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COVID-19 SITUATION ANALYSIS SURVEY MAIN FINDINGS - RIWI DATA

1. INTRODUCTION

The impact of the pandemic is being felt the most acutely by vulnerable groups who are already facing a multitude of challenges from conflict and natural disasters, as well as by all humanitarian organizations that serve those groups. To overcome these constraints and provide the wider humanitarian community with timely and comprehensive information on the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, iMAP initiated the [COVID-19 Situational Analysis Project](#) with the support of the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA), partnering

with Data Friendly Space (DFS), and aiming to provide timely solutions to the growing global needs for assessment and analysis among humanitarian stakeholders. This product is part of a series of analyzes from iMAP and DFS covering 6 countries, including Syria, and contains the key findings of a survey conducted by iMAP and RIWI to gather insight into the role COVID-19 is having on the humanitarian situation in order to better support decision makers.

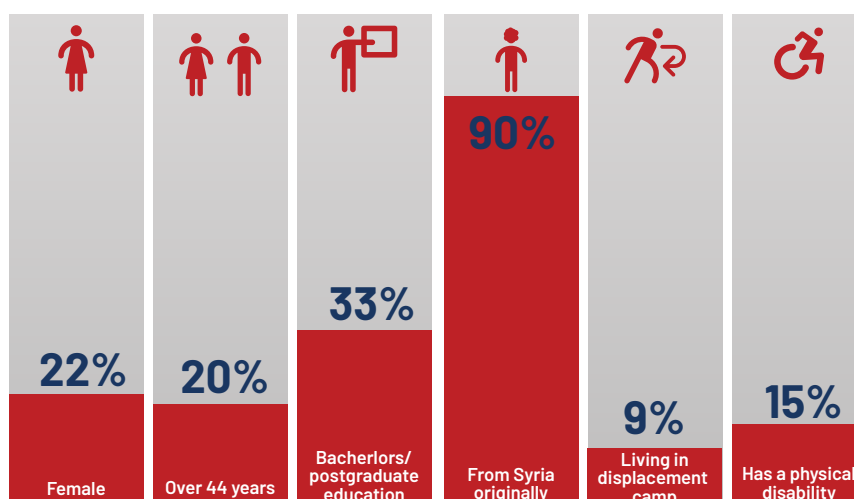
2. METHODOLOGY

iMAP partnered with [RIWI corp.](#) to conduct a web survey in Syria from 20th July to 11th August 2021. Questions were designed based on key areas identified in other [Syria Situation Analysis products](#) where additional information would provide value. Data was collected using a method invented and patented by RIWI Corp. by which web users encounter random anonymous opt-in surveys when they encounter lapsed or dormant website destinations (e.g., phonyurl.com) into the URL bar. All Internet users over the age of 18 in Syria had a random probability of inadvertently landing on the web page where the survey is posted.

captured age group, gender, displacement status, whether they are originally from Syria, governorate in which they live, education level, and whether they had a physical disability. 3,036 surveys were fully completed.

