



1. HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

Economic activities



70% Women **75%** Men

Respondents whose economic activities changed during the pandemic



71% Women **77%** Men
aged 18-34 years
were most affected

The largest proportion of respondents affected by changes in economic activities were those who owned businesses or were freelancers



52% Women

owned a business/were freelancers before the lockdown, compared to only **34%** at the time of the study



43% Men

owned a business/were freelancers before the lockdown, compared to only **32%** at the time of the study



23% Women

listed farming as an economic activity after the onset of the pandemic, compared to **19%** during the pandemic



26% Men

listed farming as an economic activity before the pandemic compared to **27%** during the pandemic



11% Women **15%** Men

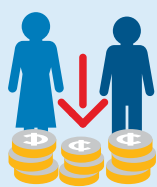
in non-agricultural part-time jobs were least affected with post-pandemic proportions remaining the same



1% Women & Men

respectively, engaged in unpaid work in family business were also not affected in terms of economic activity

Effect of pandemic on income sources



73% Women **76%** Men

About **3** out of **4**

in all age groups indicated that they had suffered decreases in income as a result of the pandemic

24% Women **21%** Men



1 in **4**

indicated no change in income as a result of the pandemic



63% Women **69%** Men

experienced changes in combined household income during the pandemic

64% Women **70%** Men

aged 18-34 years
were most affected

60% Women **66%** Men

aged 55 years and above
were least affected

Common negative experiences

67% Women **68%** Men

faced financial difficulties

62% Women **64%** Men

ate less or skipped a meal altogether because of lack of money or other resources

46% Women **51%** Men

did not eat at all for a day or more because of lack of money or other resources

18% Women **19%** Men

faced loss of employment of the head of household



2. AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FOOD SECURITY

Food production



72%

Women

84%

Men

lived in households that produced crops and livestock (i.e., fish farming, poultry, and other stock)



79%

Women

aged 35-54 years

&

90%

Men

aged 55 years and above

were most likely to indicate that their household produced food



52%

Women

45%

Men

indicated that food produced by their household does not provide for their food needs

Food availability due to COVID-19-related movement restrictions



nearly **1 in 3**

48%

Women

46%

Men

thought that food had become less available



About **2 in 5**

42%

Women

39%

Men

thought that food was just as available during the pandemic as it was previously



About **3 in 5**

61%

Women

57%

Men

thought that the prices of food had increased



About **1 in 3**

32%

Women

34%

Men

felt that the prices had remained the same



6%

Women

8%

Men

thought that the price of food had reduced



67% Women

aged 55 years and above

were most likely to indicate that food prices had increased



34% Women

aged 35-54 years

were most likely to indicate that food prices had stayed the same



3. EDUCATION



41%
Girls



43%
Boys

Limited access to learning materials such as books was the greatest impediment to learning for girls and boys in Malawi during the pandemic



37%
Girls



43%
Boys

Lack of a skilled instructor also hindered studying from home for girls and boys



28%
Girls



34%
Boys

Lack of a conducive environment also hindered studying from home during the pandemic



28%
Girls



30%
Boys

Experienced limited access to the internet presented a challenge for remote learning



25%
Girls



28%
Boys

Experienced lack of electricity/source of lighting



14%
Girls



11%
Boys

Girls were more affected than boys by the learning challenge that the multiple roles of the parent/guardian presented



23%
Girls



18%
Boys

Faced other undefined challenges



20%
Girls



21%
Boys

Experienced increased household chores as an impediment to studying from home



4. WATER AND SANITATION

Access to clean and safe water



About **3** in **5**



17% Women
20% Men

felt that they had sufficient access to clean and safe water



90% Women
82% Men

in urban areas who had access to clean and safe water compared to their rural counterparts (**women 76%, men 74%**)

83% Women aged 18-34 years



82% Women aged 35-54 years



were **slightly more likely** than their counterparts aged **55 years and above (77%)** to have access to clean water during the pandemic



80% Men aged 55 years and above

were **most likely** among men to have access to clean and safe water during the pandemic

