Myanmar
Monitoring Platform – Household Surveys

Results from the February 2022 high-frequency phone survey of households

THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA

Round 7

Key findings

Following 1 February 2021, households increasingly faced reduced incomes and heightened food insecurity.

Employment & income losses

Although fewer households reported work stoppages in February 2022 than in January 2021, **more households said that earnings were lower.** Earnings from all sectors were adversely affected.

Food security

Food insecurity worsened between January 2021 and February 2022 with households experiencing multiple challenges. **Poor and women-headed households suffered more**.

Following 1 February 2021, public social assistance to households collapsed.

Coping mechanisms & social assistance

Households adopted **negative food-based coping strategies** and other strategies that could potentially **increase indebtedness** (new loans, selling assets).

Less than **5%** of households received public social assistance after 1 February 2021 compared with **36%** before 1 February 2021.
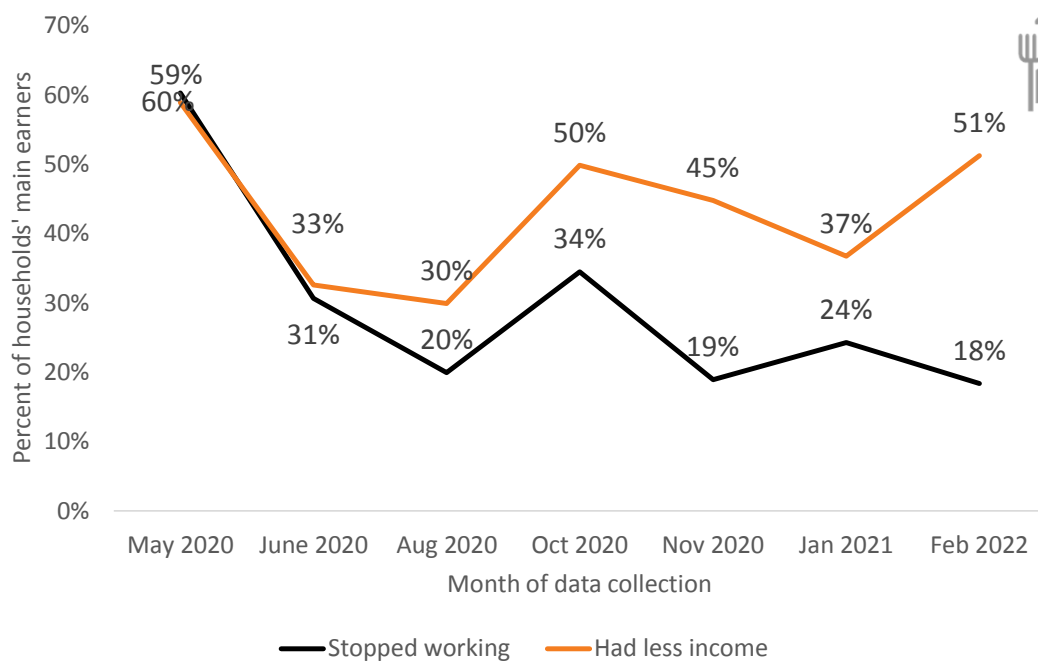

Health

Households did not report any concerns relating to access to health services.

But there are growing mental health concerns due to increased stressors.

Employment & income

About 1 in 2 households' main workers reported lower labor incomes after 1 February 2021 than in January 2021.

Share of households' main workers who between survey rounds...

Nearly one-fifth of workers engaged in agriculture were not working in February 2022 but also **one-fifth** of those engaged in industry.
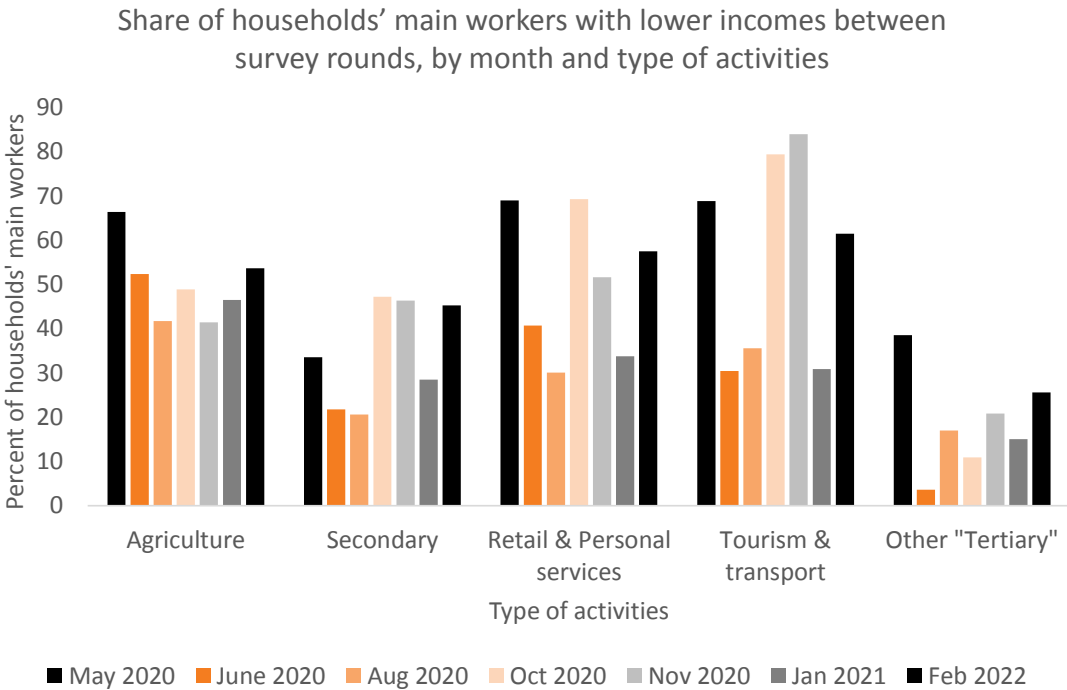
Women heads (24%) were **less likely to be working** than men heads (17%), and difference is statistically significant.

Women heads (60%) were **more likely to have less income** than men heads (50%), and difference is statistically significant.

Note: _For May 2020 – January 2021, share of households' main workers is measured against a pre-March baseline. For February 2022, share of households' main workers is measured against a pre-February 2021 baseline._

Labor incomes across all sectors were adversely affected after 1 February 2022, with pronounced impacts on retail and tourism.

Share of households' main workers with lower incomes between survey rounds, by month and type of activities

Percent of households' main workers

| May 2020 | June 2020 | Aug 2020 | Oct 2020 | Nov 2020 | Jan 2021 | Feb 2022

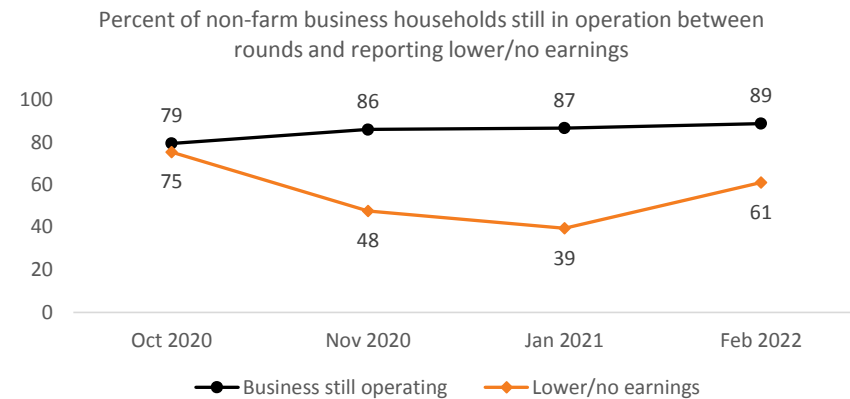Type of activities: Agriculture, Secondary, Retail & Personal services, Tourism & transport, Other "Tertiary"

Note: Share of households' main workers with less income is measured on the ones working pre-March who are working in the last seven days and are saying that they have less income compared to previous round/month.

Due to compounded effects of COVID-19 and events since 1 February 2021, workers in the **tourism and retail sector** were most likely to suffer reduced incomes between survey rounds: about **61%** of households' tourism workers experienced reduced income since 1 February 2021 followed by **57%** of workers in retail and **54%** of workers in agriculture.

Collapse of the Myanmar's economy after the military takeover on 1 February 2021 explains the negative income shocks across all sectors.

Most household non-farm businesses were still operational, but generated lower earnings.

9 in 10 non-farm businesses were still operational in February 2022.

However, the share of households that stopped operating their business in February 2022 was slightly higher than in January 2021 (**9%** vs. **6%**) due to compounded effects of COVID-19, seasonality and other events.

Percent of non-farm business households still in operation between rounds and reporting lower/no earnings

Substantially more household businesses reported lower or no earnings after the military coup in 2021 than did before the coup; In February 2022, **61%** of households operating a business reported lower or no earnings compared to **39%** in January 2021.

