Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

Round 2 – July 2020

Supported by

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Implemented by

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ORIMA RESEARCH

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Timor-Leste COVID-19 Survey

July 2020 results

Australian Aid | ORIMA RESEARCH | The Asia Foundation

This factsheet presents the results of a **telephone survey** of 404 **Timor-Leste adults** conducted from **18-27 July 2020**. During July, there were **no active** COVID-19 cases in Timor-Leste, the state of emergency had ended, and government support payments had been distributed to most households. Results are from **July** unless otherwise specified and are compared with those from **May 2020**.

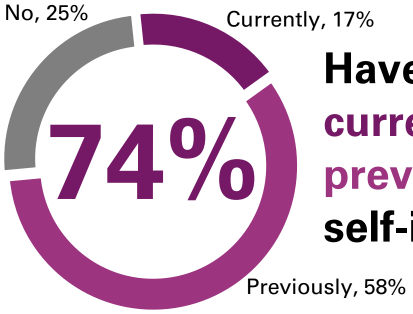
Biggest **challenge**

May	July	
61%	**52%**	COVID-19
18%	**19%**	Politics
10%	**16%**	Economy

think Timor-Leste is going in the **right** direction

Level of **concern**

May	July	
73%	**50%**	Money
71%	**59%**	Health
68%	**56%**	Food

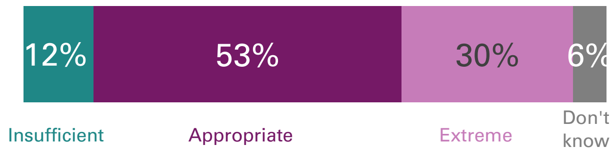


Have currently or previously self-isolated

(May: 68%)

64% (May: 49%) **trust** the government to **take care** of them **during COVID-19**

Feeling about current government response:



63% Have **received Uma Kain** $100 per household payment

81% Would use to purchase **food**

Groups **more likely** to use **for food**:

- *Age 25-34 (90%)*
- *Lives in Dili (88%)*
- *Unemployed (96%)*
- *Moved house when SoE declared (91%)*

33% said market prices **increased** after Uma Kain
Higher in Dili (45%)

86% of children are **back at school**

COVID-safe behaviors **declined** (8% - 12%)

(% of safe behaviors practiced)

- **77%** Face mask
- **75%** Wash hands
- **65%** Work from home
- **67%** Maintain 2m distance
- **64%** Avoid public areas

But if they are sick **similar proportions** would:

- **67%** Stay home
- **66%** Avoid gatherings
- **94%** Go to hospital if have symptoms

33% (May: 55%) Want the government to **end the State of Emergency**

28% (May: 35%) Think the Government should **provide more cash** to households

In the past 30 days, **2** in **3** have **cut meal size** or **skipped a meal** because there wasn't **enough money** for food (Worsening in Dili)

Food security is a bigger issue in **Dili** (33%) than **outside of Dili** (20%)

82% think COVID-19 has brought their community **closer together**

(May: 70%)

Community relationships have become **stronger**

	July 2020 (vs May)
Community relationships	88% **+8%**
Provide help	69% **+11%**
Receive help	66% **+14%**

The proportion of those **negatively impacted** has **decreased**

	July 2020	(vs May)
Job	34%	**-18%**
Income	34%	**-16%**
Physical health	20%	**-17%**
Mental health	20%	**-17%**
Feeling safe	17%	**-16%**

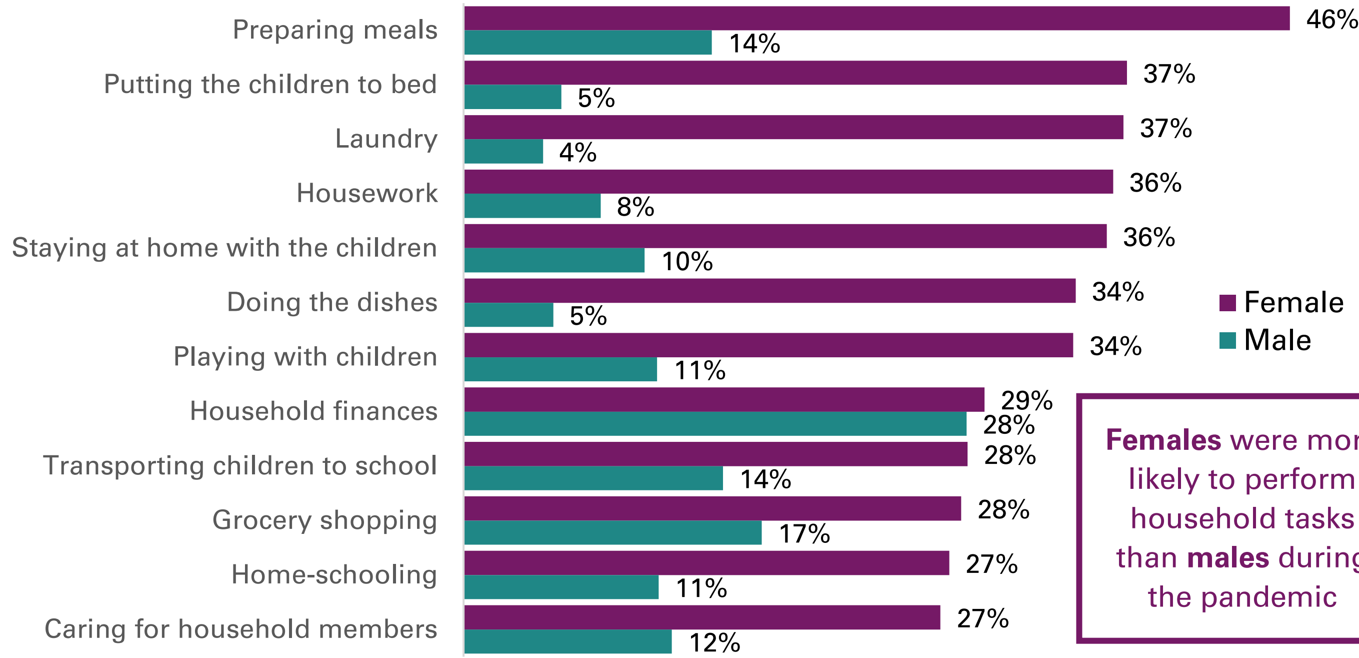
However, **paranoia** has **increased**

	July 2020 (vs May)
Intolerance to outsiders	79% **+14%**
Fear of suspected COVID cases	91% **+13%**

81% were **satisfied** with division of household tasks

36% were **more satisfied** with task division than **before the pandemic**

Gender was **NOT** an indicator of satisfaction or change of satisfaction



Females were more likely to perform household tasks than **males** during the pandemic

Television is still **most trusted** for news about: **COVID-19 (85%)** May: 80% **Other news (81%)** May: 75%

More are watching: **GMN (81%)** May: 67%

Radio has become **less trusted** for news about: **COVID-19 (5%)** May: 12% **Other news (6%)** May: 17%

More are listening to: **Radio Falintil (27%)** May: 10%

Those in Dili (compared to outside of Dili):

- Trust **television** for COVID news (91% vs 83%)
- Would use a **government website** for government support **information** (18% vs 2%)
- Want **more information** about **accessing** government support (61% vs 33%)

We would like to thank the 404 respondents for their time and the 15 interviewers in Dili who conducted the July survey.

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Background

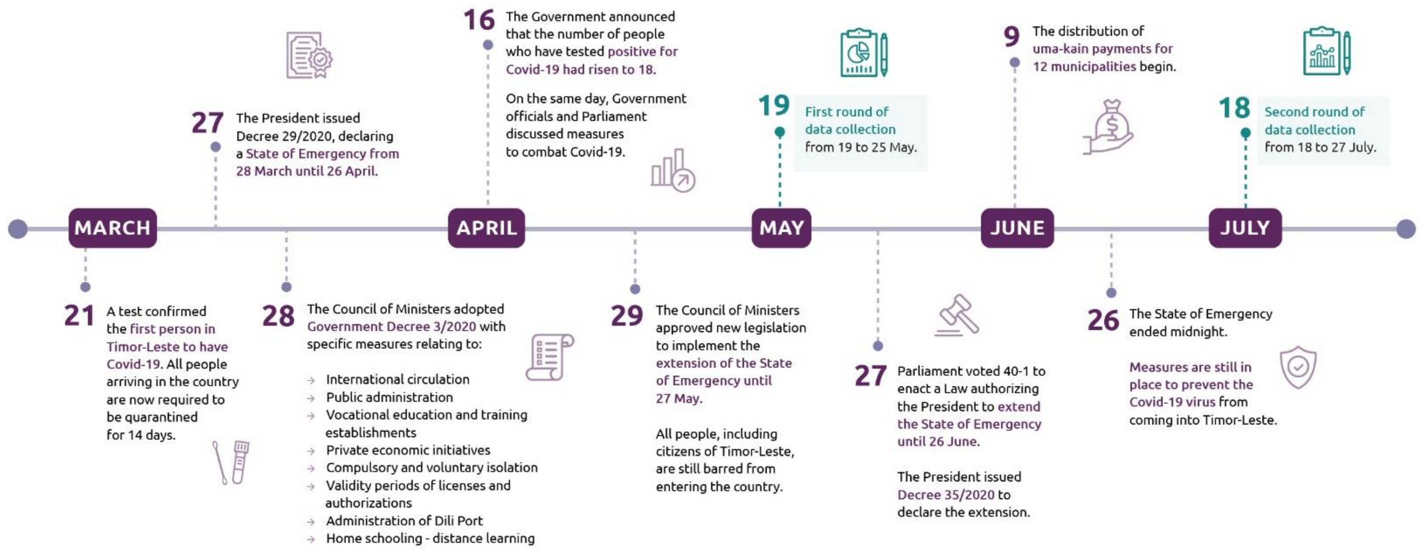
What is this research about?

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 and satisfaction of 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



Prior to the May survey, the Government of Timor-Leste responded by declaring a State of Emergency (SoE), which closed schools, suspended public transport and large gatherings, instituted border closures and established requirements for social distancing. Parts of the State of Emergency were lifted before July fieldwork, returning most freedoms to residents of Timor-Leste but still restricting international travel.

While these measures were put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Timor-Leste also acknowledged the social and economic impact and introduced a number of financial support programs, to not only support citizens as they self-quarantine, but also to boost the economy.

One of these programs has been a $100 per month household payment for low income households, known as Apoiu Monetáriu ba COVID-19, or Uma Kain $100. While this program has been announced prior to the May data collection, distribution of this payment did not start until June. Other support programs include an electricity subsidy of $15 per month, a 60% wage subsidy for certain workers, including microlet and taxi drivers and micro loans for businesses. In addition to other COVID-19 awareness and information campaigns, the government also launched the Eskola ba Uma program, a remote learning program for students who self-quarantine at home. At the time of data collection most children have now returned to school.

In the background to the above measures, Timor-Leste has experienced political shifts with the recent change of party alliances in Parliament and the appointment of 8 new Ministers. Fortunately, Timor-Leste has so far avoided the worst of the pandemic compared to many other countries, with a low number of cases. The next consideration is the long-lasting economic impact of the State of Emergency, and strategies for economic recovery.

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 18 and 27 July, a Dili-based call center conducted 404 interviews with Timor-Leste adults, using a sample list of previous respondents to The Asia Foundation Tatoli and Community Policing surveys. This followed up from a near-identical survey conducted in May, which will be used to compare 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

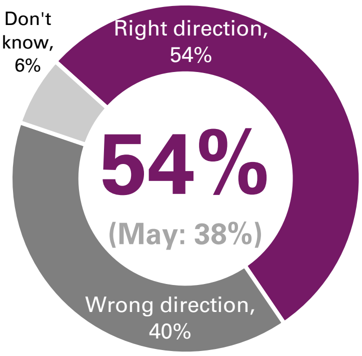
The future

The survey is expected to run at a 2-month interval until June 2021 to see how the community changes over time. This report and the Q2i visualization platform will be subsequently updated to reflect this data.

Results

Biggest concerns

Generally speaking…



think Timor-Leste is going in the **right** direction

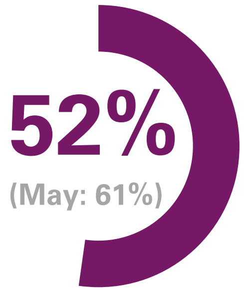
In **July 2020**, more respondents felt that Timor-Leste was going in the **right** direction (54%) than the wrong direction (40%) – giving a net score of +14%. This is a substantial positive change from May 2020, when more respondents felt that Timor-Leste was going in the wrong direction (58%) than in the right direction (38%) – giving a net score of -20%.

Respondents aged 25-34 were more likely to think Timor-Leste is going in the wrong direction (53%) than those aged 17-24 (31%). Other groups more likely to think Timor-Leste is going in the wrong direction include those unemployed (54%), those who consume news daily (44%) and those who moved residence when the State of Emergency was declared (52%).

