SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON AFRICAN ECONOMIES, SOCIAL COHESION, AND GOVERNANCE: EVIDENCE FROM BENIN, BURKINA FASO, AND SOUTH AFRICA

Benin Survey Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this report, we outline the findings from a survey of the Beninese population on the effects of COVID-19 on social cohesion, household economic situation, and perceptions regarding the government's response to the pandemic. Greater detail on the points made in this executive summary can be found in the body of the report.

Overall, we find that COVID-19 had a relatively mild negative effect on social cohesion, a negative effect on the economic situation of households and that households prefer stringent government policy to contain the spread of the virus. It should be noted that few households report observing incidences of COVID-19 (either death or serious illness) in their communities. The fact the Beninese population prefers strict policy while observing few incidences of the virus suggests that the Beninese population prioritizes health over economic outcomes.

Although few people observe the negative health consequences, most view COVID-19 as a serious problem and support strict government policy to contain the spread of the virus. Most even support the temporary suspension of civil liberties to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It should be noted that this runs contrary to the belief held by most households that individual actions are more important than government policy to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This preference for stringent containment policy may be explained by households observing a lack of compliance with government policy in their community. Most households reported that when government monitoring was not stringent compliance in their community was weak.

Below we expand on these observations by outlining some key findings from each section of this report. More detail on each section can be found in the body of the report.

Social Cohesion

COVID-19 appears to have had a slightly negative effect on social cohesion in Benin. These negative effects took the form of:

- People feeling less integrated into Beninese society.
- A slight reduction in the willingness to pay taxes and vote.
- Reduced trust in leaders.
- Reduced trust in groups such as the Beninese people, ethnic group, family, neighborhood, religion, and work.

These negative effects may be explained by the reduced mobility and ability to meet in groups. Surveyed households reported:

- Reduced participation in groups (micro-credit associations, political groups, religious organizations, sports groups, trade unions, youth groups).
- Decreased involvement in community meetings and protests.

It should be noted that in general, most survey respondents report no change in indicators of social cohesion since the advent of COVID-19. Other positive aspects of COVID-19 on social cohesion are as follows:

- Decreased the fear of violence.
- No evidence that domestic violence increased.
- Increased trust in religious leaders and police.

Economy

Most Beninese households were negatively economically affected by COVID-19. This is captured by the following facts from the surveyed households:

- A large fraction of the population report being negatively economically affected by COVID-19.
- Among those affected almost all experienced a reduction in household income.
- A slight majority of the population are optimistic that their household living situation will improve in the next year.

Health

The COVID-19 pandemic had little effect on the health of Beninese households. Despite this most households view the pandemic as very serious although there is little trust in vaccines. This is reflected in the following facts from surveyed households:

- Very few know someone who died or became seriously ill from COVID-19.
- Most people view COVID-19 as a "very serious" problem.
- There are mixed views about the effectiveness of and willingness to take the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Large fractions of the population believe that prayer or traditional medicines are more effective than the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 containment policy

Many Beninese support emergency measures by the government to prevent the spread of COVID-19. This is captured by the following results from surveyed households:

- Many support the temporary suspension of democratic rights such as banning protests, suspending the legislature, and censoring the media.
- Many believe that protesting, and the suspension of democratic rights is not acceptable during a pandemic.

There is a high degree of approval of COVID-19 containment policies. However, households report little compliance with the policy in their communities when not being monitored. This is captured by the following results from surveyed households:

- Most people were affected by a COVID-19 containment policy.
- Most people agree with the policies that were implemented by the Government of Benin.
- Compliance with the policy was highest when monitoring by the government was strict.
- Most believe that when government monitoring was not rigorous, compliance in their community with the COVID-19 containment policy was weak.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected the whole world since its surge in early 2020. Several measures aimed at limiting the spread of the virus and reducing the number of deaths due to the disease, have been proven effective in many countries. Most are barrier gestures, such as wearing a mask and social distancing, and preventive measures, particularly confinement and vaccination. It should be noted that this disease and the measures taken to eradicate it have resulted in consequences on the socioeconomic life and the social cohesion of populations.

Some African governments have been hawkish in their response to COVID-19 while others have reacted with simpler approaches. In Benin, preventive measures put into place by the government include compulsory wearing of masks, systematic hand-washing with soap and water or hand sanitation, and implementing social distancing of at least 1 meter between people. The Beninese State has also implemented stricter measures such as establishing a "cordon sanitaire' initially surrounding 8 communes which extended to 15 on March 30, 2020. The 15 communes are: Cotonou, Abomey-Calavi, Allada, Ouidah, Tori-Bossito, Kpomassè, Toffo, Zè, Sô-Ava, Aguégués, Sèmè-Podji, Porto-Novo, Akpro-Missérété, Adjara, and Atchoukpa (commune of Avrankou). A region inside the cordon sanitaire is considered to be at high risk of contamination and in order to limit the spread of the virus, the populations have been restricted from leaving this area. Similarly, populations outside the cordon area also complied with the physical limitation of the confined areas. On May 11, 2020, the Beninese government lifted this cordon sanitaire. A set of policies were also put in place to complement the cordon sanitaire which include:

- A ban on the circulation of buses and minibuses for the public transport of people;
- The closure of bars, nightclubs, churches, mosques, and beaches;
- Limiting the number of passengers in taxis to a maximum of three or five, depending on the cars size;
- The requirement for users of commercial spaces (shops, stores, supermarkets, ordinary markets, and others) to wear a mask and to respect social distance of at least 1 meter between people;
- The authorization of non-festive gatherings and burial ceremonies of no more than 50 people, who must respect the distance of 1 meter minimum between them and the wearing of a mask;

- The prohibition of gatherings of more than 50 people;
- Traffic authorization for goods transport vehicles.

This document reports the survey results conducted by researchers from the African School of Economics (ASE). The indicators and outcomes collected will help to analyze the socioeconomic impact and government measures of COVID-19 pandemic on African economies, particularly Benin.

1.2 Objectives

The main aim of this survey is to collect information on various socioeconomic indicators that could be affected by the pandemic and lockdown measures. This will help to understand how COVID-19 affected the population in Benin, and what are the responses at the individual and governmental levels to mitigate these effects. More specifically, the survey collects indicators on social cohesion (sense of belonging, trust, social relations, and security), economic conditions, health, pandemic management, vaccines, and domestic violence. This will provide an understanding of the determining factors for an effective design of policies aimed at reducing the negative impact of the pandemic on gender equality, social cohesion, poverty, and violence. Specifically, the survey will provide a better understanding and database to:

- Analyze the effects of COVID-19 on socioeconomic indicators, social cohesion and governance in Benin.
- Appreciate the various responses provided by the government to the health crisis.
- Identify the gender dimensions of the impacts of COVID-19.
- Develop strategic recommendations aimed at supporting robust responses to the effects of COVID-19 in the short, medium and long term in Benin.

2 SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The COVID-19 survey in Benin was carried out from October 14, 2021 to October 27, 2021, covering a representative sample of 1,228 households. The data are collected in the twelve regions of Benin, and individuals aged 18 and above were selected according to a stratified multi-stage random sampling strategy based on the results of the latest General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH 4) conducted by INStaD (ex INSAE). The unit of observation is the household, or in other words, an individual representative of his or

her household, thus excluding people living in institutional settings, such as enterprises, prisons, police stations, hospitals, nursing homes, etc. Individuals are selected regardless of their socio-demographic or economic status, and even their nationality, but they must be residents of Benin.

2.1 Survey Objectives

The COVID-19 survey aims to collect information from people to get estimates of key socioeconomic indicators for Benin during the time of the pandemic. All the twelve regions (Alibori, Atacora, Atlantique, Borgou, Collines, Couffo, Donga, Littoral, Mono, Oueme, Plateau, and Zou) are surveyed. The study subject assesses how COVID-19 has affected people behaviors, social and economic life as well as their considerations or sense of belonging to Benin and social relations, trust, security, etc.

2.2 Sample Design

The survey design follows a multi-stage stratified random sampling. The computed sample size is 1,228 (See Appendix). The sampling strategy is based on a principle ensuring that each individual in the study population has an equal and known chance of being selected for inclusion in the sample. In practice, this means (a) applying a random selection method at each stage of sampling and (b) sampling with a probability proportional to the size of the population.

Because census data provides a list of individual citizens for public use, it is possible to group individuals into units for which there is reliable data, such as households and/or enumeration areas (EAs). The primary sampling unit is the smallest well-defined geographic unit for which reliable population data is available. In this study, we worked with EAs and specifically decided that 8 interviews would be conducted by each EA. This was done to reduce the cost of traveling and to maximize the geographic coverage of the survey. The number of EAs was obtained by dividing the total sample size by 8, resulting in a total of 154 EAs to consider for this study.

2.2.1 Selecting Enumeration Area

The study population is stratified according to two characteristics including if they belong to the cordon sanitaire and whether they live in a rural or urban area. Stratification reduces the likelihood that distinct groups of people will be excluded from the sample. The proportion of the sample assigned to each stratum is the same as its proportion in the national population, according to census figures. Stratification by cordon sanitaire is equivalent to considering

regions within the cordon sanitaire and those outside the cordon sanitaire. The sample is therefore distributed proportionally to the population weight of each region in the national population (Table 1). Data from the RGPH4 were used to calculate the weight of each region. This weight multiplied by the sample size provides the sample size per region. The same process is used to determine the sample size by urban/rural residence and by region. The number of EAs by region and urban/rural area is then obtained by dividing the sample size by eight. In sum, the selection of the EA is based on the distribution by strata, as shown in Table 2.

Table 1: Sample distribution

Region (dep)	Population (pop)	pop /urban area	Sample size /dep	Sample size /urban	Total EA /dep	Total EA /urban	Total EA /rural
ALIBORI	366,310	95,344	96	25	12	3	9
ATACORA	335,050	128,923	87	34	11	4	7
ATLANTIQUE	697,739	329,972	182	86	23	11	12
BORGOU	531,249	252,340	139	66	17	8	9
COLLINES	331,138	96,296	86	25	11	3	8
COUFFO	323,731	93,587	84	24	10	3	7
DONGA	252,034	106,629	66	28	8	4	4
LITTORAL	386,791	386,791	101	101	13	13	0
MONO	238,936	122,736	62	32	8	4	4
OUEME	547,517	349,765	143	91	18	11	7
PLATEAU	296,521	139,489	77	36	10	5	5
ZOU	400,701	136,503	105	36	13	5	8
Total	4,707,717	2,238,375	1,228	584	154	74	80

Table 2: Strata distribution

Area	Cordon sanitaire		Outside Cordon sanitaire		Total
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	
Total EA	35	19	39	61	154
Sample	426		802		1,228

However, to complete the proper selection of the EA, multi-stage sampling is used as it permits us to obtain a sample that is less scattered over the territory. As the cordon sanitaire was established in the Atlantique, Littoral, and Ouémé regions, we decided to select the 15 communes that make up the cordon sanitaire. Outside the cordon sanitaire, we chose to make a random selection of 30 communes out of 59 in the other regions. This is due to the fact that the number of households to be surveyed outside of the cordon sanitaire (802) is approximately twice the number to be surveyed in the cordon sanitaire (426).

Therefore, the first stage consists of selecting the communes. The second stage will consist of randomly selecting the EAs in all selected communes by taking into account the required number in each region and in accordance with the urban/rural distribution.

2.2.2 Selecting Households and Respondents

Using the list and maps of the EAs, selected and provided by the INStaD, each field team follows the selection procedure taught during their training to randomly select households and respondents within each EA. A household is defined as a person or a group of persons, related or not, living in the same dwelling unit, taking (most often) their meals together, providing for their other essential needs, and recognizing the authority of a single person called the head of household.

The interviewer first identifies the house or compound in which to draw a household. In the selected house, the interviewer counts the number of households present that meets the eligibility criteria. These criteria being that there must be an individual of the desired gender that is over the age of 18. The interviewer records the number of eligible households present on the tablet, which will provide a randomly selected household. Then the interviewer goes to the selected household and records the names of all eligible individuals in the household. The tablet randomly selects the household member who will take the survey. Note that the interviewer alternates the gender of respondents from one household to another to ensure a balance of men and women in the sample.

2.3 Survey management and Questionnaires

The survey is a face-to-face interview between the interviewer and the respondent. The interview is sometimes conducted in the presence of the controller and/or supervisor, but their presence is passive, i.e., they do not directly intervene in the discussions, but observe the interview and can make recommendations to the interviewer if necessary. Interviews are conducted using the electronic study questionnaire from a tablet. The questionnaire contains the study topic questions, which the interviewer asks the respondent and immediately records the answers on the tablet.

During the interviews, responses are recorded on tablets using the SurveyCTO mobile application. The SurveyCTO platform helps to collect, store and centralize all data collected in the field. Using a paperless system in general or the SurveyCTO app in particular for data collection has several advantages, including:

- Sending survey results in real time with the internet so that supervisors and headquarters can do data quality and completeness checks;

- Reduce errors through programmed checks in the digital questionnaire;
- Easily manage and/or eliminate data entry errors after data collection.

2.4 Fieldwork Organization and Implementation

2.4.1 Recruitment of the field personnel

The quality of the data obtained from a survey depends on the quality of the fieldwork, and therefore depends to a large extent on the quality of the people who implement it. Thus, recruiting qualified and motivated people who are committed to doing their job is an important task. On this study, potential candidates were requested to provide their CVs for the shortlisting of interviewers. Some of the main required skills include:

- Have at least two-years of university education (BAC+2)
- Proven field experience; however discretion was given to candidates who were first time fieldworkers but showed the requisite intellectual and moral skills.
- Prove proficiency in local languages and the ability to communicate respectfully with respondents.

Overall, 42 agents were shortlisted, of which 34 were selected as interviewers, 4 agents were selected for back-check, and 4 others were eliminated at the end of the training process. Controllers and supervisors were selected from among the research assistants who have been working on the project. There were 8 controllers and 3 supervisors.

Table 3: Composition of the field staff

Agent type	Male	Female	Total	Female share (%)
Interviewers	20	14	34	41.2
Back-Checkers	3	1	4	25
Controllers	7	1	8	12.5
Supervisors	2	1	3	33.3
Total	32	17	49	34.7

The demographic breakdown of the team can be seen in table 3. The study strives to ensure a great representation of women in the survey staff. As the table shows, 34.7% of the whole staff were women, including 41.2% among the interviewers.

2.4.2 Main Training of Field Staff

The training of field staff took place in two stages. The first stage is the training of the field management team (supervisors and controllers). As described above this team consisted of ASE research staff that had been engaged in the design the study. This team was also responsible for the second stage which is the training of the interviewers. The training involved 42 shortlisted participants, of whom 4 were eliminated by the end of the process. In the end 34 interviewers were hired for the field survey, and 4 officers hired to conduct the back-check.

The training of the field management team ran for two days from the 4th of October the 5th, 2021. The training served to finalize the survey instruments (questionnaires, training manual) to be used during interviewer training sessions and to enhance the use and understanding of these instruments as well as the survey methodology. It also allowed us to test the survey tools (questionnaires on tablets, use of the SurveyCTO, use of maps of the enumeration areas), and to structure the organization of interviewer training days.

The training of interviewers was given over five days, between October 6 and October 11, 2021, and included the following sequences:

1. Day 1: Presentation of the research team and agenda - Presentation of the study and methodology of the survey - Joint reading of the questionnaire and the manual;

2. Day 2: Joint reading of the questionnaire and the manual (continued) - Group simulations of the questionnaire in French and local languages;

3. Day 3: Presentation and hands-on training on the operation of the SurveyCTO application - Simulations of the questionnaire with tablets in local language;

4. Day 4: Pilot survey completed by a debriefing session to assess remarks and problems identified during the survey process;

5. Day 5: Session to recap the dispositions for the field - Administrative and logistical formalities - Signing of contracts and handover of the work materials.

At the end of each training day, a test was scheduled to evaluate the candidates on the notions covered during the day. The cumulative test scores obtained at the end of the first three days of training, plus the personal assessment made of each candidate regarding their participation during the training, helped to select the agents required for the data collection activities.

Overall, the interviewers received quite complete training to be well equipped for the fieldwork. The training, which was both theoretical and practical, allowed them to familiarize

themselves with the study and the various survey instruments; to learn about and understand the methodology of the study; to practice interviewing through simulation exercises among colleagues and the pilot survey phase. The simulations especially supported the appropriation of the questionnaire and its better transmission/translation into local languages, due to the group work that allowed exercising and sharing skills.

For the pilot survey, the research team selected enumeration areas in the commune of Abomey-Calavi, that was not among those selected for the actual fieldwork. Interviewers were arranged in teams with their respective controllers and headed to the assigned enumeration areas, carrying with them letters of recommendation. Then the interviewers began the implementing of the survey procedures taught during the training by applying the following steps: identification of the enumeration area, team dispersal, selection of households/respondents and conduct of the interview. Each interviewer was instructed to conduct at least one complete interview. The pilot phase has the objective not only of testing the interviewers' capabilities and their mastery of the study topic and the survey instruments, but more especially, it allows for the testing of the methodology and instruments developed for data collection. Following this exercise, the interviewers reported on the duration of interviews and the various problems and difficulties encountered, including programming errors in the electronic questionnaire. This feedback allowed the research team to make the necessary corrections or modifications to ensure that the field data collection process would proceed successfully and without major difficulties.

2.4.3 Field data collection process

All teams departed for the field on October 14, 2021. The field mission was completed within 9 to 14 days depending on the team. The first team finished on October 22, 2021 while the last team in the field finished on October 27, 2021. Each team was provided with one (or two) vehicles with drivers for transportation throughout the fieldwork. There were a total of 8 teams that covered all the 12 regions of Benin. The following table gives a summary of the accomplishments during the data collection process:

Table 4: Summary of data collection process

Region	Sample size	Completed interviews	Female interviews	Total EAs covered	Team size	Total survey days planned	Total survey days completed
Atlantique	182	185	93	23	5	10	12
Littoral	101	104	57	13	3	9	9
Oueme & Plateau	143 77	144 80	73 39	18 10	6	10	11
Mono & Couffo	62 84	64 80	32 40	8 10	4	10	12
Zou & Collines	105 86	104 88	55 44	13 11	5	10	12
Atacora & Donga	87 66	88 64	45 32	11 8	4	12	14
Borgou	139	136	68	17	4	11	13
Alibori	96	100	51	13	3	11	11
TOTAL	**1,228**	**1,237**	**629**	**155**	**34**		

Table 4 shows that there were some slight differences between forecasts and the actual outcomes, particularly for the total interviews conducted, the total EAs covered, and the total days of the survey. Given that each team was required to complete a total of 8 interviews per enumeration area, the calculated sample size changed slightly, either increasing or decreasing, but not by a large difference. As a result, a total of 1237 interviews were conducted instead of 1228 interviews. It is also observed that 155 EAs were covered instead of 154 EAs, which is due to a change of assigned survey area in the ALIBORI region where the commune of Banikoara was replaced by the commune of Segbana. The survey had actually begun in the commune of Banikoara, but after conducting the first interviews in one enumeration area of the commune, the agents became aware that an epidemic was raging in the community, and so the team moved to another commune for reasons of health security. However, they had completed 7 surveys in this commune that remained valid. As for the duration of the survey, a number of factors such as distance between the EAs, the lengthy interviewing time, and difficult travel conditions, affected the time frame initially set for completing the survey. However, the appropriate arrangements were implemented to ensure that the job was fulfilled as expected.

At the same time that the data collection was going on in the field, the back-checking was being carried out at ASE. The back-check team began their work on October 18, 2021, for which they had five non-consecutive days of activity, scheduled to end on October 27, 2021. It was expected that the team would conduct a total of 140 back-check interviews,

representing a ratio of approximately 11.4% of the total number of interviews carried out in the field. There were four back-check agents, each one responsible for conducting seven interviews per day, making a total of 35 interviews per interviewer at the end of the five days of operation. Each agent received as work equipment: a mobile phone, a tablet to collect the interviewee's responses, a headset, and a charger for the tablet and the phone. The back-check team was supervised by one of the field supervisors. Subsequently all the supervisors reviewed the back-check information and made their observations to the field teams.

2.4.4 Data quality control

Two types of quality control were used in this study: high frequency checks (HFC) and back-checks.

Once the controller has validated the surveys that were completed by the interviewer and the data were synchronized and sent to the SurveyCTO platform, ASE performs an automated data check that they carry out on a daily basis while the agents are in the field. The checks is to verify the completeness and consistency of the data. When errors or inconsistencies were detected in the data, ASE transmited the observations to the controller who made sure that the surveyor was notified and the problem addressed. The high frequency checks are performed in Stata based on models developed by IPA-JPAL. Among other things, the HFC:

- Checks the consistency/quality of the data;
- Monitors the performance of the interviewer;
- Reports the non-response rate: Interviewers with a high non-response rate will be monitored more closely, and sanctioned if necessary;
- Checks for programming errors.

The back-check is performed on a sample of completed surveys and consists of re-interviewing previously interviewed respondents by a new interviewer using a shortened version of the questionnaire. This mini-questionnaire includes questions identified as key to the study. The responses from the back-check survey are then compared to the initial survey responses to detect discrepancies. Back-checks are used for two primary purposes: (i) to hold interviewers accountable by verifying that surveys were conducted effectively, (ii) to assess the quality of survey administration by interviewers, and (iii) to measure the reliability of the survey by observing how respondents' answers change between the primary and the back-check survey.

2.5 Ethical Considerations

Every stage of the research process requires compliance with a set of ethical standards that ensure respect for the dignity, rights, confidentiality of all participants involved in the study's implementation.

At the early stages, data collection in Benin requires an assessment by the national institutional ethics committee in charge of formally approving the study and design of data collection to ensure that the ethical obligations of all stakeholders are respected. The Commission of the Program of Surveys, Studies and Treatments (CPEET) within the National Institute of Statistics and Demography (INStaD) examined and reviewed the technical documents for data collection management. The National Statistics Council (CNS) approved the study and granted ASE the statistical visa necessary to begin data collection. The necessary administrative arrangements were also made prior to the arrival of survey staff in the field to make the local authorities aware of the upcoming data collection in their area. This was done to ensure their support for the conduct of the survey and to ensure the safety of the field agents during the survey implementation.