About 67% of households owning a retail business had lower earnings in February 2022 than in January 2021.

Most household farms remained operational; however, **39%** of those not able to farm as usual, this is due to challenges acquiring inputs.

In February 2022, most households operated their farms as usual. However, about **23%** said they were unable to farm as normal or stopped working on their farm in February 2022. This reflects challenges acquiring farm inputs. About **39%** of those unable to farm as normal reported being unable to acquire or transport inputs.

About **82%** of farming households reported that inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, pesticide, and fuel were more expensive in February 2022 than pre-coup.

Cost of farm inputs increased for farming households

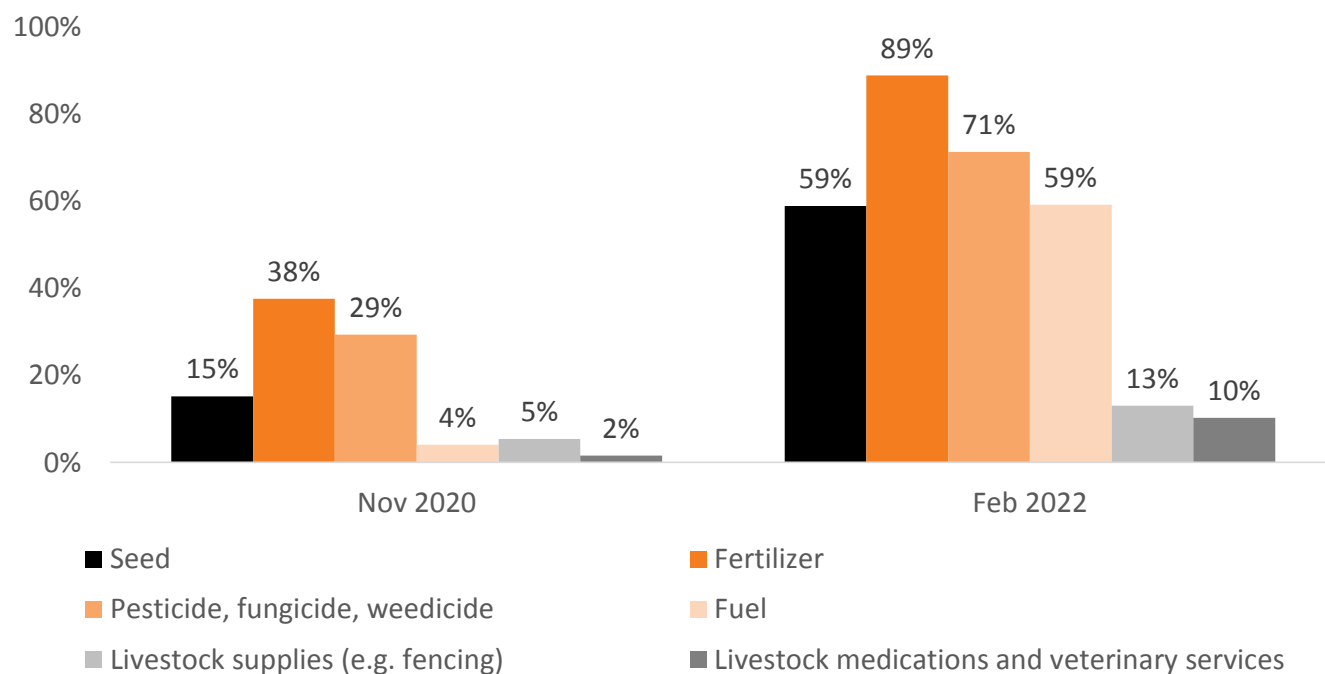|	Aug 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Feb 2022
	32	38	33	82
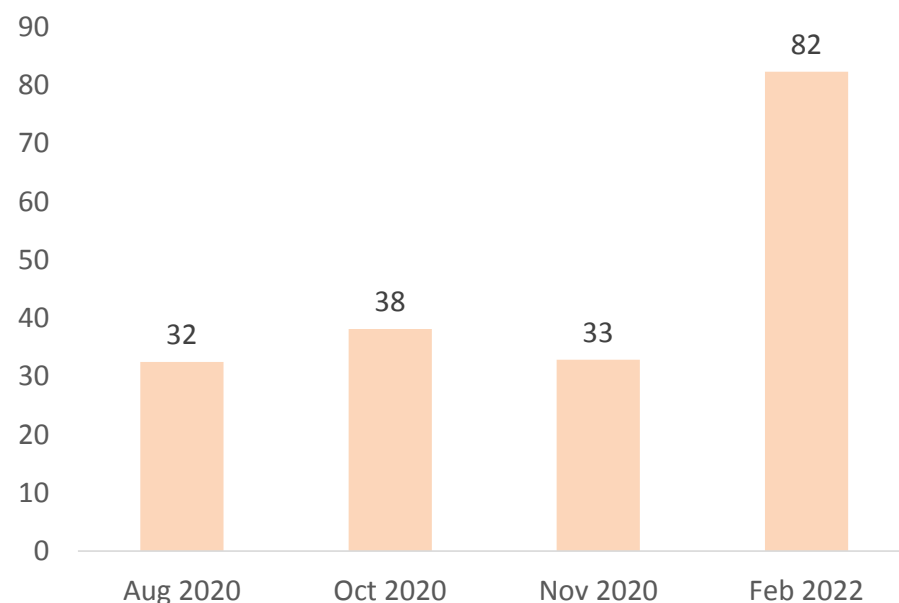
Inputs for crop production and fuel prices have risen, hampering agricultural production.

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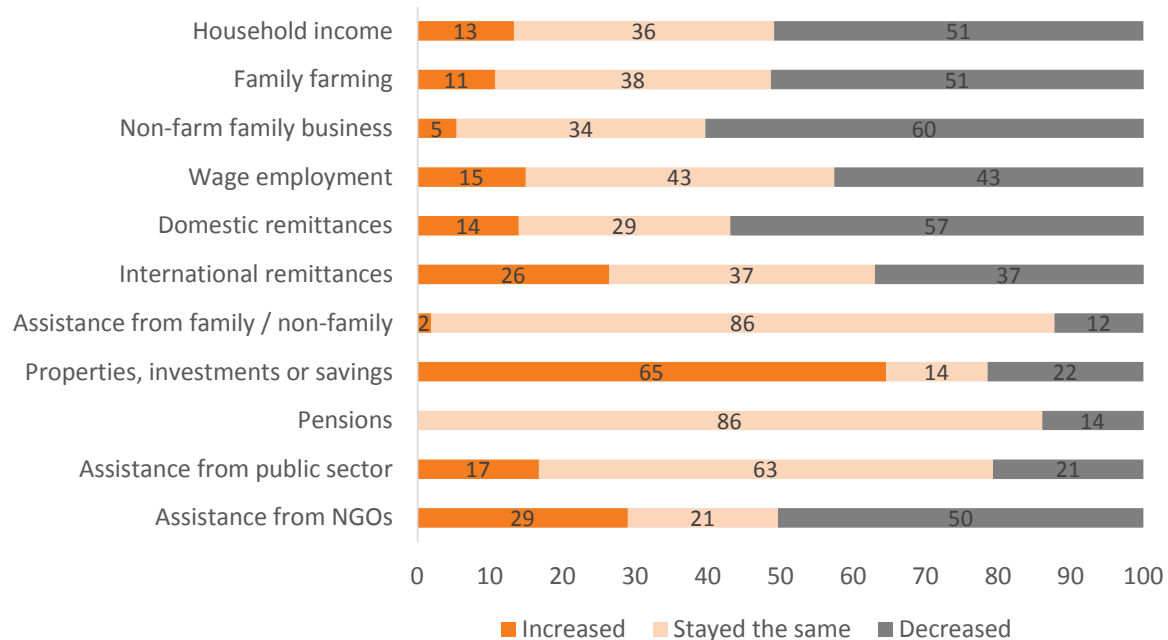
Cost of farm inputs for crop production increased for farming households

Legend:
- ■ Seed
- ■ Fertilizer
- ■ Pesticide, fungicide, weedicide
- ■ Fuel
- ■ Livestock supplies (e.g. fencing)
- ■ Livestock medications and veterinary services

Nov 2020: Seed 15%, Fertilizer 38%, Pesticide 29%, Fuel 4%, Livestock supplies 5%, Livestock medications 2%

Feb 2022: Seed 59%, Fertilizer 89%, Pesticide 71%, Fuel 59%, Livestock supplies 13%, Livestock medications 10%

