
This report presents a snapshot of the gender dimensions of the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and captures promising practices for integrating gender in preparedness and response planning while proposing potential entry points to mitigate the socio-economic impacts for women and girls in the region. See the virtual conference introducing the report here.

Read the report ▶

HOW MEN CAN HELP SHIFT GENDER NORMS DURING COVID-19 CRISIS - #HEFORSHE

The COVID-19 pandemic is hitting women especially hard, as they face the triple burden of vulnerable occupations, additional domestic duties, and increased tensions within confined households. Men have a duty to help, and an opportunity to reset gender norms going forward. Op-Ed by our Regional Director, Mohammad Naciri.

Read the article ▶

REPORT: CONFLICTING IDENTITIES: THE NEXUS BETWEEN MASCULINITIES, FEMININITIES AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN ASIA

This publication includes expert analyses through case studies to highlight how unequal gender power structures fuel and shape violent extremism around the region. It emphasizes how structures of patriarchy and harmful performances of masculinity are deeply embedded in the modus operandi of violent extremist groups.

Read the report ▶
#MYCOVIDSTORY

ASIA PACIFIC

#MyCOVIDStory is an initiative by UN Women Asia-Pacific to showcase the stories of women on the front-lines of the COVID-19 response and those impacted by the crisis. In this editorial series, we provide a space for women to discuss the challenges they are facing, the work they are doing, and ultimately the solutions they are coming up with amidst the pandemic.

“AS A JOURNALIST, I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE PUBLIC AT ANY TIME, INCLUDING DURING THIS OUTBREAK.”

TIMOR-LESTE

Zevonia Vieira is the President of Timor-Leste Journalists Association and now reporting from the front line of COVID-19 outbreak every day. Read her story ▶

WOMEN MOBILIZE TO PREVENT COVID-19 IN CROWDED ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS

BANGLADESH

To prevent an added humanitarian crisis in the already-vulnerable Rohingya refugee camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, 24 Rohingya volunteers are working with UN Women to mobilize their communities and raise awareness on COVID-19. Read more ▶

“WE HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING UNLESS WE BECOME INFECTED WITH COVID-19”

THAILAND

Nicha Nitinavakarn is a police captain working in the Arrival Immigration Bureau at Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok, Thailand. She is one of the many women who are part of the essential workforce as four billion people around the world are under stay-home orders to curb the spread of COVID-19. Read the story ▶

THE COVID-19 CHALLENGES “ARE JUST TOO MANY TO MENTION”

PHILIPPINES

Pamela Grace P. Españól-Solano is one of nine female doctors volunteering at a COVID-19 facility in southern Philippines. Read the story ▶
“I WANT TO HUG MY DAUGHTER AND TAKE CARE OF MY PARENTS, BUT THIS SACRIFICE NEEDS TO BE MADE TO KEEP THEM AND OTHERS SAFE”

TIMOR-LESTE

Ana Paula Soares, 27, recently had to stop working as a domestic worker after the government declared a State of Emergency to deal with the COVID-19 crisis. Read her story ►

“I’M HOPING THAT THINGS WILL GET BETTER SO I CAN HAVE MY JOB BACK.”

TIMOR-LESTE

““I AM NOW MORE LIKELY TO FACE HEALTH RISKS, BUT I HAVE NO CHOICE”

THAILAND

Parinya Sirirattanapanya works as a food delivery motorbike driver. As millions of women who work as daily wage earners, small business owners and in the informal economy, she doesn’t have the safety nets to allow her to stay home and not work. Read the story ►

RURAL WOMEN FARMERS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 IN CHINA

CHINA

In January 2020, the COVID-19 epidemic began spreading across China. Of the 42,600 medical workers dispatched to the hardest-hit Hubei Province, as of early March, two-thirds (28,000) were women, who have been dubbed “roses in the battlefield”. Read the story ►

VOICES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF COVID-19

THAILAND

Natawan Pintho, 29, is an immigration officer at the international airport in Bangkok, Thailand. She is one of many women working while the rest of the country stays at home. Read her story ►

