

COVID-19 GLOBAL GENDER RESPONSE TRACKER

GLOBAL FACTSHEET

Version 3 (November 11, 2021)

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in over 246 million cases and 5 million deaths worldwide.¹ From decision-makers and doctors, to vaccine developers and care providers, women have been at the forefront of the COVID-19 response.

Despite their enormous contributions to mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis is threatening to erase decades of fragile progress for women and girls. COVID-19 has exacerbated economic crises, care deficits and the 'shadow pandemic' of gender-based violence, with disproportionate impacts on women.² Inequalities between groups of women based on race, disability, income, age and more have also been starkly apparent in both the spread and the impact of the virus.

Based on a unique database compiled by UNDP and UN Women, this factsheet provides an overview of the COVID-19 response of governments around the globe, with a focus on measures aimed at addressing threats to gender equality across three key dimensions: the surge in violence against women and girls, the unprecedented increase in unpaid care work, and the large-scale loss of jobs, incomes and livelihoods. It shows that while many governments have taken positive measures to support women and girls, the response remains insufficient and uneven overall – both across regions and dimensions.

BOX 1: COVID-19 GLOBAL GENDER RESPONSE TRACKER

Information in this factsheet is based on the [UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#), which monitors policy measures enacted by national governments worldwide to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, and highlights responses that are gender-sensitive. In addition to policy measures, the tracker also monitors women's leadership and participation in COVID-19 task forces. Co-created by the two agencies, the tracker is coordinated by UNDP, with substantive leadership and technical contributions from UN Women. It is a living database with countries and measures being regularly added and updated.³ Like all policy trackers, there may be gaps or biases due to a lack of available information, underreporting of measures being announced, overreporting of measures that have been suspended, or the lack of data on the gender components of existing measures. Overall, findings should be interpreted with caution. When considering the number of individual policy measures, it is important to note that countries with few or no COVID-19-related measures may have pre-existing gender-sensitive policies in place that help mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic. Measures also vary significantly in scope. This factsheet therefore also provides information on the content of the measures, which should be considered alongside the aggregate totals. No attempt is made to rank countries, but there is great potential for countries to learn from one another to improve their policy responses for women and girls. More information about the classification of policies, the definition of gender-sensitive measures and the data collection and analysis process can be found in the [methodological note](#).

¹ As of 9am CEST on 2 November 2021. [WHO Weekly Epidemiological Update](#).

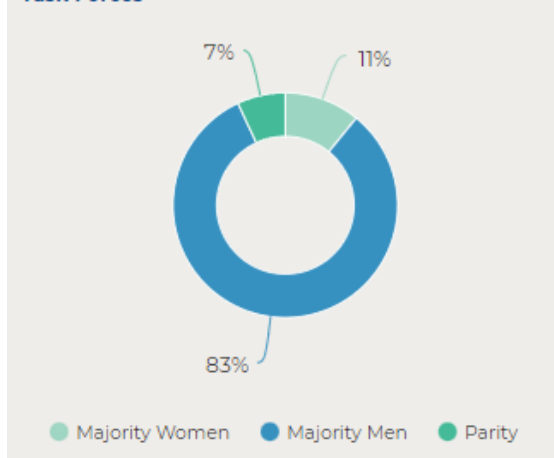
² UN Women. 2021. "[Beyond COVID-19: A Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice](#)"; UN Women. 2020. "[From insights to action: gender equality in the wake of COVID-19](#)"; UNDP. 2020. "[Gender Inequality and the COVID-19 Crisis: A Human Development Perspective](#)."

³ To provide information on national measures to be included in the UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker please contact covid.gender.helpdesk@undp.org.

I. COVID-19 response planning and decision-making: where are the women?

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe, governments rushed to create special governance and advisory mechanisms to help tackle a rapidly evolving health and socio-economic crisis in the midst of extreme uncertainty. To ensure an effective response under such circumstances, women's voices, needs and rights must be brought into pandemic response planning and decision-making. Their equal representation in COVID-19 task forces is a critical way to do so. Yet, while women have been at forefront of fighting the pandemic—as educators, health workers and unpaid care providers—they have been relegated to the backseat when it comes to pandemic decision-making.

Figure 1: Gender Composition of COVID-19 Task Forces



Data on women's representation and leadership in 431 COVID-19 task forces across 187 countries, produced by UNDP and UN Women in partnership with the Gender Inequality Research Lab (GIRL) at the University of Pittsburgh and UN Online Volunteers, shows that women are significantly underrepresented in COVID-19 task forces. Of the 262 task forces with membership data, women make up less than a quarter (24 per cent) of members and are not represented at all on 10 per cent of all task forces (26 out of 262). Globally, there is gender parity in only 7 per cent of task forces (17 out of 262); while the overwhelming majority of task forces (83 per cent) are majority men (see Figure 1).

Women lead COVID-19 task forces at even lower rates. Of the 414 task forces with leadership data across 184 countries, women lead only 18 per cent (76 of 414) of task forces across 57 countries.

Gender balance in task forces is exceedingly rare. Only 8 countries have task forces with gender parity in membership and a woman lead or co-lead: **Canada, Chile, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Saint Lucia, Switzerland and the United States.**

- **Saint Lucia** created two task forces to advise on economic recovery, both of which achieve gender parity in membership and have women co-leads. The *Economic Recovery Multi-Stakeholder Committee* brought together government, private sector, and civil society to develop a recovery plan to provide policy recommendations on economic growth, reaching vulnerable populations, and improving public health outcomes. This Committee was supervised by the *Economic Recovery Technical Planning Team*, which was also gender balanced.
- **Chile** created two task forces with a mandate to address women's economic security. The *Board of Economic Reactivation for Women*, which is gender balanced, promotes women's work and entrepreneurship in sectors impacted by COVID-19. The *Technical Working Group on Women and Construction*, with a woman co-lead, promotes the integration of women into the construction industry, a historically male-dominated field.

Women's exclusion from COVID-19 planning and decision-making leaves governments ill-equipped to respond effectively to the gendered social and economic fallout of the pandemic. For further details see the [Women's Participation and Leadership in COVID-19 Response Factsheet](#).

