

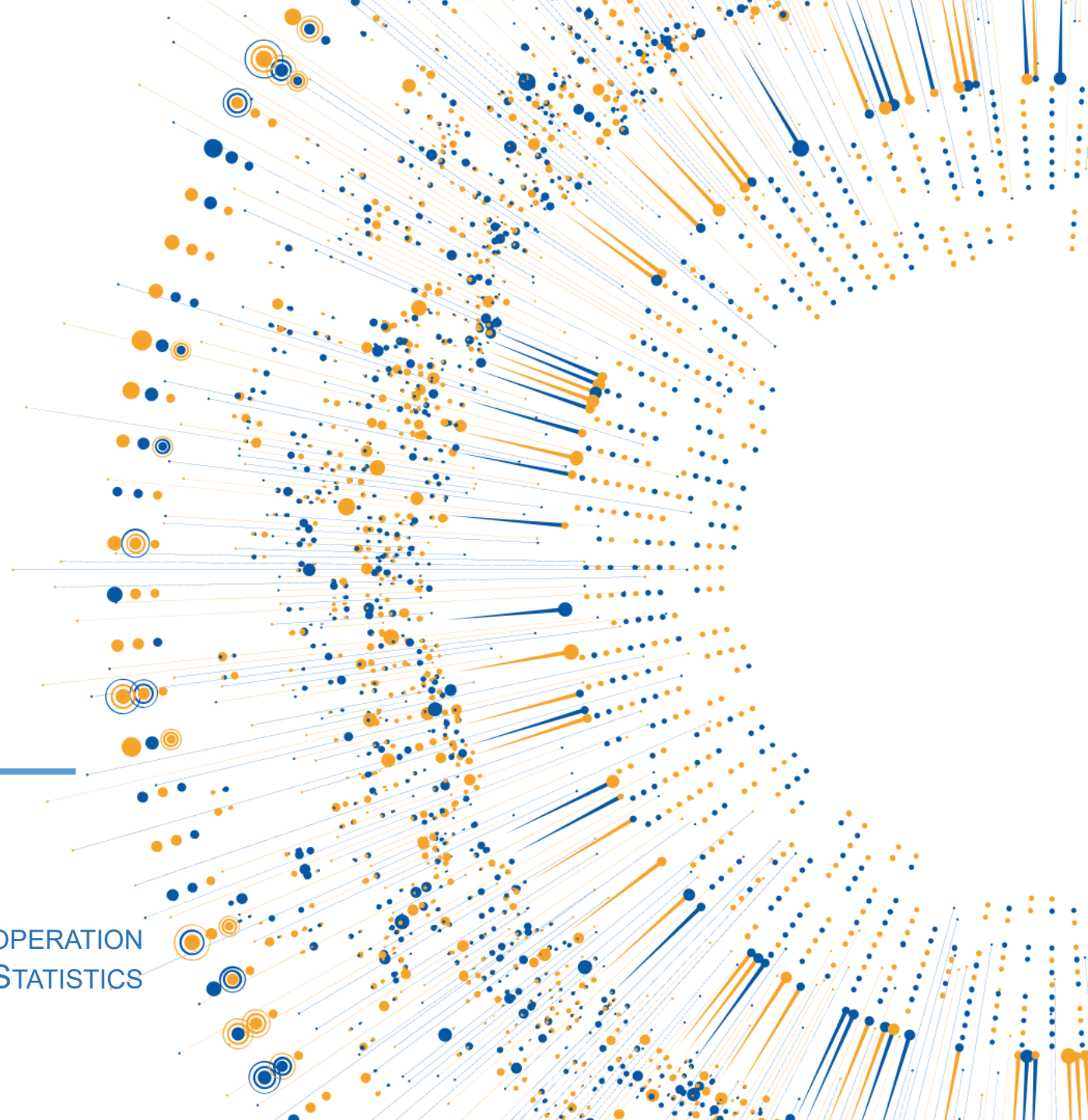


БЮРО НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ СТАТИСТИКИ  
АГЕНТСТВА ПО СТРАТЕГИЧЕСКОМУ  
ПЛАНИРОВАНИЮ И РЕФОРМАМ РЕСПУБЛИКИ  
КАЗАХСТАН

## SURVEY ON VAW IN KAZAKHSTAN: ENGAGEMENT OF DATA USERS AND COGNITIVE TESTING

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# MEASURING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAW)