Since 1 February 2021, 1 in 2 Myanmar households faced reduced household incomes.
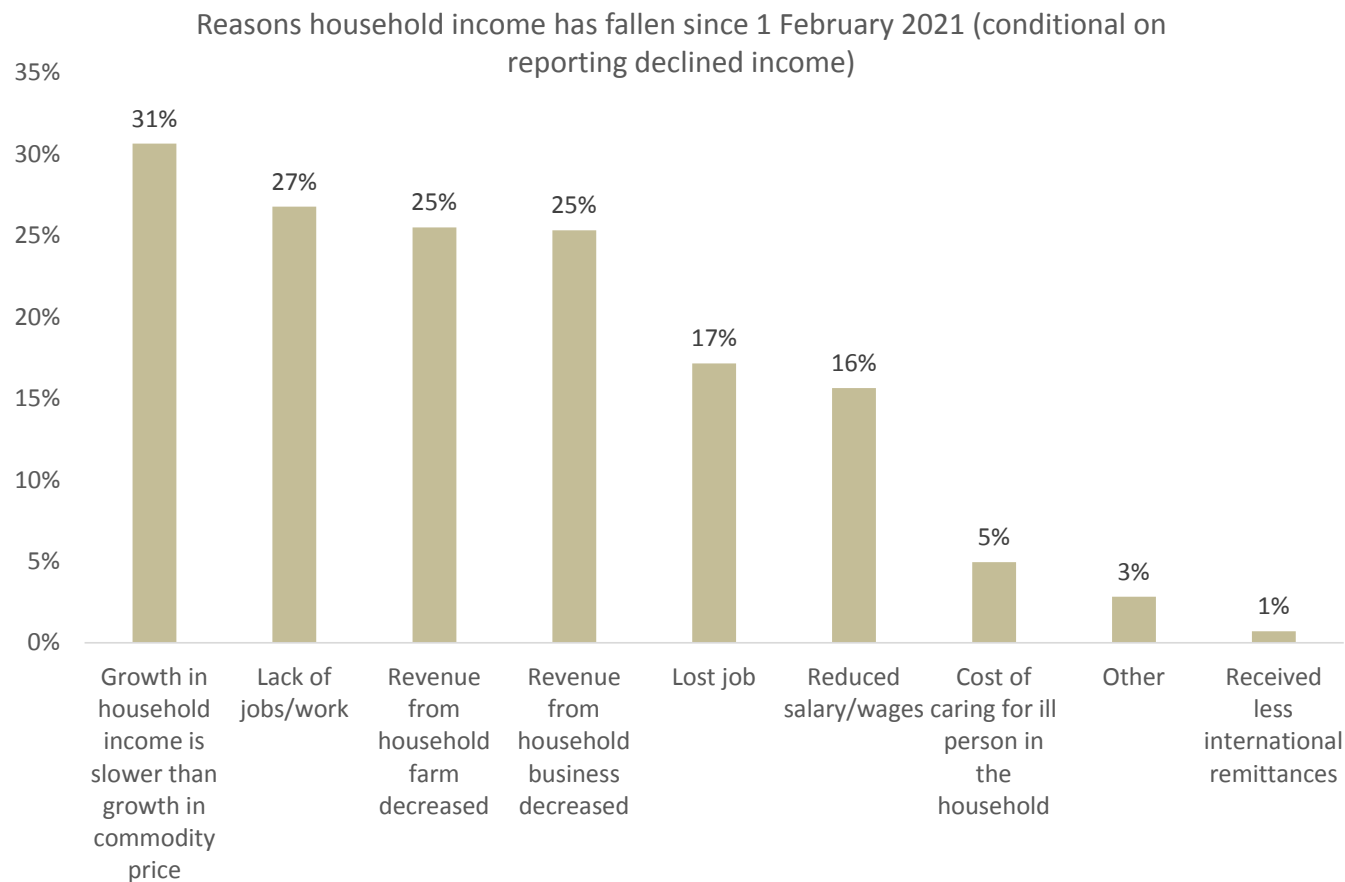
Households faced **reductions to both labor and non-labor income**.

Percent of households whose income from changed (conditional on receiving income from the source in past 12 months)

Category	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased
Household income	13	36	51
Family farming	11	38	51
Non-farm family business	5	34	60
Wage employment	15	43	43
Domestic remittances	14	29	57
International remittances	26	37	37
Assistance from family / non-family	2	86	12
Properties, investments or savings	65	14	22
Pensions		86	14
Assistance from public sector	17	63	21
Assistance from NGOs	29	21	50

■ Increased ■ Stayed the same ■ Decreased

Note: The proportions in the figure are conditional on households receiving incomes from the source in the past 12 months. Percent of households whose livelihoods are drawn from: Family farming (38.3%), Non-farm family business (20.8%), Wage employment (51.7%), Domestic remittances (2.2%), International remittances (2.0%), Assistance from family / non-family (1.4%), Properties, investments or savings (1.2%), Pensions (3.0%), Assistance from the public sector (0.03%), Assistance from NGOs (0.04%).

Since 1 February 2021, many households reporting declined income are experiencing declines because of higher prices, combined with employment losses and/or reduced work hours.

Reasons household income has fallen since 1 February 2021 (conditional on reporting declined income)

Category	Value
Growth in household income is slower than growth in commodity price	31%
Lack of jobs/work	27%
Revenue from household farm decreased	25%
Revenue from household business decreased	25%
Lost job	17%
Reduced salary/wages	16%
Cost of caring for ill person in the household	5%
Other	3%
Received less international remittances	1%

Note: The reported estimates are conditional on households reporting declined income since 1 February 2021.

Since 1 February 2021, most Myanmar households experienced numerous shocks, with food security-related and economic shocks being the most prominent.

Only **2%** of households did not experience any negative shocks since 1 February 2021.
Whereas **76%** faced at least two adverse shocks and **19%** faced at least five shocks.

Percent of households that experienced a shock since 1 Feb 2021, by number of shocks
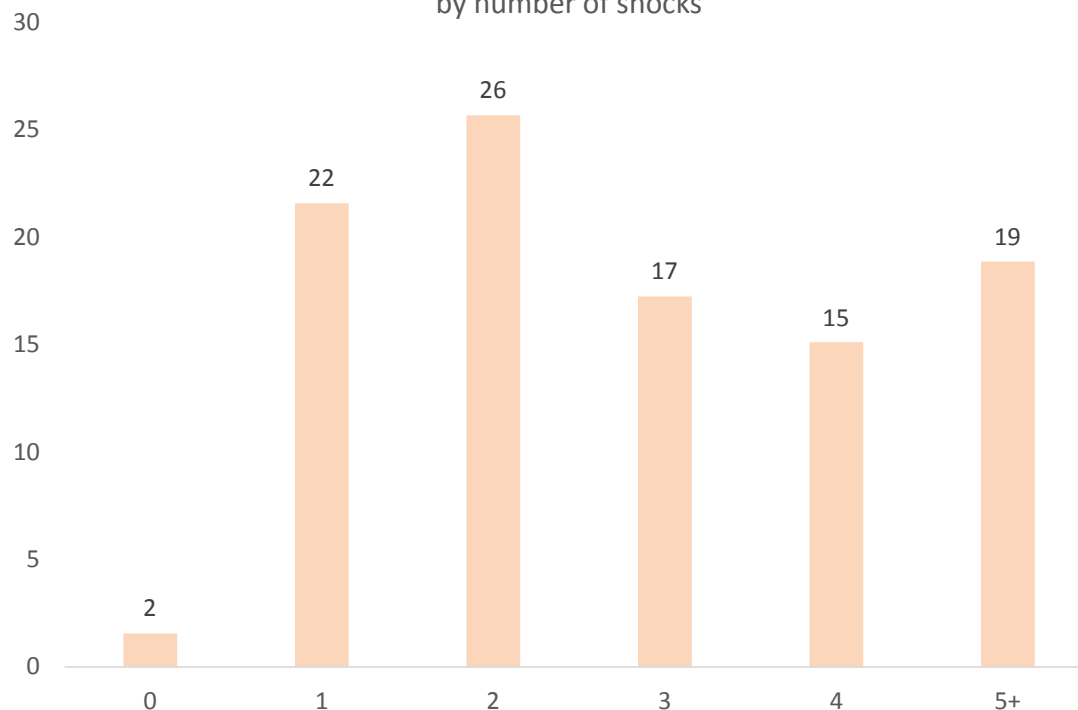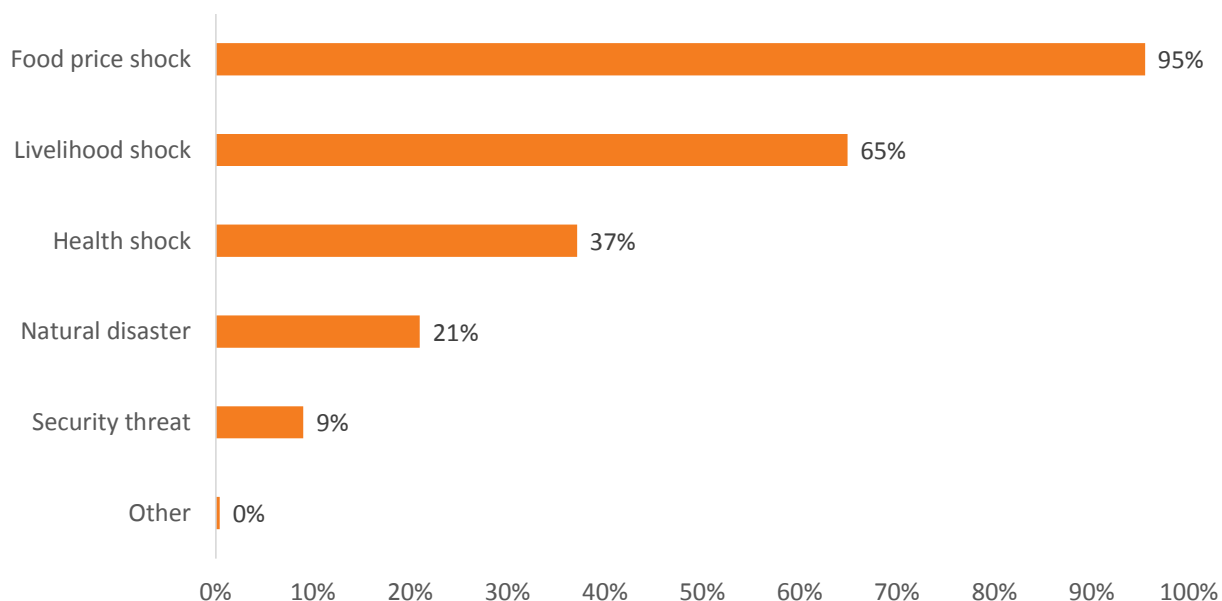
Number of shocks	Percent
0	2
1	22
2	26
3	17
4	15
5+	19