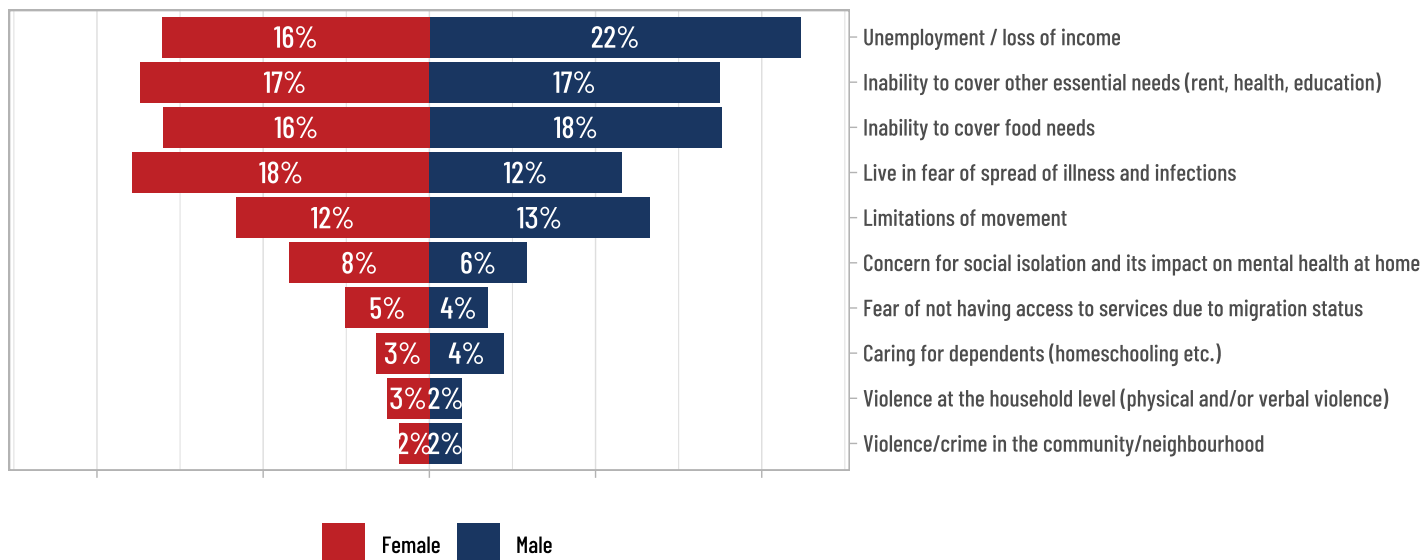
Data was then weighted by RIWI for age and gender based on [US Census Bureau projections](#) (methodology [here](#)) to aid better representation of the population of Syria. However, as the sample is only from internet-using Syrians, some demographics will be underrepresented. Findings can be taken only as indicative. The analysis was conducted by iMAP using RStudio.

The survey was in Arabic and contained 42 questions, however some questions were asked as a follow up to particular responses from others, and a small selection of the last 6 questions were randomly displayed, in order to shorten the time needed for completion to improve response rate. The first questions



A. GENERAL

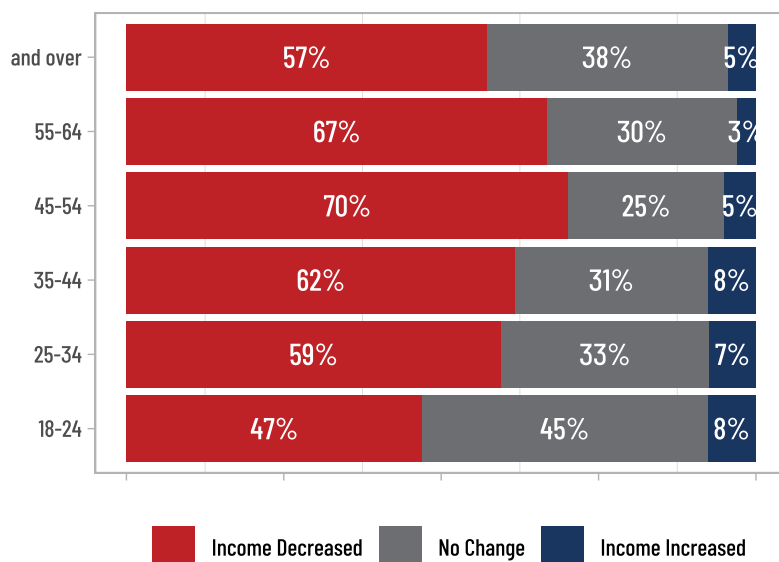
How has COVID-19 impacted you the most?



When asked generally in what ways COVID-19 has impacted them the most, the most frequent responses given are unemployment, inability to cover other needs, inability to cover food needs, living in fear of virus spread, and limitations on movement. A considerable number also cited mental health at home, caring for dependants, fear of not having access to services due to migration status, and a small proportion cited violence both in the household and the community as primary concerns. Responses were very similar across all age groups.

