# Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys and gender data collection efforts during COVID-19

14th IAEG – Gender Statistics
December 3rd 2020

# COVID-19 risks to further jeopardize the availability of gender data, but not its relevance

COVID-19 poses unprecedented and unique challenges to traditional methods of data collection and availability of gender data:
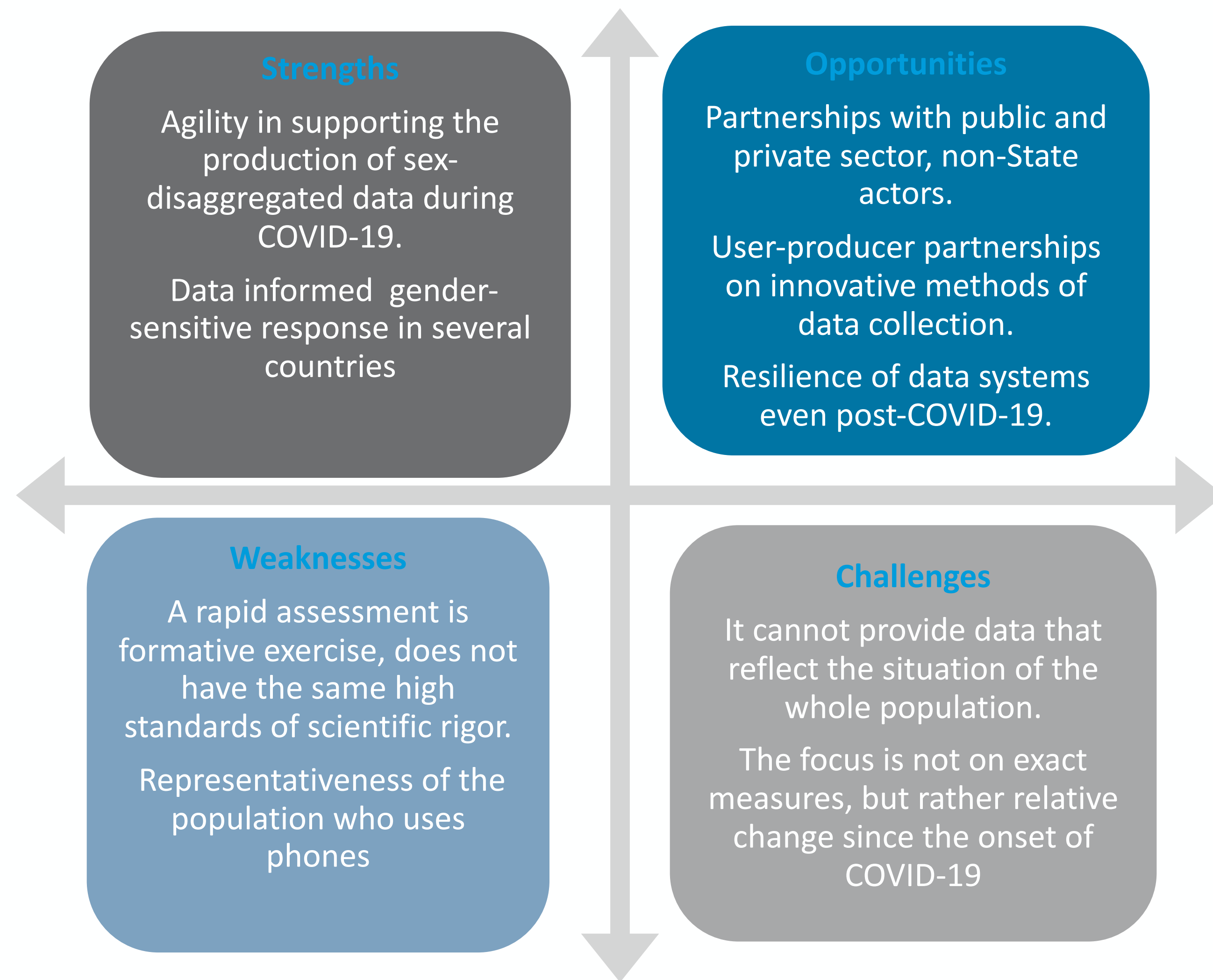
- ➢ Face-to-face data collection methods not feasible due to lockdown regulations and risks of contagion;

- ➢ Unequal coverage of complete sampling frames for CATI and CAWI among countries;

- ➢ Household as unit of analysis, use of proxy respondent for gender data;

- ➢ Prioritization of economic indicators as main measurement domain, limited sex disaggregation;

- ➢ Measurement of unpaid domestic and care work particularly relevant during COVID-19: the household absorbed increased demands for care and domestic work. No substitution effects with services in public and private sector (e.g. homeschooling);

- ➢ Pre-existing severe gender data gaps (e.g. between 2000-2018, about 91 countries conducted at least one Time-Use Survey).

