Ghana RECOVR Survey Analysis
RECOVR Survey: Key Takeaways

- 10% of respondents say someone in their household delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March. Over 60% of cancellations were out of concern for COVID-19.

- More than 40% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals in the past week.

- 29% of respondents say they would not be able to find 500 cedis to pay for an emergency.

- While 65% of respondents report working in February, 41% of households report working in the past 7 days. Of those still working, 41% earned less and 29% worked fewer hours in the past week.

- Respondents report that 64% of primary and 57% of secondary school children are spending time on education at home since schools were closed.
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Acknowledgements

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IPA’s Research for Effective COVID-19 Responses (RECOVR)

- Rapid response surveys to answer critical policy questions (8+ countries)
- A global hub that centralizes research and policy lessons
- A portfolio of IPA studies to generate rigorous evidence (80+ studies)
- Advising 15+ governments on evidence-based approaches
- Research-on-Research to strengthen the quality of remote data collection
Ghana Survey Information

Dates of survey: May 6 to 26, 2020

Sampling method: Random Digit Dialing of a nationally representative sample of phone numbers

Sample size: 1,357 respondents out of 10,781 call attempts

Average respondent demographics:

- Age: 32
- % women: 38%
- Household size: 5
- % that completed more than secondary school: 30%
- % Under national poverty line: 11% (Estimated with the PPI)
Survey Demographics and Representativeness

- Sampling Frame covers registered phones with service coverage
  - As such, this is **not** nationally representative

- Survey averages compare to the 2016-2017 Ghana Statistical Services’ Living Standards Survey (GLSS7) as follows:
  - **Younger**: 32 y.o. vs. 40 y.o
    - There are also fewer elderly people (>60)
  - More **Male**: 61% vs. 46%
  - More **Urban** (Greater Accra): 34% vs. 18%
  - More **Educated** (completed secondary school): 36% vs. 15%
  - Comparable Household Size: 5.3 vs. 5
Survey Definitions

● **Poor vs. non-poor**
  ○ Is this household most likely below the national poverty line, based on household characteristics (PPI)?

● **School-age children**
  ○ “How many children who had been enrolled in primary/secondary school before the national quarantine live in your household?”

● **Employment Sectors**
  ○ 20+ occupations across agriculture, manufacturing, services, transport, mining, retail, etc.

● **Error Bars** in each graph represent the 95% confidence interval.
  ● If error bars do not overlap, the difference between groups is statistically significant (p<0.05).
## Ghana Survey Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
<th>Percentage of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Accra</td>
<td>468</td>
<td>34.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashanti</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>19.40%</td>
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<td>Central</td>
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<td>Eastern</td>
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<td>Western</td>
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<td>Bono</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volta</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bono East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Upper West</td>
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<td>Western North</td>
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<td>Oti</td>
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<td>Ahafo</td>
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<td>North East</td>
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<td>0.80%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Ghana RECOVR Survey: Policy Context

- Borders Ordered Closed: Mar 23
- Suspension of Public Gatherings > 25 People, School and University Closures: Mar 16
- IMF Approves $1 Billion Disbursement for COVID-19: Apr 13
- Face Masks Mandatory in Public (Greater Accra Region): Apr 22
- Launch of Coronavirus Alleviation Plan: May 19
- 8,070 Cases, 36 Deaths: Jun 1
- Gradual Easing of Restrictions: Jun 5
- Suspension of Water Bills: Apr 1 - Jun 30
- IPA RECOVR Survey Round 1: May 6 - May 26
- Partial Lockdown of Major Urban Areas: Mar 30 - Apr 23
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation
Health & COVID-19 Mitigation: Key Takeaways

● 10% of respondents say someone in their household delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March. Over 60% of cancellations were out of concern for COVID-19.
● 53% of respondents say they stayed home 4+ days in the last week.
● Approximately 90% of respondents say they washed their hands more often this week than before mid-March and that they have worn a face mask.
● 25% of respondents say they feel someone in their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19.
● For those who do not feel at risk, the vast majority (92%) say that it is because they are following preventative measures.
25% of respondents say they feel someone in their household is at risk of contracting COVID-19

For those who do not feel at risk, the vast majority (92%) say that it is because they are following preventative measures.
53% of respondents say they stayed home 4+ days in the last week. Approximately 90% of respondents say they washed their hands more often this week than before mid-March and that they have worn a face mask.
10% of respondents say someone in their household delayed or skipped needed healthcare visits since mid-March

Over 60% of cancellations were out of concern for COVID-19
Women report staying home all day slightly more often than men in the past week. Women and men report a similar frequency of going to a market or food store in the past week.
Poorer and wealthier respondents report staying home all day for a similar number of days in the past week. Poorer respondents report going to a market or food store slightly more often than wealthier respondents.
2 Economic Activity & Employment
Economic Activity & Employment: Key Takeaways

- While 65% of respondents report working in February, 41% of households report working in the past 7 days. 21% say their business/place of work is closed.
- Of those still working, 41% earned less and 29% worked fewer hours in the past week.
- Men were more likely to work one or more hours in February and in the last week than women.
- Women are more likely than men to report that their workplaces are temporarily closed by government mandate.
While 65% of respondents report working in February, 41% of households report working in the past 7 days. 21% say their business/place of work is closed

Of those still working, 41% earned less and 29% worked fewer hours in the past week
Individuals who were employed in Central, Upper West, Ashanti and Greater Accra regions in February were more likely to report not working in the last week.
Men were more likely to work one or more hours in February and in the last week than women.

