



# Europe and Central Asia BULLETIN

Issue 1, 20 May 2020

## GENDER EQUALITY IN COVID-19 RESPONSE



Welcome to the first edition of our regional bulletin on results in gender equality in COVID response, achieved by UNDP across the Europe and Central Asia region. Please share with your networks and partners.

### Highlights

- ✓ New op-ed by UN Secretary General on how [the pandemic is exposing and exploiting inequalities of all kinds, including gender inequality](#).
- ✓ New interactive online platform '[Unpaid Care Work, Your daily load and why it matters](#)' launched by UN Women. Users can assess how much time they spend regularly on unpaid domestic and care tasks compared to the global average.
- ✓ New UNDP guidance on [Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19](#), on actions and strategies to prevent and address GBV during the COVID-19 crisis. This is part of the [global UNDP guidance](#) on gender equality in COVID-19 response.

- ✓ New mobile application, [‘Be Safe’](#), developed by UNDP Montenegro, which enables swift alerts to the National SOS helpline by survivors of domestic and gender-based violence.
- ✓ Preliminary data shows **that domestic violence in the ECA region has risen sharply** since the outbreak of COVID-19, ranging from 16 percentage points in Moldova to 62 percentage points in Kyrgyzstan.

## COVID-19: ECA Country Office responses

### Feature story

#### [UNDP Amidst Coronavirus pandemic, UNDP rings the alarm on domestic violence.](#)

In Albania, as in many countries around the world, the pandemic has only intensified the occurrence of gender-based violence. The lockdown, already ongoing for five weeks, is creating fertile ground for gender inequalities to be exposed at their worst.



Children's drawings in several municipalities in Albania during 16 days of activism on protecting girls and women's rights (Source: UNDP Albania)

- In **Albania**, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, with UNDP support, developed a standardized protocol for managing cases of domestic violence in the COVID-19 crisis. 15 municipalities, with support from UNDP Albania, [shared leaflets](#) through social media channels offering legal remedies for domestic violence and providing emergency local and national hotline numbers. UNDP also supported

the launch of municipality online competitions with a slogan of ‘Together for healthy and non-violent families, even in emergencies’.

- In **Armenia**, UNDP has [mobilized volunteers](#), most of them are women and youth, to distribute emergency aid to the elderly, positioning women as strong supporters of the government response to COVID-19.
- In **Azerbaijan**, the Women’s Research Centres, established by UNDP and the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs, are providing [online business development training](#) for rural women, and organizing regular virtual individual and group psychotherapy sessions.
- In **Belarus**, UNDP, in partnership with UNFPA and UNICEF, is organizing ‘A week against Violence Against Children and Violence Against Women’, an inclusive space to give voice to children and young women in order to re-activate dialogues among the government, civil society and private sector.
- In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, as part of the UNDP project [‘Women Leaders for Development’](#), more than 1,100 women leaders across the country opened a collaborative digital space to discuss gender priorities raised by COVID-19, including domestic violence, absence of adequate social services and the position of women in decision-making. UNDP is also screening real-time community needs, to address women’s economic dependence being increased by additional unpaid care work.
- In **Georgia**, UNDP has supported the development of professional skills for rural women, by adapting vocational education to distance learning mode. UNDP has also launched an initiative in partnership with the Tbilisi Photography and Multimedia Museum, to support women in the creative sector particularly affected by job insecurity due to the crisis.
- In **Kosovo\***, UNDP with UNFPA delivered over [8,500 food items to nine shelters](#) for survivors of gender-based violence as immediate assistance.
- In **Kyrgyzstan**, UNDP conducted the first online hackathon [to develop solutions that mitigate the negative effects of quarantine on women](#). UNDP has also launched, in partnership with the Ministry of Emergency and the Ministry of Justice, the provision of legal aid services through an emergency hotline, while continuing pro-bono online support to survivors of SGBV. The EU-UN Spotlight programme, in which UNDP participates, has also arranged for [safe spaces for women and girls facing violence](#) during COVID-19.

- In **Moldova**, UNDP mobilized catalytic funds to assess the socio-economic impacts of Covid-19 [on women working in the healthcare and education sectors](#). UNDP also [donated a batch of personal protective equipment and sanitizers](#) to local stakeholders in Gagauz autonomy, to protect the frontline community health workers, most of whom are women, especially when assisting survivors of gender-based violence and monitoring families at risk of domestic violence.
- In **Montenegro**, UNDP in cooperation with relevant ministries and women's organizations, developed *Recommendations for the implementation of the Code of Conduct on cases of GBV* in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, and the *Crisis Action Plan for the Specialized Service Provisions*.
- In **North Macedonia**, UNDP worked with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the National Network to End Violence against Women to provide municipalities with information on how to report gender-based violence and support survivors, to be published on their webpages and social media channels.
- In **Serbia**, consultations between UNDP and the Ministry of Justice led to cases of domestic violence [continuing to be prosecuted by the court without delay](#) during the state of emergency. UNDP supported 20 public prosecutors from eight districts in organizing online multi-agency meetings to process newly reported and ongoing cases of domestic violence. UNDP also helped '[Journalists against Violence](#)' spread the messages about psycho-social support provided by SOS helplines.
- In **Tajikistan**, UNDP is ensuring the access of 200 pregnant women living with HIV to adequate nutrition and personal protective equipment (PPE), in collaboration with CSOs. PPE kits are also provided to outreach and social workers.
- In **Turkey**, UNDP conducted an [online panel on 'Women in Business during COVID-19 Outbreak'](#), to discuss with women entrepreneurs and private sector on equal access to economic support mechanisms and private sector measures to prevent an increase of domestic violence. UNDP also contributed to gender-responsive socio-economic analysis of COVID-19, with four factsheets on the topics of gender-based violence, women's participation in decision-making, women in production and reproduction, and gender analysis.
- In **Ukraine**, with support from UNDP, 'JurFem', the Ukrainian Women Lawyers' Association, is assessing the impact of COVID-19 on women and girls, focusing on labor and family rights and gender-based violence. UNDP also launched an online

campaign to raise awareness on tackling human rights violations during lockdown, and is supporting a CSO initiative to help women and girls in rural and remote areas of six regions access information.

