

# WORKERS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

Round II of the  
National Study on  
Informal Workers

State-wise Compendium



**act:onaid**  
ActionAid Association (India)

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## Round II of the National Study on Informal Workers

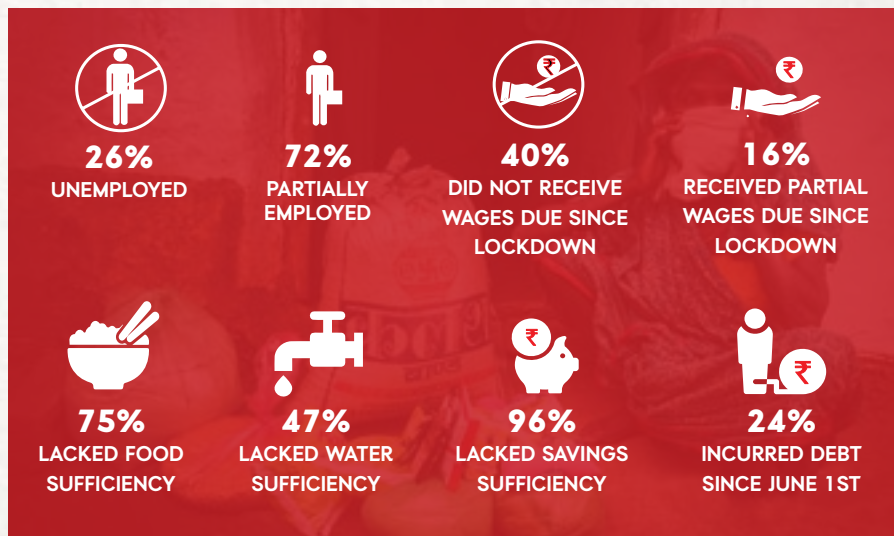
### State-wise Compendium

As part of its longitudinal study on the impact of COVID-19 and the lockdown on informal workers, ActionAid Association is conducting a series of national surveys. The current second round of the survey was carried out from 23rd August 2020 to 8th September 2020, across 23 states and five Union Territories. The survey took place during Unlock 3.0, the third phase of the government's phase-wise reopening of the post-coronavirus lockdown. More than 16,900 workers were interviewed in 402 districts regarding the status of their livelihoods and wages, savings and expenditure, and access to social security schemes and other entitlements. This included a revisit of workers surveyed in round I during the lockdown as well interview of new workers added in this round.

## ANDHRA PRADESH FACTSHEET

A total of 945 workers were interviewed from Andhra Pradesh across 11 districts of the state. Out of the 945 respondents, 74.29% were based in rural areas during the survey while 25.71% were based in urban areas. Around 53% of the respondents were male and remaining 47% female. Approximately 44.5% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 22% from OBC community and 25% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 96% adhering to Hinduism, more than 3% adhering to Christianity with remaining respondents adhering to other religions, mainly Islam. 7.07% said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings



- » 97.55% of respondents have ration cards, while 7.23% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 98.4% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 11.81% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 90.18% received the stipulated benefits.

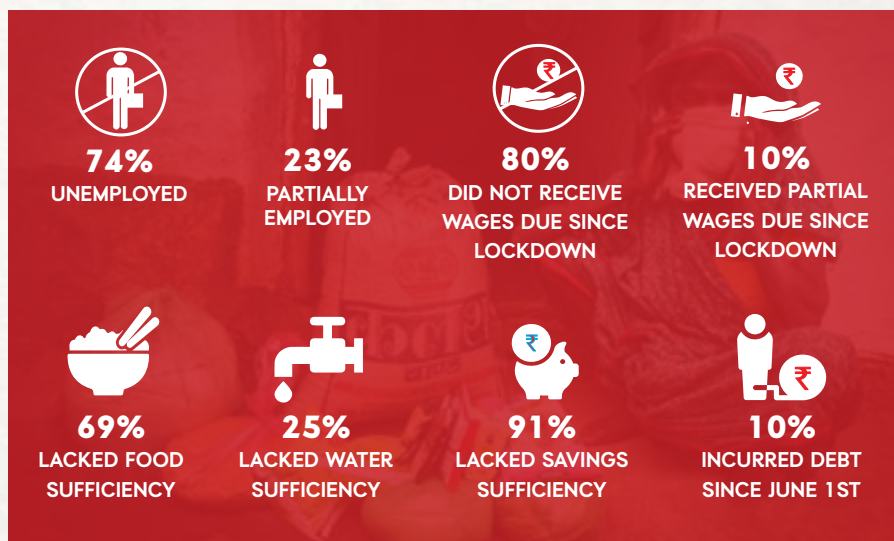
- » 25.32% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 96.65% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 32.98% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 97.43% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 79.26% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

The findings indicate that with the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but underemployment seems to be growing a lot as many of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and partly on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. Certain schemes such as PDS not only provided relief in the immediate aftermath of the crisis but continue to be important sources of support. However, in addition to these schemes, there is a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## ASSAM FACTSHEET

A total of 1017 workers were interviewed from Assam across 20 districts of the state. Out of the 1017 respondents, 99.51% were based in rural areas during the survey while 0.49% were based in urban areas. Around 96% of the respondents were male, less than 4% were female and one respondent identified as transgender. Around 42% of the sample respondents were from the ST community, 27% from OBC community and 8% were SCs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 76% adhering to Hinduism, less than 13% adhering to Christianity with remaining 11% respondents adhering to Islam. Approximately 72% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings



- » 87.12% of respondents have ration cards, while 34.12% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 87.51% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.



- » 46% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 78.96% received the stipulated benefits.
- » 37.74% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 75.77% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 8.55% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 85.06% could access healthcare facilities.
- » 46.13% of all migrants have reported preference of remaining in source village/town/city for the current period of time.

The findings indicate that the level of unemployment is extremely high, despite the process of reopening of the economy. Moreover, a significant percentage of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work, thus suggesting that underemployment is pervasive.

A large proportion of the respondents do not have access to sufficient food as compared to the level that they considered to be sufficient before the lockdown. Moreover, an overwhelming majority of respondents reported that their savings were insufficient.

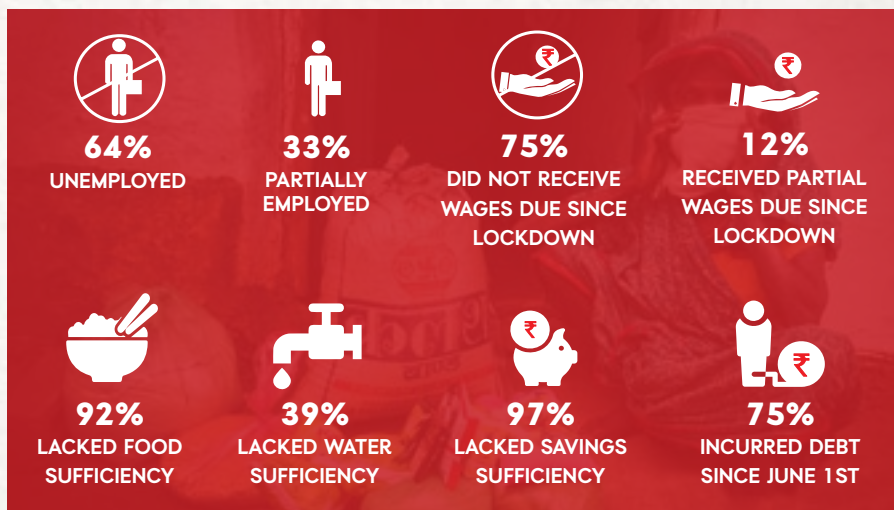
The access to entitlements under welfare scheme such as PDS, ICDS, and mid-day meals is generally high, which is even more noteworthy given that a high percentage of our sample is made up of migrant workers. However, the enrolment of informal workers, including migrant workers under welfare schemes should be further enhanced to ensure some form of social security for them.

It is important to note that close to half of the migrant workers who have returned to their source village and districts since the lockdown have reported a preference for staying back in their source villages and districts. Therefore, there is a need to focus on creating appropriate jobs which match the skills, interests, and expectations of workers in their source districts or states, while devising protective mechanisms and policies for migrant workers.

## BIHAR FACTSHEET

A total of 1045 workers were interviewed from Bihar with 505 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 1045 respondents, 95.89% were based in rural areas during the survey while 4.11% were based in urban areas. Around 91% of the respondents were male and remaining 9% female. Almost 46% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 37% from OBC community and 6% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 90% adhering to Hinduism, more than 9% adhering to Islam with remaining respondents adhering to other religions. Approximately 73% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings



- » 88.8% of respondents have ration cards, while 11.96% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 64.11% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 61.42% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 28.39% received the stipulated benefits.

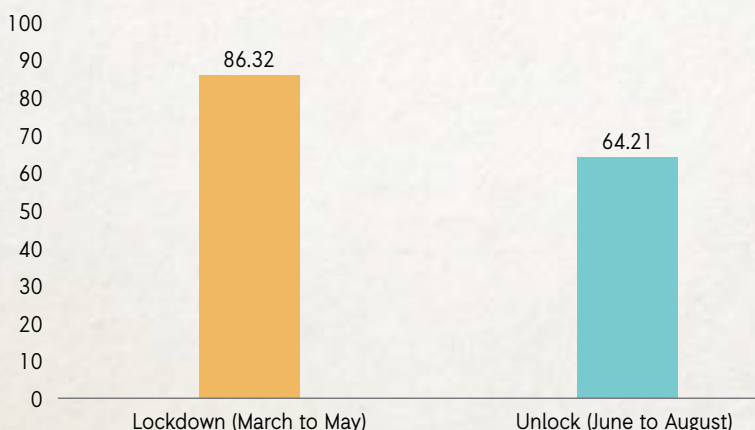
- » 46.57% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 51.95% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 46.51% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 24.49% could access healthcare facilities.
- » 42.5% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present

## Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a high percentage of workers remain unemployed. The unemployment level has fallen down from 86% during the lockdown to around 64% in the unlock phase. Moreover, out of those who have resumed employment, around 33.4% remain partially employed.

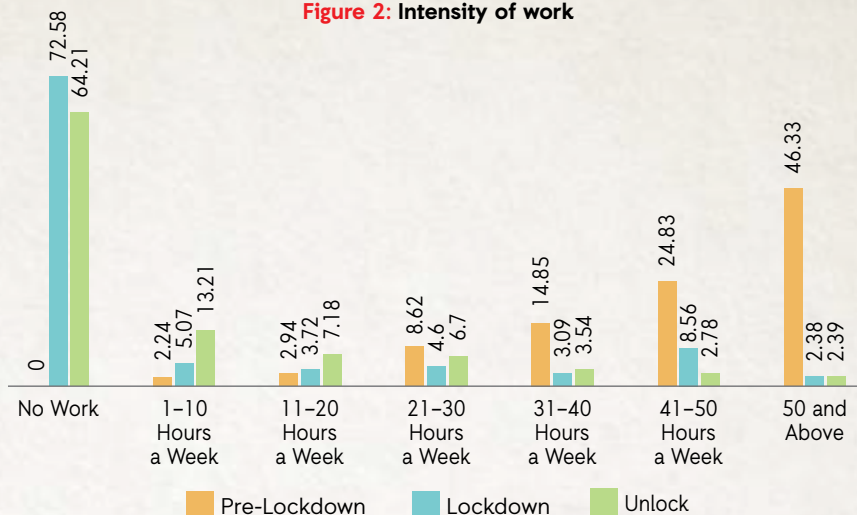
The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**

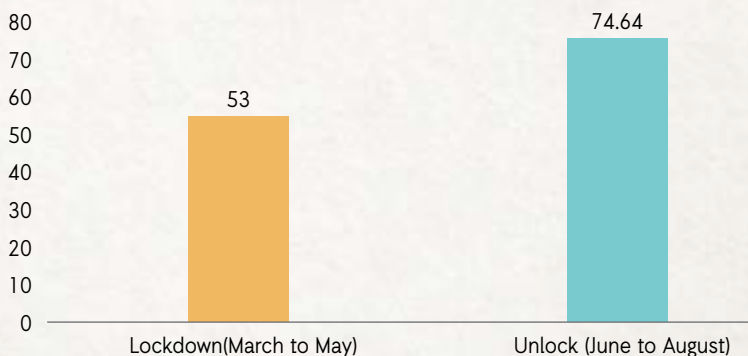




**Figure 2: Intensity of work**



**Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



can see, the intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, but it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

As expected, the lockdown has taken a serious toll on the consumption patterns of the informal sector workers. With the distress continuing for almost six months, food sufficiency has gone down from 20.06% during lockdown to 8.13% during unlock in Bihar. Water sufficiency has also decreased from 81.9% to 74.83% in the same time period. Savings have taken a further hit with 2.68% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 3.02% during the lockdown phase. This has led to an increase in indebtedness as can be seen from Figure 3.

With respect to entitlements, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 64.11% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 44.31% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased marginally with 24.49% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 17.4% during the lockdown phase.

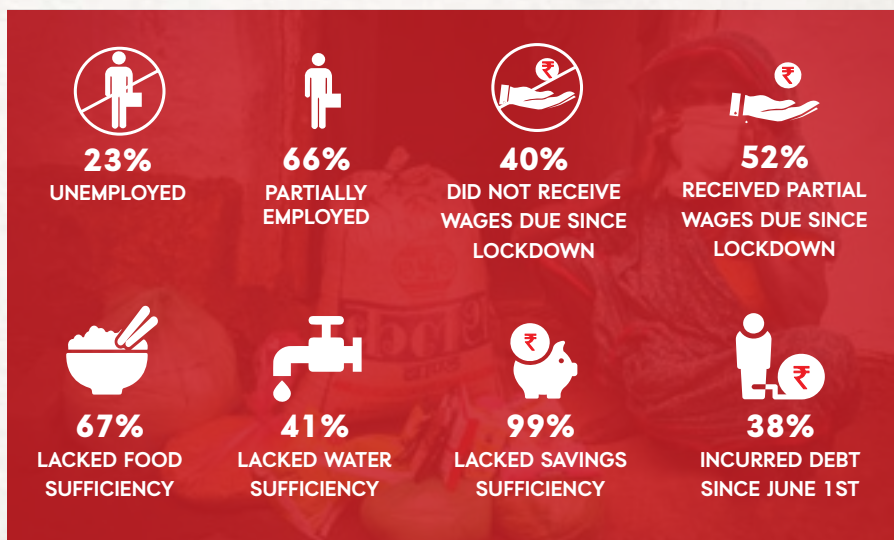
The findings indicate that with the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, and underemployment seems to be becoming a prominent phenomenon. The number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced.

