

# Responding to COVID-19 in African Countries:

Executive Summary of Polling Results: Uganda

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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 Uganda 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 poll in Uganda was conducted from 3 August to 12 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 unweighted national sample size in Uganda is 1,286 interviews.

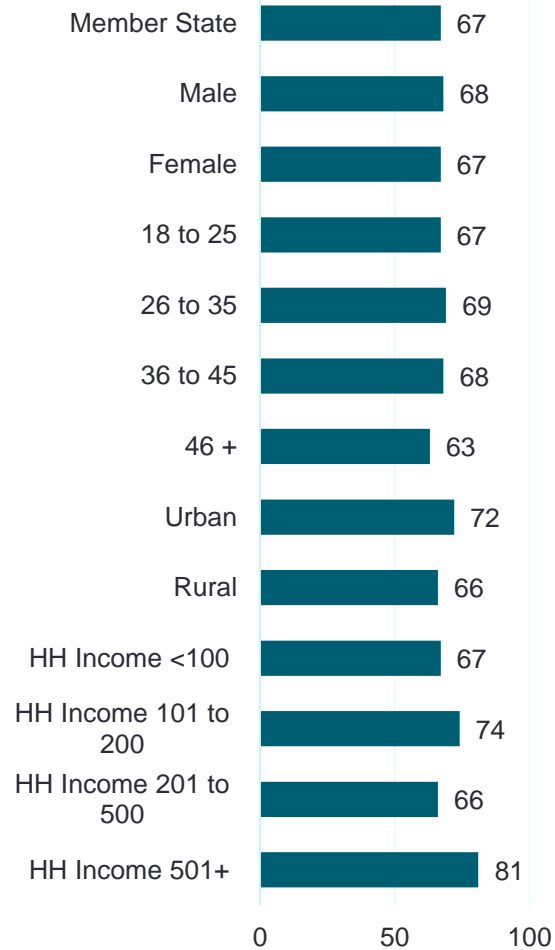
## Information, Perception & Misinformation

- **PHSM support and adherence:** Compared to other African Union Member States, respondents in Uganda report a level of support and adherence to PHSMs that is higher, on average. Satisfaction with the government response was also higher.
- **Risk perceptions and information:** Despite having one of the lowest incidences in Africa, personal risk perception in Uganda is similar to most other AU Member States, and for some measures, even higher. Still, widespread belief in misinformation narratives exist, with almost half of respondents agreeing that people recovered from COVID-19 should be avoided and more than half that foreigners are trying to test vaccines on them.
- **Essential health services:** Of respondents that reported someone in their household needed medical care, more than half had difficulty accessing health care services or medicines. Those with longstanding illnesses were particularly affected. The findings suggest that the indirect health impact of the epidemic are considerable, with significant disruptions to suspected malaria cases, general/routine checkups, maternal and child health care and HIV treatment.
- **Economic burden and food security:** A majority of respondents report having lost income and many are facing difficulty accessing food, with almost nine of ten reporting their household income has fallen since last year and more than half reporting loss of income affected their access to food. Food insecurity was highest among low-income households.

# Information, Perception & Misinformation

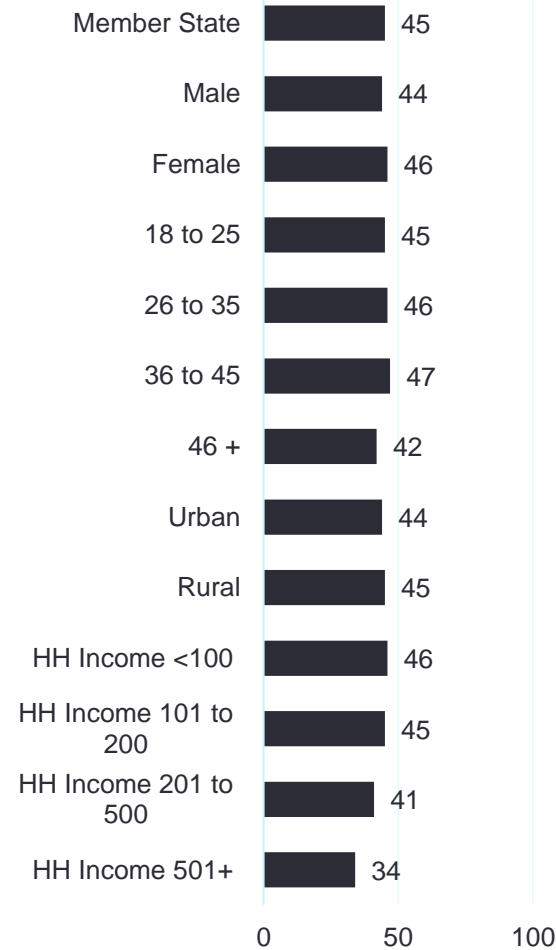
## Preventive Measures

- % 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



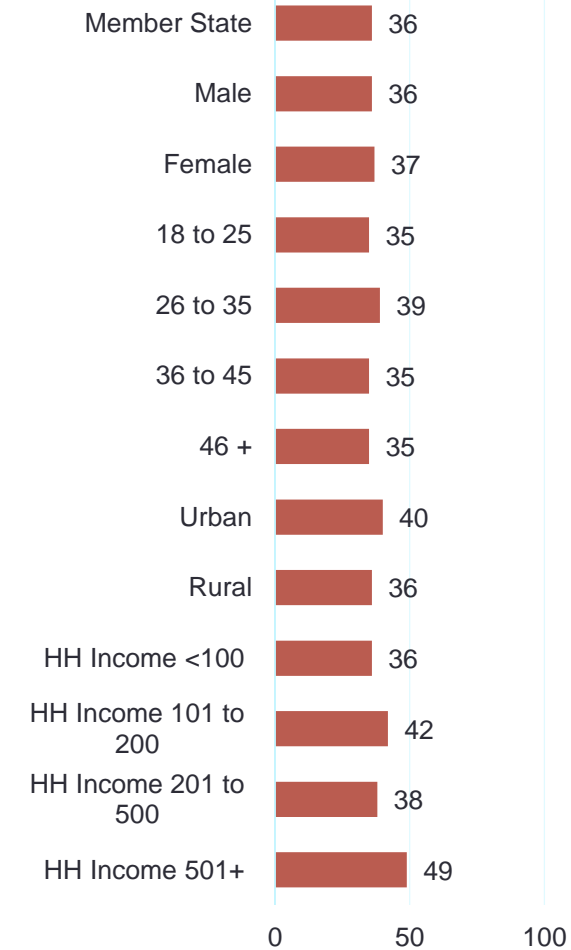
## Reaction to Recovered Patients

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

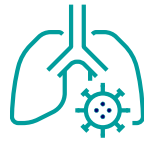


## Misinformation

- % True for BOTH statements:**
- Foreigners are discrediting African medicines which could cure COVID-19
  - Foreigners are trying to test vaccines on us