“I WANT TO HUG MY DAUGHTER AND TAKE CARE OF MY PARENTS, BUT THIS SACRIFICE NEEDS TO BE MADE TO KEEP THEM AND OTHERS SAFE”

NEPAL

Dr. Runa Jha is the Chief Pathologist and Director at the National Public Health Laboratory in Nepal, the only one authorized to conduct COVID-19 testing. Jha, along with 67 team members, is playing a crucial role in the front-line response to COVID-19. Read the story ►
2020 VOL1 | NEWSLETTER

NEWS STORIES

#HEFORSHEATHOME CAMPAIGN

ASIA-PACIFIC

The #HeForSheAtHome campaign aims to highlight this unfair burden on women and encourage men to do their equal share. In sharing stories of positive male role models from all over the world, we hope to inspire many more men to do their fair share. Share your stories on social media and tag @HeForShe with the hashtag #HeForSheAtHome.

Read more ▶

“DURING THIS CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK ... NURSE-MIDWIVES HAVE HAD TO SACRIFICE IN THE HOSPITALS AROUND THE CLOCK”

THAILAND

Associate Professor Dr. Tassana Boontong is the President of the Thailand Nursing and Midwifery Council and Dean of Faculty of Nursing, HRH Chulabhorn College of Medical Sciences where she oversees the national training programme for nurse-midwives. Read her interview ▶

GREETING SAFELY IN TIMES OF COVID-19

ASIA-PACIFIC

An initiative by UN Women Asia-Pacific is promoting ‘safe greetings’ to avoid physical contact and slow the spread of COVID-19 in the region. Using social media messages and illustrations inspired by traditional hand gestures used across the region, the campaign “Greet like me” invites individuals to practice social distancing while embracing their local traditions. Read more ▶

“GIRLS, NOT OBJECTS” CAMPAIGN

THAILAND-KOREA

“Girls, Not Objects” is a youth-led campaign featuring talks and an online platform to combat cyberviolence against women and girls. Organized by UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Korea International Cooperation Agency, the campaign raises awareness of issues such as online harassment, cyberbullying and objectification facing women and girls globally. Read more ▶

CHINA CELEBRATES WOMEN IN THE COVID-19 RESPONSE

CHINA

UN Women together with different UN agencies in China conducted the digital campaign #AMessageToHer, aimed at recognizing the important role and contribution of female workers in the response to COVID-19 outbreak.

Read more ▶
LEADING COMPANIES IN INDIA CHART NEXT STEPS TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY GOALS

INDIA
Representatives of 25 companies in India discussed the next steps they can take to create more opportunities for women in private businesses, a main goal of UN Women’s work in Asia and the Pacific. Read more ▶

“THE FUTURE OF FASHION CAN BELONG TO EVERYONE”

ASIA
Ankiti Bose is the CEO of Zilingo, an online fashion retail business operating across Asia. In March, the company formally committed to the Women’s Empowerment Principles. Read her interview ▶

I AM GENERATION EQUALITY: LEE MI-KYUNG, OVERSEAS AID ADMINISTRATOR AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVIST

KOREA
Lee Mi-kyung is President of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). She served five terms as Member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea from 1996 to 2016 and was Standing Vice-Chairperson and Representative of Korea Women’s Association United from 1987 to 1996. Read the article ▶

YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY IN ASIA-PACIFIC

ASIA-PACIFIC
Six young changemakers working on different areas ranging from violence against women and climate change to indigenous women and LGBTI issues, came together in Bangkok to join the Asia-Pacific Commemoration of International Women’s Day (IWD), hosted by the United Nations. Read more ▶

STOCK EXCHANGES “RING THE BELL” TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY

ASIA
Timed with International Women’s Day, stock exchanges in the region joined the EU-UN Women regional programme ‘WeEmpowerAsia’ in ringing their trading bells to signal their commitment to women’s economic empowerment. Read more ▶
#IAMGENERATIONEQUALITY CHALLENGE

## ASIA

On occasion of International Women’s Day, UN Women Asia-Pacific organized a social media challenge to raise awareness and spark conversations on what it means to be #GenerationEquality. [Read more ▶]

