A gender data snapshot of life during COVID-19

Survey on Gender Equality at Home Report
Acknowledgements

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The report is authored by Ladysmith, a feminist research collective that helps international organizations collect, analyze, and take action on gender data. Report authors include: Dr. Tara Patricia Cookson, Dr. Ruth Carlitz, Dr. Lorena Fuentes and Alex Berryhill.

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Foreword
By Marcy Scott Lynn
Director, Global Impact Partnerships at Facebook

The UN Sustainable Development Goals set ambitious targets for global progress. To keep us focused on the SDGs, earlier this year Facebook announced Project 17, an initiative that takes a partnership approach to driving progress on the Global Goals, starting with gender equality. This report on the results of our inaugural Survey on Gender Equality at Home, authored by our partner Ladysmith, is one way Project 17 puts this approach into practice - by filling specific information gaps about gender equality across the SDGs.

Reliable, accurate, and timely information is critical to tracking our progress on the SDGs - and ensuring we ‘leave no one behind’ in pursuit of positive change. But evidence suggests that many countries lack sufficient data to monitor that progress. These ‘data gaps’ present blind spots that inhibit progress on the Global Goals.

Too often, data generated by and about women and girls is unreliable, outdated, or missing. Imperfect information causes gaps in knowledge and decision-making, which exacerbates gender gaps in everything from education and health care to employment. As COVID-19 turns many aspects of life upside down, gender data is needed to make sure response and recovery efforts benefit everyone - and development experts have told us it’s been a challenge to collect that data during lockdown. Emerging evidence indicates COVID-19 has widened gender inequalities, but there is much more to learn.
Facebook’s inaugural Survey on Gender Equality at Home helps bridge some of these gender data gaps. The survey was conducted in July 2020 to capture household gender dynamics during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it reached a statistically representative sample of roughly half a million people who use Facebook. Respondents span seven world regions, covering 208 countries, territories, and islands in 80 languages. This report aims to offer a global snapshot of life at home, directly from the voices of Facebook users around the world.

This report summarizes the survey’s findings. Some are novel; others reaffirm or challenge conventional wisdom about gender equality. As the first of a series of surveys to be run annually, the report uses alternative data sources to complement conventional inputs to help researchers, NGOs, global development institutions, and gender equality advocates track trends in gender equality. Notable insights include:

**Women were significantly more likely than men to report spending time on domestic or household work.** This finding echoes common understanding and unveils interesting nuances. Women were more likely than men to report spending time cleaning and cooking in all surveyed regions, but over half of male respondents in North America reported taking care of these chores at least half the time, too. Women were also significantly more likely than men to spend time on household management (e.g., paying bills) in East Asia and Pacific and North America.

**Women were consistently less likely to report generating an income, and more likely to say they fully depend on someone else in each and every region of the world.** Although this may seem intuitive, some readers may be surprised to see pronounced gender gaps across all the world’s regions.
While the gender gap in income generation was most pronounced in the Middle East and North Africa (where 55 percent of men reported generating income, vs. 29 percent of women), it was notable everywhere, including North America (64 percent vs. 50 percent) and Europe and Central Asia (60 percent vs. 50 percent).

**In many regions, women were more likely to report experiencing an increase in time spent on unpaid care and domestic work as a result of COVID-19.** While intensifying home burdens for women have been reported elsewhere, this Survey unpacks unique insights into the type of domestic work that is disproportionately increasing for women, in different regions. In North America, 53 percent of female respondents said the time they spend caring for their family members has increased, compared with 44 percent of male respondents. Likewise, women were more likely than men to say their time spent on chores had increased as a result of the pandemic in regions like Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa.

**The data also give us cause for optimism and opportunities for more research.** The majority of respondents in all regions said they believe all people should enjoy equal opportunities regardless of gender, a belief that will be key to achieving gender equality across all the SDGs. At the same time, significant variation in social, political, and economic systems exists within and across regions, and between and within online and offline populations. So this report is accompanied by regional briefs providing additional regional insights. More investigation would be justified.
This survey reflects the roughly one-half of the world’s population who are connected online, since it was available only to Facebook users who opted in, and was calibrated to represent each country’s online population. But even data based on this subset of people, who are often better off than those without online access, suggest there is more to do in order to achieve equality in the SDGs and to recover from COVID-19. To help partners compare and contrast this data with other statistics, including about the world’s offline population, the data from the report is anonymized and aggregated and shared openly on the Humanitarian Data Exchange. Furthermore, eligible NGOs and researchers can apply to access more granular and anonymized survey results for their own analyses through Facebook’s Data for Good program.

This survey is intended to help advance gender equality by making use of a tech platform’s global reach. Of course, no one company can turn these insights into the actions and policies that are necessary to ensure equitable progress on the SDGs. For that, Facebook relies on collaboration with NGOs, international institutions, researchers, and gender equality advocates who know how to put the insights to use. In the spirit of Project 17’s commitment to partnering to advance the SDGs, we hope that this report inspires new research and creative collaborations across sectors to understand and unlock gender equality at home, both during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.
01 Introduction
01. Introduction

In March of 2020, Facebook announced a new partnerships-based initiative called Project 17 to advance progress on the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Agenda, and the ambitious 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that accompany it. Data for the SDGs was announced as Project 17’s first focus, and within that, addressing gender data gaps.

Around the same time, the world was presented with a new challenge: the COVID-19 pandemic. Few times in history has an event affected all people, in every world region, in the way that COVID-19 has. This health crisis has cast into sharp relief our common humanity, as well as the persistent inequalities that make some of us so much more vulnerable than others. It has exposed the interdependence, strengths and weaknesses of our health, social care, and economic systems. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres has discussed throughout the crisis: the tragedy of COVID-19 demands a new scale of international collaboration—and one that is based on a shared vision of a more equitable world (Guterres, 2020a; Guterres, 2020b).

In this context, the roadmap provided by the 2030 Agenda is ever more important. The UN SDGs call on states, private companies, and others to realize human rights for everyone, and in so doing, achieve a world in which no one gets left behind. One of the visions the 2030 Agenda sets out is for a world in which gender equality is realized. Gender equality is a standalone goal (5), and it is also a cross-cutting goal, a necessary component of what is required to achieve healthcare for all, education for all, and inclusive institutions.
No country has achieved gender equality across social, political, and economic institutions; nowhere do all women and all men, or all girls and all boys, enjoy full equality in public life as well as private life.

One of the barriers to achieving the UN SDGs is a lack of gender data. Accurate and timely data is needed for just and effective resource allocation, policymaking, program design, and service provision (United Nations, 2020c: 2). Today, governments are drawing on available data to respond in a timely and effective manner to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to plan for an effective recovery. To this end, gender data have many uses: they can capture the gendered impacts of crises; guide the just and efficient allocation of resources; enable the design of more effective policies, programs and services; serve as a tool for citizens to hold governments accountable to their promises; and help track progress on the SDGs.

Gender data come in many forms. The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked creative thinking about how to collect timely and accurate data when face-to-face methods are not possible. Many proposed methods leverage digital technologies, and the large and unconventional datasets produced, for example, by social media platforms, real-time sensors, and electronic records ("big data").

For some, the pandemic has meant more time spent online. Where possible, work, school and university classes moved online, as did visits with friends and family, grocery shopping, medical appointments, and information seeking.

Policymakers, program designers, service providers and activists, however, don’t always have the gender data they need. These ‘gender data gaps’ impede the evidence-based allocation of resources and implementation and evaluation of policies, programs and services. The production of quality gender data is not a simple exercise in counting women—it requires methodological rigor and a deep familiarity with the ways that power operates in the lives of women and men and girls and boys (Fuentes & Cookson, 2020).

