WHY A RAPID GENDER ASSESSMENT?

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina introduced various restrictive measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a lockdown period between 21 March and 31 May. In response to the pandemic and the relatively limited data available, UN Women Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted a nationwide survey to assess the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on women’s and men’s lives and livelihoods. The data collection, which covered 1,407 respondents (18+ years), was conducted through web and computer-assisted telephone interviews between 7 and 15 May 2020.

The coronavirus outbreak will have major consequences for the wealth of women, including the depletion of their spending power. The biggest losses in income for women and men were those generated from remittances, family businesses and farming.

Men faced more limitations than women when trying to access food (32% vs. 27%) due to market closures and the reduced opening hours of stores.

Women and men were not equally hit by job losses and reductions in paid working hours:

- 8% of men lost their jobs compared to 13% of women
- 35% of the population faced a decrease in paid work hours, but they were still employed during the outbreak period.

Women and men anticipate difficulties paying essential outgoings if restrictive measures continue.

Self-employed men were the most affected by lockdown measures.
Every second person experienced some challenges in accessing medical supplies for personal protection.

Men faced greater difficulties in accessing hygiene products and medical supplies for personal protection.

Gender discrepancies became more evident as the number of reported unpaid domestic activities increased:
- 23% of women reported increased time spent on at least three unpaid domestic activities
- 16% of men reported increased time spent on at least three unpaid domestic activities

Respondents faced greater difficulties in accessing health services and personal protective equipment, which may negatively affect women’s and men’s future health.

As a result of school and day-care closures, women and men spent more time playing with and teaching children.

Women’s psychological and mental health was more affected.

Men experienced more challenges seeking health services.

Proportion of the population that experienced difficulties in accessing medical supplies and hygiene products

- **Hygiene and sanitary products**
  - Women: 14%
  - Men: 10%

- **Medical supplies for personal protection (masks, gloves, etc.)**
  - Women: 47%
  - Men: 45%