Impacts of COVID-19 on Mobility of Elderly and Disabled People

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Introduction

- High Volume Transport (HVT) Applied Research, C19RRTRF of UKaid

- Purpose
  - To explore the change in travel (& related problems and issues) of elderly and disabled people due to COVID-19.

- Low-income countries (LIC)
  - 8 cities from 4 countries: Dhaka & Khulna (Bangladesh); Karachi & Lahore (Pakistan); Dar-es-Salaam & Zanzibar (Tanzania); Lusaka & Kitwe (Zambia)
  - COVID-19 response in cities are different e.g. Lockdown

- 1669 respondents (Household Survey), 200 from each city
  - Travel frequency, trip characteristics, problems and expectations
  - Before COVID-19, COVID-19 Lockdown, COVID-19 Post-lockdown

Travel Frequency

- Before COVID-19: For the majority of respondents trips 2-3 or 4-5 or 5+ per week

- COVID-19 Lockdown: Most of the respondents avoided travel (trips 1 or 2-3 per week).

- Post-lockdown: For the majority 1 or 2-3 trips or 4-5 trips per week.
  - A large proportion in Karachi, Lusaka and Kitwe have high travel frequency.

- Travel purpose
  - Personal needs, work, grocery/shopping.
  - Lockdown: Doctor visits (+ grocery, work, personal needs). Social and recreation trips were avoided.
  - Post-lockdown: Doctor visits (+); Social trips (around 10%) but recreation trips are very less.

- Trip distance
  - Lockdown: Short distance (<1km for more than 50% in Dhaka, Khulna & Karachi; the majority 2-5 km).
  - Post-lockdown: Mostly within 5 km, a small proportion are 10 to 20 km.

- Travel mode
  - Public transport & paratransit / walking / personal vehicles
  - Lockdown: Walking trips a major portion (40-60%)
  - Post-lockdown: Personal vehicles (car, motorcycle), paratransit
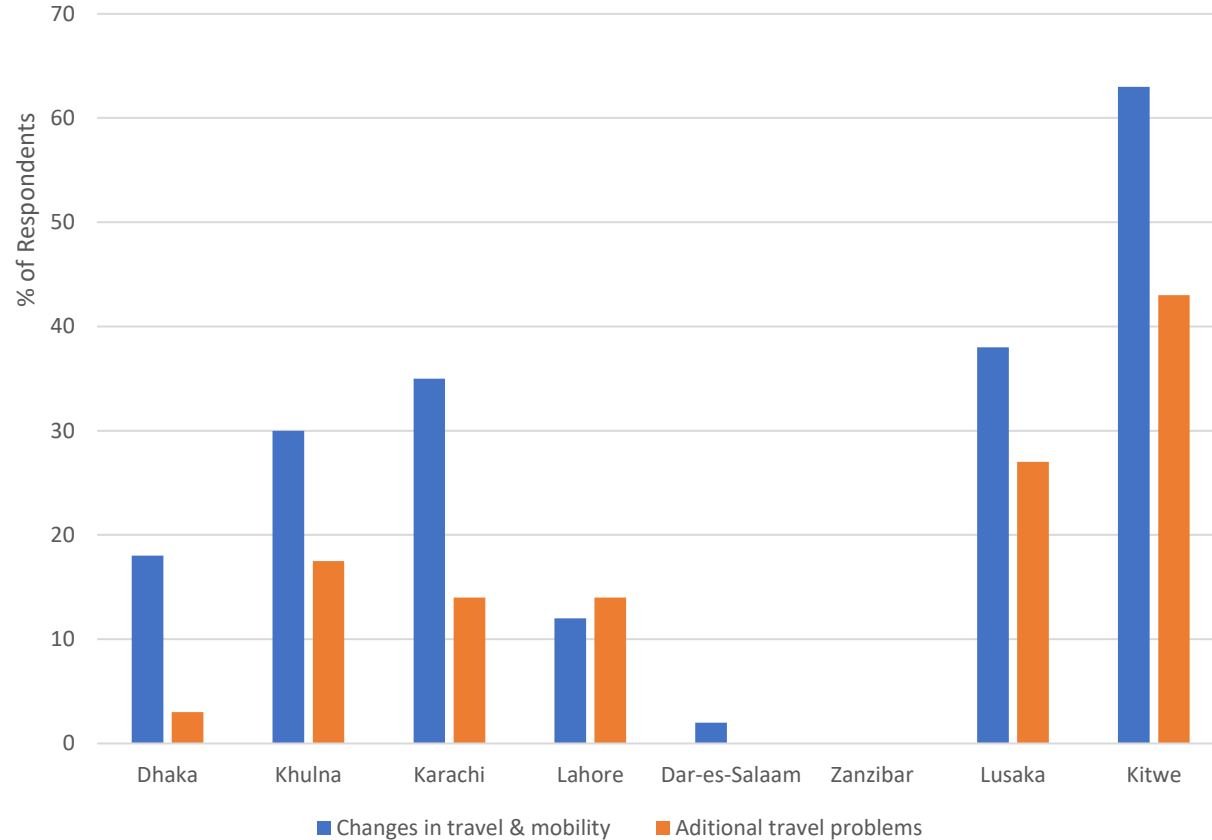
Travel Mode