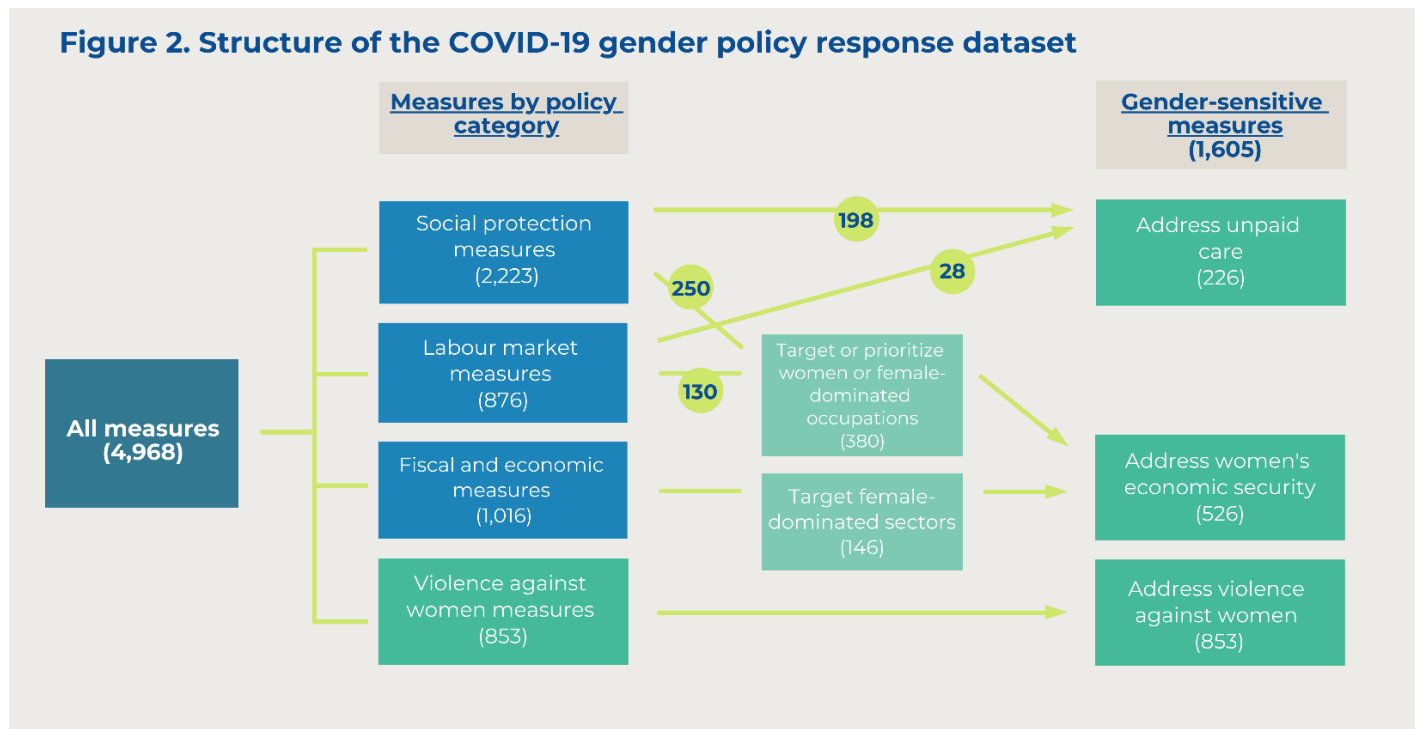
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II. Policy responses to the pandemic: how gender-sensitive are they?

The tracker consists of a total of 4,968 measures taken in response to COVID-19. These measures fall into four policy categories: social protection, labour markets, fiscal and economic policies and measures to address violence against women and girls (Figure 2). These measures were partly imported from other databases⁴ and partly collected by UNDP and UN Women, with support of UN Online Volunteers (see [methodological note](#)).

Figure 2. Structure of the COVID-19 gender policy response dataset



What is a gender-sensitive measure?

Gender-sensitive measures are a subset of all measures – those that seek to directly address the specific risks and challenges that women and girls face as a result of the pandemic:

- all violence against women measures are categorized as gender-sensitive by default;
- social protection and labour market measures are defined as gender-sensitive if they target women's economic security or address unpaid care;

⁴ Primary databases consulted include: *Gentilini, Ugo; Almenfi, Mohamed; Orton, Ian; Dale, Pamela. 2020. "Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19." World Bank; "Tracker of Subsidies and State Aid to Mitigate COVID-19 Effects." World Bank. May 2021; "Yale Program on Financial Stability, COVID-19 Financial Response Tracker. June 2021."* See methodological note for full list of sources.

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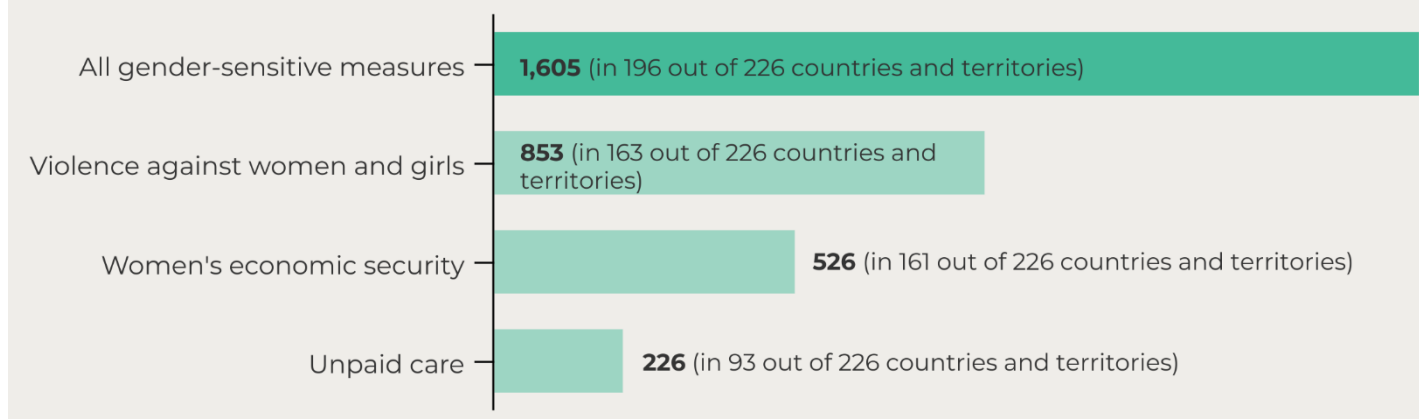
- fiscal and economic measures are defined as gender-sensitive if they provide support to female-dominated sectors of the economy, on the assumption that this is likely to protect women's employment and thereby their economic security.⁵

The assessment is conducted based on the available information about policy design. An assessment of the implementation or gender impact of these measures is not included.