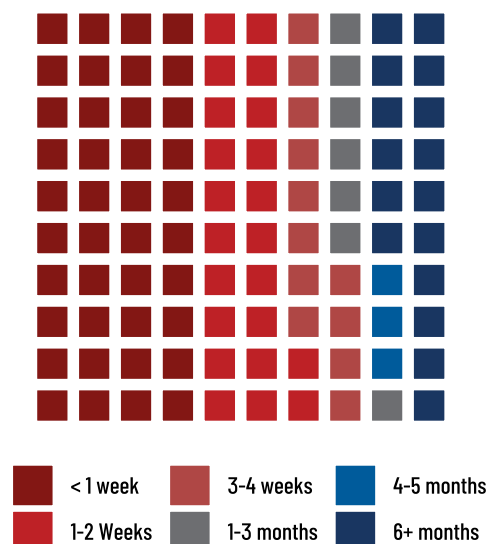
B. LIVELIHOOD

Income change due to COVID-19



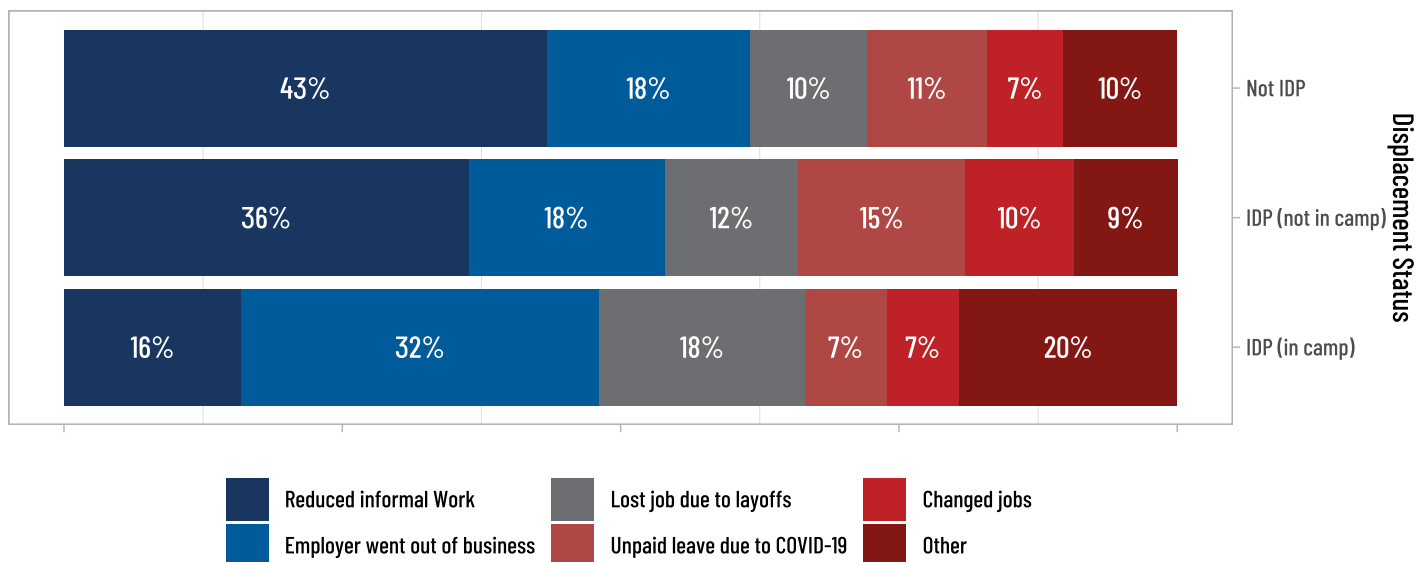
How long can your income sustain your expenses?

Aside from government/family/NGO support.



Generally, income decreased as an effect of the COVID-19 outbreak for most. If not, there was likely no change, and much less likely, an increase of income. Incomes of the young and old (18-34, 55+) were slightly less affected than the middle-aged. Surprisingly, income was more likely to either not change or increase due to the COVID-19 outbreak for those with a disability and those who are residing in displacement camps. Most Syrians across all income sources do not have enough savings to sustain expenses for more than two weeks, aside from those who own their own business.

What's the main reason your income decreasing during COVID-19?



Reduced informal work was by far the most frequent reason for income decreasing due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Unpaid leave and employers going out of business were also frequent reasons, signifying the broader detrimental impact on the economy and ability of businesses to function. For those residing in displacement camps, being laid off was more likely than reduced informal work, in contrast to the rest of the sample.

