

RAPID ASSESSMENT: THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GENDERED SOCIAL NORMS

RESULTS OF WEB-BASED SURVEYS FROM NINE COUNTRIES
IN THE ARAB STATES



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

 **UN
WOMEN** 

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
EVAW	Ending Violence Against Women
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NCW	National Council for Women (Egypt)
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PSD	Public Security Directorate (Jordan)
ROAS	Regional Office for the Arab States (UN Women)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UN Women	United Nations Entity on Women
VAW	Violence Against Women
WHO	World Health Organization

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FOREWORD



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, women across the Arab States region performed far more unpaid care and domestic work than men; women were far less likely than men to have paid employment; and rates of violence against women were alarmingly high and underreported. But crises exacerbate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, and COVID-19 has been no exception. As such, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States set out to gauge how these realities may have shifted with the pandemic and related measures, such as lockdowns.

To this end, we conducted an online public opinion poll covering more than 16,000 people in nine countries across the region. The rationale behind this research was to assess not only opinions about the impacts, but to build a body of research, and contribute to evidence-based recommendations for decision-makers as well as for civil society organizations and institutions working on the front lines with survivors across the region. We were keen to understand the situation in the region and assess the impact of the pandemic on people's lives to better guide our steps in responding to their needs.

Some of the results confirm the challenges faced in the region and the burden borne by women and girls in particular. Some findings left us also with more questions that would require further research and understanding. However, other results seem to carry hopes for transformative change, for a region where women and men would carry the burden of unpaid work in a more equitable manner and where the attitudes towards violence would change. This report presents a summary and analysis of some of the most important findings, in particular as they relate to gender role attitudes and violence against women in the context of COVID-19.

We would like to thank our partners – including Riwi Corp. and El-Zanaty & Associates, who respectively conducted data collection and data analysis. We would like to acknowledge the support of UN Women Country Offices in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen, and from colleagues at UN Women headquarters, who provided crucial support for this work. We are thankful for the support of our donors, mainly the Governments of Japan, Sweden, Canada and Al Waleed Bin Talal Foundation, without which this study could not have been conducted.

Moez Doraid

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To document the impact of COVID-19 on women and men, with a particular focus on gender attitudes and violence against women (VAW), the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS) partnered with RIWI (Real-Time Interactive World-Wide Intelligence) Corp. launched a web-based public opinion survey in nine countries in the region.¹ Conducted in May 2020, more than 16,462 women and men answered 30 questions through an innovative online methodology patented by RIWI – which delivers anonymous opt-in surveys when Internet users in the target countries reached lapsed or dormant websites. The questions touched on impacts ranging from fears, to job losses and economic impacts, to increases in unpaid care and domestic work, to violence against women and help-seeking behaviour. However, this report focuses primarily on findings related to violence against women – which comprised the majority of the survey questions. The main body will focus on regional comparisons of incidence (or perceptions thereof) and implications, followed by short country factsheets to highlight key individual national responses.

The findings provide a range of information and flag a variety of issues, while the analysis of results seeks to examine differences between countries and interpret results. Among the survey's main findings are:

COVID-19 has increased the burden of unpaid care and domestic work for both women and men in the region. The majority of married women in all surveyed countries also noted that their husbands were more involved in housework since COVID-19; however, women continue to do the lion's share. Interestingly, male respondents in all nine countries were more likely than women to report increasing the time they normally spend caring for elderly, disabled or sick household members in particular.

In terms of economic effects, one-fifth of respondents reported losing their jobs or being forced to take unpaid leave. In nearly half of countries, women and men were equally affected.

Men were slightly more likely to report losing their income entirely, while women were more likely to report reduced incomes. Fears also ran high, with many respondents worried about losing their jobs, having trouble accessing food or other essentials. Such real and perceived economic impacts increase stress, which is known to contribute to violence against women.

Women and men also reported fearing violence. Roughly 3 in 10 respondents said they felt unsafe in their home, with slightly more women than men reporting this. Reasons for feeling unsafe included fear of being attacked by intruders, the increased risk of conflict/civil unrest, as well as domestic violence by a spouse or family member. At least one in four women said they feared the latter.

Nearly half of all respondents believed that women face an increased risk of violence from their husbands because of the COVID-19 lockdowns. A surprising finding was that at least half of respondents in seven countries had actually witnessed or said they know a woman who has personally experienced some type of violence during the pandemic. In the other two countries – Lebanon and Yemen – rates were more than a third.

Online harassment was the most commonly reported type of violence against women in all countries, to be known or witnessed by respondents. Respondents in certain countries were far more likely to report this type of violence – for example with nearly twice as many respondents in Egypt as Lebanon reporting that they know of, or have witnessed, online harassment against a woman.

Encouragingly, the majority of respondents recognized that violence against women and girls is a real threat and should be a priority in times of COVID-19 in the Arab States. Most respondents from all nine countries agreed with the statement “Addressing violence against women should be a priority even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with few gender differences in responses.

¹ Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen.

A shocking one-third of respondents agreed that women should tolerate violence during the pandemic to keep the family together, with more men than women generally supporting this statement. While a majority of respondents disagreed, the fact so many believed that violence should be tolerated for the sake of family unity indicates the troubling persistence of entrenched and harmful gender attitudes condoning such behaviour.

Mobility restrictions and lockdown measures have made seeking help even more daunting for survivors of violence. Among respondents who expressed knowing a woman who had experienced violence, those who said she sought support ranged from 23 to 38 per cent.

Most respondents reported that the survivors they know (and who they believe had sought help) either completely or partially received the support sought. There were wide variations by country, however, ranging from 70 per cent of respondents from Tunisia and Iraq saying that victims of violence

completely or partially received the help sought, compared to just 49 per cent among respondents from Palestine.

Most respondents said that women turned to police and justice for support in the majority of surveyed countries. NGOs and shelters for women survivors of violence ranked as the second entry points to seek support, generally followed by family and friends, with some exceptions.

A silver lining was that the majority of respondents in all nine countries said they are willing to report domestic violence (either experienced by themselves or by others) and engage in actions to prevent it. It is also worth noting that men were more likely than women to say they would be willing to engage in such action.

This report posits interpretations for certain findings and also details some of UN Women's COVID-19 efforts in the region that may have contributed in some part to some of these findings.

METHODOLOGY

The public opinion surveys were administered between 4 and 27 May 2020, using Random Domain Intercept Technology™ – a method devised by UN Women’s partner, RIWI Corp. Internet users over the age of 18 in the nine target countries encountered random, anonymous opt-in surveys when they reached lapsed or dormant websites (e.g., phonyurl.com) or accidentally included a typo in their web address (URL) bar. Where they would otherwise see a blank website or error message, respondents were asked if they would like to take a survey.

The methodology invented and patented by RIWI has been cited in many peer-reviewed journal articles and evaluated by numerous stringent academic institutions and ethics review boards.² RIWI uses algorithms allowing access to hundreds of thousands of exposures to websites rotating in real time through multiple geo-location software. Proprietary code ensures that the RIWI sample of exposed domains is randomized, ‘bot’-free, geo-representative, and quality controlled. Respondents are only able to answer a survey or question from a specific IP address once, and all IP addresses are scrubbed and automatically translated into unique identifiers. The interview is thus anonymous, with no digital records ever remaining. Respondents are not contacted in any way via links or email and no response is traceable to an individual. All work is conducted remotely from RIWI’s offices in Toronto, Canada and all servers are located within Canada and the United States. Only the respondents themselves are located within the countries of data collection.

RIWI’s methodology uniquely enables its data scientists to collect opinions from non-habitual survey respondents, whose answers are rapid, intuitive and honest. This contrasts with most other online survey data, which are almost universally collected from habitual, panel-based respondents who are often pre-recruited through cash or incentives, and who complete an average

of 40 online surveys per month for various research organizations.³ Hence, RIWI’s methodology is free from survey coverage bias, enabling it to access a set of respondents (with Internet access) in a random fashion.

For this survey, the targeted sample size was set at 1,000 respondents in each of the nine Arab States countries, consisting of a minimum of 500 men and 500 women. A total of 16,462 respondents took part, including 5,070 women (30 per cent of all respondents). The survey would close only once the minimum number of respondents for both sexes was reached, and in all cases the minimum numbers for men were reached before women, allowing the survey to stay open and accumulate more responses from men. The lower overall number of female respondents may reflect women’s lesser access to the Internet (explained in further detail below), or their greater time poverty as a result of the disproportionate burden of unpaid care and domestic work that women shoulder.

The questionnaire included 30 questions and was administered in Arabic, English and French, as per the respondents’ preference. While RIWI limits the number of questions presented to an individual respondent to 20 or fewer, the survey instrument contains multiple modules and branches activated by respondent’s answers, allowing the full survey to include more questions. Furthermore, RIWI surveys employ randomization in every appropriate instance to eliminate question-order bias, which can have a significant effect on data quality.

All Internet users over the age of 18 in the targeted countries had an equal, random probability of inadvertently landing on the web page where the survey was posted. There were no limitations as to user’s device, browser or operating system respondents – with 72 per cent of respondents completing the survey via smartphone, while 25 per cent used a computer.

2 A useful and thorough example of this validation was done in 2018 by researchers at Oxfam and the Australian National University, available at: <https://riwi.com/research/inequality-randomized-control-trials/>

3 RIWI. Corp. N.D. “Technology & Security: RIWI Methodology - Technical Overview.”

It is worth noting that in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), mobile ownership and mobile Internet use are slightly below the global average – by 1 per cent and 5 per cent respectively.⁴ Women in the region are also 9 per cent less likely than men to own a mobile phone and 20 per cent less likely than men to use mobile Internet.⁵ In the Arab region, nearly half of the female population of 84 million is not connected to the Internet nor has access to a mobile phone.⁶ The region also has very high rates of illiteracy among women, which may affect women's ability to access comprehensive information about the crisis in terms of prevention, response and seeking help.⁷ In some countries, such as Iraq, the gap is much wider – with 98.3 per cent of men having access to the Internet compared with just 51.2 per cent of women.⁸ As a result, the survey findings do not adequately cover women who lack access to the Internet, thus potentially underrepresenting more socioeconomically disadvantaged women. Women's lesser access to the Internet in the MENA region may also explain why there were fewer female than male respondents overall – although the minimum target was met in all countries.

Once collected, the survey data were analysed by El-Zanaty & Associates, using SPSS statistical analysis software, with further interpretation by UN Women. The results have a confidence level of 97 per cent and a 5 per cent margin of error. Weights were applied to adjust for age, sex and educational attainment. Accordingly, all figures presented in this report are weighted and compiled findings are articulated for the nine countries surveyed.

Ethical considerations

While collecting data through the web seemed to offer an incredible advantage during the lockdown period and allowed for a rapid and wide

outreach, there was a need to ensure that ethical considerations were well taken into account to avoid any potential harm to study respondents or any misuse of the data.

Anonymity and privacy

No personally identifiable information was collected. Unlike other methodologies that collect personally identifiable information in order to provide incentives or track individuals' online habits, or which collect and then erase this data to "anonymize" a data set, RIWI consults only random and truly anonymous respondents. The RIWI methodology does not require personally identifiable information to be erased or hidden, as this information is never collected in the first place. The company meets all North American and European privacy rules, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

No response is traceable to an individual. RIWI surveys are hosted on real, registered, non-trademarked domains that are otherwise inactive, which contain no malware. Respondents are not contacted in any way via hackable links or insecure email. Since survey links are not emailed, as is the case with most panel survey companies, it is not possible to hack into respondents' emails nor trace data back to an individual. In the unlikely event that RIWI Web servers are breached, RIWI has taken physical and digital measures to protect the identity of respondents and researching entities. By disabling cookies, access logs and optionally destroying Web servers after three days (or fewer) in field, RIWI can eliminate any evidence that a respondent has visited their Web servers.

4 UN-ESCWA. 2019. Information and Communication Technologies: Prospects for Promoting Gender Equality in the Arab Region. Beirut: United Nations. p. 17.

<https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/publications/files/information-communication-technologies-prospects-promoting-gender-equality-english.pdf>

5 Ibid.

6 UN-ESCWA and UN Women. 2020. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality in the Arab Region." E/ESCWA/2020/Policy Brief.4. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/04/impact%20of%20covid%20on%20gender%20equality%20-%20policy%20brief.pdf?la=en&vs=4414>

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

Informed consent

Internet users were offered a short description of the research objectives and utilization of their responses. They were informed of the possibility to withdraw from the research at any time. Only participants who entered their age as 18 or older were able to take the survey. The age restriction was not indicated in the information note to prevent minors from entering false information about their age.

Ensuring the safety of study participants

Web-based platforms have facilitated remote data collection and the documentation of evidence of VAW during the COVID-19 pandemic. The use of these technologies during confinement and stay-at-home measures, however, may increase the risk of violence to women and their children, given that in most cases, ensuring privacy and guaranteeing confidentiality will be nearly impossible. Electronic communications can leave a trail. If a perpetrator learns that a woman is sharing her experience it increases her risk of further and even more severe abuse.⁹

Conscious about the potential harm that could come to women survivors of violence by merely responding to such surveys online, the survey purposely did not include any questions about participants' own experiences of violence. Questions aimed to assess respondents' perceptions about the increase of violence during the pandemic, their knowledge of potential survivors and whether they knew if support could be sought. Participants could exit the questionnaire at any time and there was no possibility to trace the history of the survey or any answers given by a respondent in the survey (i.e. their data). The survey can only be accessed through the specific random link the respondent comes across, once. So when the respondent

completes the survey, or decides to exit the survey at any point, even if someone were to go through their Internet browsing history, the link would not show up as a 'survey link', nor would it retain the survey questionnaire if someone tried to access it again or afterwards.

Survey development

The questionnaire was developed by the UN Women ROAS's Ending Violence against Women (EVAW) team, in close consultation with country focal points across all nine countries, regional thematic advisors and the EVAW section at UN Women Headquarters. The questionnaire development was based on UN Women's guidance note on rapid gender assessments for the sections on safety, impact of the pandemic and sociodemographic characteristics. Questions addressing violence against women perceptions were based on internationally validated questionnaires with a similar scope.

The questionnaire was first piloted for seven days, from 24 to 30 April 2020, during which time a total of 3,078 respondents completed questionnaires across the nine target countries. The preliminary reading of the results allowed for the questionnaire to be refined, through the rewording of some questions to ensure a better understanding of the survey, the confirmation of the age exclusion criterion, the adjustment of the skip options and the removal of some answer options.

A technical taskforce consisting of UN Women ROAS EVAW team members and the RIWI programme manager met every two days during data collection to go over information displayed in the dashboard, to ensure that the process was proceeding as planned and to assess the response rates. In general, there were a very high percentage of respondents who answered each question. See Annex 2 for the full set of survey questions in English.

9 National Network to End Domestic Violence, Safety Net Project. 2020. "Using technology to communicate with survivors during a public health crisis." <https://www.techsafety.org/digital-services-during-public-health-crises>, as cited in UN Women. 2020d. "Violence against women and girls data collection during COVID-19." 17 April. <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/vawg-data-collection-during-covid-19-compressed.pdf?la=en&vs=2339>

Context

On 12 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. Most affected countries moved swiftly to put in place precautionary measures to minimize the risk of exposure.

Number of confirmed cases and deaths in the nine countries				
	30 April 2020		15 May 2020	
	Confirmed cases	Deaths	Confirmed cases	Deaths
Egypt	5,268	380	10,829	571
Iraq	2,003	92	3,143	115
Jordan	451	8	586	9
Lebanon	721	24	886	26
Libya	61	2	64	3
Morocco	4,359	168	6,593	189
Palestine	344	2	548	4
Tunisia	980	40	1,032	45
Yemen	6	0	87	13

Sources: WHO. 2020.

Country caseloads

It is important to consider the magnitude of the virus spread within each of the nine countries when the survey was implemented, and just prior. Egypt was the first country of the nine to record its first confirmed case of COVID-19, on 14 February 2020. Lebanon and Iraq reported their first cases on 21 and 24 February, respectively. Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia had their first reported cases in early March. Yemen was the last country to report its first case on 10 April. As of 30 April 2020, about one week prior to the web-survey, Egypt had the highest number of reported cases as well as deaths, followed by Morocco and Iraq, while Yemen and Libya had the least confirmed cases and deaths. The same pattern of cases and deaths remained as of 15 May.

Health systems

Many countries in the Arab States region have fragile health systems, and emergency response involved establishing isolation and/or quarantine measures to reduce transmission risks and curb the spread of the virus. Total health expenditure per capita in most Arab States countries is significantly below averages for countries in similar income categories. Furthermore, the number of physicians per 1,000 inhabitants in the region is significantly below the WHO recommended threshold of 4.45 doctors, nurses, and midwives per 1,000 population, and as low as 0.72 and 0.79 in Morocco and Egypt respectively.¹⁰

Containment measures

Most Arab States countries responded by closing public spaces, schools and nurseries, and prohibiting large public gatherings, including religious ones. Several countries declared a state of national emergency and imposed stricter containment measures, including mandatory self-isolation and curfews. All banned entry to foreigners until further notice and air traffic was put on hold or significantly reduced. Citizens were asked to self-isolate and remain at home, while many countries enforced partial or complete lockdowns. Quarantine rules were often accompanied by severe penalties for non-compliance, ranging from heavy fines to prison sentences, such as in Jordan.¹¹ While lockdowns ensure safety for many in a time of chaos and uncertainty, for thousands of women across the Arab States, home is a place of violence and fear.

Violence against women in the region

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the incidence of violence against women (VAW) had been estimated in a 2013 WHO study, which found that 37 per cent of ever-partnered women in certain countries in the Arab States and North-East Africa had experienced

10 WHO (World Health Organization). N.D. Global Health Observatory data, "Density of physicians (total number per 1,000 population, latest available year)" as cited in OECD. 2020. "COVID-19 response in MENA countries." 9 June. Accessed 15 September 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-crisis-response-in-mena-countries-4b366396/>

11 OECD. 2020. "COVID-19 response in MENA countries." 9 June. Accessed 15 September 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/covid-19-crisis-response-in-mena-countries-4b366396/>

physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence at some point in their lives.¹² A 2016 United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) report found that the percentage of women who indicated experiencing physical abuse from their spouse over their lifetime was 25.6 per cent in Egypt (2015), 19 per cent in Jordan (2018) and 20 per cent in Tunisia (2010).¹³ And according to a 2017 multi-country survey across four Arab States countries (covering Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine), around 10 per cent to 45 per cent of ever-married men reported having used physical violence against a female partner, with approximately equal numbers of women affirming they had experienced this violence across all four countries.¹⁴

Violence in times of COVID-19

Amid COVID-19 measures, reports of VAW – particularly domestic violence – have increased in several countries around the world,¹⁵ as security, health and financial worries create or deepen tensions, strain and anxiety. This has been further accentuated by confinement during lockdowns or shelter-in-place measures. At the same time, in some countries, abuse reports and calls to hotlines actually decreased, as women were less able to report violence or seek help through regular

channels.¹⁶

While too early for comprehensive data, an April report by the United Nations Secretary-General cited reports of increased violence against women around the world, with surges upwards of 25 per cent in cases in many countries with reporting systems in place, while in some countries reported cases had doubled.¹⁷ At the same time, the report cautions that these numbers likely reflect only the worst cases, as without access to private spaces, many women will struggle to make a call or to seek help online.