# Risk Perceptions



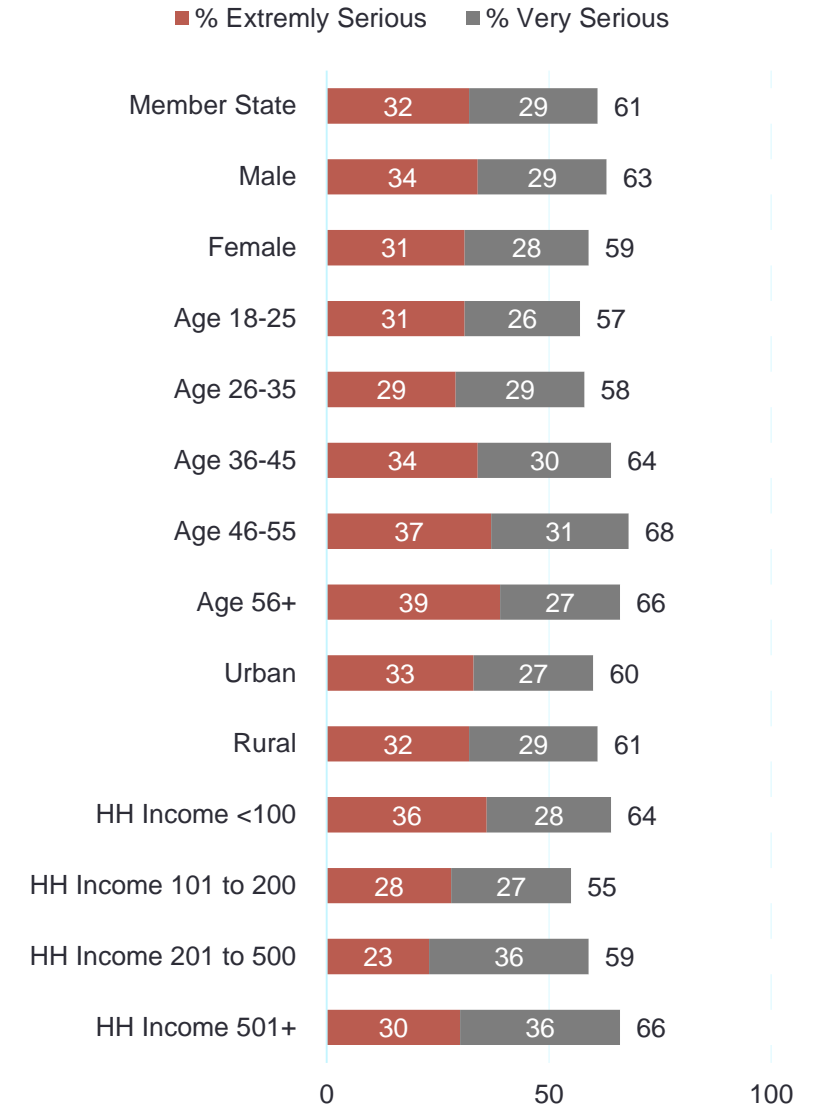
## Perceived risk of catching COVID-19:



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:



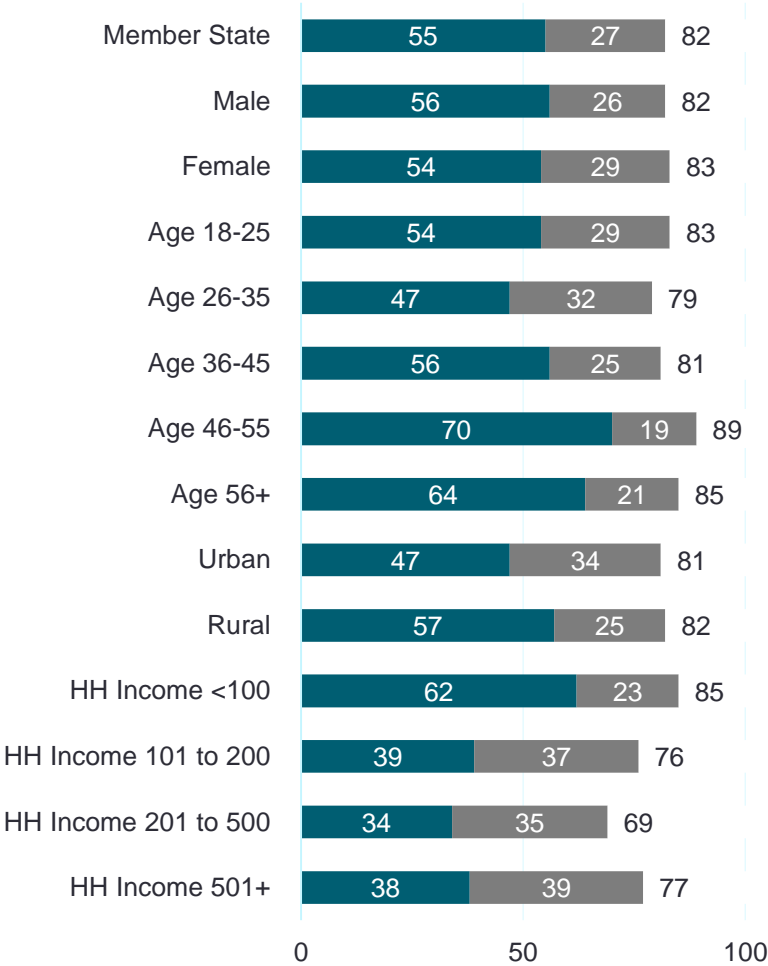
Q9. If you were infected by coronavirus or COVID-19, how seriously do you think it would affect your health? Not at all seriously, Somewhat seriously, Very seriously, Extremely seriously, Don't know / no response

