

Ethiopia Socioeconomic Panel Survey 2021/22

SURVEY REPORT

September 2023

Overview



INTRODUCTION

The Ethiopia Socioeconomic Panel Survey (ESPS) is a multi-topic longitudinal household survey implemented by the Ethiopian Statistical Service (ESS) in collaboration with the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS), World Bank with financial support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

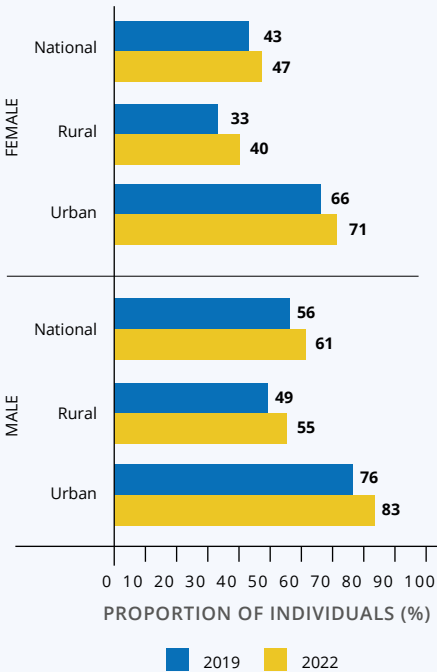
The first ESPS was implemented in 2011/12. The households were visited in 2013/14 (ESPS-2) and 2015/16 (ESPS-3). The sample was refreshed in 2018/19 (ESPS-4). The 2021/22 ESPS (ESPS-5) is a follow-up of the 2018/19 survey (ESPS-4), and 4,999 households were interviewed. This summary presents selected findings of ESPS-5.

EDUCATION AND HEALTH



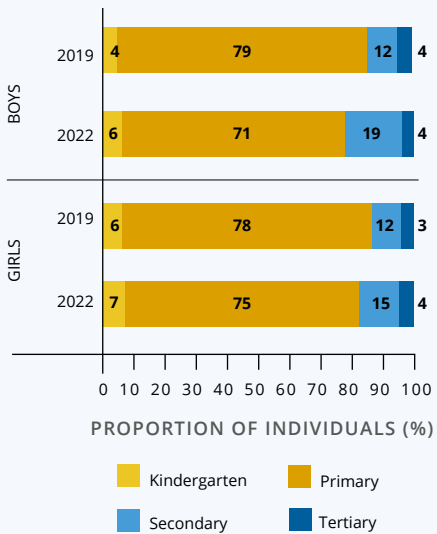
LITERACY

The literacy rate has been increasing over time in rural and urban areas, though males appeared to be more literate than females. Between 2019 and 2022, the literacy rate increased by five percentage points for males and by four percentage points for females. The literacy rate in rural areas increased at a higher rate for females than for males. However, the gender gap persists across all places. For example, in 2022, almost half of the women still lacked basic reading and writing skills, and this is worse in rural areas where 60% of the women are illiterate.



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

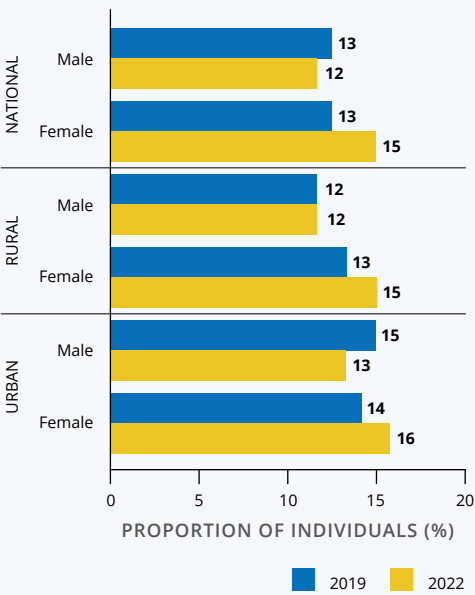
The number of all enrolled students was 25.4 million in 2022, up from 22.6 million in 2019. Enrollment in primary school decreased over time for both boys and girls, however, secondary school enrollment increased.