A rapid assessment conducted in April 2020 by UN Women in Libya indicated that nearly half of women surveyed feared escalation of violence at home.¹⁸ In Jordan, a UN Women assessment on the impact of COVID-19 in April, found that 62 per cent of already vulnerable women, including Syrian refugees, indicated feeling at increased risk of suffering physical or psychological violence as a result of the crisis.¹⁹ And in Lebanon, an Inter-agency SGBV Task Force Assessment (which surveyed 562 women and girls) found that up to 54 per cent of respondents have observed an increase of harassment, violence or abuse against other women and girls in their household or in their communities, with 57 per cent

12 WHO, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council. 2013. Global and regional estimates of violence against women: Prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence.

13 UN-ESCWA. 2016. *Against Wind and Tides: A Review of the Status of Women and Gender Equality in the Arab Region* (Beijing +20). E/ESCWA/ECW/2015/3. p. 53; Egypt Ministry of Health and Population, El-Zanaty and Associates, and ICF International. 2015. *Egypt Demographic and Health Survey 2014*. Cairo, Ministry of Health and Population; and Rockville, ICF International; Jordan Department of Statistics and ICF. 2019. *Jordan Population and Family and Health Survey 2017-18*. Amman, DOS and Rockville, ICF. As cited in UNDP and others. 2019.

14 UN Women and Promundo. 2017. *Understanding Masculinities: Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) – Middle East and North Africa: Executive Summary*. Shereen El Feki and others (Eds.). Cairo and Washington DC: UN Women and Promundo.

15 United Nations. 2020b. "Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women." 9 April 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en.pdf?la=en&vs=1406>.

16 UN Women. 2020b. "COVID-19 and violence against women and girls: Addressing the shadow pandemic." Policy brief No. 17. <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/policy-brief-covid-19-and-violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=640>

17 Ibid.

18 UN Women Libya and UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States. 2020. *The Economic and Social Impact of Conflict on Libyan Women*. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/04/covid-19%20in%20libya/libya%20report%20english.pdf?la=en&vs=908>

19 UN Women Jordan. 2020a. "Rapid assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable women in Jordan." April. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20jordan/images/publications/2020/unwjcorapidimpactassessmentcovid19v8.pdf?la=en&vs=3456>

saying they feel less safe.²⁰ The Inter-agency Gender Alert in Lebanon also notes that a 24/7 Helpline (ABAAD) received 1,198 calls from January 2020 until mid-May 2020, compared with 1,193 calls in all of 2019.²¹ In Tunisia, 9,800 calls were recorded on the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Seniors (MFFES) toll-free numbers between 23 March and 31 May – nine times higher than usual.²²

Yet reliable and comparable data on the impact of the pandemic on violence against women in the Arab States region is particularly scant. As a result, UN Women ROAS conducted this public opinion survey to document the gendered impacts of COVID-19 on men and women in nine countries in the region, with a focus on gender roles and attitudes and practices related to gender equality and violence against women.

Impact on services for survivors

Before the pandemic, many women and girls in the Arab States already had insufficient access to free essential services for their safety, protection and recovery, such as emergency helplines, police and justice response, health care, shelter and psychosocial counselling. Where these services existed, some were underfunded, understaffed, uncoordinated or of poor quality.²³ Since the pandemic, social distancing, curfews and lockdowns have taken their toll on services for women survivors across the region.

Shelters: Some governments in the region opted to quarantine women survivors seeking shelter services for 14 days before allowing them to be admitted. This was the case in Palestine and Iraq, and it has not yet been coupled with alternatives

and safe options to ensure the protection of women in need of shelter. In Palestine, this decision has forced the police to resort to clan-based solutions where victims are returned to their families under the guarantee of one of the family/community leaders, and where the safety of the victim/survivor cannot be guaranteed.²⁴ In Lebanon, some shelters have asked women survivors to produce proof that they do not have the disease, although testing at designated hospitals was only possible under certain criteria, meaning that these shelters were, de facto, inaccessible during the crisis. In addition, several women's shelters were at full capacity due to the conditions created by the pandemic and have reported no longer being able to host new survivors – such as in Morocco. In Egypt, existing crisis centres were redesigned to accommodate a dedicated room for quarantining, thus enabling women survivors to reach out for help and come to the shelters. In Jordan, while shelters remained open, women organizations faced challenges in getting around town and were thus unable to reach at-risk women or survivors. A number of shelters across the region were also forced to scale down their interventions, including psychosocial support sessions, group therapy, and legal representation.

Hotlines and remote counselling: National domestic violence helplines have extended their operating hours to better support victims and additional phone services have been launched to provide legal and/or psychological assistance. Governments have also taken action to raise awareness on domestic violence issues and improve access to information for victims, in cooperation with CSOs and international organizations.²⁵ Hotlines as well as remote counselling have been available across

20 UN Women, UNFPA, NCLW and WHO. 2020. "Gender Alert on COVID-19 in Lebanon: Access to justice and gender-based violence." (3). 3 June. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/06/lebanon%20gender%20alert%20issue3/update%20652020/gender%20alert%20on%20covidlebanon%20issue%203english.pdf?la=en&vs=3305>

21 Reported by the ABAAD Resource Centre for Gender Equality, <https://www.abaadmena.org>, as cited in Ibid.

22 UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States (ROAS). 2020f. "Tunisian women in the face of COVID-19: During and after confinement." Policy brief May-June 2020. https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/07/tunisia%20brief/unw%20tunisia%20policy%20brief%20_%20en%20_%20tunisian%20women%20in%20the%20face%20of%20covid19%20during%20and%20after%20confinement.pdf?la=en&vs=2554

23 UN Women ROAS. 2020a. "COVID-19 and Essential Services Provision for Survivors of Violence against Women and Girls – A Snapshot from the Arab States." 19 August. https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/08/policy%20brief%20esp_en_19820-min.pdf?la=en&vs=4849

24 UN Women and GBV Sub-Cluster Palestine. 2020. Brief on Sheltering Services. 3 April, as cited in Ibid.

25 OECD 2020.

the region and more platforms are being created as service-providers and women CSOs adapt to the current context. In Morocco, a mobile application was set up for at-risk women who are not able to call, linked to 12 regional centres across the country.²⁶ Remote psychological support has also been made available by the Regional Council of the College of Physicians and the Moroccan Society of Psychiatry. Existing hotlines for women were reinforced in Egypt and Tunisia, to cover the entirety of the country and to provide advice 24 hours a day. In Lebanon, 24-hour reporting lines are also available and running across the country, with case management, psychosocial support, and information counseling are available remotely via phone or social media platforms. In Palestine, UN Women is supporting some organizations to operate hotlines in line with international standards.

Access to police/justice: In some countries across the region, State security forces have continued to respond to cases of domestic violence. In Lebanon, security forces conducted home visits despite the curfew in place and received cases at police stations.²⁷ In Jordan, women police officers are visiting women survivors at their homes, referring them to any essential services and relocating them to safe places. Across the region however, there are concerns that security personnel could face challenges in responding to such cases, going forward.

In the region, few cases of violence against women are ever reported to police; an even smaller percentage of those reported result in charges against perpetrators; and fewer still lead to convictions.²⁸ During the pandemic, access to justice has been limited, with courts closed and hearings postponed, resulting in a backlog of cases. In many Arab States, courts have been closed or are limited to dealing with emergency cases. As

in-person services have been scaled back, service-providers in some countries have been innovating with access to justice. In Morocco for instance, a system was developed linking telephone hotlines to all courts (also allowing lawyers and litigants to request information on ongoing cases); a Ministry of Justice-run website²⁹ has allowed complaints to be filed via email; and a mobile app allows victims to submit urgent complaints online without having to present themselves in-person at a court or police station. No-charge phone numbers have been disseminated through media and social media and complaints are forwarded directly to the court with jurisdiction over the complaint. In Lebanon, some judges have used remote listening techniques to issue protection orders for women survivors, while some judges have also ordered forensic doctors to document physical abuse of survivors at police stations.³⁰

Coordination of the response: Gender and VAW concerns have been included in some but not all Government response plans in the region.³¹ As such, UN Women country offices in the Arab States have been reviewing national action plans, advocating for gender-mainstreaming and supporting the institutions in charge of ending VAW to define their roles in the response. And several countries have responded. To integrate the specific needs of women in Algeria and Tunisia, the Ministry of Women's Affairs is actively involved, alongside other ministries, in the committees in charge of elaborating the crisis response.³² In Egypt, the National Council for Women (NCW) has been working closely with UN Women and the Government to mainstream a gender equality perspective in the health, social protection and economic measures adopted and it launched a policy tracker to monitor the policy measures taken to respond to women's needs in the context of the

26 For more information, see: <http://www.2m.ma/fr/news/maroc-covid-19-mobilisation-active-de-lunfm-via-la-plateforme-kolonamaak-20200330/>

27 UN Women ROAS. 2020b. "Gender Alert on COVID-19 in Lebanon." 10 April. Issue No. 1. <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/ss2020/04/gender-alert-on-covid-19-lebanon>.

28 UN Women ROAS. 2020a.

29 See www.mahakim.ma

30 Reported by KAFA, March and April 2020. <https://www.kafa.org.lb/ar/node/407>, as cited in UN Women ROAS 2020a.

31 UN Women ROAS 2020a.

32 OECD 2020.

outbreak.³³ In addition, Palestine’s 15-point response plan provides guidance on the handling of cases of VAW during the pandemic.

Findings

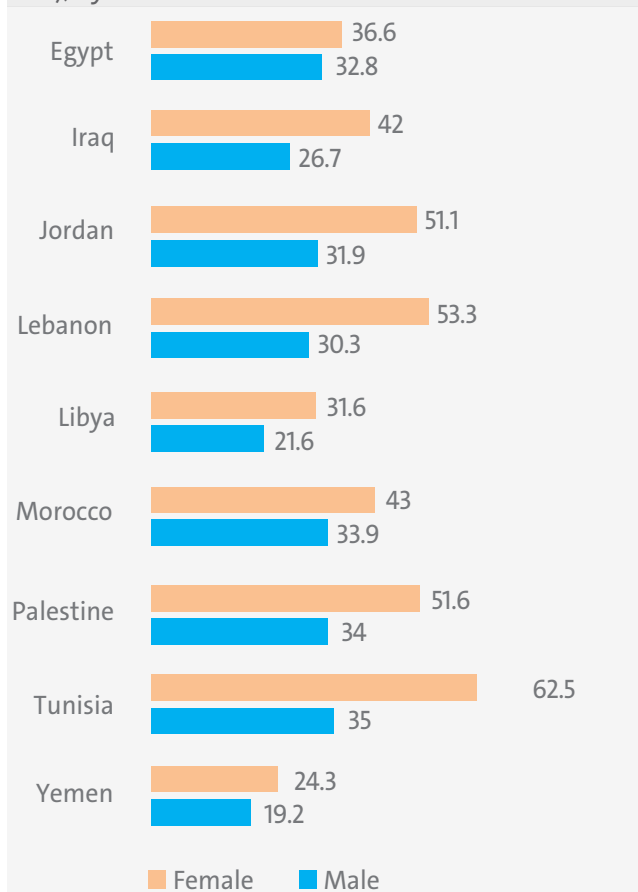
Unpaid care/domestic work

Patriarchal gender roles and norms dominate in the Arab States, fuelling some of the world’s largest gender gaps in both paid and unpaid work. Arab women are much less likely than Arab men to work, and when it comes to unpaid care and domestic work, research has shown that women spend 4.7 times more hours on unpaid care and domestic work compared to men.³⁴ As lockdowns, social distancing, school and day care closures have all increased the number of people at home requiring care, this survey examined the extent to which women and men are bearing the increased brunt. It yielded the following findings:

The pandemic has increased the burden of unpaid care and domestic work for both women and men in the region. To curb the spread of COVID-19, cleaning and sanitizing needs have increased. Measures have also increased the time spent at home by all family members, adding to housework loads as well as new needs to support for children doing remote schooling, or to care for the elderly or the sick.

Although both women and men are doing more domestic work, women are still much more likely to be doing the lion’s share. The survey responses confirmed that women were almost exclusively tasked with chores like cleaning, cooking and serving meals, in particular. Furthermore, in all countries surveyed, more women than men reported that their time devoted to household chores has increased because of COVID-19. The difference was statistically significant in all surveyed countries.

Percentage of currently married respondents who indicated an increase in the time spent doing household chores (cooking, cleaning, serving meals, etc.), by sex



More men than women respondents also reported not normally being involved in this type of domestic responsibilities – a finding consistent with previous research, such as the multi-country IMAGES survey, which found that the vast majority of the daily care of children and other household tasks are carried out by women, with just one-tenth to one-third of men reporting having recently carried out a more conventionally ‘female’ task in their home, such as preparing food, cleaning, or bathing children.³⁵

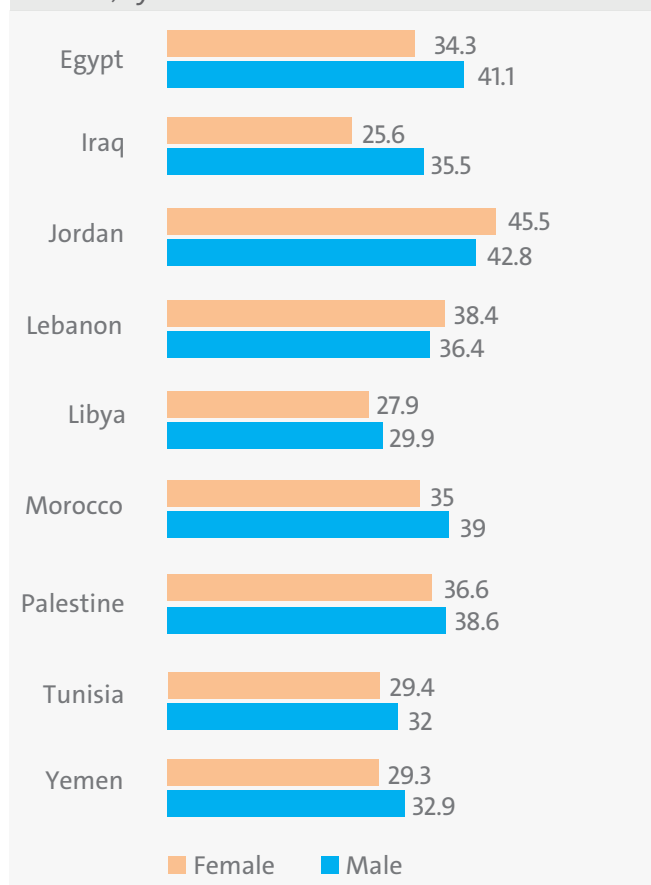
33 UN Women Egypt. 2020c. “UN Women commends the National Council for Women for its efforts to ensure that a gender perspective is adopted in Egypt’s COVID-19 response plan.” 7 April. <https://egypt.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/04/unw-commands-ncw-efforts-to-ensure-that-a-gender-perspective-is-adopted-in-egypts-covid19-response>

34 The Arab States have the highest female-to-male ratio of time spent on unpaid care work of any world region. Women across the Arab region spend on average 4.7 times more time on unpaid care work than men, compared to 4.1 times more in Asia and the Pacific, 3.4 times more in Africa, and 1.7 times more in the Americas. [UN Women. 2019. Progress of the World’s Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World.]

35 UN Women and Promundo 2017. p. 17.

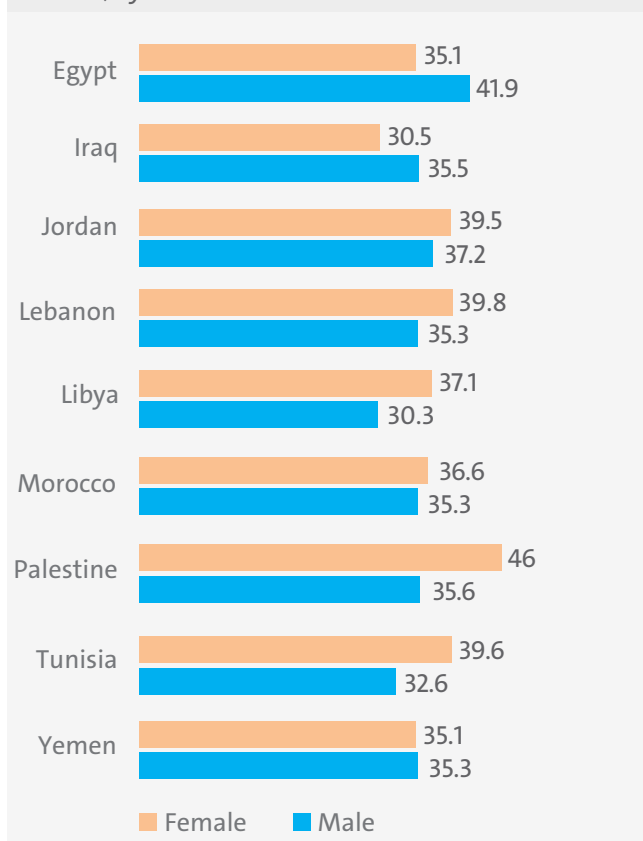
In the present survey, unpaid care work responsibilities among currently married respondents seemed to be distributed a little more evenly, with women typically more likely to be in charge of the physical care of children and men more likely to provide teaching support.

