

# The Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Households in Cambodia

Results from a High Frequency Phone Survey of Households  
Round 2

17 August–07 September 2020  
(LSMS & IDPoor sample)



17 November, 2020

# High Frequency Phone Survey of Households in Cambodia

	Round 1	Round 2
Survey period	11–26 May 2020 (LSMS) 11–28 June 2020 (IDPoor)	17 August–07 September 2020
Sample size	1,684 respondents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 700 respondents (LSMS)</li> <li>• 984 respondents (IDPoor)</li> </ul>	1,667 respondents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 612 respondents (LSMS)</li> <li>• 1055 respondents (IDPoor)</li> </ul>
Coverage	LSMS: National, Urban and Rural IDPoor: National	LSMS: National, Urban and Rural IDPoor: National
Partnerships	World Bank; Ministry of Planning (MOP, the National Institute of Statistic); Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY). Coordinated with other DPs, shared instruments and received feedback	World Bank; Ministry of Planning (MOP, the National Institute of Statistic); Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), National Social Protection Council (NSPC)

# Key Findings (I)

## Employment and Income

- Negative impacts of the pandemic on employment and non-family businesses are less severe between May and August.
- 7 in 10 respondents were working since May 2020.
- 61% of households that relied on non-farm family business reported a reduction in sales income in August, compared with 73% in May. But many households are still suffering losses due to weak demand.
- Migrant workers have lost jobs or wages since the outbreak, reducing the amount of remittances migrant-sending households received.
- Although declines in household income have slowed since May, more than half of the respondents reported that household income had declined.
- However, about 40% of the respondents reported an increase in assistance from government and NGOs.

# Key Findings (II)

## Social Assistance Program

- 9 in 10 IDPoor households received some form of social assistance since June 2020.
- A small fraction remain uncovered: 1 in 10 IDPoor households had yet to receive the relief cash transfers for poor and vulnerable households during COVID-19 which launched on 24 June 2020.
- Take-up is very high (97%) among those who registered for the relief transfer program.

## Food Security

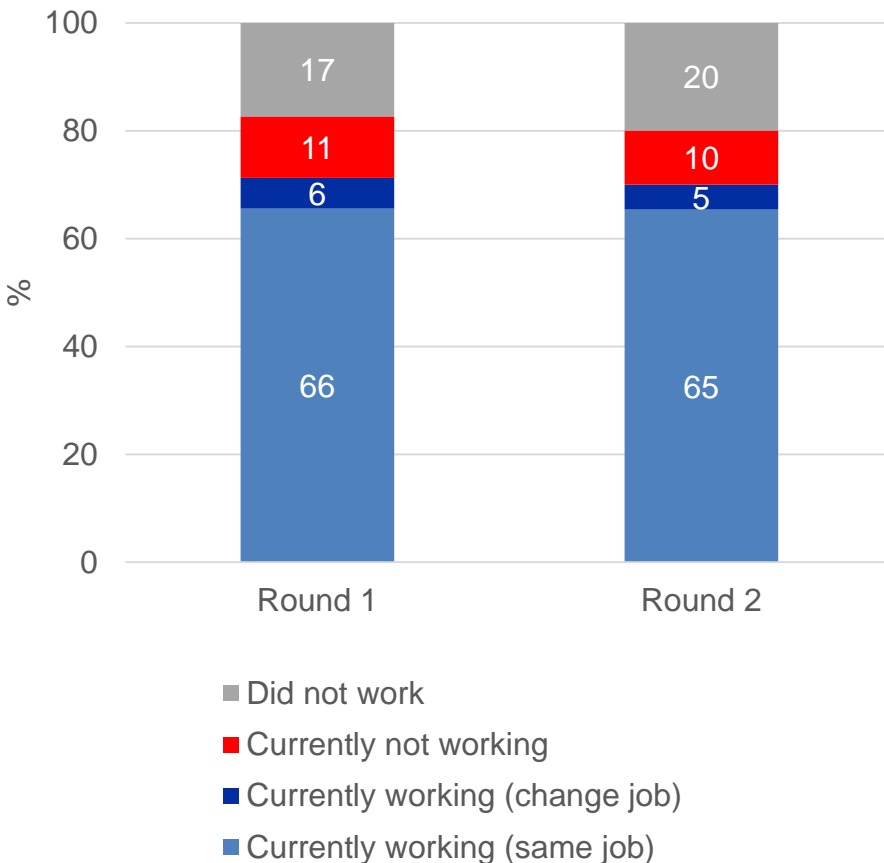
- Significant reduction in households experiencing food shortages since May 2020.

## Access to Education and Health Services

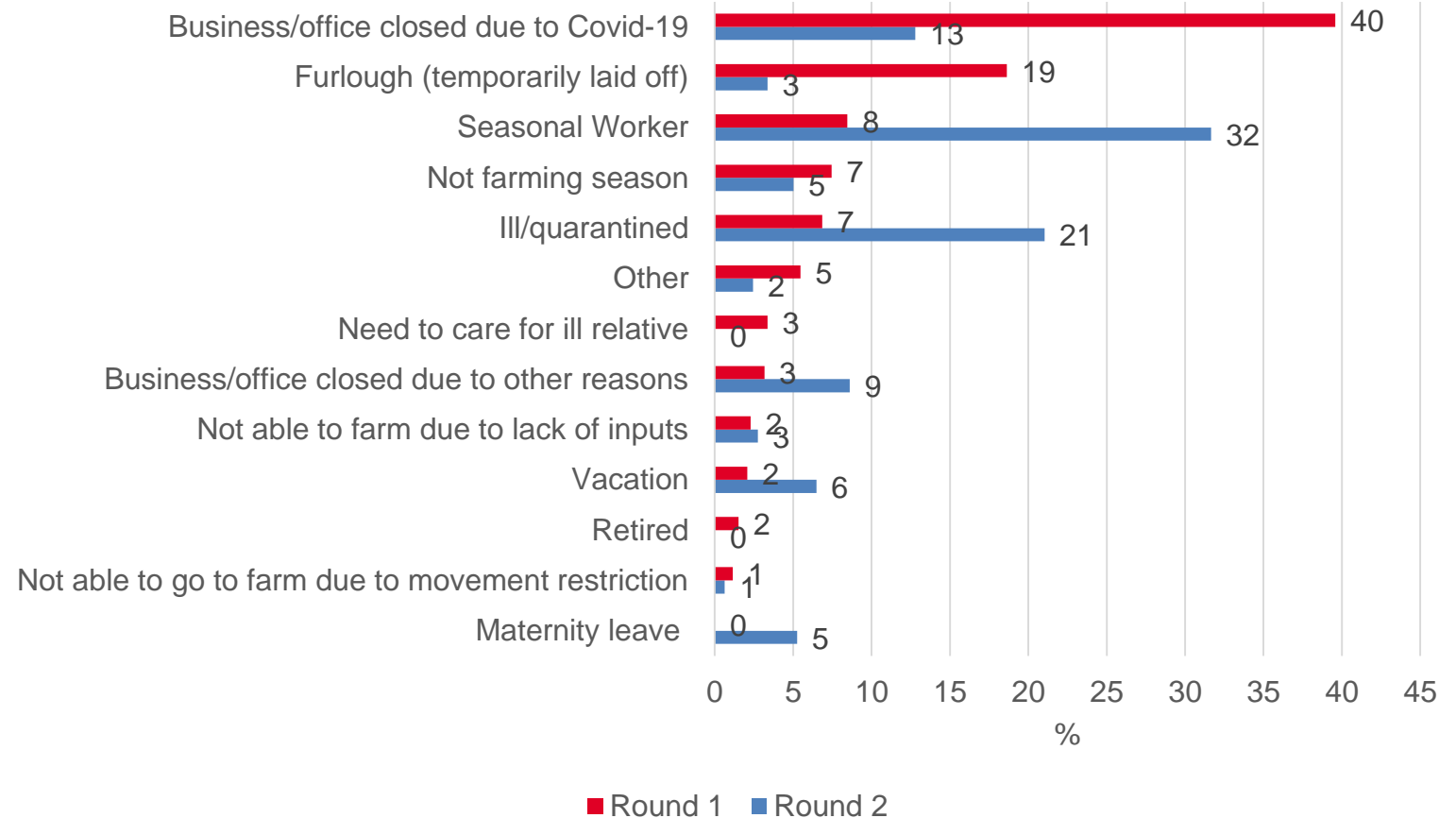
- Access to staples foods and health services remained high both in May and August.
- Increased involvement of children in educational activities between May and August.
  - 75% of households with children aged 6-17 engaged in education activities in August, an increase of 12 percentage points from May 2020.
  - A shift towards more face-to-face learning from remote learning (mobile applications or educational TV programs) since May 2020

# Employment remained steady between May and August

In the last 7 days, did you do any work?

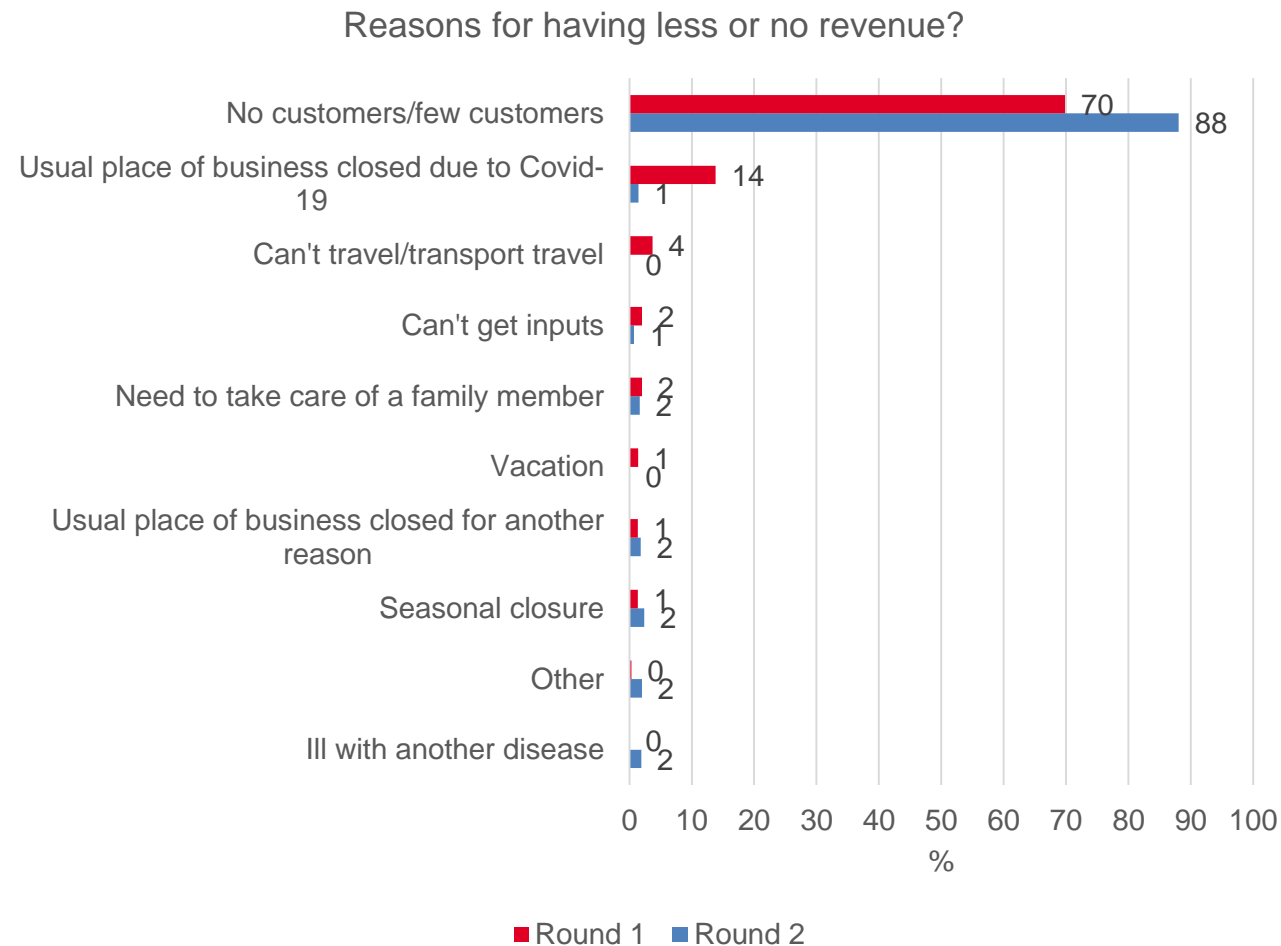
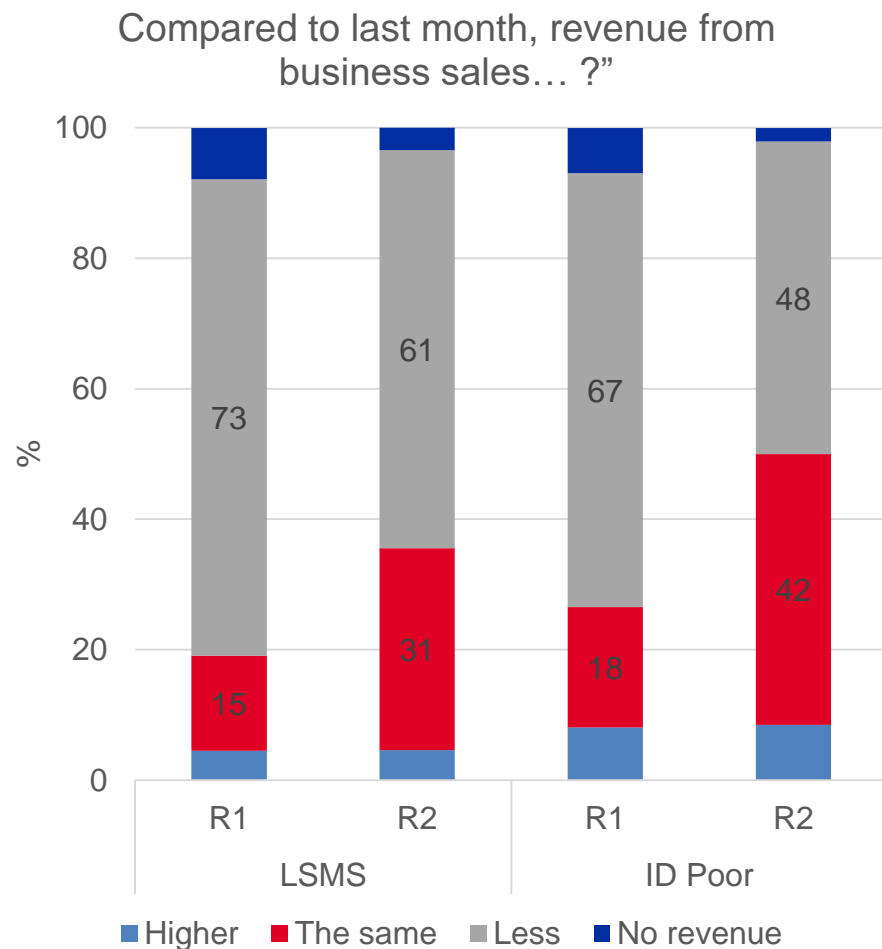


Why did you stop working?