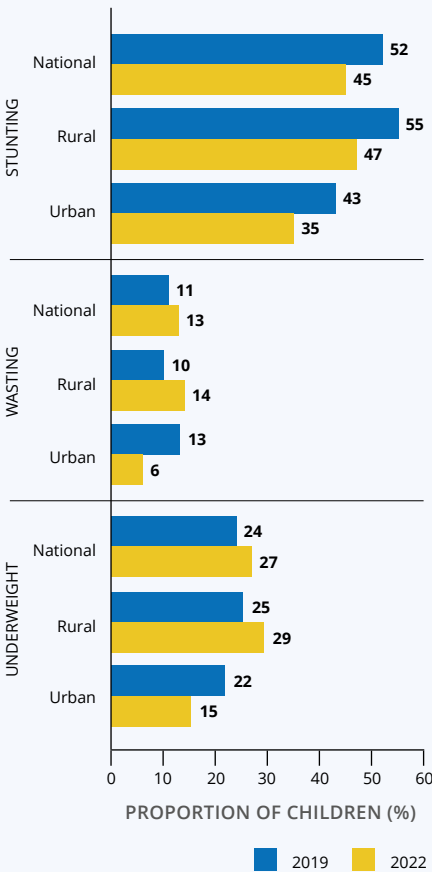
HEALTH:
SELF-REPORTED ILLNESS

The prevalence of self-reported illnesses remained mostly the same between 2019 (13%) and 2022 (14%). There was also no change between rural and urban areas, nor for male and female household members.



CHILD
UNDERNUTRITION

The prevalence of stunting among children between 6 and 59 months decreased from 52% in 2019 to 45% in 2022. The decline is more pronounced in rural areas, where it decreased by eight percentage points. Moreover, in urban areas, the rate of wasting decreased from 13% in 2019 to 6% in 2022.



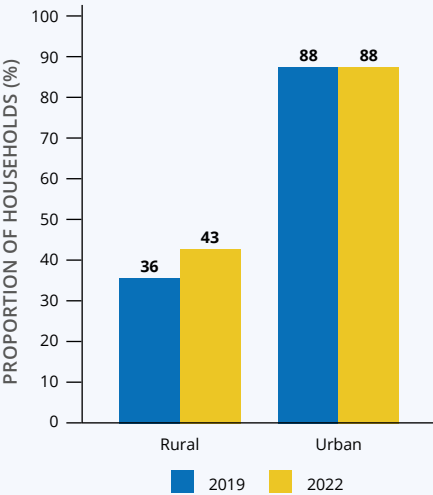
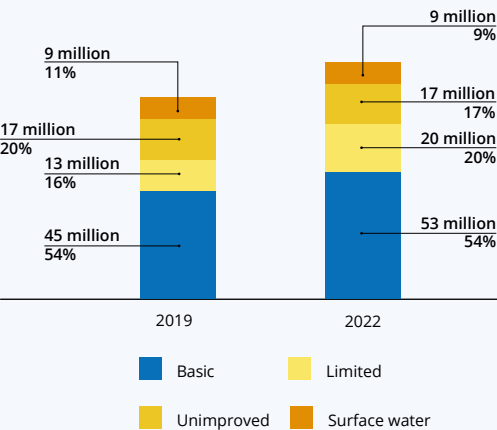
WATER AND ENERGY



ACCESS TO DRINKING WATER

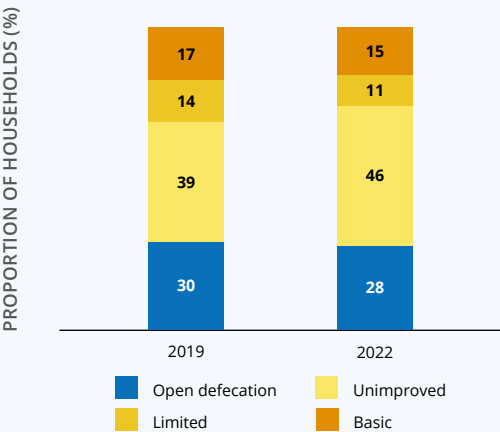
As of 2022, about 73 million people had access to improved drinking water, up from 67 million in 2019. Most of the population (54%) had access to basic services.

