

# Responding to COVID-19 in African Countries:

Executive Summary of Polling Results: Ethiopia

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August 2020



# INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact societies across health, financial and day to day life.

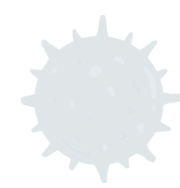
This document provides the findings from public opinion polls in Ethiopia to understand the public's knowledge, risk perception, attitudes, access to information, reactions, behaviors and practices related to COVID-19.

This Executive Summary is supplemented by an Appendix with the results should readers require additional detail.

# METHODOLOGY

The public opinion polls were conducted from 3 August to 13 August 2020. The polling was conducted by telephone.

Samples were drawn to be nationally representative of each Member State; weighting was applied by gender and region to align the final data with the population. The national unweighted sample size in Ethiopia is 1,571 interviews.



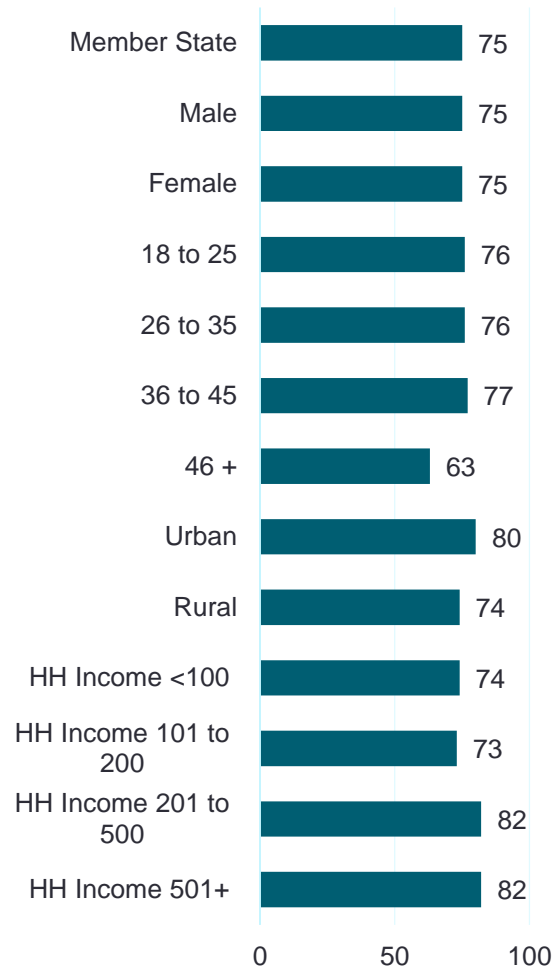
## Key Findings

- **PHSM support & adherence:** Support for and self-reported adherence to economic restrictions (staying home from work and avoiding markets) were lower in Ethiopia than for personal protective measures (mask wearing, hand washing, physical distance). This aligns with the almost two-thirds of respondents who said they favor reopening the economy, as well as the high burden of income loss and food insecurity found in this survey.
- **Risk perceptions & information:** Although the vast majority (87%) of respondents in Ethiopia thought that the virus would affect very many people in their country, far fewer (only 35%) thought their personal risk of getting the virus was high. Belief in misinformation narratives was widespread, with belief highest for the narrative that foreigners are testing vaccines in Ethiopia.
- **Essential health services:** Reported disruption to health services and medication access was prominent among all households surveyed, however more so among urban than rural. The most commonly reported barriers for accessing health care were fear of catching COVID-19 and health facilities reportedly being too busy or not having enough health care workers.
- **Economic burden & food security:** Almost 60% of survey respondents in Ethiopia reported income losses during the COVID-19 crisis, with reports highest among low-income households and slightly higher in urban areas.

# Information, Perception & Misinformation

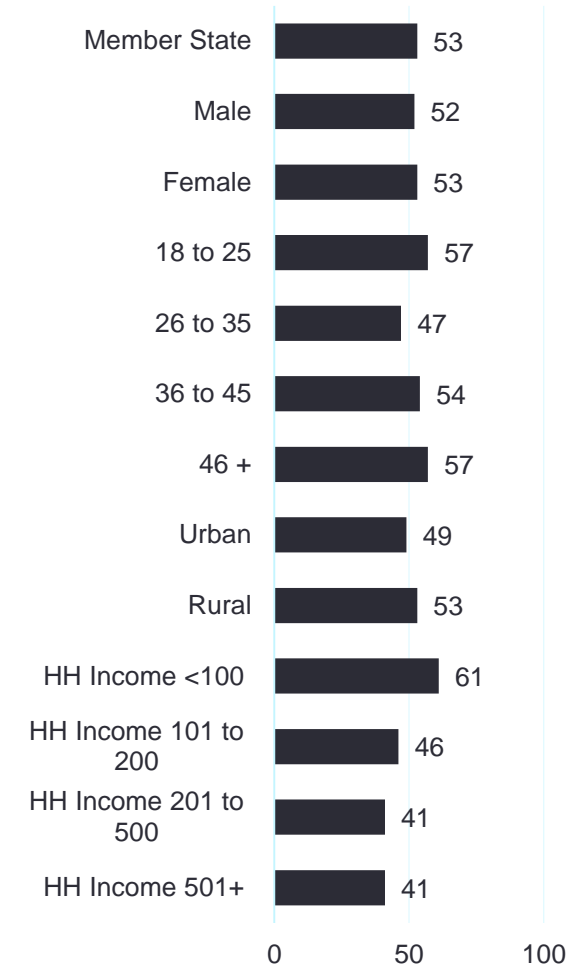
## Preventive Measures

- % True for ALL three statements:
- Washing hands helps prevent getting COVID-19
  - Infected people may not show symptoms for 5 to 14 days
  - Wearing a face mask when around other people prevents the spread of COVID-19



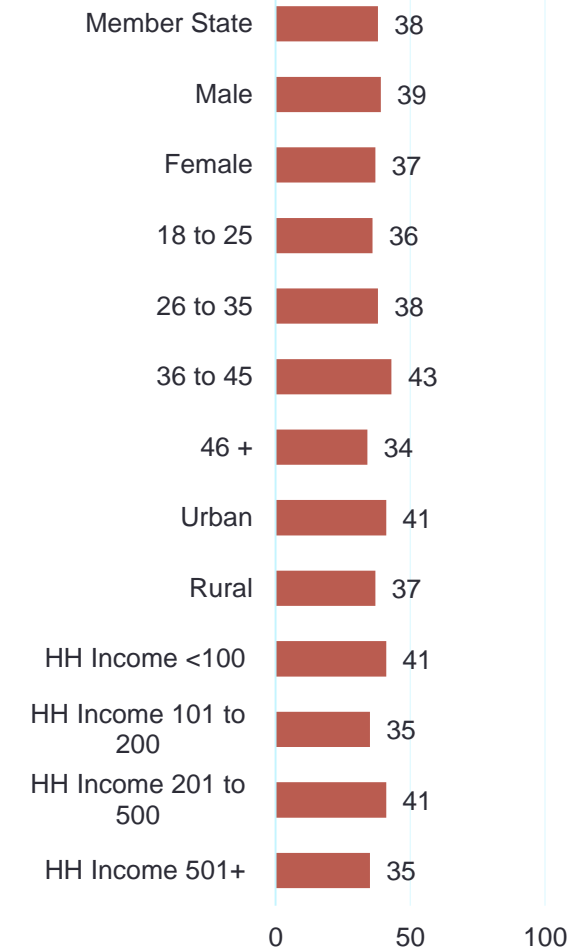
## Reaction to Recovered Patients

- % True (one statement):
- People who have recovered from it should be avoided to prevent spreading COVID-19.



