



# COVID-19: Impacts, Attitudes, and Safety Nets

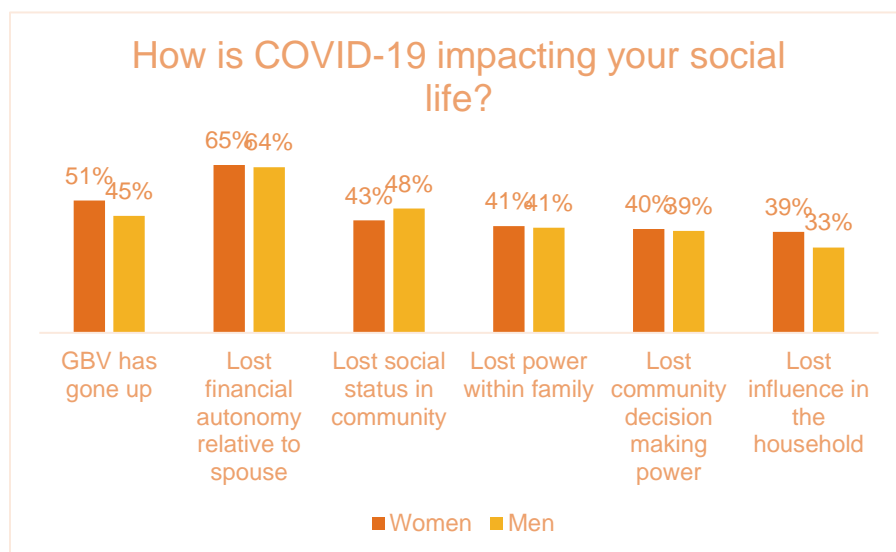
## Savings Group experiences in Haiti in, June 2020 - April 2021

**Context:** in April 2021, CARE conducted interviews with savings group members and leaders to understand their experiences of COVID-19, and how it was changing their lives. The survey included 364 women and 175 men, for a total of 539 respondents. This follows a survey done in June 2020 to understand what was happening at that time for members of savings groups. The surveys covered Artibonite and Grand Anse.

### Clear priorities on basic needs

COVID-19 continues to have important impacts for women and men in savings groups. In general, men and women in these groups were reporting similar challenges across the sample. **86% of women and men are reporting impacts in their livelihoods**, and 98% of people say that COVID-19 is affecting their ability to save.

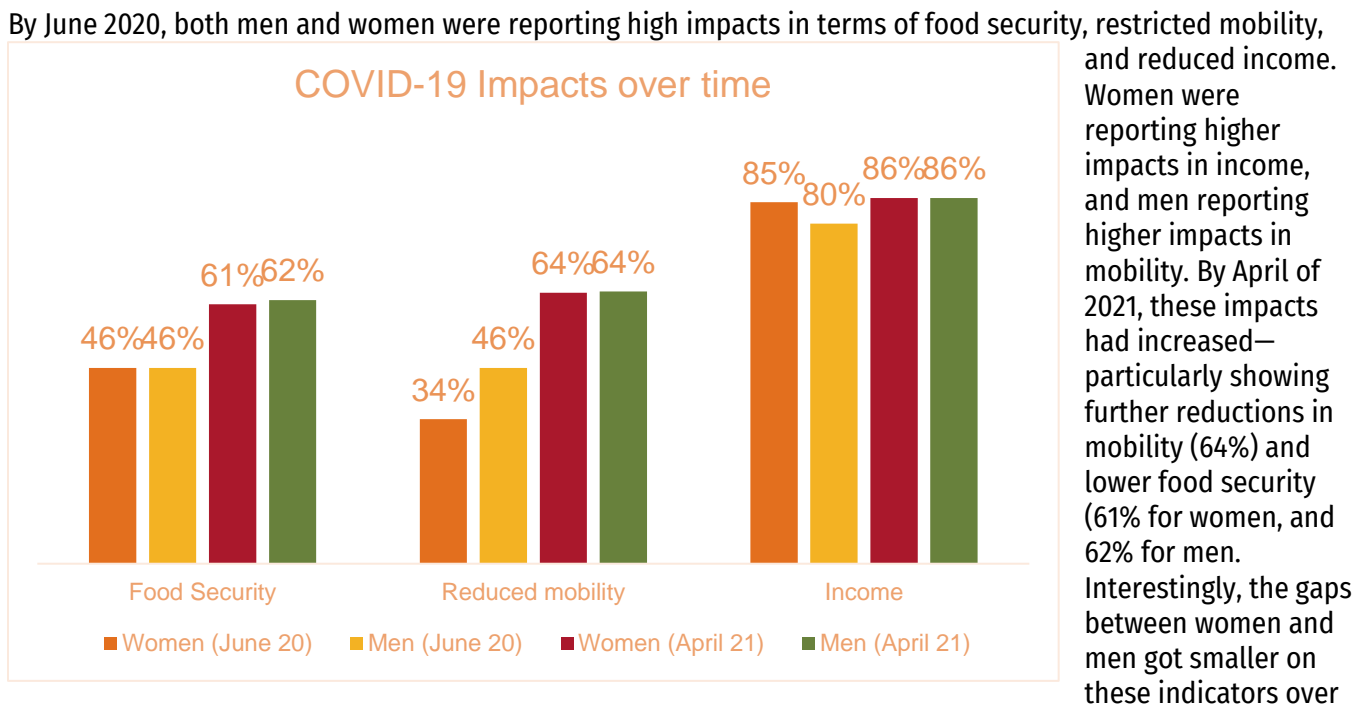
64% say they can't meet family needs and hunger has gone up. 90% of people are reporting that COVID-19 is impacting their social lives. More women than men report that Gender Based Violence has gone up. While women are more likely to have lost influence in the household than men (39% compared to 33%), men are more likely to report that they lost social status in the community (48% compared to 43%).



