

Life with Corona Africa

How did African citizens respond to and cope with COVID-19?

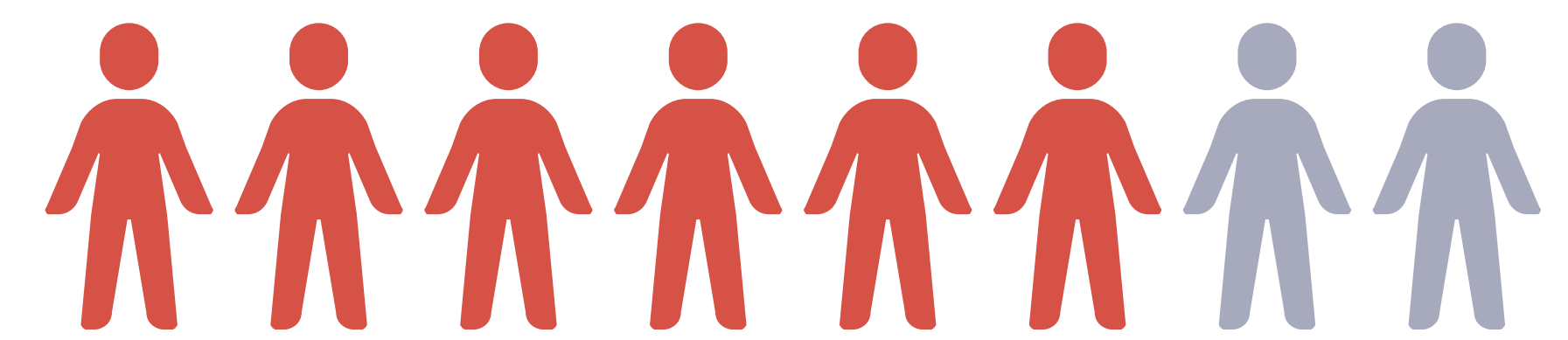


LIFE WITH CORONA AFRICA

Key objectives

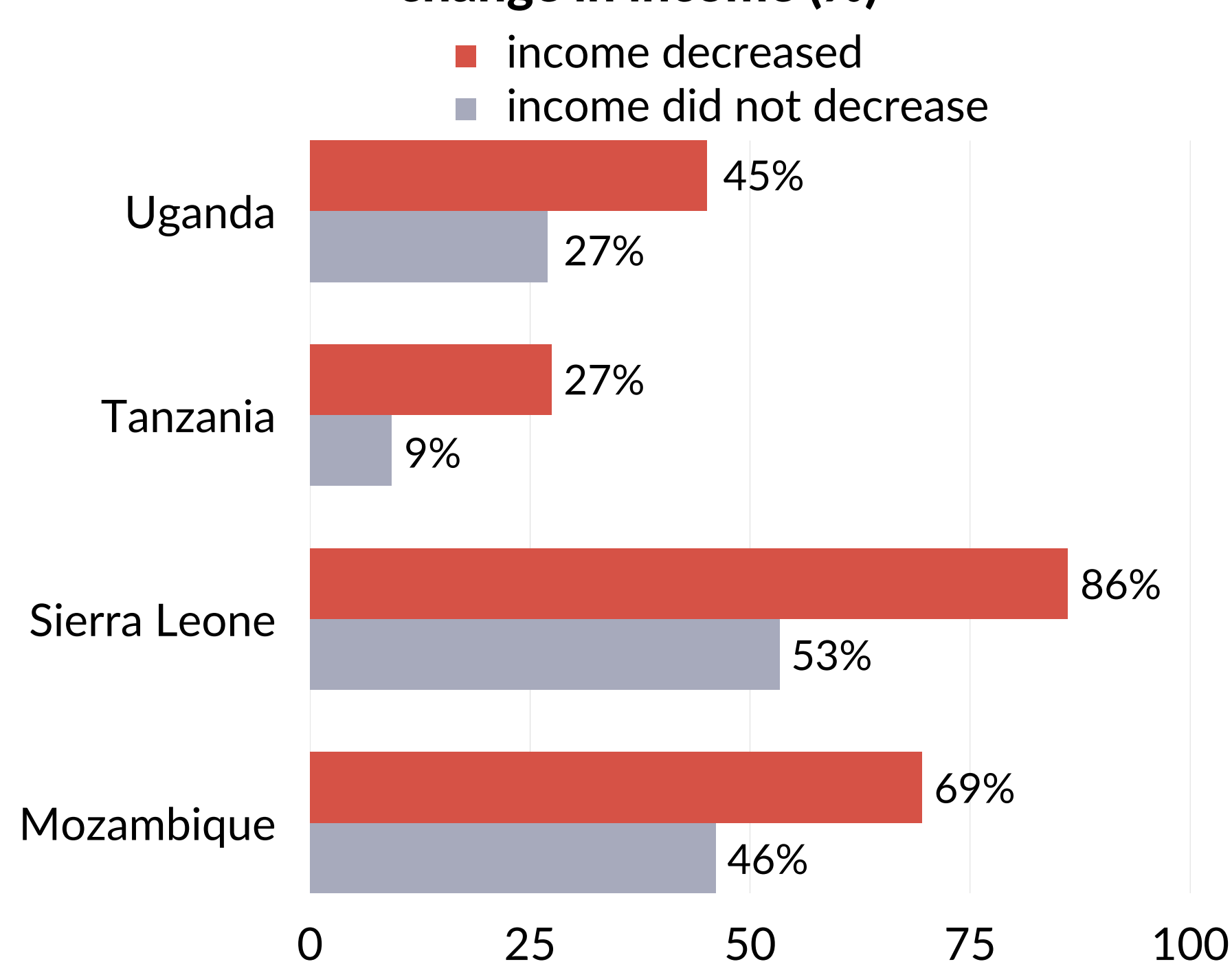
1. Advance our conceptual understanding of how a global pandemic impacts on Africa
2. Design appropriate research methods to generate rigorous evidence while a pandemic unfolds across Africa
3. Generate monthly phone survey data on how people in four Sub-Saharan African countries are coping with the pandemic over 12 months
4. Produce rigorous analysis on the impacts of the pandemic
5. Support policy actions to address and mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it