In **May**, respondents were more likely to think Timor-Leste was going in the **wrong** direction if they lived outside of Dili (61%) than if they lived in Dili (49%). However, this location difference was not observed in July. Women and men were equally likely to say the country was going in the right direction in both May and July.[1]

Biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste

COVID-19



Other challenges

Political – 19%
Weak economy – 16%

The majority of respondents still said the biggest challenge facing Timor-Leste was COVID-19, including the impact on health (52%, though slightly lower than 61% in May). Political issues (19%) remained a secondary challenge. A weak economy (16%) was considered slightly more of a challenge than in May (10%).

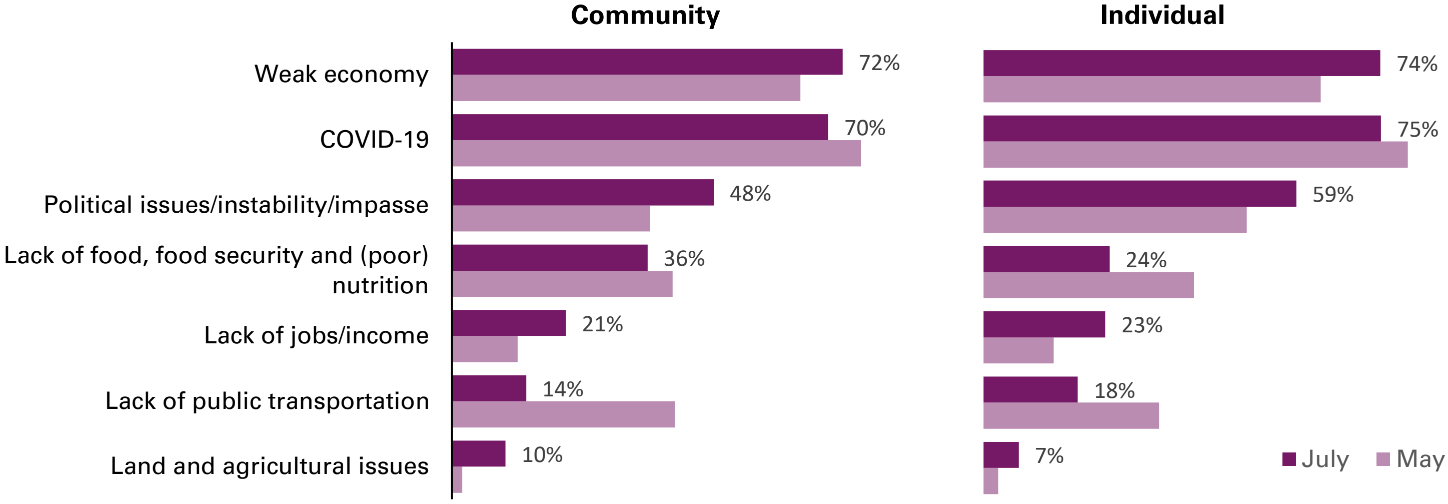
Similar to May, those in Dili were more concerned about the weak economy (23% in July). Those who followed COVID-19 news were more likely to believe COVID-19 was the single biggest challenge (54%) than those who did not (36%).

In July, COVID-19 remained a predominant issue for individuals (75%) and their community (70%), albeit to lesser proportions than May. Issues such as a weak economy (72%), political issues (48%) and jobs (21%) were more

[1] Gender differences are noted in the analysis where these were observed. See methodology section for more details.

prevalent for communities in July. Lack of public transportation declined as a community issue (14% in July, down from 41% in May). Similar to May, political issues are more pronounced for individuals (59%) than communities (48%).

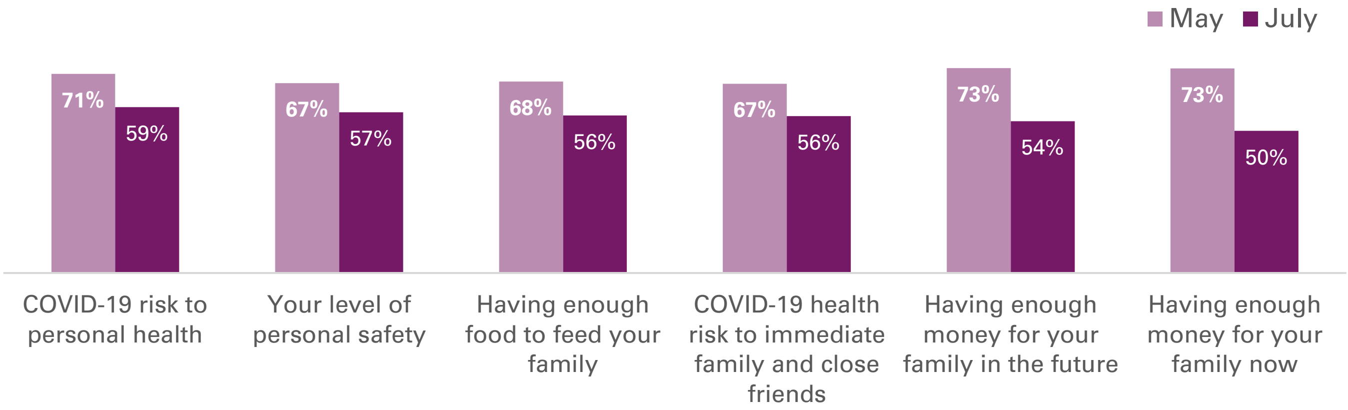
Top 3 problems as an individual and your community (Multiple response, eight most common problems shown)



Respondents were less concerned about most of the impacts of COVID-19 compared to May. This includes having enough money for their family now (50% in July, 73% in May) and in the future (54% in July, 73% in May). Albeit to a lesser extent, concern also declined for the health risk of COVID-19 personally (59% in July, 71% in May) and to family or friends (56% in July, 67% in May). The other declines in concerns included food security (56% in July, 68% in May) and safety (57% in July, 67% in May).

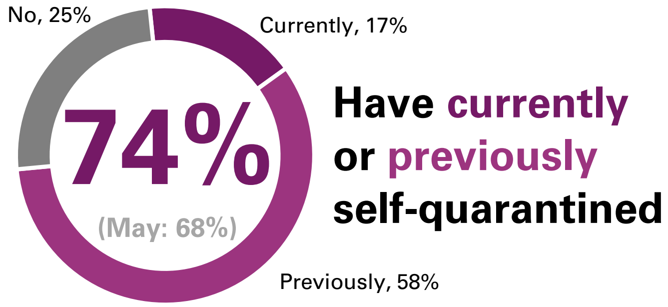
Not only have overall concerns changed somewhat from May to July, so too have some of the variations seen across different groups in the community. In May, those in Dili were less concerned about food security, but this difference was not apparent in July. In July, men were more concerned about a number of items, including having enough money for your family now (56% male, 45% female), the health risk of COVID-19 to family or friends (61% male, 50% female) and food security (61% male, 50% female), although these differences were not apparent in the May survey.

At the moment, are you very concerned about:

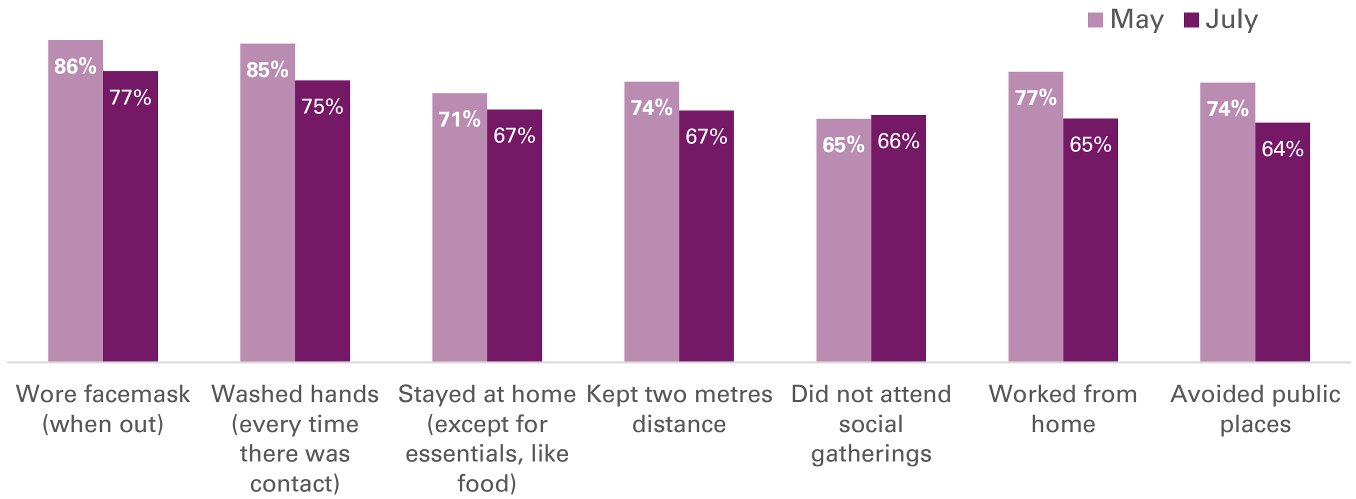


Prevention measures and healthcare behavior

When asked in July, 74% of respondents had at some stage been in self-quarantine, compared to 58% in the May survey. This includes 17 percent currently in quarantine (a decline from 27% in May). Those who trusted something other than television for their COVID-19 information were more likely to still be in self-quarantine (34%). By self-quarantine we mean when an individual or family stays at home except for essential tasks such as purchasing food or seeking medical care.



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



Although the majority of respondents are still following COVID-19 prevention behaviors in July, the proportion for whom behaviors applied 'very much' has declined for a number of items. This includes working from home (-12%), avoiding public places (-11%) and following hand hygiene (-10%). There were also declines in keeping two meters distance (-8%) and facemask wearing (-8%). Other behaviors such as staying at home and not attending social gatherings were similar to May.

In July, those in Dili were less likely to follow these behaviors (53-65%) than those outside of Dili (67-82%) – this trend was also observed in May. Those who stayed in the same residence when the State of Emergency was declared were more likely to say the behaviors apply to them (72-87%) than those who moved (31-57%). Forty-seven percent of respondents said all seven behaviors applied to them, with 10% indicating that none of the behaviors applied to them – similar to proportions in May.

If you had symptoms, would you:

May	July	
93%	94%	Go to a hospital or health clinic
91%	78%	Inform people around me
84%	79%	Stay home
95%	86%	Would do at least two of the above
75%	66%	Would do all three of the above

In July, the great majority of those with COVID-19 symptoms reported that they would still go to the hospital (94% in July, 93% in May). However, lower proportions would tell people around them (78% in July, 91% in May) or stay at home (79% in May, 84% in June).

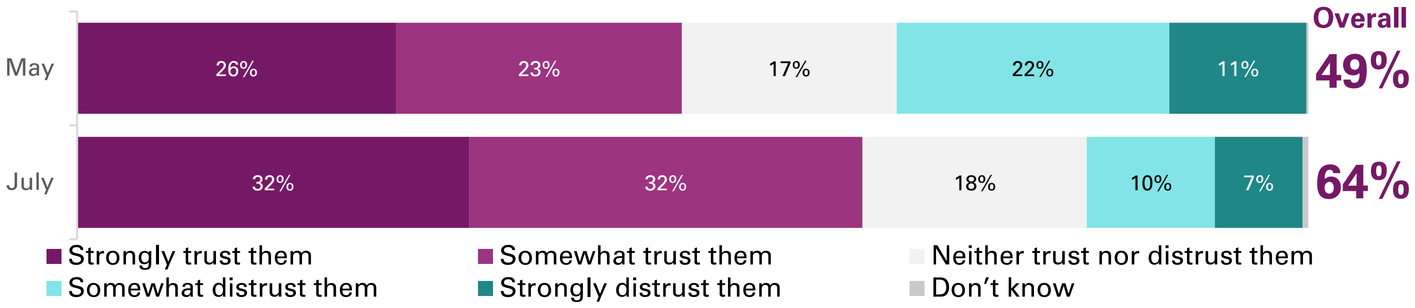
Similar to May, respondents who did not access television, radio or newspapers on a daily basis were less likely to tell people around them if they had symptoms (66%), as were women (73% female, 83% male). Those working in non-agriculture roles (69%) were less likely to stay at home than those working in agriculture (83%).

