

MAI SIMU VASINA COVID-19! VASINA NE'E SEGURU



MAI SIMU VASINA COVID-19!  
IHA FASILIDADE SAÚDE NE'EBÉ BE



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



HA'U SIMU ONA VASINA  
DINSÁ HO ITA?

# Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

Round 6 – May 2021

Supported by



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# Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

## May 2021 results



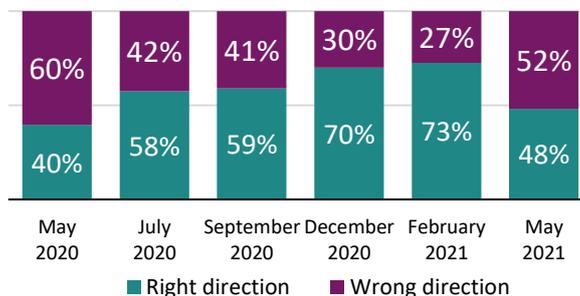
This factsheet presents the results of a **telephone survey** of 404 **Timor-Leste adults** conducted from **1 to 8 May 2021**. During the week of the survey, there were 1,315 active COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste, and the State of Emergency had been renewed for the 14<sup>th</sup> time. Sanitary fences were in place in nine of 13 municipalities, including Dili. The allocation of money to the COVID-19 Fund was also increased from USD 31 million to USD 287.6 million. Results from **May** are compared with previous results where possible.

### COVID remained the biggest challenge at all levels

#### For **Timor-Leste**:

	May '20	July '20	Sep '20	Dec' 20	Feb '21	May '21	
COVID-19	62%	53%	72%	61%	87%	<b>87%</b>	
Economy	10%	18%	8%	17%	6%	<b>6%</b>	
Politics	18%	19%	10%	11%	4%	<b>5%</b>	

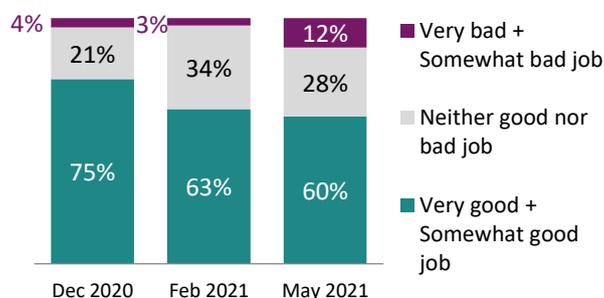
### Timor-Leste is not as likely to be going in the right direction – the first time it has fallen since the survey started



#### For your **community**:

	May '20	July '20	Sep '20	Dec '20	Feb '21	May '21	
COVID-19	76%	70%	64%	70%	85%	<b>85%</b>	
Economy	64%	72%	62%	68%	75%	<b>61%</b>	
Lack of jobs/income	12%	21%	29%	33%	17%	<b>42%</b>	

### Most still think the government is doing a good job but this has been decreasing since the Dec '20 survey



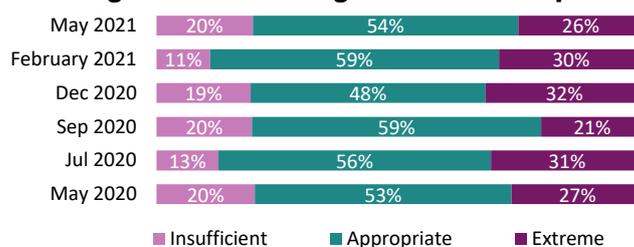
#### For you as an **individual**:

	May '20	July '20	Sep '20	Dec' 20	Feb '21	May '21	
COVID-19	80%	75%	79%	81%	90%	<b>92%</b>	
Economy	63%	74%	62%	69%	77%	<b>66%</b>	
Politics	49%	59%	50%	51%	63%	<b>37%</b>	

### 34% Trust the government to take care of them during COVID-19 lowest rate recorded

May '20: 49% July: 64% Sept: 83% Dec: 59% Feb '21: 54%

### Feeling about current government response:



### COVID-safe behaviors increased slightly

(% of safe behaviors practiced)

- 66%** Face mask Feb '21: 58% Dec: 55% Sept: 70%
- 61%** Wash hands Feb '21: 57% Dec: 52% Sept: 67%
- 48%** Maintain 1.5m distance Feb '21: 46% Dec: 51% Sept: 60%

### During this time, what can the government do more to support citizens? *Top 3*

1. End sanitary fences – **47%**
2. End state of emergency – **44%**
3. End lockdown – **33%**

In the past 30 days,

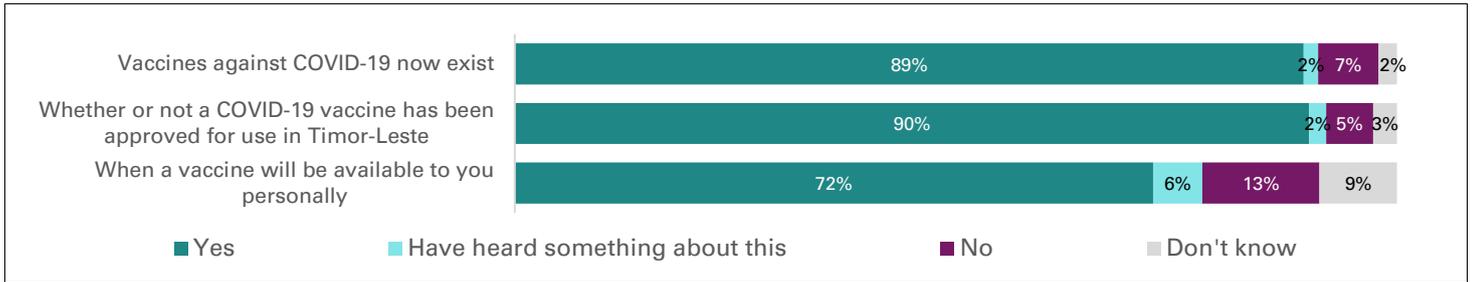


**74%** have **cut meal size** or **skipped a meal** because there wasn't **enough money** for food; the highest since May '20

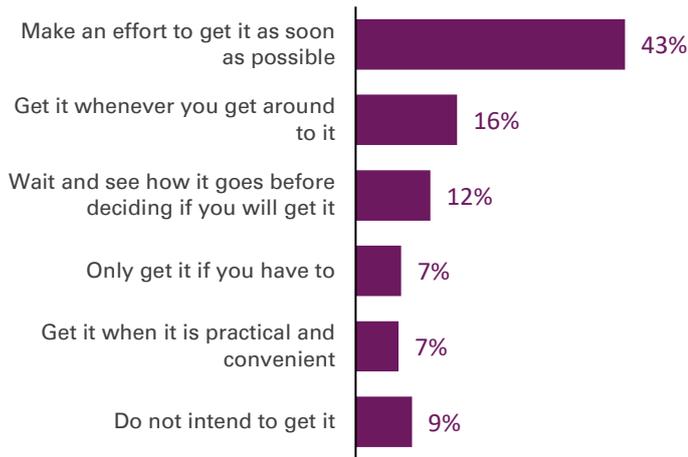
May '20: 76% July: 70% Sept: 53% Dec: 60% Feb '21: 62%



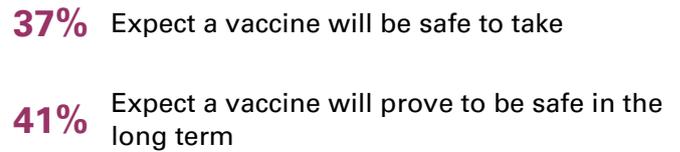
## Most respondents were aware of the COVID-19 vaccine, but were less likely to know when it would be personally available to them



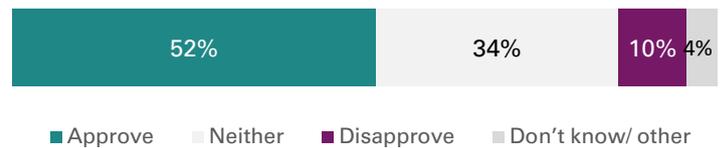
### Feeling about getting the COVID vaccine



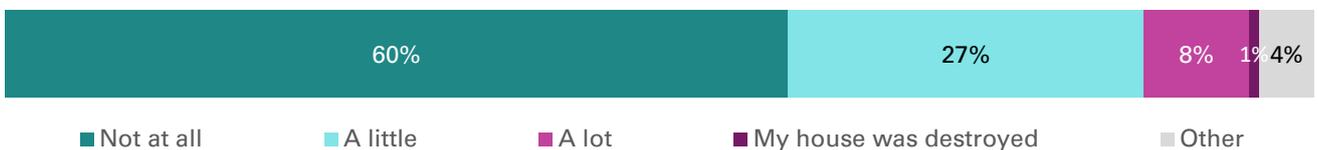
### Perceptions of safety of COVID-19 vaccine



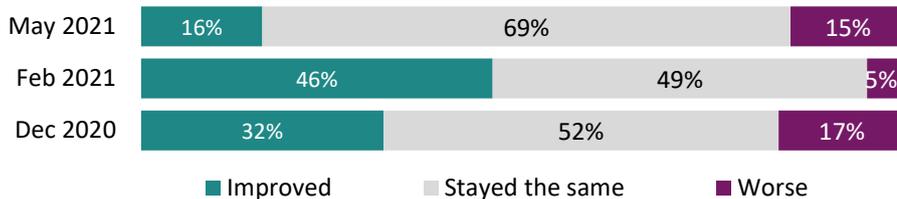
### Approval of Timor-Leste's vaccination plan (February 72% approved)



## Most respondents' houses were not or only a little affected by the recent cyclone and flooding



### Safety: Since March 2020, how has safety and security in your local community changed?



### Most common security threats since March 2020: Top 3

1. COVID-19 – 91%  
Dec: 70% Feb '21: 77%
2. Martial arts groups – 4%  
Dec: 9% Feb '21: 11%
3. Land disputes – 3%  
Dec: 6% Feb '21: 6%

### Safety: 63% reported conflict in their area

#### Most common causes of conflict in your area: Top 3

1. Abandonment – 15%
2. Theft of personal property – 11%
3. Physical attack resulting in injury – 9%

We would like to thank the 404 respondents (144 women and 260 men) for their time and the 11 interviewers in Dili who conducted the May 2021 survey.

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# Background

## What is this research about?

The COVID-19, or coronavirus global pandemic, has required huge responses from governments all over the world. Timor-Leste has its own unique requirements when addressing an event of this magnitude.

This research aims to understand:

- The concerns of the people of Timor-Leste
- How well people are adopting prevention measures and taking care of their health
- The level of trust in government
- The use of, and satisfaction with, government programs
- The social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic
- How household tasks have been distributed during the pandemic
- The resilience of individuals and their communities, and
- The sources of news and information the people of Timor-Leste are relying on to stay informed about the pandemic.

## Timor-Leste context

At the time of the previous survey in February/March 2021 (Round V) Timor-Leste was recording a limited number of community cases of COVID-19 for the first time. By the time Round VI was undertaken between 1-8 May 2021 Timor-Leste was experiencing community transmission, and a significant rise in case numbers. The Timorese Government (GoTL) imposed a variety of measures including lockdowns and sanitary fences (*cerca sanitaria*), commencing on 9 March in Dili, and this was also applied at various times to other municipalities.

Management of the already escalating number of COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste was considerably complicated by heavy rain from 28 March-4 April accompanying Tropical Cyclone Seroja, resulting in the worst flooding in over 40 years. This led to 44 deaths, 33,835 households affected, and a total of 2,163 ha of agricultural area adversely affected. Although all municipalities experienced flooding, 82% of people affected were in Dili.<sup>1</sup>

By the time Round VI interviews were conducted, 3,125 people remained displaced in 17 evacuation centres across Dili municipality; though by 19 May this had decreased to 1,743 people across 13 centres, or 11% of the total number of people during the peak (8 April). The majority of the temporarily displaced have returned home, and the Government and humanitarian partners are supporting their safe return to the communities.<sup>2</sup>

At the time of data collection (6 May) there were 1,315 active cases of COVID-19 in Timor-Leste. By 7 June this had increased to 2,232 active cases, including amongst the temporarily displaced; and 17 people had died. Updates can be found at <https://covid19.gov.tl/en/dashboard/>

States of Emergency (#11- #14) were renewed respectively on 4 March, 3 April, 3 May and 2 June. While the lockdown in Dili was temporarily suspended following the flooding, it was reinstated from 30 April. At the time of data collection a sanitary fence was in place in nine of 13 municipalities, including Dili, although this continues to fluctuate over time.

