



1. HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

Economic activities



70% Women **75%** Men

Respondents whose economic activities changed during the pandemic



71% Women **77%** Men
aged 18-34 years were most affected

The largest proportion of respondents affected by changes in economic activities were those who owned businesses or were freelancers



52% Women

owned a business/were freelancers before the lockdown, compared to only **34%** at the time of the study



43% Men

owned a business/were freelancers before the lockdown, compared to only **32%** at the time of the study



23% Women

listed farming as an economic activity after the onset of the pandemic, compared to **19%** during the pandemic



26% Men

listed farming as an economic activity before the pandemic compared to **27%** during the pandemic



11% Women **15%** Men

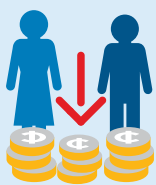
in non-agricultural part-time jobs were least affected with post-pandemic proportions remaining the same



1% Women & Men

respectively, engaged in unpaid work in family business were also not affected in terms of economic activity

Effect of pandemic on income sources



73% Women **76%** Men

About **3** out of **4**

in all age groups indicated that they had suffered decreases in income as a result of the pandemic

24% Women **21%** Men



indicated no change in income as a result of the pandemic



63% Women **69%** Men

indicated that they had experienced changes in ~~combined~~ income during the pandemic

64% Women **70%** Men
aged 18-34 years were most affected

60% Women **66%** Men
aged 55 years and above were least affected

Common experiences

67% Women **68%** Men

faced financial difficulties

62% Women **64%** Men

ate less or skipped a meal altogether because of lack of money or other resources

46% Women **51%** Men

did not eat at all for a day or more because of lack of money or other resources

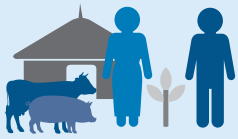
18% Women **19%** Men

faced loss of employment of the head of household



2. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Food production



72%
Women

84%
Men

lived in households that produced crops and livestock (i.e., fish farming, poultry, and other stock)



79%
Women



90%
Men

aged 35-54 years

aged 55 years and above

were most likely to indicate that their household produced food



Up to **1 in 5**

19%
Women

20%
Men

women and men indicated that food produced by their household provides for all their food needs



Less than **1 in 10**

7%
Women

7%
Men

indicated that food produced by their household provides for most of their food needs



More than **1 in 5**

21% Women

and **28% men** (or **more than 1 in 4**) indicated that food produced by their household meets some of their food needs



52%
Women

45%
Men

indicated that food produced by their household does not provide for their food needs

Availability of seed and other crop farming inputs

Both women and men reported similar levels of perceived changes in the availability of seed and other crop farming inputs since the onset of COVID-19



48%
Women

46%
Men

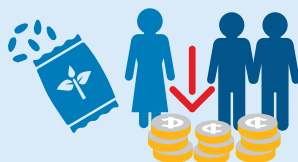
thought there was no change in availability

2%
Women



3%
Men

thought the availability of seeds and other inputs had increased



62%
Women

63%
Men

1 in 3

In terms of purchasing power, the largest proportion of respondents were of the view that their ability to buy seed had decreased