The global picture

At the global level, the tracker records 226 countries and territories that have taken 4,968 measures in response to COVID-19. Of these, 1,605 measures across 196 countries and territories have been identified as gender-sensitive (Figure 3). Most of these measures (853 in 163 countries) focus on stepping up action to address violence against women and girls (VAWG). Measures to strengthen women's economic security (526) and address unpaid care work (226) are much fewer in number.

Figure 3. Number of gender-sensitive measures by dimension



Almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of all gender-sensitive measures for which data on start dates is available⁶ were adopted between March and May 2020 (Figure 4) with an average of 249 measures per month over this three-month period. Fewer gender-sensitive measures were adopted during subsequent months. The period between August 2020 and July 2021 registered an average of only 23 gender-sensitive measures per month. By July 2021, a little over half (55 per cent) of

⁵ Given the different data collection and analysis processes used for identifying violence against women measures, on the one hand, and women's economic security and unpaid care measures, on the other, the three areas are not strictly comparable. While women's economic security and unpaid care measures have been located within a broader universe of social protection, labour market, fiscal and economic measures, violence against women measures have no such point of reference.

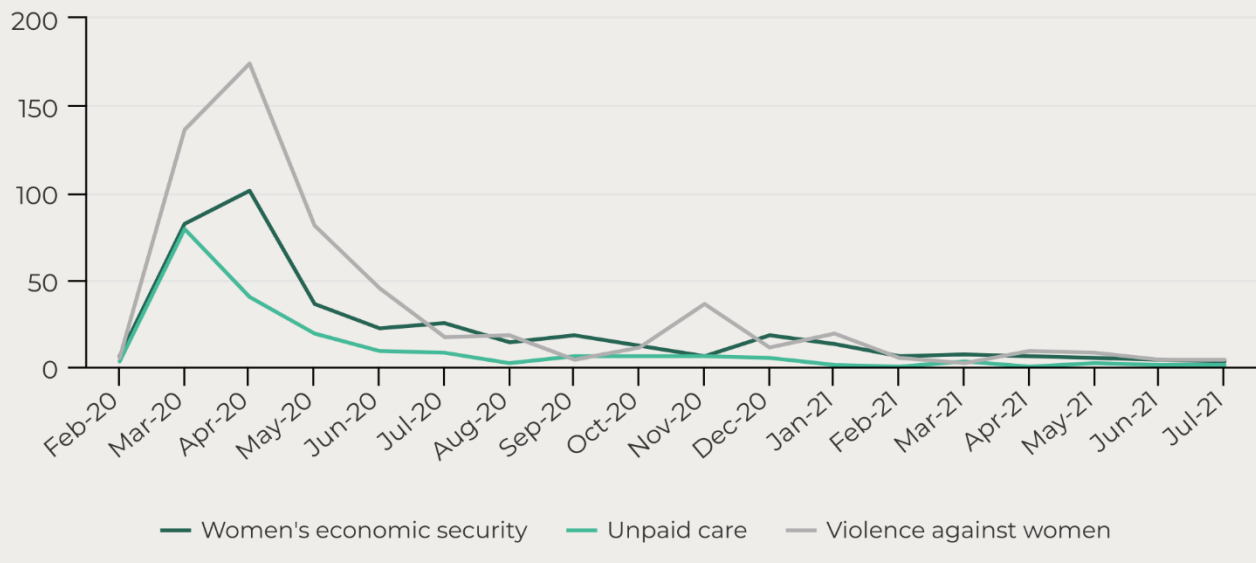
⁶ Out of the total 1,605 gender-sensitive measures, 83% had status data available.

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gender-sensitive measures with data on status⁷ remained ongoing, 41 per cent had been discontinued, and 4 per cent remained at the “planned” stage.⁸

Figure 4. Number of new gender-sensitive measures adopted each month, February 2020 - July 2021



Measures that target women’s economic security and address unpaid care continue to make up only a fraction of the total social protection and labour market response, on the one hand, and the fiscal/economic response, on the other:

- In total, 221 countries and territories have adopted 3,099 social protection and labour market measures in response to COVID-19. However, only 19.6 per cent of these measures (606) are gender-sensitive in that they target women’s economic security or address unpaid care (Figure 5).⁹
- Similarly, 166 countries and territories have adopted 1016 fiscal and economic measures to help businesses weather the crisis, but only 14.4 per cent of these measures (146) aim to strengthen women’s economic security by channelling resources to female-dominated sectors (Figure 5).

⁷ Out of the total 1,577 measures that were announced between February 2020 and July 2021, 74% had information on start dates available.

⁸ A measure is categorized as ‘ongoing’ if there is information on actual rollout and no evidence of discontinuation; a measure is categorized as ‘planned’ if it was announced, but no evidence was on it having moved to implementation stage.

⁹ The share of gender-sensitive social protection and labour market measures in this third update (19.5%) is significantly lower than in the March 2021 update (23%). However, these numbers are not strictly comparable and are therefore not necessarily indicative of a change over time. The drop between March 2021 and November 2021 is in part driven by a significant increase in the total number of labour market measures in the sample imported from the May 2021 update of the World Bank living paper, “*Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19*.” Most of these measures were not gender-sensitive and had been adopted before our last update. The drop in the proportion of gender-sensitive measures hence reflects changes in the composition of the total measure sample. Future updates will provide more detailed trends analyses using measure start dates rather than rounds of updates as a more accurate indicator of change over time.

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Figure 5. Proportion of gender-sensitive measures out of total social protection and labour market response

