



Round Three Survey Report | 2nd Release | 18th October 2020

Covid-19 Global Pandemic in Nairobi's Low-Income Areas: Personal Economic Status (Income, Employment and Access to Government Assistance)

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Survey Sponsors

For this Third Round of a multi-round survey of (mostly) the same respondents, TIFA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following organizations:

- The Canadian High Commission in Kenya
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Round Three 2nd Release: Main Focus

All over the world, governments are continuing to grapple with the difficult trade-off between combating the Covid-19 pandemic and preventing economic collapse.

This 2nd Release of TIFA's Round Three survey of Nairobi's low-income earners shares their perspectives on their economic situation including employment, earnings and assistance to the needy.



Work and Earnings, and Personal Economic Situation

Employment Status Now Compared to April 2020

- ❑ **64%** are now working i.e (formal/self-employment/full- or part-time) in September 2020
- ❑ **33%** were working in April 2020.

Proportion of Current Income Compared to Pre-Covid-19

- ❑ Only **3%** of respondents who had been working before the Covid-19 arrived report now earning with “all” or “most” of what they had been earning then.

Proportion Aware of Any Local Rent Evictions

- ❑ **76%** of the respondents indicate that they know someone who has been evicted for non-payment of rent.



Work and Earnings, and Personal Economic Situation (con't)

Proportion Whose Lives Have Changed a Great Deal

□ **85%** of all respondents report that their lives have changed “a great deal” since the arrival of the Covid-19 virus and the measures implemented to contain it.

Main Way Life Has Changed Since the Arrival of Covid-19

□ **80%** of all respondents say their lives have become “much worse” since the arrival of the Covid-19 virus.

□ Only **3%** say their lives are now “better.”



Assistance to the Needy

- ❑ **73%** are aware of one or more measures put in place to assist the needy
- ❑ **60%** have received at least one type of assistance from either state or non-state actors/agencies

Type of assistance personally received

- ❑ Masks – **20%** ; Cash – **17%** ; Relief food – **15%**

Rating of GoK in assisting needy

- ❑ **56%** rate GoK efforts as good/very good
- ❑ **37%** rate GoK efforts as poor/very poor

Consequence of non-assistance of needy

- ❑ **37%** expect crime will increase
- ❑ **20%** expect death from hunger

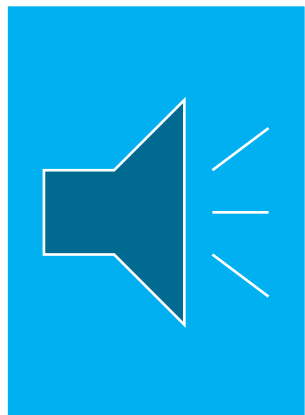


Study Background and Objectives

Overall Study Objectives

Each Round of this three-Round survey has the following objectives:

- ❑ To measure the level of **awareness of the disease** among residents of selected low-income areas in Nairobi, and their level of concern with it
- ❑ To assess the immediate **social-economic impact** of the Covid-19 crisis on them
- ❑ To understand their current **coping mechanisms and future expectations** of their medical and economic well-being
- ❑ To establish their experience with and opinions about relevant **government enforcement efforts**
- ❑ To capture their awareness of, experience with and opinions about the various **remedial measures** instituted by either state or non-state actors



Overall Study Background (con't)



- ❑ In this context, TIFA Research, in collaboration with Dr. Tom Wolf, designed and implemented a survey to explore these issues among this section of Nairobi's population over time. Round One of the survey was conducted at the end of April and captured the experiences, views and expectations of 356 respondents resident in Nairobi's main low-income areas. Subsequently, a webinar was held to explore some of the issues captured. (Both the webinar and the entire Round One Release may be accessed from here <http://www.tifaresearch.com/the-covid-19-global-pandemic-in-nairobis-low-income-areas/>. This was followed six weeks later with Round Two with 579 respondents (including 286 who had participated in Round One) in these same low-income areas and that was completed on 15th June. The data generated six releases which can be found by accessing the same (TIFA) website.
- ❑ This Round Three survey was conducted between 24th September and 2nd October, and involved 555 respondents (428 of whom had been interviewed in either Round One, Round Two, or both).



- ❑ The measures in Kenya taken to contain Covid-19 over the last seven months have affected households in many ways, including job loss, loss of remittances, higher commodity prices, heightened insecurity, and disruption to health care services and education. While these impacts have affected most households across the country, they appear to be more profound and longer-lasting amongst low income-earners in more congested urban areas who are inherently more vulnerable.
- ❑ Nairobi has registered the highest number of Covid-19 cases in Kenya – nearly one-third of the national total (yet fewer than one-in-ten Kenyans reside there). Given the restrictions initially placed on movement in and out of this county as well as a night-time curfew, crowd-limitation and 'social isolation' measures, many people have found it difficult to 'make ends meet', especially those in the lower-income areas captured in this survey.



Study Background: Round Three 2nd Release (con't)

❑ This 2nd Release covers issues related to economic issues covering employment status, financial challenges, and awareness of/benefit from various programs of assistance to the needy.

❑ Subsequent Releases will cover the following issues:

- Government and Individual Infection-Prevention Measures
- Restrictions, Levels of Obedience and Enforcement (Curfew, Gatherings, Mask-Wearing)
- The Virus: Awareness/Knowledge of Covid-19 Facts
- The Virus: Anxiety Level of Contracting the Virus/Future Expectations of Its Course
- The Virus: Main Sources of Information About Covid-19
- General: Evaluation of Government Performance: Containing the Virus/Assisting the Needy



Study Background: Round Three 2nd Release (con't)



- ❑ Shortly after TIFA had concluded Round One of this three-Round survey at the end of April, the Kenya World Bank office issued a statement describing its 'best guess' as to the potential impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the country's economy. It underscored that economic growth "remains highly uncertain" and will depend on a number of both domestic and international factors. These included the policy actions the Government of Kenya takes "to mitigate the situation."
- ❑ It then listed the various measures that had recently been taken, among them: travel restrictions, night-time curfew, the closure of schools, the ban on public gatherings. It also referred to the increased support for the public health care system.
- ❑ But these measures were certain to have a costly impact on the economy. To quote the Bank's Kenya County Director: "We recognize that Kenya must balance between reducing the spread of the virus and cushioning Kenyans particularly informal workers and youth who make up 70 percent of the population from the adverse effects posed by Covid-19."

Study Background: Round Three 2nd Release (con't)

❑ The Bank's statement went on to note that "the hardship from the crisis would disproportionately befall the poorest and most vulnerable households in Kenya", specifically, the rural poor and urban self-employed/informal wage-earning sectors.

❑ In this context, it stressed the need "to scale up social assistance programs" and initiate new ones, which should be based on a combination of mobile-phone transfers and the direct provision of relief food, eater and other basic supplies, as well as financial support to small businesses.

❑ With this background and using data from all three Rounds of TIFA's three-Round survey, this 2nd Release addresses two basic questions with regard to residents of Nairobi's low-income neighborhoods:

- ❑ What has been the evolving economic impact of this crisis?
- ❑ How extensive have the kinds of relief efforts noted by the Bank been in alleviating such economic impact?



Methodology: Data Collection

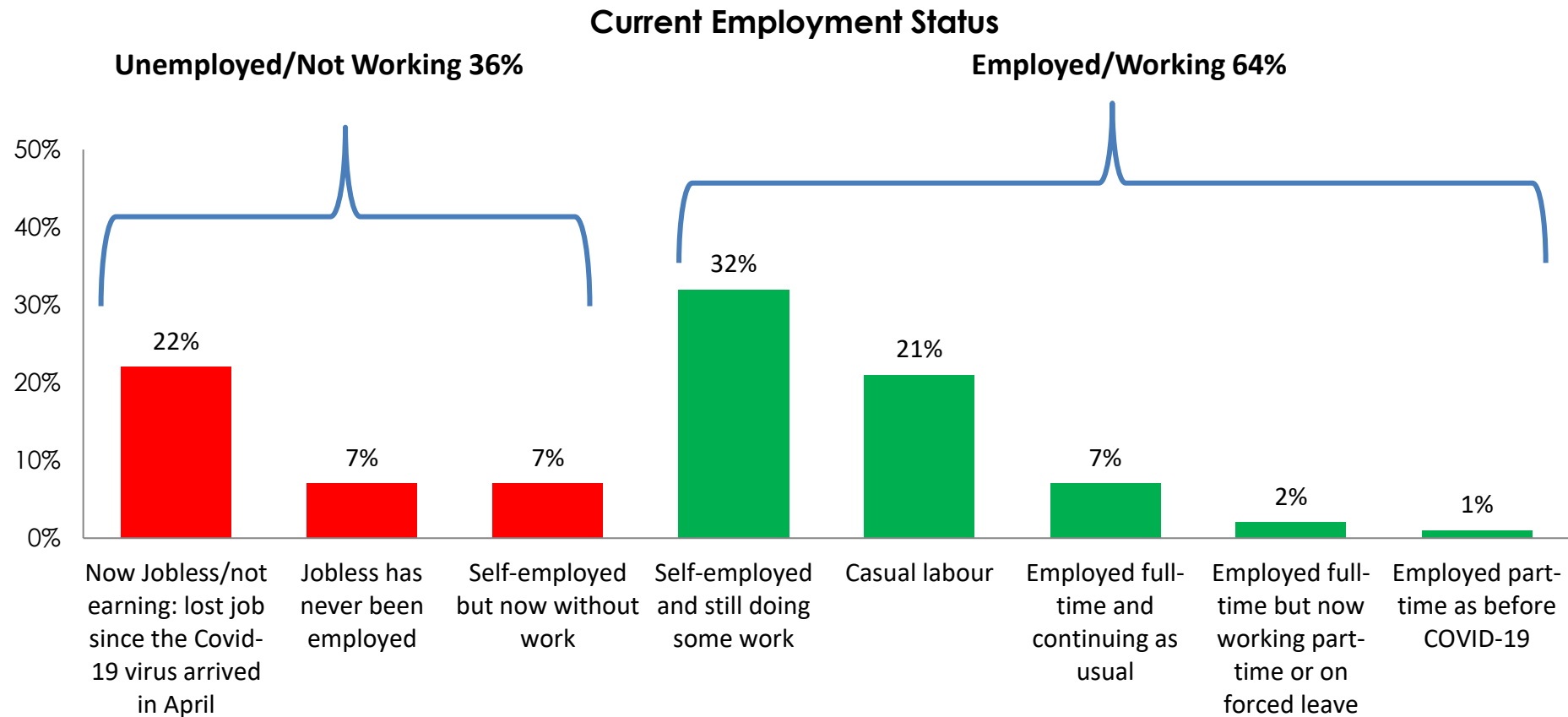
Sub-Topic	Detailed Information
Field work dates	24 th September – 02 nd October 2020
Geographical scope of study	Nairobi County - low income areas (Huruma, Kibera, Mathare, Korogocho, Mukuru kwa Njenga, Kawangware)
Proportion of Nairobi's adult population covered	29% of the estimated 820,000 i.e., adults living in the low income areas
Target respondents	Adults (18+ years) living
Sample size	555 respondents (Male = 281, Female = 274)
Margin-of-error	+/- 4.2% for the total sample. (Note: Sub-sample results have higher error-margins)
Average duration of interview	28 minutes
Proportion who stated that they enjoyed the interview	98%
Proportion who agreed to participate in a similar future survey	98%
Data collection methodology	Telephonic – calls made to respondents recruited face-to-face in previous surveys.



