

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

TECHNICAL REPORT – COLOMBIA 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 Colombia

2.1.1 Obtaining ethical clearance

UN Women sought general support or tacit approval for the study from the National Administrative Department of Statistics/ *Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística* (DANE) and Colombia's Presidential Council for Women's Equity / *Consejería Presidencial para la Equidad de la Mujer* (CPEM). A tacit approval was received by the authorities on 1 May 2021. An additional request was sent for approval of the questions measuring the direct experiences of violence against women. Approval for the inclusion of these questions was granted on 5 August 2021.

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, 135% of the population had a mobile subscription.²

Of the 192,500,000 numbers available in the sample frame, 66,283,175³ (34%) 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 number to verify if the number 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: United Nations Statistics Division, Demographic Statistics Database (Census, 2018).⁴
- Region: Departamento Administrativo Nacional de Estadística (Census, 2018).⁵

¹ Avantel 10,000,000; Claro 82,000,000; ETB (Tigo MVNO) 2,600,000; Exito (Tigo MVNO) 5,300,000; Movistar 45,600,000; Tigo 41,100,000; Virgin Mobile (Movistar MVNO) 5,900,000.

² Calculated based on 2019 World Bank data on mobile phone subscriptions and Colombia's population size.

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

⁴ <http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=POP&f=tableCode%3A22>

⁵ <https://www.dane.gov.co/39>

2.1.3 Translation

The questionnaire was translated into Spanish. 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 Colombia, the male name used was Andrés and the female, María.

2.1.4 Fieldwork period

Fieldwork took place between 18 August and 24 September 2021. The fieldwork started well but as the team progressed with the fieldwork, they faced some setbacks such as very low productivity during weekends and non-official holidays, and difficulties reaching women in the 60+ age group. The team consisted of 26 interviewers who worked in a very efficient manner. When the progress of the fieldwork slowed down after the third week, the interviewers worked longer hours to make the most of the calling hours during the week, which was considered to be a much more productive period than the weekends. Despite this effort, the team continued to experience difficulties reaching respondents in the 60+ age group. Therefore, after a careful review, and with official permission from the UN Women team, the Colombian 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 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, 1,209 valid interviews were completed in Colombia. In general, the distribution of the sample across age groups was in line with the targets, with the exception of the 60+ age group where the share of completed interviews was 5 percentage points below the original target. The difficulties faced by the local team in meeting the 60+ age quota are explained in detail (together with applied mitigation measures) in the field observations section below.

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

Age group	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted % ⁶	Difference unweighted % vs. target % ⁷	Difference weighted % vs. target %
18–29	332	28%	356	29%	28%	2%	0%
30–39	243	20%	260	22%	20%	1%	0%
40–49	205	17%	221	18%	17%	1%	0%
50–59	188	16%	202	17%	16%	1%	0%
60+	233	19%	170	14%	19%	-5%	0%

⁶ Weighting procedures are discussed in more detail in section 4.4.2 of the main technical report.

⁷ The figures in this column reflect the actual difference of the unweighted and target percentages. Any variations are caused by the rounding up of the percentages in the table.

The regional targets were met for all regions except Caribe (where 3 percentage points fewer interviews were achieved against the target) and Pacifico (where 4 percentage points fewer interviews were achieved). During the fieldwork priority was given to meeting the age quotas before meeting the regional ones, so in some instances as evident in the table, some shortfalls may be seen in the regional distribution of the achieved unweighted sample.

Table 2: Achieved sample, by region (Colombia)

Region	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %	Difference unweighted % vs. target % ⁸	Difference weighted % vs. target %
Bogota	202	17%	209	17%	17%	0%	0%
Caribe	247	21%	218	18%	21%	-3%	0%
Centro Oriente	195	16%	237	20%	16%	3%	0%
Centro Sur	76	6%	85	7%	6%	1%	0%
Eje Cafetero	234	19%	248	21%	19%	1%	0%
Llano	44	4%	52	4%	4%	1%	0%
Pacifico	202	17%	159	13%	17%	-4%	0%

The distribution across rural (26.5%) and urban (73.5%) areas (as self-reported by respondents) was relatively close to data from the World Bank (2020 data) that estimate a total urban population of 81.4%.⁹

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

Area	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
Urban	889	73.5%	73.3%
Rural	320	26.5%	26.7%

A little over one in five respondents had completed primary school or had no formal education, while more than three in five had completed secondary school or attended technical or vocational training. About 14% of respondents had attended a tertiary education programme.

⁸ The figures in this column reflect the actual difference of the unweighted and target percentages. Any variations are caused by the rounding up of the percentages in the table.