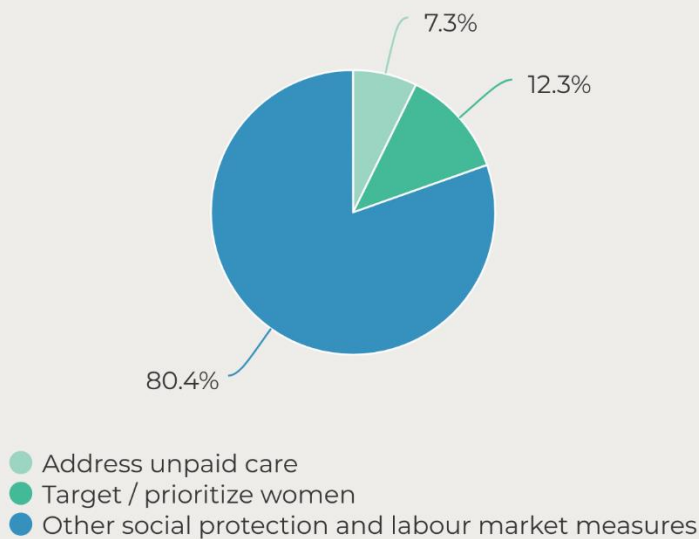
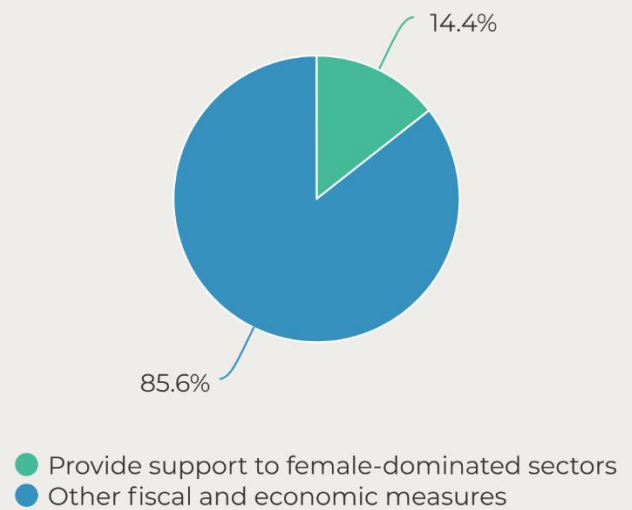
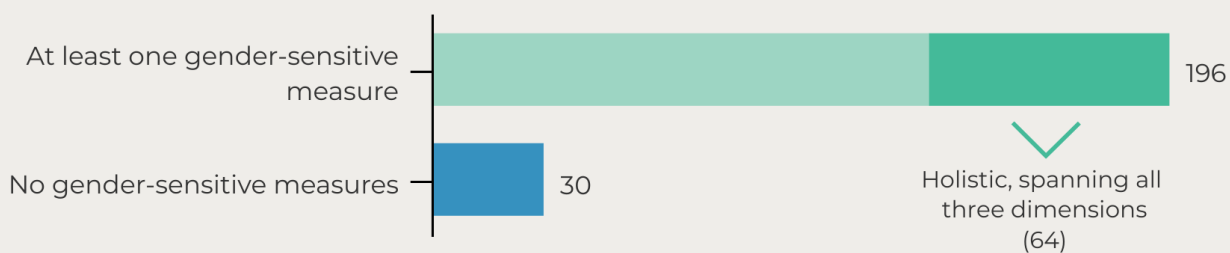


Figure 6. Proportion of gender-sensitive measures out of total fiscal and economic response



Only 64 countries (28 per cent of those analysed), register a holistic response, with measures that span all three dimensions (see Figure 6 and Annex I). On the other hand, roughly one-eighth of countries and territories analysed (30 out of 226) register no gender-sensitive measures in response to COVID-19 at all.

Figure 7. Number of countries by scope of gender response



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How are different regions doing?

The gender response to the COVID-19 crisis varies widely across countries and regions, signalling differences in political commitment as well as fiscal and administrative capacity. While Europe, Northern America, Australia and New Zealand are leading the response on violence against women and girls (VAWG) and unpaid care – accounting for a third of all VAWG measures and almost two thirds of all unpaid care measures globally – Latin America and the Caribbean has the largest number of measures aimed at strengthening women’s economic security, followed by sub-Saharan Africa (see Table 1).

Table 1. Number of gender-sensitive measures, by type and region

	Violence against women	Women's economic security	Unpaid care	Gender-sensitive measures
Central and Southern Asia (14 out of 14 countries and territories)	95	33	7	135
Eastern Asia, South-Eastern Asia and Oceania (30 out of 36 countries and territories)	107	60	21	188
Europe, Northern America, Australia and New Zealand (50 out of 56 countries and territories)	279	76	139	494
Latin America and the Caribbean (38 out of 46 countries and territories)	214	167	33	414
Northern Africa and Western Asia (21 out of 24 countries and territories)	68	69	16	153
Sub-Saharan Africa (43 out of 50 countries and territories)	90	121	10	221
TOTAL (196 out of 226 countries and territories)	853	526	226	1,605

Which gender policies are governments prioritizing?

Violence against women and girls (VAWG)

More than half (53 per cent) of all gender-sensitive measures (853 measures in 163 countries) focus on preventing and/or responding to violence against women and girls – a heartening response to the [UN Secretary-General’s call to action](#) for Member States to counter the ‘horrifying surge’ in reports of violence against women and girls in the midst of the pandemic.

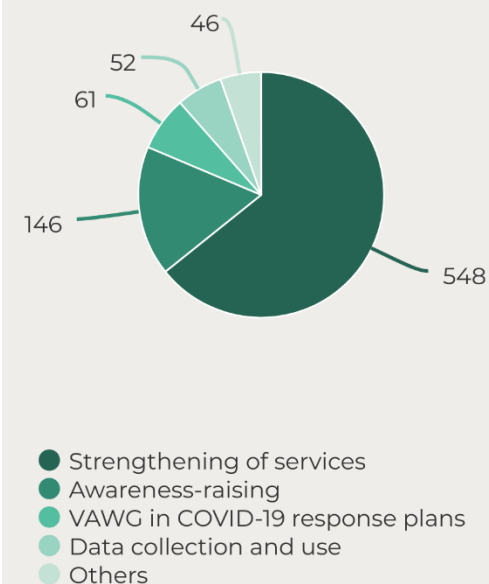
Of all VAWG measures, 64 per cent (548 in 150 countries) aim to strengthen services for survivors (see Figure 8). These measures focus on police and judicial responses to address impunity (149 measures in 89 countries), helplines and other reporting mechanisms (148 measures in 102 countries), ensuring that services remain coordinated and accessible throughout the pandemic (94 measures in 69 countries) and the continued functioning and expansion of shelters (86 measures in 73 countries) (see Figure 9).

- While existing hotlines were strengthened across the world, with additional resources and longer operating hours, the pandemic also presented the opportunity for countries such as **Angola, Cambodia, Ghana** and **Sudan** to launch new national toll free numbers for survivors.
- Many governments also established ad-hoc reporting mechanisms in partnership with pharmacists through specific alert codes (e.g. **the Plurinational State of Bolivia, France, India, Kazakhstan, Spain**).
- Most countries, including **Albania, Brazil** and **Mexico**, mobilized the judicial system to ensure that VAW cases were listed as priority cases even when Courts were functioning at reduced capacity, protection orders were automatically extended and their request and issuance were.

