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UNECE Project on Covid-19 and Gender Statistics: Results from the Pilot Questionnaire

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On behalf of the UNECE Steering Group on Gender Statistics
During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Context

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- The Covid-19 global pandemic has had an immediate effect on statistical systems
 - Need for timely statistics on impact of pandemic
 - Major challenges for data collection operations and data quality
- Early evidence that Covid-19 Pandemic has had different impact on men and women in a number of key areas (e.g. labour force participation, income, mental health, unpaid work, etc.)
- UNECE Steering Group created to provide recommendations on a set of relevant questions to collect and disseminate comparable data in UNECE countries.



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Questionnaire

- Develop to gather information on early response from NSOs to new data needs and data collection challenges
- Questionnaire send to all NSOs late September
- Questions dealt with:
 - Type of surveys
 - New modes/methods of data collection (modifications to existing surveys and new surveys or data sources)
 - Survey content (key topics)
 - Dissemination strategies



Early Results (Part 1)

General

- N= 27
- 24 out of 27 countries conducted survey(s) during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Surveys collecting gender statistics

- 21 out of 24 countries conducted at least one LFS during the period
- 16 countries conducted a Household Budget/Income and Exp. Survey
- 11 countries conducted a Living Conditions/Living Standards Survey
- 9 out of 24 countries modified survey content to collect statistics on impact of Covid-19 on gender



Early Results (Part 2)

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Topics covered (n=10)

- Three most popular topics (6 or 7 out of 10 countries): income/economic security, income insecurity and labour force participation
- Other fairly popular topics (4 or 5 countries): domestic violence, access to health services, psychological & mental health
- Moderate interest (2 or 3 countries): government assistance, school attendance, unpaid household or care activities, child care services, drug & alcohol consumption, social networks

Other results

- Of the 18 countries which have made changes to data collection methods (to existing or new surveys):
 - Vast majority (16 countries) changed data collection mode
 - More than half (11 countries) added Covid-19 related questions



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Early Results (Part 3)

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Other results

- Collecting gender statistics to measure impact on selected groups (n=16):
 - Vast majority (13 countries) collected info on employed/unemployed population
 - Other topics of interest (5 to 7 countries): low-income population, people who have been victimized, informal workers and small businesses.
- 19 out of 21 countries who have collected information have disseminated results or are planning to do so soon.



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Future Work

- Presentation of the project to the CES Bureau (16 October 2020)
- Develop a set of questions to collect information on the differentiated impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on women and men
 - Consider mainly medium and long-term impacts
- Present results for discussion among statistical offices and other experts in the first quarter of 2021



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Thank you for your attention!

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