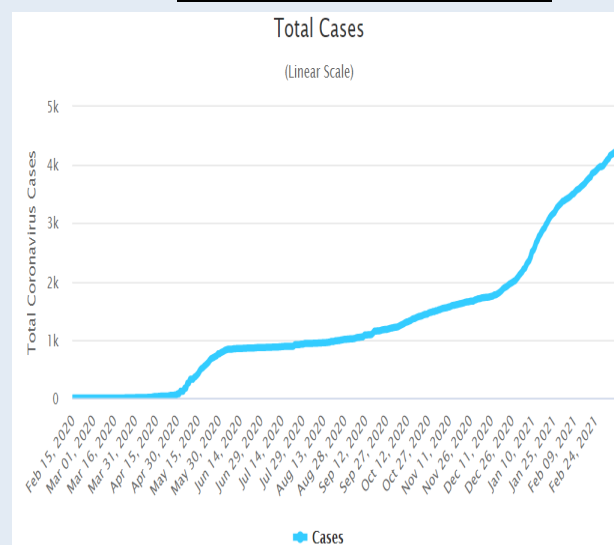




KEY MESSAGES

1. While the pandemic continues, Chadian households are becoming less and less satisfied with the social and economic responses to the pandemic;
2. Households are also dissatisfied with the effectiveness of the policy measures to stop the spread of the disease;
3. Chadian households continue to face significant constraint to market, but the fear of being infected by the pandemic is no longer reported as one of the main constraints ;
4. More and more households, particularly the poorest and those in rural areas, have experienced a decline in their total income during the last six months because of loss of family enterprise income and a decrease in remittances;
5. Overall, Chadian households continue to be pessimistic about their well-being in the future; however, the share of households thinking that their situation has much deteriorated since the outbreak declines by 6 percentage points during the last six months;
6. While it has declined, food insecurity remains a tremendous constraint for Chadian households. But encouragingly, 8 percent of the poorest households (quintile 1) moved out of food insecurity during the last six months.

Confirmed Cases of COVID-19



Source: <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/Chad> as of February 24, 2021



BACKGROUND AND KNOWLEDGE OF COVID-19

Background

This brief presents findings from the third round of a nationally representative household High-Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) in Chad. The HFPS sample is based on the "Enquete sur les Conditions de vie des menages et le Secteur Informel (ECOSIT 4)" implemented in 2018/2019 by the *Institut National de la Statistique, des études économiques et démographiques*, with technical and financial support from the World Bank. The HFPS was administered to a sample of 1,902 households. Phone surveys were successfully completed for 1,609 households with a response rate of 84.6 percent. Sampling weights were adjusted to make sure that the surveyed sample remains nationally representative. The survey questionnaire covers several topics, including knowledge of Covid-19, behavior, access to basic services, safety nets, employment, assistance, etc. The data have been collected by 20 enumerators selected among those who participated in the previous survey (ECOSIT 4).

The brief compares the results of the first round of the High-frequency Survey implemented in May-June 2020 and the third round implemented in January-February 2021.

Satisfaction with policy measures

As in many countries around the world, since the onset of the pandemic, governments have taken various economic and social measures to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 disease and help mitigate its impact on households. As shown in Figure 1, households are less and less satisfied with the economic and social policy measures while the pandemic continues. Indeed, households' satisfaction rate dropped by 30 percentage points for each of the economic and social policy measures taken to mitigate the pandemic's impact (Figure 1). Households are also less satisfied with the effectiveness of the measures to prevent the spread of the disease, with 47 percent of households satisfied with the closure of places of worship in January-February 2021 against 72 percent of households six months ago (Figure 2).

Figure 1 : Share of households satisfied with policy measures : Economic and social response measures

