RAPID GENDER ASSESSMENT

ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

TECHNICAL REPORT - KYRGYZSTAN SURVEY FIELDWORK

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2021

UN WOMEN

WOMEN COUNT

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, Kyrgyz Republic, 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 Kyrgyzstan

2.1.1 Obtaining ethical clearance

UN Women sought general support or tacit approval for the study from the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic. A 'no objection' signed by the Deputy Minister of Health was granted on 29 June 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, 135% of the population had a mobile subscription.[2]

Of the 56,100,000 numbers available in the sample frame, 8,622,565[3] (15%) 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 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: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (population at beginning of year, 2021)[4]
- Region: National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic. Demographic Yearbook of the Kyrgyz Republic 2015–2019.[5]

2.1.3 Translation

The questionnaire was translated into Russian and Kyrgyz. The translation procedure is explained in more detail in section 2.5.3 of the main technical report.

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[1] 7 Mobile 2,000,000; Alfa Telecom 15,100,000; Nur Telecom 17,000,000; Sky Mobile 22,000,000.
[2] Calculations made using 2019 World Bank data.
[3] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.CEL.SETS?end=2019&locations=KG&start=2019
[4] http://www.stat.kg/en/statistics/naselenie/
[5] http://www.stat.kg/ru/publications/demograficheskij-ezhegodnik-kyrgyzskoj-respubliki/

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 Kyrgyzstan, the male name used was *Айбек* and the female, *Айгерим*.

2.1.4 Fieldwork period

Fieldwork took place between 19 August and 19 September 2021. The local team experienced a slower start during the first week of fieldwork, which contributed to a higher than usual number of non-active numbers in the sample. Therefore, the Central Coordinating Team requested the sample provider to re-examine the provided sample. Upon further inspection, it was discovered that a blockage in the system of the sample provider did not allow for the proper identification of all inactive numbers. This was promptly fixed, and the sample provider prepared a new batch of contacts, which was shared with the local team who continued their work without further experiencing such problems. The team continued its work with 20 interviewers and managed to make better progress over the following three weeks of fieldwork. The fieldwork paused on 30 and 31 August, due to bank holidays – Victory Day and Independence Day. The local team's progress slowed down during the last week of fieldwork, 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, the fieldwork had to be extended by a week and Kyrgyzstan reached the targeted number of responses on 19 September.

2.1.5 Achieved sample

In total, 1,201 valid interviews were completed in Kyrgyzstan. In general, the distribution of the sample across age groups was in line with the targets, with the exception of the 18–29 and 60+ age groups, where the number of the completed interviews was 3 percentage points each, lower than the set target.

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

Age group	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %[6]	Difference unweighted % vs. target %[7]	Difference weighted % vs. target %
18–29	351	29%	315	26%	29%	-3%	0%
30–39	290	24%	325	27%	24%	3%	0%
40–49	200	17%	230	19%	17%	2%	0%
50–59	174	14%	187	16%	15%	1%	0%
60+	185	15%	144	12%	15%	-3%	0%

The regional targets were met for all regions except Jalal-Abad (1 percentage point less than the original target) and Osh (5 percentage points less than the original target).

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[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.

Table 2: Achieved sample, by region (Kyrgyzstan)

Region	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %	Difference unweighted % vs. target %[8]	Difference weighted % vs. target %
Bishkek City	225	19%	236	20%	19%	1%	0%
Osh City	61	5%	66	5%	5%	0%	0%
Batken	92	8%	106	9%	8%	1%	0%
Chui	185	15%	213	18%	15%	2%	0%
Jalal-Abad	218	18%	201	17%	18%	-1%	0%
Naryn	50	4%	61	5%	4%	1%	0%
Osh	234	19%	178	15%	19%	-5%	0%
Talas	45	4%	43	4%	4%	0%	0%
Issyk-Kul	91	8%	97	8%	8%	0%	0%

The distribution across rural (56,5%) and urban (43.5%) areas (as self-reported by respondents) was relatively close to data from the World Bank that estimate a total rural population of 63%.[9]

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

Area	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
Urban	523	43.5%	41.8%
Rural	678	56.5%	58.2%

About one in ten respondents had completed primary school or had no formal education, while over a half of the respondents had completed secondary school or attended technical or vocational training. Almost 4 in 10 respondents had attended a tertiary education programme.