# Satisfaction and Trust with the COVID-19 Response



## Satisfaction with Government response to COVID-19:

■ % Very Satisfied ■ % Somewhat Satisfied

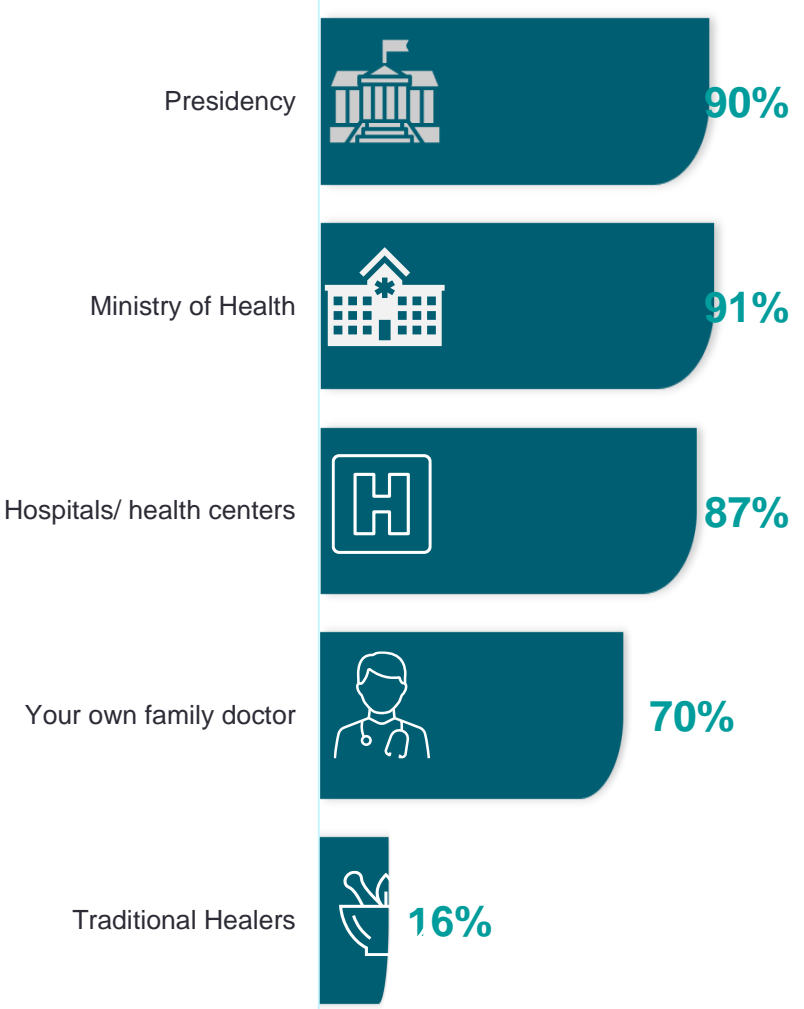


Q11. How satisfied are you with your (Uganda) government's response to coronavirus or COVID-19? Very satisfied, Somewhat satisfied, Somewhat dissatisfied, Very dissatisfied, Don't know / not sure



## Trust in handling of COVID-19

% 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 Uganda? 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	73	11	10	6	89	8	3
Wash more often than they used to	74	14	11	14	90	8	2
Avoid handshakes and physical greetings	69	12	10	9	84	10	5
PERSONAL PHSMS: SUMMARY	72	12	10	10	88	9	3
Stop joining public gatherings and places of entertainment	75	11	7	7	81	12	7
Stop going to the church/mosque	78	9	6	7	71	14	15
PUBLIC GATHERING PHSMS: SUMMARY	77	10	7	7	76	13	11
Reduce the number of times going to the market or grocery store	48	21	22	9	63	27	9
Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities	45	16	20	19	58	24	18
MOBILITY PHSMS: SUMMARY	47	19	21	14	61	26	14

### 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 Uganda?

# 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



93% have a face mask ready to wear

**Adherence:**  
**Wear a Face Mask in Public Around Others:**  
**Completely applies: 73%**  
**Mostly applies: 11%**

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)	53%
People with longstanding illness	64%
Women	52%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	56%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	61%
Urban	47%
Rural	55%

Base = require services (56%)



## Difficulty accessing medications:

% Much More Difficult (among those requiring medications)	29%
People with longstanding illness	38%
Women	27%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	31%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	21%
Urban	26%
Rural	30%

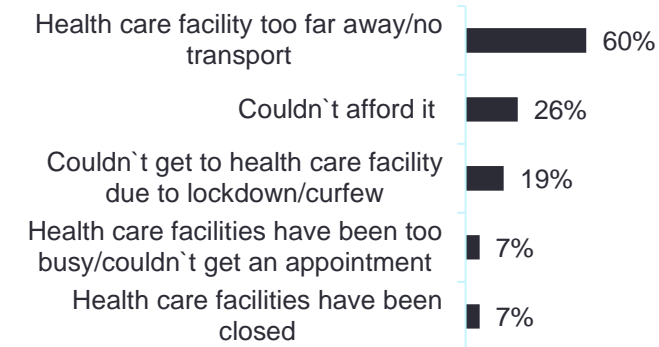
Base = require medication (94%)

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?

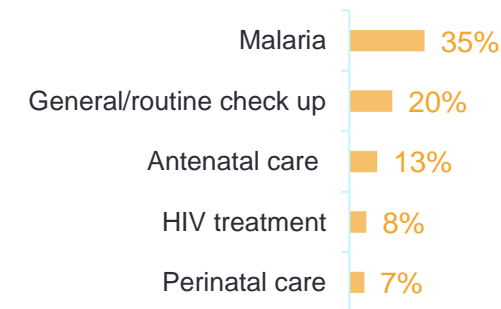
Q24. Has the COVID-19 crisis made it more difficult to obtain medications you need for you or your household or has it had no impact? If you do not need medications, please say so.



## 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:	64	65	62	64	63	68	52
<i>Experienced 1 day or more:</i>							
...had difficulties in going to food markets due to restrictions imposed	34	31	33	30	34	33	21
...had difficulties in buying food due to most food markets being closed?	31	31	30	22	32	36	20
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because of shortages in the markets	33	31	33	31	33	36	20
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because the price was too high?	48	48	46	46	46	51	32
...been unable to buy the amount of food you usually buy because your income has dropped?	53	52	52	54	51	54	37

Q17. In the past 7 days, how many days have you or someone in your household experienced any of the following?



Impact on Income: % Reporting Income is Smaller than last year	86%
Women	84%
Men	87%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	88%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	86%
Urban	87%
Rural	85%

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.



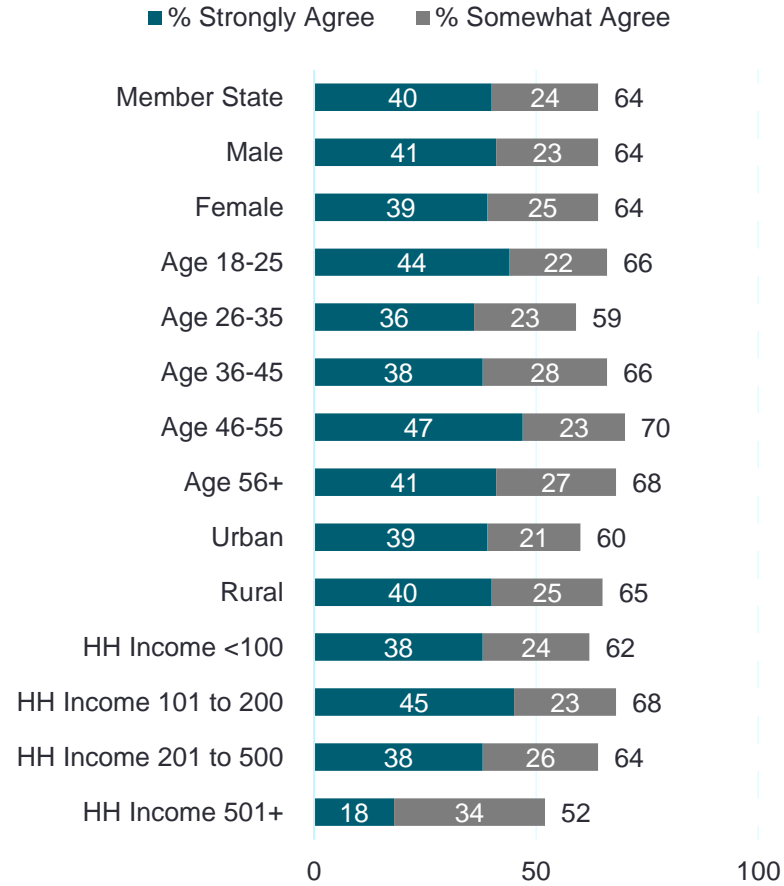
Impact on Unpaid work: % Reporting More Hours on Unpaid Work	58%
Women	58%
Men	58%
Low Income (HH Income <100)	60%
High Income (HH Income 501+)	49%
Urban	53%
Rural	59%