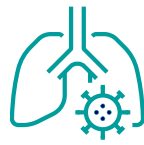
## Misinformation

- % True for BOTH statements:
- Foreigners are discrediting African medicines which could cure it
  - Foreigners are trying to test vaccines on us

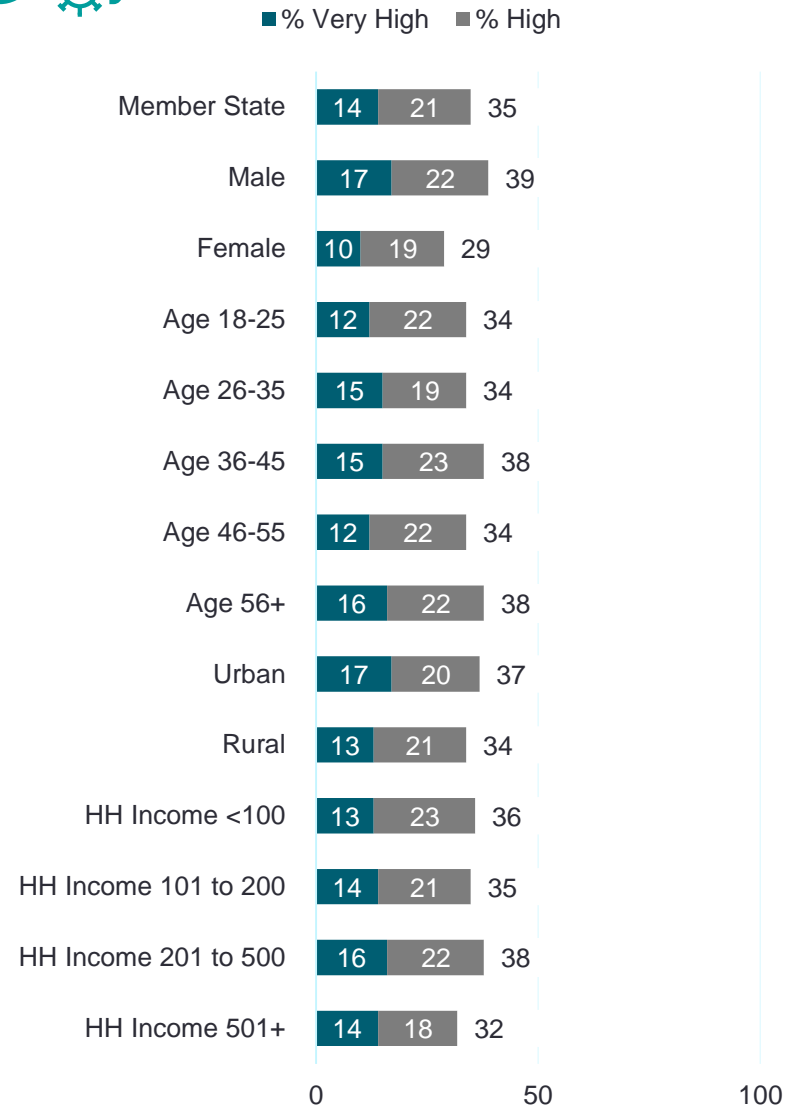


Q2. I'm going to read things people have said about coronavirus or COVID-19. Please tell me if you think each is definitely true, probably true, probably false, or definitely false. If you don't know, say so. (True = Definitely + Probably True)

# Risk Perceptions



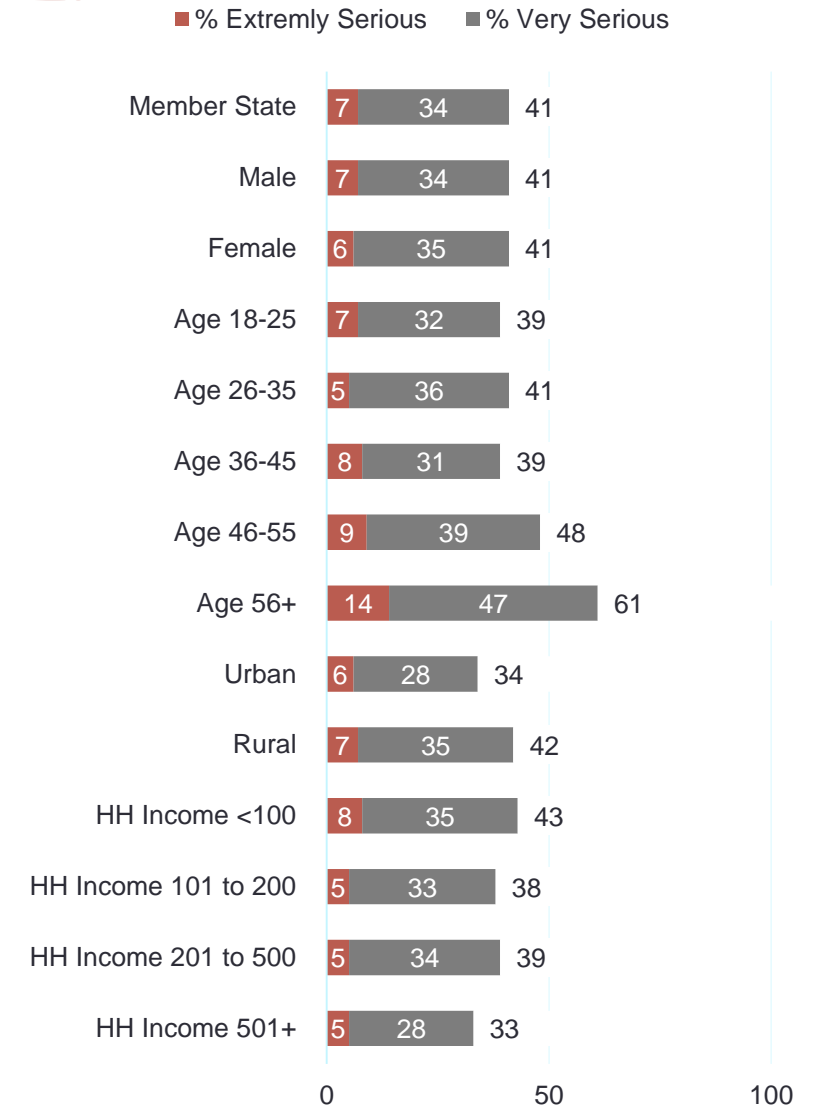
## Perceived risk of catching COVID-19:



Q8. Please indicate what you think your level of risk of catching coronavirus or COVID-19 is: Very high, High, Medium, Low, Very Low, Don't know



## Perceived severity of COVID-19 on health:



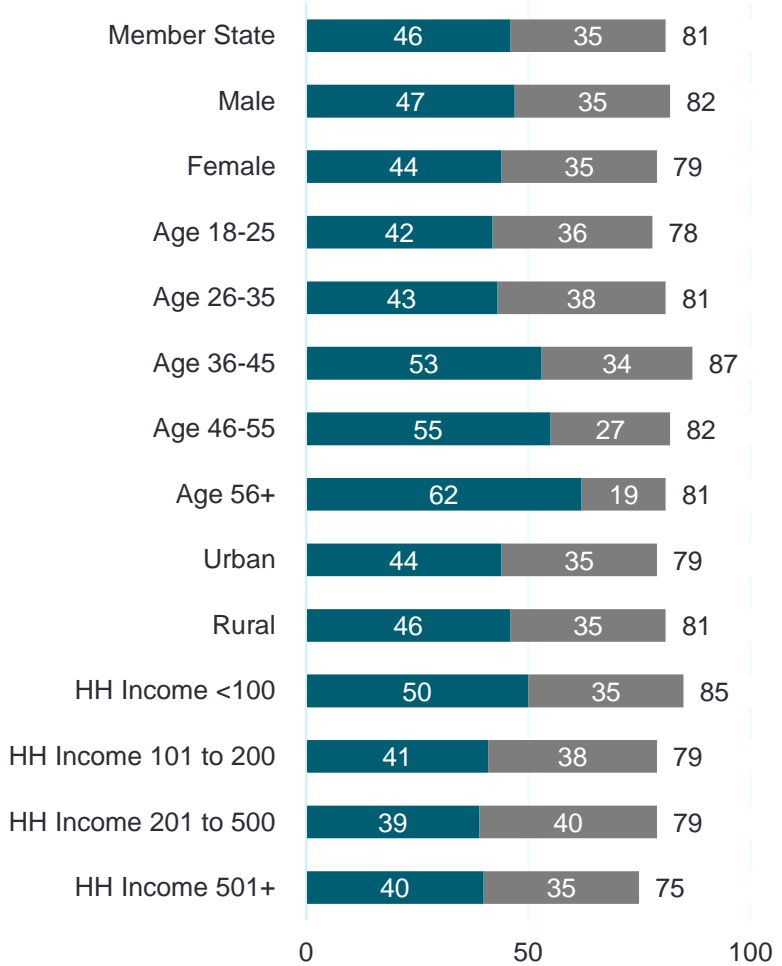
Q9. If you were infected by coronavirus or COVID-19, how seriously do you think it would affect your health? Not at all seriously, Somewhat seriously, Very seriously, Extremely seriously, Don't know / no response