By 31 May Timor-Leste had received 60,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine provided by Australia and 24,000 doses from the COVAX mechanism. Timor-Leste commenced COVID-19 vaccinations on 7 April; and by 31 May a total of 76,582 people had received their first dose of vaccine, corresponding to 10% of the population over 18 years old. For the same period in Dili municipality, 64,005 people have already been vaccinated, corresponding to 30% of the population over 18 years old in the capital.<sup>3</sup>

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1 UNICEF Timor-Leste Humanitarian Situation Report No. 5 (Flood): 21 May 2021

2 UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste Floods - Situation Report No. 9 (As of 21 May 2021); UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste Floods - Situation Report No. 8 (As of 6 May 2021)

3 Council of Ministers, Press Release: Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Ministers of May 31st, 2021

On 23 April, the National Parliament approved an amendment to the 2021 General State Budget to respond to the impact of COVID-19 and the flooding, which the President subsequently promulgated on 4 May. The allocation to the COVID-19 Fund increased from USD 31 million to USD 287.6 million, while the Contingency Fund allocation increased from USD 23.8 million to USD 65.2 million. These changes will enable GoTL to allocate USD 34.5 million to purchase sufficient COVID-19 vaccines to immunise the entire population, purchase personal protective materials and equipment and material for testing and treatment for inpatient COVID-19 patients, the construction and rental of isolation and quarantine spaces and the improvement of isolation sites throughout the territory. It will also enable GoTL to fund socio-economic measures including employment support, credit moratoria, tuition fee exemption for higher education students, internet subsidy for higher education students, the purchase of food products from local producers, the subsidy for electricity, the financing of the operation of the Integrated Centre for Crisis Management, salary supplement for front line workers and the extension of the Basic Food Basket programme.<sup>4</sup>

On 1 June, together with humanitarian partners, GoTL launched a Joint Appeal to address residual humanitarian needs for the most vulnerable affected people and assist with early-recovery efforts in Timor-Leste.<sup>5</sup>

### Who is the research being conducted for?

The Asia Foundation has been working with the people of Timor-Leste for nearly 30 years on issues such as employment, women's rights, and community policing, and commissioned this research. The results will be used for advocacy with the Timor-Leste Government and donors on issues relating to COVID-19. This research is supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

### How was the research conducted?

Between 1 and 8 May 2021, a Dili-based call centre conducted 404 interviews (260 males and 144 females<sup>6</sup>) with Timor-Leste adults, using a sample list of previous respondents to The Asia Foundation Tatoli and Community Policing surveys. This followed on from near-identical surveys conducted in February 2021 as well as May, July, September and December 2020, which will be used to track change over time. ORIMA Research (Australia) worked with The Asia Foundation on the questionnaire and data collection methodology, performed data quality checks, and conducted the analysis and reporting. More detail is available in the methodology section of this report. The full survey results are also available on the Q2i Visualization platform: [surveys.asiafoundation.org/Dashboard?SurveyCode=TLCV](https://surveys.asiafoundation.org/Dashboard?SurveyCode=TLCV)

### The future

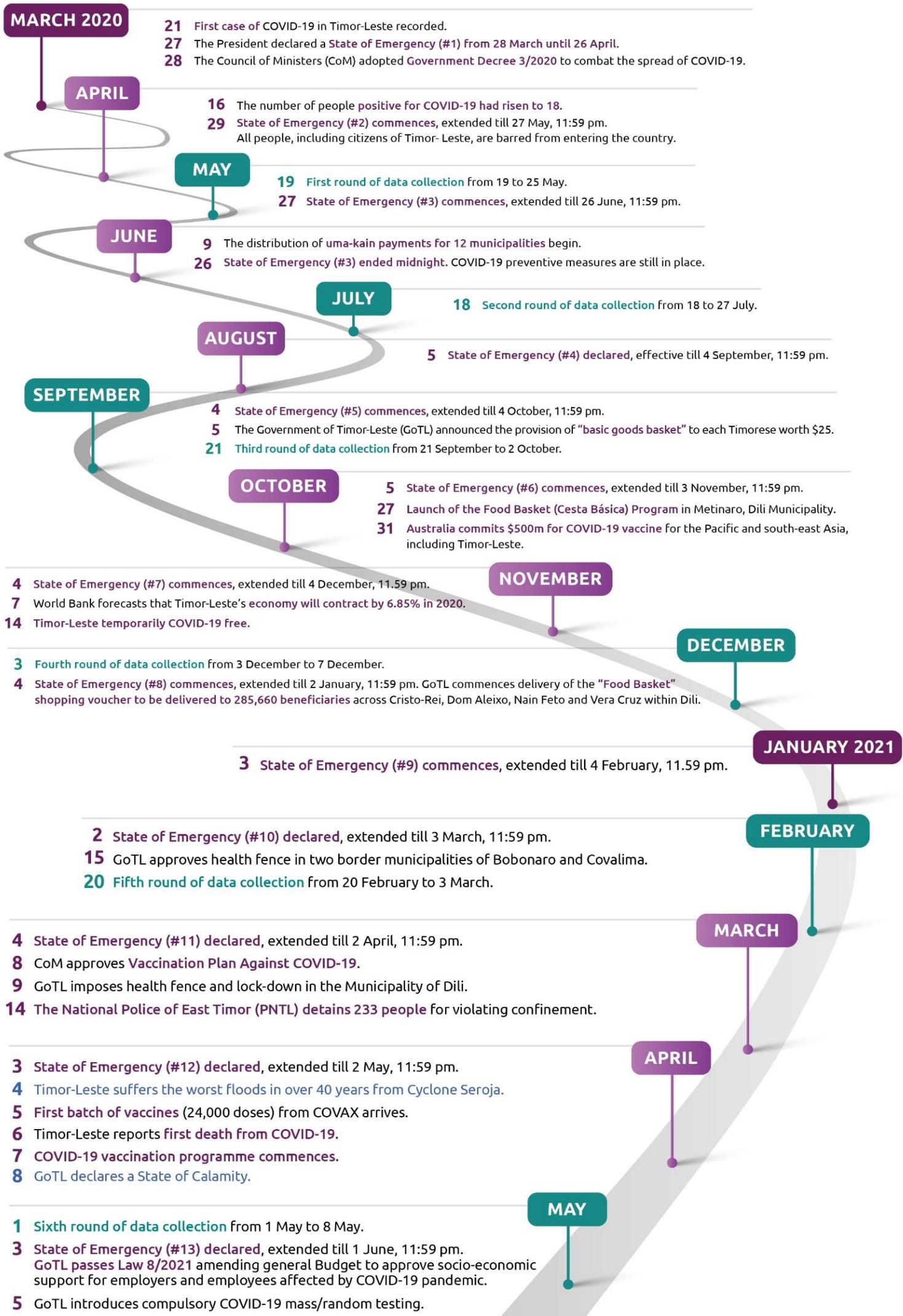
The survey was expected to recur at two-month intervals until June 2021 to observe changes for the community over time. Given the utility of the surveys, the process will continue for a number of additional months. This report and the Q2i visualization platform are updated each survey round to reflect this data.

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<sup>4</sup> President of the Republic promulgates State Budget Amending, 4 May 2021. <http://timor-leste.gov.tl/?p=27960&lang=en&n=>

<sup>5</sup> GoTL and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Press Release: Government of Timor-Leste and partners appeal for US\$32 million to assist flood victims and early recovery, 1 June 2021.

<sup>6</sup> All data was gender disaggregated during the analysis, and any gender differences are mentioned in this report.



# Results

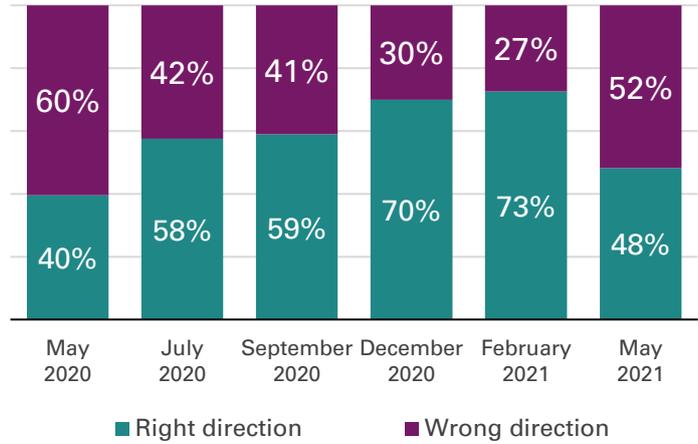
## Biggest concerns

In May 2021, around half (48%) of respondents felt that Timor-Leste was going in the right direction, the lowest result since May 2020 and the first time it has fallen.

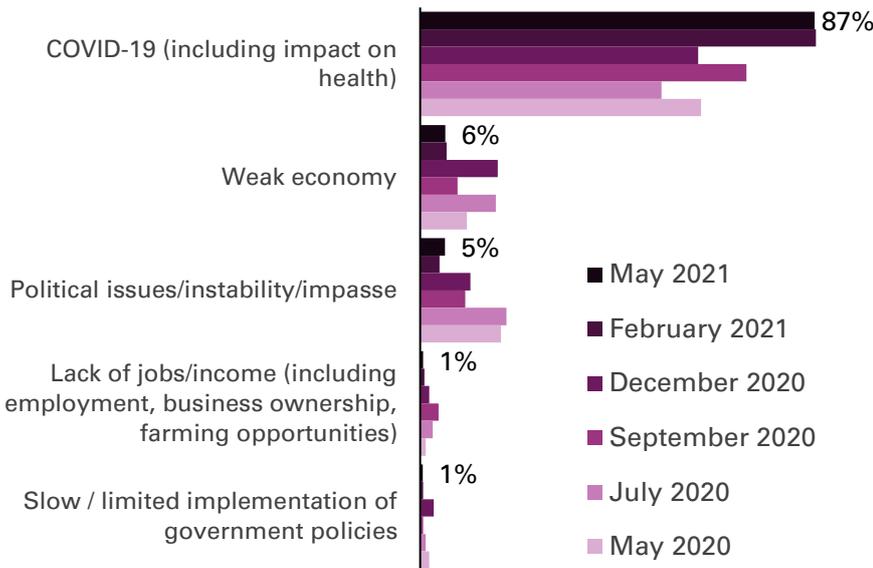
Perception that Timor-Leste was going in the right direction was higher among those living in Dili (68%, compared to 41% outside Dili).

As in February 2021, those aged 17-24 were the least positive (36%), followed by those aged 45 or over (46%).

Generally speaking, Timor-Leste is going in the...



## The biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste:



COVID-19 (including its impact on health) remained the biggest perceived challenge facing Timor-Leste (87%), as in all previous survey rounds.

Similar proportions of all demographic groups considered COVID-19 to be the biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste.

Only a minority of respondents considered a weak economy (6%) or political issues (5%) to be the biggest challenge.

In May 2021, COVID-19 also remained the most commonly reported concern for individuals (92%) and the community (85%). These figures were in line with February 2021, and higher than in previous rounds of the survey.

A weak economy was the second greatest concern for both individuals (66%) and the community (61%), but to a lesser extent than in February 2021 (77% and 75%, respectively). However, concern about lack of jobs/ income increased for both individuals (34%, up from 18% in February 2021) and the community (42%, up from 17%).

Concerns about COVID-19 (91%), a weak economy (73%) and lack of jobs/ income (48%) for the community were higher among those living in Dili, compared to those outside Dili.

**Top 3 problems as an individual and in your community** (Multiple response, five most common problems shown)



Respondents were also prompted on how concerned they were about various aspects of life. Around 50-60% of respondents were 'very' concerned about each of the aspects tested. Respondents were most concerned about aspects relating to their safety and reported greater concern on these compared to previous survey rounds. Specifically, respondents were more concerned about their level of personal safety (61% 'very concerned', up from 41% in February 2021) and the risk to their personal health from COVID-19 (60%, up from 42%).

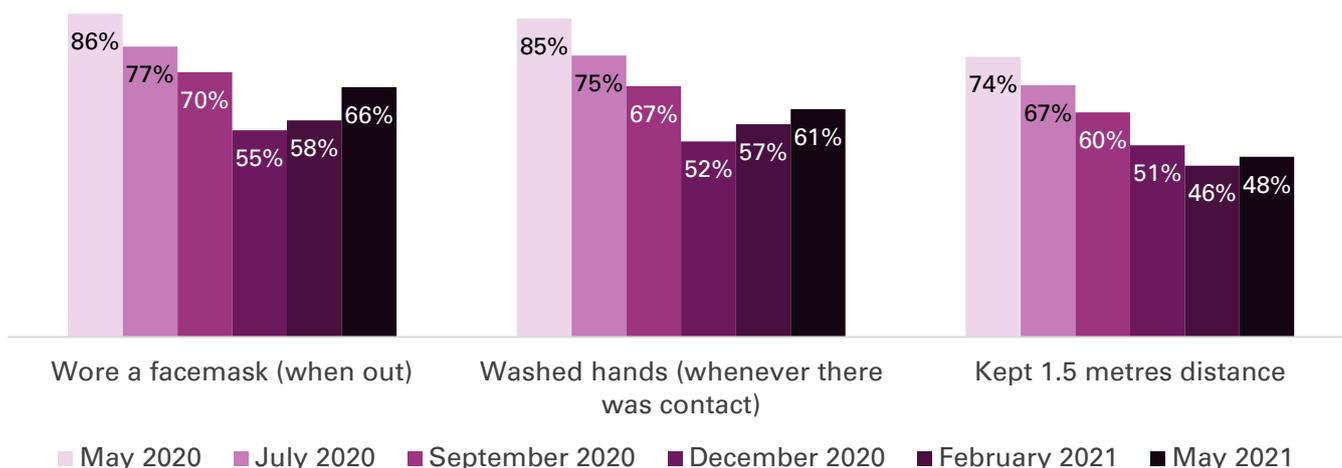
Financial concerns were also higher than in February, but a little lower than in December 2020. In contrast to previous rounds, levels of concern across all aspects were generally higher across those living outside Dili.

## Prevention measures and healthcare behavior

The proportion of respondents who report following COVID-19 prevention behaviors 'very much' in the last week increased again after steadily declining since the first survey in May 2020 through to December 2020. In May 2021, around six-in-ten respondents were 'very much' wearing a facemask (66%) and washing their hands after contact (61%), while around half kept 1.5 meters distance from others (48%).

Those living in Dili were more likely to have worn a facemask 'very much' (74%, compared to 64% of those outside Dili), but were less likely to have kept a distance of at least 1.5 meters to other people (35%, compared to 52%).

### COVID-19 safe behaviors (applies very much) in past week



In the same time period, 54% said they 'very much' did not attend social gatherings, 55% avoided public places, and 57% worked from home.

### If you had symptoms, would you:

May 2020	July 2020	Sept 2020	Dec 2020	Feb 2021	May 2021	
94%	95%	99%	98%	97%	93%	Go to a hospital or health clinic
92%	79%	79%	88%	97%	92%	Inform people around me
85%	79%	77%	86%	87%	86%	Stay home
-	-	63%	89%	85%	87%	Take traditional medicine
-	-	80%	85%	88%	86%	Carry on as usual

As in previous survey rounds, around nine-in-ten respondents (93%) reported they would go to a hospital or health clinic and inform people around them (92%) if they had symptoms of sickness.