1. As of January 2020, an estimated 28.5 percent of the world population was using Facebook (Statista, 2020)
WHAT IS GENDER DATA?

Gender data reflect and make visible differences in the experiences, needs, opportunities, and contributions of women and men, and girls and boys, in all areas of life. Gender data includes quantitative data, such as sex or gender-disaggregated statistics, as well as qualitative data, which can include for example data generated from interviews, observations, and open-ended survey questions.

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home surveyed asked users from 208 countries and islands in 80 languages across the globe about their lives at home, including changes to their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was conducted between July 16th to July 25th, 2020, providing a distinctive global 'snapshot' of life in this moment. Questions answered by 461,748 individuals focused on three areas in particular: access to and decision-making power over income and other household resources; participation in unpaid care and domestic work; and attitudes and beliefs about gender equality.

The survey results were calibrated to provide estimates representing the online population for seven world regions and then disaggregated for men and women, shedding light on gender differences within regions. Given the distinct cultural contexts and norms within and across regions, respondents to the survey may have interpreted the questions differently. Readers should bear this in mind as they interpret the estimates and discussion that follow.

2. See Annex for full list of countries and languages included in the Survey.
3. Countries were aggregated into the following regions per World Bank classifications: East Asia and Pacific; Europe and Central Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; Middle East and North Africa; North America; Sub-Saharan Africa; South Asia.
4. 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.’
Why these issues? Feminists have long brought attention to gender dynamics within households and families as key indicators of women and men’s positions not only at home but also in the wider world (UN Women, 2019). Access to and control over resources such as income, land and digital technologies are key indicators of gender equality because of how often such resources are linked to the ability to meet one’s needs and the needs of their dependents, to participate in politics and other arenas of public life, and to take advantage of educational and entrepreneurial opportunities (World Bank, 2020b). Who bears responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work, and the amount of time it takes to fulfil those responsibilities, have a bearing on their ability to also work for pay, and access benefits such as health insurance and pensions when these are associated with it, and to have leisure time. Meanwhile, the reality of gender dynamics, an individual’s perceptions of them, and their own personal beliefs, tell us much about how individuals feel about the changing world around them—including when these do not always correspond.
Facebook’s Survey on Gender Equality at Home is calibrated to represent the online population in each surveyed region. One of the great inequalities of the contemporary age is the digital divide, and within that, the gender digital divide. According to the latest estimates, only 53.6 percent of the global population is online (ITU, 2019). Within regions and countries, the breakdown by income level and urban and rural population is often considerable.5

Globally, just 48 percent of women use the internet, compared to 58 percent of men. In most countries, women are also less likely to own the device they access it on (ITU, 2019).6

While overall online traffic has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis has also created new challenges to internet access for many (Berners-Lee, 2020). For example, some people may only have access to the internet while at work, a public library, or an internet cafe, and thus under lockdown are not online as they otherwise might be (Watt, 2020). With school and daycare closures, moreover, it may be harder for women, who tend to bear primary responsibility for children’s care, to find the time to be online (Broom, 2020).

As such, the results of a survey representing the online population do not necessarily represent the general population in many parts of the world - and in particular may not capture daily life for the average woman in many countries. At the same time, the survey results presented in this report comprise a wholly unique dataset, one with unparalleled reach at a time when data collection on people’s lived experiences is exceedingly difficult to undertake.

This survey is also distinctive because it complements other conventional methods of data collection. Data on unpaid care work, intra-household decision making, asset ownership, and resource allocation are critical for policymakers, feminist researchers, and development partners to understand the relationship between financial independence and gender equality, but many data gaps exist in these areas (Cookson et al, 2020: 26). So, for example, while key methods such as household surveys, interviews and observations have provided crucial insights into the dynamics that shape distributions of power and decision-making between men and women at home, data on women’s control over assets remains relatively scarce (UN Women, 2019). Similarly, while there is no fully agreed upon way to measure gender norms, data on people’s attitudes, beliefs about their communities, and practices – analyzed together – help us get close to identifying norms.

5. The digital divide between high- and low-income countries is especially notable. For example, according to ITU in 2019 only 19 percent of individuals in low-income countries were online.
6. The International Telecommunication Union’s latest estimates show that the global gender digital divide in internet use is actually increasing.
Surveys such as this one can thus help generate a richer picture of people’s perspectives on their own as well as others’ attitudes and beliefs. When this data is collected over time, it can help us understand how norms are changing (or not).

The findings presented in this report align with some well-established dynamics—for example, that men tend to bear less responsibility for household chores than women. Other findings present new information—for example, that in the context of a global pandemic, large numbers of people are worried about going hungry, even in wealthier nations. Such findings provide fuel for continued commitment to an overarching mission of the 2030 Agenda: ‘leave no one behind.’ The surveyed population necessarily had access to the Internet through smartphones or computers, which means that in the context of the 2030 Agenda, they aren’t the ‘furthest behind.’ Given this, the picture that emerges indicates that we have a ways to go to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY ON GENDER EQUALITY AT HOME

01 In all surveyed regions a majority\(^7\) of respondents agree that women and men should have equal opportunities in education, employment, and household decision-making.

02 Consistent with existing literature, gender differences in respondents’ reporting around asset ownership, access to resources, financial decision-making, and unpaid care and domestic work suggest gender inequalities among the online population around the world.

- Women are significantly\(^8\) less likely than men to report being recently engaged in any income-generating activity, and are significantly more likely than men to report that they “fully depend” on another member of their household.

- Men are significantly more likely than women to report that they own motorized vehicles and land.

- Women are significantly less likely than men to report making consequential decisions at home.

- Women are significantly more likely than men to report spending time on household chores, typically uncompensated activities such as cooking and cleaning.

03 In most regions well over a quarter of respondents reported recently experiencing food insecurity during COVID. In all regions, well over a quarter also reported concern over the future of their work.

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7. The survey was not designed to produce global estimates, but across regions the proportion indicating they agree ranged from 79 percent in the Middle East and North Africa to 95 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

8. In all instances in this report, we use the term “significant” to denote differences that are statistically significant at a 95 percent confidence level or above. We focus on differences that are substantively significant as well, though in most cases provide the underlying figures as well to allow readers to draw their own conclusions about the relative “significance” of different findings.
METHODOLOGY

The results presented in this report are based on a voluntary survey conducted over Facebook between July 16th to July 25th of 2020. The survey was implemented in 208 countries and islands in 80 languages. Respondents were offered the option to take the survey in a language that they typically use to navigate Facebook, or a secondary language that they may speak and is supported by the platform.

The survey included a total of 75 questions, divided into the following sections:

01 Basic demographics and gender norms
02 Decision making and resources allocation across household members
03 Unpaid caregiving
04 Additional household demographics and COVID-19 impact
05 Optional questions for special groups (e.g. students, business owners, unemployed, and employed)

Questions were developed collaboratively by a team of economists and gender experts. Some of the questions have been borrowed from other surveys that employ alternative modes of administration (e.g., face-to-face, telephone surveys, etc.), allowing for comparability and identification of potential gaps and biases inherent to Facebook and other online survey platforms. As such, the survey also generates methodological insights that are useful to researchers undertaking alternative modes of data collection during the COVID-19 era.

In order to avoid “survey fatigue,” wherein respondents begin to disengage from the survey content and responses become less reliable, each respondent was only asked to answer a subset of questions. Specifically, each respondent saw a maximum of 30 questions, comprising demographics (asked of all respondents) and a set of additional questions randomly and purposely allocated to them.9

The survey was implemented in seven regions: East Asia and Pacific; Europe and Central Asia; Latin America and the Caribbean; Middle East and North Africa; North America; Sub-Saharan Africa; and South Asia. For the purposes of this report, responses have been aggregated up to the regional level; these regional estimates form the basis of this report and its associated products (Regional Briefs). These regional estimates necessarily capture a wide range of experiences, reflecting the diversity of countries sampled in each region (See Figure 1).