Measures to raise awareness about the increased risks of VAWG during the pandemic and how to seek help were also taken across 104 countries (146 measures in total). However, just one-fifth of countries report measures to collect, analyse and use data to inform policies to counter VAWG in the current context (52 measures across 45 countries). Further, very few measures have been identified that address online violence (which has increased during the pandemic),¹⁰ or that target or consult groups of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.¹¹ Notable exceptions include:

- **Indonesia**, with the support of UN Women, developed a protocol to protect women migrant workers during the pandemic, addressing trafficking, gender-based violence, data collection and participation in COVID-19 response planning and decision-making.

Figure 8. Number of violence against women measures, by type



¹⁰ UN Women. 2020. “[Brief: Online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19.](#)” April.

¹¹ These are identified under the “others” VAWG measure type in the tracker.

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- **Pakistan**, improved a national cyberviolence helpline with innovative features such as a silent panic button and text message options for online support during the COVID-19 crisis.
- In **Paraguay**, the Ministry of Women organized dialogues with Indigenous communities to raise awareness about available VAWG services and where to go to request support and/or file complaints.
- The **United Kingdom** has provided Refuge, a domestic abuse NGO, with GBP250,000 to provide nationwide specialist support to survivors of technologically facilitated abuse.

Roughly one third of countries with available data (52 out of 163) have integrated VAWG into COVID-19 response planning, with 61 measures recorded and few of those adequately funded. Some countries have also begun to address VAWG as part of their longer-term recovery plans:

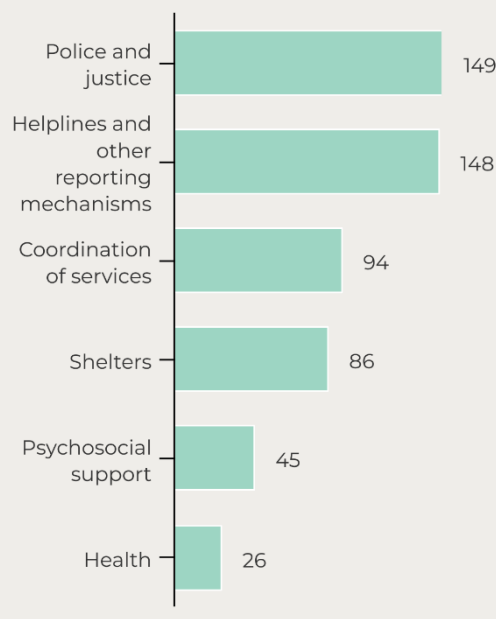
- **Armenia, Australia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ireland, Latvia, Nepal, New Zealand, Tonga, and Ukraine** increased or prioritized budgets for state or civil society actions to prevent and respond to VAWG.
- **Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Mauritius, Serbia, and Ukraine** adopted long-term strategies to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

In other countries, new legislative commitments have come out of long-standing mobilizations that gained additional traction with the surge in VAWG reports during the pandemic.

- In **Lebanon**, for example, the parliament approved new amendments to the Domestic Violence Bill following feminist advocacy to address increasing domestic violence as a result of the country's economic crisis and COVID-19 lockdown measures. **North Macedonia** and **Ukraine** have also taken steps to strengthen legal frameworks.
- The alarming rise in reported rape cases and other forms of sexual violence prompted **Liberia** to declare a National Emergency, and led to national investigations in **Bangladesh** and **Kenya**.

Several countries (**Armenia, Australia, Chile, Colombia, Ireland, Malta and Romania**) have also provided social protection and economic support that target survivors of gender-based violence.

Figure 9. Number of measures to strengthen services, by measure sub-type



150
COUNTRIES

have adopted measures to **strengthen services** for women survivors of violence

52
COUNTRIES

have integrated **VAWG measures as essential in COVID-19 response plans**

45
COUNTRIES

have **measures to collect, analyse and use data** on VAWG in the context of the pandemic

Women's economic security

Out of the 4,115 fiscal and economic, social protection and labour market measures registered for over 200 countries and territories, only 526 measures across 161 countries and territories address women's economic security. This amounts to just 13 per cent of the total fiscal, economic, social protection and jobs response. Close to half of the measures addressing women's economic security fall into the **social protection** category (250 measures in 115 countries). The main social protection programmes that governments have used to strengthen women's economic security in the context of COVID-19 are cash transfers (107 measures in 76 countries) and food assistance or other forms of in-kind support (46 measures in 36 countries) that prioritize women as the main recipients. For example:

- **Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Kenya, Mozambique, and Togo** launched new cash transfer programmes targeting informal workers that gave priority or provided extra benefits for women. In **Brazil**, Congress approved an emergency cash transfer in March 2020 which provided monthly benefits to 65.9 million informal workers over a nine-month period. Women heads of households received double the benefit.
- **Pakistan** has used digital technology to rapidly roll out the 'Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme', reaching 14 million families in need of livelihood support. Some 4.5 million existing female beneficiaries had received top-up benefits for a duration of four months in 2020. In May 2021, it was announced that 4 million new beneficiaries will be added as part of the second phase of the programme.
- **Liberia** has repositioned its National Food Assistance Agency (NFAA) to provide food support to vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and lactating mothers. To enhance the sustainability of feeding programmes, the NFAA will work with local farmers, processors and international partners, expanding access to markets and purchasing excess produce to be processed and stored for distribution to schools and other institutions in case of needs or emergency.

Figure 10. Number of measures that address women's economic security, by policy category



Labour market measures account for 25 per cent of measures that address women's economic security (130 measures across 74 countries), spanning wage subsidies and training as well as measures that support entrepreneurs, informal workers and the self-employed and specifically target women among these groups. For example:

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- **Bolivia, Costa Rica and Ecuador** used public information campaigns to protect the rights of domestic workers. **Chile** promulgated a law which led to the inclusion of domestic workers to the national unemployment insurance system while **Spain** introduced special benefits for domestic workers registered with the social security system.
- **Cabo Verde, Colombia, Egypt** and **Mexico** have developed training programmes for women in digital entrepreneurship, e-marketing and e-commerce, as well as financial skills so that they can continue selling their products online during lockdowns and be better equipped to benefit from the re-opening of economic activities.
- **Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Morocco, Senegal, Syrian Arab Republic** and the **United States of America** have launched programmes aimed at supporting women entrepreneurs, informal traders and cooperatives with cash transfers, grants, subsidized credits and/or digital platforms to market local products.
- **Algeria, Azerbaijan and Malaysia** introduced wage top-ups for health workers. The proportion of women in the health care sector in these countries is substantial (above 60%).

