



UNHCR ACNUR

La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

RAPID NEEDS ASSESMENT

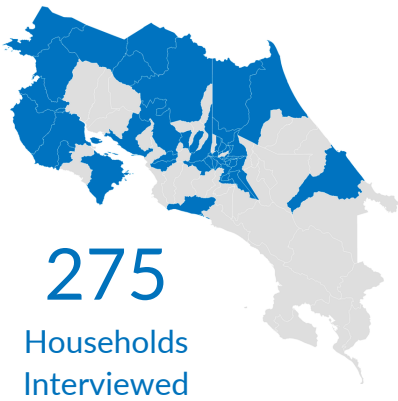
Impact of COVID-19 on Nicaraguan PoC

Costa Rica, August 2020

Objectives

- Assess the level of **access to basic goods and services** at the household level of Nicaraguan 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**.

Methodology



Target population: Nicaraguan asylum seekers and refugees

Geographical coverage: National

Method: Stratified Random Sampling

Type of interview: Remote (phone)

Enumerators: 21 UNHCR staff

Data collected: 30 Jul - 4 Aug 2020

Perceptions of priorities

The three main needs perceived by the surveyed households are:

#1 **92%**
Food

#2 **77%**
Shelter

#3 **50%**
Income sources

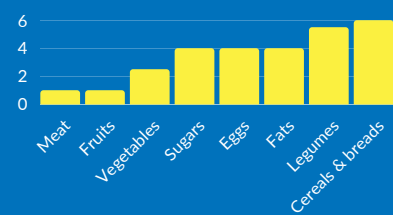
Food Security & Nutrition

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, **20%** of households consumed 2 meals a day while **77%** consumed 3 meals.



Now, **63%** of households report having 2 meals a day, while only **23%** consume 3 meals.

Food types by days consumed per week



Shelter

20% do not know where they will live next month.

25%

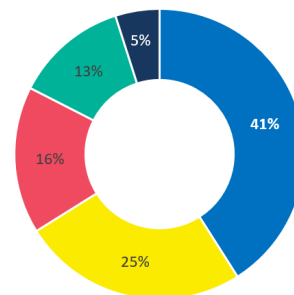


80%

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

Of these, 80% stated their inability to pay rent as the main reason

Current type of housing

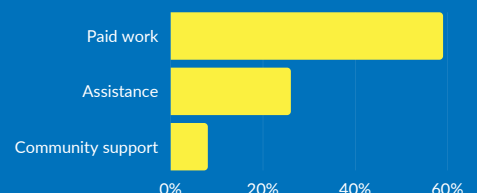


- Renting house or apartment
- Renting a room (not cuartería*)
- In someone else's house or apt.
- Renting a room (cuartería)
- Other

Sources of income

Before the pandemic, **93%** of the surveyed households reported having a paid job as their main source of income. Now this percentage has decreased to **59%**.

Current top 3 income sources

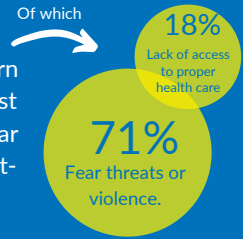


*"Cuarterías" refer to a type of housing where rooms in an apartment/house are rented individually, leading to various family groups living in a same apartment and sharing common areas, in most cases with sub-standard living conditions.

Protection

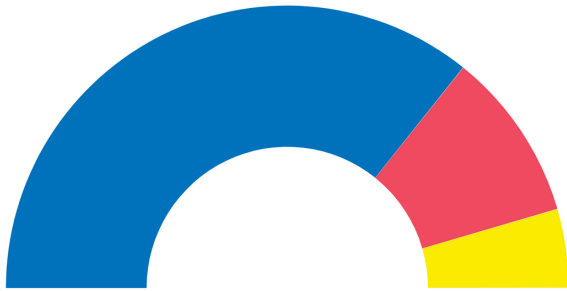
- 7% of households have had a family member return to Nicaragua since the start of COVID-19 and 21% of the households have at least one member who is considering returning. The main reasons given are reduced access to income in Costa Rica (90% of households) and lack of access to food (40%).
- Of households where at least one family member has considered returning to Nicaragua, 75% would plan to return to Costa Rica within the next year.

- 73% of households do not plan to return to Nicaragua in the near future. The most common response overall was due to fear of the government or government-related groups (47%)



- 31 households (11%) reported that a relative in Nicaragua had attempted to join them in Costa Rica since the border closure, but 90% were unsuccessful.

Insurance modality of insured heads of households (45% of total)



UNHCR-CCSS (71.5%) By employer (19.5%) Other (9%)

Health

57% of the households required medical services from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic



Of these, 43% had limitations in access mainly due to lack of affiliation to the national health system

53%

of heads of households lack health insurance under COVID-19

WASH

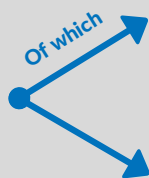
Almost 90% of the households have access to potable water whenever they need it.

Over 95% of the surveyed households claimed that their members wash their hands regularly with both water and soap. Over 27% regularly use hand sanitizer.



Assistance under COVID-19

62% of households have received some form of assistance since the preventive isolation measures started



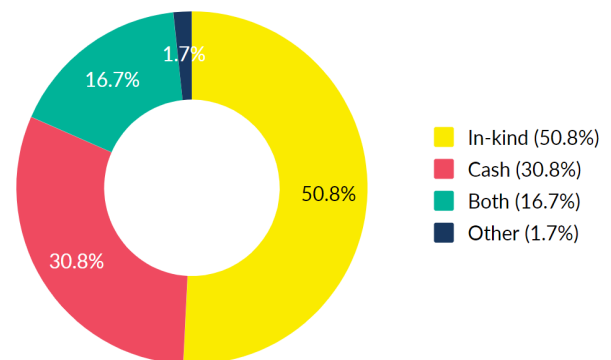
52%

have received assistance from NGOs and/or the UN agencies

42%

have received assistance from the government (mainly food items)

Assistance provided by the Government and NGOs/UN



Education & Telecommunications

81% of households with school-aged children have access to educational materials or activities, out of which, more than half have received virtual classes.

19% do not have access to the internet. Of the households that have access, most use mobile phones to access the internet.

19%

Out of school