~75%

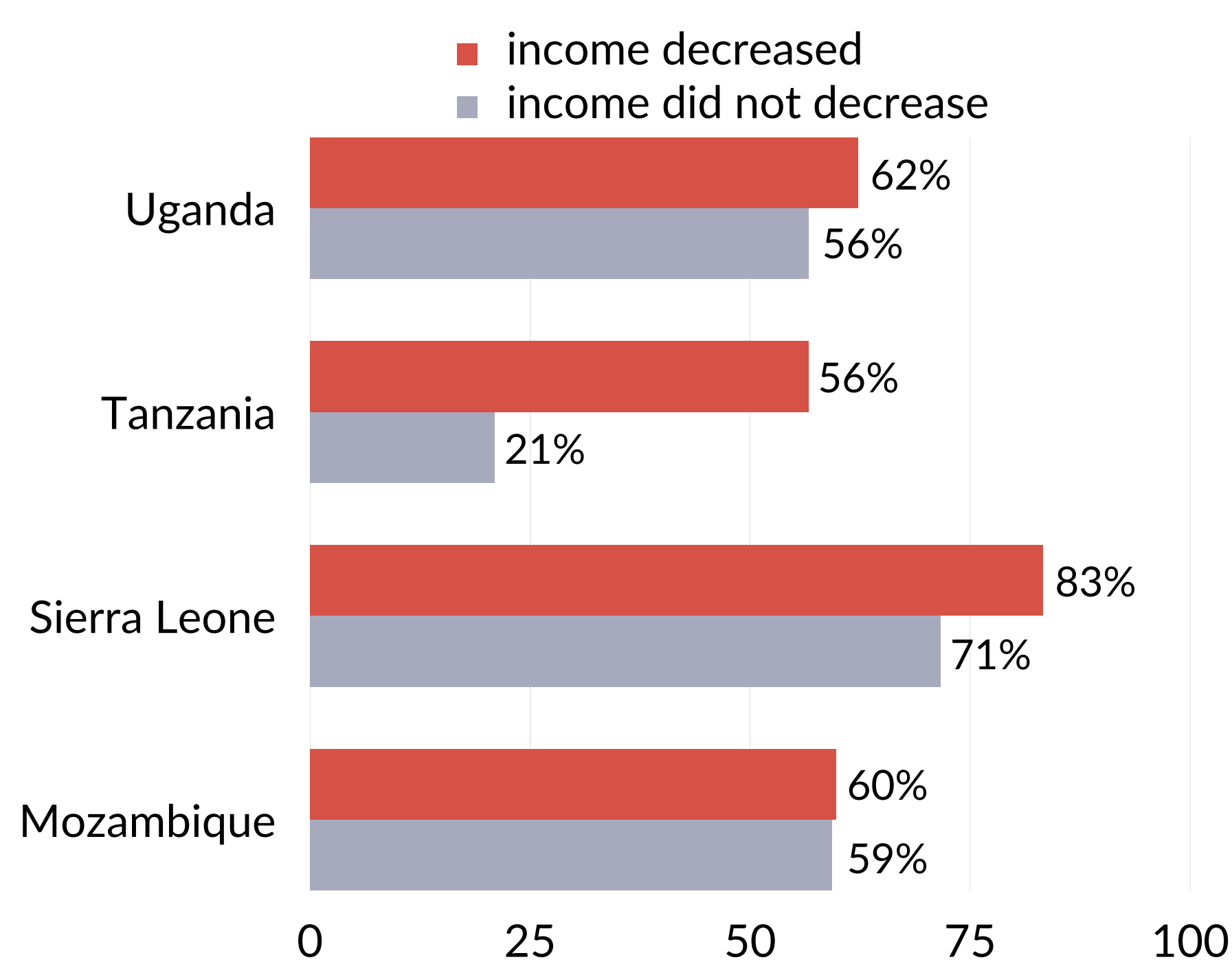


of households suffered a loss of income and livelihood

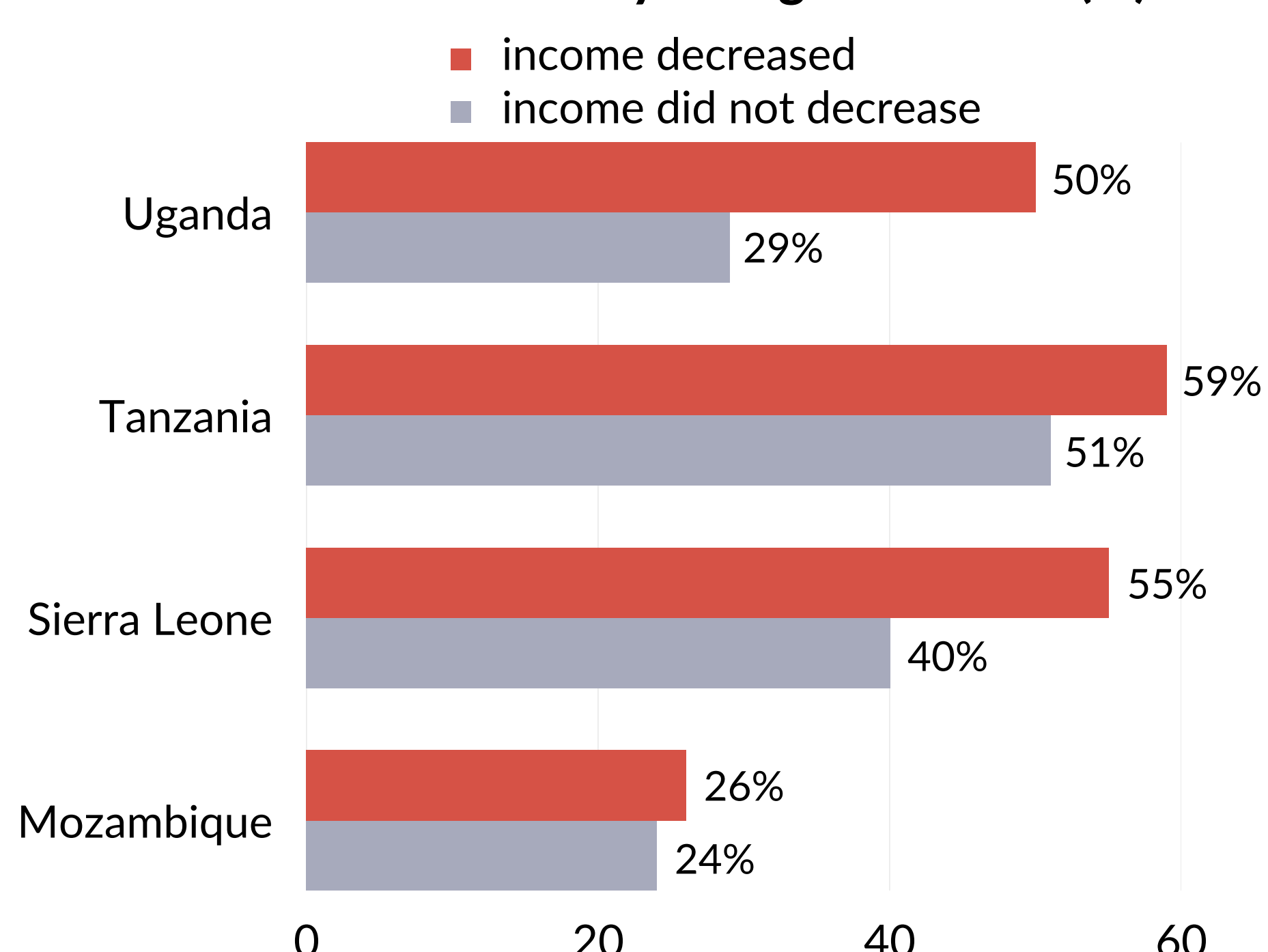
Graph A: Share of food insecure households by change in income (%)



Graph B: Share of respondents that present at least mild levels of depression by change in income (%)



Graph C: Share of respondents that present intra-household tensions by change in income (%)



Research methodology

We collected nationally representative telephone survey data throughout 2021 from more than 24,000 respondents from four carefully selected countries: **Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda.**

We merged the cleaned data with external datasets including data on the spread of COVID-19; policy countermeasures; conflict events; climate; public infrastructure; and on food prices.

For the descriptive, causal, and predictive data analyses, we used a range of statistical and econometric methods, such as multivariate regressions and machine learning.

Key findings

We observed that people across Africa faced extreme economic, social, and health challenges during the pandemic that have fundamental implications for their behavior, livelihoods, and overall well-being.

The negative impacts in **different domains** are strongly interlinked and create **compounding challenges.**

We documented **worrisome impacts of the pandemic on food security** for about 30% of households, with considerable variation across and within the four countries (Graph A).

Furthermore, the prevalence of mental health problems such as **depression and anxiety disorders increased significantly** (Graph B).

Relatedly, all countries reported **increases in intra-household tensions** (Graph C).

For all variables across all countries, the share of affected households is higher among those who saw losses in income or livelihood, likely deepening inequalities.

About the project

Life with Corona - Africa is a research project dedicated to understanding how people in Africa perceive, respond to, and cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The study examined **health, psychological, economic, and social impacts of the pandemic** and of the countermeasures taken.

Find out more at lifewithcorona.org/africa.



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