

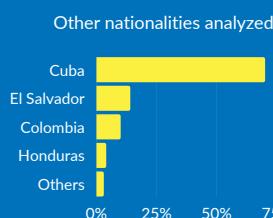


# RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## Impact of COVID-19 on PoC from other nationalities

Costa Rica, August 2020

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### Objectives

- Assess the level of **access to basic goods and services** of Persons of Concern (PoC).
- Identify the **impact of COVID-19** and related circumstances on that access and the resulting needs.
- Identify **gaps between needs and response**, including the response from the government, UNHCR and other actors.
- Analyze existing **coping mechanisms** of households from other nationalities.

### Methodology



**Target population:** Asylum seekers and refugees from other nationalities  
**Geographical coverage:** National  
**Method:** Stratified Random Sampling  
**Type of interview:** Remote (phone)  
**Enumerators:** 21 UNHCR staff  
**Data collected:** 3 Aug- 5 Aug 2020

### Perceptions of priorities

The three main needs perceived by the surveyed households are:

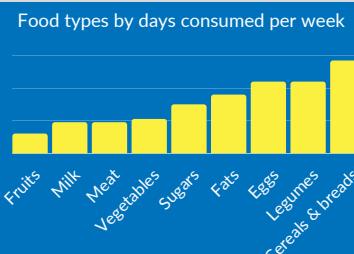


### Food Security & Nutrition

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, only **30%** of households consumed 2 meals a day while **59%** consumed 3 meals.



Now, **48%** of households report having 2 meals a day, while only **22%** consume 3 meals.



### Shelter

**15%** do not have a place to stay next month, and **31.5%** are unsure whether they will have one.

**44%**

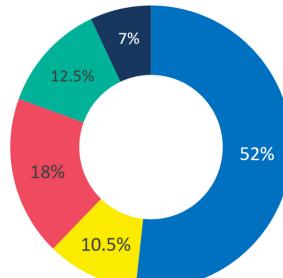


**84%**

Of these, 84% stated their inability to pay rent as the main reason

Have changed their place of residence since the start of the pandemic

### Current type of housing



- Renting house or apartment
- Renting a room (not cuartería\*)
- In someone else's house or apt.
- Renting a room (cuartería)
- Other



### Sources of income

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, **65%** of the surveyed households reported having a paid job as their main source of income. Under COVID-19, this has reduced to **46%**.

**92%**

of those with paid jobs before the pandemic experienced a change in their work conditions as a consequence of the pandemic

Of which

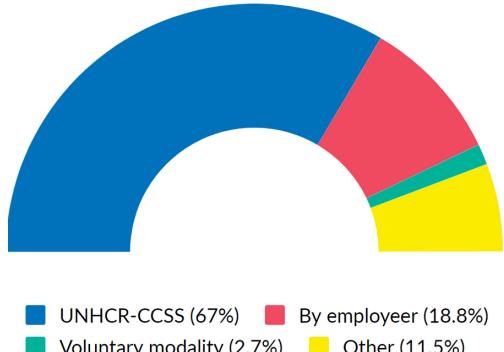


- Only **2%** of households have had a family member return to their country of origin since the start of COVID-19 and **11%** of the households have at least one member who is considering returning. The main reasons given are reduced access to income in Costa Rica and lack of access to food.
- Of households where at least one family member has considered returning to their country of origin, **48%** would plan to return to Costa Rica within the next year.

- 75%** of households do not plan to return to their country of origin in the near future, most for fear of threats or violence and lack of job opportunities.



## Insurance modality of insured heads of households (44% of total)



## Health

**42%** of the households required medical services from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Of these, **46%** experienced limitations in access, mainly due to lack of affiliation to the national health system .

**55%**

of heads of households lack health insurance under COVID-19

## WASH

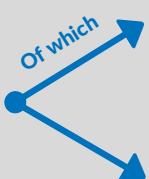
**91%** of the households have access to potable water whenever they need it.

**93%** of the surveyed households responded that household members wash their hands regularly with both soap and water. Over **19%** regularly use hand sanitizer.



## Assistance under COVID-19

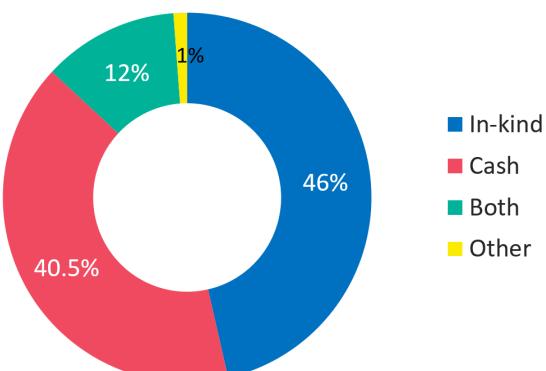
**47%**  
of households have received some form of assistance since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic



**44%** received assistance from NGOs and/or the UN agencies

**31%** received assistance from the government (mainly food items)

## Assistance provided by the Government and NGOs/UN



## Education & Telecommunications

**90%** of households with school-aged children have access to educational materials or activities, out of which **70%** have received virtual classes.

**18%** of households do not have access to the internet. Of the households that have access, most use mobile phones to access the internet.

**10%**

Out of school children