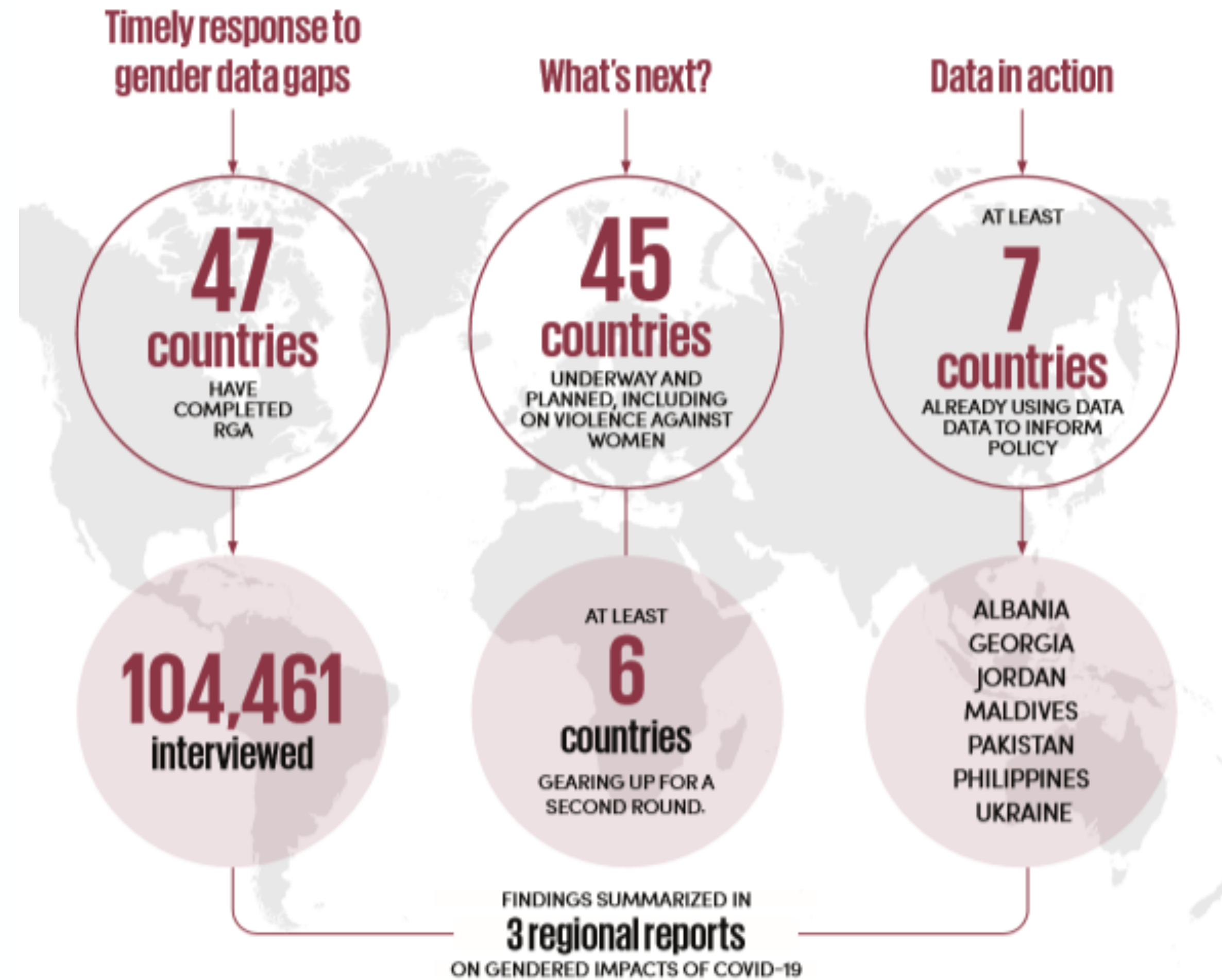# Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys: methodological overview
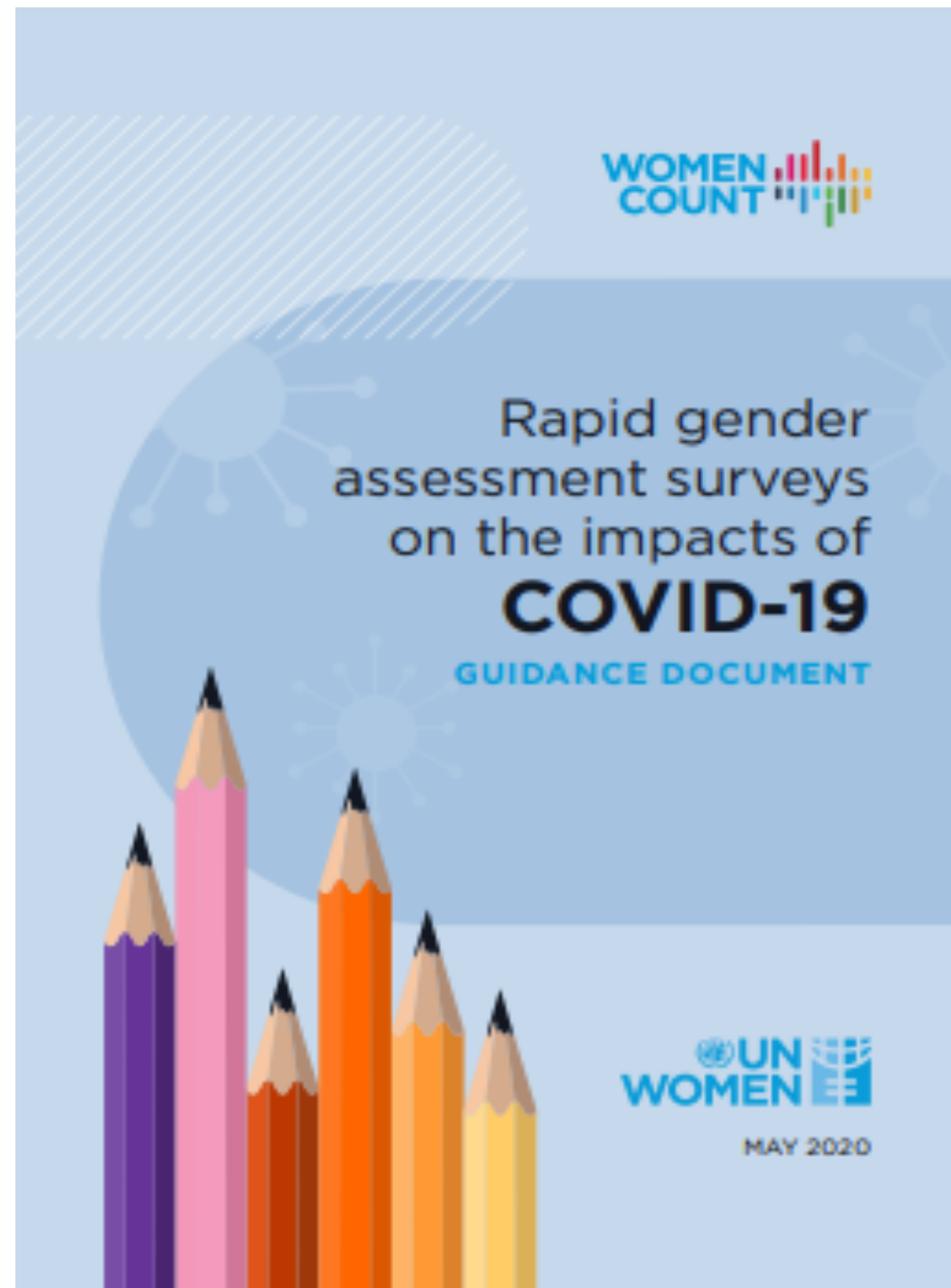


