**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

**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.

**Shelter**

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

44% have changed their place of residence since the start of the pandemic.

84% of these stated their inability to pay rent as the main reason.

**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.

**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.

**Perceptions of priorities**

The three main needs perceived by the surveyed households are:

- Food #1: 80%
- Shelter #2: 70%
- Income sources #3: 67%

**Current type of housing**

- Renting house or apartment: 52%
- Renting a room (not cuartería)*: 12.5%
- In someone else’s house or apt.: 18%
- Renting a room (cuartería): 10.5%
- Other: 7%

**Sources**

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"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.
- 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.

- 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.

- 47% of households have received some form of assistance since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 44% received assistance from NGOs and/or the UN agencies

- 31% received assistance from the government (mainly food items)

- 10% 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.

This infographic was produced based on initial analysis from data collected for the COVID-19 Rapid Needs Assessment. A detailed analysis of the data collected will be produced in September. For more information on the Operation, see: https://www.unhcr.org/costa-rica.html.