusse (41%), Aileu (34%) and Lautem (29%).

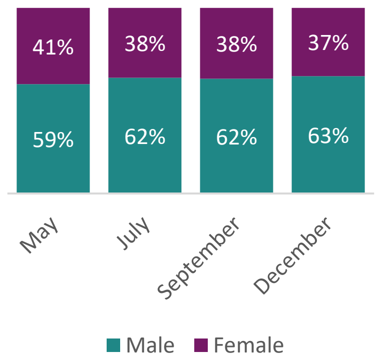
Respondent profile

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

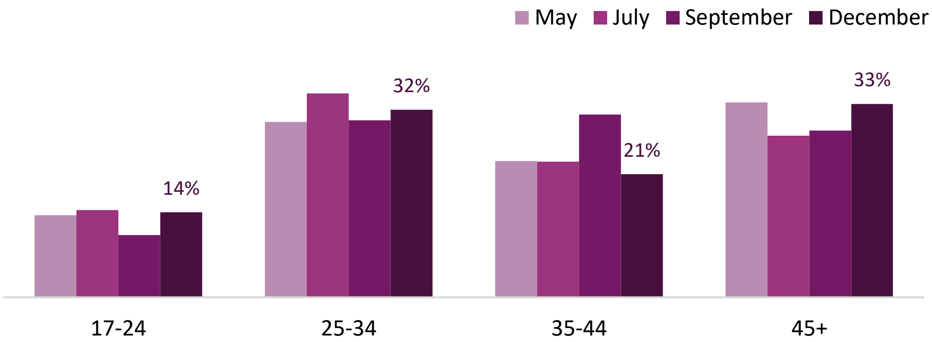
Municipality



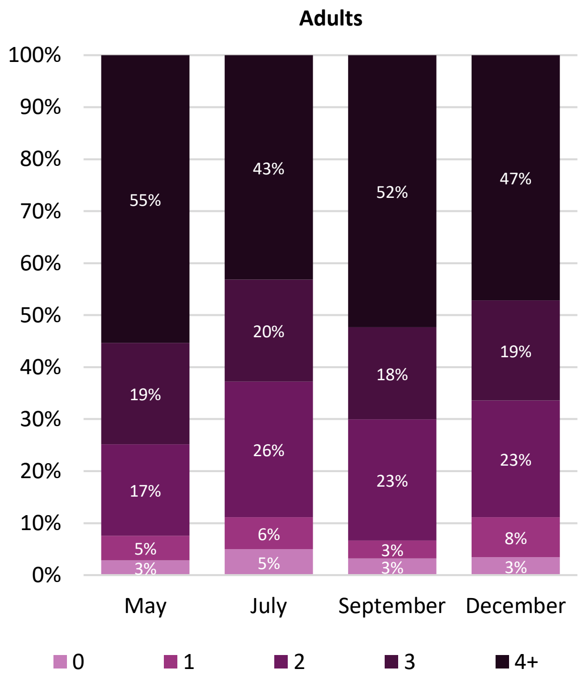
Gender

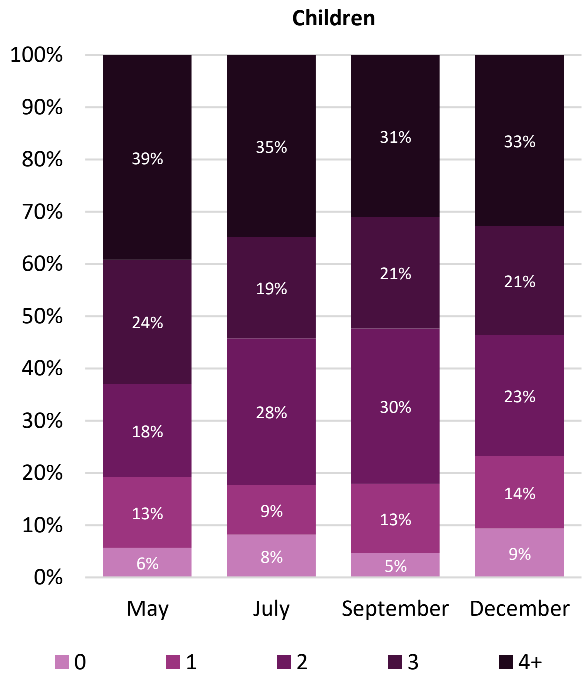


Age

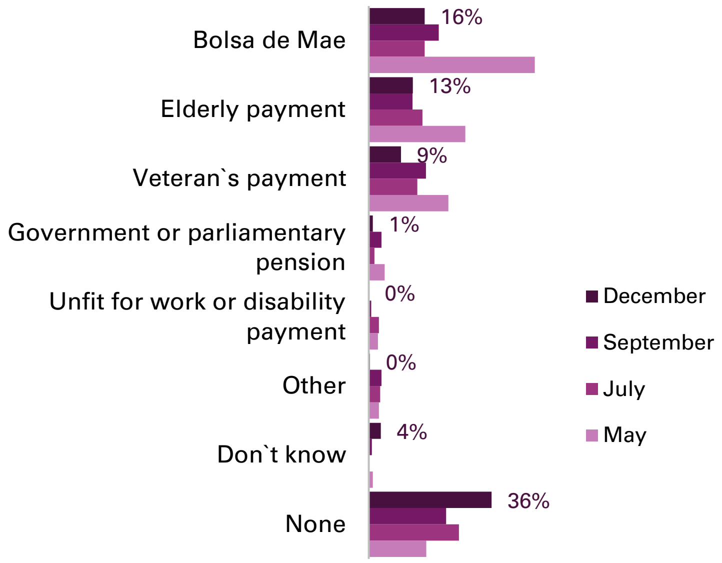


Number of people in your household

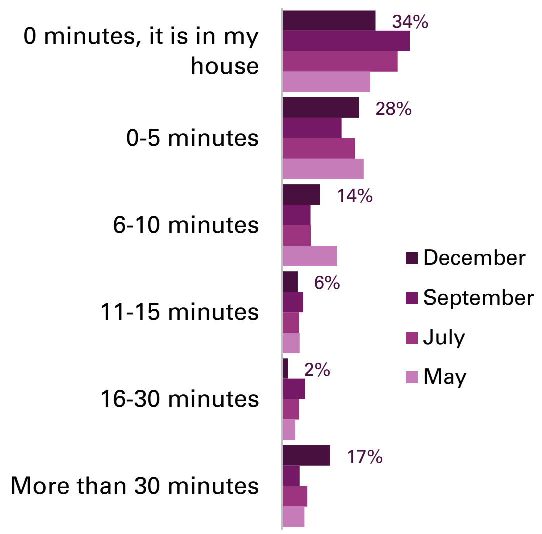




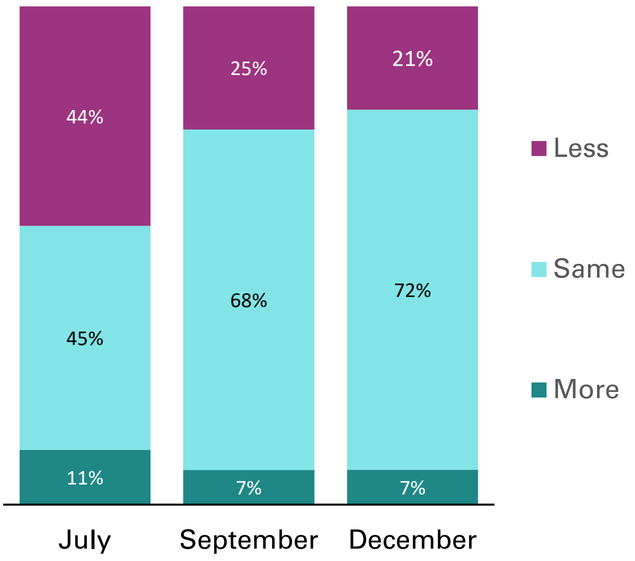
Does your household receive any government payments?



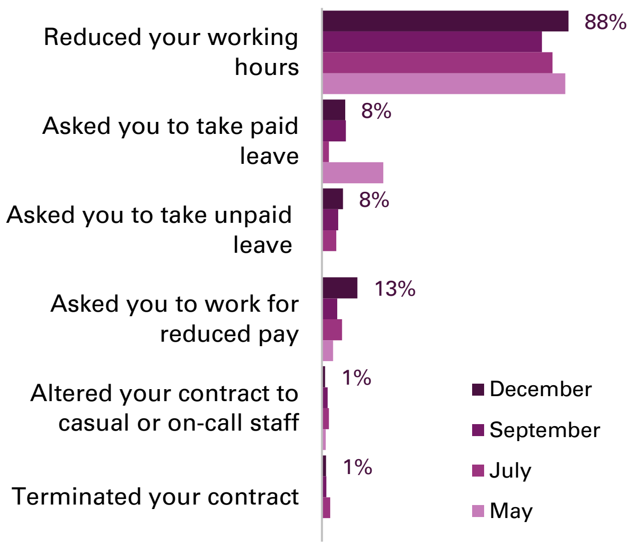
On an ordinary day, how long does it take you to walk to fetch water?



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



(If hours have been reduced) Has your employer…



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 December survey included new sections on service delivery as well as a lot of common questions from previous rounds of the survey. 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	July	September	December
Males in Dili	38	70	78	80	73
Females in Dili	38	57	50	48	52
Males non-Dili	150	179	174	172	181
Females non-Dili	150	117	102	107	96

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	July	September	December
Sample list	2,307	1,192	534	681
Refusals	30	47	66	87
Non-working numbers	1,666	619	60	188
Final dataset	423	404	407	402
Response rate[5]	19.9%	32.6%	76.2%	59.0%
Fieldwork start (2020)	19 May	18 July	21 Sept	03 Dec
Fieldwork end (2020)	25 May	17 July	02 Oct	08 Dec
Median length of interview[6]	47m25s	41m30s	43m23s	47m57s
Number of interviewers	14	19	11	17

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.

[5] 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.

[6] Excludes 25/29/28/26 cases 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 approach 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 right, 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 comparability, simplicity, and representation of the population. The variables used for weighting, the proportions within population and unweighted proportions are shown to the right.

	Population	May unweighted	July unweighted	September unweighted	December unweighted
	(N=662,285)	*(n=423)*	*(n=404)*	*(n=407)*	*(n=402)*
Age					
17-24	28%	14%	15%	11%	14%
25-44	41%	53%	58%	61%	53%
45-120	31%	33%	27%	28%	33%
Gender					
Male	50%	59%	62%	62%	63%
Female	50%	41%	38%	38%	37%
Location					
Dili	26%	30%	32%	31%	31%
Not Dili	74%	70%	68%	69%	69%

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	July	Sept	Dec
Number of responses	423	404	407	402
Statistical margin of error	±4.8%	±4.9%	±4.9%	±4.9%

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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This report was produced in accordance with the international standard ISO20252.