

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

TECHNICAL REPORT - PARAGUAY 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 Paraguay

2.1.1 Obtaining ethical clearance

UN Women sought general support or tacit approval for the study from the National Statistics Institute of Paraguay (*Instituto Nacional de Estadística* (INE)). A ‘no objection’ was granted on 16 July 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, 110% of the population had a mobile subscription;² in other words, many people in the country have more than one mobile phone number registered in their name.

Of the 11,390,000 numbers available in the sample frame, 7,761,848³ (68%) 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: INE. Población nacional estimada y proyectada por sexo y edad, 2000-2025.⁴
- Region: INE. Población total, estimada y proyectada, según departamento, sexo y edad, 2000-2025.⁵

2.1.3 Translation

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

¹ Claro 2,060,000 ; Personal 3,540,000 ; Tigo 3,740,000 ; VOX 2,050,000.

² Calculations made using 2019 World Bank data.

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

⁴ <https://www.ine.gov.py/default.php?publicacion=2>

⁵ Ibid.

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 Paraguay, the male name used was *Ramón* and the female, *María*.

During the pilot, it was established that some respondents in Paraguay may have preferred to provide their answers in Guarani, which is the second official language in the country. Since everyone in the country speaks Spanish and only a part of the population feels more comfortable speaking in Guarani, the interviewers were instructed to read the questions in Spanish and allow respondents to answer in Guarani if they wished. A question was added at the end of the questionnaire for interviewers to indicate whether the full survey was done in Spanish or answers were given in Guarani. The results show that 5% of respondents did the survey in both Spanish and Guarani, another 4% in Guarani only, and the remaining 91% in Spanish.

2.1.4 Fieldwork period

Fieldwork took place between 17 August and 29 September 2021. The data collection period took 17 days longer than originally planned as the team in Paraguay experienced technical challenges at the beginning and end of the fieldwork and in meeting some of the age group quotas in the survey. Initially, the field team in Paraguay was using iField as its primary data-collection platform. However, technical issues with the set-up of the platform caused delays of five and more minutes at the start of interviews, thus leading to the majority of respondents dropping out and/or making appointments to complete the survey at a later date. Since this issue was persistently hampering the progress of the fieldwork preparations were made to switch the platform used in Paraguay from iField to Dimensions. After the transition to the new platform, the team managed to make better progress. However, they still experienced difficulties in reaching the target number of completes, especially in the older age groups. Unlike some of the other countries in Phase II, the Paraguay team had no pre-existing contact database with which they could supplement the RDD sample in order to target harder to reach women – specifically women aged 60+ who proved especially difficult to reach. Thus, they had to persevere with the available RDD sample, until they were able to achieve satisfactory numbers of women in each target group. During the last week of the fieldwork, their progress was additionally impacted by a technical issue affecting multiple Ipsos CATI centres world-wide. As a recovery plan, the team was expanded to include interviewers from four additional CATI centres (and altogether close to 50 interviewers), which ultimately helped the field team in Paraguay to reach the target number of interviews.

2.1.5 Achieved sample

In total, 1,210 valid interviews were completed in Paraguay. The distribution of the sample across most of the age groups was in line with the targets. In the 60+ age group, the number of completed interviews was below the set target by 5 percentage points. To account for this deviance from the quotas, the achieved sample was weighted per country on the below age group categories according to the specified quota (target %).

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

Age group	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted % ⁶	Difference unweighted % vs. target % ⁷	Difference weighted % vs. target % ⁸
18 – 29	379	32%	405	33%	31%	2%	0%
30 – 39	276	23%	291	24%	23%	1%	0%
40 – 49	201	17%	212	18%	17%	1%	0%
50 – 59	153	13%	167	14%	13%	1%	0%
60+	191	16%	135	11%	16%	-5%	0%

The targets in all regions but one were not fully met. The shortfalls in these regions ranged from only 1 pp in the Chaco region to 9 pp in the Este region. To account for this deviance from the quotas, the achieved sample was weighted per country on the below regions according to the specified quota (target %). 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 (Paraguay)

Region	Target	Target %	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %	Difference unweighted % vs. target %	Difference weighted % vs. target %
Este	253	21%	144	12%	21%	-9%	0%
Centro	513	43%	416	34%	42%	-8%	0%
Sur	175	15%	97	8%	14%	-7%	0%
Norte	128	11%	94	8%	11%	-3%	0%
Chaco	32	3%	21	2%	3%	-1%	0%
Capital	98	8%	424	35%	8%	27%	0%

The distribution across rural (17%) and urban (83%) areas (as self-reported by respondents) was lower than World Bank data estimating a rural population of 38%⁹ in Paraguay. It is important to note the use of a mobile RDD sample here however, which has an effect on the ability to reach respondents in areas where mobile phone ownership is not widely spread. Additional contributing factors can be lower mobile ownership among women, especially those in rural areas.