Socio-Economic Impact of the Virus

Demographics: Employment Status

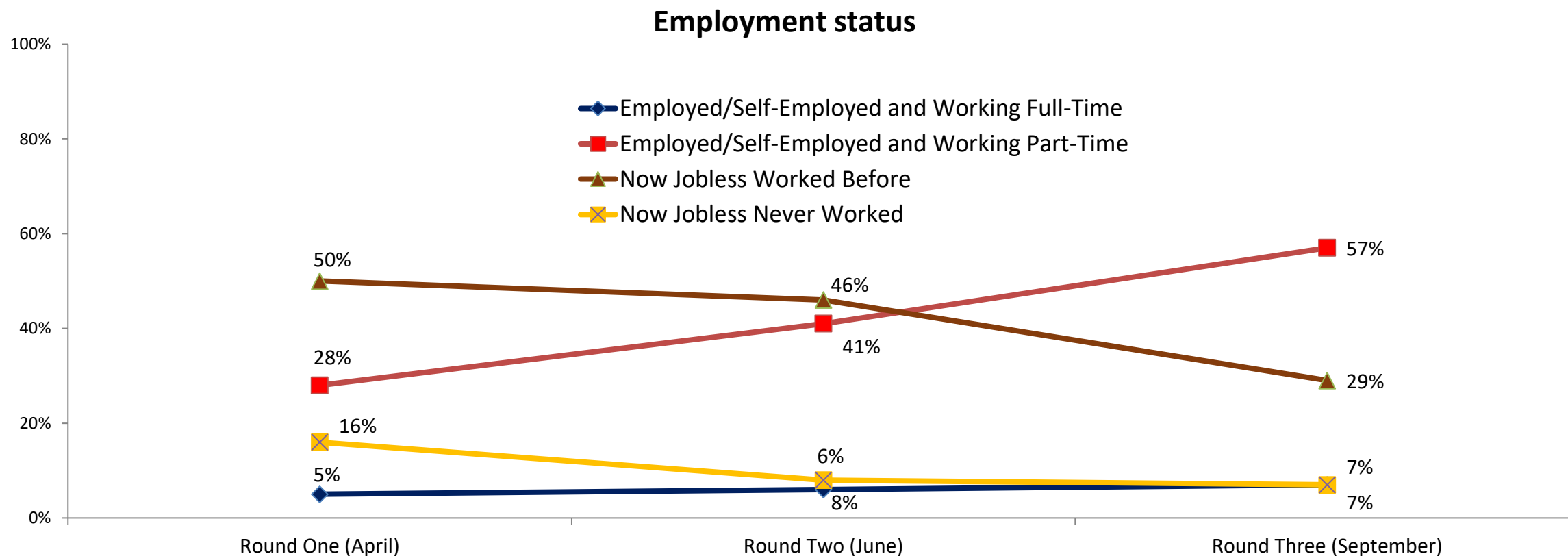
- Nearly two-thirds of all respondents are working, at least part-time. Among those still jobless, more than half became so since March when the Covid-19 virus arrived.



Base = 555 (all respondents)

Employment Status: Trend Analysis

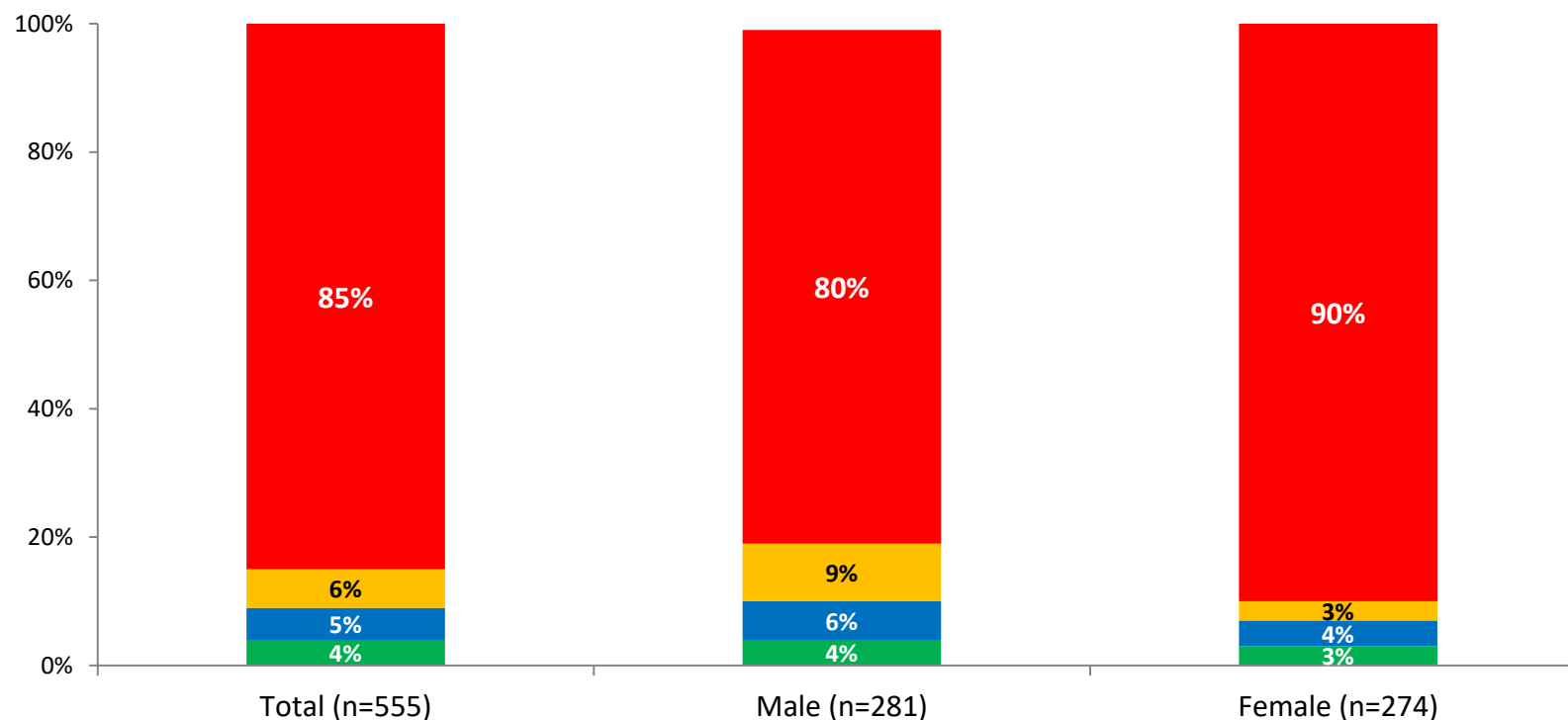
- There has been marked decline since Round One of this survey in April in the proportion of those who are jobless and have never worked, and an increase in those working part-time, whether in formal/wage or self-employment. The proportion of those in full-time wage employed has hardly changed, though that who are now jobless and have never worked has declined somewhat.



Reported Level of Change in One's Daily Life: by Total, Gender

How Much Change in Daily Life: by Total, Gender

■ A Great Deal ■ A Fair Amount ■ Only A Little Bit ■ Basically Not At All



The vast majority of respondents report that their personal lives have changed “a great deal” since the arrival of Covid-19 in Kenya.

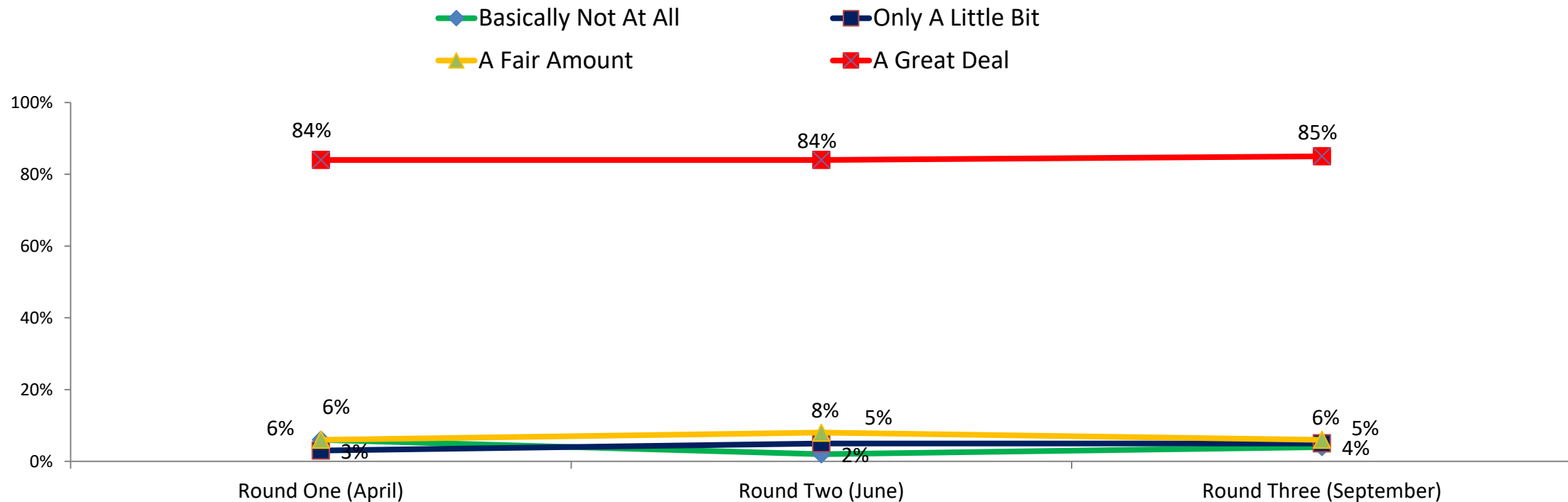
Slightly more women than men state this to be the case

Q: “Compared to the time before the outbreak of the virus, how much, if at all, has your daily life changed as of now?”

Reported Level of Change in One's Daily Life: Trend Analysis

- Over the six months during which three Rounds of this survey were conducted, there has been no statistical variation in the reported levels of change in respondents' daily lives.