## ASIA-EUROPE

amfori, a global business association for open and sustainable trade, recently signed the Women’s Empowerment Principles, developed to guide companies to create gender-equal workplaces. [Read more ▶]

## TIMORESE WOMEN’S HISTORY

## TIMOR-LESTE

Paired with the 20th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2020, this timeline offers a snapshot of a few among the many contributions that women have made in shaping Timor-Leste from 1974-2020. [Read more ▶]

## HEFORSHE CONCERT AND ONLINE CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN’S DAY

## CAMBODIA

Cambodia marked International Women’s Day with a Khmer pop music concert and a digital campaign inspired by the HeForShe global solidarity movement. [Read more ▶]

## #WOMEN2020 SUMMIT

## PHILIPPINES

In celebration of International Women’s Day, Spark Philippines and UN Women organized the #Women2020 Summit. [Read more ▶]
Cindy Sirinya Bishop is a Thai supermodel, actor, TV host and activist, who’s challenging social attitudes around sexual violence and the treatment of survivors. Read more ▶

INTerview with Cindy Sirinya Bishop, celebrity and activist

Thailand

Pranapda (Pam) Phornprapha, founder of the Dragonfly gender equality movement and one of the leading businesswomen of Thailand, discusses with UN Women how she decided to champion gender equality. Read more ▶

I am Generation Equality: Celina Jaitly, actor and activist

India

UN Women and partners in Myanmar launched the Generation Equality Dialogues, a civil society-centered series of intergenerational and intersectional talks bringing together Myanmar’s pioneers of gender equality. Read more ▶

Bangladesh launches first national action plan on women, peace and security

Bangladesh

Bangladesh launched a four-year action plan on women, peace and security, expected to expand women’s roles in peacekeeping, peacebuilding, disaster management, and preventing violent extremism. Read more ▶

Generation Equality Dialogues on Women’s Day

Myanmar

UN Women and partners in Myanmar launched the Generation Equality Dialogues, a civil society-centered series of intergenerational and intersectional talks bringing together Myanmar’s pioneers of gender equality. Read more ▶

Generation Equality Dialogues

A civil society-centered series of intergenerational and intersectional talks bringing Myanmar’s pioneers of gender equality with the diverse NextGen women’s rights activists
INTERVIEW WITH SUBINA SHRESTHA, JOURNALIST AND FILMMAKER

NEPAL

Subina Shrestha is an award-winning journalist and filmmaker from Nepal. She has steered major news coverage, often as the only international broadcast journalist on the scene; and told stories of people whose lives have been affected by natural and human-made disasters. Read more ▶

WOMEN’S RIGHTS IN THAILAND, AND MEN’S ROLE IN ADVANCING THEM

THAILAND

Zaak Garrett, 25, a US student and gender activist currently based in Thailand, talks with Jaded Chouwilai, 57, the founder of Thailand’s Women and Men Progressive Movement Foundation. Read more ▶

JOURNALISTS LEARN ABOUT WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

VIETNAM

Two dozen Vietnamese journalists are now able to better report on how women can help prepare for and mitigate the effects of natural disasters, thanks to a training co-organized by UN Women. Read more ▶

NEW FILM SHOWCASES HOW WOMEN STRUGGLE WITH CLIMATE CHANGE

FIJI

An award-winning documentary is showing how women struggle to overcome the disasters climate change can inflict on Fiji’s vulnerable islands. Read more ▶

INTERVIEW WITH ORAPIM PAKDEESONGKRAM, MILITARY INSTRUCTOR AND FORMER UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPER

THAILAND

Orapim Pakdeesongram is a squadron leader at the Peace Operations Center in Bangkok of the Royal Thai Armed Forces. She teaches officers who are preparing to be deployed on United Nations peacekeeping missions. Read more ▶
NEPAL SHOWS SOLID PROGRESS IN LEGISLATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN REPORT SAYS, BUT CULTURAL BARRIERS PERSIST

Nepal has reached several milestones in safeguarding the rights of women and girls, but they continue to face challenges in particular within the home, according to a recent report by the United Nations in Nepal. Read more ▶

STUDENT PHOTO EXHIBITION SHOWS THAT FEMALE ENTERTAINERS ARE ‘NOT OBJECTS’

