

RAPID GENDER ASSESSMENT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

TECHNICAL REPORT – ALBANIA SURVEY FIELDWORK

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021



1. Introduction

Prompted by strong concern that the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the risk of different forms of violence against women and girls, particularly intimate partner/domestic violence, and realizing the need to collect reliable data that are in line with methodological, safety and ethical standards, UN Women commissioned Ipsos to conduct a study on the impact of COVID-19 on women's well-being and safety in 13 countries across several regions all over the world. The participating countries were Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Thailand and Ukraine.

The **core objectives** of the study were to:

- collect data on the impacts of COVID-19 on violence against women in low- and middle-income countries.
- strengthen measurement and methodologies for violence against women data collection and use.
- strengthen available knowledge on all forms of violence against women and improve capacities to collect, analyse and use data on violence against women in accordance with globally agreed methodological, safety and ethical standards.
- inform where the policy and programmatic response of UN Women should focus and support UN system-wide efforts to scale up actions to address violence against women in the context of COVID-19.

The following groups contributed to the project's management and execution:

1. the UN Women project team, comprising statisticians, researchers and policy specialists;
2. the Technical Advisory Group – an external reference group established by UN Women to provide independent technical advice and expertise to the project
3. the Ipsos project team involved in the set-up and delivery of the study; and
4. national fieldwork partners.

| Methodology of the study | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Target group | Women aged 18 + |
| Timing | Two-phased approach: Phase I (four countries) took place May–June 2021; Phase II (nine countries) took place August–September 2021 |
| Data collection method | Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) |
| Sampling approach | Random probability sampling with monitoring of quota on age and region Random-digit dialling to mobile sample frames |
| Sample Size | 1,200 women aged 18+ per country |
| Questionnaire length and type | Target duration of max. 20 minutes No open-ended answers Informed consent asked to each participant at the beginning of the interview Awareness of safety, privacy and confidentiality of women respondents Guided by the “do no harm” principle applicable to the women respondents and the interviewers/research team The questionnaire was adapted in each country by localizing characters’ names and cultural references (i.e., popular food, music, sports). |
| Scripting | Central scripting in software applications - iField and Dimensions |
| Language | At least one main language per country |

The country chapters provide information on the set-up of the data collection process (obtaining of ethical clearance, sampling and translation), description of the fieldwork, main characteristics of the achieved sample by several indicators (age group, region, area type, educational attainment), technical information (interview duration, contact outcomes, screen-outs, temporary interview suspension at safety questions, survey dropouts, use of safety word, and item non-response), key field observations and relevant lessons and recommendations.

2. Country information

2.1 Albania

2.1.1. Obtaining ethical clearance

UN Women sought general support or tacit approval for the study from the Ministry of Social Protection of Albania. A ‘no objection’ was granted on 29 March 2021 in support of the project.

2.1.2 Sampling plan

A single-frame cell-phone random-digit dialling (RDD) survey design was used to reach a nationally representative sample of women aged 18+. The sample mirrored the telephone database distribution (frame size) by provider.¹ The gross (unscreened) sample included numbers for each of the providers in the country to the same proportions as in the frame size. In 2019, 92% of the population had a mobile subscription.²

- Of the 24,000,000 numbers available in the sample frame, 2,630,0763 (11%) were expected to be working numbers (based on cell subscriptions in 2019). The sample was pulsed, meaning that a signal was sent to the randomly generated phone numbers to verify if the numbers existed (i.e., if connection could be achieved). The upfront pulsing of the gross sample closely reflected the market shares of the different operators (in terms of subscriptions). The sample was also screened against business registers so as to exclude numbers that were used by companies. Further details on the sampling frame are provided in section 2.4.1 of the main technical report.

To ensure a representative sample, quotas were set on age (18–29, 30–39, 40–49, 50–59, 60+) and region (first-level administrative division), using the following statistical sources:

- Age: Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) Population on 1 January, by age groups and sex 2001–2021⁴ and UN Data, Population by age, sex and urban/rural residence (2019, female population 18+).⁵
- Region: Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), Population on 1 January, by prefectures and sex 2001–2021.⁶

¹ ALBtelecom (Eagle Mobile) 8,000,000; AMC (Telekom Albania) 8,000,000; Vodafone Albania 8,000,000.

² Calculations made using 2019 World Bank data.

³ World Bank Data. 2019. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.CEL.SETS?end=2019&locations=AL&start=2019>

⁴ INSTAT. 2021. Population data. http://databaza.instat.gov.al/pxweb/en/DST/START__DE/POP01/table/tableViewLayout2/?rxid=63431e2b-dcoc-4f7e-908e-46f973c156d3

⁵ UN Data. 2019. <http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>

⁶ INSTAT. 2021. Population data.