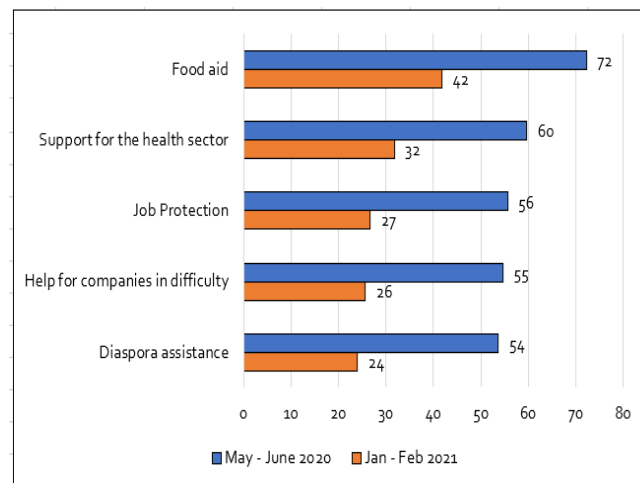
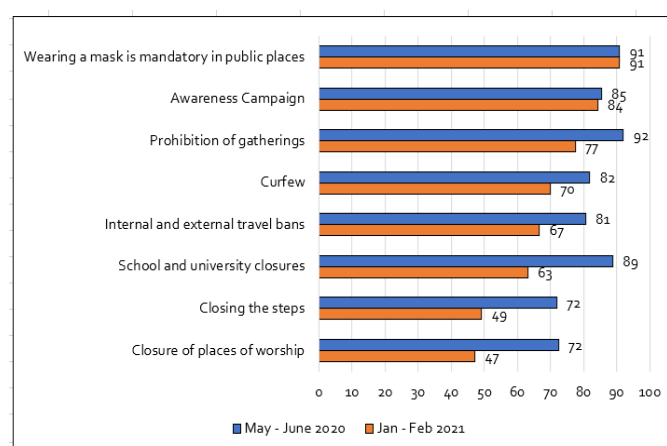


Figure 2 : Share of households satisfied with policy measures : Measures to prevent the spread of covid-19





ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES

One year after its outbreak in Chad, the covid-19 pandemic is continuing to have a major impact on households' ability to access basic services. This is a concern for all the households regardless of their area of residence or quintile of welfare.

As reported in Figure 3, from May-June 2020 to January-February 2021, the share of households not having access to the market remains very high (about seven out of ten households). While the fear of being infected by the Covid-19 was a reason for inaccessibility in May-June 2020, this is no longer the case and the majority of households seem to experience inaccessibility to market because of lack of money. The government's restrictive measures to stop the spread of the pandemic, such as market closure and travel ban, have been partially or totally lifted, reducing physical inaccessibility to the market.

Households' access to health services continued to be constrained, but some improvement has been made during the last six months. Indeed, the share of households having access to health care when needed has increased by 2 percentage points during the period. The progress has been significant in the Capital city (10 percentage points increase) and for the higher quintiles (7 to 8 percentage points increase). To a lesser extent, the fear of being infected by the covid-19 and the unavailability of medical staff are continuing to limit households access to medical services. Indeed, 3 percent and 9 percent of households that could not have access to medical services when needed have reported the fear of being infected and the unavailability of medical staff, respectively. While households did not complaint against the unavailability of medical staffs in N'Djamena between the two periods (May-June 2020 and January-February 2021), the share of households which complaint against the unavailability of medical staffs increased from 1.5 percent to 13 percent in other urban and from 3.9 percent to 9.2 in rural areas.

Figure 3 : Access to markets

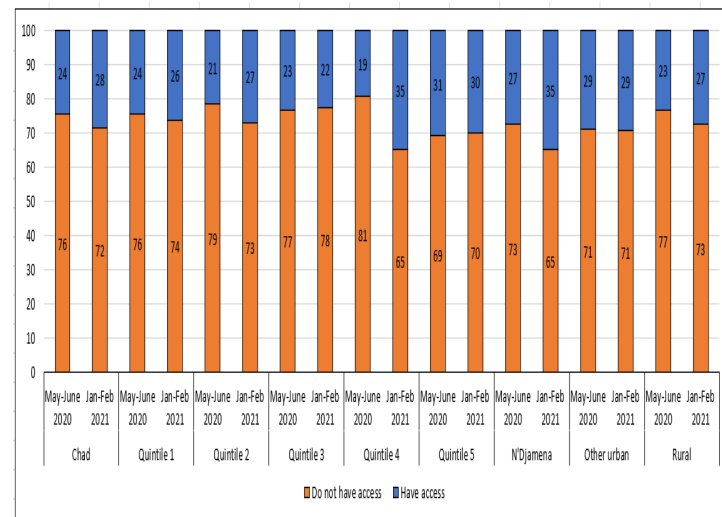
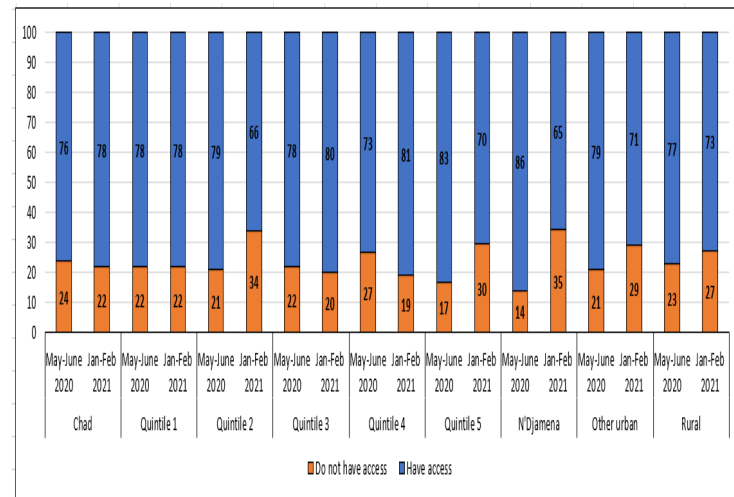