Since 1 February 2021, most Myanmar households experienced numerous shocks, with food security-related and economic shocks being the most prominent.

95% of households faced **increases in prices of major food prices**.
65% of households faced at least one **livelihood shock.**

Percent of households affected by a shock since 1 February 2021

Shock	Percent
Food price shock	95%
Livelihood shock	65%
Health shock	37%
Natural disaster	21%
Security threat	9%
Other	0%

Note: Food price shock includes (i) increase in price of major food items. Livelihood shocks includes (i) job loss, (ii) closure of a non-farm business, (iii) disruption of farming activities, (iv) increased price of farming/business inputs, (v) reduced price of farming/business output, (vi) lack of availability of business/farming inputs, and (vii) reduction of farming/business output. Natural disasters includes (i) flooding, and (ii) drought. Security threats includes (i) theft/looting of cash and other property, and (ii) conflict or community violence. Health shocks include (i) Illness, injury, or death of income earning household member.

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Percent of households affected by a shock since 1 Feb 2021

Shock	Percent
Increase in price of major food items	95%
Illness, injury, or death of income earner	37%
Increase in price of farming/business inputs	37%
Job loss	35%
Fall in price of farming/business output	19%
Lack of availability of farming/business inputs	18%
Reduction of farming/business output	17%
Drought	16%
Flooding	7%
Conflict/Community Violence	5%
Theft/Looting	4%
Non-farm business closure	4%
Disruption of farming activities	2%
Other	0%

Food insecurity

Food insecurity worsened in February 2022 compared to January 2021.

In February 2022, households typically **worried about food and reduced the quality and/or variety of food consumed**. Meals were not always nutritious as **24%** of households cut down healthy foods or ate fewer types of food. Very few households went a whole day without eating. At the same time, only 5% of households skipped a meal.

Percent of households that experienced the following issues in fulfilling food requirements
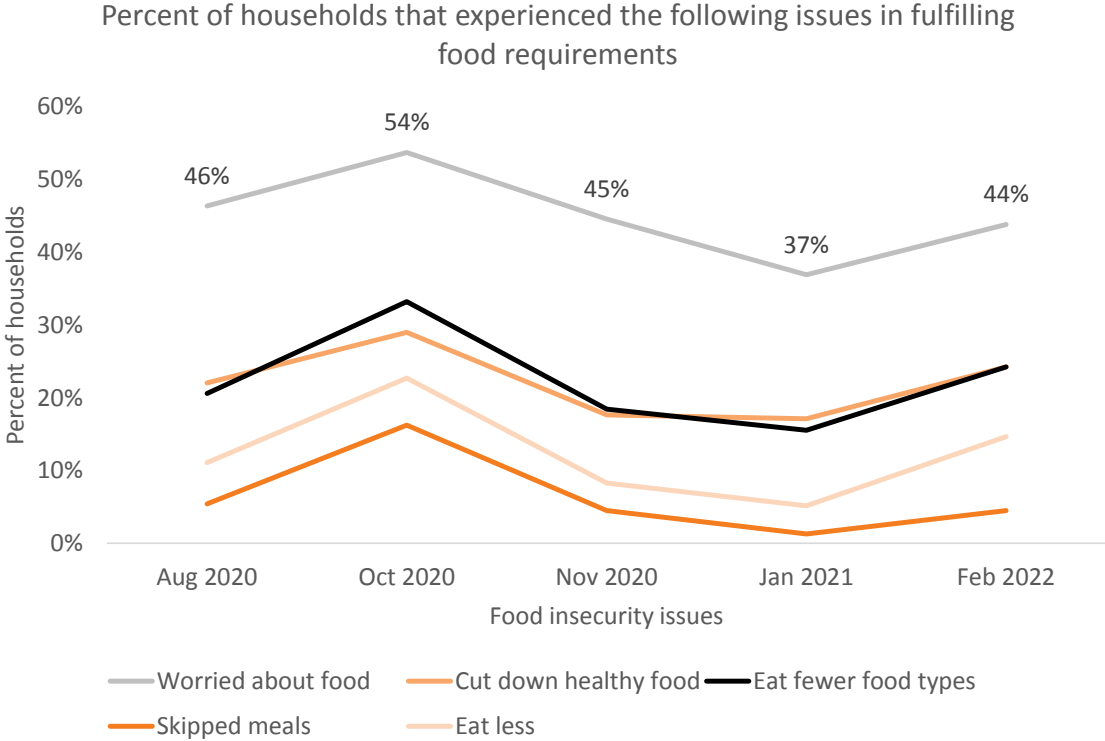
Food insecurity was elevated most for the bottom 40 percent.

The **bottom 40 percent were more likely to experience food insecurity** than the top 60 percent.

The bottom 20 percent were twice as likely to face an issue fulfilling food requirement than the top 20 percent.

Percent of households facing issues fulfilling food requirements by quintile
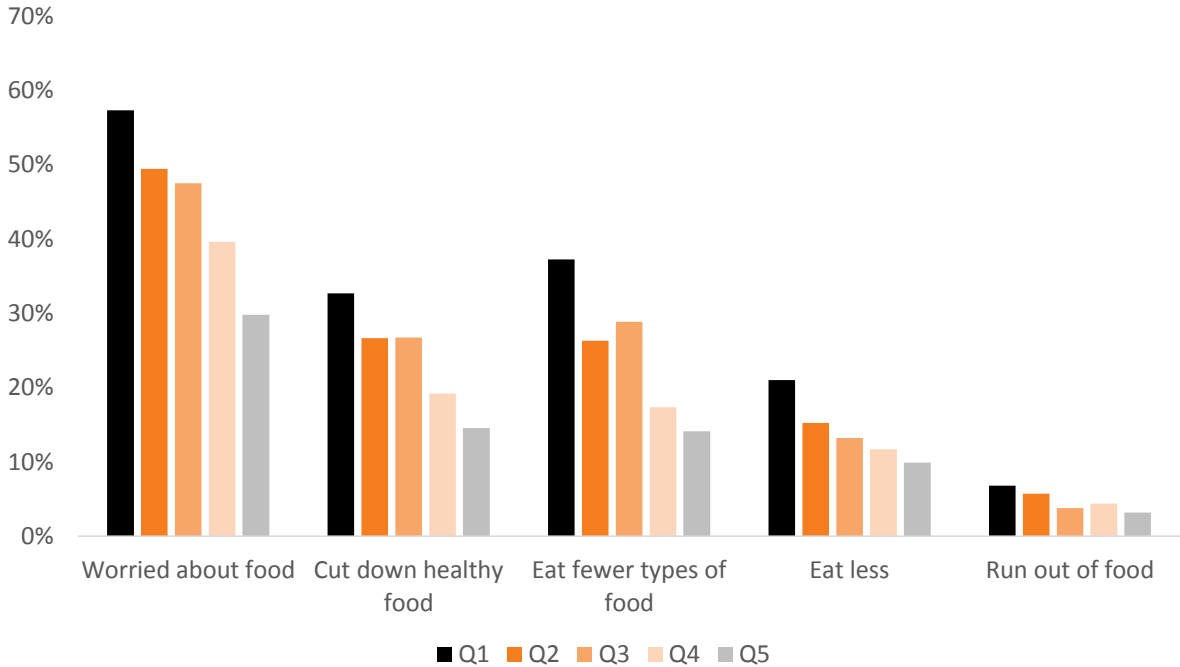
Coping mechanisms
& Social assistance

**More households reduced consumption, credited purchases, and sold assets, possibly due to depleting savings.**

These coping mechanisms could have **long-term negative impacts** on households' capacity to fulfil their basic needs, strengthen their human capital, and ensure households' financial solvency.