People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. At the same time, access to entitlements under welfare schemes such as PDS, ICDS, and mid-day meals leave much to be desired. The low levels of enrolment and access could be due to the high percentage of migrant workers in our sample. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve the coverage of social security schemes, especially for returnee migrants. In addition, there is a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## DELHI FACTSHEET

A total of 453 workers were interviewed from Delhi with 349 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. The 453 respondents were based in 11 districts of Delhi as shown in the above map. Around 63% of the respondents were male, less than 37% female and 1 transgender. Close to 19% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 67% from OBC community and 2% were STs. The sample has a mix of majorly Hindu and Muslim respondents with 43% adhering to Hinduism, less than 57% adhering to Islam and remaining respondents adhering to other religions. Nearly 79% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 36.64% of respondents have ration card, while 22.96% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Card.
- » 51.88% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 20.07% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 43.33% received the stipulated benefits.

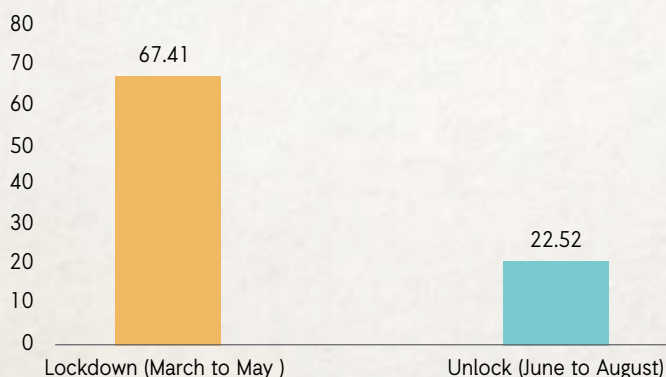
- » 20.90% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 23.08% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 24.5% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 9.91% could access healthcare facilities.
- » 74.06% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

## Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number still remain unemployed. The unemployment level has gone down from a little over 67% during the lockdown period to around 23% in the unlock phase. However, a significant proportion of the respondents who have resumed working, around 66.45%, remain partially employed.

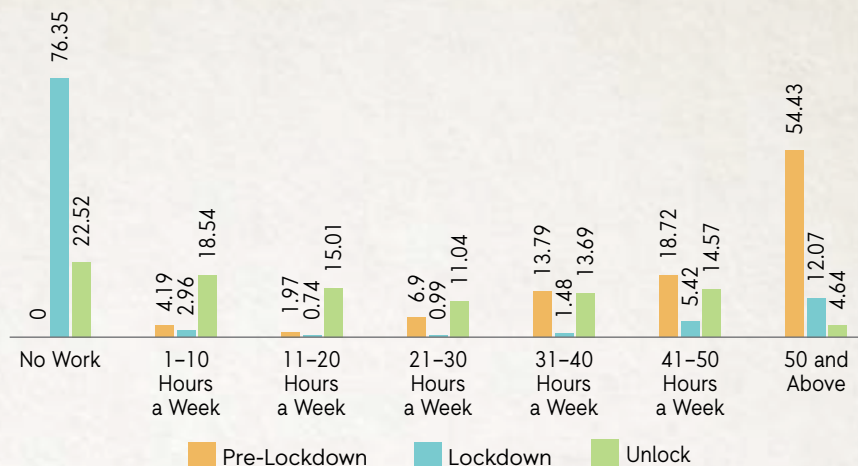
The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, the intensity of work has gone up considerably compared to the

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**

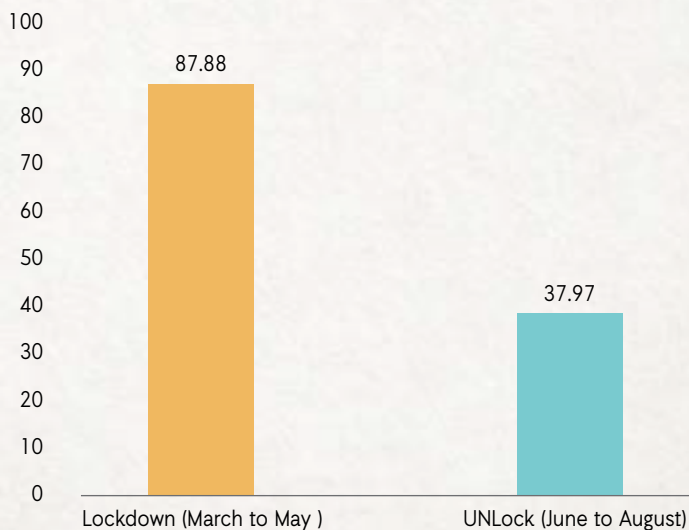




**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)**



**Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



lockdown phase, but it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 16.03% during lockdown to 32.67% during unlock in Delhi. Water sufficiency, however, has decreased from 81.9% to 58.94% in the same time period. Savings took a further hit with 0.88% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 3.62% during the lockdown phase. Around 37.97% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 87.88% during the lockdown phase (figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 51.88% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 37.13% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public primary healthcare remains almost the same with 9.91% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 9.42% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving quite slowly, and underemployment seems to be growing. Both the number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, with alarming levels of insufficiency in savings reported. This adds to widespread concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty.

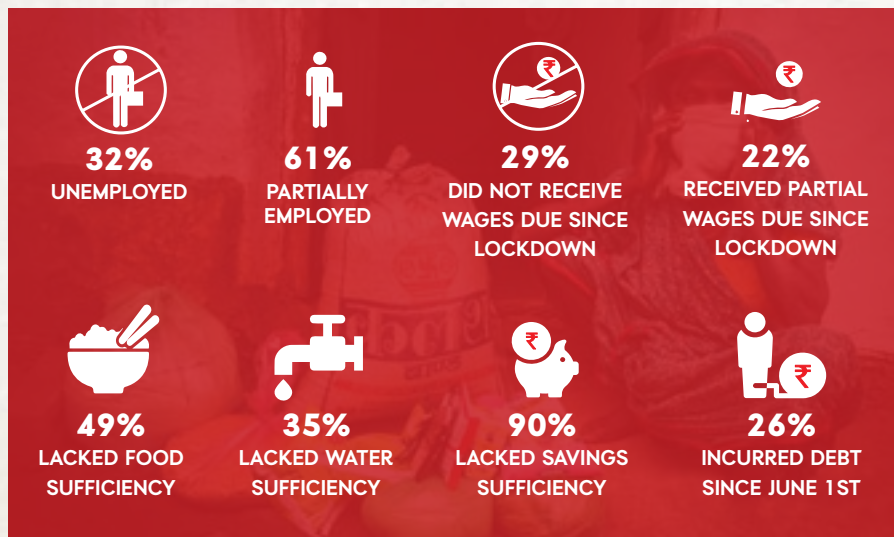
People also continue to be food and water insecure, though the level of food sufficiency has almost doubled in the unlock phase compared to the extremely low level reported during the lockdown. Both the coverage under and access to entitlements under welfare schemes such as PDS, ICDS, and mid-day meal scheme continue to be remarkably low, which can be attributed to the high proportion of migrants in our sample who have returned to their source districts since the lockdown. But the lack of an effective social security net adds to the vulnerability of informal workers

given their rapidly diminishing savings and high levels of indebtedness. Therefore, there is an urgent need for strengthening social security along with greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## GUJARAT FACTSHEET

A total of 496 workers were interviewed from Gujarat with 145 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 496 respondents, 64.31 % were based in rural areas during the survey while 35.69% were based in urban areas. Around 75% of the respondents were male and remaining 25% female. Further, 16% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 49% from ST community and 20% were OBCs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 71.5% adhering to Hinduism, more than 13% adhering to Islam with remaining respondents adhering to other religions, mainly Jainism and Buddhism. Close to 50% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 86.89% of respondents have ration cards, while 22.25% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 76.11% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.



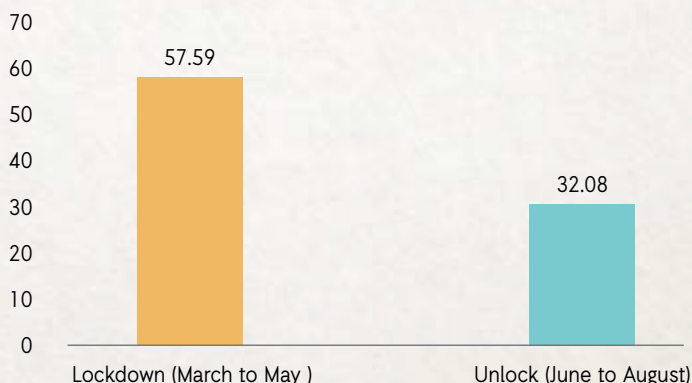
- » 36.77% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 71.52% received the stipulated benefits.
- » 50.35% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 84.26% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 23.65% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 67.65% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 75.88% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

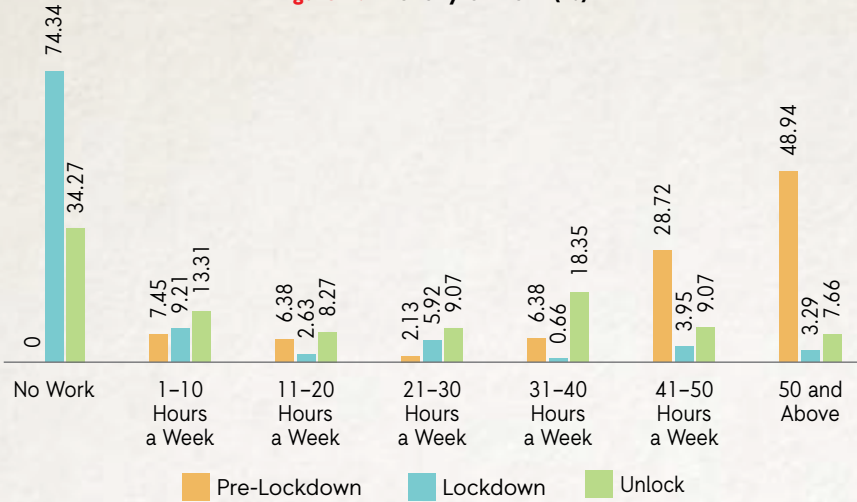
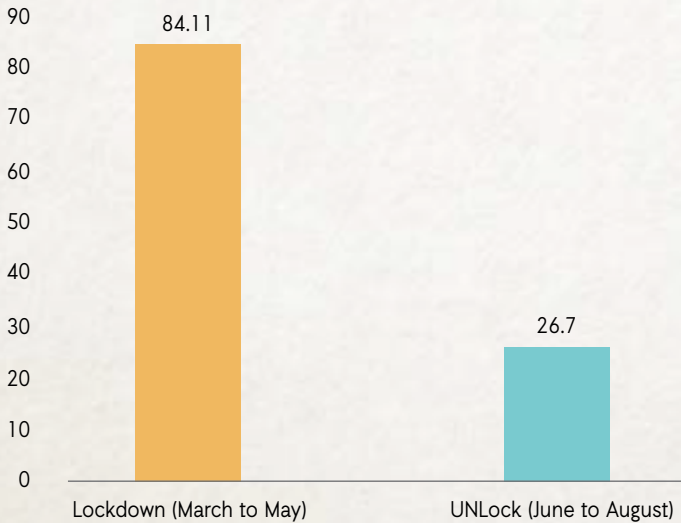
### Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number still remain unemployed. Although unemployment levels have gone down from close to 58% during the lockdown period to 32% in the unlock phase (Figure 1), a significant proportion of the respondents, around 60.89%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**

round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up considerably from 25.06% during lockdown to 50.82% during unlock in Gujarat. Water sufficiency has also increased from 60% to 64.4% in the same time period. Savings have marginally improved with 10.07% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 4.1% during the lockdown phase. Around 26.7% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 84.11% during lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that the figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 76.11% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 61% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public primary healthcare has also increased with 67.65% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 24% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, and underemployment seems to be growing. A large proportion of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work. The number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced.

People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and are also incurring loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. Though the coverage of schemes such as PDS

and access to basic services such as public healthcare have improved, significant gaps remain. As these entitlements continue to be important sources of support to informal workers, they need to be expanded and strengthened, especially for migrant workers.

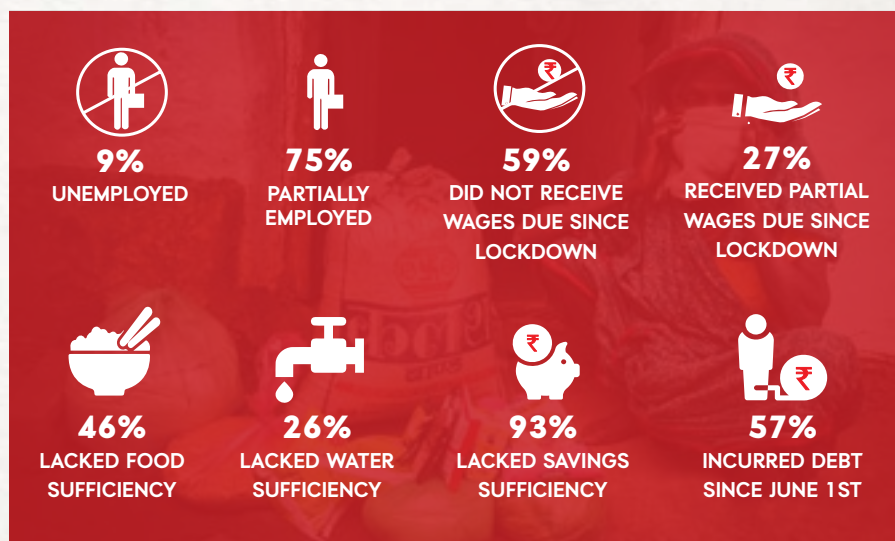
There also seems to be a widespread sense of reluctance among workers who were previously migrating for work to migrate out of their source villages and districts again. Therefore, there is also a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures which create appropriate jobs to match the skills, interests, and expectations of workers in their source districts or states, while devising protective mechanisms and policies for migrant workers.



