

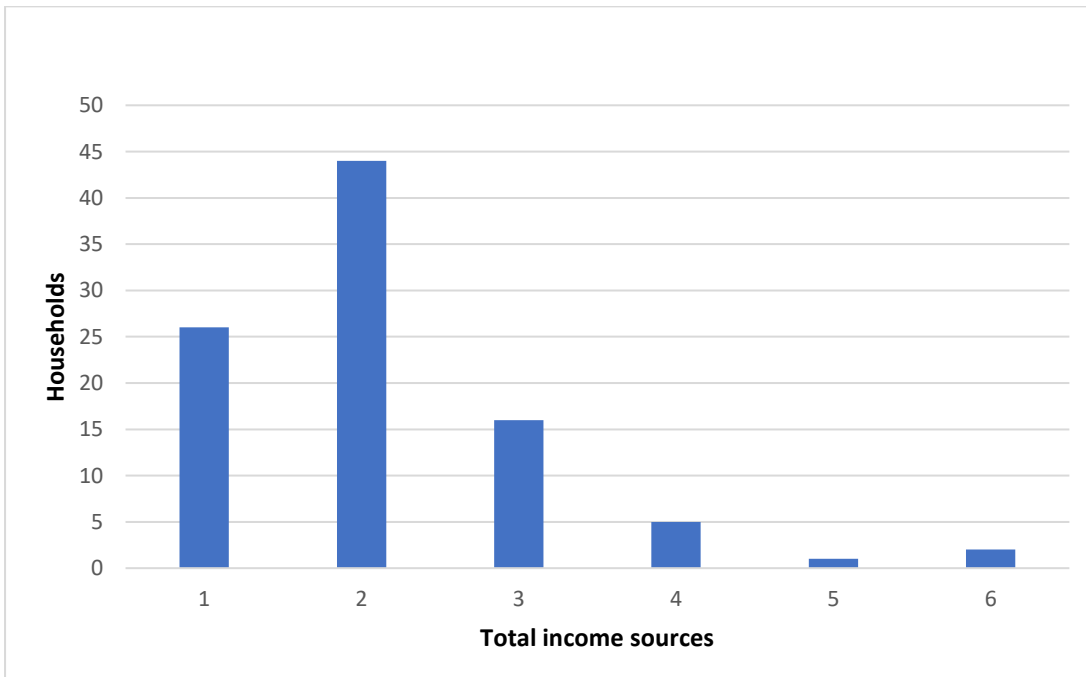


# Climate Resilient Islands

## FIJI INCOME AND EXPENSE SUMMARY

As part of the Climate Resilient Islands programme, communities in Fiji were surveyed to assess their livelihoods, incomes and expenses. Questions asked related to sizes of households, sources of income, whether there were multiple sources of income, and what households spend their income on. The responses were then analysed for trends, and the findings incorporated into each Community Resilience Profile, a key assessment tool in phase 1 of the programme.