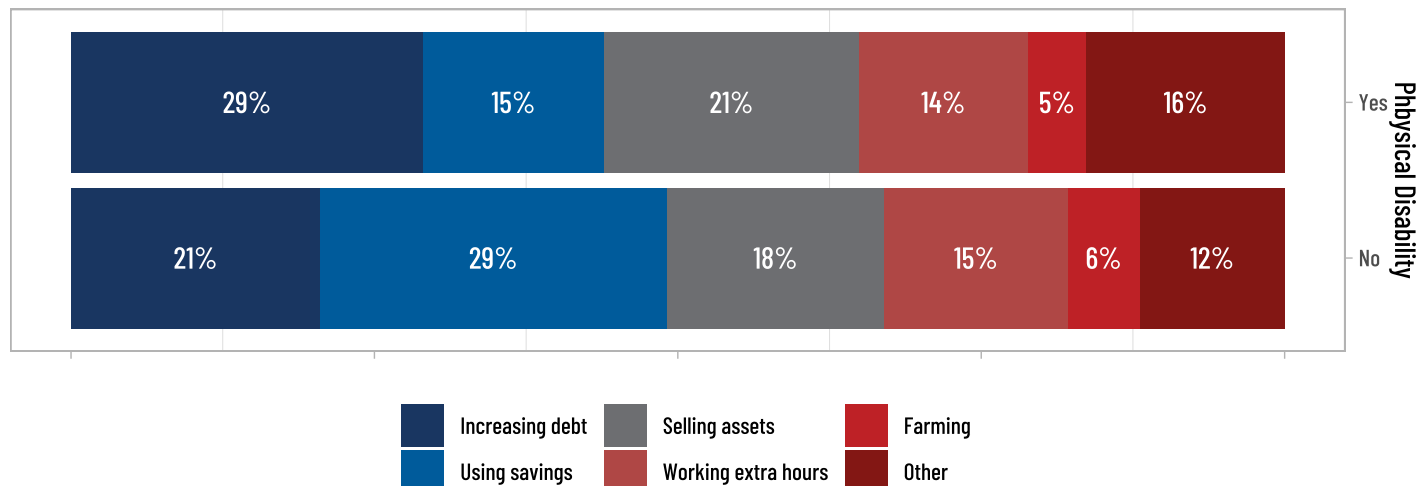
Income source before COVID-19 and now



The proportion of people living from salaried work & regular income before COVID-19 was much larger than after COVID-19, with large deviations to less stable income sources such as relying on support from family and friends, casual daily labour, living off of debt, and petty trade selling on streets. Less own their own businesses now compared to before COVID-19. The small proportion relying on government assistance, social safety nets, support from NGOs, and remittances from abroad, were mostly unaffected. A far greater proportion is now living off of debt, less own their own business, and more are trading on the streets. COVID-19 is just one of many factors that have transformed the economy during this period (see other Syria [COVID-19 Situation Analysis](#) reports).

What is the main coping mechanism used to face the economic impact of COVID-19?

For those whose income has decreased (1,780 respondents.)

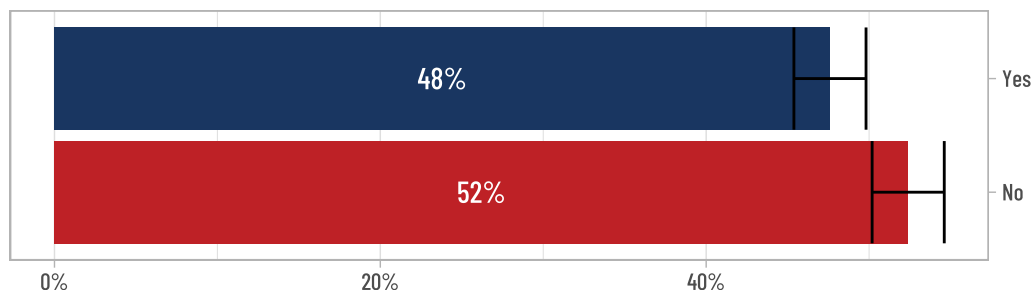


Increasing debt, using savings, and selling assets are the main coping mechanisms for those whose income has decreased during COVID-19. Those with disabilities are more than twice as likely to increase debt rather than use savings, which may show that those with physical disabilities who are less likely to have savings may be forced to resort to more extreme coping measures.