9. All respondents saw sections asking about household demographics and COVID-19 impact. The sections on decision making and unpaid caregiving were randomly assigned to respondents (50/50 chance of getting either one). Optional questions were purposefully given based on respondents’ answers to a series of screening questions.
As such they should be interpreted as reflecting broad average tendencies, rather than the uniform experience of individuals in a given region. In order to ensure respondent confidentiality, all estimates are based on responses where a sufficient number of people responded to each question and thus where confidentiality can be assured. This results in a sample of 461,748 respondents. The sampling frame for this survey is the global database of Facebook users who were active on the platform at least once over the past 28 days.

Such a scope offers a number of advantages:

01 It allows for the design, implementation, and launch of a survey in a timely manner

02 Large sample sizes allow for more questions to be asked through random assignment of modules, avoiding respondent fatigue

03 Samples may be drawn from diverse segments of the online population

04 Knowledge of the overall sampling frame allowed for more rigorous probabilistic sampling techniques and non-response adjustments than is typical for online and phone surveys
That said, the sampling frame and mode of survey administration also entail some limitations. First, the survey is necessarily limited to respondents who have access to the Internet, are Facebook users who engage during the fielding of the survey, and have opted to take a survey through the platform. Knowledge of the overall demographics of the online population in each region allows for calibration such that estimates are representative at this level. However, this means the results only tell us something about the online population in each region, not the overall population. As such, the survey cannot generate global estimates or meaningful comparisons across countries and regions, given the heterogeneity in internet access across countries.10

Additionally, estimates have only been generated for respondents who gave their gender as male or female. Note the survey was worded in terms of “gender” reflecting its socially constructed nature, rather than asking respondents to specify their biological sex. Thus all of the comparisons in what follows are between people who identify as women and people who identify as men. The survey included an “other” option but very few respondents selected it, making it impossible to generate meaningful estimates for populations who identify as non-binary.

**ROADMAP FOR THE REPORT**

The remainder of this report presents findings from the Survey on Gender Equality at Home. **Chapter 2** describes findings about gender norms, including respondents’ views about gender equality. **Chapter 3** shifts to unpaid care and domestic work, highlighting findings regarding who does what at home, and whether they tend to receive help. **Chapter 4** describes findings related to decision making and resource allocation, including who tends to have access to and control over income, land, and digital technologies. **Chapter 5** provides a snapshot of life during COVID-19, presenting data on reported changes that men and women have experienced since the onset of the pandemic. Finally, the concluding chapter highlights some of the most compelling and policy-relevant findings that emerge from the survey data, and considers areas for further research.

10. For instance, about two-thirds of the population is online in Europe and Central Asia compared to 36 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, these regional averages mask considerable differences across countries within each region.
02

Gender norms
One of the topics the Survey on Gender Equality at Home featured was gender norms—the expectations or informal rules in society about how women and men ‘should’ behave and what roles and opportunities they should have (Harper et al, 2018: 27). Gender norms vary by culture and context, but some are widespread. Two examples of relatively pervasive gender norms are norms that assign responsibility for unpaid care and domestic work to women and girls and those that set expectations around men’s responsibility for providing financially for a family (Kaufman, 2014).

While feminist movements have long called attention to gender norms, a growing number of global health and development organizations (e.g. Gates, 2019) are also recognizing that some gender norms can lead to discriminatory outcomes and hinder progress on the UN SDGs (UN Women & UNDP, 2013). This not only includes SDG 5 (Gender Equality), but also SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home asked respondents about their perceptions of women’s and men’s roles in society and at home, and the opportunities that should be available to both men and women. The survey also asked respondents about what they think their neighbors believe about gender roles and opportunities; such questions help to shed light on perceptions of broader societal beliefs. These two insights combined are important: previous social norms research indicates that women and men are more likely to experience gender equality in their everyday lives when both men and women are in favor of gender equality and likewise expect the vast majority of their neighbors to be (Petesch, 2012).
The results of the survey point to widespread agreement that women and men should have equal opportunities in education, employment, and household decision making. However, findings in the following chapters, where respondents were asked about their own daily lives, indicate that gender equality is unrealized in many instances.
In all surveyed regions, the majority of respondents (80 percent or more) said they agree with the statement, “Men and women should have equal opportunities (e.g. in education, jobs, household decision-making).” Notably, women were more likely than men to agree in all regions but North America, where about 90 percent of both female and male respondents said they agree with this statement, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the differences were minimal (about 96 percent of female and 94 percent of male respondents). The largest gender divergences in response to this question present in the Middle East and North Africa, where 90 percent of women agree as opposed to 70 percent of men. While differences in other world regions were smaller in substantive terms, they were still statistically significant.

11. The overall proportion indicating agreement in each region is as follows: 83 percent in East Asia and Pacific, 86 percent in Europe and Central Asia, 95 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 79 percent in the Middle East and North Africa, 90 percent in North America, 89 percent in South Asia, and 80 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa.

12. We collapse the proportion of respondents who indicate that they "agree" or "strongly agree" with this statement. This comment applies throughout the report.

13. 90.08 percent of women and 88.92 percent of men.
Despite widespread stated support for equal opportunities, responses are more varied when it comes to what people think their neighbors believe.

When asked, “Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that men and women should have equal opportunities (e.g. in education, jobs, household decision-making),” respondents in all surveyed regions but the Middle East and North Africa indicated that a majority (more than 5) hold such beliefs. However, these perceptions vary by gender within a number of regions.

**FIGURE 2**
Average number of neighbors (out of 10) respondents expected to agree with the statement, “Men and women should have equal opportunities”
When we compare male and female respondents, men in Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and South Asia tended to expect a greater number of their neighbors to hold gender equitable beliefs than did women in those regions. The results for South Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean are particularly interesting: men in both regions were significantly more likely to report that a greater number of their neighbors believe in gender equality than were women, but were less likely than their female counterparts to say that they themselves hold such beliefs.

However, in East Asia and Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, women tended to think more of their neighbors hold gender-equal beliefs than did men. That is, in these regions female respondents were both more likely to both think gender equality should be the norm, and to think that more of their neighbors think this, too.
WOMEN AND MEN HOLD DIFFERENT BELIEFS ABOUT GENDER ROLES IN THE HOUSEHOLD

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home also asked questions about people’s beliefs regarding women’s and men’s roles in the household. 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.” Responses indicated notable gender differences in the proportion of respondents who agreed with this in several world regions. Specifically, male respondents were more likely than female respondents to agree with this statement in Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia.

FIGURE 3
Proportion of respondents who agreed with the statement, “A woman’s most important role is to take care of her home and children”
The pattern that emerges is somewhat different when we consider respondents' perceptions of their neighbors' beliefs. When asked, “Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that a woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children?”, the average respondent in all regions indicated that a majority of their neighbors (more than 5) hold such beliefs. As above, this points to a gap in some cases between what respondents say they personally believe, and what they perceive to be the broader norm in society. In East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America, the average respondent did not think that “a woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children” but did think that at least five (out of 10) of their neighbors hold such a belief.
Meanwhile, in all surveyed regions but East Asia and Pacific, men were significantly more likely than women to say they agree with the following statement, “household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him.” The differences are most striking in the Middle East and North Africa, where 71 percent of male respondents indicated they agree compared to 56 percent of female respondents. Such gendered discrepancies prevailed even in regions which tend to pride themselves on gender equality: for instance, in North America, male respondents were twice as likely to agree with this statement than women (21 percent vs. 10 percent). With the exception of North America women, the average respondent in all regions indicated that the majority of their neighbors (5 or more out of 10) would agree with this statement as well.