# Satisfaction and Trust with the COVID-19 Response



## Satisfaction with Government response to COVID-19:

■ % Very Satisfied ■ % Somewhat Satisfied

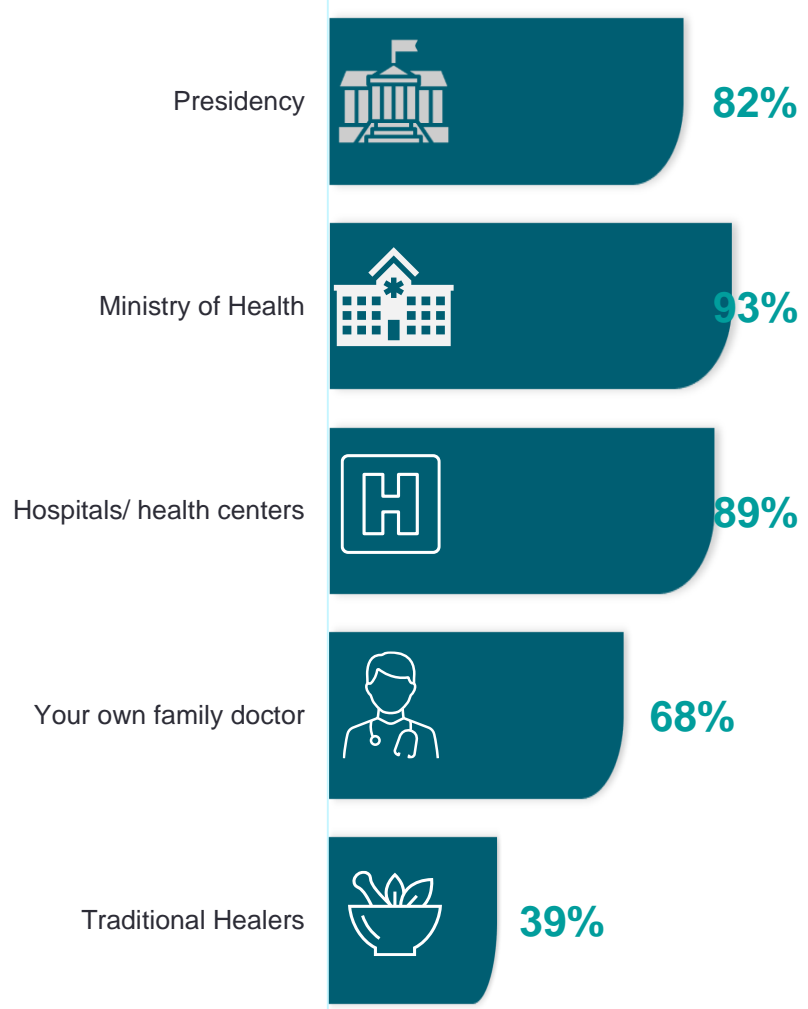


Q11. How satisfied are you with your (Ethiopia) government's response to coronavirus or COVID-19? Very satisfied, Somewhat satisfied, Somewhat dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied, Don't know / not sure



## Trust in handling of COVID-19 in Ethiopia

% Trust a great deal + fair amount



Q12. To what extent, if at all, do you trust each of the following individuals and organizations' handling of the coronavirus in Ethiopia? A great deal, A fair amount, Not very much, Not at all, Don't know, Not heard of organisation, Not applicable.

# SUMMARY OF Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs)

## Public Health and Social Measures (PHSMs)

	Adherence: level to which these activities describe “you personally”				Support: perception of necessity		
	<i>Completely applies</i>	<i>Mostly applies</i>	<i>Sometimes applies</i>	<i>Does not apply to me</i>	<i>Absolutely necessary</i>	<i>Somewhat necessary</i>	<i>Not really necessary</i>
Wear a face mask in public when near others	77	9	8	6	91	7	2
Wash more often than they used to	70	21	8	21	93	6	1
Avoid handshakes and physical greetings	78	12	7	3	91	7	2
PERSONAL PHSMS: SUMMARY	75	14	8	10	92	7	2
Stop joining public gatherings and places of entertainment	64	12	12	12	79	15	5
Stop going to the church/mosque	41	18	25	16	55	28	16
PUBLIC GATHERING PHSMS: SUMMARY	53	15	19	14	67	22	11
Reduce the number of times going to the market or grocery store	40	26	26	7	71	25	4
Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities	43	17	23	17	61	28	11
MOBILITY PHSMS: SUMMARY	42	22	25	12	66	27	8

Please see Appendix for detail by country

Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?

# Face masks: Perceptions, Use and Attitudes

## When other people wear face masks near me, I think...

they are being careful, and I appreciate that they are protecting others

they may be infected, and I should stay away from them

they are being foolish, because this is unlikely to protect anyone



97% have a face mask ready to wear

**Adherence:**  
**Wear a Face Mask in Public Around Others:**  
**Completely applies: 77%**  
**Mostly applies: 9%**

Q4. Do you have a face mask of any kind that is ready for you to wear?  
 Q13g. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: G) Wearing a face mask in public when near others

Q3. I would now like to ask your opinion about face masks, which some people are wearing at the moment. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Showing % agree (Strongly + Somewhat agree)



# Impact on Health Care Services



## Missed, Delayed or Skipped Health Care Services:

% Yes: (among those requiring services)	25%
People with longstanding illness	37%
Women	26%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	25%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	29%
Urban	33%
Rural	24%

Base = require services (51%)



## Difficulty accessing medications:

% Much More Difficult (among those requiring medications)	21%
People with longstanding illness	33%
Women	21%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	23%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	19%
Urban	22%
Rural	21%

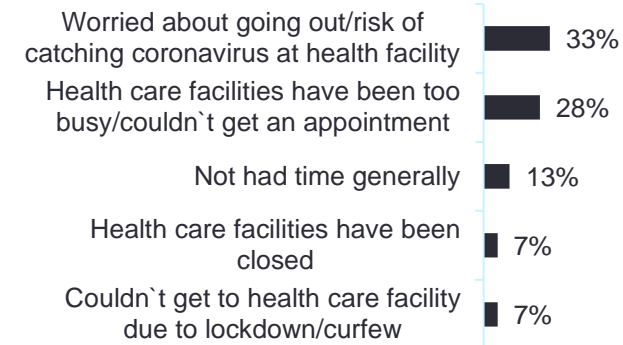
Base = require medication (85%)

Q21. Have you or any other person in your household delayed, skipped or been unable to complete health care visits since the COVID-19 crisis?

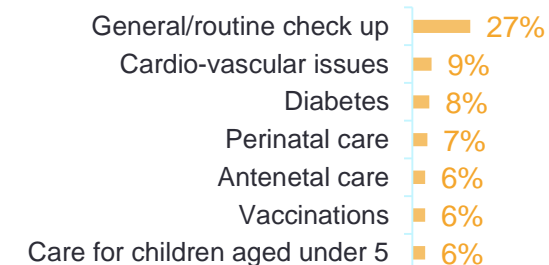
Q24. Has the COVID-19 crisis made it more difficult to obtain medications you need for you or your household or has it had no impact? If you do not need medications, please say so.



## Reason for Missed, Delayed or Skipped Services:



## Types of services Missed, Delayed or Skipped



Q22. Why have you or another person in your household delayed, skipped or been unable to complete health care visits since the COVID-19 crisis?

Q23. And do you mind if I ask what those delayed, missed or not completed health care visits were for?