⁹ World Bank. 2020. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?end=2020&locations=CO&start=2018&year_high_desc=true

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

Education level	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
No formal education	44	3.6%	3.8%
Completed primary school	235	19.4%	20.6%
Completed secondary school	481	39.8%	39.5%
Technical & vocational training	279	23.1%	22.5%
Completed university/college	125	10.3%	10.0%
Completed post-graduate	44	3.6%	3.5%
Don't know	1	0.1%	0.1%
Refused	1	0.1%	0.1%

2.1.6 Quality control and data processing

No interviews were removed from the Colombia sample 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 was above the envisaged 20 minutes, at 24 minutes on average (compared with a mean of 23 minutes across the nine countries in Phase II).

Table 5: Interview duration (Colombia)

Mean	Median	Standard deviation
24.02	23.07	6.14

The response rate in Colombia was 3.13%, 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).¹⁰

¹⁰ AAPOR. 2015. Standard Definitions. https://www.aapor.org/AAPOR_Main/media/MainSiteFiles/Standard-Definitions2015_8thEd.pdf

The table below shows the incidence of each outcome code.

Table 6: Contact outcomes (Colombia)

Contact outcomes	Count	% of all outcomes
Fixed appointment	609	2%
Soft appointment	521	1%
Incomplete interview with call-back to resume later	147	0%
Telephone answering device / voicemail / message service	10993	28%
Busy / engaged	1067	3%
No answer	14363	37%
Complete	1209	3%
Screen-out	284	1%
Incomplete interview with no call-back (terminated)	616	2%
Immediate refusal (before eligibility of respondent has been confirmed)	5827	15%
Refusal by eligible respondent (after eligibility of respondent has been confirmed, but before the actual interview started)	383	1%
Respondent never available for appointment	2687	7%
Deceased respondent		0%
Respondent physically or mentally unable / incompetent	20	0%
Respondent or household language problem		0%
Call blocking / barring / do not call list	224	1%
Fax / data line / modem / pager		0%
Non-working / disconnected / dead / bad number	29	0%
Non-residential number (business, government office, other organization)	63	0%
Technical issue / CATI system error	216	1%

Table 7 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 (Colombia)

		Completed interviews		Partial interviews		Refusals	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Sunday	Morning	10	1%	0	0%	0	0%
	Afternoon	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	Evening	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Monday	Morning	107	9%	11	5%	2	18%
	Afternoon	121	10%	21	10%	1	9%
	Evening	6	0%	1	0%	0	0%
Tuesday	Morning	77	6%	14	7%	1	9%
	Afternoon	89	7%	20	9%	1	9%
	Evening	3	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Wednesday	Morning	101	8%	24	11%	2	18%
	Afternoon	153	13%	25	12%	1	9%
	Evening	14	1%	3	1%	0	0%
Thursday	Morning	115	10%	16	7%	1	9%
	Afternoon	98	8%	20	9%	0	0%
	Evening	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Friday	Morning	55	5%	8	4%	0	0%
	Afternoon	99	8%	22	10%	1	9%
	Evening	3	0%	1	0%	0	0%
Saturday	Morning	50	4%	11	5%	1	9%
	Afternoon	107	9%	17	8%	0	0%
	Evening	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Fifty-two per cent of the sample called were men and so screened out at the very beginning of the survey. This was very close to the share of screened out men in Kyrgyzstan (49%), Albania (49%) and Côte d'Ivoire (54%). Thereafter, only a small number of people were screened out – about 2% because they were not yet 18 years old and 0.5% because they did not want to participate. The respondents who were screened out because they did not understand the purpose of the survey and because they did not understand the confidentiality measures were 0.1% each.

Table 8: Screen-outs (Colombia)

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S3	Sex: Male	2,700	51.9%
S4_1+S4_2	Age: Below 18 years	54	1.8%
S1	Willing to participate: No	11	0.5%
S6	Understand purpose: No	2	0.1%
S7	Understand confidentiality: No	2	0.1%

The interview was temporarily discontinued in 45 cases because the respondent answered “no” to one of the five ‘safety’ questions (listed in the table below). This number of “no” answers in Colombia was higher than that in half of the other 12 countries in the study (Phase I and Phase II combined).

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

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S2	Can you let me know if the speaker phone is off? No	9	0.5%
S5	Can you confirm if now is a good time? No	25	1.5%
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 two is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no. No	4	0.3%

A total of 214 respondents dropped out of the survey. The largest numbers of dropouts were observed at questions S11 (50), followed by Ao1 (19) and Bo2 (14). The table below shows the questions at which the dropouts occurred.

