A YEAR LIVING WITH COVID-19

Covid-19 Household and Job Tracker Survey

27 October 2021 | Protea Hotel Thuringerhof
1. INTRODUCTION

- **Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** is a **contagious respiratory illness** caused by a novel coronavirus called the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

- The virus is transmitted when droplets of saliva or nasal discharge from an infected person enters the eyes, nose, or mouth of an individual,
  - Through coughing, sneezing, breathing, talking, laughing etc.

- COVID-19 symptoms range from unnoticeable in asymptomatic individuals to life-threatening.
1. INTRODUCTION

• COVID-19 was first identified in December 2019 during an outbreak of the illness in Wuhan, China and has since spread around the World.

• The first cases of COVID-19 in Namibia were recorded in Windhoek on 13th of March 2020 and has spread to all 14 regions of the country.
• By 13th of April 2021 the **total cumulative COVID-19 cases** recorded were **45,949** and **586 COVID-19 deaths** were recorded
1. INTRODUCTION

- In order to contain the spread of the virus the Namibian government introduced a number of measures including:
  
  1. Social distancing in all shared spaces
  2. Mandatory wearing of face masks in public
  3. Regular hand washing
  4. Disinfecting surfaces
  5. Quarantining individuals who were exposed or symptomatic
1. INTRODUCTION

6. Countrywide curfews
7. Limitations on the number of individuals that could attend gatherings,
8. Restrictions of movement through partial and full lockdowns of the country,
9. Travel restrictions
10. Closure of schools and businesses
11. Encouraging individuals to get vaccinated
The NSA conducted a multi-disciplinary study to understand how the measures taken by the government impacted households and individuals.

The study was conducted between 14 March and 13 April 2021, a year to the date when the first Covid cases were reported in Namibia.
2. METHODOLOGY

- We replicated a living standards telphonic survey developed by the World Bank and implemented in a number of countries including Ghana, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Kenya.

- The behavioural questions were adapted from a similar study conducted by the Office of National Statistics UK.
2. METHODOLOGY

• The survey was conducted nation-wide with the purpose of providing basic information on the impact of COVID-19 on households and economic activity in Namibia and covered the following aspects:
  1. Economic activities,
  2. Income Loss
  3. Food security,
  4. Shock and Coping mechanisms,
  5. Access to services and Education,
  6. Perception on vaccine
2. METHODOLOGY

• A national sample was drawn from the responding households of the 2018 Labour Force Survey (LFS 2018)
  – Only households with valid phone numbers were selected
  – A total of 7002 households were selected

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of Interview</th>
<th>Total households</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>7002</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contacted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>3,593</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially completed</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language barrier</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not reached</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nobody answering</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number does not exist</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone turned off</td>
<td>854</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrong number (don’t know the household)</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference person can’t connect to household</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. METHODOLOGY

• Data collection was done using the **telephonic computer assisted interview (CATI)** method using tablets devices and a software tool called *Survey Solutions* for data capture.

• Telephonic interviews were found to be the best-suited method of data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic as it complied with social distancing
A total of 64 staff were recruited to conduct telephonic interviews, all enumerators were based in Windhoek and conducted calls from their homes.

Monitoring measures were put in place to ensure that data quality was maintained throughout the process.

- Data collected was assessed daily through a supervisor data quality program and feedback was provided to the field staff for verification.
3. HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

• 3648 Households took part in the survey
  – Average age of head of household was 49.2 (SD 15.3)
  – 54.2% rural and 45.8% urban households participated
  – 46% female and 54% male headed households
  – 32% households reported disability of household members
4. KEY FINDINGS: Behavioural

- Households were **aware of and adhered to the regulations** put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- Individuals adopted preventative measures such as handwashing (86.1%), face covering (96.6%), avoiding large gatherings (78.2%) and avoiding handshakes (84.3%) to curb infection.
4. KEY FINDINGS: Access

- 90% of the households had water to wash hands a week prior to the survey.
- Those who could not afford to wash hands was mainly due to reductions in water supply (33.8%), inability to afford water (13.0%) or had a total lack of water supply (15.8%).

Access to water
Main reasons household not able to access water to wash hands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WATER SUPPLY REDUCED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATER SUPPLY NO LONGER AVAILABLE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANNOT AFFORD IT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNABLE TO ACCESS COMMUNAL SOURCES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIMITED / NO TRANSPORTATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INCREASE IN PRICE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO ACCESS TO CASH AND CANNOT PAY WITH CREDIT CARD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOCAL MARKETS NOT OPERATING / CLOSED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSA
4. KEY FINDINGS: Economic Activity

- 7.3% of the population surveyed who were working before the onsets of COVID-19 experienced job losses due to COVID-19.

- The main reason people cited lost jobs was due to business closure due to COVID-19 restrictions (47.6%) introduced by the government.

Source: NSA
4. KEY FINDINGS: Income Loss

- Households that who relied on income from family livestock farming or fishing (49%), non-farming related family businesses (65%) and those who depended on income from properties, investment and savings (55%) experienced the largest reductions in income.
4. KEY FINDINGS: Food Security

- Food security was a major concern during the pandemic. 59% of the households reported price increases in major food items as the most commonly experienced shock.

- Households reduced food consumption as a way to handle the shock.

Source: NSA
4. KEY FINDINGS: COVID-19 Tests

- At the time of the study Namibia recorded a total of 45,949 cumulative COVID-19 cases
- 18.6% of households reported that a member had been tested for COVID-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>22.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>81.4</td>
<td>86.6</td>
<td>77.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. KEY FINDINGS: COVID-19 Vaccines

- During the Survey 23% of the households indicated that they did not want to be vaccinated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National (%)</th>
<th>Rural (%)</th>
<th>Urban (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>53.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>27.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Out of those who do not want to be vaccinated were concerns around trust on vaccines (23%), safety (14 %), mis-information on social media (14%) and other felt there was a need for more information (14%).
1. Individuals and households reported a significant change in behaviour due to COVID-19
   – Increased wearing of masks
   – Leaving their homes less frequently
   – Washing hands more frequently
   – Avoiding handshakes and physical greeting
2. COVID-19 legislative restrictions on the sale of alcohol, curfews, and closure of businesses such as gyms, restaurants, led to a loss of income and jobs.

3. An increase in the price of food that was consumed was the most widely reported shock affecting households.
4. At the time of the survey a majority of household members had not been tested for COVID-19, however 60.6% of respondents indicated a willingness to take the vaccine.

5. The main reasons for not taking the vaccine was fear about the safety of the vaccine (26.9%). Other cited reasons included not trusting vaccines (19.4%) and possible side effects of the vaccine (18.7%)
5. CONCLUSIONS

- We are cognizant that this study was conducted just before the beginning of the 3rd Covid-19 wave in the country. Had it been conducted 2-3 months later the data would tell a different story.
thank you!

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