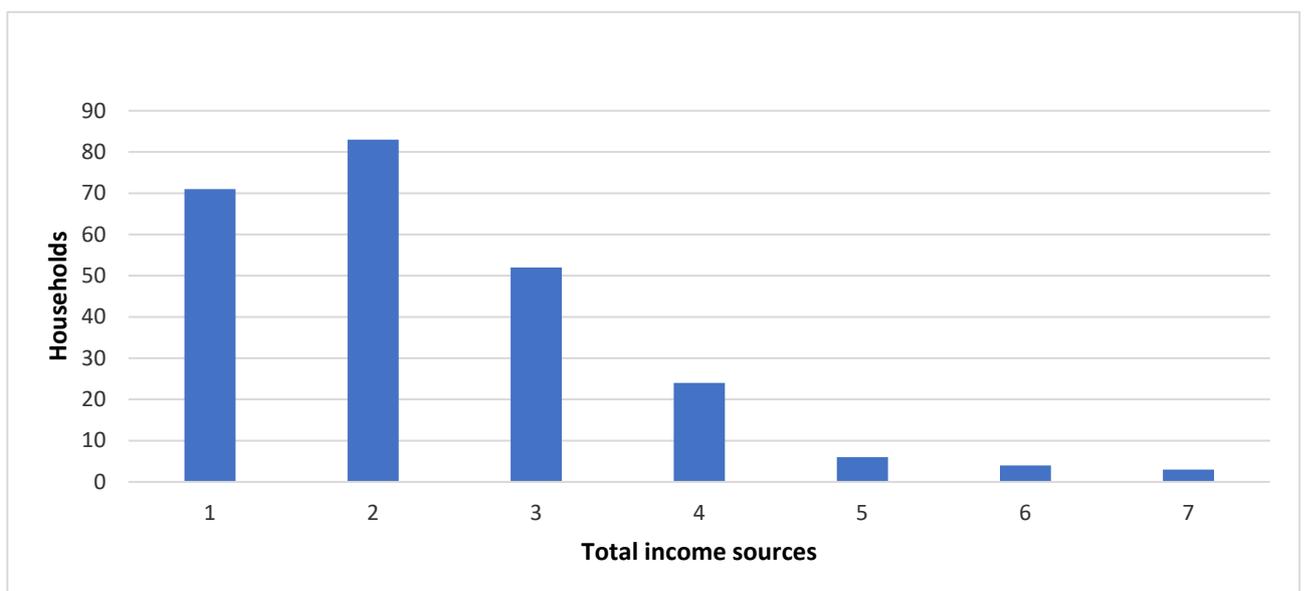


Climate Resilient Islands Programme

Livelihoods in Tonga: Income and Expenses

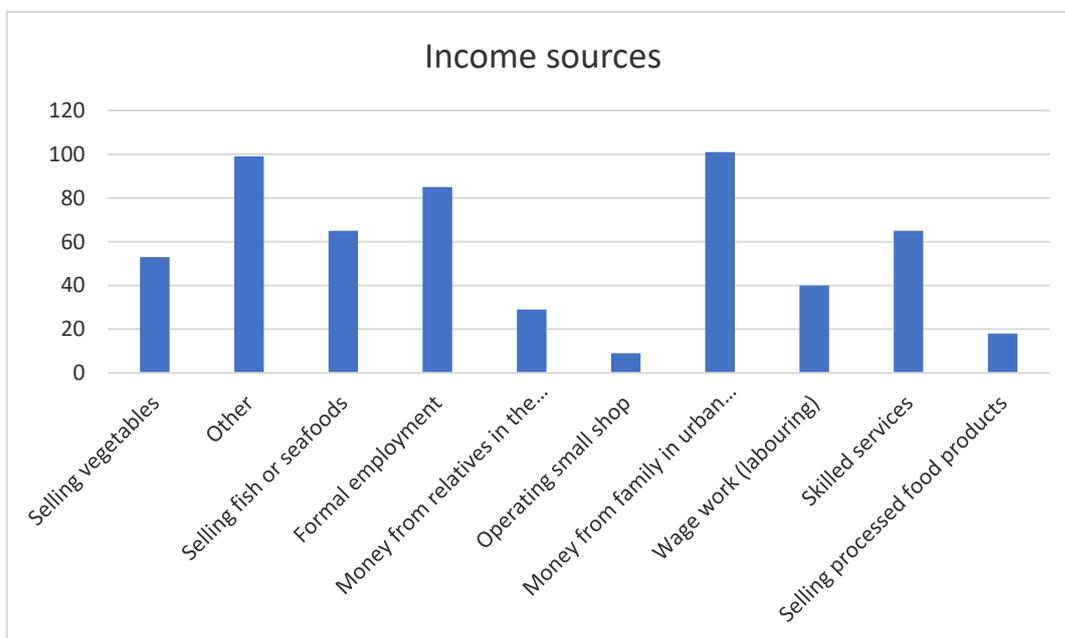
Income sources and households

Households In Tonga that are participating in Climate Resilient Islands often have more than one source of income, with a median of 2 and a slightly higher average. 83 households have two income sources, with 71 reporting only a single source. 52 households reported three sources of income while 24 households had four; only 13 had five or more.