During data collection phase, at the beginning of each interview, respondents were informed in the introductory note of the questionnaire, that all their information would be kept confidential and would be used exclusively for the purposes of the study, and that it would be impossible for any data user to identify them personally. In addition, prior to any interview, after first selecting the respondent, the interviewer provided all essential information about the study to the respondent in order to obtain free and informed consent to participate in the study. Discussions between the interviewer and the respondent during the course of interviews are to be based on a mutual respect and trusting relationship. Finally, at the stage of data processing, the collected data was first made anonymous to allow carrying out the various analyses without any personal information.

The study valued the principle of gender equality among the various stakeholders involved in the research, particularly among the research team, the survey participants (50.8% were women) and the interviewers (41.2% were women). The gender equality was emphasized in most of the analysis and results, as indicated in this report. It can also be said that the principles of diversity and inclusion are somewhat addressed by the fact that the survey was conducted across all regions of the country.

Another special consideration of the survey, given the context of the pandemic, was the safety measures to ensure the protection of both participants and fieldworkers. Each participant and interviewer was provided with a set of personal protective equipment (face masks, and hand sanitizers) to be used personally during each interview.

2.6 Challenges, Limitations, and Recommendations

Many challenges were overcome the data collection process. To begin, the maps of the enumeration area (EA) provided to ASE for the survey were outdated and led to increased complexity of the fieldwork. The maps were outdated - nearly 10 years old and some of the landmarks on the maps were no longer present resulting in long delays for the field teams to locate a single EA. Another problem was that the random selection of EAs produced a very dispersed selection, resulting in very large distances to travel from one to another EA. In addition, the impracticability of roads to access many EAs caused several times vehicle breakdowns and even accidents for some teams, thereby delaying the work. To sum up, using the EAs has been costly in time for their identification, accessibility, and travel. It may be recommended for future projects that if the EA maps are not up-to-date, the project team should identify an alternative method other than using EAs for sampling. Furthermore, random selection can be more carefully framed to minimize dispersion of survey areas, or alternatively these potential time limitations could also be taken into consideration when designing fieldwork duration.

Another challenge is that the questionnaire was in general very long in administration (between 1 and 3 hours), especially when it was conducted in local languages. This made it difficult for the interviewer to keep up the respondent's attention and availability until the questionnaire was fully administered. However, interviewers managed to get through the entire questionnaire to the interviewer and complete the interviews. For future studies, the survey questionnaires must be better elaborated to ensure that the interview length is reasonable and objective, or alternatively make the survey more manageable in two phases. It should also be recommended to provide some incentive for the respondents to be more cooperative, especially when the interview is likely to be lengthy.

Finally, some local chiefs were not eager to cooperate with the survey because they had not received the information about the data collection. The system of information and communication about the survey towards the communes should be improved to ensure effectiveness of the communication and cohesion with local authorities.

3 SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Characteristics of Households and Respondents

This section presents information on the socioeconomic characteristics of the household and the respondent population in the survey. This information is useful for interpreting the indicators and can provide an approximate indication of how representative the survey is of the Beninese population. This will help to shed light on the living conditions of the population. More specifically, this section presents information on household possessions including radio, television, car, as well as digital technology such as computer, mobile phones, and internet access. In addition, the section provides information on characteristics of the survey respondents such as gender, age, education, religion, and marital status. These socioeconomic characteristics are useful for understanding heterogeneous effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3.1.1 Characteristics of Households

Table 5 presents the distribution of households by sex of head of household, number of children, mean number of children, household size, and mean size of households, according to residence. In this survey, almost half (49.6%) of the respondents are the head of household. Overall, about 8 out of 10 households are headed by men (80.6%) and the other 19.4% are headed by women. Rural households are slightly more likely than urban households to be headed by men (83.9% versus 77%), while urban households are more likely than rural households to be headed by women (23% versus 16.1%). On average, households consist of 3.9 children. Rural households have more children than urban households on average. The same pattern is observed in the household size. The average number of persons within the household is 6.5. Rural households are more populated than urban households (7.06 versus 5.98 persons).

The survey collected information on assets owned by the households (Table 6). Fifty-nine percent of households own radio. Possession of a radio is slightly the same in urban and rural households (60.2% versus 59.2%). Approximately 4 in 10 households have a television (39.6%), and about 6 in 10 households (66.3%) own a car or motorcycle. About 8.9% of households have a computer, 24% own a bank account, 79.8% have a mobile money account, 92.9% own a mobile phone, and 50.4% have access to the internet. As expected, households in rural areas are less likely than households in urban areas to own computer (5.3% versus 12.8%), bank account (18.8% versus 29.7%), mobile money account (72.8% versus 87.4%), mobile phone (90.8% versus 95.1%), and the internet (41.5% versus 59.6%).

Table 5: Household population and composition

	Residence		
	Urban	Rural	Total
Household headship			
Male	77.0	83.9	80.6
Female	23.0	16.1	19.4
Total	49.9	49.2	49.6
Number of children			
0	13.8	9.9	11.8
1	11.0	11.8	11.4
2	16.9	13.4	15.0
3	15.5	11.3	13.3
4	13.8	14.6	14.2
5	10.6	11.8	11.2
6	7.6	9.5	8.6
7	3.7	3.6	3.6
8	2.2	4.0	3.2
9+	4.9	10.1	7.6
Total	100	100	100
Mean number of children	3.56	4.33	3.96
Household size			
1	5.2	3.7	4.5
2	6.6	6.1	6.3
3	11.6	11.5	11.6
4	16.0	10.7	13.3
5	14.3	12.3	13.3
6	14.2	13.2	13.7
7	9.1	10.6	9.9
8	7.6	7.5	7.5
9+	15.3	24.5	20.1
Total	100	100	100
Mean size of households	5.98	7.06	6.5

Table 6: Household possessions

	Residence		
	Urban	Rural	Total
Radio	60.2	59.2	59.7
Television	51.8	28.4	39.6
Car/motorcycle	61.9	70.3	66.3
Computer	12.8	5.3	8.9
Bank account	29.7	18.8	24.0
Mobile money account	87.4	72.8	79.8
Mobile phone	95.1	90.8	92.9
Internet access	59.6	41.5	50.4

3.1.2 Characteristics of Respondents

A total of 1,237 people aged 18 years or older were surveyed (Table 7). About 25.9% of the respondents were in the 18-25 age group, 29% in the 26-35 age group, 20.6% in the 36-45 age group and 24.4% in the 46+ age group. About half of respondents were females (50.85%) and close to half (49.15%) were males. About 52.06% of respondents lived in rural areas and close to half (47.9%) were from urban areas. The majority of respondents were Christians: 30.9% were Protestant or other Christian, and 25.9% were Roman Catholic. About 28.5% of respondents were Muslims. Table 7 also shows the percent distribution of respondents by highest level of educational attainment. Overall, 38.24% of respondents had no education, 22.88% had primary education, 31.2% were secondary school level and 7.51% had higher education level. The majority of respondents interviewed (74.5%) were married or in common law, 16.81% were single, 6.5% were widowed, and 2.1% were divorced or separated.

By gender, women were prominent in the 26-35 and 36-45 age groups, while men had a higher representation in the 18-25 and 46+ age groups. Religion varies slightly by gender; 59.1% of women were Christians (25.4% were Roman Catholic and 33.7% were Protestant or other Christian), as compared with 54.3% of Christian men (26.3% were Roman Catholic and 28% were Protestant or other Christian). The proportions of Muslim women and men were around 28%. About 2.5% of women and 2.6% of men have no religion. The proportion of women with no education was higher than that of men (50.1% versus 26%). About 20.5% of women had primary school level, 26.1% attended or completed secondary education, and only 3.2% have attended university. Compared to women, men were more likely to have attended university (12%). About one-quarter (25.3%) of men have primary education, and 36.5% have attended secondary school. By marital status, 25% of men were single

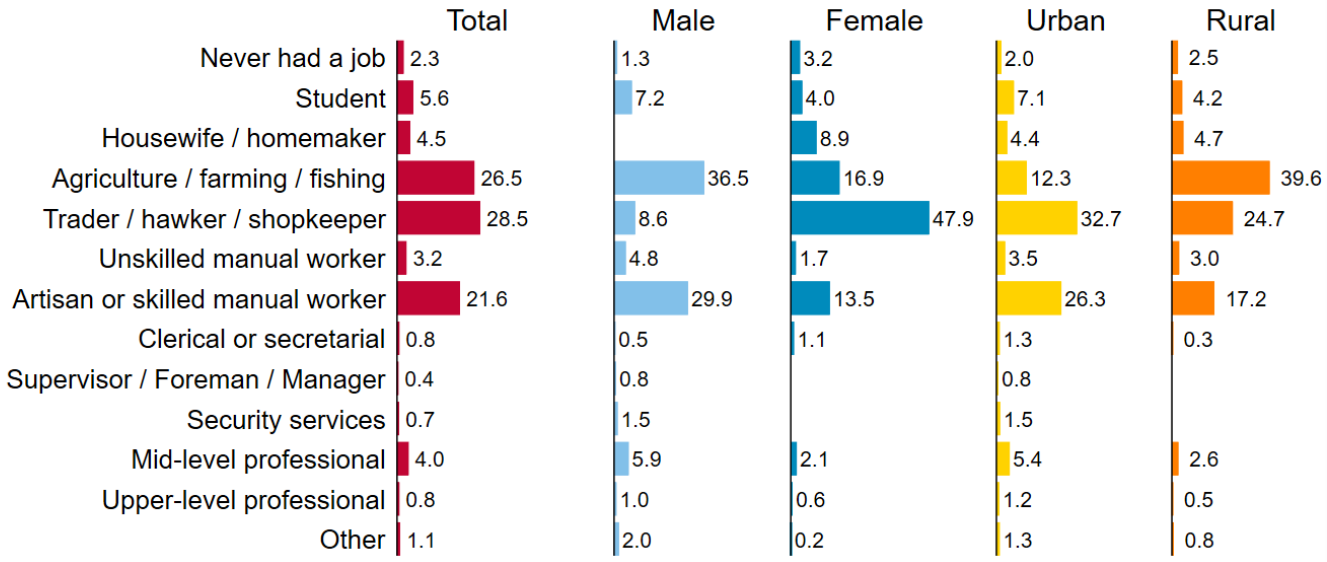
Table 7: Background characteristics of survey respondents

	All Respondents		Male		Female	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Age						
18-25	321	25.9	170	13.7	151	12.2
26-35	359	29.0	153	12.4	206	16.7
36-45	255	20.6	114	9.2	141	11.4
46+	302	24.4	171	13.8	131	10.6
Gender						
Female	629	50.8				
Male	608	49.2				
Residence						
Urban	593	47.9	285	46.9	308	49.0
Rural	644	52.1	323	53.1	321	51.0
Religion						
Roman Catholic	320	25.9	160	26.3	160	25.4
Protestant/other Christian	382	30.9	170	28.0	212	33.7
Muslim	353	28.5	175	28.8	178	28.3
No religion	32	2.6	16	2.6	16	2.5
Other	146	11.8	86	14.1	60	9.5
Refusal	1	0.1	0	0.0	1	0.2
Don't know	3	0.2	1	0.2	2	0.3
Education						
No education	473	38.2	158	26.0	315	20.5
Primary	283	22.8	154	25.3	129	20.5
Secondary	386	31.2	222	36.5	164	26.1
More than secondary	93	7.4	73	12.0	20	3.2
Don't Know	2	0.2	1	0.2	1	0.2
Marital Status						
Single	208	16.8	152	25.0	56	8.9
Married/common law	922	74.5	432	71.1	490	77.9
Divorced/separated	26	2.1	11	1.8	15	2.4
Widowed	81	6.6	13	2.1	68	10.8
Total	1237	100.0	608	100.0	629	100.0

compared to women (8.9%). There is about the same proportion of married men (71.1%) and married women (77.9%). Both women and men were more likely to be divorced or separated (2.4% for women and 1.8% for men). Women were more likely to be widowed

(10.8%) compared to men (2.1%). Figure 1 depicts the main activities of respondents. The majority of interviewees were traders, hawkers, shopkeepers (28.5%); or involved in agriculture, farming, fishing (26.5%); or artisan or skilled manual worker (21.6%). There were more women than men in trade (47.9% versus 8.6%). On the other hand, men were more likely than women to do agriculture, farming, fishing (36.5% versus 16.9%) as well as artisan or skilled manual work (29.9% versus 13.5%). The rural respondents were more likely than the urban respondents to work in agriculture, farming, fishing (39.6% versus 12.3%), while urban respondents were mainly traders (32.7% versus 24.7%) or artisans (26.3% versus 17.2%).

Figure 1: Respondents' activity status



3.2 Social cohesion

Social cohesion refers to the intensity of social relations that exist between members of a given community group. In other words, social cohesion is the extent to which people are cooperative, within and across group boundaries, without coercion or purely self-interested motivation. It involves both horizontal relationships with others of a group or community and vertical relationships with state or other authorities. This section reports information on social cohesion across four different dimensions, including: belonging, trust, security, and social relations.

3.2.1 COVID-19 and the sense of belonging

Social cohesion often refers to the sense of belonging exhibited within a group and the individual perception of the whole group or society as greater than its constituent parts (Langer et al., 2017).

Respondents were first asked if their sense of belonging has changed since the advent of COVID-19 pandemic and then asked if their sense of belonging increased or decreased. About 18.8% of the respondents (9.5% were men and 9.3% women) declared either a partial or a total change of their sense of belonging (Table 8). From Table 22 in the Appendix, respondents stated the place where they personally feel they belong most. About 45% indicated Benin, 27.7% identified their community/neighborhood, 17.2% identified their region/ethnic group, 3.7% identified their department, 2.6% identified a country other than Benin, 1.7% identified the world, 1.6% identified Africa and 0.4% did not know. Men were more likely to identify themselves as Beninese, or belonging to a country other than Benin, Africa or the world. Women were more likely to identify themselves as belonging to their community or region/ethnic group.

As seen in Table 8, about 18.3% of the respondents indicated a decrease in their sense of integration while 5.7% indicated an increase (Table 8). From Table 23 in the Appendix, 60.6% of the respondents stated that they felt very well integrated into Beninese society before the advent of the pandemic, 28.9% said they felt fairly well integrated, 7.9% felt not well integrated, 2.6% felt not integrated at all and 0.1% did not know. Overall, it is apparent that most respondents felt well integrated into Beninese society before the pandemic. For the large share of respondents (29.9%), the most important thing for feeling integrated is to have a decent job. Men, people from urban areas and young people constitute most of that proportion (Figure 23 in Appendix). Twenty-one percent (21.3%) of the respondents reported that being well surrounded by family or friends determines their sense of integration. Women, people from rural settings and respondents from the ages of 26 to 35 years old constitute the majority of that proportion. In comparing the change in the sense of integration between women and men, slightly more men than women have seen their sense of integration decreased since the advent of the pandemic (9.7% versus 8.7%).

Overall, 16.7% of respondents reported that they have been treated worse by public officials since the pandemic emergence, while 14.5% reported that their interactions with public officials have improved (Table 8). However, 61.5% of respondents said that in general when they are dealing with a public official, they are treated the same way as other people. About 14.1% said they are treated better and 5.3% said they are treated much better compared to others. About 14.7% said they are treated worse than others and 2% said they are treated much worse. It can be noted that more men reported being treated worse, much worse, or

Table 8: Percent change in belonging since COVID-19

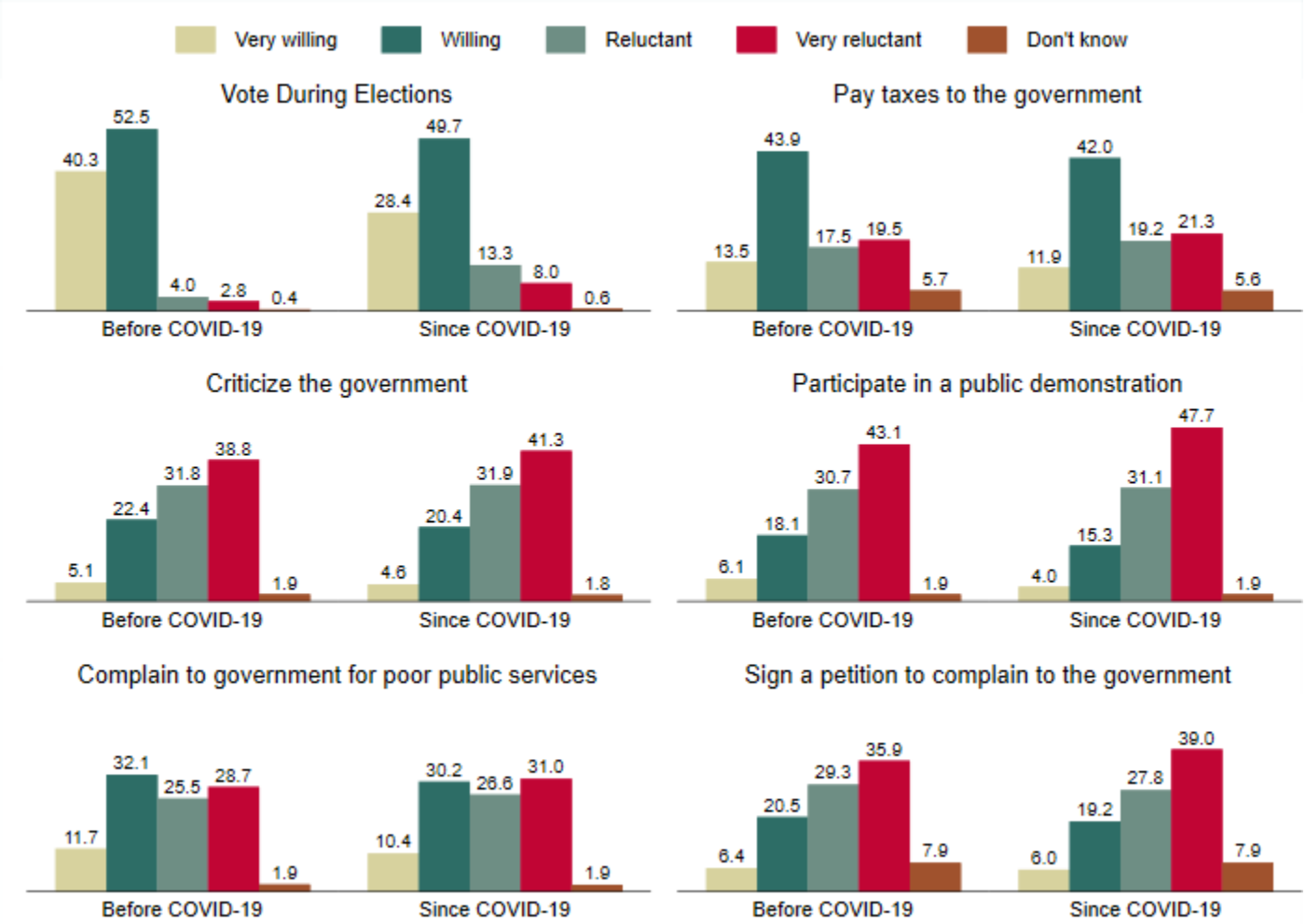
	Male	Female	Total
Has your sense of belonging changed?			
No, not at all	39.5	40.9	80.4
Yes, partially	5.0	4.9	9.9
Yes, completely	4.5	4.4	8.9
Don't know	0.1	0.7	0.8
Your sense of integration...			
Decreased	9.6	8.6	18.3
Remained the same	36.3	38.6	74.9
Increased	2.8	2.9	5.7
Don't know	0.4	0.7	1.1
Treatment by public officials...			
Worsened	8.5	7.7	16.2
Remained the same	31.9	34.7	66.5
Improved	7.9	6.1	14.0
Don't know	0.9	2.4	3.3

much better than others, while more women reported being treated better or the same way (See Table 24 in Appendix). Similarly, more men reported that since the pandemic, treatment by public officials has worsened (8.5% men versus 7.7% women) or improved (7.9% men versus 6.1% women), whereas more women (34.7% women versus 31.9% men) reported that treatment remained the same as before the pandemic.

Next, we examine how citizen engagement with the government of Benin has changed since COVID-19. As seen in Figure 2 people reported that they were less willing to vote in elections since COVID-19. A smaller percentage of people reported that they were "very willing" or "willing" to vote in election since COVID-19. Since the advent of COVID-19, the proportion of people willing to vote has decreased (40.3% to 28.4% "very willing" and 52.5% to 49.7% "willing"). Similarly, for paying taxes to the government, about 57.4% people were willing to do so before COVID-19 and this proportion has decreased slightly to 53.9% since COVID-19. In contrast, for actions such as criticizing the government, participating in a public demonstration, signing a petition to complain about the government, or complaining about poor public services, the largest fraction of people report that they are "very reluctant" to take these actions both before and since COVID-19. Since COVID-19 more people were reluctant to take these actions compared to before COVID-19. The percentage of reluctance increased even more after the emergence of COVID-19 (Figure 2). Overall, it can be said that since COVID-19, there have been fewer people willing to take action, though it is interesting

to note that people were more willing to vote or pay taxes than to criticize the government, participate in a public demonstration, sign a petition to complain about the government, or complain about the poor quality of public services.