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.

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

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

Area	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
Urban	1,005	83.1%	76.8%
Rural	205	16.9%	23.2%

A little over 2 in 10 respondents had completed primary school or had no formal education, while 4 in 10 had completed secondary school or attended technical or vocational training. More than 3 in 10 of the respondents had attended a tertiary education programme.

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

Education level	Completed (unweighted)	Completed % (unweighted)	Weighted %
No formal education	19	1.6%	1.7%
Completed primary school	249	20.6%	22.1%
Completed secondary school	332	27.4%	25.7%
Technical & vocational training	166	13.7%	13.3%
Completed university/college	384	31.7%	32.3%
Completed post-graduate	55	4.5%	4.2%
Don't know	3	0.2%	0.4%
Refused	2	0.2%	0.2%

2.1.6 Quality control and data processing

Eighteen interviews were removed from the sample in Paraguay 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 slightly higher than the envisaged length of 20 minutes, at 23.21 minutes on average (compared with a mean of 23 minutes across the nine countries in Phase II).

Table 5: Interview duration (Paraguay)

Mean	Median	Standard deviation
23.21	22.12	6.95

The **response rate in Paraguay was 1.52%**, 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 (Paraguay)

Contact outcomes	Count	% of all outcomes
Fixed appointment	815	1%
Soft appointment	8733	11%
Incomplete interview with call-back to resume later	86	0%
Telephone answering device / voicemail / message service	29606	37%
Busy / engaged	7911	10%
No answer	28430	35%
Complete	1210	2%
Screen-out	2	0%
Incomplete interview with no call-back (terminated)	243	0%
Immediate refusal (before eligibility of respondent has been confirmed)	989	1%
Refusal by eligible respondent (after eligibility of respondent has been confirmed, but before the actual interview started)	1628	2%
Respondent never available for appointment	116	0%
Deceased respondent	0	0%
Respondent physically or mentally unable / incompetent	0	0%
Respondent or household language problem	2	0%
Call blocking / barring / do not call list	35	0%
Fax / data line / modem / pager	0	0%
Non-working / disconnected / dead / bad number	312	0%

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

Non-residential number (business, government office, other organization)	4	0%
Technical issue / CATI system error	0	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 (Paraguay)

		Completed interviews		Partial interviews		Refusals	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Sunday	Morning	10	1%	2	1%	1	1%
	Afternoon	13	1%	7	2%	3	4%
	Evening	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Monday	Morning	48	4%	15	4%	3	4%
	Afternoon	77	6%	26	8%	6	7%
	Evening	14	1%	9	3%	3	4%
Tuesday	Morning	55	4%	11	3%	4	5%
	Afternoon	101	8%	41	12%	6	7%
	Evening	30	2%	5	1%	3	4%
Wednesday	Morning	29	2%	11	3%	2	2%
	Afternoon	115	9%	31	9%	7	9%
	Evening	30	2%	4	1%	6	7%
Thursday	Morning	69	6%	13	4%	5	6%
	Afternoon	204	17%	53	16%	9	11%
	Evening	39	3%	4	1%	3	4%
Friday	Morning	121	10%	27	8%	4	5%
	Afternoon	164	13%	47	14%	11	13%
	Evening	23	2%	12	4%	3	4%
Saturday	Morning	67	5%	11	3%	1	1%
	Afternoon	15	1%	10	3%	2	2%
	Evening	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Twenty-three per cent of the sample called were men and so screened out at the very beginning of the survey. This is in line with the majority of the Phase I countries (except Ukraine) but lower than most of the Phase II countries that participated in the study. Two per cent of the respondents were screened out because they were younger than 18 years, 2% because they did not want to participate, 1% because they did not understand fully the purpose of the survey, and only two respondents because they said they did not understand the confidentiality measures.

Table 8: Screen-outs (Paraguay)

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S3	Sex: Male	1,203	22.9%
S4_1+S4_2	Age: Below 18 years	56	2.2%
S1	Willing to participate: No	82	3.3%
S6	Understand purpose: No	13	0.7%
S7	Understand confidentiality: No	2	0.1%

The interview was temporarily discontinued in 126 cases because the respondent answered “no” to one of the four ‘safety’ questions (listed in Table 1.9 below). The number of temporary interview suspensions in Paraguay is the highest among all Phase I and Phase II countries in the study.

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

Question	Answer	Count	% of total answered
S2	Can you let me know if the speaker phone is off? No	37	1.7%
S5	Can you confirm if now is a good time? No	46	2.4%
Bo1	Can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of two that can overhear our conversation? No	25	1.6%
C18	Alternatively, if someone over two is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no. No	18	1.4%

Three hundred and forty-one respondents dropped out of the survey. The table below shows the questions at which the dropouts occurred. The largest numbers of dropouts were at S11- question on urbanicity (33), Bo2- question on the thoughts and feelings of respondents since the onset of COVID-19 (28), and Ao1- question on marital status (24).