Percentage of currently married respondents who indicated an increase in the time spent on teaching children, by sex



This finding is also consistent with data from countries in the region which indicates that men are more willing to participate in direct care, such as teaching children, rather than indirect care activities, such as cooking or washing dishes. For example, prior to COVID-19, in Egypt, over 80 per cent of women and men agreed that men should help their working wives with raising the children, but only 60–67 per cent of women and 50 per cent of men agreed that men should help their working wives with household chores.³⁶

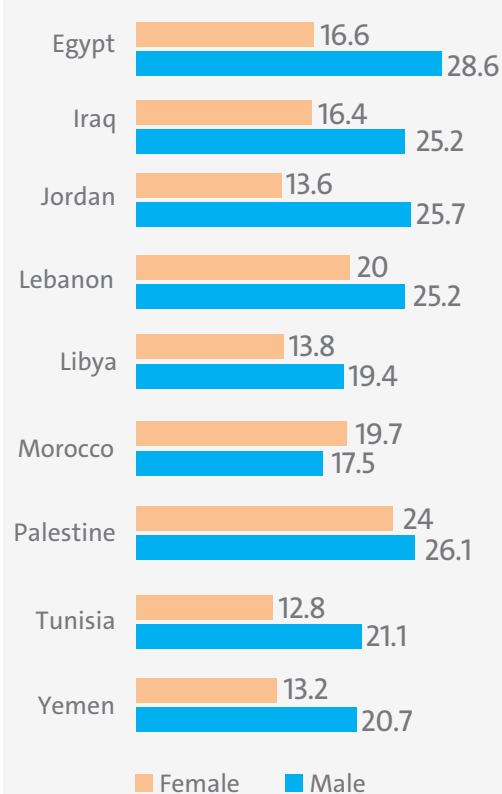
Percentage of currently married respondents who indicated an increase in the time spent on taking care of children, by sex



According to the present survey, COVID-19 has increased the time that both women and men in the region dedicate to care for the elderly, disabled, or those who are sick within the family. However, interestingly, married male respondents in all nine countries were more likely than married female respondents to report increasing the time they normally spend caring for elderly, disabled or sick household members – although this time was not quantified, so women may still have been doing a greater share.

36 Egypt Labour Market Panel Surveys (ELMPS) 2006 and 2018, as cited in UN Women and the Economic Research Forum. Forthcoming. Progress of Women in the Arab States 2020: The role of the care economy in promoting gender equality.

Percentage of currently married respondents who indicated an increase in the time spent taking care of the elderly, sick or disabled, by sex



Although the latter finding requires more research, one potential reason for men's greater involvement in caring for elderly, sick or disabled household members could relate to the fact that couples in the Arab States are more likely to live with the husband's extended family than the family of the wife. As women could not visit extended family that did not live within the same household during the lockdown, this could be another factor explaining their lesser increase in additional care work.

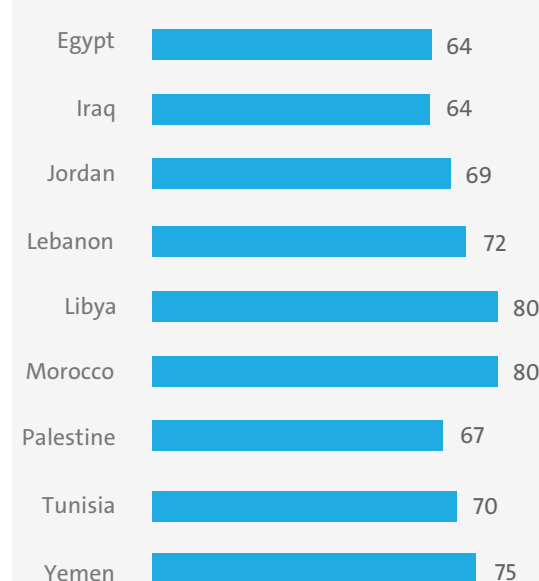
At the same time, without a baseline amount of 'normal time spent', a more pessimistic interpretation is possible. If a man used to spend 0 time caring for the elderly or the sick in his home, and relatives came to live with them as a result of COVID-19, or someone in the family fell ill and he devoted some of his time to their care, then even if he spent less time on their care than his wife, for

example, it would still represent a change, or an 'increase' in the amount of time he would normally spend (0).

Another noteworthy finding is that the majority of married women in all surveyed countries indicated that their husbands were more involved in housework since COVID-19. This is interesting because research suggests that women tend to underestimate the time and energy they allocate to caring for others, while men are inclined to overestimations. According to a New York Times poll, about 20 per cent of men in the United States said they were fully or mostly responsible for unpaid care tasks during lockdown; however, only around 3 per cent of women agreed with them.³⁷

In this case, the fact that most married women in the region are acknowledging men's increased time spent in an anonymous survey is an encouraging sign, as it confirms men's self-assessments of their increased time. At the same time, if the baseline was so low to begin with, any additional time could be seen as an increase, and this change may not necessarily reflect a more egalitarian division of labour or a more lasting increase in men's involvement in care and domestic work in homes across the region.

Percentage of married women who agree/strongly agree that "my spouse helps me more with HH work and caring for family since the spread of COVID-19"



37 Cain Miller, Claire. 2020. "Nearly Half of Men Say They Do Most of the Home Schooling. 3 Percent of Women Agree". The New York Times. 8 May. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/06/upshot/pandemic-chores-homeschooling-gender.html>

Regardless of the reasons, there has certainly been a behavioural shift that will hopefully be accompanied by a corresponding shift in attitudes about gender roles. Such attitudes are important to examine and challenge, especially given their association with gender-based violence.

For example, the 2014 Demographic and Health Survey in Egypt found that both genders justified violence against women in cases where women did not meet certain household responsibilities, such as adequate cooking or care for children. Women themselves even bought in to these justifications, with 24 per cent saying a husband was justified in beating his wife if she neglected the children and another 7 per cent agreeing that a beating was justified if a wife burns the food.³⁸ More men agreed with both statements.

Paid work and economic impacts

Beyond examining impacts on unpaid labour, respondents were also asked about the pandemic's effect on their paid labour.

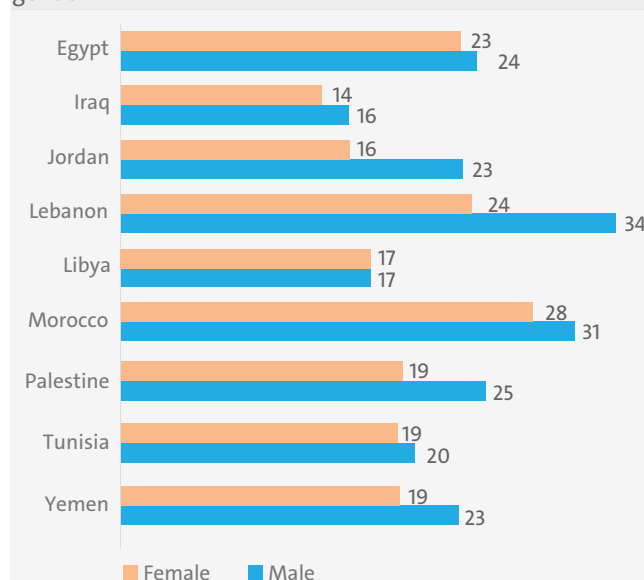
Around one-fifth of respondents reported losing their job or being forced to take unpaid leave – and in almost half of countries women and men were equally affected. Thirty per cent of respondents from Morocco and 29 per cent respondents from Lebanon reported losing their jobs or being forced to take unpaid leave, which are the highest reported percentages across the nine countries. Respondents from Iraq were the least likely to report losing their jobs or being forced to take unpaid leave, with 15 per cent reporting this negative implication on their employment status.

Findings indicate that in Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Tunisia, women and men almost equally reported losing their jobs or being forced to use unpaid leave. However, in Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine

and Yemen male respondents were more likely to report losing their jobs or being forced to take unpaid leave.

In interpreting these results, it is important to bear in mind that the question did not exclude respondents who were previously unemployed, and that women have far lower labour force participation rates across the region – with just 22 per cent of women in paid employment prior to the pandemic.³⁹

Percentage of respondents who lost their jobs/were forced to take unpaid leave as a result of COVID-19, by gender



Since Arab States women are less likely to be employed, it is logical that the number losing their job is lower. However, the fact that the percentage of men and women who reported losing their jobs because of COVID-19 was nearly equal in many countries – despite women's much lower likelihood of being employed – might in fact suggest that women are disproportionately losing their jobs. UN-ESCWA and UN Women have estimated that 700,000 women in the Arab world could lose their jobs as a result of the pandemic.⁴⁰

38 World Bank. N.D. Data portal. "Violence against women" [questions gleaned from Egypt Demographic and Health Survey 2014.] <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.VAW.NEGL.ZS?end=2018&start=2018&view=map&year=2014>

39 ILO (International Labour Organization). 2018. Care Work and Care Jobs for the Future of Decent Work. Geneva: ILO. https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_633135/lang--en/index.htm

40 UN-ESCWA and UN Women. 2020. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality in the Arab Region." E/ESCWA/2020/Policy Brief.4. <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/2020/04/impact%20of%20covid%20on%20gender%20equality%20-%20policy%20brief.pdf?la=en&vs=4414>

It is also worth recalling that respondents with Internet access are more likely to belong to a higher socioeconomic class and could be somewhat less likely to have more informal or vulnerable jobs. The situation is also perhaps fuelled, or at least compounded, by patriarchal social norms in the region whereby both women and men believe that “men should have greater access to jobs than women when work opportunities are scarce”.⁴¹ In Egypt, 98 per cent of men and 88 per cent of women agreed with that statement, while in Lebanon, where the rate was lowest, 57 per cent of men and 31 per cent of women agreed.⁴²

Women and men nearly equally reported losing income as a result of COVID-19. In general,

a considerable percentage of respondents from different countries reported a decline or total loss of income, with more reporting a decline than a total loss – except in Lebanon and Yemen, where the percentage was equal. Examining these two negative implications separately, male respondents were more likely than females to report losing their income entirely, while the case was reversed with regards to reporting on income decline. For example, 40 per cent of men in Lebanon reported a total loss of income compared to 33 per cent of women. On the other hand, 36 per cent of female respondents from Lebanon reported a decline in income, versus 34 per cent of males.

It is also important to consider these findings in light of the fact that in some countries, government support or compensation packages have been made available only to those who have lost jobs, rather than those who have seen their incomes decline. In this sense, women would also seem to be at a greater disadvantage in accessing available support.

Also significant is the fact that in some countries, benefits have excluded women-headed households. For example, the Tunisian Government set up a major social assistance scheme that did not incorporate a gender perspective, as many women

whose husbands were absent could not benefit from exceptional state assistance because they were not the heads of the family.⁴³ Given that an equal number of women and men reported losing their jobs in Tunisia, this fact underlines the extent to which women may be more adversely affected.

Beyond establishing whether there were gendered economic impacts to the COVID-19 crisis for respondents, these findings are also important to consider given the potential for job losses and reduced income to increase levels of stress or hardship. Moreover, given the link between stress and violence and studies that have shown that violence tends to increase during times of stress, and during pandemics in particular – these findings tend to confirm such trends.

Fears and worries

In addition to gender attitudes and economic impacts, the survey set out to examine respondents’ fears, as worries, stress and anxiety are known to increase interpersonal violence, particularly in times of crisis. Health and economic worries occasioned by the pandemic have been compounded by the psychological, social and economic impacts of restrictions on people’s mobility and ability to work, study or socialize. These factors heighten stress and many countries around the world have noted spikes in calls to helplines and reporting of violence against women – in what UN Women has dubbed the ‘shadow pandemic.’⁴⁴

Given the links between stress and violence, UN Women sought to gauge the nature of the worries and fears of women and men in the Arab States region. To this end, respondents in all nine target countries reported worrying most about losing their jobs or having reduced income, followed by running out of food or other essentials, as well as constraints on their mobility – with variations across countries. For instance, in Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen, respondents worried most about running out of food and other essentials; respondents from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Libya worried more

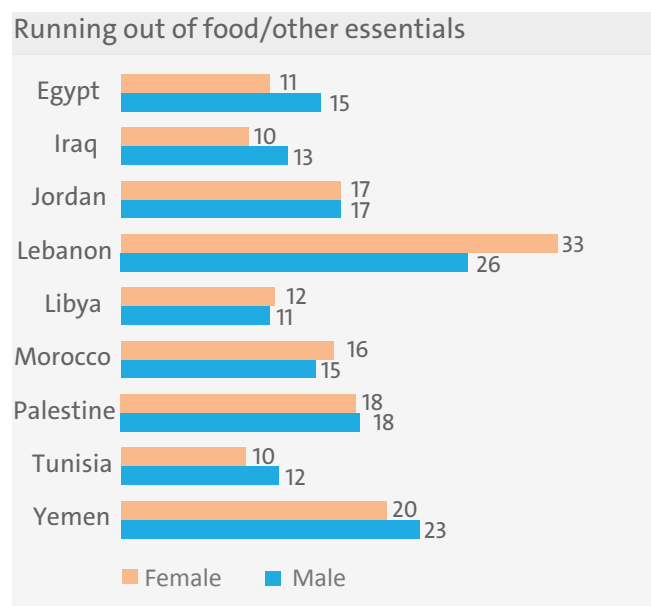
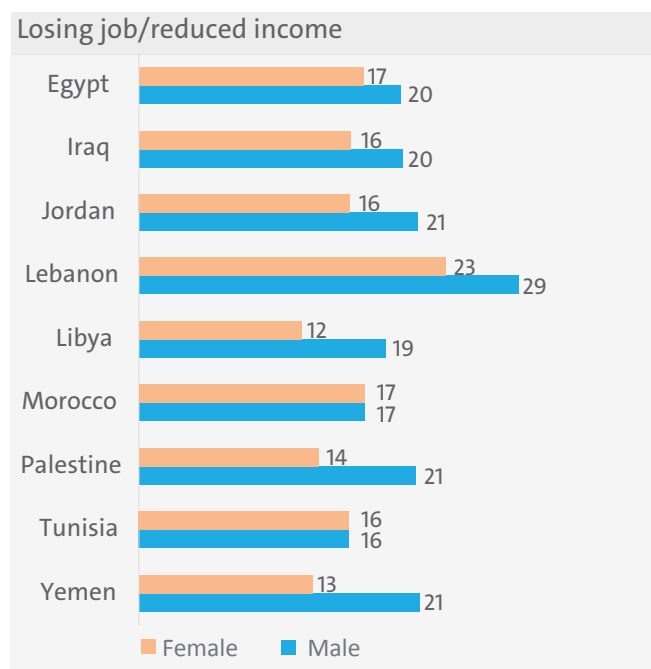
41 UN Women and Promundo 2017.

42 Ibid.

43 UN Women ROAS 2020f.

44 UN Women 2020e. “Violence against women and girls: the shadow pandemic.” 6 April. Accessed 14 September 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/4/statement-ed-phumzile-violence-against-women-during-pandemic>

about losing their jobs or declines in income; while Tunisians worried most about mobility constraints.

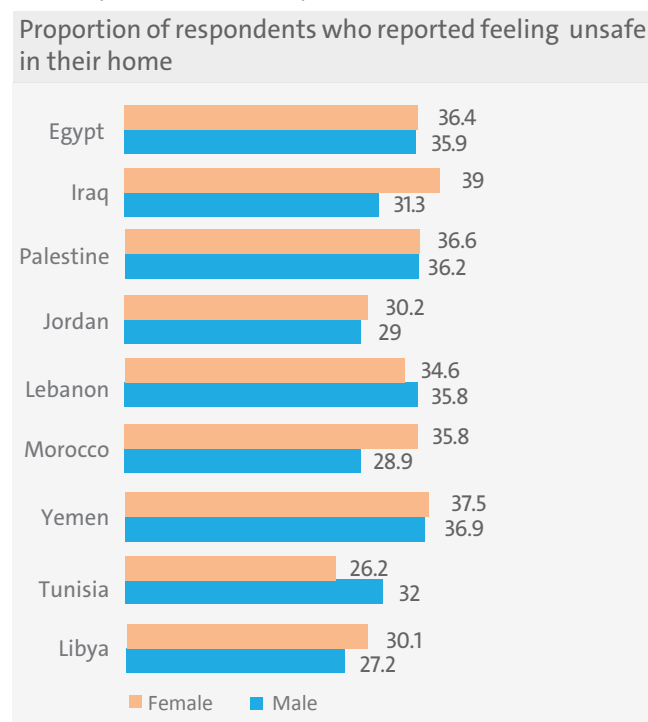


Looking at gender variations in what worried respondents, in most countries (except Morocco and Tunisia), male respondents were more likely than females to worry about losing their jobs or receiving reduced income. For instance, 21 per cent of respondents from Palestine were worried about losing their jobs/reduced income compared to 14 per cent of females; whereas 17 per cent of both males

and females from Morocco worried about losing their jobs/reduced income. In Lebanon and Morocco, women were more likely than men to worry about running out of food or other essentials, while this was something that men in Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia and Yemen were more likely than women to worry about.

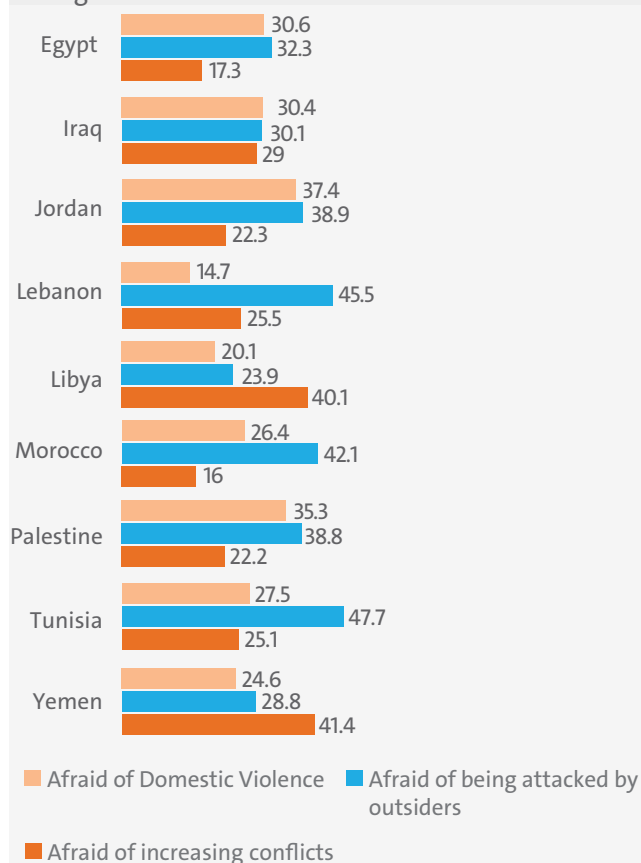
Feeling unsafe in one's home

Respondents were also asked about fears for their personal safety. Roughly 3 in 10 respondents said they feel unsafe in their home, with more women than men reporting this in most countries. Respondents from Libya, Tunisia, and Jordan were the least likely to report feeling unsafe (29 per cent for each of Libya and Tunisia, and 30 per cent for Jordan), while those in Yemen, Egypt and Morocco and Palestine were the most likely to feel unsafe (37, 36 and 36 per cent, respectively). Only in Lebanon and Tunisia were male respondents more likely than females to report feeling unsafe. Also, there was no significant gender variation in feeling unsafe at home, except in Morocco, Iraq and Tunisia. In Morocco, 36 per cent of female respondents reported feeling unsafe in their homes compared to 29 per cent of male respondents. In Iraq, 39 per cent of women reported feeling unsafe in their home versus 31 per cent of men. And in Tunisia, 26 per cent of female respondents reported feeling unsafe in comparison with 32 per cent of males.



