



Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste Round 2 (SEIA 2.0)

RESULTS FOR LIQUIÇÁ MUNICIPALITY





Liquica

12 Jul and 31 Jul 2021

**15**

Sucos

**256**

Households

**89.3%**

Agricultural activities

**19.5%** Households
Headed by women**1338**

Individual members

49.5%
Female **50.5%**
Male**5** Interviewers
from Liquiçá**2.6%** of individuals aged above 15 years old had a disability.

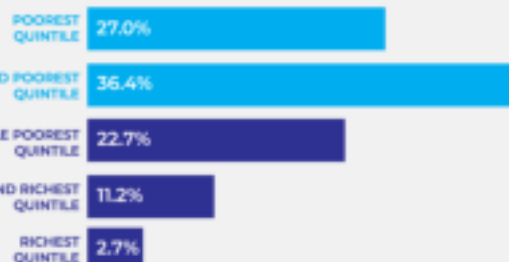
Data presented in this report are not representative of Liquiçá. The results represent the households interviewed. Caution must be applied in interpreting data.

Data is reported only at the municipality level. For confidentiality purposes, suco and aldeias included in the survey are not mentioned in this factsheet. For the survey analysis, sample weights were calculated to address the unequal household selection probabilities, non-response and under-coverage. Separate weights were calculated for household-level data, individual-level data and respondent-level data.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR LIQUIÇÁ

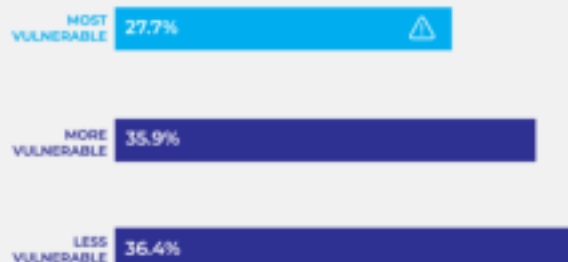
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

WEALTH QUINTILES IN LIQUIÇÁ



Liquiçá is one of the municipalities with the highest percentage (63.4%) of households in the two lowest wealth quintiles (national average of 49.6%).

VULNERABLE GROUPS IN LIQUIÇÁ



The social vulnerability index measures the number of characteristics of persons in the household that place them at higher risk of economic deprivation, exclusion, and social isolation.

Households with members of older age, having a disability, female headship of the household and the number of children vis à vis persons in the working-age groups (the child dependency ratio) were measured. Households are divided into 3 groups – Most Vulnerable, More Vulnerable and Less Vulnerable.

**27.7%** most vulnerable
in Liquiçá**63.4%** most vulnerable
households in the whole country**49.5%**
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households are men**50.5%**
of the persons living in MOST
VULNERABLE households are women

The proportion of men and women living in Most Vulnerable and More Vulnerable households was similar while slightly more men (51.5%) were living in Less Vulnerable households than women (48.5%).

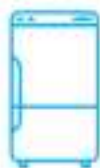
HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Before the April 2021 Easter flood, did the household have or own one or more of the following items?



36.8%

national average 49.3%



14.5%

national average 30.4%



54.7%

national average 69.9%



5.1%

national average 16.8%



92.7%

national average 92.7%



32.5%

national average 40.3%

Digital technologies and private transportation have been heavily relied upon to mitigate the effects of physical distancing and movement restrictions. The percentage of households that own or have various assets is lower in Liquiçá than the national average.

WASH



68.8%

have water available
in the house



84.6%

national average



41.9%

used soap



75.7%

national average

One of the prevention methods from COVID-19 was frequent handwashing with water and soap. The SEIA 2.0 observed when households do not have water and soap available in the house, symptoms of COVID-19 were more common for these households.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE



38.5%

have some savings



54.0%

borrowed money



62.2%

member(s) with bank accounts

31.8%

national average

30.7%

national average

40.3%

national average

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN LIQUIÇÁ

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION



733

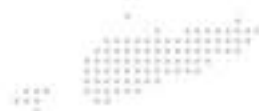
individuals aged 15+ years

The SEIA 2.0 asked about their employment situation during the COVID-19 pandemic.



69.9%

labour force participation rate was one of the highest in the country.



51.9%
national average

Labour force participation - The proportion of the working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or by looking for work.