C. NUTRITION

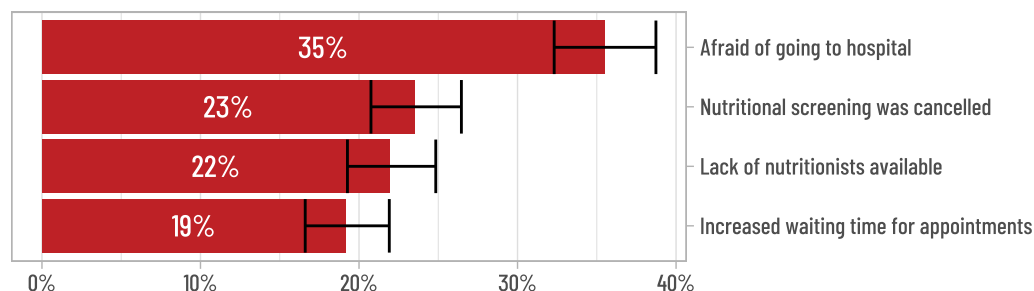
Has COVID-19 reduced availability of nutrition services for under 5s in your area?

Excludes 'don't know' responses.



Main ways COVID-19 has affected nutrition service access (under 5s)

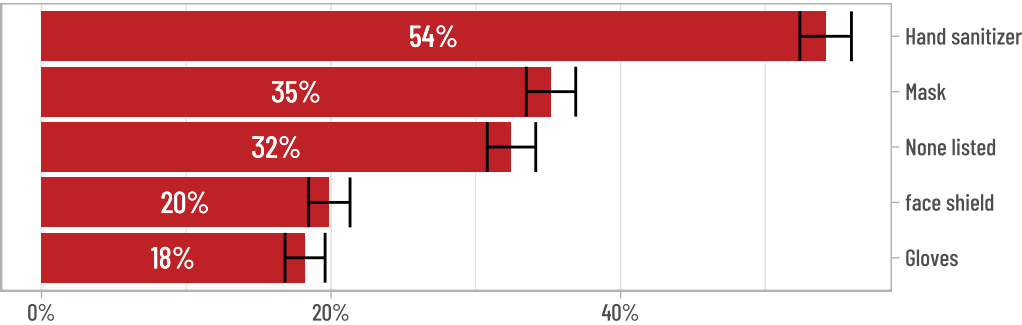
With 95% Confidence interval displayed. Number of responses = 950



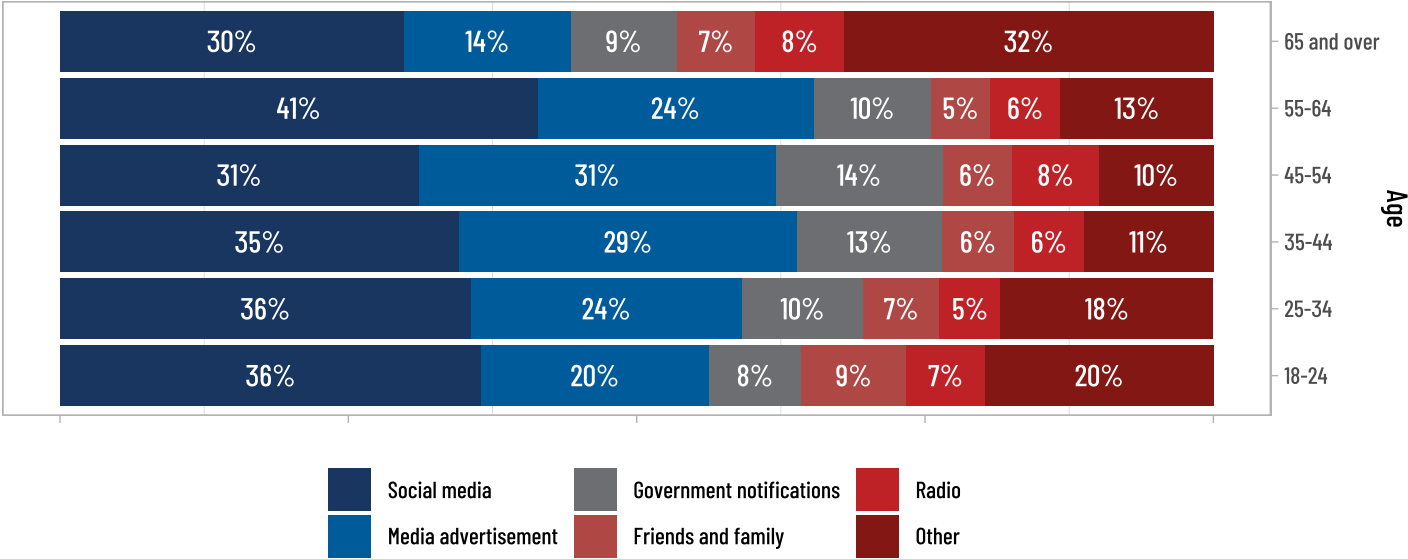
Almost half of respondents who knew whether the availability of nutrition services had been reduced in their area, said that they have done so. They most frequently cited fear of going to the hospital as the main driver, with cancelled screenings, lack of nutritionists, and increased waiting times also frequent.