## HARYANA FACTSHEET

A total of 411 workers were interviewed from Haryana with 177 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 411 respondents, 76.16 % were based in rural areas during the survey while 23.84% were based in urban areas. Around 68% of the respondents were male and remaining 32% female. Close to 60% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 35% from OBC community and 2% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 89% adhering to Hinduism, more than 10% adhering to Islam with remaining respondents adhering to other religions, mainly Buddhism. Nearly 24% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 78.1% of respondents have ration cards, while 31.87% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 75.18% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 59.3% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 81.86% received the stipulated benefits.

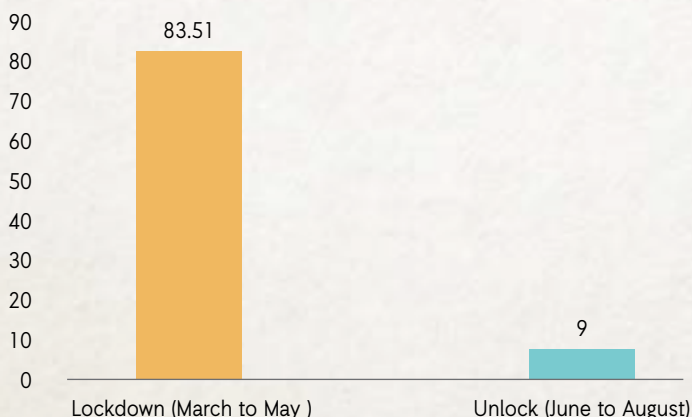
- » 59.09% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 85.58% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 23.84% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 74.49% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 44% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

## Comparison with Round I Findings

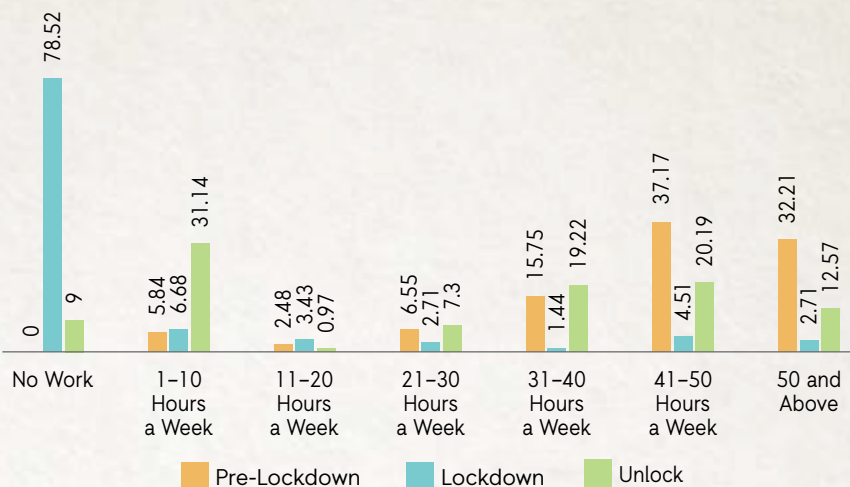
With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods. The unemployment level has gone down from a little over 83% during the lockdown period to 9% during the unlock phase. However, a significant proportion of the respondents who have resumed working, around 74.72%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, the intensity of work has gone up significantly as compared

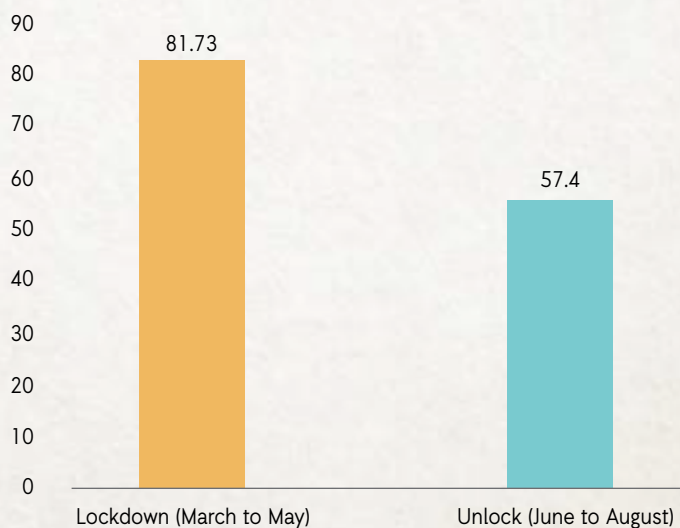
**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)**



**Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



to the lockdown phase, though it is still lower than the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up considerably from 6.88% during lockdown to 54% during unlock in Haryana. Water sufficiency has also increased from 45.45% to 73.97% in the same time period. Savings have marginally improved with 7.3% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 3.9 % during the lockdown phase. Around 57.4% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 81.73% during lockdown phase (figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 75.18% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 25.71% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public primary healthcare has also increased significantly with 74.49% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 7.66% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods. But a large proportion of those who have resumed employment are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work, which seems to suggest that underemployment is growing.

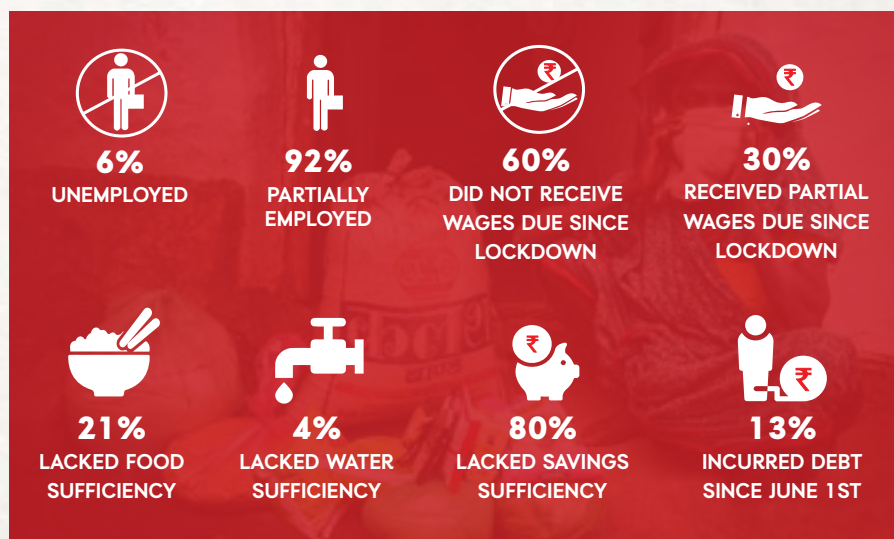
Workers also continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. Though the access to entitlements under welfare schemes is generally high and has significantly improved for PDS since the lockdown, the social security net needs to be expanded and strengthened, especially in the context of falling savings and high indebtedness. Moreover, there is a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.



## HIMACHAL PRADESH FACTSHEET

A total of 264 workers were interviewed from Himachal Pradesh – a mixture of revisits and new respondents added in round II. Out of the 264 respondents, 98.48% were based in rural areas during the survey while 1.52% were based in urban areas. Around 77% of the respondents were male and remaining 23% female. Approximately 59% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 37% from ST community and less than 1% from OBC. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 73.5% adhering to Hinduism more than 26% adhering to Islam with remaining respondents adhering to other religions. Close to 42% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 98.86% of respondents have ration card, while 57.95 % have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Card.
- » 82.58% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.

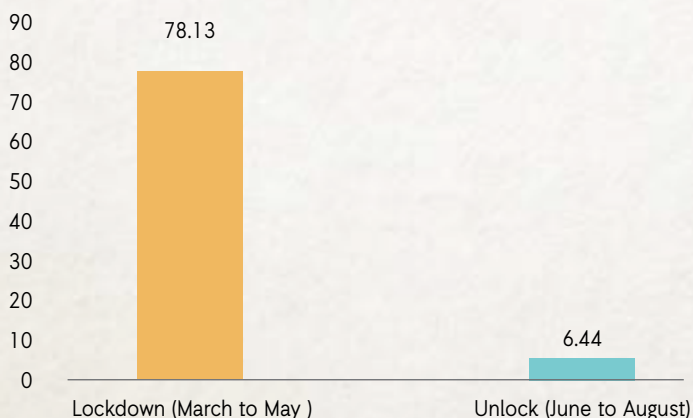
- » 66.81 % of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 36.77% received the stipulated benefits.
- » 4.85% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 54.55% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 41.67% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 85.45% could access public healthcare facilities.
- » 96.94% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/ town/city at present.

### Comparison with Round I Findings

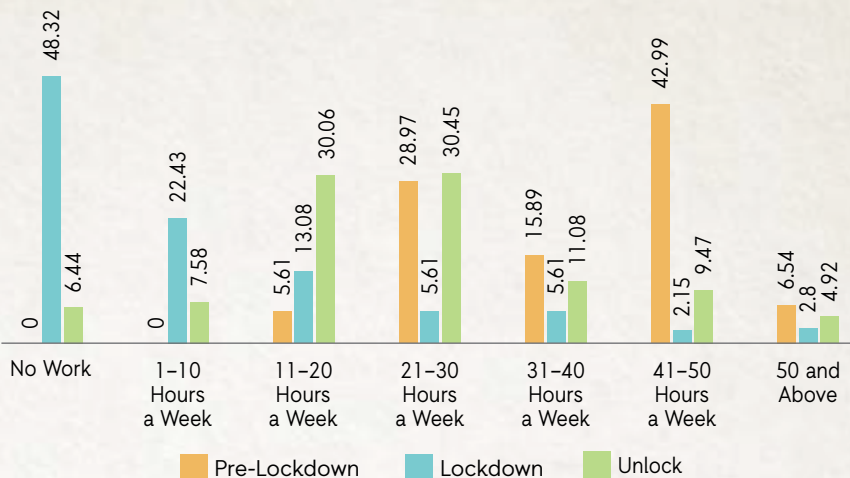
With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods. The unemployment level has gone down from 78% in the lockdown period to a little over 6% in the unlock phase (Figure 1). But it is important to note that a significant proportion of the respondents who have resumed working, around 92.42%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock

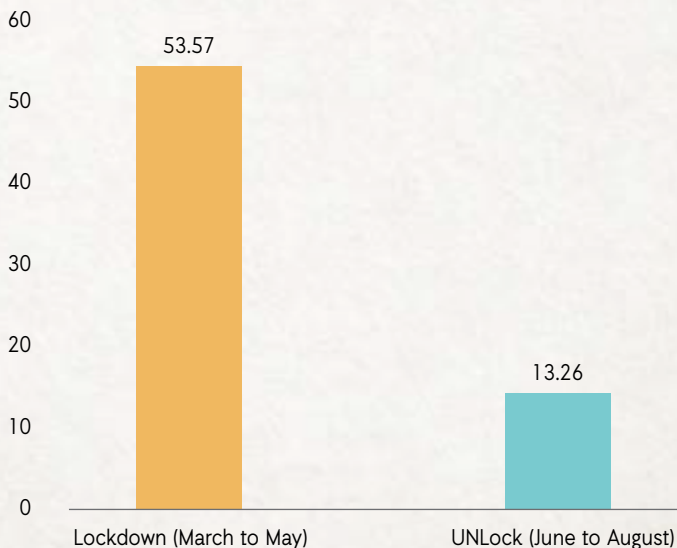
**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)**



**Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, though the intensity of work has gone up compared to

the lockdown phase, it is still significantly lower than the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 26.88% during lockdown to 78.79% during unlock in Himachal Pradesh. Water sufficiency has also increased from 83.75% to 95.83% in the same time period. Saving levels too have improved with 19.7% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 6.88% during the lockdown phase. Only 13.26% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 53.57% during the lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 82.58% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 67.5% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased with 85.45% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 30% during the lockdown phase.

The findings indicate that the situation of employment has improved quite a bit in the unlock phase as compared to the lockdown. However, a large proportion of those who have resumed employment are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work, which seems to suggest that underemployment is growing.

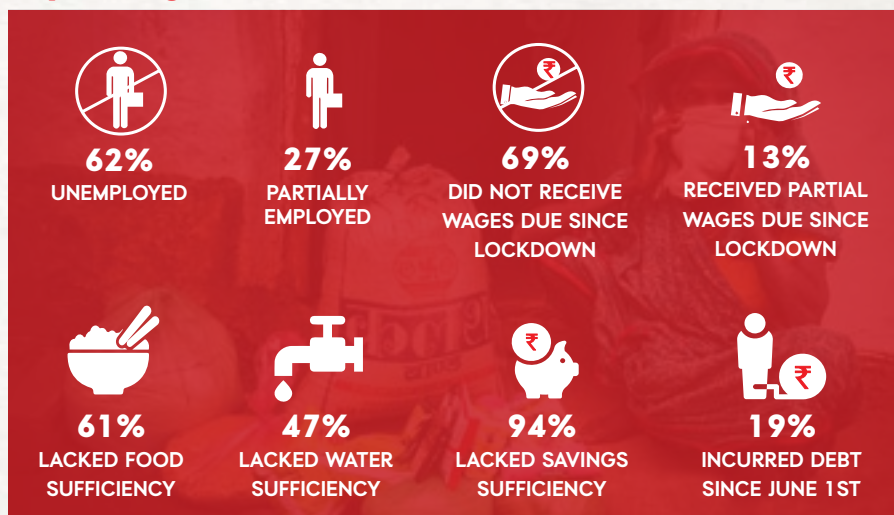
Overall, the situation related to workers' food and water sufficiency, savings, and indebtedness has improved. But their coverage under and access to entitlements under welfare schemes leaves much to be desired. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve both coverage and access to entitlements and services. There is also a need to for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures to ensure the restoration of livelihoods and wages and an effective social security net.



## JHARKHAND FACTSHEET

A total of 401 workers were interviewed from Jharkhand with 255 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 401 respondents, 91.27% were based in rural areas during the survey while 8.73% were based in urban areas. Around 96% of the respondents were male and remaining 4% female. Close to 14% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 43% from OBC community and 29% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 71% adhering to Hinduism, more than 17% adhering to Islam and remaining respondents adhering to other religions. Close to 93% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 92.02% of respondents have ration cards, while 17.71% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 83.04% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 55.92% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 60.49% received the stipulated benefits.