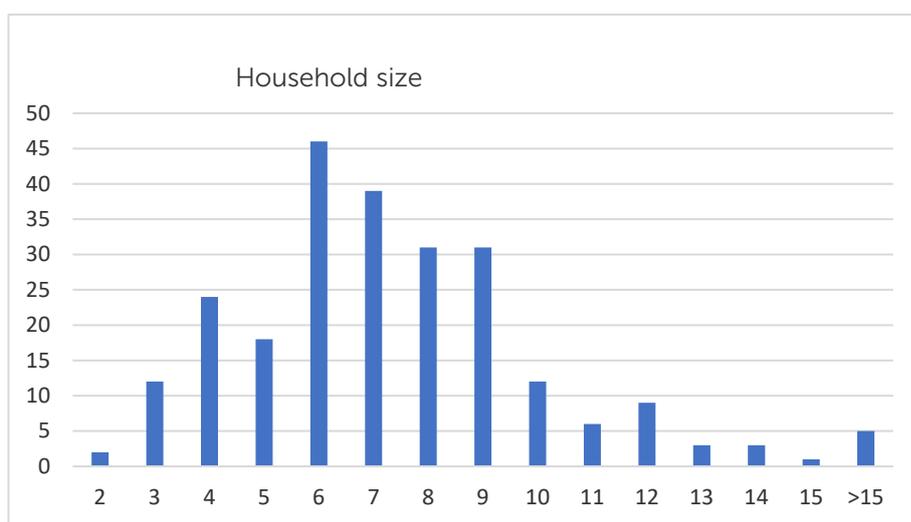


The leading means of making income is receiving money from family members living in urban areas, with 101 households making money this way. Formal employment such as teaching, government or health work was next with 85 responses, followed by selling fish or seafood and skilled services (such as trades) next with 65 responses each.

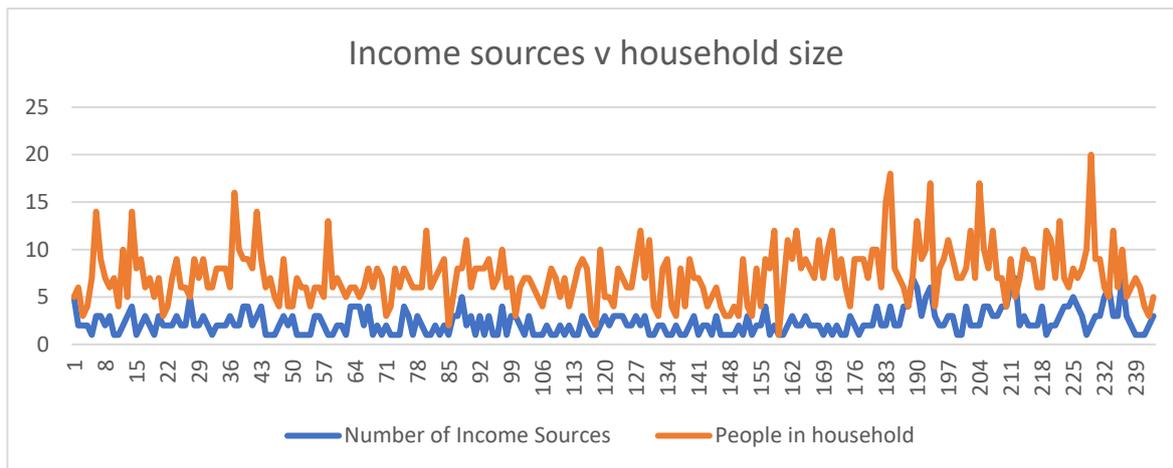
99 households reported 'Other' income, with the primary sources listed being the selling of handicrafts (with 50 responses) and variations on farming/fishing/selling crops and livestock, with 55 responses.



A wide range of household size was reported in Tonga, spanning from single-person homes up to those housing 20 people. The average size was 7.3 with a median of seven. The most common household size was six people, reported by 46 households, followed by 39 households of seven people and 31 each of eight- and nine-person homes. Three-person homes were as common as those with 10 people – each reported by 12 households. One- and two-person households were very uncommon, with collectively just three homes of this size, the same as the number reported of both 13- and 14-person homes.



There was almost no link between household size and the number of income sources. The correlation coefficient of just 0.2 indicates a very weak relationship between the two variables, if any.



For example, the median size of single-income households was six people, while the median size of households with 5-7 income sources was 8, with averages of 6.4 and 8.3 respectively. The average number of income sources for four-person households was 1.96, not significantly below the number for eight-person households at 2.3 or homes with 10 people or more at 2.7.

Spending and livelihoods

Unsurprisingly, the most common expenditure is food, with 195 households reporting it as an expense. The next most common is school costs, an expense for 134 households, followed by transport on 116.

However, these are rarely the items households spend the most money on, with the largest expense for 63% of respondents being bills & utilities. Food is the highest expense for only 27% of households, followed by church/community obligations on 19% and education at 8%.



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, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands. The project is a New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade initiative implemented by Live & Learn Environmental Education.