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

Education level	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
No formal education	2	0%	0%
Completed primary school	107	9%	9%
Completed secondary school	433	36%	37%
Technical & vocational training	204	17%	17%
Completed university/college	449	37%	37%
Completed post-graduate	5	0%	0%
Don't know	0	0%	0%
Refused	0	0%	0%

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[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 Data. 2018. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?end=2020&start=2018&year_high_desc=true

2.1.6 Quality control and data processing

No interviews were removed from the Kyrgyzstan sample because they did not meet the quality criteria in terms of length, straight-lining and/or item non-response. The local team was ultimately very precise in the interviewing process. (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 19.62 minutes on average (compared with a mean of 23 minutes across the nine countries).

Table 5: Interview duration (Kyrgyzstan)

Mean	Median	Standard deviation
19.62	18.98	4.56

The **response rate in Kyrgyzstan was 8%**, 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]

The table below shows the incidence of each outcome code.

Table 6: Contact outcomes (Kyrgyzstan)

Contact outcomes	Count	% of all outcomes
Fixed appointment	5,144	20%
Soft appointment	1	0%
Incomplete interview with call-back to resume later	0	0%
Telephone answering device / voicemail / message service	2,548	10%
Busy / engaged	441	2%
No answer	1,664	7%
Complete	1,201	5%
Screen-out	8,389	33%
Incomplete interview with no call-back (terminated)	3,118	12%
Immediate refusal (before eligibility of respondent has been confirmed)	453	2%
Refusal by eligible respondent (after eligibility of respondent has been confirmed, but before the actual interview started)	271	1%
Respondent never available for appointment	0	0%

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

	Count	%
Deceased respondent	0	0%
Respondent physically or mentally unable / incompetent	24	0%
Respondent or household language problem	218	1%
Call blocking / barring / do not call list	0	0%
Fax / data line / modem / pager	0	0%
Non-working / disconnected / dead / bad number	1,497	6%
Non-residential number (business, government office, other organization)	72	0%
Technical issue / CATI system error	56	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 (Kyrgyzstan)

		Completed interviews		Partial interviews		Refusals	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Sunday	Morning	32	3%	10	3%	1	8%
	Afternoon	85	7%	12	4%	0	0%
	Evening	24	2%	2	1%	0	0%
Monday	Morning	37	3%	7	2%	0	0%
	Afternoon	99	8%	22	8%	3	25%
	Evening	26	2%	7	2%	0	0%
Tuesday	Morning	21	2%	7	2%	0	0%
	Afternoon	65	5%	9	3%	1	8%
	Evening	16	1%	8	3%	0	0%
Wednesday	Morning	47	4%	8	3%	1	8%
	Afternoon	98	8%	30	10%	0	0%
	Evening	25	2%	8	3%	0	0%
Thursday	Morning	35	3%	11	4%	0	0%
	Afternoon	124	10%	24	8%	3	25%
	Evening	39	3%	12	4%	0	0%
Friday	Morning	48	4%	15	5%	1	8%

	Afternoon	134	11%	29	10%	0	0%
	Evening	45	4%	15	5%	0	0%
Saturday	Morning	41	3%	18	6%	1	8%
	Afternoon	124	10%	25	9%	1	8%
	Evening	36	3%	9	3%	0	0%

Almost 50% of the sample called were men and so screened out at the very beginning of the survey. This is generally in line with the share of screened out men in more than half of the countries in the study. Five per cent of the sample were screened out because they were younger than 18, while 0.4% were screened out 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 (Kyrgyzstan)

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S3	Sex: Male	2,209	49.3%
S4_1	Age: Below 18 years	134	5%
S1	Willing to participate: No	12	0.4%
S6	Understand purpose: No	2	0.1%
S7	Understand confidentiality: No	2	0.1%

The interview was temporarily discontinued in 49 cases because the respondent answered "no" to one of the four 'safety' questions (listed in Table 9 below). This number is similar to the results in Colombia but higher than the number of temporary interview suspensions in Bangladesh, Jordan, Morocco, Cameroon and Kenya.