Source: LSMS Sample

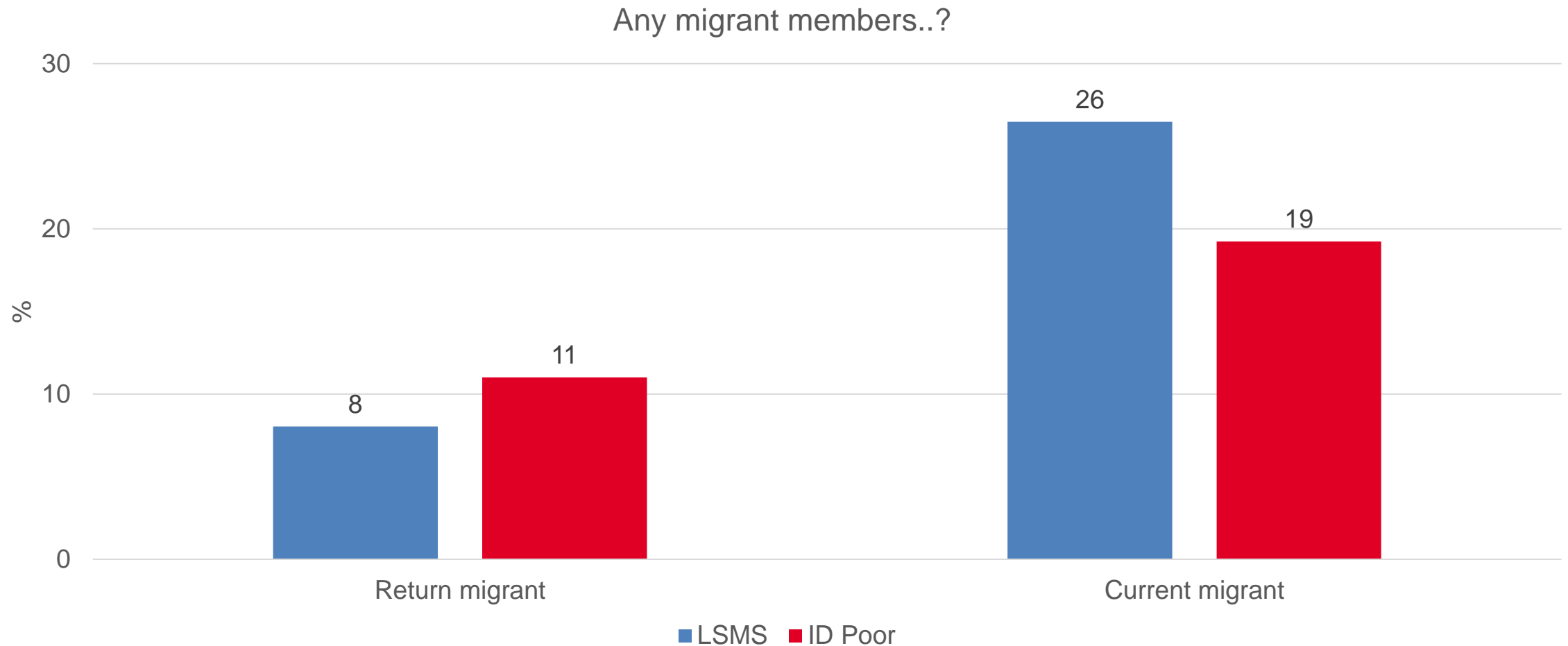
# Negative impacts on non-farm family businesses is less severe in August compared to May



Source: LSMS Sample

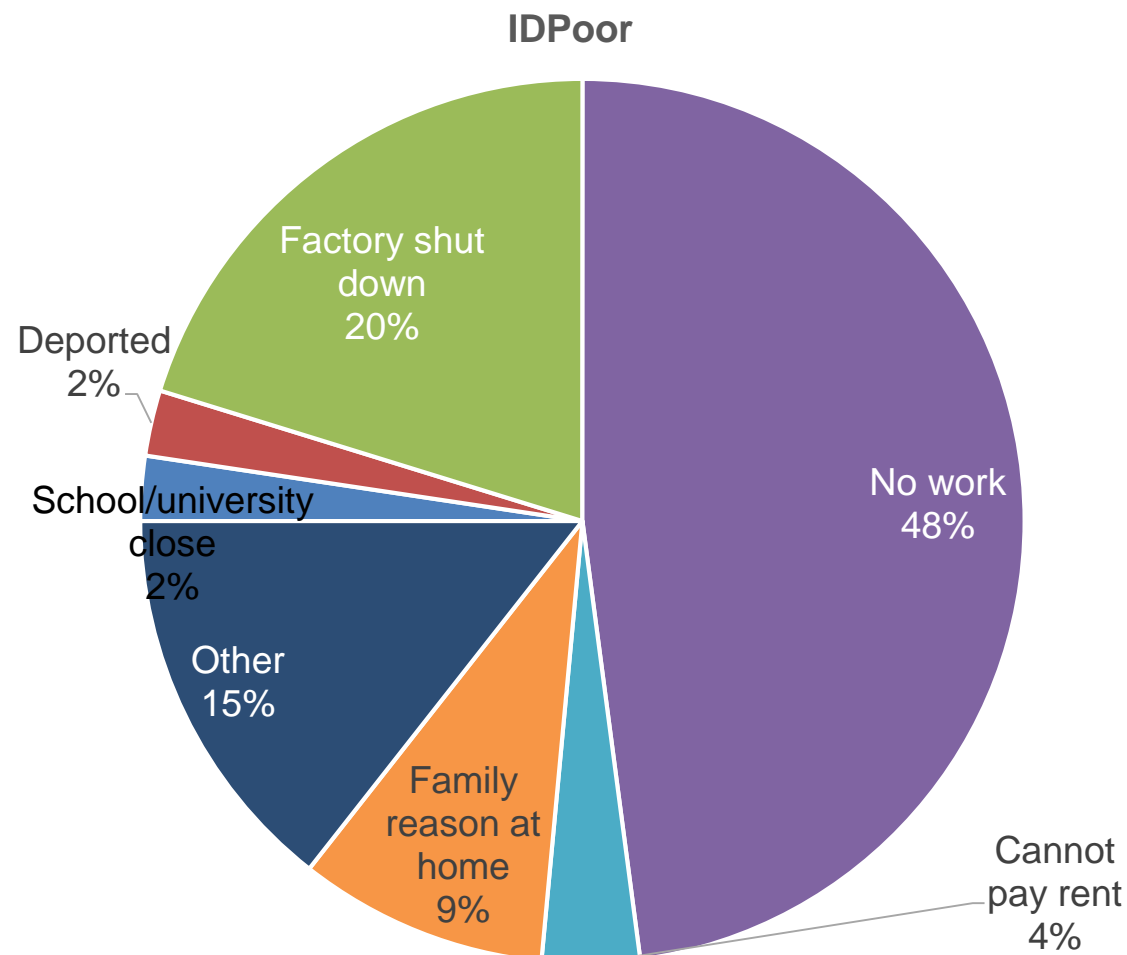
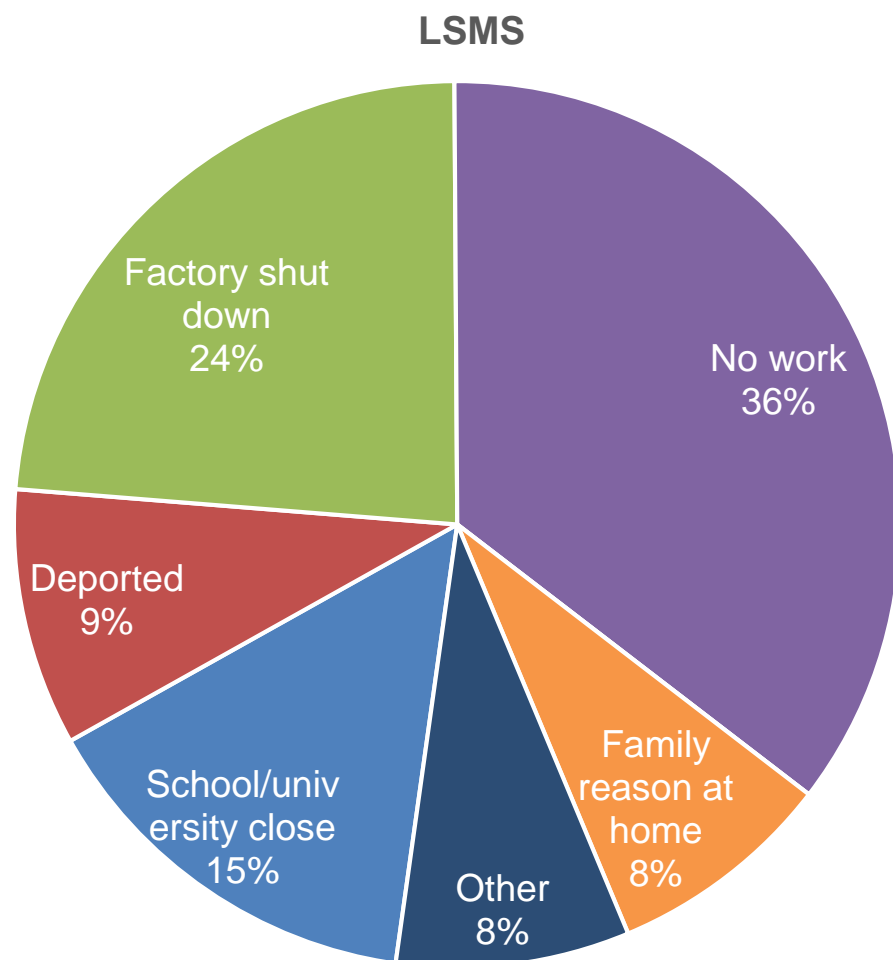
COVID-19 has forced the return of some migrants.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, 1 in 10 households had a migrant return home, while 2 in 10 households had a migrant currently away from the residence.



Most migrant workers returned home because of factory closures (36%) and a lack of work (24% of return migrant households)