Table 10: Survey dropouts, by question (Paraguay)

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?	33	9.7%
Ao1	What is your marital status?	24	7.0%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
Ao7	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0-17?	18	5.3%
Ao8	How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over?	7	2.1%
Ao6	How many people, including yourself, live in your household?	15	4.4%
Ao2	What is the highest level of education that you completed?	9	2.6%
Ao3	Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...?	12	3.5%
Ao4	In addition to this, do you do any activity that generates an income, even if only for a few hours a week?	7	2.1%
Ao4_1	Would you say that the money that you earn is...	1	0.3%
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?	7	2.1%
A11	Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic?	5	1.5%
A12	During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household...	14	4.1%
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 two that can overhear our conversation?	17	5.0%
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.	28	8.2%
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?	5	1.5%
Co2	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	14	4.1%
Co3	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	2	0.6%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
Co4	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	4	1.2%
Co7	To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live?	5	1.5%
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	0.6%
C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	15	4.4%
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?	3	0.9%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	2	0.6%
C13	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	7	2.1%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	10	2.9%
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	1.8%
C16	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	2	0.6%
C17	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	7	2.1%
C18	Just to make sure, before we continue, can you confirm that there is no one around you over the age of two that can overhear our conversation? If you are alone, please say yes. Alternatively, if someone over two is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no.	4	1.2%
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?	13	3.8%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
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?	4	1.2%
C21	In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home?	3	0.9%
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?	3	0.9%
C23	Why do you feel unsafe in your home?	6	1.8%
C24	How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month?	5	1.5%
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	0.6%
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	0.9%
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]	2	0.6%
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	2	0.6%

Question	Question text	No. of participants dropped out	% of total dropouts
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	2	0.6%
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.	6	1.8%
C31	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community?	5	1.5%
	Total	341	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 Paraguay the food used in the questionnaire was "Sopa paraguaya". It was used 88 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 (Paraguay)

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?	8
S6	Do you understand that this information is being collected by [SURVEY FIRM NAME] for UN Women so we can better understand the needs of women in your community and to help develop responses that improve well-being?	6
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?	2
S12_NEW	And do you own the phone you are speaking on?	3
A01	What is your marital status?	4
A07	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0-17?	3
A08	How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over?	1

Question	Question text	PLF mentioned
A03	Which of the following best describes what you mainly do each day...?	4
A04_1	Would you say that the money that you earn is...	1
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?	1
A11	Has your household's income changed at all since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic?	2
A12	During the last month, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources, you or others in your household...	5
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.	5
Bo4	Overall, would you say your mental or emotional health (e.g., stress, anxiety, confidence, etc.) has been affected as a result of the COVID-19 situation?	3
Co2	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	8
Co4	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	2
Co8	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	2
C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	6
C11	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
C13	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	4
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	3
C17	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	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?	1
C21	In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home?	1
C23	Why do you feel unsafe in your home?	1
C24	How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month?	1

Question	Question text	PLF mentioned
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
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]	2
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
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
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
	Total	88

In terms of item non-response (INR), this varied across the survey but was highest at the question asking about respondent's marital status (A01) (43.90%). 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 INR for all four Phase I countries at A01 was less than 5%). Other questions with high INR were C31_6, on access to financial support (20.90%), C08 on physical harm, abuse, or harassment in the area of the respondent since COVID-19 (16.10%), C10, a vignette-related question (12.10%), and C07, on physical harm, abuse, or harassment in the area of the respondent (10.90%).

Table 12: Item non-response (Paraguay)

Question	Question text	Item non-response
A01	What is your marital status?	43.90%
A07	How many of the people living in your household are aged 0–17?	0.60%
A08	How many of the people living in your household are men aged 18 or over?	0.40%

A02	What is the highest level of education that you completed?	0.50%
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...	0.50%
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?	0.70%
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?	0.70%
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?	0.30%
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?	0.30%
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?	0.60%
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?	0.30%
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	2.00%
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	4.00%

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	3.70%
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?	1.00%
Co2	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone during the day in the area where you live?	1.40%
Co3	To what extent, if at all, do you feel safe when walking alone at night in the area where you live?	3.90%
Co4	How, if at all, has your feeling of safety while walking alone at night changed SINCE THE ONSET OF COVID-19?	3.80%
Co7	To what extent do you think that physical harm, abuse, or harassment of women is a problem in the area where you live?	10.90%
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?	16.10%
C10	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	12.10%
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?	8.40%
C12	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	6.30%
C13	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	1.50%
C14	How common do you think this type of situation is for women in the area where you live?	9.00%
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?	8.10%
C16	Do you think [Scripter: insert Female name] would seek help for this situation?	5.90%
C17	Who would [Scripter: insert Female name] most likely seek help from?	1.40%
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?	1.10%
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?	6.20%
C21	In the last six months, did you ever feel unsafe in your home?	1.00%