Upon closer analysis, the three most reported reasons respondents cited for feeling unsafe at home were: being attacked by outsiders, followed by an increase of conflict/civil unrest, then fear of violence by a spouse/family member. In Iraq, Libya and Yemen, respondents were most likely to fear increasing conflict and civil unrest (34, 48 and 52 per cent, respectively), while in the remaining six countries respondents were most likely to fear being attacked by outsiders. However, here again, there were gender differences in responses, with women more likely than men to report fearing violence from a spouse and/or family member. At least one in four women in surveyed countries expressed being afraid of domestic violence by their spouse or a family member, with the exception of one country (Lebanon) where the proportion was lower (nearly 15 per cent), while in two countries (Jordan and Palestine), this proportion was higher, with at least one in three women expressing fear of domestic violence.

Percentage of reported reasons of being afraid, by women respondents who felt unsafe in their home during the lockdown



Women were also more likely to fear being attacked by outsiders or an escalation of conflict than domestic violence, although the latter may be statistically more probable. However, in reading the survey results, one must remember that these questions were posed in May, still in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns – a time when media coverage of looting and unrest may have caused many people to fear civil unrest or having their homes broken into than usual. At the same time, domestic violence may be more habitual and respondents might not necessarily see it as a pandemic-related fear.

Pandemic-related violence

Witnessing violence or knowing a survivor can also cause emotional distress. Respondents were thus asked whether they had witnessed or knew of a woman who had experienced violence since the lockdown. The web-survey questionnaire specifically inquired about three different types of violence against women: 1) domestic violence by a spouse; 2) violence by a family member; and 3) online harassment (such as receiving unwelcomed sexual or explicit photos or messages, revealing private information, blackmail or threats, etc.).

It can be expected that some of the respondents may be responding about their own experiences of violence, rather than that of someone they know or violence they have witnessed, although there is no way to know for sure. Although ideally, the Regional Office would have liked to learn about the impacts of COVID-19 on violence against women by directly interviewing women survivors about their own violence experiences, this was not possible due to the lockdown. ‘Indirect’ questions were thus used, for ethical considerations, to ensure the safety and confidentiality of survivors who may be trapped with abusers. As such, the data here are considered a proxy.

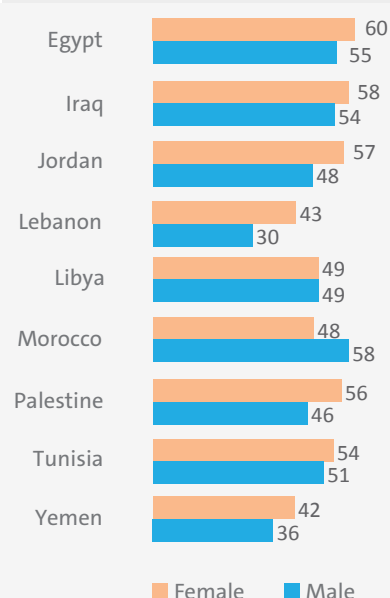
At least half of respondents in seven countries reported witnessing or knowing a woman who had experienced one of these three types of violence since the lockdown. This is a considerable percentage, especially considering the short time-frame, given that lockdowns had only been in place for a few weeks in many countries. There were some variations by country – in Yemen and Lebanon, the

percentage was lower (roughly one-third) – as well as by gender.

Although proxy questions about knowing someone experiencing violence do not equate to prevalence and cannot be used to represent violence survivors' actual experience, this number is remarkably high. In fact, it is notably higher than the overall prevalence rate of violence against women registered in six countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia – which was 12.3 per cent, according to the 2020 SDG report.⁴⁵

In general, women respondents in eight of the nine countries were more likely than men to report witnessing or knowing a woman who had experienced violence. Morocco was the only exception, and the gender discrepancy there was also the largest – with 58 per cent of men reporting having witnessed or knowing a woman who had experienced violence compared to 48 per cent of surveyed women.

Percentage of respondents who witnessed/know a woman who have experienced ANY violence since the spread of COVID-19, by gender



Among all respondents who reported feeling unsafe in their homes (in a separate question), more women than men also reported having witnessed or knowing a woman who has been subjected to violence. This suggests that women's fears of violence are founded on knowledge of actual occurrences. Moreover, knowing a survivor can add to women's emotional distress.

Online harassment was the highest reported type of violence against women in all countries. Respondents in Egypt were more likely than respondents in other countries to report knowing or witnessing online harassment against a woman (42 per cent), while respondents from Lebanon were the least likely to report that type (24 per cent). The variation in reporting between male and female respondents was quite significant in Morocco and Egypt. In Egypt, slightly less than half of female respondents reported knowing or witnessing a woman who experienced online harassment compared to 38 per cent among male respondents. In Morocco, male respondents were 10 percentage points more likely than females to report knowing or witnessing a woman who had experienced online harassment.

45 Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). 2020. "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General." p. 57. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2020/secretary-general-sdg-report-2020--Statistical-Annex.pdf>

Table 1. Respondents who reported witnessing violence or knowing a woman who had experienced it

Percentage of respondents who reported witnessing violence or knowing a woman who has experienced three types of violence since the spread of COVID-19, by sex and country									
	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Pales- tine	Tunisia	Yemen
Domestic violence by husband	37.3	43.7	34.8	24.9	28.7	32.9	36.5	32.9	23.5
Female	38.7	48.5	38.9	28.1	26.4	29.9	38.1	31.4	22.5
Male	36.0	38.3	30.6	21.5	31.2	36.6	34.9	34.2	24.5
Violence by family member	37.6	40.1	36.2	22.3	28.5	30.5	35.2	31.6	21.9
Female	38.8	43.6	41.1	27.0	28.1	28.7	37.9	30.5	21.7
Male	36.5	36.2	31.1	17.4	28.9	32.8	32.4	32.7	22.1
Online harassment	42.1	40.6	32.9	24.2	39.5	35.0	33.4	34.9	26.8
Female	46.8	39.9	33.9	26.7	38.2	30.6	36.3	34.3	29.8
Male	37.7	41.4	31.8	21.6	40.8	40.6	30.5	35.4	24.1
Table was calculated based on valid cases only, provided in the web-survey to assess COVID-19 impacts.									

The reason for these gender differences bears further research. However, it is surprising that such a high proportion of women and men knew of cases of violence against women since the lockdowns began. The fact that online harassment figured so prominently also bears further analysis. Given the lockdowns, millions of women and girls are using videoconferences frequently, sometimes daily, to work and study. According to diverse media outlets, social media posts and women rights experts, different forms of on-line violence are on the rise – including stalking, bullying, sexual harassment, sex trolling, as well as unsolicited pornographic videos appearing when people dial into social events via virtual chat rooms.⁴⁶

It would be worth expanding the types of violence for further research, given the greater complexity of violence that has been emerging in light of the pandemic. During the Ebola outbreaks, multiple forms of violence were exacerbated, including

human trafficking, child marriage and sexual exploitation and abuse.⁴⁷ The emergence of new or shifting forms of violence against women will also require targeted responses.

In all nine countries, roughly half of respondents agreed with the statement: “Because of COVID-19 lockdown measures, women face an increased risk of violence from their husbands.” There were only very slight variations by country, with a 55 per cent of all respondents from Lebanon agreeing compared to 48 per cent of all respondents from Yemen. By gender, in all nine countries except Libya, female respondents were more likely than male respondents to agree. The gender variation was largest in Palestine, where 53 per cent of female respondents agreed, compared to 45 per cent of males.

46 UN Women. 2020a. “Brief: COVID-19 and ending violence against women and girls.” <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5006>

47 United Nations General Assembly. 2018. Protecting Humanity from Future Health Crises: Report of the High-Level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises UNGA A/70/723; UNICEF. 2018. “GBV in Emergencies: Emergency Responses to Public Health Outbreaks,” September, p. 2, as cited in UN Women. 2020a.

Table 2. Respondents agreeing that women face an increased risk of violence from their husbands

Percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that “Because of COVID-19 lockdown measures, women face an increased risk of violence from their husbands”, by background characteristics and country									
	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia	Yemen
Gender									
Female	52.6	56.1	56.1	56.1	49.4	54.8	52.5	55.7	49.2
Male	47.1	52.6	51.1	53.6	49.3	45.8	44.8	52.5	46.6
Age									
18–24	52.4	56.0	53.7	47.2	51.5	51.3	54.4	54.8	49.8
25–34	50.2	57.6	58.2	53.4	48.0	51.6	47.0	55.4	49.8
35–44	48.8	54.7	53.3	57.7	51.2	51.1	48.6	53.9	44.0
45–54	46.4	46.6	54.1	59.1	44.9	54.4	51.3	57.7	51.0
55+	51.1	51.6	43.1	53.4	52.0	45.1	39.4	50.8	41.5
Highest educational level									
Didn’t attend school	51.3	50.9	46.6	50.5	51.1	43.1	46.9	49.0	44.9
Primary (1–6)	38.9	38.4	54.0	38.2	54.9	41.3	42.0	56.4	47.4
Secondary (7–12)	54.1	54.9	52.2	47.2	49.3	47.5	46.4	51.5	47.9
Post-secondary	44.5	58.2	48.8	68.9	45.5	54.5	41.2	46.9	52.6
Bachelor’s degree	49.5	57.6	59.7	63.5	49.6	59.1	52.5	58.8	45.3
Master’s degree or higher	51.8	66.9	58.3	64.6	53.2	49.2	55.8	59.6	(51.6)
Other	48.5	53.5	49.3	49.8	45.0	50.7	52.6	48.6	52.9
Residence									
Big city	51.0	57.7	55.2	62.0	49.1	53.9	50.1	55.0	52.7
Small town	50.2	57.8	53.5	52.1	53.0	46.8	52.7	55.4	43.8
Village or rural area	47.2	50.2	53.9	50.7	46.3	46.0	49.0	51.7	43.3
Camp	Na	38.4	44.4	47.7	Na	Na	41.1	Na	39.0
Marital status									
Currently married	48.4	55.1	52.0	57.3	47.2	52.9	44.9	55.8	48.4
Ever married	56.5	50.0	50.0	44.5	56.1	42.8	55.5	63.1	41.1
Single/engaged	49.3	54.4	56.1	55.2	50.0	50.0	50.4	50.6	48.9
Total	49.8	54.3	53.6	54.9	49.4	50.4	48.7	54.2	47.9
Note: Numbers between parentheses are based on 25–49 unweighted cases. Na: Not applicable									

In most countries, respondents with a higher educational level (Bachelor’s and/or Master’s degree or higher) were more likely than respondents with a lower educational level to agree with that statement, as were respondents from younger age groups. Respondents living in big cities were most likely to agree.

The majority of respondents from all nine countries also agreed with the following statement: “Addressing violence against women should be a priority even during the COVID-19 outbreak”. This is an important recognition of the importance and urgency of confronting VAW, by both women and men. It is also worth noting that gender differences

in agreement were minimal across most countries – except for Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia, where more women than men agreed with the statement. More variations were observed by education, area of residence and marital status.

Table 3. Respondents agreeing that addressing violence against women should be a priority even during the pandemic

Percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority even during COVID-19 outbreak”, by background characteristics and country									
	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia	Yemen
Gender									
Female	71.2	65.7	75.3	72.4	69.2	68.2	71.1	79.0	65.0
Male	71.6	64.8	67.3	71.3	71.0	69.0	65.2	72.3	67.9
Age									
18-24	70.8	66.0	66.2	62.2	69.5	67.6	67.6	73.0	65.2
25-34	70.4	62.7	68.6	69.0	65.8	68.3	65.3	74.3	68.7
35-44	77.3	68.2	74.8	76.5	74.8	68.6	72.8	75.6	65.7
45-54	70.1	67.8	76.9	77.2	75.4	79.9	69.2	82.5	71.6
55+	67.6	61.6	70.5	69.5	62.0	61.6	67.4	74.2	59.2
Highest educational level									
Didn't attend school	54.3	54.4	48.1	54.5	54.0	41.4	44.7	46.6	42.8
Primary (1-6)	53.4	50.3	63.2	60.5	65.4	56.3	52.1	59.1	66.3
Secondary (7-12)	73.2	64.4	72.4	67.1	71.2	65.3	61.0	75.0	66.4
Post-secondary	63.2	64.3	68.1	81.5	60.3	71.8	71.1	67.5	68.4
Bachelor's degree	78.6	75.9	81.2	84.1	79.1	81.7	79.6	85.7	74.6
Master's degree or higher	80.4	82.0	81.0	78.3	69.4	78.4	83.6	85.7	(73.6)
Other	64.5	63.0	63.5	63.2	61.9	67.5	71.2	69.7	63.3
Residence									
Big city	76.7	72.5	75.0	78.2	73.3	74.6	71.2	81.7	72.3
Small town	68.2	69.8	73.9	72.0	72.9	64.9	68.3	73.8	68.1
Village or rural area	64.6	56.6	68.6	68.1	61.3	57.0	71.8	70.8	60.0
Camp	Na	36.0	52.1	57.6	Na	Na	58.7	Na	45.7
Marital status									
Currently married	76.4	72.1	77.1	77.1	76.7	72.4	70.5	81.0	71.1
Ever married	64.0	58.6	69.8	59.9	66.8	66.9	73.7	67.0	56.5
Single/engaged	68.6	61.8	65.6	69.0	65.7	65.8	65.1	72.1	65.1
Total	71.5	65.3	71.2	71.8	70.1	68.6	68.2	75.9	66.5
Note: Numbers between parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.									
Na: Not applicable									

In all nine countries, respondents with a Bachelors' degree or higher, living in big cities and who are currently married were more likely than their counterparts (with lower education, rural residence and unmarried) to agree with that statement.

More than 41 per cent of respondents agreed that women should tolerate violence during the pandemic to keep the family together. Although more respondents, in most countries, disagreed than agreed with the statement "A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times", a considerable and worrying percentage still agreed. More than half of all respondents in Yemen agreed that women should tolerate violence especially during the COVID-19 pandemic – the highest level reported by any country. The lowest level of agreement was reported in Tunisia, where 31 per cent of all respondents agreed that women should tolerate violence for family unity.

In all nine countries, more men than women agreed with this statement. The largest gender disparity in agreement was noted in Tunisia, where 39 per cent of male respondents agreed that women should tolerate violence during these difficult times compared to 24 per cent of female respondents. Still, a surprisingly high percentage of women – at least two-fifths of female respondents in Egypt, Iraq, Libya and Yemen – agreed that women should tolerate violence, especially during these difficult times. Variations by other background characteristics differ by country (see Table 4) and are described in the country briefs.

Percentage of respondents who strongly agree or agree that "A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times", by gender

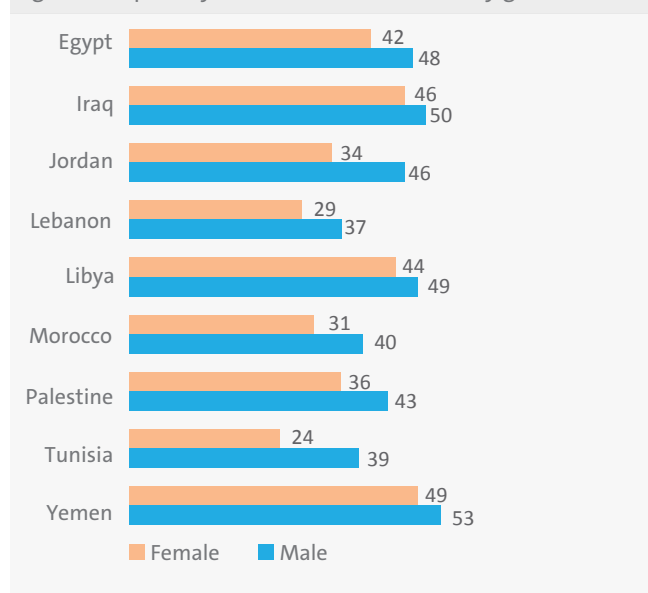


Table 4. Agreeing that women should tolerate violence, especially during the pandemic

Percentage of respondents who strongly agreed or agreed that “A woman should tolerate violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times”, by background characteristics and country									
	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia	Yemen
Gender									
Female	41.9	46.1	33.5	28.9	43.6	30.7	35.7	23.9	49.4
Male	48.4	49.7	46.4	37.0	48.8	39.8	42.9	39.1	53.3
Age									
18-24	39.3	48.1	36.9	34.7	44.0	28.8	34.4	30.0	55.1
25-34	42.8	47.7	41.0	35.9	44.1	35.3	37.0	30.8	50.8
35-44	50.3	50.9	42.1	31.2	43.3	32.6	40.7	30.8	46.2
45-54	44.1	43.8	39.0	24.5	50.5	32.9	43.7	30.9	58.2
55+	52.6	49.1	41.1	38.4	53.3	43.3	46.5	31.8	47.2
Highest educational level									
Didn't attend school	43.8	48.8	50.1	48.1	55.8	37.0	49.1	41.5	48.8
Primary (1-6)	39.9	46.5	57.8	40.3	53.9	36.1	48.6	37.5	60.8
Secondary (7-12)	51.4	49.0	41.1	32.4	51.7	37.1	38.9	39.5	54.1
Post-secondary	51.7	50.0	41.6	39.4	46.1	35.0	40.7	31.7	52.6
Bachelor's degree	41.8	46.2	34.3	20.9	39.7	36.8	30.9	22.2	47.6
Master's degree or higher	48.2	42.5	32.2	26.7	48.6	24.2	55.3	23.4	(46.0)
Other	39.2	52.7	37.8	35.4	43.9	36.7	38.3	35.7	47.7
Residence									
Big city	44.4	49.1	37.1	31.2	47.4	35.9	41.9	25.7	50.7
Small town	43.3	51.2	40.5	31.6	49.5	34.9	38.2	34.0	54.7
Village or rural area	48.4	48.2	44.9	31.2	41.0	33.4	39.4	33.9	54.6
Camp	Na	36.8	42.8	45.9	Na	Na	35.8	Na	42.8
Marital status									
Currently married	49.6	49.5	39.2	28.5	50.0	39.1	41.0	33.3	51.0
Ever married	47.4	43.5	42.1	33.7	57.2	32.5	40.9	28.5	45.9
Note: Numbers between parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.									
Na: Not applicable									

In most countries, older and married respondents were more likely to agree than younger, single or engaged respondents.