Figure 2: Willingness or not to take the following actions: before and since COVID-19

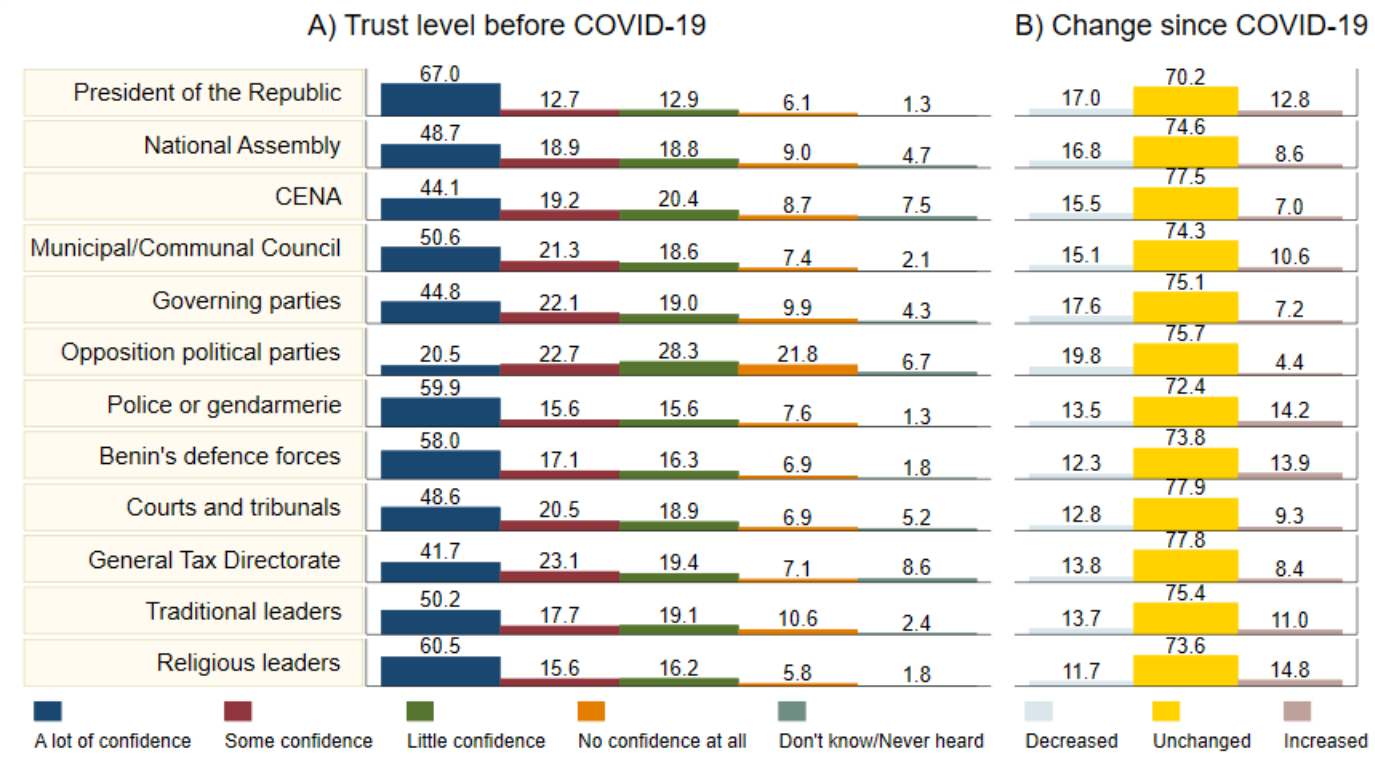


3.2.2 Trust

In this section we examine how trust in the country's institutions has changed since COVID-19. Figure 3 shows the levels of trust in institutions before and after the emergence of COVID-19. Many of the respondents had more trust in the institutions before COVID-19. This can be seen in column B of Figure 3 which records the percentage of people whose trust increased, decreased of stayed the same for each institution since COVID-19. For most institutions a higher percentage of people report that their trust decreased (relative to increased) since COVID-19. For most respondents, their level of trust since the advent

of the pandemic has remained unchanged (70.2% to 77.9%). Among those whose trust has decreased, the largest proportion is for the opposition political parties (19.8%), followed by the governing parties (17.6%) and the President of the Republic (17%). Among those whose trust has increased, religious leaders (14.8%) is the highest. It should be noted that the proportions of decreased trust are higher than the proportions of increased trust for all of the institutions specified, except for three institutions, which are: Police or gendarmerie, Benin defense forces, and religious leaders.

Figure 3: Trust in institutions and change since COVID-19



Next we examine how trust among the citizens of Benin has changed since the pandemic. In Figure 4, most respondents reported that in general, people cannot be trusted (81.1%), and only 18.9% said that people can be trusted. This pattern is found among both men and women, but it can be seen that more women than men do not trust people, though the difference between the two is not that large. The largest share of respondents 55.9% stated that their general level of trust in people since the advent of COVID-19 has remained unchanged, while 33.7% reported a decrease of their trust and 10.4% an increase. This pattern is the same among both men and women, but it is worth noting that more men than women reported a decrease in their general trust for people (34.8% versus 32.7%), and also, more men than women reported an increase in trust (11.9% versus 8.9%). It suggests that

due to the onset of COVID-19, men's level of trust, in general, decreased more than that of women.

Figure 5 reports the change in trust in different segments of society. In contrast to Figure 4, Figure 5 indicates that more women than men experienced decrease in trust, particularly towards Beninese people, individuals from the same ethnic group, neighborhood, religion, and workplace. However, for the Family category, slightly more men than women who experienced a decrease in trust. On the other hand, in terms of experiencing an increase in trust, the proportion of women was always higher than that of men, except for the group of people from the neighborhood. Overall, women are the largest group to have experienced a change (decrease as well as increase) in their trust toward people after the emergence of COVID-19 and the largest decrease in trust is toward the Beninese People group, and the largest increase in trust is toward the Family group.

Figure 4: Trust in people in general and change since COVID-19

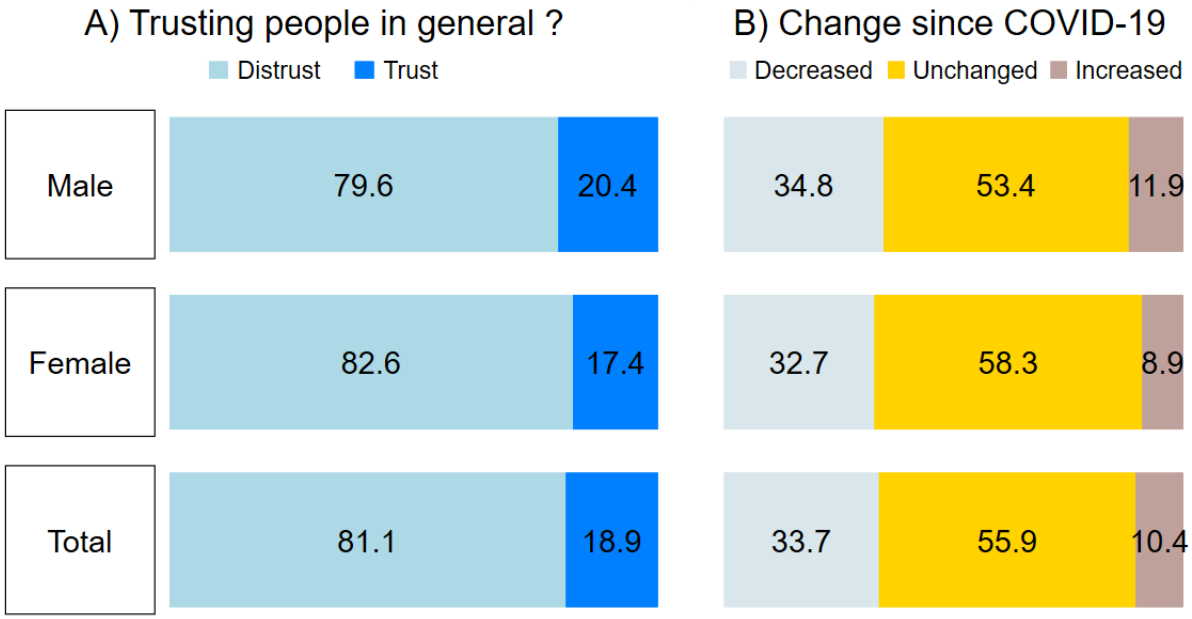
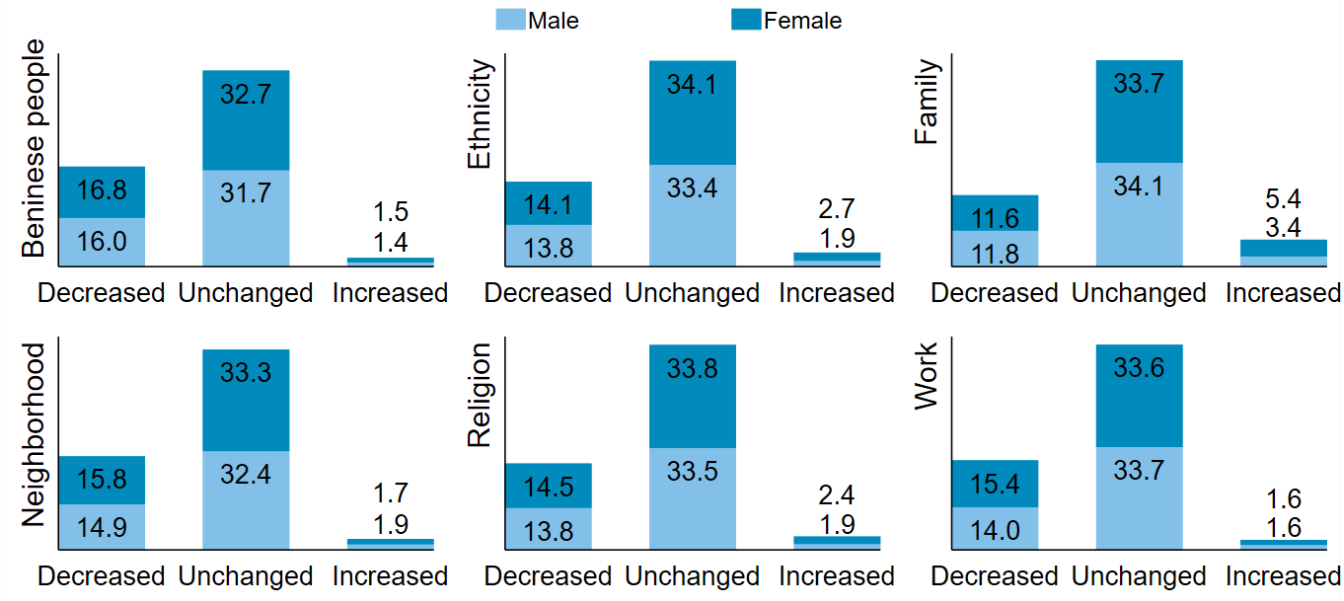


Figure 5: Change since COVID-19 in trust in people from the following groups



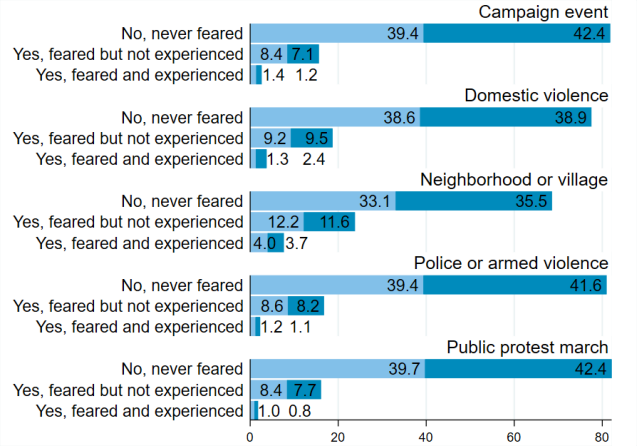
3.2.3 Security

The fear and incidences of violence are likely to increase during stressful events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 6a shows that around 80% of respondents did not fear any of the specified forms of violence, during the COVID-19 outbreak. Among those who experienced the fear of violence, the largest group reported that they feared violence in the neighborhood or village (31.5%), followed by domestic violence (22.5%), police or armed violence (19.1%), violence during a campaign event (18.2%), and finally violence during a public protest march (17.9%). More men than women feared violence in the neighborhood; 12.2% versus 11.6% among those who feared but did not experience; and 4.0% versus 3.7% among those who feared and experienced. More women than men feared domestic violence; 9.5% versus 9.2% who feared but did not experience; and 2.4% versus 1.3% who feared and experienced. More men than women feared police violence, violence during a campaign event, and violence during a public protest march. Figure 6b compares the situation before and after the outbreak of COVID-19, among respondents who reported that they ever feared violence. For all forms of violence specified, a large proportion of respondents, about 50%, reported that their fear or experience of violence was the same as before the COVID-19 outbreak. Violence during campaign events had the highest proportion of respondents (48.6%) indicating that it had decreased, followed by violence in the neighborhood (42.8%), domestic violence (42.5%), public protest march (42.5%), and police violence (30%). In terms of the increase in fear/experience of violence, police violence (13.1%) tops the list, followed

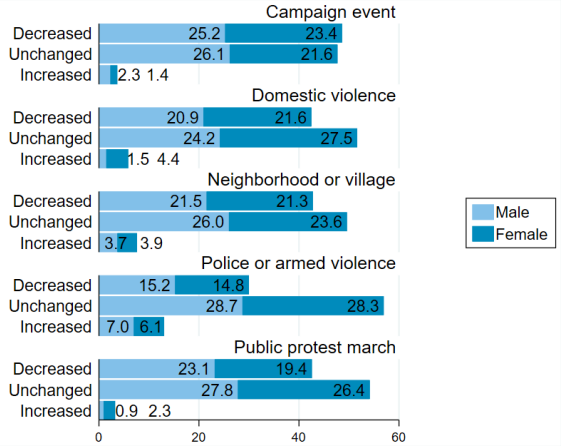
by violence in the neighborhood (7.6%), domestic violence (5.9%), campaign events (3.7%), and protest march (3.2%). It is noteworthy that police violence has the lowest proportion of respondents stating a decrease, the highest proportion stating an unchanged level, and the highest proportion stating an increase, likely that police violence has always been feared and more so after the onset of COVID-19.

Figure 6: Situation of violence since COVID-19

(a) Feared/experienced violence since COVID-19



(b) Change since COVID-19



3.2.4 Social relations

In this section we examine how COVID-19 affected peoples political activity and participation in community organizations in Benin. Figure 7 shows that over 60% of respondents did not belong to a group prior to the advent of COVID-19. The groups which had the most participation in Benin are religious groups (40.5%), followed by the micro-credit association (18.9%), youth groups (15.4%), sport groups (10.7%), the political group (10.5%) and lastly the trade union group (2.7%). Women made up a large share of active members in micro-credit associations (8.1% versus 5%) and religious groups (12.7% versus 12.1%), while men were the largest active members in youth groups (9% versus 1.9%), sports groups (6.7% versus 0.5%), political groups (4.7% versus 1.1%), and trade union groups (1.2% versus 0.2%). There were fewer leaders among the different groups and most of them were men.

Comparing attendance in groups before and after COVID-19, Figure 7b shows that participation in groups remained the same for about 60% of those who belonged to a group before the pandemic. Participation decreased for the remaining proportion, and for a few (5% or less) the attendance increased. Trade unions, which already had the lowest membership before COVID-19 showed the largest decrease (40.5%) in participation and no increase in participation. Religious groups that had more active female members before the pandemic

witnessed a greater increase in participation of men than women (3.2% versus 2.6%).

Figure 7: Participation in groups before and since COVID-19

(a) Membership status before COVID-19 (b) Changes in participation since COVID-19

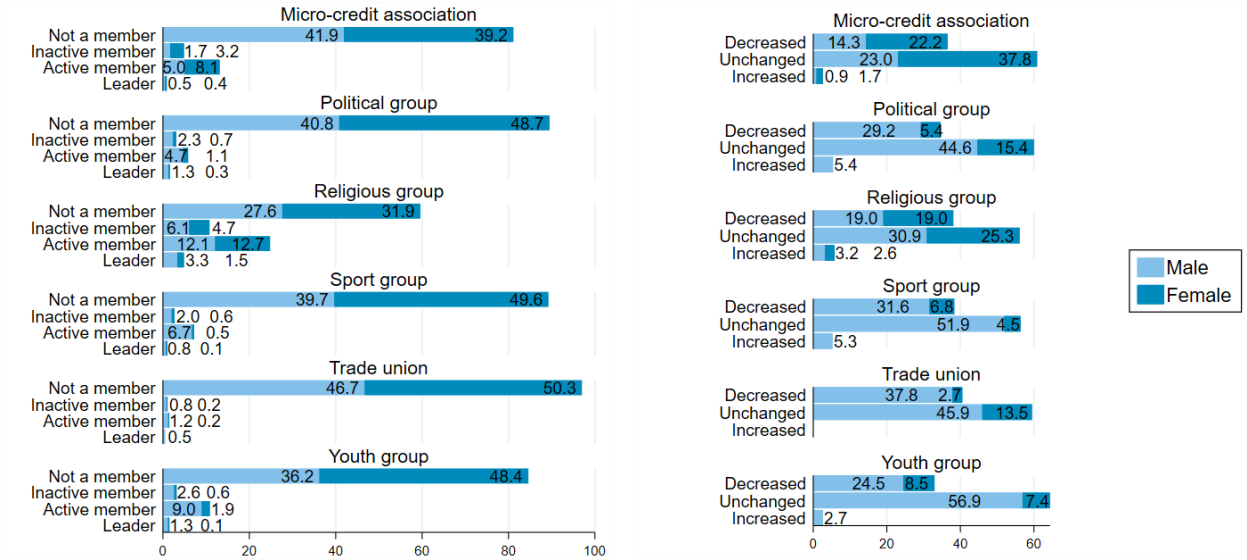


Table 9 shows that community involvement decreased after the start of the pandemic. A total of 44.6% of the respondents used to attend community meetings, among which 16.2% attended often, 12.8% attended at several times and 15.6% once or twice (Figure 8). In this group of 44.6%, a total of 64.47% reported that their participation in such gatherings had decreased. For about 1.65%, their participation increased and for about 33.8%, participation remained the same as before the pandemic. Only 4.4% of all respondents had participate in a protest march and out of them, 80.77% said that since the pandemic emergence, they participated less in such events, but for 3.85%, their participation in protest movements had increased. Among those who did not usually participate in protest demonstrations, 70.9% said they would never do so and 24.8% said they would if they had the opportunity. People who used to get together to raise an issue decreased of 70.34% after the pandemic outbreak.

Figure 8: Community involvement in general

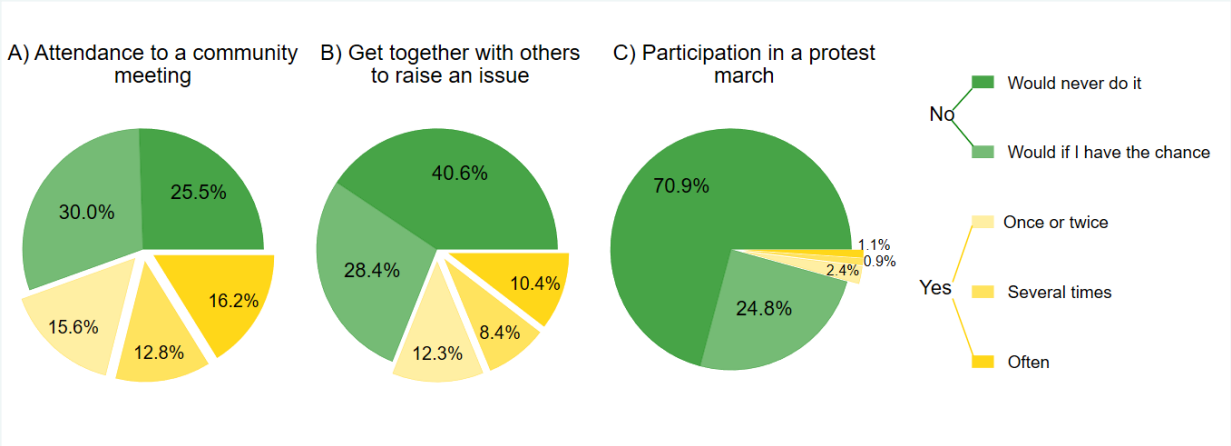


Table 9: Change in Community involvement since COVID-19

	Decreased	Unchanged	Increased
Attendance to a community meeting	64.47	33.88	1.65
Get together with others to raise an issue	70.34	27.82	1.84
Participation in a protest march	80.77	15.38	3.85

Many people think that protesting during a pandemic time such as COVID-19 is a bad action. There were 64.3% who strongly think that it is irresponsible to protest during the pandemic period. About 86.6% of the respondents said that participating in a protest movement or any other mass gathering increases the risk of contracting COVID-19 virus, while 11% do not think so and 2.4% did not know if it is indeed so.

Figure 9: Some general opinions about protest movements during a pandemic

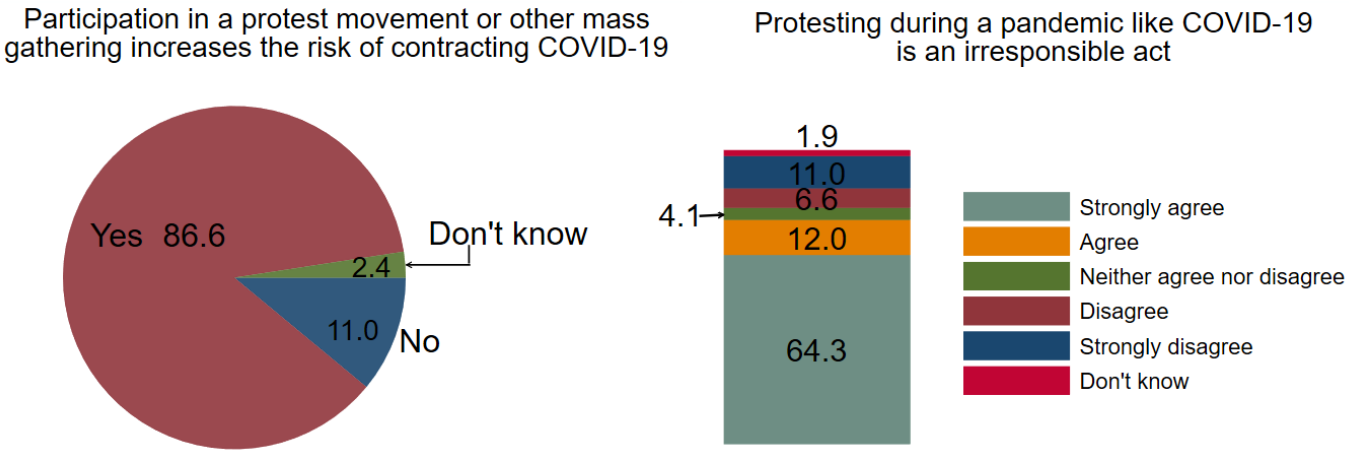


Table 10 reports the perceptions of the respondents on some political actions people

usually take in the context of the pandemic. In fact, 69.8% of the respondents did not seem to be against the fact that the Government has the right to use force/ violence to break up a protest and prevent the spread of a virus like COVID-19. About 77.8% of the people admitted that the Government should make protesting illegal to prevent the spread of the virus. Also, 62.7% said that it is sometimes acceptable for the president to suspend the legislature when decisions need to be made quickly in a pandemic context, 75.4% said that the police should fine people who are not wearing masks properly, and 71.5% said that if the police do not fine people for not wearing a mask then no one will wear one. Finally, 90.1% agree that the government should censor media organizations (TV, radio, newspapers, websites, facebook accounts) that disseminate wrong information about how COVID-19 spreads and about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Table 10: Perceptions about government actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19

	No	Yes	Total
The Government has the right to use force/violence to break up a protest	30.2	69.8	100.0
The Government should make protesting illegal	22.2	77.8	100.0
It is sometimes acceptable for the president to suspend the legislature	37.3	62.7	100.0
The police should fine people who are not wearing masks properly	24.6	75.4	100.0
If the police do not fine people for not wearing a mask then no one will wear one	28.5	71.5	100.0
The government should censor media organizations that spread wrong information about COVID-19 and vaccines	9.9	90.1	100.0

Respondents give in Table 11 their opinion about possible reasons to protest during a pandemic. It can be seen that most people do not agree with protesting during COVID-19 pandemic no matter the reasons to protest.