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



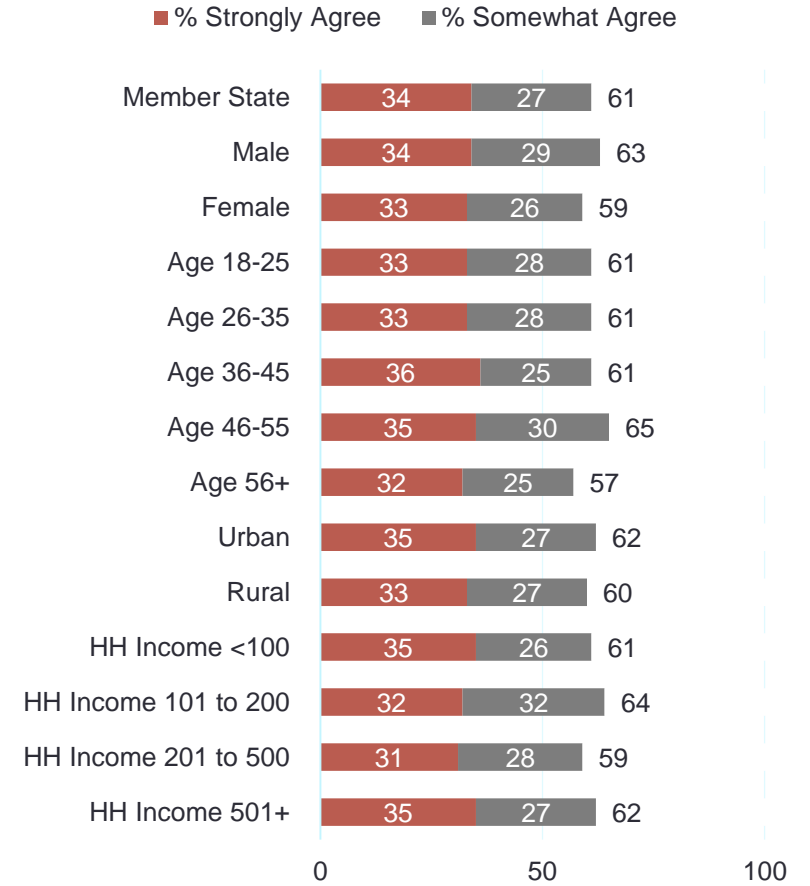
Thinking about resuming normal activities after the lockdown makes me feel very anxious



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

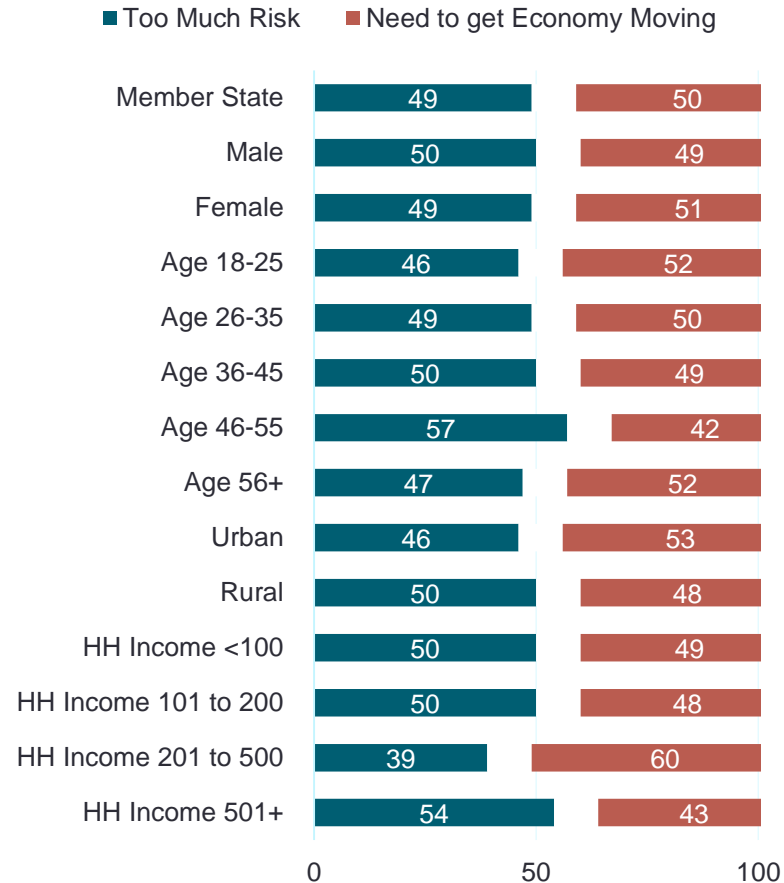


Q15. To what extent to you agree or disagree with the following statements?

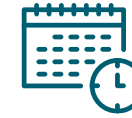
# Expectations about COVID-19



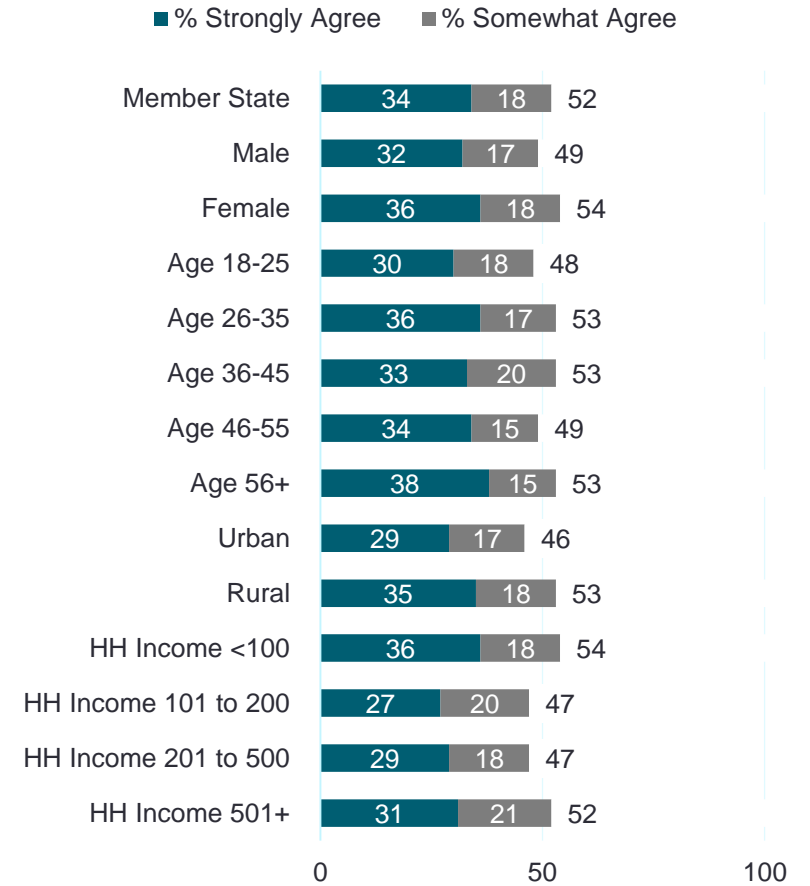
**Loosening Restrictions: “too risky to loosen restrictions” versus “there is a low risk and need to get economy moving”**



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	590	610	289	414	250	140	107	253	947	764	203	89	40