2.1.3 Translation

The questionnaire was translated into Albanian.

No issues related to equivalence (conceptual equivalence, semantic equivalence, etc.) were encountered during translation.

The questionnaire required localization for several items in the text of the questions and answers, including widely known, yet neutral in meaning, male and female names, which were used in the vignettes in the Safety Section of the survey. In Albania, the male name used was *Ilir* and the female, *Mira*.

2.1.4 Fieldwork period

Fieldwork took place between 18 August and 20 September 2021. The local team experienced a slower start during the first couple of weeks of the fieldwork, as this period coincided with the period of summer holidays in Albania during which most people take their summer vacation. This affected the response rate and the local team was not able to make good progress during these initial weeks. In the beginning of the fieldwork the team also experienced a higher than usual number of non-active numbers in the sample. The Ipsos Central Coordinating Team therefore asked the sample provider to re-examine the sample. The provider had discovered a temporary technical glitch in its system, which restricted the proper identification of all inactive numbers properly. This was promptly fixed and the sample provider prepared a new batch of contacts, which was shared with the local team in Albania, who continued their work without further such problems.

The local team sought to address the initially slow start to its fieldwork by training and adding four more interviewers to the project. This resulted in better progress in the beginning of September (albeit there was a pause of fieldwork on 5 September, which is a public holiday in Albania, Saint Teresa Sanctification Day). Nonetheless, the team's progress slowed down again during the last week of fieldwork, as was the case in several of the other countries, once they had mostly met their quotas for easier-to-reach groups, and their focus shifted more towards achieving interviews with harder-to-reach groups, including women in the 60+ age group. Therefore, after a careful review, and with official permission from the UN Women team, the Albanian field team supplemented the RDD sample with leads from a pre-existing contact database, compiled from previous surveys conducted in the country. The database consisted entirely of mobile phone numbers, and the selection of these numbers was performed at random across all age groups in order to match the original design of the study. This measure enabled the team to increase the number of interviews with women age 60+, and to complete the fieldwork.

2.1.5 Achieved sample

In total, 1,210 valid interviews were completed in Albania. For the most part, the distribution of the sample across age groups was in line with the targets, with the exception of the 60+ age group, where the number of the completed interviews was 5 percentage points below the set target.

Table 1: Achieved sample, by age group (Albania)

| Age group | Target | Target % | Completed (unweighted) | Completed % (unweighted) | Weighted % ⁷ | Difference unweighted % vs. target % | Difference weighted % vs. target % |
|-----------|--------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 18–29 | 285 | 24% | 298 | 25% | 24% | 1% | 0% |
| 30–39 | 194 | 16% | 215 | 18% | 16% | 2% | 0% |
| 40–49 | 176 | 15% | 190 | 16% | 15% | 1% | 0% |
| 50–59 | 208 | 17% | 230 | 19% | 17% | 2% | 0% |
| 60+ | 337 | 28% | 277 | 23% | 28% | -5% | 0% |

The regional targets were generally met, notwithstanding a small shortfall of 1 percentage point in the North and South regions.

Table 2: Achieved sample, by region (Albania)

| Region | Target | Target % | Completed (unweighted) | Completed % (unweighted) | Weighted % | Difference unweighted % vs. target % | Difference weighted % vs. target % |
|--------|--------|----------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| North | 329 | 27% | 315 | 26% | 27% | -1% | 0% |
| Centre | 507 | 42% | 544 | 45% | 42% | 3% | 0% |
| South | 363 | 30% | 351 | 29% | 30% | -1% | 0% |

The distribution across rural (33%) and urban (67%) areas (as self-reported by respondents) was relatively close to data from the World Bank that estimate a total rural population of 62%.⁸

Table 3: Achieved sample, by area type (Albania)

| Area | Completed (unweighted) | Completed % (unweighted) | Weighted % |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Urban | 810 | 66.9% | 66.1% |
| Rural | 400 | 33.1% | 33.9% |

Almost 3 in 10 respondents had completed primary school or had no formal education, while almost 4 in 10 had completed secondary school or attended technical or vocational training. More than 3 in 10 respondents had attended a tertiary education programme.

⁷ Weighting procedures are discussed in more detail in section 4.4.2 of the main technical report.

