14 September 2021

Online meeting of the Group of Experts on Gender Statistics, 28–29 September 2021

ABSTRACT

Title	Measuring violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic: Decision Tree
Author Name	Henriette A.F.M. (Henrica) Jansen
Author Organization	Independent expert
Session	Measuring violence against women in times of crisis

Gold standards for keeping women safe during violence against women (VAW) prevalence surveys and for data integrity include strict measures around privacy and safety of respondents.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in situations of lockdown or restricted mobility when women may be at home with their abusers, there is anecdotal evidence that violence is increasing.

The pandemic has caused an unprecedented interest in collecting data to understand its impact on gender-based violence. This however is not without challenges. Newcomers in the area of VAW data proposed telephone interviews or other remote methods, attempted to collect data on prevalence of VAW in rapid assessment or even used hotline data as proxy for VAW prevalence.

While some of these methods have been successfully used in other contexts, they are not appropriate for sensitive topics that are usually hidden, and that can put women in danger especially if female respondents are at home with their abuser. Women may be overheard, they may risk more violence, among others. Moreover, women may not want to participate or disclose so we can expect to get bad data that underestimates the problem and thus undermines the importance of the issue.

UNFPA's kNOwVAWdata Initiative, the World Health Organization, and UN Women partnered to develop a decision tree that guides data collectors through the various considerations, viable options, and alternative data sources for obtaining information without jeopardizing participants' safety or the data's integrity. In doing so, it aims to identify data sources and methodologies that are useful for strengthening services and referral pathways for women experiencing violence during COVID-19.

This resource is currently available in Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese (Mandarin), English, French, Hindi, Khmer, Nepali, Russian, Spanish, Thai, Urdu and Vietnamese and has also been adapted for violence against children and for violence against women migrant workers.

Link: https://asiapacific.unfpa.org/en/resources/decision-tree-data-collection-violence-against-women-and-covid-19