How Much Change in Daily Life: by Total

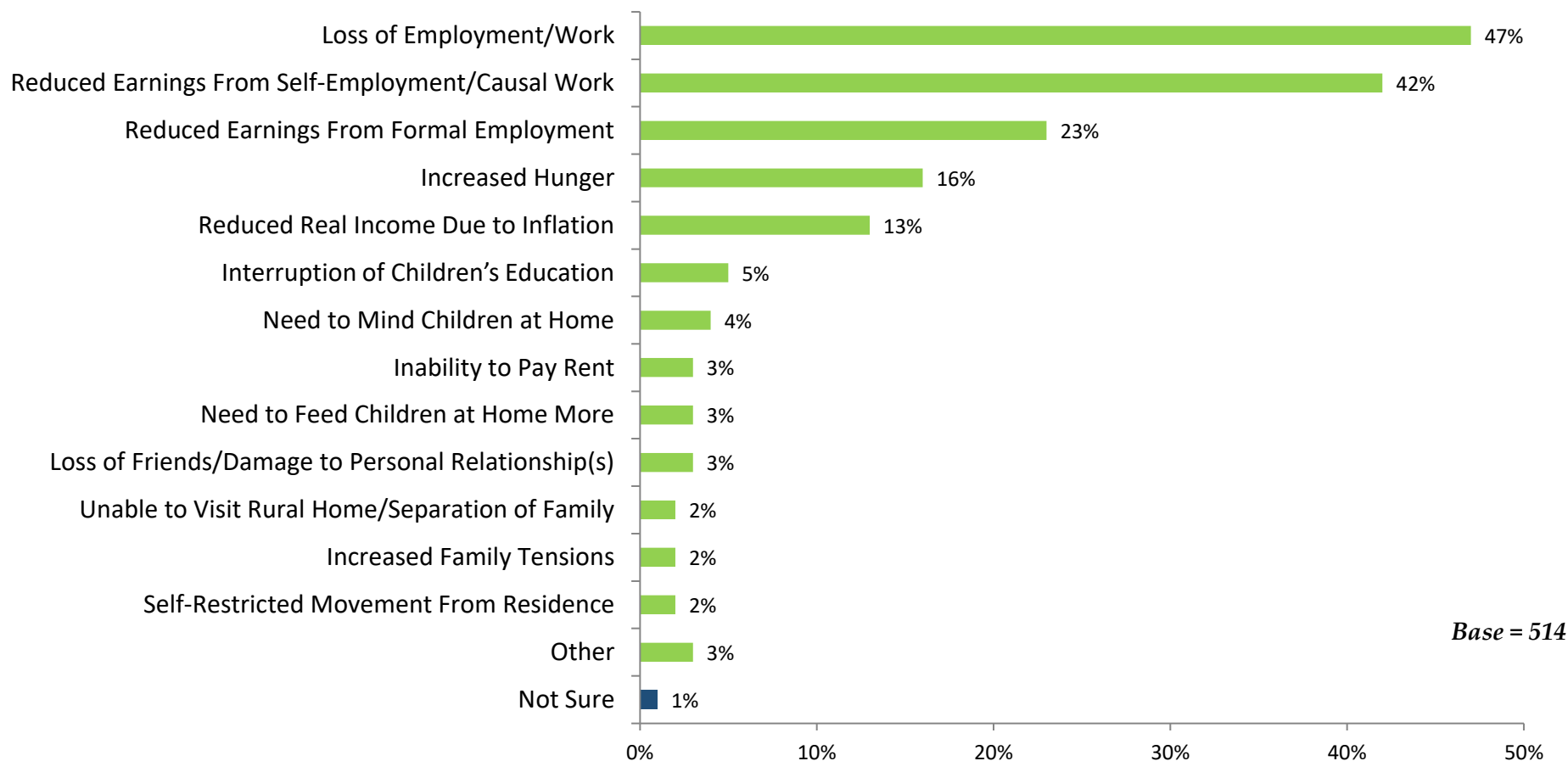


Q: "Compared to the time before the outbreak of the virus, how much, if at all, has your daily life changed as of now?"

Ways Life Has Changed Because of Covid-19: by Those Who Say It Has Changed At All

- Among the main changes that respondents have experienced since the arrival of Covid-19, the overwhelming majority are related to the loss of/a reduction of income.

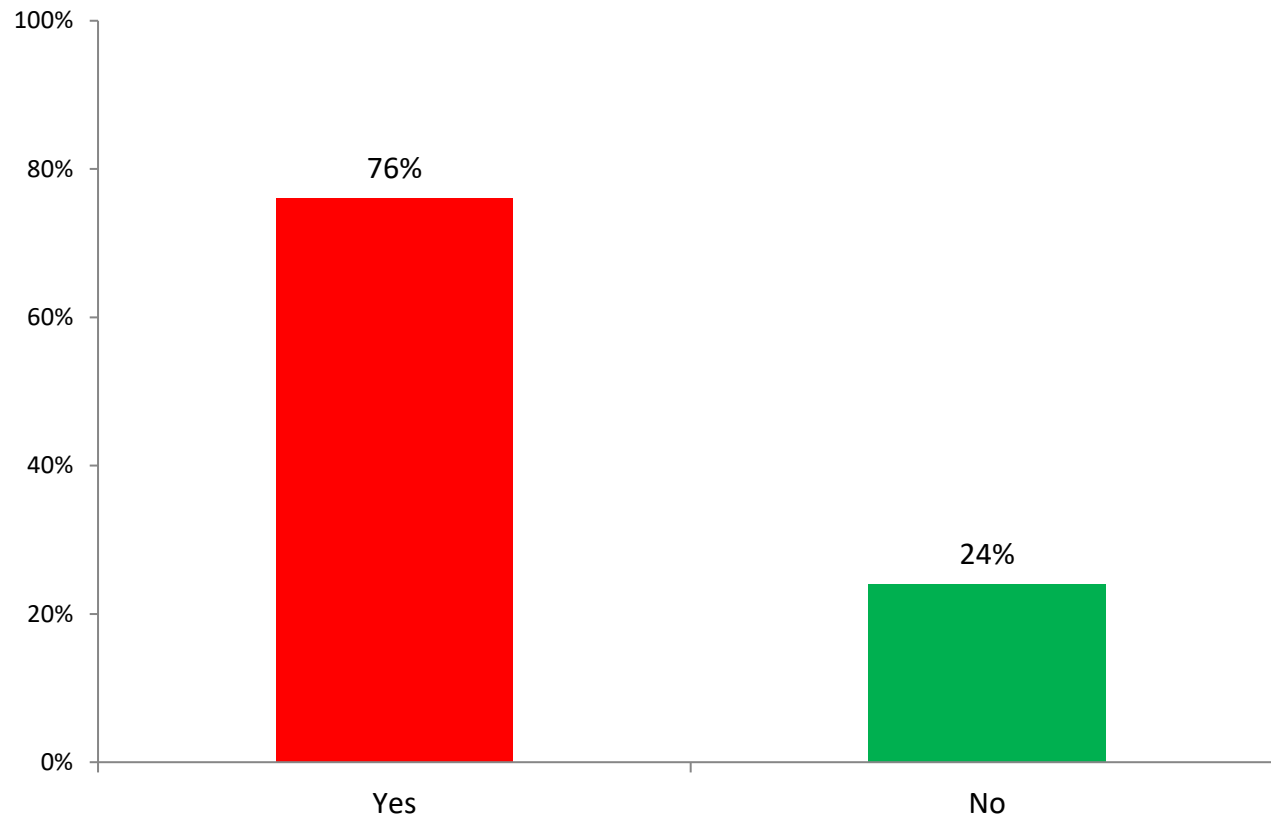
Main Ways How Daily Life Has Changed: by Total



Q: "In what ways your daily life changed?" (Multiple Response)

Awareness of Anyone Evicted for Non-Payment of Rent Since the Arrival of Covid-19: by Total

**Awareness of Any Rent Evictions:
by Total**



- Three-quarters of all respondents know someone/some family evicted from their residence for non-payment of rent. (Note that the survey did not inquire as to where such evictees are now living, or whether this was a direct consequence of the loss of employment. Nor did it ask if they themselves had suffered this fate.)

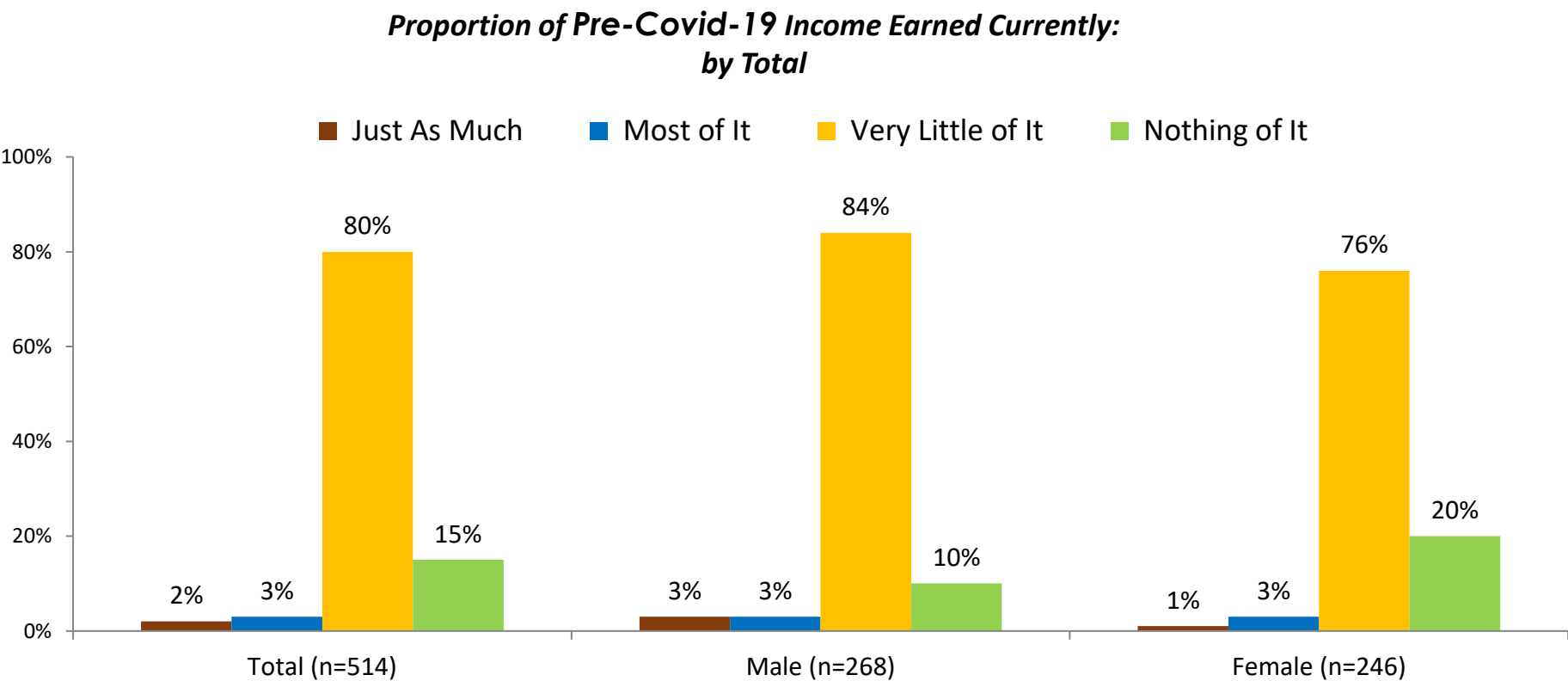
Q: "Do you personally know anyone who has been evicted from their residence because they have not been able to pay rent since the arrival of Covid-19 virus?"

Base = 555 (all respondents)



Proportion of Pre-Virus Income Being Earned Currently: Among Those Who Had Been Earning Anything Before the Coronavirus Arrived

- ☐ More than nine-tenths (94%) all respondents report that compared to what they were earning prior to the arrival of Covid-19 they are now earning either “very little” or “nothing” of what they had been earning previously.

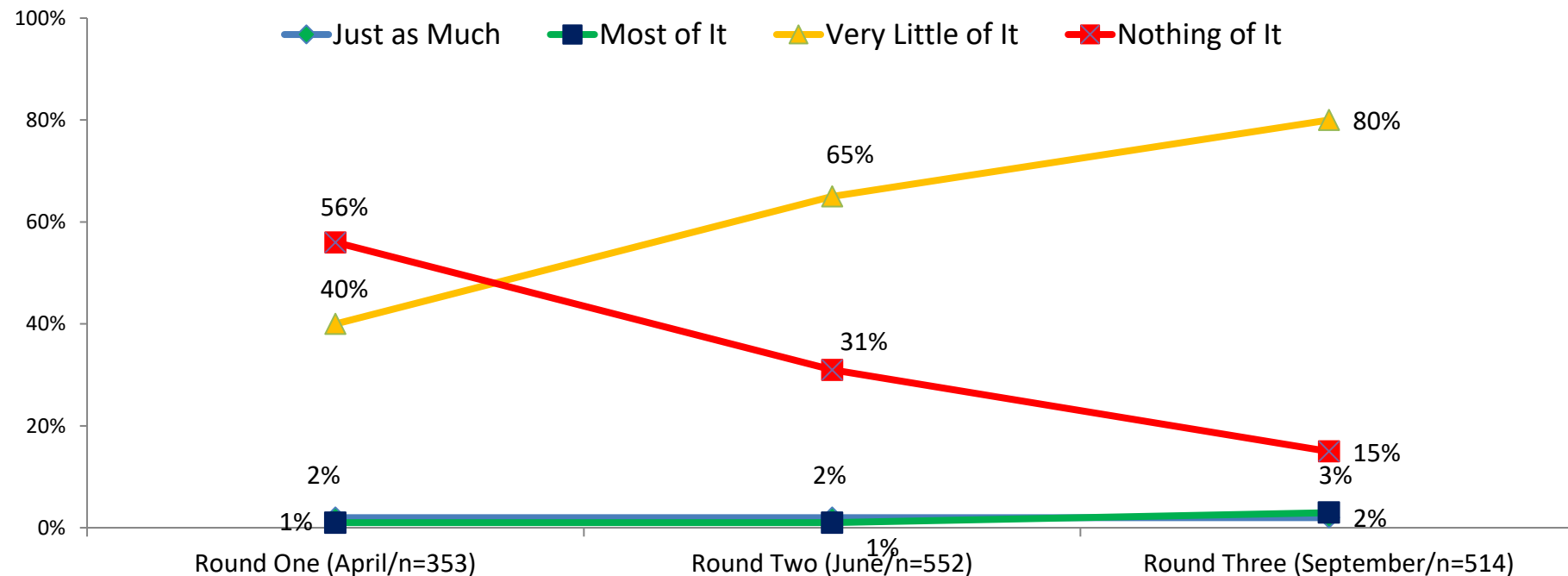


Q: “f you were earning anything before the virus crisis began, compared to your earnings then, about how much are you earning now? Are you now earning...?”