Although troubling, the high number of respondents agreeing with this statement is not entirely surprising, given other survey research

on gender roles and attitudes in the region. The 2017 IMAGES survey revealed that in Egypt, more than half of male respondents believed that women deserve to be beaten on occasion, and 90 per cent asserted that women should accept such treatment in order to preserve the

family.⁴⁸ While women strongly disagreed with their male counterparts on the former point, they were far more willing to tolerate violence for the sake of family unity. In Palestine, one-third of men and one-quarter of women agreed that “there are times when a woman deserves to be beaten” and more than half of men and women alike agreed that “a woman should tolerate violence to keep the family together”.⁴⁹ A separate Department of Statistics report in Jordan indicated that 79 per cent of young women between the ages of 15 and 24 years thought that a husband was justified in hitting his wife, while 32 per cent of married women had experienced emotional, physical and/or sexual violence from their spouse.⁵⁰

Given these pre-existing high levels of tolerance of violence for the sake of family preservation, the fact that one in three respondents agreed with this statement in times of COVID-19 might in fact be a positive revelation, signalling a dip in public support for such justifications for violence. At the same time, such conclusions cannot be made categorically, as all attitudes of acceptance towards violence have not been previously traced in all nine countries. Regardless of whether this finding is interpreted from a glass-half-empty (negative) or a glass-half-full (positive) perspective, it is still troubling that any acceptance of violence is still relatively widespread.

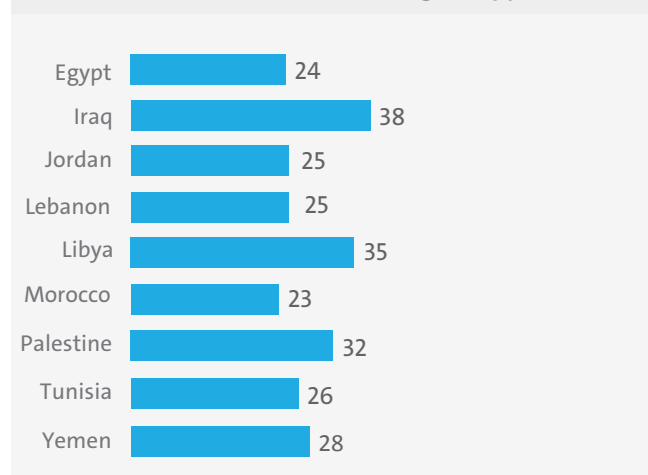
Help-seeking behaviour by survivors of violence in times of COVID-19

Underreporting of domestic and other forms of violence against women has always been a challenge, with global studies suggesting that less than 40 per cent of women who experience violence seeking help of any sort or reporting the crime.⁵¹ However, rates are even lower in the Arab States, with UN Women research in Jordan highlighting that only 3 per cent of victims of violence are willing

to seek support from the police after experiencing violence – a situation that increases impunity for these crimes.⁵²

Mobility restrictions and lockdown measures have made seeking help even more daunting for survivors of violence. Findings from the survey concur with a lower than 40 per cent reporting rate. Among respondents who expressed knowing a woman who has been subjected to violence, the proportion of those who said she sought support ranged from 23 per cent in Morocco to 38 per cent in Iraq.

Among respondents who have witnessed/know a woman who experienced violence, percentage who said that the victim of violence sought support



However, most respondents – both male and female – reported that women who experienced and sought help for violence either completely or partially received the support sought, with variations by country. Seven in 10 respondents from Tunisia and Iraq said that victims of violence completely or partially received the help they sought, compared to 49 per cent among respondents from Palestine.

48 UN Women and Promundo 2017. p. 80.

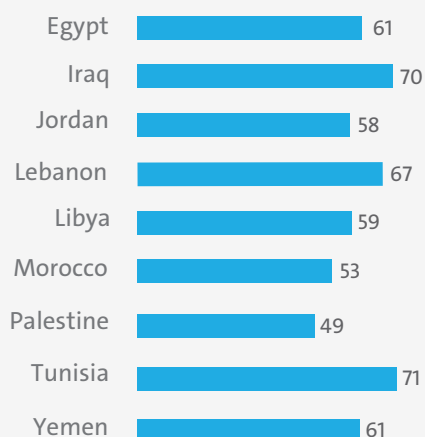
49 Ibid.

50 Government of Jordan. 2012. Jordan population and family health survey.

51 UN-DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs). 2015. The World's Women 2015, Trends and Statistics, p. 159.

52 UN Women Jordan. 2016. Strengthening the Jordanian's Justice Sector response to cases of violence against women. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2016/2/strengthening-the-jordanian-justice>

Among respondents who reported that survivors of violence sought support, percentage who completely or partially received help



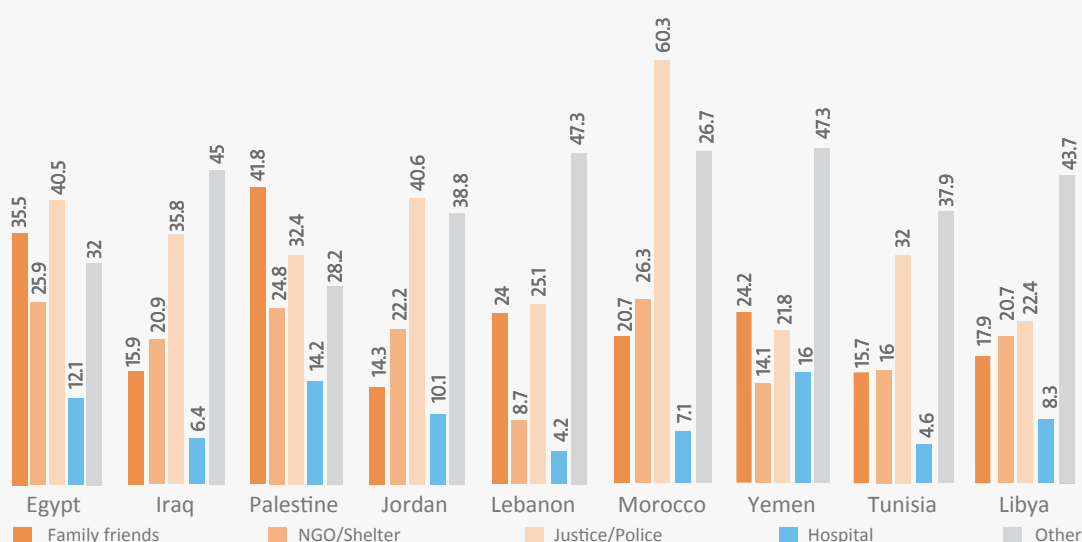
A glass-half-empty reading of this finding could be that respondents based their answers on their own limited assumptions about whether the survivors they knew sought help rather than an informed certainty that these survivors did in fact seek support. It is also important to remember that seeking support does not necessarily mean the survivors were actually able to access it. Moreover, respondents might not have had any informed idea of the extent of the support received, and whether it was completely or partially adequate, again inserting their own biases and assumptions into their responses.

At the same time, a glass-half-full reading of this

finding can be made, given the research on previously low rates of reporting to police in the Arab States. This level of reporting is high in comparison, and might be a positive sign of change, or a reflection of institutional efforts to ease reporting avenues in several countries, particularly to ensure that services for survivors remained available amid the pandemic.

Respondents who said the survivors they knew sought support were further prompted to indicate the source of support from a list of services (family and friends; police; courts; hospital or doctor; NGOs; shelter for survivors of violence; other services). Most respondents reported that women turned to police and/or courts to seek support in the majority of the surveyed countries. This was not the case in Palestine and Yemen, where family and friends were reported as the main gateway for support sought and police and justice ranked second. NGOs and shelters for women survivors of violence ranked as the second entry point to seek support in most countries, with the exception of Lebanon and Egypt – where family and friends were second, after police and courts. Yemen was the only country where the health system was reported as the second sectoral entry point. It is also worth noting that in all countries, a large proportion of respondents referred to ‘Other services’ as a main source of support. This should be further explored through qualitative research.

Proportion of respondents who reported services sought by survivors of violence among those who witnessed or know a women who has been subjected to violence and sought support



In this respect, it is worth noting that the two countries where the highest number of respondents reported help-seeking by survivors from police/courts were Morocco and Jordan. In these countries, these rates could potentially reflect gender-focused pandemic response efforts by the Government and UN Women. When it comes to survivors who sought support from shelters and NGOs, Morocco and Egypt had the highest number of responses,

which may equally reflect efforts to bolster service-delivery in these areas (see chapter on UN Women efforts).

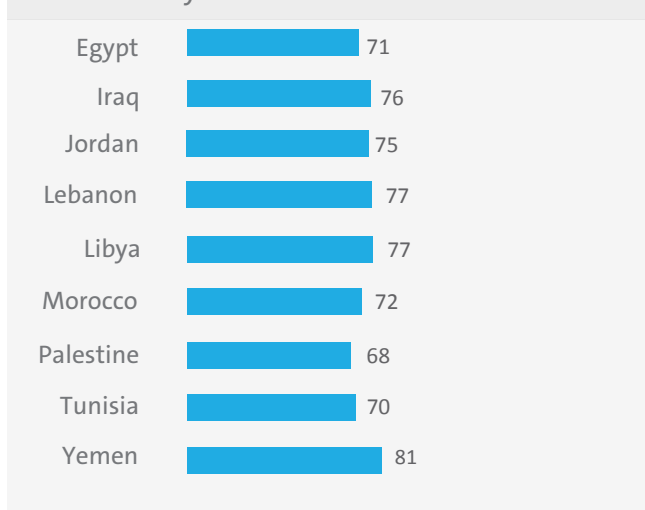
Also, on a positive note, the majority of respondents in all nine countries were willing to report domestic violence – either experienced by themselves or by others. In most countries, men were more likely than women to say they would report their own experience of domestic violence to police.

Table 5. Willingness to report respondent's own experience of domestic violence to police

Percentage of respondents who are willing to report a domestic violence incident that happened to them to the police, by background characteristics and country									
	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia	Yemen
Gender									
Female	62.7	64.5	71.6	77.3	70.1	68.5	61.5	71.7	75.9
Male	66.6	70.6	71.6	74.1	71.4	70.7	65.5	62.3	78.9
Age									
18-24	65.6	70.8	70.2	69.2	67.6	71.9	63.1	72.1	74.2
25-34	66.7	69.1	73.1	77.1	70.1	71.5	67.5	74.7	80.3
35-44	60.5	68.4	72.4	76.7	68.6	71.4	66.1	63.7	77.5
45-54	63.9	64.2	74.9	75.5	79.6	69.4	57.2	65.0	74.3
55+	66.5	60.2	64.4	77.2	68.1	64.5	58.2	63.3	80.8
Highest educational level									
Didn't attend school	66.6	72.0	67.6	61.6	66.7	72.7	62.5	54.3	78.9
Primary (1-6)	58.3	72.0	66.5	81.9	75.2	55.7	62.2	72.5	77.6
Secondary (7-12)	70.7	70.7	74.8	79.4	68.3	73.3	68.6	66.2	81.7
Post-secondary	44.3	64.6	68.5	66.6	67.1	71.5	54.4	66.7	74.6
Bachelor's degree	69.3	64.2	74.6	80.4	74.4	71.0	63.6	75.6	76.7
Master's degree or higher	60.5	63.5	71.5	76.9	74.8	74.1	72.6	66.6	(81.1)
Other	59.8	60.9	63.8	68.8	64.6	58.8	55.2	54.8	62.2
Residence									
Big city	65.9	69.7	74.3	77.2	72.2	71.2	61.1	72.5	78.2
Small town	60.1	69.3	70.8	77.4	71.5	66.1	72.0	63.4	75.6
Village or rural area	66.5	62.9	68.2	77.2	67.4	70.1	63.8	65.4	76.7
Camp	Na	62.2	67.6	61.5	Na	Na	57.1	Na	78.1
Marital status									
Currently married	68.0	66.7	73.4	78.2	73.0	67.5	66.1	65.0	79.4
Ever married	59.7	62.6	72.4	79.2	71.8	64.1	54.8	63.2	72.3
Single/engaged	62.7	69.0	69.6	71.4	68.9	72.4	63.0	70.7	77.1
Total	64.7	67.7	71.6	75.7	70.8	69.6	63.5	67.3	77.4
Note: Numbers between parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases.									
Na: Not applicable									

The majority of respondents in all nine countries are also willing to engage in actions to prevent violence against women. This finding represents a silver lining. Interestingly, men were more willing than women to engage in activities to prevent VAW in their community in most countries – except Egypt and Tunisia, where female respondents were more willing than males to engage in such activities. In most countries, currently married respondents were also more willing to engage in actions to prevent domestic VAW in their community than separated, divorced, widowed or single respondents.

Percentage of respondents who are willing to engage in actions to prevent domestic violence against women in their community



There is little, if any, pre-existing research about whether people in the region are willing to engage in action to prevent violence. Nonetheless, these levels of willingness to engage are high and encouraging. Given UN Women's many efforts to engage men in particular across the Arab States, this finding confirms that there is interest in such engagement among the general public, particularly among men. The findings could even suggest that existing activities may be bearing fruit.

UN Women efforts

This survey offers fascinating and important insights into the way the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting women and men differently, and how it may be shifting certain behaviours across the region. It has been particularly encouraging to see men's increased participation in unpaid care around the home. In terms of VAW, for which there has traditionally been very low levels of reporting, it has also been encouraging to hear that most survey respondents who know a survivor of violence said that she had been able to seek help, and that for the most part this help was satisfactory. Also notable was the high number of respondents – and men in particular – who said they are willing to take part in efforts to confront VAW.

It is also possible that some of these encouraging trends are the result – at least in part – of the various response efforts that have been undertaken by governments, CSOs and the United Nations system, in recent years, and in response to the pandemic. Many governments have launched VAW awareness-raising campaigns, such as Morocco which has been launching a yearly national campaign on EVAW since 2002.⁵³ In February, the Egyptian Government also launched a media campaign to specifically raise awareness on how to avoid cyber violence and online blackmail. In July, the UN Women ROAS in partnership with the UN Women Liaison Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council released a public service announcement entitled '**#WomenAndCOVID**', highlighting the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls in the Arab States region, and the urgency need to prioritize the fundamental rights of women in response and recovery efforts.⁵⁴

UN Women has also led many efforts to engage men in particular across the Arab States, through HeForShe initiatives as well as national and regional projects, programmes and campaigns in

⁵³ <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2019/11/287856/morocco-launches-violence-against-women-awareness-campaign/>

⁵⁴ UN Women ROAS. 2020e. "Press release: New UN Women video highlights women's challenges and needs in the context of COVID-19." July. <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/07/press-release-new-un-women-video-highlights-women-challenges-in-the-context-of-covid19>

all countries surveyed. Existing UN Women efforts focused on involving men in awareness-raising on VAW prevention include ‘father and child’ camps,⁵⁵ advocacy by male youth volunteers,⁵⁶ outreach with male tuk tuk drivers in Egypt⁵⁷; training male leaders as ambassadors to prevent child marriage in Palestine⁵⁸; and engaging male youth as well as Syrian refugees in Jordan through HeForShe advocacy initiatives on ending VAW.⁵⁹ UN Women’s Regional Office for the Arab States also runs the “Engaging men and women for gender equality” programme in Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Palestine, whereby young men learn about gender-equitable attitudes through activities such as ‘fatherhood training’ and actively raise awareness of VAW and gender inequalities through advocacy and activities such as theatre, art exhibitions and sporting events.⁶⁰

The findings of the high proportion of men who are interested in efforts to confront VAW – which varied slightly but were high across all countries – confirms that there is both interest in such engagement and potential to expand them. The findings could even suggest that such activities are already bearing fruit.

The regional campaign, “Because I am a man”, also raises public awareness about the importance of men’s roles in caregiving and working towards achieving gender equality, with the ultimate goal of changing men’s attitudes and behaviours.⁶¹ In April, this awareness campaign showcased 10 videos of Moroccan men who are doing a greater share of domestic work in the context of COVID-19, which aired on Moroccan television and across social media.⁶² During the lockdown in Palestine, several men also took part in online trainings under the “Because I am a man” initiative.⁶³

Prior to the pandemic, UN Women was already working in all nine target countries to empower women economically, advocate for the recognition and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work, ensure access to justice for survivors of violence, and to strive towards ensuring a life free from all forms of violence against women.

55 UN Women Egypt. 2020b. “Restoring the role of fathers within the family.” 21 June. <https://egypt.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/06/restoring-role-of-fathers>

56 UN Women Egypt. 2019. “Take Five: ‘Women can face situations and challenges, just like men.’” 11 September. <https://egypt.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2019/09/take-five-women-can-face-situations-and-challenges-just-like-men>

57 UN Women Egypt. 2018. “‘I learned to respect women’ — Tuk Tuk drivers join efforts to make the streets of Cairo safe for women.” 22 January. <https://egypt.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2018/04/i-learned-to-respect-women>

58 UN Women Palestine. 2019. “The men who are standing tall against early marriages in the Gaza Strip” 6 December. <https://palestine.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2019/12/the-men-who-are-standing-tall-against-early-marriages-in-the-gaza-strip>

59 See related stories: <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/february/i-am-generation-equality-saif-dabbas-he-forshe-and-youth-activist>; <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/march/i-am-generation-equality-ahmed-al-balkhi>; <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/march/from-where-i-stand-we-are-a-group-of-men-who-are-ready-to-rise-up-against-gender-based-violence>

60 See related stories: <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/men-and-women-for-gender-equality>; <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/09/feature-sharing-the-care-at-home-in-palestine>; <https://morocco.unwomen.org/fr/actualites-evenements/actualites/2018/11/soufiane-guerraoui>; <https://egypt.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/08/dads-in-quarantine>;

61 UN Women ROAS. N.D. “Because I am a man campaign.” <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/because-i-am-a-man-campaign>

62 UN Women Morocco. 2020b. “Hit Ana Rajel - Campagne de sensibilisation en réponse au COVID-19”. <https://morocco.unwomen.org/fr/actualites-evenements/actualites/2020/04/campagne-sensibilisation-confinement-hit-ana-rajel>

63 UN Women ROAS. 2020d. “In Palestine one couple shows the benefit of sharing the care at home.” 3 September. <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/09/feature-sharing-the-care-at-home-in-palestine>

In light of COVID-19, UN Women also undertook more targeted efforts to confront the new or emerging challenges, and to address the deepening of existing inequalities or vulnerabilities. Such efforts have included ensuring the continuation of essential services for survivors of violence during the pandemic. In this respect, it is worth noting that the two countries where the highest number of respondents reported help-seeking by survivors to police or the courts were Morocco and Jordan. This finding could potentially reflect their gender-focused pandemic response efforts such as the increased female police officers dispatched to homes across Jordan and the website/email/mobile app launched to ensure that women survivors of violence could report violence in Morocco (as mentioned on p. 14).