Government trust

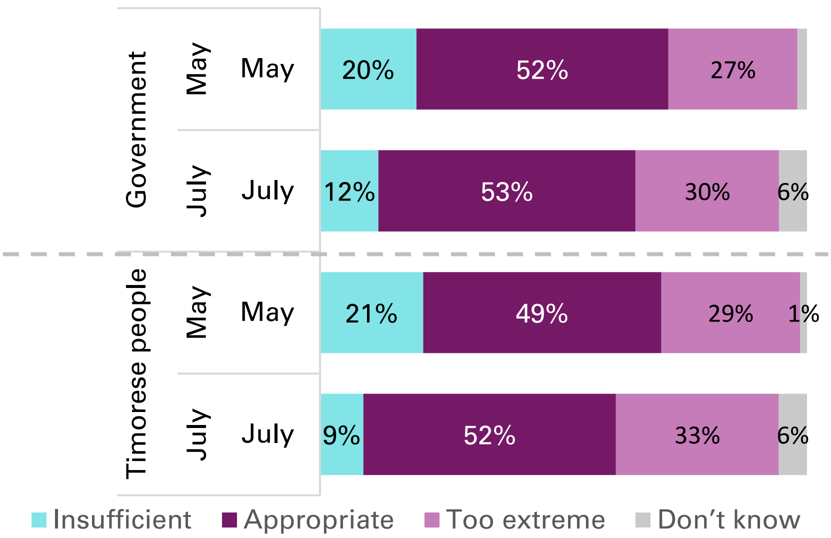
In July, a higher proportion of respondents trusted the government to take care of its citizens during COVID-19 (64%) compared to May (49%). The proportion who distrust the government declined (18% in July, 33% in May).

Trust was higher for households outside of Dili (69%) than those in Dili (48%). Similar to May, those that experienced a negative impact on their household income because of COVID-19 had higher trust (88%).

How much do you trust the government to take care of its citizens during COVID-19?



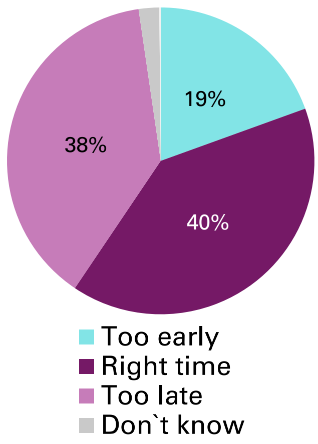
What do you think of the reaction of…



Respondents have been consistent in thinking the government reaction has been appropriate (52-53%) and that the reaction of the Timorese people has also been appropriate (49-52%). The proportion thinking the reaction of both the government and the people has been insufficient has declined from May to July.

In July, groups including those aged 35-44 (22%), males (15%), those in Dili (27%), and those who had moved residence when the State of Emergency was declared (23%) were more likely to say the current government reaction was insufficient. Those unemployed were more likely to say the reaction was too extreme (50%).

(July) Do you think the Government ended the State of Emergency…



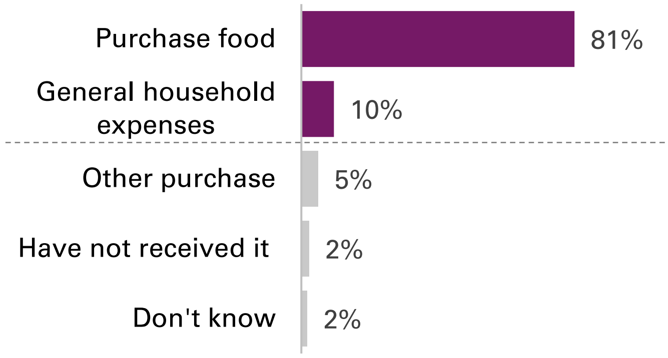
Forty percent (40%) of respondents thought the Government ended the State of Emergency at the right time. However, similar proportions (38%) thought that the Government ended it too late. A smaller proportion (19%) thought it ended too early.

Respondents in Dili were more likely to say the Government ended it at the right time (53%) and less likely to say it ended too late (23%). Outside of Dili, respondents were less likely to say it ended at the right time (35%) but more likely to say it ended too late (43%).

Other groups more likely to think the restrictions ended too late included agriculture workers (45%), those where markets are still closed (49%) and those who did not follow COVID-19 news (63%).

Use of and satisfaction with government programs

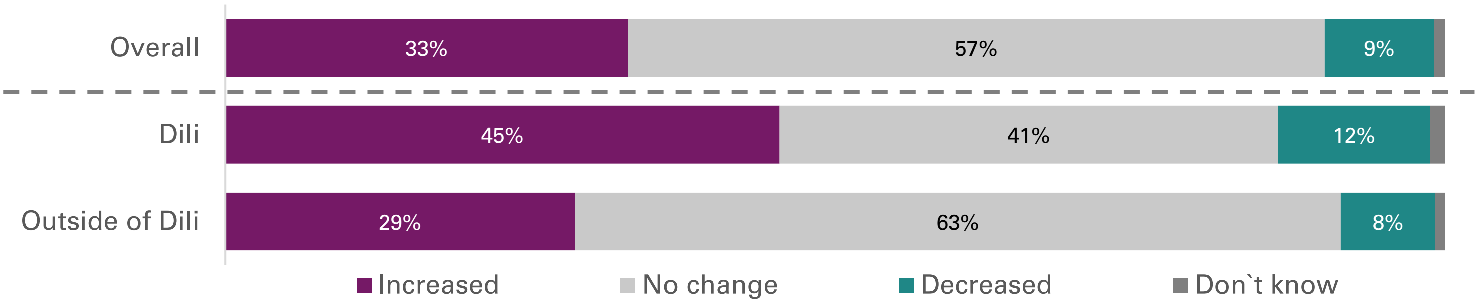
If this household received the Apoiu Monetáriu household subsidy from the government, how did you primarily use it?



One of the first programs announced by the government was the **Uma Kain household payment**, also known as Apoiu Monetáriu ba COVID-19. Sixty-three percent of households have now received this payment, and 81% reported that they used this to purchase food. The other main use of the payment was for household expenses (10%).

Respondents were more likely to indicate they would use the payment for food if they were aged 25-34 (90%), lived in Dili (88%), were unemployed (96%) or moved house when the State of Emergency was declared (91%). Respondents were more likely to indicate they would use the payment for general household expenses if they were aged 45+ (15%) or were not eligible for the electricity subsidy (19%).

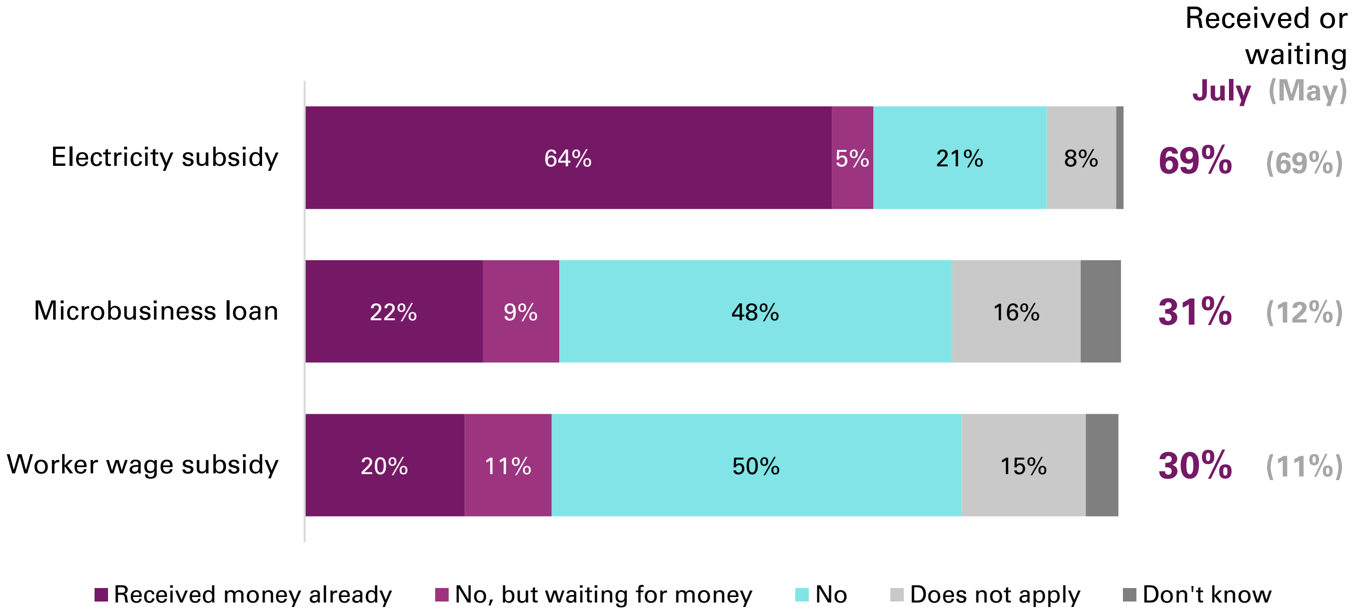
After the Uma Kain payments did the cost of things like rice or cooking oil change in your local markets?



One-third of respondents experienced price rises at their local markets after the Uma Kain payments came in. This was higher in Dili (45%) than outside of Dili (29%). Where markets were open (37%), household were still in quarantine (40%) and respondents had not received the Uma Kain payment (44%), price rises were more pronounced, but not statistically significant.

Sixty-nine percent of respondents indicated their household was eligible (had received money already or was waiting for money) for the **electricity subsidy** as part of the government's support program. Eligibility for the electricity subsidy was the same in May (69%). For households who were eligible for the electricity subsidy (69%), the majority (93%) had already received the money. Compared to May, larger proportions indicated their household was eligible for **microbusiness loans** (31% in July, 12% in May) and the **worker wage subsidy** (30% in July, 11% in May).

Does anyone in this household receive any other support as part of the government's social-economic package/stimulus/recovery program?

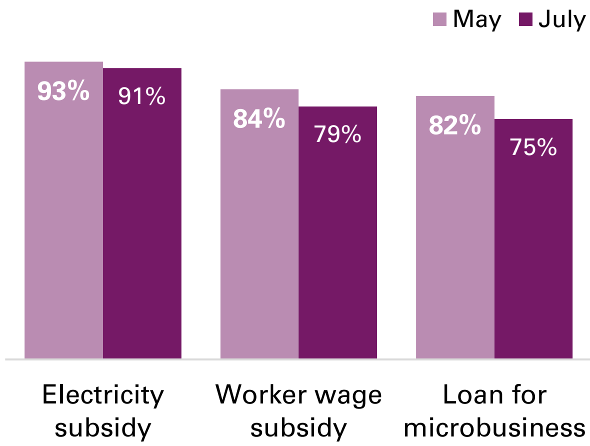


Respondents were asked how satisfied they were with each subsidy. Of those eligible to receive each subsidy, respondents rated electricity subsidies highest, with 91% rating them at least good. A lower proportion rated worker wage subsidies (79%) and microbusiness loans (75%) as at least good.

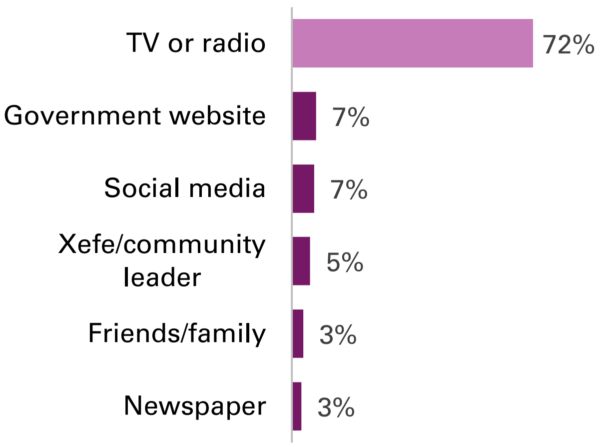
Satisfaction was broadly in line with May, with the exception of loans for microbusinesses, which declined from 82% to 75%.

Similar to May, in July, satisfaction for the electricity subsidy and worker wage subsidy was lower in Dili (66% and 61%) than outside of Dili (84% and 80%). Where markets were mostly open, satisfaction for all three subsidies was higher.

Level of satisfaction with government support / subsidies (For those eligible, at least good)



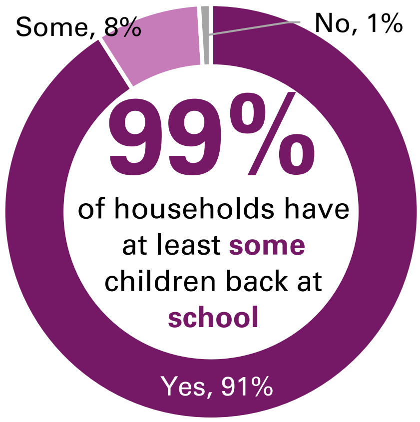
Where did you find the information to get the government support?



Television or radio remained by far the most common source of information about government support (72% in July, 78% in May). Other sources of information in July included the government website (7%), social media (7%) and Xefe/community leaders (5%).

Similar to May, a higher proportion of respondents in Dili sourced their information from a government website (18%) than outside of Dili (2%), whereas respondents outside of Dili were more likely to get their information through TV or radio (77%) than those in Dili (63%).