Proportion of Pre-Virus Income Being Earned Currently: Among Those Who Had Been Earning Anything Before the Covid-19: Trend Analysis

- Over the last six months, there has been a marked decline in the proportion of respondents who are earning “nothing” of what they did previously, but with a concomitant increase in the proportion earning “very little” of it, rather than “most” or “just as much” of it. At the same time, the proportion earning “just as much” as they did before has remained minimal.

Proportion of Current Income of Pre-Covid-19 Income: by Those Who Had Earned Any Income Before Covid-19 Arrived

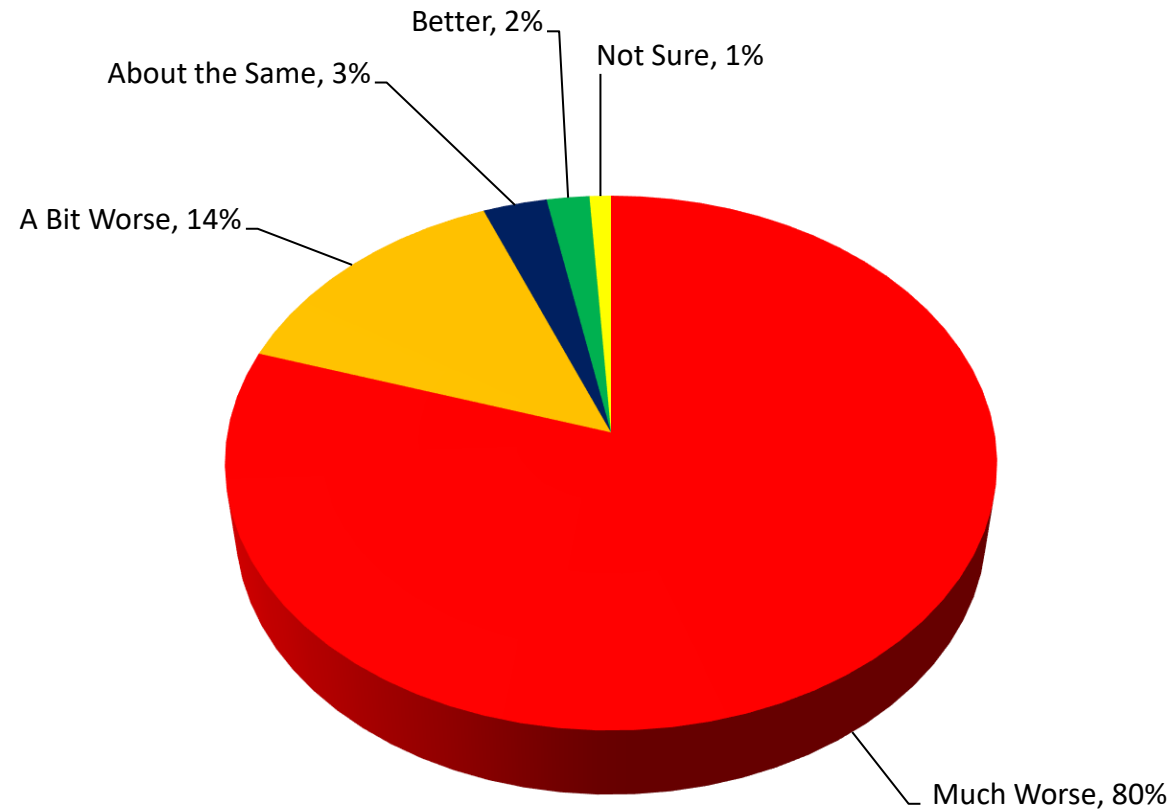


Q: “Compared to the time before the outbreak of the virus, how much, if at all, has your daily life changed as of now?”

Comparison of Respondents' Economic Situation Now With What It Was Before the Arrival of Covid-19: by Total

Current Personal Economic Situation Compared to Before Covid-19: by Total

- ❑ Notwithstanding the significant decrease in the proportion of respondents now earning “nothing”, the overwhelming majority (80%) still describe their personal economic situation as “much worse” than it was before the arrival of Covid-19.



Base = 555 (all respondents)

Q: “Compared to the situation economic situation in this area/locality before the Coronavirus arrived, how much has it been affected? Would you say it is now...?”



- ❑ Recently released figures indicate that the decline in Kenya's economic growth has continued, though at a lower rate: from 11% in Quarter One to 5.7% in Quarter Two.
- ❑ These figures help to explain an irony revealed by the data from this 2nd Release of TIFA's Round Three survey with regard to the impact of Covid-19 on Kenya's economy. Whereas 66% reported that they were not working at the time of the Round One survey in April, only 36% did so in September. This is reflected in the fact that there has been a steady increase in the proportion of respondents earning at least something compared to the situation in April: that is, only 15% now say they are earning "nothing" of what they did before the virus' arrival as compared to 56% in April. Yet the proportion earning "just as much" as they did at that time is statistically unchanged (3% vs. 2%), with the vast majority now earning reporting that they are earning "very little of it" (79%), twice as many as in April (40%). In other words,
- ❑ While most respondents have been able to resume income-earning activities, the continuing sorry state of the macro-economy has meant that their earnings remain far below what they had been previously.

Insights: Economic Issues (con't)

- ❑ In other words, while far more residents of Nairobi's low-income areas are engaged in at least part-time work (whether in formal or self-employment) very few consider their economic situation as equal to (let alone better than) what it was before the Coronavirus arrived and various measures were in place to combat it, even if some of these measures have been partly relaxed recently.
- ❑ At the same time, there has been no statistical change in the proportion of those who say that the Covid-19 crisis has had affected their lives "a great deal", with four-fifths (80%) indicating their general economic situation had become "much worse", clearly a reflection that those now earning (as compared to April) are earning "only a little" of what they did before Covid-19's arrival.
- ❑ Such views are made specific by the high proportions who report a loss of employment and thus income, and the three-quarters (76%) who know people who have been evicted from the dwellings for non-payment of rent.
- ❑ Finally here, despite the declining proportion of those who say they are currently earning nothing of what they had earned before the crisis (as noted, from 58% in Round One to just 15% now), the recent spike in Covid-19 cases both in Nairobi and nationally raise the possibility of a return to more stringent public health restrictions, thus causing a reversal of the very modest economic improvement that the results of this Round Three survey have revealed.



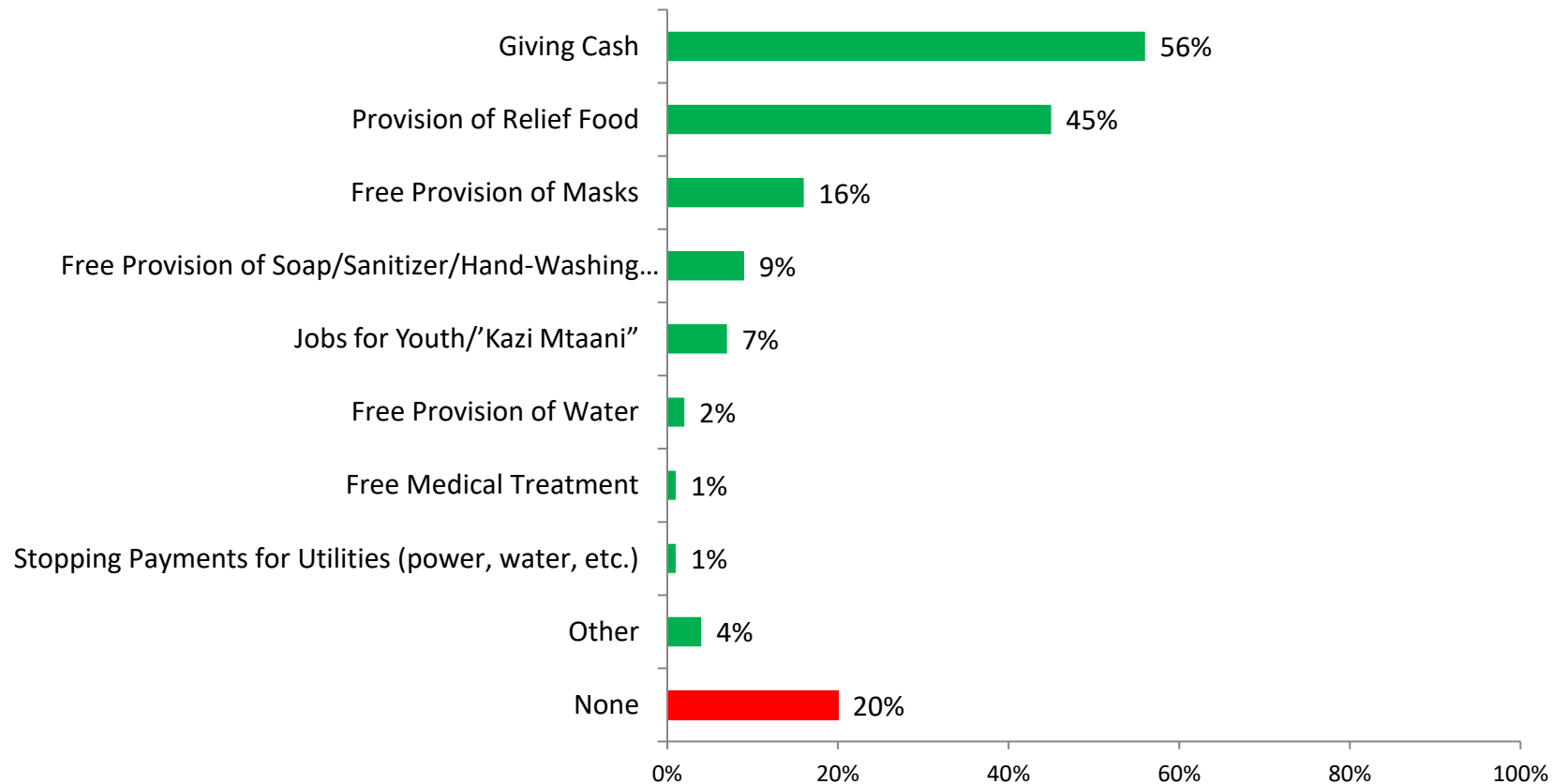


Measure to Alleviate the Economic Impact of the Virus: Assistance to the Needy

Awareness of Measures to Assist the Needy: by Total

Measures to Assist the Needy: by Total

- ❑ Of the various measures put in place to assist the needy in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis, by far more respondents are aware of cash disbursements (56%) and the provision of relief food (45%).
- ❑ At the same time, one-fifth (20%) are unaware of any such assistance.