Proportion of Employed People in the Working-Age Population



68.2%

nationwide employment
41.7% for women



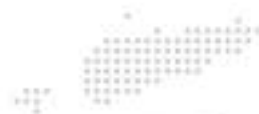
65.2%

nationwide employment
48.6% for men



66.7%

working-age population were employed in Liquiçá



45.2%
national average

Employment rate was also higher than the national average for both men and women.

Employed - The ability of the economy to generate paid or for-profit jobs is the employment-to-population ratio, the proportion of the working-age population that is employed

Unemployment and Economically Inactive People in the Working-Age Population

UNEMPLOYED



2.7%



3.7%

INACTIVE



29.1%



31.1%

In contrast to other municipalities, slightly more men were economically inactive than women.

Unemployed - refers to persons not in employment in the reference month of the SEIA 2.0 (March 2020), and who, at that time, were seeking employment and were available to start working if an opportunity would have been offered.

Economically inactive - The persons not actively participating in the labour market include those who are not employed and not unemployed.

Proportion of Employed Persons in Vulnerable Employment



88.4%

individuals in vulnerable employment

The categories of self-employed without employees and contributing family workers are considered as being in vulnerable employment.



11.1%

self-employed (without employees)



6.6%

self-employed (without employees)



86.3%
national average

More women are contributing family workers than men.

77.7%

contributing family workers

81.3%

contributing family workers

The percentage of those in vulnerable employment was higher than the national average. In contrast to other municipalities where more women are in vulnerable employment, the proportion of men and women in vulnerable employment is similar in Liquiçá.

Job loss due to COVID-19

63.2% of the employed individuals had lost their jobs due to COVID-19 (national average 39.3%)

44.4%

did not go to work in fear of COVID-19 infection

34.1%

activity was not allowed to take place

15.0%

could not go to work due to corona travel ban

Reasons for job loss

Nearly two third of those employed had lost their jobs due to COVID related reasons.

Losing a job affected more men (67.3%) than women (58.7%).



In many, if not most cases, the recorded 'job loss' should be interpreted as a temporary suspension of work.

CHANGES IN TIME SPENT DOING HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19



WATER COLLECTION

NO CHANGE

69.8%

MORE TIME SPENT

29.8%



SHOPPING FOR FOOD

66.0%

33.6%



FAMILY CARE

59.8%

40.2%



COOKING, CLEANING

65.0%

35.0%

The change in time spent in domestic chores was higher in Liquiçá compared to the national average. The most affected household chore during the COVID-19 was caring for family members. Similar to other municipalities, cooking and cleaning was the domestic chore for which women were disproportionately affected. In contrast to other municipalities, men reported spending more time in collecting water.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Has the level of your household expenditures increased or decreased due to the corona situation, or did it remain the same?

Majority of the households' expenditure decreased during the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Poor and vulnerable households were more likely to reduce spending.



18.64%

Increased



61.71%

Decreased



11.45%

Remained the same



8.19%

Don't know

HOUSEHOLD SOURCES OF INCOME DURING COVID-19



Households can have several income sources.



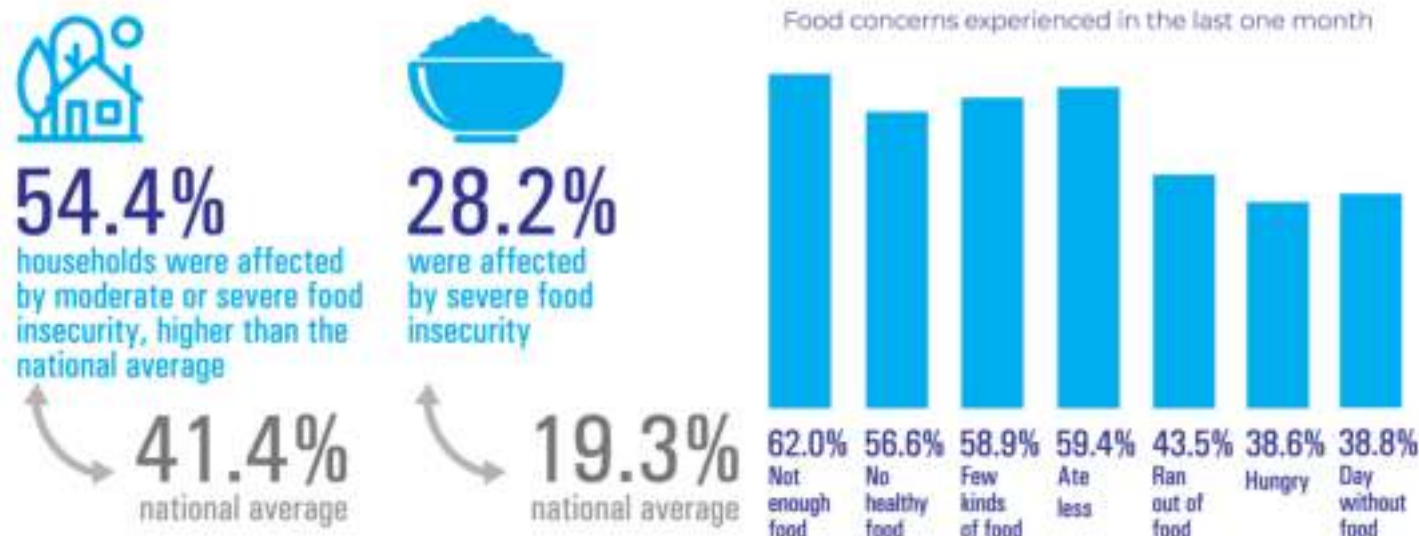
25.9% household members had an earning, said their income was affected by the COVID-19