**FIGURE 4**
Proportion of respondents who agreed with the statement, “Household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him”
03
Unpaid care and domestic work
03. Unpaid care and domestic work

Unpaid care and domestic work are two central categories of activity inside the home, and have an enormous bearing on what happens outside the home (UN Women 2019: 142). Care work involves a host of activities that entail physical and emotional labor. These activities are critical to maintaining the good health, wellbeing, and development of other persons (such as nursing an infant or bathing a frail elder person). The set of activities that make up domestic work, such as preparing food or cleaning the house, may not involve face-to-face contact with someone being cared for, but they are often carried out for someone else’s benefit.

Unpaid care and domestic work are gender equality issues for a variety of reasons. First, as noted by UN Women (2019), globally, women do up to three times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men, with variation across and within countries in terms of exactly how much more. Second, excessive time spent on unpaid care and domestic work may compromise caregivers’ own health and wellbeing (UN Women 2019: 159; Rao et al, 2019). Third, care and domestic work within the home are often done without monetary compensation (see ILO, 2018a; UN Women, 2016). Furthermore, the amount of time spent on unpaid care and domestic work limits the amount of time that can otherwise be spent on paid work that may also come with additional benefits (like health insurance and old-age pensions).

Data on who does unpaid care and domestic work, and how it’s split between men and women, are critical for policymakers and employers to design fair and effective policies and services to
support the provision of care as well as caregivers (OECD, 2019). Understanding the dynamics of care and domestic work, and how these activities are distributed, also bears important relevance to the SDGs, including SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home asked respondents about:

01 Their experiences of unpaid care and domestic work
02 How much of it and what kind they do
03 Who they get help from, if anyone

The survey also asked questions about people’s participation in subsistence farming and family businesses. While these two activities don’t feature in most standard accounts of domestic work, they are included here because they are key facets of how many individuals and families sustain themselves. Lastly, the survey asked how time spent on unpaid care and domestic work has changed during the pandemic, results and discussion of which can be found in Chapter 5.
WOMEN WERE SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO REPORT THAT THEY ARE THE MAIN CAREGIVER FOR SOMEONE IN THEIR FAMILY IN A NUMBER OF REGIONS.

In several world regions, women were significantly more likely than men to report that under ‘normal circumstances,’ they are the main caregiver for someone in their family. These regions include East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.¹⁴

A notable difference emerges in the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, where men were more likely than women to report being the main caregiver of elderly dependents, dependents with special needs, and self-isolating dependents. For instance, in the Middle East and North Africa, 17 percent of male respondents (in comparison to 12 percent of female respondents) reported that they are the main caregiver of elderly dependents, while in Sub-Saharan Africa, 16 percent of male respondents (in comparison to 8 percent of female respondents) reported the same. It is possible that these findings may reflect contextual differences in the interpretation of caregiving by survey respondents.

¹⁴ This inference is drawn by comparing proportions of male and female respondents within each region who say they are not the main caregiver for someone in their household. In the three indicated regions, the proportions are as follows: East Asia and Pacific: 50.37 percent of men say not main caregiver vs. 44.98 percent of women; in Europe and Central Asia, 51.12 percent of men vs. 46.58 percent of women; in Latin America and the Caribbean, 45.09 percent of men vs. 36.4 percent of women.
Findings from this survey representing the online population support existing research indicating that women and men tend to spend time on different kinds of domestic activities (UN Women, 2019; FAO, 2018).

In all surveyed regions, female respondents were significantly more likely than their male counterparts to report spending time cleaning and cooking. Women were also significantly more likely than men to report spending time shopping for household goods in the regions of East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, and North America. In the Middle East and North Africa, however, men were more likely to report spending time on household shopping. Women were also significantly more likely than men to spend time on household management (e.g. paying bills) in East Asia and Pacific and North America.

Women were significantly more likely than men to report spending time tending to animals in Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America. While the survey did not ask what kinds of animals people were tending, it is reasonable to assume that this could comprise both caring for a household pet as well as tending to livestock.

Meanwhile, men were significantly more likely than women to report spending time subsistence farming in all regions but North America. They were also more likely than women to report spending time supporting the family business in Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, North America, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Men were also significantly more likely to spend time collecting water or fuel in Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America, and South Asia.

Finally, men were significantly more likely than women to say that they don’t spend any time on household chores at all, in all regions except for North America and South Asia.
**FIGURE 5**
Which household chores do respondents spend time on?

### CLEANING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>50%</td>
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### SHOPPING

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### FARMING

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### MANAGING HOUSEHOLD

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### COLLECTING WATER OR FUEL

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### COOKING

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<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
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<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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### TENDING TO ANIMALS

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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### SUPPORT FAMILY BUSINESS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
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04

Resource allocation and decision-making
04. Resource allocation and decision-making

Questions of access to assets and resources, and the ability to make decisions about those resources, are central to UN Sustainable Development Goals 1 (No Poverty), 5 (Gender Equality), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Access to assets and resources can include access to income or benefits (e.g. cash transfers or a pension), ownership of land, a home, a car or a bicycle. It can also include ownership of farm equipment or large animals, or digital devices such as laptops or mobile phones (UN Women, 2018: 76). The extent to which women or men own and have control over these items – in other words, are able to make decisions about their use – is an important indicator of gender equality (UN Women, 2018: 86).

For example, a great deal of research has shown that when women have access to resources, they have greater bargaining power within the family (UN Women, 2019: 109). Women who fully depend on someone else (e.g., a partner) for their livelihoods may lack an economic cushion (or “fallback position”) that can enable them to leave abusive situations, or that can help them to negotiate their economic security in cases of relationship dissolution (e.g., divorce, separation, widowhood) (UN Women, 2019: 109).

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home asked respondents about their perceptions of their financial situation (including financial decision-making), and how they viewed this situation in relation to other household members. It also asked respondents about their household sources of income and livelihood. The responses illustrated a number of gendered differences in access to resources, income-generation, and financial decision-making in the home.
Gender disparities in asset ownership are notable, with men being more likely to own cars and land in all regions.

Patterns in men’s and women’s responses regarding access to resources, income-generation, and financial decision-making illustrate notable gender differences. In line with existing literature (UN Women, 2019: 109), response patterns suggest gender gaps in asset ownership in all regions. For instance, in all regions the proportion of men who report that they own motorized vehicles and land registered a statistically significant difference from the proportion of women.

Gender differences in responses concerning other forms of asset ownership are also notable. In East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, men were significantly more likely than women to report owning the place they live. Meanwhile, in many regions, men were more likely than women to report owning computers (East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa) as well as smartphones (Latin America and the Caribbean and North America).
### FIGURE 6
Which assets do respondents own?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOME</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
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<td>43%</td>
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<td>48%</td>
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<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMART PHONE</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
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<td>52%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
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<td>27%</td>
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<td>75%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<td>13%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPUTER</th>
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<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAND</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
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<td>24%</td>
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<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
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<td>South Asia</td>
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<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WOMEN WERE SIGNIFICANTLY LESS LIKELY TO REPORT GENERATING AN INCOME, AND SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO SAY THEY FULLY DEPEND ON SOMEONE ELSE.