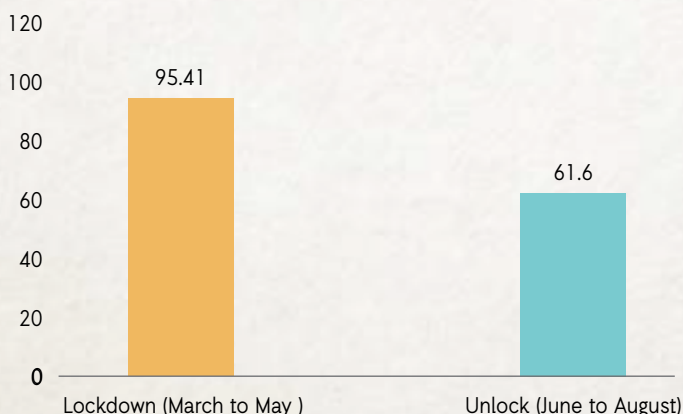
- » 43.38% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 88.28% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 10.97% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 59.09% could access healthcare facilities.
- » 70.09% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

## Comparison with Round I Findings

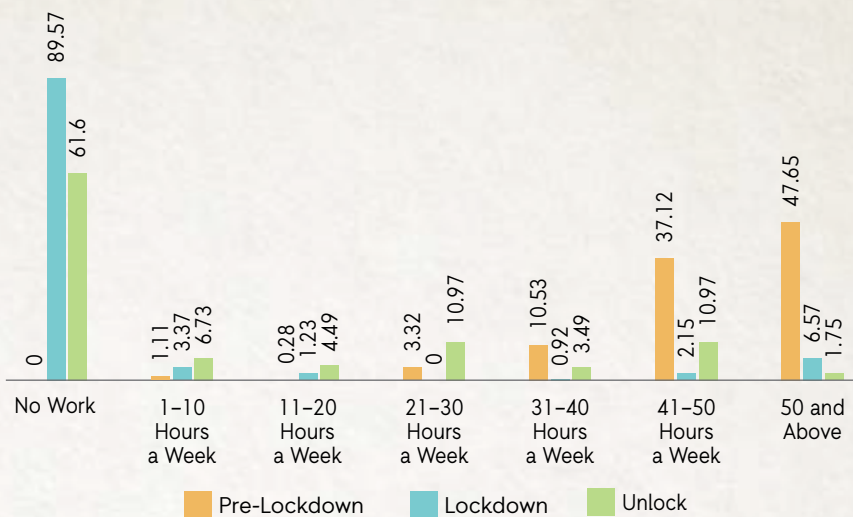
With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihood, but a significant number remain unemployed. The unemployment level has gone down from 95% during the lockdown to a little over 61% in the unlock phase. However, a significant proportion of the respondents, around 27.18%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we

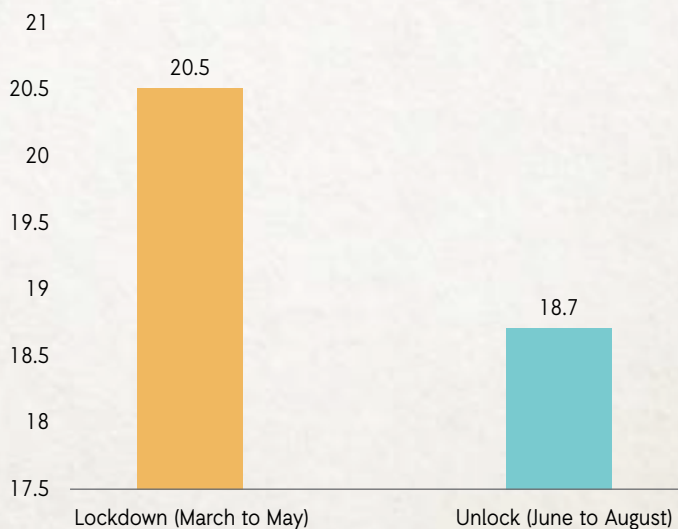
**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)**



**Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



can see, the intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, but it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up marginally from 34.13% during lockdown to 38.90% during unlock in Jharkhand. Water sufficiency has decreased from 73.85% to 53.12% in the same time period. Savings went up marginally with 5.99% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 3.39% during the lockdown phase, though it is still considerably low. Around 18.70% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 20.5% during lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness could be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 83.04% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 53.09% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased with 59.09% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 22.22% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, with widespread unemployment still prevailing among informal workers. Also, a significant percentage of workers who have resumed work are either unable to find full-time work or are able to work only occasionally. Thus, underemployment seems to be growing.

A large percentage of respondents reported that they do not have access to sufficient food, although the enrolment and access under PDS is generally high. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and partly

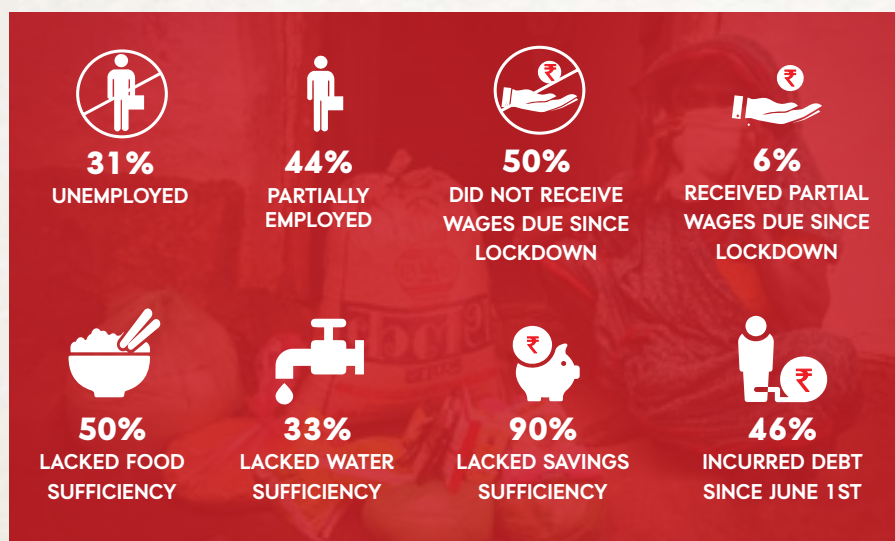
on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty.

It is important to note that an overwhelming majority of the migrant workers who have returned to their source village and districts since the lockdown have reported a preference for staying back in their source villages and districts. Therefore, there is a need to focus on creating appropriate jobs which match the skills, interests, and expectations of workers in their source districts or states, while devising protective mechanisms and policies for migrant workers.

## KARNATAKA FACTSHEET

A total of 1023 workers were interviewed from Karnataka with 177 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 1023 respondents, 59.92 % were based in rural areas during the survey while 40.08% were based in urban areas. Around 44% of the respondents were male and remaining 56% female. Approximately 49% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 26% from OBC community and 14% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 88% adhering to Hinduism, more than 7% adhering to Islam with remaining respondents adhering to other religious denominations, mainly Christianity. Nearly 15% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 88.06% of respondents have ration cards, while 7.06% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 74.53% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.

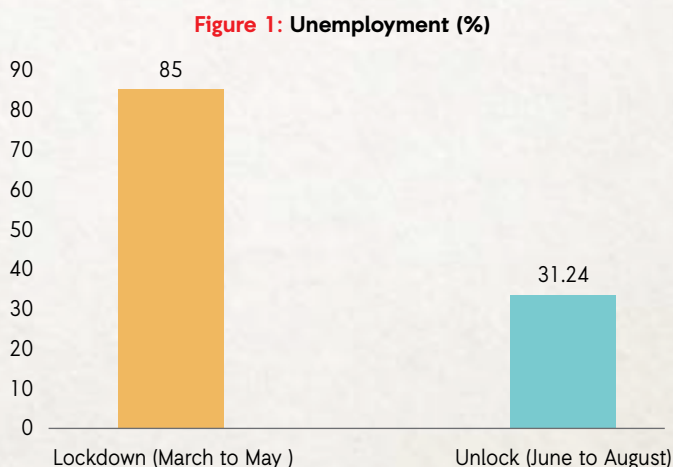


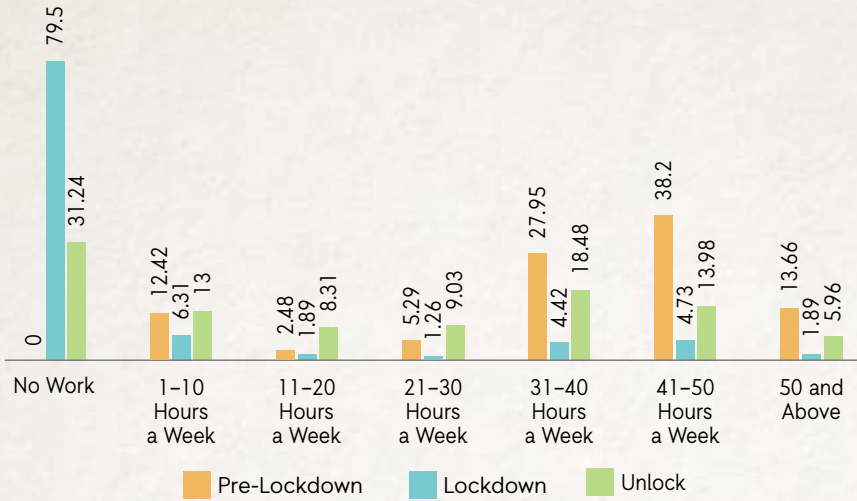
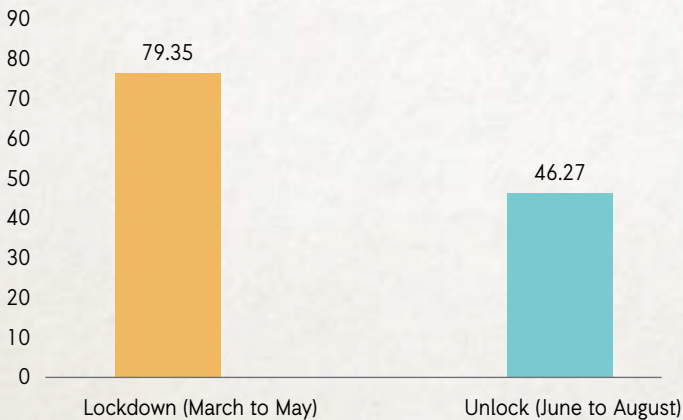
- » 19.4% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 88.78% received the stipulated benefits.
- » 32.74% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 76.36% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 23.38% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 75.85% could access healthcare facilities.
- » 65.67% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

### Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihood, but a significant number remain unemployed. Although the unemployment level has gone down from 85% during the lockdown period to a little over 31% during the unlock phase (Figure 1), a significant proportion of the respondents, around 44.4%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**

(January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, the intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, but it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 10.5% during lockdown to 49.85% during unlock phase. Water sufficiency has decreased marginally from 69% to 67.66% in the same time period. Savings have marginally improved with 10.35% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase. Around 46.27% of all respondents reported taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 79.35% during lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

With respect to entitlements, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 74.53% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 61.25% in the lockdown phase.

Notably, access to public primary healthcare has also increased with 75.85% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 36.67% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving quite slowly. Furthermore, underemployment seems to be growing as workers who have resumed working are either not getting full-time work or are getting work only occasionally.

People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, though the percentage of workers reporting that their savings are

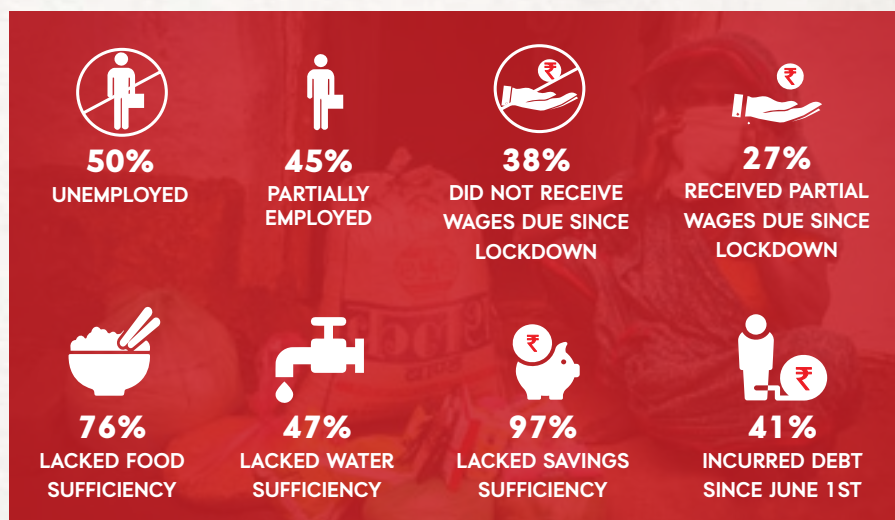
sufficient has improved slightly when compared to the lockdown, and the percentage of respondents who have taken loans during the unlock phase has drastically reduced compared to the lockdown.

The percentage of people who can access PDS and healthcare facilities has also improved significantly, but there are many who continue to remain outside of the ambit of welfare schemes including PDS, ICDS, and mid-day meal scheme. Therefore, there is a need to ensure effective social security for informal workers, as well as undertaking greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## MADHYA PRADESH FACTSHEET

A total of 858 workers were interviewed from Madhya Pradesh with 399 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 858 respondents, 67.72% were based in rural areas during the survey while 32.28% were based in urban areas. Around 80% of the respondents were male and remaining 20% female. Around 31% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 22% from OBC community and 45% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 87% adhering to Hinduism, more than 9% adhering to Islam and remaining respondents adhering to other religions. Over 74% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 80.77% of respondents have ration cards, while 23.31% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 70.40% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 53.10% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 62.68% received the stipulated benefits.