Preventative measures used on a daily basis

With 95% Confidence interval displayed.



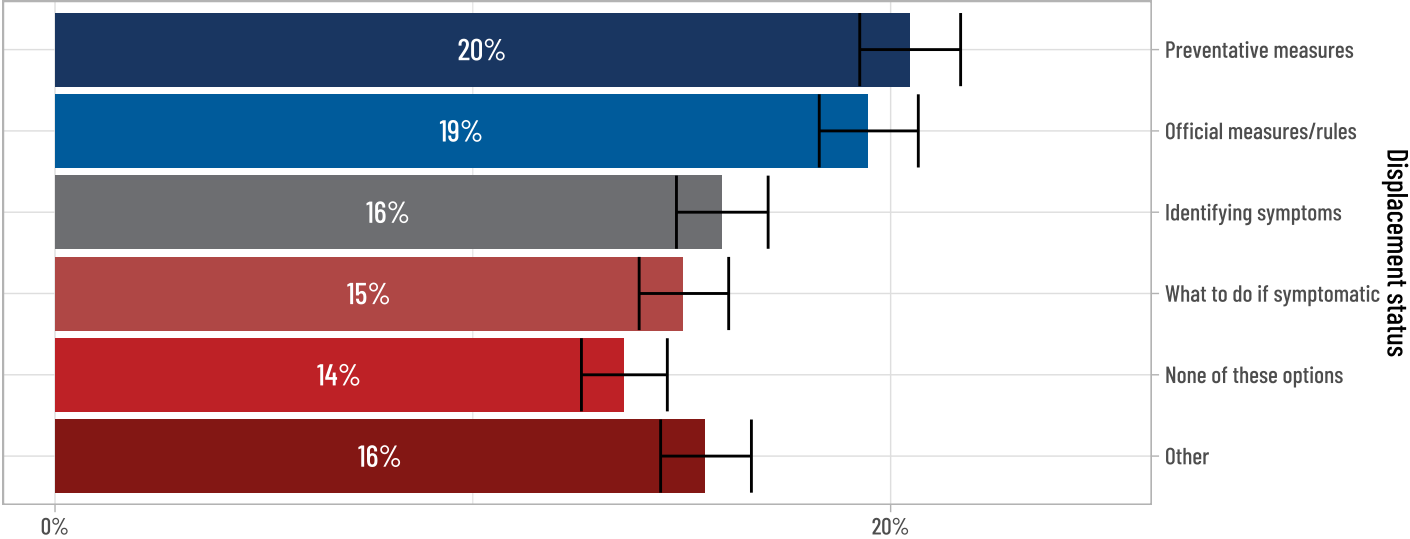
How did you learn about safety measures for COVID-19?



Hand sanitizers are the most common daily preventative practice undertaken, followed by wearing masks. Face shields and gloves are also used but not so frequently. Many take none of the listed preventative measures at all on a daily basis. Safety measures were most frequently learnt via social media and other media advertisements, similar across age groups.

What aspects of COVID-19 are you adequately informed on?

With 95% confidence interval displayed.



Overall, respondents were most likely to feel adequately informed on preventative measures and official measures/rules set by authorities. However the most frequent option chosen by respondents residing in displacement camps was that they were not adequately informed on any of the options given (what to do if symptomatic, personal preventative measures, how to identify symptoms, rules and measures set by authorities, and the death rate). Those over 65 were less likely to feel adequately informed on what to do if symptomatic and identifying symptoms.



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Disclaimer:

"The views expressed herein are the result of primary data collection undertaken by iMMAP and RIWI/PREMISE. The data does not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the United States Government, national Governments or the humanitarian organizations operating in the countries in question"