Survey responses also reveal a number of gender differences with respect to income generation and financial (in)dependence. In all regions, women were less likely to report being recently engaged in any income-generating activity, including business, farming, or other form of income-generation. The differences are most pronounced in the Middle East and North Africa (55 percent of men vs. 29 percent of women) and South Asia (53 percent of men vs. 33 percent of women). They are fairly pronounced in regions that tend to pride themselves on gender equality such as North America (64 percent of men vs. 50 percent of women) and Europe and Central Asia (60 percent of men vs. 50 percent of women).

15 Such a pattern may reflect the nature of the survey sample, and its calibration to the online population in each region. That is, the survey population is likely on average to be better off and less likely to be rural and engage in farming in general compared to the general population in most regions.
Notably, in all regions women were also less likely to report being the main income earner. The differences are particularly pronounced in the Middle East and North Africa (61 percent of male respondents vs. 21 percent of female respondents) and South Asia (55 percent of male respondents vs. 24 percent of female). However, they are also fairly substantial in all regions: East Asia and Pacific (66 percent of men vs. 43 percent of women), Europe and Central Asia (75 percent of men vs. 52 percent of women), Latin America and the Caribbean (67 percent of men vs. 53 percent of women), North America (85 percent of men vs. 64 percent of women), and Sub-Saharan Africa (51 percent of men vs. 34 percent of women).
Along the same lines, male respondents in all regions were also significantly more likely to report fully covering their own expenses. Meanwhile, women in all regions were significantly more likely to report that they “fully depend” on another member of their household. Gendered patterns in survey responses thus align with existing research that across world regions, women’s access to independent income falls short of men’s (UN Women, 2019: 112).

16. This is based on responses to the question: “During the last 12 months, which of the following -most closely- reflects your current financial situation?” We collapse the following responses to indicate that someone “fully covers” their own expenses: “I fully cover my own living expenses (only for me)” and “I fully cover all living expenses for my household and all its members.” We compare this to respondents who indicate, “I fully depend on someone else in my household to cover my living expenses.”

17. Independent income refers to any source of income that a woman controls independent of her partner or another family member (e.g., social protection benefits, earnings from paid work, or assets such as land are all sources of income). A woman’s access to independent income can strengthen her household bargaining power (UN Women, 2019: 112).
IN MANY REGIONS MEN WERE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT CONTROLLING FINANCIAL DECISION-MAKING AND HAVING FULL ACCESS TO HOUSEHOLD MONEY.

In East Asia and Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, male respondents were significantly more likely than female respondents to report that they make decisions about large purchases as well as on “urgent or critical matters”.

FIGURE 9
Who normally decides about large purchases in your household?
In those same regions men were also more likely than woman to report having full access to household money, while women were more likely than men to report having no access. Given that we can assume that women who participated in this survey were able to use computers and/or phones to fill it out, this finding suggests that women’s use of household assets does not necessarily translate to access to liquid funds.

**FIGURE 10**
Who has full access to household money?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Female Access (%)</th>
<th>Male Access (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
05

Life during COVID-19
As of September 4th, 2020, over 26 million cases of COVID-19 had been reported worldwide, with 870,650 confirmed deaths. The effects of the pandemic also reach beyond illness and death to impact many areas of life in addition to healthcare, including access to education, childcare, and employment.

The UN Secretary General and various UN institutions have raised concerns that the pandemic could hinder progress or even cause setbacks on achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For example, estimates from the World Bank indicate that COVID-19 has prompted the first increase in global poverty in decades, pushing over 71 million people into extreme poverty in 2020 (World Bank, 2020).

In a recent interview, UN Women’s Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka stated that “there’s no gender-neutral pandemic, and this one is no different” (Donner, 2020). A growing body of evidence bears this out (Buvinic, Noe & Swanson 2020). Men with COVID-19, for example, face greater risks of death than women (Jin et al, 2020). Meanwhile, women are overrepresented among frontline paid and unpaid health care workers, resulting in increased risk from exposure to the virus (UN Women, 2020a: 3). Existing inequalities in the economic sphere have also been exacerbated (World Bank, 2020b). Women are also more likely to be affected by school and child care closures given their greater likelihood of bearing primary responsibility for children’s care (UN Women, 2020a; Barnes & Holman, 2020).

18. This difference is significant (p=0.0210).
With additional economic and health stresses, confined living conditions, and service limitations, evidence from around the world also point to a ‘shadow pandemic’ of violence against women (UN Women, 2020b; United Nations, 2020a).

The kinds of data needed to enable policymakers and service providers to meet people’s needs in the pandemic response are difficult to come by when people are under lockdown and quarantine, and when face-to-face data collection puts data collectors and respondents at risk. The distinctive scope and administration of the Survey on Gender Equality at Home circumvents some of these limitations. And despite only representing the perhaps more advantaged online population, the data still indicate that the impacts of COVID-19 are far-reaching, including worry over being able to eat, an increase in unpaid care and domestic work, limited access to healthcare, and feelings of insecurity at home.
COVID-19 HAS DISRUPTED WOMEN’S AND MEN’S EVERYDAY LIVES IN MANY WAYS.

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home asked respondents to identify ways in which the pandemic had impacted their lives, providing a list of eleven options, including 'none of the above' and 'other.' In all regions, the majority of respondents reported experiencing one or more of the following: school being cancelled or reduced; migrating to a different geographical area; difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies; longer wait times to visit doctors/seek medical care; losing a job; losing access to public transport; being unable to perform usual personal care/health routines; being unable to seek medical care; or having to isolate or follow a quarantine order.

While in all regions the majority of respondents report experiencing one or more of these consequences, responses feature notable gender differences in the different regions. In Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, and Europe and Central Asia, the most commonly reported impact was being forced to isolate or follow a quarantine order. In Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa, the most commonly reported impact was school cancellations or reductions. The most commonly reported impact in the other two regions was difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies and loss of access to public transport in East Asia and Pacific, and South Asia, respectively.

Women were also more likely than men to experience one or more of the above consequences of COVID-19 in East Asia and Pacific (83 percent of women report one or more consequences vs. 77 percent of men); Europe and Central Asia (80 percent of women vs. 75 percent of men); Latin America and the Caribbean (92 percent of women vs. 86 percent of men); and North America (82 percent of women vs. 73 percent of men).
## FIGURE 11
How has COVID-19 impacted respondents’ lives?

### UNABLE TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
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### LONGER WAIT TIMES TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE

<table>
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<th>Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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### DIFFICULTY ACCESSING MEDICAL/HYGIENE SUPPLIES

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<th>Men</th>
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<td>North America</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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</table>

### UNABLE TO PERFORM USUAL PERSONAL CARE/HEALTH ROUTINES

<table>
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<th>Men</th>
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<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
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<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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### MIGRATED

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ISOLATE/FOLLOW A QUARANTINE ORDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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### LOST ACCESS TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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<thead>
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<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
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<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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### LOST JOB

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<tbody>
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<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>19%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### SCHOOL CANCELLED/REDUCED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Men</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>36%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Saharan Africa</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>39%</td>
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</table>
There were also gendered differences in the nature of consequences reported by respondents. For instance, in all regions women were more likely than men to report being affected by school cancellations. Meanwhile, men were more likely than women to report losing a job in all regions but Latin America and the Caribbean and North America.

In a number of regions, women were also more likely to report impacts to health care services and routines. In Europe and Central Asia, North America, and Latin America and the Caribbean, women were significantly more likely than men to report longer wait times to seek medical care. In three regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia and Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia), women were more likely to report being unable to seek medical care than their male counterparts. Finally, in Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe and Central Asia, women were more likely than men to report being unable to perform usual personal care/health routines.

These survey results will help inform policymakers in light of emerging evidence from UN Women and other sources indicating that women have also been disproportionately impacted by new restrictions on health services (UN Women, 2020c; MSF, 2020).
WOMEN AND MEN REPORTED DIFFERENT CONCERNS ABOUT THE PANDEMIC.