In Jordan, UN Women has been working closely with the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Civil Defence Force, the Gendarmerie and the Public Security Directorate (PSD) to provide gender-sensitive emergency response to local communities to protect them from the virus transmission while assisting vulnerable women in need, with particular attention to VAW survivors. The PSD Women's Police Directorate deployed additional female officers in all governorates to support the police in monitoring and responding to such cases, while the Family Protection Department established crisis teams with female officers to provide immediate responses to VAW and domestic violence cases 24/7.⁶⁴ The PSD also communicated and coordinated with NGOs for referrals, especially of the most severe and urgent cases of violence, and launched an awareness campaign on VAW during the pandemic, in collaboration with media.⁶⁵ In Jordan's refugee camps, UN Women's CSO partner the Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development

(ARDD) has been working to ensure that vulnerable refugee women know how to access protection and legal services, including during the COVID-19 crisis.

In Morocco, a mobile application launched and operated by the Union of Moroccan Women (Union Nationale des Femmes Marocaines), an NGO, provides a solution for women who are locked in with their perpetrators, by discretely linking them to one of 12 regional centres across the country, without having to discuss their situation over the phone. UN Women has also been training police officers to improve their handling of VAW reporting in both Algeria and Morocco since 2018.⁶⁶

When it comes to survivors who sought support from shelters and NGOs, Morocco and Egypt had the highest numbers of responses. This could also reflect efforts to bolster service-delivery in these areas. To overcome the lack of information about available services in Morocco, UN Women published a repertoire of all available health, legal and social services for survivors of violence, including hotlines and shelters run by government and CSOs, across different regions – with opening hours and contact information.⁶⁷ In Egypt, UN Women has supported national efforts – including dedicated quarantine rooms in shelters, recent legislative reforms and policy initiatives to provide greater access for survivors to quality multi-sectoral services, as well as national VAW prevention and response programmes.⁶⁸

Other efforts underway to improve access to essential services for survivors during the pandemic include an "Arab States Civil Society Organizations and Feminists Network", comprised of 25 CSOs and women's grass-roots organizations from Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco,

64 UN Women Jordan. 2020b. "Women in the security sector at the frontline of the COVID-19 response." 20 April. <https://jordan.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/april/women-in-the-security-sector-at-the-frontline-of-the-covid-19-response>

65 UN Women ROAS 2020a.

66 UN Women Morocco. 2020a. "Formation des agents de police sur les normes et standards internationaux de prise en charge policière des femmes victimes de violences." 7 January. <https://morocco.unwomen.org/fr/actualites-evenements/actualites/2020/01/formation-des-agents-de-police>

67 UN Women Morocco. 2020c. "Mapping Confinement / COVID-19 Recours associatifs et institutionnels disponibles pour les femmes victimes de violence Services d'écoute, de soutien psychologique, et d'orientation." <https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20maghreb/documents/others/recours%20disponibles%20decoute%20en%20confinement%20maroc%20vf.pdf?la=fr&vs=5716>

68 UN Women Egypt. 2020d. "UN Women welcomes unprecedented national efforts to support survivors of sexual assault and harassment." 15 July. <https://egypt.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/07/un-women-welcomes-unprecedented-national-efforts-to-support-survivors-of-sexual-assault>

Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen.⁶⁹ Established with support from UN Women ROAS, the Network aims to create a strong voice for women in the Arab States region, provide policy recommendations to governments, and share best practices of successful interventions undertaken by civil society groups in response to the pandemic. UN Women also separately surveyed 200 CSOs across the region.

The importance of recent changes to the legislative frameworks in several Arab States countries surveyed cannot be understated. Tunisia passed a law on violence against women in 2017; both Jordan and Lebanon repealed laws excepting rapists from punishment if they married their victim that same year; and a law domestic violence was revived in the Iraqi Parliament in 2019 (although it is still awaiting endorsement).⁷⁰ A 2019 report by UN Women, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN-ESCWA noted that women and girls have benefited from new laws and reforms of penal, labour, family and nationality codes in some Arab countries over the past decade, positively impacting protections against VAW and sexual harassment and limiting child marriage.⁷¹

While causal linkages cannot be confirmed based on this survey, the findings point to some encouraging results that may well have been influenced by these diverse efforts to end violence against women. At the same time, the fact that violence appears to be affecting so many women across the region, that tolerance for such violence for the sake of family unity persists, and that the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic are creating additional stressors that are known to fuel such violence, all remain potent causes for concern and point to the need for accelerated efforts.

69 UN Women ROAS. 2020g. "Women's groups join forces to support COVID-19 response in the Arab States." 15 September. <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/09/women-groups-support-covid19-response-in-the-arab-states>

70 <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/news-tunisia-law-on-ending-violence-against-women>; <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/news-lebanon-parliament-repeals-rape-law>; <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/8/news-jordanian-parliament-abolishes-law-that-allowed-rapists-to-avoid-prosecution>; <https://arabstates.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/04/un-in-iraq-raises-the-alarm-to-endorse-the-anti-domestic-violence-law>.

71 UNDP, UN-ESCWA, UNFPA and UN Women. 2019.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened pre-existing inequalities of all kinds and exposed vulnerabilities in social and economic systems, which are in turn amplifying the impacts of the pandemic. For example, for women survivors who have lost their jobs or are receiving decreased income, leaving an abusive partner becomes even more difficult during the pandemic, perhaps deepening their financial dependence on a spouse. This is especially true in countries experiencing financial crises, such as Lebanon, or humanitarian crises, such as Yemen. These impacts are further exacerbated in contexts of fragility, conflict and emergencies where social cohesion is already undermined, and where institutional capacity and services are limited.

In this sense, it has become more urgent than ever to stay the course of existing and ever-relevant frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular ensuring that no one is left behind.

In documenting the differential effects of the pandemic on women and men, these online surveys shed light on the varied impacts of COVID-19 across the Arab States region. They help to deepen understanding of gender roles and perceptions around paid and unpaid work and violence against women in these times of crisis. They also reveal a mix of encouraging and troubling findings, summarized below.

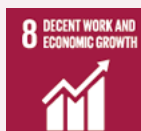


SDG target 5.4: Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

Unpaid care and domestic work

Promising results include the considerable percentage of male respondents who reported dedicating more time than before the pandemic to certain caregiving activities, a tendency also confirmed by women. Men in all nine countries have been increasingly stepping up to assist children with schoolwork and to dedicate more time to care for elderly, sick and/or disabled household members – even devoting more increased time than are women in many countries.

Still, this encouraging sign is not yet cause for celebration. The survey findings indicate that male respondents were less likely than females to spend more time doing household chores – tasks that Arab men have traditionally resisted. Moreover, the amount of increased time was not specified or quantified and women also said the amount of time they devote to unpaid care and domestic work has increased. In a region where women already bear 4.7 times more of the burden for unpaid work than men, the increase in pandemic-related unpaid work is still likely to add a proportionally greater time burden on women.



SDG 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

SDG 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

Paid work

Although losing one's job and being forced to take unpaid leave are decidedly negative impacts, the fact that women and men were equally affected in almost half of all countries could be seen as a positive finding suggesting greater equality of outcomes. Across most countries, women and men also nearly equally reported losing income as a result of COVID-19.

At the same time, given women's much lower labour

force participation rates across the region, this finding can also be interpreted in a negative light, suggesting that women are disproportionately losing their jobs and facing reduced incomes. It is also worth recalling that since the survey only reached respondents with Internet access – who are more likely to be male and perhaps less likely to have informal or vulnerable jobs – it may underestimate the economic impacts among the most vulnerable populations, including women, migrant and refugee populations.



SDG 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Violence against women

Violence against women was recognized as a real threat for women in the region by female and male respondents, who thought it should be a priority, even during the pandemic. This reflects high community awareness of the issue, which could be explained at least partly by exposure to media articles, programmes or awareness-raising campaigns which took place in most of the countries surveyed. The majority of young men in the region also expressed their willingness to engage in activities to prevent and respond to violence – a decidedly encouraging sign – which should be further capitalized on in community engagement efforts to end VAW.

At the same time, the fact that so many men and women personally knew a woman who had experienced violence in the short timeframe since the COVID-19 lockdowns began was a decidedly negative finding that suggests the incidence of violence against women may be increasing – even though there is no comparable pre-pandemic data in this regard. The fact that respondents also perceived increased risks of VAW was also decidedly negative. This appears to be strongly linked to pandemic-related stress and to prevailing patriarchal social norms that condone violence inside the home – as evidenced by the fact that one-third to half of all respondents agreed that VAW should be tolerated for the sake of family unity in these difficult times.



SDG 16.A: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

Help-seeking and access to services

Despite the restricted mobility during lockdowns, the survey responses suggest that women survivors have been able to seek help from institutional support systems such as police, courts, shelters, NGOs and hospitals. A surprising and positive finding was that police and justice seemed to be the

main entry points for women survivors of violence seeking support in the region. Past research has shown very low rates of reporting VAW to police in most Arab States countries. As noted, the high rate of reporting to such institutions could reflect the fruit of efforts to improve police training and reporting mechanisms, as well as gender-sensitive government responses to ensure such services remained accessible during the pandemic lockdowns.

At the same time, as per respondents' indication of reports by women survivors of violence that they know, reporting rates during the pandemic still appear to remain low and more efforts must be undertaken to address the deeper causes of underreporting in the region.

Further study is needed

The study findings also raised several questions that require further research to fully comprehend.

In addition to the known channels for service-provision, many respondents marked "other" when answering the question on services. Some of the services which could have been deemed to fall under this category include hotlines, traditional mediation, traditional courts, etc., some of which may not support women's rights and hence put women and girls at higher risk. Further research is needed to explore the myriad types of services that women survivors are using during the pandemic, beyond conventional channels, to assess and link these services to referral mechanisms.

Online violence is a concerning issue in the region, which seems to have been exacerbated by the pandemic. However, little is known about this type of violence, the policy and legal frameworks around it, perceptions and attitudes towards it as well as the services women can turn to when experiencing such violence. More research is thus needed to better understand online violence and to map existing initiatives, laws and policies addressing this phenomenon which seems to be on the rise in the region.

Digital platforms, mainly Facebook and mobile applications were reported as the main used platforms for reaching out to women survivors of violence during the pandemic. However, more research is needed to assess the usefulness and safety of these channels in preparedness for another wave of lockdowns or similar crises in the future. COVID-19 has shown that many services and information could be delivered online, hence, opening the doors to further exploration of mobile applications and artificial intelligence in delivering or improving access to services. UN Women also intends to deepen its work in this area to better serve the needs of women and girls who are

experiencing violence.

At the same time, the nature of this survey – as a rapid, randomized online assessment – and the reality of pandemic-related restrictions on movement and need for social distancing, did present limitations. As a result of its sampling, the survey data are only representative of a specific population who had access to the Internet in order to take this survey, meaning that fewer vulnerable or marginalized respondents could be reached through this methodology. Further research should seek to gather the perceptions of such groups of women and men. In addition, the fact that certain questions on VAW were 'indirect', seeking third-person reports of violence experienced by others, rather than survivors' own experiences, has the potential for bias. Even if some of the respondents may have been survivors themselves, true third-person respondents may not have known whether the survivor they know had actually sought support or been satisfied with the outcome. As a result, future complementary research could involve personal interviews with known survivors, conducted by sensitivity trained enumerators.

The path forward

The results of this survey are nonetheless powerful. They confirm that women and men are facing a number of challenges due to COVID-19, and that these differ according to one's gender, location and other factors. Yet despite the many challenges ahead, the path to progress is promising. While inequitable male attitudes prevail across the nine countries, it is evident from this research that there are encouraging shifts in attitudes and behaviour underway. There are opportunities for positive change, evidenced by the life experiences of the women and men surveyed. Unpaid care and domestic work can be redistributed and respondents overwhelmingly agreed that preventing violence against women should be prioritized. Gender equality is possible.

The survey also provides some evidence of the impact of long-term investments and efforts in this area. The success of efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming in crisis response and service-provision, of new laws and dedicated policies,

of targeted police training and technological innovations to ease VAW reporting, and of the myriad efforts to engage men and boys in advocacy to end violence against women and girls across the region are all making a difference. They can also continue to do so, with sustained efforts and investment. This is the responsibility of all governments, CSOs, faith-based organizations, the private sector and development partners, including the United Nations family.

This research provides important data and gender analysis that should be used to inform evidence-based policies and solutions. Governments, along with civil society and other stakeholders, can devise better responses and recovery efforts by taking into consideration such research to ensure that the needs of different groups of the population are taken into consideration, making sure to leave no one behind. The section that follows details a series of recommendations to consider in this regard.

Recommendations

Unpaid care

There is a need to ensure that men's increased involvement in unpaid care and domestic work can be sustained beyond the crisis, to cement their more lasting and equitable participation inside the household. The UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States has been intensifying its "Because I am a man" campaign to sensitize men and foster their engagement inside the home, showing positive images of involved men and highlighting positive models of masculinity. These and other efforts need to be sustained and carried forward beyond the crisis.

Efforts to install a rights-based approach to unpaid care work must continue, focusing on the current unfair distribution and the burden it places on individuals. Recognition, reduction and redistribution of the increased burden of unpaid care and domestic work is urgent and necessary. This will require investing in the care economy, which can both create forms of employment that tend to attract women as well as feed the demand for services – such as childcare and elder care in particular – that can help ease the burden of care on

families. Parental leaves that can be used by either parent are another important area that requires further attention. Addressing the burden of unpaid work is essential to allow women and men equal access to opportunities, including in times of crisis.

Paid work

Given the devastating economic impacts of the crisis on both women's and men's employment and incomes, economic support packages are needed, especially to support those most vulnerable – often women. Such support should be coupled with measures to confront women's increasing time and income poverty. Eliminating inequality in the labour market is also more urgent than ever, including to address occupational segregation, gender pay gaps and inadequate access to affordable childcare.

Violence against women

It is urgent to shift mindsets around VAW to ensure that it is seen as a serious violation of human rights and to work on addressing its root causes. UN Women is currently exploring the use of behavioural insights and other behavioural change interventions to better understand the reasons for the acceptance and continuation of violence against women in the region. UN Women has many successful and evidence-based programmes for engaging men and boys that have resulted in a reduction in violence. Such efforts should be further enhanced and supported, particularly given the apparent rising incidence of VAW. These efforts should be undertaken by a wide cross-section of actors, ranging from national governments, to CSOs, to international organizations and the private sector.

The engagement and support of governments across the region will be essential to further research and to implement evidence-based policies and programmes in this respect. Policies must prioritize prevention and the redress of violence against women and girls in COVID-19 responses and ensure that services for survivors are deemed essential and remain accessible and adequately funded.

Help-seeking and access to services

There is a need to enhance partnerships with police and justice services in the region, to ensure coordination with other sectors, including civil society organizations, shelters and ‘other services’, in particular to strengthen referral systems and adopt a survivor-centred approach to service-delivery. It is essential to send a strong message from law enforcement that impunity will not be tolerated. Police and justice actors must ensure that VAW reports are given high priority and care must be taken to address the different manifestations of violence emerging in the context of COVID-19. To this end, it is important to raise awareness among police and the judiciary about the pandemic-related increases in VAW and to provide training on how to respond, protect and refer victims and survivors to appropriate services. Training on psychosocial support is also needed for first responders, including health workers, police, court officials and emergency shelter and counselling staff still operating during the crisis.

As COVID-19 has compounded vulnerabilities, it is important to ensure that VAW-related services remain available to vulnerable women by developing new, inclusive and accessible methods of service-delivery, such as online counselling and mobile app-based social support networks. It is also important to help build organization’s capacities to use digital platforms to safely and confidentially reach out to women survivors of violence and improve the quality of responses. It is equally important to work with various partners to mend the digital gap in the region.

Information is needed through means such as public service announcements, to ensure survivors of domestic violence are aware of available services and referrals, as well as how to safely continue employment. Such information should be shared using varied and accessible formats to reach different groups of women.

More generally...

Governments and international organizations must continue to gather gender-disaggregated data, improve data collection on VAW, and undertake research on the gendered impacts of COVID-19 to inform responses to the pandemic. Efforts should also be made to ensure that data collection methods can reach those most left behind. Data should also be collected on the needs and capacity of services to respond to the increased demand from women and girls in the context of COVID-19. Data collection methods must ensure that women and girls are not put at greater risk of violence and distress.

Governments in the Arab region should include evidence-based measures to ensure gender equality and prevent and/or address violence against women as a core pillar of the COVID-19 response and recovery. They must also continue to promote gender mainstreaming, and improve laws, policies and programmes for women and VAW. Efforts must reach remote and vulnerable populations.

CSOs, international organizations and other actors should strengthen their advocacy and engage different actors (including media and the private sector) to address violence against women and girls during COVID-19, using innovative and digital means wherever possible. This should include proactively challenging gender stereotypes and harmful masculinities, accentuated under the pandemic, with targeted messages for men in order to encourage healthy ways of coping with stressful situations.

Put women at the centre of policy change, solutions and recovery. Women’s organizations, including community-based organizations, must participate in decision-making processes so that women’s needs and concerns are identified and included in VAW prevention and responses. They can also offer longer-term recovery solutions to address the increase of VAW during COVID-19.

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Country factsheets

Egypt

Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

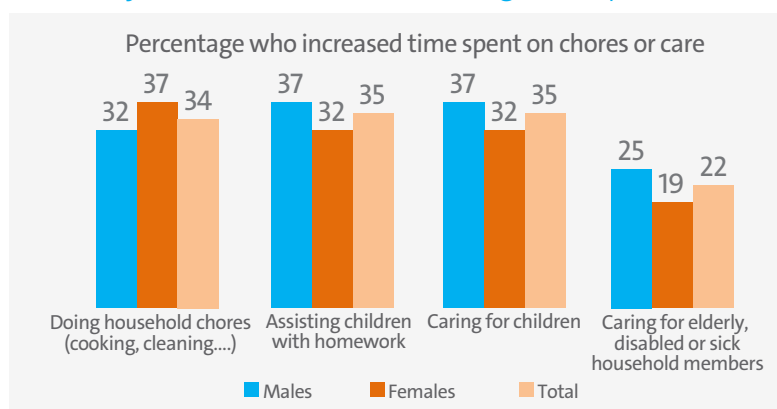
In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Egypt, 2,216 respondents completed the survey, of which 529 were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.



Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status:	44 were currently married, 44% were single, and 12 were separated/divorced/widowed.
Residence:	49 lived in big cities, 24% in smaller towns, and 27% lived in villages or rural areas.
Age:	19 were aged 18–24, 29 were 25–34, 20 were aged 35–44, and the remaining 32 were older.

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and caring for children and elderly, with more men increasing time spent on care than women.



Paid work: 24% of all respondents lost their jobs and/or had been forced to use unpaid leave, while 60% reported a decline or total loss of income. Men were slightly more likely than women to have lost their income entirely.