# Economic and Food Relief Measures



## Barriers and Difficulties Purchasing Food

	Total	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	HH income < 100USD	HH income 500+
EXPERIENCED 'ANY' BARRIER ONE DAY OR MORE:	52	54	51	53	52	56	40
<i>Experienced 1 day or more:</i>							
...had difficulties in going to food markets due to restrictions imposed	21	23	22	20	22	25	22
...had difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed?	23	23	23	18	23	25	16
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because of shortages in the markets	30	28	31	25	29	35	26
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because the price was too high?	40	39	40	39	41	43	25
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because your income has dropped?	31	33	29	31	32	39	20



Impact on Income: % Reporting Income is Smaller than last year	59%
Women	56%
Men	61%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	68%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	44%
Urban	62%
Rural	58%

Q18. How does the amount of money you made in the past 7 days compare to the amount you made this time last year? Is it... Bigger, Smaller, Stayed the Same, Don't make any, Don't know.



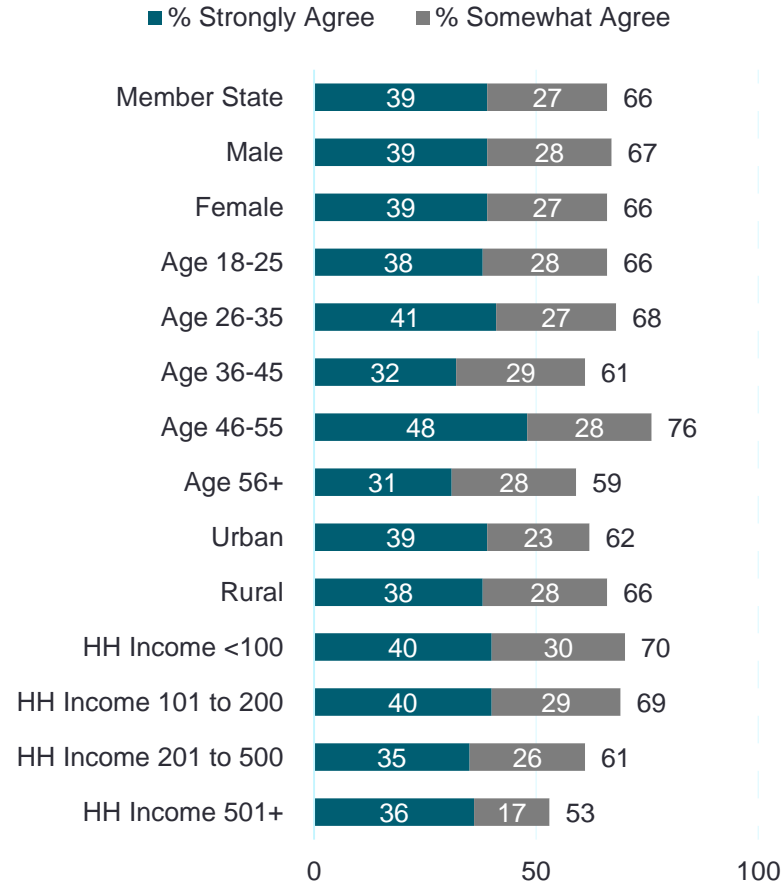
Impact on Unpaid work: % Reporting More Hours on Unpaid Work	46%
Women	50%
Men	41%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	47%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	44%
Urban	47%
Rural	45%

Q19. Since the crisis began, have you had a change in your hours spent on unpaid work, such as childcare, care of the elderly and housework? More hours, less hours, no change in hours, don't know.

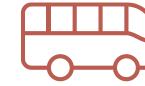
# Concerns about resuming normal activities



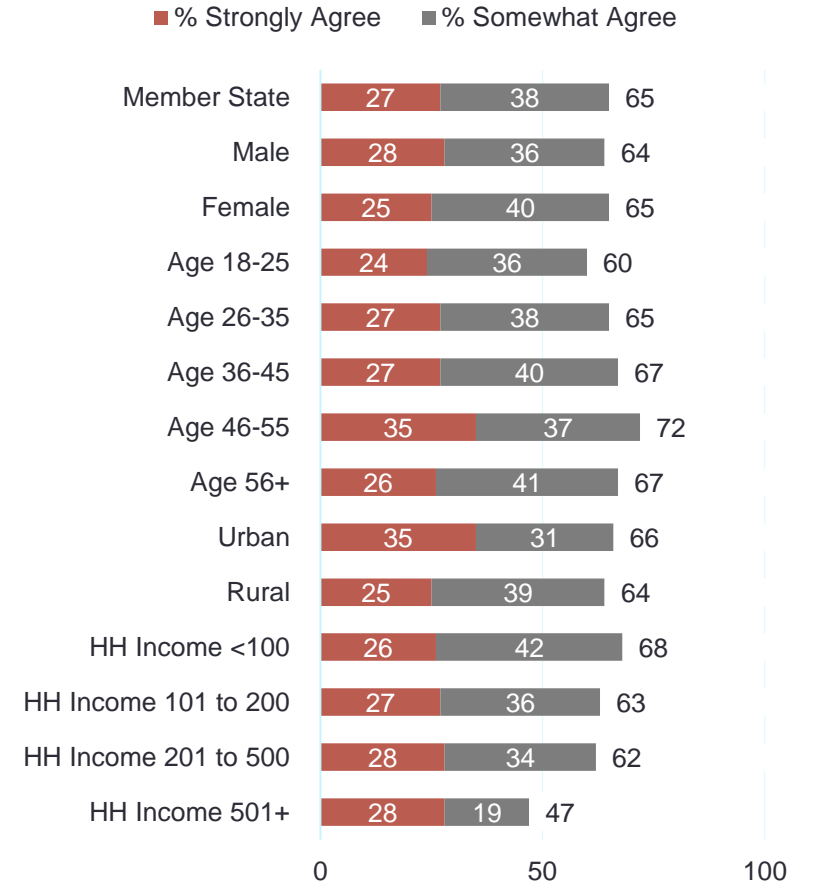
Thinking about resuming normal activities after the lockdown makes me feel very anxious



Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?



I would feel comfortable taking public transportation such as local buses or trains if it was not too busy

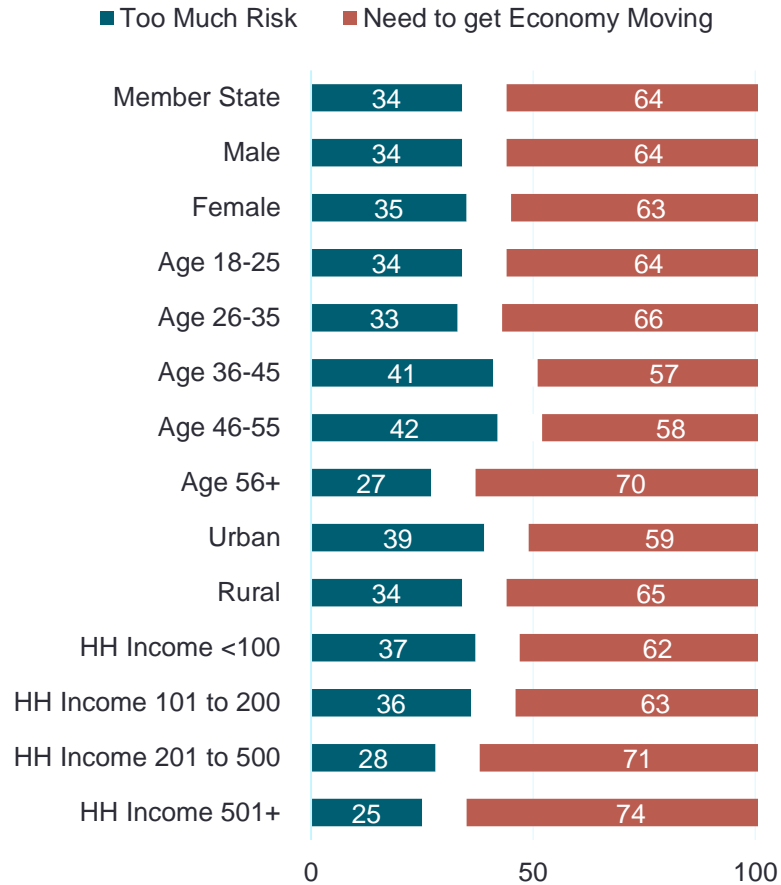


Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?