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?	2.20%
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)	0.40%
C23_3	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 3. I am unable to communicate/reach out for help	0.20%
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	0.20%
C23_8	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 8. Other adults in the household have hurt me	0.20%
C23_9	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 9. Other women in the household have been hurt	0.20%
C23_10	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 10. Children in the household have been hurt	0.20%
C23_11	Why do you feel unsafe in your home? 11. Something else	0.80%
C24	How often, if at all, did you go out of your house by yourself in the last month?	1.10%
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?	5.30%
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]. 98. Don't know 99. Refused	1.40%
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]	0.90%
C29A	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true:	1.50%

	<p>1. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD ONE] to [LOCAL FOOD TWO]</p> <p>2. I like [NAME OF WELL KNOWN LOCAL MUSICIAN, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES]</p> <p>3. Women in my family enjoy watching [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT].</p> <p>98. Don't know</p> <p>99. Refused</p>	
C29B	<p>Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true:</p> <p>1. People in my family have played [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT].</p> <p>2. I like [NAME OF WELL KNOWN TV SHOW, BUT NOT ONE EVERYONE LIKES]</p> <p>3. I prefer [LOCAL FOOD THREE] to [LOCAL FOOD FOUR]</p> <p>98. Don't know</p> <p>99. Refused</p>	0.80%
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>	4.40%
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>	4.20%
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>	4.80%
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>	4.90%
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-</p>	3.80%

	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	
C31_1	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 1. Information about security/crime prevention	6.60%
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	6.30%
C31_3	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 3. Medical support	7.20%
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	7.10%
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	5.50%
C31_6	Are any of the following support services available for women in your community? 6. Financial support	20.90%
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?	0.70%

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 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, weekdays were the best **days of the week** to reach respondents in Paraguay. As far as the most suitable **time of the day** to conduct interviews was concerned, the interviewers observed that the afternoon hours were much more productive than mornings.
- The **main reasons for refusals to take part in the survey** were lack of time because of work, not being able to talk freely (because of other members of the household being in the same room) and finding the topic of the survey too sensitive.
- In Paraguay, the 60+ age group **was less represented** in the RDD sample frame. Aside from this, interviewers did not report any specific additional issues in terms of securing the engagement of older women, as were observed in other countries (e.g., not wanting to participate in the survey because of its length, etc.). No recontact database with mobile phone numbers existed in Paraguay

and thus the local team had no other option but to request an additional RDD sample and an extended fieldwork period in order to increase the number of interviews with women in the 60+ age group.

- The (telephone) **data-collection method** was perceived as appropriate. Women had no particular reactions of concern when being invited to take part in the survey, and as already mentioned earlier their only reservation was the length of the interview.

In terms of observations relating to the survey questionnaire:

- Regarding reactions to **more sensitive questions**, the field team reported that some of the respondents paused for a few seconds and took longer to answer these but, overall, the questions did not cause discomfort to the respondents.
- The respondents were generally using the **popular local food** properly to indicate that another household member has entered the room, so their privacy had been compromised. In these cases, an additional appointment was made to complete the interview at a different time.

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 Paraguay. 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 Paraguay, 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 (Este, Centro, Sur, Norte, and Chaco) 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. 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. No such database was held by the Paraguay team at the time of this particular study, but databases may be available for future studies. Until this becomes possible, recruiting a large interviewing team and supplying them with a sufficient RDD sample would be the most suitable approach if fieldwork duration cannot be extended freely.
- 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 field team's observations that **weekdays** were the most productive for fieldwork, the researchers recommend that more of the interviewing efforts be concentrated from Monday to Friday. Additionally, given that **afternoons** proved to be a good time to reach respondents, distributing the calling times of the interviewers into shifts is advisable so that more interviewers can cover this part of the day.

- Almost 44% 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. The local team indicated that it is not unusual for women respondents in Paraguay to refuse to provide details on their marital status. As mentioned, 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 advisable 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.
- Regarding the **use of Guarani** by respondent in the survey, the researchers recommend that future studies implement the same method applied in the present survey: given the small share of respondents who felt most comfortable answering the survey only in Guarani (4%) it is not advisable to translate the entire survey questionnaire. It is preferable to enable respondents to give their answers in Guarani (or a combination of Guarani and Spanish) while interviewers code them in Spanish. This would allow for both better inclusivity in the survey and higher levels of comfort among respondents who do not feel fully fluent in Spanish (with potentially positive implications for the quality of the data they provide).

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