Table 10: Survey dropouts, by question (Colombia)

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?	50	23.4%
Ao1	What is your marital status?	19	8.9%
Ao7_ASK	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0–17?	9	4.2%
Ao8_ASK	How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over?	3	1.4%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
Ao6	How many people including yourself, live in your household?	7	3.3%
Ao2	What is the highest level of education that you completed?	6	2.8%
Ao3	Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...?	7	3.3%
Ao4_1	Would you say that the money that you earn is...	2	0.9%
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?	4	1.9%
A11	Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic?	7	3.3%
A12	During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household...	7	3.3%
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?	6	2.8%
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.	14	6.5%
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?	3	1.4%
Co2	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	8	3.7%
Co3	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	1	0.5%
Co4	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	4	1.9%
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	1.4%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
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?	4	1.9%
C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	7	3.3%
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?	2	0.9%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	3	1.4%
C13	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	2	0.9%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	6	2.8%
C16	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	2	0.9%
C17	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	2	0.9%
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, please say no.	3	1.4%
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 sort of conflict among themselves?	3	1.4%
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?	3	1.4%
C21	In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home?	1	0.5%
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	0.5%
C23	Why do you feel unsafe in your home?	3	1.4%

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	1.9%
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. 4. Women in my family enjoy watching [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT].	1	0.5%
C29A	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. Women in my family enjoy watching [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]. 98. Don't know 99. Refused	2	0.9%
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] 98. Don't know 99. Refused	2	0.9%
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.	3	1.4%
	Total	214	100%

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 Colombia, the food used was “Empanada”. This word was used fourteen 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 (Colombia)

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?	1
S6	What region in [COUNTRY] do you live in?	3
S7	Do you understand that your information will remain confidential and that you are able to go back to any of your responses and change and/or ask to delete any information you provide?	1
S12_NEW	And do you own the phone you are speaking on?	2
Ao1	What is your marital status?	2
Co2	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	1
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
C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	1
	Total	14

In terms of item non-response (INR), this varied across the survey but was highest at Ao1 (39.90%). The field team reported that it is not unusual for women respondents in Colombia to refuse to provide details on their marital status. 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 Ao1 was less than 5%). This difference may in part reflect the fact that the answer options in the question were adjusted for Phase II (discussed in detail in section 2.5.2 of the main technical report), with the original ‘Married’ option split into two different options: ‘Married, spouse partner is residing with you’ and ‘Married, spouse/partner is residing elsewhere’. It is possible that the new version raised some sensitivities for women – for example, they may have been reluctant to report that their husband did not live with them – and thus contributed to high item non-response at this question.

Other questions with high INR were Co8 (6.10%) and Co3 (4%) – both focusing on the respondents’ safety in their area of residence. A very low item non-response rate (0.20% each) was observed for the direct questions on violence against women (fielded in Colombia only): C26 and C26.2.

Table 12: Item non-response (Colombia)

Question	Question text	Item non-response
A01	What is your marital status?	39.90%
A07	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0-17?	0.50%
A08	How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over?	0.20%
A02	What is the highest level of education that you completed?	0.10%
A03	Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...?	0.20%
A04	In addition to this, do you do any activity that generates an income, even if only for a few hours a week?	0.10%
A04_1	Would you say that the money that you earn is...	0.10%
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?	0.10%
A11	Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic?	0.60%
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?	0.10%
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?	0.80%
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?	0.30%
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?	0.20%
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?	0.30%
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?	0.20%
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?	0.50%
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	1.40%
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	2.00%
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	1.20%
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?	0.70%
Co2	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	0.50%
Co3	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	4.00%
Co4	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	3.10%
Co7	To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live?	3.40%
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?	6.10%
C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	2.50%
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?	2.20%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	1.20%
C13	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	0.70%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	0.80%
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?	1.20%
C16	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	0.70%
C17	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	0.20%

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?	0.90%
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?	2.20%
C21	In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home?	0.10%
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?	0.80%
C23_1	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 1. I have a serious medical condition or disability and feel vulnerable	0.20%
C23_2	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 2. My shelter is insecure from external threats (e.g., there are no locks on my front door)	0.20%
C23_3	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 3. I am unable to communicate/reach out for help	0.10%
C23_4_	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 4. I am living with people I cannot trust	0.20%
C23_9	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 9. Other women in the household have been hurt	0.10%
C23_10	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 10. Children in the household have been hurt	0.30%
C24	How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month?	0.30%
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?	0.50%
C26	How often, if at all, in the past 12 months, has a spouse or partner pushed you, thrown something at you that could hurt you, punched or slapped you?	0.20%
C26_2	Has this experience changed at all as a result of the conditions of COVID-19?	0.20%
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].	1.80%
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]	1.20%

