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

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

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

- 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

- 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

**Weaknesses**
- A rapid assessment is formative exercise, does not have the same high standards of scientific rigor.
- Representativeness of the population who uses phones

**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

**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
UN Women’s joint work on COVID-19: AP, ESA, ECA, WCA, LA, AS and HQ Research & Data

- **Timely response to gender data gaps**: 47 countries have completed an RGA.
- **What’s next?**: 45 countries are underway and planned, including on violence against women.
- **Data in action**: At least 7 countries are already using data to inform policy.

**Key figures**:
- 104,461 interviewed
- At least 6 countries gearing up for a second round
- Albania, Georgia, Jordan, Maldives, Pakistan, Philippines, Ukraine

**Findings summarized in 3 regional reports on gendered impacts of COVID-19**
WHOSE TIME TO CARE? UNPAID CARE WORK DURING COVID-19

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)

- At least one unpaid care work activity
- At least three unpaid care work activities


WHOSE TIME TO CARE? UNPAID DOMESTIC WORK DURING COVID-19

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:

- 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;

- 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
Additional data collection activities: Big Data and Digitalization

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)

EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON BUSINESSES LIKE YOURS

- 79% saw their revenue decrease since COVID-19
- 16% asked for a loan from a financial institution or from someone they know
- 15% asked friends/family to come help at work
- 12% changed the scope of the business
- 3.9% said digitization helped their business expand
- 4.1% said digitization helped their business survive
- 7.9% switched to cheaper input products (raw materials, ingredients)
- 6% fired staff or reduced their pay
- 1% moved the business to a different location

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

- Analysis of **on-line searches** on Google, Bing, Facebook, Instagram, etc. to understand if victims of violence are seeking help;
- **Geographical scope**: Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Singapore and Malaysia;
- Peaks of help seeking took place during the months immediately after the lockdown measures were stricter (in most countries April-May);
- 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);
- **Future plans** to expand similar analysis in some Pacific Island Countries
Other related activities: Assessing the impact of COVID19 on VAW

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)

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