Of those, 63.2% reported their income has decreased.

24.6% national average

FOOD INSECURITY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Was there a time during this last one month when you or others in your household [the corresponding experiences presented below] because of a lack of money or other resources?



More than one third of the households reported there was a time during the last one month someone in the household was hungry but did not eat and went without eating for a whole day because there was not enough money or other resources for food.

LIVELIHOOD AND MAJOR DIFFICULTIES

Because of a lack of food or a lack of money to buy food, did your household in the last one month had to ...?



Around 85.7% of the households in Liquiçá had to use at least one of the livelihood coping strategies to cope with a lack of food or money. Households belonging to the poorest wealth quintiles used more coping mechanisms than those in the richest quintile. Due to their deprived economic position, they are more frequently forced to cope differently to put food on the table.



When asked to reveal their major worries during the COVID-19 Emergency, majority of respondents mentioned my health and that of my close ones as the main concern over lack of money or food and other concerns.



6.0% of respondents were worried about the growing unsafety in the country, 1.5% with the negative effects of the pandemic on the national economy, 7.4% did not have concerns related to COVID-19.

FLOOD IMPACT

Over the Easter weekend in the beginning of April 2021, Timor-Leste suffered devastating floods and landslides. The combination of the pandemic and the Easter flood created a perilous situation that posed a direct threat to people's health and livelihood.



20.1%
households had their dwelling damaged by the Easter Flood



58.1%
agricultural households interviewed had their standing crops and harvest destroyed due to Easter flood



66.3%
persons who had an income indicated that their income had changed because of the Easter Flood (national average 62.8%)

SOCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN LIQUIÇÁ

HEALTH



89.3%
households interviewed needed medical treatment
national average 60.8%



81.8%
could access health services
ALWAYS



16.7%
could access
SOMETIMES



1.4%
household mentioned they are NEVER able to access health services

As a result of the COVID-19 situation, what has been the change in your household's utilization of health services?



49.3%
No change



42.1%
Increased



7.7%
Decreased

The proportion of households reporting there was an increase in their health services utilization due to COVID-19 situation was higher than the national average.

Have any of the children below age 10 in this household missed vaccinations (immunization) since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?



13.1%
missed vaccination (immunization)
national average 20.3%



Did any female members of the household aged between 15-49 miss family planning or any other reproductive health service since the start of the COVID-19 State of Emergency?



29.4%
missed reproductive health services
national average 29.3%

The proportion of households reporting 'children missed vaccination' was significantly lower than national average.

64.5% of those who missed said women missed reproductive health services because of the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

91.5%
have heard about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 91.7%

59.1%
had concerns about COVID-19 vaccines
national average 50.4%

37.3%
were worried about health side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines

26.8%
of those who had concerns had doubts about whether the vaccine would work in Timor-Leste

19.0%
death or serious illness

There are various types of concerns related to COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine advocacy and socialization programmes should continue to keep the economy open and protect the people.

EDUCATION

The SEIA 2.0 tried to identify the impact of COVID-19 on education services in the country by looking at missed in-person learning opportunities and sources of distance learning.