# Expectations about COVID-19



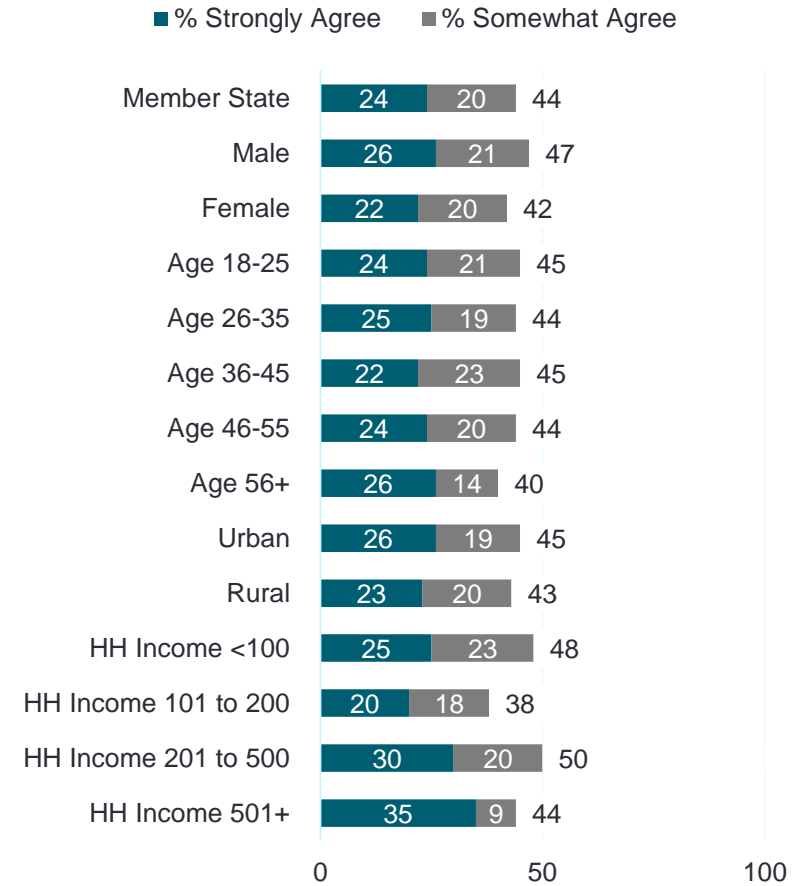
**Loosening Restrictions: “too risky to loosen restrictions” versus “there is a low risk and need to get economy moving”**



Q16. Some people say that loosening restrictions now puts too many people at risk of contracting COVID-19 and we need to wait at least a few more weeks. Other people say that the health risk is minimal if people follow social distancing rules and we need to get the economy moving again. Which is closer to your point of view?



**It will be at least six months before COVID-19 is contained**



Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?

# For more information, contact:

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Partnership for Evidence-Based  
Response to COVID-19

# Additional Methodology Details

- The public opinion polling was conducted using a telephone interviewing methodology.
- The questionnaire was developed by Resolve to Save Lives, Ipsos and members of the PERC consortium.
- The polling program was approved by local review boards and all respondents gave explicit permission to participate in the polling.
- Note that where referenced, income categories should be interpreted as indicative as sample sizes vary and income reporting can be subject to bias.
- The weighted sample sizes for the demographic breaks in this report are as follows:

	Total	Male	Female	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56+	Urban	Rural	Under 100	101 - 200	201 - 500	501+
Base: All	1200	602	598	416	492	185	55	52	194	1006	516	297	201	63

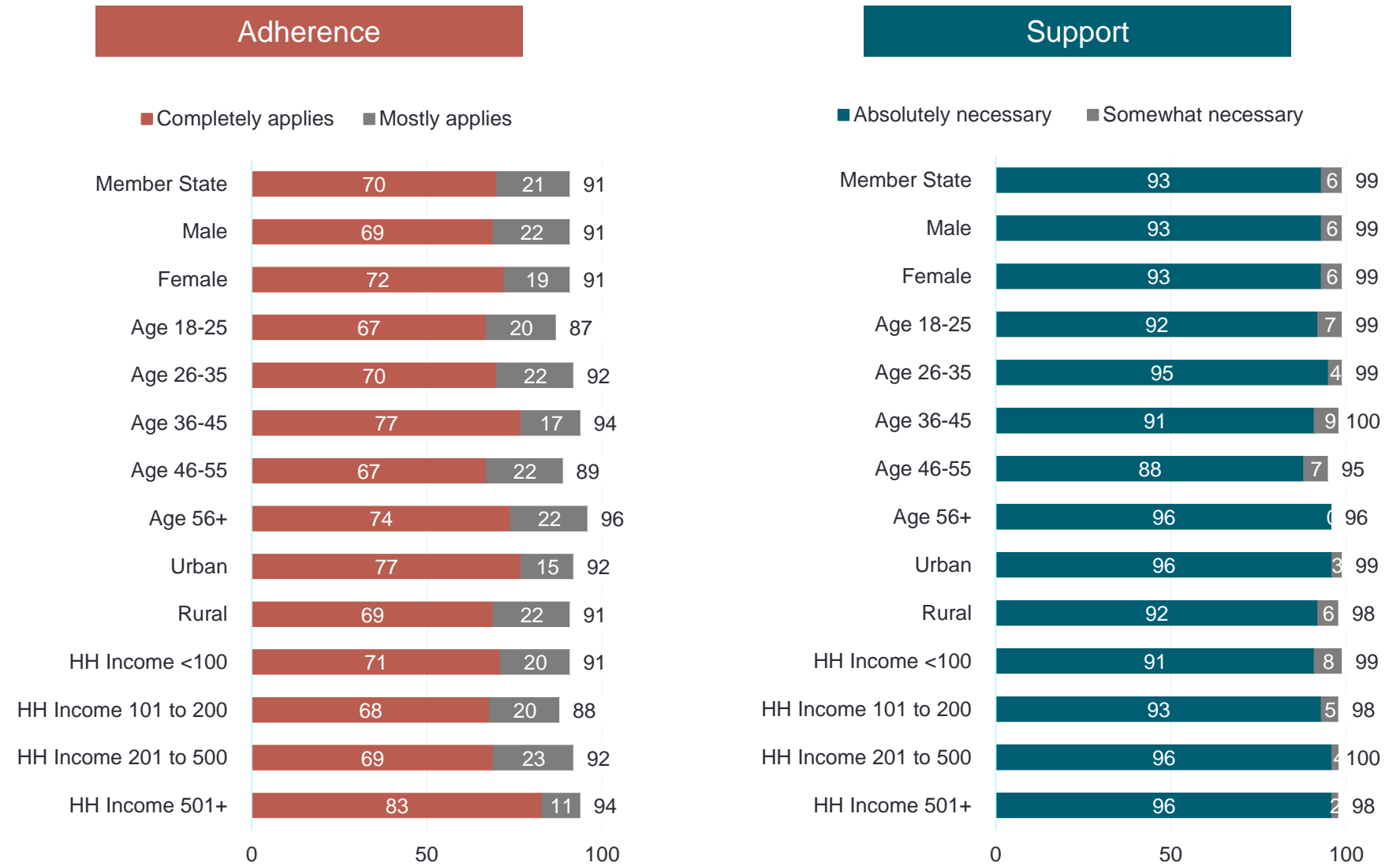
- The percentages reported in this document may be different from percentages reported in other PERC products and communication of this data. Differences may be reconciled by investigating the denominator used, as indicated in each instance of use.