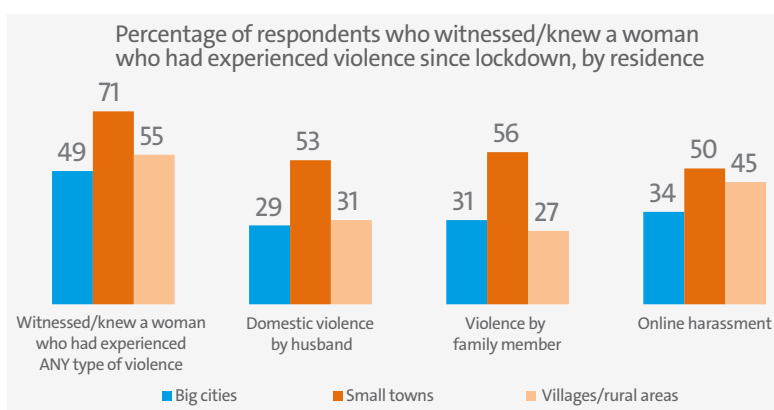
	Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:		23%	38%	20%
Men:		24%	38%	23%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (36%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. More women than men feared violence from their spouse or family.

	Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women:	17%	11%	13%	10%
Men:	20%	15%	10%	7%

Violence against women: 58% of all respondents had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence (domestic, family, online). The incidence was highest in small towns.



1/4 of all respondents who had witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
36%	23%	17%	15%	12%	11%	32%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- Nearly half of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with variations between men (48%) & women (42%).
- Nevertheless, 71% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with equal numbers among women and men.
- Two-thirds of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women slightly less willing than men.
- 71% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with women (72%), currently married respondents (74%), and those in villages (75%) slightly more willing.

Iraq

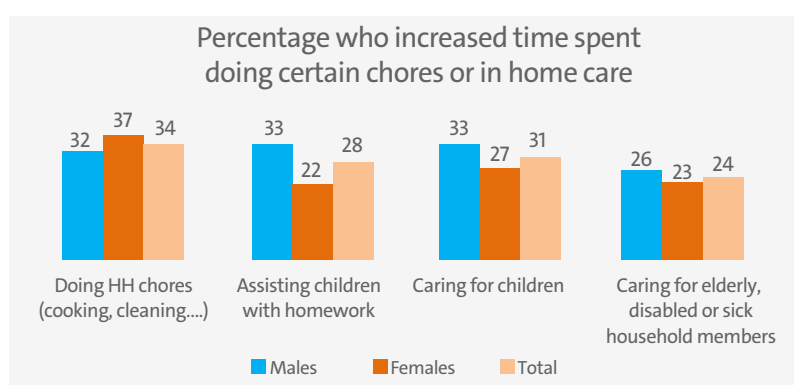
Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Iraq, 1,962 respondents completed the survey, of which 506 (26%) were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status:	35% were currently married, 57% were single, and 8% were separated/divorced/widowed.
Residence:	52% lived in big cities, 21% in smaller towns, 15% lived in villages or rural areas, and 12% in camps.
Age:	26% were aged 18–24, 29% were 25–34, 19% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 26% were older.

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and caring for children and elderly, with more men increasing time spent on care than women.



Paid work: 15% of all respondents lost their jobs and/or had been forced to use unpaid leave, while 54% reported a decline or total loss of income. Men were more likely than women to lose their job or see their income decline.

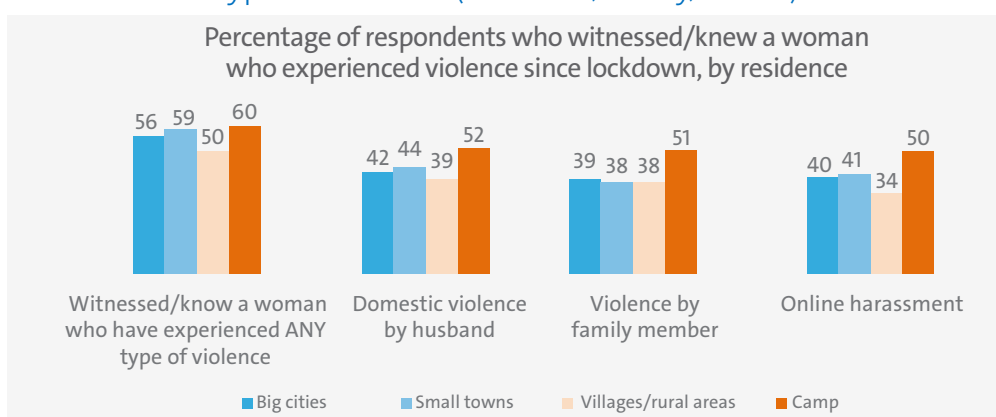
Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:	14%	32%	19%
Men:	16%	34	22%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (35%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. More women than men feared violence from their spouse or family

Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women: 16%	10%	17%	12%
Men: 20%	13%	13%	10%

Violence against women: 56% of all respondents had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence (domestic, family, online).



1 in 3 respondents who had witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
16%	21%	15%	7%	6%	14%	45%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- Nearly half of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with variations between men (50%) & women (46%).
- Nevertheless, 66% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with nearly equal numbers among women and men.
- More than two-thirds of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women slightly less willing than men (71 versus 72%, respectively).
- 76% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with men (77%), currently married respondents (77%), and those in big cities (78%) slightly more willing.

Jordan

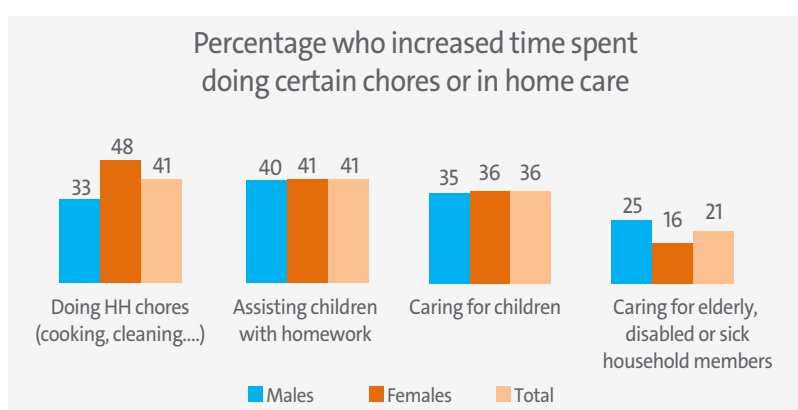
Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Jordan, 2,394 respondents completed the survey, of which 934 (39%) were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status:	45% were currently married, 45% were single, and 10% were separated/divorced/widowed.
Residence:	48% lived in big cities, 21% in smaller towns, 21% in villages or rural areas, and 9% lived in camps.
Age:	20% were aged 18–24, 27% were 25–34, 22% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 30% were older.

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and caring for children and elderly, with more men than women increasing time spent on care for the elderly/sick/disabled.



Paid work: One-fifth of all respondents lost their job and/or were forced to use unpaid leave, while nearly 6 in 10 reported a decline or total loss of income. More men lost their job while more women saw their income decline.

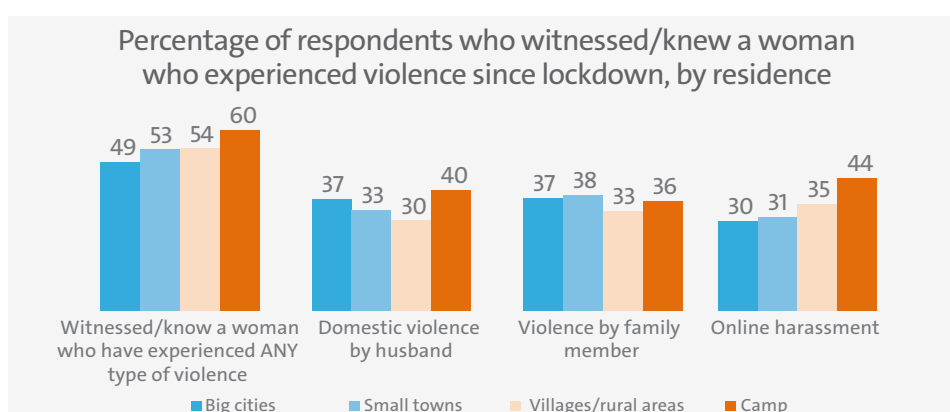
Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:	16%	35%	23%
Men:	23%	32%	29%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. Nearly one-third (30%) of women and men felt unsafe at home. Slightly more women than men feared violence from their spouse or family.

	Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women:	16%	17%	11%	8%
Men:	21%	17%	11%	7%

Violence against women: Half of all respondents (52%) had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence.



One-quarter of respondents who witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
14%	24%	17%	11%	10%	11%	39%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- 60% of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with variations between men (46%) and women (34%).
- Nevertheless, 71% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with women more likely than men to agree (75 versus 67%).
- 72% of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with currently married respondents far more willing than their counterparts. Those in big cities were most likely / in camps were least likely.
- 72% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with men (77%), currently married (80%), and small-town-based respondents (77%) slightly more willing.

Lebanon

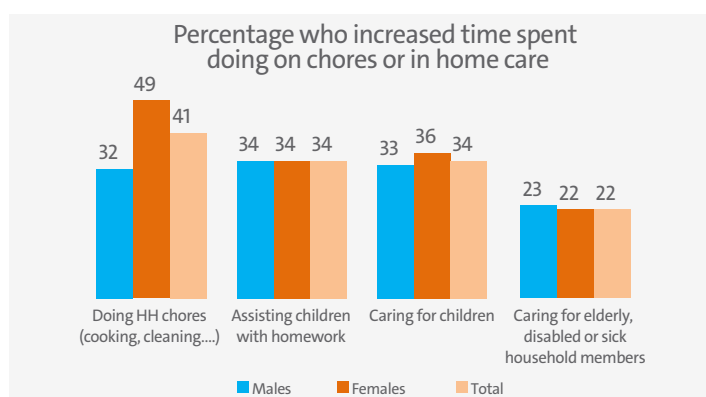
Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Lebanon, 1,436 respondents completed the survey, of which 513 were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status:	50% were currently married, 38% were single, and 13% were separated/divorced/widowed.
Residence:	36 lived in big cities, 29% in smaller towns, 25% in villages or rural areas, and 10% lived in camps.
Age:	13% were aged 18–24, 21% were 25–34, 27% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 39% were older.

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and caring for children and elderly, with more men than women increasing time spent on care for the elderly/sick/disabled.



Paid work: 20% of all respondents lost their jobs and 9% were forced to use unpaid leave, while 71% reported a decline or total loss of income. More men lost their job while more women saw their income decline.

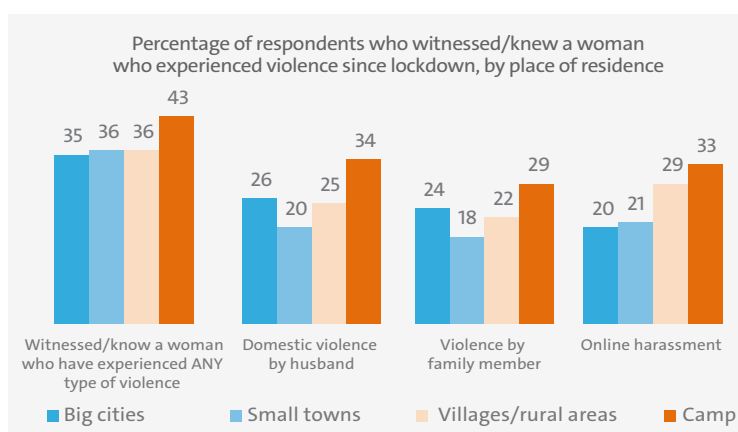
	Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income decline	Lost income entirely
Women:		24%	36%	33%
Men:		34%	34%	40%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (35%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. Men were more likely to fear losing their job while women feared running out of food.

Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women: 12%	33%	8%	4%
Men: 19%	26%	7%	4%

Violence against women: 36% of all respondents had witnessed/knew a woman who had experienced one of 3 types of violence, with those living in camps most likely.



1/4 (24%) of all respondents who witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
24%	21%	4%	7%	4%	2%	47%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- One-third of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with variations between men (37%) & women (29%).
- Nevertheless, 72% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with nearly equal numbers among women and men.
- Three-quarters of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women less willing than men to report violence that happens to them and more likely to report violence against others.
- 77% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with currently married respondents (79%), and those living in small towns (82%) slightly more willing.

Libya

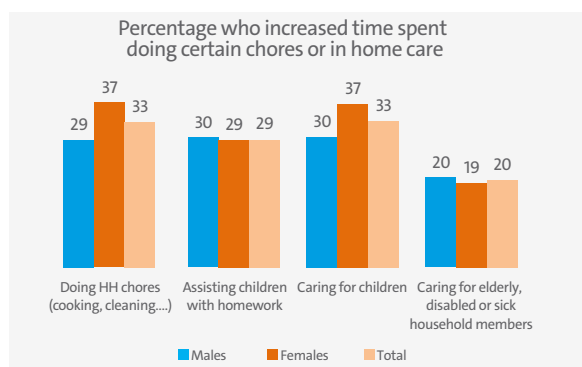
Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Libya, 1,726 respondents completed the survey, of which 545 (32%) were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status:	39% were currently married, 52% were single, and 9% were separated/divorced/widowed.
Residence:	49% lived in big cities, 26% in smaller towns, and 26% lived in villages or rural areas.
Age:	16 were aged 18–24, 25% were 25–34, 27% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 31 were older.

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and caring for children and elderly, with more men increasing time spent on care than women.



Paid work: 11% of all respondents lost their jobs and 7% were forced to use unpaid leave, while 45% reported a decline or total loss of income. Women were more likely to lose income entirely while men were more likely to see it decline.

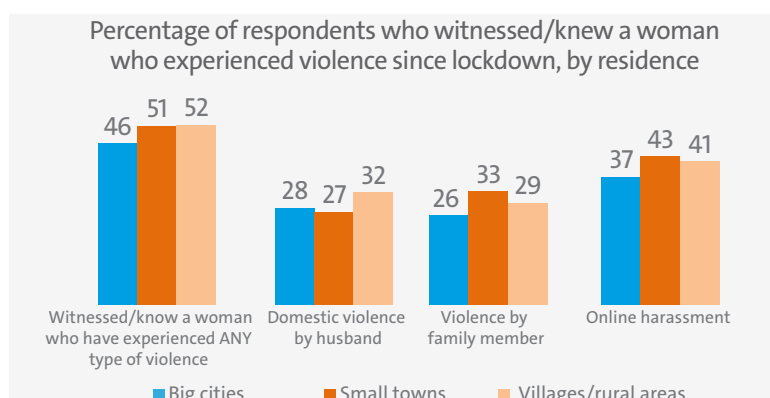
	Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:		17%	24%	20%
Men:		17%	29%	18%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (29%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. More women than men feared violence from their spouse or family.

	Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women:	12%	12%	12%	11%
Men:	19%	11%	12%	7%

Violence against women: Half (49%) of all respondents had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence.



One-third of respondents who witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
18%	10%	12%	6%	8%	15%	44%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- Half of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with variations between men (49%) & women (44%).
- Nevertheless, 70% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with men slightly more likely than women to agree (71 versus 69%).
- 70% of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women slightly less willing than men, and those in urban areas more willing than those in rural areas.
- 77% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with currently married respondents (81%), and those living in small towns (82%) slightly more willing.

Morocco

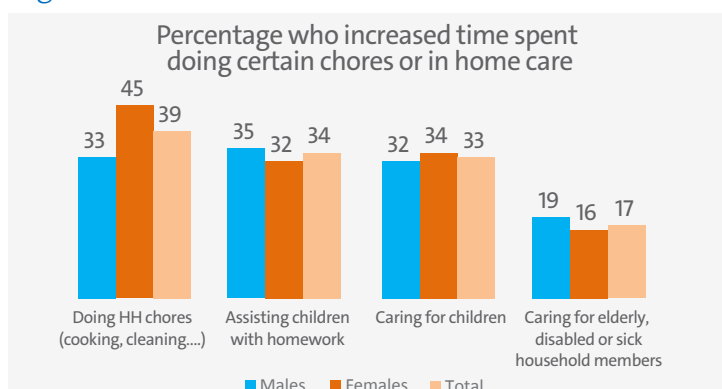
Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Morocco, 1,731 respondents completed the survey, of which 529 (31%) were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status:	40% were currently married, 49% were single, and 11% were separated/divorced/widowed.
Residence:	53% lived in big cities, 28% in smaller towns, and 19% lived in villages or rural areas.
Age:	17% were aged 18–24, 24% were 25–34, 20% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 39% were older.

Unpaid work: Women and men are bearing the greater burden of domestic chores and care, with men more likely than women to report having increased time spent on care for the elderly/sick/disabled and on assisting children with schoolwork.



Paid work: 23% of respondents lost their jobs and 7% were forced to use unpaid leave, while 55% reported a decline or total loss of income. More men than women reported having lost their job while more women than men lost their income entirely.

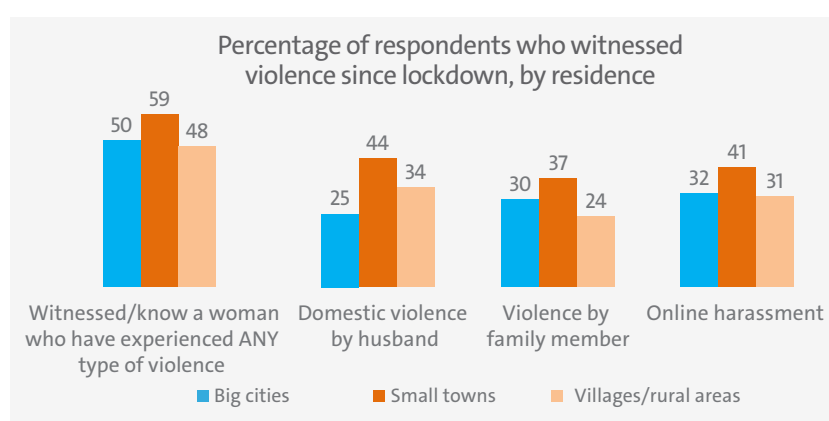
	Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:		28%	26%	30%
Men:		31%	26%	28%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (29%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. More women than men feared violence from their spouse or family members.

	Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women:	17%	16%	17%	8%
Men:	17%	15%	17%	5%

Violence against women: More than half (53%) of all respondents had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence.



One quarter of respondents who witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
21%	41%	20%	11%	7%	15%	27%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- One-third of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with variations between men (40%) & women (31%).
- Nevertheless, 69% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with equal numbers among women and men.
- 70% of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women slightly less willing than men.
- 72% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with men (74%), single respondents (74%), and those in villages (77%) slightly more willing.