670

persons aged 4-25 years in the survey in Liquiçá



50.1%

male



49.9%

female

Educational attendance after school reopening in 2021



35.2%

students were attending schools regularly



57.0%

students were attending schools irregularly



7.8%

did not attend at all when schools reopened

Of the subset of students who attended schools irregularly or not at all, 62.8% mentioned the fact that 'schools remained closed' while 13.8% mentioned 'financial constraints' as main reasons.



41.3%

students continued studying at home on a daily basis during school closures
national average 62.6%



45.4%

used student workbooks of the Ministry of Education
national average 48.6%



31.1%

used TV programme 'Eskola Ba Uma'
national average 10.4%



2.7%

used online material 'Learning Passport' of the Ministry of Education
national average 13.3%

The use Eskola ba Uma TV programme was higher than the national average.

52.8%

studied irregularly

5.9%

did not continue studying at home during school closures

54.1%

mentioned 'Lack of printed materials at home'

as the main reasons for not continuing studying at home.

54.1%

said there was 'No one available to help the person study'

Support or guide materials for households in 'home schooling' should be strengthened. There is a need for the formal education system to encourage and monitor the progress of home schooling in communities. Messages for parents and caregivers on how they can support their children during home schooling should be strengthened.

There was no significant difference based on gender of the students.

TRUST AND SUPPORT



96.1%
strongly trust
or trust others
in their
community
national average 89.6%



94.3%
of all respondents said
people's trust in each
other got better since the
start of the COVID-19
State of Emergency
national average 72.9%



52.0%
of the households
received help of
some kind
national average 68.1%
Less vulnerable and richest households tended
to both receive and provide more help.



35.2%
of the households
had given help of
some kind to others
national average 30.2%

Top 2 types of support for the households that had received help

Of the households that received support in Liquiçá

Of all households surveyed in Liquiçá



Food

98.3%

Cash

6.1%

Food

27.1%

Cash

1.7%

Nearly all households that received support had received it in the form of food support.

Top 2 support providers to the households



31.8%
Relatives



18.4%
Non-government
organizations

From the subset of households that received help,
more households had received it from their relatives
followed by NGOs.

SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING

How people view their life and how they feel is important to understand the social conditions of the society. Therefore, the SEIA 2.0 asked how people evaluate various aspects of their lives and how they felt just a day before the interview.

Overall, how satisfied
are you with life as a
whole these days?



male

68.2%

female

82.7%

In total, 76.5% of respondents said
they are satisfied with their life as
a whole these days. There was
significant difference between
male and female respondents.



sad

46.0%

worried

57.7%

tired

58.2%

felt happy

37.3%**54.0%****51.0%****55.0%****63.1%**

The proportion of those who felt negative
feelings the day before the interview was
higher in Liquiçá than the national average.
More women than men indicated they felt sad.
This could be related to the hardship experienced
during the COVID-19 State of Emergency

Slightly more than half
of all respondents said
they felt happy the day
before the interview.
This is significantly lower
than the national average.
Majority of the men had
felt unhappy the day
before the interview.

SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY MEASURES

The results show satisfaction of the people in Liquiçá with the government response and how the national and local Government worked closely with the communities to disseminate information about COVID-19 and provide relevant support measures.