The remaining 28 per cent of women's economic security measures (146 across 86 countries) fall into the category of **fiscal and economic support** to female-dominated sectors – that is, sectors that account for a higher proportion of women's employment compared to men's. Overall, these measures make up 14.4 per cent of the total fiscal and economic response globally (see Figure 6 above).

- For example, **Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Latvia** have provided fiscal support to the tourism sector – which employs a higher share of women than men – through public sector loans and subsidies.

As countries turn to economic recovery, there is an urgent need to ramp up labour market and fiscal measures that support women's (re)entry into the workforce. Available evidence suggests that women's employment has been hit harder than men's and that a large number of women are dropping out of the labour force altogether, with working mothers facing the sharpest drop in labour force participation.¹² Promising labor market activation measures include:

- The introduction of hiring subsidies in **Argentina, Colombia** and **Chile** that provide higher benefits for the employment of women. Chile provides companies with a 6-months subsidy for rehiring workers on suspended contracts and hiring new personnel with higher benefits for women, young people and persons with disabilities.
- The delivery of trainings and informative sessions, including on government support to female entrepreneurs in **Kazakhstan** and on skills development of women in the management of their enterprises in **Peru**.

115
COUNTRIES

have **social protection measures** that target or prioritize women

85
COUNTRIES

have **fiscal measures** that channel resources to female-dominated sectors

74
COUNTRIES

have **labour market measures** that target or prioritize women

¹² <https://data.unwomen.org/features/fallout-covid-19-working-moms-are-being-squeezed-out-labour-force>

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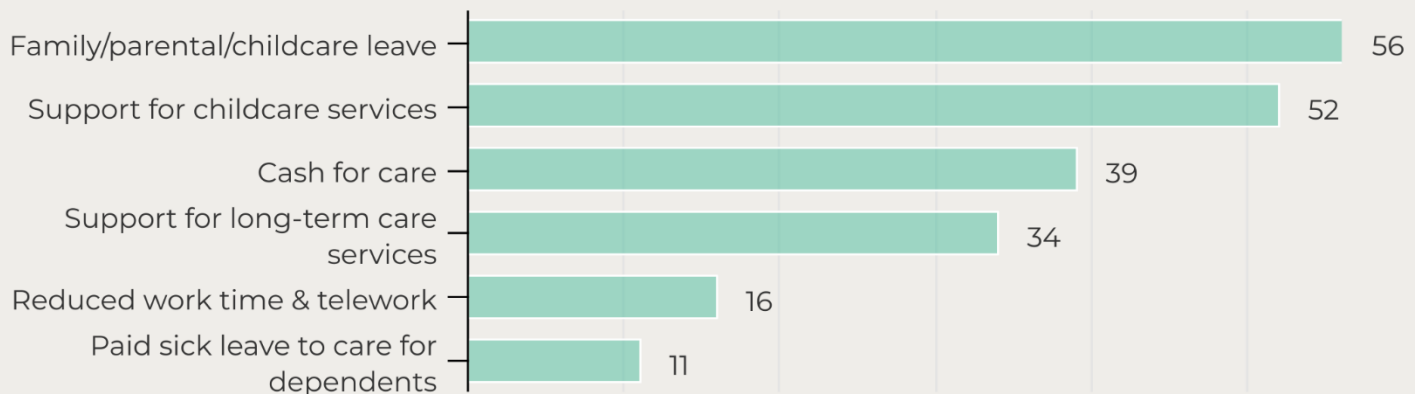
Unpaid care

Only 226 out of the total 3,099 social protection and labour market measures taken in response to COVID-19 directly address unpaid care, representing only 7.3 per cent of the total response (see Figure 5 above).

Social protection accounts for the bulk of these measures (198 in 89 countries). New or expanded family leave provisions that enable working parents to take time off paid work to care for children or sick family members are among the most common social insurance measures (56 measures across 45 countries), while “cash-for-care” programmes that compensate parents for school or daycare closures (39 measures across 32 countries) dominate social assistance. For example:

- **Austria, Canada, the Republic of Korea, Seychelles, Trinidad and Tobago** and **Uzbekistan** have set up new or extended existing paid parental leave schemes to allow workers time to care for dependant family members.
- Some countries like **Belgium, Canada, Hungary, Jordan and Malaysia** have provided parents with extra cash to compensate for childcare and school closures. **Chile** provides cash support (*Subsidio Protege*) to working mothers with children under two who have no access to employer-provided childcare services.

Figure 11. Most common measures in support of unpaid care



Of the measures aimed at supporting the continued functioning of care services and their adjustment to the pandemic context (86 measures across 54 countries), 52 are aimed at childcare services and 34 at long-term care for older persons or persons with disabilities.

- Some 28 countries have taken measures to make emergency childcare services available for essential workers during lockdowns. In **Estonia** local governments have kept a limited number of kindergartens open; **Guyana** launched a special programme to provide free childcare for essential workers through direct payments to facilities.

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- Some countries have adopted measures to help childcare providers weather the crisis. Childcare providers in **Bulgaria, Jordan** and **Seychelles**, for example, have been targeted with tax breaks or received economic support to cover operational costs. **South Africa** has launched an Early Childhood Development (ECD) Stimulus Relief Fund to sustain and create employment opportunities in the sector marked by high unemployment and job losses resulting from the pandemic.
- To support long-term care during the pandemic, **Austria, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde** and **Peru** have scaled up home visits and delivery of food and medicines to older persons and persons with disabilities. **Denmark** has provided additional funding to municipalities to organize activities aimed at preventing loneliness among the elderly.
- **Albania, Spain** and **State of Palestine** have provided financial and/or in-kind support to long-term care facilities, including personal protective equipment; **Serbia** has increased the salary of care workers in nursing homes.

Among the 28 **labour market** measures across 23 countries to address unpaid care, the most common ones include shorter or flexible work arrangements to help parents combine paid work and unpaid care responsibilities (16 measures across 12 countries) and additional wage subsidies for workers with care responsibilities (5 measures across 5 countries).

- **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mongolia** and **Spain** have allowed parents to reduce work hours for COVID-19-related family care, while **Cabo Verde, Italy, North Macedonia** and **Trinidad and Tobago** have enabled employees with care responsibilities to perform their work duties from home or remotely.
- **Cuba, Germany, Portugal** and **Slovenia** have set up wage subsidies for carers to cover, in part or in full, the salary of parents or those attending to sick family members during the pandemic. In **Slovenia**, income replacements are available for self-employed workers with childcare responsibilities.
- **Cayman Islands** relaunched its "Ready2Work" programme to equip former tourism sector employees, who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic, with additional skills needed for other industries. The programme offers paid internships and support services such as childcare, counselling and career coaching.

