



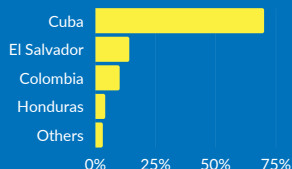
**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

# RAPID NEEDS ASSESMENT

Impact of COVID-19 on PoC  
from other nationalities

Costa Rica, August 2020

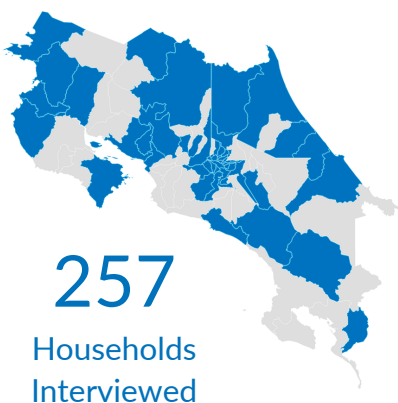
Other nationalities analyzed



## Objectives

- Assess the level of **access to basic goods and services** of 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** of households from other nationalities.

## Methodology



**Target population:** Asylum seekers and refugees from other nationalities

**Geographical coverage:** National

**Method:** Stratified Random Sampling

**Type of interview:** Remote (phone)

**Enumerators:** 21 UNHCR staff

**Data collected:** 3 Aug- 5 Aug 2020

## Perceptions of priorities

The three main needs perceived by the surveyed households are:

#1 Food

80%

#2 Shelter

70%

#3 Income sources

67%



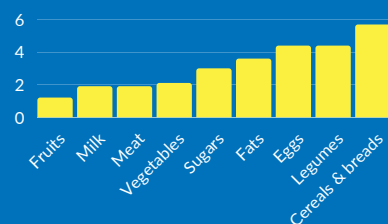
## Food Security & Nutrition

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, only **30%** of households consumed 2 meals a day while **59%** consumed 3 meals.



Now, **48%** of households report having 2 meals a day, while only **22%** consume 3 meals.

Food types by days consumed per week



## Shelter

**15%** do not have a place to stay next month, and **31.5%** are unsure whether they will have one.

44%

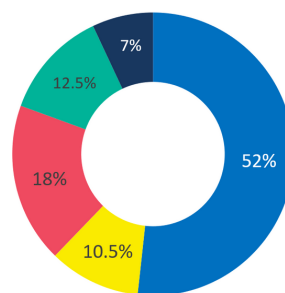


84%

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

Of these, 84% stated their inability to pay rent as the main reason

## Current type of housing



- Renting house or apartment
- Renting a room (not cuartería\*)
- In someone else's house or apt.
- Renting a room (cuartería)
- Other



## Sources of income

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, **65%** of the surveyed households reported having a paid job as their main source of income. Under COVID-19, this has reduced to **46%**.

92%

of those with paid jobs before the pandemic experienced a change in their work conditions as a consequence of the pandemic



55%

Experienced a termination or a suspension of contract

34%

Reduced the # of occasional jobs

5%

Reduced working hours

\*\*\*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

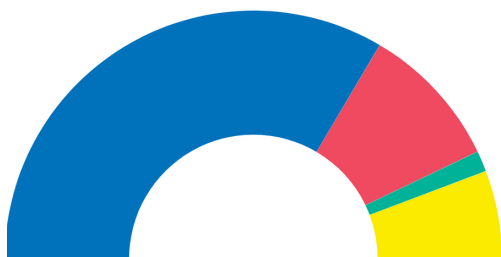
- Only **2%** of households have had a family member return to their country of origin since the start of COVID-19 and **11%** of the households have at least one member who is considering returning. The main reasons given are reduced access to income in Costa Rica and lack of access to food.
- Of households where at least one family member has considered returning to their country of origin, **48%** would plan to return to Costa Rica within the next year.

- 75%** of households do not plan to return to their country of origin in the near future, most for fear of threats or violence and lack of job opportunities.
- 16 households (**6%**) reported that a relative in their country of origin had attempted to join them in Costa Rica since the border closure, but only 1 was successful.

Of which

**74%**  
Fear threats or violence

Insurance modality of insured heads of households (44% of total)



UNHCR-CCSS (67%) By employee (18.8%)  
Voluntary modality (2.7%) Other (11.5%)

## Health

**42%** of the households required medical services from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Of these, **46%** experienced limitations in access, mainly due to lack of affiliation to the national health system.

**55%**

of heads of households lack health insurance under COVID-19

## WASH

**91%** of the households have access to potable water whenever they need it.

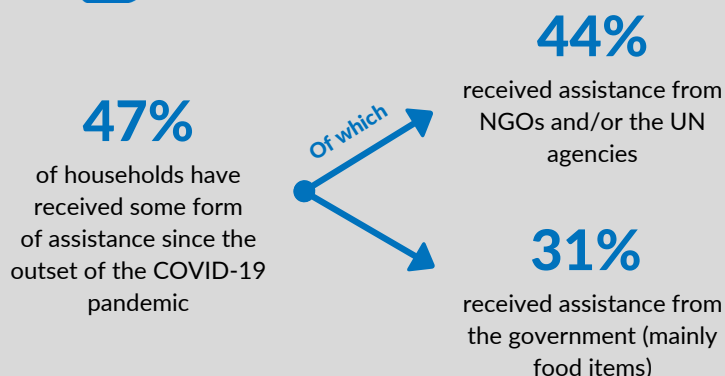
**93%** of the surveyed households responded that household members wash their hands regularly with both soap and water. Over **19%** regularly use hand sanitizer.



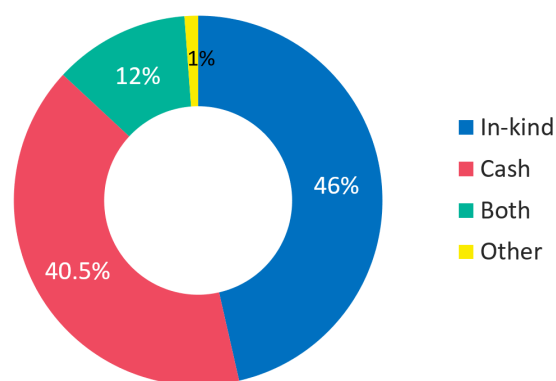
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## Assistance under COVID-19



## Assistance provided by the Government and NGOs/UN



## Education & Telecommunications

**90%** of households with school-aged children have access to educational materials or activities, out of which **70%** have received virtual classes.

**18%** of households do not have access to the internet. Of the households that have access, most use mobile phones to access the internet.

**10%**

Out of school children