Students from two leading universities in Bangkok created a photo exhibition called GİRLS, NOT OBJECTS to raise awareness about the harmful “objectification culture” in Thailand’s entertainment industry. Read more ▶

UN WOMEN TO SUPPORT PROVINCIAL INITIATIVES ON WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN BANGKA BELITUNG ISLANDS

The Provincial Government of Bangka Belitung Islands and UN Women will partner to support women’s entrepreneurship and women’s economic empowerment in Bangka Belitung Islands. Read more ▶

MEET KULSUMA BEGUM, A WOMEN’S RIGHTS ACTIVIST IN COX’S BAZAAR

Kulsuma Begum’s organization is one of 63 women-led civil society organizations receiving training from UN Women’s National Resilience Programme and EmPower. Read more ▶

WeEmpowerAsia BOOSTS WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Representatives of 35 leading women-owned startups from various industries gathered in Beijing to discuss the challenges of running small- and medium-sized firms as well as ways to collaborate with the EU-UN Women programme WeEmpowerAsia. Read more ▶

CHINA

INDONESIA
**FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE AND UN WOMEN PARTNER TO IMPROVE SERVICES TO SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE**

**SOLOMON ISLANDS**

The Solomon Islands’ Family Support Centre and UN Women Fiji Multi-Country Office launched a new initiative that will increase support services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. [Read more ➤](#)

**POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICERS CHALLENGE GENDER STEREOTYPES**

**PHILIPPINES**

A training programme for the Philippines security sector hosted by the UNODC and UN Women, with support by the Government of Canada, examined gender stereotypes and explored gender-responsive and survivor-centred approaches to crime investigation. [Read more ➤](#)

**SUPPORTING WOMEN SURVIVORS OF GBV TO OBTAIN SERVICES AND ACCESS JUSTICE**

**PAKISTAN**

UN Women in Pakistan is scaling up the response to gender-based violence by supporting women’s access to justice through capacity building of partners, provision of quality services to survivors and creation of safe spaces. [Read more ➤](#)

**OUTREACH SERVICES FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES IN TONGA**

**TONGA**

The islands of Ha’apai and Vava’u welcomed a pilot outreach programme delivering justice, and government services to these remote communities in Tonga. [Read more ➤](#)

**HIGH-LEVEL VISIT SHOWCASES THAI TOWN WORKING TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**THAILAND**

Since 2018, UN Women has been supporting a center for girls in Chiang Khong to empower women as key drivers in preventing human trafficking, exploitation and gender-based violence in at-risk communities. [Read more ➤](#)
“A WOMAN WITH A DEGREE IN LAW NOT ONLY EMPOWERS HERSELF BUT ALSO SOCIETY.”

NEPAL

Women’s rights champion Sapana Pradhan Malla has been instrumental in decriminalizing abortion, criminalizing marital rape, and securing women’s rights to inheritance and reproductive rights in Nepal. Read more ▶

INCLUSION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IMPERATIVE FOR WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

PAKISTAN

UN Women Pakistan hosted the dialogue Leaving No One Behind – Opportunities and Challenges for Promoting Women’s Economic Empowerment with focus on Women with Disabilities in Islamabad. Read more ▶

COVID-19 RESOURCES

GENDER ALERT ON COVID 19 | AFGHANISTAN

SUPPORTING SMES TO ENSURE THE ECONOMIC COVID-19 RECOVERY IS GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE

GENDER-SENSITIVE PRIVATE SECTOR RESPONSE TO COVID-19 FOR ACCELERATED AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

ADDRESSING THE EMERGING IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON MIGRANT WOMEN IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC FOR A GENDER-RESPONSIVE RECOVERY

WOMEN AS A FORCE FOR ACCELERATED AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY POST-COVID-19 IN ASIA-PACIFIC

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND IN COVID-19 PREVENTION, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY
UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. Operating in 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific region, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific focuses on ensuring gender equality and rights-based approach for ending violence against women, preventing violent extremism, women’s economic empowerment, gender in humanitarian action, and HIV/AIDS response that can unlock progress across the board.

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