THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA:
Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment
On the heels of the pandemic, the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia conducted a rapid gender assessment to effectively and accurately evaluate the gendered impacts of COVID-19. The survey, which was conducted between April and May 2020, reveals a troubling situation – in Central Asia, three out of every five women reported a higher risk of not being able to access health services. A decrease in the paid working hours of women was observed across all countries/territories\(^1\) ranging from 31 per cent in Georgia to 65 per cent in Kosovo\(^2\). Decreased earnings for women ranged from 15 per cent in North Macedonia to 52 per cent in Turkey. An alarming proportion of women (60 per cent) reported that it will be difficult to maintain basic expenses, such as rent and utilities, if restrictive measures continue.

\[^1\] This article refers to data on Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Turkey

\[^2\] All references to Kosovo on this website should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
OVER 15% OF WOMEN RESPONDENTS SAID THEY LOST THEIR JOBS, 40% FACED REDUCED PAID WORKING HOURS.

Share of women who had to reduce their working hours ranges from 31% in Georgia to 65% in Kosovo.

1 All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020
MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COVID-19

On average, 15% of the population mentioned that the information received was confusing or contradictory.

Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020
THE OUTBREAK HAS PARTICULARLY IMPACTED SELF-EMPLOYED WOMEN: 
25% LOST THEIR JOBS (COMPARED TO 21% OF SELF-EMPLOYED MEN), 
49% SAW REDUCED WORKING HOURS.

Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN'S AND MEN'S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020
Women and men are not equally impacted by decrease in working hours.

- Kyrgyzstan: Women 43%, Men 44%
- Kazakhstan: Women 40%, Men 37%
- Turkey: Women 46%, Men 57%
- Albania: Women 35%, Men 33%
- Kosovo¹: Women 65%, Men 64%
- North Macedonia: Women 46%, Men 47%
- BiH: Women 33%, Men 37%
- Republic of Moldova: Women 44%, Men 42%
- Georgia: Women 31%, Men 31%
- Azerbaijan: Women 49%, Men 36%

¹ All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT WAS WELL BELOW 10% IN ALL COUNTRIES, EXCLUDING KYRGYZSTAN AND TURKEY, WHERE IT WAS SLIGHTLY OVER 20%.

AROUND 1% OF RESPONDENTS IN KOSOVO1 AND NORTH MACEDONIA RECEIVE IN-KIND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT.

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Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN'S AND MEN'S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020
On average, **70% of women** spent more time on at least one unpaid **domestic work** chore, such as cleaning, cooking, laundry, which is significantly higher than for **men** (59%).

*Countries with the highest increase in time devoted to at least one unpaid domestic chore*

*Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN'S AND MEN'S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020*
Around 50% of women reported increased time spent on at least one care activity for children and/or elderly family members.

Countries with the highest share of women spending more time on care, but also the greatest gender gaps

1 All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020
NEARLY HALF OF WOMEN AND A QUARTER OF MEN ARE NOW WORKING FROM HOME.

In Kyrgyzstan, three-quarters of women work from home, while in North Macedonia, BiH and Turkey, the proportions are much lower, at 35%, 34% and 18% respectively.

Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020
**WOMEN’S PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH WAS MORE AFFECTED SINCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

Proportion of respondents who reported emotional stress since the spread of COVID-19

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*Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020*
60% of women reported difficulties in maintaining basic expenses, such as food supplies or paying for rent and utilities.

If restrictive measures continue, women in 7 OUT OF 10 countries/territories will have greater difficulties paying for basic expenses than men, particularly in Albania, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.

Source: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN’S AND MEN’S LIVES AND LIVELIHOODS IN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA: Preliminary Results from a Rapid Gender Assessment, UN Women 2020