- In **Uzbekistan**, UNDP and the Ministry for Supporting Mahallas and Families have [prepared flyers to help combat gender-based violence to be distributed to pharmacies](#).

\* References to Kosovo in this bulletin shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).



## Virtual events

Look out for these dialogues on COVID-19 and gender equality:

- [Violence against women and girls before, during and after COVID-19: the shadow pandemic that must be addressed](#) (CoE, 20 May)
- [Violence in the Home: Before, during and after COVID](#) (UNICEF, 21 May)

Watch recordings of recently conducted webinars:

- [Understanding the gender dimensions of justice and security responses to COVID-19](#) (UN Women, OSCE ODIHR, DCA, 19 May)
- [A discussion and exchange with UNDP Gender Seal Offices](#) (UNDP, 14 May)
- [COVID-19 in Africa Webinar Series: Socio-Economic Impact Through a Gender Lens](#) (UNDP, 30 April) [See relevant documents](#)
- [Feminist Economic Perspectives on Covid-19](#) (IAFFE, 15 April)
- [Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 from a gender perspective](#) (UNDP, 2 April)
- [Impacts of COVID-19 on Women & Girls](#) (UNFPA - GBV AoR, 19 Mar)



## News and opinion

- [COVID-19 and Domestic Abuse: When home is not the safest place](#) (Balkan Insight)
- [Women Risk Domestic Violence During Kyrgyzstan's Lockdown](#) (Human Rights Watch)
- ['Calamitous': domestic violence set to soar by 20 % during global lockdown](#) (The Guardian)

- [How Millions of Women Became the Most Essential Workers in America](#) (New York Times)
- [Supporting domestic violence survivors during COVID-19](#) (Uber)
- [Has it become too dangerous to measure violence against women?](#) (Devex)
- [Are female leaders more successful at managing the coronavirus crisis?](#) (The Guardian)
- [The Pandemic Has Revealed the Weakness of Strongmen](#) (The Atlantic)
- [Balkans women face closed clinics and unsafe abortions under COVID-19](#) (Open Democracy)
- [Women's research plummets during lockdown - but articles from men increase](#) (The Guardian)



## Key resources

### UNDP Guidance on Gender and COVID-19

- ✓ [UNDP Gender and Recovery Toolkit](#)
- ✓ [UNDP Brief on Gender-Based Violence and COVID-19](#)
- ✓ [UNDP Briefing Note: The economic impacts of COVID-19 and gender inequality. Recommendations for policymakers](#)
- ✓ [UNDP Guidance Note: Gender-responsive socio-economic assessment of COVID-19 impacts](#)
- ✓ [UNDP Guidance Note: Gender Offer for Gender Equitable COVID-19 Response and Recovery](#)
- ✓ [UNDP COVID-19 Private sector gender service offer. Business for gender equality](#)
- ✓ [UNDP Verification list: Gender-responsive socio-economic assessment of COVID-19 impacts](#)

### COVID-19 and sex-disaggregated data

- ✓ [COVID-19 sex-disaggregated data tracker](#) (Global Health 5050)

### COVID-19 and gender-based violence

- ✓ [COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls](#) (UN Women)
- ✓ [Pandemics and Violence Against Women and Children](#) (Centre for Global Development)
- ✓ [COVID-19: GBV tools and resources](#) (UNFPA - GBV AoR)

- ✓ [Not just hotlines and mobile phones: GBV Service provision during COVID-19 \(UNICEF\)](#)
- ✓ [COVID-19 and violence against women \(WHO\)](#)
- ✓ [COVID-19 and essential services provision for survivors of violence against women and girls \(UN Women\)](#)
- ✓ [Violence Against Women and Girls - Data Collection during COVID-19 \(UN Women, WHO\)](#)

### Gendered impacts of COVID-19

- ✓ [Gender-responsive social protection during COVID-19 \(UNICEF\)](#)
- ✓ [COVID-19 Situation Assessment: Quarantine measures affect to LGBT community NGOs working in the field of HIV prevention \(ECOM\)](#)
- ✓ [Building Bridges, Not Walking on Backs: A Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for COVID-19 \(Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women\)](#)

### COVID-19 and women's organizations

- ✓ [Putting Women at the Forefront of COVID-19 Response in Europe and Central Asia: Voices of Women's Organizations on COVID-19 \(UN Women\)](#)
- ✓ [Young Feminists Want System Change: A global advocacy toolkit for the Beijing+25 process and beyond \(WECF\)](#)
- ✓ [Wanted: A feminist lens on climate action! \(Kalyani Menon Sen\)](#)

### COVID-19 and useful tools

- ✓ [COVID-19 and women's human rights: guidance \(OHCHR\)](#)
- ✓ [A Handy Guide to Decide How Safe That Safety App Will Really Keep You \(Gendering Surveillance\)](#)

### Pinned links



[RBEC Gender Equality Teams Space](#)



[Global COVID-19 Teams Space \(5.4. Gender in COVID-19\)](#)

Send us your feedback and contributions