

UNHCR, in association with Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), carried out a household level survey to collect socioeconomic data on persons of concern to UNHCR (PoC). The study examines the impact of COVID-19 on forcibly displaced populations in Costa Rica, focusing on access to essential services, livelihoods, and food insecurity.

Population: PoC in Costa Rica registered in proGres. The sample is representative of UNHCR's registration database, but not necessarily of the entire displaced population in the country.

Data collection: two rounds of a phone survey conducted by IPA and UNHCR. The survey was developed in line with the World Bank's questionnaire for their High-Frequency Phone Surveys (HFPS) among national populations in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

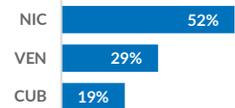


Round 1: 3 Mar - 24 Apr 2021
Round 2: 7 Jul - 26 Aug 2021



Sample: 1,163 households
Sample: 761 households

Respondents by nationality



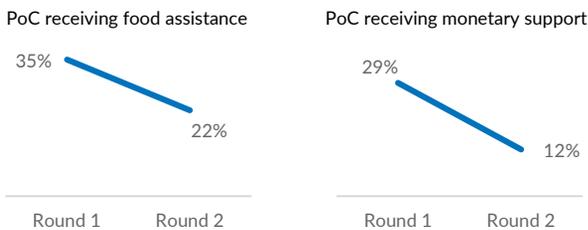
COVID-19 and vaccination

- 20%** One in five households has **experienced COVID-19 infection** (round 2).
- 36%** Have received at least one dose of the **COVID-19 vaccine** (round 2).
- 80%** Believe the vaccines are **safe and effective**.



Assistance

Food- and cash-based support fell between the two rounds.



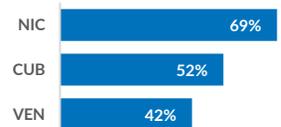
Food insecurity

Food insecurity remains high, with most respondents reporting trouble accessing enough food.

61% Report an adult **skipping a meal** in the last week (round 2).

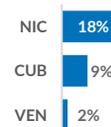
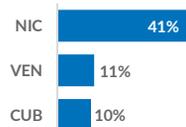
Nicaraguan population faces higher levels of food-related vulnerability, compared to the other nationalities.

Household **ran out of food** in the last 30 days (round 2)



Respondents report **children going hungry** in the last 30 days (round 2)

Respondents report **children going without food for 24h** in the last 30 days (round 2)



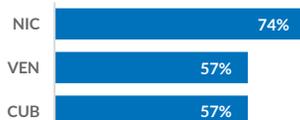
Employment and sources of income

- 74%** Report a **reduction in total family income** compared to pre-COVID times (round 1).
- 57%** Report a **reduction in total family income** compared to previous round (round 2).
- 68%** Report being **employed** (round 2).
- Venezuelans** are more likely to be involved in **formal employment** compared to the other nationalities.
- Nicaraguan households** are more likely to have experienced **employment disruption** between the two rounds (including a household member losing a job, having a formal contract suspended or seeing a reduction in the number of hours).

Formal contract (round 2)



Employment disruption (round 2)



Financial insecurity

- 55%** Feel their household **economic circumstances** are "**very threatened**" by the crisis.
- 50%** **Without bank or mobile savings account.**
- 70%** Forced to **deplete assets** or **rely on others** to meet daily needs between the two survey rounds.



Education

Nearly 50% of respondents consider the quality of school to be **poor or very poor** (round 2), compared to only 15% prior to March 2020.

Nicaraguan households report limited access to internet and other computer resources compared to the other nationalities.

Source: UNHCR Costa Rica PoC Survey Analysis. IPA.

Assessing the Socioeconomic Impact of COVID-19 on Forcibly Displaced Populations. Thematic Brief No. 4: the case of Costa Rica. Craig Loschmann, Theresa Beltramo and Jed Fix. UNHCR. March 2022.

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