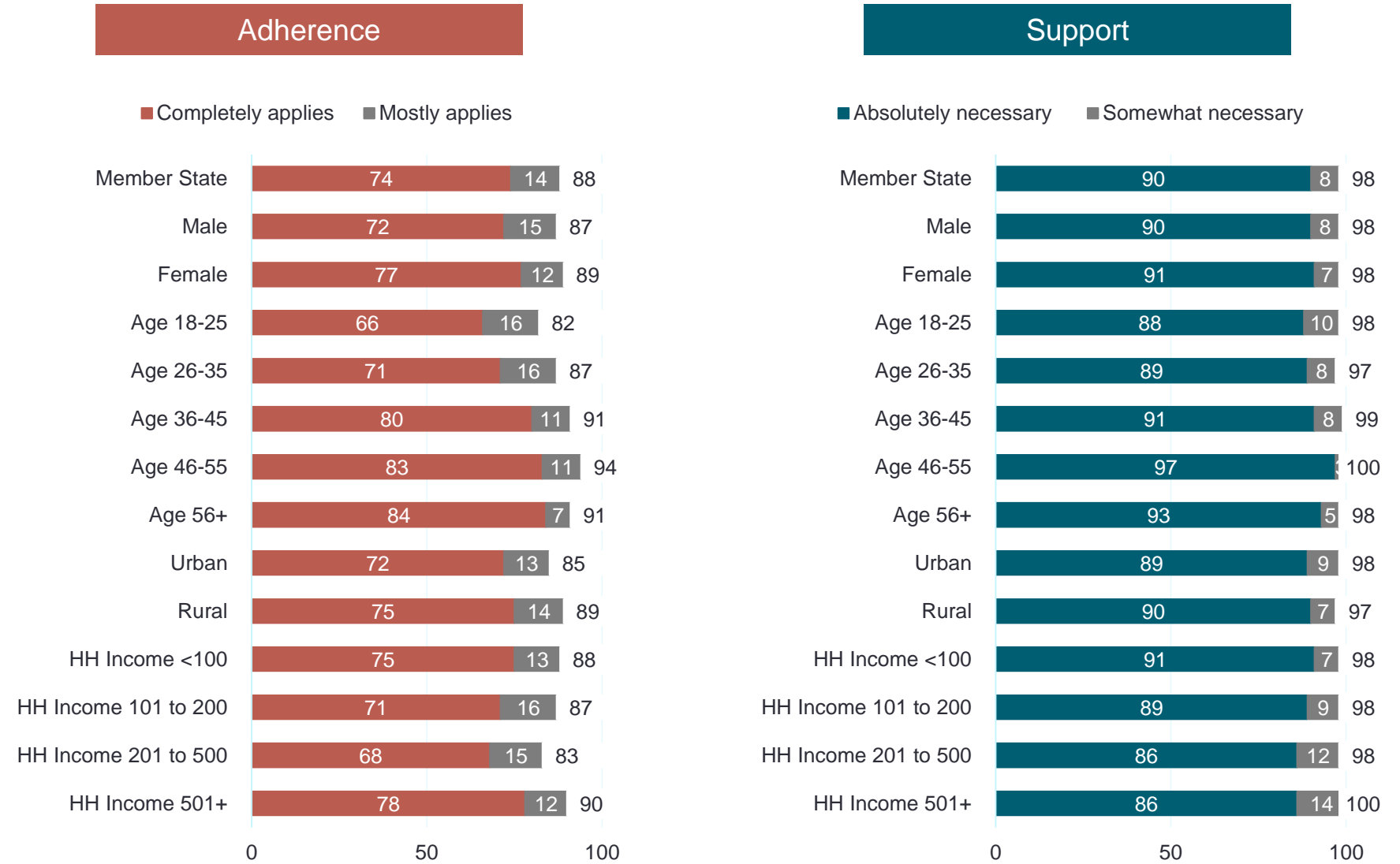
- The percentages reported in this document may be different from percentages reported in other PERC products and communication of this data. Differences may be reconciled by investigating the denominator used, as indicated in each instance of use.



Partnership for Evidence-Based  
Response to COVID-19

# PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Washing my hands many times per day

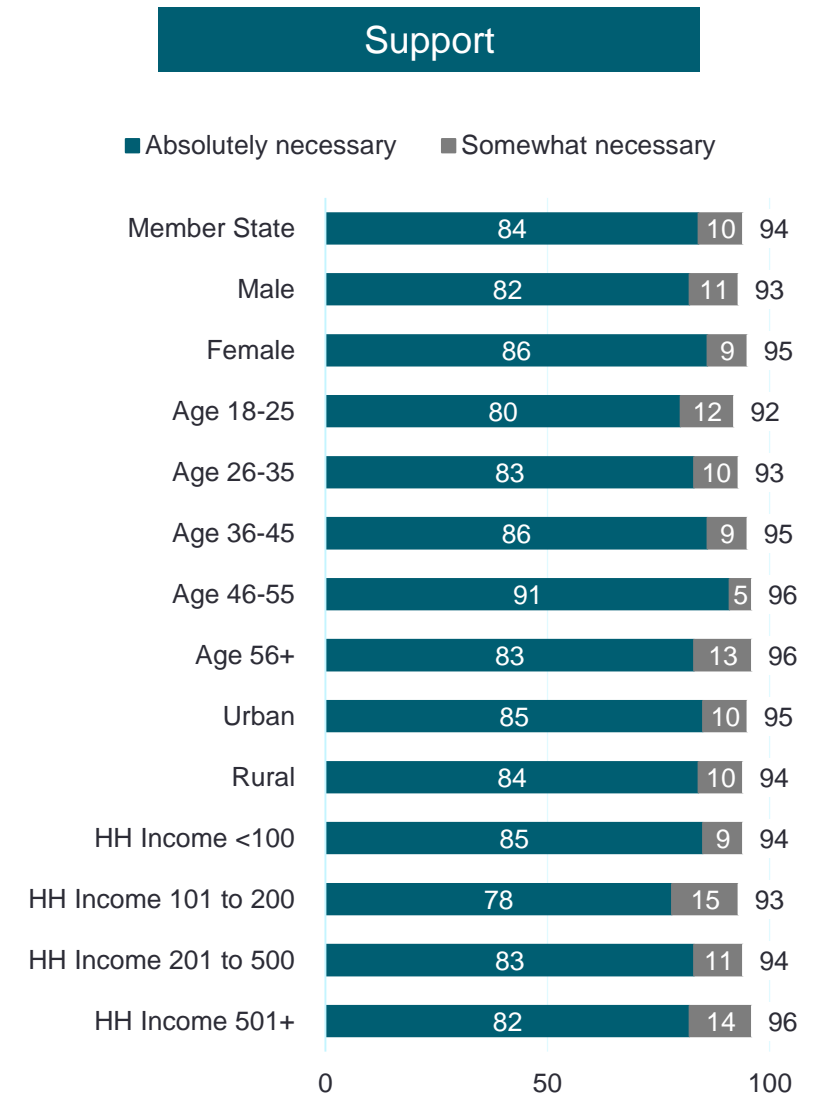
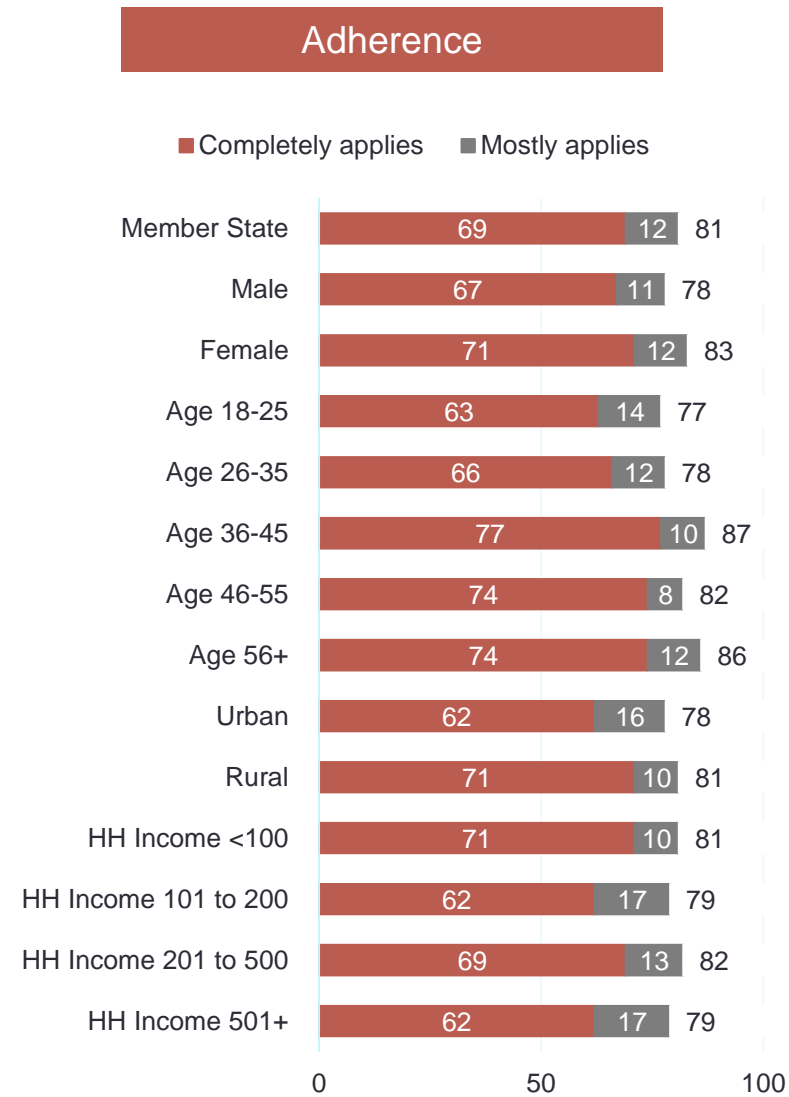