Table 11: Reason to protest during a pandemic

	No	Yes	Don't know	Total
Review of the constitution	80.1	11.8	8.1	100.0
Violence perpetrated by the police against citizens	78.0	17.8	4.2	100.0
Internet prices cut or increased	78.1	14.0	7.9	100.0
Freedom of the press	73.2	19.4	7.4	100.0
Exclusion of the opposition political parties from the elections	82.2	11.3	6.5	100.0
Cancellation or postponement of elections	84.1	10.9	5.0	100.0

The respondents were asked to think what could be the best response that can prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout the country. About 89.17% responded that this should come from citizens behaviours such as wearing masks and more broadly respecting barrier gestures, while 10.8% instead think that the government policy is the best option.

Figure 10: Most important to prevent the spread of COVID-19

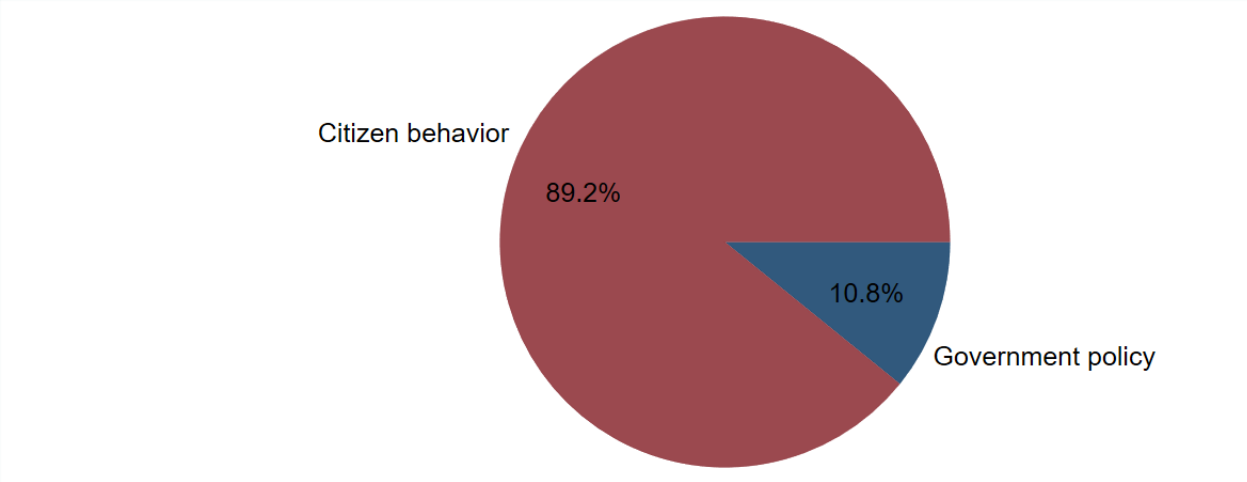


Figure 11 shows the statistics of respondents who provided or received support during the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 11.3% of the respondents stated that they provided support to persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic through a religious or community group and 10.8% stated that they provided support to persons personally. On the other hand of the spectrum, 8.4% (resp. 6.5%) of the respondents said that they received support through a religious or community group (resp. direct from individuals). It can be noted that among those who had provided or received support, the recurrence of support was principally once or twice. Of those who had not provided or received support, most declared

that they would provide or would have liked to receive support if available. Regarding the type of support (Table 12), respondents who provided support indicated financial assistance (74.3%), psychological support (61.5%), and food aid (27.3%). Respondents who received support accounted for financial assistance (78.9%), psychological support (56.3%), and food assistance (11.3%).

Figure 11: Support from people during the pandemic

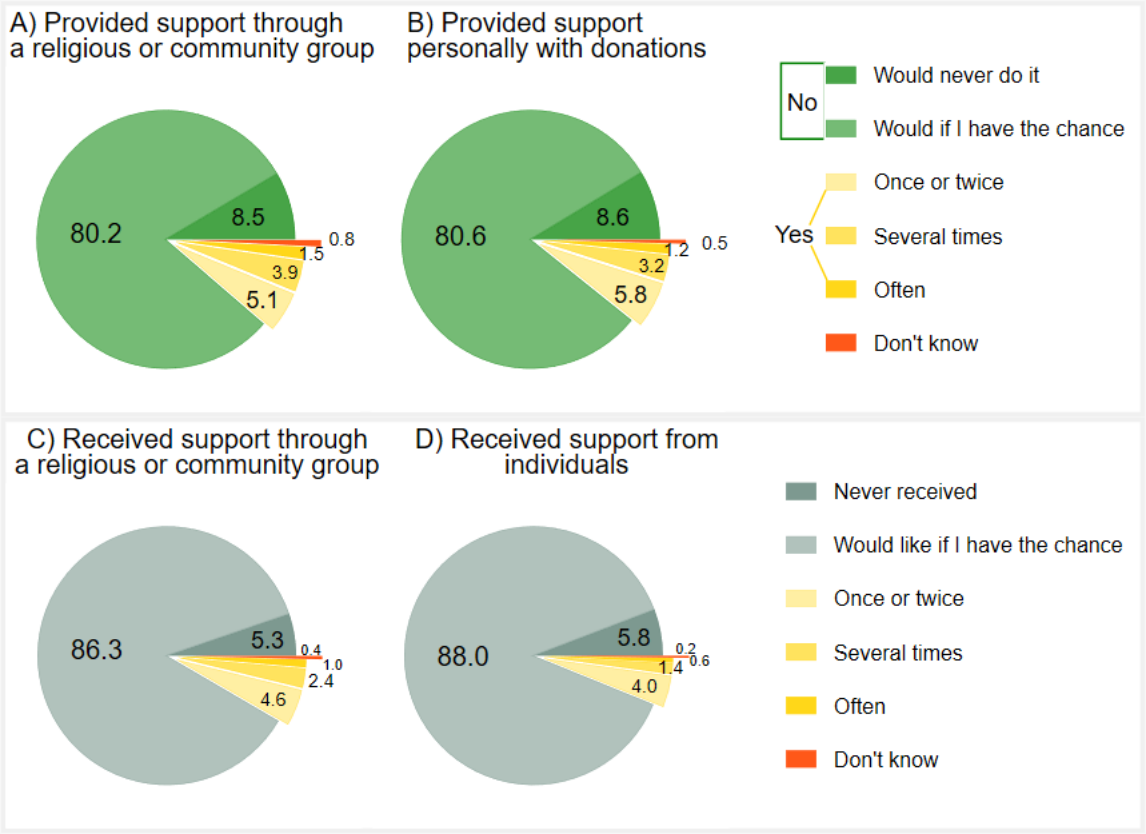


Table 12: Support type

	Provided		Received	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Food Aid	139	74.3	112	78.9
Financial assistance	51	27.3	16	11.3
Psychological support	115	61.5	80	56.3
Observations	187		142	

3.3 Economic impact

Table 13 shows the proportions and how people were economically affected by COVID-19. Overall, about 62.4% respondents reported that they personally or someone in their household had been economically affected by COVID-19. Among households affected, most of them reported a decrease of income (88.9%), followed by a decline in sales (84.6%), loss of market (74.9%) and an increase of commodity prices (67.6%). In all aspects, more people are affected in urban areas than in rural areas.

Table 13: Proportion of respondents/households economically affected by COVID-19

	Residence		**Total**	**Total**
	Urban	**Rural**	**Affected**	**Obs.**
Affected by Covid-19	33.1	29.3	62.4	1237
Loss of a job	24.0	16.6	40.5	772
Decrease of income	46.2	42.6	88.9	772
Decline in sales	45.1	39.5	84.6	772
Obligation to lay off staff	4.8	4.1	8.9	772
Problem of raw materials access	23.1	19.2	42.2	772
Rise of commodity prices	37.8	29.8	67.6	772
Loss of market	40.4	34.5	74.9	772
Loss of suppliers	18.4	15.8	34.2	772
Damage to materials/goods	14.8	14.2	29.0	772
Non-fulfilment of debts or bank loans	21.9	16.3	38.2	772
Forced to work from home	9.5	8.2	17.7	1237

When asking people to indicate their degree of affectation on a scale of 0 to 10, the distribution of scores reported looks almost uniform, indicating that people were affected to different degrees. Half of respondents were affected to a level between 0 and 5, and most of people reported a degree of impact of 5 (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Degree of affectation by COVID-19

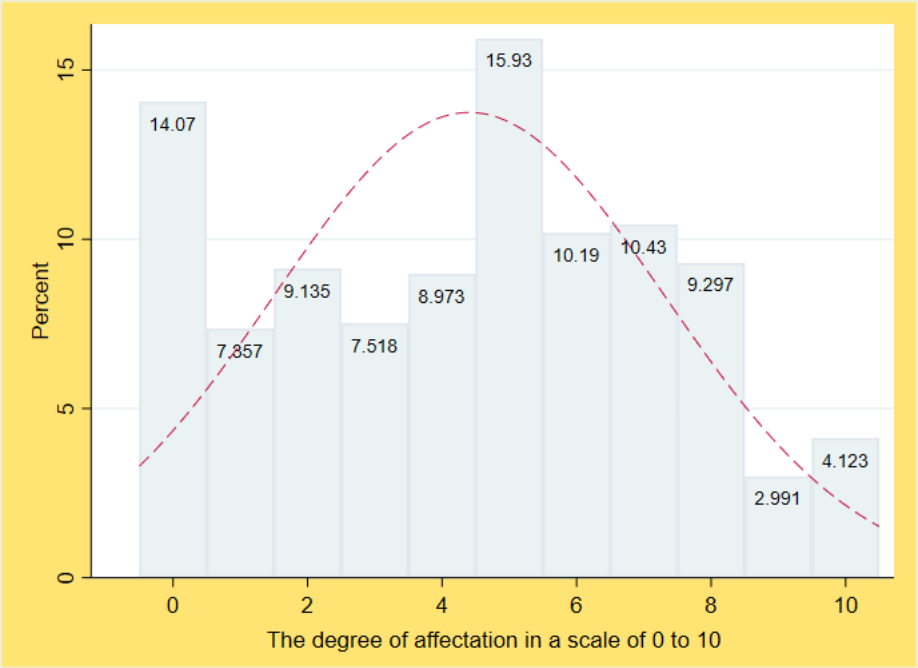


Table 14 presents the living situation of respondents before and after the COVID-19 outbreak. Many respondents reported a better living situation before the COVID-19 event compared to their states just after the onset of the pandemic and at the time of the interview. Interestingly, respondents' living situation had improved slightly at the time of the interview compared to the period when the COVID-19 pandemic had broken out.

Table 14: Perception of household living situation

	Currently	Since COVID	Before COVID
Very bad	9.48	10.62	1.46
Bad	30.15	34.87	13.06
Neither good nor bad	28.04	26.44	23.44
Good	26.58	22.14	44.61
Very good	5.75	5.92	17.44

Figure 13 shows the respondents' perception of the influence of the pandemic on their household living conditions. About half of the respondents (49.8%) reported that their household condition had deteriorated because of the pandemic. About 44.3% of the respondents said that their household standard of living had not changed despite the pandemic. About 5.6% of the respondents said the living situation had improved, and some 0.3% could not give an answer.

Figure 13: Change in household situation due to COVID-19 pandemic

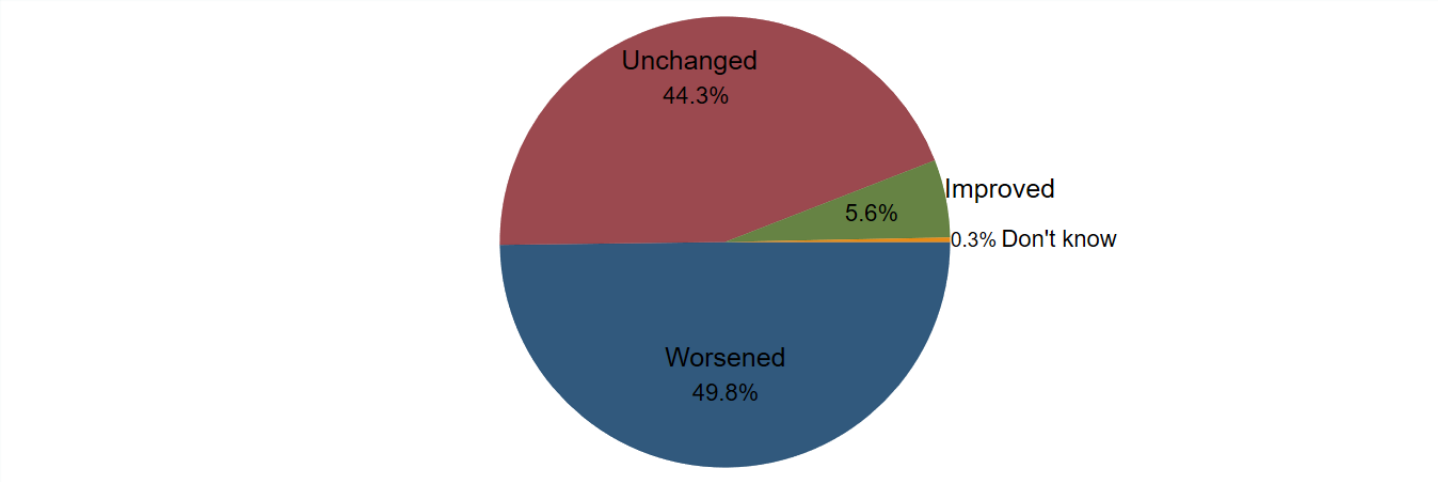


Table 15 shows the distribution of household income losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There were more respondents in the "0-40,000" range after the pandemic emergence (62.3% versus 37.8%). Conversely, there were fewer respondents in the higher income brackets after than before the pandemic. It shows that many respondents/ households have been negatively affected by the pandemic on their incomes.

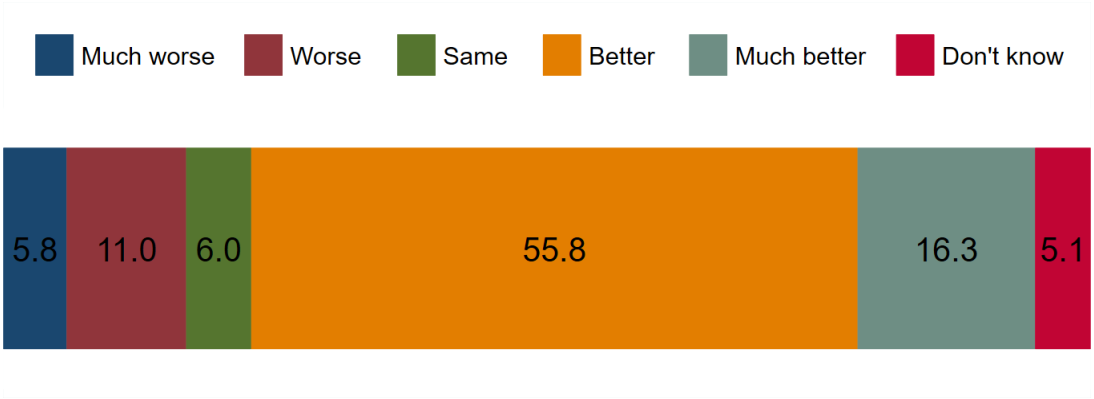
Table 15: Household income loss since COVID-19

Household income	**Before COVID-19**		**Since COVID-19**	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
0 - 40,000	468	37.8	771	62.3
40,001 - 70,000	287	23.2	168	13.6
70,001 - 100,000	141	11.4	68	5.5
100,001 - 150,000	83	6.7	38	3.1
150,001 - 200,000	57	4.6	24	1.9
200,001 - 500,000	44	3.6	16	1.3
500,001+	12	1.0	3	0.2
Refusal	21	1.7	25	2.0
Don't know	124	10.0	124	10.0
Total	1237	100.0	1237	100.0

Finally, Figure 14 shows respondents' levels of optimism or pessimism about the future living conditions of their households in 12 months. In total, most respondents (72.1%) were optimistic: 55.8% thought the situation would get better, and about 16.3% thought the situation would be much better. On the other hand, about 6% of the respondents thought

that the situation will remain the same, 11% thought that the situation will get worse, and 5.8% thought that the situation will be much worse.

Figure 14: Perception of household future living situation in 12 months



3.4 Health

Table 16 shows the proportion of respondents who knew someone who got sick or died from COVID-19 and the respondent's relationship to the case. Overall, about 12% of the respondents knew someone who had been sick or died from COVID-19. For many respondents, these cases/deaths were friends (43.3% and 49.7%) or extended family members (25.3% and 22.4%).

Table 16: Known cases or deaths with COVID-19

	COVID-19 case	Death from COVID-19
Know anyone?		
No	87.9	88.1
Yes	12.1	11.9
Total	100.0	100.0
Relationship with the known case		
Household member	5.3	0.7
Extend family member	25.3	22.4
Neighbour	12.7	9.5
Friends	43.3	49.7
Other	13.3	17.7
Total	100.0	100.0

Looking at the respondents' perceptions of the severity of the disease in Benin, about 41.79% of the respondents said at the time of the interview that the COVID-19 pandemic was a very serious issue in the country (Table 17). As for the future, more people (41.39% and 13.26%) showed optimism that in 12 months, the pandemic will not be as much serious.

Table 17: Covid-19 pandemic situation in Benin

How serious is the pandemic problem	Currently	In 12 months
Not at all serious	6.22	13.26
Not very serious	26.27	41.39
Somewhat serious	21.99	19.00
Very serious	41.79	17.38
Don't know	3.72	8.97
Total	100.00	100.00

3.5 Pandemic management

Individuals and households were affected in different ways by the measures taken by the government to limit the spread of the virus. Table 18 shows that, overall, around 40% to 50% of households were affected by one or more of the government's response measures. About 50.7% of the respondents said they were affected by the closure of schools, followed by 50.2% who were affected by the strict limitation of movement within the country, 47.1% by the limitation of entry and exit at land borders, 46.2% by the suspension/regulation of public transport, etc. About 15% of the respondents (travelers) were affected by restrictions on the issuance of visas or the systematic quarantine when they came by flight.

Table 18: Proportion of households affected by the COVID-19 responses

Responses measures	Percent Affected
Limitation of entry and exit at land borders to the minimum necessary	47.1
Restriction on the issuance of entry visas to Benin	16.3
Systematic and mandatory quarantine of all persons entering Benin by air	15.1
Strict limitation of movement within the country	50.2
Suspension/regulations about public transport of persons	46.2
Establishment of the cordon sanitaire	40.8
Schools closed throughout the country	50.7
Obligation to wear a mask in all places	32.7
Closure/limitations to the workplace	29.7
Suspension of all demonstrations and other non-essential events	41.6
Observations	1237

Figure 15 presents respondents' ratings of each of the government's response measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. More than 50% of the respondents provided a positive assessment of all the measures implemented. The best rating was for the mandatory wearing of masks (64.1% and 26.2%) followed by the systematic quarantine (61.6% and 23.6%). The least supported measures were limitations to the workplace (49.7% and 13.7%) and school

closures (50.1% and 14%).

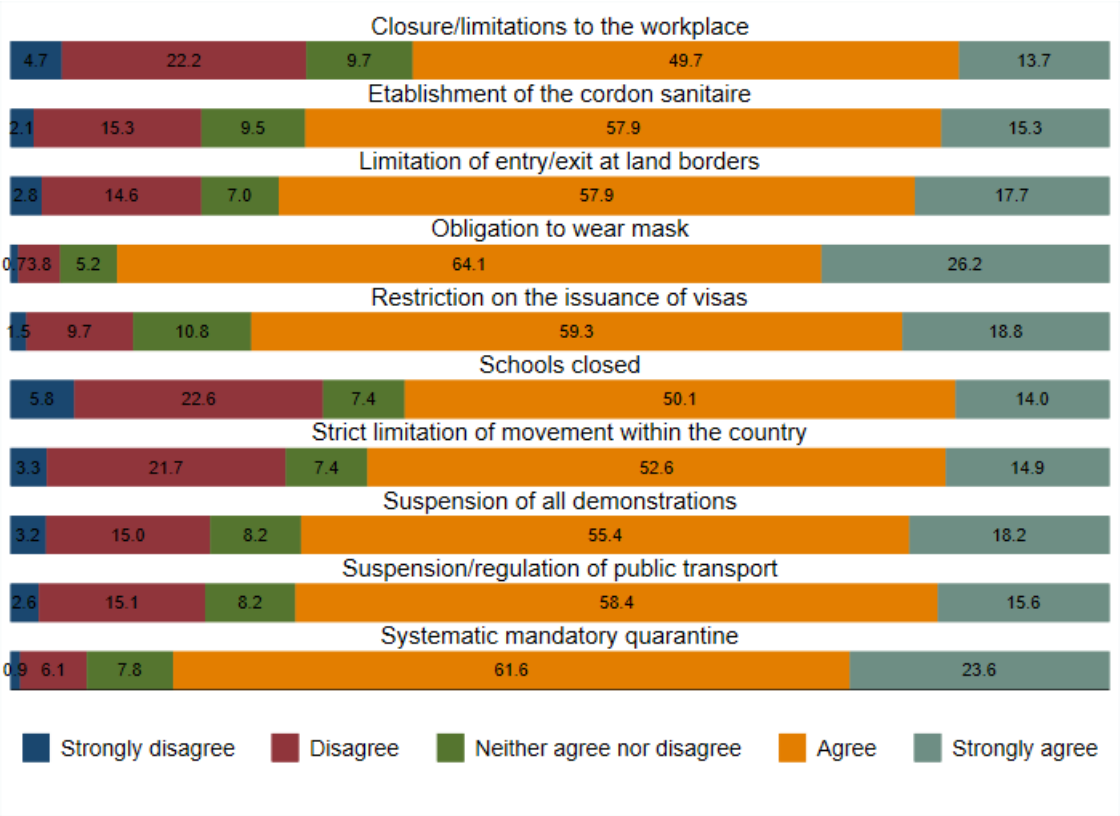


Figure 15: Rating of COVID-19 response measures

In Figure 16, respondents indicated their level of compliance with government measures and also reported on the compliance of their household and community members. Overall, more than half (30.4% and 32.1%) of the respondents complied strongly with the measures and 24.1% were compliant on average. The finding is similar at the household level: 24.6% and 31.4% of respondents strongly complied and 26.7% complied on average. At the community level, the largest proportion (32.6%) complied on average, followed by those who strongly complied (15.8% and 27.2%), although the proportion of those who weakly complied (7.4% and 17.1%) is not insignificant.