44.7%
found the
information timely
national average 75.1%



50.2%
found the
information useful
national average 73.5%



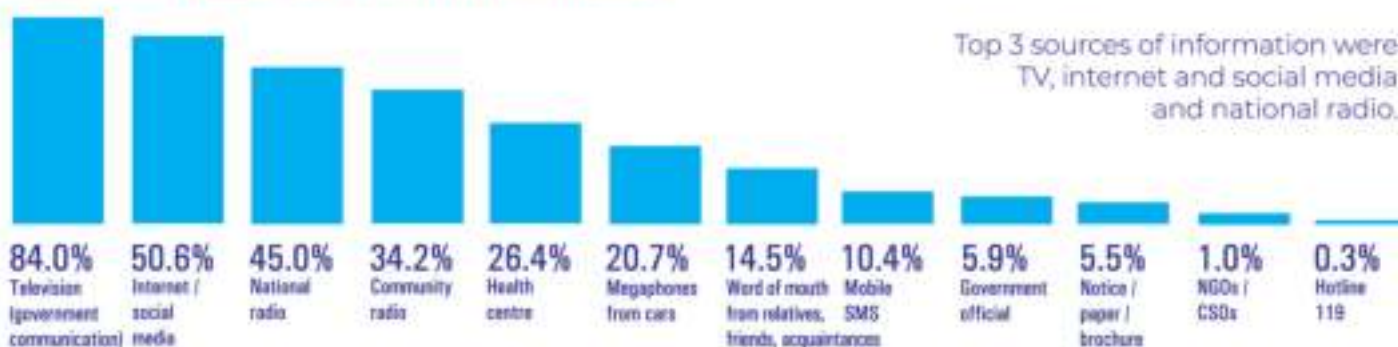
43.8%
found the
information useful

Majority of the households had received information in a somewhat timely manner and found the information somewhat useful.



50.2%
found the information
somewhat useful

Households' sources of COVID-19 information



How satisfied are you with the response of the <following institutions> to COVID-19 in supporting citizens?

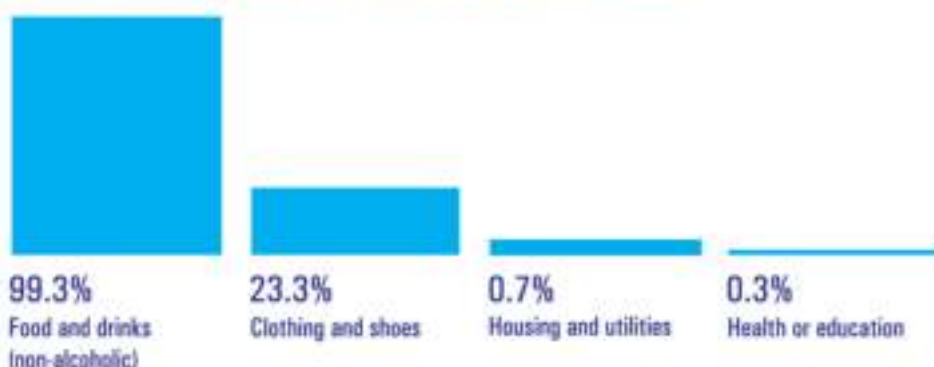
Proportion of respondents satisfied with institutions' responses to COVID-19

Liquiçá is one of the municipalities with highest satisfaction with overall government response to COVID-19.



The SEIA 2.0 asked how the households used the Uma Kain subsidy. (One household can choose several options)

Households' spending of the Uma Kain subsidy



Nearly all
households used the
Uma Kain subsidy to
buy food and
non-alcoholic drinks.

Satisfaction with Cesta Básica was high both for women and men in Oecusse.



In your opinion, what are the two most important measures the government should implement to support household livelihoods or micro businesses?

Top 2 preferred livelihood support measures



The study shows how the COVID-19 situation has exacerbated underlying issues within the country, including large gaps in development between different income groups, rural and urban settings, the effects of climate hazards, and limited access to education, health services, social protection programmes and markets.

To cope with the confluence of the pandemic, Easter Flood and major difficulties, households have employed coping strategies that hinder further improvement in their lives.

The study also finds resilience among communities, the important role of the national government in social support, and continued efforts of various government and civil society organisations to reduce these negative impacts.

During the entire COVID-19 pandemic period, the Government of Timor-Leste has taken proactive measures to protect the population from spread of the virus and has implemented concrete steps to counteract the worst socio-economic consequences of twin shocks.

Using the SEIA 2.0 findings, a series of recommendations for policymakers to consider in developing strategy for a robust socio-economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are proposed in the full report.

ABOUT THE SEIA 2.0 PROJECT

This Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste, Round 2 (SEIA 2.0) was led by UNDP and UNFPA and conducted in collaboration with UN Women, UNICEF, UN Timor-Leste Resident Coordinator's Office, and the General Directorate of Statistics of the Ministry of Finance in Timor-Leste.

The nationwide SEIA 2.0 was conducted between April 2021 and October 2021 covering 4292 households with 23,362 members from 13 municipalities in Timor-Leste. The SEIA 2.0 seeks to inform what livelihood, healthcare, and other essential services are necessary to allow planners and practitioners from all sectors to target their responses to the needs of the population.

Full reports and executive summaries in English and Tetum can be accessed here:

https://www.tl.undp.org/content/timor_lemte/en/home/library/poverty/socio-economic-impact-assessment-of-covid-19-in-timor-lemte--r.html



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