Partnership for Evidence-Based  
Response to COVID-19

# PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Washing my hands many times per day

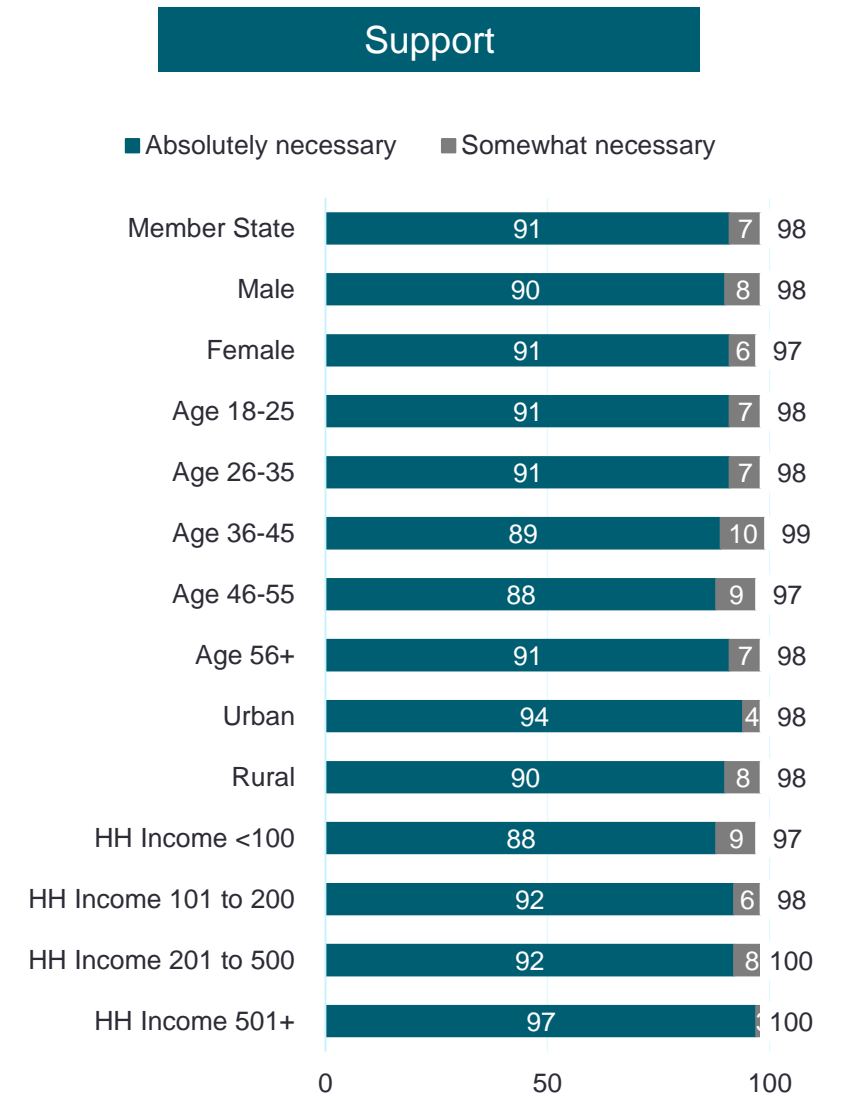
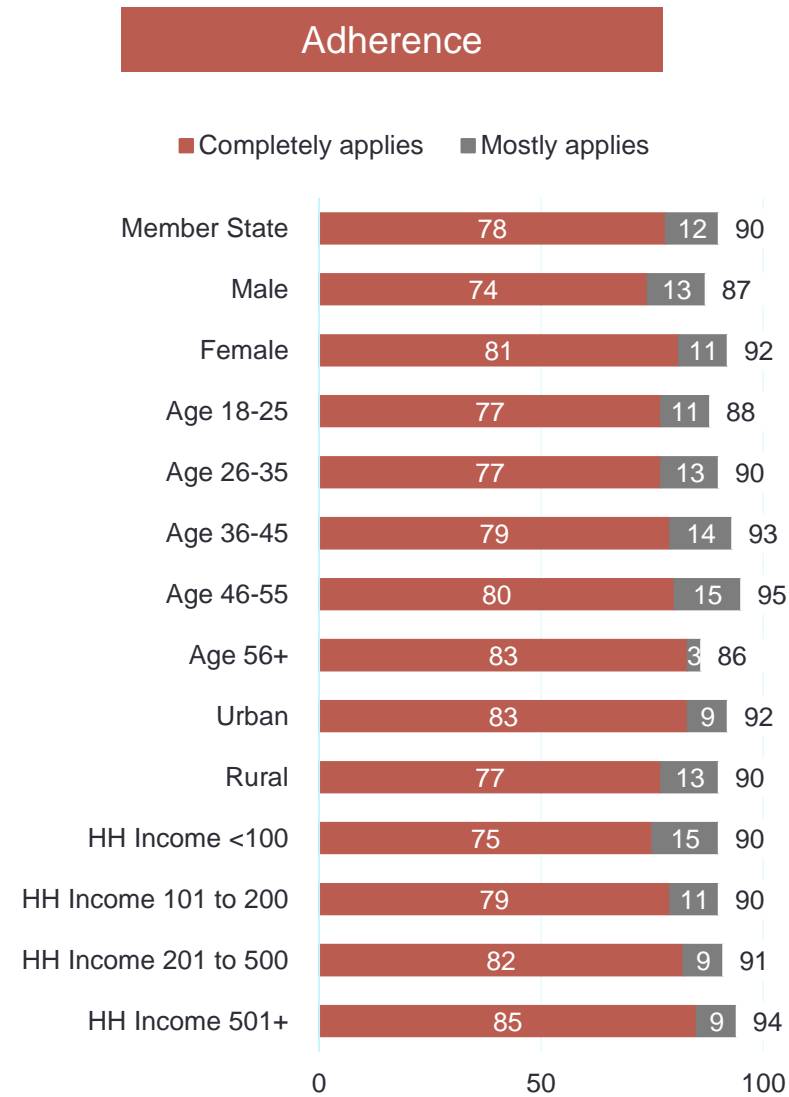


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Washing my hands with soap or using hand sanitizer many times per day

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?: ...wash their hands with soap or use hand sanitizer more often than they used to

# PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings



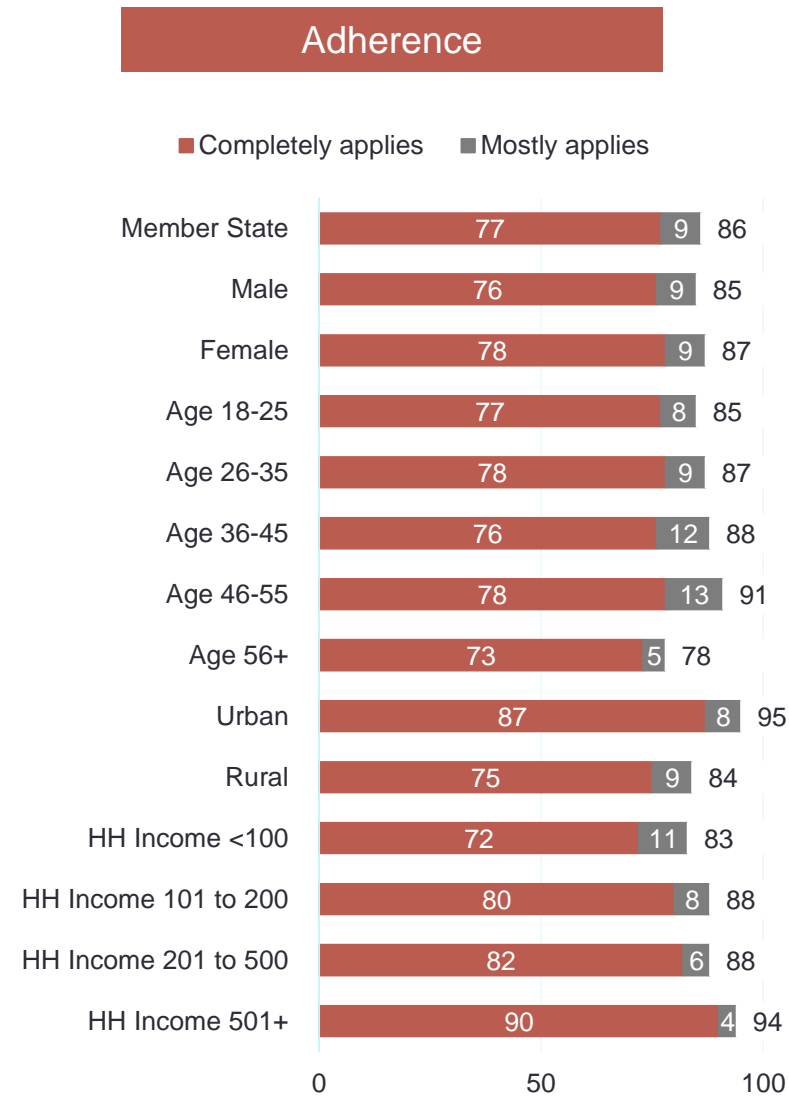
Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