⁸ World Bank Data. 2020. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?end=2020&locations=AL&start=2018&year_high_desc=true

Table 4: Achieved sample, by educational attainment (Albania)

| Education level | Completed (unweighted) | Completed % (unweighted) | Weighted % |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| No formal education | 29 | 2.4% | 2.6% |
| Completed primary school | 311 | 25.7% | 26.0% |
| Completed secondary school | 363 | 30.0% | 30.1% |
| Technical & vocational training | 89 | 7.4% | 7.7% |
| Completed university/college | 402 | 33.2% | 32.3% |
| Completed post-graduate | 16 | 1.3% | 1.2% |
| Don't know | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Refused | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |

2.1.6 Quality control and data processing

Two interviews were removed from the sample in Albania because they did not meet the quality criteria in terms of length, straight-lining and/or item non-response. (Section 4.4 of the main technical report provides a detailed description of the implemented quality control procedures and how data were processed).

2.1.7 Technical information

The interview duration almost perfectly matched the envisaged length of 20 minutes, at 19.30 minutes on average (compared with a mean of 23 minutes across the nine countries in Phase II).

Table 5: Interview duration (Albania)

| Mean | Median | Standard deviation |
|-------|--------|--------------------|
| 19.30 | 18.00 | 5.73 |

The **response rate in Albania was 6.72%**, calculated by using the first American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) definition of response rate – that is, the number of complete interviews divided by the number of interviews (complete plus partial) plus the number of non-interviews (refusal and break-off plus non-contacts plus others) plus all cases of unknown eligibility (unknown if housing unit, plus unknown, other).⁹

The table below shows the incidence of each outcome code.

⁹ AAPOR. 2015. Standard Definitions. https://www.aapor.org/AAPOR_Main/media/MainSiteFiles/Standard-Definitions2015_8thEd.pdf

Table 6: Contact outcomes (Albania)

| Contact outcomes | Count | % of all outcomes |
|--|-------|-------------------|
| Fixed appointment | 251 | 1% |
| Soft appointment | 291 | 1% |
| Incomplete interview with call-back to resume later | 0 | 0% |
| Telephone answering device / voicemail / message service | 1,174 | 4% |
| Busy / engaged | 661 | 2% |
| No answer | 651 | 2% |
| Complete | 1,210 | 4% |
| Screen-out | 8,136 | 27% |
| Incomplete interview with no call-back (terminated) | 763 | 3% |
| Immediate refusal (before eligibility of respondent has been confirmed) | 8,816 | 29% |
| Refusal by eligible respondent (after eligibility of respondent has been confirmed, but before the actual interview started) | 1,681 | 6% |
| Respondent never available for appointment | 2,227 | 7% |
| Deceased respondent | 15 | 0% |
| Respondent physically or mentally unable / incompetent | 157 | 1% |
| Respondent or household language problem | 24 | 0% |
| Call blocking / barring / do not call list | 285 | 1% |
| Fax / data line / modem / pager | 3 | 0% |
| Non-working / disconnected / dead / bad number | 3,697 | 12% |
| Non-residential number (business, government office, other organization) | 80 | 0% |
| Technical issue / CATI system error | 6 | 0% |

The table below provides an overview of specific call outcomes (completed interview, partial interview, and refusals) by the time of the day (morning, afternoon, evening) and the day of the week. The figures should be interpreted with caution as they do not reflect the percentage out of all contact attempts performed during this time/on that day, but the split of these specific outcomes across the time of the day/day of the week. Feedback from the field team on the best time and the best day to obtain an interview is provided in section 2.1.8.

Table 7: Call outcome, by time of the day and day of the week (Albania)

| | | Completed interviews | | Partial interviews | | Refusals | |
|------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|----------|-----|
| | | Count | % | Count | % | Count | % |
| Sunday | Morning | 44 | 4% | 15 | 6% | 9 | 5% |
| | Afternoon | 57 | 5% | 11 | 5% | 9 | 5% |
| | Evening | 12 | 1% | 3 | 1% | 1 | 1% |
| Monday | Morning | 44 | 4% | 10 | 4% | 9 | 5% |
| | Afternoon | 92 | 8% | 14 | 6% | 26 | 13% |
| | Evening | 18 | 1% | 3 | 1% | 1 | 1% |
| Tuesday | Morning | 47 | 4% | 12 | 5% | 15 | 8% |
| | Afternoon | 117 | 10% | 30 | 13% | 22 | 11% |
| | Evening | 15 | 1% | 4 | 2% | 1 | 1% |
| Wednesday | Morning | 47 | 4% | 10 | 4% | 2 | 1% |
| | Afternoon | 121 | 10% | 14 | 6% | 17 | 9% |
| | Evening | 14 | 1% | 1 | 0% | 1 | 1% |
| Thursday | Morning | 80 | 7% | 11 | 5% | 8 | 4% |
| | Afternoon | 99 | 8% | 13 | 6% | 12 | 6% |
| | Evening | 19 | 2% | 6 | 3% | 1 | 1% |
| Friday | Morning | 64 | 5% | 4 | 2% | 14 | 7% |
| | Afternoon | 114 | 9% | 17 | 7% | 17 | 9% |
| | Evening | 22 | 2% | 7 | 3% | 2 | 1% |
| Saturday | Morning | 79 | 7% | 16 | 7% | 13 | 7% |
| | Afternoon | 91 | 8% | 34 | 14% | 16 | 8% |
| | Evening | 16 | 1% | 1 | 0% | 3 | 2% |