Men were slightly more likely than women to have experienced a reduction in earnings in the last week.
Respondents in the services sector were more likely to report that their businesses/places of work have closed since February.

Respondents in the agriculture and manufacturing & retail sectors were more likely to have experienced a reduction in earnings.
19% of households report that their businesses/places of work are temporarily closed due to challenges related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

29% of households report that their businesses/places of work are open with no disruptions.
Women are more likely than men to report that their workplaces are temporarily closed by government mandate.

Men are more likely than women to report that their workplaces are open with no disruptions.
Respondents in the services sector are more likely to report their businesses/places of work are temporarily closed by government mandate

Respondents in the manufacturing & retail sector are more likely to report their businesses/places of work being open with reduced operations
Social Protection & Financial Resilience
Social Protection & Financial Resilience: Key Takeaways

- 29% of respondents say they would not be able to find 500 cedis to pay for an emergency. Women expect to have more difficulty obtaining those emergency funds than men.
- Almost half of respondents say they have had to deplete their savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
- More than 40% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals in the past week.
29% of respondents say they would not be able to find 500 cedis to pay for an emergency.

Those who would be able to obtain those funds would receive them from family or friends (23%) or from their savings (16%).
Women expect to have more difficulty obtaining those emergency funds than men. 

Men would be more likely than women to obtain these funds by working.
Almost half of respondents say they have had to deplete their savings to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
Poorer respondents are more likely than wealthier respondents to report having to sell off their assets to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
Households with school-age children are more likely than those without children to report buying fewer inputs than planned for a farm or business in order to pay for food, healthcare, or other expenses since February 2020.
The three regions with households most likely to report having to deplete savings are Savannah (62.5%), Western North (61.1%), and Upper East (58.6%)
Wealthier respondents are more likely than poor respondents to report having a bank account.

Wealthier and poorer respondents with bank accounts similarly report being able to access bank accounts and payment services over the past 30 days.
More than 40% of respondents say they have had to limit portion sizes at meal times or reduce the number of meals in the past week.

Over 60% of respondents say they have been unable to buy the usual amount of food because the price of food was too high.
Households with school-age children are more likely than those without children to report being unable to buy the usual amount of food because household income has dropped.
89% of respondents say they have access to an account they can use to make and receive payments or to receive wages or financial help.

For those with a bank account, almost 60% have been able to access bank accounts and payment services over the past 30 days.
Men are more likely than women to report having an account they can use to make or receive payments, whether it is a mobile money or bank account.

Men and women with bank accounts similarly report being able to access bank accounts and payment services over the past 30 days.
Households with and without access to emergency funds similarly report having a mobile money account, but households with access to emergency funds are more likely to report having a bank account.

Households with access to emergency funds are more likely than households without access to report having access to bank accounts and payment services over the past 30 days.
2.8% of households have received food/cash from the government in response to COVID-19, while 14% have received free electricity or water. Out of 8 households receiving LEAP, 6 have experienced delays in accessing payments they usually receive.
Education 4
Education: Key Takeaways

- 40% of respondents say their main concern regarding children in their household is children falling behind in education.
- Respondents report that 64% of primary and 57% of secondary school children are spending time on education at home since schools were closed.
- Almost 60% of respondents report that children are using their own school books to spend time on education at home.
- Respondents report that children in the household are spending an average of 5.9 hours per week on education.
- 32% of households with a child in school have received communication from their school.
- Households report that the main reasons why children are not spending more time on education include lack of supervision from adults in the household, lack of support from teachers and schools, and lack of motivation.
60% of respondents say their main concern regarding children in their household is children falling behind in education.
Poorer respondents are no more likely than wealthier respondents to be concerned about children falling behind or being unoccupied.
Respondents report that 64% of primary and 57% of secondary school children are spending time on education at home since schools were closed.

Almost 60% of respondents report that children are using their own school books to spend time on education at home.
Respondents report that children in the household are spending an average of 5.9 hours per week on education. Poorer and wealthier report children spending similar number of hours per week on education.
32% of households with a child in school have received communication from their children’s school

Households report that the main reasons why children are not spending more time on education include lack of supervision from adults in the household (19%), lack of support from teachers and schools (18%), and lack of motivation (16%)
Thank you

https://www.poverty-action.org/recovr

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