o Rapid assessment surveys can be used to gather information on knowledge, attitudes, skills and behaviors related to a thematic topic in a community.

o RGAs use a **simple random sampling technique** from a respondent database – a list of mobile subscribers.

o The reference questionnaire provides simple, straightforward questions both on:
- **Core topics**: employment and livelihood resources, knowledge on COVID-19, access to basic goods and services, and unpaid care and domestic work.
- **Thematic topics**: feelings of safety, coping mechanisms and household food production

o Survey instruments translated into national languages; average duration of the interview/compilation: 15 minutes.

# Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys: strengths, opportunities, weaknesses, and challenges

**Strengths**

Agility in supporting the production of sex-disaggregated data during COVID-19.

Data informed gender-sensitive response in several countries

**Opportunities**

Partnerships with public and private sector, non-State actors.

User-producer partnerships on innovative methods of data collection.

Resilience of data systems even post-COVID-19.

**Weaknesses**

A rapid assessment is formative exercise, does not have the same high standards of scientific rigor.

Representativeness of the population who uses phones

**Challenges**

It cannot provide data that reflect the situation of the whole population.

The focus is not on exact measures, but rather relative change since the onset of COVID-19

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Proportion of people who reported an increase in time spent on unpaid care work since COVID–19, by sex, country and number of activities (percentage)
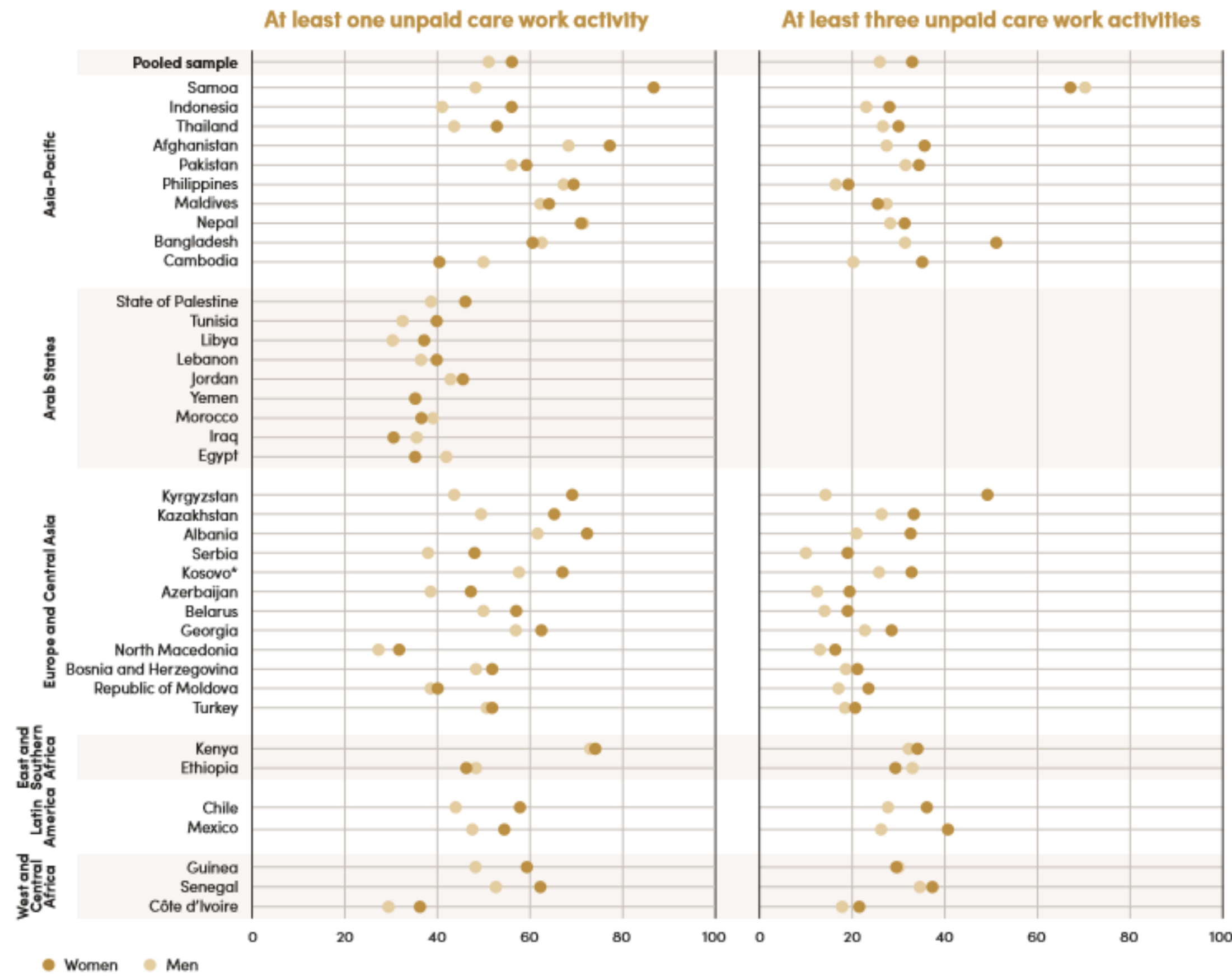
data.unwomen.org/publications/whose-time-care-unpaid-care-and-domestic-work-during-covid-19

**WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO INCREASE THE TIME SPENT ON HOUSEHOLD CHORES**

**Cooking and serving meals**

| | Women | | Men |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 32% | Increased | 18% |
| | 17% | I don't usually do it | 48% |