The Survey on Gender Equality at Home also asked people about their main concerns during the pandemic. In some regions, the most commonly reported concern was being stuck at home for a long time: Europe and Central Asia (36 percent of respondents), the Middle East and North Africa (36 percent), and Sub-Saharan Africa (36 percent). Meanwhile, the future of work was the most commonly reported concern in South Asia (44 percent) and East Asia and Pacific (36 percent). The most commonly reported concern in Latin America and the Caribbean was having enough money to sustain their families (55 percent), whereas in North America, it was having access to accurate information (41 percent).

The survey data also revealed notable differences in respondents' concerns by gender.

Women were significantly more likely than men to report being concerned about being stuck at home in all regions but Sub-Saharan Africa. Women were also significantly more likely than men to report feeling unsafe at home during the pandemic in a number of surveyed regions, including East Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa.

Women were also more likely to register concerns with access to health care in all regions but North America and Sub-Saharan Africa, which is consistent with the above finding that they were more likely than men to report experiencing a disruption to their healthcare access.
Furthermore, women were more likely than men to register concerns with having access to information in South Asia; with having enough food and basic supplies to sustain their families in Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and East Asia and Pacific; and with staying at home with limited things to do in East Asia and Pacific, North America, and the Middle East and North Africa.

On the other hand, men in the Middle East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and Central Asia were more likely to report concerns with the future of their work, while men in the Middle East and North Africa and South Asia were more likely to report concerns with repaying loans.
IN MANY REGIONS, WOMEN WERE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE AN INCREASE IN TIME SPENT ON UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK.

The findings presented in Chapter 3 indicated that in all world regions women were significantly more likely than men to spend time on unpaid domestic work, especially cooking and cleaning. Findings from the survey questions related to COVID-19 suggest that the impact of the pandemic may have increased those disparities.

While significant percentages of men and women around the world reported an increase in care and domestic work due to COVID-19, in many cases this increased burden was not equally distributed. For example in North America, 53 percent of female respondents report the time they spend caring for their family members had increased during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic compared to before, compared with 44 percent of male respondents. In addition, female respondents were more likely than male respondents to say their time spent on chores had increased as a result of the pandemic in Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and North Africa.
PEOPLE ARE WORRIED ABOUT NOT HAVING ENOUGH TO EAT

One of the most striking results of the Survey on Gender Equality at Home was the widespread reporting of concerns around food security. This is notable given the demographics of the online population, who generally tend to have more resources than the general population in all surveyed regions.

Respondents were asked: “During the last 30 days, was there a time when you were worried about not having enough food to eat because of lack of money or other resources?” Answers to this question revealed significant concern in all surveyed regions, with well over a quarter of respondents in most regions reporting recently experiencing what can be considered food insecurity. In North America, 28 percent of respondents reported being worried about not having enough food to eat in the last 30 days; such concerns were also registered by 33 percent of respondents in Europe and Central Asia; 39 percent in South Asia; 44 percent in East Asia and Pacific; 46 percent in the Middle East and North Africa; 51 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 70 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Survey results also illustrate gender differences in concerns around having enough to eat. Women were more likely to express such concerns in Latin America and the Caribbean (55 percent of women vs. 46 percent of men) and North America (30 percent of women vs. 23 percent of men), whereas men in South Asia were more likely to report concerns about having enough to eat (46 percent vs. 32 percent).

To the extent that these results indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurities, continued efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 (to end hunger and ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for everyone by 2030) are more important than ever.
Conclusion
The data from the inaugural edition of the Survey on Gender Equality at Home provides a distinctive snapshot of life for the online population around the world.

Data collection during the COVID-19 pandemic has been exceptionally challenging, given that so many people are under lockdown or quarantine, and the public health risks associated with face-to-face data collection. This survey overcomes some of these challenges to illustrate a number of ways in which the pandemic has impacted the daily lives of almost half a million individuals around the world.

A number of compelling findings emerge from the survey data. One of the more encouraging findings was that within every region analyzed the majority of respondents–both female and male–believed that women and men should enjoy equal opportunities in education, employment, and household decision-making. At the same time, data from the Survey on Gender Equality at Home indicate that there are sizable gender inequalities in unpaid care and domestic work, financial decision making, and resource allocation across much of the globe.

We also learned that in all regions, women in the online population were significantly more likely than men to report spending time cleaning and cooking, as well as being the primary caregiver. We learned that men in the online population were significantly more likely to report that they own motorized vehicles and land, have full access to household money, and are engaged in income-generating activities. Compared to men, women were also more likely to report limited access to healthcare, increased care work, and increased feelings of insecurity at home due to COVID-19. And finally, we learned that COVID-19 has impacted the daily lives of a large percentage of survey respondents. Well over a quarter of respondents reported recently experiencing food insecurity, and over 30 percent concern over the future of their work.

Together, and alongside existing literature, gender differences throughout survey responses reinforce the importance of achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality). While those with access to smartphones and computers are presumably better off than those who lack digital access, these findings illustrate that even among the online population, serious challenges to gender equality remain.

This survey also provides a notable example of the role that the tech community can play in addressing critical gender data gaps that can in turn help to inform policymaking and advocacy (Cookson et al., 2020). Data collected through social media platforms cannot and should not replace the vital role of National Statistics Offices nor of conventional research and data collection methods, but they can be complementary.
This survey illustrates the important role that data generated through such platforms can supplement existing data collection methods, particularly in situations where in-person collection may not be feasible, and can play in providing additional insights.

The survey findings also open up new pathways for further research. Significant variation in social, political and economic systems exists within regions, such that commonalities and differences will exist between and within the online populations of countries. Deeper dives within regions, and within countries, will likely provide new insights.

Based on the findings presented here, researchers may find new lines of inquiry to pursue. This may include, for example, research to understand why so many people reported being concerned about having enough to eat during the pandemic, even in wealthier regions. Or, it may include research to better understand the nature of the gap between people’s stated beliefs in gender equality, and reported experiences that point to widespread inequalities in asset ownership, access to resources, financial decision-making, and unpaid care and domestic work along gender lines.

We hope that this report inspires these and other new action-oriented research questions, both in regards to gender equality at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and beyond it.
Annex

List of countries, territories, and islands surveyed

**East Asia and Pacific:** American Samoa, Australia, Brunei, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Papua, New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Wallis and Futuna

**Europe and Central Asia:** Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Greenland, Guernsey, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Jersey, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, San, Marin, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan

**Latin America and the Caribbean:** Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands, French Guyana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Helena, Suriname, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, United States Virgin Islands, Uruguay
List of countries, territories, and islands surveyed

**Middle East and North Africa:** Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates

**North America:** Bermuda, Canada, United States of America

**South Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan

**Sub-Saharan Africa:** Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelle, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

© Facebook company
Annex

List of survey language translations

Annex

Survey on Gender Equality at Home Questions

Section A. Background

A.1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
“Men and women should have equal opportunities (e.g. in education, jobs, household decision-making).”
1 = Strongly disagree
2 = Disagree
3 = Neither agree nor disagree
4 = Agree
5 = Strongly agree

A.2. Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that men and women should have equal opportunities (e.g. in education, jobs, household decision-making)?