When asked to prioritize what they need most right now, both men

and women prioritize health care (50%), livelihood support (48% for women and 41% for men), and safe shelter (33% for women and 27% for men).

## Impacts getting more acute since June 2020



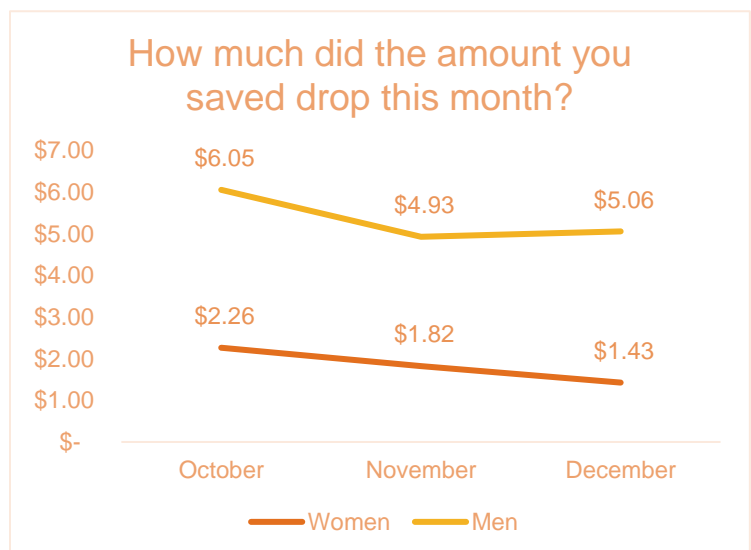
time.

## Savings are still slipping

Based on reporting from January through March, savings groups were already saving less by late March. This was especially true for the poorest people who had been saving the least. In January, the minimum savings was an average of 4,414 Haitian Gourdes (\$41 USD). By March, that number was 4,159 HTG (\$39 USD). That's a 5% drop in savings even before the worst of the pandemic and resulting economic consequences began. By October, men were reporting that they saved \$6 less than the previous month, and women were saving \$2.26 less. This is a continued erosion of savings over time. With less money going into savings, and 42% of people saying they can no longer access loans, the resilience these groups can provide their members is steadily dropping.