When considering the possible correlation between the level of monitoring and the compliance with the measures, the proportion who strongly complied was very high where the monitoring was very rigorous. Conversely, where monitoring was not at all rigorous, there were fewer people who complied strongly, so more people who had average and weak compliance.

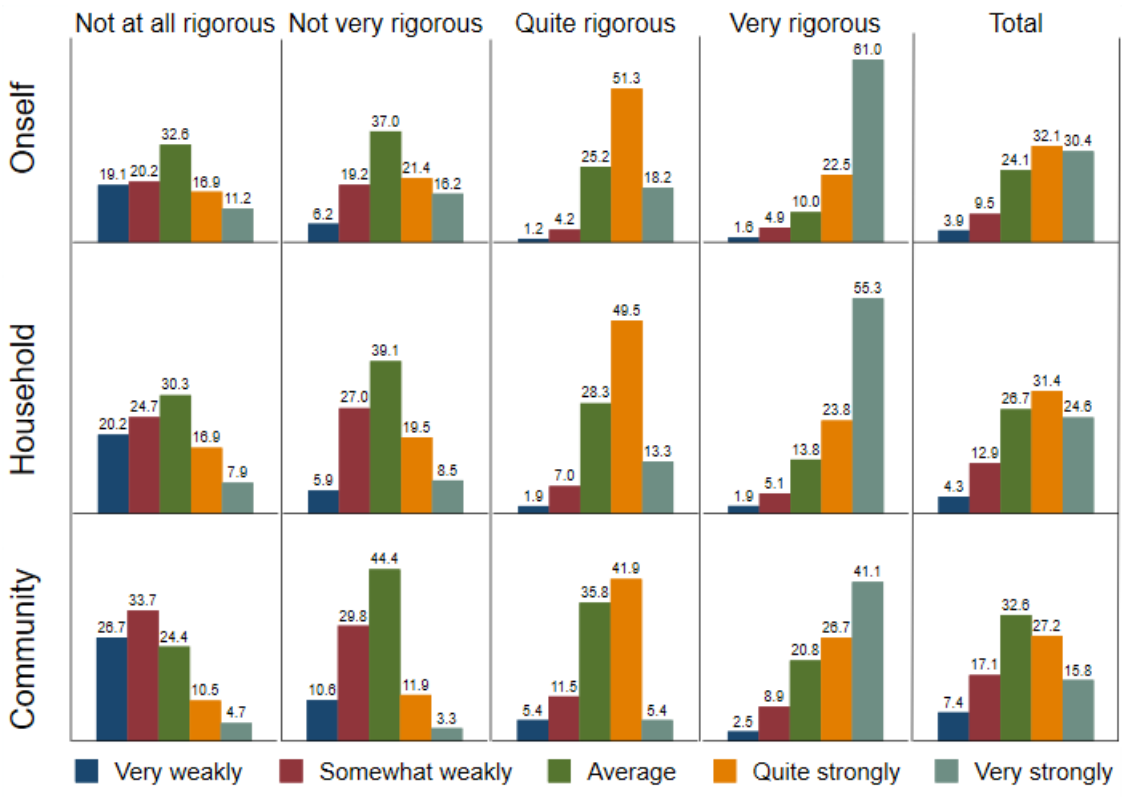


Figure 16: The extent of the monitoring / compliance with government mandated restrictions

Of the respondents, only 2.59% reported receiving (themselves or a member of their household) assistance from the government due to the pandemic. Most of them received anti-COVID equipment and some 5 of them received cash transfers. Overall, about 1 in 4 of the people received the assistance because they had reported to the government that their business was affected by the pandemic. About 9.8% of the respondents said they knew someone who had received government assistance. Many (66.94%) received cash transfers, 40.5% received anti-COVID equipment and 9.92% received food aid. Only one of these people received relief from bill payments, one received relief on tax payments, and one received school supplies. Roughly 75% of these beneficiaries received the assistance as part of the government's support for businesses affected by the pandemic.

Table 19: Received assistance from the government

	Count	Percent
You or your household received assistance	**32**	**2.59**
Cash transfers	5	15.63
Anti-COVID material/equipment	27	84.38
The assistance is part of the government support measures for businesses affected	8	25.00
Know someone who received assistance	**121**	**9.78**
Cash transfers	81	66.94
Food Aid	12	9.92
Anti-COVID material/equipment	49	40.50
Relief from bill payments	1	0.83
Relief in the payment of taxes	1	0.83
School supplies	1	0.83
The assistance is part of the government support measures for businesses affected	87	71.90
Observations	1237	

Figure 17 shows the levels of confidence that respondents had in the official statistics of actual COVID-19 cases in Benin. It appears that 33.3% and 22.6% respectively have a lot or some confidence in the COVID-19 statistics, compared to 18.1% and 20% respectively who have little or no confidence. It can be said that more people had confidence in the statistics provided by the government, however those who did not have confidence were also significant.

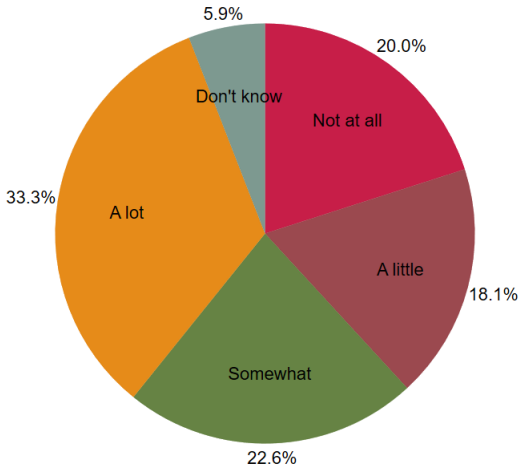


Figure 17: Trust the government on COVID-19 statistics

In Figure 18, respondents gave their opinions on the limitations of some democratic free-

doms when the country is facing a public health emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic. Of the 3 considerations, a large number of respondents agreed with the restrictions. The largest number agreed that public security forces should enforce the health response measures (58.6% and 17.9%). The large proportion of those who disagreed (24.7% and 8.4%) came from limiting political campaigns.

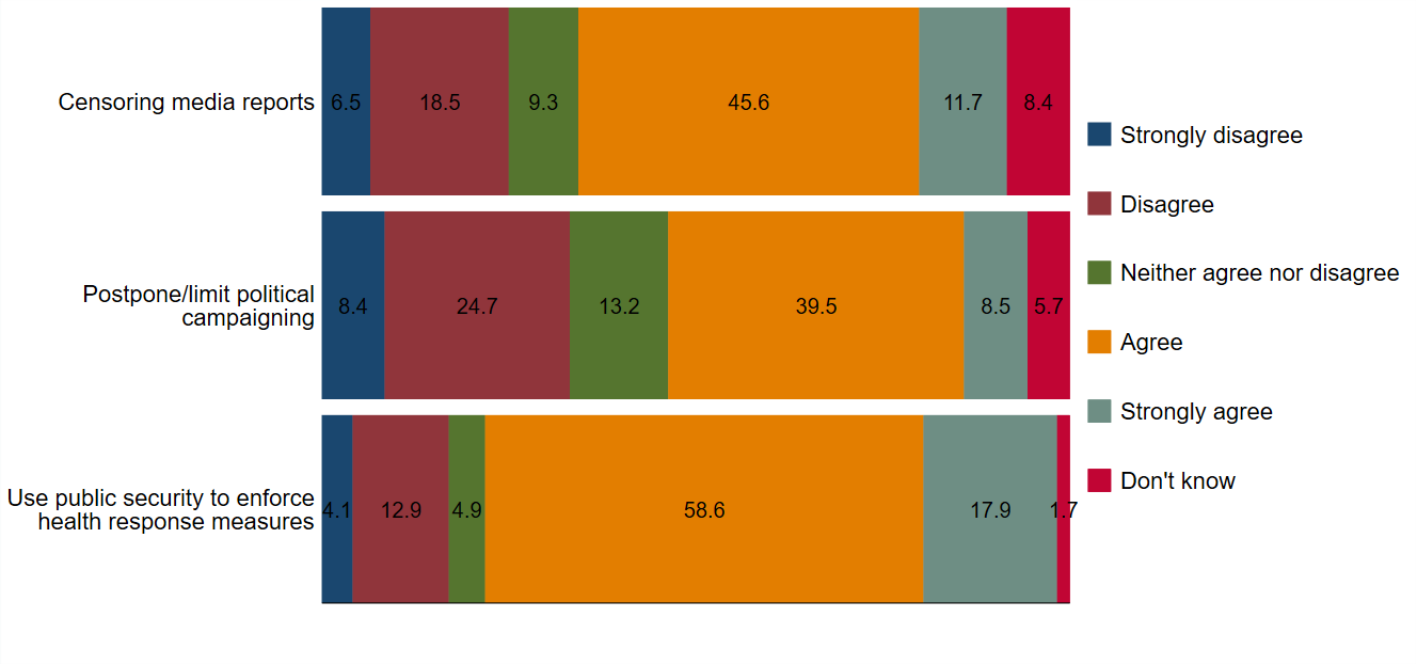


Figure 18: Limitation of democracy/democratic freedoms during a public health emergency

Finally, Table 20 shows how individuals have been restricted on their access to market or some goods and products. About 15.28% reported not able to access to market or shop due to pandemic management, while about 13.82% were not able to access to some goods and products.

Table 20: Proportion of Respondent without access to market/good because of lockdown

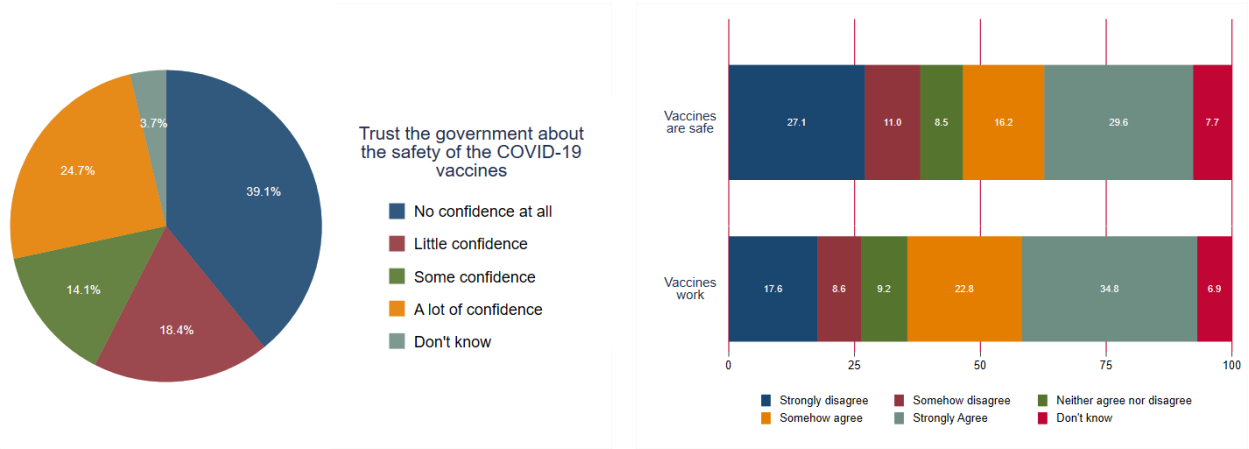
	Count	Percent
Unable to acces market/shop	189	15.28
Unable to access a product/good	171	13.82
Observations	1237	

3.6 Vaccines

In Figure 19a, respondents indicated how much confidence they had in the government to ensure that any COVID-19 vaccine developed and offered to Beninese citizens was safe. A large proportion (39.1%) had no confidence in the vaccines and 18.4% had low confidence. Combined, these two proportions amount to more than 50% who lacked confidence in the government about the safety of the vaccine. However, a non-negligible proportion of 24.7% were very confident and 14.1% were somewhat confident, while 3.7% could not give their opinion. But in Figure 19b, the proportion of those who believed that vaccines were safe (29.6% and 16.2%) was greater than those who were not convinced (27.1% and 11%). Similarly, the proportion of those who thought vaccines were effective was even much larger (34.8% and 22.8% versus 17.6% and 8.6%).

Figure 19: Trust on safeness of COVID-19 Vaccines

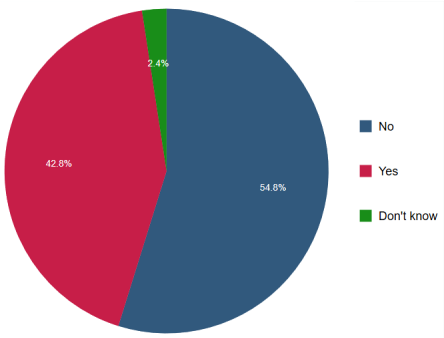
(a) (b)



In Figure 20, respondents stated whether they were ready to take the COVID-19 vaccine. About 54.8% said they were not willing to take the vaccine and 42.8% said yes to take the vaccine, 2.4% did not know whether they would take the vaccine or not. This 42.8% included both those who had actually taken the vaccine and those who had not yet and were not reluctant to take it. The main reasons given by people who were not willing to take the COVID-19 vaccines are either they were concerned about any side effects of the vaccine (57.7%) or that they did not think that the COVID vaccines work (15.5%). This proves once again that people did not have confidence in the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines. Some 2.9% did not believe the existence of the coronavirus, 2.8% thought that there was no risk for them or their relatives to be infected of COVID, 1.3% thought that there was no need to take the vaccine because they had already a good organism capable

of self defense, and 1% thought that COVID-19 and the vaccines are just trivia. All these reasons also show that many people did not take COVID-19 as a serious disease. On the opposite side of the spectrum, people who were willing to get vaccinated primarily want to protect themselves (66.2%) or to protect their family members (22.1%).

Figure 20: Respondents ready to take the COVID-19 vaccines



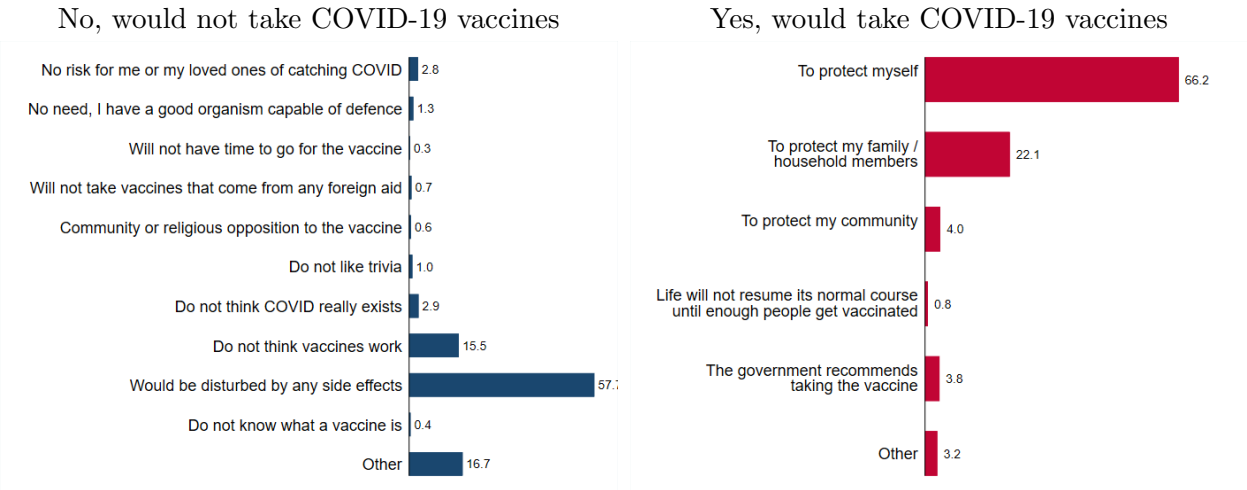


Figure 21: Main reason for taking or not COVID-19 vaccines

Respondents were asked which people would they trust most to decide whether or not to take the COVID-19 vaccine (Figure 22). The largest proportion 31.4% indicated they would trust family, and 23.1% said they could trust a health professional.

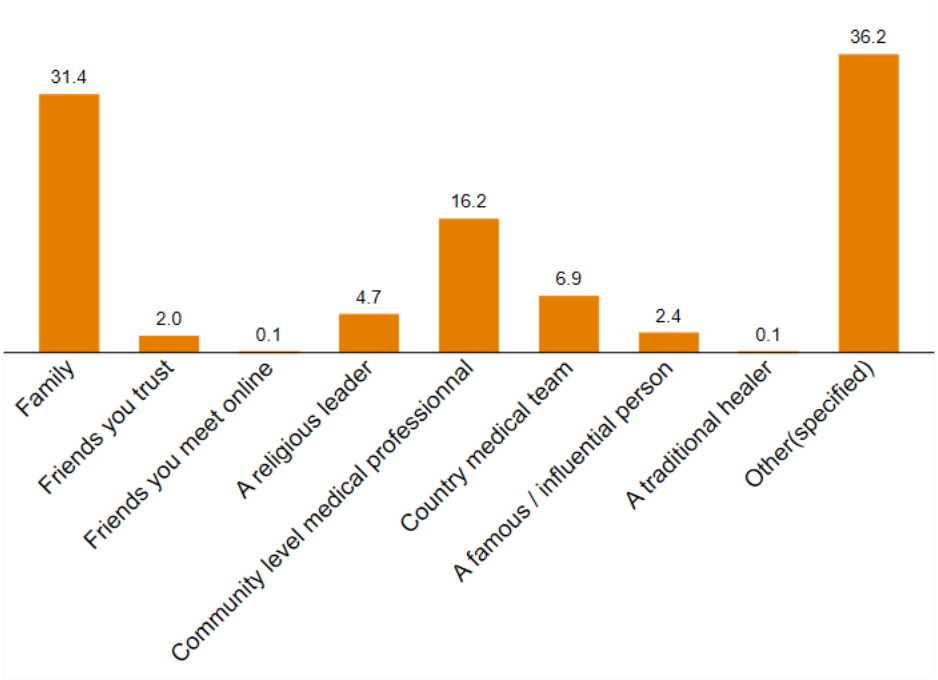


Figure 22: Source of trust for deciding to take or not the vaccine

Prayer or traditional treatments may sometimes be seen as better solutions than a vaccine. Figure 23 shows that 37.4% of the respondents believed that prayer is more effective than vaccines, while 40.9% believed more in the effectiveness of traditional products, but those who believed in vaccines were the largest proportion. Notwithstanding, there were also some (about 5.3% or 4.4%) who thought that whether it was prayer or traditional products compared to a vaccine, all are about the same effectiveness.

Figure 23: Prayer/Traditional product is more effective than a COVID-19 vaccine?

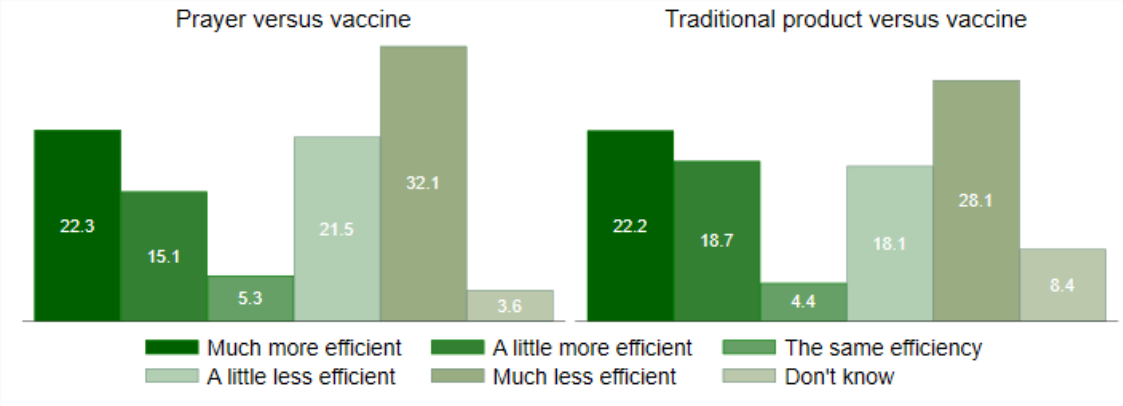


Figure 24 shows that 68.9% of the respondents disagreed with the statement that the government should be able to force people to take the COVID-19 vaccine. In the case where

the government mandates that everyone in the country should take the vaccine, 55.7% said yes that they would agree to take, while 42% said they would not and 2.3% did not know if they would take it. If vaccination is made mandatory at work, 42.4% said they would not take it.