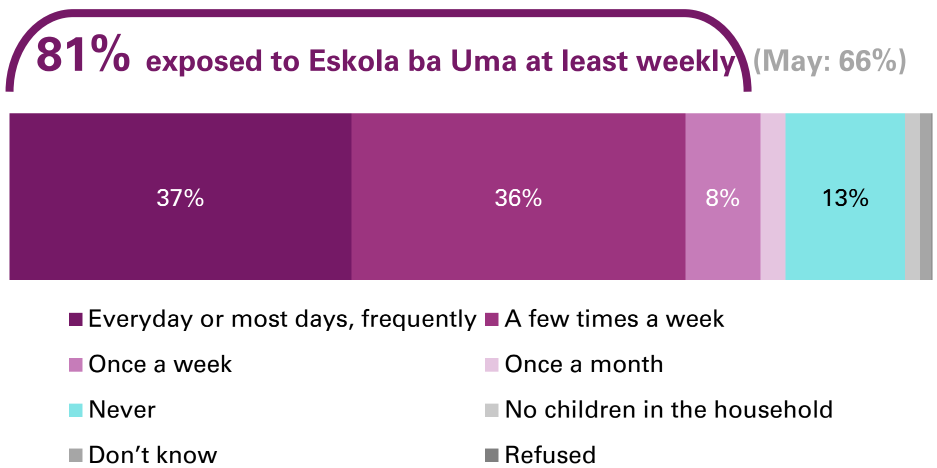
Ninety-nine percent of respondents said at least some of the household's children were back at school, with 91% reporting all children were back at school.



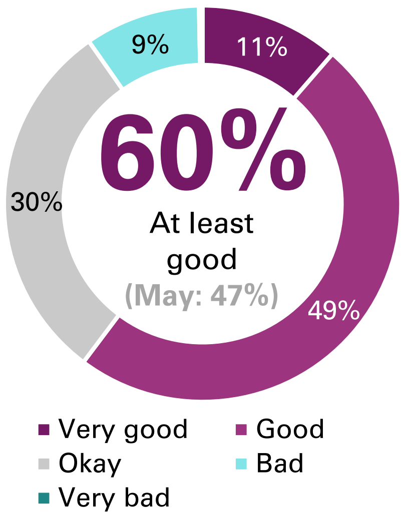
The government ran a program called Eskola ba Uma, also known as "School Goes Home". It was designed to reach as many children as possible and included television, radio, online, and paper distribution methods. Eighty-one percent of households had children exposed to the Eskola ba Uma program at least weekly, with 37% seeing it most days. This was an increase from May (68% at least weekly, 28% daily). The proportion of households whose children were never exposed to the program declined (13% in July, 27% in May).

Similar to May, respondents who used a media source other than television for COVID-19 information were more likely to never have watched or listened to the Eskola ba Uma program (38%), as were those who did not consume newspaper, radio or television on a daily basis (25%). Sixty percent of respondents reported that the program was at least good, up from 47% in May.

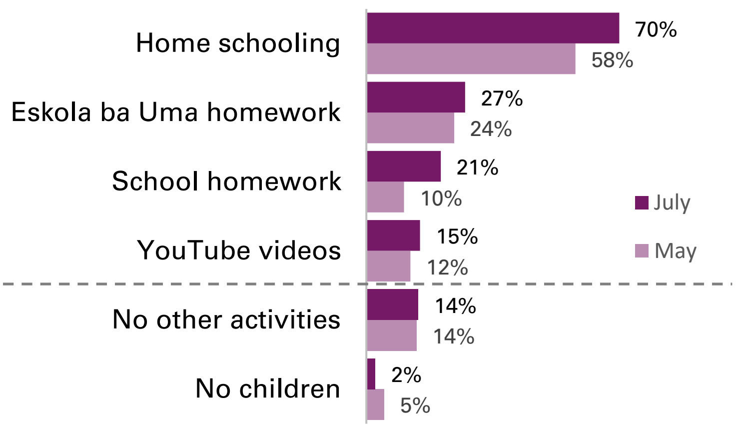
How often do children in this household watch or listen to the government`s Eskola ba Uma program?



What is your level of satisfaction with Eskola ba Uma? (If applies)



Do children in this household do other educational activities?



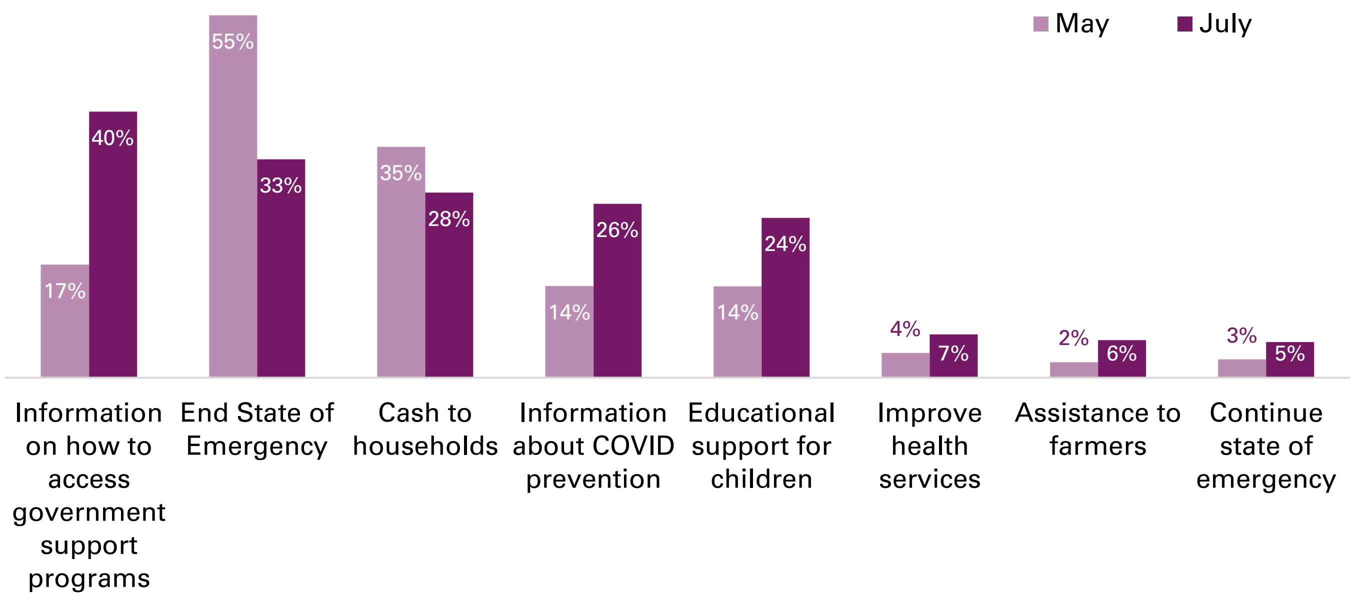
Daily exposure to Eskola ba Uma was associated with higher satisfaction with the program overall, with those whose household had children who were exposed to the program at least daily, more likely to rate it as good or very good (72%) than those who were exposed less frequently (56%) or never (26%). Unlike May, there was no difference in satisfaction for respondents in Dili.

Other educational activities included parents or adults home schooling (70%, up from 58% in May), homework directly from the Eskola ba Uma program (27%), and school homework (21%, up from 10% in May).

Additional government support

Providing information on how to access government support programs (40%) was the most common response for what the government could do to support its citizens. This was higher than May (17%) and overtook ending the State of Emergency as the most common response (33%, down from 55% in May). Providing cash to households also declined as something the government could do (28%, down from 35% in May). Information about COVID-19 prevention (26%) and educational support for children (24%) were also more common in July.

During this time, what could the government do more to support its citizens?



Similar to May, those in Dili wanted more information about accessing government support (61%) than those outside of Dili (33%). Those who moved residence when the State of Emergency ended (71%) also wanted more information, as did those who trusted television for their COVID-19 information (75%). Residents outside of Dili were more likely to want the government to end the State of Emergency (38%), provide more cash to households (31%) and provide more education support to children (27%).

Household duties

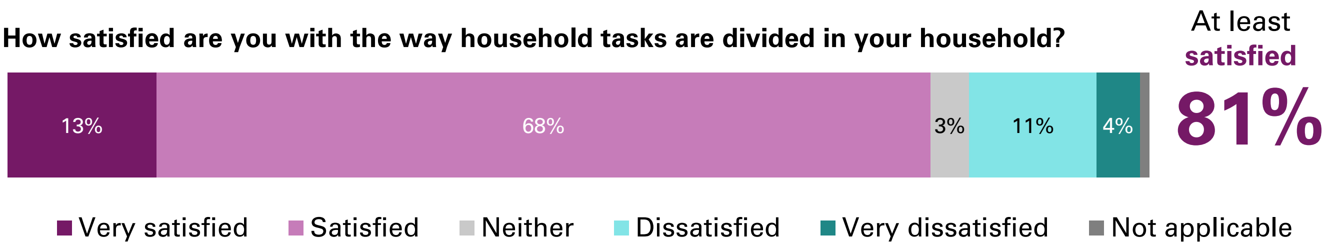
during the pandemic and State of Emergency

Eighty percent (80%) of respondents lived with a spouse or partner during the pandemic and state of emergency. Only 48% of younger people age 17-24 lived with a spouse or partner, although this difference was not significant. Only those living with a spouse or partner during this time were asked the following questions about household duties.

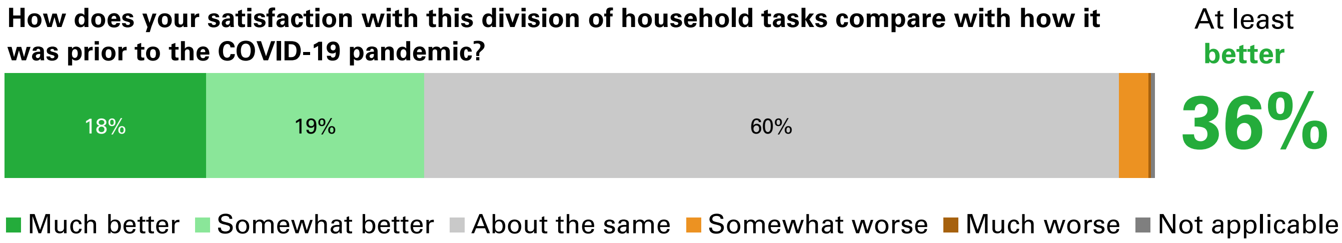
The majority of respondents living with partners (81%) were at least satisfied with the way household tasks were divided in their household, including 13% who were very satisfied. Thirty-six percent rated their satisfaction as at least better since before COVID-19, and only 3% thought it became worse.

Satisfaction and improvement in satisfaction did not vary by gender. Satisfaction and improvement in satisfaction was higher for households where children had not been exposed to Eskola ba Uma (94% satisfaction, 48% better), where COVID-19 had a negative impact on their income (94% satisfaction, 41% improvement) or where most markets were closed in the local area (87% satisfaction, 49% improvement).

How satisfied are you with the way household tasks are divided in your household?



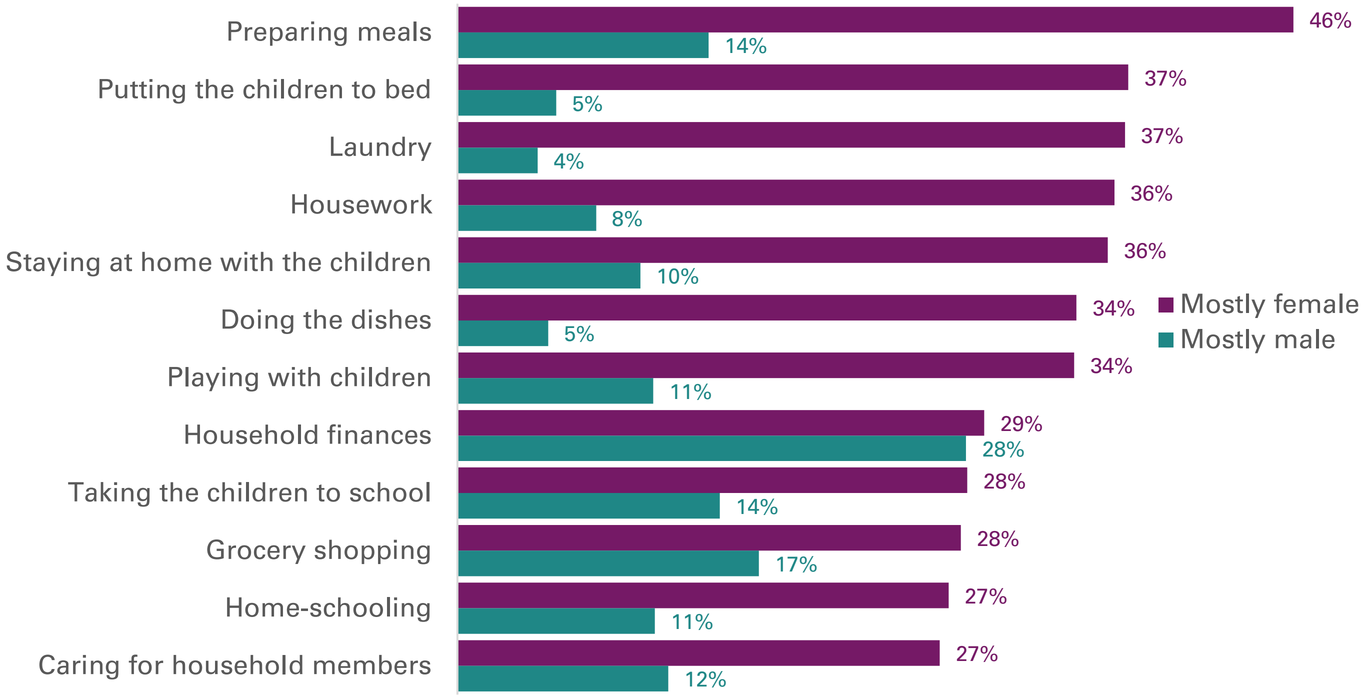
How does your satisfaction with this division of household tasks compare with how it was prior to the COVID-19 pandemic?