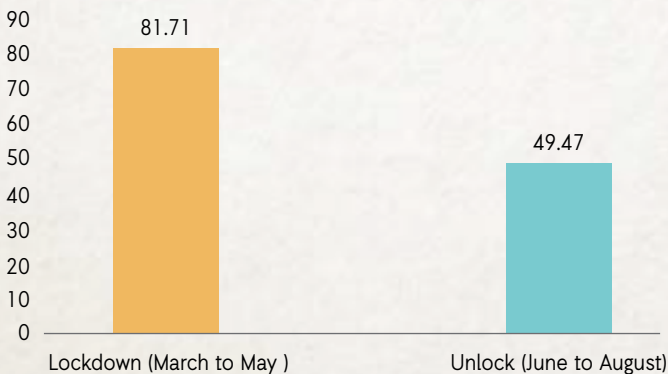
- » 54.13% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 71.12% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 31.82% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 76.19% could access healthcare facilities.
- » 77.65% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

### Comparison with Round I Findings

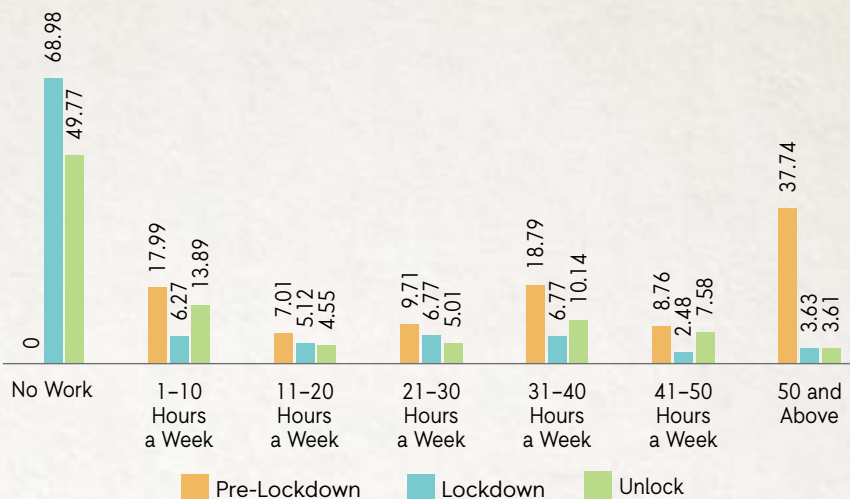
With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number still remain unemployed. The unemployment level has gone down from 82% during the lockdown period to around 49% in the unlock phase (Figure 1). But a significant proportion of the respondents, around 45.34%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, the intensity of work has gone up substantially compared to the lockdown phase, but it is much lower than the pre-lockdown conditions.

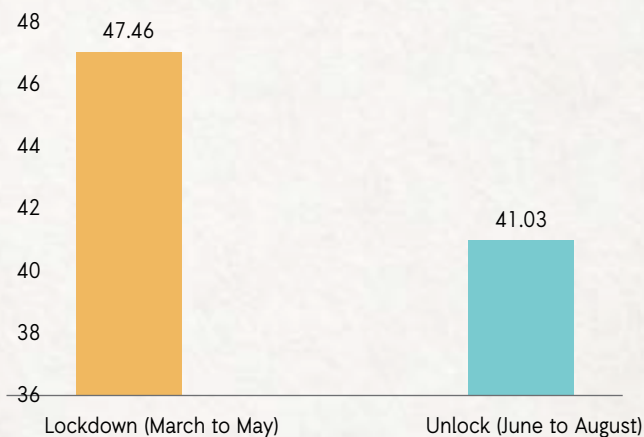
**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)**



**Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 11.64% during lockdown to 23.54% during unlock in Madhya Pradesh, which is still significantly low. Water sufficiency has increased

from 43.99% to 52.91% in the same time period. Savings have taken a further hit with 3.38% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 7.03% during the lockdown phase. Around 41.03% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 47.46% during the lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness could be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 70.40% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 42.58% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased considerably with 76.19% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 26.18% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, and underemployment seems to be growing. Many of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work.

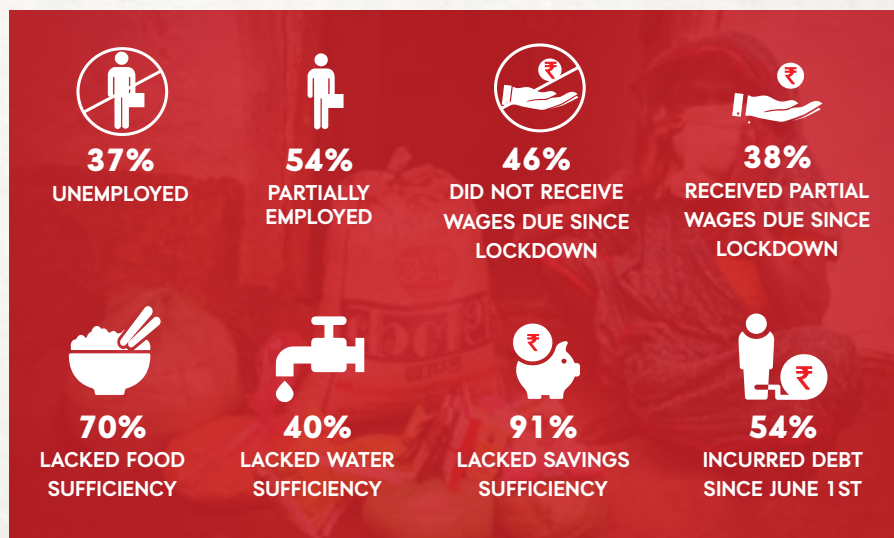
Moreover, people continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. The level of food insufficiency and water insufficiency, based on the number of respondents who said that they do not have access to sufficient food and water, is also alarming.

While the access to entitlements under PDS and to public healthcare has improved a lot, there are many who are still out of their ambit. This could be attributed to the high percentage of migrant workers in our sample. There is a need, therefore, to increase the coverage and implementation of welfare schemes, especially for returnee migrants. In addition, there is also a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures, particularly since a significant percentage of returnee migrants have expressed the desire to stay back in their source villages and districts.

## MAHARASHTRA FACTSHEET

A total of 801 workers were interviewed from Maharashtra with 526 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 801 respondents, 81.65% were based in rural areas during the survey while 18.35% were based in urban areas. Around 76% of the respondents were male and remaining 24% female. Approximately 30% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 29% from OBC community and 5% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 75% adhering to Hinduism, more than 15% adhering to Buddhism with remaining respondents adhering to other religions, mainly Islam. Close to 82% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 84.89% of respondents have ration cards, while 26.09% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 85.77% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.



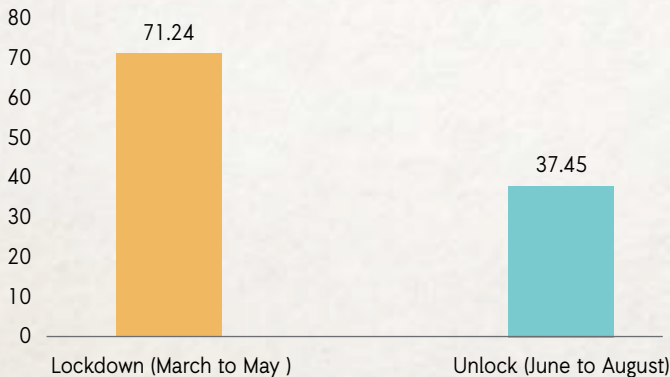
- » 42.9% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 65.4% received the stipulated benefits.
- » 52.7% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 65.66% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 43.45% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 66.09% could access healthcare facilities.
- » 64.68% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/ town/city at present.

## Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number remain unemployed. Although unemployment level has gone down from 71% during the lockdown period to a little over 37% during the unlock phase (Figure 1), a significant proportion of the respondents who have resumed working, around 54.18%, remain partially employed.

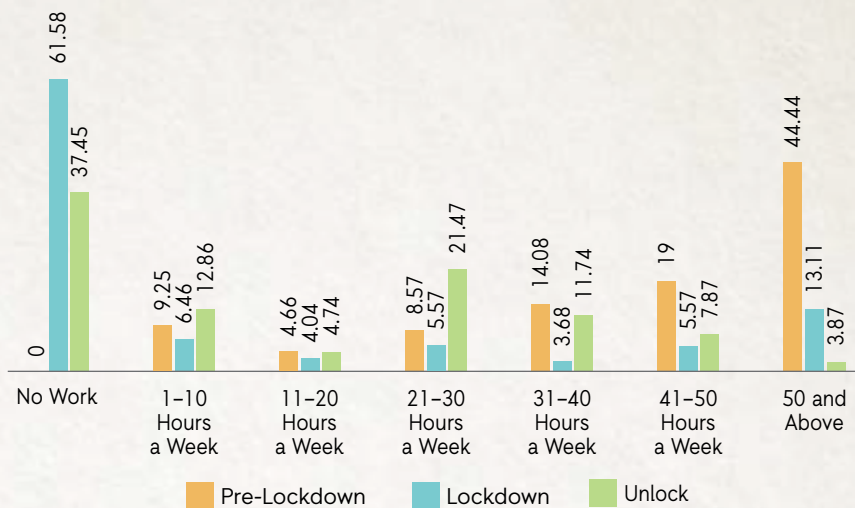
The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**

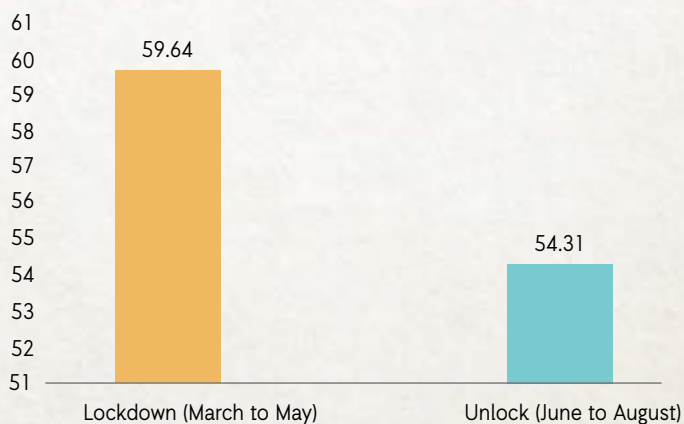




**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)**



**Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



(June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, the intensity of work has gone up only marginally compared to the lockdown phase, and it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 23.27% during lockdown to 30.21% during unlock in Maharashtra. Water sufficiency has also increased from 33.63% to 39.95% in the same time period. Savings remain unchanged with 9.24% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 9.65% during the lockdown phase. Around 54.31% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 59.64% during the lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 85.77% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 53.01% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public primary healthcare has also increased with 66.09% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 44.54% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, and underemployment seems to be growing considerably. Both the number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced.

Moreover, people continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, and the situation has improved much in the unlock phase as

compared to the lockdown. This greatly adds to widespread concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty.

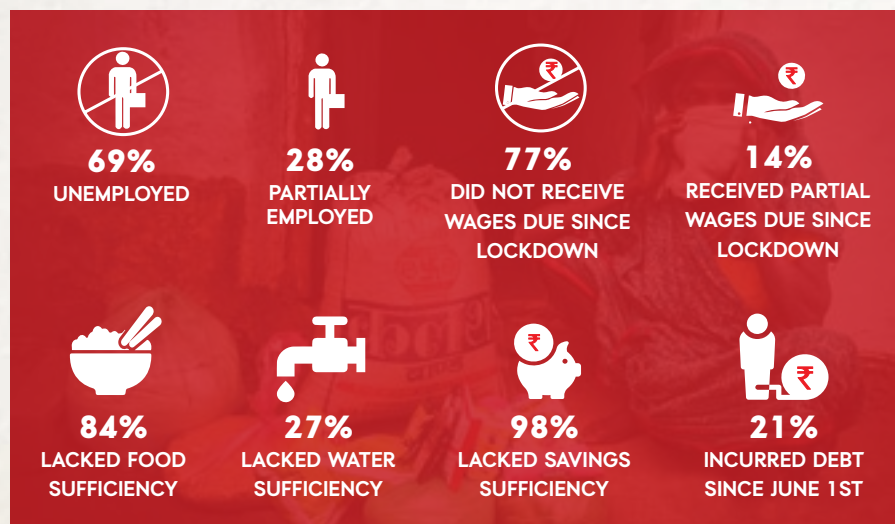
Welfare schemes such as PDS not only provided relief in the immediate aftermath of the crisis but continue to be important sources of support, especially since the level of food insufficiency continues to be very high. Hence, the enrolment and access to schemes such as ICDS and Mid-day meal schemes needs to be improved, especially for migrant workers. In addition to ensuring an effective social security net, there is also a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

It is important to note that a high percentage of migrant workers in the sample wish to continue staying in their source village or district, which underscores the challenge of creating appropriate jobs that match the skills, interests, and expectations of workers in their source districts and states, while devising protective mechanisms and policies for migrant workers.

## MANIPUR FACTSHEET

A total of 178 workers were interviewed from Manipur across 4 districts of the state. Out of the 178 respondents, 89.89% were based in rural areas during the survey while 10.11% were based in urban areas. Around 38% of the respondents were male and remaining 62% female. Over 67% of the sample respondents were from the ST community, 18% from OBC community and 11% from SC community. The sample has majority Christian respondents with 67% adhering to Christianity, more than 29% adhering to Hinduism and remaining 4% respondents adhering to other religions. More than 64% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings



- » 60.11% of respondents have ration cards, while 27.53% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 41.01% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 55.28% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 54.41% received the stipulated benefits.



- » 15.67% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 23.81% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 35.39% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 63.49% could access public healthcare facilities.
- » 77.39% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

The findings indicate that the level of unemployment is extremely high, despite the process of reopening of the economy. Moreover, a significant percentage of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work, thus suggesting that underemployment is pervasive.

A large proportion of the respondents do not have access to sufficient food as compared to the level they considered to be sufficient before the lockdown. Moreover, they are heavily dependent on their savings. A considerable percentage has also borrowed money in the unlock phase for their sustenance.

The access to entitlements under welfare scheme such as PDS, ICDS, and mid-day meals is notably poor. This can be attributed to the fact that a majority of the respondents in our sample are migrant workers who have returned home since the lockdown. There is an urgent need, therefore, to ensure the enrolment and access of informal workers, including migrant workers to welfare schemes. Also, given the remarkably high percentage of migrant workers who have reported a preference for staying back in their source villages and districts, there is also a need to focus on creating appropriate jobs which match the skills, interests, and expectations of workers in their source districts or states, while devising protective mechanisms and policies for migrant workers.



