



# Press Release

IPSOS SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG: 21 APRIL 2021

## Almost half of South African households go hungry due to Covid-19

*One of the most devastating “unintended consequences” of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa is the spread of hunger.*

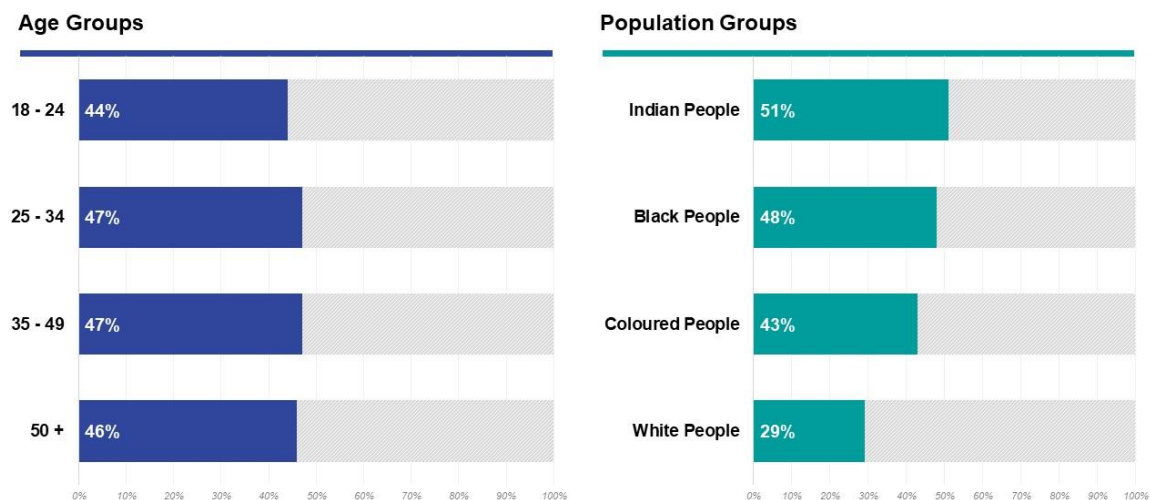
Large numbers of people - estimated in the region of around 3 million - lost their jobs during 2020 and were added to the growing unemployment figures of the country. In a study conducted by Ipsos, on behalf of the [Centre for Social Development in Africa](#) based at the [University of Johannesburg](#), it was found that almost half (46%) of adult South Africans agreed with the statement: “Adults and children in my household often had to go hungry during the Covid-19 pandemic, as we did not have enough money for food.”

Fieldwork was conducted from 19 November 2020 to 30 December 2020, with 3,469 face-to-face interviews of a randomly selected sample of South Africans that are 18 years and older. Interviews were conducted in homes and in-home languages.

### The extent of hunger

At the time of fieldwork, more than 40% of South Africans of all age groups were affected by hunger. All population groups were affected, with about half of Indian and Black people suffering from hunger. This is also true for more than four in ten Coloured people and almost three in ten White people in South Africa.