5%
Women

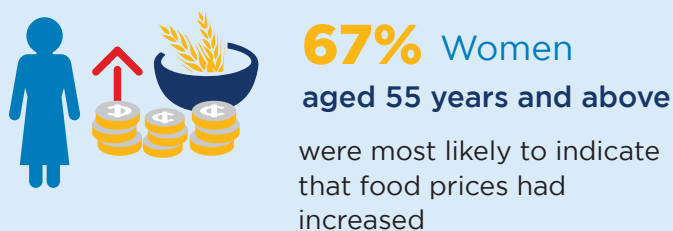
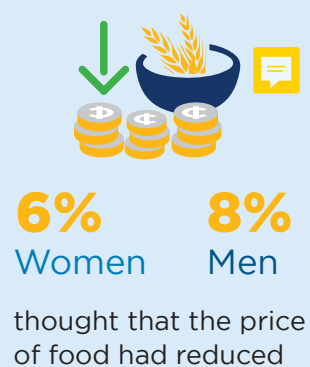
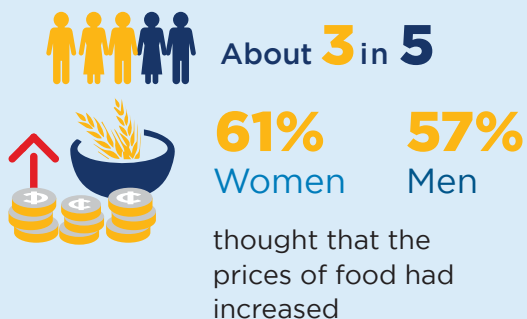
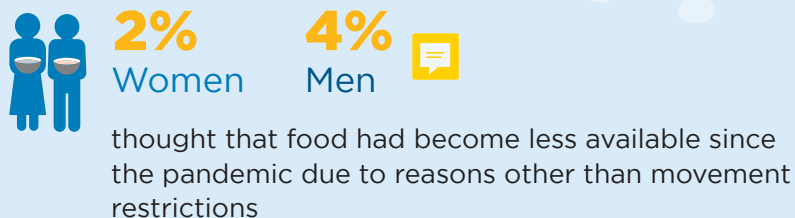
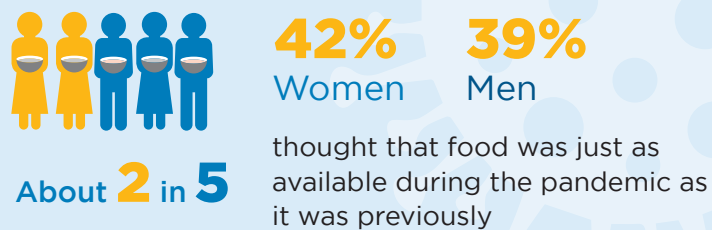
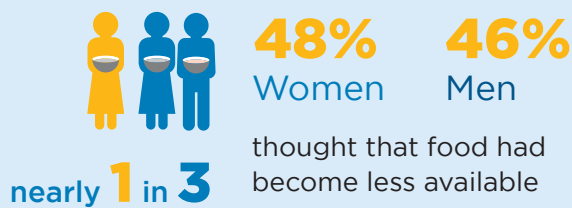


6%
Men

aged 55 years and above

felt that their purchasing power had increased

Food availability due to COVID-19-related movement restrictions





3. EDUCATION



41%
Girls



43%
Boys

Limited access to learning materials such as books was the greatest impediment to learning for girls and boys in Malawi during the pandemic



37%
Girls



43%
Boys

Lack of a skilled instructor also hindered studying from home for girls and boys



28%
Girls



34%
Boys

Lack of a conducive environment also hindered studying from home during the pandemic



28%
Girls



30%
Boys

Experienced limited access to the internet presented a challenge for remote learning



25%
Girls



28%
Boys

Experienced lack of electricity/source of lighting



14%
Girls



11%
Boys

Girls were more affected than boys by the learning challenge that the multiple roles of the parent/guardian presented



23%
Girls



18%
Boys

Faced other undefined challenges



20%
Girls



21%
Boys

Experienced increased household chores as an impediment to studying from home



4. WATER AND SANITATION

Access to clean and safe water



About **3** in **5**



17% Women
20% Men

felt that they had sufficient access to clean and safe water



90% Women
82% Men

in urban areas who had access to clean and safe water compared to their rural counterparts (**women 76%, men 74%**)

83% Women aged 18-34 years



82% Women aged 35-54 years



were **slightly more likely** than their counterparts aged **55 years and above (77%)** to have access to clean water during the pandemic



80% Men aged 55 years and above

were **most likely** among men to have access to clean and safe water during the pandemic

75% Men aged 35-54 years

were **least likely** among all respondents to have access to the commodity

Reasons for limited or no access to clean and safe water during the pandemic



28%

long distances to the source



23%

water access has always been a challenge



19%

inability to afford the cost of water



7%

pipled water has always been a challenge



More than **1** in **10**

13%

other unidentified reasons for the lack of access

Responsibility for collecting water and firewood



Nearly **3** in **4**

74%

indicated that women carried out this task

8%

indicated that a man in the household carried out this task

16%

indicated this responsibility falls on women and men in the same household



4. UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK BEFORE AND AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Activity most attributed to men



43%

shopping for the household before the pandemic

Activities least attributed to men



8%

collecting water and firewood



9%

cleaning



10%

cooking and meal preparation

Time spent on activities since the onset of the pandemic



18% Women

reported increases in time spent on **cleaning**



14% Women

reported increases in time spent **cooking** and **meal preparation**



17% Men

reported increases in time spent on **cleaning**



12% Men

reported increases in time spent **cooking** and **meal preparation**



70%

felt that **women** spent the most time on physical care of children



56%

felt that **women** spent the most time on passive care of children



44%

felt that **women** spent the most time playing with/reading stories to children

Activities that registered the highest proportions of participation by men before the pandemic



