



# Assessing gender-differentiated impacts of COVID-19 in phone surveys

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The 14<sup>th</sup> Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Gender Statistics (IAEG-GS) Meeting  
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# Agenda

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**01.** Introduction

**02.** Challenges in assessing gendered impacts

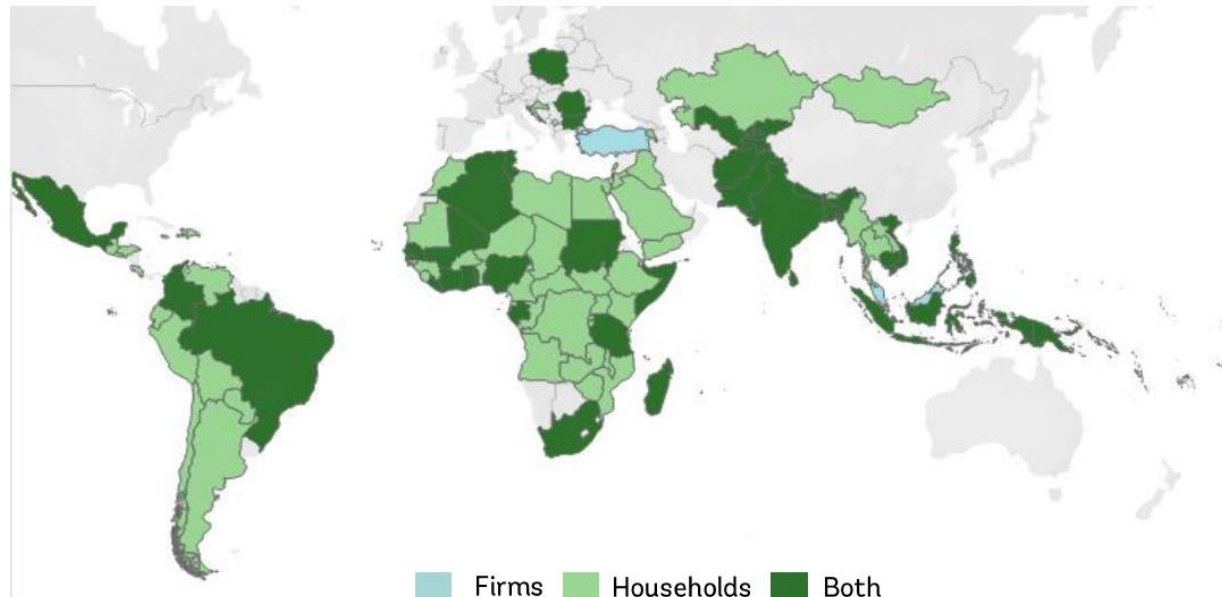
**03.** Preparing for future surveys

**04.** Closing

# World Bank: Phone surveys to measure COVID impacts

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- \* **Household** surveys in 100+ countries (4-8 weeks)
- \* **Firm** surveys in 40 countries (quarterly)



- \* Information on household and firm characteristics, socio-economic impacts, coping strategies and policy responses
- \* [Household](#) and [firm](#) surveys complement each other
- \* Started as early as April 2020
- \* Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) [implementation guidelines](#)

# Household Surveys

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# Questionnaires and implementation guidelines are coordinated globally, but adjusted to country needs



## Sampling approaches ([sampling guidelines](#))

- 1) Based on a recent face-to-face (F2F) survey
- 2) Registry of phone numbers (e.g. government or phone companies)
- 3) Random Digit Dialing (RDD)



## Sample

- Representative of national population
- 1,000 - 2,000HH per round



## Gender

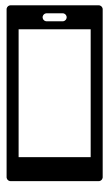
- Many are administered to household head
- Excludes sensitive questions (e.g. GBV)

## Survey modules

Basic Household Information	Knowledge on COVID-19	Behavior Changes
Income Loss	Safety Nets	Access to Medicine & Education
Employment	Food Security	Coping Mechanisms
Concerns	Interview duration: 15-30 min.	