Overall, with just over 40 per cent of countries and territories (93 in total) taking action to support unpaid care, the response has been woefully inadequate to address the severe care crisis that COVID-19 has catalysed. A few countries, including **Argentina** and **Canada** are recognizing the potential of public investments in the care sector as a key lever for economic recovery with the potential to generate jobs, build human capital and support women's economic security (see Annex II).

45
COUNTRIES

have strengthened **family and paid sick leave provisions** for parents and other caregivers

41
COUNTRIES

have supported the continued functioning of **childcare services**

12
COUNTRIES

have introduced **shorter or flexible work arrangements** for workers with care responsibilities

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Annex I: Countries with measures that span all three dimensions with number of gender-sensitive measures, by type

Country/territory	Violence against women	Women's economic security	Unpaid care
Albania	9	3	1
Angola	2	4	1
Argentina	10	20	6
Armenia	5	4	1
Australia	13	5	6
Austria	11	1	2
Azerbaijan	4	3	1
Bahamas	1	2	1
Bahrain	2	5	1
Barbados	4	1	2
Belgium	13	1	7
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	13	3	2
Brazil	11	3	1
Bulgaria	4	3	5
Cabo Verde	4	3	2
Canada	6	3	11
Chile	10	16	4
China	2	5	2
Costa Rica	8	16	3
Cuba	3	3	2
Czechia	7	2	4
Egypt	9	10	2

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Annex I, cont'd: Countries with measures that span all three dimensions with number of gender-sensitive measures, by type

Country/territory	Violence against women	Women's economic security	Unpaid care
Estonia	3	1	2
Finland	4	1	3
France	9	2	5
Germany	6	3	4
Greece	10	3	2
Guyana	3	2	1
Iceland	8	2	2
India	11	7	3
Indonesia	8	4	1
Italy	6	1	4
Japan	2	6	3
Jordan	4	3	3
Kosovo	5	2	1
Kyrgyzstan	9	1	1
Latvia	4	3	4
Lithuania	6	3	2
Malaysia	4	6	1
Mexico	8	9	1
Mongolia	3	1	3
Montenegro	2	1	1
Netherlands	6	2	6

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Annex I, cont'd: Countries with measures that span all three dimensions with number of gender-sensitive measures, by type

Country/territory	Violence against women	Women's economic security	Unpaid care
New Zealand	6	1	3
North Macedonia	5	1	3
Peru	14	7	2
Poland	4	1	2
Romania	9	2	1
Russian Federation	2	6	2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1	1	1
Samoa	3	1	1
Serbia	6	3	4
Singapore	7	1	1
Slovenia	3	2	5
South Africa	7	5	4
Spain	9	3	6
State of Palestine	7	8	1
Switzerland	1	1	2
Trinidad and Tobago	7	1	2
Tunisia	7	3	1
Turkey	5	3	1
Ukraine	10	1	1
United States of America	7	7	6
Uzbekistan	8	5	3

Annex II: Countries in focus

Argentina

The tracker records 67 measures taken by Argentina in response to COVID-19, of which 36 have been defined as gender-sensitive. Of these, twenty target women's economic security, six address unpaid care work, and ten tackle violence against women. The high number of gender-sensitive measures makes Argentina's emergency response stand out in the region, in part reflecting the influence of feminists in key ministerial positions and a strong feminist movement. As of 4 November 2021, the country had recorded 116,010 confirmed deaths from COVID-19.¹³

A substantial number of measures address violence against women. Through resolution 15/2020, the National Ministry of Women, Genders and Diversity exempted women and LGBTIQ+ people from strict lockdown in cases where they need to report violence. Shelters were identified as essential services, and the Ministry worked with trade unions, the private sector and local governments to repurpose hotels to expand availability. In September 2020, the Ministry launched the *Acompañar* program which aims to strengthening the economic independence of women and LGBTIQ+ persons who experience gender-based violence through a combination of economic and psychosocial support.

A range of other social protection measures have been rolled out to support women's economic security: existing cash-transfer or in-kind support schemes were enhanced and complemented by new measures targeting those in precarious employment, offsetting a significant share of the poverty caused by the crisis.¹⁴ A new unconditional cash transfers (*Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia*) was provided in April, June and August 2020 to households of unemployed, informal and domestic workers, prioritizing women as recipients and reaching almost 9 million beneficiaries. New regulations established that domestic workers should be granted paid leave for the duration of lockdown, except those caring for older persons or essential workers. In September 2021, a new program, "Registradas", was established to further reduce labor informality in the sector and improve the working conditions of domestic workers. The program subsidizes between 30% and 50% of the wages of newly registered domestic workers who work at least 12 hours per week. The subsidy is effective for six months and its amount depends on the annual average income of the employer. Some of the country's labour market measures also gave priority to women and LGBTIQ+ people, including a one-off support fund for small businesses in the tourism sector.

To support women's unpaid care work, Argentina announced paid leave for all non-essential workers responsible for dependent children. Further, telework was regulated with a gender perspective, granting teleworkers the right to schedules compatible with their care responsibilities. Financial support was provided to long-term homes for people with disabilities. The government has also been leveraging the spotlight that COVID-19 put on women's care burdens to work towards a comprehensive set of federal care policies. An inter-ministerial committee has been set up for this purpose alongside local consultations with care providers, users and policy makers.

¹³ <https://covid19.who.int/table>

¹⁴ Lustig, N., V.M. Pabon, F. Sanz and S.D. Younger. 2020. 'The Impact of COVID-19 Lockdowns and Expanded Social Assistance on Inequality, Poverty and Mobility in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico'. *Center for Global Development Working Paper 556*.

<https://www.cgdev.org/publication/impact-covid-19-lockdowns-and-expanded-social-assistance-inequality-poverty-and-mobility>

COVID-19 GLOBAL GENDER RESPONSE TRACKER

GLOBAL FACTSHEET

Canada

The tracker records 76 measures taken by Canada in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, of which 20 are gender-sensitive. In line with regional trends, the most measures have been taken to address violence against women (6 measures) and support unpaid care work (11 measures), followed by measures to bolster women's economic security (3). As of 4 November 2021, Canada had recorded 29,056 deaths from COVID-19.¹⁵

At the beginning of the pandemic, the Government made available up to CAD 40 million (USD 32.4 million) to Women and Gender Equality Canada to address the immediate needs of shelters and sexual assault, as well as for a network of emergency shelters to support Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. Women and LGBTIQ+ persons experiencing violence were exempt from social distancing measures. To continue to address gender-based violence, as well as the structural and systemic barriers that limit access to justice for disadvantaged groups, the Government introduced a range of measures in its 2021 budget, including measures to end the national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, enhance access to legal support for racialized communities and advance the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence to support at-risk populations and survivors to ensure they have reliable and timeline access to protection and services.

