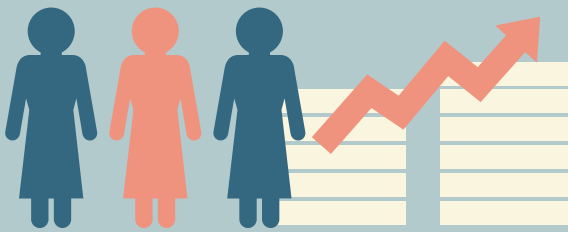




Call to Action to Women Leaders: **Gender-Sensitive Covid-19 Response**

Making women and girls' needs visible in intervention plans during crises is only possible with women's participation in decision-making processes. Bringing the voices of women into local and national level decision-making mechanisms will ensure taking more inclusive decisions in response to crisis and will yield better and sustainable results for the whole community.



Crises should be managed from a gender equality perspective and women's needs should be included in crisis management plans and early needs assessments. Women's representation should be ensured to make sure that women's specific needs are reflected in mechanisms such as scientific boards, pandemic crisis teams and crisis management teams.

Women leaders can include the needs and expectations of women and increase their access to services.



Women leaders should support women's associations to access women and girls in need during crises. Resilient and widespread networks of women's associations can help disseminate messages and support delivering services related to social isolation, combatting against violence, equal sharing of domestic and care work and girl's access to education in this period of time. Besides, these organizations can ensure women have access to essential information on pandemic preparedness and response.

Women leaders can empower support services for women who experience violence.



Uninterrupted provision
of emergency assistance to
ensure that women who
experience violence and/or
sexual abuse can access these
services



Ensuring that women and
girls who experience violence
get psychosocial support



Informing health and
emergency medical personnel on
how to take protective measures
against violence against women
and girls and how to refer those
who experience violence to
relevant services



Conducting capacity
and risk assessment of women's
shelters, increasing the capacity
of women's shelters by opening
idle spaces such as hotels and
schools to the use of women
and girls



Strengthening
emergency helplines and
technology-based solutions
such as messaging, social
support networks, mobile
applications etc.



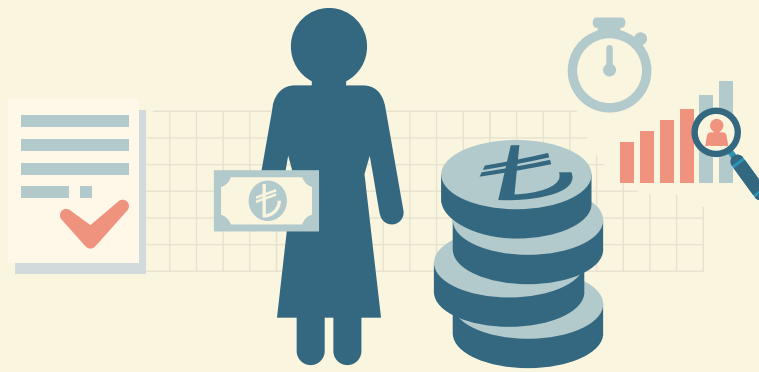
Ensuring uninterrupted
continuation of legal
sanctions and making them
responsive to the needs of
those who experience
violence



Supporting women's
associations working in the field
of violence against women and
including representatives of
such associations in
decision-making processes

Collecting
data on violence





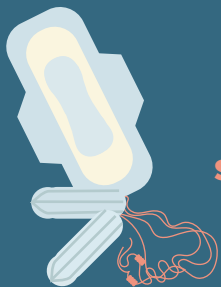
Women leaders can lead in implementing bailout and fiscal stimulus packages that include social protection measures and provide income for women that are disproportionately represented in sectors affected by COVID-19. They can ensure response programs and policies are informed by gender analysis and reflect an understanding of women's economic and productive lives in the public and private spheres, including recognition of the care economy.



Women leaders should support equal sharing of domestic and care work between men and women as they call on citizens to 'stay home'. Women in Turkey do 5 times as much domestic and care work than man. The COVID-19 crisis will likely deepen these inequalities to women's disadvantage.



Of all women working in Turkey, 42% works in informal jobs such as cleaning and child care. Women who work in informal jobs are the first ones to lose their incomes during times of crises. Women leaders should take into account the needs of those working in the informal employment sector as women constitute the majority of the workforce in this sector and they should make special efforts to deliver compensatory social support packages.



Women leaders should ensure that the needs of frontline female health workers, including doctors, nurses, midwives, as well as medical facilities' support staff, are integrated into every aspect of the response effort. For example, they can support women's access to menstrual hygiene products such as sanitary pads and tampons. More importantly, they can listen to the healthcare workers and address their needs through gender-sensitive COVID-19 response.

