

Technical note on UN Women Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys (full version)

The estimates showcased in this report, unless otherwise noted, were generated by UN Women based on Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys on the impacts of COVID-19 implemented with national or regional partners. The cut-off date for country data used in this report is 7 November 2020.

Geographical scope and aggregates

The report covers 38 countries¹: nine in Arab States; 10 in Asia and the Pacific (A-P); 12 in Europe and Central Asia (ECA); two in Latin America (LA); two in East and Southern Africa (ESA); and three in West and Central Africa (WCA).² Results focus on relative changes (and not exact measures) since the COVID-19 crisis. Aggregates presented refer only to surveyed countries and do not represent regional or global averages.

Sampling design

The ‘target population’ refers to both women and men, with the age group varying across regions and countries. Specifically, in all regions, the lower age limit was 18 years – except for A-P, where it is 10 years. However, the upper age limit varied across regions: 100 years in A-P; 88 and 92 for Chile and Mexico, respectively, in LA; 86, 90 and 99 years for Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal, respectively, in WCA; while there was no upper age limit in ECA, ESA and the Arab States.

The data collection approach and, consequently, sampling frame also varied across regions. In A-P and Chile, randomly selected cell phone users were contacted through a short message service (SMS) with a link to a web-based survey. ECA, ESA, WCA and Mexico conducted computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI), in partnership with private research firms. In both approaches, samples were based on the lists of phone subscribers from the partner firms’ databases. Meanwhile, the Arab States Regional Office used a web-based system delivering anonymous opt-in surveys to random Internet users browsing online.

Sample sizes varied across regions, ranging from 1,436 (Lebanon) to 2,394 (Jordan) in the Arab States; 612 (Samoa) to 8,198 (Nepal) in A-P; 1,000 (Kyrgyzstan) to 2,202 (Kazakhstan) in ECA; 1,201 (Mexico) and 1,526 (Chile) in LA; 2,410 (Ethiopia) and 2,587 (Kenya) in ESA; and from 2,404 (Côte d’Ivoire) to 2,741 (Senegal) in WCA. The data tables shows the exact sample sizes across all 38 countries covered in this report.

Timing of surveys also varied. The report recognizes that countries were not necessarily at the same phase of the pandemic when data collection was undertaken between April and October 2020. Some countries had been in lockdown for months; others started later. The timing of the surveys depended on partner priorities and survey approval processes. Timing of surveys may explain differences across countries due to intensity of COVID-19 spread and related lockdown measures.

Survey tool and unpaid care and domestic work data items

¹ UN Women conducted the survey in all countries where national governments were supportive and where a partner (public or private) could be identified for survey roll-out.

² Based on UN Women’s regional classification (<https://www.unwomen.org/en/where-we-are>; Accessed 5 November 2020)

A global reference questionnaire³ was developed and used to promote the comparability of the Rapid Gender Assessments, to the extent possible. Several modifications and additions were nonetheless introduced when the surveys were actually conducted, to capture region- or country-specific context and priorities.

Specifically, on the survey questions related to unpaid care and domestic work, only A-P and Chile questionnaires covered all of the unpaid care and domestic work activities (UCW and UDW, respectively) as identified in the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics.⁴ Other regions/countries collapsed or excluded some of the activities when the survey was conducted, mainly due to practical/operational considerations. Specifically, the Arab States region did not include five UCW activities and collapsed all four UDW questions into one; ECA did not include three activities (2 UCW; 1 UDW); Mexico collapsed four UCW questions into two, two UDW questions into one, and did not include one UCW question; WCA did not include five UCW questions and one UDW question. [Annex Y](#) presents the degree of detail of the unpaid care and domestic work activities covered by each region or country.

Weight adjustment and estimation

To adjust the survey results to the known population structure in the surveyed countries, sex and age characteristics were consistently used. Select regions/countries used additional population characteristics in their weighting procedures: education in A-P and the Arab States; location in Mexico, Senegal and Guinea; and location and education in Côte d'Ivoire.

2020 population estimates from the World Population Prospects⁵ of the reference populations were used as weights for the aggregates, except for Serbia and Kosovo where publicly available official data from their national statistical offices were used. Please note that infographics on aggregated results from the RGAs do not include estimates from RGAs conducted in the Arab States, as data on such items were not collected.

Results

Results focus on relative changes since the COVID-19 crisis. These are thus not comparable with, nor do they aim to replace, the more comprehensive statistics obtained from specialized household time-use surveys, as sampling frame and design, methods of data collection and instruments differ. A few questions identical to those in Demographic Health Surveys and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys were added to the questionnaire to provide opportunities to compare results, all caveats considered.

³ UN Women. 2020. *Guidance: Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys on the Impacts of COVID-19*.

<https://data.unwomen.org/publications/guidance-rapid-gender-assessment-surveys-impacts-covid-19>

⁴ UN Statistics Division. 2016. International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/icatus-2016/>

⁵ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2019. Available from: <https://population.un.org/wpp/>