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

WHY A RAPID GENDER ASSESSMENT?

The Government of North Macedonia introduced various restrictive measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a lockdown period between 18 March and 31 May. In response to the pandemic and the relatively limited data available, UN Women North Macedonia, with support from governments of Sweden and Switzerland, 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 1,500 respondents (18+ years), was conducted through computer-assisted telephone interviews between 8 and 20 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 (30% vs. 20%) due to market closures and the reduced opening hours of stores.

Women and men were almost equally hit by job losses and reductions in paid working hours:

5.9% of women lost their jobs compared to 6% of men.

46% of the population faced a decrease in paid work hours, but they were still employed during the outbreak period.

33% 29%
33% 29%
45% 34%
15% 21%

REMITTANCES
INCOME FROM FAMILY BUSINESSES
INCOME FROM FARMING
INCOME FROM PAID WORK

WOMEN MEN

Paying for rent and utilities
Keeping up with basic expenses (food, hygiene products etc.)

More women than men anticipate difficulties paying essential outgoings if restrictive measures continue.

Self-employed men were the most affected by lockdown measures.
More women than men switched to home-based working

More women (35%) than men (23%) worked from home instead of their usual place of work during the outbreak.

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

- 32% of women reported increased time spent on unpaid care work
- 27% of men reported increased time spent on unpaid care work

- 53% of women reported increased time spent on unpaid domestic work
- 50% of men reported increased time spent on unpaid domestic work

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

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
- 21% 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.

- 21% of women reported increased time spent on unpaid care work
- 15% of men reported increased time spent on unpaid care work

Men experienced more challenges seeking health services.

- 20% of women reported increased time spent on unpaid domestic work
- 24% of men reported increased time spent on unpaid domestic work

34% of the population experienced some challenges in accessing medical supplies for personal protection.

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

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<th>Hygiene and Sanitary Products</th>
<th>Medical Supplies for Personal Protection</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WOMEN</strong></td>
<td><strong>MEN</strong></td>
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<td>7%</td>
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