KOSOVO

The impact of COVID-19 on women’s and men’s lives and livelihoods

WHY A RAPID GENDER ASSESSMENT?

Kosovo introduced various restrictive measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a lockdown period between 12 March and 31 May. In response to the pandemic and the relatively limited data available, UN Women Kosovo with UNDP and UNFPA Kosovo 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 1,412 respondents (18+ years), was conducted through computer-assisted telephone interviews between 30 April and 9 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.

Women faced more limitations than men when trying to access food (53% vs. 46%) 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:

- 9% of men lost their jobs compared to 5% of women
- 62% 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:

- 49% of women and 48% of men anticipate difficulty paying for rent and utilities.
- 58% of women and 60% of men anticipate difficulty keeping up with basic expenses (food, hygiene products etc.).

Self-employed women and men were the most affected by lockdown measures:

- 59% of men as self-employed lost their jobs compared to 61% of women as employees.
- 69% of men as self-employed faced a decrease in paid work hours compared to 72% of women as self-employed.

The proportion of workers who reduced their working hours:

- Men as employees: 59%
- Women as employees: 61%
- Men as self-employed: 69%
- Women as self-employed: 72%
Every second person experienced some challenges in accessing medical supplies for personal protection. Women faced greater difficulties in accessing hygiene products and medical supplies for personal protection.

As women’s economic security was shaken, their share of unpaid care and domestic work increased:

- **67%** of women reported increased time spent on unpaid care work
- **71%** of women reported increased time spent on unpaid domestic work
- **58%** of men reported increased time spent on unpaid care work
- **59%** of men reported increased time spent on unpaid domestic work

Gender discrepancies became more evident as the number of reported unpaid domestic activities increased:

- **38%** of women reported increased time spent on at least three unpaid domestic activities
- **26%** 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.

Women’s psychological and mental health was more affected:

- **30%** of women experienced more challenges seeking health services
- **58%** of men experienced more challenges seeking health services

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

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<tr>
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<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
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<tr>
<td>HYGIENE AND SANITARY PRODUCTS</td>
<td><strong>58%</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
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<td>MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION (MASKS, GLOVES, ETC.)</td>
<td><strong>58%</strong></td>
<td><strong>35%</strong></td>
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