**Cleaning (e.g. clothes, household)**

| | Women | | Men |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 45% | Increased | 35% |
| | 13% | I don't usually do it | 33% |

**Shopping for the family**

| | Women | | Men |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 25% | Increased | 22% |
| | 23% | I don't usually do it | 29% |

**Decoration, repairs and household management**

| | Women | | Men |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 29% | Increased | 24% |
| | 29% | I don't usually do it | 33% |

**Pet care**

| | Women | | Men |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 13% | Increased | 14% |
| | 60% | I don't usually do it | 61% |

**EVERYBODY IS PITCHING IN AT HOME, BUT WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE BEARING THE HEAVIEST BURDEN**

67% of women said their spouse/partner is more involved

82% of men said their spouse/partner is more involved
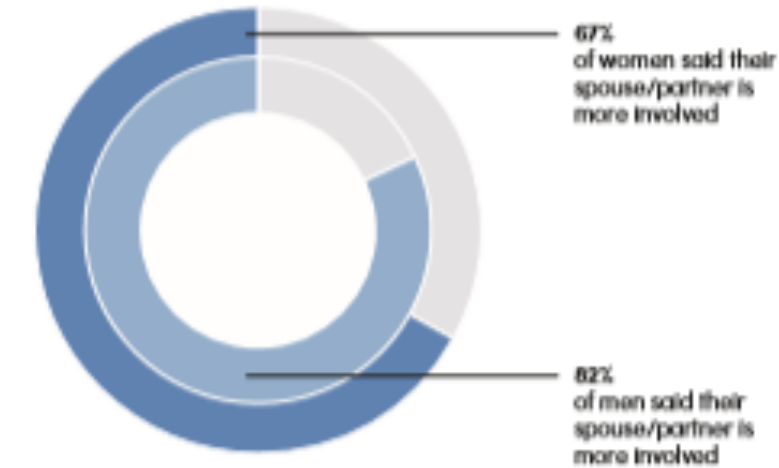
**SOCIAL NORMS ARE STILL AT PLAY DURING COVID-19**

64% of parents noted a higher involvement of daughters

57% of parents noted a higher involvement of sons
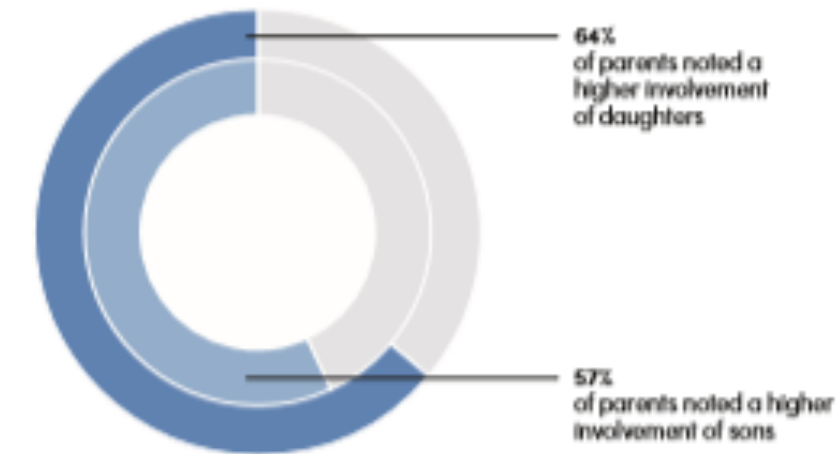
**DOMESTIC WORKERS FACE OVERWORK OR JOB LOSS**
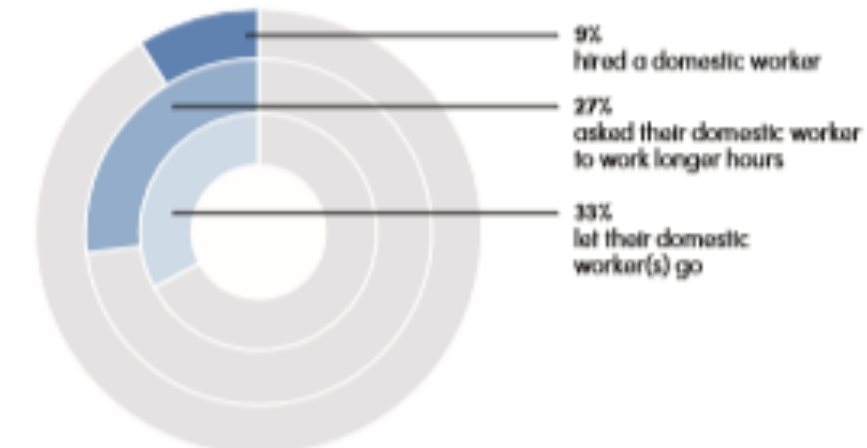
9% hired a domestic worker

