Introduction

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home offers a global snapshot of life at home, from the perspectives of Facebook users around the world. It was conducted in July 2020 to capture household gender dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic, and reached a statistically representative sample of half a million people who use Facebook, spanning seven world regions and covering 208 countries, territories, and islands in 80 languages.

Over 460,000 people opted in to answer questions that focused on four areas in particular: attitudes and beliefs about gender equality; participation in unpaid care and domestic work; resource allocation and decision-making; and COVID-19’s impact on everyday lives. The survey results were disaggregated for men and women, allowing insights into gender differences.¹

This brief shares findings from Europe and Central Asia² describing aggregate patterns in survey responses from the 56 countries highlighted on the map in Figure 1. The findings presented are based primarily on responses from 96,685 individuals, including 52,038 who identified as female and 44,647 who identified as male. This brief does not seek to describe the region as a whole. Rather, results are calibrated to the online population in the region. Note that as of 2017, about 75 percent of the total Europe and Central Asia population was using the internet.³ This population tends to be younger (85 percent between 18 and 54 years old), more urban (60 percent residing in cities), and better educated (69 percent have more than secondary education) than the general population. While this limits the generalizability of the findings, the picture that emerges provides important insights into gender differences for the region.

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1. This report focuses on individuals who reported their gender as either female or male. This decision was taken in response to the very low share of respondents who selected the option ‘other.’
2. Countries allocated into regions based upon World Bank classifications.
FIGURE 1
Countries surveyed in Europe and Central Asia
Key Findings

I. Gender norms

II. Unpaid care and domestic work

III. Resource allocation and decision-making

IV. Life during COVID-19
I. GENDER NORMS

The majority of survey respondents in Europe and Central Asia (86 percent) reported that they agree with the statement, “Men and women should have equal opportunities (e.g. in education, jobs, household decision-making).” While a majority of both men and women agreed with this statement, women were significantly more likely than men to agree: (90 percent vs. 83 percent, respectively).

Both men and women expected an average of about 6.3 (out of 10) of their neighbors to agree that men and women should have equal opportunities.

NOTE ON STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout this brief, any time we use the word “significant” or highlight comparisons between male and female respondents we intend to indicate statistically significant differences (p<0.05). That is, we can be 95 percent confident that the observed differences reflect the real situation for men and women in the online population for the region and not an error caused by randomness.

4. We collapsed the proportion of respondents who indicated that they "agree" or "strongly agree" with this statement. This comment applies throughout the brief.
86 percent of respondents agreed that men and women should have equal opportunities
45 percent of survey respondents agreed that a woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children, while 15 percent agreed that household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him.

Respondents were asked the extent to which they agree with the statement, "A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children." Men were 12 percentage points more likely than women to agree with this statement (51 percent vs. 39 percent, respectively). When asked about their expectations of their neighbors' beliefs, both men and women estimated that around 6 (out of 10) of their neighbors would agree that "a woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children."

When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him," men were more likely to agree (39 percent) than women (25 percent). When asked about their expectations of their neighbors' beliefs concerning men's household roles, both men and women estimated that a bit over half (5.5 out of 10) of their neighbors would agree.

**FIGURE 2**
Proportion of respondents who agreed with the statement, "Household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>39%</td>
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Men in Europe and Central Asia were more likely to report not being the main caregiver for anyone in their family.

Responses on caregiving also indicate gender differences. In Europe and Central Asia, 51 percent of men reported that they were not the main caregiver for any family members, compared to 47 percent of women. Although not relatively large in magnitude, this finding represents a statistically significant difference.

Women were significantly more likely than men to report spending time cooking and cleaning.

Survey responses indicated gender differences in responsibility for household chores. Women were significantly more likely than men to report taking care of cleaning (50 percent of men vs. 84 percent of women) and cooking (44 percent of men vs. 74 percent of women), while men were significantly more likely than women to report subsistence farming (10 percent of men vs. 6 percent of women), collecting water or fuel (18 percent of men vs. 9 percent of women) and supporting the family business (19 percent of men vs. 12 percent of women). Furthermore, men were significantly more likely to say they do not spend time on any household chores (8 percent of men vs. 5 percent of women).

5. This phrase was used to solicit responses about conditions prior to COVID-19.
Men were more likely to report owning motorized vehicles and land.

The survey illustrated several notable gender differences in asset ownership. Men were more likely to report owning motorized vehicles (44 percent of women vs. 52 percent of men) and land (17 percent of women vs 24 percent of men). A near equal share of women and men reported ownership of the places they live, computers, and smartphones.

Women were less likely than men to report being engaged in income-generating activities, and were more likely than men to say that they “fully depend on someone else in [their] household”.

While 60 percent of men reported being recently engaged in income-generating activities, only half (50 percent) of women did. Women were also less likely to report being the main income earner. Here, we see a 23 percentage point gender gap: 75 percent of men from the region reported being the main income earner, compared to just over half (52 percent) of women.

Lastly, men in the region were also significantly more likely than women to report fully covering their own expenses (90 percent of women vs. 80 percent of men), while women in the region were significantly more likely to report that they “fully depend” on another member of their household (20 percent of women vs. 10 percent of men).

**FIGURE 3**
Proportion of respondents who reported being the main income earner in their household, by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WOMEN</th>
<th>MEN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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IV. LIFE DURING COVID-19

Among survey respondents from Europe and Central Asia, the most commonly reported impact from COVID-19 was being forced to isolate or follow a quarantine order.

When asked how their lives have been affected by COVID-19, the most common response from survey participants in Europe and Central Asia was being forced to isolate or follow quarantine orders (33 percent).

Responses regarding other impacts from COVID-19 illustrated significant gender differences. Women were more likely than men to report being impacted by school being canceled or reduced (30 percent of women vs. 19 percent of men), being unable to perform usual personal care and health routines (18 percent of women vs. 12 percent of men) and being unable to seek medical care (21 percent of women vs. 15 percent of men). Meanwhile, men in the region were more likely than women to report losing a job (17 percent and 13 percent, respectively).

The most commonly reported concern regarding COVID-19 was being stuck at home for a long time (36 percent of respondents).

When asked about their main concerns during the pandemic, the most common response in Europe and Central Asia was being stuck at home for a long time (36 percent). Women were more likely than men to report concerns with access to health care (29 percent of women vs. 22 percent of men), while men were more likely than women to report concerns with the future of their work (35 percent of men vs. 31 percent of women).

6. Respondents were provided with a series of options including: School was canceled or reduced; Migrated to different geographical area; Difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies; Longer wait times to visit doctors/seek medical care; Lost a job; Lost access to/ could not use public transport; Unable to perform usual personal care/health routines; Unable to seek medical care; Isolate or follow a quarantine order; None of the above; and Other

7. Respondents were provided with a series of options including: Having enough money to sustain my family; Having enough food and basic supplies for my family; Being stuck at home for a long time; Having access to accurate information on coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; The future of my work; Access to health care; Repaying outstanding loans; Staying home with limited things to do; My children education; I do not have any concerns at this time; and Other.
FIGURE 4
What are respondents’ main concerns during the pandemic?

- Enough money to sustain family
- Enough food & basic supplies for family
- Stuck at home for long periods of time
- Access to accurate COVID-19 information
- Future of work
- Access to health care
- Repaying outstanding loans
- Staying home with limited things to do

Women
Men
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Visit www.dataforgood.fb.com/docs/gendersurveyreport for more information about Facebook’s Survey on Gender Equality at Home.