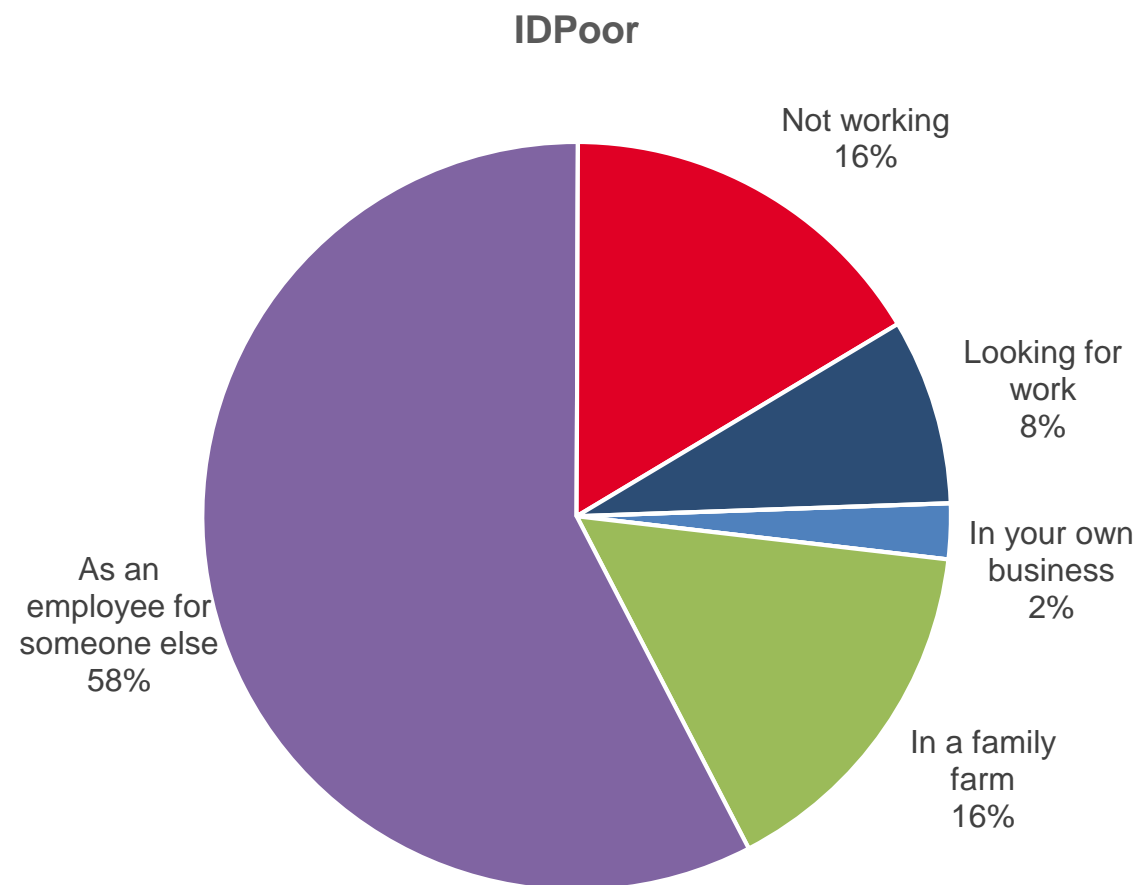
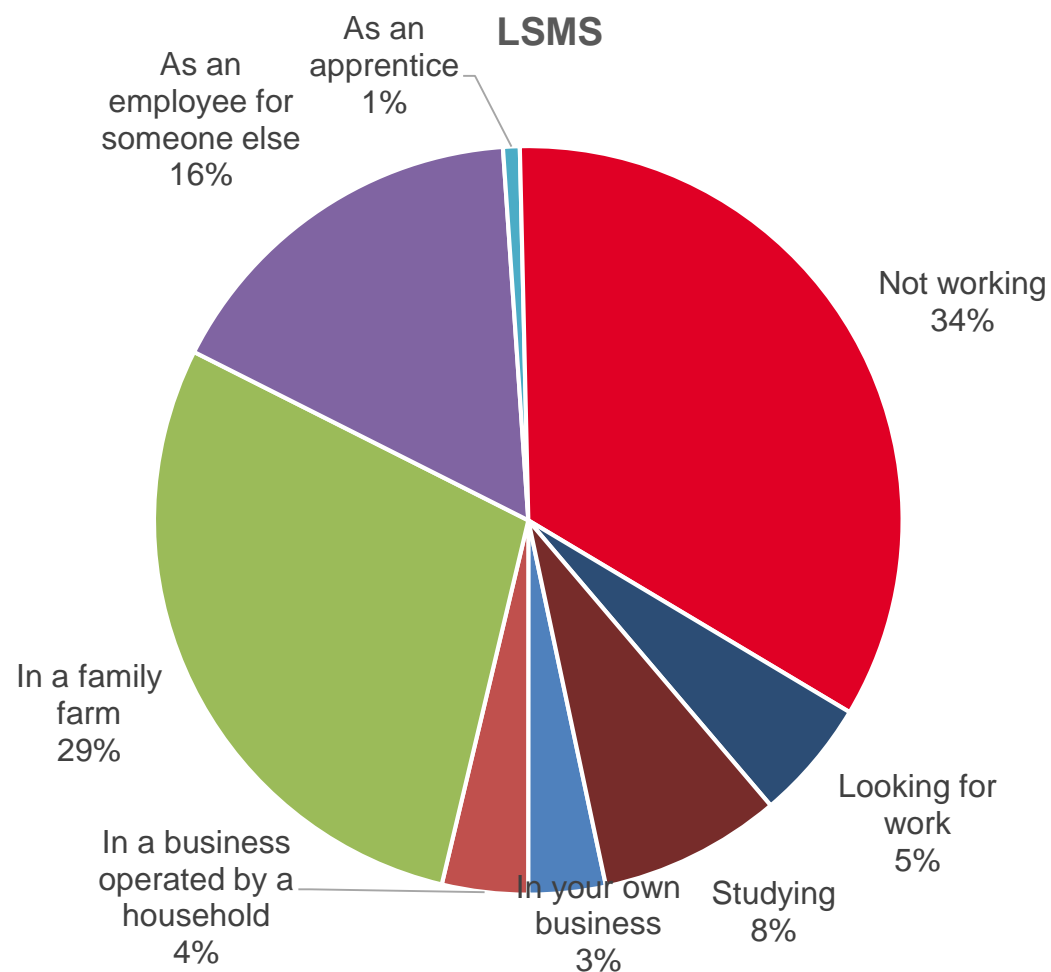
“Why did they return...?”





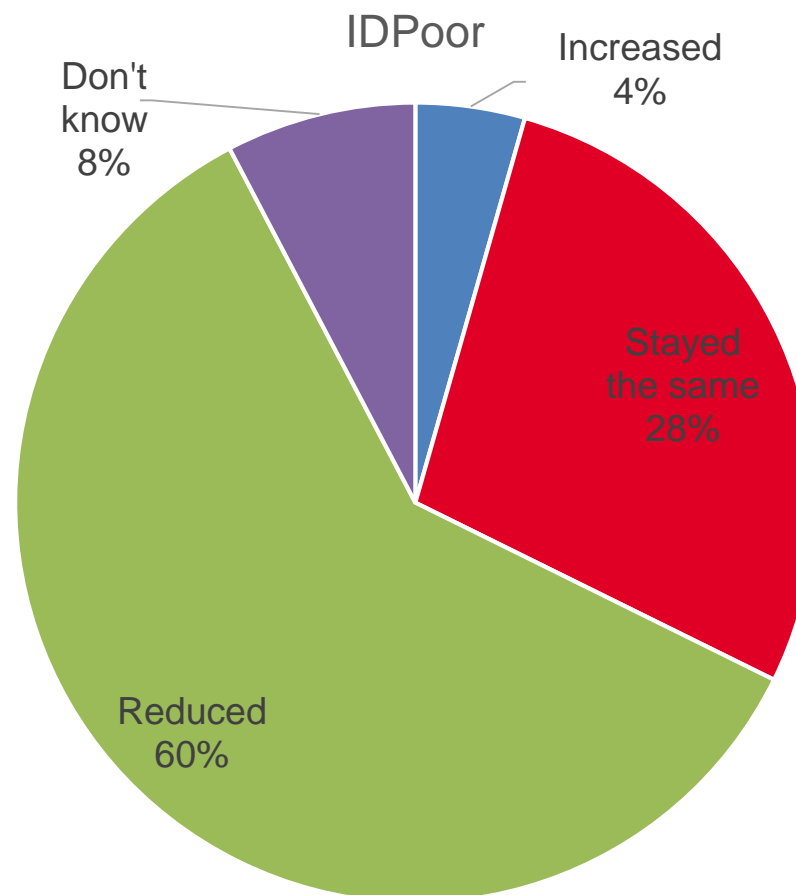
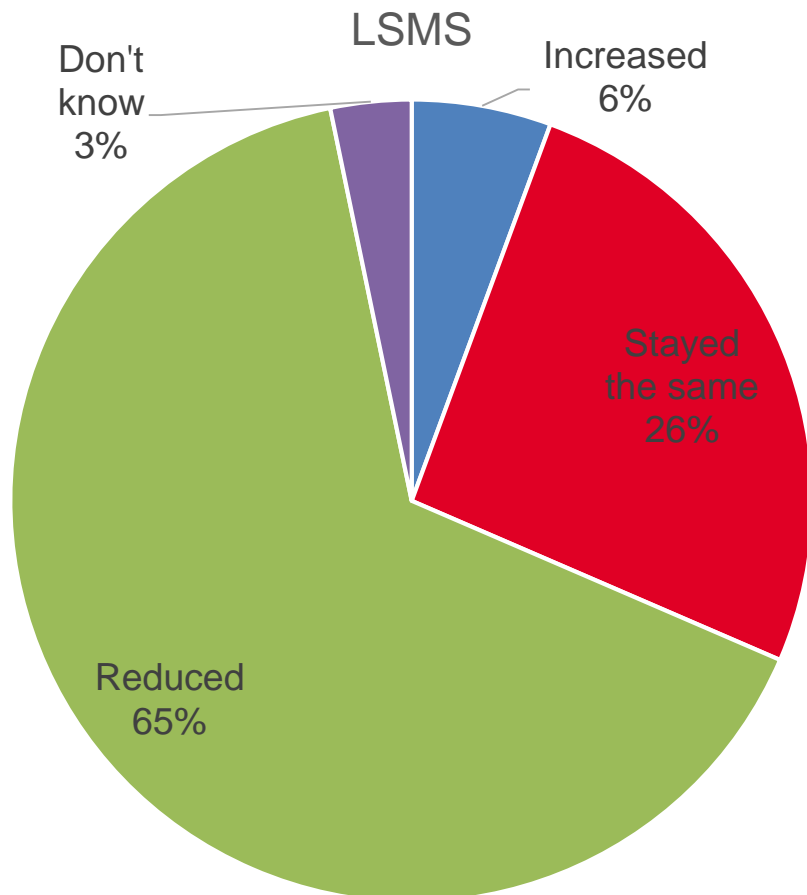
Returnees are currently out of work among 3 in 10 return migrant households.  
The estimate is lower for the IDPoor sample.

“What is she/he currently doing?”

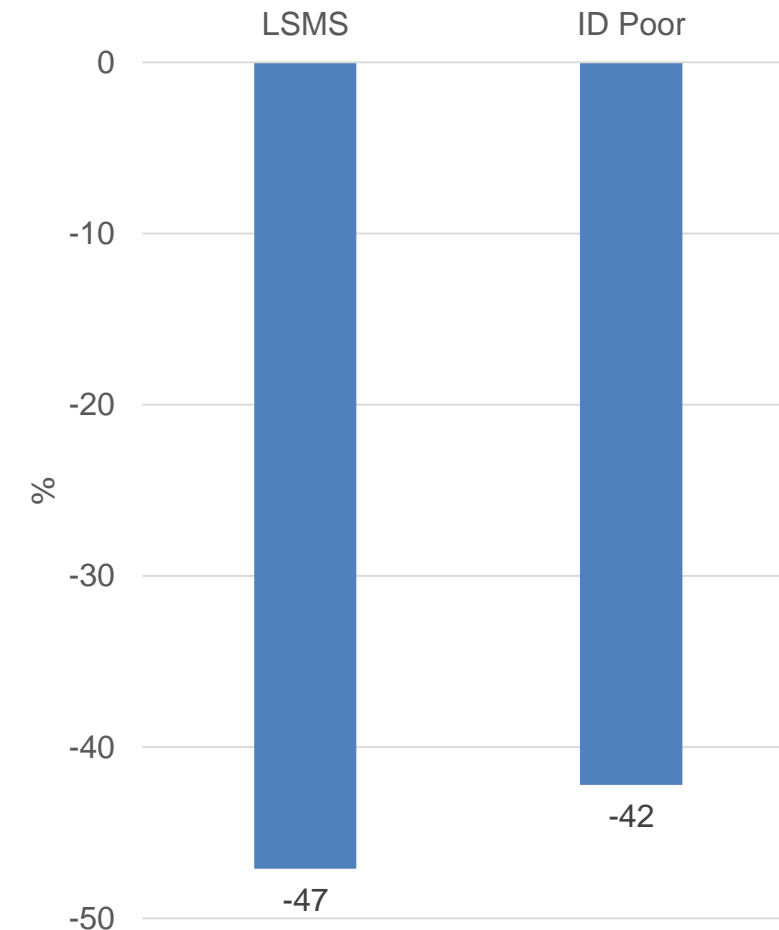


# 6 in 10 migrant households reported a decline in the migrant's income

Changes in income since the Covid-19 outbreak (mid-March)