There is a wider gap between rural (68%) and urban (95%) households in accessing improved drinking water. However, access in rural areas increased by seven percentage points between 2019 and 2022, and this is largely due to the expansion of access to piped water. Access to piped water in rural areas increased from 36% to 43%.



ACCESS TO SANITATION SERVICES

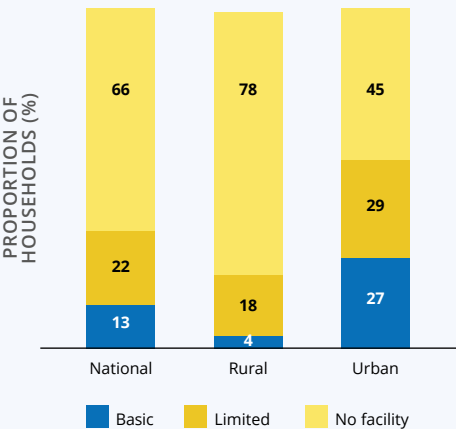
As of 2022, most of the population (74%) relied on unimproved sanitation facilities or open defecation. The share of households using improved toilets decreased by five percentage points.





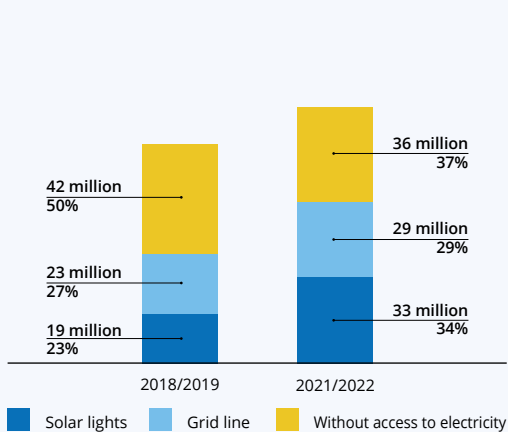
ACCESS TO HYGIENE

Approximately, 34% of households have access to basic or limited hygiene services. The majority (66%) do not have any hygiene facility in their homes. Urban households have better access to basic or limited hygiene services (55%) compared to rural households (22%).

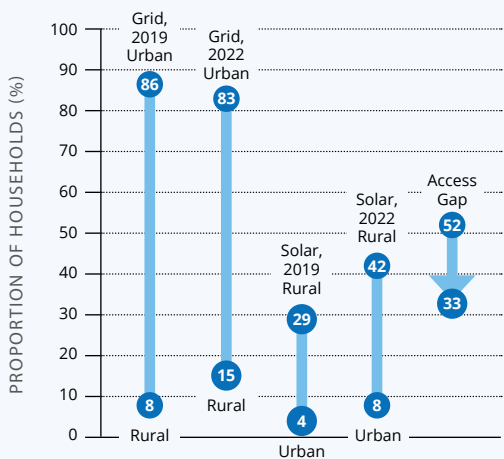


ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Access to electricity showed some improvement, as it increased from 50% in 2019 to 63% in 2022 and this improvement is driven by the expansion of solar energy, particularly in rural areas.



The primary source of energy for cooking is firewood, and it is the most important source of fuel. Firewood usage increased by five percentage points between 2019 and 2022. Interestingly, the share of urban households using firewood as a fuel source also increased by seven percentage points over the same period. In urban areas, the second most widely-used source of fuel is electricity, however electricity as a fuel source is almost non-existent in rural areas.



