



**UNHCR
ACNUR**

La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

RAPID NEEDS ASSESMENT

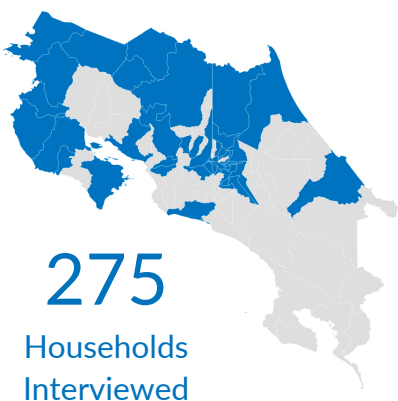
Impact of COVID-19
on Nicaraguan PoC

Costa Rica, August 2020

Objectives

- Assess the level of **access to basic goods and services** at the household level of Nicaraguan Persons of Concern (PoC).
- Identify the **impact of COVID-19** and related circumstances on that access and the resulting needs.
- Identify **gaps between needs and response**, including the response from the government, UNHCR and other actors.
- Analyze existing **coping mechanisms**.

Methodology



Target population: Nicaraguan asylum seekers and refugees

Geographical coverage: National

Method: Stratified Random Sampling

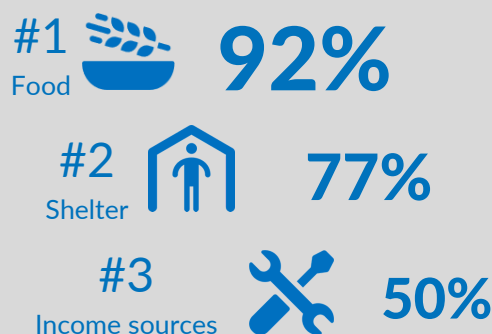
Type of interview: Remote (phone)

Enumerators: 21 UNHCR staff

Data collected: 30 Jul - 4 Aug 2020

Perceptions of priorities

The three main needs perceived by the surveyed households are:



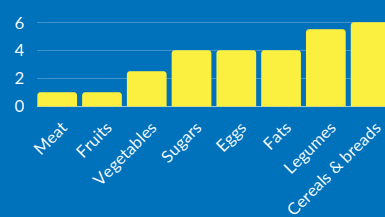
Food Security & Nutrition

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, **20%** of households consumed 2 meals a day while **77%** consumed 3 meals.



Now, **63%** of households report having 2 meals a day, while only **23%** consume 3 meals.

Food types by days consumed per week



Shelter

20% do not know where they will live next month.

25%

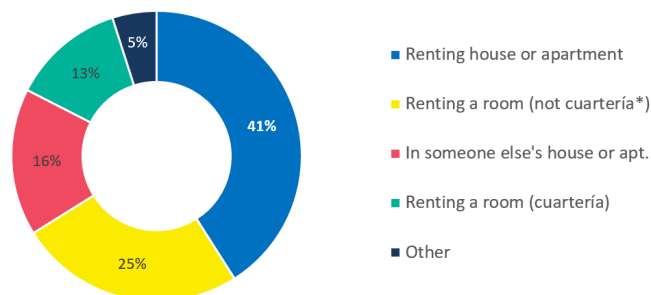


80%

Have changed their place of residence since the start of the pandemic

Of these, 80% stated their inability to pay rent as the main reason

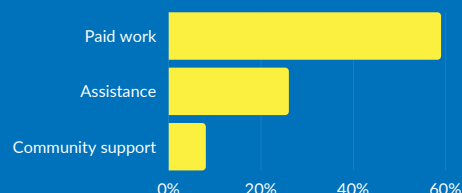
Current type of housing



Sources of income

Before the pandemic, **93%** of the surveyed households reported having a paid job as their main source of income. Now this percentage has decreased to **59%**.

Current top 3 income sources



*"Cuarterías" refer to a type of housing where rooms in an apartment/house are rented individually, leading to various family groups living in a same apartment and sharing common areas, in most cases with sub-standard living conditions.

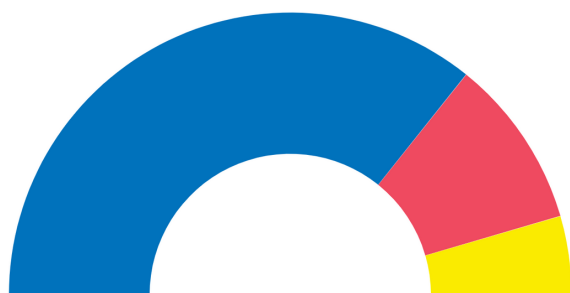
Protection

- **7%** of households have had a family member return to Nicaragua since the start of COVID-19 and 21% of the households have at least one member who is considering returning. The main reasons given are reduced access to income in Costa Rica (**90%** of households) and lack of access to food (**40%**).
- Of households where at least one family member has considered returning to Nicaragua, **75%** would plan to return to Costa Rica within the next year.

- **73%** of households do not plan to return to Nicaragua in the near future. The most common response overall was due to fear of the government or government-related groups (**47%**)
- 31 households (**11%**) reported that a relative in Nicaragua had attempted to join them in Costa Rica since the border closure, but **90%** were unsuccessful.



Insurance modality of insured heads of households (45% of total)



■ UNHCR-CCSS (71.5%) ■ By employer (19.5%) ■ Other (9%)

Health

57% of the households required medical services from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic



Of these, **43%** had limitations in access mainly due to lack of affiliation to the national health system

53%

of heads of households lack health insurance under COVID-19

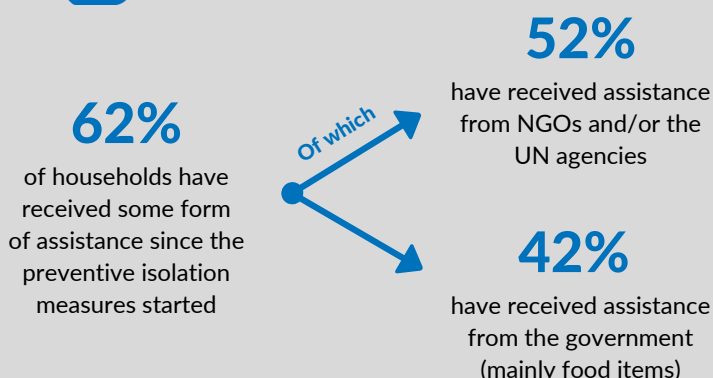
WASH

Almost **90%** of the households have access to potable water whenever they need it.

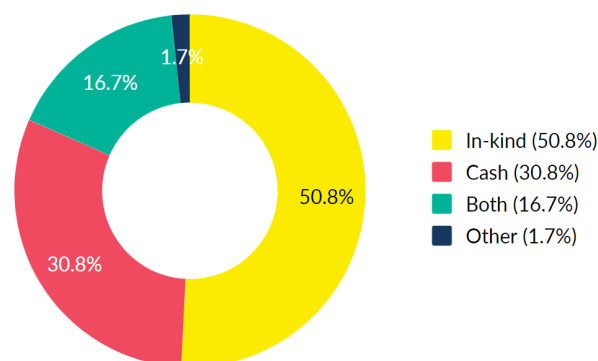
Over **95%** of the surveyed households claimed that their members wash their hands regularly with both water and soap. Over **27%** regularly use hand sanitizer.



Assistance under COVID-19



Assistance provided by the Government and NGOs/UN



Education & Telecommunications

81% of households with school-aged children have access to educational materials or activities, out of which, more than half have received virtual classes.

19% do not have access to the internet. Of the households that have access, most use mobile phones to access the internet.

19%

Out of school