Figure 4 : Access to health care when needed



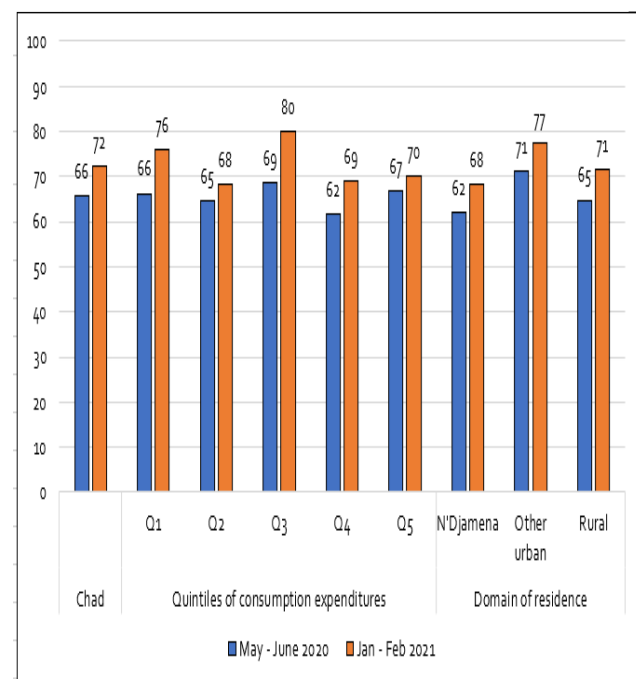
EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

While the country's economy is progressively recovering, covid-19 is continuing to have a significant impact on job and households' income. As shown in Figure 5, the share of households that experienced loss in their total income increased from 66 percent in May-June 2020 to 72 percent in January-February 2021.

The pandemic is mostly impacting poor households compared to the non-poor. Indeed, during the six months period, the share of households from the lowest quintile which lost a part of their total income increased by 10 percentage point against a 3 percentage points increase for households in the highest quintile (Figure 5). Households in the capital city are less likely to lose their income than those in other urban and rural areas, and this is consistent over time.

The decline in households' total income is partly due to a reduction in the frequency and amount of remittances. This is particularly a concern for households in the poorest quintile. Indeed, the share of households in the lowest quintile that experienced a decline in remittances and assistance increase by two percentage points during the last six months, while the share of households in the highest quintile that experience a reduction in remittance declined by six percentage points over the same period.