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

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S2	Can you let me know if the speaker phone is off? No	16	0.9%
S5	Can you confirm if now is a good time? No	22	1.3%
B01	Can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of two that can overhear our conversation? No	8	0.6%
C18	Alternatively, if someone over two is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no. No	3	0.2%

Two hundred eighty-nine respondents dropped out of the survey. The table below shows the questions at which the dropouts occurred.

Table 10: Survey dropouts, by question (Kyrgyzstan)

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?	3	1.0%
A01	What is your marital status?	27	9.3%
A07_ASK	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0–17?	19	6.6%
A08_ASK	How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over?	17	5.9%
A06	How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	17	5.9%
A02	What is the highest level of education that you completed?	7	2.4%
A03	Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day…?	6	2.1%
A04	In addition to this, do you do any activity that generates an income, even if only for a few hours a week?	3	1.0%
A04_1	Would you say that the money that you earn is…	2	0.7%
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?	4	1.4%
A11	Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic?	8	2.8%
A12	During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household…	16	5.5%
B02	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.	25	8.7%
B04	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?	7	2.4%
C02	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	11	3.8%
C03	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	11	3.8%
C04	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	5	1.7%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
C07	To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live?	9	3.1%
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?	8	2.8%
C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	4	1.4%
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?	6	2.1%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	2	0.7%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	12	4.2%
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?	9	3.1%
C16	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	3	1.0%
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?	11	3.8%
C21	In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home?	2	0.7%
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	0.7%
C23	Why do you feel unsafe in your home?	3	1.0%
C24	How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month?	2	0.7%
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?	2	0.7%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
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].	7	2.4%
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	0.3%
C28_2	INTERVIEWER: PLEASE ASSESS WHETHER YOU THINK THE RESPONDENT UNDERSTOOD HOW TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. FOR INSTANCE, DID THE RESPONDENT ASK FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO BE REPEATED? DID THEY TAKE A LONG TIME TO ANSWER? DID THEY SEEM UNSURE?	1	0.3%
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	1	0.3%
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.	9	3.1%
C31	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?	4	1.4%
	Total	289	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 the Kyrgyzstan, the food used (in both the Kyrgyz and Russian versions of the questionnaire) was "Плов". It was used six 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 (Kyrgyzstan)

Question	Question text	PLF mentioned
S6	What region in [COUNTRY] do you live in?	1
A07	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0–17?	1
A11	Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic?	1
C02	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day 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
C16	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	1
	Total	**6**

In terms of item non-response (INR), this varied across the survey but was highest at C11 (16.3%). This can be explained with a possible uncertainty on the side of respondents when trying to estimate the effect of COVID-19 vis-à-vis the situations described in the vignettes in the questionnaire. The item non-response at C11 in the Kyrgyz Republic was higher than the average for this question in phase I (6%) and phase II countries (less than 5%). Other questions with high INR were C15 (14.20%), C10 (11.10%) and C08 (9.80%) – most of which are linked to the vignettes included in the questionnaire.

Table 12: Item non-response (Kyrgyzstan)

Question	Question text	Item non-response
A01	What is your marital status?	8.00%
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?	0.20%
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…?	0.10%
A04_1	Would you say that the money that you earn is…	0.40%
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?	1.40%

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?	0.20%
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_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_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?	0.10%
B02_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	0.70%
B02_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	0.90%
B02_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	0.40%
B04	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?	0.80%
C02	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	1.00%
C03	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	7.20%
C04	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	6.30%
C07	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%
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?	9.80%

C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	11.10%
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?	16.30%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	8.00%
C13	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	1.20%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	8.60%
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?	14.20%
C16	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	5.30%
C17	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	1.20%
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?	0.70%
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?	0.50%
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?	0.30%
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_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)	0.10%
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_5	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 5. There is substance abuse (e.g., alcohol or drugs) in the household	0.10%
C23_6	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 6. There is physical violence or threats of physical violence in my home	0.10%
C23_7	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 7. There is verbal abuse in my home	0.10%
C23_8	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 8. Other adults in the household have hurt me	0.10%
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	0.10%