## ODISHA FACTSHEET

A total of 1377 workers were interviewed from Odisha with 846 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 1377 respondents, 86.71% were based in rural areas during the survey while 13.29% were based in urban areas. Around 84% of the respondents were male, 16% female and 4 respondents identified themselves as transgender. Around 29% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 25% from OBC community and 35% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 93% adhering to Hinduism, more than 6% adhering to Christianity with remaining respondents adhering to other religions. Approximately 90% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 91.29% of respondents have ration card, while 13.38% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Card.
- » 89.41% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 41.11% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 88.16% received the stipulated benefits.

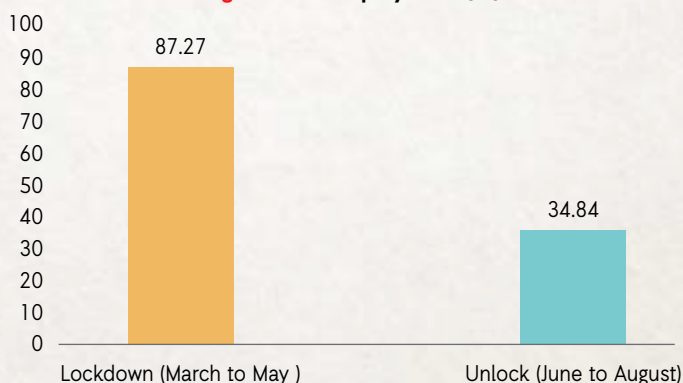
- » 46.27% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 89.47% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 36.31% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 91.19% could access public healthcare facilities.
- » 56.66% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

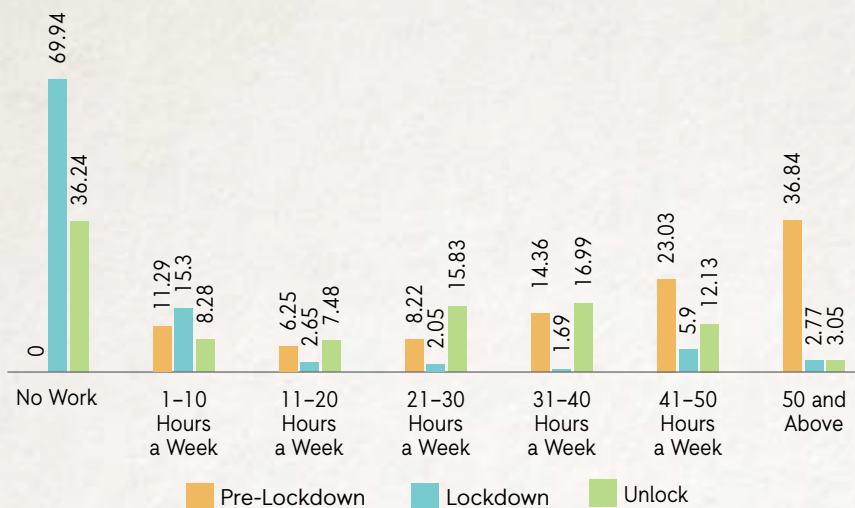
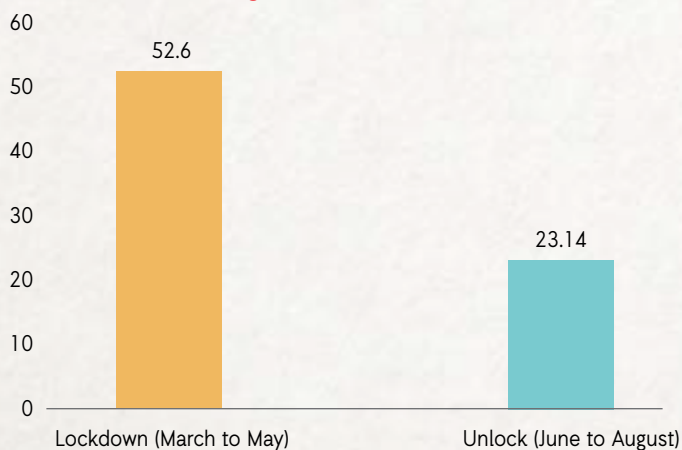
## Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number still remain unemployed. The unemployment level has gone down from 87% during the lockdown period to around 35% in the unlock phase (Figure 1). But a significant proportion of the respondents who have resumed working, around 57.21%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, the intensity of work has gone up quite a bit compared

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**

to the lockdown phase, but it is still much lower than the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 26.65% during lockdown to 53.87% during unlock in Odisha. Water sufficiency has also increased from 67.54% to 81.53% in the same time period. Savings went up marginally with 10.03% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 6.68 % during the lockdown phase. Around 23.14% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 52.6% during the lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 89.41% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 47.74% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased with 91.19% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 51.53% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving at a slow pace. Worryingly, underemployment seems to be growing, as both the number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty.

The welfare schemes including PDS, ICDS, and mid-day meals seem to be performing well, especially considering that an overwhelming majority of our respondents are migrant workers. However, the enrolment under ICDS and mid-day meal scheme should be enhanced.

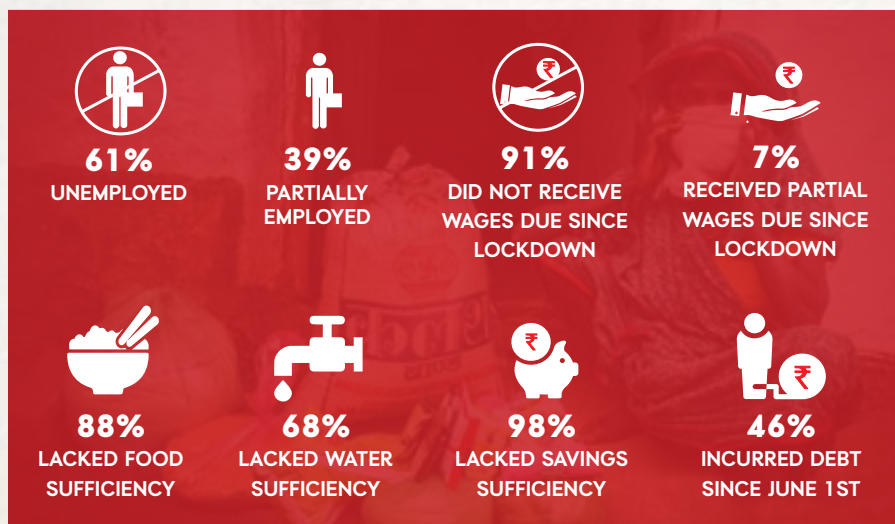
It is important to note that more than half of the migrant workers in the sample wish to continue staying in their source village or district, which underscores the challenge of creating appropriate jobs that match the skills, interests, and expectations of workers in their source districts and states, while devising protective mechanisms and policies for migrant workers.



## PUNJAB FACTSHEET

A total of 486 workers were interviewed from Punjab with a combination of revisits and new respondents added in round II. Out of the 486 respondents, 93% were based in rural areas during the survey while 7% were based in urban areas. Around 69% of the respondents were male and remaining 31% female. Almost 87% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 6% from OBC community and 2% were STs. The sample has majority Sikh respondents with 75% adhering to Sikhism, more than 16% adhering to Hinduism and remaining respondents adhering to other religions. More than 21% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 87.42% of respondents have ration cards, while 35.19% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 53.91% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 24.41% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 36.14% received the stipulated benefits.



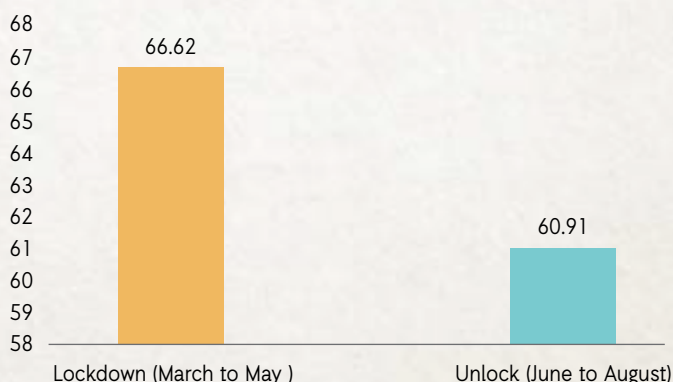
- » 27.15% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 34.65% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 15.02% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 32.08% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 24.24% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

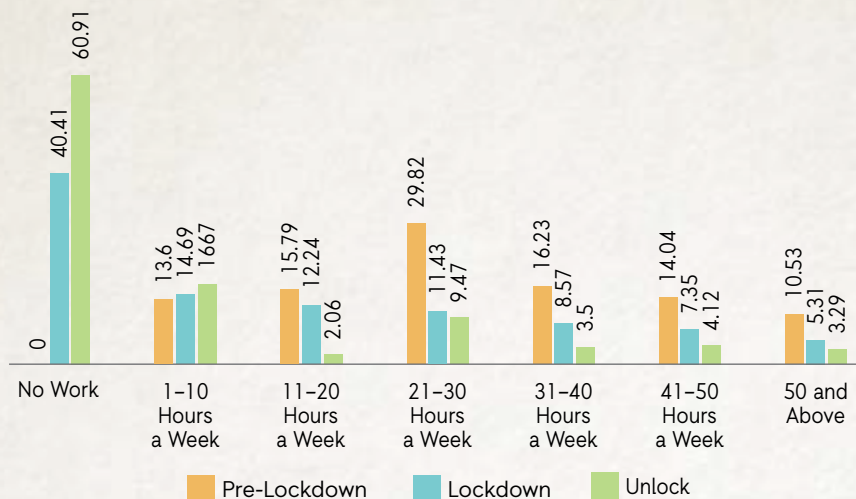
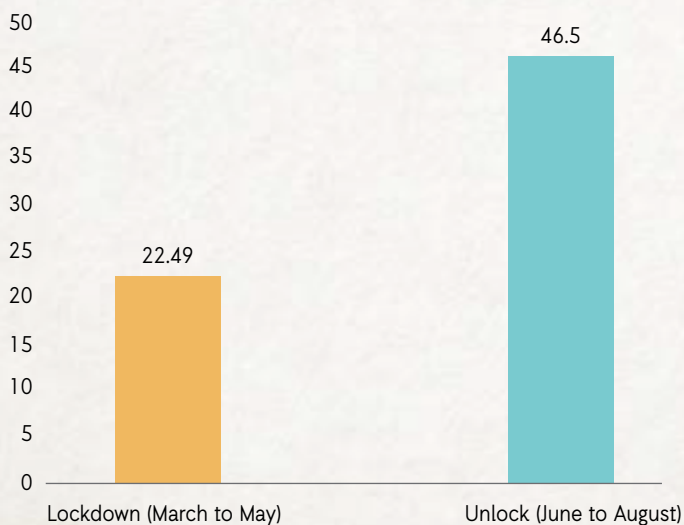
## Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, people have started to return to their livelihoods, but we do not see much improvement in the level of unemployment. It has gone down marginally from over 66% during the lockdown period to around 61% in the unlock phase. Moreover, a significant proportion of the respondents who have resumed work, around 38.68%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase,

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**

but it is still significantly below the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up marginally from 10.67% during lockdown to 11.93% during unlock in Punjab. Water sufficiency has decreased from 52.89% to 32.3% in the same time period. Savings have taken a further hit with 2.06% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 6.22 % during the lockdown phase. Around 46.5% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 22.49% during lockdown phase, indicating that indebtedness has gone up substantially. It is to be noted that the figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

With respect to entitlements, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 53.91% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 43.33% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased with 32.88% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 25.37% during the lockdown phase.

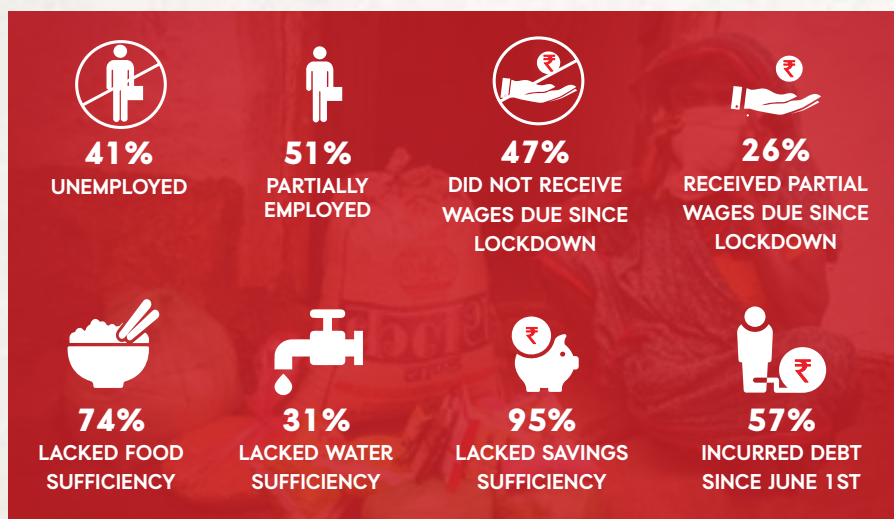
With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the level of unemployment remains quite high. Many of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work, which seems to suggest that underemployment is growing.

People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. The coverage and access to entitlements under welfare schemes such as PDS, ICDS, and mid-day meals are lacking despite the high food insufficiency reported by the respondents. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve both coverage and access to entitlements and ensure that there is no caste-based discrimination in provision of entitlements and services. There is also a need to for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## RAJASTHAN FACTSHEET

A total of 835 workers were interviewed from Rajasthan with 312 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 835 respondents, 34.61% were based in rural areas during the survey while 65.39% were based in urban areas. Around 72% of the respondents were male and remaining 28% female. Further, 26% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 34% from OBC community and 18% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 83% adhering to Hinduism, more than 16% adhering to Islam and remaining respondents adhering to other religious denominations. A little over 78% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 69.82% of respondents have ration cards, while 11.5% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 41.8% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 32.53% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 39.89% received the stipulated benefits.

