





**There is no recovery
without informal
workers!**


COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy in Bangkok: Lasting Impacts and an Agenda for Recovery


Round 2 of COVID-19 Crisis and the Informal Economy in Bangkok shows that by June/August 2021, conditions for domestic workers, home-based workers, motorcycle taxi drivers, massage therapists, street vendors, and waste pickers had further deteriorated since the country's first reopening in mid-year 2020, due to the country's severe third wave of COVID and associated restrictions.


Findings reveal that:

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All occupational groups except domestic workers were earning less than 40% of pre-COVID-19 median earnings. Home-based workers and massage therapists had median earnings of 0 THB in mid-2021.
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Almost 100% of respondents used personal protective equipment, mostly which they purchased themselves. But only 24% of respondents had been vaccinated at the time of survey.
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12% of respondents reported hunger among adults in their households in 2021. About half of respondents had reduced their food consumption, skipped meals, or had less diverse foods than they preferred.
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Most respondents received cash transfers from the government, though this excluded foreign workers. This support helped workers purchase food and basic essentials, but most said it was too small to help with other urgent expenses or to restart their livelihoods. Only 20% of respondents reported receiving a government loan
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88% of respondents used survival strategies that reduced their quality of life or depleted long-term assets, including: reducing non-food consumption (53%), borrowing money (51%), reducing food consumption (47%), and drawing down savings (44%) between mid-2020 and mid-2021



56%

**Of employment in
Bangkok is informal**

Source: WIEGO 2019

Informal Workers' Plan for Recovery

- ✓ **Restore and rehabilitate informal employment** by recognizing informal workers in laws and policies, establishing an Informal Worker Fund, respecting the right to work in public spaces, establishing informal worker government procurement quota, guaranteeing 10 days per month, and supporting online small businesses
- ✓ **Develop knowledge and skills for a post-COVID economy**, by providing workplace health and safety trainings, upskilling workers to provide high quality care services, and training workers in digital marketing
- ✓ **Promote equality in social protection** by immediately providing unemployment insurance for all workers in Thailand, and expanding social security to cover **all** workers
- ✓ **Promote the participation of informal workers in policy determination**, by ensuring equal representation of informal workers on Thailand's Social Security Committee and Informal Labour Committees