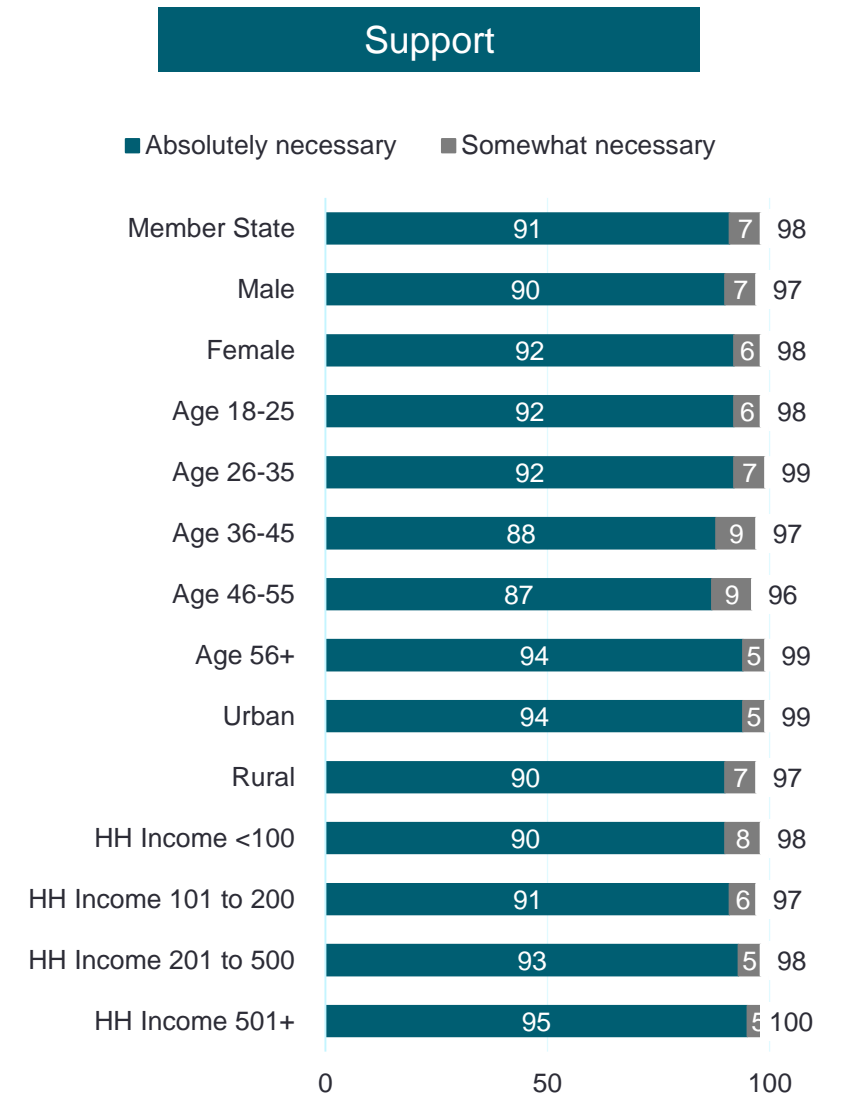


# PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Wearing a face mask in public when near others



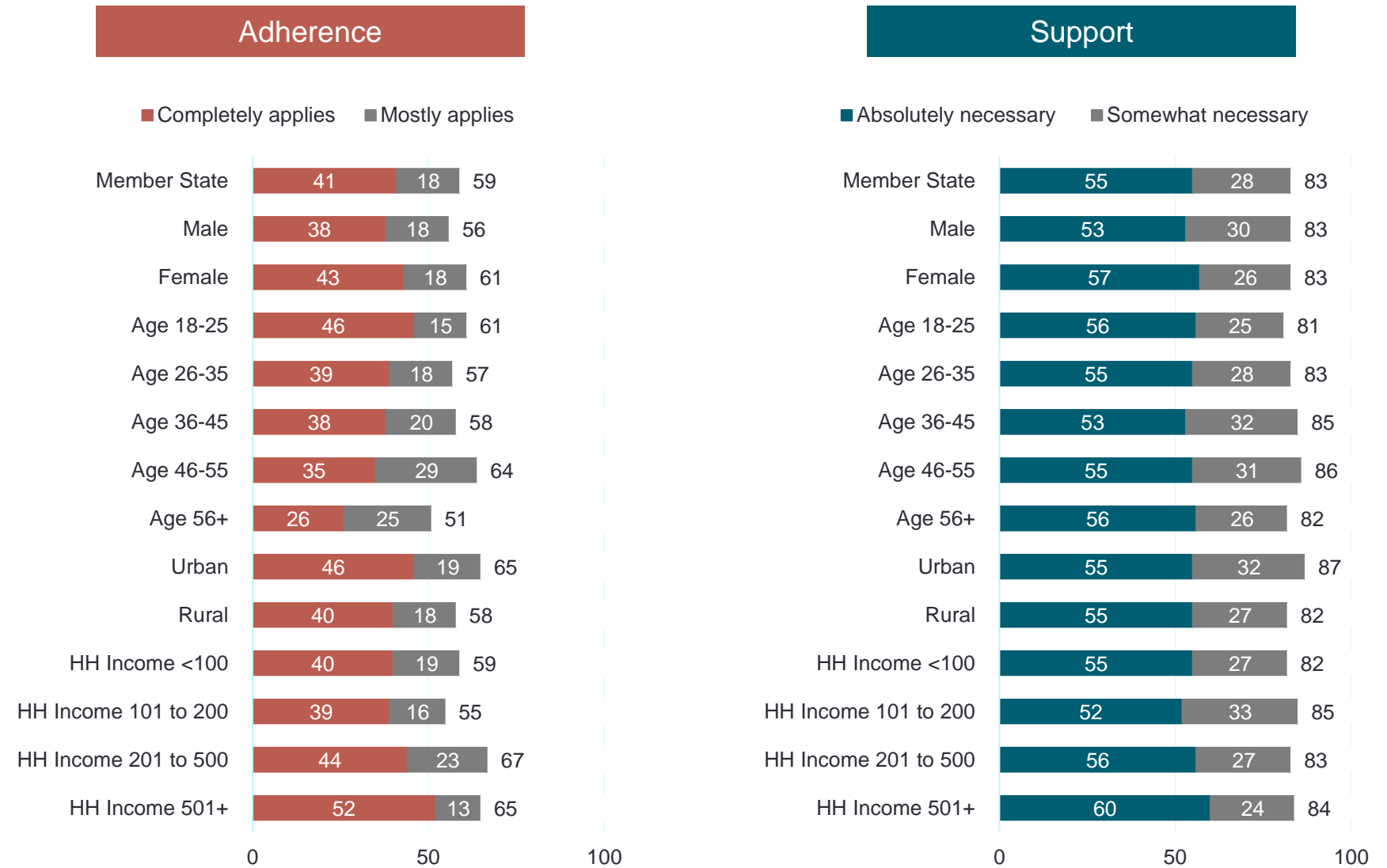
Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Wearing a face mask in public when near others



Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?: Wearing a face mask in public

