Session 1 “Information needs for effective responses and transformative gender policies in COVID-19 context

Importance of generating gender data during the COVID-19 pandemic
Real time data to monitor the gender impact of COVID-19

Dashboard on the health impact of COVID-19 (with WHO)

Conduct rapid gender assessment surveys on the impact of COVID-19

Development of policy tracker to monitoring how gender equality is integrated in COVID-19 countries’ fiscal and policy responses (with UNDP)

Research, Reports, blogs etc. on the impacts of COVID-19 with partners

Collaboration with the UN System to produce a global and country dashboard of indicators to monitor the impact of COVID-19

Discussions with partners to conduct rapid assessment violence against women survey in 20-25 countries (upcoming)
Rapid gender assessments as one of UN Women’s responses

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic

Global data available for gender-specific SDG indicators

31% in 2019

33% for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019

During the COVID-19 pandemic

Data on gendered impacts of COVID-19, such as:

- Access to healthcare and information
- Differential socio-economic impacts (income, employment, care work)
- Coping strategies
- Trends in gender-based violence

UN Women’s response:
Rapid gender assessment surveys
Rapid gender assessments: Focus on relative changes and trends

- General aim is to provide information on the livelihoods and circumstances of women and men are affected by COVID-19
  - Simple
  - Low-cost
  - Quick to use
  - Easy to integrate

- Data collection modality - online survey, phone-call survey, survey via SMS

- Caveats
  - Focus on relative changes – not on exact measures
  - Limited reach of the survey e.g. to populations subscribed to a phone service, literate, with access to internet etc.
  - Countries are at different stages of the COVID-19 crisis, so care needs to be taken when aggregating or comparing results

- Ethical and safety principles are of utmost consideration, as well as maintaining data privacy and confidentiality – DO NO HARM!
Results show that COVID-19 has gendered consequences

- Women report doing more unpaid domestic and care work than men.
- Increases in the workload for both women and men, but women are shouldering the extra burden, particularly in terms of care of children and household-related chores.

- Women sustained large drops in income from employment, savings, businesses and investments, farming and remittances.
- But in Asia and Pacific, men are more likely to secure support from governments and non-governmental organizations.

- High rates of mental and emotional distress are reported, with women reporting higher rates than men.

To access the reports and results:
[https://data.unwomen.org/COVID19](https://data.unwomen.org/COVID19)
Why these results matter as national responses are developed…

Some use cases of the rapid gender assessments on the impacts of COVID-19

- **Maldives**
  - Informed the country’s socio-economic impact assessment, which forms the basis of integrated policy responses to COVID-19 and is used for designing mitigation strategies
  - Using the findings on loss of jobs and less paid work hours among women informal workers, the **COVID-19 Income Support Allowance** was extended to self-employed and in the informal sector
  - Informed **recovery plans of the COVID-19 recovery team** established by the Office of the President

- **Thailand**
  - Informed the **UNCT Socio-Economic Assessment**, which serves as basis for national response to the crisis

- **Jordan**
  - Informed UN Women’s COVID-19 emergency response in **targeting cash assistance and GBV services**

- **Ukraine**
  - Canadian International Development Agency extended its financial support to integrate a COVID-19 response to an already existing project on “Advancing Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment through Decentralization Reform of Ukraine”
What’s coming up in Latin America and the Caribbean…

Rest of the World

**COMPLETED SURVEYS (37)**
- Asia and the Pacific (11)
- Europe and Central Asia (16)
- Arab States (9)
- Africa (1)

**ONGOING SURVEYS (2)**
- Africa (2)

**UPCOMING SURVEYS (19)**
- Asia and the Pacific (3)
- Africa (16)

Latin America and the Caribbean

**What’s happening now…**
- **Mexico, Colombia, and Chile** are working on conducting the rapid gender assessments
- Data collection is expected to begin in **September 2020**
- Done in partnership with national stakeholders

**What still needs to happen…**
- **More countries in LAC** to conduct rapid gender assessment surveys on the impacts of COVID-19
- **Demonstrated use** of the results of the rapid gender assessments once available
- **Sustained partnerships** with national partners and the private sector
From insights to action: Gender equality in the wake of COVID-19

1. Health Impact
2. Impact on jobs
3. Impact on poverty by sex and age -- new projections to 2030!
4. Impact on unpaid acre work and time poverty
5. The shadow pandemic: violence against women
6. Gender data gaps for a better response

To access the reports and results: www.unwomen.org
Immediate health effects: still a lot we don’t know

- Men are 53% of confirmed cases and limited data also shows higher mortality
- Women account for more than 63% of cases in the 85+ age cohort
- But the data is still quite incomplete, and many questions remain unanswered (e.g. deaths by sex and age)

COVID-19 exposes and exploits pre-existing inequalities

- Poor and marginalized communities are more vulnerable to COVID-19: Black women are 4.3X more likely than white women to die from COVID-19 in the UK

Sexual and reproductive health services must get priority

- In Asia and the Pacific, 60% of women report difficulties seeing a doctor as a result of the pandemic
- COVID-19 could lead to an additional 56,000 maternal deaths
COVID-19 Will push millions more into extreme poverty

New poverty forecasts commissioned by UN Women and UNDP and conducted by the Pardee Centre for International Futures at the University of Denver, offer the first global estimates of extreme poverty by sex and age, taking into account the economic fallout from the pandemic.

Unless measures are taken to shield the most vulnerable, 435 million women and girls will be living on less than $1.90 a day worldwide by 2021 – including 47 million as a result of COVID-19.

And it gets worse with time for women aged 25-34: In 2021, it is expected there will be 118 women in poverty for every 100 poor men globally, and this ratio could rise to 121 poor women for every 100 poor men by 2030.
Gender data need to be prioritized

Adequate and timely gender data and statistics need to be fully prioritized as part of the COVID-19 policy response.

Closing the gender data and information gap will require:

1. **Collection of real-time COVID-19 data on incidence, hospitalization, testing and mortality.** Scientific studies, research and assessment of the impact and response to the pandemic must be inclusive and consider sex and gender as relevant factors.

2. **Greater support to National Statistical Systems,** strengthening of gender data collection and integration of a gender perspective in all statistical operations.

3. **Investments in dissemination and use of gender data.** Information on the differentiated impact of the crisis must be accessible and used to inform prevention and response efforts.
THANK YOU

Papa Seck
UN Women Chief Statistician and Officer-in-Charge, Research and Data Section
Papa.Seck@unwomen.org