How have informal workers responded?

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

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

- 7% received government loans to support their work.
- 39% received cash relief.
- 37% received government food relief.

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.

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

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

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

Informal workers are calling for:

1. Food aid and a moratorium on tuition, rent, utilities and loan repayments.
2. Safe and secure access to work space.
4. Inclusive urban planning.
5. Health care, social security, child care and equitable access to vaccinations.
6. Investment in our livelihoods and well-being!