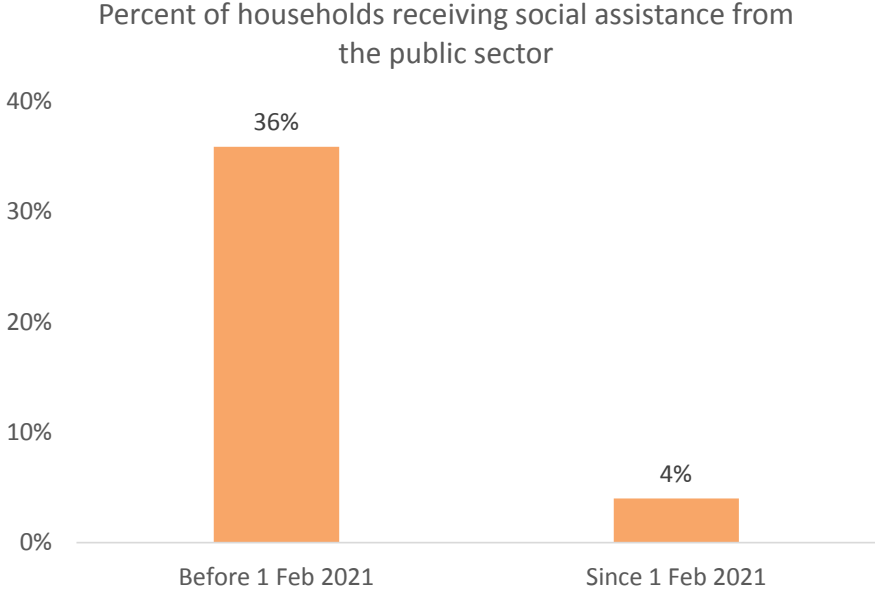Percent of households by coping mechanisms

Coping mechanisms	Jan 2021	Feb 2022
Reduced non-food consumption	43%	49%
Reduced food consumption	34%	44%
Relied on savings	42%	33%
Borrowed from friends/family	30%	33%
Credited purchases	19%	23%
Sale of assets	16%	21%
Delayed payment	26%	20%
Done nothing	7%	17%
Loan financial institution	22%	15%
Loan from moneylender	18%	12%
Additional activities	12%	9%
Sold harvest in advance	8%	8%

■ Jan 2021 ■ Feb 2022
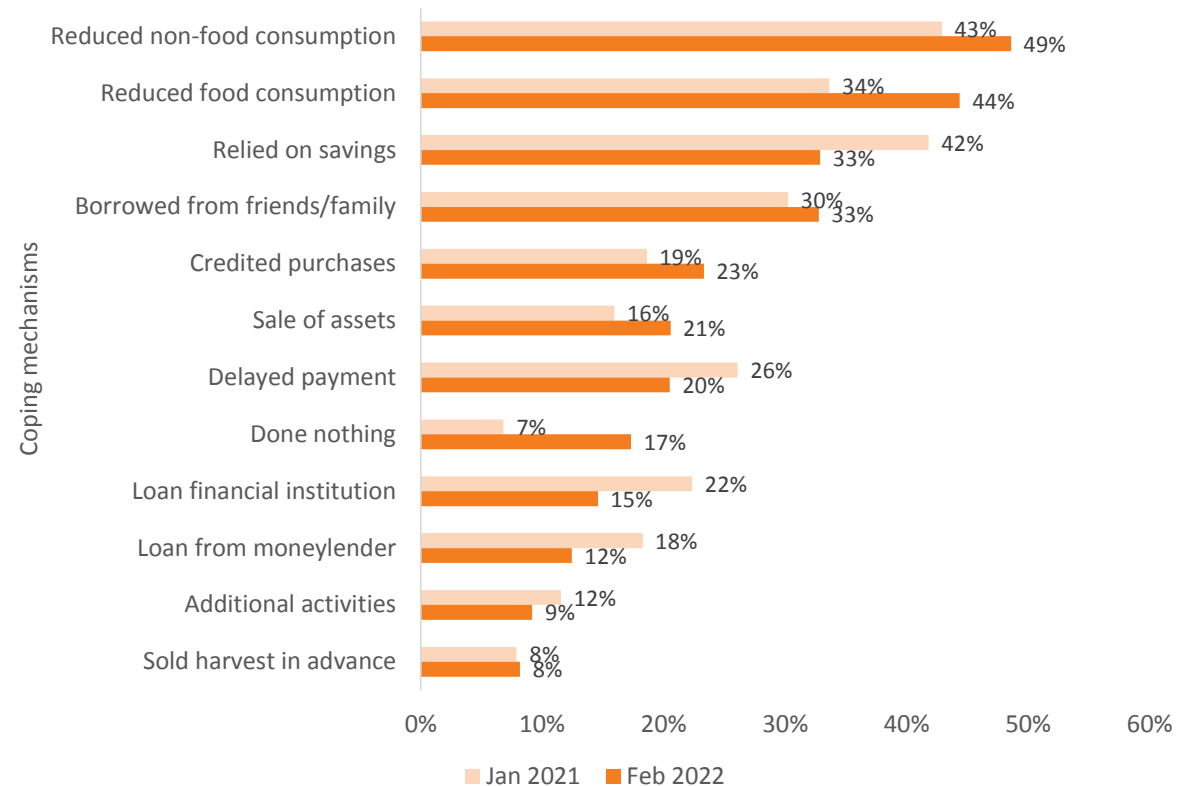
The bottom 40 were more likely to cut consumption and resort to potentially scarring coping mechanisms compared with the top 60.

Potentially scarring coping mechanisms include increasing household debt—crediting purchases, delaying payment obligations, and taking out loans—and selling assets. These coping mechanisms could have long-term negative impacts on households' capacity to fulfil basic needs, strengthen human capital, and ensure financial solvency.

Percent of households by coping mechanism and quintile

Bottom 40   Top 60
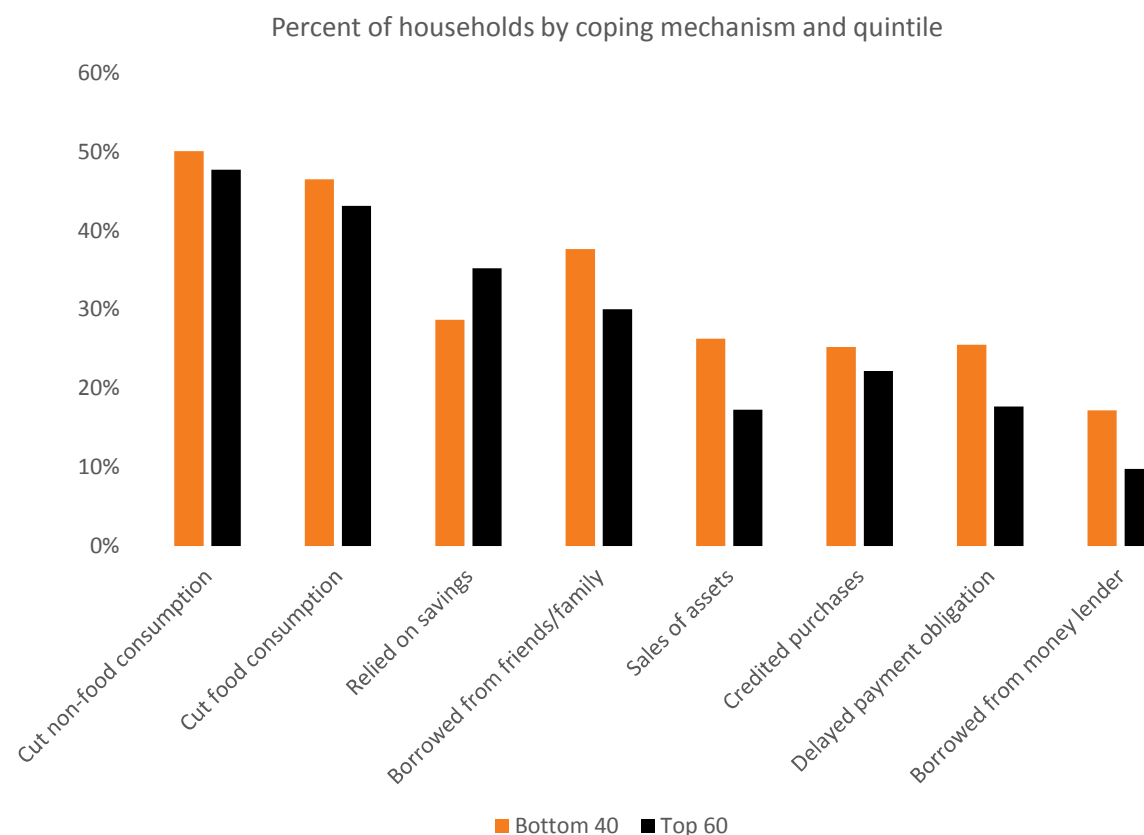
There was a **sharp reduction** in cash and food assistance from the public sector.