Forty-six per cent of the sample called were men and so screened out at the very beginning of the survey. Almost 2% of the respondents were screened out because they were younger than 18 years old, 7% because they did not want to participate, 0.3% because they did not understand fully the purpose of the survey, and 0.1% because they said they did not understand the confidentiality measures.

Table 8: Screen-outs (Albania)

| Question | Answer | Count | % of total answered |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------|
| S3 | Sex: Male | 2,285 | 46.1% |
| S4_1+S4_2 | Age: Below 18 years | 54 | 1.9% |
| S1 | Willing to participate: No | 199 | 8.5% |
| S6 | Understand purpose: No | 8 | 0.4% |
| S7 | Understand confidentiality: No | 3 | 0.2% |

The interview was temporarily discontinued in 93 cases because the respondent answered “no” to one of the four ‘safety’ questions (listed in Table 9 below). This number means that Albania had the second highest number of temporary interview suspensions among all 13 countries where the fieldwork was conducted, behind only Paraguay (126).

Table 9: Temporary interview suspension due to responses at safety questions (Albania)

| Question | Answer | Count | % of total answered |
|----------|--|-------|---------------------|
| S2 | Can you let me know if the speaker phone is off? No | 15 | 0.7% |
| S5 | Can you confirm if now is a good time? No | 66 | 3.5% |
| Bo1 | Can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of 2 that can overhear our conversation? No | 7 | 0.5% |
| C18 | Alternatively, if someone over the age of 2 is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no. No | 5 | 0.4% |

Overall, 236 respondents dropped out of the survey before completion the interview. The largest numbers of dropouts were at A01 (28), A12 (21), B02 (17) and C10 (13). The table below shows the questions at which the dropouts occurred. Questions not included in the table have an INR of 0%.

Table 10: Survey dropouts, by question (Albania)

| Question | Question text | No. of participants dropped out | % of total dropouts |
|----------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| S11 | Great. If you don't have any further questions we can proceed. Now we just need a bit more information about you. Would you consider the area you live in to be urban or rural? | 10 | 4.2% |
| A01 | What is your marital status? | 28 | 11.9% |
| A07_ASK | How many of the people living in your household are aged 0–17? | 8 | 3.4% |
| A08_ASK | How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over? | 2 | 0.8% |

| Question | Question text | No. of participants dropped out | % of total dropouts |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ao6 | How many people, including yourself, live in your household? | 5 | 2.1% |
| Ao2 | What is the highest level of education that you completed? | 7 | 3.0% |
| Ao3 | Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...? | 5 | 2.1% |
| Ao4 | In addition to this, do you do any activity that generates an income, even if only for a few hours a week? | 3 | 1.3% |
| Ao4_1 | Would you say that the money that you earn is... | 1 | 0.4% |
| Ao5 | Do you have difficulty doing any of the following – walking, seeing (even when wearing glasses), hearing (even with hearing assistance), remembering or concentrating, self-caring or communicating? | 5 | 2.1% |
| A11 | Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic? | 3 | 1.3% |
| A12 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... | 21 | 8.9% |
| Bo1 | Thank you for your responses so far. I am now going to ask you some questions related to your health. Before we begin this section, can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of 2 that can overhear our conversation? | 5 | 2.1% |
| Bo2 | I would now like to ask you some questions about your thoughts and feelings since the onset of the COVID-19 situation. How often have you been bothered by the following problems since the onset of the COVID-19 situation? Please answer with: not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day. | 17 | 7.2% |
| Bo4 | Overall, would you say your own mental or emotional health (e.g., stress, anxiety, confidence, etc.) has been affected AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION? | 10 | 4.2% |
| Co2 | To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live? | 11 | 4.7% |
| Co3 | To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live? | 2 | 0.8% |
| Co4 | How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19? | 8 | 3.4% |
| Co7 | To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live? | 3 | 1.3% |