29%

Emotional support of adults



28%

assisting other adults with administration and accounts



20%

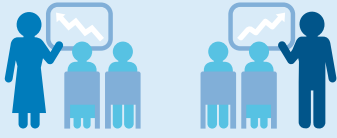
physical care of adults



19%

playing with and reading to children

~~Activities that registered the largest increase in proportion in terms of time spent by women and men on these activities during the pandemic~~



26%

Women

respondents observed increases in time spent in **teaching children**



28%

Men



23%

Women

respondents observed increases in time spent in **passive care of children**



21%

Men



19%

Women

respondents observed increases in time spent in **playing with/reading stories to children**



19%

Men

~~Activities that registered the largest decrease in proportion in terms of time spent by women and men on these activities during the pandemic~~



37%

Women

respondents observed decreases in time spent on **emotional support for adults**

36%

Men



36%

Women

respondents observed decreases in time spent in **physical care of adults**

36%

Men



34%

Women

respondents observed decreases in time spent in **assisting other adults with administration and accounts**



35%

Men



5. HELP WITH HOUSEHOLD CHORES



20% Women **15%** Men

reported getting help for chores and for caring for other family members from persons outside their household

30

percentage of women aged 55 years and above

~~who reported receiving~~ help with chores and caring for others. This was higher than for women in other age groups **(18-19%)**

Persons most likely to help with chores and providing care for others in the household



41% Women **46%** Men

identified family members

28% Women **22%** Men

identified a person outside of the family¹

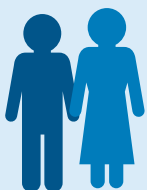
14% Women **20%** Men

identified daughters

Respondents who mentioned hiring help were asked how the situation has changed since the onset of COVID-19



About **2** in **3**



68% Women **64%** Men

reported receiving **less help** from a domestic worker, babysitter, or hired nurse



Less than **1** in **5**

16% Women **14%** Men

indicated that they received **more help**

¹ These included a domestic worker, babysitter, or hired nurse.



6. MENTAL HEALTH

Effect of the pandemic on mental health



52% Women **59%** Men

indicated that the pandemic has had a **negative impact** on their mental or emotional health

57

percentage of women aged 35-49 years

whose mental health was affected by the pandemic. This formed the highest proportion of respondents affected

46% Women aged 50-64 years

46% Women aged 65 years and above registered the **lowest proportions** of those affected



Women and men's worries during the pandemic



More than **8** in **10**

52% Women **59%** Men

respondents indicated that COVID-19 and its related control measures and restrictions have caused them to worry



21% Women **20%** Men

worried about **access to food** during the pandemic



19% Women **18%** Men

worried about **death** during the pandemic



10% Women **9%** Men

worried about **safety related to the crisis**



5% Women **6%** Men

worried about **access to medicine** during the pandemic

Concerns that varied by sex



Nearly **1** in **4**

23% Women

worried about **children missing school** compared to nearly **1** in **5** (**19%**) men



1 in **2**

50% Women

worried about their economic situation and income compared to nearly **3** in **5** (**57%**) men



7. HEALTH SERVICES

Seeking health services during the pandemic



Slightly more than **1 in 3**

37%
Women

36% Men were inclined to **seek health services** during the pandemic

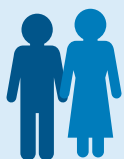
45%

Women

aged 65 years and above

were significantly more likely to seek health services during the pandemic

While more than **1 in 2** women (**57%**) and men (**52%**) did not need health services, those who did:



34% Women

39% Men

successfully accessed the services



23%

Women

26%

Men

sought child healthcare services



21%

Women

14%

Men

sought healthcare services for pregnant mothers/maternal healthcare services



8%

Women

13%

Men

sought family planning/SRH services²



8%

Women

3%

Men

sought healthcare services for HIV/Aids



5%

Women

10%

Men

sought medicine for chronic illnesses



9%

Women

6%

Men

sought clinical management of sexual violence



43%

Women

40%

Men

sought "other (unidentified) healthcare related services"

5%

Women

4%

Men

were **unsuccessful** in accessing healthcare services

Health services waiting times during the pandemic



Nearly **1 in 4**

24% Women

reported shorter waiting times compared to before the outbreak compared to **1 in 5 (17%) men.**



36%

Women

39%

Men

experienced longer waiting times since the onset of the pandemic.