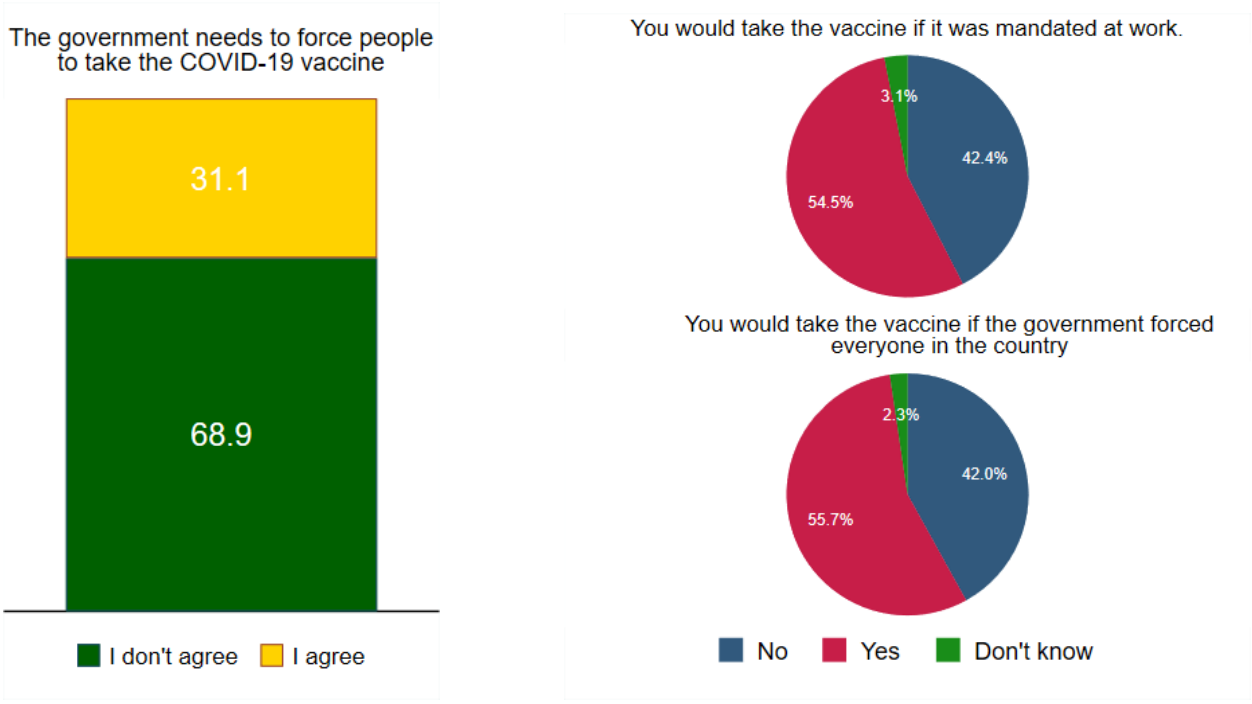


Figure 24: Taking the vaccine is mandatory

3.7 Domestic Violence

Figure 25 shows the share of respondents who have ever feared of domestic violence. Overall, 22% of respondents have ever feared of domestic violence. Both men and women are more likely to have feared of domestic violence equally. The same pattern is observed among the large proportion of those who reported never feared of domestic violence. Among 78% of respondents who have never experienced domestic violence, half are men and half are women.

Figure 26 depicts the proportion of respondents who have ever experienced domestic violence in general. Only 3.7 % of respondents reported that they have ever experienced domestic violence. Women are more likely to experience domestic violence than men (2.4% versus 1.3%).

Figure 25: Ever Feared Domestic Violence

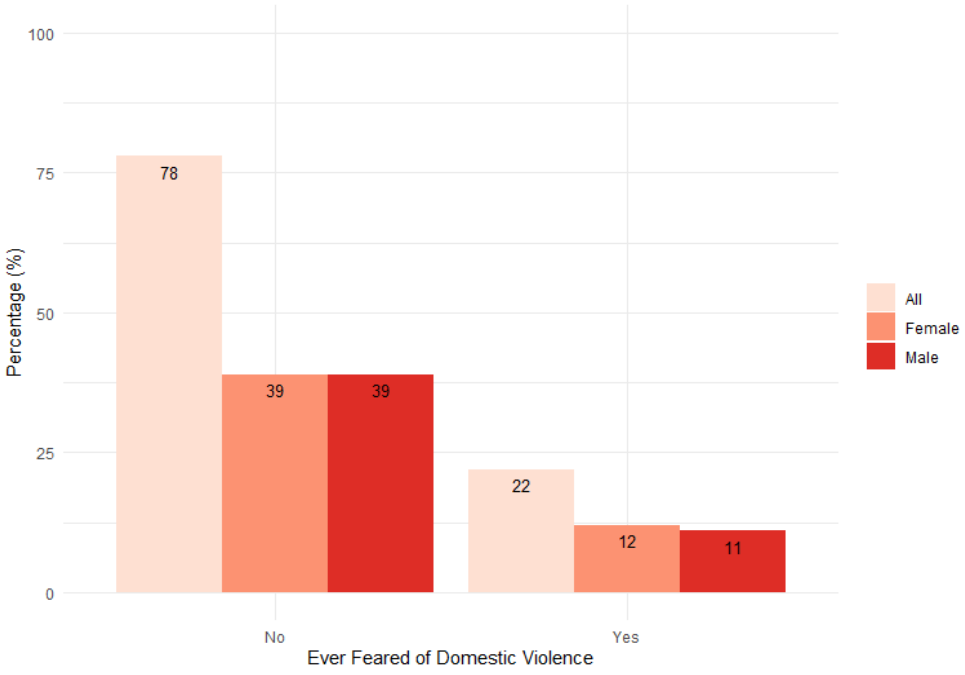


Figure 26: Ever Experienced Domestic Violence

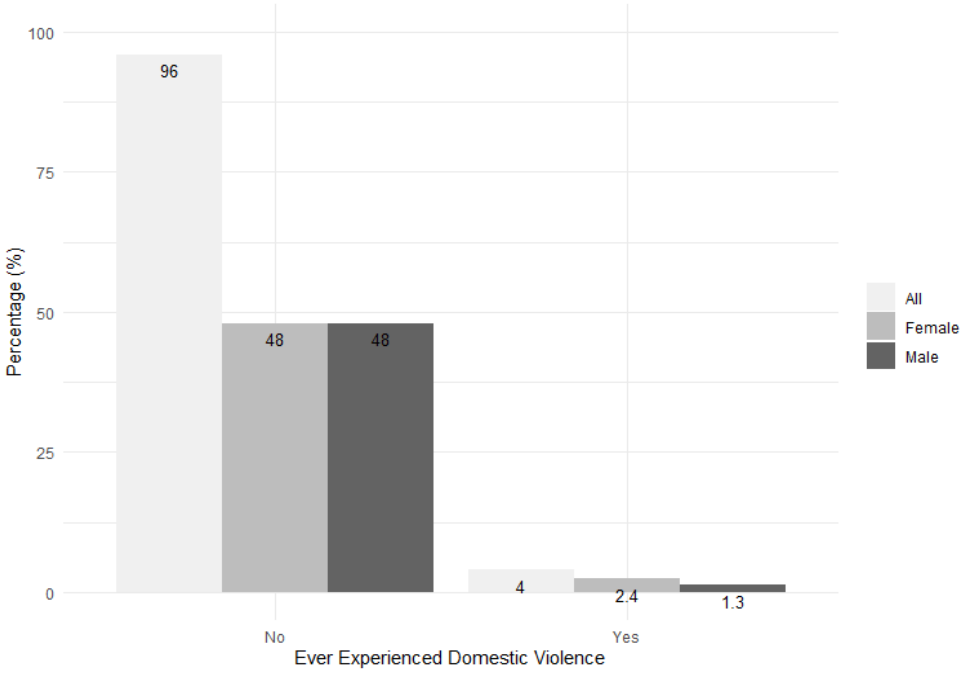
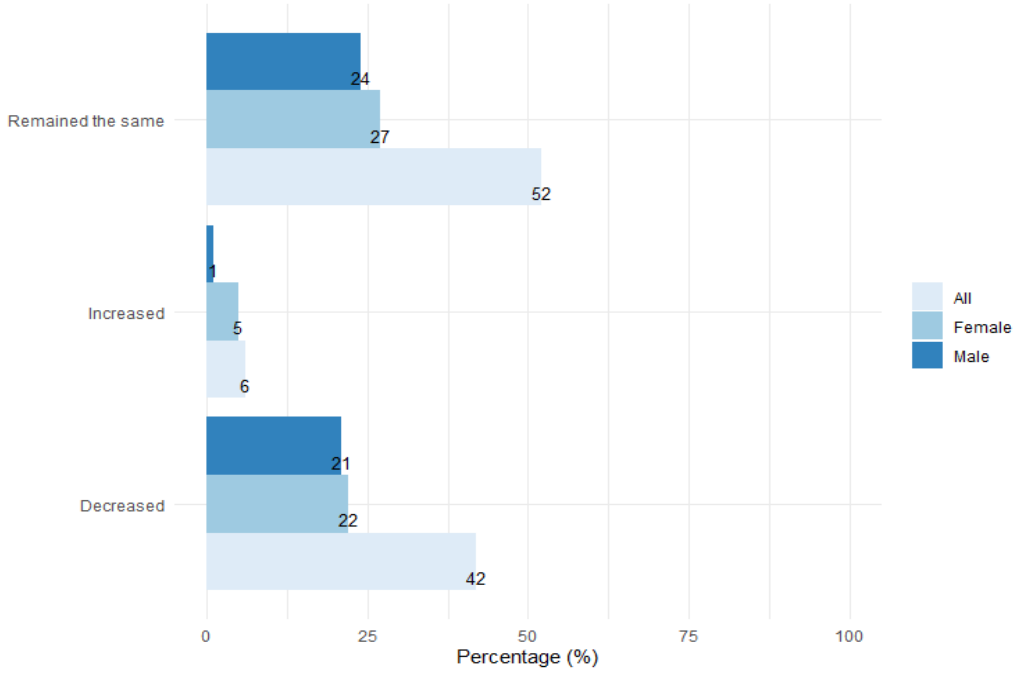


Figure 27 shows the change in the extent of domestic violence since COVID-19. Respondents were asked to compare their experience of domestic violence since COVID-19 to the period before COVID-19. Most of the respondents reported that domestic violence remained

the same (52%), about 42% experienced a decreased of domestic violence, and 6% of the respondents reported an increase of domestic violence since the pandemic. Women were more likely to experience an increase of domestic violence since the pandemic compared to men.

Figure 27: Domestic violence since COVID-19



Among those who experienced domestic violence, most of respondents reported that domestic violence has decreased, while those who only feared violence are mostly people who found the situation of violence has remained the same (Table 21).

Table 21: Domestic violence compared to the time before COVID-19

	Decreased	Remained the same	Increased	Total
Yes, feared but not experienced	31.5	48.4	3.3	83.2
Yes, feared and experienced	11	3.3	2.6	16.8
Total	42.5	51.6	5.9	100

Appendix

.1 Complementary results

Table 22: The place where you personally feel you belong most

	Your community/ neighbourhood	**Your department**	**Your region/ ethnic group**	**Benin**	**Another country than Benin**	**Africa**	**World**	**Don't know**	**Total**
Gender									
Male	25.3	3.8	15.3	48.2	3.1	2.3	2.0	0.0	100.0
Female	30.0	3.7	19.1	42.0	2.1	1.0	1.4	0.8	100.0
Residence									
Urban	23.9	3.4	15.9	49.1	2.9	2.0	2.4	0.5	100.0
Rural	31.2	4.0	18.5	41.3	2.3	1.2	1.1	0.3	100.0
Cordon sanitaire									
Outside	29.1	5.0	18.9	40.5	2.9	1.7	1.4	0.5	100.0
Inside	25.2	1.4	14.1	53.3	2.1	1.4	2.3	0.2	100.0
Age									
18-25	31.5	3.4	15.0	38.9	5.6	1.6	3.1	0.9	100.0
26-35	27.6	3.6	20.3	43.5	1.9	2.2	0.3	0.6	100.0
36-45	23.9	4.7	16.9	51.0	2.0	0.4	1.2	0.0	100.0
46+	27.2	3.3	16.2	48.3	0.7	2.0	2.3	0.0	100.0
Education									
No education	29.6	3.4	19.9	43.6	2.1	0.0	1.5	0.0	100.0
Primary	27.9	2.1	17.7	46.3	2.8	2.1	1.1	0.0	100.0
Secondary	25.4	5.4	15.5	44.6	3.4	2.8	1.8	1.0	100.0
University	26.9	3.2	9.7	50.5	1.1	3.2	4.3	1.1	100.0
Total	27.7	3.7	17.2	45.0	2.6	1.6	1.7	0.4	100.0

Table 23: Sense of integration in Benin society before the pandemic

	Not at all	Not well	Fairly well	Very well	Don't know	Total
Gender						
Male	2.1	6.3	26.6	65.0	0.0	100.0
Female	3.0	9.4	31.0	56.4	0.2	100.0
Residence						
Urban	2.9	7.8	30.0	59.2	0.2	100.0
Rural	2.3	7.9	27.8	62.0	0.0	100.0
Cordon sanitaire						
Outside	3.5	7.7	29.1	59.6	0.1	100.0
Inside	0.9	8.1	28.4	62.6	0.0	100.0
Age						
18-25	2.2	13.7	27.7	56.4	0.0	100.0
26-35	3.3	5.8	27.3	63.2	0.3	100.0
36-45	1.2	7.8	31.0	60.0	0.0	100.0
46+	3.3	4.0	30.1	62.6	0.0	100.0
Total	2.6	7.8	28.9	60.6	0.1	100.0
Education						
No education	3.2	9.1	27.9	59.8	0.0	100.0
Primary	2.1	5.3	31.1	61.1	0.4	100.0
Secondary	2.3	8.5	27.7	61.4	0.0	100.0
University	2.2	6.5	32.3	59.1	0.0	100.0
Total	2.6	7.8	28.9	60.6	0.1	100.0

Figure 28: The most important to feel integrated in Benin society

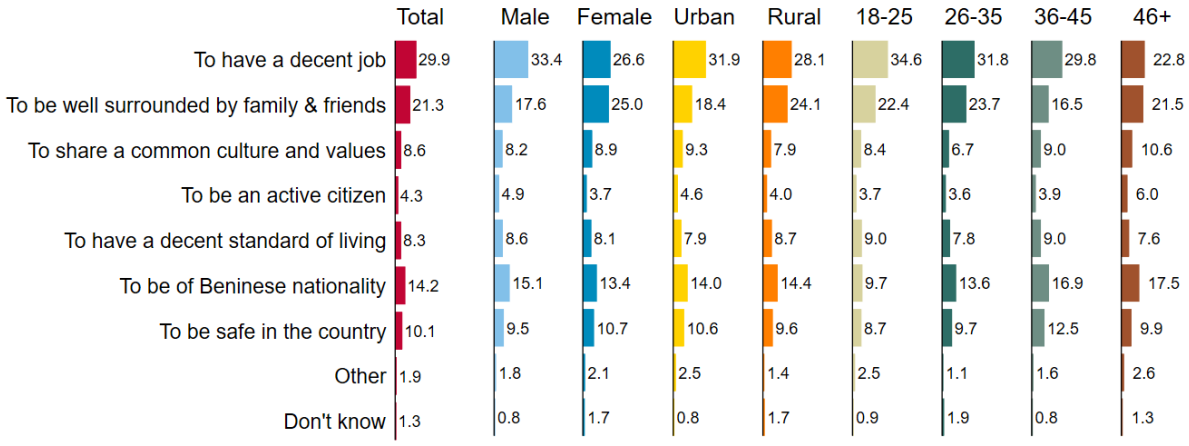


Table 24: Treatment by public officials - in general

	Much worse	Worse	Same	Better	Much better	Don't know	Total
Gender							
Male	2.5	17.3	59.4	13.2	6.1	1.6	100.0
Female	1.6	12.2	63.6	15.1	4.5	3.0	100.0
Residence							
Urban	1.7	18.0	62.1	10.8	4.6	2.9	100.0
Rural	2.3	11.6	61.0	17.2	5.9	1.9	100.0
Cordon sanitaire							
Outside	2.0	11.4	62.6	16.4	5.8	1.7	100.0
Inside	2.1	20.8	59.6	9.9	4.2	3.5	100.0
Age							
18-25	1.6	15.9	61.4	14.0	4.7	2.5	100.0
26-35	2.2	11.7	63.5	16.4	5.0	1.1	100.0
36-45	2.7	16.5	56.9	14.5	5.1	4.3	100.0
46+	1.7	15.6	63.2	11.3	6.3	2.0	100.0
Total	2.0	14.7	61.5	14.1	5.3	2.3	100.0
Education							
No education	1.7	12.9	61.7	15.0	6.8	1.9	100.0
Primary	3.5	18.4	60.1	10.2	4.6	3.2	100.0
Secondary	1.6	13.7	63.2	15.3	3.9	2.3	100.0
University	1.1	17.2	57.0	17.2	5.4	2.2	100.0
Total	2.0	14.7	61.5	14.1	5.3	2.3	100.0

.2 Sample size computation

The formula used to calculate the sample size is as follows:

$$N_s = \frac{N_p(P)(1-P)}{(N_p-1)(\frac{B}{C})^2 + (P)(1-P)} \tag{1}$$

Where,

Table 25: Sample size calculation elements

Elements	Signification	Values
Np	Population size of people aged 18 and older from all 12 departments of Benin	4,707,717
P	The proportion that should respond in a certain way. (This proportion is chosen arbitrarily).	50%
B	Margin of error, a percentage that indicates how likely the survey results are to reflect the opinion of the overall population.	3%
C	Z-statistic associated with the confidence interval (95% confidence level)	1,96

After the calculation, the size Ns obtained is 1,067 and by applying a 15% increase to account for non-response rate, the adjusted sample size is estimated to **1,228**.

.3 Questionnaires

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON AFRICAN ECONOMIES, SOCIAL COHESION AND GOVERNANCE:

EVIDENCE FROM BENIN, BURKINA FASO AND SOUTH AFRICA

BENIN QUESTIONNAIRE

Section 0: Interviewer's identification

Respondent number: ***[Granted by interviewer]***		

[Interviewer: circle the answer]	
Controller's name	
Interviewer's name	

[Interviewer: Write appropriate answer in the boxes.]	
Department	
Commune	
District	
Village	

Area: *[Circle one]*	
Urban	1
Rural	2

Introduction by the interviewer:

Hello Sir / Madam, my name is *[Name of Interviewer]*. I am an agent of the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE), an independent research organization based at Arconville in Benin. I do not represent the government or any political party. We are conducting a study on the SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON AFRICAN ECONOMIES, SOCIAL COHESION AND GOVERNANCE: CASES OF BENIN, BURKINA-FASO AND SOUTH AFRICA.

You have been randomly selected to participate in the collection of data from the inhabitants of this area. Your identity and all the information you provide to us will be kept confidential. They will be grouped together with those of other survey participants and it would be indistinguishable from your responses, so please make yourself comfortable and feel free to respond to our questions truthfully. This investigation should take approximately one (01) hour of time. There is no associated penalty if you choose not to attend and you can also stop at any time if you are unable to complete the interview. Do you have specific concerns? If you have any problems or questions about this study, your rights as a participant, or any prejudice related to the research, you can contact the following number: / __ / __ / __ / __ / __ / __ / (Project Coordinator).

Consent: Do you agree to participate in the survey?	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**

Section 1: Respondent's identification

Let's start with some questions about yourself.

S1Q0. Surname and first names of the respondent? ***[Interviewer: Ask the question: "What is your first and last name? » And enter the respondent's answer]***	_____

S1Q1. How old are you? *[Write the age in completed years.]*		

S1Q2. What is your nationality?	
Beninese	1
Other (please specify)	96

S1Q3. What is the gender of the respondent? *[Interviewer, select what you observe]*	
Male	1
Female	2
Other (please specify)	96

S1Q4. What is your marital status?	
Single	1
Married or cohabiting	2
Widowed	3
Divorced	4
Separated	5

S1Q5. How many people live in your household including yourself? *[Interviewer, enter number]*		

S1Q6. Is the respondent the head of the household?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S1Q6A. What is your relationship with the head of the household? *[Do not read]*	
The Head of Household	1
The Spouse	2
Son or Daughter	3
Son-In-Law or Daughter-In-Law	4
Grandson or Granddaughter	5
Father or Mother	6
Father-In-Law or Mother-In-Law	7
Brother or Sister	8
Niece/Nephew	9
Uncle/Aunt	10
Other Parents	11
Adopted Children/Custodians	12
Unrelated	13

S1Q7. How many dependent children are there in your household, that is, those under the care of the head of household? *[Interviewer, enter number]*		

S1Q8. Do you or anyone in your household have any particular disability? I.e., difficulties with either walking, seeing, hearing, remembering or concentrating, self-care or communication.	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S1Q9. Which ethnic group do you belong to? *[Do not read options; code from answers].*			
Fon and related	1	Betammaribe and related	7
Adja and related	2	Yoa and Lokpa and related	8
Yoruba and related	3	Only Beninese or "Does not identify itself in these terms	90
Bariba and related	4	Other (*please specify):* ___	96
Dendi and related	5	Refusal to answer	98
Peulh and related	6	Don't know	99

S1Q10. What is your highest level of education? *[Code from answer. Do not read options]*	
No formal schooling	0
Informal schooling only (including Koranic schooling)	1
Some primary schooling	2
Primary school completed	3
Intermediate school or some secondary school / high school	4
Secondary school / high school completed	5

Post-secondary qualifications, other than university e.g., a diploma or degree from a polytechnic or college	6
Some university	7
University completed	8
Post-graduate	9
Don't know *[Do not read]*	99

S1Q10A. What is the highest diploma that you have obtained? *[Don't read the options. Code from responses.]*	
Any	0
CEP	1
BEPC	2
CAP	3
BAC	4
BTS	5
Licence/DTS	6
Maitrise	7
Master/DEA	8
Doctorat	9
Other (specify)	96

S1Q10B. Do you have a job that pays a cash income? *[If yes, ask:]* **Is it full time or part time?** *[If no, ask:]* **Are you currently looking for a job?**	
No (not looking)	0
No (looking)	1
Yes, part time	2
Yes, full time	3
Don't know *[Do not read]*	9

S1Q11. What is your main activity? That is, the activity that brings you the most income. [*If unemployed, retired or disabled, ask:* **What was your last main activity?]** *[Do not read options. Code from responses.]*	
Never had a job	0
Student	1
Housewife / homemaker	2
Agriculture / farming / fishing / forestry	3
Trader / hawker / vendor / retailer/shopkeeper	4
Unskilled manual worker (e.g., cleaner, laborer, domestic help, unskilled manufacturing worker)	5
Artisan or skilled manual worker (e.g., trades like electrician, mechanic, machinist or skilled manufacturing worker)	6
Clerical or secretarial	7
Supervisor / Foreman / Senior Manager	8
Security services (police, army, private security)	9
Mid-level professional (e.g., teacher, nurse, mid-level government officer)	10
Upper-level professional (e.g., banker/finance, doctor, lawyer, engineer, accountant, professor, senior-level government officer)	11
Other (*please specify):* _____	96
Don't know *[Do not read]*	99

S1Q12 [*If the Respondent has an occupation, i.e., the answer to Q1S11 is other than 0=Never had a job, 1=Student, or 2=Homemaker, ask:]* **In relation to this main activity you are engaged in, who do you work for?** *[Read response options]*	
Self-employed (own account, employer)	1
Private sector employee	2

Public sector employee	3
Employee of a non-governmental organization or civil society	4
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S1Q13. Is this main activity that you carry out …	
Part-time?	1
Full time?	2
Intermittently?	3

S1Q14. Which of these things do you personally own? *[If no, ask]***: Does anyone else in your household own one?**				
	Yes (personally owns)	Someone else in household owns	No one in household owns	Don't know *[DNR]*
A. Radio	2	1	0	9
B. Television	2	1	0	9
C. Motor vehicle or motorcycle	2	1	0	9
D. Computer	2	1	0	9
E. Bank account	2	1	0	9
F. Mobile phone	2	1	0	9

S1Q14G. *[If yes to personally or familial owning a mobile phone]* **Does your (or the other household member's) phone have Internet access?**	
No (Does not have Internet access)	0
Yes (Has Internet access)	1
Don't know *[Do not read]*	99

S1Q15. *[If yes for the possession of these various elements]* **How often do you use:** *[Read response options]*						
	Every day	A few times a week	A few times a month	Less than once a month	Never	Don't know *[DNR]*
A. Radio	4	3	2	1	0	99
B. Television	4	3	2	1	0	99
C. Motor vehicle or motorcycle	4	3	2	1	0	99
D. Computer	4	3	2	1	0	99
E. Bank account	4	3	2	1	0	99
F. Mobile phone	4	3	2	1	0	99

S1Q16. Are you the owner of the house?	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**

S1Q16A. What is the housing status of the place in which you currently living? ***[If S1Q16 == 0]***	
Family house	1
Rented house	2
Other [specify] __	96

Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S1Q17. What religion do you practice, if you have any? *[Do not read the options. Code from responses.]*	
No religion	1
Voodoo	2
Other traditional	3
Islam	4
Catholic	5
Protestant Methodist	6
Other Protestants	7
Celestial	8
Evangelical	9
Other Christians	10
Refusal	98
Other (Specify)	96
Do not know	99

Section 2: Social Cohesion

In this section, we will talk about your role in the community, your social relationships, access to essential public services, and trust in government. Then we will talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted these different aspects.