C29A	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true:	1.10%
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] 98. Don't know 99. Refused	0.20%
C30_1	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. 1. Been slapped, hit, kicked, had things thrown at them, or other physical harm	0.60%
C30_2	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. Been yelled at, called names, humiliated	0.40%
C30_3	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. 3. Had resources (like healthcare) or basic needs (like money, food, water, shelter) denied	0.90%
C30_4	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. 4. Been forced to stay alone for long period of time or denied communication with other people	0.80%
C30_5	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. 5. Been the subject of inappropriate jokes, suggestive comments, leering, or unwelcome touch/kisses	0.60%
C31_1	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 1. Information about security/crime prevention	2.40%
C31_2	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 2. Access to basic needs such as shelter, food, clothing	2.70%

C31_3	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 3. Medical support	1.80%
C31_4	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 4. Someone to talk to like professional mental health experts	2.60%
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	1.70%
C31_6	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 6. Financial support	3.30%
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?	0.60%

2.1.8 Field observations

This section describes the observations made by 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; 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 **days of the week** to call respondents were weekdays. The interviewers consistently reported that they achieved very small numbers of completes during the weekends and on holidays. One particular example was the Day of Love and Friendship (celebrated in Colombia on the third Saturday of September). Although this was not a public holiday in Colombia, almost no interviews were achieved on this day, as people were engaged in the celebration and did not want to spend time participating in the survey. As far as the most suitable **time of the day** to reach respondents is concerned, this varied throughout the fieldwork. During the first week of the fieldwork, the local team observed that mornings were most productive, but this constantly changed over the remainder of the fieldwork period.
- The **main reasons for refusals to take part in the survey** were a lack of interest and lack of time. There were also instances wherein which women requested to be called at a different time but then did not answer their phones at the time.
- **The oldest age group** (60+) was less represented in the RDD sample frame. The field team shared the impression that women over 60 were more likely to ask to be called at a different time (and then not answer the phone when called back) or were generally not that interested in participating in the survey. Towards the end of the fieldwork the local team indicated 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 revision by the CCT, the team in Colombia 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 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:

- Some of the respondents had difficulty understanding the list randomization questions asking them to evaluate a number of statements as true or not (C28 and C29 questions). The interviewers had to give additional explanations to the respondents in order to make it easier for them to answer this part of the questionnaire.
- Most of the respondents used the **popular local food** safe word correctly. However, some women used it as a polite way to finish the survey faster whenever they were pressed for time or lacked motivation to continue until the end of the questionnaire.
- Special attention was paid to observing respondents' reactions to the C26 set of questions (**direct questions on violence against women**) that were fielded only in Colombia. Interviewers were specifically trained to ask these questions in a neutral and calm manner and were given instructions on how to handle different reactions that women may have when asked these questions. The entire process was guided with the primary objective of ensuring respondents' safety and well-being. The local team shared positive observations on their experiences of fielding the question as early as the first week of the fieldwork (supporting the overall positive feedback from the pilot). For the most part, respondents did not seem to change their behaviour when answering the C26 questions, responding in a calm and neutral manner. A small number of women appeared somewhat uncomfortable or took some additional time to respond to the questions, but these cases amounted to only around 2% of all the women who were asked the C26 questions. Whenever a respondent sounded shy or uncomfortable the interviewers were patient and neutral and gave the woman the time she needed to respond. They also made efforts to make women feel calm while responding by approaching the questions in a neutral manner and being patient giving respondents time to answer.

2.1.9 Lessons learned and recommendations

This section draws upon the fieldwork statistics and observations outlined over the previous sections to provide recommendations for future surveys on violence against women in Colombia. 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 Colombia 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 (Caribe and Pacifico) 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 internal contact database 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 field team's observations that **weekends and holidays** were not productive times for calling, focusing the interviewing effort on weekdays is advised, while at the same time remaining mindful of the need to avoid skewing the sample by interviewing only the most easy-to-reach women
- **The C26 direct questions on violence against women** were well received by respondents in Colombia. The interviewer training was adequate and sufficient, and this equipped the interviewers with the skills and knowledge to make respondents feel comfortable while answering these questions. The researchers would recommend the further testing of these questions in other countries in order to assess if they are received in the same way among women with different cultural backgrounds and sociodemographic profiles.

Almost 40% of the respondents did not answer the question asking about their marital status (A01). The local team reported that they had encountered the same issue in other surveys they had administered in Colombia. The issue was also evident to varying degrees across most of the other Phase II countries. As mentioned previously, the wording of the answer options to A01 was adjusted in Phase II of the study and this may in part have contributed to the higher item non-response rate observed. This point notwithstanding, it is generally recommended to place potentially sensitive sociodemographic questions like marital status 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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