27% asked their domestic worker to work longer hours

33% let their domestic worker(s) go

data.unwomen.org/publications/whose-time-care-unpaid-care-and-domestic-work-during-covid-19

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

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## Uses of gender-sensitive indicators: evidence-based COVID-19 response

Women Count **monitors** how the **results** of its nearly 50 RGAs are being used to improve the design of COVID-19 programs and interventions.

Few examples:

o UN Women Georgia has used the RGA in its advocacy to shape the Government-commissioned COVID-19 Impact Assessment Study, brokering a stronger emphasis on the impact of COVID-19 on domestic workers and on women employed in the health-care sector as front-line responders;

o In the Maldives, the President's Office has used the RGA results to inform recovery plans for the social sector and created a 'Population Team' focused specifically on safeguarding the rights of women and girls. Findings on women's informal workers losing their jobs led to the extension of the COVID-19 Income Support Allowance to those who are self-employed and in the informal employment.
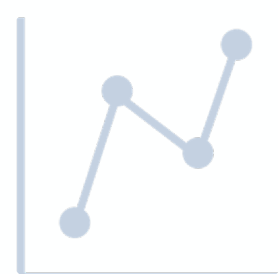
# Additional data collection: Digitalization and Big Data
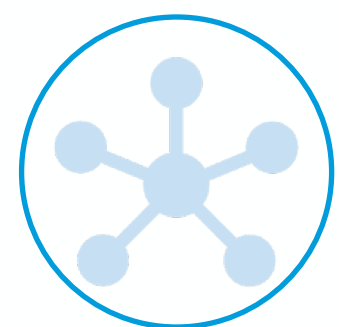
**UN Women** partnered with **Pulse Lab Jakarta** and **GOJEK**

**To better understand the extent to which COVID-19 is affecting women-owned/women-run micro businesses** and coping strategies

Availability of **new evidence/statistics** on women-owned micro and small (digital) enterprises as drivers for economic growth, particularly in the context of COVID-19 recovery

Mixed method: big data, quantitative survey, in-depth qualitative research and innovative methodologies for data collection that can effectively **inform national policy responses to support the government**

Data innovation work **under the United Nations COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund**