34%

Women

36%

Men

experienced shorter waiting times.

² Including menstrual hygiene, etc.



8. FEELINGS OF SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY AND AT HOME

The pandemic brought changes in respondents' **feelings of safety** in the community.



16%

Women

19%

Men

indicated feeling **less safe** since the onset of the pandemic

43%

Women

42%

Men

indicated feeling safer

Personal experiences with **violence** during the pandemic:



15%

Women

17%

Men

have experienced violence

16% Women
aged 35-49 years



15% Women
aged 18-34 years

were more likely than **older women** to have experienced violence in the community during the pandemic

The proportion of individuals who experienced **discrimination** during COVID-19 was also fairly low compared to other countries in the sub-region



14%

Women

13%

Men

have personally experienced discrimination

16% Women
aged 35-49 years



15% Women
aged 18-34 years

were significantly more likely than **older women** to have experienced discrimination

Respondents' feelings of safety in the home



48%

Women

49%

Men

felt the same level of safety during the pandemic as they did previously



More than **1** in **4**

44%

Women

43%

Men

felt safer



Nearly **1** in **10**

7%

Women

8%

Men

felt less safe

For those who felt less safe, most were concerned about:



37% **45%**
Women Men
increases in crime



26% **34%**
Women Men
living in densely populated areas, which they felt made their homes less safe

42% **37%**
Women Men
other reasons for feeling less safe in the home



5% **0%**
Women Men
discrimination due to the nature of their work, e.g., as health workers



1% **9%**
Women Men
substance abuse in the household



2% **4%**
Women Men
“Others in the household hurt me”





9. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Nearly all respondents indicated that **GBV is a problem** in Malawi, irrespective of the pandemic



97% Women
96% Men
qualified the **extent to which GBV is a problem** in the country as “a lot”

96% Women aged 35-49 years

were slightly less likely than ~~older women to feel that GBV is a big problem compared to~~ **98%** for women ~~aged 50 years and above~~

Frequency of GBV



Nearly **9** in **10**

88% Women
85% Men

reported that GBV happens very often, irrespective of COVID-19



More than **5** in **10**

53% Women
56% Men

perceived a **change in occurrence of GBV** since the onset of the pandemic

Women

aged 65 years and older

were **more likely** than women in other age groups to indicate that GBV has increased

45% Women aged 50-64 years

were **least likely** to indicate that GBV has increased

Forms of GBV that women and men were aware of and knew someone who had experienced covered a wide range:



49% Women
51% Men

knew of child and/or forced marriages that took place during the pandemic



2 in **5**

41% Women
39% Men

knew someone who had been physically abused



Nearly **3** in **10**

27% Women
27% Men

knew someone who had experienced emotional/verbal abuse



More than **1** in **3**

36% Women **35%** Men

knew someone who has experienced **sexual harassment** during the pandemic



Nearly **1** in **4**

24% Women **24%** Men

knew of a victim of **forced sexual relations**



Nearly **1** in **5**

18% Women **20%** Men

Experienced or knew of someone who had experienced **online bullying**



Nearly **1** in **10**

9% Women **8%** Men

knew a victim of **FGM** carried out during the pandemic



13% Women **12%** Men

Denial to communicate with others was a relatively common form of GBV during the pandemic

Perpetrators of GBV



33% Women **32%** Men

identified **neighbor** as the perpetrator of GBV

31% Women **33%** Men

spouse was behind the most recent incident of GBV that they were aware of

25% Women **28%** Men

indicated **friend** as the perpetrator

23% Women **22%** Men

identified **other family member** as responsible for the GBV incident



About **1** in **10**

11% Women **12%** Men

indicated that **security agents** were behind the most recent GBV incident they were aware of

PRIORITIES

The study found that women and men **had similar** priority needs during the pandemic



55% **56%**
Women Men

identified **food** as their top priority



55% **55%**
Women Men

identified **healthcare** as their top priority



Nearly **2** in **5**

42% **41%**
Women Men

had **earning an income** as their priority need



37% **38%**
Women Men

identified **sanitation and hygiene** as a priority.



29% **28%**
Women Men

identified **safety and security** as a priority need.



20% **24%**
Women Men

identified **education** as a priority need during the pandemic.