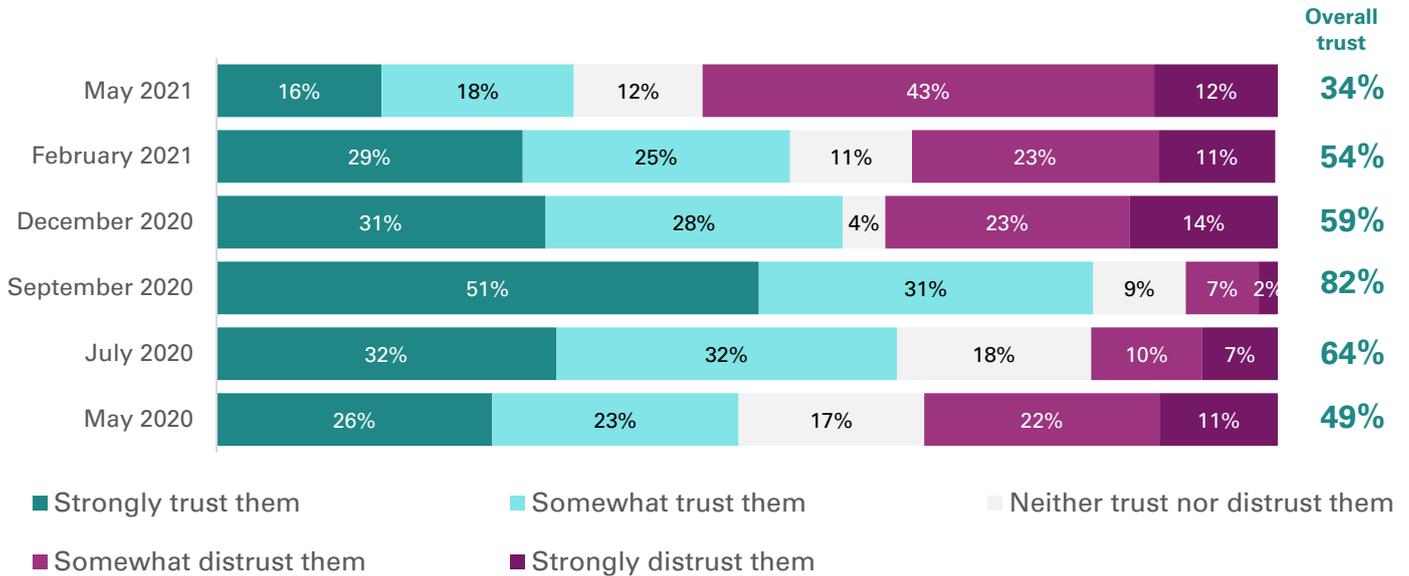
Similar to previous rounds, most respondents also reported they would take traditional medicine (87%) and stay home (86%).

Most respondents (86%) also reported they would carry on as usual if they showed symptoms, in line with February 2021 (88%) and December 2020 (85%), but slightly higher than in September 2020 (80%). Those living outside Dili (93%) were more likely to carry on as usual compared to those living in Dili (66%).

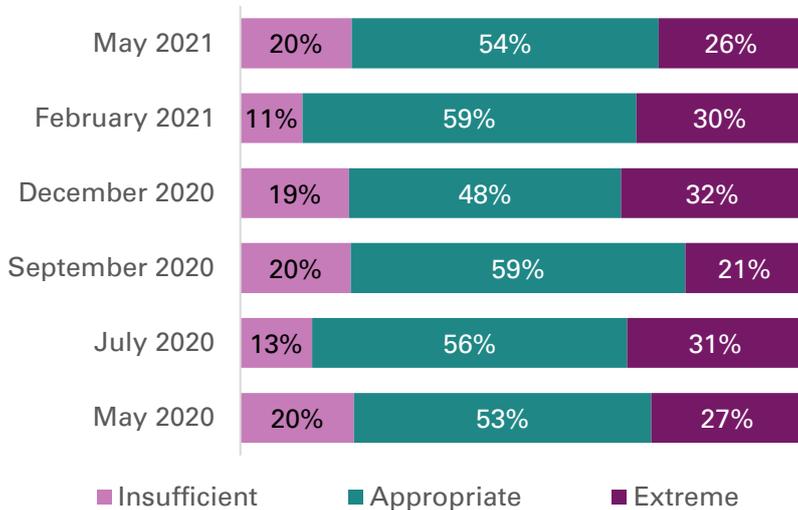
## Government trust

Trust in the GoTL to take care of its citizens during COVID-19 has declined since September 2020, recording the lowest rating across all survey rounds in May 2021 (34%). Distrust in the government was also the highest recorded in May 2021 (55%).

As in February 2021, younger respondents aged 17-24 (26%) reported the lowest trust in the government (26%) and the highest *dist*rust (62%), followed by those aged 45 or over (31% trust and 58% distrust).



## What do you think of the current reaction of the government to COVID-19



Perceptions of the government's current reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak were similar to previous rounds, despite lower levels of overall trust in the government to take care of citizens.

Compared to February 2021, slightly more thought the reaction was insufficient (20% compared to 11%).

For the first time, younger respondents aged 17-24 were more likely to consider the government reaction to be appropriate (60%, compared to 51-54% among older age groups).

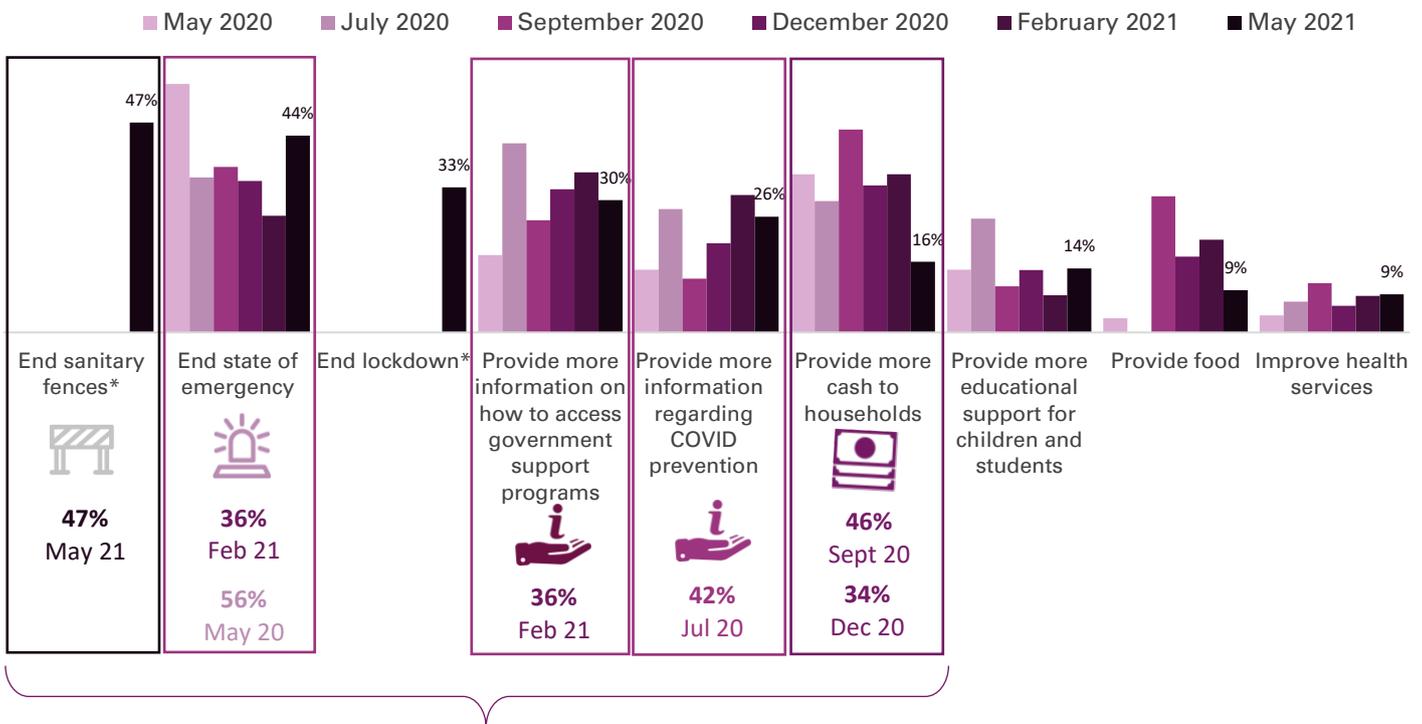
On 9 March the government implemented sanitary fences in Dili and has since implemented them in nine municipalities as a way of responding to COVID-19. The majority (67%) of respondents indicated they 'very much agree' or 'agree somewhat' with this response. Those living in Dili (78%) and respondents aged between 25 and 44 (72%) were more likely to be supportive of the use of sanitary fences.

## Additional government support

In each survey round respondents have been asked what more the government could do to support its citizens. In May 2021, ending sanitary fences (47%) was the most common suggestion, followed by ending the State of Emergency (44%) and ending stay at home obligation/ mandatory confinement (33%). Those living outside Dili were more likely to feel the government should end sanitary fences (55%, compared to 26% in Dili) and end lockdown (40%, compared to 10% in Dili), whereas those living in Dili were more likely to report the government should provide more information on how to access government support programs (56%, compared to 21%). Younger respondents aged 17-24 were also most likely to consider the government should end sanitary fences (60%), particularly compared to those aged 45 or over (35%).

Provision of information on how to access government support (30%) and COVID-19 prevention (26%) were also common suggestions, though to a slightly lesser extent than in February 2021 (36% and 31%, respectively).

### During this time, what could the government do more to support its citizens? (Multiple responses allowed)



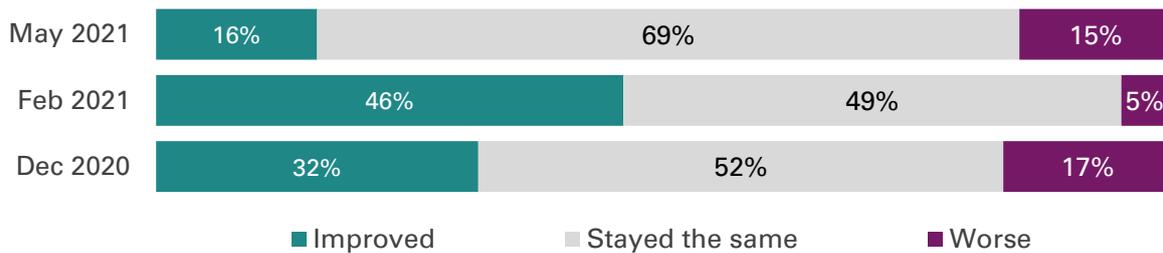
Top response each round  
 \*New responses recorded in May 2021

## Safety and security

Respondents were less positive about the safety and security situation in their local community in May 2021 than they were in previous survey rounds. Most (69%) respondents felt safety and security had stayed the same since the start of COVID-19 in March last year. Similar proportions felt that safety and security had improved (16%) and gotten worse (15%) since March 2020 – a net positive score of +1%.

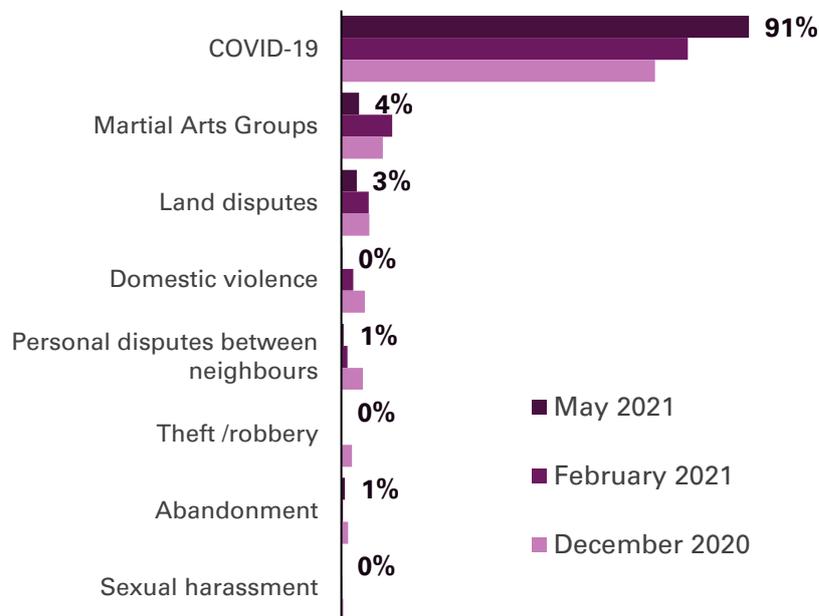
In May 2021, respondents living in Dili had more positive perceptions of the safety and security in their community (+22%, compared to -7% outside Dili). Perceptions that safety and security had improved were stronger among younger respondents and females in February than in May; but were similar among all age and gender groups in May 2021.<sup>7</sup>

### How would you describe the safety and security situation in your local community compared to before the first SOE and start of COVID in March last year?



COVID-19 (91%) remained the most common perceived **threat to security in respondents' local area**, and to a greater extent than in February 2021 (77%) and December 2020 (70%). Accordingly, the perceived threat of Martial Arts Groups declined (4%, down from 11% in February 2021). Unlike in February 2021, similar proportions of those living in Dili (95%) and outside Dili (90%) perceived COVID-19 to be the greatest threat. However, younger respondents aged 17-24 (98%) were more likely to report COVID-19 to be the greatest threat, while older respondents aged 45 or over (86%) were less likely to report this.

### Since March 2020, what has been the most common threat to security in your area?

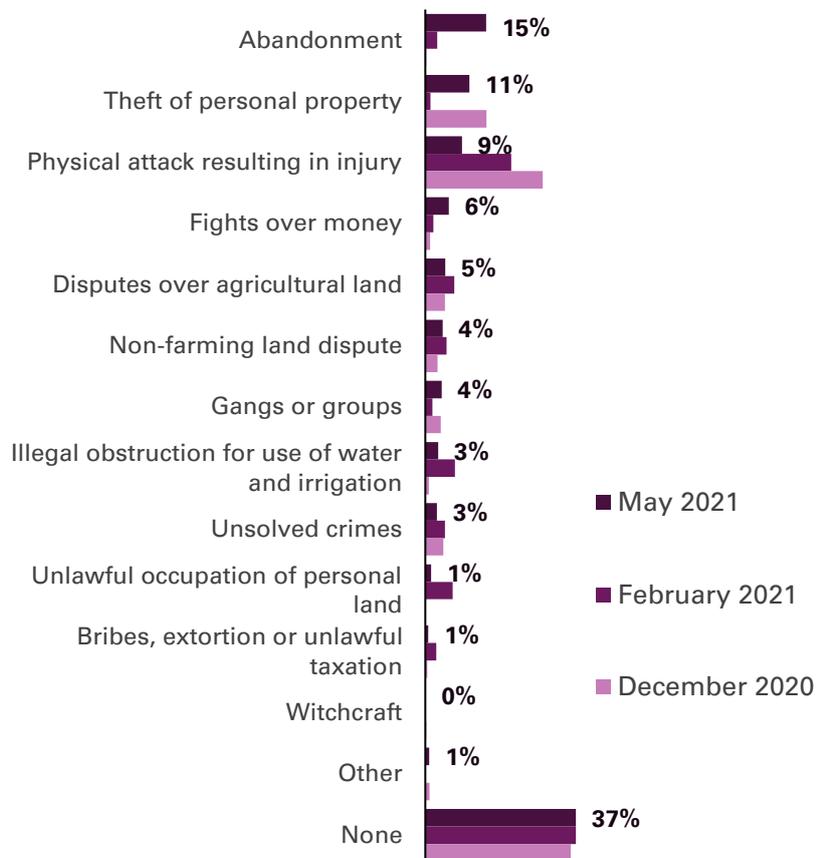


The majority (63%) of respondents felt there was at least one **cause of conflict in their area** (unchanged from February 2021 and December 2020).