# Taking stock of potential issues in assessing gender with phone surveys

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Fewer women own phones than men



Differential response rates

**Common to all sampling approaches**



F2F surveys only collected phone numbers of household heads

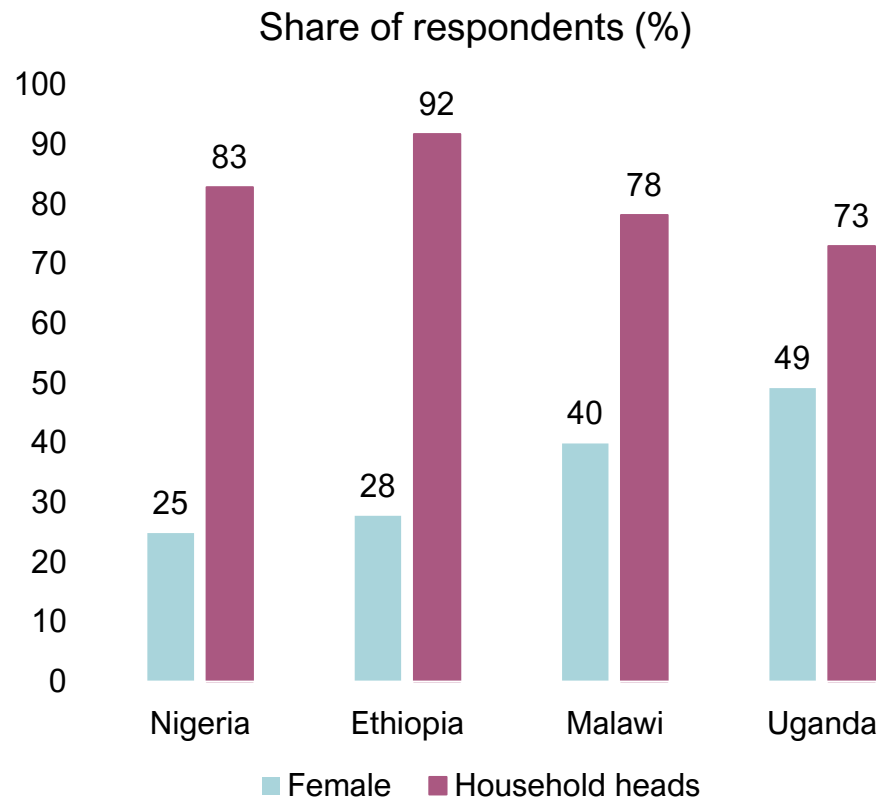
**Only when sampling phone numbers collected from previous F2F surveys**

*Potential fix*

**Reweighting adjustment**



# Underwhelming share of female respondents and overwhelming share of household heads



# Challenges in assessing gendered impacts with (mainly) household heads as respondents

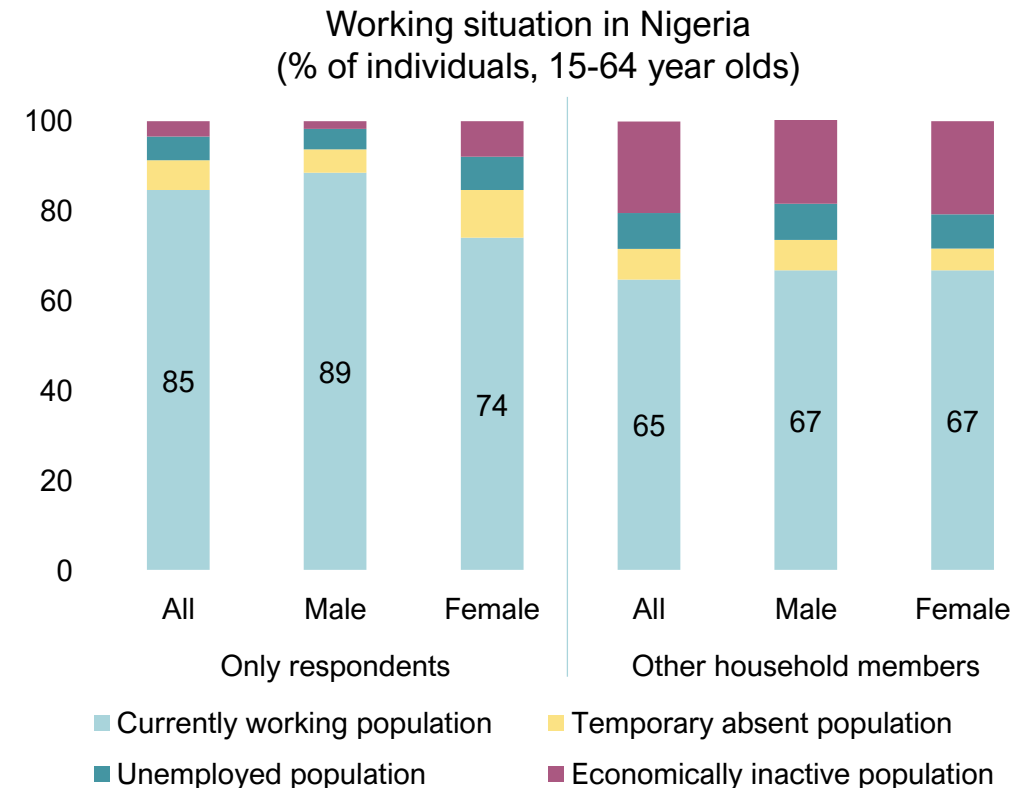
**Household heads are more likely to be **working individuals** than other household members**