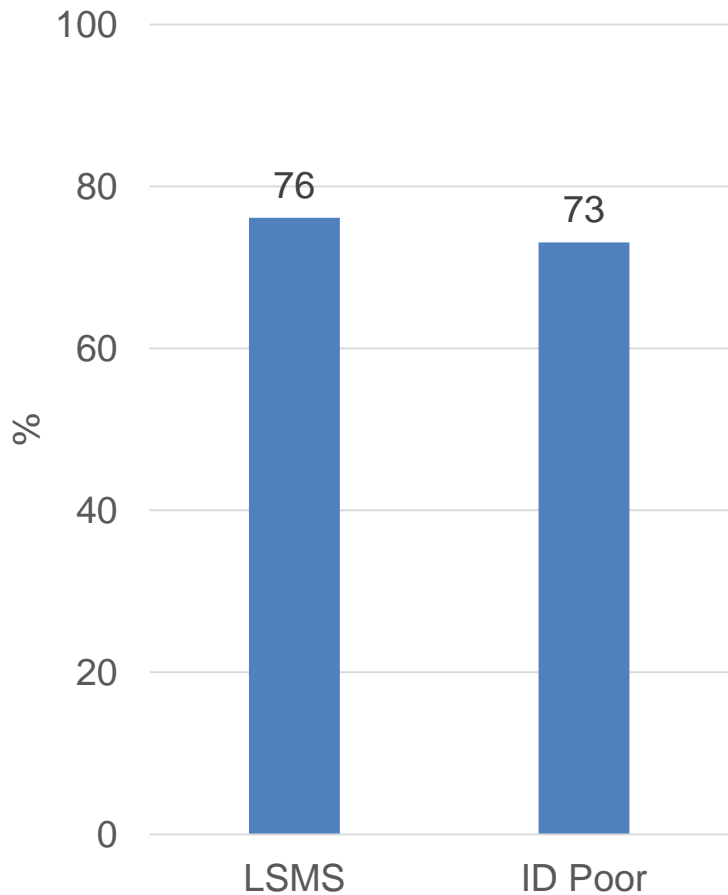


% reduction in income

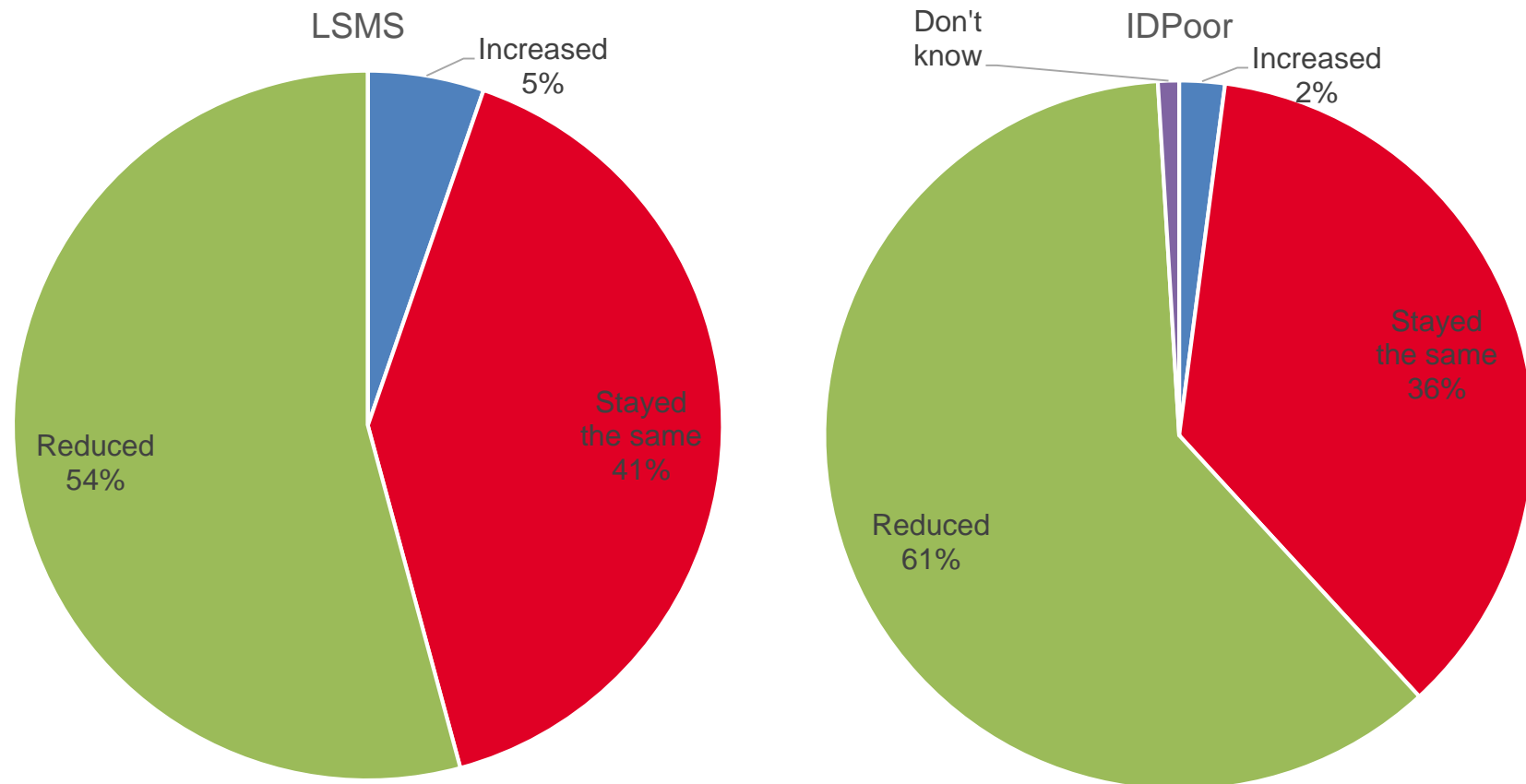


# 7 in 10 migrant households have received remittances, but the amount of remittances has declined

Received remittances since the Covid-19 outbreak

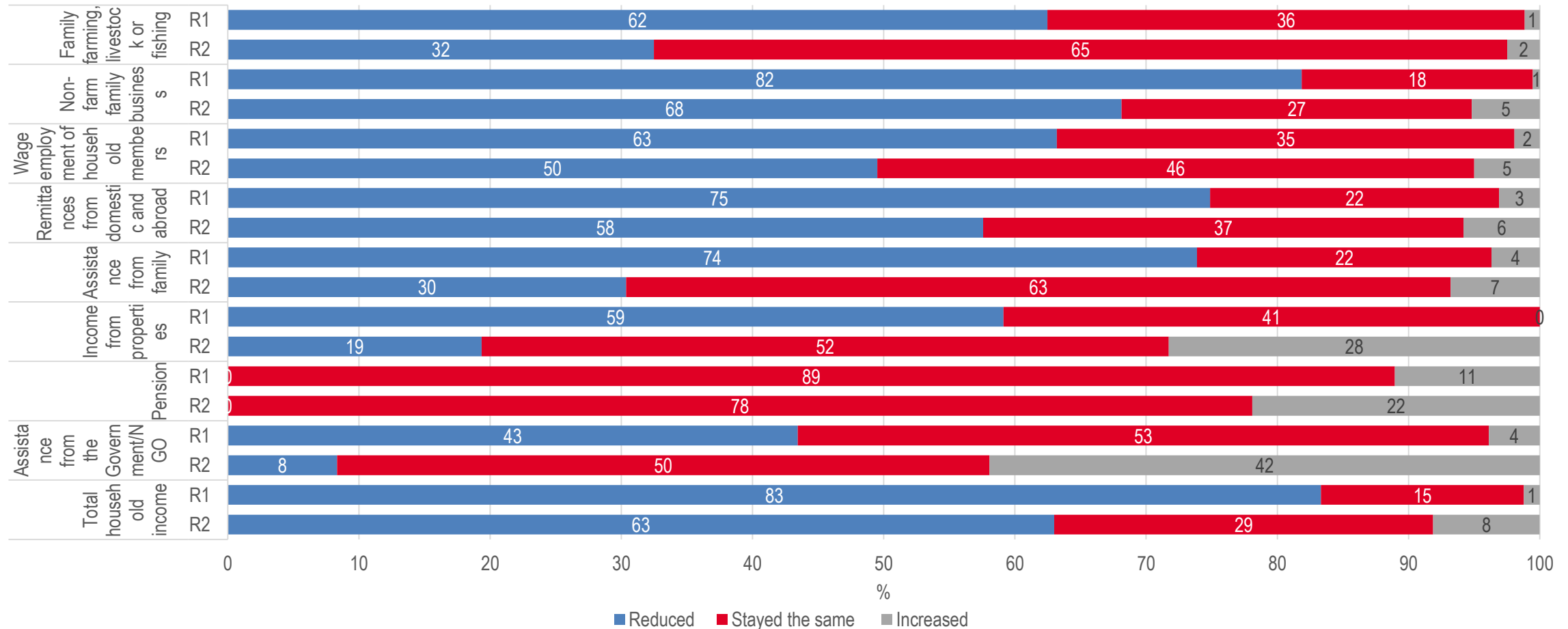


Changes in remittance since the Covid-19 outbreak (mid-March)



# Declines in household income slowed, but income losses remained widespread for most income sources

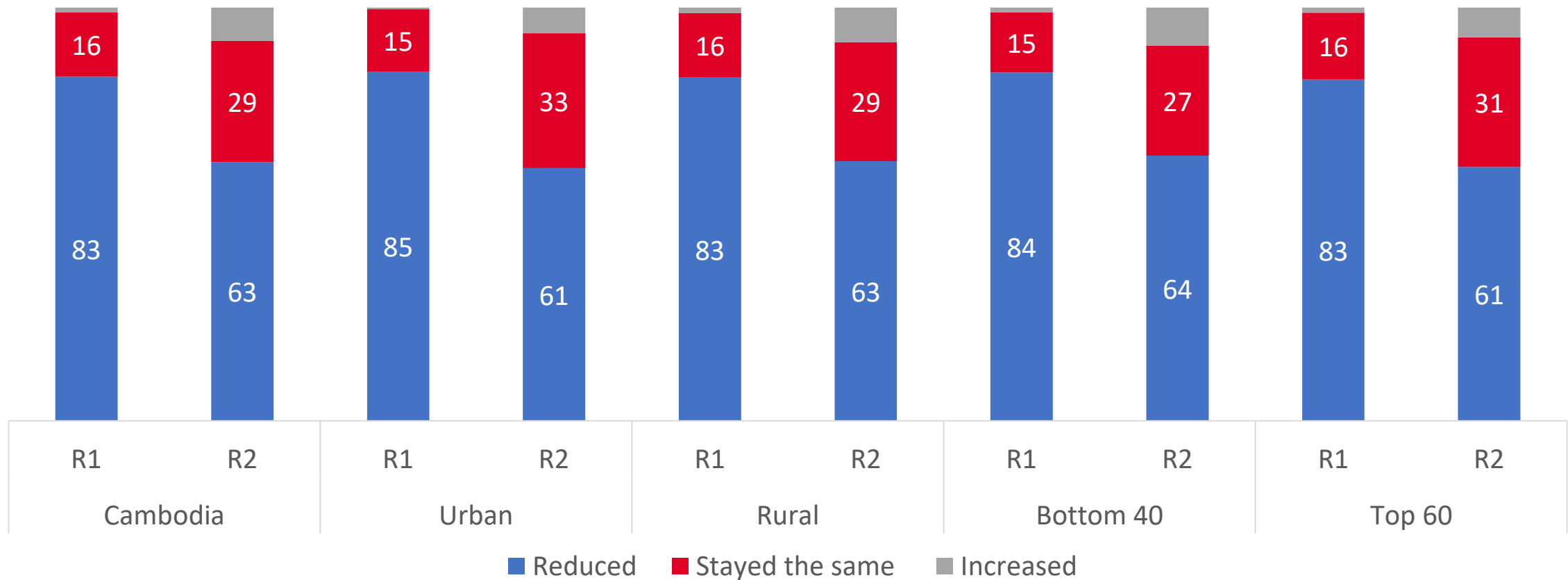
How has your income from ... changed ?



Source: LSMS Sample

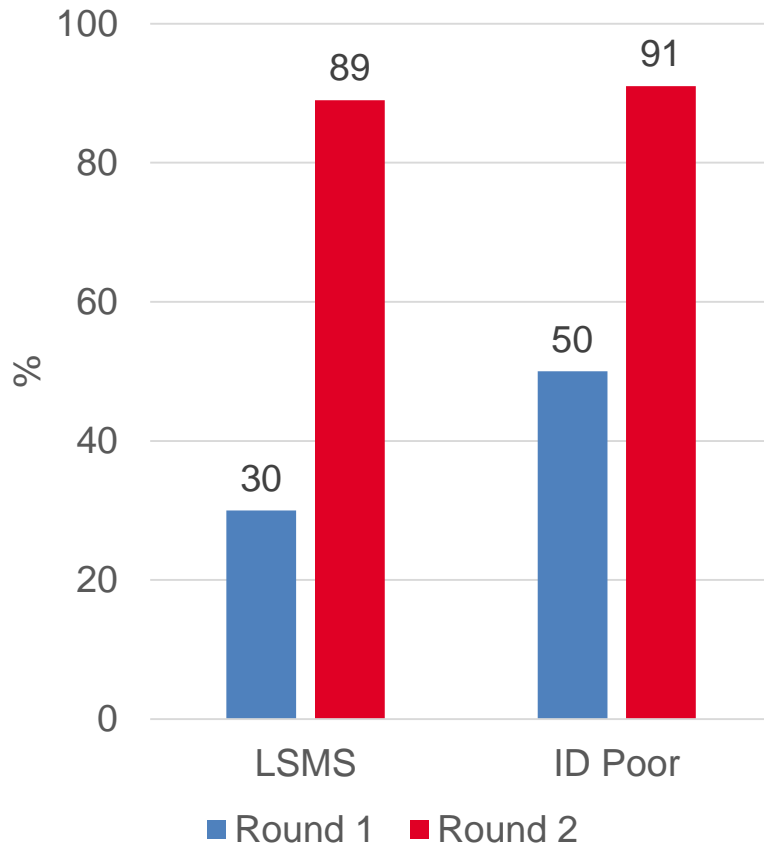
# Declines in household income slowed, but income losses remained widespread

Changes in household income between May and August

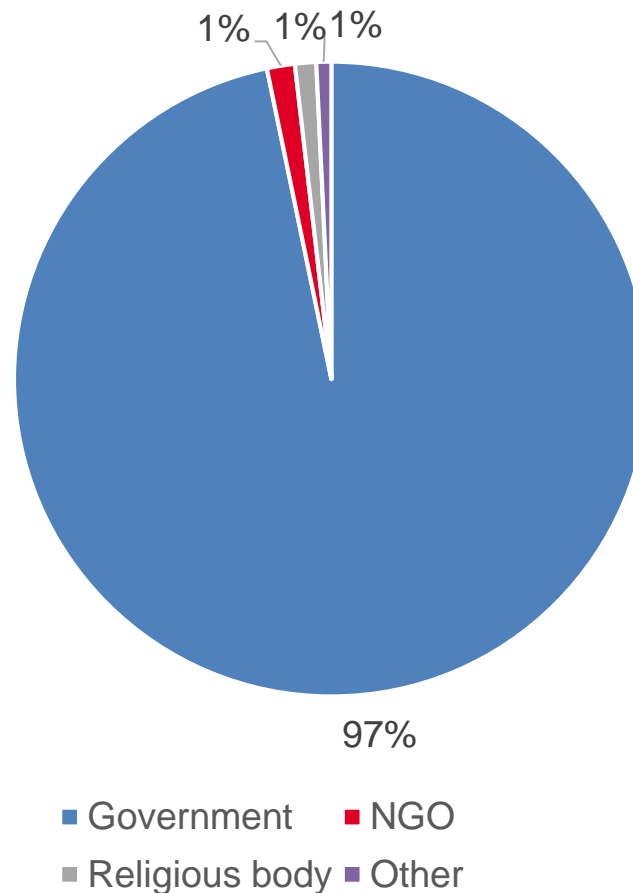


# Increased coverage of SA: 9 in 10 IDPoor households have received social assistance since June 2020

Share of social assistance beneficiaries since last interview

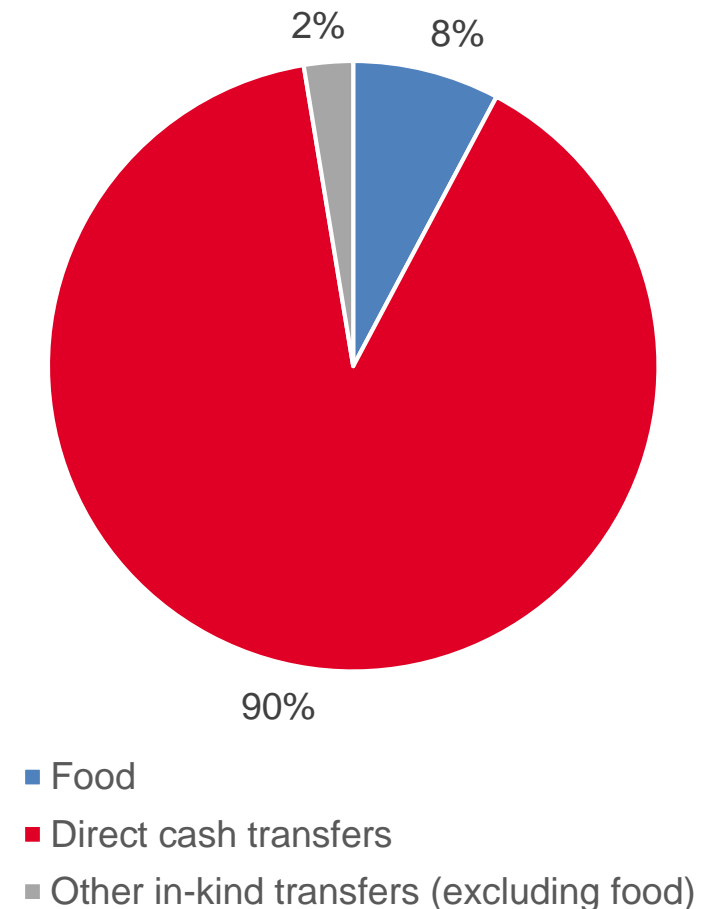


Sources of social assistance



Source: IDPoor Sample

Types of social assistance



Source: IDPoor Sample

# Social assistance programs

	Eligibility criteria	Transfer amount
<b>COVID-19 related Social Assistance Programs</b>		
Cash transfer program for poor and vulnerable households	IDPoor households	(See next slide)
Unemployment benefits for suspended workers in garment and tourism sector	Garment and tourism workers in the formal sector	US\$70 per month for two months (US\$40 paid by the government, and 30\$ paid by the factory)
<b>Non-COVID-19 related Social Assistance Programs</b>		
Conditional cash transfer for pregnant women and child under 2	IDPoor households	US\$190 for 1000 days
Home grown school feeding program	All household with children in the targeted schools	
Scholarship program	Performance based (school) IDPoor households (government)	