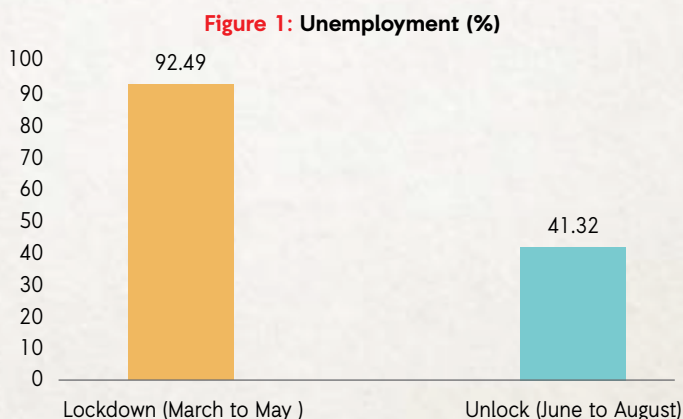


- » 54.85% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 26.55% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 22.63% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 58.73% could access public healthcare facilities.
- » 65.98% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

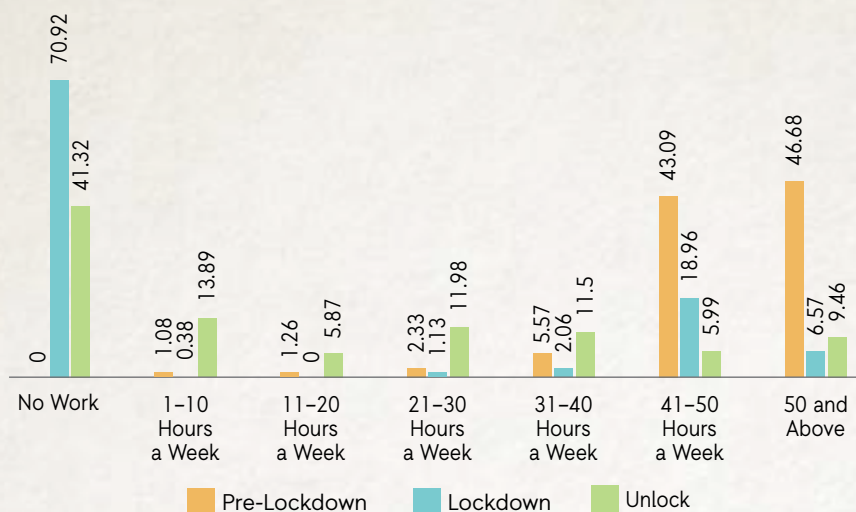
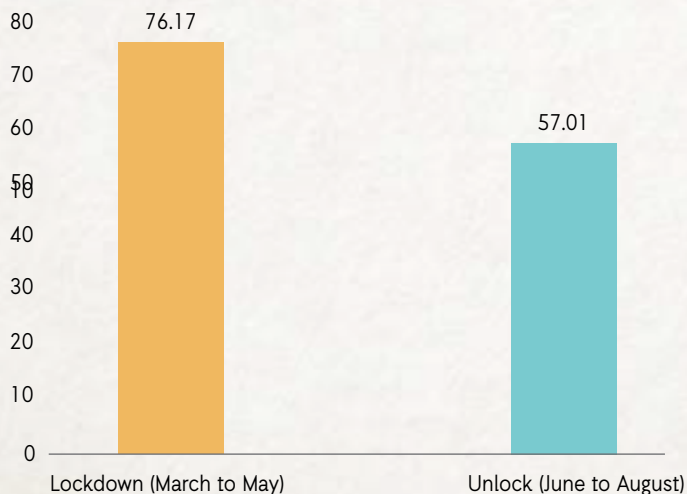
### Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, people have started to return to their livelihoods but a significant number still remain unemployed. Although unemployment levels have gone down from over 92% during the lockdown period to 41% in the unlock phase (Figure 1), a significant proportion of the respondents, around 51.38%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, but





**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**

it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 10.91% during lockdown to 26.47% during unlock in Rajasthan, though it is still alarmingly low. Water sufficiency has also increased from 51.84% to 68.86% in the same time period. Savings went up marginally with 4.67% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 1.7% during the lockdown phase. Around 57% of all respondents reported to taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 76.17% during lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that the figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 41.8% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 24.5% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased with 58.73% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 6.68% during the lockdown phase.

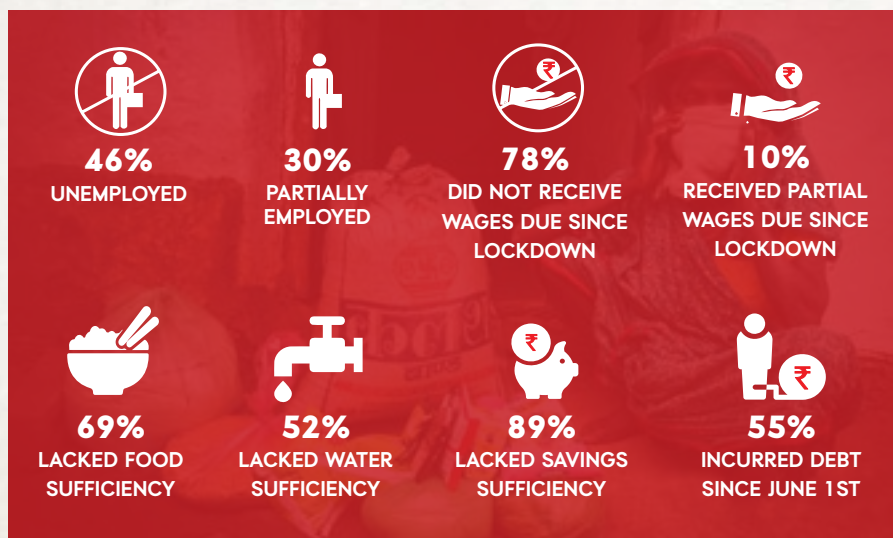
With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, and underemployment seems to be growing. Many of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work. The number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty.

Though the coverage of schemes such as PDS and access to basic services such as public healthcare have improved, significant gaps remain. This can be attributed to the large number of migrant workers in our sample, who have returned to their source districts since the lockdown. Therefore, there is a need to ensure that these workers are covered and are able to access under existing welfare schemes and policies, while undertaking greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## TAMIL NADU FACTSHEET

A total of 2501 workers were interviewed from Tamil Nadu which include revisits and new respondents added in round II. Out of the 2501 respondents, 71% were based in rural areas during the survey while 28.99% were based in urban areas. Around 26% of the respondents were male, more than 73% female and 10 respondents identified as transgender. Around 52% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 34% from OBC community and 1% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 84% adhering to Hinduism, more than 12% adhering to Christianity and remaining respondents adhering to other religions, mainly Islam. Close to 14% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 94.56% of respondents have ration cards, while 8% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 85.81% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.

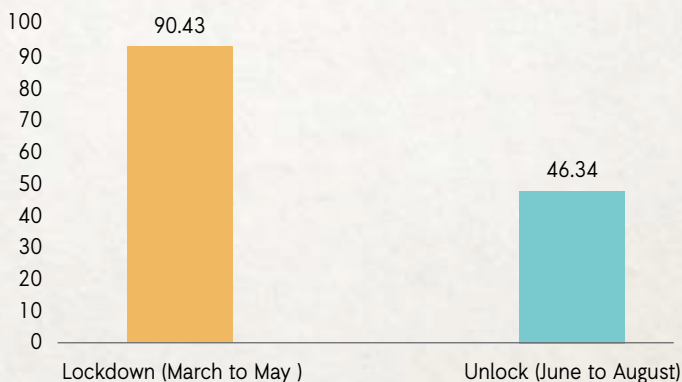
- » 19.88% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 78.16% received the stipulated benefits.
- » 48.54% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 73.02% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 35.87% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 86.85% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 50.34% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in their source village/town/city at present.

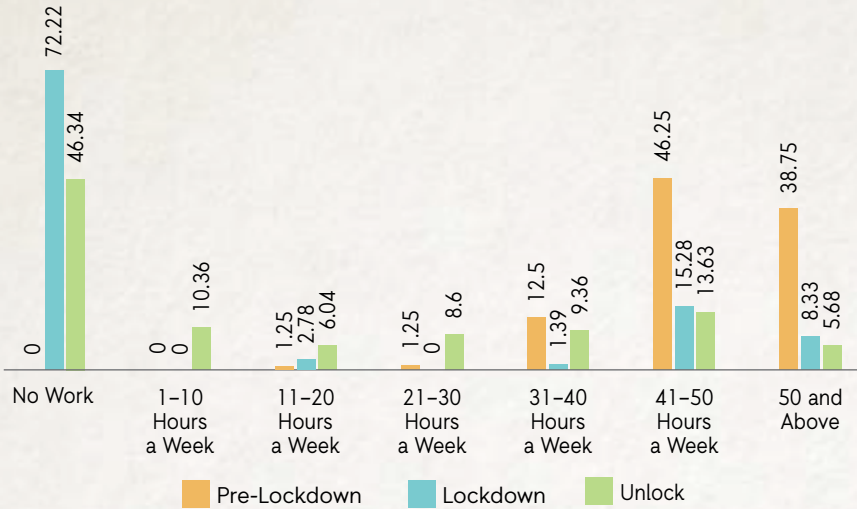
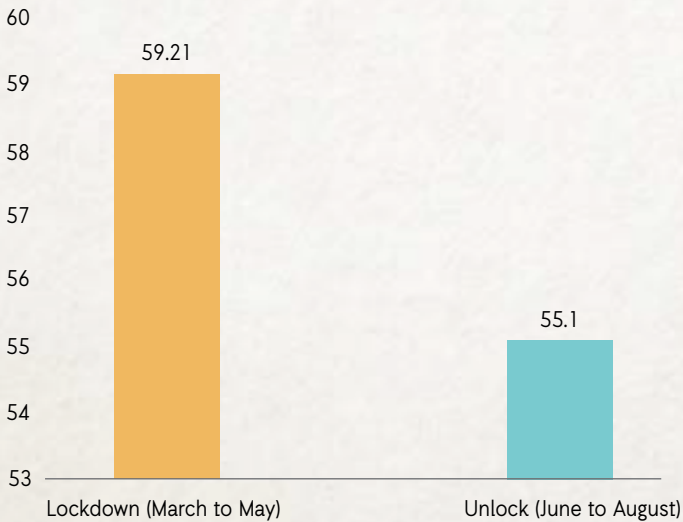
## Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number still remain unemployed. Although unemployment levels have gone down from over 90% during the lockdown period to 46% in the unlock phase (Figure 1), a significant proportion of the respondents, around 30%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**



see, intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, but it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency, that is the percentage of people reporting having sufficient food, has gone up from 16.27% during lockdown to 30.59% during unlock in Tamil Nadu. Water sufficiency, however, has substantially decreased from 72.73% to 47.98% in the same time period. Savings went up with 11.4% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 2.87% during the lockdown phase. Around 55% of all respondents reported taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 59.21% during lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 85.81% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 68% in the lockdown phase.

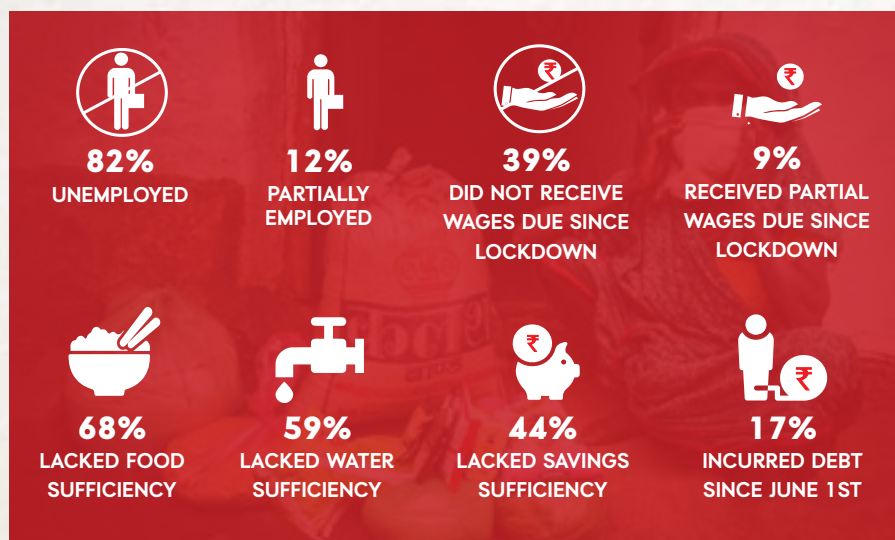
Access to public healthcare has also increased with 86.85% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 48.78% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly. The number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. Certain schemes such as PDS not only provided relief in the immediate aftermath of the crisis but continue to be important sources of support. However, in addition to these schemes, there is a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## TELANGANA FACTSHEET

A total of 1668 workers were interviewed from Telangana across 27 districts of the state. Out of the 1668 respondents, 82.79% were based in rural areas during the survey while 17.21% were based in urban areas. Around 58% of the respondents were male, 42% female and one transgender respondent. 69% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 15% from OBC community and 12% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 96% adhering to Hinduism, more than 3% adhering to Islam with remaining respondents adhering to other religions. More than 35% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings



- » 95.99% of respondents have ration cards, while 3.52% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 86.04% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.

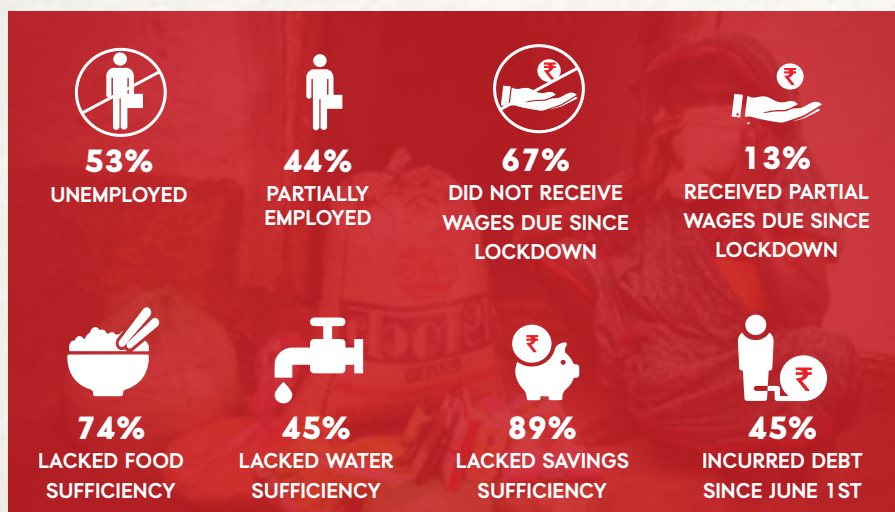
- » 40.1% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 98.79% received the stipulated benefits.
- » 46.11% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 90.92% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 43.13% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 95.22% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 48.13% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

The findings indicate that the level of unemployment remains extremely high, while many of those who have resumed working are either not working full-time or are only occasionally getting work. People continue to be dependent on their savings and on loans, in addition to the support they are receiving from welfare schemes such as PDS. However, in addition to these schemes, there is a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## UTTAR PRADESH FACTSHEET

A total of 779 workers were interviewed from Uttar Pradesh with 577 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 779 respondents, 52.89% were based in rural areas during the survey while 47.11% were based in urban areas. Around 79% of the respondents were male and remaining 21% female. 49% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 35% from OBC community and 5% from ST. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 79% adhering to Hinduism, more than 17% adhering to Islam and remaining respondents adhering to other religions. More than 78% of respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 85.62% of respondents have ration card, while 17.97% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Card.
- » 80.74% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 19.27% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 45.08% received the stipulated benefits.