Females reported that most of the time they conducted all household tasks more than males. Females (when compared to males) were more likely to prepare meals (46% females vs 14% males), put children to bed (37% vs 5%), do laundry (37% vs 4%), housework (36% vs 8%) and stay at home with children (36% vs 10%). These tasks also had the biggest differential between female and male (-29 to -32%).

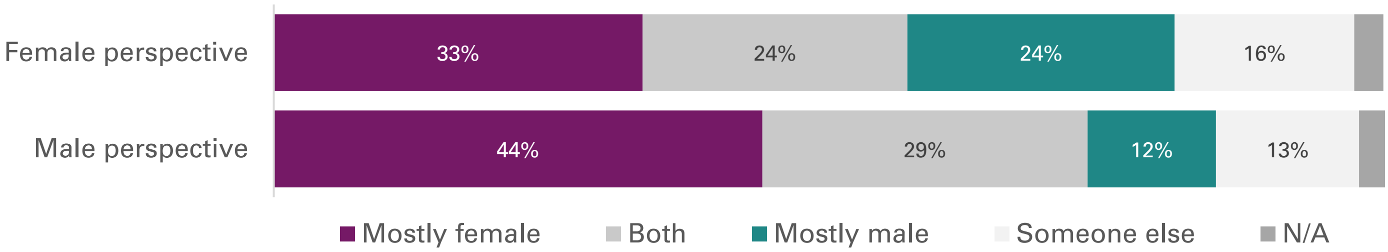
The tasks that males (when compared to females) conducted the most included household finances (28% males vs 29% females), grocery shopping (17% vs 28%) and transporting children to school (14% vs 28%).

Task distribution (perception from own gender)



Men think they do less work (12% average across all items[2]) compared to how females perceive them to do that work (24% average across all items). However, females also think they do less work (33% average across all items) than the work that males perceive them to do (44% average across all items). Females were less likely to think that tasks were shared equally (24%) than males (29%).

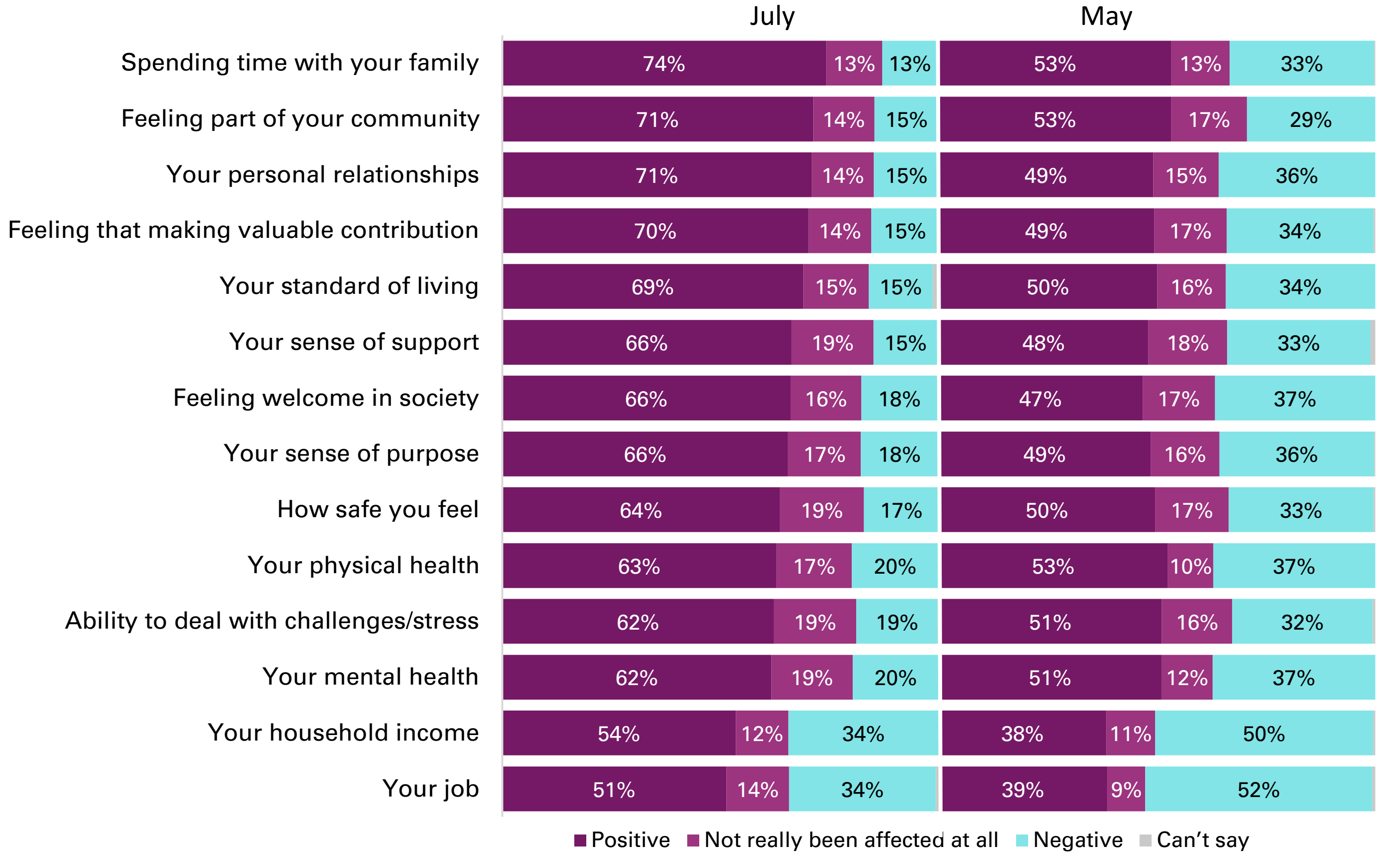
Perception of task distribution (average across all items)



[2] "Average across all items" was calculated by taking the average score for the 12 household tasks for each category split by gender.

Social and economic impacts

Would you say the effect of COVID-19 on you personally has been…



In both May and July, more people have felt that the effect of COVID-19 on aspects of their life has been positive rather than negative.

In July, the personal impact of COVID-19 across all aspects was also seen as less negative and even more positive when compared to May. Spending time with family (74% July, 53% May), feeling part of community (71% July, 53% May) and personal relationships (71% July, 49% May) were regarded as the most positive impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The personal impact on jobs (34%) and income (34%) were still the biggest negative impacts, but, unlike May, there was now a higher proportion indicating a positive impact (51% and 54%, respectively).

Those aged 45+ were more negatively impacted in regards to their sense of support (20%). Compared to males, females tended to be more negative in physical health (24%), mental health (25%), feeling welcome in society (22%) and sense of support (19%). Similar to May, those unemployed continued to feel more negatively impacted on their job (54%) and household income (63%).

Other groups who were generally more negative included those who trusted television for their COVID-19 information, those who had not received Uma Kain, who were eligible for the electricity, worker wage subsidies and microbusiness loan, and who did not move residence when the State of Emergency was declared.

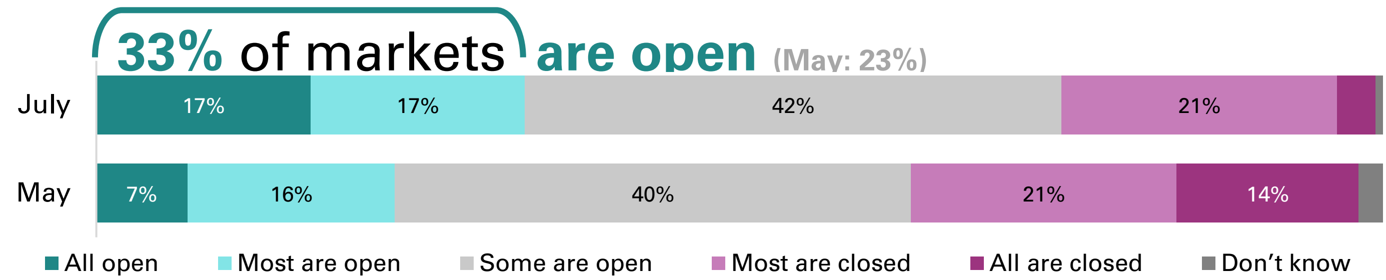
How do you think your community has changed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Eighty-two percent believed that COVID-19 had brought their community closer together, an increase from 70% in May. Those whose children were exposed to Eskola ba Uma most days were more likely to believe this (87%), as were those who had most markets open in their area (93%).

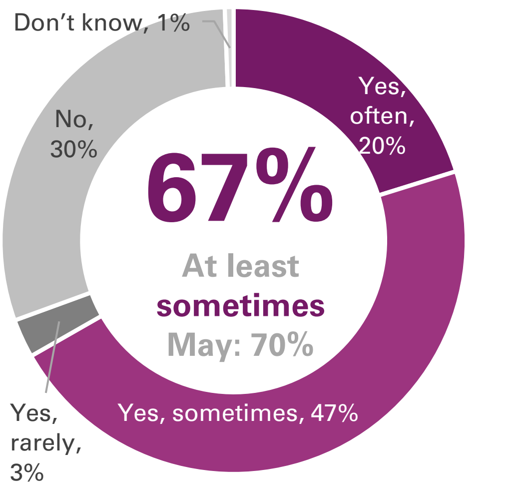
However, a higher proportion also believed that people were now more suspicious or fearful of suspected / confirmed COVID-19 cases (91% in July, up from 78% in May). This was higher amongst those who reported a negative impact from COVID-19 on household income (97%) and lower for those who do not follow COVID-19 news anymore (72%). Respondents also thought that Timor-Leste had become less tolerant of community outsiders (79% in July, up from 64% in May). This intolerance was higher if markets were still open (92%).

More markets have opened up since May (23%), with one-third (33%) now reporting most markets are open. Twenty-four percent of respondents said most of the markets in their local area were still closed, and 42% said some markets were open. Thirty-three percent of markets were still mostly open in respondents' local areas. Males were more likely to say that markets were open (38%) than females (28%).

How many markets are open in your local area?



In the past 30 days, did you have to cut the size of a meal or skip a meal because there wasn`t enough money for food?

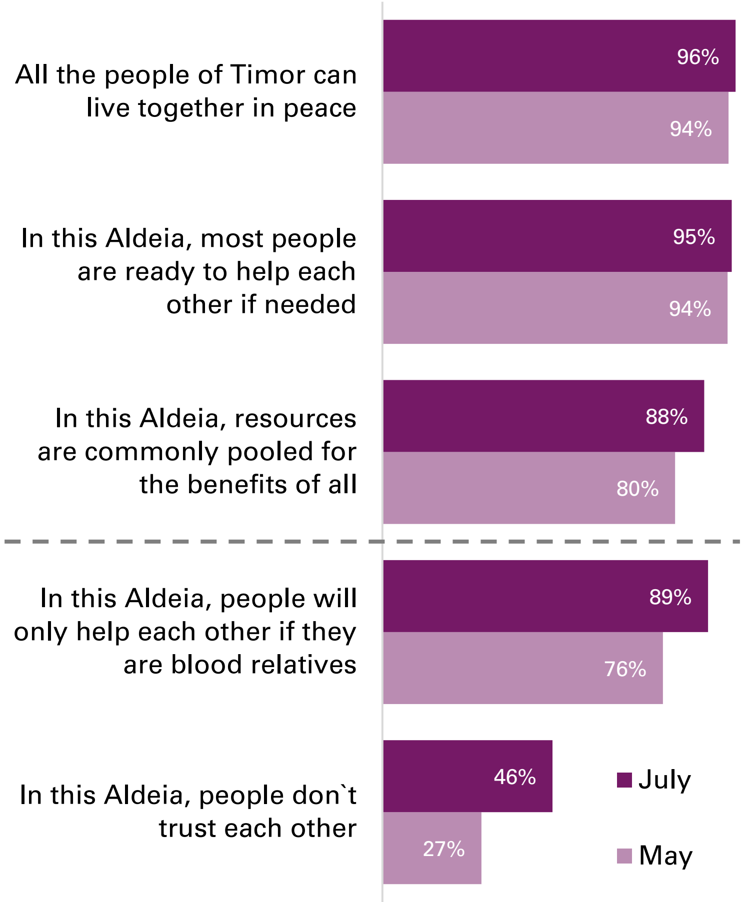


Similar to May (when it was 70%), 67% of respondents indicated that in the past 30 days they sometimes had to cut the size of their meal or skip a meal because there was not enough money for food.