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Washing my hands with soap or using hand sanitizer many times per day

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 Uganda?: ...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



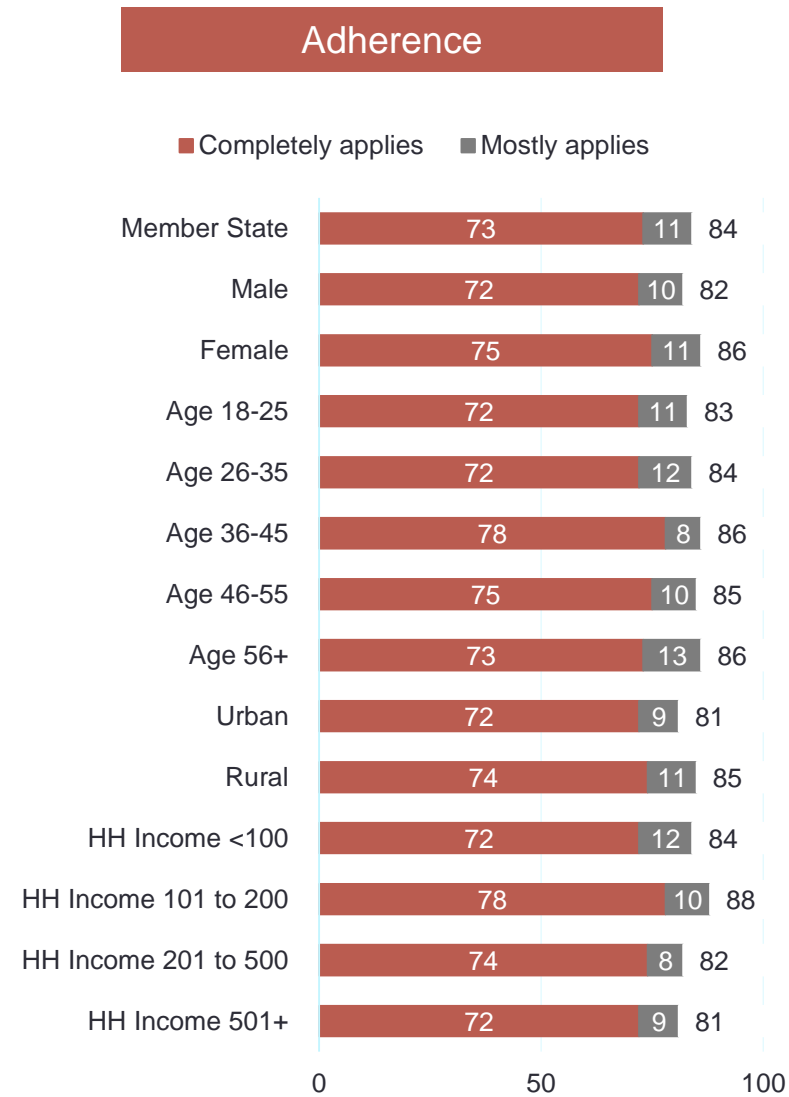
Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

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 Uganda?: Avoiding handshakes and physical greetings