| Question | Question text | No. of participants dropped out | % of total dropouts |
|----------|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| C08 | How, if at all, do you think physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women in the area where you live have changed SINCE COVID-19? | 2 | 0.8% |
| C10 | How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live? | 13 | 5.5% |
| C11 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Scripter: insert Female name] from this story? | 5 | 2.1% |
| C12 | Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation? | 4 | 1.7% |
| C13 | Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from? | 6 | 2.5% |
| C14 | How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live? | 4 | 1.7% |
| C15 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Scripter: insert Female name] from this story in terms of her feelings of safety? | 6 | 2.5% |
| C16 | Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation? | 2 | 0.8% |
| C17 | Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from? | 2 | 0.8% |
| C18 | Just to make sure, before we continue, can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of 2 that can overhear our conversation? If you are alone, please say yes. Alternatively, if someone over 2 is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, | 1 | 0.4% |
| C19 | When people live together in the same household, they usually share both good and bad moments. And it is normal for people who live together to have arguments. How often in the last six months would you say that adults in your household have argued or have had some | 7 | 3.0% |
| C20 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made conflict between adults in your household more frequent, less frequent or about the same? | 1 | 0.4% |
| C21 | In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home? | 1 | 0.4% |
| C22 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same in terms of how safe you feel in your home? | 2 | 0.8% |
| C23 | Why do you feel unsafe in your home? | 1 | 0.4% |

| Question | Question text | No. of participants dropped out | % of total dropouts |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| C24 | How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month? | 4 | 1.7% |
| C25 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has limited your interactions with your friends and social groups, such as seeing or speaking to them? | 3 | 1.3% |
| C28A_ | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD ONE] to [LOCAL FOOD TWO] 2. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN LOCAL MUSICIAN, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 3. I have been slapped or hit by my husband or partner BEFORE THE ONSET OF COVID-19 4. Women in my family enjoy watching [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. | 4 | 1.7% |
| C29A | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD ONE] to [LOCAL FOOD TWO] 2. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN LOCAL MUSICIAN, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 3. Women in my family enjoy watching [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 4. Don't know 5. Refused | 4 | 1.7% |
| C30 | Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask. | 7 | 3.0% |
| C31 | Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? | 3 | 1.3% |
| | Total | 236 | |

As previously explained and as part of the safety protocols, respondents were given a safe word, a specific popular local food (PLF), that they could use if they were disturbed by a third party or otherwise felt unsafe at any point during the interview. In Albania, the food used in the questionnaire was "Byrek". This word was used 59 times during the course of fieldwork. The table below shows the questions at which this occurred.

Table 11: Use of popular local food, per question (Albania)

| Question | Question text | PLF mentioned |
|----------|--|---------------|
| S11 | Great. If you don't have any further questions we can proceed. Now we just need a bit more information about you. Would you consider the area you live in to be urban or rural? | 2 |
| S6 | What region in [COUNTRY] do you live in? | 3 |
| S12_NEW | And do you own the phone you are speaking on? | 2 |
| Ao1 | What is your marital status? | 1 |
| Ao8_ASK | How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over? | 1 |
| Ao2 | What is the highest level of education that you completed? | 1 |
| Ao3 | Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...? | 2 |
| Ao4 | In addition to this, do you do any activity that generates an income, even if only for a few hours a week? | 1 |
| Ao4_1 | Would you say that the money that you earn is... | 2 |
| Ao5 | Do you have difficulty doing any of the following – walking, seeing (even when wearing glasses), hearing (even with hearing assistance), remembering or concentrating, self-caring or communicating? | 2 |
| A11 | Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic? | 1 |
| A12 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... | 1 |
| Bo2 | I would now like to ask you some questions about your thoughts and feelings since the onset of the COVID-19 situation. How often have you been bothered by the following problems since the onset of the COVID-19 situation? Please answer with: not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day. | 2 |
| Bo4 | Overall, would you say your own mental or emotional health (e.g., stress, anxiety, confidence, etc.) has been affected AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION? | 2 |
| Co2 | To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live? | 2 |
| Co3 | To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live? | 1 |
| Co4 | How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19? | 1 |
| Co7 | To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live? | 1 |
| Co8 | How, if at all, do you think physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women in the area where you live have changed SINCE COVID-19? | 2 |
| C10 | How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live? | 6 |