C23_11	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 11. Something else	0.10%
C24	How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month?	0.70%
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?	0.20%
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].	1.50%
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:	0.90%
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] 98. Don't know 99. Refused	0.50%
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	1.30%
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	1.70%
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	3.30%
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	2.50%

	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	
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	0.80%
C31_1	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 1. Information about security/crime prevention	6.30%
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	6.20%
C31_3	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 3. Medical support	2.50%
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	8.10%
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	7.70%
C31_6	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 6. Financial support	7.30%
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?	1.00%

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; challenges of 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 reach respondents were Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. As far as specific time of the day is concerned, participants in the survey seemed to be more responsive in the afternoon, after 1 pm.

- The **main reasons for refusals to take part in the survey** were fear of a risk of collection of personal information and the length of the interview. Another reason often cited by respondents who did not want to participate in the survey was lack of willingness to spend one's personal time on the interview.

- **The oldest age group** (60+) was less represented in the RDD sample frame. The field team also had the impression that when women in this age group refused to take part in the survey they did so because they found the expected length of the survey too long, or because they were not interested in the study at all.

- The (telephone) **data-collection method** was perceived as appropriate. Interviewers encountered both respondents who were enthusiastic and positive towards the telephone survey, and respondents who hung up the phone in the middle of the interview mostly irritated by the length of the survey.

In terms of observations relating to the survey questionnaire:

- Regarding **specific questions**, the field team reported that some of the respondents had difficulty identifying their region of residence. Upon further inspection of the issue, it was established that the share of such respondents was very small (0.5% of all respondents) and they were mainly concentrated in the regions of Chui, Bishkek, Osh and Jalal-Abad. The interviewers helped such respondents to correctly identify their region; for example, by probing first on their district. Aside from this demographic question no other question in the main survey proved difficult for the respondents.

- In the case of some of the more sensitive questions in the survey referring to indirect experiences of violence against women, some of the women tended to sound more shy while answering them but the interviewers were trained to make the respondents feel comfortable while taking the survey so this was not an issue.

- 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 to the end of the questionnaire.

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 Kyrgyzstan. 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 Kyrgyzstan and the researchers recommend considering this approach for future data collection activities on VAW. That said, older women (60+) and those living in certain regions (Jalal-Abad, Osh and Talas) were more difficult than other groups to reach 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 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.

- Given the issue experienced with the initial **sample batch** in the very beginning of the mainstage fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan, the researchers also recommend that additional checks are performed by sample providers on the numbers in the sample to avoid a high occurrence of non-active numbers.

- Given the field team's observations that **the latter part of the working week** was the most productive period for fieldwork, the researchers recommend allocating more interviewers to data collection via CATI during these days as an extra measure whenever fieldwork progresses to its final stages and reaching outstanding quotas becomes more challenging. By providing this recommendation, the researchers remain mindful of the need to avoid skewing the sample by interviewing only the most easy-to-reach women.

- Following the survey pilot in Kyrgyzstan, the field team noted that many respondents had expressed a wish to skip back to previous questions in the survey in order to change answers they had given. Accordingly, a **back button** (allowing for a return to the previous question only) was introduced for the mainstage fieldwork for interviewers to use as needed. However, in the process of the fieldwork it became clear that this adjustment only led to problems with the script and interferences with the routing instructions embedded in the questionnaire. Since the value of a back button was not really registered in terms of improving responses to certain questions, the back button was removed to avoid losing a large number of completed interviews.[11] Therefore, the researchers do not recommend the introduction of a back button in future surveys, as this adds to the interview length, it can change the routing and thus questions might be skipped.

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[11] A back button in the survey can lead to skipping questions or errors because the answer between the last and the corrected question can be accidentally changed. In this case interviews may have to be removed from the final data file after the completion of quality checks.

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