Percent of households receiving social assistance from the public sector

Percent of households receiving social assistance from the public sector by type

■ Before 1 Feb 2021   ■ Since 1 Feb 2021
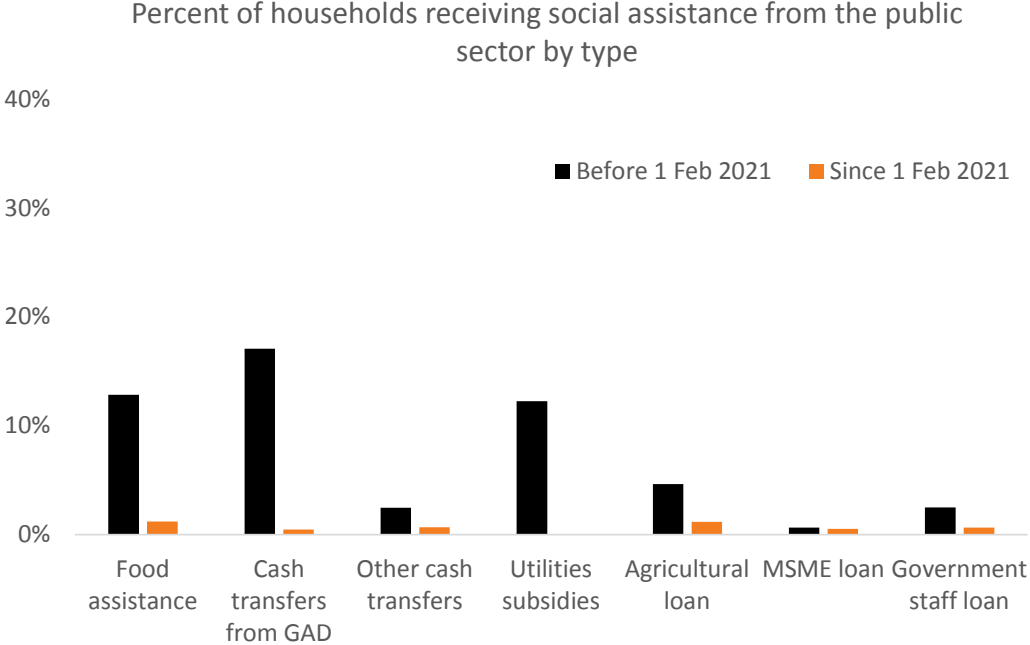
Note: Percent of households receiving social assistance from the public sector before 1 February 2021 was drawn from Round 7 based on recall. Estimates may differ if other rounds are used.

Since 1 February 2021, there is a growing self-perception of impoverishment.

Percent of households self-perceiving a change in socio-economic status compared to other households in the village

Before
1 Feb 2021

Today

■ Poorest ■ Poor ■ Average ■ Rich ■ Richest
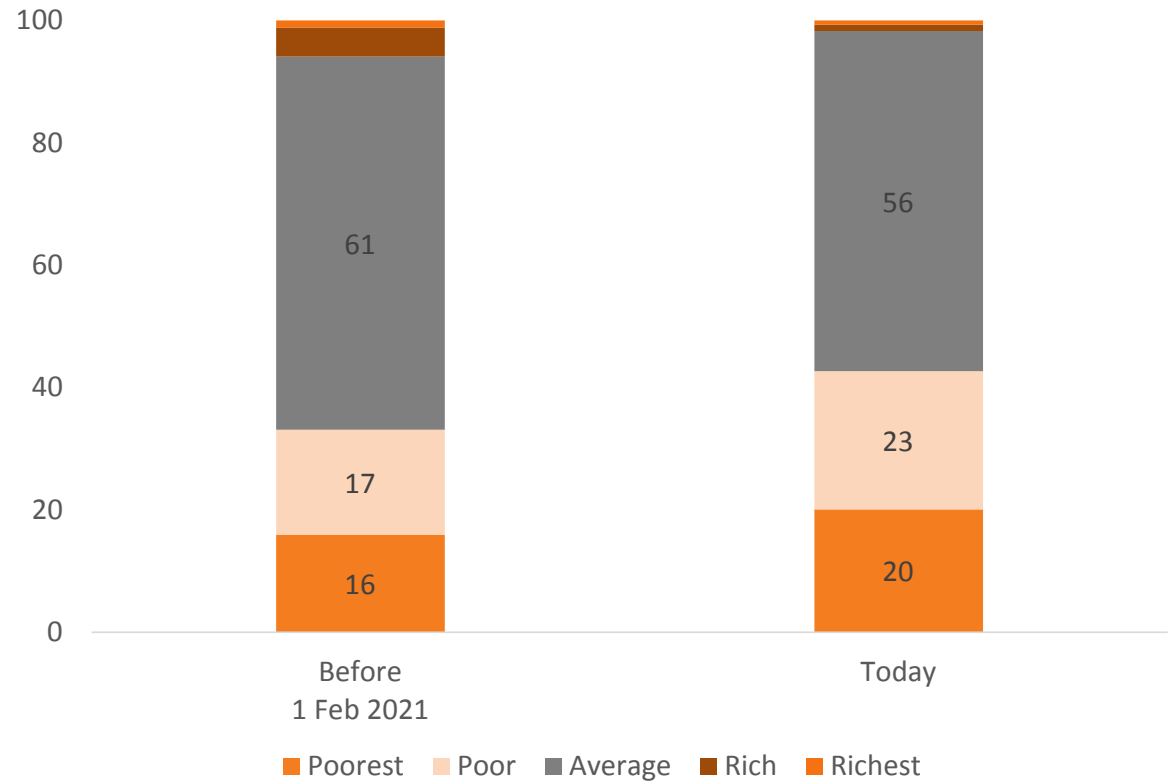
Mental Health

There is **increased mental stress since 1 February 2021**, with elevated levels of anxiety and growing sense of hopelessness.

Percent of households that experienced mental stress

	Nov 2020	Feb 2022
Any mental health condition	56%	60%
Feeling sad	28%	32%
Feeling lonely	15%	22%
Feeling hopeless	15%	29%
Feeling nervous, tense or anxious	41%	43%
Unable to sleep well	26%	32%
Difficulty concentrating	13%	18%
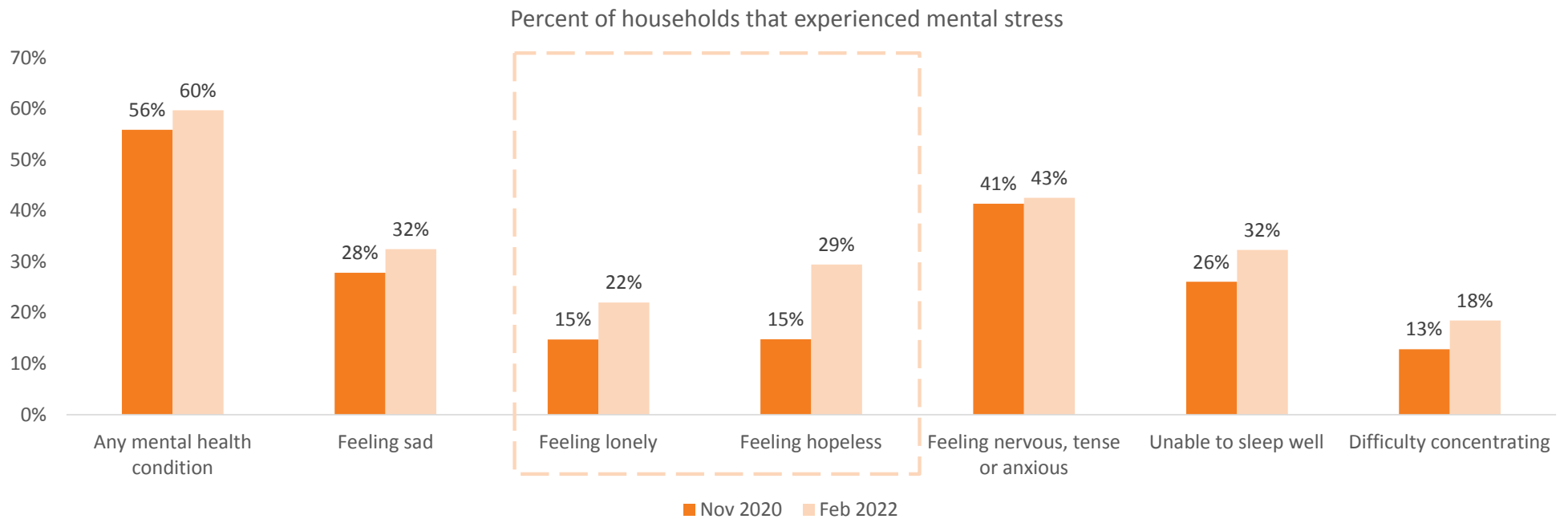
There are growing concerns about finances and having enough to eat.