| Question | Question text | PLF mentioned |
|----------|--|---------------|
| C11 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Scripter: insert Female name] from this story? | 1 |
| C12 | Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation? | 3 |
| C13 | Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from? | 2 |
| C14 | How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live? | 1 |
| C19 | When people live together in the same household, they usually share both good and bad moments. And it is normal for people who live together to have arguments. How often in the last six months would you say that adults in your household have argued or have had some sort of conflict among themselves? | 4 |
| C21 | In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home? | 2 |
| C22 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same in terms of how safe you feel in your home? | 1 |
| C24 | How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month? | 1 |
| C25 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has limited your interactions with your friends and social groups, such as seeing or speaking to them? | 1 |
| C28A_ASK | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD ONE] to [LOCAL FOOD TWO] 2. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN LOCAL MUSICIAN, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 3. I have been slapped or hit by my husband or partner BEFORE THE ONSET OF COVID-19 4. Women in my family enjoy watching [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. | 3 |
| C28B_ASK | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. People in my family have played [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 2. I have been slapped or hit by my husband or partner AFTER THE ONSET OF COVID-19 3. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN TV SHOW, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 4. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD THREE] to [LOCAL FOOD FOUR] | 1 |
| C29B_ASK | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. People in my family have played [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 2. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN TV SHOW, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 3. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD THREE] to [LOCAL FOOD FOUR] 4. Don't know 5. Refused | 1 |
| C30 | Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask. | 2 |

| Question | Question text | PLF mentioned |
|----------|---------------|---------------|
| | Total | 59 |

In terms of item non-response (INR), this varied across the survey but was highest at A01 (19.10%). A high item non-response on this question was observed among many of the countries in Phase II of the survey – though not during Phase I (the average item non-response for all four Phase I countries at A01 was less than 5%). Other questions with high INR were C31_5 (18.10%), C31_1 (17.70%), C31_2 (16.30%), C31_6 (16.30%) and C31_4 (14.90%). This may reflect a lack of knowledge among respondents of services available for women in their communities.

Table 12: Item non-response (Albania)

| Question | Question text | Item non-response |
|----------|---|-------------------|
| A01 | What is your marital status? | 19.10% |
| A07 | How many of the people living in your household are aged 0–17? | 0.10% |
| A08 | How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over? | 0.10% |
| A03 | Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...? | 0.10% |
| A04_1 | Would you say that the money that you earn is... | 1.20% |
| A05 | Do you have difficulty doing any of the following – walking, seeing (even when wearing glasses), hearing (even with hearing assistance), remembering or concentrating, self-caring, or communicating? | 0.40% |
| A11 | Has your household’s income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic? | 0.40% |
| A12_1 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 1. were worried you would not have enough food to eat? | 0.20% |
| A12_2 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 2. were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food? | 0.50% |
| A12_3 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 3. ate only a few kinds of food? | 0.20% |
| A12_4 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 4. had to skip a meal? | 0.30% |
| A12_5 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 5. ate less than you thought you should? | 0.20% |
| A12_6 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 6. ran out of food? | 0.10% |

| | | |
|-------|--|--------|
| A12_7 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 7. were hungry but did not eat? | 0.20% |
| A12_8 | During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household... 8. went without eating for a whole day? | 0.20% |
| Bo2_1 | I would now like to ask you some questions about your thoughts and feelings since the onset of the COVID-19 situation. How often have you been bothered by the following problems since the onset of the COVID-19 situation? Please answer with: not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day. 1. Not being able to stop or control worrying | 0.30% |
| Bo2_2 | I would now like to ask you some questions about your thoughts and feelings since the onset of the COVID-19 situation. How often have you been bothered by the following problems since the onset of the COVID-19 situation? Please answer with: not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day. 2. Having little interest or pleasure in doing things | 1.10% |
| Bo2_3 | I would now like to ask you some questions about your thoughts and feelings since the onset of the COVID-19 situation. How often have you been bothered by the following problems since the onset of the COVID-19 situation? Please answer with: not at all, several days, more than half the days, or nearly every day. 3. Feeling down, depressed or hopeless | 0.50% |
| Bo4 | Overall, would you say your own mental or emotional health (e.g., stress, anxiety, confidence, etc.) has been affected AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 SITUATION? | 0.90% |
| Co2 | To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live? | 0.40% |
| Co3 | To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live? | 10.30% |
| Co4 | How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19? | 7.10% |
| Co7 | To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live? | 8.80% |
| Co8 | How, if at all, do you think physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women in the area where you live have changed SINCE COVID-19? | 14.30% |
| C10 | How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live? | 10.00% |
| C11 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Scripter: insert Female name] from this story? | 4.50% |
| C12 | Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation? | 6.90% |
| C13 | Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from? | 2.00% |
| C14 | How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live? | 7.20% |