Q: "Both the national and county governments have announced some measures to assist people because of the impact of the virus. Which ones, if any, have you heard about?" (Multiple Response)

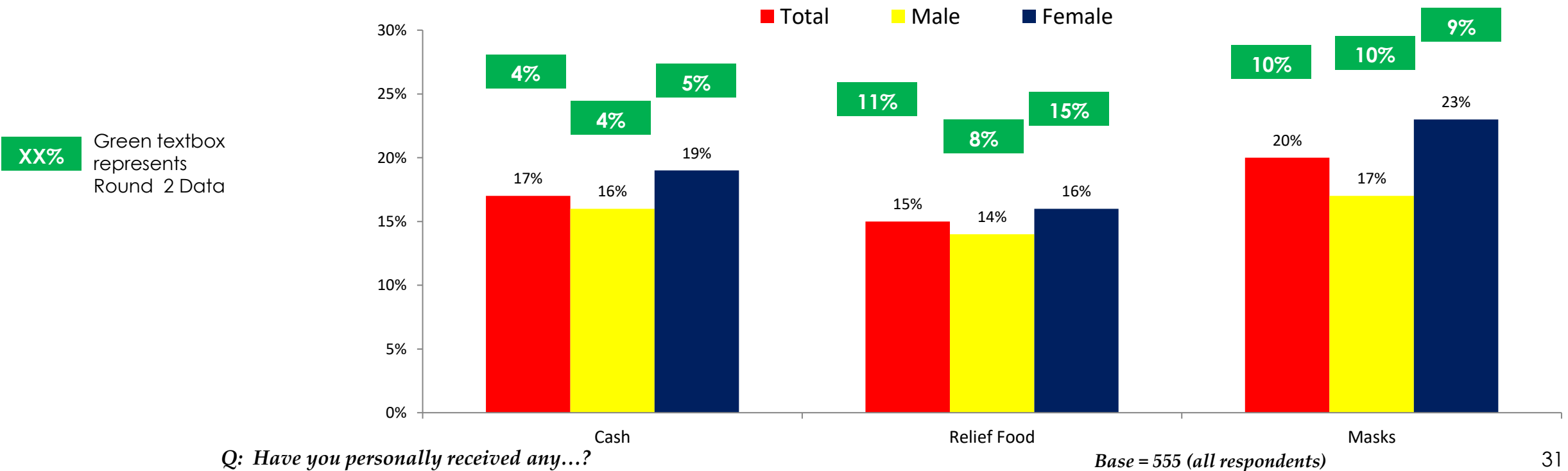
Base = 555 (Total)



Personal Receipt of Cash/Relief Food/Masks: by Total, Gender (Comparisons with Round Two)

- More respondents of both genders have received free masks than either relief food or cash which they have received in nearly equal amounts. More women than men have received all three types of assistance. Since Round Two the proportion of those who have received all three types of assistance has increased significantly.

**Personal Receipt of Cash/Relief Food/Masks:
by Total, Gender**

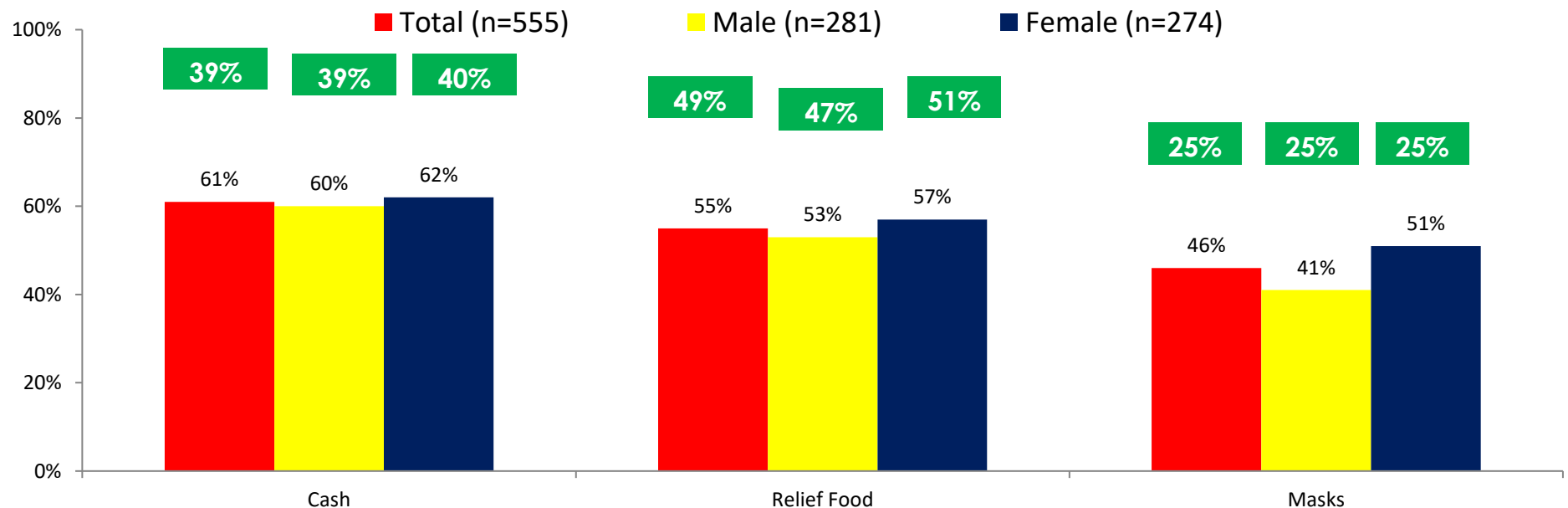




Awareness of Receipt of Anyone Else of Cash/Relief Food/Masks: by Total (Comparisons with Round Two)

- Nearly one-third of all respondents know someone who has received assistance in the form of cash, while just over half know someone who has received relief food. Slightly fewer than half know someone who has received a mask, though slightly more women than men do so. Since Round Two the proportion of those who know someone else who as received all three types of assistance has increased significantly.

**Knowledge of Anyone Who Has Received Cash/Relief Food/Masks:
by Total, Gender**



XX%

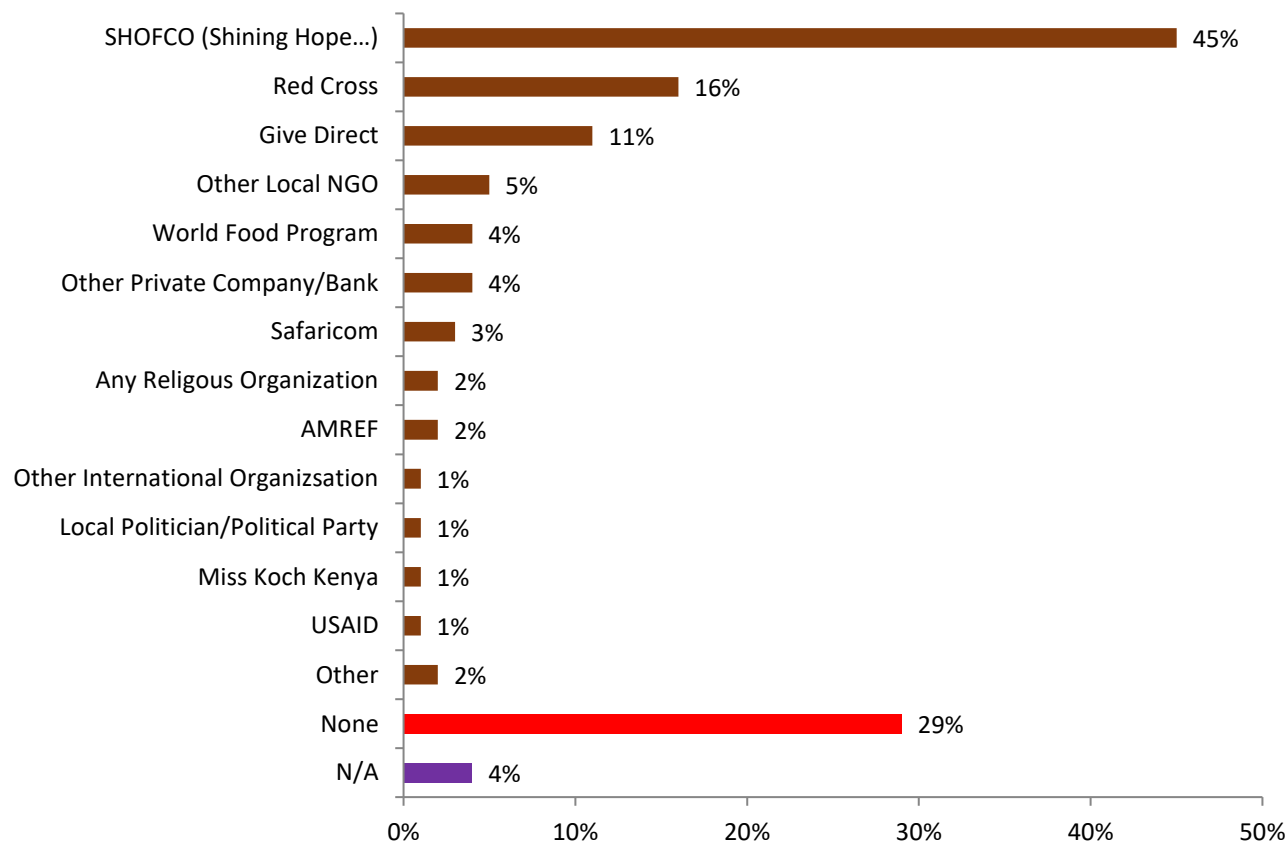
Green textbox
represents
Round 2 Data

Q: "And has anyone else you know personally received any cash/relief food/masks?"

Base = 555 (all respondents)

Awareness of Assistance to the Needy by Specific Non-State Actors: by Total

Awareness of Private Sector/International/Non-Governmental Organizations That Have Made Donations to the Needy: by Total



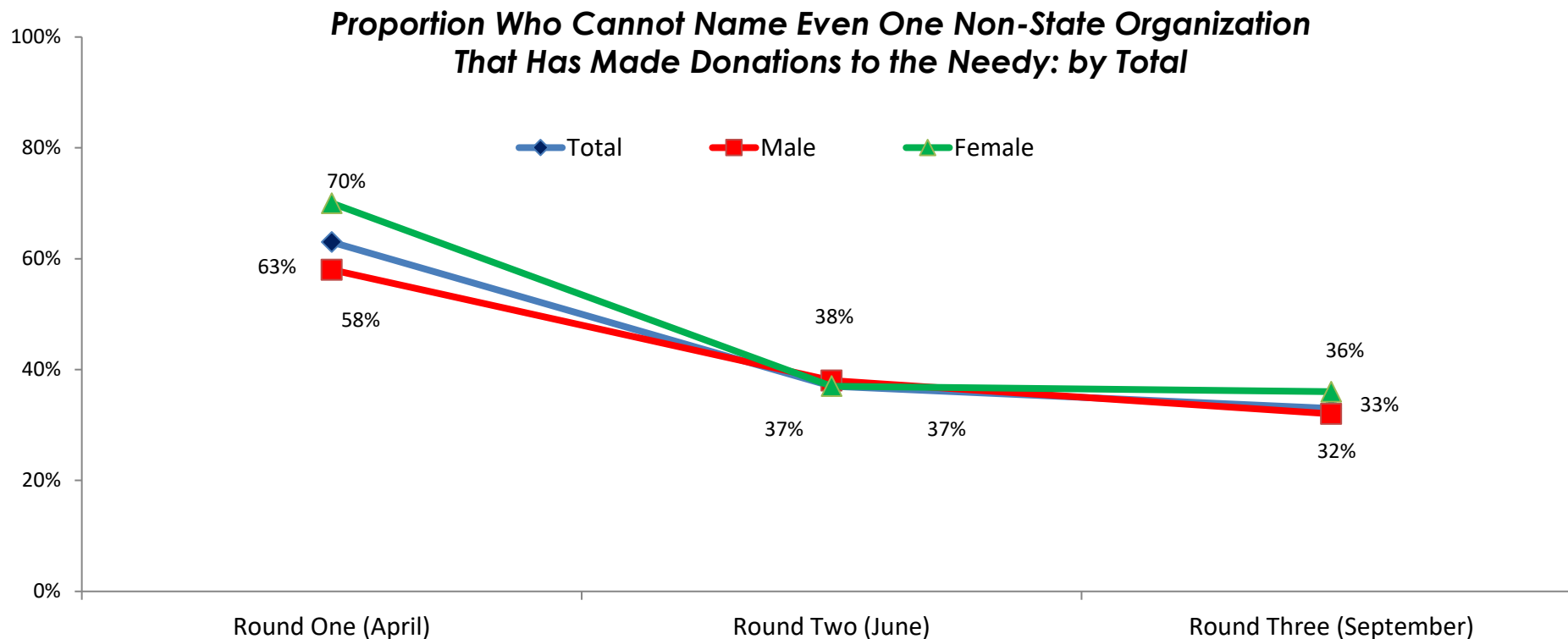
Among those entities mentioned known to have provided assistance to the needy, the NGO, Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) leads by far (45% - statistically identical to the 44% it received in Round Two) compared to the next most frequently mentioned individual provider of such assistance (Red Cross, at just 16%, which received only 5% of mentions in Round Two).