The proportion skipping meals was higher in Dili (76%) than outside of Dili (64%), as well as those who were not eligible for electricity and worker wage subsidies and microbusiness loans (74-75%). If the respondent had to move residence, they were also more likely to have skipped a meal (84%, compared to 60% if did not move residence).

Personal and community resilience

Agree that…

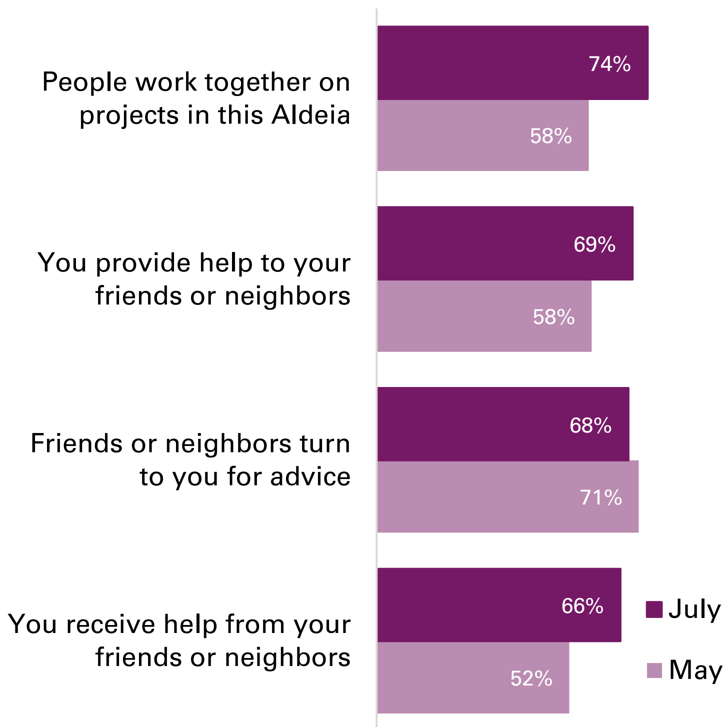


Despite feeling that Timor-Leste was less tolerant, nearly all respondents (96% in July, similar to May) agree that all people of Timor-Leste can live together in peace, and that most people in their Aldeia are ready to help each other if needed (95% in July, similar to May). In July, more respondents agreed that resources are pooled for the benefits of all (88%, up from 80% in May).

However, more respondents also agreed that people in their Aldeia will only help each other if they are blood relatives (89% in July, up from 76% in May) and that people in their Aldeia don't trust each other (46%, up from 27% in July).

Respondents who lived in Dili were more likely to agree that people in their Aldeia don't trust each other (59%). Those who consumed media daily (59%) and who moved residence when the State of Emergency was declared (71%) were also more likely to agree with this.

Happens at least sometimes



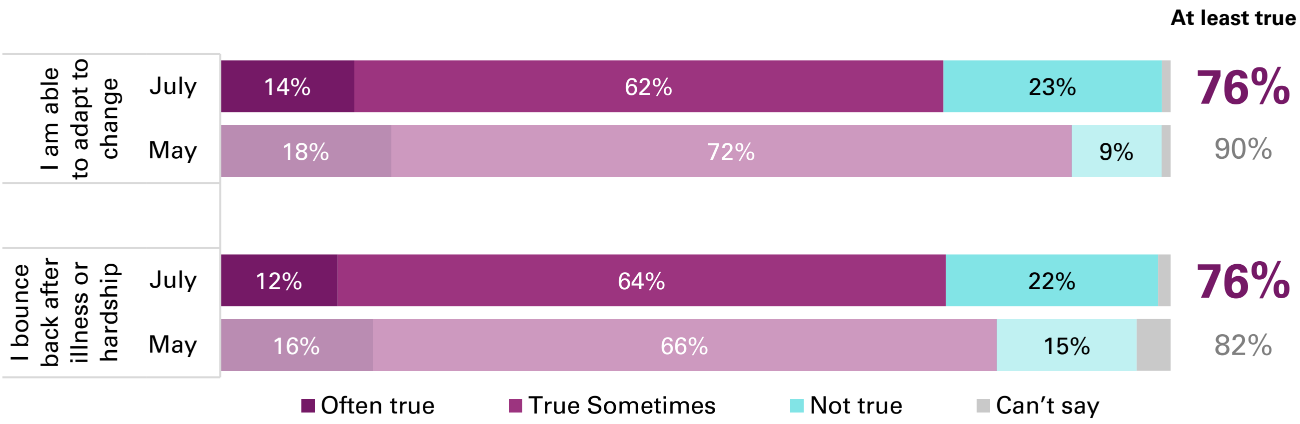
In July, 74% respondents said that at least sometimes people work together on projects (up from 58% in May), provide help to friends or neighbors (69%, up from 58%) and receive help from friends or neighbors (66%, up from 52% in May). Compared to May, similar proportions said that friends or neighbors turned to them for advice (68% in July).

Having neighbors come for advice occurred at least sometimes more outside of Dili (72%) than within Dili (59%). Those who had a negative impact on their income from COVID-19 (40-52%) or did not consume media daily (50-54%) were less likely to have interactions with their neighbors.

About one-quarter of respondents thought it was at least true sometimes that they are able to adapt to change and they can bounce back after illness or hardship. This proportion was slightly lower than May (down from 90% and 82%, respectively). The proportion who thought it was not true that they could adapt to change increased (23% in July, up from 9% in May).

Those who had never self-quarantined were more likely to think both statements were at least sometimes true (94% for both statements) than those who had previously (75%) or were currently (53-54%) in self-quarantine. Both statements were less likely to be at least true for those who experienced a negative impact to their income because of COVID-19 (64-65%) or still had the majority of markets closed (51-55%).

How much do the following things describe you?



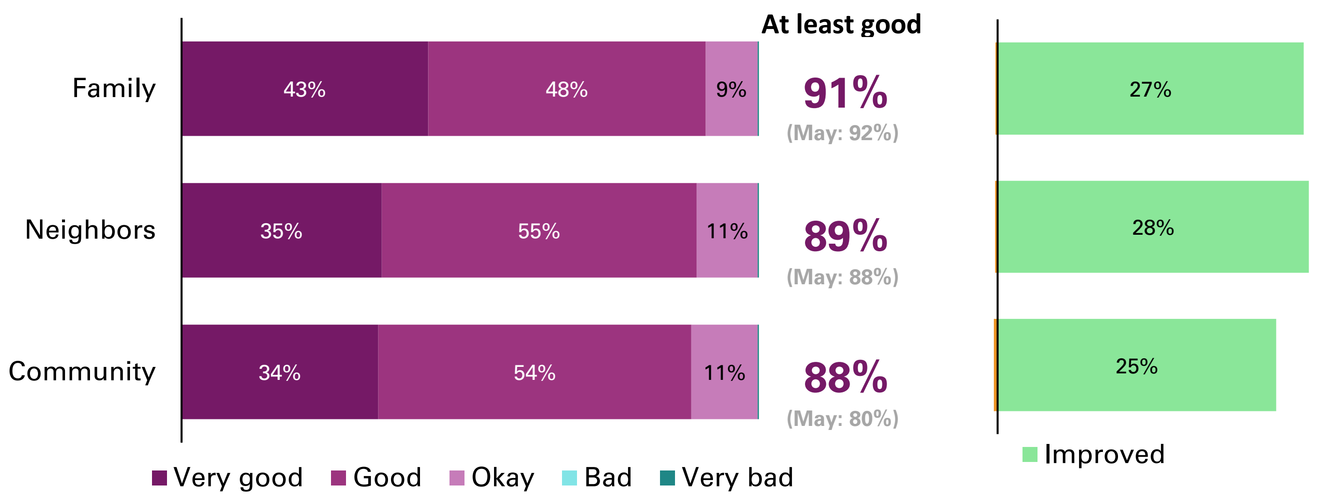
Relationships were at least good with family (91%), neighbors (89%) and the community in general (88%). This was similar to May. When compared to May, in July, there were slightly lower proportions rating their relationships as very good (34-43%). 25-28% felt that relationships with all three of these groups had improved since the State of Emergency.

Relationships were more likely to be at least good outside of Dili (93-96%) than within Dili (74-76%), but were less likely to be good if respondents moved when the State of Emergency was declared (82-83%).

Relationships were less likely to improve for those aged 17-24 (17%) when compared to those aged 25-34 (35-37%). Relationships were also significantly better if markets were still closed in the local area (43-46%) than if they were open (13-23%).

How would you rate your relationships with…

Since the start of the State of Emergency, have your relationships…



News and information

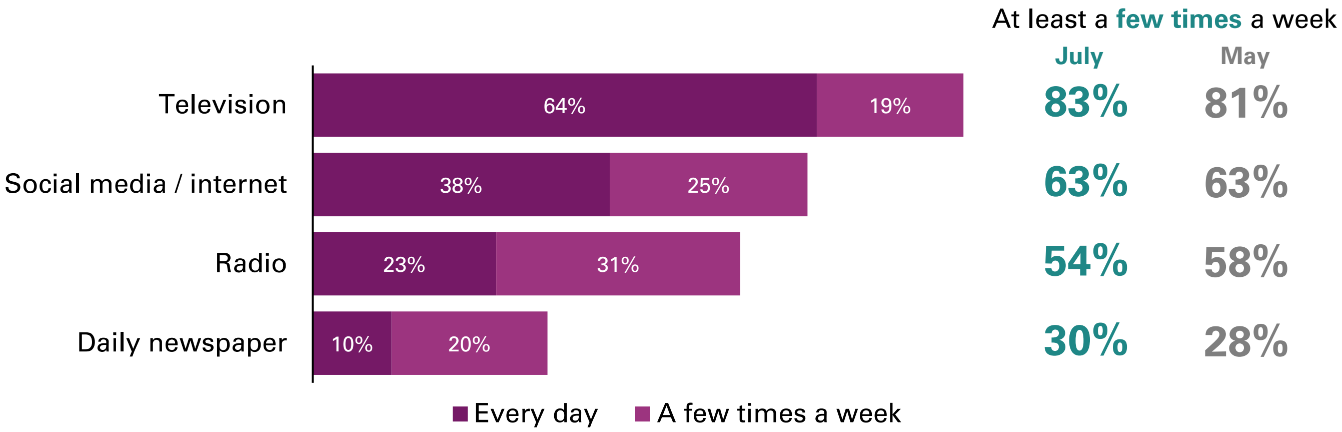
In July, the way that respondents consumed news and information was mostly similar to May. Ninety-two percent were still following COVID-19 news even after the State of Emergency had been lifted. 17-24 year olds were more likely to follow (97%), compared to those aged 35-44 (76%).

Still followed COVID-19 news after the State of Emergency had been lifted

Eighty-three percent of respondents watched television at least a few times a week, with 64% watching television daily. This was higher than the use of social media and internet (63% at least a few times a week, 38% daily) and radio (54% at least a few times a week, 23% daily). Newspaper was the least frequently accessed media (only 30% at least a few times a week, 10% daily). Daily use of radio slightly declined (23% in July, 33% in May).

Watching television was more common in Dili (91%) than outside Dili (80%), while radio use was more common outside Dili (58%) than in Dili (45%). Younger people aged 17-24 were more likely to watch television (93%) and use social media (80%) Respondents working in agriculture were less likely to watch television (75%), read a daily newspaper (23%), or use the internet (51%) at least a few times a week.

How often do you use different types of media and entertainment?