Percent of households worried about having enough to eat and finances

Worried about having enough to eat next week —— Worried about household finances in the next month
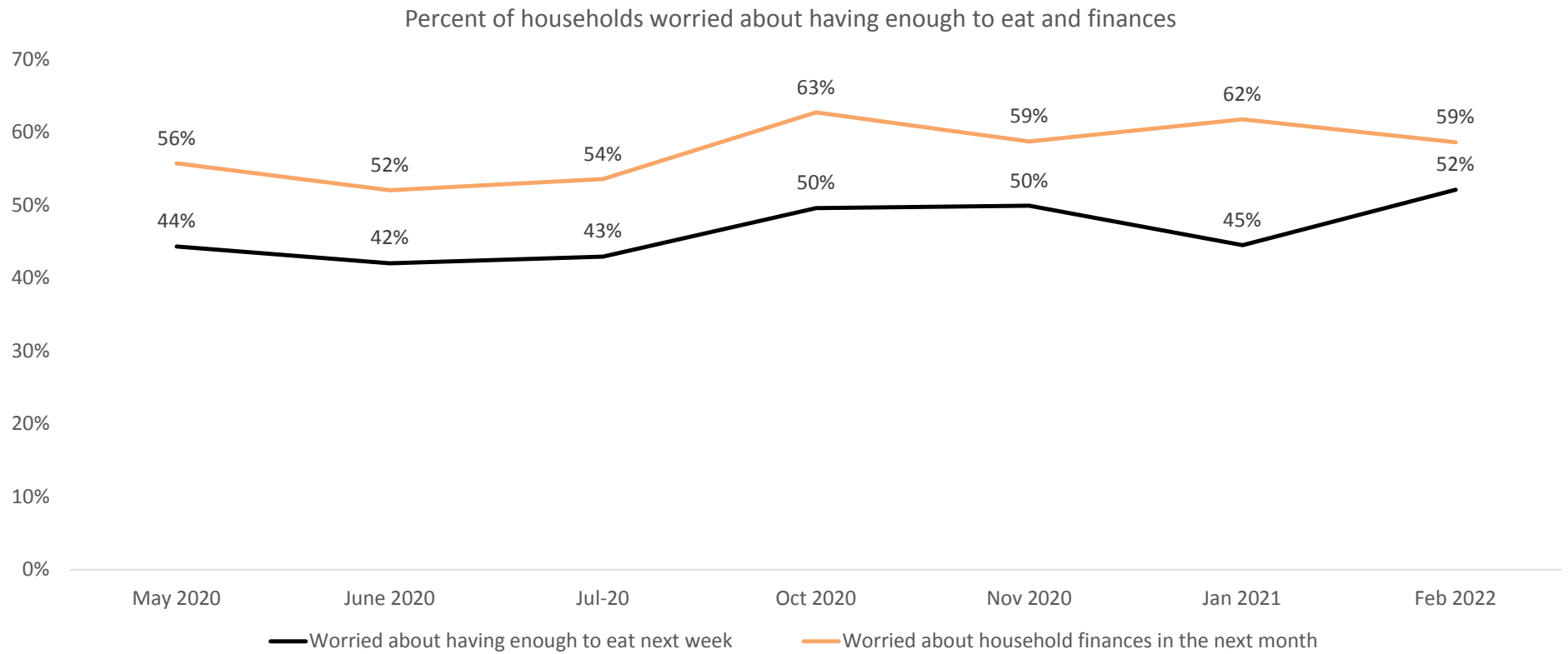
Thank you

More information is available on

Myanmar Monitoring Platform – Household Surveys

And upon request
myanmar@worldbank.org

ANNEXES

Survey design and sampling

A
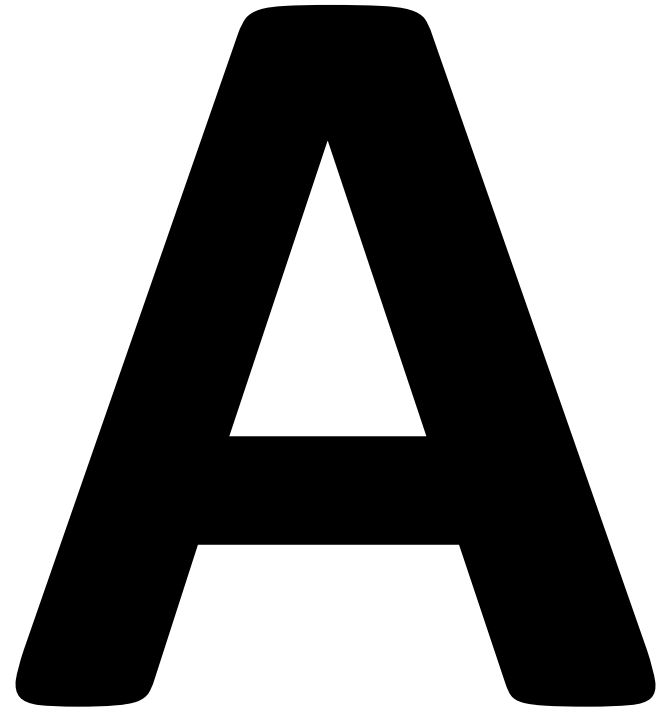
Design

- **Method:** Phone surveys were conducted monthly from May 2020 to February 2022 through a 30–40-minute phone interview of 1,500 households. The World Bank implemented Rounds 1-7, with technical and implementation support from the Central Statistical Organization for Rounds 1-6.

- **Tracked indicators:** Labor market and livelihood strategies, food insecurity and poverty, and households' coping strategies are recorded in all survey rounds. Questions relating to behavioral changes, access to health and education, and migratory trends will be asked in subsequent survey rounds as the situation unfolds.

- Respondents were sampled from an existing and consenting pool of respondents sourced from a private firm. Respondents were adult women and men, irrespective of their household responsibility status.

- Sample was weighted to assure representativeness of estimates at the Union level.

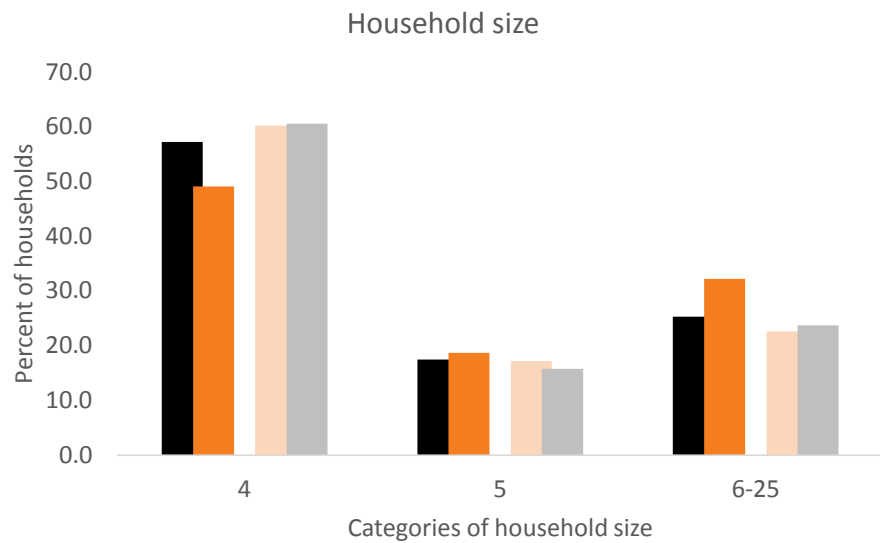# Similarity of sample distribution of MLCS 2017 and HFPS 2020...
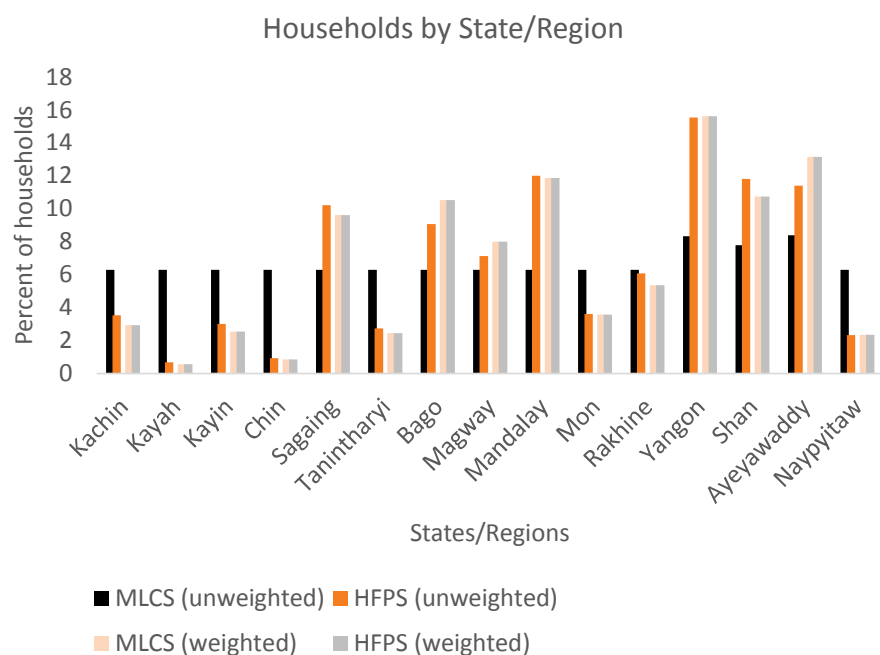
Households by State/Region