<sup>7</sup> 57% for 17-24 year old's compared to 36% for over 45 years in February) and 49% for females compared to 42% of men in February)

The most common perceived causes of conflict were abandonment (15%, up from 3% in February 2021), theft of personal property (11%, up from 1% in February 2020 but in line with 15% in December 2020) and physical attack resulting in injury (9%, down from 21% in February 2020 and 29% in December 2020).

### What are the most common causes of conflict in your area?



## Governance and participation

Overall perceptions of the GoTL were positive, but have been slightly less positive in each survey round since December 2020. Sixty one percent felt the government was doing a ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ good job carrying out its responsibilities in May 2021, in line with 63% in February 2021 but down from 75% in December 2020. Eleven percent also felt the government was doing a ‘somewhat’ or ‘very’ bad job – the highest negative response since December 2020

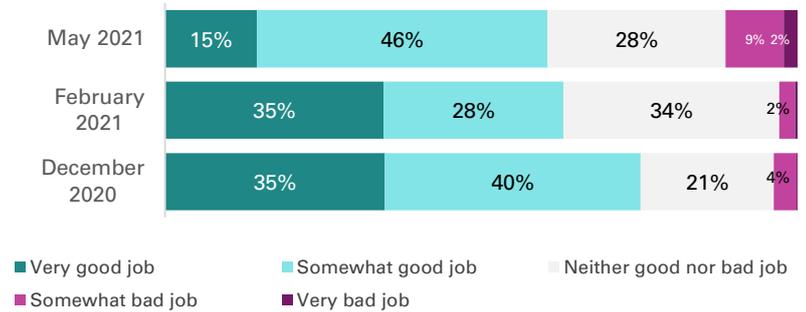
Nearly all respondents (91%) agreed the National Parliament represents the people, however this was slightly lower than 96% in February 2021 and December 2020.

As in previous survey rounds, perceptions of the way the government was carrying out its responsibilities were more positive among those living in Dili (73%), compared to those living outside Dili (56%).

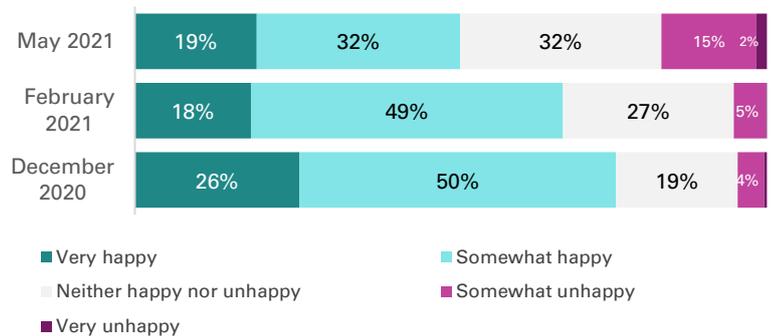
Only around half (51%) of respondents were ‘very’ or ‘somewhat’ happy with the current level of government consultation with citizens, lower than 67% in February 2021 and 76% in December 2020.

Perceptions of the current level of consultation were least positive among younger respondents aged 17-24 (43%) and highest among those aged 25-34 (61%).

### Overall, how do you feel about the way the government of Timor-Leste is carrying out its responsibilities?



### What would you say about the current level of government consultation with the citizens to address important problems facing the country?

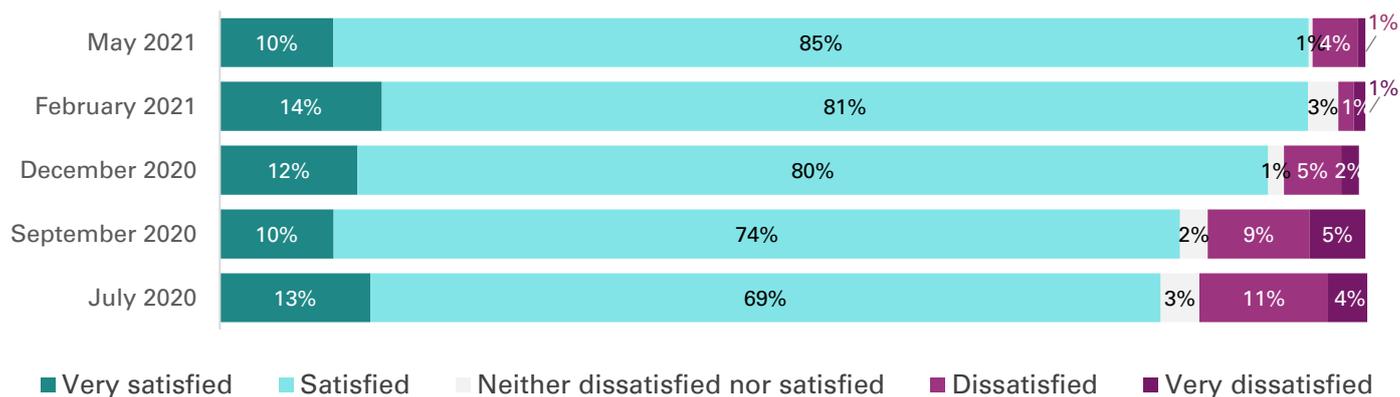


## Household duties

Satisfaction with the way household tasks are divided up between them and their spouse or partner was very high (95%) and in line with February 2021. While dissatisfaction was slightly higher than in February (5%, slightly up from 2%), this figure was lower than in all other previous survey rounds.

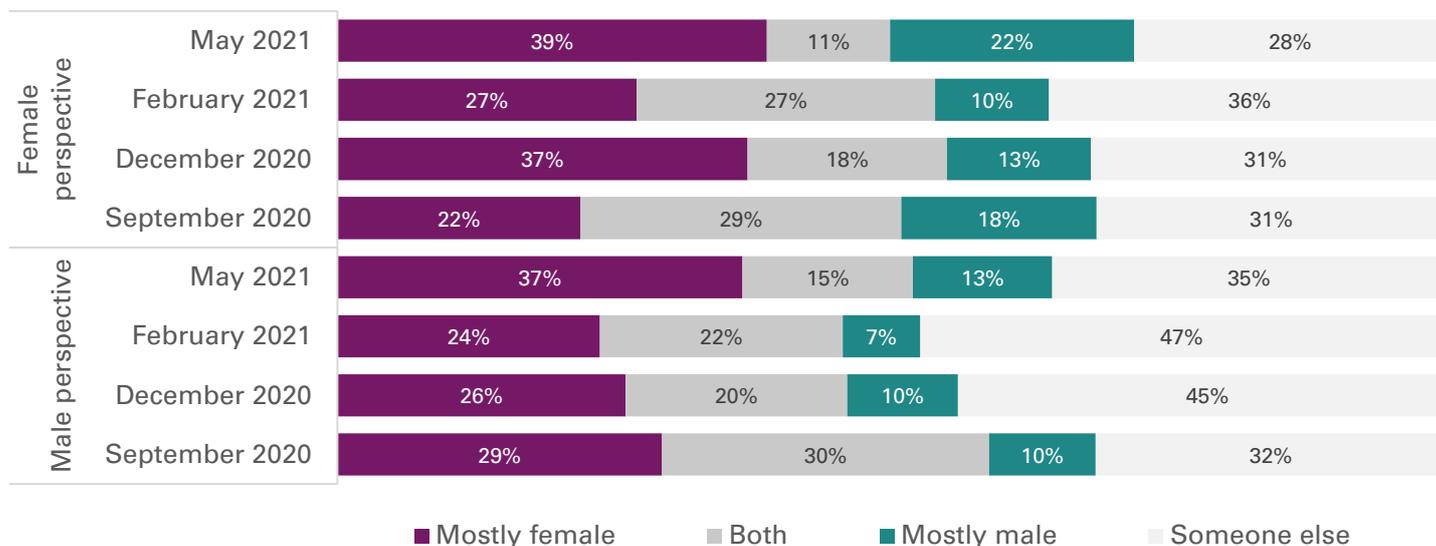
As observed in previous survey rounds, satisfaction with the division of work between individuals and their spouse or partner was the same among males and females (95%), despite uneven distributions of male and female labor across household tasks.

### How satisfied are you with the way household tasks are divided between you and your spouse or partner?



Respondents were asked about the distribution of various household chores between themselves, their spouse or partner, or someone else (such as a relative, child or roommate). As in previous survey rounds, men tended to attribute more work to their partners than to themselves (on average, across all household tasks, men attribute 37% of the work to their partners, and 13% to themselves) and women attribute more work to themselves (attributing 22% to their partners, 39% to themselves). However, in May 2021 females were more likely to attribute tasks to their partner (22%, up from 10-18% in previous rounds) and both males and females were less likely to say that the work is shared equally (11-15%, compared to 18-30%).

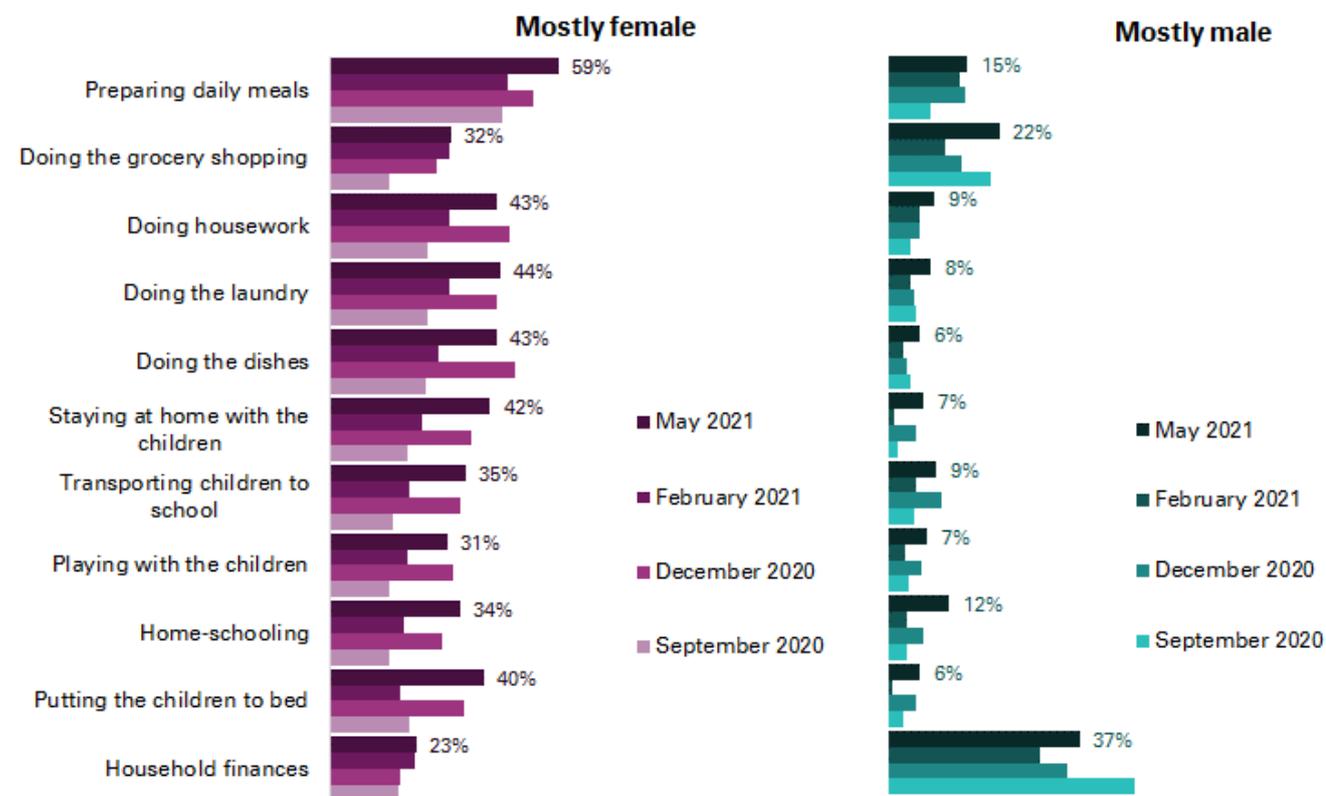
### Perception of task distribution (average across all items)



All tasks, except for household finances (mostly performed by men in 37% of households, mostly by women in 23%), were performed mostly by women.

As in previous rounds, household tasks involving caretaking of children were amongst the most likely to be equally shared; but were still more likely to be the primary responsibility of women.