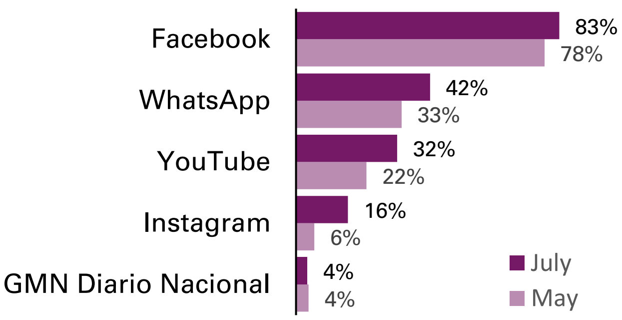


In their household,

75% Do not share their phone with others, and

75% Access the internet using a phone

Top 5 most used websites or apps



Three-quarters of respondents had their own phone, with the same proportion personally owning, or knowing someone within their household that had access to the internet or social media on their phone (75%).[3]

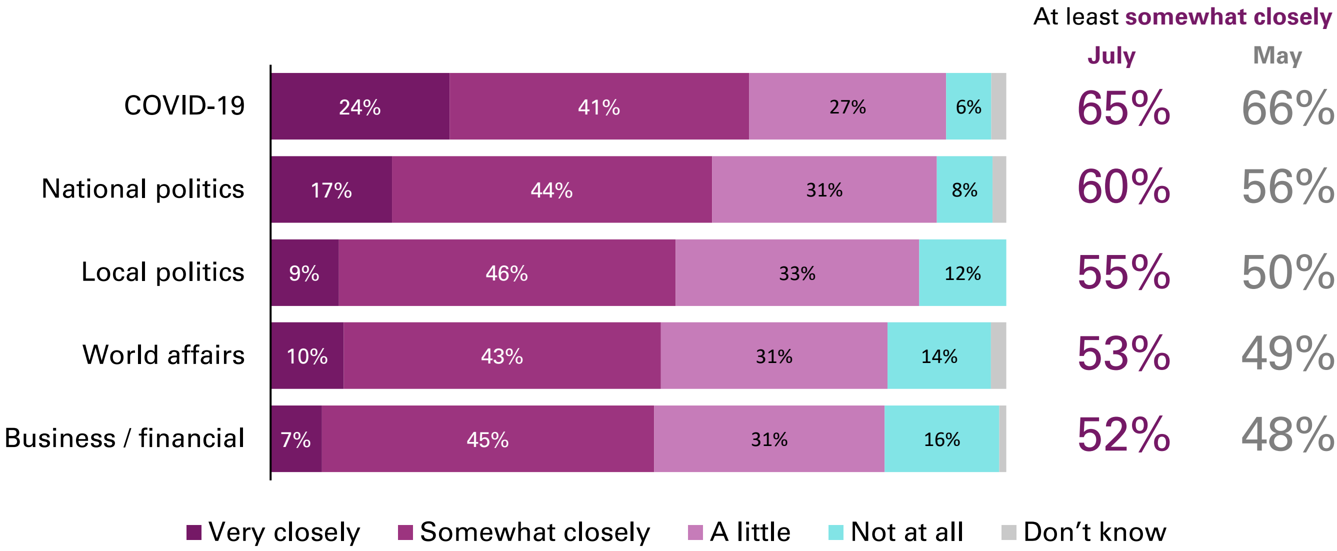
Those living in Dili were more likely to have access to the internet on a phone (84%) than those who lived outside of Dili (72%). Those employed in agriculture were less likely to have access to the internet on a phone (67%) than those who worked in non-agriculture areas (86%). Ninety-three percent of those with internet access from a phone in the household used social media daily.

The most used website or app was Facebook (83%), followed by WhatsApp (42%), YouTube (32%), and Instagram (16%). Use of the latter four websites or apps increased since May. Those aged 17-24 were more likely to use Facebook (97%), WhatsApp (58%) and Instagram (25%). YouTube use was lower in Dili (22%)

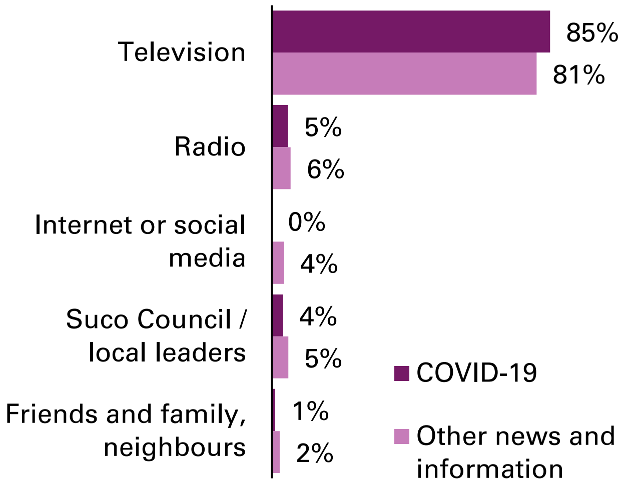
[3] As the survey was conducted over the telephone, all respondents had access to a telephone. As a comparison, in 2018 76 percent of respondents provided a mobile phone number and only 33 percent of respondents said they had access to the internet.

In July, COVID-19 remained the most closely followed topic, with two-thirds of respondents following this topic at least somewhat closely (65%). National (60%) and local (55%) politics were also closely followed. In May, residents of Dili were significantly more likely to follow COVID-19 related news, national politics, local politics and world affairs. In July, however, these trends were not apparent. Males were more likely to closely follow local politics (61%) than females (50%).

How closely do you follow each of the following topics?



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



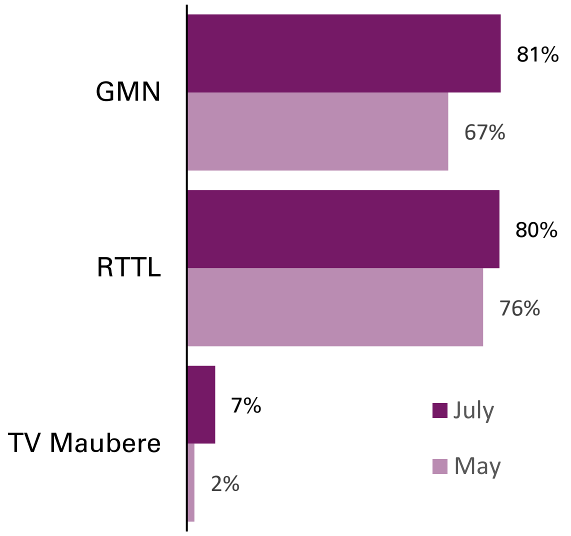
Television remained the most trusted source for COVID-19 information (85% July, 80% May) and other news and information (81% July, 75% May). Radio was the second most trusted source of news (5% for COVID-19 and 6% generally), albeit slightly less than May (12% and 17% respectively). Those exposed to Eskola ba Uma were more likely to trust television (90% / 91%).

Dili respondents were more likely to trust television (91% COVID-19, 88% news and information).

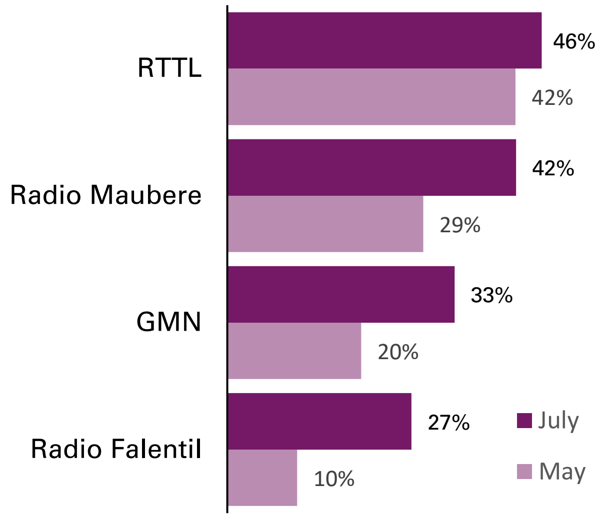
Respondents who indicated they trusted television the most for other news and information (81%) were asked which stations they watched. In July, GMN (81%) just fractionally overtook RTTL (80%) as the most often watched television station (In May, 76% watched RTTL and 67% watched GMN). RTTL, however, remained most often watched outside of Dili (86%) compared to inside Dili (65%). Those who still follow COVID-19 news were more likely to watch RTTL (81%).

Respondents who indicated they trusted radio the most for other news and information (6%) were asked what stations they listened to[4]. Similar to May, a wider range of stations were listened to in comparison to the number of television channels watched. Over one-in-five respondents reported that they listened to RTTL (46%), Radio Maubere (42%), and GMN (33%). Amongst this relatively small group of radio users, Radio Falentil saw the largest increase as the station most listened to (27%, up from 10% in May).

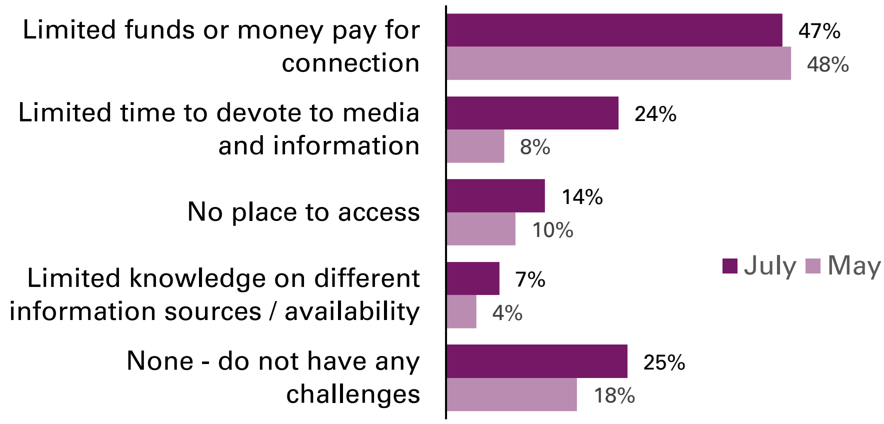
What television channels do you most often watch?



What radio stations do you most often listen to?



Top 5 challenges in accessing information



Similar to May, almost half the respondents indicated that one of their main challenges in accessing information was limited funds (47%). Limited time to devote to media and information was an increasing challenge for accessing information (24%, up from 8% in July).

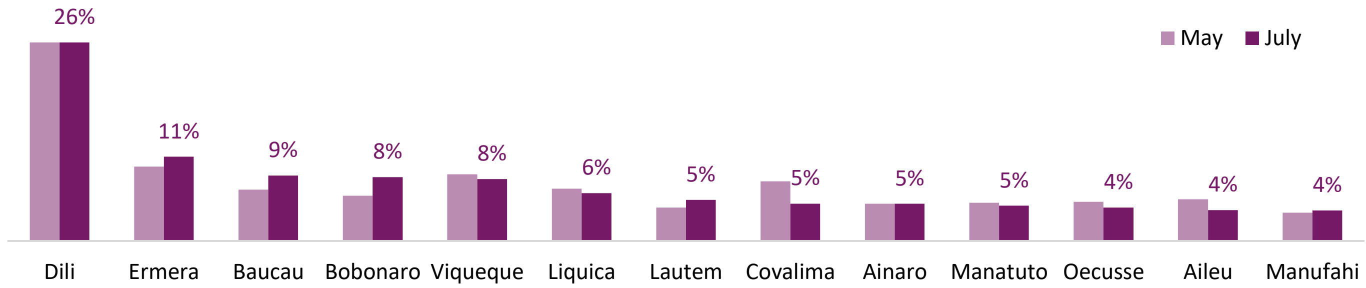
One-quarter of respondents had no challenges in accessing information, and this was higher amongst those aged 17-24 (34%). Limited funds to pay for connection was a bigger challenge in Dili (66%), and no place to access was less of a challenge for those in Dili (7%).

[4] Radio analysis represents only 23 respondents and should be interpreted with caution.

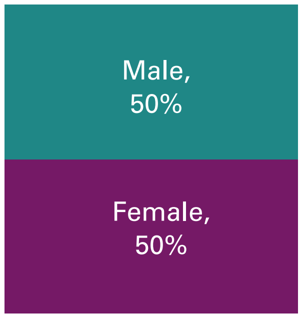
Respondent profile

The results for District, Gender and Age used weighted data. These variables are used as weighting variables themselves – and more details as well as their respective cut-offs are contained in the methodology section.