## Savings groups are adapting

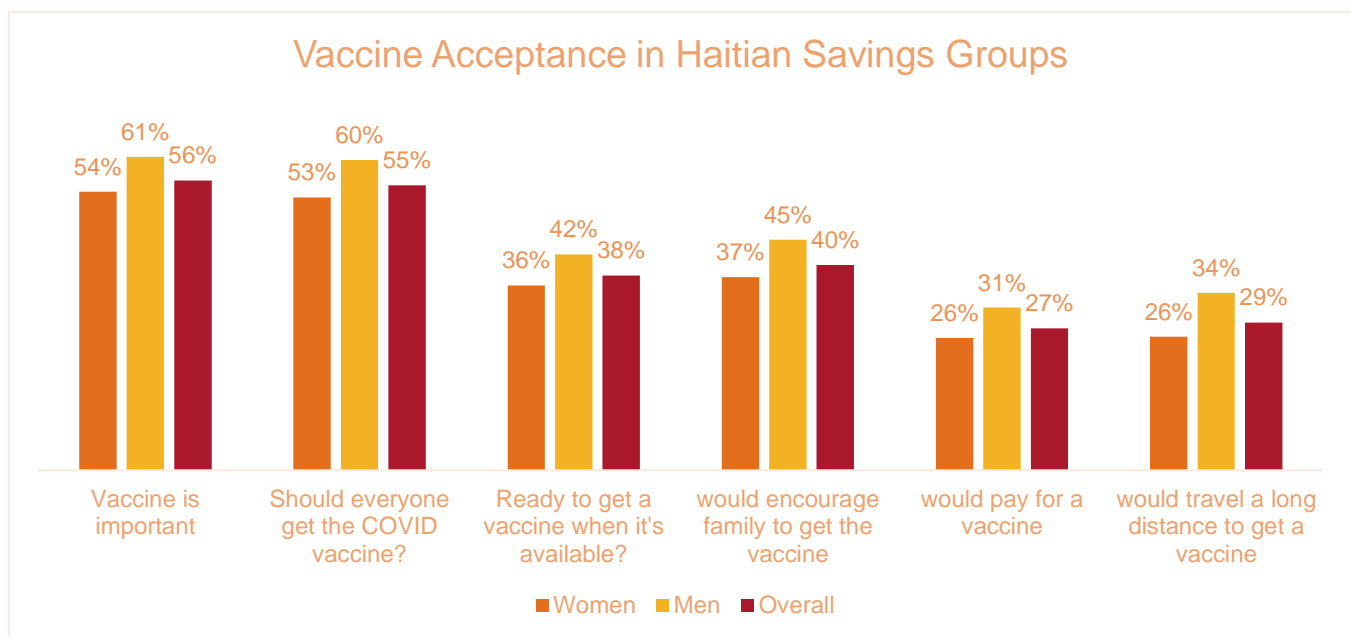
Men and women are largely experiencing shifts in savings groups in similar ways, with the exception that men are less likely to be going to meetings in person, and women are more likely to have adopted digital money.



- 65% of people say groups are not functioning the way they used to.
- 47% are sending their savings to the group but not going to meetings themselves. This is more common for men than for women.
- 37% are using some kind of mobile money to save, which is more common for women than men
- 13% are using banking services during COVID-19.

## People are taking precautions, but reluctant to get vaccines

89% of people have taken COVID-19 prevention measures in the last month. The most common measures are wearing masks, practicing good hygiene like hand washing, and social distancing. 47% of people have participated in awareness raising around COVID-19 and how to prevent it. Nevertheless, vaccine acceptance rates are low (55% overall). There is even lower vaccine acceptance in the face of potential barriers to access. Only 27% of people would pay for a vaccine, and only 29% would travel a long distance to get it. The main reasons people site for not being willing to get the vaccine is that they are afraid of getting the disease from the vaccine and generally do not trust the vaccine (about 51% of people).



Men are between 6-8 percentage points more likely than women to accept vaccines on ALL dimensions, so it will be important to focus on vaccine acceptance among women in savings groups.

## There are significant local variations

This report covers 2 communes in Artibonite (Gros-Morne et Gonaives), and 8 communes in Grand’Anse (Beaumont, Chambellan, Corail, Dame-Marie, Jeremie, Marfranc, Moron, and Roseaux). The full report—[available here](#)—shows commune by commune data which is helpful in establishing existing vulnerabilities and attitudes, even before the additional challenge of the earthquake. There are significant variations between departments and communes. For example, in Grand’Anse, 75% of people said they were willing to encourage their families to get vaccinated. In Artibonite, that number is only 21% of people who will encourage their families to get the vaccine. Data for each indicator, disaggregated by commune, is available in the full report.