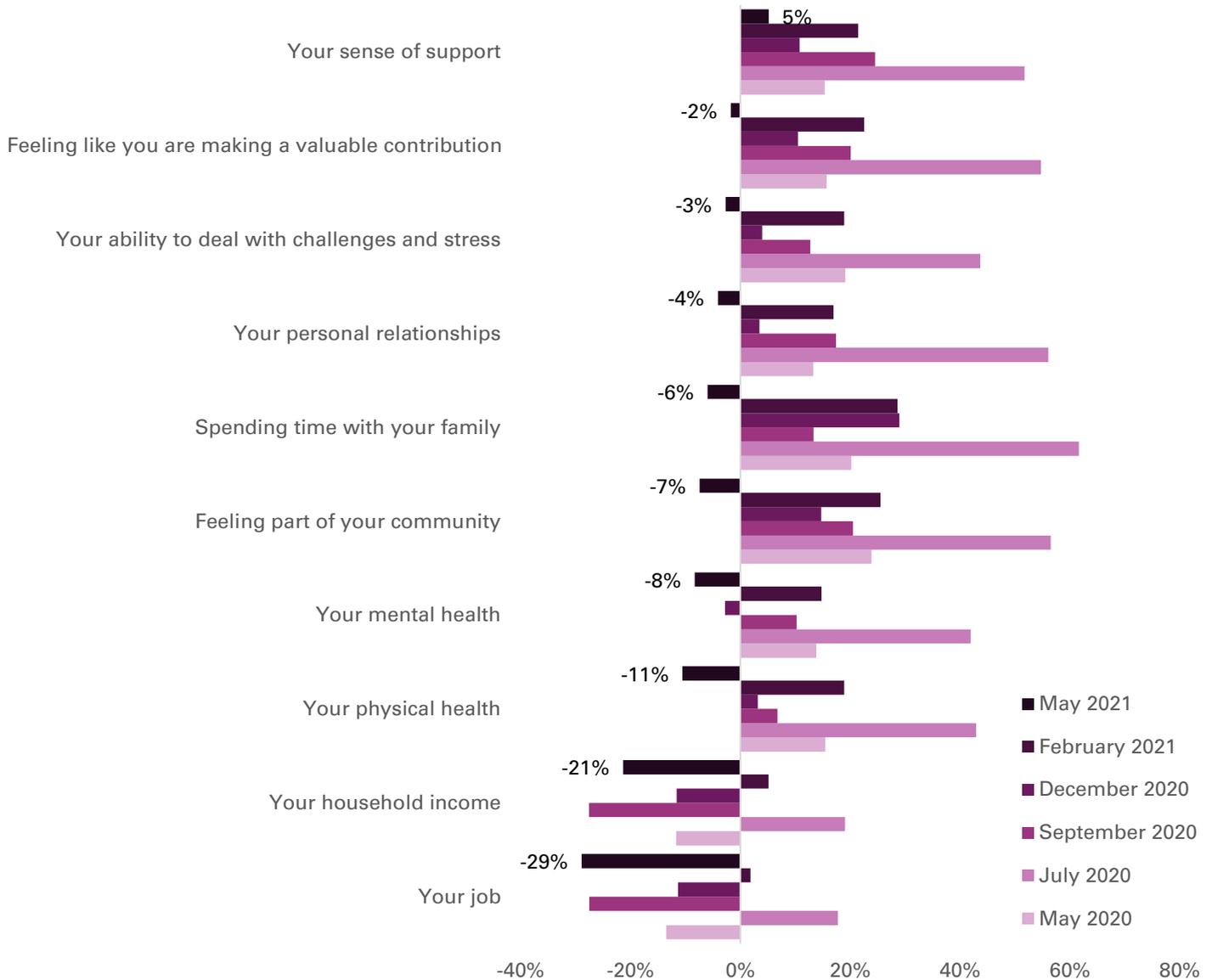
### Task distribution (perception from own gender)



## Social and economic impacts

### Perceived personal impact of COVID-19 [Net balance: positive impact *minus* negative impact]

Respondents were asked to identify how COVID-19 had impacted them personally across a range of aspects of their life—whether they had been impacted positively, negatively, or not really affected at all. The resulting *net balance* scores (positive sentiment minus negative sentiment) show that for most aspects in May 2021, respondents viewed the impact of COVID-19 on their life as somewhat more *negative* than positive. This was in contrast to the pattern observed in previous survey rounds, where respondents tended to report generally more *positive* impacts from COVID-19 (except for household income and jobs).



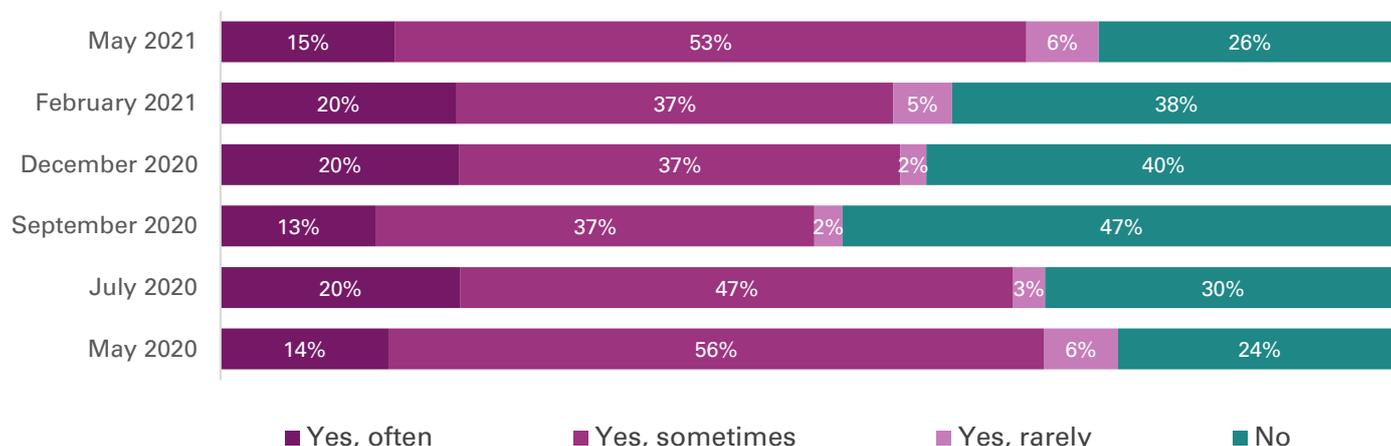
Between 35-53% of respondents said they had been negatively impacted by COVID-19 on each aspect, while between 24-40% felt each aspect had a positive impact.

Net scores for all aspects were the lowest recorded across all previous survey rounds, except for household income. The only net positive impact was for respondents' sense of support (5%), which was lower than in previous rounds. Impacts on jobs (-29%) and household income (-21%) had the lowest net scores, lower than in February 2021 and December 2020, but more closely in line with September 2020.

Around three quarters (74%) of respondents indicated they had been forced to skip or cut the size of a meal at least once in the past month because of a lack of money. This proportion has increased each survey round since September (53%); but was similar to the proportion observed in May 2020 (76%).

A similar proportion (75%) said that someone else in the household had also skipped or cut the size of a meal in that time due to lack of money, up from 62% in February 2021.

### In the past 30 days, had to cut the size of a meal or skip a meal because there wasn't enough money for food?

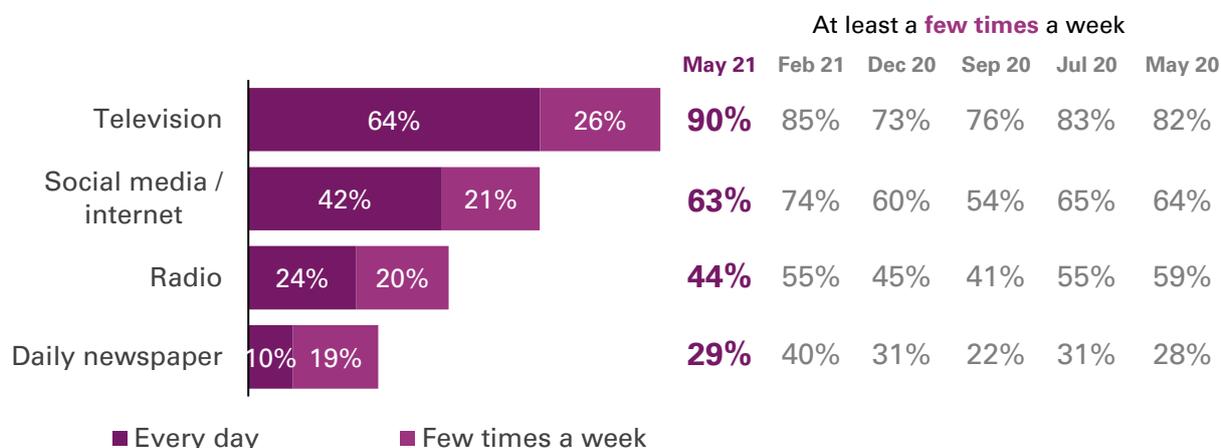


### News and information

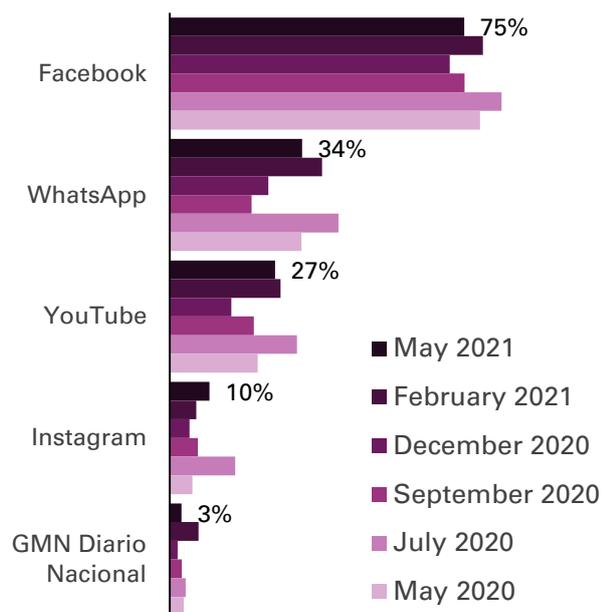
As in previous rounds, television was the most frequently used channel for media and entertainment (90% used this at least a few times per week, the highest levels since the start of the survey in May 2020). Compared to February 2021, respondents were less likely to use social media and the internet (63%, down from 74%), listen to the radio (44%, down from 55%) and read newspapers (29%, down from 40%). Levels of usage were similar to December 2020.

Those living in Dili reported greater usage of all channels compared to those outside Dili.

Social media usage was highest among younger respondents aged 17-24 (81% 'every day' or 'few times a week') and declined with age. However, younger respondents aged 17-24 were less likely to use all other channels compared to older age groups.



### Top 5 most used websites or apps



### In their household...

- 83%** Have their own phone
- 90%** Access the internet using a phone
- 77%** Often use websites or apps

Eighty-three percent of respondents had their own phone, similar to previous rounds (79-82%). As in February 2021, younger respondents aged 17-24 years old (78%) were less likely to have their own phone compared to older age groups (84-87%). Females (78%) were also less likely to have their own phone than males (88%).

Ninety percent reported that they or someone in the household accessed the internet or social media on their phone.<sup>8</sup> This figure has increased each survey round since 76% in July 2020. Dili residents (96%, compared to 87% of those living outside Dili) were more likely to access the internet via their phones.

Seventy-seven percent of respondents indicated using some apps or websites frequently (whether on their phone, someone else's phone, or by other means), in line with previous rounds. As in February 2021, those living in Dili (90%) and aged 17-24 (90%) were more likely to use websites or apps regularly.

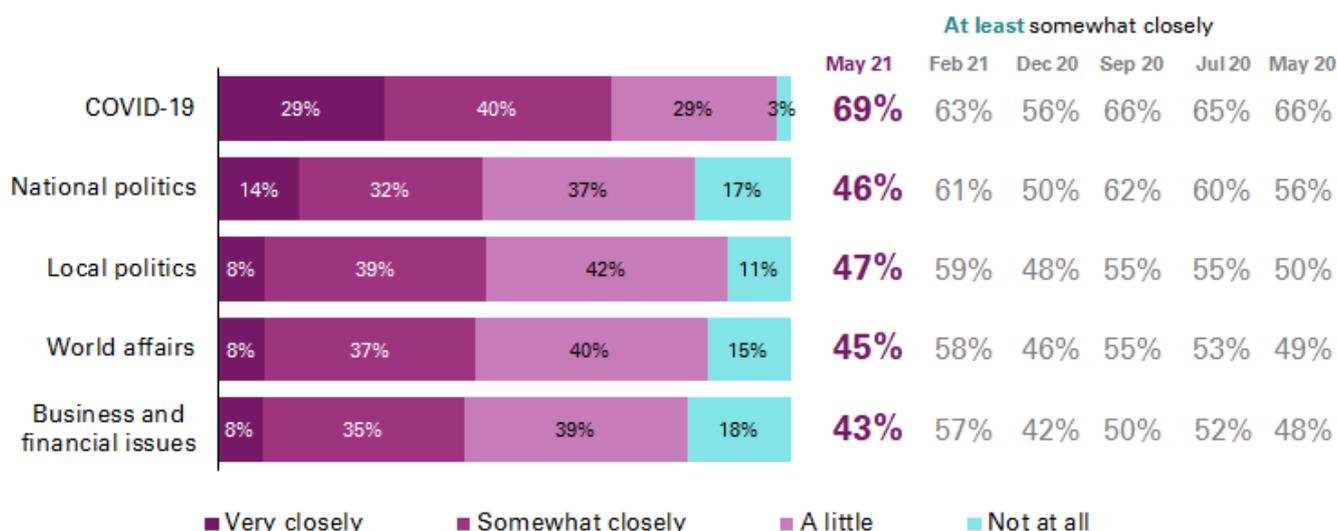
Usage of each website/ app were similar to previous rounds, with Facebook (75%) remaining by far the most commonly used, followed by WhatsApp (34%) and YouTube (27%).

<sup>8</sup> As the survey was conducted over the telephone, all respondents had access to a telephone. As a comparison, in the 2018 Tatoli Survey, 76% of respondents provided a mobile phone number and only 33% of respondents said they had access to the internet.

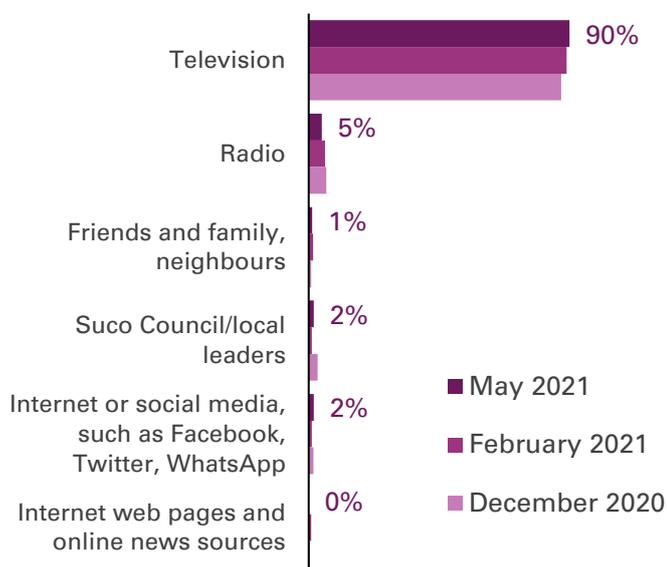
COVID-19 remained the most closely followed news topic in May 2021. Respondents were slightly more likely to be following COVID-19 at least somewhat closely than in previous survey rounds (69%, up from 56-66%). Conversely, lower proportions of respondents reported they were following other topics at least somewhat closely.

As observed in previous rounds, respondents living in Dili were more likely to be following each topic more closely than those living outside Dili. In general, engagement with each topic also declined with age.