MLCS: Myanmar living conditions survey (2017))
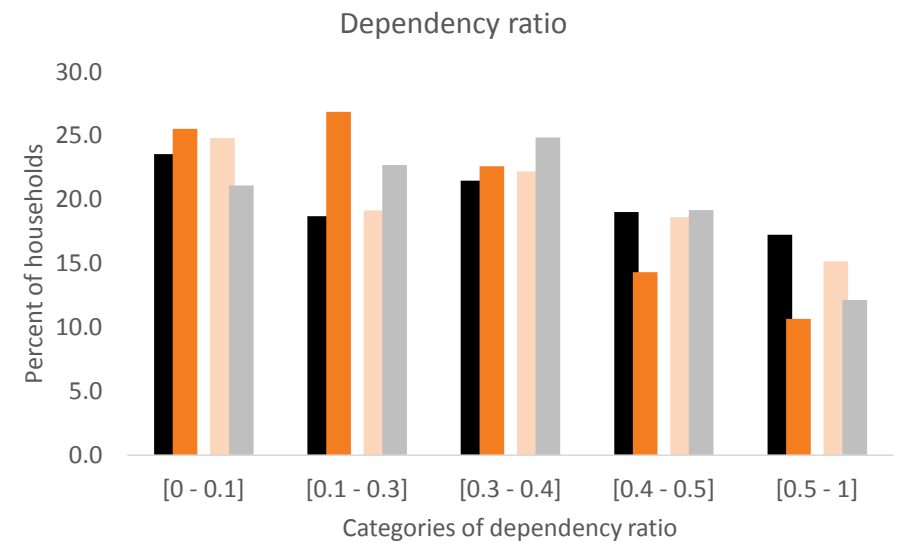HFPS: High-frequency phone survey (2020)

Households by urban/rural
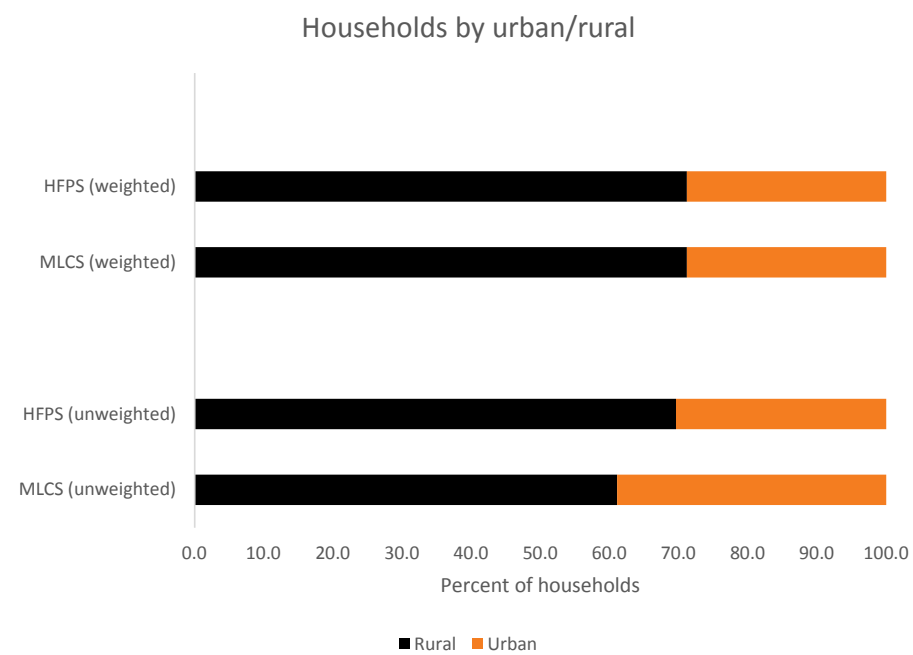
MLCS: Myanmar living conditions survey (2017))
HFPS: High-frequency phone survey (2020)

… strengthening confidence of representativeness of the HFPS

Household size

MLCS: Myanmar living conditions survey (2017))
HFPS: High-frequency phone survey (2020)
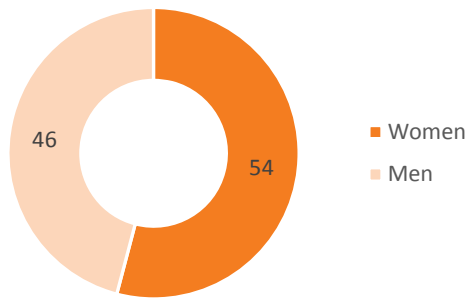
Dependency ratio

Dependency ratio: share of children (0-14 years old) and elderly (65 years old and over) over adults

Characteristics of surveyed population

B
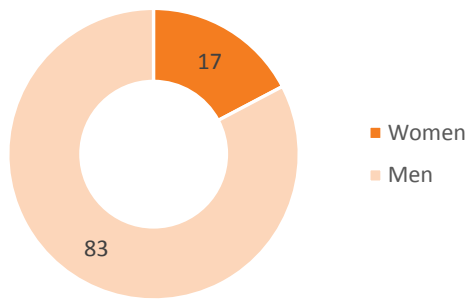
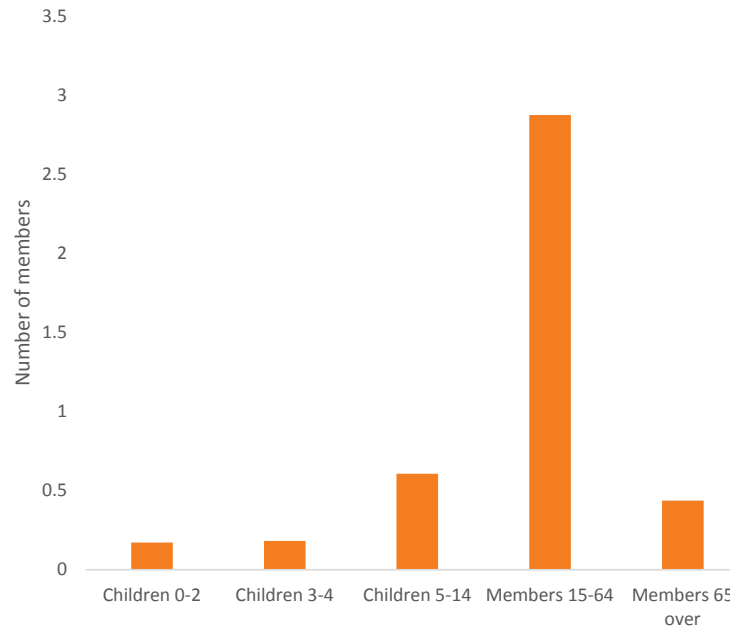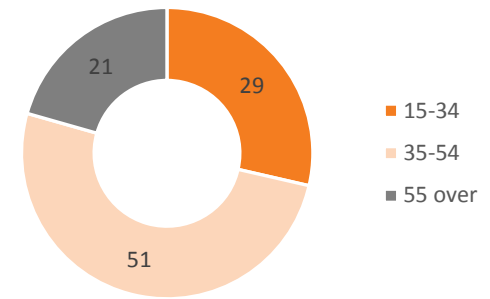# The HFPS drew from a representative and diverse sample of respondents and households

Gender

- Women: 54
- Men: 46

Gender of household head

- Women: 17
- Men: 83

Household composition

Number of members

| Children 0-2 | Children 3-4 | Children 5-14 | Members 15-64 | Members 65 over |

Age groups

- 15-34: 29
- 35-54: 51
- 55 over: 21

Main language spoken

- Myanmar: 87
- Rakhine: 3
- Kayin: 4
- Other: 5