1. Belonging

Let's start with your sense of belonging

S2Q1 *[For Beninese only, check against nationality and ethnic group questions]* **In your opinion, would people_____s** *[Respondent's ethnic group]* **be treated fairly by the government?** *[Read response options]*	
No, never	0
Yes, sometimes	1
Yes, Often	2
Yes, Always	3
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q1A. Has this treatment improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse since the COVID-19 pandemic? *[Read response options]*	
Remained the same	0
Worsened	1
Improved	2
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q2. *[Only for non-Beninese, check against nationality question]* **In your opinion, would people _____s** *[Respondent's nationality]* **be treated fairly by the government?** *[Read response options]*	
No, never	0
Yes, sometimes	1
Yes, often	2
Yes, always	3
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q2A. Has this treatment improved, remained the same or worsened since the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Remained the same	0
Worsened	1
Improved	2
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q3. Which of these places do you personally feel you belong most?	
To your community, to your neighborhood	1
To your department	2
To your region/ethnic group	3
In Benin	4
To another country other than Benin	5
To Africa	6
To the world	7
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q3A. Has this sense of belonging changed since COVID-19?	
Yes, completely	2
Yes, partially	1
No, not at all	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q4 *[Only for Beninese, to be checked against nationality and ethnic group questions]* **Suppose you had to choose between being Beninese and being_____** *[Respondent's ethnic group]***. Which of the following statements best express your feelings?**	
I feel only Beninese	5
I feel more Beninese than_____*[Insert Respondent's ethnic group]*	4
I feel as Beninese as_____*[Insert Respondent's ethnic group]*	3
I feel more_____*[Insert Respondent's ethnic group]* than Beninese	2
I feel only_____*[Insert Respondent's ethnic group]*	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q4A. How has this changed since COVID-19? *[Read response options]*	
Decreased	0
Remained the same	1
Increased	2
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q5 *[Only for non-Beninese, to be checked against nationality question]* **Suppose you had to choose between being Beninese and being_____** *[Respondent's nationality]***. Which of the following statements best expresses your feelings**	
I feel only Beninese	5
I feel more Beninese than_____ *[Insert Respondent's nationality]*	4
I feel as much Beninese as_____ *[Insert Respondent's nationality]*	3
I feel more_____ *[Insert Respondent's nationality]* than Beninese	2
I feel only_____ *[Insert Respondent's nationality]*	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q5A. How has this feeling changed since COVID-19? *[Read response options]*	
Decreased	0
Remained the same	1
Increased	2
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q6 "Public services treat all citizens equally". Do you agree or disagree with this statement regarding public services (School, hospital, social welfare, justice, public administration, etc.)? *[Interviewer, probe for strength of opinion]*	
Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Agree	3
Strongly agree	4
Don't know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q7. In general, when dealing with public officials, do you think they treat you better, the same or worse than others? *[Read response options]*	
Much worse	0
Worse	1
The same	2
Better	3
Much better	4
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q7A. Has this treatment improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse since the COVID-19 pandemic? *[Read response options]*	
Remained the same	0
Worsened	1
Improved	2
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q8. Here is what people can say about what they think of Benin. There are no right or wrong answers. We are simply interested in your opinions. Please tell me if you disagree or agree with these statements

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't Know *[DNR]*
A- Being Beninese is a very important part of how you see yourself.	1	2	3	4	99
B- You would like your children to consider themselves Beninese.	1	2	3	4	99

C- People should realize that we are Beninese first, and stop thinking of themselves in terms of the group to which they belong.	1	2	3	4	99

S2Q9. Before COVID-19 pandemic, do you feel integrated in Beninese society? *[Read response options]*	
Very well integrated	4
Fairly well integrated	3
Not well integrated	2
Not at all integrated	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q9A. What do you think is the most important thing to be integrated in Beninese society? Is it mainly the fact ... *[Read the answer options]*	
To have a decent job	1
To be well surrounded by your family or friends	2
To share a common culture and values	3
To be an active citizen	4
To have a decent standard of living	5
To be of Beninese nationality	6
To be safe in the country	7
Other (please specify)	96
Don't know *[Don't read]*	98

S2Q9B. Has this sense of integration improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse since the COVID-19 pandemic? *[Read response options]*	
Remained the same	0
Worsened	1
Improved	2
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q10. For each of the following actions, please tell me, since the advent of COVID-19, to what extent you would be willing to do them.					
	Very willing	Willing	Reluctant	Very reluctant	Don't know *[DNR]*
A-Voting During Elections	1	2	3	4	9
B- Criticizing the government	1	2	3	4	9
C- Complain to government officials when public services are poor	1	2	3	4	9
D- Pay taxes to the government	1	2	3	4	9
E- Participating in a public demonstration against public services	1	2	3	4	9
F- Sign a petition to complain to the government about problems with public services	1	2	3	4	9

2. Trust

Now let's look at the trust aspect

S2Q11. How much do you trust each of the following institutions, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? *[Read response options]*

	No confidence at all	Little confidence	Some confidence	A lot of confidence	Don't know/ Never heard of it *[DNR]*
A. The President of the Republic	0	1	2	3	99
B. The National Assembly	0	1	2	3	99
C. The Independent National Electoral Commission	0	1	2	3	99
D. Your Municipal or Communal Council	0	1	2	3	99
E. The governing parties	0	1	2	3	99
F. Opposition political parties	0	1	2	3	99
G. The police or gendarmerie	0	1	2	3	99
H. Benin's defence forces	0	1	2	3	99
I. Courts and tribunals	0	1	2	3	99
J. The General Tax Directorate	0	1	2	3	99
K. Traditional leaders	0	1	2	3	99
L. Religious leaders	0	1	2	3	99

S2Q11A. Has your confidence in the following institutions improved, stayed the same or deteriorated since COVID-19? *[Read response options]*

	Got worse	Unchanged	Improved	Don't know *[DNR]*
A. The President of the Republic	0	1	2	99
B. The National Assembly	0	1	2	99
C. The Independent National Electoral Commission	0	1	2	99
D. Your Municipal or Communal Council	0	1	2	99
E. The governing parties	0	1	2	99
F. Opposition political parties	0	1	2	99
G. The police or gendarmerie	0	1	2	99
H. Benin's defence forces	0	1	2	99
I. Courts and tribunals	0	1	2	99
J. The General Tax Directorate	0	1	2	99
K. Traditional leaders	0	1	2	99
L. Religious leaders	0	1	2	99

S2Q12. In general, do you think it is possible to trust people or that you should be wary?	
People can be trusted	1
One should be wary	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S2Q12A. Since COVID-19, would you say that your trust in people in your community has improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse? *[Read response options]*	
Worsened	0
Remained the same	1
Improved	2
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q12B. Please indicate, on a scale of 0 to 10, how you perceive that people can be trusted or should be distrusted. 0 represents no trust at all, 10 a very high level of trust. You can choose any number between 0 and 10	
A. In general	
B. From COVID	

S2Q13. Could you tell me in general terms for each of the following groups of people, how much you trust them?

		No confidence at all	Little confidence	Some confidence	A lot of confidence	Don't know *[NPL]*
A.	People of the same religion as you	0	1	2	3	99
B.	People of the same ethnic group as you	0	1	2	3	99
C.	People in your family	0	1	2	3	99
D.	People at work	0	1	2	3	99
E.	People in your neighborhood	0	1	2	3	99
F.	Beninese in general	0	1	2	3	99

S2Q13A. Has your confidence in each of the following groups of people improved, stayed the same, or deteriorated since COVID-19? *[Read response options]*

		Unchanged	Worsened	Improved	Don't know *[NPL]*
A.	**People of the same religion as you**	0	1	2	99
B.	**People of the same ethnic group as you**	0	1	2	99
C.	**People in your family**	0	1	2	99
D.	**People at work**	0	1	2	99
E.	**People in your neighborhood**	0	1	2	99
F.	**Beninese in general**	0	1	2	99

S2Q14. In your daily life, before COVID-19 pandemic, do you personally find the presence of people rather enriching, rather annoying or are you rather indifferent to the presence of people...

	Very annoying	Awkward	Indifferent	Enriching	Very enriching	Don't know *[NPL]*
A. Of another nationality than yours?	1	2	3	4	5	99
B. From another religion than yours?	1	2	3	4	5	99
C. From another ethnic group than yours	1	2	3	4	5	99

S2Q14A. Have your feelings about each of the following groups of people improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse since COVID-19? *[Read response options]*

	Unchanged	Got worse	Improved	Don't know *[NPL]*
A. Of another nationality than yours?	0	1	2	99
B. From another religion than yours?	0	1	2	99
C. From another ethnic group than yours	0	1	2	99

3. Security

Now let's talk about the security aspect

S2Q15. In any society, people sometimes disagree with each other. These disagreements sometimes evolve into physical violence. Please tell me if, since COVID-19, you have personally experienced any of the following forms of violence? [*If yes]* **Have you personally experienced this type of violence in the past two years?**

	No, never	Yes, feared, but not experienced	Yes, feared and experienced	*Don't know [DNR]*
A. Violence with the inhabitants of your neighborhood or village	0	1	2	99
B. Violence at a political rally or public protest march	0	1	2	99
C. Violence during a political rally or campaign event	0	1	2	99
D. Police or armed violence	0	1	2	99
E. Domestic violence	0	1	2	99
F. Others (specify)				

S2Q15A. In any society, people sometimes disagree with each other. These disagreements sometimes evolve into physical violence. Please tell me if, since COVID-19, you have personally experienced any of the following forms of violence? [*If yes]* **Have you personally experienced this type of violence in the past two years?**				
	Worsened	Remained the same	Remained the same	Don't Know *[Don't Read]*
A. Remained the same	0	1	2	99
B. Improved	0	1	2	99
C. Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	0	1	2	99
D. Police or armed violence	0	1	2	99
E. Domestic violence	0	1	2	99
F. Others (specify)				

S2Q16. Tell me, please, do you usually get exposed to violence because of...			
	No	Yes	Don't know *[NPL]*
A. Your Type?	0	1	99
B. Your ethnicity?	0	1	99
C. Your age?	0	1	99
D. Your economic status?	0	1	99
E. Your home?	0	1	99
F. Your religious affiliation?	0	1	99
G. Your affiliation to a given group?	0	1	99
H. Any particular disability you have?	0	1	99
I. Your migrant status?	0	1	99

S2Q17. In the past 2 years, have you witnessed or experienced any of the following discrimination related to: [*Interviewer: We are talking about unfavorable treatment of a person related to any of the following. Also make it clear that we are talking about having* ***witnessed*** *or been a victim, not necessarily having been personally victimized***]**			
	No	Yes	Don't know
A. To Gender?	0	1	99
B. Ethnicity?	0	1	99
C. At age?	0	1	99
D. Economic status?	0	1	99
E. To the house/apartment?	0	1	99
F. To religious affiliation?	0	1	99
G. To the affiliation to a given group?	0	1	99
H. Has a particular disability?	0	1	99
I. Your migrant status?	0	1	99

S2Q17. If you did witness any of these events, please let us know if the frequency of these events has increased, decreased or remained the same compared to the time before COVID-19 (last 12 months before COVID-19).:				
	Decreased	Unchanged	Increased	Don’t know
A. To Gender?	0	1	2	99
B. Ethnicity?	0	1	2	99

C. At age?	0	1	2	99
D. Economic status?	0	1	2	99
E. To the house/apartment?	0	1	2	99
F. To religious affiliation?	0	1	2	99
G. To the affiliation to a given group?	0	1	2	99
H. Has a particular disability?	0	1	2	99
I. Your migrant status?				

4. Social relationship

Now let's move on to the social aspect

S2Q18. Now I'm going to read a list of groups that people join or participate in. For each one, could you tell me if you are an official leader, an active member, an inactive member, or if you are not a member? *[Read answers options]*

		Leader	Active member	Inactive member	Not a member	Don't Know
A.	**A religious group that meets outside of regular worship services**	3	2	1	0	99
B.	**A community micro-credit association or group**	3	2	1	0	99
C.	**An association or community sport group**	3	2	1	0	99
D.	**An association or community group of another type (please specify)**	3	2	1	0	99
E.	**An association or youth group**	3	2	1	0	99
F.	**An association or political group**	3	2	1	0	99
G.	**A trade union organization**	3	2	1	0	99

S2Q18A. If you are a member of the following groups, please let us know if your participation has increased, decreased or remained the same since the COVID-19 pandemic.

		Unchanged	Decreased	Increased	Don't Know
A.	**A religious group that meets outside of regular worship services**	0	1	2	99
B.	**A community micro-credit association or group**	0	1	2	99
C.	**An association or community sport group**	0	1	2	99
D.	**An association or community group of another type (please specify)**	0	1	2	99
E.	**A youth group or association**	0	1	2	99
F.	**A political group or association**	0	1	2	99
G.	**A trade union organization**	0	1	2	99

S2Q19. Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens. For each one, please tell me if you, personally, usually do any of these things. [*If yes, read options 2-4]***. If no, would you do it if you had the chance?** *[For No, read options 0 and 1].*

	Yes			No		Don't Know
	Often	Several times	Once or twice	I would if I was lucky	I would never do it	
A. Attendance at a community meeting	4	3	2	1	0	99
B. Get together with others to raise an issue	4	3	2	1	0	99
C. Participation in a protest march	4	3	2	1	0	99

S2Q19A. *[If yes to S2Q20]* **Please tell me if there has been an increase, decrease or change in the following actions since the COVID-19 pandemic?**

	Unchanged	Increased	Decreased	Don't Know
A. Attendance at a community meeting	0	1	2	99
B. Get together with others to raise an issue	0	1	2	99
C. Participation in a protest march	0	1	2	99

S2Q20D. Do you think that participation in a protest movement or other mass gathering increases the risk of contracting COVID-19?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't Know *[Don't Read]*	99

S2Q20E. Do you agree with the following statement: Protesting during a pandemic like COVID-19 is an irresponsible act? [Interviewer, probe the strength of opinion]	
Strongly agree	1
Somewhat agree	2
Neither agree nor disagree	3
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	5
Don't know [Not to be read]	99

S2Q20F. For what reasons would you be willing to protest during a pandemic like COVID-19?

	No	**Yes**	**Don't know/ Never heard of it [DNR]**
A. Review of the constitution			
B. Violence perpetrated by the Republican police against citizens.			
C. Internet prices cut or increased			
D. Freedom of the press			
E. Exclusion of opposition political parties from the elections.			
F. Cancellation or postponement of elections.			
G. Other (specify)			

S2Q20G. The Government has the right to use force (violence) to break up a protest to prevent the spread of a virus like COVID 19?	
Yes	1
No	0

S2Q20H. The Government should make protesting illegal to prevent the spread of a virus like COVID 19?	
Yes	1
No	0

S2Q20I. It is sometimes acceptable for the president to suspend the legislature when decisions need to be made quickly such as in a pandemic.	
Yes	1
No	0

S2Q20J. The police should fine people who are not wearing masks properly	
Yes	1
No	0

S2Q20K. If the police do not fine people for not wearing a mask, then no one will wear one	
Yes	1
No	0

S2Q20L. The government should censor media organizations (tv, radio, newspapers, websites, Facebook accounts) that spread wrong information about how COVID-19 spreads and the COVID-19 vaccine	
Yes	1
No	0

S2Q20M. Which is more important for preventing the spread of COVID-19?	
Government policy such as closures	1
Citizen behavior such as mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing	0

S2Q21. Here is a list of initiatives that people sometimes take to support those affected by COVID-19. For each one, please tell me if you personally took any of these initiatives during the COVID-19

[If yes, read options 2-4]. **If no, would you do so if you had the opportunity?** *[For No, read options 0 and 1].*

	Yes			No		Don't Know
	Often	Several times	Once or twice	I would if I was lucky	I would never do it	
A. Supporting people through a religious or community group	4	3	2	1	0	99
B. Support personally with donations	4	3	2	1	0	99

S2Q21A. If so, please tell us what types of support you received.			
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Food Aid	1	0	99
Financial assistance	1	0	99
Psychological support	1	0	99

S2Q22. Here is a list of supports that people affected by COVID-19 sometimes receive. For each one, please tell me if you, personally, received any of these supports during the COVID-19 pandemic. [*If yes, read options 2-4].* **If no, would you have liked to have received them if you had the opportunity? [For No, read options 0 and 1]**

	Yes			No		Don't Know
	Often	Several times	Once or twice	Would like if the opportunity arose	Never Received	
A. Received support from people through a community or a religious group	4	3	2	1	0	99
B. Received support from individuals	4	3	2	1	0	99

S2Q22A. If so, please tell us what types of support you received.			
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Food Aid	1	0	99
Financial assistance	1	0	99
Psychological support	1	0	99

Section 3: Economic condition

In this section, we will discuss the economic conditions of your household and how they have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the same section, we will address issues of food security, health, and socio-economic inequalities.

1. Economic activity

Let's start with the "Economic Activity" aspect

S3Q1. Please tell me if you have personally or your household been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q1A. If yes, in which of the following ways have you (or the household) been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic? :			
	Yes	No	Don't know *[NPL]*
A. Temporary or permanent loss of a job, business or main source of income	1	2	99
B. Decrease or loss of income	1	2	99
C. Decline in sales	1	2	99
D. Obligation to lay off staff *(if employer)*	1	2	99
E. Problem of access to raw materials, goods, equipment, production materials	1	2	99
F. Rising commodity prices	1	2	99
G. Loss of market and/or customers	1	2	99
H. Loss of suppliers	1	2	99
I. Damage to materials, equipment, raw materials, goods	1	2	99
J. Non-compliance with commitments (repayment of debts or bank loans)	1	2	99
K. Other (please specify)	1	2	99

S3Q1AL. Have you or anyone in your household been forced to work from home because of COVID 19?	
Yes	1
No	0

S3Q2. Please indicate, on a scale of 0 to 10, the degree to which your household's economic situation has been affected by COVID-19. 0 means that you have not been affected at all, 10 means that you have been affected to a very high degree. You can choose any number between 0 and 10	—

S3Q3. Before COVID-19, how was unpaid care and chores shared in your household? Enter shares that add up to 100%.				
	Me	Spouse/Partner	Other household members	Don't know *[NPL]*
Care of children				99
Care of the elderly or a sick person				99
Domestic purchases				99
Tableware				99
Kitchen				99
Laundry				99
Storage and cleaning				99
Other tasks (please specify)				99

S3Q4. Since COVID-19, how are unpaid care and household chores shared in your household? Enter shares that add up to 100%.				
	Me	Spouse/Partner	Other household members	Don't know *[NPL]*
Care of children				99
Care of the elderly or a sick person				99
Domestic purchases				99
Tableware				99
Kitchen				99
Laundry				99
Storage and cleaning				99
Other tasks (please specify)				99

S3Q5. In general, how would you describe your household or living situation: *[Read response options]*						
	Very good	**Fairly good**	**Neither good nor bad**	**Wrong**	**Very bad**	**Don't know** *[NPL]*
A. Currently	5	4	3	2	1	99
B. Since COVID-19 during the year 2020	5	4	3	2	1	99
C. Before COVID-19 in the year 2019	5	4	3	2	1	99

S3Q6. Personally, would you say that your life or household situation has improved, stayed the same, or gotten worse, because of the COVID-19 pandemic?	
Remained the same	0
Worsened	1
Improved	2
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q7. In our society, there are households that earn more money than others. Here is a scale from 0 to 10 that can represent this hierarchy. At '0' are the lowest income households and at '10' the highest income households. Please indicate where do you place your household on this scale today, comparing your household income with the other Beninese one?	