75% Men aged 35-54 years

were **least likely** among all respondents to have access to the commodity

Reasons for limited or no access to clean and safe water during the pandemic



28%

long distances to the source



23%

water access has always been a challenge



19%

inability to afford the cost of water



7%

piped water has always been a challenge



More than **1** in **10**

13%

other unidentified reasons for the lack of access

Responsibility for collecting water and firewood



Nearly **3** in **4**

74%

indicated that women carried out this task

8%

indicated that a man in the household carried out this task

16%

indicated this responsibility falls on women and men in the same household



4. UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK BEFORE AND AFTER THE PANDEMIC

Activity most attributed to men



43%

shopping for the household
before the pandemic

Activities least attributed to men



8%

collecting water
and firewood



9%

cleaning



10%

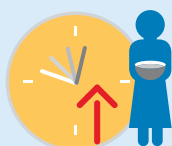
cooking and meal
preparation

Time spent on activities since the onset of the pandemic



18% Women

reported increases
in time spent on
cleaning



14% Women

reported increases in
time spent **cooking**
and **meal preparation**



17% Men

reported increases
in time spent on
cleaning



12% Men

reported increases in
time spent **cooking**
and **meal preparation**



70%

felt that **women** spent
the most time on
physical care of children



56%

felt that **women**
spent the most
time on passive
care of children



44%

felt that **women** spent
the most time playing
with/reading stories to
children

Activities that had the highest participation proportions by men before the pandemic



29%

Emotional support
of adults



28%

assisting other adults
with administration and
accounts



20%

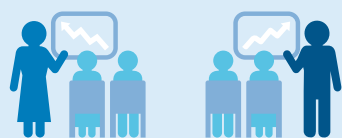
physical care
of adults



19%

playing with and
reading to children

Activities that had the highest percentages of women and men who said the time they spend on these activities increased during the pandemic



26%

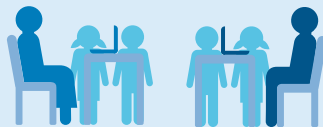
Women



28%

Men

respondents observed increases in time spent in **teaching children**



23%

Women



21%

Men

respondents observed increases in time spent in **passive care of children**



19%

Women



19%

Men

respondents observed increases in time spent in **playing with/reading stories to children**

Activities that had the highest percentages of women and men who said the time they spend on these activities decreased during the pandemic



37%

Women

36%

Men

respondents observed decreases in time spent on **emotional support for adults**



36%

Women

36%

Men

respondents observed decreases in time spent in **physical care of adults**



34%

Women



35%

Men

respondents observed decreases in time spent in **assisting other adults with administration and accounts**



5. HELP WITH HOUSEHOLD CHORES



20%

Women

15%

Men

reported getting help for chores and for caring for other family members from persons outside their household

30

percentage of women aged 55 years and above

who said they received help with chores and caring for others. This was higher than for women in other age groups (18-19%)

Persons most likely to help with chores and providing care for others in the household



41%

Women

46%

Men

identified family members

28%

Women

22%

Men

identified a person outside of the family¹

14%

Women

20%

Men

identified daughters

Respondents who mentioned hiring help were asked how the situation has changed since the onset of COVID-19



About **2** in **3**

68%

Women

64%

Men

reported receiving **less help** from a domestic worker, babysitter, or hired nurse



Less than **1** in **5**

16%

Women

14%

Men

indicated that they received **more help**

¹ These included a domestic worker, babysitter, or hired nurse.



6. MENTAL HEALTH

Effect of the pandemic on mental health



52%

Women

59%

Men

indicated that the pandemic has had a **negative impact** on their mental or emotional health

57

percentage of women aged 35-49 years

whose mental health was affected by the pandemic. This formed the highest proportion of respondents affected

46% Women aged 50-64 years

46% Women

aged 65 years and above registered the **lowest proportions** of those affected



Women and men's worries during the pandemic



More than **8 in 10**

52% Women

59% Men

respondents indicated that COVID-19 and its related control measures and restrictions have caused them to worry



21%

Women

20%

Men

worried about **access to food** during the pandemic



19%

Women

18%

Men

worried about **death** during the pandemic



10%

Women

9%

Men

worried about **safety related to the crisis**



5%

Women

6%

Men

worried about **access to medicine** during the pandemic

Concerns that varied by sex



Nearly **1 in 4**

23% Women

worried about **children missing school** compared to nearly **1 in 5 (19%) men**



1 in 2

50% Women

worried about their economic situation and income compared to nearly **3 in 5 (57%) men**



7. HEALTH SERVICES

Seeking health services during the pandemic



Slightly more than **1 in 3**

37%
Women

36%
Men

were inclined to **seek health services** during the pandemic

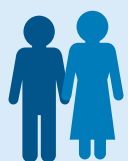
45%

Women

aged 65 years and above

were significantly more likely to seek health services during the pandemic

While more than **1 in 2** women (**57%**) and men (**52%**) did not need health services, those who did:



34%

Women

39%

Men

successfully accessed the services



23%

Women

26%

Men

sought child healthcare services



21%

Women

14%

Men

sought healthcare services for pregnant mothers/maternal healthcare services



8%

Women

13%

Men

sought family planning/SRH services²



8%

Women

3%

Men

sought healthcare services for HIV/Aids



5%

Women

10%

Men

sought medicine for chronic illnesses



9%

Women

6%

Men

sought clinical management of sexual violence



43%

Women

40%

Men

sought "other (unidentified) healthcare related services"

5%

Women

4%

Men

were **unsuccessful** in accessing healthcare services

Health services waiting times during the pandemic



Nearly **1 in 4**

24% Women

reported shorter waiting times compared to before the outbreak compared to **1 in 5 (17%) men**.