### INCIDENCE OF HUNGER AMONG DIFFERENT AGE AND POPULATION GROUPS

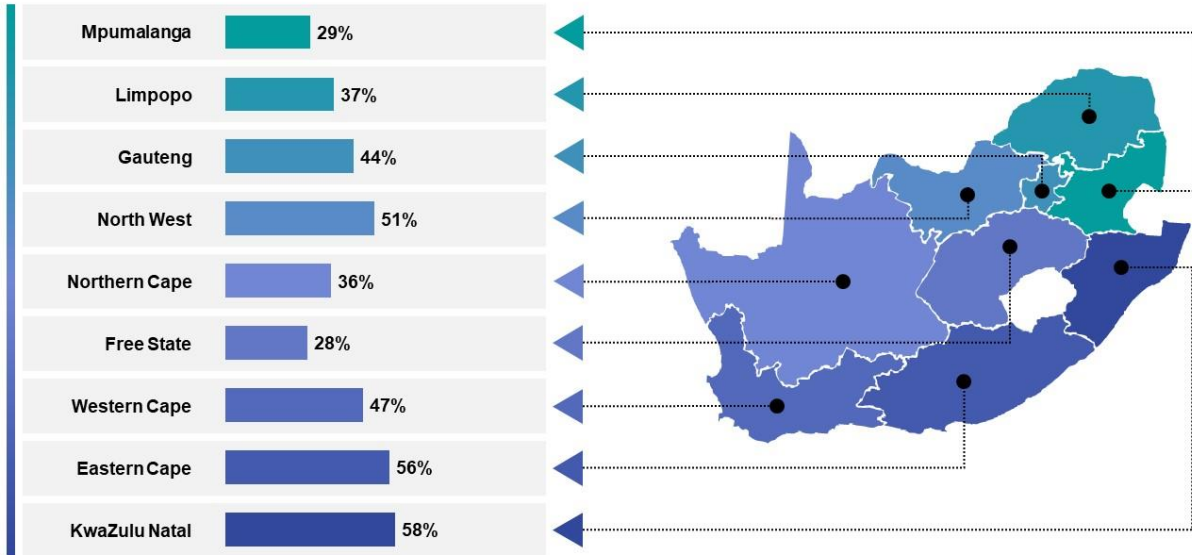


© Ipsos 2021  
Almost half of South African households go hungry due to Covid-19 (15 April 2021). Results from an Ipsos study, conducted: November - December 2020



Hunger knows no provincial boundaries and South Africans all over the country were going hungry – but those in KwaZulu-Natal (the second most populous province in South Africa) and the Eastern Cape (one of the poorest provinces) suffered the most:

## INCIDENCE OF HUNGER IN ALL 9 PROVINCES

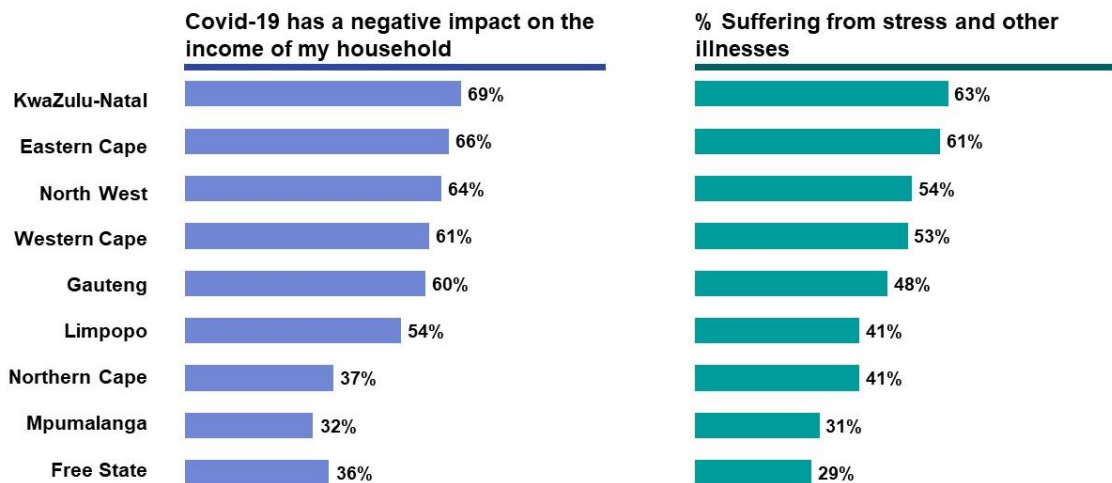


© Ipsos 2021  
Almost half of South African households go hungry due to Covid-19 (15 April 2021). Results from an Ipsos study, conducted: November - December 2020



The scourge of hunger affected similar proportions of working (45%) and non-working (46%) South Africans. This can be seen together with comments about household income and about stress and illnesses suffered by household members.

About six in every ten South Africans (58%) said that *“The Covid-19 pandemic has a negative impact on the income of my household”* and half (50%) said *“People in my household suffer more from stress and other illnesses during the Covid-19 pandemic”*.



© Ipsos 2021  
Almost half of South African households go hungry due to Covid-19 (15 April 2021). Results from an Ipsos study, conducted: November - December 2020

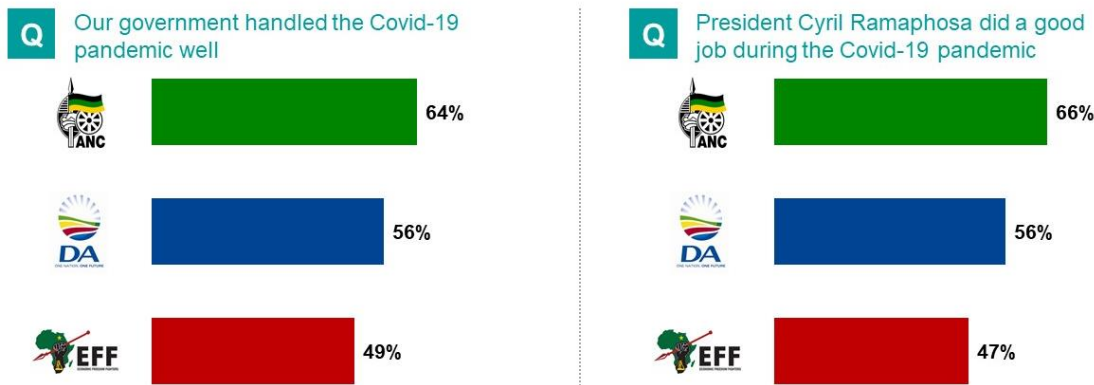


## The Government and Covid-19

Close to six in every ten South Africans (58%) think that [President Cyril Ramaphosa](#) did a good job during the Covid-19 pandemic and a similar proportion (56%) give the [South African Government](#) credit for their handling of the pandemic.