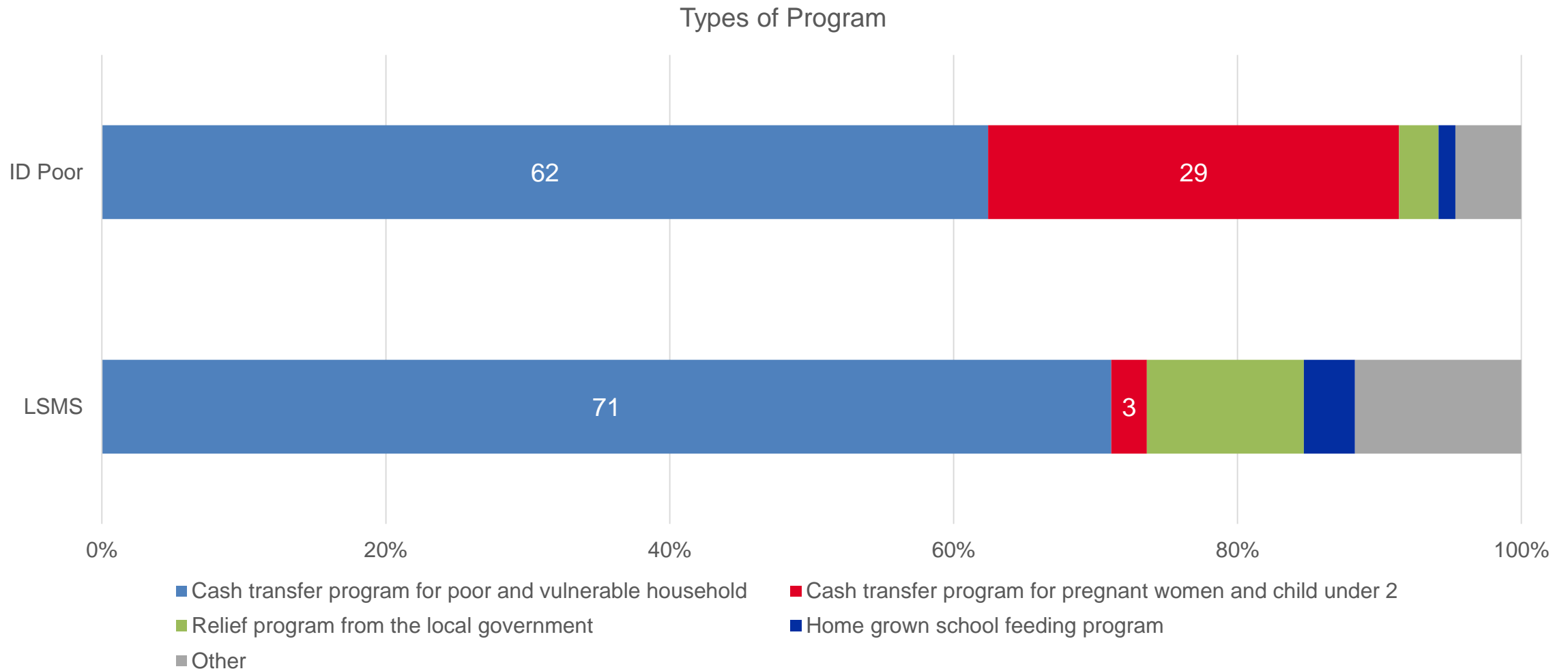
# Relief cash transfer program for poor and vulnerable households during COVID-19

	Phnom Penh		Other urban		Other rural	
	ID Poor 1	ID Poor 2	ID Poor 1	ID Poor 2	ID Poor 1	ID Poor 2
<b>Household</b>	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$20	\$20
<b>Each member</b>	\$13	\$9	\$10	\$7	\$6	\$4
<b>Vulnerable member</b>						
Child aged 0-5	\$10	\$7	\$10	\$7	\$6	\$4
Disability	\$10	\$7	\$10	\$7	\$6	\$4
Adult aged 60+	\$10	\$7	\$10	\$7	\$6	\$4
HIV/AIDS	\$10	\$7	\$10	\$7	\$6	\$4

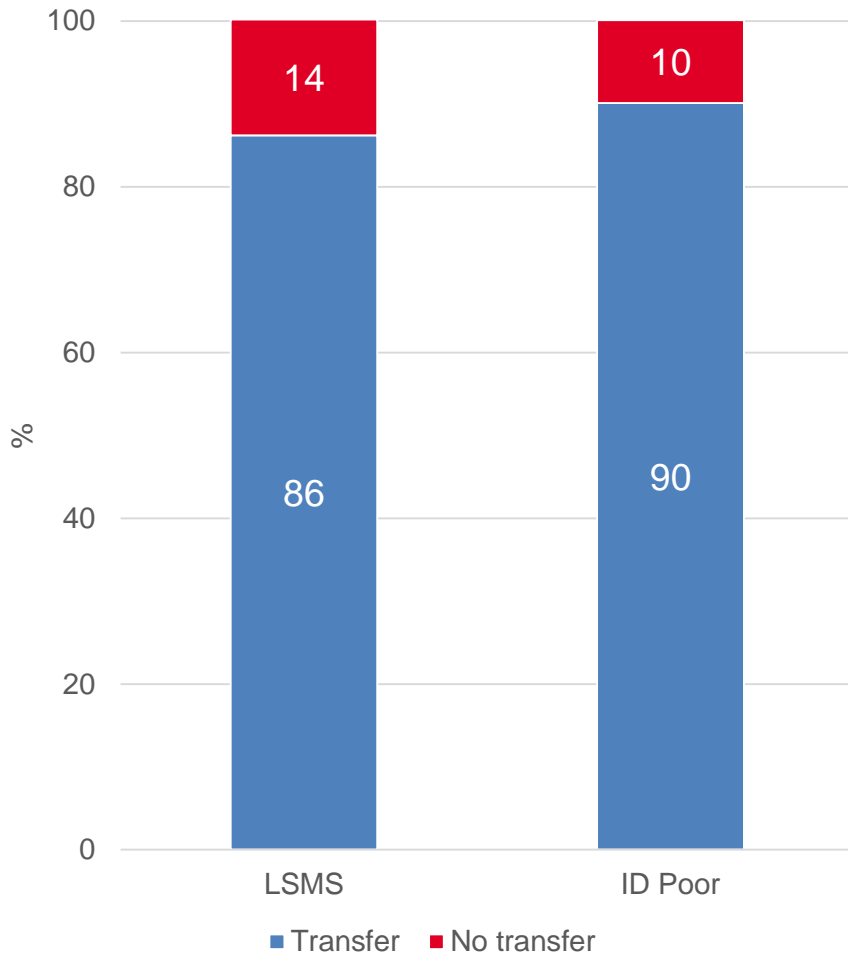
IDPoor1 households (very poor) are estimated to receive on average \$67 per month, while IDPoor2 (poor) are estimated to receive \$52



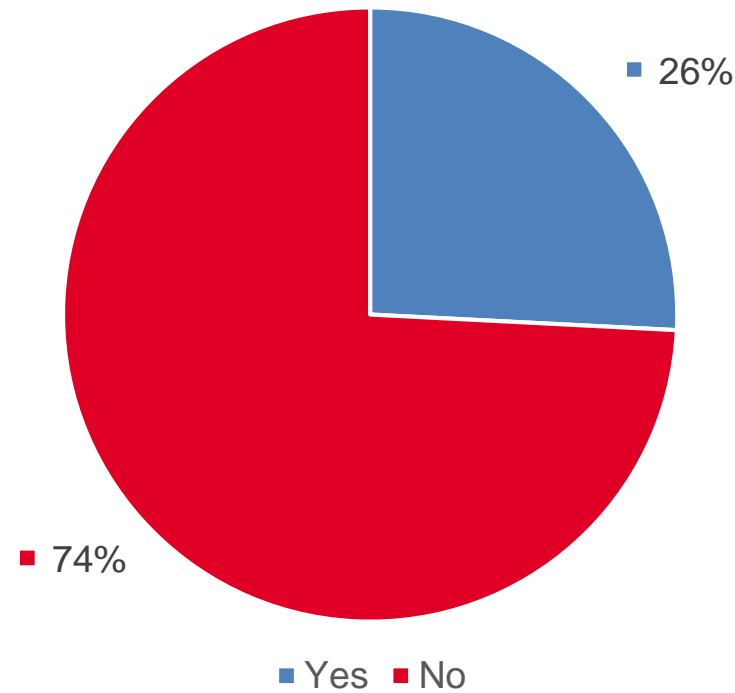
## Relief cash transfer program dominates SA; but beneficiaries of cash transfer programs for pregnant women also continue receiving their benefits



## Relief cash transfer program has reached many IDPoor HHs, but a small proportion are still uncovered

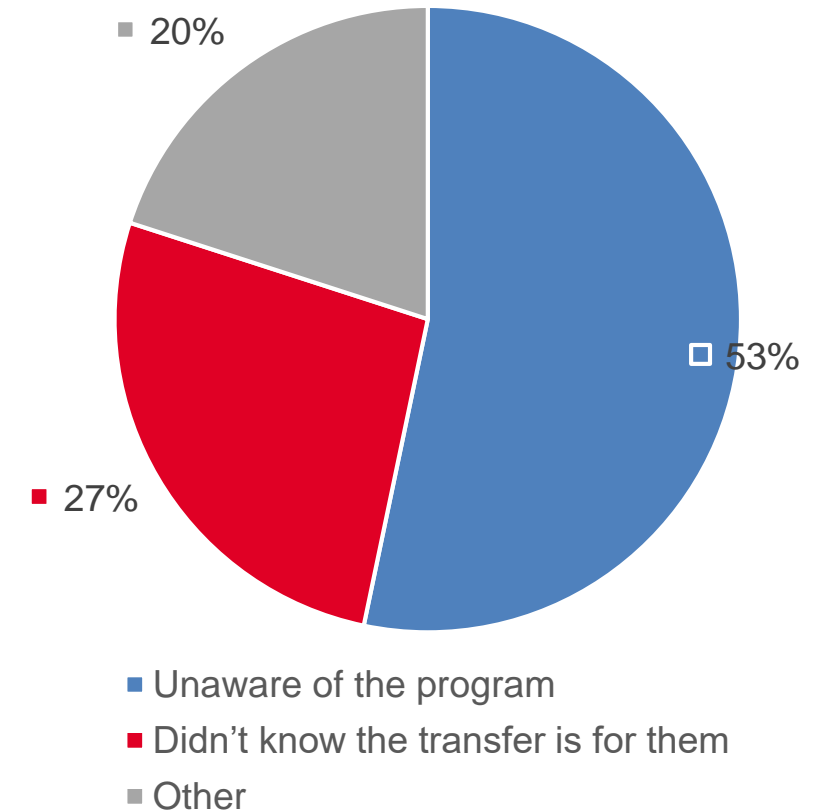


Did you register at commune council to receive the transfer?