Q: "Which private companies or aid agencies, if any, have you heard about that have donated funds, food or other supplies to help the most needy during the time of this Covid-19 emergency?" (Multiple response – up to 3)

Base=555 (Total)

Proportion Unaware of Any Non-State Organizations Providing Assistance to the Needy: Trend Analysis

- The proportion of those who are unaware of any (local and international) private or non-governmental bodies that have made donations to the needy has declined from well over half in Round One (63%) to just over one-third (37%) in Round Two and to exactly one-third (33%) in Round Three. (Note that these figures include both “Don’t Know” and non-applicable responses..)

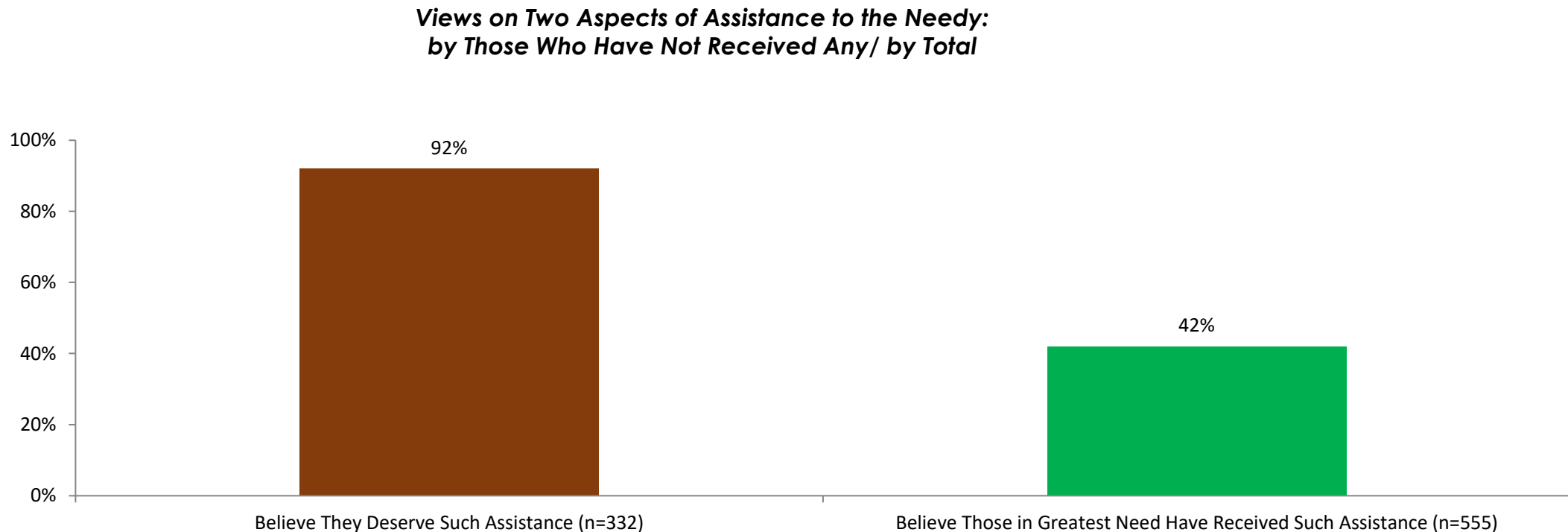


Q: “Which private companies or aid agencies, if any, have you heard about that have donated funds, food or other supplies to help the most needy during the time of this Covid-19 emergency? (Multiple response – up to 3)



Views on Two Aspects of Assistance to the Needy: by Those Who Have Not Received Any/by Total

- ❑ Among those respondents who have received no assistance of any kind, almost all (92%) believe that they are worthy of it to deal with the economic consequences of the Coronavirus.
- ❑ Fewer than half (42%) believe that only those “in greatest need” have received such assistance.



Q: “Do you personally feel you deserve any Covid-19 related assistance?”

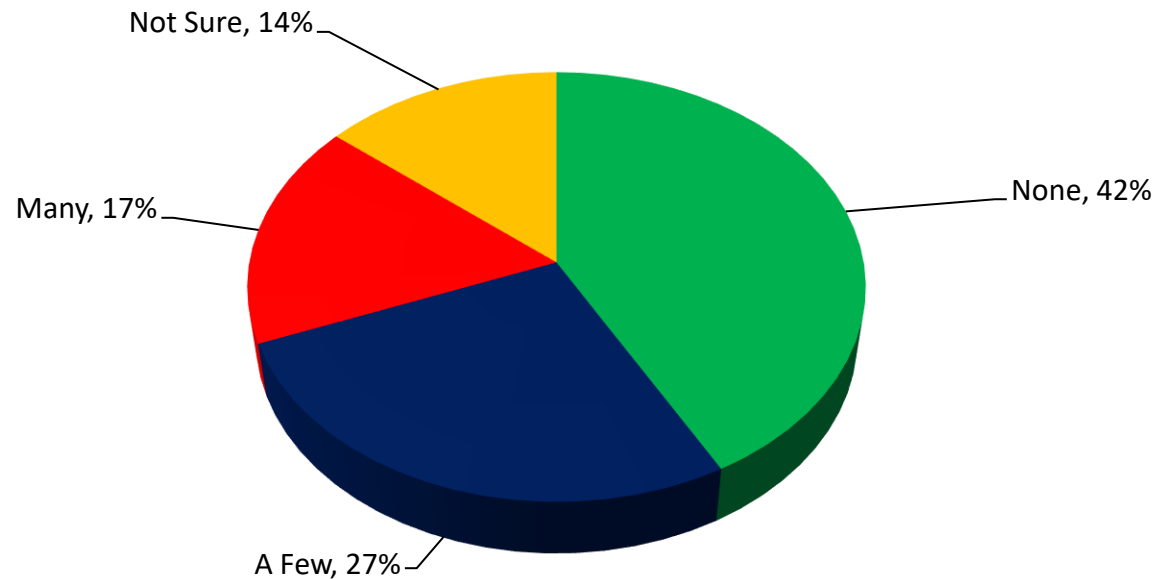
Q: “Would you say that it has been those people in greatest need who have received any cash or food relief?”



Views on the Level of Need of Those Households Which Have Received Assistance: by Total

- ❑ Fewer than one-in-five respondents (17%) believe that “many” of the households in their locality who have received any assistance are “not as needy” as they are.
- ❑ Conversely, nearly half (42%) believe there are no such ‘unworthy’ household-recipients of such assistance.

**Proportion of Households Known to Have Received Assistance
Who Are Perceived as “Not as Needy” as Respondents:
by Total**

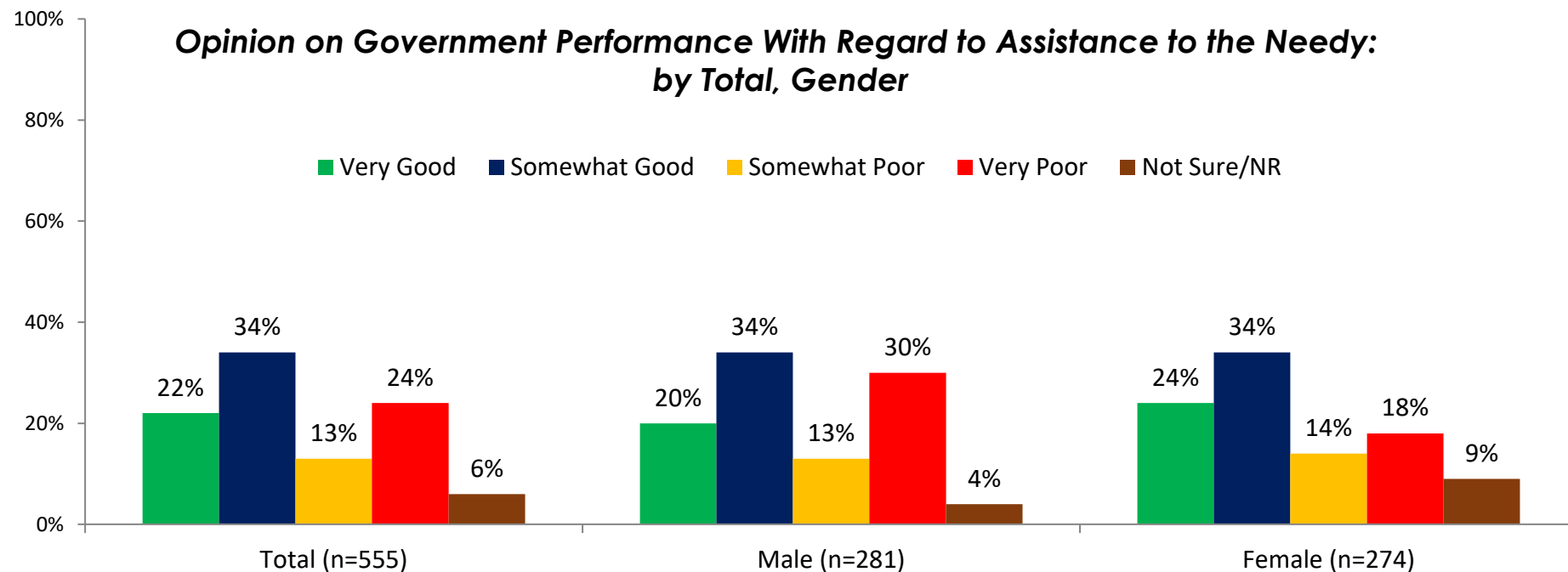


Q: “Do you believe that there are households that have received such assistance but were not in as much need as you? Would you say there are none, a few, or many such cases?”

Base=555 (Total)

Perceived Government Performance in Terms of Assistance to the Needy: by Total, Gender

- Overall, the Government's performance in terms of assistance to the needy is seen as positive (56% considering it as either "very good" or "somewhat good" while only 37% consider it either "somewhat poor" or "very poor", though men have less positive views about this than women.

