

Long Economic Covid for the World's Working Class

The COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy Study (2020-2022), a mixed-methods longitudinal study, is a close research collaboration between **WIEGO** and local partner organizations, with support from **IDRC Canada**.

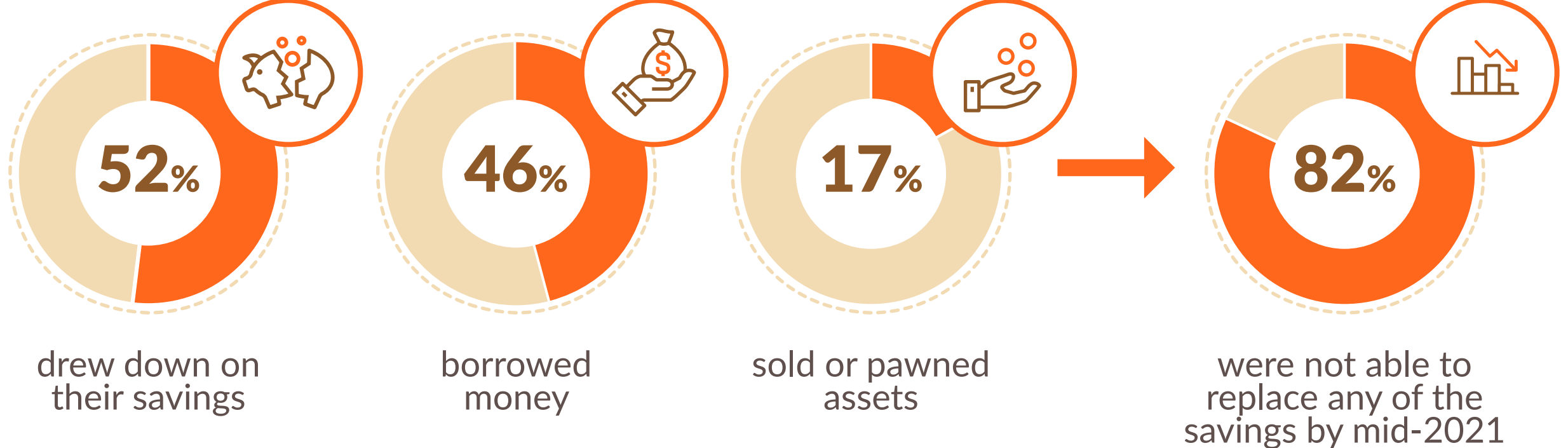


How are workers coping?

\$ The typical worker is earning **64%** of their pre-COVID-19 earnings.



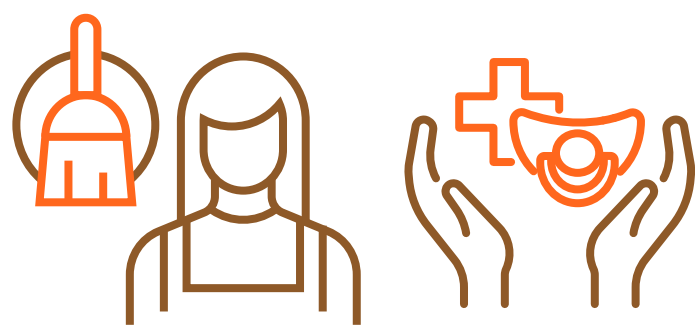
The crisis has forced workers into damaging survival strategies which can entrap households in poverty:



Few workers received government relief to survive or rebuild their livelihoods:



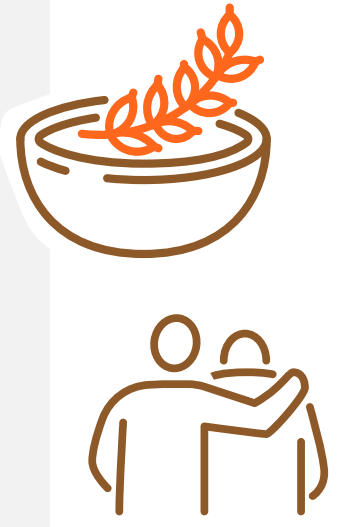
Care responsibilities impacted women's ability to engage in paid work. Women reported working, on average, **2** days less than men.



Food insecurity threatens urban informal workers.

Nearly **1/3** of workers said a member of their household had gone hungry.

57% reported eating less food.



Workers reported:

- Having no access to water while at work.
- Overburdened public health systems.
- Mental health and isolation issues.



How have workers responded?

Informal worker organizations have stepped in to provide support, where the market or state have failed by:

- 1 Providing food, cash, personal protective equipment.
- 2 Linking members with government programs (including vaccinations).
- 3 Providing legal, psychological, or alternative livelihood support.
- 4 Facilitating health information and implementing health and safety protocols in public spaces like markets.
- 5 Advocating for new forms of relief, access to workspace, and/or greater inclusion within social protection systems.

What do workers need?

Workers are calling for:

- Food aid and a moratorium on tuition, rent, utilities and loan repayments.
- Safe and secure access to work space.
- Grants, loans and business capital.
- Inclusive urban planning.
- Health care, social security, childcare and equitable access to vaccinations.



Informal workers have a message for governments and global institutions to stimulate economic recovery from the bottom up: **invest in our livelihoods and well-being!**