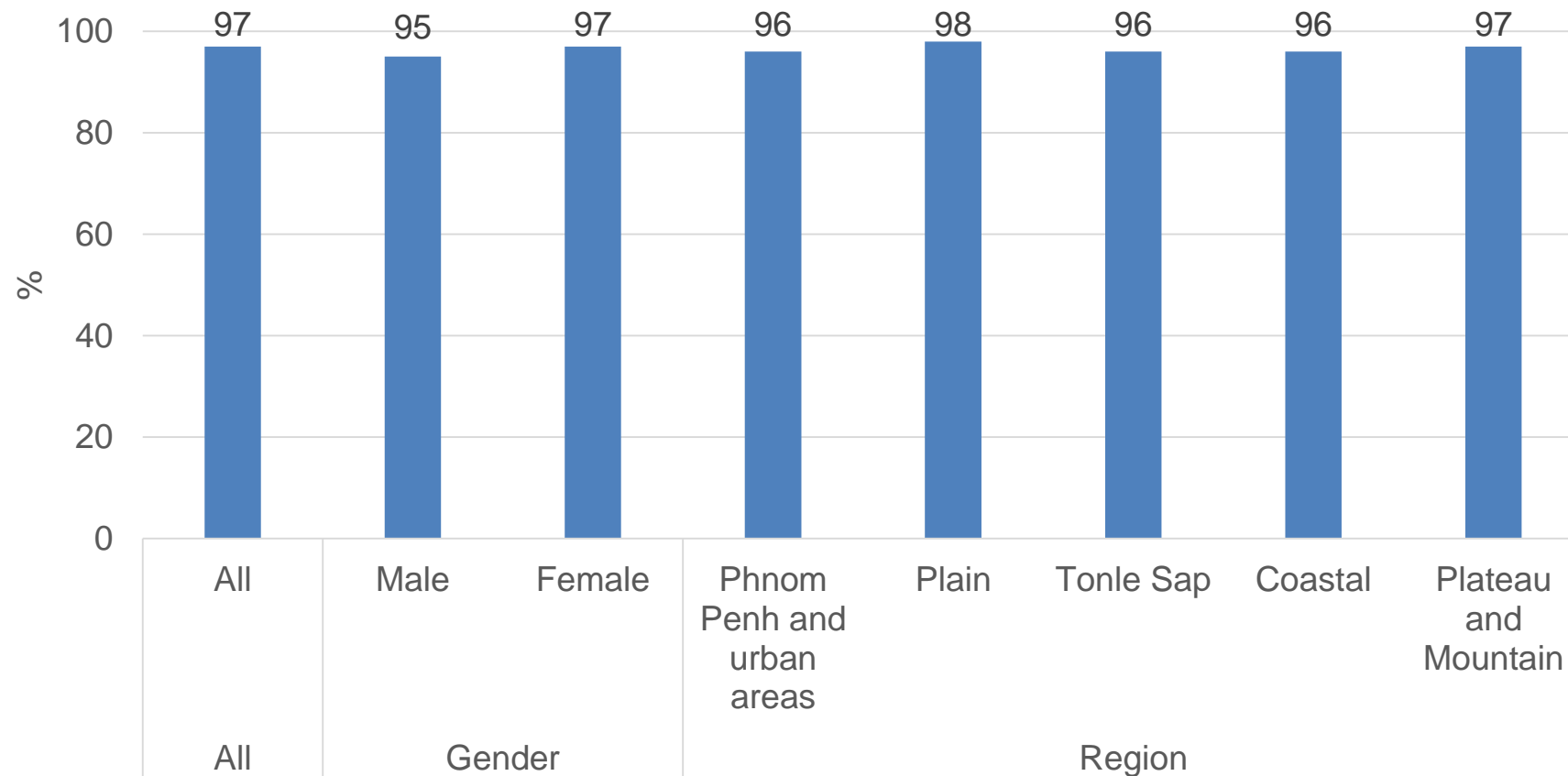
Source: IDPoor Sample

Why did you not register?



Source: IDPoor Sample

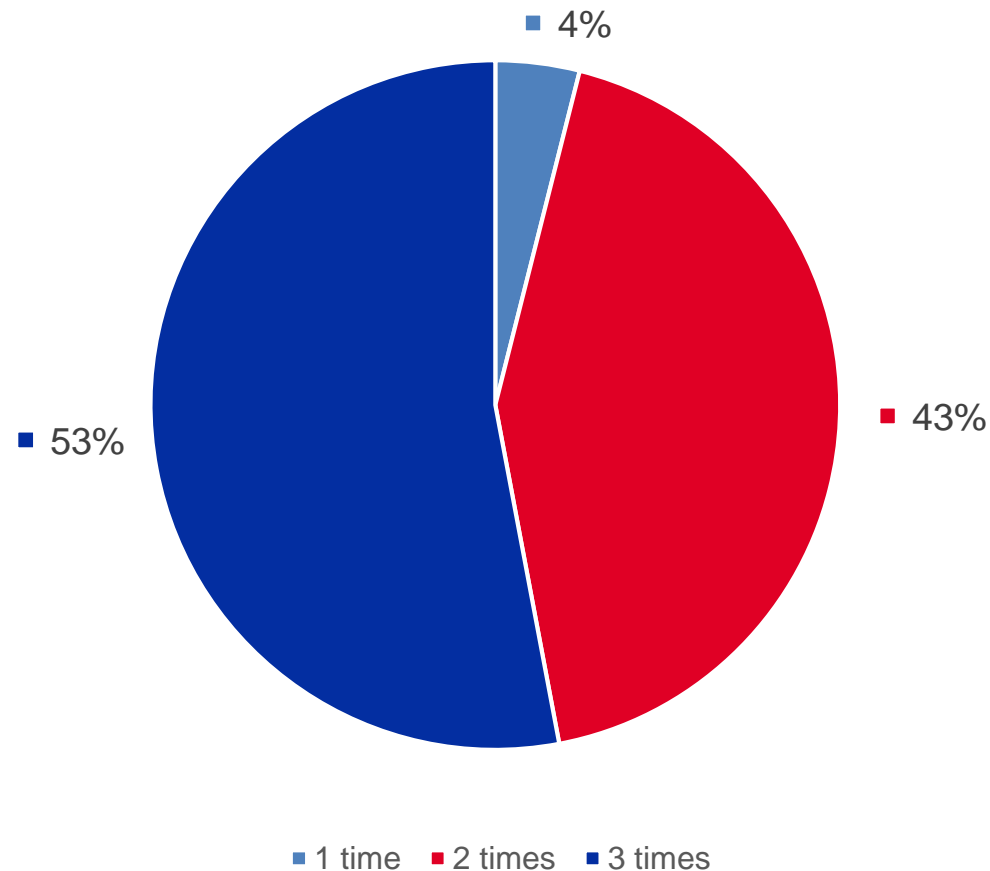
## Take-up is high (97 percent) among those who registered for the relief cash transfer program



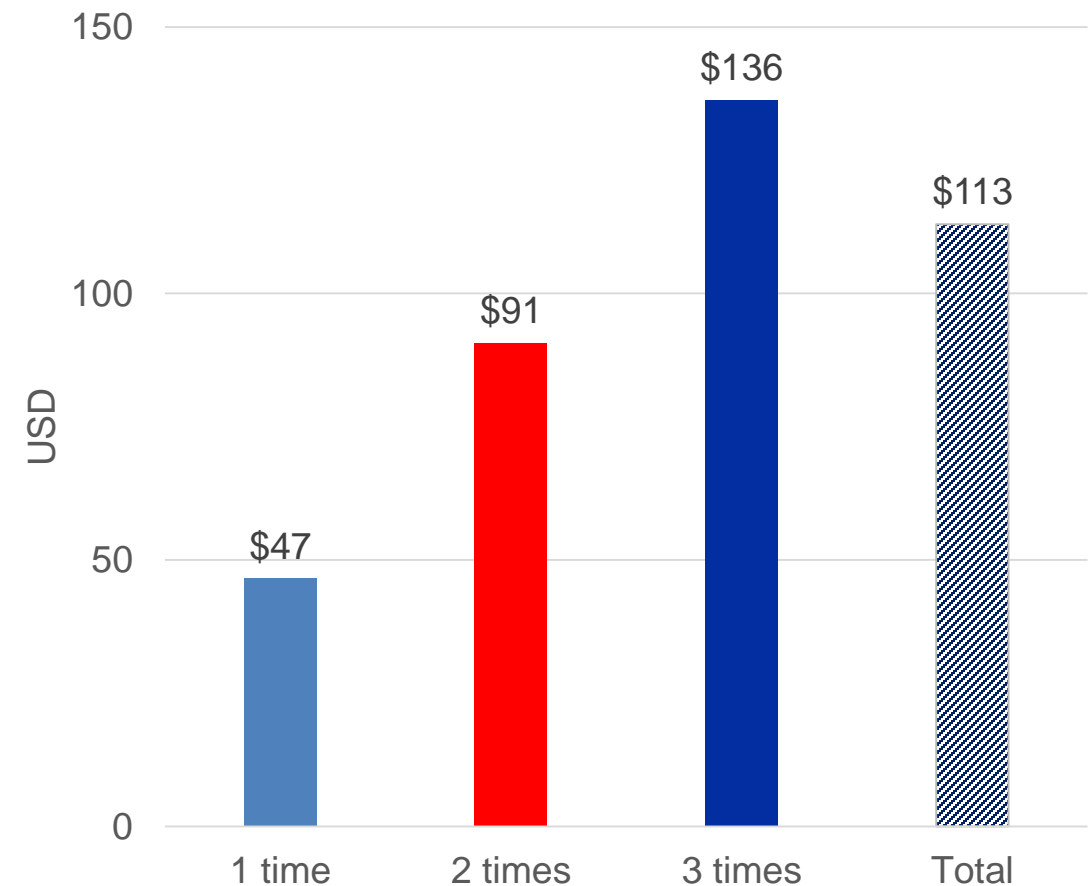
Source: ID Poor Sample

## Cash transfers frequency and amounts as expected: Beneficiaries received an average of US\$113 from the relief cash transfer program since June 2020

How many times did you receive the transfer so far?



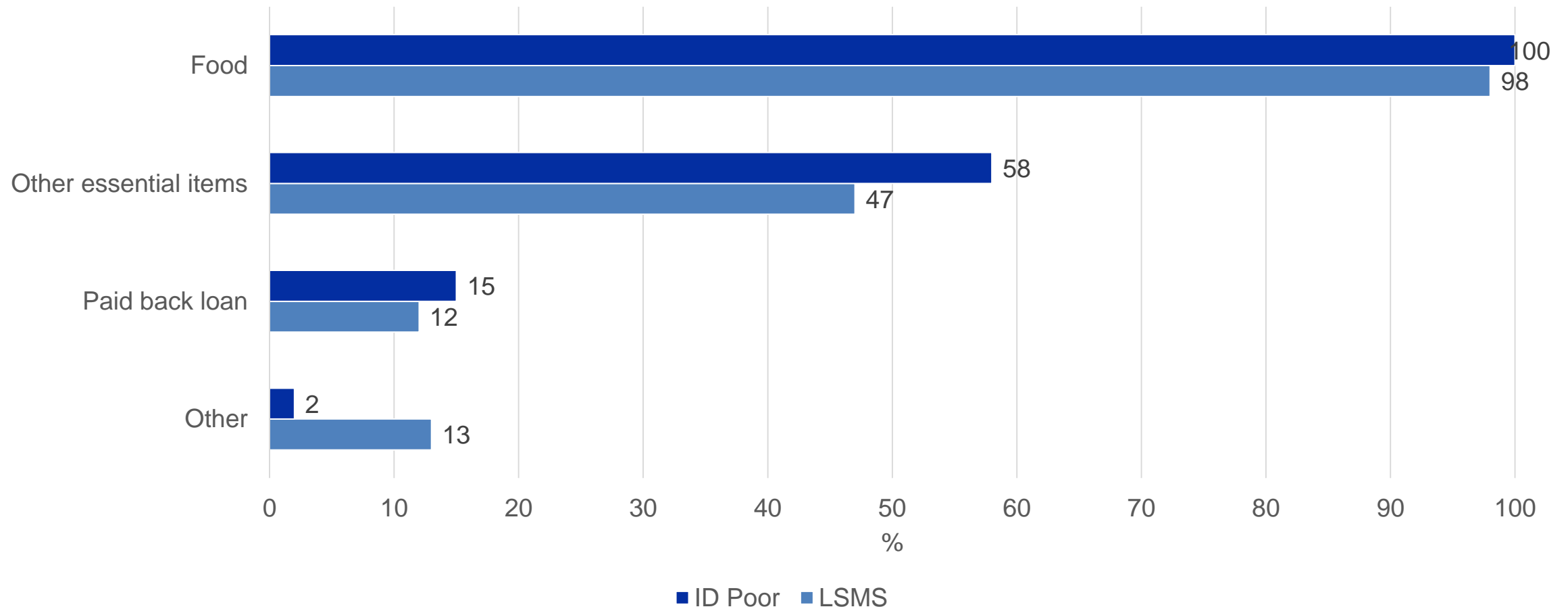
How much did you receive in total?



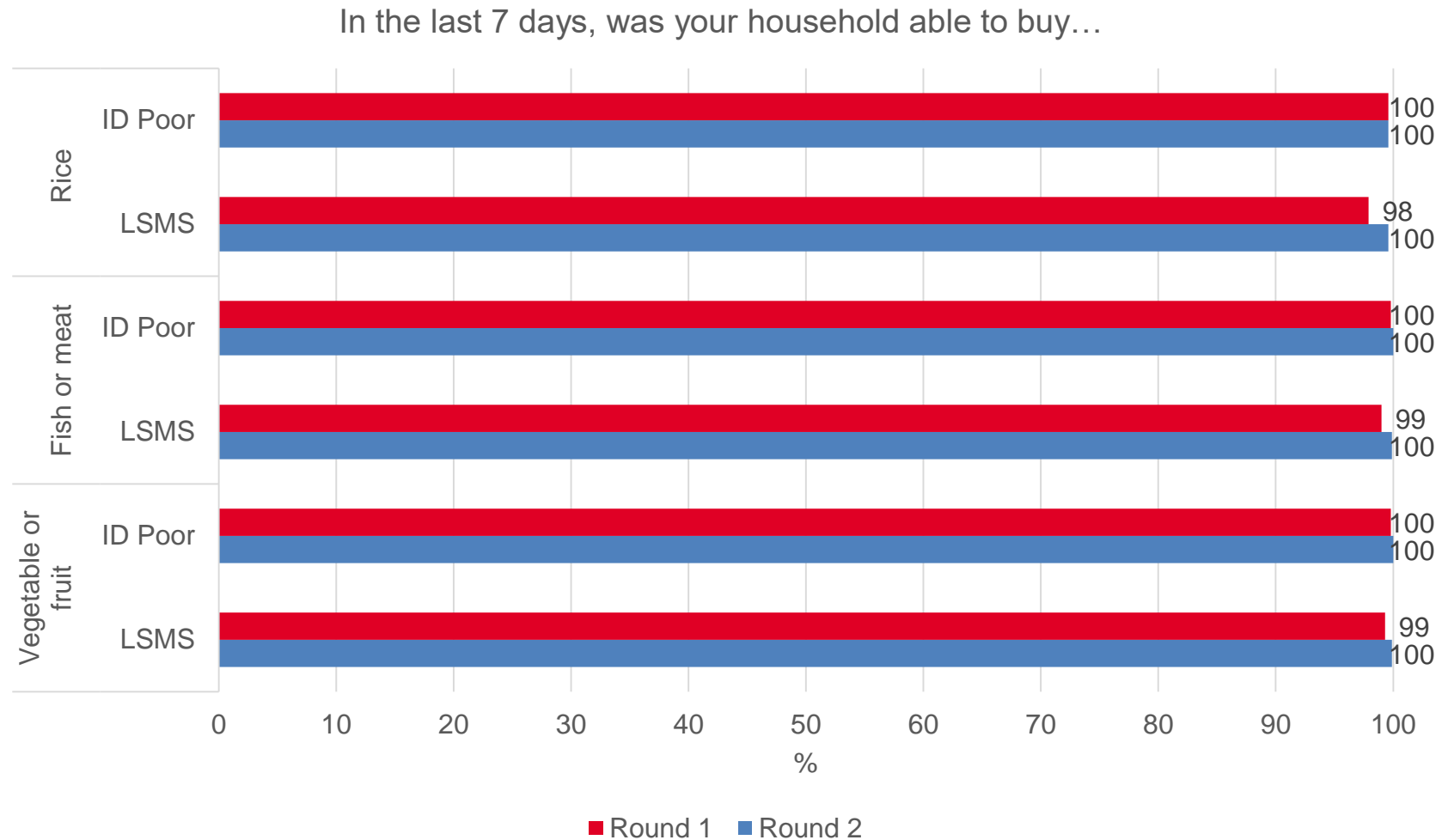
Source: IDPoor Sample

## Most households spend the cash transfers on food, a significant portion also spend on essential items

What did you do with the money that you received?