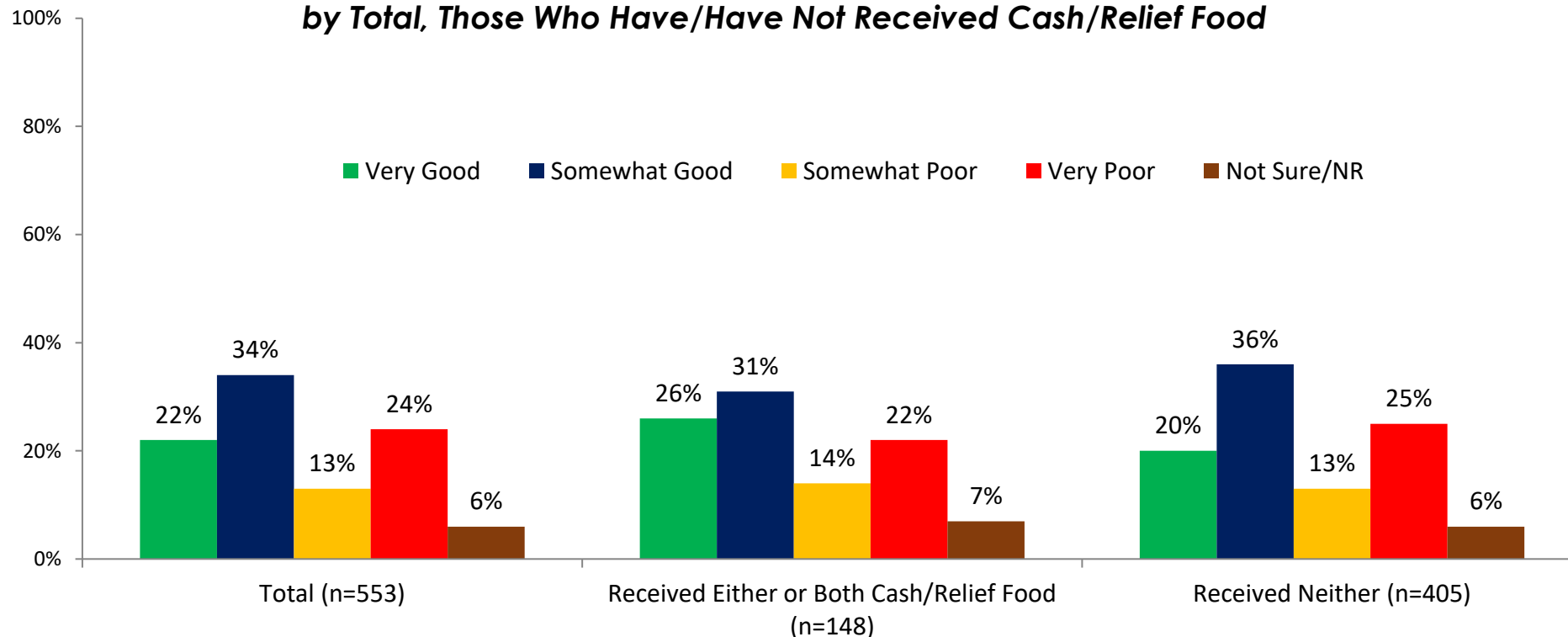


Q: "Do you believe that there are households that have received such assistance but were not in as much need as you? Would you say there are none, a few, or many such cases?"

Perceived Government Performance in Terms of Assistance to the Needy: by Total, Those Who Have/ Have Not Received Both/Either Cash or Food

- There is little contrast in such views between those who have received either/both cash and relief food, with 57% of those who have received either type of assistance holding the two positive views combined vs. 56% among those who have received neither form of assistance.

**Opinion on Government Performance With Regard to Assistance to the Needy:
by Total, Those Who Have/Have Not Received Cash/Relief Food**

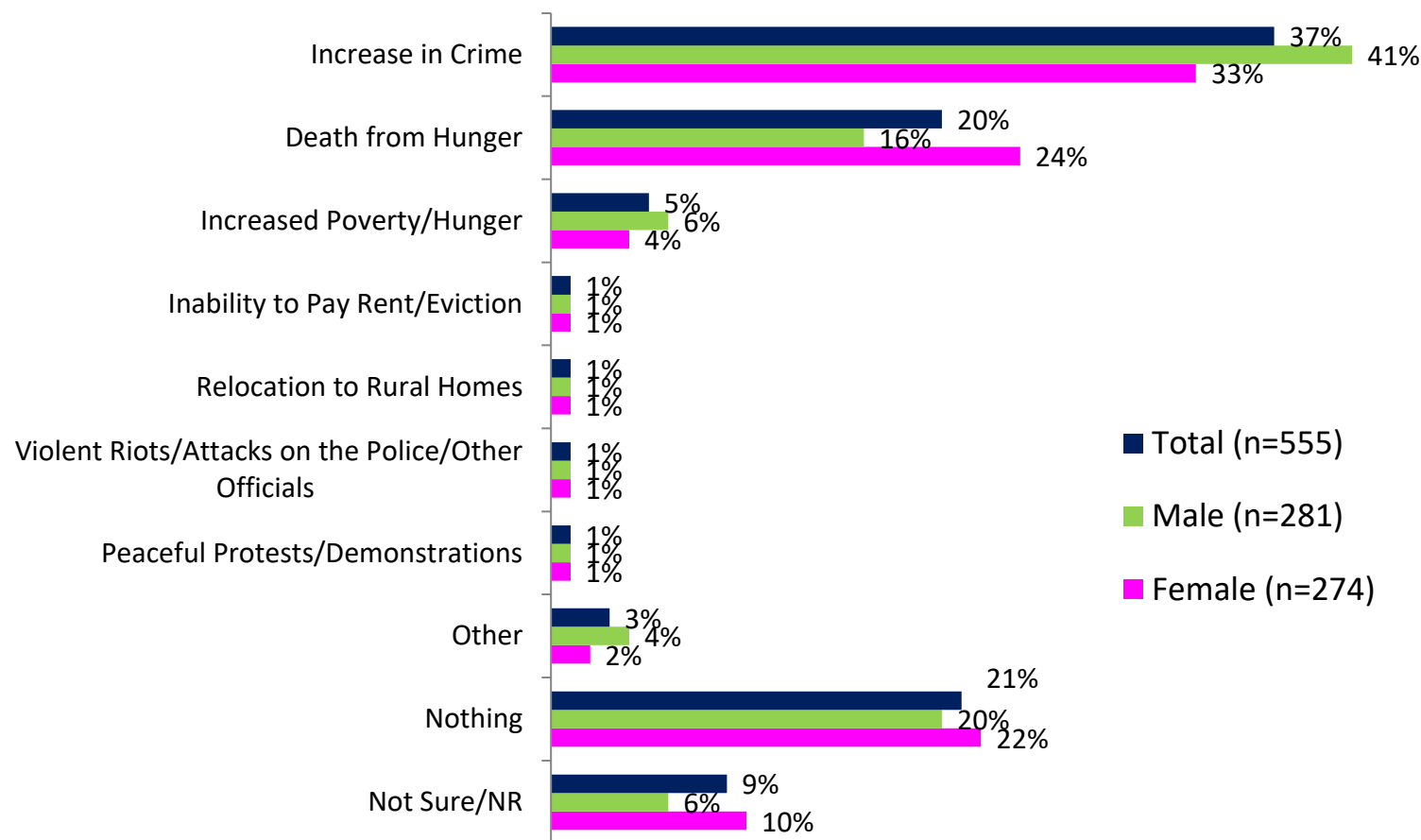


Q: "Do you believe that there are households that have received such assistance but were not in as much need as you? Would you say there are none, a few, or many such cases?"

Main Expected Consequence Without Further Assistance to the Needy: by Total, Gender

- ❑ In the absence of any further assistance to the needy, most respondents (combined - 57%) mentioned either an increase in crime or death from hunger, though one-fifth (21%) think nothing in particular will happen.
- ❑ While more men expect an increase in crime, more women fear that death will result from increased hunger.

Most Likely Consequence Without Continued Assistance to the Needy: by Total, Gender



Q: "If people in your locality receive no more assistance than they have received up to now, what do you think is the main thing most likely to happen there?" (Single Response)

Base=555 (Total)

Insights: Assistance to the Needy



- ❑ As noted at the outset, the World Bank (among other international bodies/agencies) as well as the Kenya government have stressed the importance of providing assistance to the most needy, given the scale of the damage the economy has suffered since March, efforts that both the government and non-state actors (i.e., local and international NGOs and organizations, the private sector, and even particular individuals) have been engaged in.
- ❑ Apparently as a consequence, an overwhelming majority of respondents (80%) are aware of at least some form(s) of assistance to the needy and nearly as many (67%) are aware of one or more of providers of such assistance. Indeed, the proportion of those who cannot name any such provider has decreased by nearly half since Round One in April (from 66% to 33%) indicating their increasing presence on the ground.
- ❑ Specifically, among those can name at least one provider of assistance to the needy, by far the most frequently named is SHOFCO (“Shining Hope for Communities), with almost half of all respondents (46%) mentioning this philanthropic organization.
- ❑ One clear reason for such heightened awareness has been the major increase since Round Two in proportion of respondents who have received any of the three main forms of assistance: cash (4% to 17%), relief food (from 11% to 15%) and masks (from 10% to 20%).
- ❑ The proportions of those who know someone else who has received each of the forms of assistance have also increased significantly. Specifically, well over half (61%) know someone who has received cash, slightly over half (55%) know someone who has received relief food, and nearly half (46%) know someone who has received a mask. (Note that the survey did not ask how many such people were known, or how many times (and over what period of time)/how much of each type of assistance any of them had received, especially in terms of meeting personal/household needs.)

Insights: Assistance to the Needy (con't)



- ❑ In terms of the perceived need of potential/actual recipients of such assistance, one clear contrast emerges: while nearly all of those who have not (yet?) received any assistance (i.e., 60% of all respondents) nearly all (92%) say that they deserve it, yet fewer than half of all respondents (42%) hold they view that those who have received it had “the greatest need” for it.
- ❑ Opinion on the role of government in terms of providing assistance to the needy is, on balance, positive, even if most of such direct assistance appears to be coming from non-state bodies/entities. This may explain why there is hardly any contrast in such views between those who have/have not received either/both cash or relief food.
- ❑ Looking to the future, presented with the (unlikely, it must be said) that no further such assistance is made available, the vast majority of respondents (70%) mention one of a number of serious consequences (the rest expecting nothing dire to occur or being uncertain about this: 21% and 9%, respectively), the two most frequently being increased crime (37%) and death from hunger (20%), with somewhat more men mentioning the former and more women mentioning the latter. (Note that this was a single response question, so that many respondents may expect many of these consequences to occur.)
- ❑ However realistic these expectations in the absence of further assistance, they do underscore the deeply held view that such assistance is critical if residents of the areas included in this survey are to manage in the challenging months ahead, whatever the actual course of the Coronavirus in Kenya.