A.3. Last week, did you do any work for pay, do any kind of business, farming or other activity to generate income, even if only for one hour?
A.4. What is your gender? Select one
1= Female
2= Male
3= Other

D.2. How old are you? Select one
1= Younger than 18 years old
2= 18 - 24 years old
3= 25 - 34 years old
4= 35 - 44 years old
5= 45 - 54 years old
6= 55 - 64 years old
7= 65 - 74 years old
8= 75 - 84 years old
9= 85 years old or older

A.5. What is your relationship to the head of household? Select one
1= I am head of household
2= Spouse
3= Partner (not married)
4= Own child
5= Step child
6= Adopted child
7= Grandchild
8= Brother or sister
9= Brother/Sister in law
10= Other

A.6. How would you best describe the area where you currently live? Select one
1= City
2= Village/Rural area
3= Other
Section B – Decision Making and Resource Allocation

B.2. Who are the main income earners in your household? (including earnings sent from another area/country) Select all that apply
1= Self
2= Spouse
3= Father, Step father, Father in law
4= Mother, Step mother, mother in law
5= Son, Step son
6= Daughter, Step daughter
7= Sister, Sister in law
8= Brother, Brother in law
9= Another man
10= Another woman
11= Other

B.3. During the last 12 months, which of the following –most closely– reflects your current financial situation? Select one
1= I fully depend on someone else in my household to cover my living expenses
2= I partially depend on someone else in my household to cover my living expenses
3= I fully cover my own living expenses (only for me)
4= I fully cover my own living expenses and support the living expenses for one or more household members
5= I fully cover all living expenses for my household and all its members
6= Other

B.4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him? 
1= Strongly disagree
2= Disagree
3= Neither agree nor disagree
4= Agree
5= Strongly agree
B5. Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that household expenses are the responsibility of the man, even if his wife can help him?

B.6. In the last 12 months, which of the following were your household’s sources of livelihood? Select all that apply
1= Family farming, livestock or fishing
2= Non-farm family business, including family business
3= Wage employment of household members
4= Unemployment benefits
5= Remittances from abroad
6= Assistance from family within the country
7= Assistance from other non-family individuals
8= Income from properties, investments or savings
9= Pension
10= Assistance from the Government
11= Assistance from NGOs / charitable organization
12= Other

B.7. What level of access to household money do you personally have? Select one
1= I have full access
2= I have limited access
3= I do not have access

B.8. Who normally decides about large purchases in your household? Select one
1= I make the decision
2= My spouse/partner
3= My spouse and I jointly
4= I make the decision jointly with someone else in my household
5= My father, father in law, step father
6= My mother, mother in law, step mother
7= Another man in the household
8= Another woman in the household
9= Someone else from outside the household
10= Other
B.9. Who decides about money spending priorities in critical or urgent matters within your household (e.g., medical emergency, family member job loss, etc.)? Select one
1= I make the decision
2= My spouse/partner
3= My spouse and I jointly
4= I make the decision jointly with someone else in my household
5= My father, father in law, step father
6= My mother, mother in law, step mother
7= Another man in the household
8= Another woman in the household
9= Someone else from outside the household
10= Other

B.10. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you were worried about not having enough food to eat because of lack of money or other resources?
1= Yes
0= No

Section C – Unpaid care giving

C.1. In normal circumstances, are you the main caregiver of any of the following persons in your family? Select all that apply
1= Child/children under 6 years old
2= Child/children in school age 6 to 18 years old
3= Elderly dependents aged over 65
4= Someone with special needs or a disability
5= Household members who are self-isolating or self-quarantined
6= None of the above
C.1.a. How often do you normally get help from others to take care of these family members? Select one
1= All the time
2= Most of the time
3= Occasionally
4= Rarely
5= Not at all

C.1.b. Who normally helps you in taking care of these family members? Select all that apply
1= My spouse
2= My father, father in law, step father
3= My mother, mother in law, step mother
4= Another woman or girl in the household
5= Another man or boy in the households
6= A paid worker (e.g. baby sitter, nurse, etc.)
7= Someone else in the family or a non-household members
8= Other

C.1.c. On a typical day, how many hours per day do you spend on care activities for family members?

C.1.d. How has the amount of time you spend caring for your family members change during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic compared to before? Select one
1= Increased
2= Stayed the same
3= Decreased
4= Not applicable
C.2. In normal circumstances, do you take care of any of the following household chores at least half of the time? Select all that apply
1= Cleaning (e.g. washing clothes, dish washing, home cleaning)
2= Shopping for food for household members
3= Collecting water or fuel
4= Cooking and serving meals
5= Subsistence Farming
6= Tending to animals
7= Household management (e.g. paying bills)
8= Supporting family business
9= None of the above
10= Other

C.2.a. Does anyone normally help you in taking care of these household chores? Select one
1= Yes, all the time
2= Yes, most of the time
3= Yes, some of the time
4= Yes, rarely
5= No, not at all

C.2.b. Who normally helps you with these household chores? Select all that apply
1= My spouse
2= My father, father in law, step father
3= My mother, mother in law, step mother
4= My daughter, step daughter
5= My son, step son
6= Another woman or girl in the household
7= Another man or boy in the household
8= A paid worker
9= No one
10= Other

C.2.c. On a typical day, how many hours per day do you spend on household chores?
C.2.d. How did the amount of time you spend on household chores change during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic compared to before? Select one
1= Increased
2= Stayed the same
3= Decreased
4= Not applicable

C.3. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
"A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children."
1= Strongly disagree
2= Disagree
3= Neither agree nor disagree
4= Agree
5= Strongly agree

C.4. Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that a woman's most important role is to take care of her home and children?

Section D- Demographic Information

D.0. Do you have a long-term partner or a spouse?
0= No
1= Yes

D.1. How many other people live with you under the same roof? Please do not count yourself
1= 0, I live alone
2= 1 person
3= 2 to 5 people
4= 6 to 10 people
5= 11 people or more
D.3. What is your highest level of completed education? Select one
1= No formal education
2= Primary
3= Secondary
4= More than secondary, including vocational training or apprenticeships
5= University or college (Undergraduate)
6= University or college (Masters, Doctorate, or professional degree)

D.4. Do you currently own any of the following? Select all that apply
1= The place where you live (e.g. House, apartment, etc.)
2= A motorized vehicle (e.g. car, motorcycle, etc.)
3= Smart phone
4= Computer
5= Land

D.5. Do you agree or disagree with the statement: "There are times when I feel uncomfortable or even unsafe in my house"?
1= Strongly Agree
2= Agree
3= Neither Agree nor Disagree
4= Disagree
5= Strongly disagree

D.6. As a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, did you personally experience any of the following? Select all that apply
1= School was cancelled or reduced
2= Migrated to different geographical area
3= Difficulty accessing medical or hygiene supplies
4= Longer wait times to visit doctors/seek medical care
5= Lost a job
6= Lost access to/could not use public transport
7= Unable to perform usual personal care/health routines
8= Unable to seek medical care
9= Isolate or follow a quarantine order
10= None of the above
11= Other
D.7. What are your main concerns during coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic? Select all that apply
1= Having enough money to sustain my family
2= Having enough food and basic supplies for my family
3= Being stuck at home for a long time
4= Having access to accurate information on coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
5= The future of my work
6= Access to health care
7= Repaying outstanding loans
8= Staying home with limited things to do
9= I do not have any concerns at this time
10= Other

D.8. Which of the following best describe your main status since January 1st, 2020? Select one
1= I am a student
2= I am a business owner or manager
3= I support a family business
4= I work for a wage or salary
5= I am a stay at home parent
6= I am unemployed
7= I am retired
8= I am an apprentice, trainee, intern
9= I am an unpaid caregiver for a family member
10= Other
Section O - Optional

O.1. We would like to ask you additional questions that relate to your current status which would take from you a few more minutes. Are you willing to answer more questions?
1= Yes
0= No

O.2. Thank you for your interest and additional time with this survey. The following are a set of questions that are specific to your status.