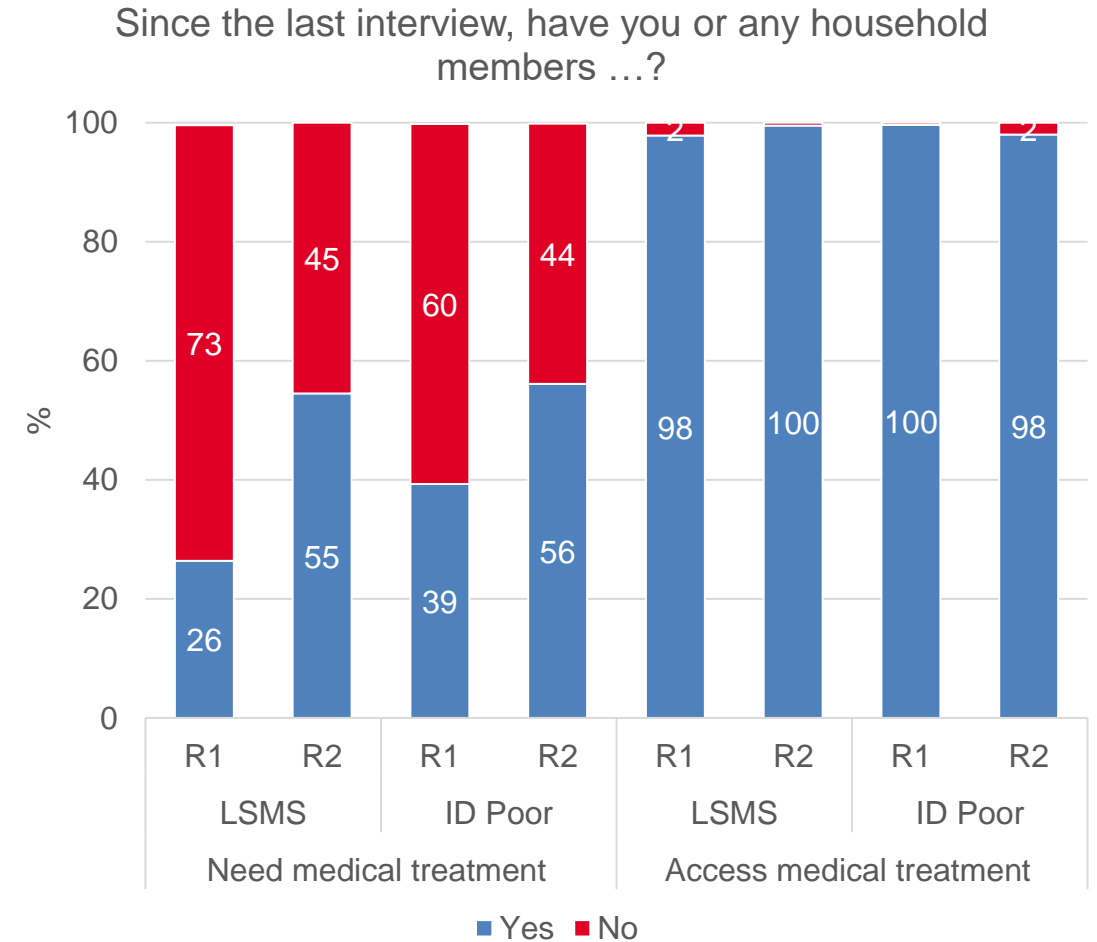
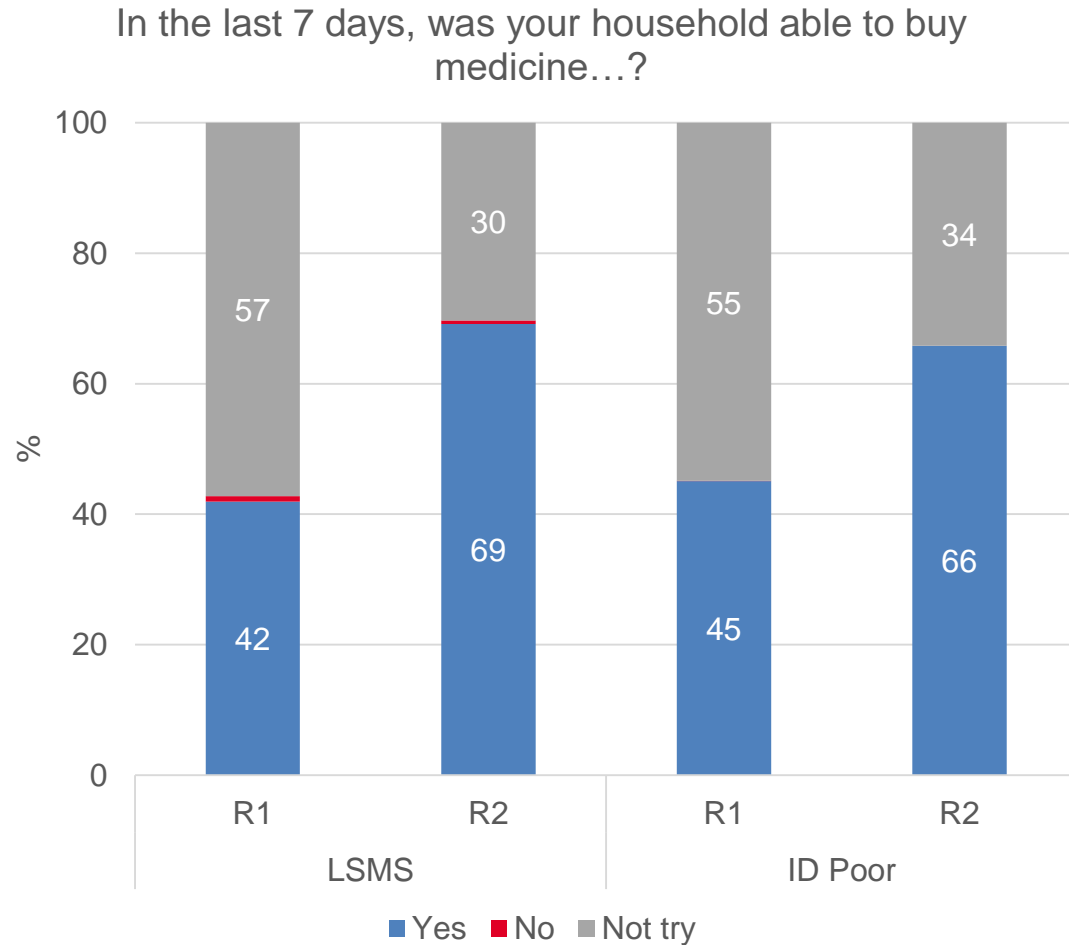


# Markets continue to function well ensuring food availability remains robust



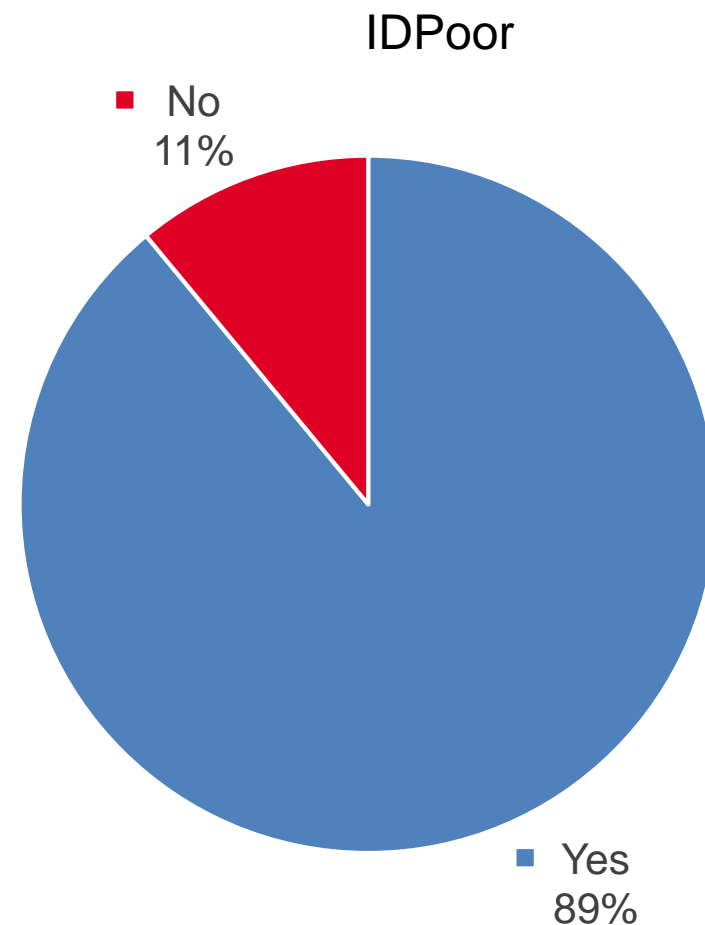
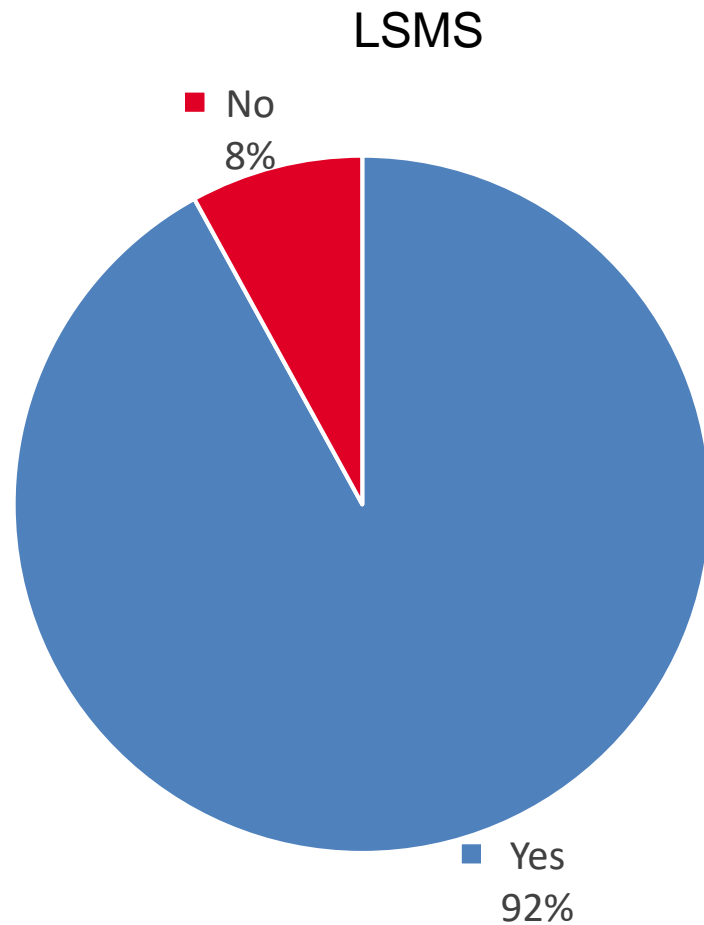
*Note: the proportion difference between round 1 and round 2*