### How closely do you follow each of the following topics?



### What source of news and information do you trust the most?



Television remained by far the most trusted source of information (90%, in line with 89% in February 2021).<sup>9</sup> As observed in previous rounds, Dili residents were more likely to report television was their most trusted source (97%, compared to 88% of those living outside Dili).

Younger respondents aged 17-24 were slightly more likely to report television was the most trusted source (94%) compared to older age groups (86-90%).

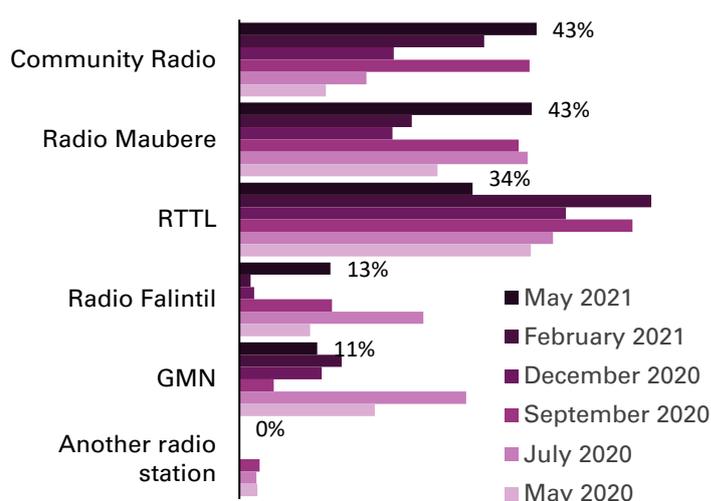
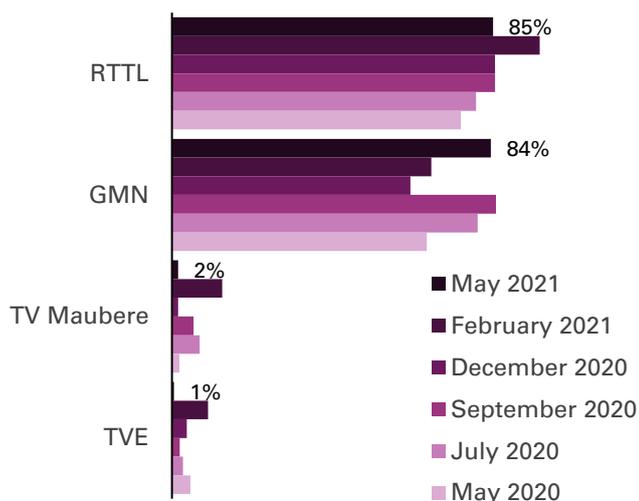
<sup>9</sup> Please note that in Round 4 this question was asked about sources of news and information in general. In previous rounds, this question was asked in relation to COVID-19 and other news information separately.

When asked which television channels respondents watch, RTTL (85%) and GMN (84%) were by far the most commonly watched channels. The proportion of respondents who watched GMN most often was higher than in February 2021 (68%) and December 2020 (63%). Respondents living outside Dili were more likely to watch RTTL (90%, compared to 71% of those living in Dili) in May 2021. Younger respondents aged 17-24 (90%) were also more likely to watch GMN than older age groups, particularly those aged 45 or over (78%).

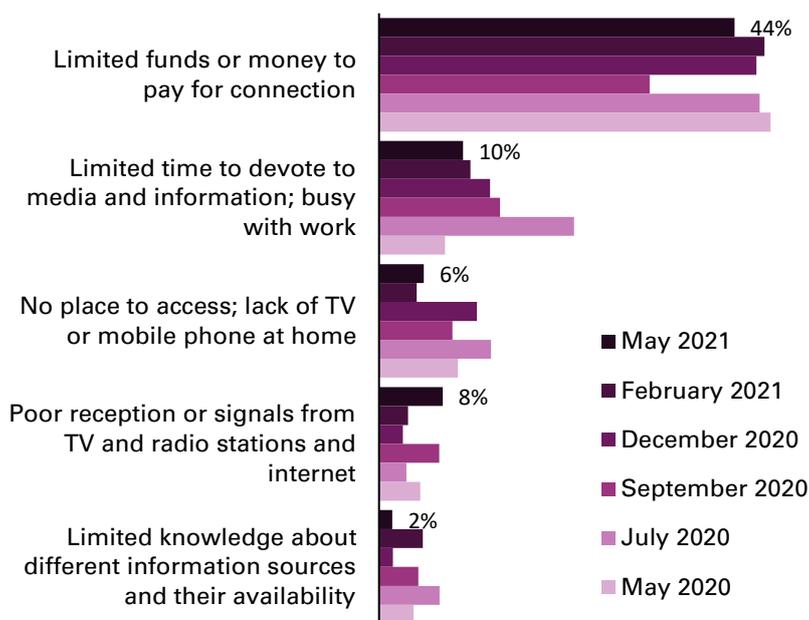
Respondents were also asked what radio stations they listened to. Community Radio (43%) and Radio Maubere (43%) were the most popular stations, up from February 2021. RTTL was the third most popular station (34%), lower than in previous survey rounds (43-61%).

### What television channels do you most often watch?

### What radio stations do you most often listen to?



### Top 5 challenges in accessing information



While most respondents in May 2021 reported at least one challenge in accessing information (77%), this figure has declined each round since 88% in December 2020.

Limited funds or money to pay for a connection remained the most common challenge (44%), followed by limited time to devote to media and information (10%).

Limited funds was more commonly reported as a challenge among those living in Dili (56%) than those outside Dili (35%).

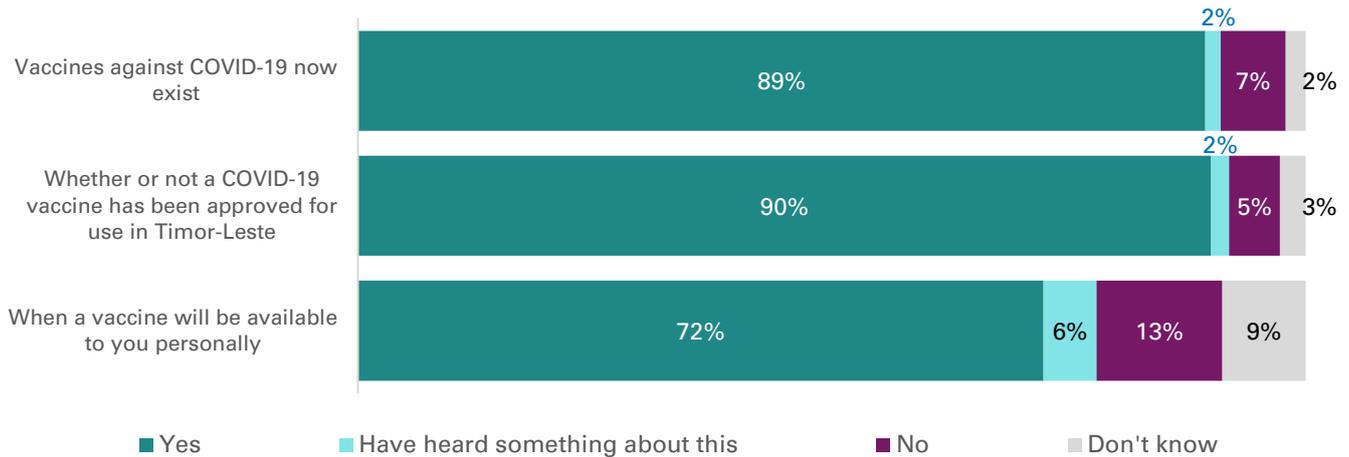
## Vaccination questions

**Note:** *Don't know* and *refused* responses are included in the base size for all questions in this section.

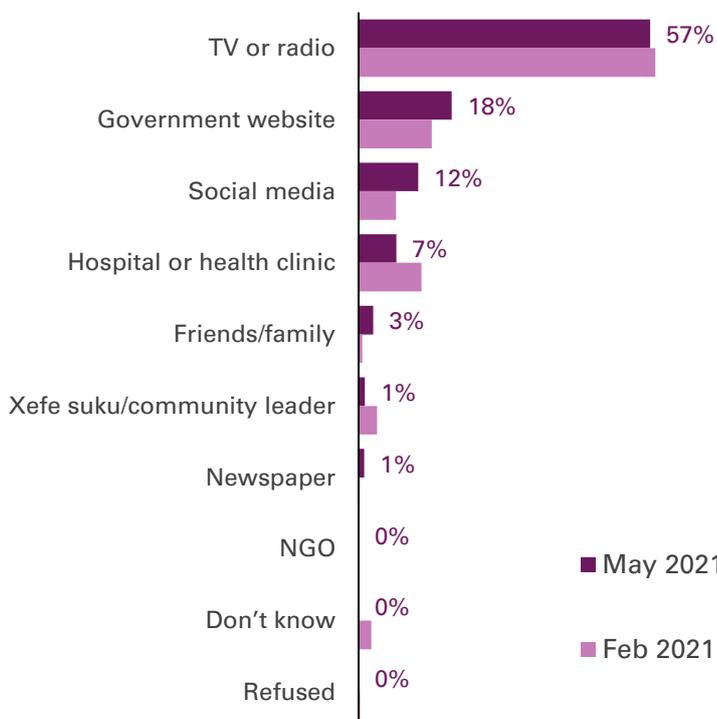
Most respondents were aware that vaccines against COVID-19 now exist (89%) and that a COVID-19 vaccine had been approved for use in Timor-Leste (90%). However, respondents were less likely to be aware of when a vaccine would be available to them personally (72%).

Awareness of the vaccine itself was similar among all demographic groups, but awareness of when it would be available to them personally was higher among those living in Dili (78%, compared to 70% of those outside Dili).

### Do you know:



### Where did you hear about the COVID-19 vaccine?

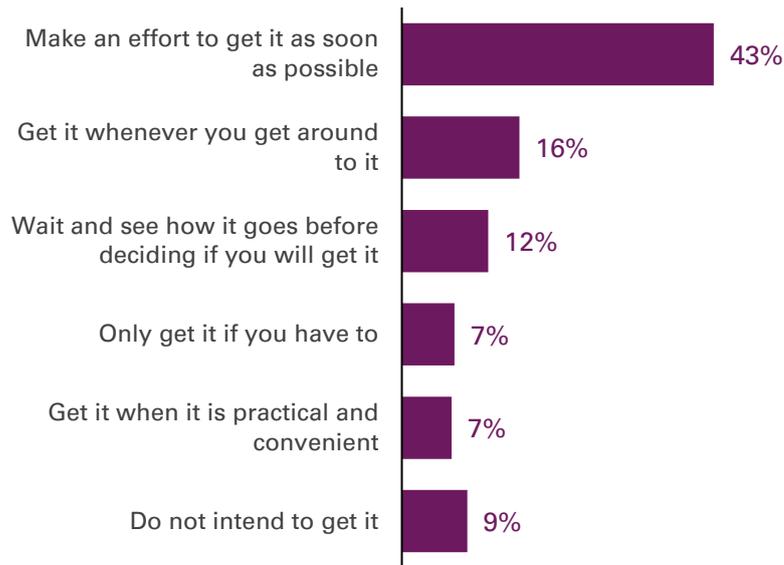


Those who had heard of the vaccine were most likely to have heard about it through TV or radio (57%, in line with 58% in February 2021), a government website (18%, in line with 14%) or social media (12%, slightly up from 7%).

Respondents aged 17-24 years were the least likely to say they heard of the vaccine through TV or radio (45%, compared to 57-57% of the older age groups). However, they were more likely to have heard of it through social media (21%, compared to 3-13%).

As in February 2021, respondents in Dili were less likely to have heard about the vaccine on TV or radio (48%) and more likely to have heard about it on a government website (37%) compared to those outside Dili.

**Which of the following best describes how you feel about getting the COVID vaccine?**

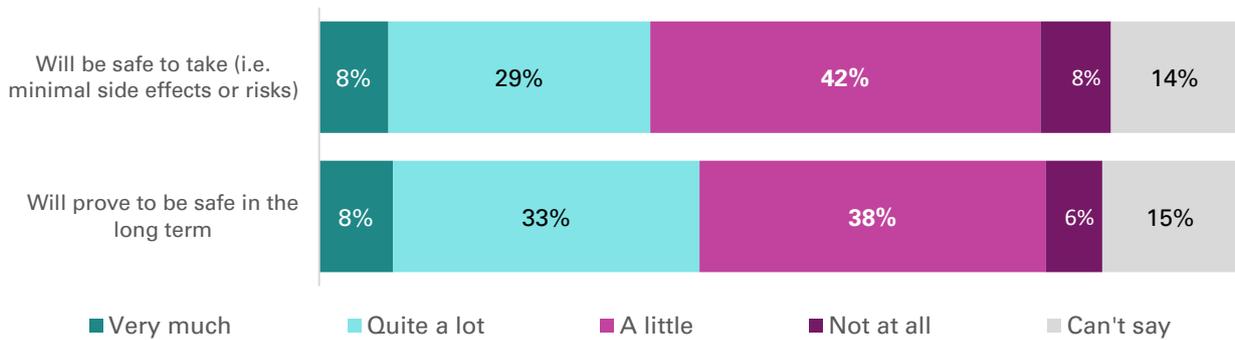


Forty-three percent of respondents indicated they would make an effort to get the vaccine as soon as possible. Only 9% reported they did not intend to get it.

Those aged 45 or over (47%) were slightly more likely to make an effort to get it as soon as possible, while those aged 35-44 were least likely (37%).

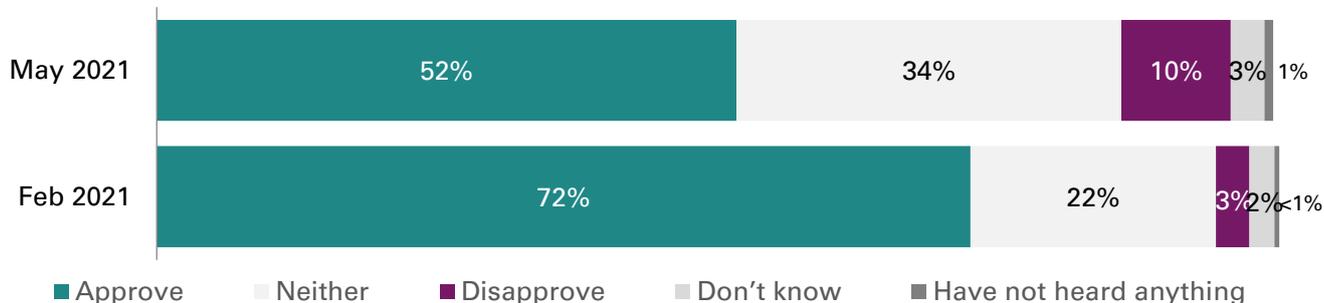
When asked about the perceived safety of the vaccine, less than half of respondents expected the vaccine would be safe to take (37% 'very much' or 'quite a lot') and would prove to be safe in the long term (41%).