S3Q8. In general, how would you rate the living conditions of your household compared to other Beninese since COVID-19 *[Interviewer, probing strength of opinion]*	
Much worse	1
Worse	2
Same	3
Better	4
Much better	5
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q9. If you cannot give me a figure, could you tell me what is the average monthly income of your household before COVID-19?	
0 – 40000	1
40001-70000	2
70001-100000	3
100001-150000	4
150001-200000	5
200001-500000	6
500001-and more	7
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99
Refusal to answer	98

S3Q9A. Since COVID-19, in average, which of the monthly income in the bracket best fit the fall of your household income?	
0 – 40000	1
40001 – 70000	2
70001-100000	3
100001-150000	4
150001-200000	5
200001-500000	6
500001-and more	7
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99
Refusal to answer	98

S3Q10. Thinking about the future, are you optimistic or rather pessimistic? Would you say that your household's living situation will be better or worse in twelve months *[Interviewer, probing strength of opinion]*	
Much less good	1
Less good	2
Identical	3
Best	4
Much better	5
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

2. Food security

Now let's get to the "food safety" aspect

S3Q11. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, have the members of your household or you eaten the same products compared to the time before COVID-19 (the last 12 months before COVID-19)?	
Yes	1
No	0

S3Q12. Have there been any significant changes in the amount of food consumed in your household compared to the situation before COVID-19 (the last 12 months before COVID-19)?	
Increase	4
Minor reduction	2
Significant reduction	1
No change	0
Don't know *[Do not read]*	99

S3Q13. *In the past 12 months, how often have you (or a family member) had to deal with the following situations: [Read response options]*

		Never	Juste une ou deux fois	Quelques fois	Plusieurs fois	Toujours	Ne sait pas *[NPL]*
A.	Insufficient food to eat properly?	0	1	2	3	4	99
B.	Lack of clean water for domestic needs?	0	1	2	3	4	99
C.	Lack of medicine or medical care?	0	1	2	3	4	99
D.	Lack of fuel to cook meals?	0	1	2	3	4	99
E.	Lack of money?	0	1	2	3	4	99

S3Q13A. [Enquêteur : Identifiez le code le plus élevé (culminant) encerclé à **S3Q13.** Si c'est 2, 3 ou 4; i.e. si le répondant a manqué de l'un des éléments de **S3Q13**a-e « quelques fois », « plusieurs fois » ou « toujours », prenez la réponse la plus fréquente et demandez : Lorsque vous dites avoir manqué de ***[élément] [fréquence],*** diriez-vous que cela s'est produit : *[Lisez à haute voix les options de réponse]* [Remarque : si le répondant a donné plusieurs réponses avec le code le plus élevé, insistez sur ou demandez-lui la réponse courante, i.e. la plus fréquente, que vous retiendrez comme réponse définitive.*] [*Si le répondant dit n'avoir pas fait l'expérience de manquer de l'un des éléments de **S3Q13**a-e, au moins « quelques fois » (code2) ou plus, mettez le code 7 « Non Applicable »*]*

About every two or three months	1
About once a month	2
Two or three times a month	3
About once a week	4
Several times a week	5
Every day	6

Non-Applicable *[[Do not read]]*	7
Don't know *[[Do not read]]*	96

S3Q14. In the past seven (7) days, how often did you eat the following food groups*: [Read response options]*	
	Number of days of consumption
A. Cereals and tubers (corn, rice, sorghum, millet, bread, other cereals, yams, cassava, potatoes, sweet potatoes)	
B. Pulses (beans, peas, peanut shells and cashew nuts)	
C. Vegetables (vegetables, condiments and leafy greens)	
D. Fruits	
E. Meat and fish (beef, goat, poultry, pork, eggs and fish)	
F. Milk (yogurt and other dairy products)	
G. Sugar (sugar and sweetened products)	
H. Oils (oils, fats and butter)	

S3Q15. In the last 24 hours, did you have to eat any of the following food groups: *[Read response options]*	
	Yes (1) / No (0)
A. Cereals and tubers (corn, rice, sorghum, millet, bread, other cereals, yams, cassava, potatoes, sweet potatoes)	
B. Pulses (beans, peas, peanut shells and cashew nuts)	
C. Vegetables (vegetables, condiments and leafy greens)	
D. Fruits	
E. Meat and fish (beef, goat, poultry, pork, eggs and fish)	
F. Milk (yogurt and other dairy products)	
H. Oils (oils, fats and butter)	

S3Q16. In the past seven (7) days, if you did not have enough to eat or enough money to buy food, how often did you have to: *[Read response options]*	
	Number of days
Eat less popular/cheaper foods?	
Borrow food or rely on help from friends or relatives?	
Limit portion size at mealtime?	
Reduce adult consumption in favor of children?	
Reduce the number of meals eaten per day?	

S3Q17. During the first 6 months of the pandemic, did you stockpile food in the household?	
Yes	1
No	0

S3Q17A. If so, is this due to :	
Containment/COVID-19 information?	1
the natural storage habit?	0

S3Q17B. Was this stock of food able to cover the consumption needs for the estimated period?	
Yes, completely	2
Yes, partially	1
No	0

S3Q18. What are the main sources of food in your household?	
Local market	1

Regional market	2
Work in the fields	3
Own subsistence production	4
Picking	5
Neighbors / Friends / Family	6
Donations/Humanitarian Assistance	7
Other (please specify)	96

S3Q19. How far is this market from where you live?	
Less than 1 km	1
2 to 5km	2
6 to 10km	3
11 to 20km	4
More than 20km	5
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q20. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, have any member of your household or you been unable to access a market or shop because of the health situation?	
Yes	1
No	0

S3Q21. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, have any member of your household or you been unable to access a product/good that is usually available due to the health situation?	
Yes	1
No	0

3. Health

Let us now turn to the "health" aspect

S3Q22. In your opinion, how serious is the problem of the COVID-19 pandemic in Benin? *[Read options]*	
Very serious	4
Quite serious	3
Not very serious	2
Not at all serious	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q23A. Do you know anyone who has become sick from COVID-19?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q23B. If yes. What was your relationship to this person? *[Read options]*	
Household member	1
Extend family member	2
Neighbor	3
Friends	4
Community member	5
Other	6

S3Q23C. Do you know anyone who has died from COVID-19?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q23D. If yes. What was your relationship to this person? *[Read options]*	
Household member	1
Extend family member	2
Neighbor	3
Community member	4
Friends	5
Other	6

S4Q23E. Looking ahead, how serious do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will be for Benin in the next year? *[Read the answer options].*	
Very serious	4
Somewhat serious	3
Not very serious	2
Not at all serious	1
Don't know [Don't read]	9

S3Q24. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, have you or other members of your household been unable to access a health center/hospital mainly because of the health situation?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q25. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, have there been times when you or other members of your household have not been able to get needed health care due primarily to the health situation?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S3Q26. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, have there been times when you or other members of your household have been unable to obtain certain essential medicines mainly because of the health situation?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

4. Socio-economic inequalities

Let us now continue with the "socio-economic inequalities" component

S3Q27. There are several types of inequalities in society. Among those I am going to mention, tell me which ones seem to be widespread today in Benin according to you. *[Maximum of three choices are possible].*	
Income inequality	1
Housing Inequality	2
Inequalities related to family inheritance	3
Inequalities by job type	4
Inequalities in having a job	5
Inequalities in schooling	6
Inequalities in access to care	7
Inequalities linked to ethnic origin	8
Inequality between women and men	9
Other (please specify)	96
Don't know [Don't read]	98

S327A. [*For each of the three inequalities previously identified]* **Since COVID-19, do you feel that these inequalities have increased, decreased, or stayed the same?**	
Remained the same	0
Diminished	1
Increased	2
Don't know [Don't read]	99

Section 4: Pandemic Management

This section considers questions about your assessment of the government's management of the pandemic.

S4Q1. The following is a list of actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Which ones affected your household the most? *[Read options]*

		Yes	No	Don't know [NPL]
A.	Limitation of entry and exit at land borders to the minimum necessary	1	2	99
B.	Restriction on the issuance of entry visas to Benin	1	2	99
C.	Systematic and mandatory quarantine of all persons entering Benin by air.	1	2	99
D.	Strict limitation of movement within the country	1	2	99
E.	Suspension/regulations in relation to public transport of persons	1	2	99
F.	Establishment of the cordon sanitaire	1	2	99
G.	Schools closed throughout the country	1	2	99
H.	Obligation to wear a mask in all places.	1	2	99
I.	Closure/limitations to the workplace	1	2	99
J.	Suspension of all demonstrations and other non-essential sporting, cultural, religious, political and festive events involving gatherings of more than 10 people.	1	2	99
K.	Other (please specify)	1	2	99

S4Q2. How do you rate each of the measures taken by the government to limit the spread of COVID-19? You will tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following measures: *[Investigator, probe for strength of opinion]*						
		Strongly disagree	**In disagreement**	**Neither agree nor disagree** *[NPL]*	**In agreement**	**Totally in agreement**
A.	**Limitation of entry and exit at land borders to the minimum necessary**	1	2	3	4	5
B.	**Restriction on the issuance of entry visas to Benin**	1	2	3	4	5
C.	**Systematic and mandatory quarantine of all persons entering Benin by air.**	1	2	3	4	5
D.	**Strict limitation of movement within the country**	1	2	3	4	5
E.	**Suspension/regulations in relation to public transport of persons**	1	2	3	4	5
F.	**Establishment of the cordon sanitaire**	1	2	3	4	5
G.	**Schools closed throughout the country**	1	2	3	4	5
H.	**Obligation to wear a mask in all places.**	1	2	3	4	5
I.	**Closure/limitations to the workplace**	1	2	3	4	5
J.	**Suspension of all demonstrations and other non-essential sporting, cultural, religious, political and festive events involving gatherings of more than 10 people.**	1	2	3	4	5

S4Q3. To what extent would you say that you have complied with government-mandated restrictions due to the pandemic ***[****Read options]?*	
Very strongly	5
Quite strongly	4
Medium	3
Somewhat weakly	2
Very weakly	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q3A. To what extent would you say that people in your household have complied with government-mandated restrictions due to the pandemic ***[****Read options].*	
Very strongly	5
Quite strongly	4
Medium	3
Somewhat weakly	2
Very weakly	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q3B. To what extent would you say that people in your community have complied with government-mandated restrictions due to the pandemic *[Read options].*	
Very strongly	5
Quite strongly	4
Medium	3
Somewhat weakly	2
Very weakly	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q3C. In your opinion, was the monitoring of the enforcement of the restrictions by the competent authorities in your locality less rigorous or very, compared to other localities in the country? *[Read options]*	
Very rigorous	4
Quite rigorous	3
Not very rigorous	2
Not at all rigorous	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q4. How well or poorly would you say the current government has handled the following since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic? *[Interviewer: Probe for strength of opinion]*

	Very bad	Pretty bad	Pretty good	Very good	Don't know *[NPL]*
A. Limiting the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic	1	2	3	4	99
B. Keeping the public informed about COVID-19	1	2	3	4	99
C. Provide support to those affected by COVID-19 and the response	1	2	3	4	99
D. Ensure medical care for people affected by COVID-19	1	2	3	4	99
E. Ensure availability and use of a good vaccine for the population	1	2	3	4	99

S4Q5. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, have you or your household received any assistance from the government, such as food, cash, relief from bill payments, or other assistance that you did not normally receive before the pandemic?	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q6 What types of assistance have you received from the government? *[Do not read, select all respondent's answer choices]*	
Cash transfers	1
Food Aid	2
Anti-COVID material/equipment (masks, gels, hand washing devices, etc)	3
Relief from bill payments (rent, water, electricity)	4
Relief in the payment of taxes	5
Other (please specify)	96
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q6A. Is this government assistance you received related to your economic activity? Is it part of the support measures for businesses/individuals working in trades affected by the response measures?	
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know *[Don't read]*	3

S4Q7. Do you know of anyone you know (or anyone you know well) who has received any kind of help or assistance from the government, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic? *[Interviewer, clarify that this is not about having heard that the government has done this somewhere, but about someone he/she knows well]*	
Yes	1
No	0
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q8. What kind of help did they receive from the government? *[Do not read, select all respondent's answer choices]*	
Cash transfers	1
Food Aid	2
Anti-COVID material/equipment (masks, gels, hand washing devices, etc.)	3
Relief from bill payments (rent, water, electricity)	4
Relief in the payment of taxes	5
Other (please specify)	96
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99
S4Q8A. Is this government assistance that these people you know of have received related to their economic activity? Is it part of the support measures for businesses/individuals working in trades affected by the response measures?	
Yes	1
No	2
Don't know *[Don't read]*	3

S4Q9. Do you think that donations from government programs to support people during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as food packages or cash payments, were distributed fairly or that the distribution was unfair, for example by favoring certain groups or religions? *[Interviewer: Probe for strength of opinion].*	
Very fair	5
Somewhat fair	4
Neither fair nor unfair *[Do not read]*	3
Somewhat unfair	2
Very inequitable	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q10. Considering all the funds and resources available to the government to fight and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, how much do you think has been lost or stolen because of corruption in the government? *[Read response options]*	
Yes, Many	1
Yes, Some	2
Yes, A little	3
No, Nothing	4
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q11. How much do you trust the official statistics provided by the government on the number of infections and deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic? *[Read answer options]*	
Not at all	1
A little	2
Somewhat	3
Many	4
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S4Q12. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Our government needs to invest more of our health resources, in preventive measures to address the health emergency of COVID-19, even if it means fewer resources available for other services. *[Surveyor: Survey the strength of opinion].*	
Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	2
Neither agree nor disagree *[Don't read]*	3
Agree	4
Strongly agree	5
Don't know *[Don't read]*	9

S4Q13. When the country is facing a public health emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic, do you agree or disagree that it is justified for the government to temporarily limit democracy or democratic freedoms by taking the following actions? *[Interviewer : Probe for strength of opinion]*

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree *[Don't read]*	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know *[Don't read]*
A. Censoring media reports	1	2	3	4	5	9
B. Use public security forces to enforce health response measures such as containment, mask requirements or restrictions on public gatherings.	1	2	3	4	5	9
C. Postpone elections or limit political campaigning	1	2	3	4	5	9

Section 5: Global Preferences

In this penultimate section, we will discuss with you some questions related to the risks you are willing to take, your time and your social preferences

S5Q1. Please tell me, in general, how willing or unwilling you are to take risks, using a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means you are "not at all willing to take risks" and 10 means you are "very willing to take risks". You can also use any number between 0 and 10 to indicate where you fall on the scale, using 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.	

S5Q2. We are now asking you about your willingness to act in a certain way. Again, please indicate your response on a scale of 0 to 10. A 0 means "not at all willing" and a 10 means "very willing". You may also use any number between 0 and 10 to indicate where you fall on the scale, using 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10. (Read A-D)	
A. How willing are you to give up something that is beneficial to you now in order to enjoy it more in the future?	
B. Are you willing to punish someone who treats you unfairly, even if it costs you?	
C. Are you willing to punish someone who treats others unfairly, even if it costs you?	
D. Are you willing to give to good causes without expecting anything in return?	

S5Q3. To what extent does each of the following statements describe you as a person? Please indicate your answer on a scale of 0 to 10. A 0 means "does not describe me at all" and a 10 means "describes me perfectly". You may use any number between 0 and 10 to indicate where you fall on the scale, using 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10. (Read A-E)	
A. When someone does me a favor, I am ready to return it.	
B. If I am treated very unfairly, I will retaliate at the first opportunity, even if it comes at a cost.	
C. I guess people only have the best intentions.	
D. I am good at math.	
E. I tend to put off tasks even though I know it would be better to do them right away.	

S5Q4. Please think about what you would do in the following situation. You are in an area you are not familiar with, and you realize that you lost your way. You ask a stranger for directions. The stranger offers to take you to your destination. Helping you costs the stranger about 2000 CFA in total. However, the stranger says he or she does not want any money from you. You have six presents with you. The cheapest present costs 4 Pula, the most expensive one costs 24 Pula. Do you give one of the presents to the stranger as a "thank you" gift? Which present will you give to the stranger?

No present	**1**
The present worth 500 CFA	**2**
The present worth 1000 CFA	**3**
The present worth 1500 CFA	**4**
The present worth 2000 CFA	**5**
The present worth 2500 CFA	**6**
The present worth 3000 CFA	**7**

Section 6: Domestic Violence

Let us now turn to the last section on domestic violence

S6Q1A. *[To be asked only for those of the control group. Read the options and report the number mentioned by the respondent].* **Now I am going to read you the following situations that people sometimes experience during a pandemic. After reading all five, tell me how many of them apply to you. (Please, I don't want to know which ones, just tell me how many.)**	
1. *Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been eating more fruits than usual*	***Investigator, Report the number here*** _____
2. *Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have started drinking more alcohol than usual*	
3. *Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have felt much closer to my family than before*	
4. *Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been more arguments in our home/household than before.*	
5. *Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I've been able to spend more free time than before playing sports.*	

S6Q1B. *[To be asked only for those of the treatment group. Read the options and report the number mentioned by the respondent].* **Now I'm going to read you the following situations that people sometimes experience during a pandemic. After reading all six, tell me how many of them apply to you. (Please, I don't want to know which ones, just tell me how many.)**	
1. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have been eating more fruits than usual	***Investigator, Report the number here*** _____
2. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have started drinking more alcohol than usual	
3. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I have felt much closer to my family than before	
4. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been more arguments in our home/household than before.	
5. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, I've been able to spend more free time than before playing sports	
6. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been more physically injured in our household.	

Section 7: Vaccine

The following questions relate to the vaccine

S7Q1. Do you know what a vaccine is?	
Yes	1
No	0

S7Q2. How well would you say you were informed of the existence of a coronavirus vaccine used in Benin? You are… ? *[Read answer options]*	
Very well informed	4
Somewhat informed	3
Not very well informed	2
Not at all informed	1
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S7Q3. How much do you trust the government to ensure that any COVID-19 vaccine that is developed and offered to citizens of Benin is safe? ***[Read answer options]***	
Not at all confidence	1
Little confidence	2
Partially confidence	3
Much confidence	4
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S7Q4. COVID-19 vaccines have already been made available by the Beninese government. Would you be ready to take the COVID-19 vaccine ?	
No	0
Yes	1
I have already taken the vaccine	2
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S7Q4A. If so, why would you take it? [Investigator: Do not read the options]	
I want to protect myself so that, I'll not have COVID-19 in the future	**1**
I want to protect my family / members of my household so that they do not have COVID-19 in the future	**2**
I want to protect my community so they don't get COVID-19 in the future	**3**
Life will not resume its normal course until enough people get vaccinated	**4**
The government recommends taking the vaccine	**5**
Other (specify)	**96**

S7Q4B. If not, why wouldn't you hang it? ***[Investigator: Do not read the options]***	
I would be disturbed by any side effects of the vaccine / the vaccine may hurt	**1**
I don't mind the risks (I or my loved ones are not at risk of catching COVID-19)	**2**
I don't think vaccines work	**3**
I don't like trivia	**4**
I won't have time to go for the vaccine.	**5**
I don't think COVID really exists	**6**
If there is community or religious opposition to the vaccine, I will not take it	**7**
I find this not necessary; I have a good organism capable of defending against evil if necessary	**8**

If it comes from any foreign aid (such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation); so, I won't take the vaccine	**9**
I don't know what a vaccine is	**10**
Other (specify)	**96**

S7Q4C. ***[If no] Would you be ready to take the vaccine if the government proves it works?***	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	

S7Q4D. ***[If no] Would you be ready to take the vaccine if an authority / influencer in your community advertised it?***	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	

S7Q4E. Who among the following would you trust the most to decide whether or not to take the COVID-19 vaccine? ***[Read answer options]***	
Family	**1**
Friends you trust	**2**
Friends you meet online	**3**
A religious leader	**4**
A doctor ; nurse or other medical staff at the community level	**5**
Country medical team	**6**
A famous / influential person (to be specified)	**7**
A traditional healer	**8**
Online medical discussion groups (WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.)	**9**
None of that - someone else, (specify)	**96**

S7Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Vaccines are safe"?	
Strongly disagree	**1**
Somehow disagree	**2**
Neither agree nor disagree *[Don't read]*	**3**
Somehow agree	**4**
Strongly Agree	**5**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	**99**

S7Q6. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Vaccines work"?	
Strongly disagree	**1**
Somehow disagree	**2**
Neither agree nor disagree *[Don't read]*	**3**
Somehow agree	**4**
Strongly Agree	**5**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	**99**

S7Q7. Do you think the vaccine strengthens the immune system?	
Strongly disagree	**1**
Somehow disagree	**2**
Neither agree nor disagree *[Don't read]*	**3**

Somehow agree	**4**
Strongly Agree	**5**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	**99**

S7Q8. Do you think it is possible to catch a disease even if you are vaccinated against it?	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	**99**

S7Q9. Do you think that the vaccination is effective even after being infected or after having been in contact with an infected person?	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	**99**

S7Q10. Do you think there are other (better) ways other than the vaccine to prevent the diseases that vaccination is intended to prevent?	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S7Q11. Some people think that prayer is an effective way to solve problems in the world. Others put more faith in science to solve them. Others believe in both. And you? Do you think prayer is more or less effective than a vaccine in preventing COVID-19 infection*? [Investigator : Probe the strength of opinion]*	
Much more efficient	1
A little more efficient	2
The same efficiency [Do not read]	3
A little less efficient	4
Much less efficient	5
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S7Q12. Some people think that traditional products (herbal teas, decoctions etc.) are an effective way to solve the problems in the world. And you? Do you think traditional products are more or less effective than a vaccine in preventing COVID-19 infection? *[Investigator : Probe the strength of opinion]*	
Much more efficient	1
A little more efficient	2
The same efficiency [Do not read]	3
A little less efficient	4
Much less efficient	5
Don't know *[Don't read]*	99

S7Q13. "The government should be able to force people to take the COVID-19 vaccine." Do you agree or disagree?	
I agree	**1**

I don’t agree	**0**

S7Q14. If the government forced everyone in the country to take the vaccine, would you take it?	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**
Don't know *[Don’t read]*	**99**

S7Q15. If at work you were forced to take the vaccine, would you take it?	
Yes	**1**
No	**0**
Don't know *[Don’t read]*	**99**

S7Q16. Have you received any vaccination in the past (even when you were a child)?	
I had never been vaccinated before	**0**
Yes	**1**
Don't know *[Don’t read]*	**99**

S7Q16A. If so, where did you get your vaccination?	
Community health center	**1**
A clinic	**2**
Zone hospital	**3**
A vaccinator passing through the town	**4**
Doctor coming to my house	**5**
Other (specify)	**96**
Don't know *[Don’t read]*	**99**