# Most households were able to access health services between May and August



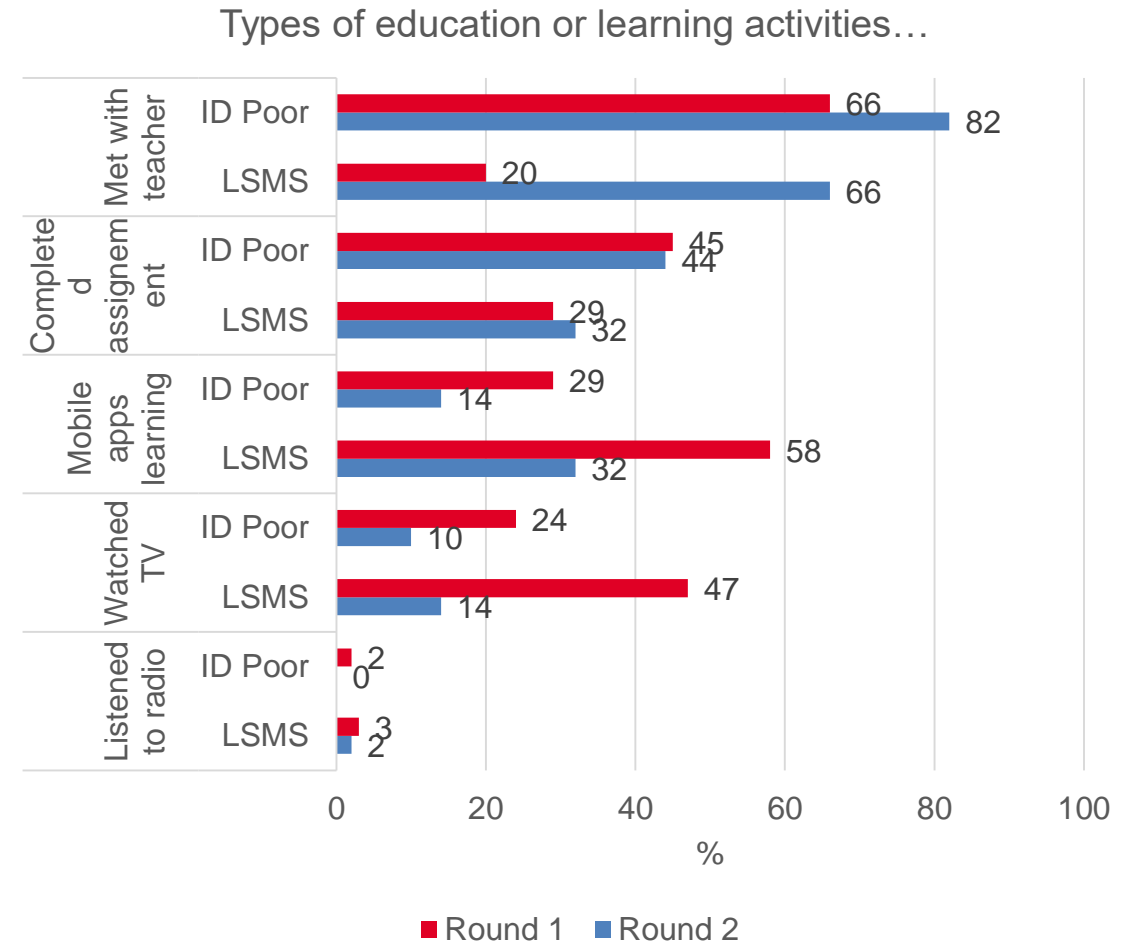
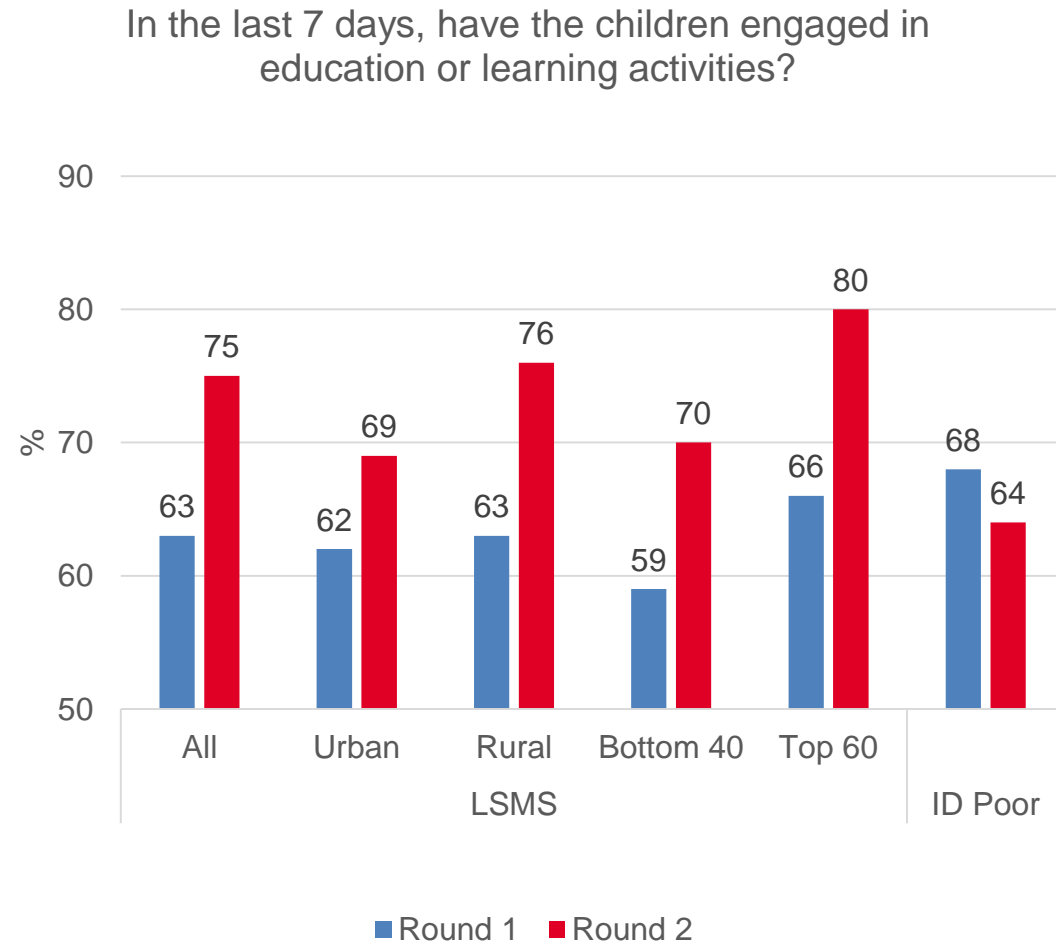
# 9 in 10 households had children attending school before the school closures due to COVID-19

“Before the school closures due to COVID-19, have children aged 6-17 attended school ...?”





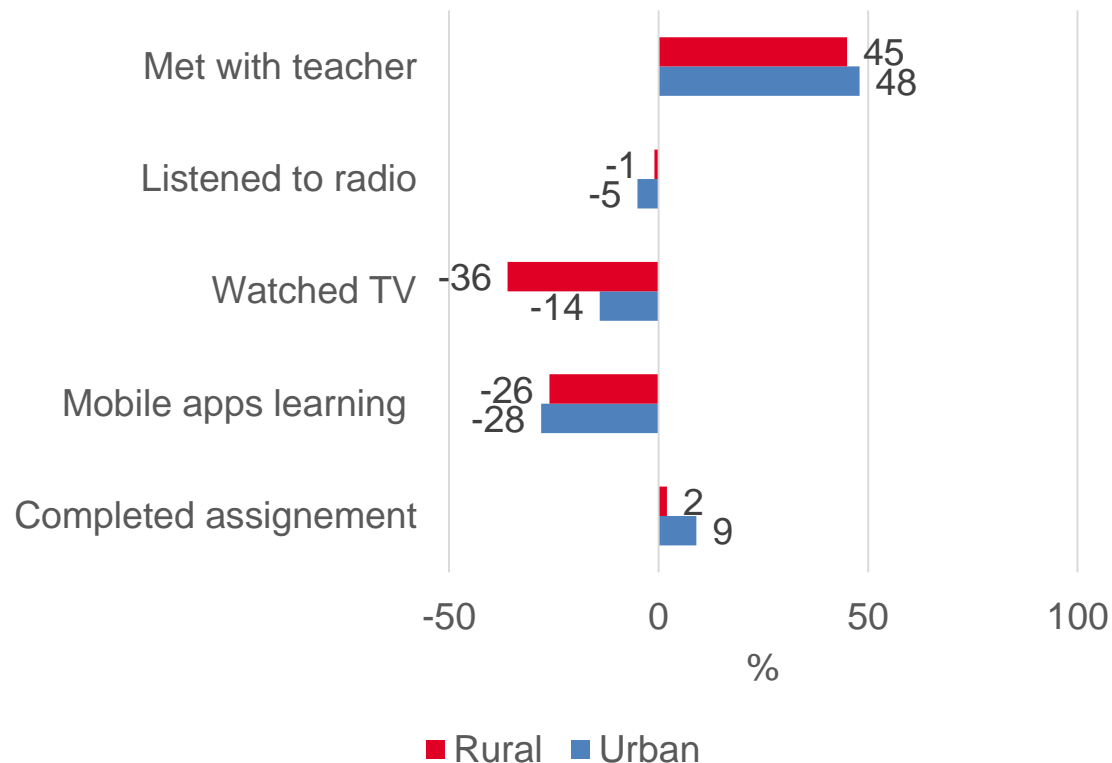
# The share of households with children engaged in learning activities increased since May 2020



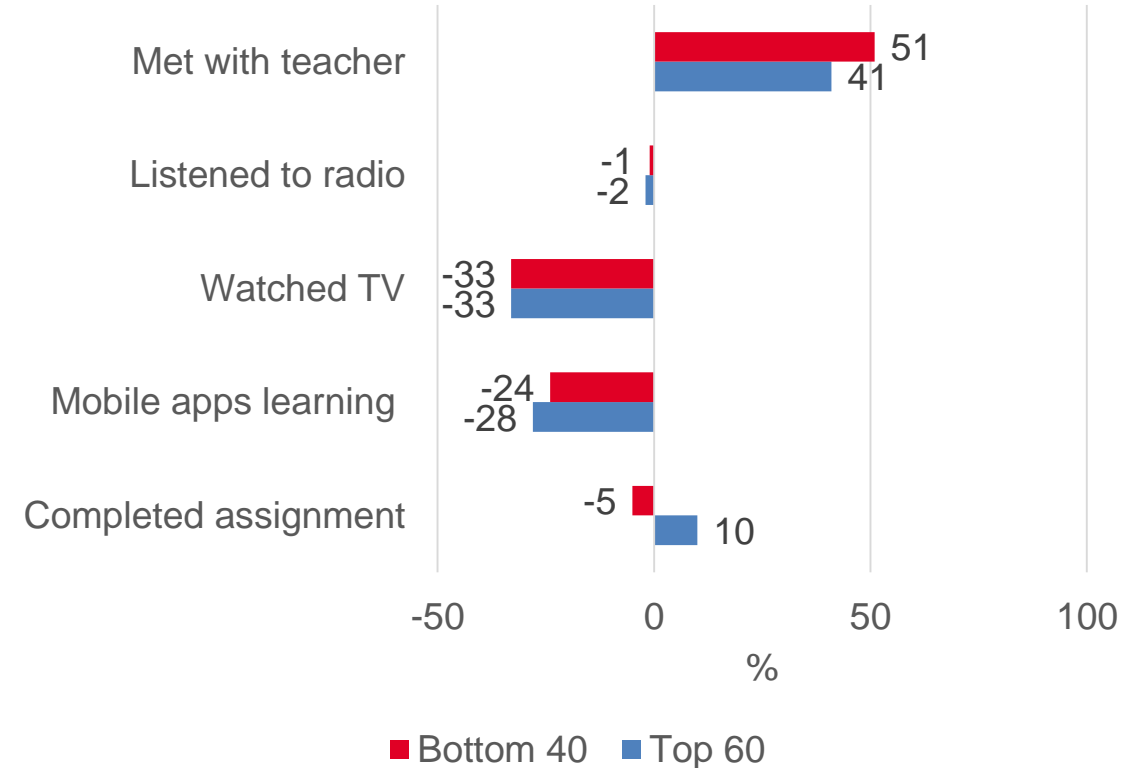
Note: Schools were closed in mid-March and partially reopened on 7 September 2020

# Children in the poorest households are less likely to have met with a teacher than richer households

Types of education or learning activities by urban and rural



Types of education or learning activities by bottom 40 and top 60



Source: LSMS Sample

Note: the proportion difference between round 1 and round 2

# Implementation plan

## Baseline (Round 1)

May–June 2020

Knowledge, Behavior,  
Access, Employment, Income  
Loss, Food insecurity, Coping  
mechanism, Safety Net

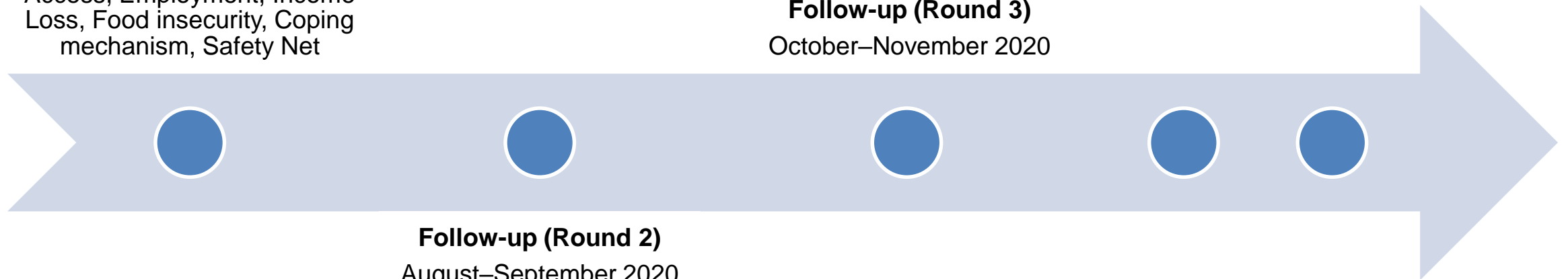
## Follow-up (Round 3)

October–November 2020

## Follow-up (Round 2)

August–September 2020

Access, Employment,  
Income Loss, Food  
insecurity, Safety Net,  
Migration



# Thank you

Wendy Karamba and Kimsun Tong led the Cambodia High Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) that comprised of Maheshwor Shrestha and Sokbunthoeun So. Nuppun Research Consulting implemented the survey with technical and financial support from the World Bank. Additional contributions for the HFPS were received from the Public Financial Management and Service Delivery Trust Fund contributed by Australia and the European Union. The team is grateful to the National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation for their collaboration.

## Contact:

Wendy Karamba ([wkaramba@worldbank.org](mailto:wkaramba@worldbank.org))

Kimsun Tong ([ktong@worldbank.org](mailto:ktong@worldbank.org))