WOMEN AT THE CORE OF THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT

Blerta Cela
UN Women Deputy Regional Director

18 November 2021
In 2020, employed women fell by ↓ 54 million.

Women out of the labour force rose by ↑ 45 million.

- 45% of working-age women actively engaged in the labour market, compared to over 70% of working-age men.

- The highest inactivity rate both for women and men - Kyrgyzstan (48%).

- Largest gender gaps in labour force participation - Kyrgyzstan (34%), Turkmenistan (29%) and Uzbekistan (27%).

**Economic Challenges of the Outbreak - Employment Income and Working Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proportion of population who reported loss of job by sex</th>
<th>Proportion of population with decreased working hours by sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>24.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moldova</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Macedonia</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B&amp;H</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Rapuid gender assessment survey
3 Key Areas of Policy Intervention

Recognise women’s involvement in the care economy
Care economy means more 475 million jobs by 2030

Investment in women’s entrepreneurship
Women’s entrepreneurship development could rise global GDP to $5 trillion

Equalise the gender digital divide
Not ensuring women have equal access to the digital labour force means an economic loss of over $500bn by 2025
1. Care Economy

- 70% women spend more time on at least 1 unpaid activity - 59% men
- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan are among the highest impacted countries
- Every 1 in 2 women reported increase in at least two domestic work activities (1 in 3 men)
- There is a 10-20 PP difference among women and men in Kyrgyzstan

Unpaid Domestic Work - data from Rapid Gender Assessment, 2020
1. Care Economy

Even before the crisis, women across the globe performed three times as much unpaid care work as men.

Women in Kyrgyzstan spend between 10 and 20 per cent more time on paid and unpaid work than men.

In Tajikistan, 61% of inactive women report domestic responsibilities as the primary reason for their inactivity in the labour.

Only 82 out of 248 socioeconomic measures adopted in ECA in response to the pandemic were gender-sensitive.

Irinka Aliashvili is one of the many women working from home during COVID-19. She remarks on the expectations from women to be both perfect mothers and employees and underlines the gendered aspects of domestic work. Photo courtesy of Irinka Aliashvili.
2. Women’s Entrepreneurship

In Azerbaijan, women led 22.5% of MSMEs and were 20% more affected by COVID-19 than those led by men.

In Kazakhstan, 75% of women entrepreneurs reported financial loss due to COVID-19 compared to 63.5% of men.

In Kyrgyzstan, 58% of self-employed women had working hours reduced compared to 38% for self-employed men.

In Tajikistan, 63.1% of MSMEs felt the negative effect of COVID-19 on their business operations.

Women in Uzbekistan
Photo: UN Women/Janarbek Amankulov
2. Women’s Entrepreneurship

Gender-Responsive Procurement: Facts and Figures

- **35%** 1 Of all SMEs are owned by women
- **31-38%** 2 Of formal SMES in emerging markets are owned by women around 8 - 10M
- **around 20%** 1 Of GDP produced by women-owned SMEs
- **around 20%** 3 Of global GDP is from public procurement
- **1%** 4 Of public procurement spend goes to women owned businesses

---

2. Source: IFC, 2011
3. Source: Chatham House, 2017
4. Source: ITC, 2014
UN Women in Kazakhstan launched a new project to strengthen STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) skills of young women from East Kazakhstan and Kyzylorda regions. Photo: Caravan of Knowledge

3. Digital Divide

The Global Economy and the Future of Work

- 90% future jobs will require digital skills and already 90% of jobs have a digital component
- 70% of women’s jobs are at risk from automation
- Products and services will need to be more inclusive, involving women and girls in design, development and implementation, otherwise risk losing 50% of customers

Education and Community of Knowledge

- Focus to be on future generation of workers - girls face less access to digital technology, skills and education – preventing them from entering STEM education and jobs.
- Boys phone ownership can be up to 50% higher than girls in Eastern Asia and use internet more. Roughly 46% of boys use the internet on their phones, compared to 27% of girls.
- Girls face more online and offline harassment and gender stereotypes prevent full participation
In Azerbaijan, women led 22.5% of MSMEs and were 20% more affected by COVID-19 than those led by men.

In Kazakhstan, 75% of women entrepreneurs reported financial loss due to COVID-19 compared to 63.5% of men.

In Kyrgyzstan, 58% of self-employed women had working hours reduced compared to 38% for self-employed men.

In Tajikistan, 63.1% of MSMEs felt the negative effect of COVID-19 on their business operations.

THANK YOU