TIME USE, EMPLOYMENT AND NON-FARM ENTERPRISES



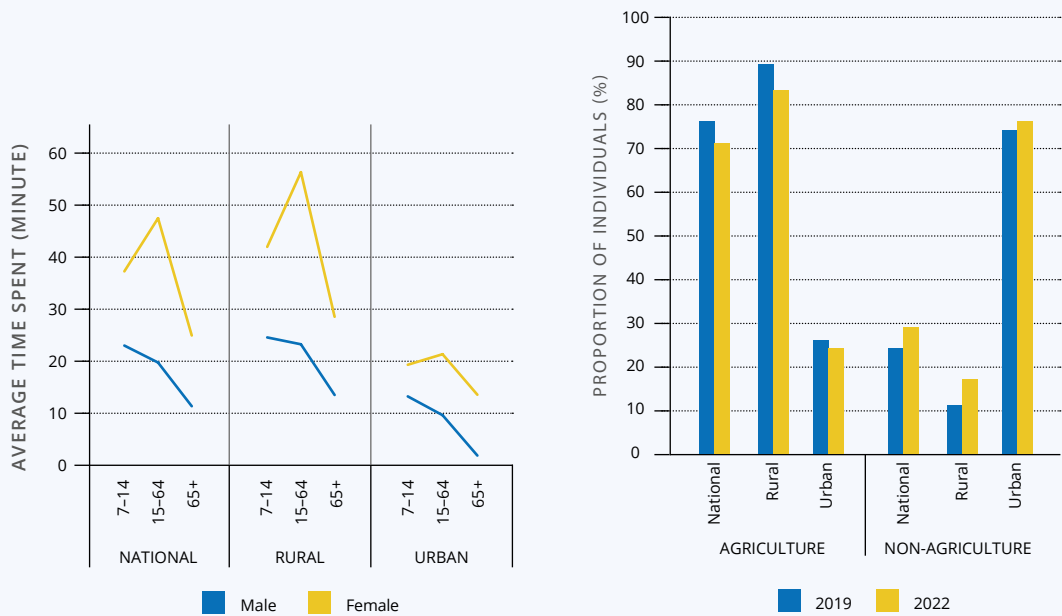
TIME USE & EMPLOYMENT

About 60% females aged seven years and above participated daily in collecting water and fuelwood, while only 30% males spent time on these activities. This gender gap is wider in rural areas with 37 percentage points versus 11 percentage points in urban areas. In addition, Females also spent more time --about an hour -- on this activity than males.

The share of the population that is employed remained about the same between 2019

and 2022, though it decreased from 64% to 59% in rural areas over the same period. The employment contraction in rural areas mainly occurred among females and in the agriculture sector, as employment in the sector decreased from 76% in 2019 to 71% in 2022.

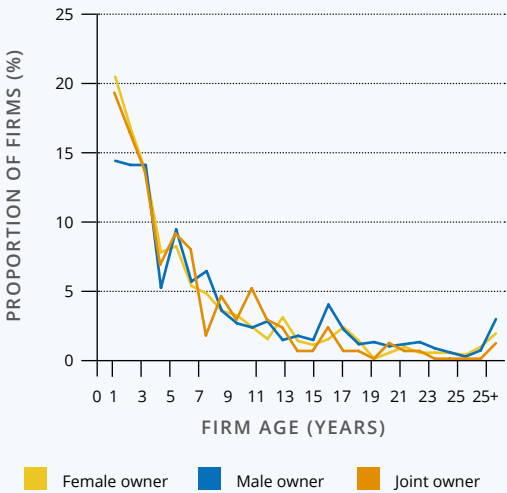
In 2022, 30% of those employed were in the non-agriculture economic sector, up from 24% in 2019. Employment in the sector is more common in urban areas, though participation in rural areas increased by six percentage points over time.





NON-FARM ENTERPRISE

Ownership of household non-farm enterprises increased from 23% in 2019 to 27% in 2022, with the most considerable rise observed in urban areas (38% to 48%). The enterprises are young with an average age of six years. As they age, the life span of a household enterprise decays, implying a high drop-out rate. About 40% have been in operation for less than three years. Among these startups, the share of female-owned enterprises was higher than male-owned enterprises.