| | | |
|--------|--|--------|
| C15 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Scripter: insert Female name] from this story in terms of her feelings of safety? | 10.10% |
| C16 | Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation? | 6.70% |
| C17 | Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from? | 2.40% |
| C19 | When people live together in the same household, they usually share both good and bad moments. And it is normal for people who live together to have arguments. How often in the last six months would you say that adults in your household have argued or have had some sort of conflict among themselves? | 1.50% |
| C20 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made conflict between adults in your household more frequent, less frequent or about the same? | 2.10% |
| C21 | In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home? | 0.60% |
| C22 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same in terms of how safe you feel in your home? | 1.90% |
| C23_1 | Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 1. I have a serious medical condition or disability and feel vulnerable | 0.10% |
| C23_3 | Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 3. I am unable to communicate/reach out for help | 0.10% |
| C23_11 | Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 11. Something else | 0.50% |
| C24 | How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month? | 0.50% |
| C25 | Would you say the situation of COVID-19 has limited your interactions with your friends and social groups, such as seeing or speaking to them? | 0.60% |
| C28A | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD ONE] to [LOCAL FOOD TWO] 2. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN LOCAL MUSICIAN, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 3. I have been slapped or hit by my husband or partner BEFORE THE ONSET OF COVID-19 4. Women in my family enjoy watching [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. | 3.10% |
| C28B | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. People in my family have played [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 2. I have been slapped or hit by my husband or partner AFTER THE ONSET OF COVID-19 3. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN TV SHOW, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 4. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD THREE] to [LOCAL FOOD FOUR] | 3.20% |
| C29A | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: | 2.90% |
| C29B | Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1. People in my family have played [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 2. I like [NAME OF WELL-KNOWN TV SHOW, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES] 3. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD THREE] to [LOCAL FOOD FOUR] 4. Don't know 5. Refused | 2.70% |

| | | |
|-------|--|--------|
| C30_1 | <p>Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask.</p> <p>1. Been slapped, hit, kicked, had things thrown at them, or other physical harm</p> | 2.60% |
| C30_2 | <p>Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask.</p> <p>2. Been yelled at, called names, humiliated</p> | 2.50% |
| C30_3 | <p>Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask.</p> <p>3. Had resources (like health care) or basic needs (like money, food, water, shelter) denied</p> | 3.10% |
| C30_4 | <p>Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask.</p> <p>4. Been forced to stay alone for long period of time or denied communication with other people</p> | 2.00% |
| C30_5 | <p>Now I'm going to ask you about some situations that you or any other women you know may have experienced. For each situation, please tell if you or any other women you know have experienced this only before the start of COVID-19, only since the start of COVID-19, both before and since the start of COVID-19, or not at all. Please listen carefully and just answer "yes" or "no" for each question I ask.</p> <p>5. Been the subject of inappropriate jokes, suggestive comments, leering, or unwelcome touch/kisses</p> | 3.50% |
| C31_1 | <p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>1. Information about security/crime prevention</p> | 17.70% |
| C31_2 | <p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>2. Access to basic needs such as shelter, food, clothing</p> | 16.30% |
| C31_3 | <p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>3. Medical support</p> | 8.50% |
| C31_4 | <p>Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?</p> <p>4. Someone to talk to like professional mental health experts</p> | 14.90% |

| | | |
|-------|---|--------|
| C31_5 | Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 5. Legal support or help in reporting the incident or dealing with police | 18.10% |
| C31_6 | Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 6. Financial support | 16.30% |
| S12 | And as a final question, I would like to know if you have another mobile phone number besides the one I am calling you on? IF YES: How many other mobile phone numbers do you have? | 1.10% |

2.1.8 Field observations

This section describes the observations made by the field managers and interviewers in the course of fieldwork. The observations relate to the most productive days for fieldwork; the main reasons for refusal to take part in the survey; respondent reactions to sensitive topics; challenges reaching certain age groups; and the clarity of terms, concepts and questions, among other topics. The observations effectively complement the fieldwork statistics included in the previous section, providing a more nuanced picture of the fieldwork experience.