\* Some of the rapid assessments may understate the extent of COVID impacts in the population

**Different characteristics of female-headed households**

\* e.g. higher dependency ratio, without male spouse

**Reweighting adjustment based on household weights does not fix this**



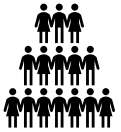


# Preparing better for future surveys

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# Respondent selection influences our ability to assess gendered impacts

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## Collect phone numbers of ALL household members

- In first round of phone survey panel
- In future face-to-face surveys



## Randomly select household member from the household roster

*If multiple numbers are available*

- Randomly select the phone number to contact from each household

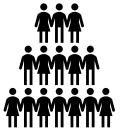
*If only a single number is available*

- Passing the phone to another random household member

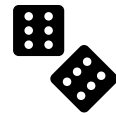
# Collecting proxy reporting as a second-best alternative

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*Asking household head to report on other household members*



**Collect proxy reporting of ALL household members**



**Randomly select household member to collect proxy reporting from**

## **CAVEAT**

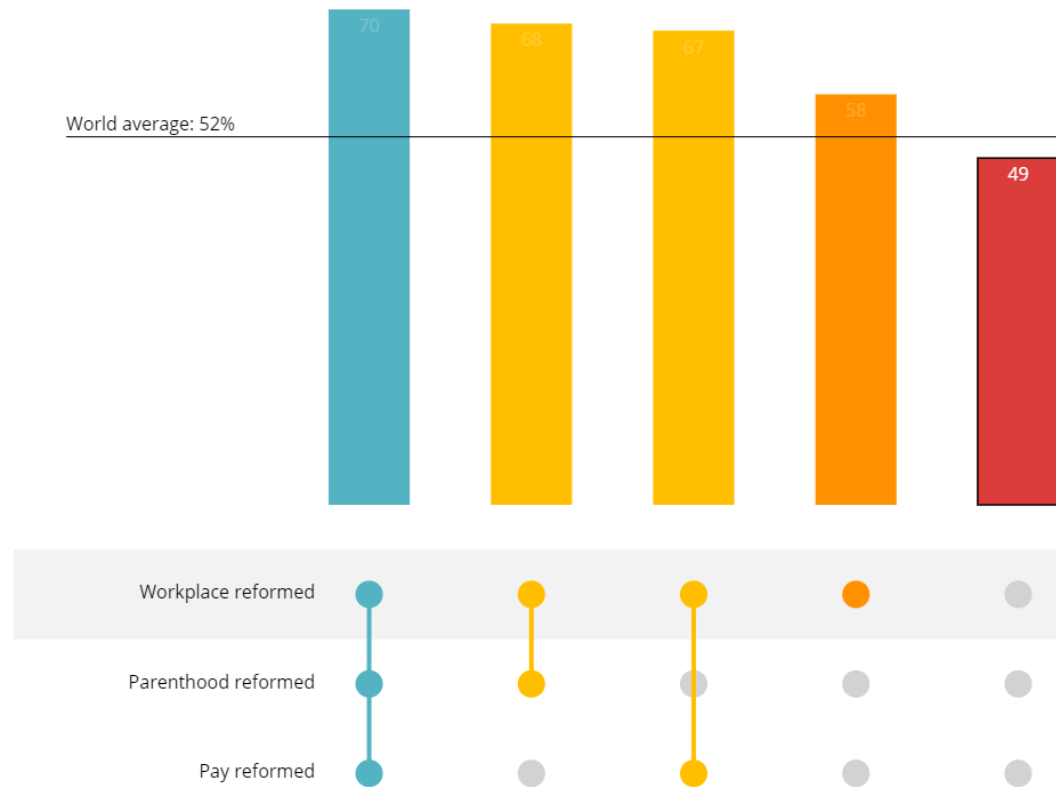
- Proxy reporting may work for easily observable outcomes (e.g. work participation), but not on other less visible outcomes (e.g. time-use)