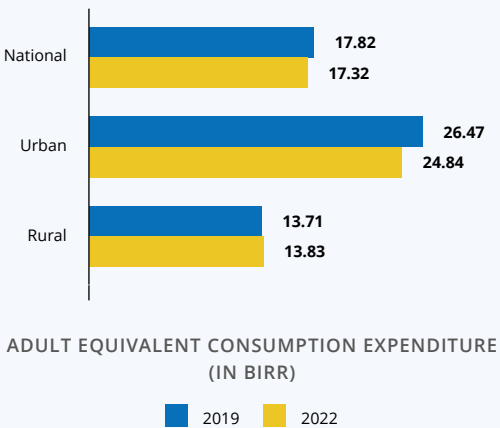


CONSUMPTION, FOOD SECURITY, SHOCKS AND COPING



CONSUMPTION EXPENDITURE

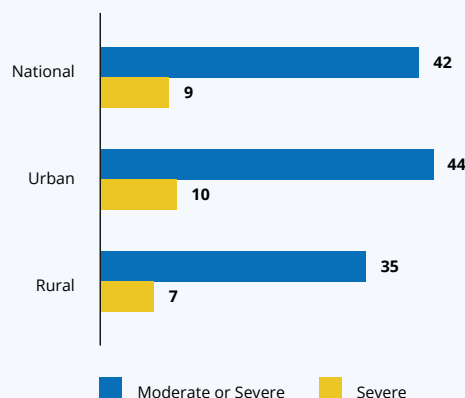
In 2022, the national average of the annual household consumption expenditure per adult equivalent was 17,000 Birr. Comparing the results of the two surveys (2019 and 2022), household spending has not changed significantly over time. The rural-urban gap in consumption value has persisted, e.g., in 2022, total consumption per adult equivalent was 25,000 Birr in urban areas while it was 14,000 Birr in rural areas.





FOOD INSECURITY EXPERIENCE

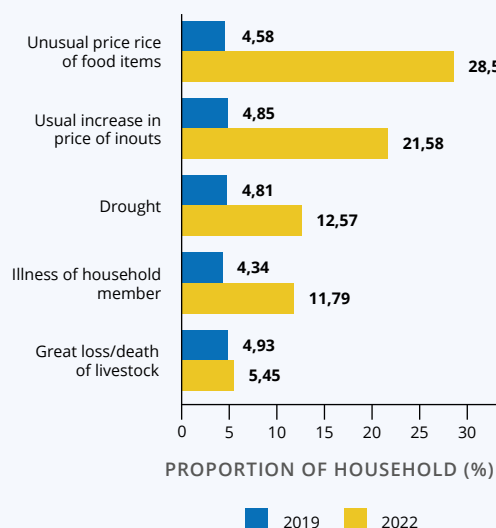
In the 2021/22 round, the survey measured the household's food insecurity experience using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) which has eight questions.¹ The questions were implemented at the household level, i.e., food insecurity experienced by anyone in the household in the 30 days preceding the survey. Approximately 41.5% of households experienced moderate or severe food insecurity and 9.2% of households experienced severe food insecurity. More households in rural areas experienced food insecurity than those in urban areas.



SHOCKS AND COPING MECHANISMS

In 2022, many households reported that they were affected by several natural disasters and man-made occurrences. Comparing the two surveys (2019 and 2022) shows that more households reported experiencing selected shocks in the 2022 survey than in the 2019 survey.

Households cope with shocks in diverse ways. The most common coping mechanisms used to address the shocks that households faced were, in order of importance: drawing on savings, selling livestock, changing eating patterns, and obtaining credit from friends and relatives.