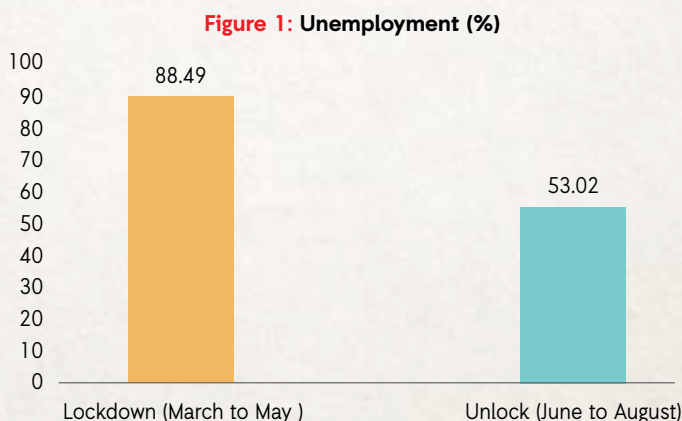


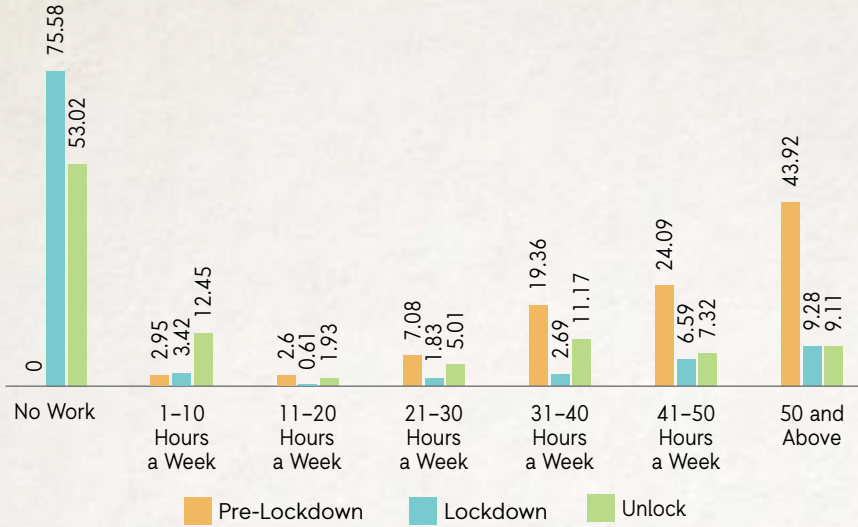
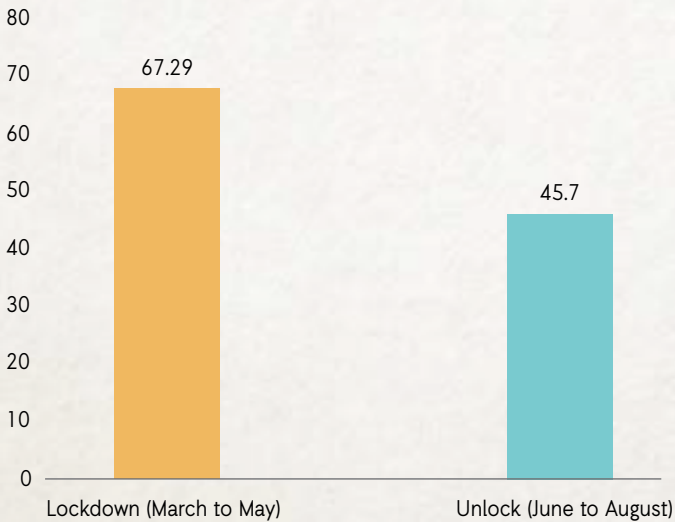
- » 43.18% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 52.98% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 25.67% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 41.5% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 62.83% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in their source village/town/city at present.

### Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number still remain unemployed. Although unemployment levels have gone down from 88% during the lockdown period to 53% in the unlock phase (Figure 1), as compared to the unlock phase, a significant proportion of the respondents, around 43.52%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**

see, intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, but it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency has gone up from 12.65% during lockdown to 26.32% during unlock phase, though it is still remarkably low. Water sufficiency has decreased from 67.45% to 54.81% in the same time period. Savings went up marginally with 10.78% reporting sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 4.73% during the lockdown phase. Around 45.7% of all respondents reported taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 67.29% during lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that the figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with 80.74% of respondents reporting to have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 40.29% in the lockdown phase.

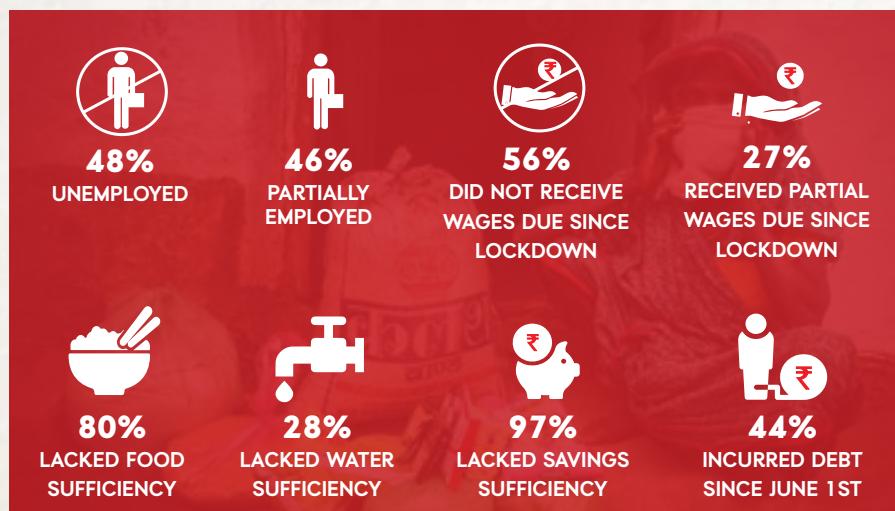
Access to public primary healthcare has also increased with 41.15% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 13.75% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, and underemployment seems to be growing. The number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. Certain schemes such as PDS not only provided relief in the immediate aftermath of the crisis but continue to be important sources of support. However, in addition to these schemes, there is a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

## WEST BENGAL FACTSHEET

A total of 1165 workers were interviewed from West Bengal, with 260 of them being revisits and others new respondents added in round II. Out of the 1165 respondents, 45.06% were based in rural areas during the survey while 54.94% were based in urban areas. Around 47% of the respondents were male and remaining 53% female. Close to 37% of the sample respondents were from the SC community, 8% from OBC community and 5% were STs. The sample has majority Hindu respondents with 86% adhering to Hinduism, more than 13% adhering to Islam and remaining respondents adhering to other religions. Almost 44% of the respondents said that they were working as migrant workers before the lockdown.

### Key Findings from Round II



- » 96.82% of respondents have ration cards, while 16.14% have Antyodaya Anna Yojana Cards.
- » 90.13% of respondents have received the stipulated food grains through PDS.
- » 41.34% of respondents have children enrolled in ICDS centres out of which 79.45% received the stipulated benefits.



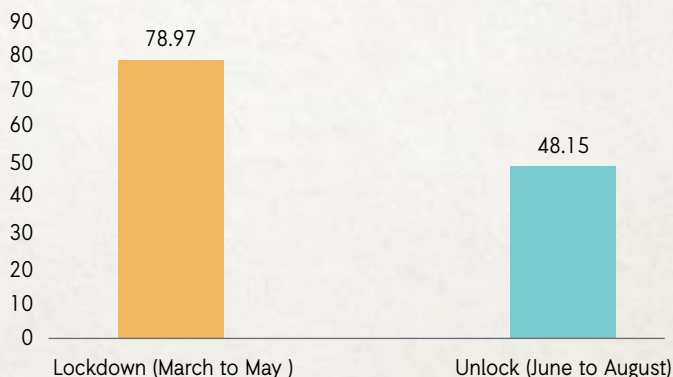
- » 64.3% of respondents have children enrolled in public school out of which 86.07% received daily mid-day meals.
- » 16.14% of respondents required healthcare services out of which 81.91% could access primary healthcare facilities.
- » 50.31% of all migrants (workers who used to migrate for work before lockdown) have reported preference for remaining in source village/town/city at present.

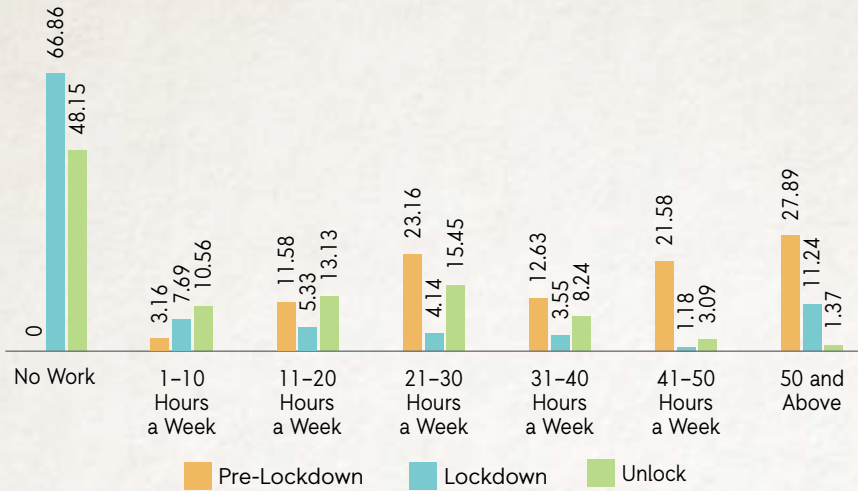
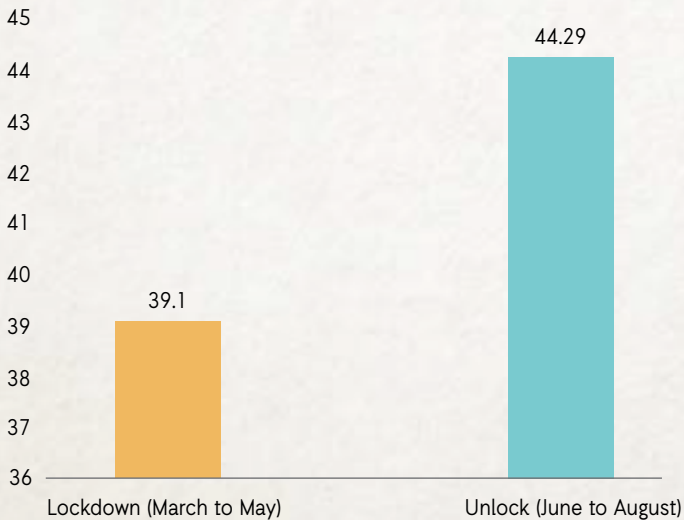
## Comparison with Round I Findings

With the easing of national lockdown restrictions, many have started to return to their livelihoods, but a significant number still remain unemployed. Although unemployment levels have gone down from close to 80% during the lockdown period to 48% in the unlock phase (Figure 1), a significant proportion of the respondents, around 46%, remain partially employed.

The intensity of work figures provide a better understanding of the present scenario of work in the informal sector. Figure 2 below gives a comparative analysis of weekly work hours during three different stages – pre-lockdown (January to March), lockdown (March to May) and unlock phase (June to August). The pre-lockdown and lockdown figures have been taken from round I of our survey while the unlock figures are from round II. As we can see, intensity of work has gone up compared to the lockdown phase, but it is nowhere near the pre-lockdown conditions. As wages in the informal

**Figure 1: Unemployment (%)**



**Figure 2: Intensity of work (%)****Figure 3: Incidence of debt (%)**

sector are extremely dependent on the hours worked, this has serious implications for the income security and consumption ability of workers.

With the easing of restrictions after three months, food sufficiency, that is the percentage of people reporting having sufficient food, has gone up from 14% during lockdown to 20% during unlock in West Bengal. Water sufficiency has decreased from 74.54% to 71.59% in the same time period. Savings remain largely unchanged with 3% reporting having sufficient savings during unlock phase as compared to 1.48% during the lockdown phase. Around 44.29% of all respondents reported taking loans in the unlock phase as compared to 39% during lockdown phase (Figure 3). It is to be noted that these figures are for additional debt taken during these periods only. Total indebtedness can be much higher.

Notably, the access to food grains received through the public distribution system has increased, with over 90% of respondents reporting that they have received the stipulated food grains during the unlock phase as compared to 72.32% in the lockdown phase.

Access to public healthcare has also increased with 81.91% of those requiring healthcare facilities reporting to have been able to access such facilities during unlock phase as compared to 63.16% during the lockdown phase.

With the resumption of economic activity, workers have started regaining their livelihoods, but the situation is improving extremely slowly, and underemployment seems to be growing. The number of people in full-time work and the number of hours that people are working are much lower than before the national lockdown was announced. People continue to be heavily dependent on their savings and on loans, adding to concerns about increasing deprivation, indebtedness, and poverty. Certain schemes such as PDS not only provided relief in the immediate aftermath of the crisis but continue to be important sources of support. However, in addition to these schemes, there is a need for greater rebuilding efforts and longer-term policy measures.

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