It is probably no surprise that [ANC](#) supporters are more vocal in their support for the president and the government's handling of the pandemic, but supporters of other political parties largely agree – although not to the same extent.

### VIEWS OF SUPPORTERS OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES

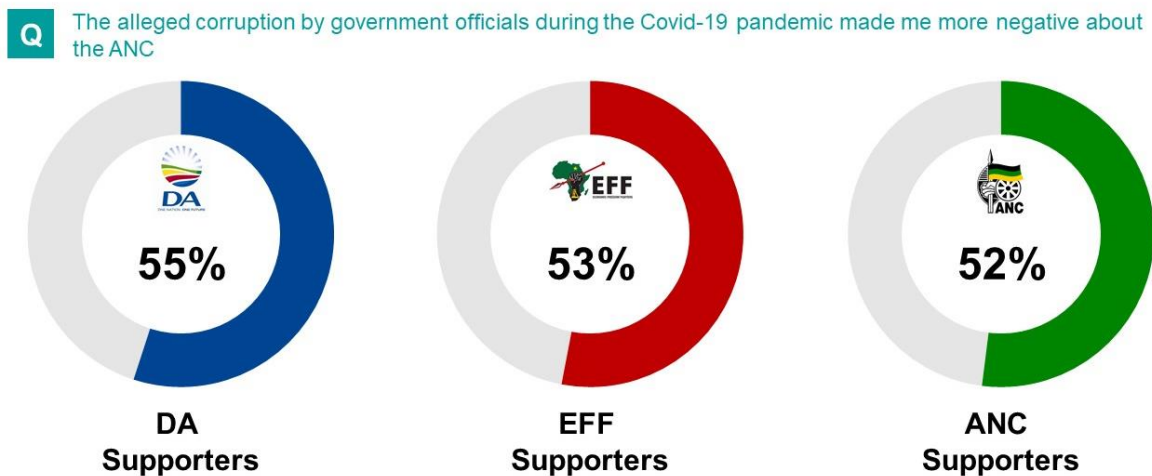


© Ipsos 2021  
Almost half of South African households go hungry due to Covid-19 (15 April 2021). Results from an Ipsos study, conducted: November - December 2020



Interestingly, supporters of all three the biggest political parties are very close in their opinions about the alleged corruption by government officials, with more than half (52%) of South Africans saying that the alleged corruption by government officials during the Covid-19 pandemic made them more negative about the ANC. This notion will have to be tested in forthcoming surveys.

### VIEWS OF SUPPORTERS OF DIFFERENT POLITICAL PARTIES



© Ipsos 2021  
Almost half of South African households go hungry due to Covid-19 (15 April 2021). Results from an Ipsos study, conducted: November - December 2020





# Press Release - Continued

## Technical Detail:

- Fieldwork: 19 November – 30 December 2020
- 3,469 in-home face-to-face (CAPI) interviews. Conducted in preferred home languages of randomly selected respondents
- Countrywide representation
- Results filtered by those 18 years old and older
- Results weighted and projected to the official South African population figures for this universe
- Margin of error for this sample as a whole is a maximum of 0.65 – influenced by sample size, response rate and sampling methodology employed

## For more information on this news release, please contact:

### **Mari Harris**

Director and Political Analyst,  
Ipsos in South Africa  
Mobile: +27 (0)82 557 5058  
[mari.harris@ipsos.com](mailto:mari.harris@ipsos.com)

### **Professor Leila Patel**

SA Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development,  
Centre for Social Development, University of Johannesburg  
Telephone: +27 (0)11 559 1907  
[lpatel@uj.ac.za](mailto:lpatel@uj.ac.za)

### **Professor Yolanda Sadie**

Emeritus Professor of Politics,  
University of Johannesburg  
Mobile: +27 (0)83 635 4459  
[ysadie@uj.ac.za](mailto:ysadie@uj.ac.za)

## About Ipsos

- Ipsos is the world's third largest market research company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.
- Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.
- Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).
- ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP | [www.ipsos.com](http://www.ipsos.com)