- According to the field team, the best **day of the week** to reach respondents overall was Sunday. With an exception of only one week of the fieldwork period, Sunday was the most productive for reaching respondents, particularly people who worked full-time during the week. As far as the most suitable **time of the day** to reach respondents was concerned, the interviewers observed that generally the time slots of 11 am to 12 pm and 5 pm to 6 pm were the most productive.
- The **main reasons for refusals to take part in the survey** were a lack of interest in the study, the length of the survey and lack of time to be interviewed.
- **The oldest age group (60+)** was less represented in the RDD sample frame. The field team also observed that respondents over 60 were more likely to get tired in the middle of the interview, which necessitated the setting of follow-up appointments. However, in many cases the respondents concerned did not answer the phone at the agreed appointment time. Towards the end of the fieldwork the local team observed that the use of the RDD sample alone would not be sufficient to meet the 60+ age group quota despite the extension of the fieldwork. Therefore, with the permission of the UN Women team and after careful review, the team in Albania supplemented the RDD sample with leads from a contact database compiled from previous surveys conducted in the country. The database consisted entirely of mobile phone numbers, and the selection of these numbers was performed at random from all numbers in the database in order to match the original design of the study.
- The (telephone) **data-collection method** was perceived as appropriate. The interviewers indicated that whenever women agreed to participate in the survey, they did not appear to experience any specific issues with the questionnaire flow, the content of the questions or the mode of the survey (phone).
- In terms of observations relating to the survey questionnaire:

- Regarding **specific questions**, the field team reported that C28A and C28B were more difficult than the other questions for respondents to understand. These were the list randomization questions where the respondents were asked to mention the number of statements that were true. Specifically, interviewers noted that instead of indicating *how many* of the statements were true for them, the respondents often began by *citing* the statements that were true for them (this despite the additional prompt to count the statements on their fingers). The interviewers handled these situations by offering additional explanation and repeating the instructions to the respondents.
- In the case of some of **the more sensitive questions** in the survey, some of the women quit the interview without an explanation, while others lowered the tone of their voice, or emphasized that they had not personally experienced such problems. Such behaviour was most evident at question C19, C20 and C21, indicating these were seen as especially sensitive.
- The respondents who actually used the **popular local food** safe word did so correctly. However, in most cases, when women were not able to talk freely, they simply told the interviewers that they were not alone anymore instead of using of the safe word.

2.1.9 Lessons learned and recommendations

This section draws upon the fieldwork statistics and observations outlined in the previous sections to provide recommendations for future surveys on violence against women in Albania. Specifically, whether remote data collection can be considered as an appropriate approach to develop an evidence base on perceptions and incidence.

- **CATI** and the use of a **single-frame cell phone RDD design** worked well in Albania and the researchers recommend considering this approach for future data-collection activities on violence against women. That said, older women (60+) and those living in certain regions (North and South) were more difficult to reach than other groups with the RDD sample. This should be reflected in the time dedicated to active data collection in future surveys with age- and region-based quotas. A longer fieldwork period would help to ensure the quotas are uniformly achieved. In the case of a face-to-face approach, a longer fieldwork period would be absolutely necessary, owing to the extra time required for physical visits to prospective respondents' homes. For any surveys with shorter fieldwork periods, consideration should be given from the outset to supplementing the RDD sample with available contact databases that mimic the characteristics of the RDD sample. This would increase the likelihood of quotas for harder-to-reach age groups being met.
- Given the issue experienced with the initial **sample batch** in the very beginning of the mainstage fieldwork in Albania, researchers also recommend that additional checks are performed by sample-providers on the numbers in the sample to avoid a high occurrence of inactive numbers.
- Given the field team's observations that **Sundays** were especially productive for fieldwork, and that respondents who worked full-time were often only free on the weekend, it is recommended to allocate more interviewers to data-collection activities on weekends as an extra measure whenever fieldwork progresses to its final stages and/or, when reaching quotas proves challenging. By providing this recommendation researchers remain mindful of the need to avoid skewing the sample by interviewing only the most easy-to-reach women.

- Taking into account the slow progress of the fieldwork in Albania during the **last two weeks of August**, the researchers recommend that future surveys conducted in the country avoid this period, whenever possible, as many people have their summer holidays during this month and this results in fewer responses, as well as challenges recruiting interviewers where this is required.
- Almost 20% of the respondents did not answer the **question asking about their marital status (A01)**. The issue was also evident to varying degrees across most of the other Phase II countries. Therefore, the researchers recommend placing the question towards the end of a survey (rather than at the beginning as was the case in the Rapid Gender Assessment Survey), by which point some rapport will have been built between the interviewer and the respondent, making it easier for the interviewer to obtain an answer to the question. Including it at the end will also help to ensure that it does not cause dropouts early on in the survey.

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