36%

Women

39%

Men

experienced longer waiting times since the onset of the pandemic.

34%

Women

36%

Men

experienced shorter waiting times.

² Including menstrual hygiene, etc.



8. FEELINGS OF SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY AND AT HOME

The pandemic brought changes in respondents' **feelings of safety** in the community.



16%
Women

19%
Men

indicated feeling **less safe** since the onset of the pandemic

43%
Women

42%
Men

indicated feeling safer

Personal experiences with **violence** during the pandemic:



15%
Women

17%
Men

have experienced violence

16% Women
aged 35-49 years



15% Women
aged 18-34 years

were more likely than **older women** to have experienced violence in the community during the pandemic

The proportion of individuals who experienced **discrimination** during COVID-19 was also fairly low compared to other countries in the sub-region



14%
Women

13%
Men

have personally experienced discrimination

16% Women
aged 35-49 years



15% Women
aged 18-34 years

were significantly more likely than **older women** to have experienced discrimination

Respondents' feelings of safety in the home



48%
Women

49%
Men

felt the same level of safety during the pandemic as they did previously



More than **1 in 4**

44%
Women

43%
Men

felt safer



Nearly **1 in 10**

7%
Women

8%
Men

felt less safe

For those who felt less safe, most were concerned about:



37%
Women

45%
Men

increases in crime



26%
Women

34%
Men

living in densely populated areas, which they felt made their homes less safe

42%
Women

37%
Men

other reasons for feeling less safe in the home



9. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Nearly all respondents indicated that **GBV is a problem** in Malawi, irrespective of the pandemic



97% Women
96% Men
qualified the **extent to which GBV is a problem** in the country as “a lot”

96% Women
aged 35-49 years

were slightly less likely than women **aged 50 years and above (98%)** to feel that GBV is a big problem

Frequency of GBV



Nearly **9** in **10**

88% Women
85% Men

reported that GBV happens very often, irrespective of COVID-19



More than **5** in **10**

53% Women
56% Men

perceived a **change in occurrence of GBV** since the onset of the pandemic

Women

aged 65 years and older

were **more likely** than women in other age groups to indicate that GBV has increased

45% Women
aged 50-64 years

were **least likely** to indicate that GBV has increased

Forms of GBV that women and men were aware of and knew someone who had experienced covered a wide range:



49% Women
51% Men

knew of child and/or forced marriages that took place during the pandemic



2 in **5**

41% Women
39% Men

knew someone who had been physically abused



Nearly **3** in **10**

27% Women
27% Men

knew someone who had experienced emotional/verbal abuse



More than **1** in **3**

36% Women **35%** Men

knew someone who has experienced **sexual harassment** during the pandemic



Nearly **1** in **4**

24% Women **24%** Men

knew of a victim of **forced sexual relations**



Nearly **1** in **5**

18% Women **20%** Men

Experienced or knew of someone who had experienced **online bullying**



Nearly **1** in **10**

9% Women **8%** Men

knew a victim of **FGM** carried out during the pandemic



13% Women **12%** Men

Denial to communicate with others was a relatively common form of GBV during the pandemic

Perpetrators of GBV



33% Women **32%** Men

identified **neighbor** as the perpetrator of GBV

31% Women **33%** Men

spouse was behind the most recent incident of GBV that they were aware of

25% Women **28%** Men

indicated **friend** as the perpetrator

23% Women **22%** Men

identified **other family member** as responsible for the GBV incident



11% Women **12%** Men

About **1** in **10**

indicated that **security agents** were behind the most recent GBV incident they were aware of

PRIORITIES

The study found that women and men **had similar** priority needs during the pandemic



55% **56%**
Women Men

identified **food** as their top priority



55% **55%**
Women Men

identified **healthcare** as their top priority



Nearly **2** in **5**

42% **41%**
Women Men

had **earning an income** as their priority need



37% **38%**
Women Men

identified **sanitation and hygiene** as a priority.



29% **28%**
Women Men

identified **safety and security** as a priority need.



20% **24%**
Women Men

identified **education** as a priority need during the pandemic.