**From what you have seen and heard at the moment, how much do you expect a vaccine...**



Around half (52%) of respondents approved of Timor-Leste’s vaccination plan (down from 72% in February). Males (57%) and those living outside Dili (54%) were more likely to approve of the plan, however this was due to greater proportions of their counterparts providing neutral responses, rather than expressing disapproval.

**From what you have seen, read, or heard, how strongly do you approve or disapprove of Timor-Leste’s vaccination plan?**



Note: In February 2021 this question was only asked of those aware of the vaccine, but was asked of all respondents in May 2021.

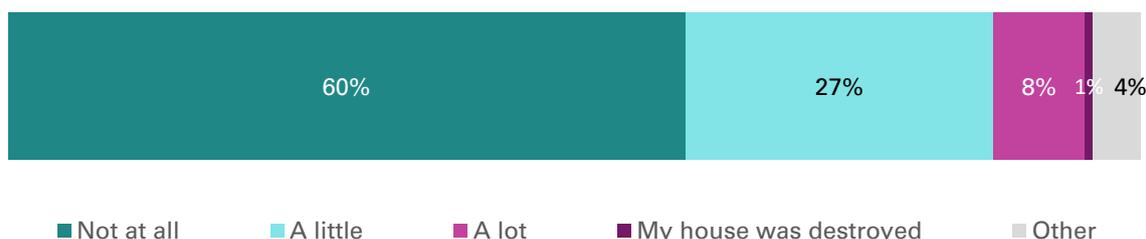
## Impact of flood and cyclone

The majority (60%) of respondents indicated the house they normally live in was not affected by the cyclone and/or flooding, while around one quarter (27%) indicated their house was 'a little' affected. Nine percent reported their house was affected 'a lot' or was destroyed. Those living outside Dili were less likely to be affected at all (66% 'not at all', compared to 42% of those living in Dili).

Nearly all (96%) respondents were still living in their own house at the time of the survey, while three percent were living in a family member's house.

Sixteen percent indicated there had been more people living in their household since the cyclone and flooding, and in most cases (95%) these additional people were still in their household at the time the survey was conducted.

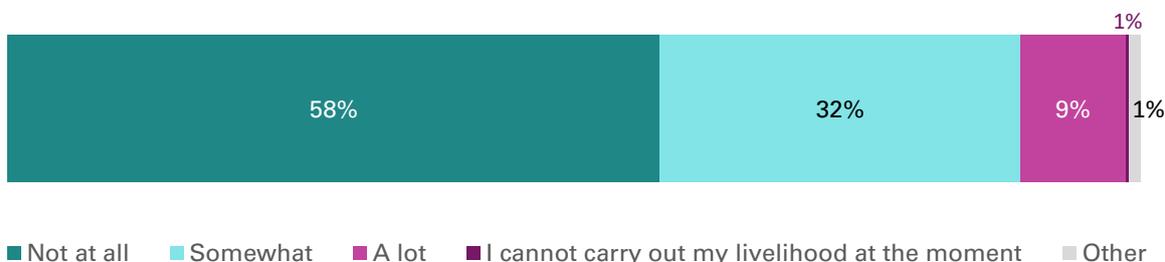
### Was the house you normally live in affected by the Cyclone and/or flooding?



The majority (58%) of respondents reported their ability to earn their livelihood was 'not at all' affected by the cyclone and flooding, while around one third (32%) reported it was 'somewhat' affected. Ten percent were affected 'a lot' or could not carry out their livelihood at that time.

Those living outside Dili were less likely to be affected (64% 'not at all', compared to 38% of those living in Dili). Younger respondents aged 17-24 were also less likely to be affected (72% 'not at all', compared to 50-54% of older age groups).

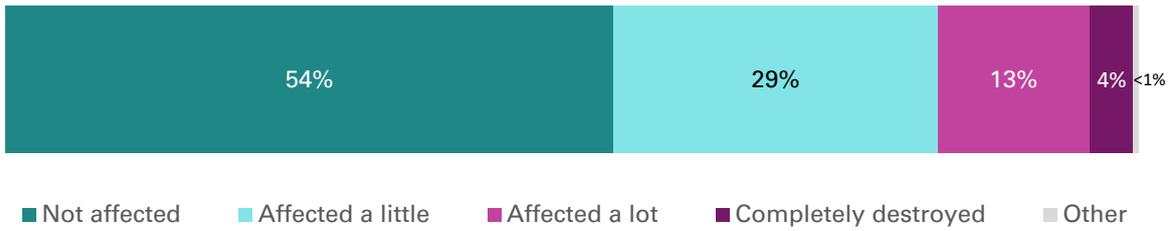
### Has earning your livelihood been affected by the cyclone and flooding?



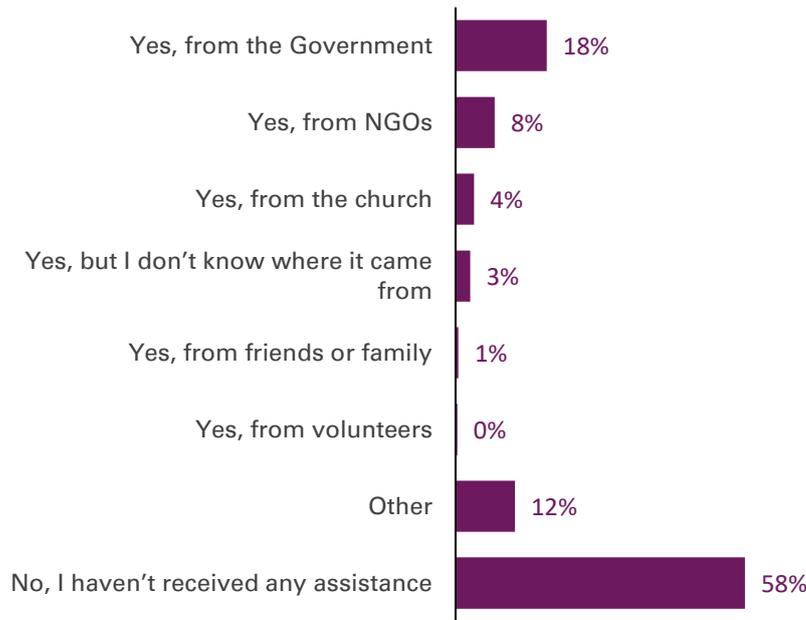
Respondents were asked whether they usually buy or grow more of their household's food. The majority of respondents bought more of their household's food (58%), while forty percent grew more food.

Among those who usually grew more food, around half (54%) reported their crops had not been affected at all by the cyclone and flooding. Seventeen percent reported their crops had been affected 'a lot' or been completely destroyed. Those living outside Dili were less likely to report their crops had been affected (56%, compared to 29%).

### How were your crops affected by the cyclone and flooding?



**Have you received any assistance directly as a result of the cyclone or flooding?**

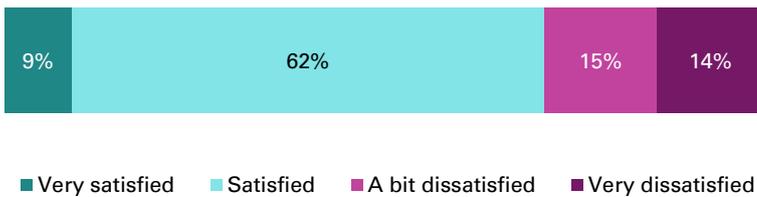


Forty-two percent of those affected by the cyclone or flooding had received some form of assistance. Most commonly these respondents had received assistance from the government (18%) or NGOs (8%).

Those living in Dili were more likely to have received assistance (55%, compared to 36% of those outside Dili), particularly government assistance (32%, compared to 13%) and from the church (13%, compared to 0%).

Younger respondents aged 17-24 were also more likely to have received assistance (57%). Likelihood of receiving assistance declined with age, to 32% among those aged 45 years or over.

**How satisfied are you with the response of the government to the cyclone and flooding?**



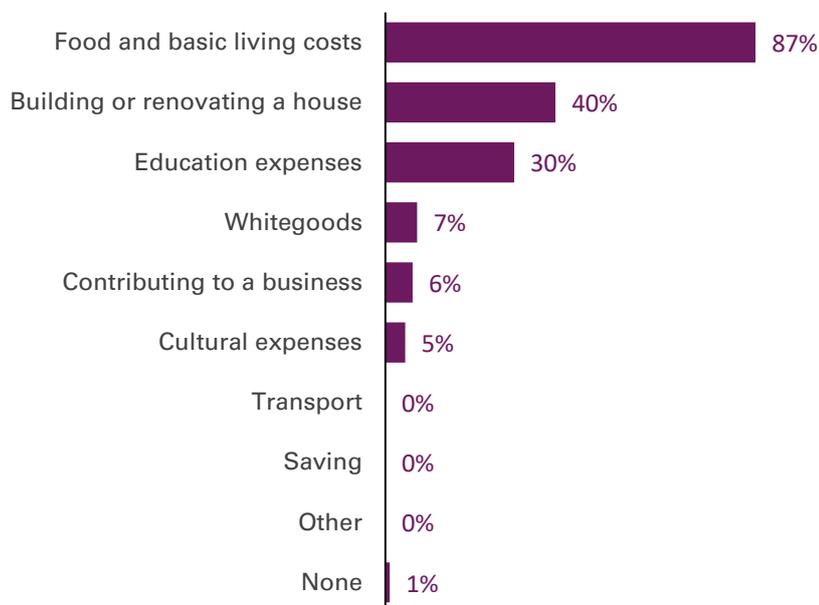
The majority of respondents (71%) were satisfied with the government's response to the cyclone and flooding. Satisfaction was higher among those living in Dili (81%, compared to 67%) and those aged 25-34 (76%, compared to 67-72%).

## Income support from family/ friends overseas

Since the start of the State of Emergency in March 2020, 20% of respondents had received money from a friend or family overseas. Those living in Dili (33%, compared to 15% of those outside Dili), younger respondents aged 17-24 (25%, compared to 15-22% of older age groups) and females (25%, compared to 14% of males) were more likely to have received money.

Most (93%) of those who had received money had received less than USD 1,000.

### What have you used this money for?

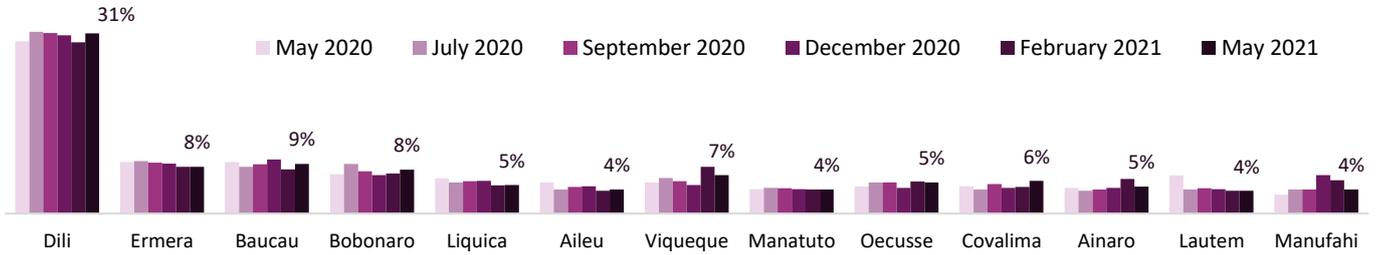


Money received from friends or family overseas was most commonly used for food and basic living costs (87%), building or renovating a house (40%) or for education expenses (30%).

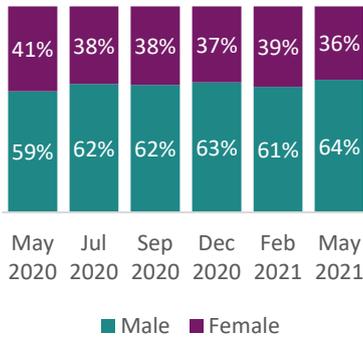
## Respondent profile

The profile of respondents below is based on **unweighted** data (raw counts of respondents, not adjusted to reflect the Timor-Leste population).