Proportion of micro and small businesses that noted Gojek helped their business survive/expand, by sex of the owner, formality and age of the business (percentage, n= 1,632)
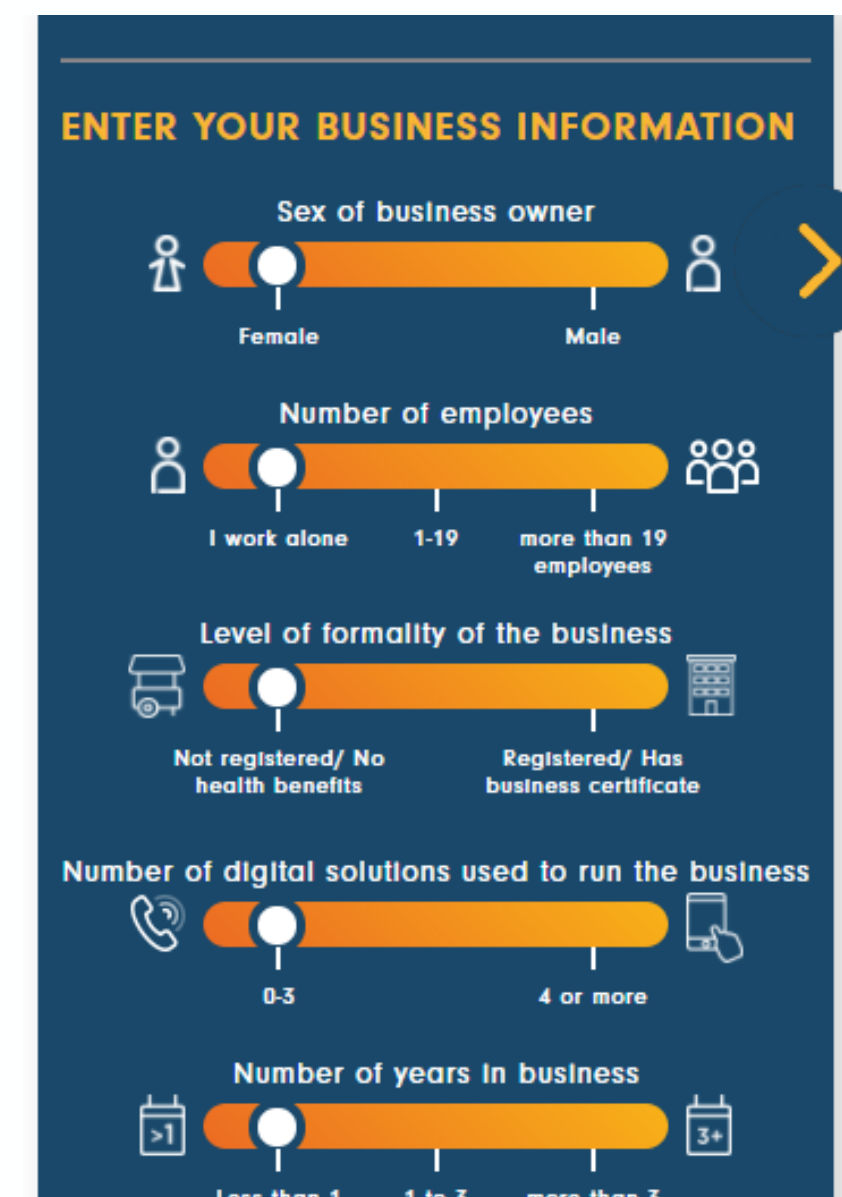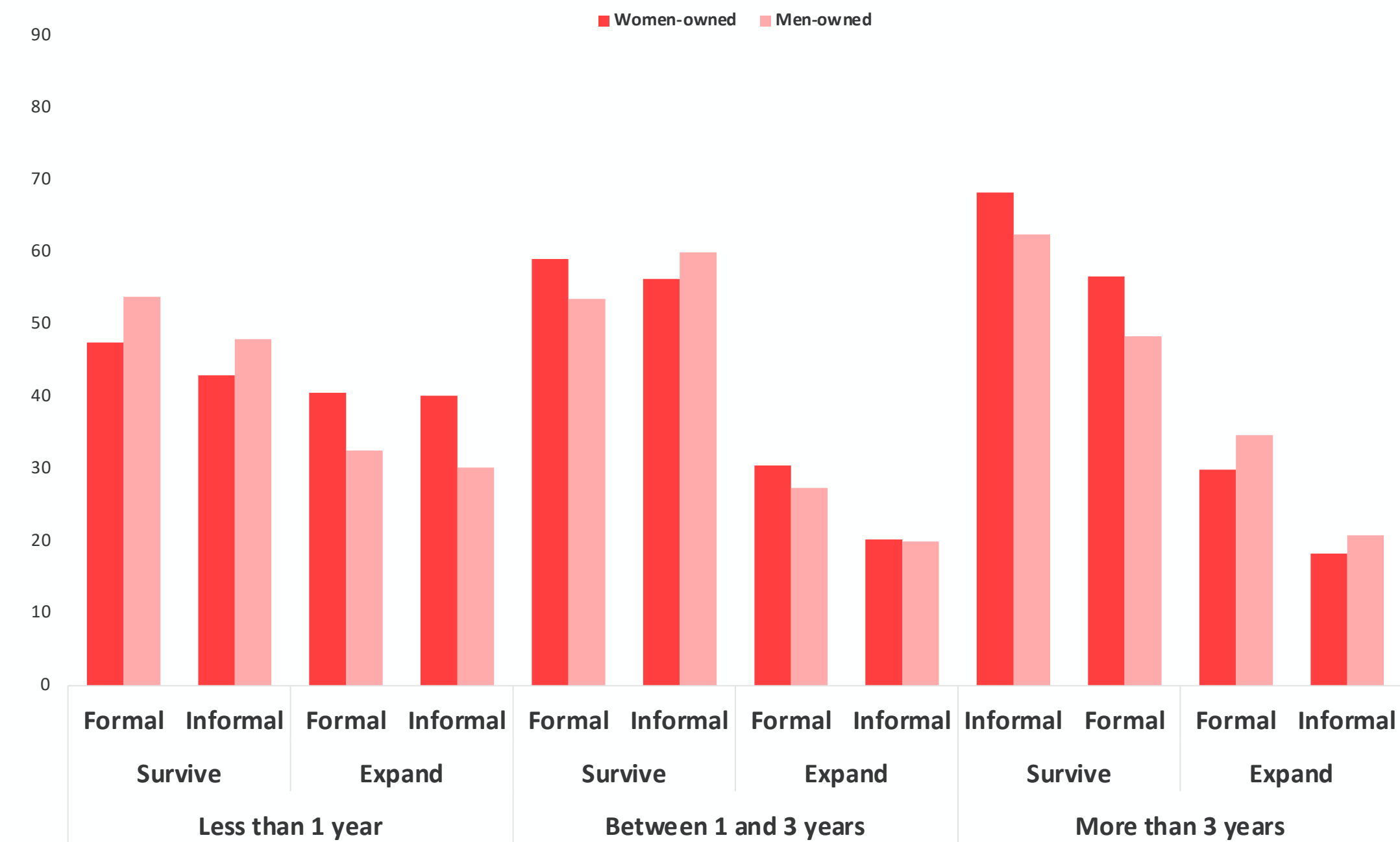