## Background

- International commitments in the field of gender equality (UN Declaration on Human Rights, SEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, SDGs, etc.)
  - National legislation/strategic documents (Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Prevention of Domestic Violence", Gender Equality Strategy in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2006-2016, the Concept of Family and Gender Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan until 2030)
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## Existing data sources

- Administrative sources (police, courts, service providers, etc.)
  - Statistical surveys (specialized, modular)
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## Practical experience of the Bureau of national statistics (BNS) in data collection

- Module in the Survey (MICS-2010/2011)
  - Specialized Survey (2015, 2022)
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## Methodology used and experience of other countries

- Survey 2015 – UNECE modular questionnaire, WHO Ethical principles and considerations, experience of Italy and Moldova
  - Survey 2022 – the main questionnaire of 2015 has been kept and supplemented with new questions, ethical principles and considerations taking into account teenage girls, the experience of Eurostat (Italy, Albania)
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# SURVEYS ON VAW IN KAZAKHSTAN

## 2015

- The age of respondents is 18-74 years
- The survey is on paper
- Sample size – the same size for all regions (940 households, a total of 15,040 hh in 16 regions)
- Preparatory stage: questionnaire development, approval with government agencies + pretest
- Key indicators: prevalence of VAW by 4 types of violence (partners/non-partners), controlling behavior, severity and consequences of VAW, seeking help
- Training of field staff – with an international WHO expert
- Involvement of local authorities (local police, crisis centers)



## 2022

- The age of respondents is 15-74 years
- The survey is conducted using tablets (CAPI)
- Sample size – proportional to the population (17,329 hh in 20 regions)
- Preparatory stage: + consultations with stakeholders, questionnaire development, pretest, cognitive test, pilot survey
- Key indicators: + disability, history of the last episode of violence, childhood violence, harassment, impact of COVID-19, causes of violence
- Training of field staff – with an international UN Women expert and an expert-psychologist
- Involvement of local authorities (+ units for the protection of women from violence, local akims, region. commissions on women's affairs)

# PLANNING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STAGE OF THE VAW SURVEY



November 2020 -  
January 2021

Study of international  
experience

Involvement of an  
international expert  
(ISTAT)

February – April  
2021

Consultations with  
stakeholders

Project of the  
questionnaire

May-July 2021

Preliminary testing  
Cognitive testing

August 2021-June  
2022

Approval of the  
questionnaire and  
confirmation

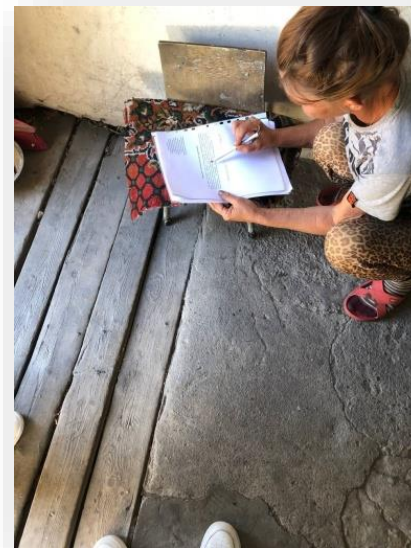
Pilot survey

July 2022- 2023

Training of field staff

Data collection,  
processing and analysis

Publication of results



# PLANNING STAGE: CONSULTATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS

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**The purpose of the national consultations is** to discuss the main priorities and national needs for measuring and reporting on various forms of violence

**Participants:** Government agencies (including police) and non-governmental organizations (including crisis centers)

**Format:** online discussion with the support of national and international experts

**Questions for discussion:** use of 2015 survey data, availability and sufficiency of data, needs for new data

**Outcomes:** recommendations and new questions in the survey 2022

# PREPARATORY STAGE: COGNITIVE TESTING

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**The purpose of cognitive testing** is to identify and correct possible sources of distortions and errors present in the questionnaire

**Participants:** interviewers (represented by Bureau staff) and respondents from various population groups (in urban and rural areas)

**Format:** offline survey on paper questionnaires, with audio and/or video recording of the interview

**Questions:** a special template for describing the interview results (understanding the question, what thoughts come/associations, examples, description of the respondent's behavior when answering questions)