¹ FAO: The Food Insecurity Experience Scale: Voices of the Hungry: www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/

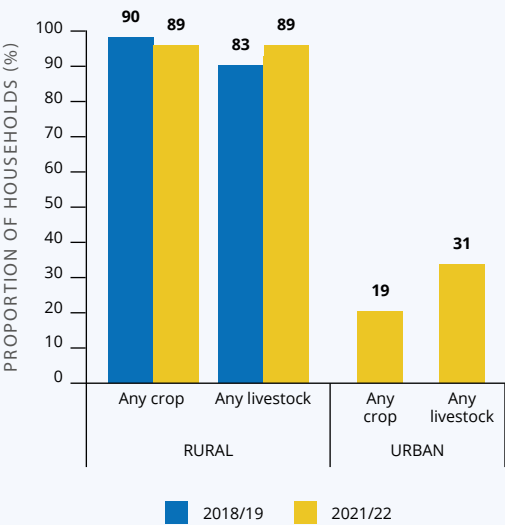
AGRICULTURE INTENSIFICATION AND TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION



PARTICIPATION IN AGRICULTURE

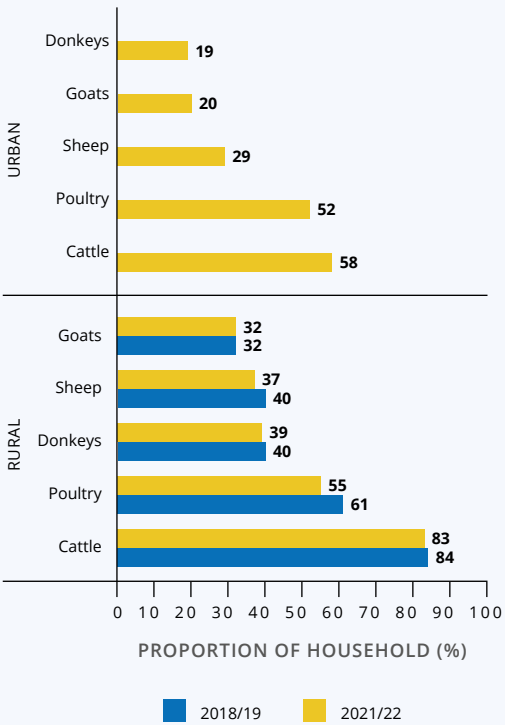
In 2021/22, 89% of rural households cultivated crops, with the same proportion keeping livestock. Participation in livestock activities increased by six percentage points between 2018/19 and 2021/22.

About 19% of urban households engaged in crop production in 2021/22 while a higher proportion (31%) participated in livestock activities.



LIVESTOCK OWNERSHIP

Cattle and poultry are the most common livestock types owned by both rural and urban households. Donkeys and small ruminants like sheep and goats are also in the group of top five livestock commonly owned in Ethiopia, regardless of region. In 2021/22, 83% of rural and 58% of urban households owned cattle.

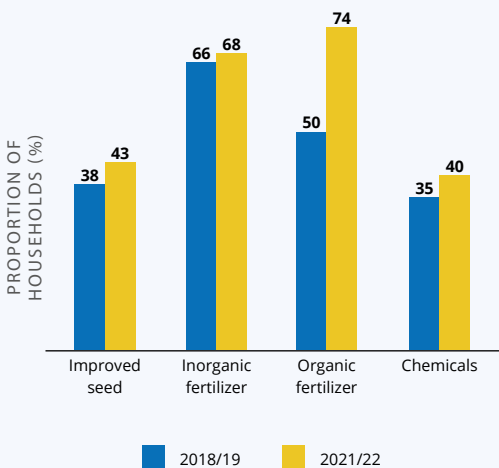


Please advise: can we move "livestock ownership" before "modern input.."?



MODERN INPUT USE IN FARMING

The use of improved seeds in Ethiopia is low, with only 43% of rural households applying them on at least one of the crops planted in 2021/22. Compared to other crops, improved seed usage was better for maize and wheat. For example, the application of improved seeds on maize fields by rural households was 59%, while it was 76% for urban households.



In 2021/22, about 66% of households applied inorganic fertilizer and 74% applied organic fertilizer. Organic fertilizer use increased by 24 percentage points between 2018/19 and 2021/22. In 2021/22, any fertilizer use for main crops in rural areas was as follows: wheat (96%), teff (84%), maize (84%) and barley (80%). In addition, in 2021/22, 40% of rural households reported use of chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides).