Palestine

Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Palestine, 1,474 respondents completed the survey, of which 509 (35%) were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

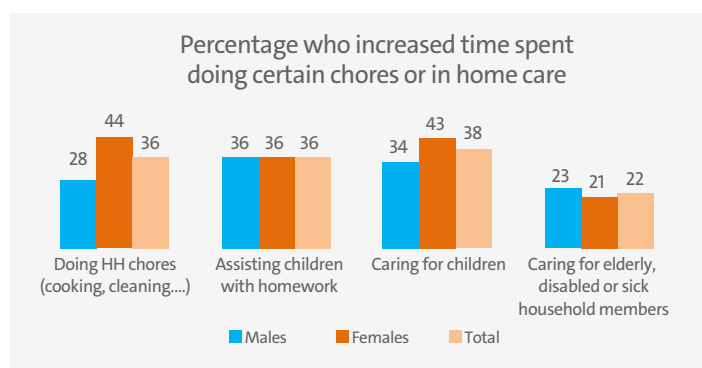
Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status: 41% were currently married, 49% were single, and 10% were separated/divorced/widowed.

Residence: 33% lived in big cities, 23% in smaller towns, 24% in villages or rural areas, and 20% lived in camps.

Age: 26% were aged 18–24, 27% were 25–34, 20% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 27% were older.

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and caring for children and elderly, with more women increasing time spent on care than men.



Paid work: 16% of all respondents lost their jobs and 7% were forced to use unpaid leave, while 62% reported a decline or total loss of income. More men lost their job or income entirely while more women saw their income decline.

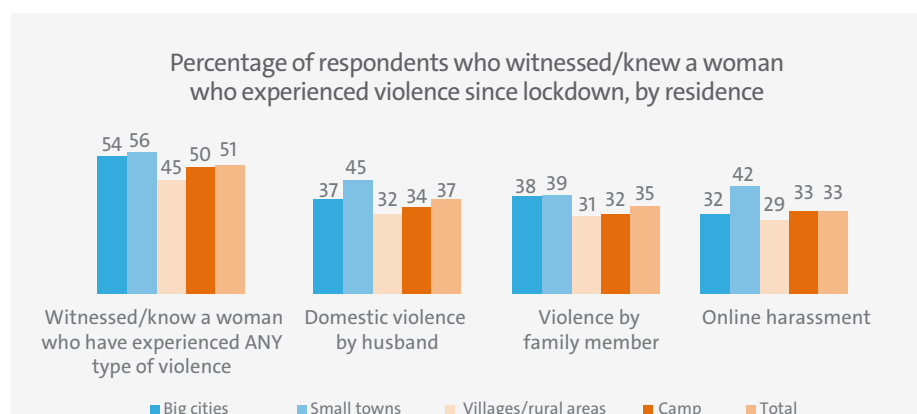
Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:	19%	35%	27%
Men:	25%	30%	34%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (36%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. More women than men feared violence from their spouse or family members.

	Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women:	14%	18%	9%	7%
Men:	21%	18%	10%	5%

Violence against women: Half (51%) of all respondents had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence.



One-third of respondents who witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
42%	18%	15%	18%	14%	7%	28%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- 40% of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with variations between men (43%) & women (36%).
- Nevertheless, 68% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with women more likely than men to agree (71 versus 65%).
- Two-thirds (64%) of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women slightly less willing than men.
- 68% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with men (69%), the currently married (71%) and respondents in small towns (71%) slightly more willing.

Tunisia

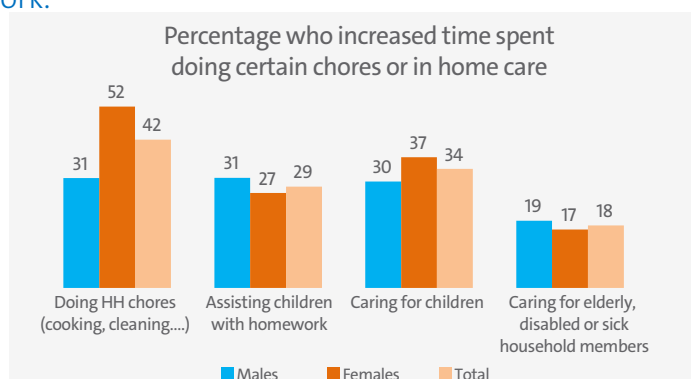
Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Tunisia, 1,508 respondents completed the survey, of which 502 (33%) were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status:	47% were currently married, 44% were single, and 9% were separated/divorced/widowed.
Residence:	37% lived in big cities, 34% in smaller towns, and 29% lived in villages or rural areas.
Age:	12% were aged 18–24, 23% were 25–34, 24% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 42% were older

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and care, with more men than women increasing time spent on care for the elderly/sick/disabled or with children on homework.



Paid work: 11% of all respondents lost their jobs and another 9% were forced to use unpaid leave, while half (49%) reported a decline or total loss of income. Men were more likely than women to lose their job or see their income decline.

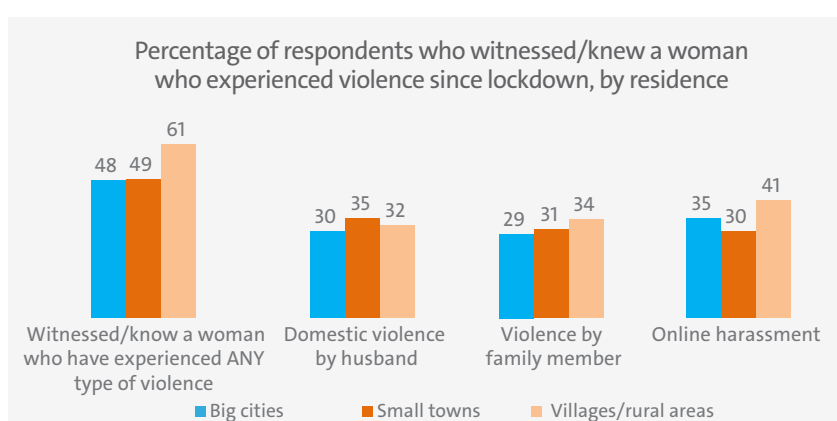
Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:	19%	28%	20%
Men:	20%	30%	20%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (29%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. Slightly more women than men feared violence from their spouse or family.

	Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women:	16%	10%	19%	6%
Men:	16%	12%	19%	5%

Violence against women: Half (52%) of all respondents had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence.



One-quarter of respondents who witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/famil	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
16%	22%	10%	8%	5%	8%	38%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- 31% of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with big variations between men (39%) & women (24%).
- Nevertheless, 76% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with women more likely than men to agree (79 versus 72%).
- Two-thirds (67%) of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women more willing than men.
- 70% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with women (73%), single (71%), and respondents living in big cities (75%) slightly more willing.

Yemen

Perceptions and impacts of COVID-19

In May 2020, the UN Women Regional Office for the Arab States conducted a web-based survey to document the impact of COVID-19 on paid and unpaid work, gender role attitudes and perceptions around violence against women in nine countries across the region. In Yemen, 2,015 respondents completed the survey, of which 503 (25%) were women. Weights have been applied to enable comparisons by gender, age and education.

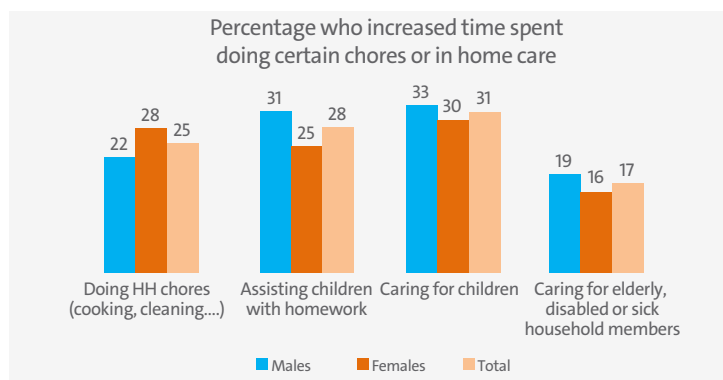
Respondents' characteristics:

Marital status: 39% were currently married, 50% were single, and 11% were separated/divorced/widowed.

Residence: 52% lived in big cities, 18% in smaller towns, 21% in villages or rural areas, and 9% lived in camps.

Age: 27% were aged 18–24, 30% were 25–34, 21% were aged 35–44, and the remaining 21% were older.

Unpaid work: Both women and men are bearing the increased burden of domestic chores and caring for children and elderly, with more men increasing time spent on care than women.



Paid work: 15% of all respondents lost their jobs and another 6% were forced to use unpaid leave, while 65% reported a decline or total loss of income. Men were more likely than women to lose their jobs or report a decline in income.

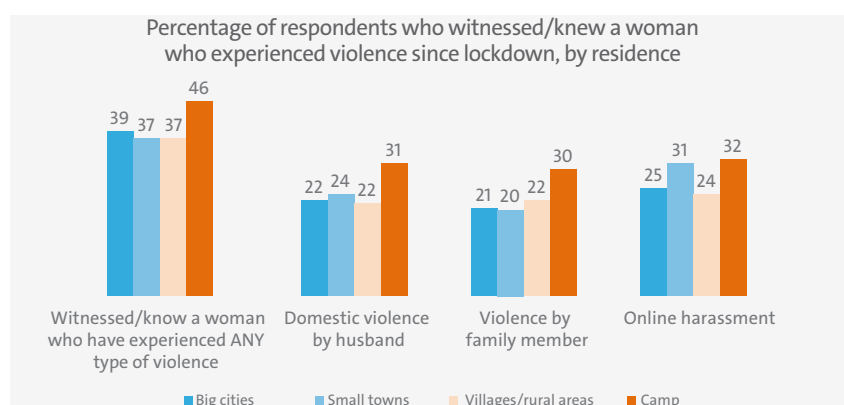
Lost their job	Forced to take unpaid leave	Income declined	Lost income entirely
Women:	19%	31%	30%
Men:	23%	34%	35%



Fears: Respondents worried most about losing jobs, running out of food and having restricted mobility. One-third (37%) of women and men felt unsafe in their homes. More women than men feared violence from their spouse or family members.

	Losing job or income	Running out of food	Limited movement	Violence from spouse/family
Women:	13%	20%	10%	10%
Men:	21%	23%	8%	6%

Violence against women: 39% of all respondents had witnessed or knew a woman who had experienced one of three types of violence (domestic/family/online).



1/4 (28%) of all respondents who witnessed/knew a woman survivor said she sought support.

Among them, respondents cited the sources of support sought as:

Friends/family	Police	Courts	Shelters	Hospitals/doctors	NGOs	Other
24%	13%	8%	5%	16%	9%	47%

There were differences in how women and men perceived violence against women:

- Half (52%) of respondents agreed with the statement “A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times,” with more men (54) agreeing than women (49).
- Nevertheless, 67% of respondents agreed that “Addressing violence against women should be a priority, even during the COVID-19 outbreak”, with slightly more men agreeing than women (68 versus 65%).
- 78% of respondents said they were willing to report domestic violence, with women slightly less willing than men.
- 81% of respondents were willing to engage in action to prevent violence against women in their community – with men (85%), currently married (84%), and residents in small towns (83%) slightly more willing.

Annexes

Annex 1: Profile of respondents, by gender and sociodemographic characteristics

Respondents' background characteristics									
	Egypt	Iraq	Jordan	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	Palestine	Tunisia	Yemen
Gender									
Female	23.9	25.8	39.0	35.7	31.6	30.6	34.5	33.3	25.0
Male	76.1	74.2	61.0	64.3	68.4	69.4	65.5	66.7	75.0
Age									
18-24	19.1	26.1	20.4	12.7	16.3	17.1	26.4	11.6	27.2
25-34	28.9	29.0	26.7	21.1	24.6	23.6	27.4	22.8	30.0
35-44	20.1	18.9	22.2	27.2	27.2	19.5	19.7	23.6	21.3
45-54	18.1	14.8	18.4	19.2	18.5	16.4	11.9	16.9	11.4
55+	13.8	11.1	12.3	19.8	13.5	23.3	14.6	25.0	10.1
Highest educational level									
Didn't attend school	6.9	16.8	9.0	8.0	10.4	7.5	8.3	4.7	9.8
Primary (1-6)	4.8	9.4	5.2	11.8	5.1	10.3	6.1	6.8	8.5
Secondary (7-12)	23.4	27.0	31.3	28.7	22.0	27.2	28.2	24.2	33.3
Post-secondary	9.9	7.5	9.8	14.4	9.8	14.8	11.1	11.4	9.7
Bachelor's degree	36.2	23.4	28.1	21.1	37.8	20.5	28.9	23.8	27.4
Master's degree or higher	7.2	7.2	5.2	10.0	6.3	11.2	6.5	19.3	3.4
Other	11.7	8.7	11.3	6.1	8.5	8.5	10.9	9.8	8.0
Residence									
Big city	49.0	51.8	47.8	36.1	48.5	53.0	33.2	36.8	52.0
Small town	23.8	21.4	20.9	29.0	25.7	27.7	23.1	34.5	17.7
Village or rural area	27.2	14.9	22.1	25.0	25.7	19.3	23.8	28.8	20.8
Camp	Na	11.9	9.3	9.8	Na	Na	19.9	Na	9.5
Marital status									
Currently married	44.1	35.4	45.1	49.6	39.2	40.0	41.4	47.5	38.9
Ever married	12.0	7.8	10.1	12.7	9.1	10.5	9.6	9.0	11.4
Single/engaged	43.9	56.8	44.8	37.7	51.7	49.4	49.0	43.6	49.8
Number of HH members									
Lives alone	11.6	12.9	9.6	12.4	13.7	10.6	8.4	10.1	15.1
2-4	49.5	34.8	36.6	51.0	33.3	49.3	29.3	55.3	27.9
5+	38.9	52.4	53.8	36.7	53.0	40.1	62.3	34.6	57.1
Number (weighted)	2272	1906	2519	1489	1770	1756	1466	1565	1971
Number (un- weighted)	2216	1962	2394	1436	1726	1731	1474	1508	2015

Annex 2: Survey questions

The following list of questions were presented in a randomized fashion to ensure that certain answers would not condition other responses. In some cases, questions were only asked to certain respondents. For example, only married or engaged respondents were asked if they feared violence from a spouse and only separated or divorced respondents were asked if they feared their ex-partner would deprive them of seeing their children). No respondent had to answer more than a total of 20 questions. The questions were worded as follows, in English (the survey was also administered in French and Arabic):

Q1	Sex
	Male
	Female
Q2	Age
Q3	What is your nationality?
Q4	What is your marital status?
	Single (never married)
	Engaged
	Married
	Married but separated
	Widowed
	Divorced
Q5	Because of the lockdown, what worries you most?
	Running out of food or other essentials
	Violence from my spouse
	Violence from family members
	Losing job or reduced income
	Limited movement
	That my ex-partner deprives me from seeing my children because of the lockdown
	I am not worried
Q6	What is your current employment status?
	Never worked
	Unemployed, but not related to COVID-19
	Used to work but lost job/income recently because of COVID-19
	Forced to have unpaid leave because of COVID-19
	On paid leave because of COVID-19
	Employed, working from my workplace
	Employed, working from home because of COVID-19
	Used to be unemployed and just found a job because of COVID-19
	Student
	Retired

Q7	As a result of COVID-19, how has your income been affected?
	No change in income
	Increased income
	Decreased income
	Lost income entirely
Q8	As a result of COVID-19, how has the income of others in your household been affected?
	No change in income
	Increased income
	Decreased income
	Lost income entirely
Q9	As a result of COVID-19, has the time devoted by you to the following activity changed?
	Doing household chores (e.g. cooking food, cleaning, etc.)
	Assisting children in doing homework
	Caring for children, including feeding, cleaning, physical care
	Caring for the elderly, disabled or sick members of the family
	Increased time spent
	No change in time spent
	Decreased time spent
	I never do these activities
	No children live with me
	No elderly, disabled or sick family members living with me
Q10	Do you agree or disagree: Since the spread of COVID-19, my spouse helps me more with household work and caring for family
	Strongly agree
	Somewhat agree
	Somewhat disagree
	Strongly disagree
Q11	At the moment, do you feel safe in your home?
	Yes, always
	Sometimes
	Rarely
	No
Q12	What makes you feel most unsafe in your home?
	Afraid of violence by spouse
	Afraid of violence by family member
	Afraid of being attacked by outsiders
	Increased armed conflicts or civil unrest
	Other reason
Q13	Have you witnessed, or do you know a woman who has experienced violence since the lockdown?
	Yes
	No

Q14	What type(s) of violence have they experienced ? (Select all that apply)
	Domestic violence by the husband
	Violence by a family member
	Violence or harassment in public spaces (e.g. street, transport, market, store) from a stranger
	Violence or harassment in the workplace
	Online harassment (e.g. receiving unwelcomed explicit photos or messages, revealing private information, blackmail or threats, etc.)
	Other types of violence
	Violence by authorities
	Violence by strangers
	Violence by friends/acquaintances
	Continue to next question
Q15a	Did the person seek support because of the violence experienced?
	Yes
	No
	Don't know
Q15b	Where did they seek support from? (Select all that apply)
	Friend or family members
	NGOs
	Court
	Hospital or doctor
	Shelter for survivors of violence
	Police
	Other
Q16	Did the person you know receive the support sought as a result of the violence?
	Yes, completely
	Yes, but only partially
	No, support was not available
	I don't know
Q17	Do you agree or disagree: Because of COVID-19 lockdown measures, women face an increased risk of violence from their husbands
Q18	Do you agree or disagree: Addressing violence against women should be a priority even during the COVID-19 outbreak
Q19	Do you agree or disagree: A woman should tolerate domestic violence to keep her family together, especially in these difficult times
	Strongly agree
	Somewhat agree
	Somewhat disagree
	Strongly disagree

	During this outbreak, would you be willing to:
Q20	Report a domestic violence incident that happened to you to the police
Q21	Report a domestic violence incident that happened to someone else to the police
Q22	Engage in actions (either online or offline) to prevent domestic violence against women in your community
	Yes
	No
Q23	What is the highest educational level you have completed?
	No schooling
	Primary (from year 1 to 6)
	Secondary (from year 7 to 12)
	Post-secondary vocational training
	Bachelor's degree
	Master's degree or higher
	Other
Q24	Where do you live?
	Big city (more than 500,000 inhabitants)
	Small town (between 30,000 and 500,000 inhabitants)
	Village or rural area (less than 30,000 inhabitants)
	Refugee or internally displaced camp
Q25	How many people are living in your household (including yourself)?
	1 (just myself)
	2
	3
	4
	5
	6
	7
	8 (or more)