# PUBLIC GATHERING Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Avoiding the church/mosque



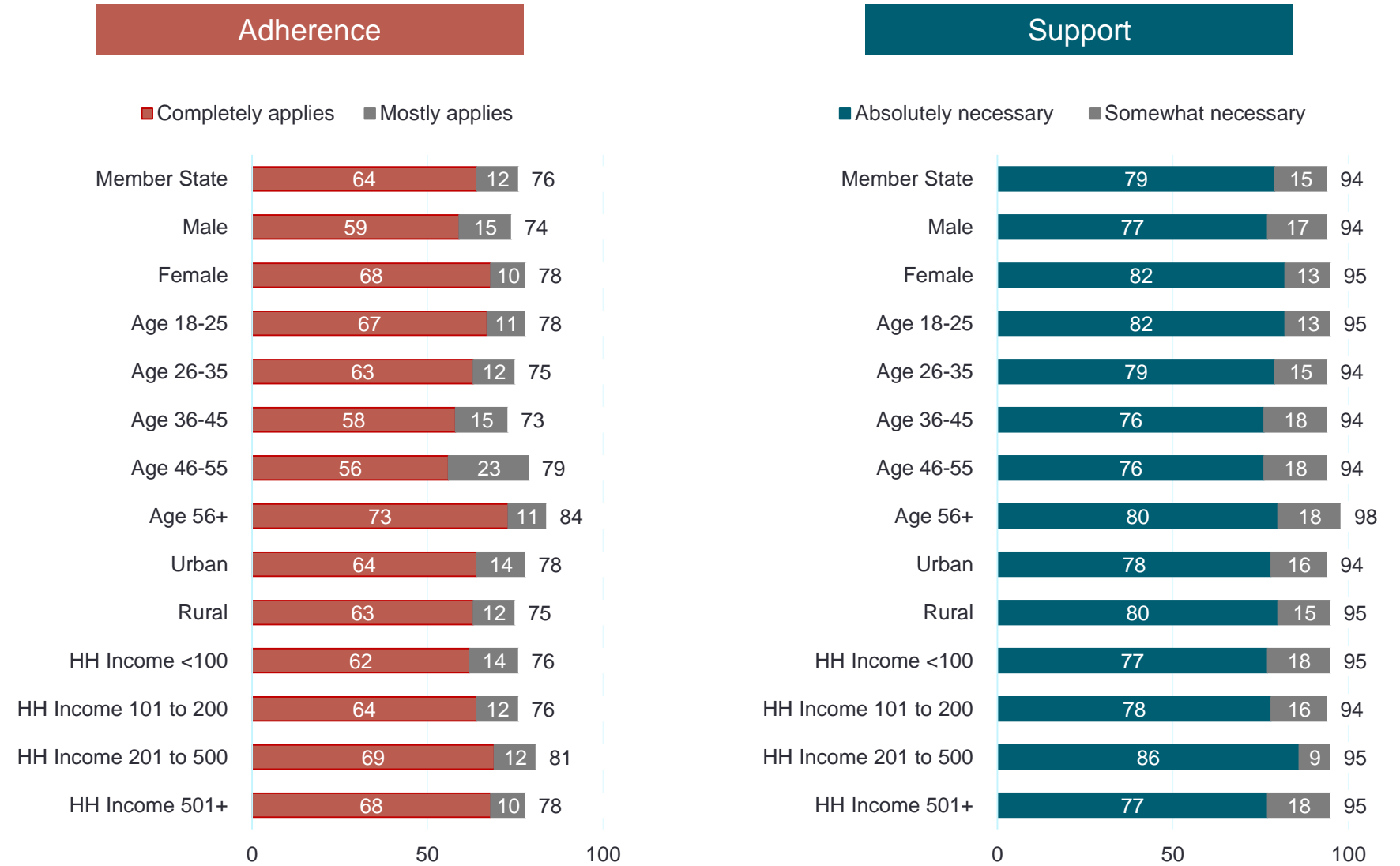
Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding the church/mosque

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?: Avoiding the church/mosque

# PUBLIC GATHERING

## Public health and social measure (PHSM)

### Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

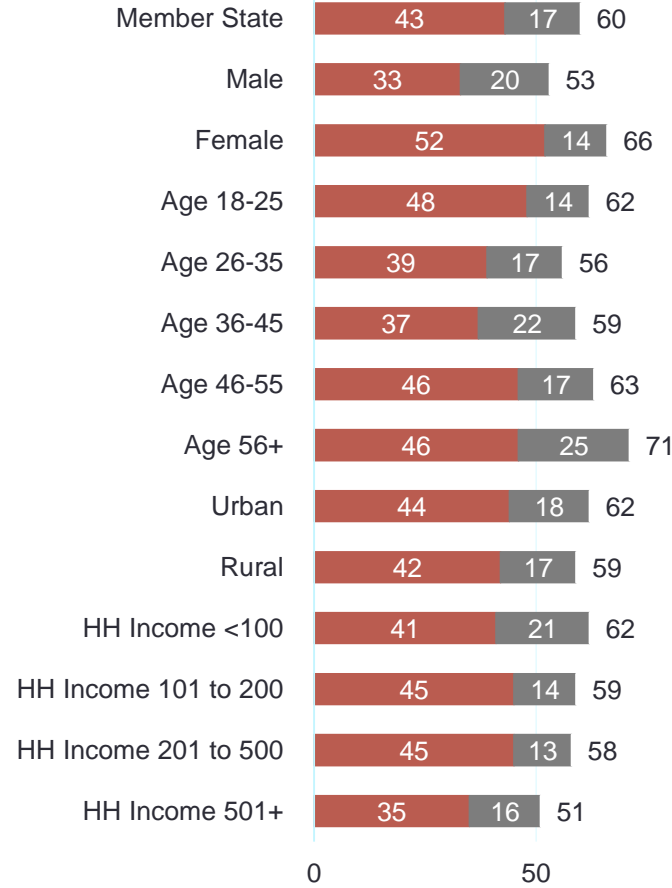
Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

# MOBILITY Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

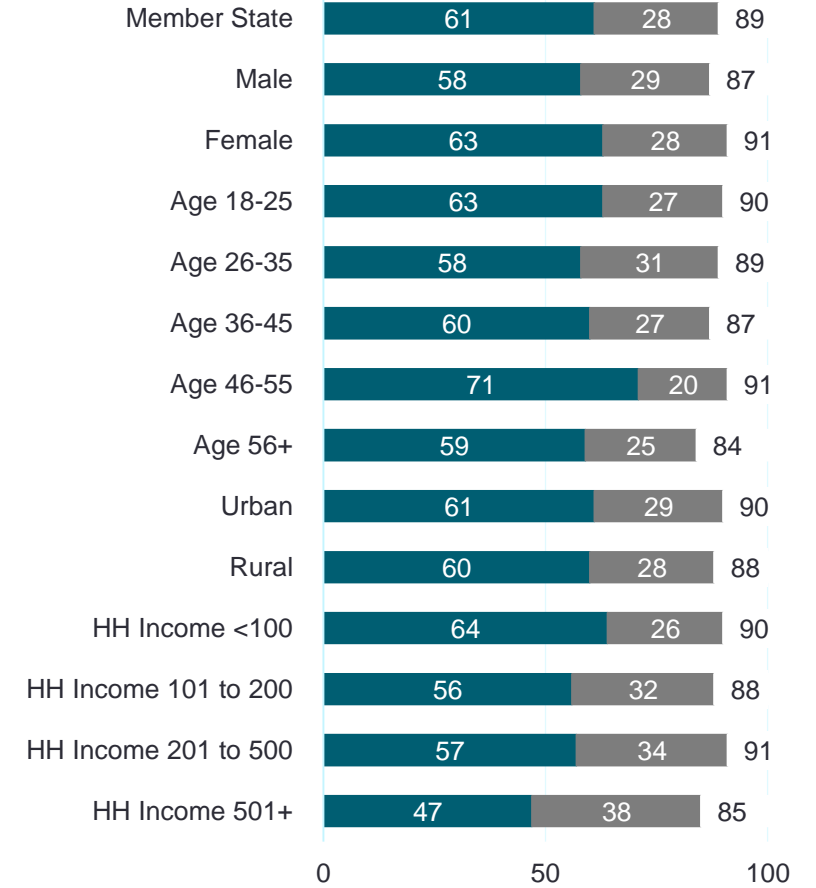
### Adherence

■ Completely applies ■ Mostly applies



### Support

■ Absolutely necessary ■ Somewhat necessary



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

# MOBILITY Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store



Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store

Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Ethiopia?: Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store