### Income, expenses and livelihoods

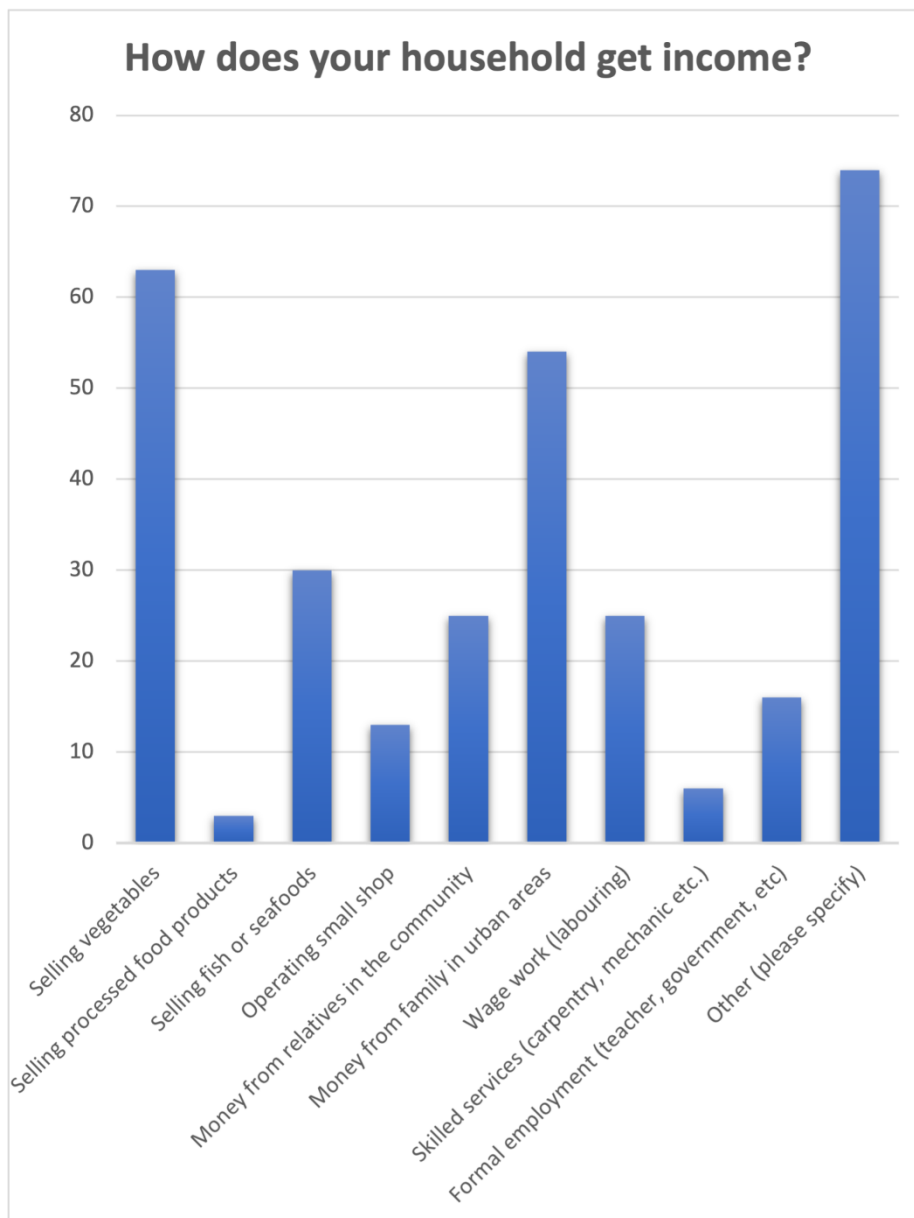


There is a range of income sources across Climate Resilient Islands communities in Fiji. Most households have multiple sources, with 30 of the 126 households reporting only

one source. 40 have the median amount of two sources, 33 have three, 18 have four and just five households report five or six income sources.

The most common source of income is selling food and food products. 63 households sell vegetables, including eight households who exclusively earn income this way, and 30 sell fish or seafood. 30 households who reported an 'Other' source of income clarified that as selling either livestock, fish, fruit, rice or other crops. Selling kava/yaqona is also common, being reported by 41 households.

Another leading source of income is receiving money from family, either in the community or living in urban areas. 79 households reported receiving money in this way, though only two relied on it exclusively. 46 households received income from working either in formal employment (teacher, health worker, government employee etc.), skilled services (tradesperson) or labouring. Only five households relied exclusively on such income.