Figure 5 : Share of households experiencing decline in total income

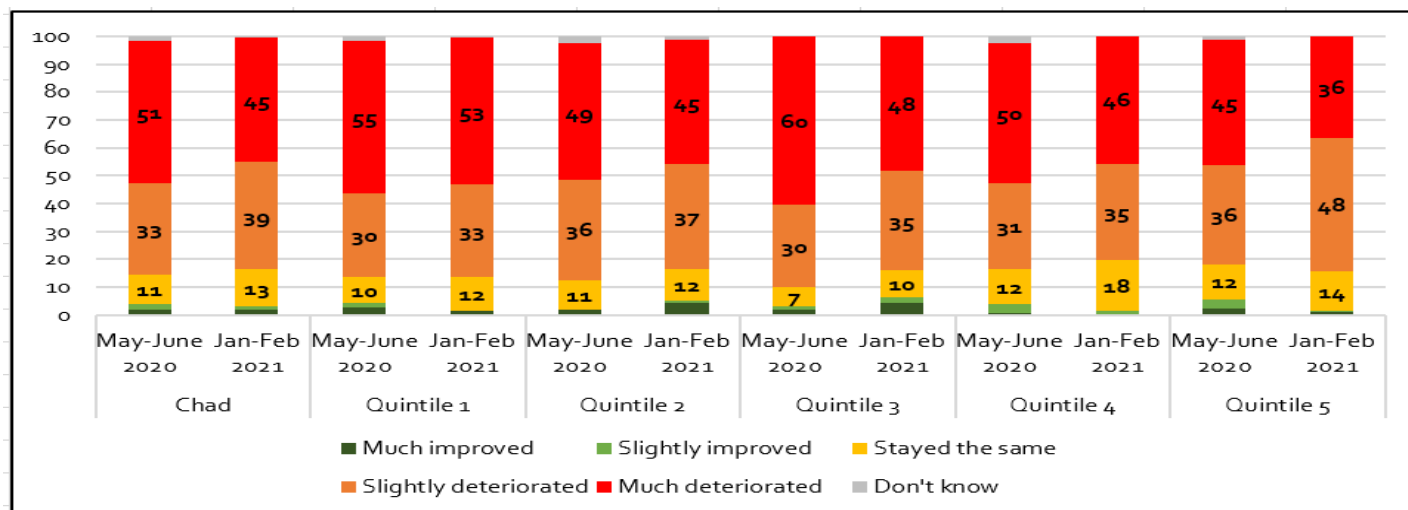




PERCEPTION ON WELL-BEING

Overall Chadian households are pessimistic about their living conditions in the future as the share of households thinking that their well-being are deteriorated since the outbreak remain the same during the last six months (Figure 6). But, the share of households thinking that their situation has much deteriorated declines from 51 percent in May-June 2020 to 45 percent in January-February 2021. However, the decline in household pessimism is relatively slow for households in the lower quintile compared to their counterpart of the higher quintile. During the last six months, the share of households from the lowest quintile (quintile 1) that think that their well-being much deteriorated declined by two percentage points against nine percentage points decline for households in the highest quintile (quintile 5).

Figure 6 : Perception of households on their well-being since the outbreak of Covid-19



FOOD INSECURITY

Overall, food insecurity has declined in the country during the last six months from 95 percent to 89 percent. However, the share of households that are severely food insecure increased by three percentage points during the same period. This increase happened mostly in other urban (8 percentage points) and rural areas (2 percentage points).

Food insecurity is continuing to be a tremendous issue for the poorest households as nine out of them continue to experience this situation, including six households out of ten being severely food insecure (Figure 8). Encouraging, 8 percent of the poorest households (quintile 1) moved out of food insecurity during the last six months. This is slightly more improvement compared to the richest households for which 5 percent have been lifted out of food insecurity during the same period. Indeed, following the covid-19 pandemic, the Government and its partners provided social support to households through distribution of cash and foods, which mostly targeted the poorest and most vulnerable households. In addition, the reopening process has favored a better market supply reducing the price of staples foods, and therefore food insecurity. The harvest that happened from September to December has also allowed the poorest households that earn their livelihood from agriculture to improve their food security.

Figure 7 : Food insecurity by domain of residence

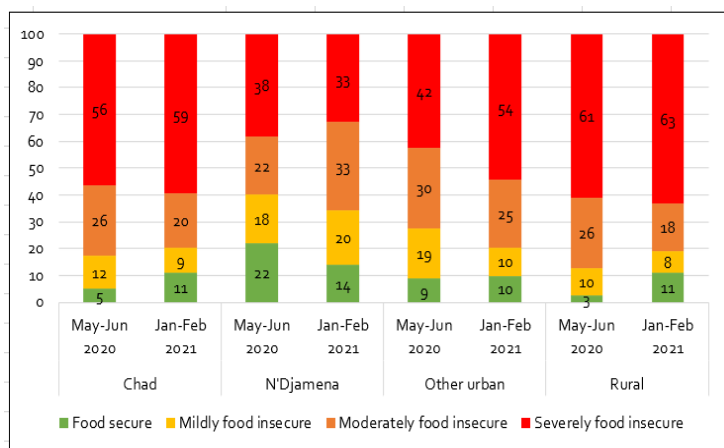


Figure 8 : Food insecurity by quintiles of consumption expenditures