# PREPARATORY STAGE: COGNITIVE TESTING

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## Lessons learned

- Questions should be formulated briefly and simply, in an understandable language
- To avoid unpopular terms (household)
- Women do not want to talk and recall cases of violence, deliberately hide and later there is confusion with the answers
- Questions about sexual violence confuse women, few people are ready to talk about it
- It is important to stay alone with the respondent, in case of interruption of the interview by outsiders the subtle connection between the interviewer and the respondent is lost
- The age of the interviewers should not be too young (the Bureau staff seemed young to the respondents and they were embarrassed to answer them)
- High-quality training of interviewers is very important

# PREPARATORY STAGE: PILOT SURVEY

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**The purpose of the pilot survey** is to test/approbation all stages of the survey, from sampling to analysis of the results obtained, in order to avoid serious errors in the main survey

**Participants:** specially trained interviewers (accepted by contract) and respondents from various population groups (randomly selected in urban and rural areas in 1 region)

**Format:** offline survey on tablets (CAPI), using GPS monitoring and audio recording on a specific question

**Questions:** developed survey questionnaire



## Main outputs

- A software application for tablets has been developed
- Methodological guidelines for field staff have been developed
- Trained 2 supervisors and 8 interviewers
- 500 women aged 15 to 74 years were interviewed
- A qualitative study was conducted – 2 focus groups and 4 in-depth interviews
- Recommendations have been developed for the main stage (sampling approaches, data collection, training)

## Lessons learned

- Some questions and arithmetic/logical controls for the software application have been adjusted
- There are a lot of questions, and when the survey comes to more sensitive questions, respondents begin to refuse to answer or simply say "no, nothing happened", and begin to strive to complete the interview as soon as possible
- It is important to select experienced and caring interviewers
- Training with the participation of an expert psychologist is important for interviewers in order to avoid emotional burnout
- We need regular supervision of supervisors over the work of interviewers
- It is important to have the support of local authorities

## Current challenges

- the work is often occasionally (with the exception of regular surveys to assess the standard of living, labor force, ICT)
- wages are low, besides, it is often associated with stress and negativity on the part of respondents
- after the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become much more difficult to gain the trust of respondents, even in rural areas
- surveys are conducted for various topics and require constant learning
- often the interviewer's job is an additional income (they are either retired or have a main job)

# PREPARATORY STAGE: SELECTION AND TRAINING OF FIELD STAFF

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## Recommendations:

- attracting experienced interviewers from other surveys
- do not attract very young or very elderly interviewers, pay attention to the state of health when applying for a job
- interviewers should not be too intrusive, they should be able to observe correctness and ethics when communicating with the respondent
- pay attention to the interviewer's attitude to the topic of violence against women in order to avoid criticism and condemnation of the respondent
- during the training, it is important to involve an experienced psychologist who will show special techniques and exercises for emotional burnout, as well as teach correct/ ethical relationships with the respondent, especially if she has an experience of violence

# VAW SURVEY - 2022

- Sample size – 17,329 hh, interviewed – 16,404 women
- The number of interviewers is 139 people in 20 regions
- Survey method – CAPI on a tablet (software developed)
- Training of supervisors and interviewers – with the participation of an international expert (February-April), with the participation of a psychologist (July-August) in 5 "cluster" trainings (Astana, Almaty and Shymkent)
- Data collection – 2 months
- Monitoring of field work – reporting every 2 weeks
- Quality control of work – GPS, audio recordings, control rounds (supervisors)
- Involvement of external support – local authorities (district statisticians, police units for the protection of women from violence, regional commissions on women's affairs, psychologist)
- Qualitative research – focus groups and in-depth interviews
- Analysis of results, final report

## Conclusions:

1. It is important to take into account the needs of users and involve them in the planning process
2. Cognitive testing is necessary in order to check whether the questions are correctly formulated and their sequence, what answers we get and what respondents feel at the same time
3. The pilot survey makes it possible to conduct a "dress rehearsal" of the main survey and avoid serious mistakes.
4. The success of the survey depends almost 90% on the competence, professionalism and sociability of the interviewer, therefore it is important to provide high-quality training with the support of a psychologist-practitioner and an appropriate level of support during field work (including remuneration)

**BUREAU OF NATIONAL STATISTICS  
AGENCY FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND  
REFORMS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KAZAKHSTAN**



**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