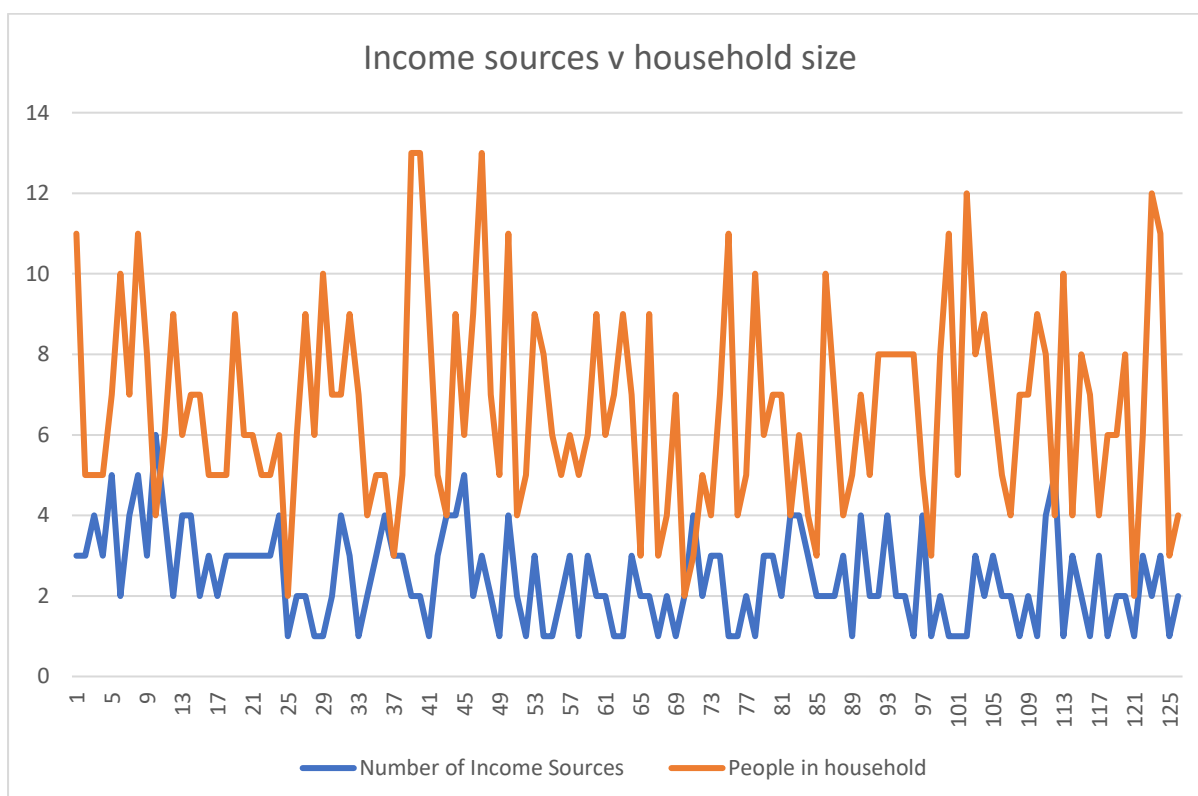


## Income sources and household size

While households reported a wide range of sizes – from two-person to 13-person households – the most common are five- to seven-person households, with 60 households within this range. The median household size is six. Two-person households are as common as 13-person households (three each), while 10- and 11-person households are more common, with 11 households of these sizes collectively. There were no single-person households.

Though it seems intuitive that income sources may increase with household size, this is not the case. There is almost no correlation between household size and income sources; the correlation coefficient is -0.08, indicating essentially no relationship between the two.

For example, for the 29 households of nine people or more, all but two had between one and three income sources and none had more than five. In contrast, the six households with five or six income sources had at most two more household members than income sources, with the ratio of household members to income sources typically being less proportional outside of this range.



## Spending and livelihoods

Unsurprisingly – though perhaps slightly unusually given its prevalence as an income source – food is also the dominant reason for spending. 122 households – almost 100% – reported food being a reason of spending. 84% of households said this was what they spent the most money on. The second most common is transport at 112, followed by school costs (99) and clothing/household items (92). Although not listed as main expenditure categories in the survey, financial contributions to the church or village were reported in all but one of the 47 'Other' responses.

The dominance of food is seen further in the communities' learning interests. All significantly high responses for what people wish to learn more about relate to food or food products. In descending order they are: kava production (74), beekeeping (65), raising chickens or pigs (118, 68 and 50 respectively), organic agriculture certification (44), growing and harvesting forest nuts (51), commercial crop production (37). Processing nuts and fruit (27), cocoa production (21) and aquaculture (19) were also reasonably popular.



Due to the reasonably low level of food insecurity reported across CRI communities in Fiji, it can possibly be inferred that this interest in food is to ease money concerns rather than directly improve food security. The high interest in kava production also suggests this, as it is not a means of sustenance as the others listed are, but a crop of reasonably high commercial (and, of course, cultural) value. The production of honey from beekeeping also does little to address food insecurity, but has a good commercial value, being useful for producing numerous products.

## Resilience planning

Understanding community incomes and spending patterns, and how these relate to community assets, informs the next phase of the CRI programme – establishing community resilience plans, which involves noting assets most at risk, especially from the impacts of climate change, community capacity for making changes and strategies for increasing resilience.



Climate Resilient Islands aims to strengthen community resilience and adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions working with rural communities in Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The project is a New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade initiative implemented by Live & Learn Environmental Education.