## Check out World Bank COVID Gender Data resources

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/data/datatopics/gender/coronavirus-covid-19-gender-data-resources>

### Reforms are complementary: with broader reform comes higher female labor force participation

Labor force participation rate, female; for economies with particular patterns of reform (% of female population ages 15-64)



Source: World Development Indicators (SL.TLF.ACTI.FE.ZS)

# Thank you

2020 SDG Atlas is recently launched!

**Goal 5: Gender Equality** reflects at legal progress towards gender equality, especially, in relations to female labor force participation.

<https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdгатlas/goal-5-gender-equality/>

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# ?? Questions for the Group

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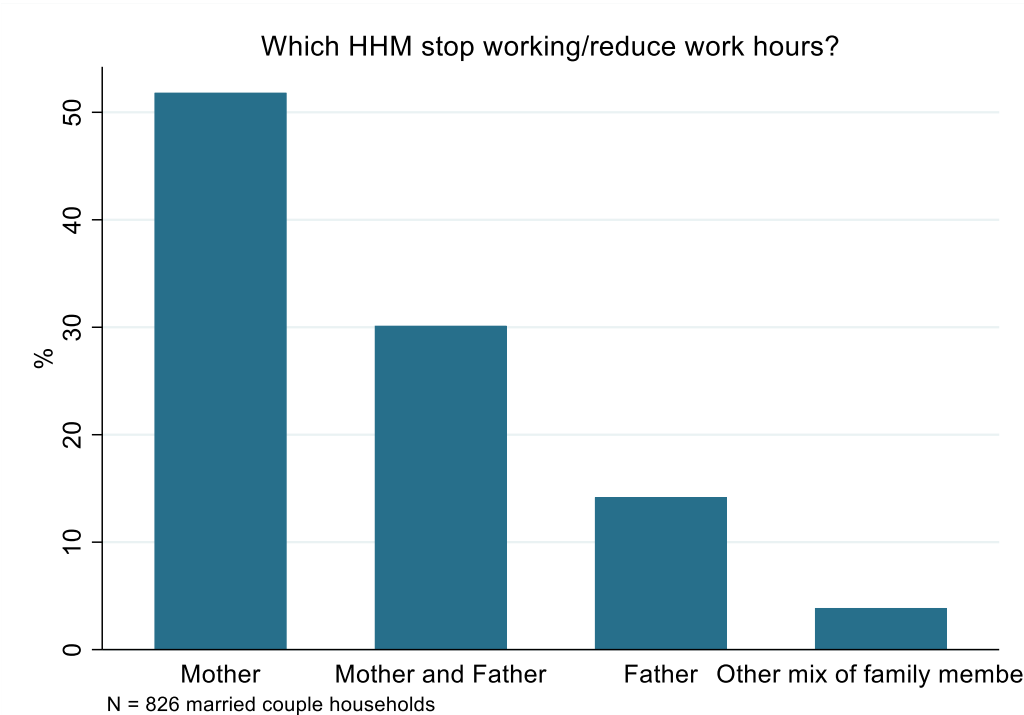
1. What innovations can avoid the pitfalls of phone surveys to get unbiased population estimates?
2. How can we—in our respective country/institution **and** collectively—improve representativeness of females in our remote data collection?