Students & School Age Questions O.2.a.

s.viii. Did you have access to any of the following in the past three months?
Select all that apply
1= Education program on TV
2= Education program on the radio
3= External educational books
4= Paid online courses
5= free online courses
6= Private tutor

s.i- Was your school or educational institution open in the last three months?
Select one
0= No
1= Yes
2= I am home schooled

s.ii- Which of the following best describes your educational institution? Select one
1= Public
2= Private
3= Other
s.iii. Did you go to your school or educational institution on a regular basis in the last three months?
1= Yes
0= No

s.iv- What are the reasons you did not go to your school or educational institution on a regular basis in the last three months? Select all that apply
1= It is too far away
2= I cannot afford to go everyday
3= I do not like school
4= I work
5= I need to help with house chores
6= I need to take care of other family members
7= School does not have clean safe buildings and bathrooms
8= School is closed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic
9= Other

s.v- Did you study at home?
1= Yes
0= No

s.vi- Did you have support from your school or educational institution while studying at home?
1= Yes
0= No

s.vii- What type of support did you have from your school or educational institution while studying from home? Select all that apply
1= Teacher led online classes
2= Self paced online classes
3= Online reading material
4= Books at home from school
5= Workbook or exercise book at home from school
6= Tablet or laptop from school
7= Online chat room with a teacher or professor
8= Other
s.x- Did anyone at home help you with your studies?
1= Yes
0= No

s.xi- Who helped you with your studies at home? Select all that apply
1= My mother or step mother
2= My father or step father
3= My sister, step sister, sister in law
4= My brother, step brother, brother in law
5= Another family member
6= A private tutor or teacher
7= Other

s.ix- Why didn’t you study from home? Select all that apply
1= I did not have internet
2= I did not have books
3= I did not have someone to help me
4= I couldn’t focus
5= I had to help with house chores
6= I needed to help taking care of other family members
7= I did not want to study
8= I did not know how to study from home
9= I had to work
10= Other
Business Questions O.2.b.

bus-i. During normal operations, before the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic began, how many people were working at this business, including yourself? Select one
1= 1 (only me)
2= 2 - 4 people
3= 5 - 9 people
4= 10 - 49 people
5= 50 to 249 people
6 = 250 to 499 people
7= 500 people or more
8= I do not know

bus-ii. What is the current status of this business? Select one
1= Open
2= Temporarily closed
3= Permanently closed

bus-iii. In normal circumstances, which of the following reflects the relationship between household and business finances? Select one
1= Household and business finances are combined
2= Household and business finances are partially separate
3= Household and business finances are totally separate
4= Don’t know

bus-iv. How long ago did this business start? Select one
1= Less than 1 year
2= 1 to 2 years
3= 3 to 4 years
4= 5 years or more
bus-v. Which sector does this business belong to? Select one
1= Retail and wholesale trade
2= Services
3= Manufacturing
4= Construction
5= Hotels, cafes, and restaurants
6= Transportation and logistics
7= Agriculture, farming, forestry, or mining
8= Information and communication
9= Other

bus.vi. In your main business' industry and sector, do you think more businesses are owned by men or by women?
1= Men
2= Women
3= Unsure

bus.vii. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “Women should not enter occupations that are dominated by men”?
1= Strongly disagree
2= Disagree
3= Neither agree nor disagree
4= Agree
5= Strongly agree

bus.viii. Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that women should not enter occupations that are dominated by men?
Unemployment Questions O.2.c.

un.i. What is the main reason you are not currently working? Select one
1= I can't find a job
4= I need to take care of my household members
5= I cannot work for personal reasons
6= I do not want to work
7= I do not need to work
8= I work seasonally
9= I am self quarantined
10= I resigned from my job
11= Other

un.ii. When did you become unemployed? Select one
1= Before January 1st, 2020
2= January 1 to 31, 2020
3= February 1 to 29, 2020
4= March 1 to 31, 2020
5= April 1 to 30, 2020
6= May 1 to 31, 2020
7= June 1st, 2020 or later

un-iii. Are you actively looking for a job?
1= Yes
0= No
un-iv. Which of the following, if any, are you doing while not working?
Select all that apply
1= Looking for job in same sector
2= Looking for a job in different sector
3= Taking business-related courses or training
4= Planning to start a new or different business
5= Home-schooling children in the house
6= Spending leisure time
7= Working on house chores
8= Taking care of household or family members
9= Nothing
10= Other

bus.v. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement
“We women should not enter occupations that are dominated by men”?
1= Strongly disagree
2= Disagree
3= Neither agree nor disagree
4= Agree
5= Strongly disagree

bus.vi. Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that women should not enter occupations that are dominated by men?
Currently Employed Questions O.2.d.

In the following questions, please think about your main job.

**cw-i. Who did you work for last week? Select all that apply**
1 = Government or public sector
2 = Own Business
3 = Business operated by a household or family member
4 = Family farm, raising family livestock or fishing
3 = An organization (e.g. non-profit, charitable)
4 = A small private business (business with up to 250 employees)
5 = A medium private business (business with 251-500 employees)
6 = A large private business (business with more than 500 employees)
7 = Other

**cw-ii. Which of the following best describe your current work? Select one**
1 = Full time paid employees/worker
2 = Part time paid employees/worker
3 = Paid day laborer
4 = Temporary or leased employee/worker
5 = Contractors, subcontractors, independent contractors, or outside consultant
6 = Support a family business
7 = Internship
8 = Unpaid training
9 = Volunteer
10 = Other

**cw-iii. In your main job, do you usually work throughout the year, or do you work seasonally, or only once in a while? Select one**
1 = Throughout the year
2 = Seasonally
3 = Once in a while
cw.iv. In the last week, were you able to work as usual either at your place of work or remotely?
1= Yes
0= No

cw.iv.a. Why were you not able to work as usual? Select all that apply
1= Business or government closed due to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic legal restrictions
2= Business or government closed for another reason
3= Furlough
4= Self quarantined
5= Need to care for self isolating relative
6= Seasonal worker
7= Not able to go to place of work due to movement restrictions
8= Other

cw.v. Are you able to work from home during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic? Select one
0= No, not at all
1= Yes, some of the time
2= Yes, all the time

cw.vi. During the past 30 days which of the following household responsibilities have affected your ability to focus on your work? Select all that apply
1= Caring for child/children
2= Caring for adults
3= Households chores
4= Home-schooling of children
5= Other tasks a male household member asked me to do
6= Other tasks a female household member asked me to do
7= Other tasks a non-household member asked me to do
8= None of the above
9= Other
cw.vii. Are you paid in cash or in kind for this work or are you not paid at all?

Select one
1= Cash only
2= In kind only
3= Cash and in kind
4= Not paid

cw.viii. Which sector do you work in? Select one
1= Retail and wholesale trade
2= Services
3= Manufacturing
4= Construction
5= Hotels, cafes, and restaurants
6= Transportation and logistics
7= Agriculture, farming, forestry, or mining
8= Information and communication
9= Other

cw.ix. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement “Women should not enter occupations that are dominated by men”?

1= Strongly disagree
2= Disagree
3= Neither agree nor disagree
4= Agree
5= Strongly disagree

bus.x. Out of 10 of your neighbors, how many do you think believe that women should not enter occupations that are dominated by men?
References


Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (2018). Employment, work and time use in agricultural contexts: what data do we need for gender analysis?


UN Women. (2020c). UN Women surveys reveal that women are bearing the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic.


ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Regional-level statistics for the Survey on Gender Equality at Home can be found online through the Humanitarian Data Exchange. If you’re interested in learning more, or becoming a Survey on Gender Equality at Home research partner and accessing country-level data, please visit:

dataforgood.fb.com/docs/gendersurveyreport