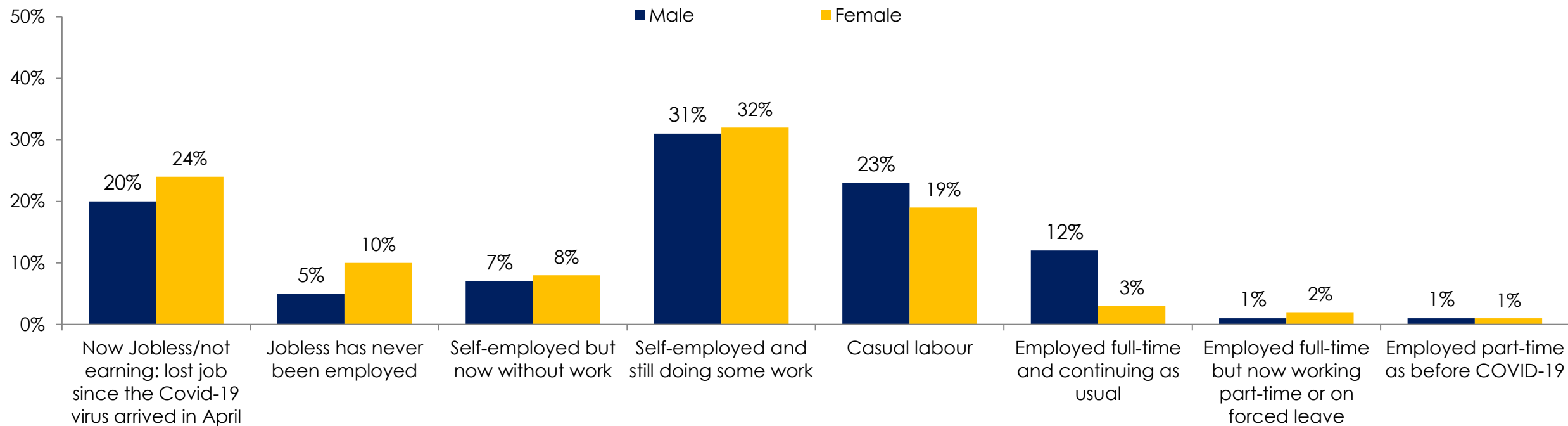


Sample Demographics

Demographics: Employment Status: by Gender

- There are moderate but significant disparities in employment status by gender, especially the fact that a higher proportion of women are either jobless or have never been employed.

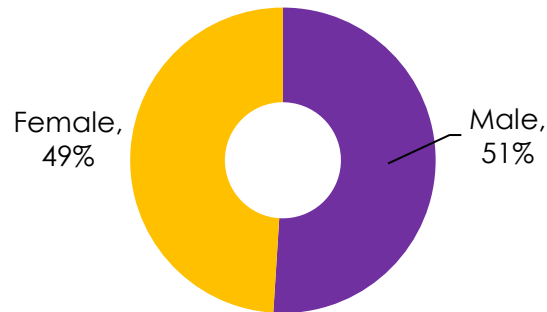
Current Employment Status : by Gender



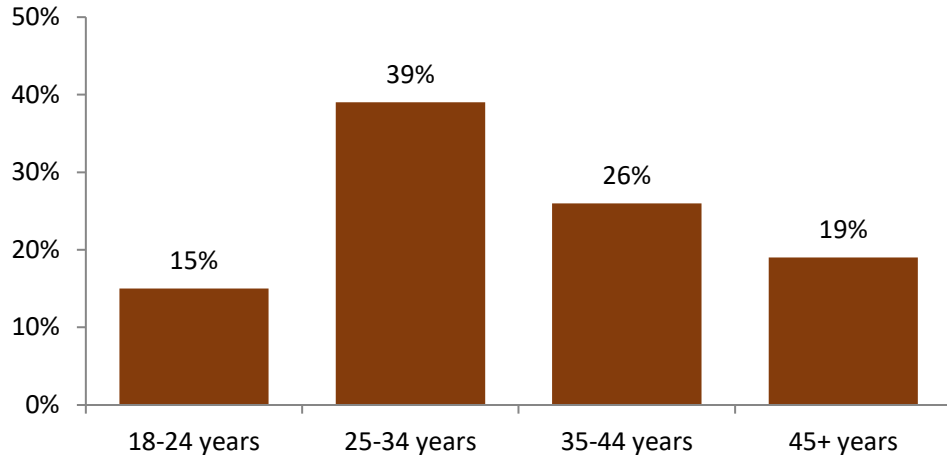
Base= Total = 555 ; Male = 381; Female = 274

Demographics: Gender, Age and Education

Gender



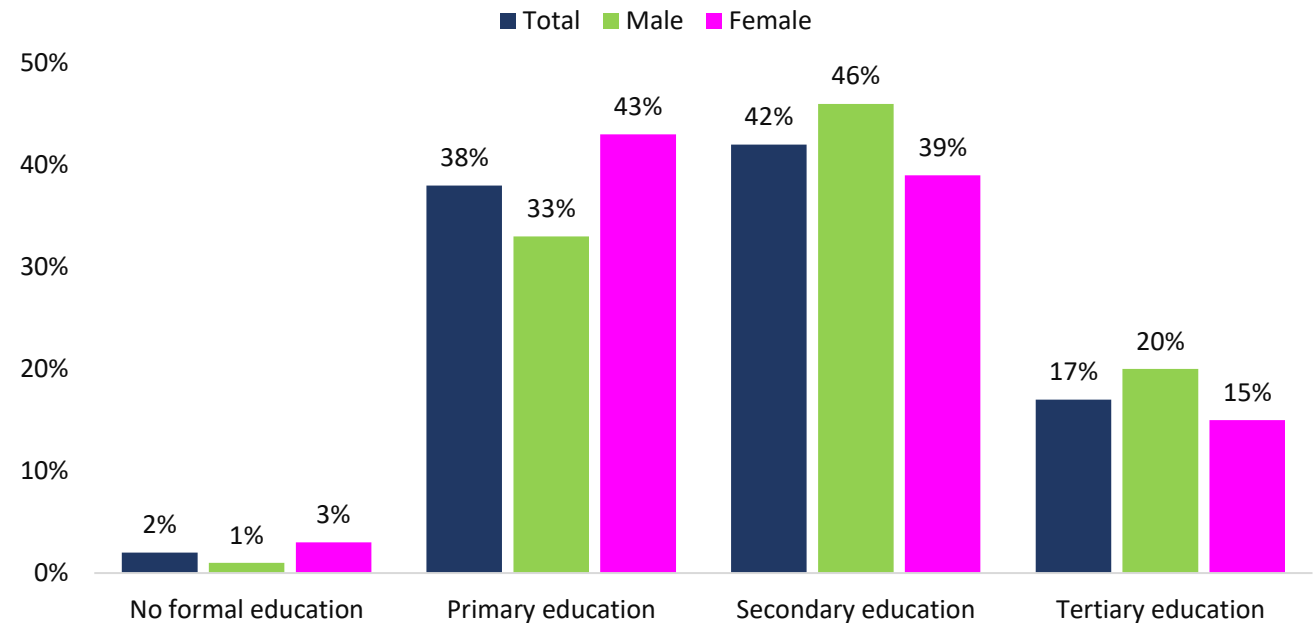
Age Group



Base= 555 (all respondents)

- ❑ The sample has a slightly higher number of men than women.
- ❑ The largest age group category is that of 25-35 years.
- ❑ In terms of education, 40% did not study past primary.

Level of Education



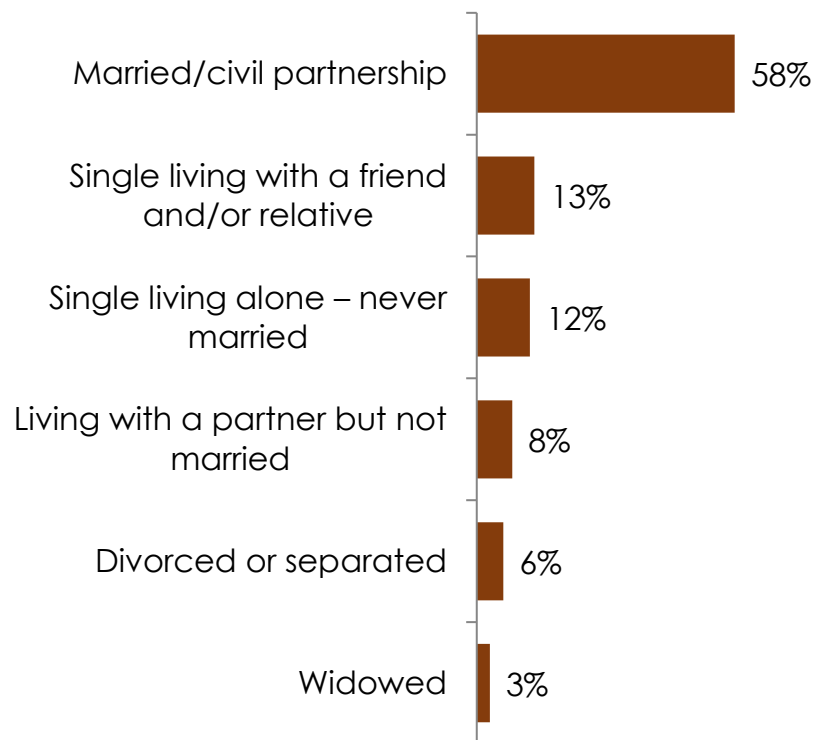
Base= Total = 555 ; Male = 281; Female = 274



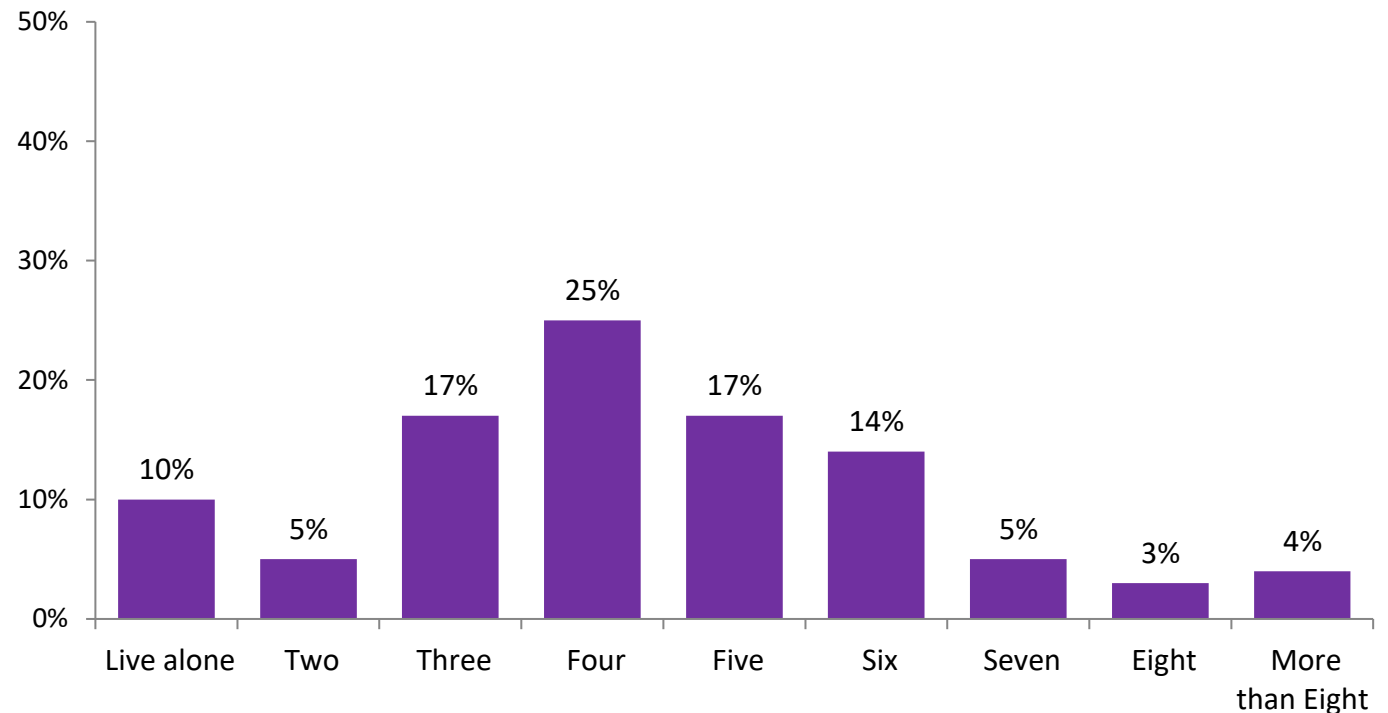
Demographics: Marital Status and Household Size

- ❑ A majority of respondents are married/living with a partner. The average household size is 4 members.

Marital Status



Household Size



Base= 555 (all respondents)



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