# **Extra slides— Preliminary evidence from Vietnam**

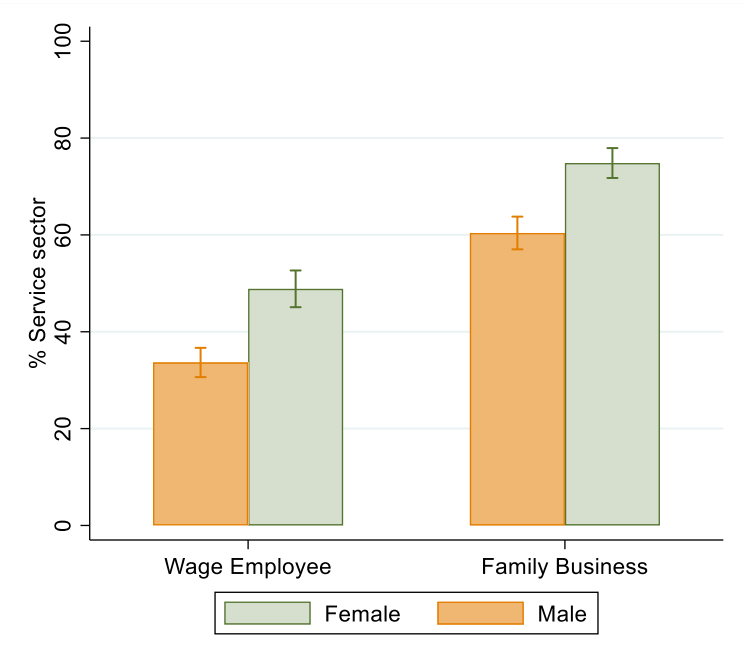
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# Impacts of COVID-19 likely larger for women because of childcare and service sector employment

Among married couples, mothers are more likely to stop or reduce work

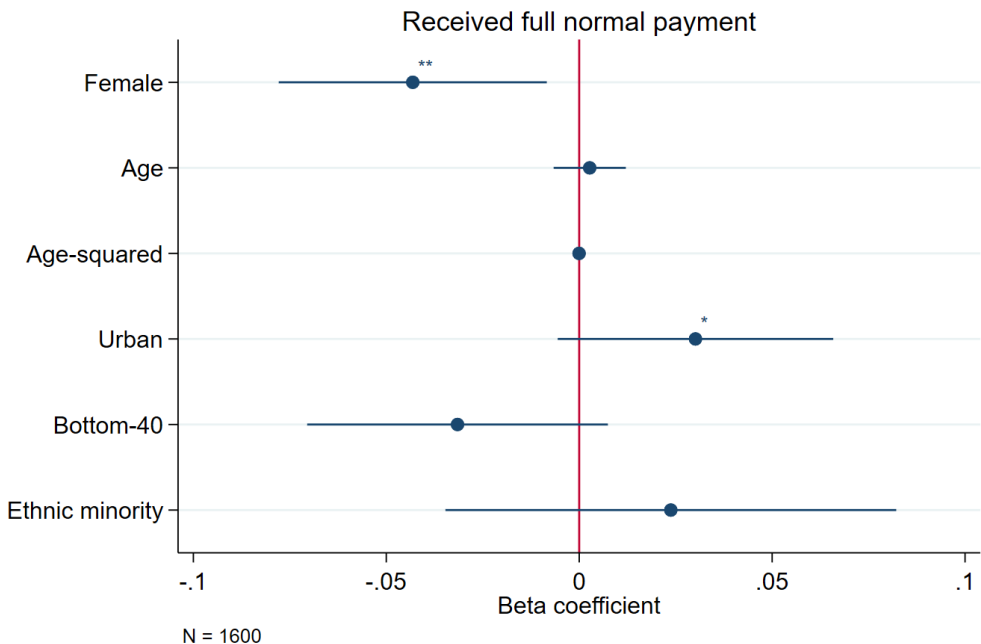


Women are more likely than men to be engaged in service sector



# Slightly more women stopped working. Among those who worked, women are more likely to earn less

Among wage workers, women are less likely to receive full salary payment



Among those in family business, women are generating lower turnovers