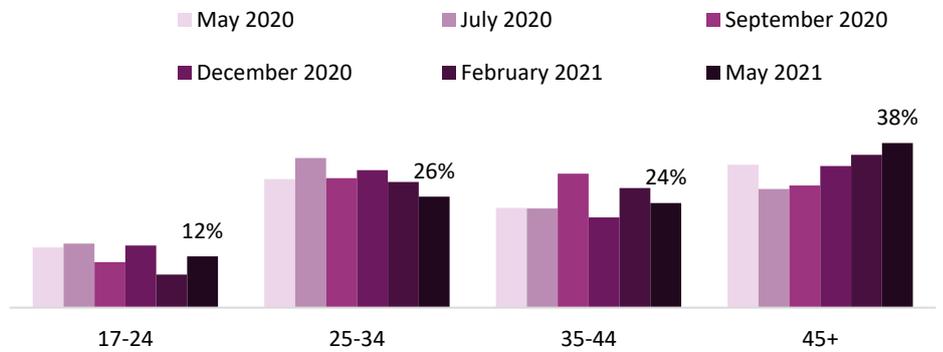
### Municipality



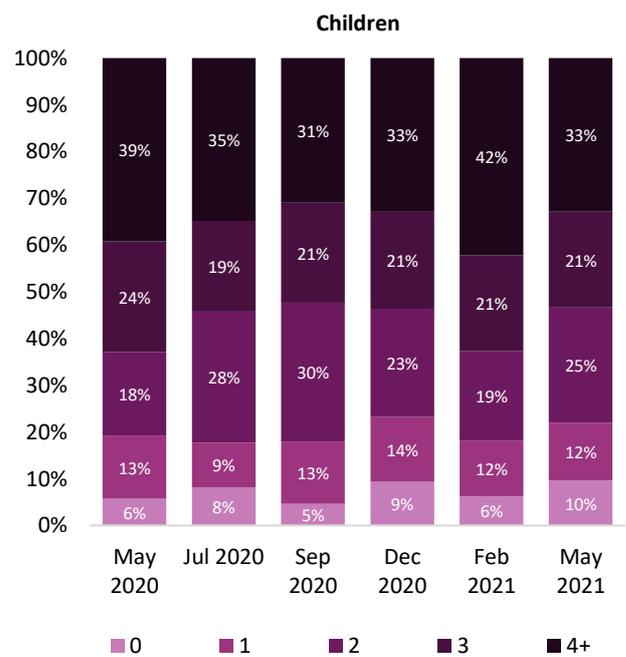
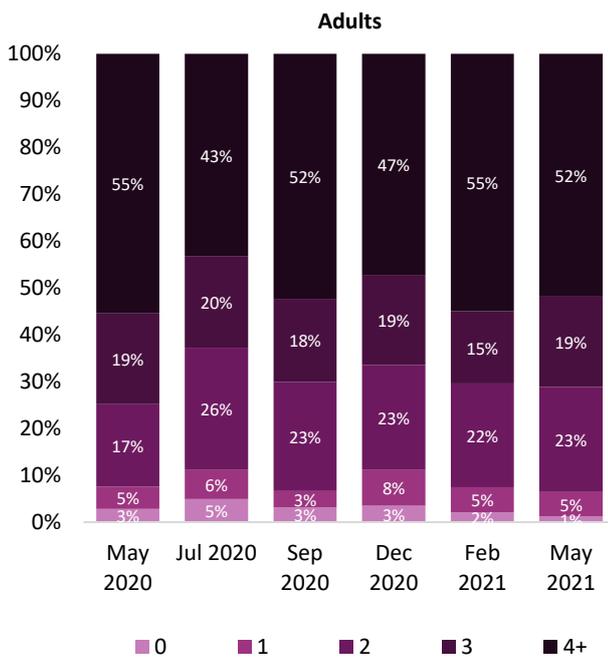
### Gender



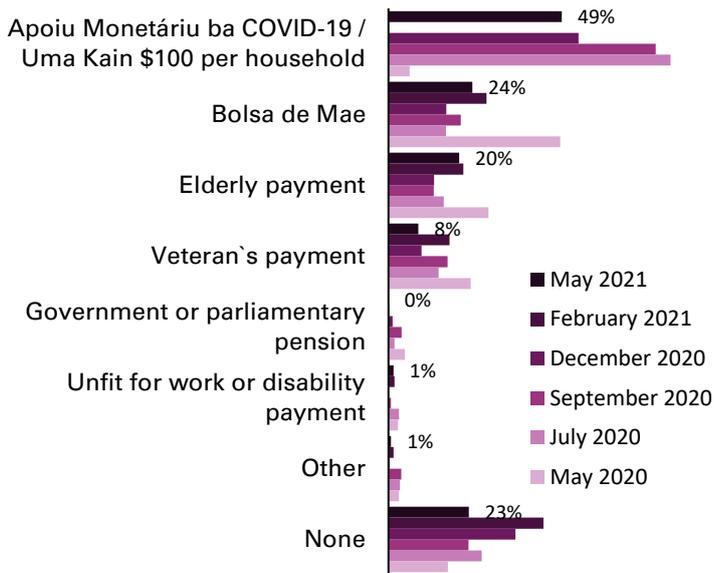
### Age



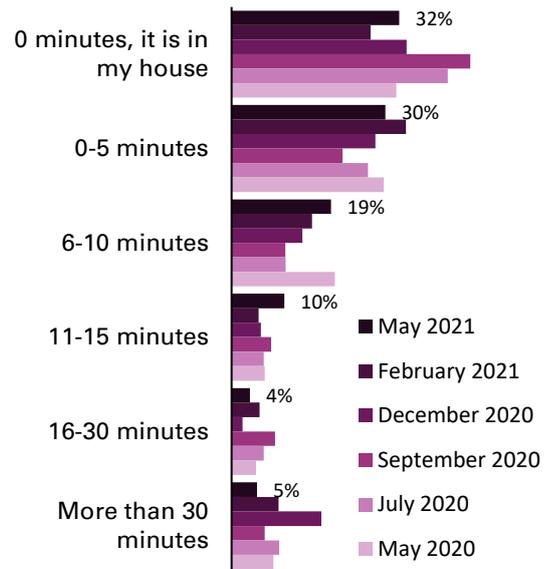
### Number of people in your household



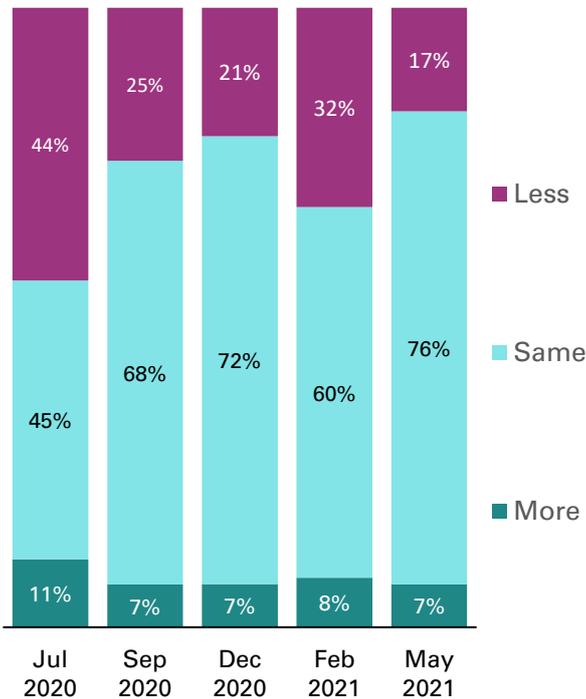
### Does your household receive any government payments?<sup>10</sup>



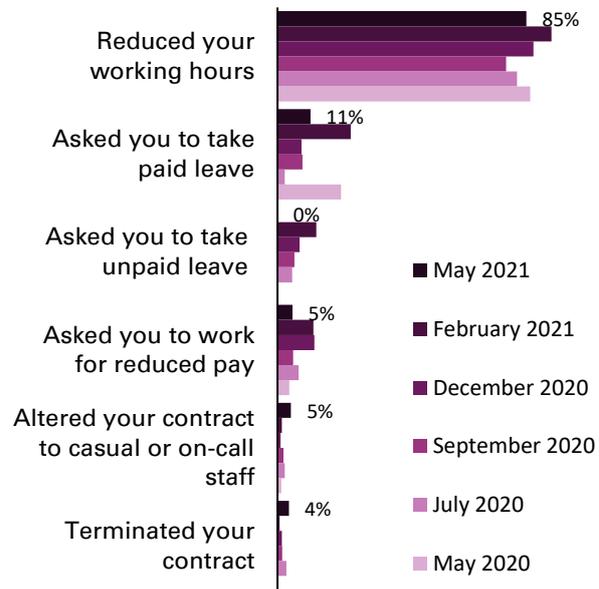
### On an ordinary day, how long does it take you to walk to fetch water?



### Hours worked (if employed) since start of State of Emergency



### (If hours have been reduced) Has your employer...



<sup>10</sup> Please note Apoiui Monetariu ba COVID-19 / Uma Kain \$100 per household payment was not included as a response option for this question in February 2021, hence no comparable data is available.

# Methodology

## How was the questionnaire developed?

The Asia Foundation led the development of the questionnaire, with ORIMA Research providing advice where appropriate. Questions were drawn from previous research The Asia Foundation had conducted, as well as the ORIMA Research COVID-19 Recovery Tracker survey, amongst other international COVID-19 surveys. The February survey included new sections on COVID-19 vaccination as well as a lot of common questions from previous rounds of the survey. The Asia Foundation oversaw the programming and translation of the questionnaire into Open Data Kit (ODK), an open-source survey software platform.

## How was the sample frame developed and how effective was it?

The sample frame for this survey was drawn from past Tatoli and Community Policing surveys The Asia Foundation had

conducted face-to-face. Cleaning of the sample involved the removal of blank / invalid / duplicate numbers (n=6,344).

When a number was dialed and a different person answered, this

person was able to also complete the survey. Whilst steps have been taken to make this survey as representative as possible, the sample from this project is classified as non-probability.

	Proposed minimum	May 20	Jul 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Feb 21	May 21
<b>Males in Dili</b>	38	70	78	80	73	72	78
<b>Females in Dili</b>	38	57	50	48	52	56	50
<b>Males non-Dili</b>	150	179	174	172	181	189	182
<b>Females non-Dili</b>	150	117	102	107	96	112	94

## How were the telephone interviews conducted?

To conduct the fieldwork, The Asia Foundation partnered with a Dili based NGO called Mata Dalan Institute (MDI). Most interviewers had previously worked on projects with The Asia Foundation, and many have now worked on multiple rounds of this survey. Staff from The Asia Foundation undertook callback recontact for validation purposes, with no major issues found. Monitoring was also conducted by staff from The Asia Foundation.

	May 20	Jul 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Feb 21	May 21
<b>Sample list</b>	2,307	1,192	534	681	442	414
<b>Refusals</b>	30	47	66	87	2	4
<b>Non-working numbers</b>	1,666	619	60	188	11	6
<b>Final dataset</b>	423	404	407	402	429	404
<b>Response rate<sup>11</sup></b>	19.9%	32.6%	76.2%	59.0%	97.1%	97.6%
<b>Fieldwork start</b>	19 May 20	18 July 20	21 Sept 20	3 Dec 20	20 Feb 21	1 May 21
<b>Fieldwork end</b>	25 May 20	17 July 20	2 Oct 20	8 Dec 20	2 Mar 21	8 May 21
<b>Median length of interview<sup>12</sup></b>	47m25s	41m30s	43m23s	47m57s	42m12s	57m21s
<b>Number of interviewers</b>	14	19	11	17	13	12

Nearly all surveys were conducted in Tetum, with only a handful conducted in Fataluku, Bahasa Indonesia or Baikenu. Respondents were sent a \$2 telephone credit for participating in the research.

<sup>11</sup> The response rate is calculated by the number of final survey completes coming from the sample frame divided by the number of valid phone numbers used from the sample frame.

<sup>12</sup> Excludes 25/29/28/26/15 cases where length was over 4 hours, most likely due to not pressing the final "submit" button.

## What steps have been taken to ensure the data is representative of the Timor-Leste population?

The research was designed to be as representative as possible of the adult (17+) population of Timor-Leste as defined by the 2015 Census. Considerations in the sampling included the need to enable comparisons between Dili and other municipalities, as well as being practical within the relatively short timeframe and limited sample.

Minimum quotas (see above) were set to ensure appropriate gender and geographic coverage. One quota, in relation to females outside of Dili, has never been met. Additionally, individual municipalities outside of Dili had minimum quotas proportionate to their population. The minimum quota required for each municipality was 10. Municipalities with higher populations (such as Baucau and Ermera) had minimum quotas of 25.

In each round, the sample was weighted to population benchmarks as defined in the 2015 census. This is to correct response bias from males and middle ages, as well as slight Dili over-sampling. Random Iterative Method (RIM) weighting using the anesrake package in R studio was chosen as the most appropriate weighting method with consideration to future

	Population (N=662,285)	May 20 UW (n=423)	Jul 20 UW (n=404)	Sep 20 UW (n=407)	Dec 20 UW (n=402)	Feb 21 UW (n=429)	May 21 UW (n=404)
Age							
17-24	28%	14%	15%	11%	14%	8%	12%
25-44	41%	53%	58%	61%	53%	57%	50%
45-120	31%	33%	27%	28%	33%	35%	38%
Gender							
Male	50%	59%	62%	62%	63%	61%	64%
Female	50%	41%	38%	38%	37%	39%	36%
Location							
Dili	26%	30%	32%	31%	31%	30%	31%
Not Dili	74%	70%	68%	69%	69%	70%	69%

comparability, simplicity and representation of the population. The variables used for weighting, the proportions within population and unweighted proportions are shown to the right.

## What data processing steps were taken?

Once ORIMA received the data, the following data processing steps were conducted:

- A duplicate check and speeder check was conducted.
- String question responses in Tetun were translated by The Asia Foundation.
- "Don't know" answers in multiple-response question were made exclusive.
- Back-coding was conducted where appropriate.
- Variable labels and value labels were checked and modified for the purposes of reporting.
- Weighting was conducted as above.

Answers indicating a type of non-response (such as "Don't know", "Not applicable" and "Refused") have been removed from the base in this report, unless indicated otherwise.

## How confident can I be in the results?

	May 20	Jul 20	Sep 20	Dec 20	Feb 21	May 21
Number of responses	423	404	407	402	429	404
Statistical margin of error	±4.8%	±4.9%	±4.9%	±4.9%	±4.8%	±4.9%

The statistical margin of error is calculated using a proportion percentage of 50% at the 95% confidence level. While margin of error does not technically apply to non-probability samples, this can still be used as a general guide when determining whether results are actually different or only different by chance. Other factors, such as the sampling method, non-response bias and measurement error should also be taken into consideration when interpreting results. Figures within text that are flagged as different amongst sub-groups were found as significant to at least one other category when using a Welch T-test at a 95% confidence interval with a Bonferroni correction within the cTables interface of SPSS. Analysis of differences amongst sub-groups are subject to higher margins of error and these tests take this into account. However, they must only be used as a general guide. Tests are not highlighted where no sub-group difference existed. For example, there were few differences by gender. Within this report, not all figures will add up to 100% due to rounding.

## About The Asia Foundation

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Working through our offices in 18 countries and informed by deep local expertise and six decades of experience, we address the critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century by: strengthening governance, expanding economic opportunity, increasing environmental resilience, empowering women, and promoting international cooperation. In Timor-Leste, the Foundation is currently focused on strengthening governance and policy, ending violence against women, developing inclusive tourism, and promoting peace and justice.

For more information about The Asia Foundation please visit [asiafoundation.org](http://asiafoundation.org), or contact:

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**Address:** Avenida Luro Mata, Bairro Metin II, Bebonuk - Dili, Timor-Leste **Tel:** + 670 331-3457

## About ORIMA Research

ORIMA Research is an Australian social research company that specializes in the government and not-for-profit sectors. ORIMA has worked extensively with The Asia Foundation since 2015, including on data processing, survey methodology and analysis and reporting.

For more information about ORIMA Research please visit our website [www.orima.com.au](http://www.orima.com.au), or contact:

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This report was produced in accordance with the international standard ISO20252.