- Before COVID-19: Paratransit and Public transport.
- Lockdown: A major proportion is walking trips (40-60%).
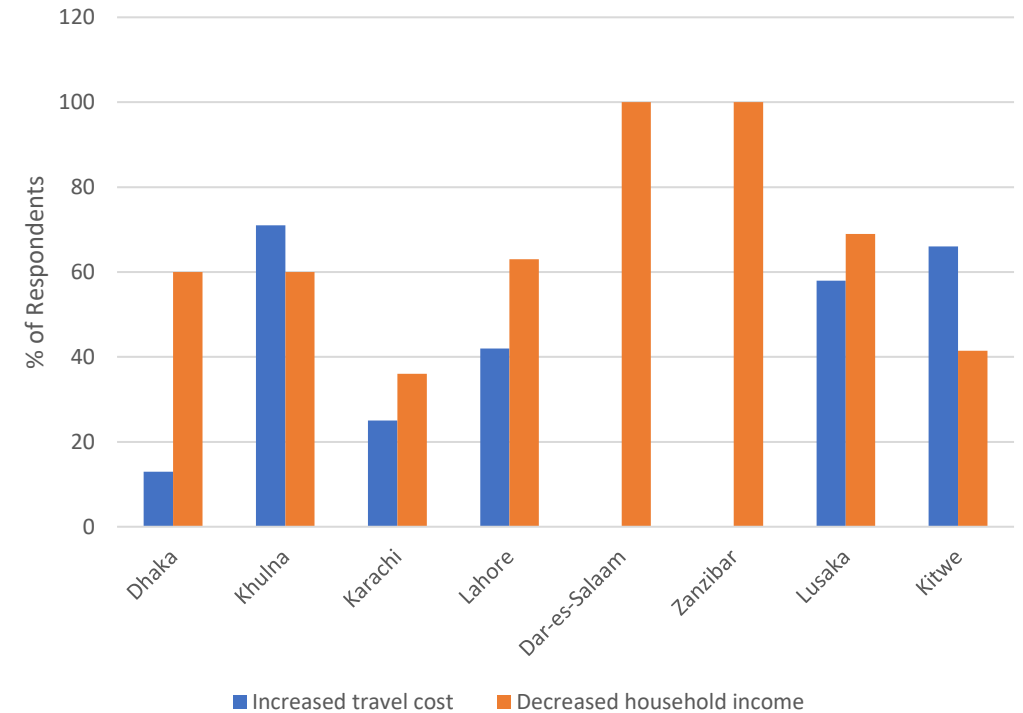- Post-lockdown: Paratransit, Car, Motorcycle.
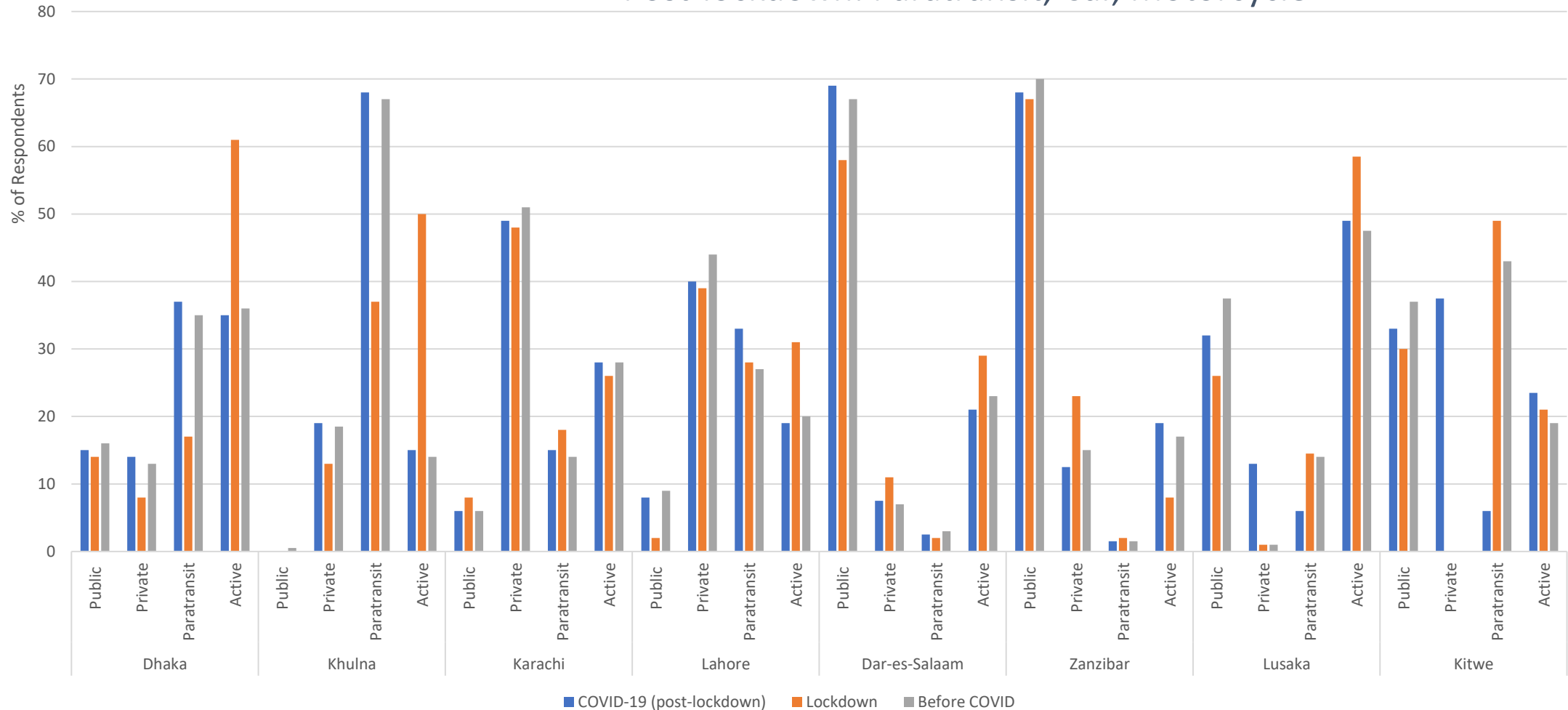
Changes due to COVID-19

Changes in travel & additional problems

Increased travel cost & reduced income

- Accompanied by another person during travel (10-50%); higher in post-lockdown.
- Physical distancing

Travel Problems

Before
- Poor public transport and infrastructure (e.g. pedestrian paths)
- Poor access to public transport & pedestrian paths for disabled;
- Congestion and pollution.

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Lockdown
- Limited public transport vehicles are available (longer waiting time);
- Reduced travel due to imposed restrictions on travel and movement;
- More walk due to unavailability or limited public transport.

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Post-lockdown
- Reduced travel or scared of going out due to fear of COVID-19;
- Increased travel cost;
- Wearing face mask is uncomfortable for breathing;
- Lack of compliance for maintaining physical distancing & wearing face mask.

Q&A

Thank You

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