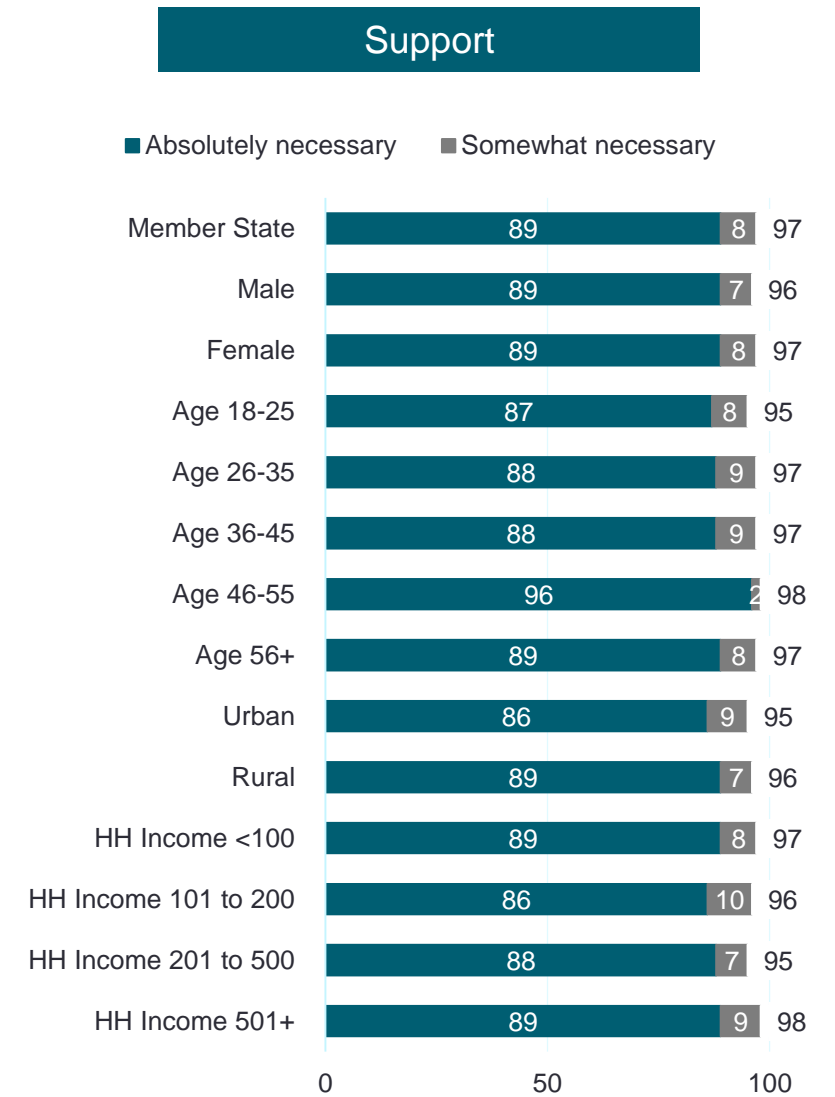


# PERSONAL Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Wearing a face mask in public when near others



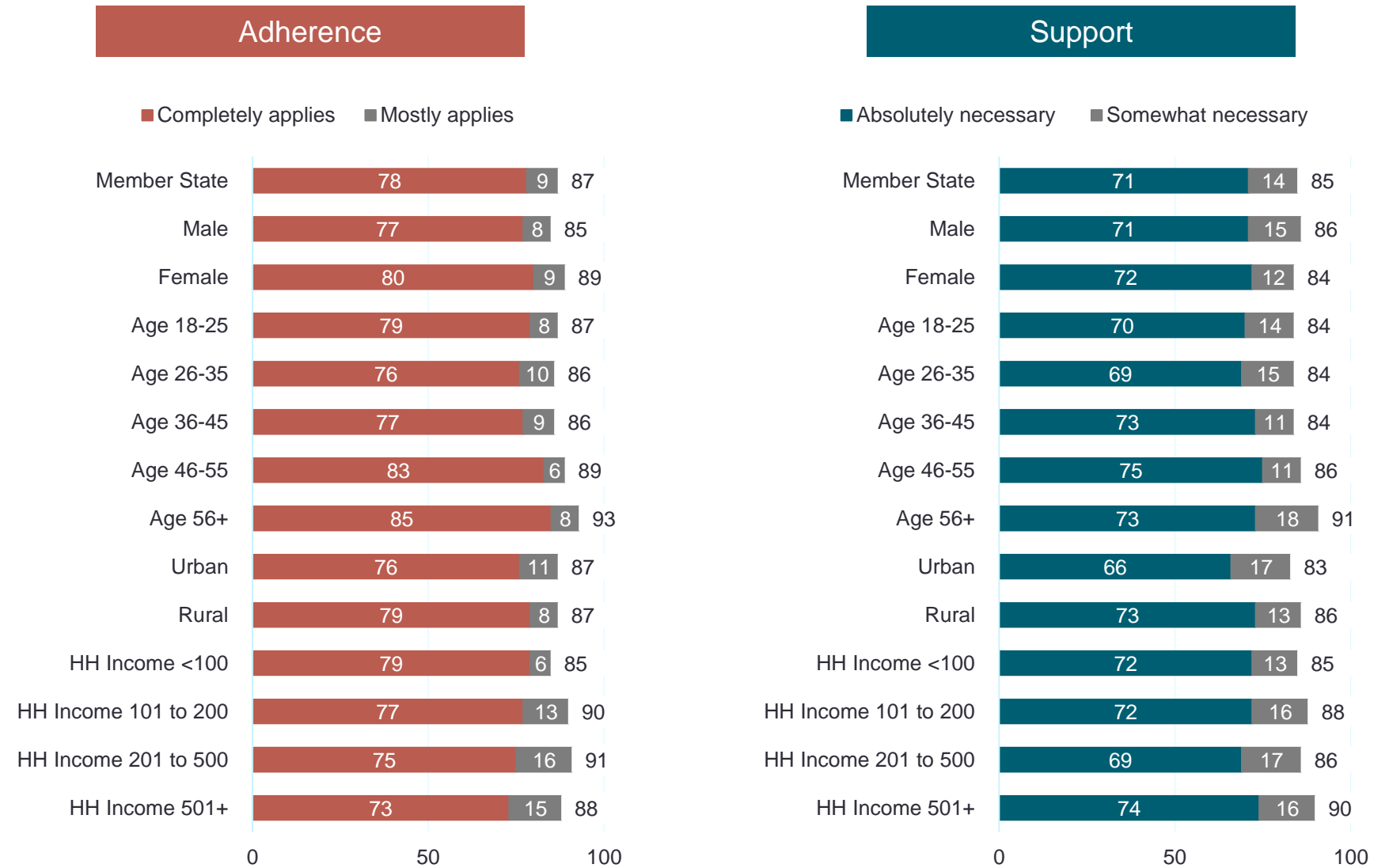
Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Wearing a face mask in public when near others



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 Uganda?: 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 Uganda?: Avoiding the church/mosque