To support women's economic security, the Canada Emergency Business Account (CEBA) has announced interest-free loans of up to CAD 40,000 (USD 32,000) for small businesses and not-for-profits, where women are often over-represented, to help cover their operating costs. The Government also provided a temporary one-time boost to the Canada Child Benefit of an extra CAD 300 (USD 240) per child in May 2020.

Canada has taken a wide array of emergency measures to support unpaid care work, from establishing childcare centres for essential workers to deploying members of the Canadian Armed Forces to support 54 long-term care facilities. In March 2020, an Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) was available for workers with caregiving responsibilities, accessible to both employees and the self-employed. In addition, the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit has provided CAD 500 (USD 400) per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for those with care responsibilities. In August 2020, the coverage of the Employment Insurance program was also expanded. As part of the program, beneficiaries receive a one-time credit of 480 insurable hours for special benefits, including maternity/parental leave and compassionate care.

Canada has also announced investments in the care economy as a key pillar of its economic recovery strategy, committing up to CAD 1.2 billion (USD 1 billion) for a Safe Long-term Care Fund, to help provinces and territories protect people in long-term care facilities and support infection prevention and control; CAD 420 million (USD 337 million) in 2021-22 for provinces and territories to support the attraction and retention of early childhood education and care workers; CAD 15 million (USD 12 million) to sustain the existing federal Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat; and CAD 75 million (USD 60 million) in 2021-22 to improve the quality and accessibility of Indigenous child care programmes, among other funding streams.

¹⁵ <https://covid19.who.int/region/amro/country/ca>

Cabo Verde

The tracker records 18 measures taken by Cabo Verde in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, of which nine are gender-sensitive. Three measures support women's economic security, and four address violence against women. Out of ten measures to address unpaid care work taken across Sub-Saharan Africa, two were taken by Cabo Verde. As of 4 November 2021, Cabo Verde had recorded 349 deaths from COVID-19.¹⁶

To address VAWG, the Government has run several campaigns to raise awareness about gender-based violence and how survivors can seek help during the pandemic. These include a television spot 'Bu ka sta bo so!' ('You are not alone'), produced by the Institute for Gender Equality and Equity and supported by UNFPA and UNDP, which was broadcast on prime time public and private television, as well as a campaign "Men Against Violence", in partnership with the National Football League. The Institute for Gender Equality and Equity created an SMS service and a specific email address for survivors of GBV to receive immediate support from specialists, in coordination with the National Police. The international campaign "Maskara 19" was adapted to the local context, providing survivors with a code to seek help for use in any pharmacy across the country. Furthermore, the Government reinforced the service provided by shelters on all islands to guarantee the protection of women survivors of GBV.

To support unpaid care work, a teleworking regime was implemented between March and June 2020 whereby parents could work from home to care for children under the age of three. Further, while day care centers for older and dependent persons were closed, home care measures for those who live alone were stepped up with the recruitment of social workers, caregivers and volunteers to guarantee assistance in liaison with services provided by Town Halls, Civil Protection and Health Services. This covers 712 older and dependent people, who were able to receive replacement home care services for the month of April.

In the context of national post-COVID 19 economic recovery plans, the Ministry of Finance launched an integrated programme to formalize informal economic activities up to 2023. The programme adopts a gender perspective in its analysis and integrates women's empowerment objectives, including through training in business development for women. The Government has launched State-backed lines of credit of USD 7.6 million to boost the liquidity of companies, including in tourism, catering, events and related sectors. In addition, the 2021 State Budget included a decrease in value-added tax for hotels and restaurants. Tourism-related services account for 11.9 per cent of women's employment compared to 5.4 per cent of men's in Cabo Verde.

¹⁶ <https://covid19.who.int/region/afro/country/cv>

COVID-19 GLOBAL GENDER RESPONSE TRACKER

GLOBAL FACTSHEET

Fiji

Fiji took 39 measures in response to COVID-19, of which 16 were gender-sensitive. Two of these gender-sensitive measures focus on women's economic security; the remaining 14 address violence faced by women and girls during the pandemic. No measures have been identified in the tracker that support unpaid care work in Fiji. This is in line with regional trends, where over two-thirds of gender-sensitive measures have taken in response to the upsurge of violence against women and girls. As of 4 November 2021, Fiji had recorded 674 deaths from COVID-19.¹⁷

In Fiji, the national COVID-19 response included the development of a GBV Working Group led by the Fiji Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, and this working group spearheaded a coordinated response to VAWG during the pandemic. The group advanced strategies on behalf of all frontline service providers, developed technical tools, and adapted referral pathways, trainings and communication materials for the public on how to get help. One such training was specifically for health-care workers in hospitals and clinics to identify and safely refer women and children who have experienced violence, and a further training and resource kit was established for helpline staff. The group also developed a referral pathway for women with disabilities.

Throughout the COVID-19 period, GBV services have been considered essential services, and both crisis centers and shelters have been supported to stay open and accessible. The Government provided funding for two national free domestic violence and child helplines (1560 and 1325) which were operational throughout the COVID-19 period, and worked in partnership with telecommunications companies to send text messages containing information on the hotlines to the general population. The Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation analysed data emerging from these helplines to look at reporting trends.

To improve access to justice during lockdowns, the GBV Working Group worked closely with Fiji Police and the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre to help explain how to get a domestic violence restraining order over the telephone. In addition, the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre vehicle has also been cleared by police to move around during the Government-imposed curfew, to transport survivors as required. The justice system has continued to treat violence against women and girls as emergency cases.

To raise awareness, the GBV Working Group has brought together individuals to speak out against GBV, ranging from the police commissioner to rugby players and faith leaders, as the basis for a national media campaign in three languages, which was aired in July, August and September. The Prime Minister also made a public address to condemn VAWG in the context of COVID-19.

To support women's economic security, Fiji introduced top-ups for beneficiaries of the Care and Protection allowance. Recognizing women's critical role in economic recovery, the Government also guaranteed to pay 75 percent of the principal outstanding on defaulted loans (up to a limit of \$75,000 per business) on all micro, small and medium business loans to women entrepreneurs, as well as loans to the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors.

¹⁷ <https://covid19.who.int/region/wpro/country/fj>