1. Measuring the impact of COVID-19 on VAW: Use of innovative methods to meet ethical and safety standards

2. Prioritizing women's safety: the survey ethical and safety protocols

3. Innovations in measuring VAW: Use of vignettes and list randomization

4. Field Operations: UN Women’s learnings on remote data collection on VAW
Women and girls aged 15-49 have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner in the previous 12 months.

VAW risk factors have INCREASED with the COVID-19 pandemic as security, health, and money worries heighten tensions and strains are accentuated by cramped and confined living conditions.

Administrative data only provide information about reports to services but not on the number of women experiencing VAW

Social distancing and stay-at-home measures compromised the application of ethical and safety measures in VAW data collection

Measure the impact of COVID-19 on VAW
While addressing the ethical and methodological challenges inherent in such data collection by employing some innovative methods
## PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND WAY FORWARD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab States</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Southern Africa</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cote D'Ivoire</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kyrgyz Republic</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### RAPID GENDER ASSESSMENTS
- **June 2021**
  - New VAW data for 4 countries
    - Data bites

### GUIDANCE ON VAW DATA COLLECTION
- **Oct 2021**
  - Country reports for 4 countries
  - Additional VAW data for 9 countries

### GLOBAL AND COUNTRY REPORTS
- **Nov 2021**
  - Global and 13 country reports
  - Pooled VAW estimates from 13 countries

### DATA ACCESS AND USE
- **Dec 2021**
  - Guidance on remote VAW data collection based on the 13 country surveys
  - Global advocacy campaign during the 16 Days of Activism

### DATA DASHBOARD
- June 2021
  - Global and country reports
  - Pooled VAW estimates from 13 countries
  - Data dashboard for all 13 countries

- Oct 2021
  - New VAW data for 4 countries
    - Data bites

- Nov 2021
  - Country reports for 4 countries
  - Additional VAW data for 9 countries

- Dec 2021
  - Guidence on remote VAW data collection based on the 13 country surveys
  - Global advocacy campaign during the 16 Days of Activism
PRIORITIZING WOMEN’S SAFETY: THE SURVEY ETHICAL AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Safeguards were put in place to ensure women's safety above all

Ensure respondents' privacy needs and safeguard confidentiality

Respect respondents’ difficulties to share personal and direct sensitive experiences

Avoid words, phrases, and questions that can be too brutal and that can make respondents uncomfortable

Protect respondents' safety from other people in the household who may overhear the conversation

Anticipate respondents' potential need to access to helplines and resources

Confidentiality and Privacy Agreements

Informed Consent

Use of indirect questions, such a vignettes and list randomization

Carefully-worded questions and statements and scripted responses

Ensuring speakerphone is turned off; Confirming that no one over the age of 2 can overhear; Use of “safe” words; Only Yes/No, frequency or number responses

List of helplines proposed to all respondents
Examining design effects

**COUNT** of statements you regard as **TRUE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase I: May – Jun 2021</th>
<th><strong>[REVISED]</strong> Phase II: Aug – Sep 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have faced severe <strong>economic hardships</strong> in life</td>
<td>People in my family have <strong>played</strong> [POPULAR LOCAL SPORT]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to open a new <strong>business</strong></td>
<td>I like [name of WELL-KNOWN TV SHOW, but not everyone likes]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been <strong>slapped</strong> by my husband or partner</td>
<td>I have been <strong>slapped or hit</strong> by my husband or partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I want to have children/more children</td>
<td>I prefer [LOCAL FOOD three] to [LOCAL FOOD four]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CORRELATION ISSUES**
Abusive behaviour spouse/partner may be due to: Economic hardship, Risk taking, Not wanting more children

**COUNT = 4\ CEILING EFFECTS**
This would imply that a treatment group respondent would no longer have the desired level of protection to report honestly

**COUNT = 0\ FLOOR EFFECTS**
A respondent may be concerned that responding “yes” only once would risk revealing their response to the targeted statement.

Calculate the probability of responses given for each count, including zero, to check for appropriateness. Make sure that some % people will answer affirmatively or negatively to all statements
INNOVATIONS IN MEASURING VAW – VIGNETTES

Using vignettes as proxy measure for violence and harassment

On physical and verbal abuse

Mary and John are a couple. They have been married for several years and have two children. John works in a repair shop, but lately the business has been bad, and they are worried about money. Sometimes when John gets stressed, he takes out his anger by yelling at Mary, and sometimes he hits her. Mary feels hurt and wants him to stop but does not know what to do.

The vignette results for the study were generally internally consistent with results of other questions in the survey.
One direct question asked in Colombia questionnaire only...

1. How often, if at all, in the past 12 months, has a *spouse pushed you, thrown something at you that could hurt you, punched or slapped you*?
   i. Did this experience happen before the onset of COVID-19, after, or both?
   ii. Has this experience changed at all as a result of the conditions of COVID-19?

Pilot Results:
**NO ONE refused or indicated “don’t know”** - this despite the fact that five (of 57 samples) respondents said they had experienced the treatment described.

98% of women answered the questions in a neutral manner

The remaining 2% of women –
- Sometimes, women pause before responding
- In case a woman sounded shy or uncomfortable, the interviewers were patient and neutral and gave more time to respond

But, respondents don’t seem to change their behaviour when answering.
Survey tools and operations were adapted to address challenges associated with VAW data collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Study design</th>
<th>Adjusted sampling frame, rigorous training, improved questionnaire</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field scheduling</td>
<td>Cognizant of public holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field reflection</td>
<td>Shorten the lengthy questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect questions</td>
<td>Check for design effects and avoid correlated statements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical and safety considerations</td>
<td>Train enumerators to be sensitive to other words including ‘COVID’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Respondents’ Reactions to Ethical and Safety Protocol

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Image</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Willingness to participate</td>
<td>Mixed Reactions</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Mixed Reactions" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Word</td>
<td>Didn’t use it. Used just to quit the survey. Used Correctly.</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Correctly Used" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of sensitive words</td>
<td>“harassment” and “discrimination”</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Not Used" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19</td>
<td></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Not Used" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Details of helplines</td>
<td>More than 50% asked for details of support organization</td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Used" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THANK YOU

Jessamyn O. Encarnacion
Inter-Regional Advisor on Gender Statistics
jessamyn.encarnacion@unwomen.org

Raphaelle Rafin
Programme Specialist (VAW Data)
raphaelle.rafin@unwomen.org