# PUBLIC GATHERING Public health and social measure (PHSM)

## Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

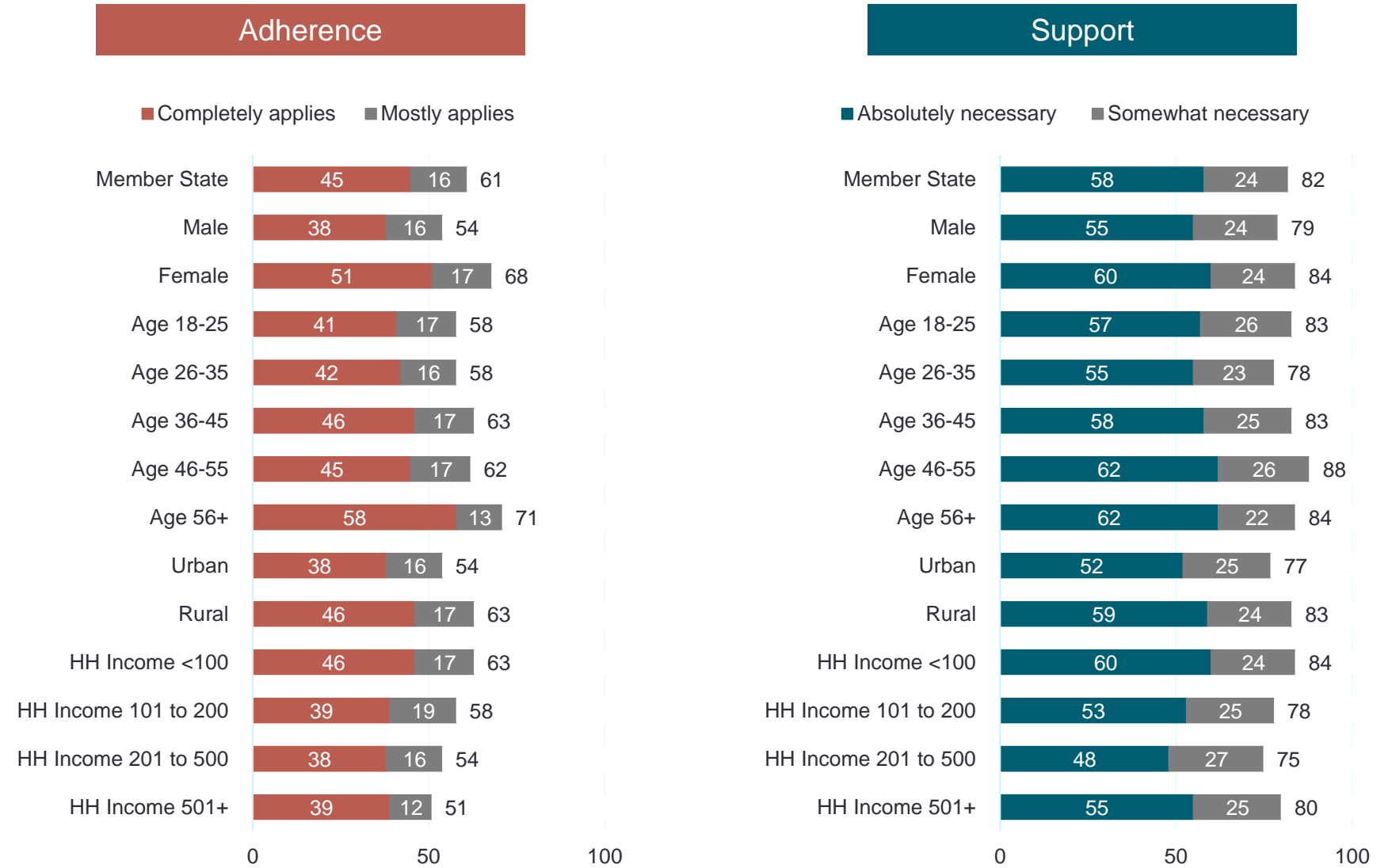


Q13. Over the past seven days, to what extent do each of the following describe you personally?: Avoiding public gatherings and places of entertainment

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 Uganda?: 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



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

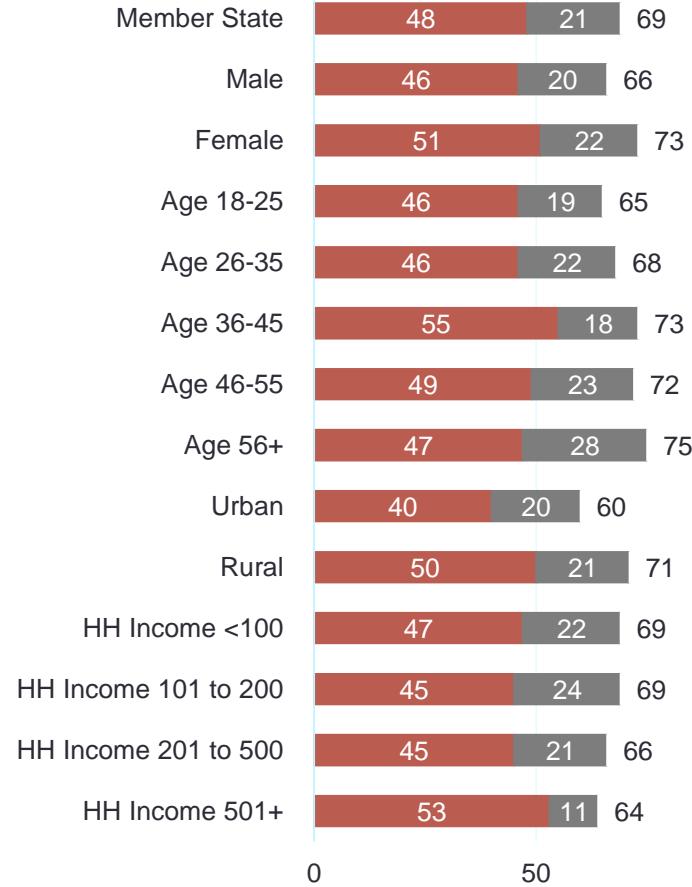
Q14. Thinking of the last four weeks, was asking people to do each of the following absolutely necessary, somewhat necessary, or not really necessary to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in Uganda?: Staying home instead of going to work, school or other regular activities

# MOBILITY Public health and social measure (PHSM)

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

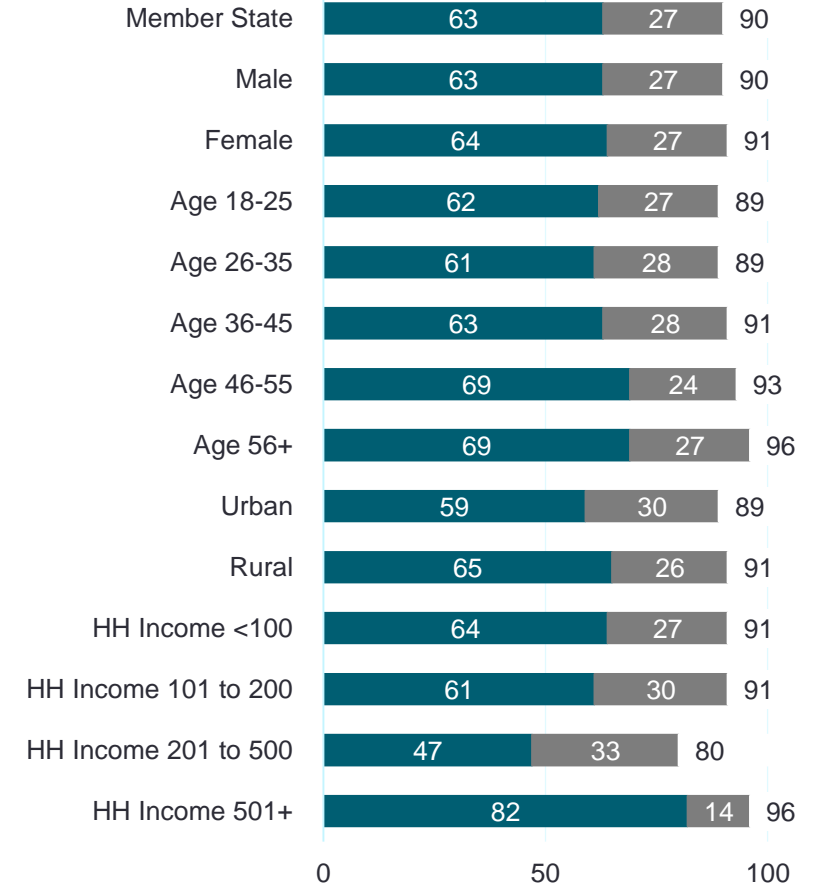
### Adherence

■ 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?: 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 Uganda?: Reducing the number of times I go to the market or grocery store