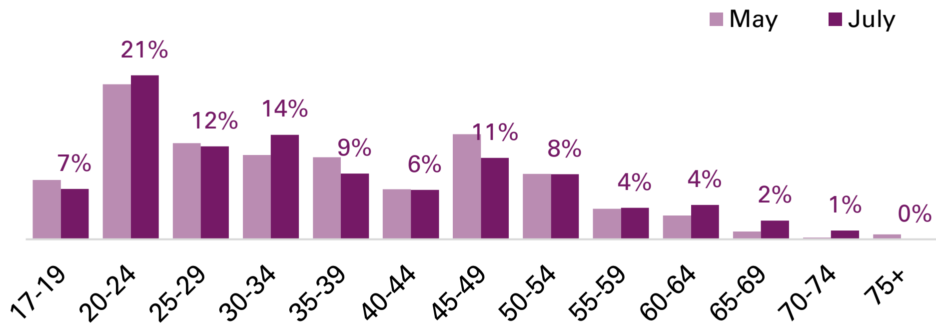
District



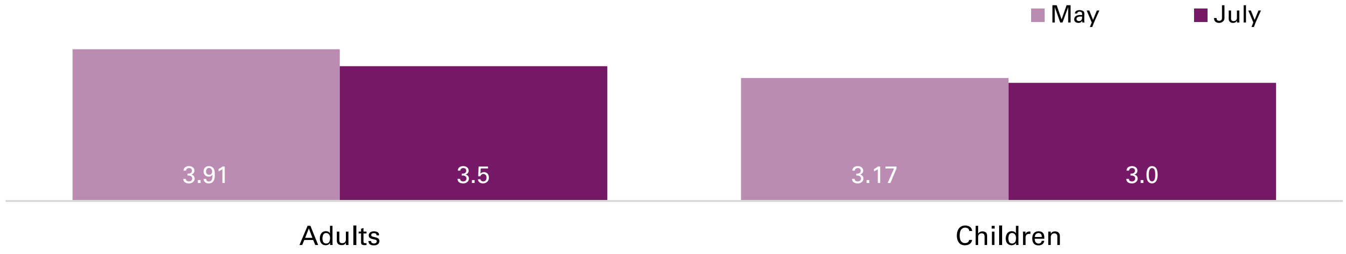
Gender (May and July)



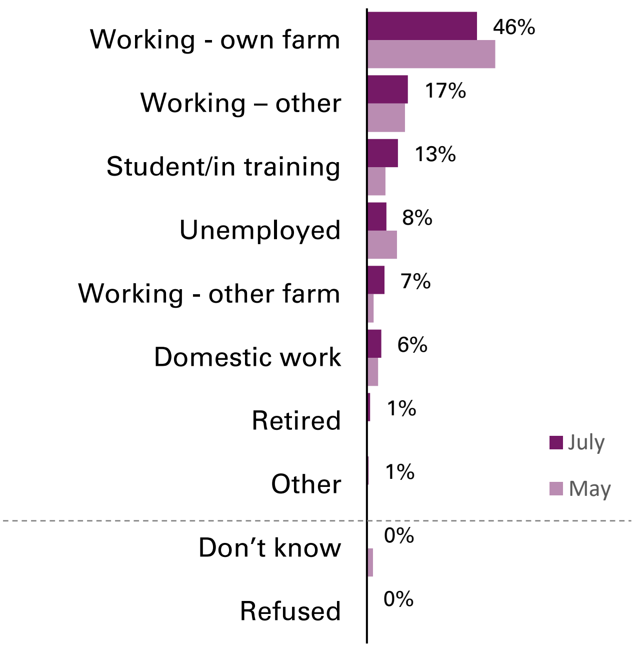
Age



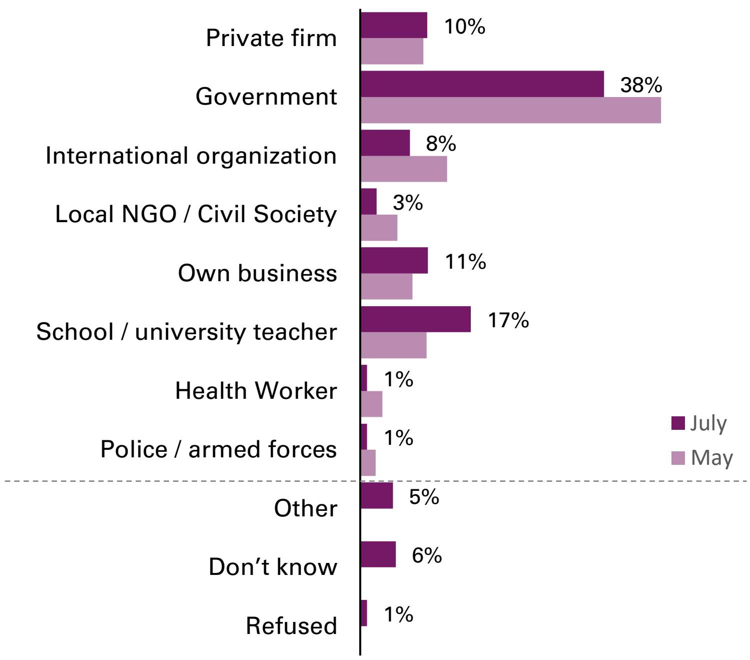
Average number of adults and children living in your household (including respondent)



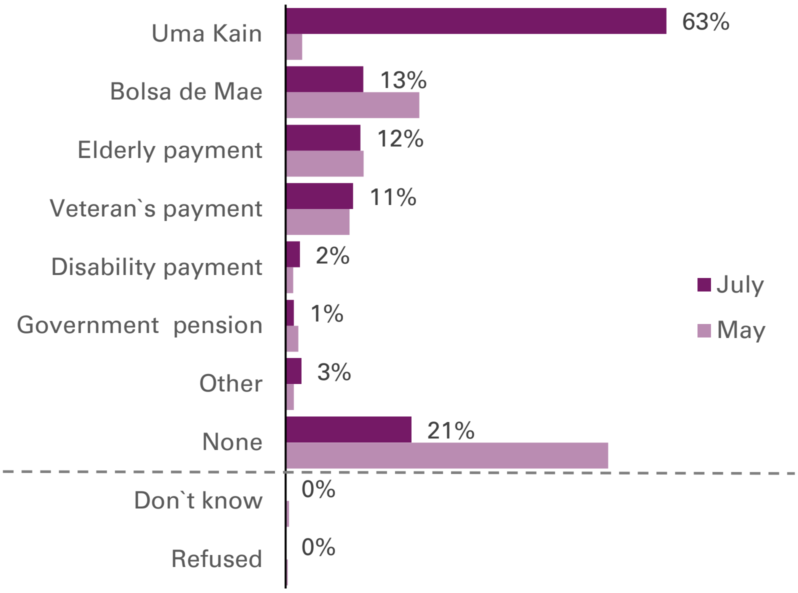
What is your occupation?



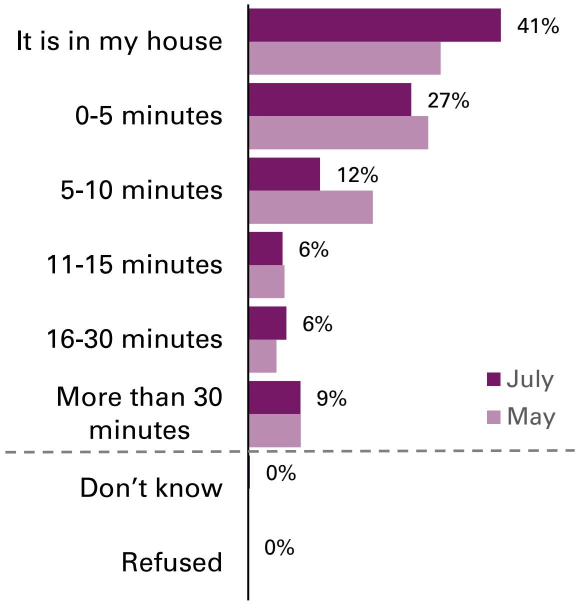
Where do you work? (If working – other)



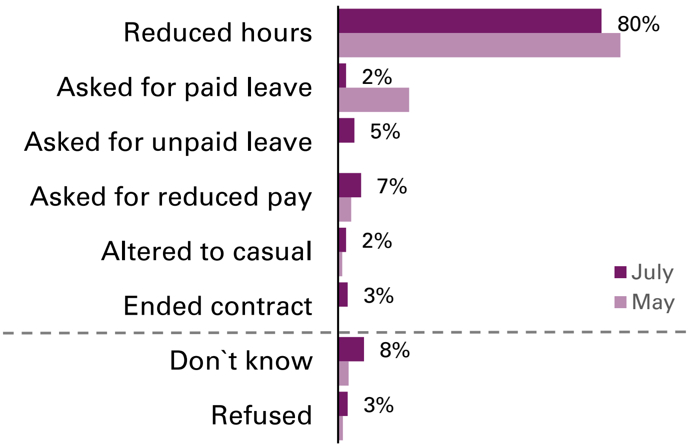
Does your household receive any government payments?



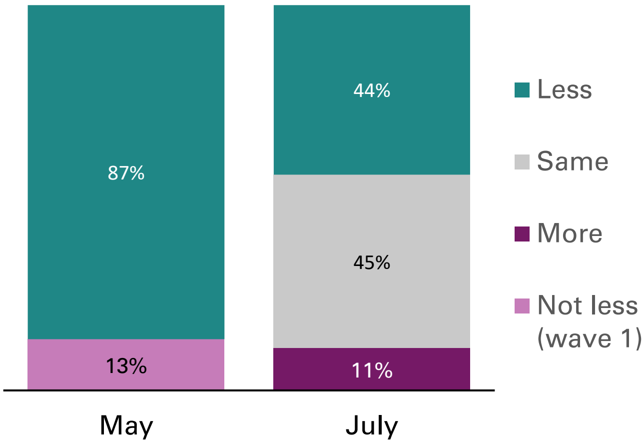
On an ordinary day, how long does it take you to walk to fetch water?



Has your employer…



If you are employed, are you working more, less or the same number of hours compared to before the State of Emergency?



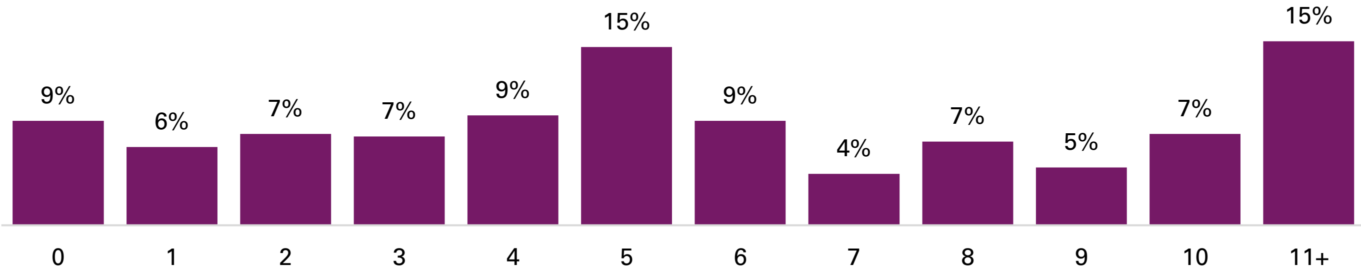
27% **Moved residence during SoE,** of which

64% **Have now returned to normal residence**

27% **Had more people living in their house,** of which

50% **Remain in house still**

Number of additional people (If had more people living in their house)



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 July questionnaire was near-identical to May, with one new section about household duties and some other slight modifications. 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.

How were the telephone interviews conducted?

To conduct the fieldwork, The Asia Foundation partnered with a Dili based NGO called MDI. Most interviewers had previously worked on projects with The Asia Foundation, and many have now worked on both rounds of the 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.

In both May and July, nearly all surveys were conducted in Tetum, with only a handful conducted in Fatuluku, Bahasa Indonesian or Baikenu. Respondents were sent a $2 telephone credit for participating in the research.

	May	July
Sample list[5]	2,307	1,192
Calls made	2,123	1,240
Successful person from number in sample	232	215
Successful interview with person listed in sample	232	379
Refusals	30	47
Non-working numbers	1,666	619
Bookings	35	159
Response rate[6]	10.0%	18.0%
Completions non-listed source	168	189
Callback permission	417	402
Number call back	27	30
Removed cases	4	0
Final dataset	423	404
Fieldwork start (2020)	19 May	18 July
Fieldwork end (2020)	25 May	17 July
Median length of interview[7]	47m25s	41m30s
Number of interviewers on project	14	19

[5] In May, only 2,307 cases were called from the sample list. In July, enumerators targeted hard-to-reach quotas from the full sample list of 7,293 numbers (as the sample list contains gender and location of respondents). 1,192 numbers were drawn using this method.
[6] 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.

[7] Excludes 25 / 29 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 approach included the need to enable comparisons between Dili and other districts, as well as being practical within the relatively short timeframe and limited sample.

	Proposed minimum	May	July
Males in Dili	38	70	78
Females in Dili	38	57	50
Males non-Dili	150	179	174
Females non-Dili	150	117	102

Minimum quotas (see right, above) were set to ensure appropriate gender and geographic coverage. One quota, in relation to females outside of Dili, was not met in both May and July. Additionally, individual districts outside of Dili had minimum quotas proportionate to their population. The minimum quota required for each district was 10. Districts 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 comparability, simplicity and representation of the population. The variables used for weighting, the proportions within population and unweighted proportions are shown to the right.

	Population	May unweighted	July unweighted
	(N=662,285)	*(n=423)*	*(n=404)*
Age			
17-24	28%	14%	15%
25-44	41%	53%	58%
45-120	31%	33%	27%
Gender			
Male	50%	59%	62%
Female	50%	41%	38%
Location			
Dili	26%	30%	32%
Not Dili	74%	70%	68%

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. In round 1, this resulted in 4 cases being removed.
- 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.

How confident can I be in the results?

	May	July
Number of responses	423	404
Effective sample size	354	322
Statistical margin of error	±5.2%	±5.5%

The effective sample size estimates the equivalent sample size had perfect sampling been used without weighting. The statistical margin of error is calculated using a proportion percentage of 50% at the 95% confidence level. This can 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, or contact:

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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.

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