data.unwomen.org/resources/digitization-helping-businesses-yours-cope-effect-covid-19

# Additional data collection on Violence Against Women: Big Data

Due to limitations to collect prevalence data (protocols foresee f2f and through specialized household surveys), alternative options were sought

o Analysis of on-line searches on Google, Bing, Facebook, Instagram, etc. to understand if victims of violence are seeking help;

o Geographical scope: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Singapore and Malaysia;

o Peaks of help seeking took place during the months immediately after the lockdown measures were stricter (in most countries April-May);

o In many cases victims failed to find the information needed (e.g. instead of local shelters and other local services, information appeared around services in the States, US or Australia);

o Future plans to expand similar analysis in some Pacific Island Countries

The UN Secretary-General has developed a political engagement strategy to support concrete policy action to address GBV in the context of COVID-19 – UN Women is leading the implementation of the Strategy

Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys in 20-25 countries (supported by the Gates Foundation with a grant of $834,462)

**Timeline - UN Women survey on COVID & GBV**

Project Start: Fri, 10/30/2020

Completed
Pending

| Activity # | Activity Description | Leads | Participates | Progress | Start mm/dd/yy | End mm/dd/yy | Days | 2020 Nov | Dec | 2021 Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr-Sept |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1** | **Increased availability of reliable, cross country and nationally representative data on violence against women** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.1 | Plan, design and conduct multi-country VAW surveys | UN Women | Survey company, external expert group | 0% | 11/1/20 | 11/30/20 | 30 | ███ | | | | | |
| 1.2 | Coordination and consultation with experts | UN Women | Survey company, external expert group | 0% | 11/15/20 | 4/30/21 | 167 | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ |
| 1.3 | Implementation of surveys in 20-25 LMICs | Survey company | UN Women | 0% | 12/1/20 | 1/31/21 | 62 | ███ | ███ | ███ | | | |
| 1.4 | Validation, summary and analysis of data | Survey company | External expert group, UN Women | 0% | 1/1/21 | 2/15/21 | 46 | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | | |
| **2** | **Improved measures and guidelines on VAW data collection** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 | Updating recommendations and data collection training programmes | UN Women | External expert group | 0% | 2/1/21 | 4/30/21 | 89 | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ |
| **3** | **Accelerated use of VAW data to inform policymaking, service-provision and advocacy by global stakeholders** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.1 | Develop and implement outreach strategy | UN Women Women Count Team | UN Women Comms & EVAW teams | 0% | 11/1/20 | 4/30/21 | 181 | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ |
| 3.2 | Production of report key findings | UN Women | External expert group | 0% | 2/1/21 | 2/28/21 | 28 | | | | ███ | | |
| 3.3 | Data visualizations developed and published on the Women Count Data Hub | UN Women Women Count team | UN Women Comms | 0% | 2/1/21 | 4/30/21 | 89 | | | | ███ | ███ | ███ |
| 3.4 | Preparation and production of regional briefs to support UNSGs engagement strategy | UN Women | External expert group | 0% | 2/1/21 | 4/30/21 | 89 | | | | ███ | ███ | ███ |
| 3.5 | Outreach during key global events/campaigns on EVAW (16 days of activism, Generation Equality Forum, UNSG engagement campaign on | UN Women | BMGF | 0% | 11/21/20 | 4/30/21 | 161 | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ | ███ |

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What are the lessons learned to ensure a gender focus into rapid statistical responses to crises?

Moving into the prolonged crisis, what are the priority informal needs to assess sex-differentiated impacts of the pandemic?

# Cecilia Tinonin

**Gender Statistics Specialist**
**UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**
**cecilia.tinonin@unwomen.org**
**data.unwomen.org**