

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' IMMEDIATE COVID-19 MEASURES



Most of the local governments in BiH consider that local immediate measures/interventions for COVID-19 **did not take into consideration the needs of women**. Recovery from the COVID-19 crisis must have gender empowerment at its heart.



Almost all local governments in BiH consider that the **COVID-19 lockdown has disproportionately impacted women**, as existing gender inequalities are exacerbating gender-based disparities between women, men, girls and boys.



70% of local governments in BiH noted increased vulnerability of women when it comes to social wellbeing, psychosocial stability and gender-based violence occurrence.

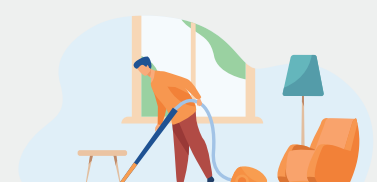
The impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic on women in BiH**, especially those facing multiple forms of discrimination related to poverty, disability, economic dependency, **is increasingly being documented**.



CARING RESPONSIBILITIES



The increase in caring responsibilities during the **COVID-19 crisis is likely to be shouldered by women**. More than 95% of respondents stated that cooking and serving meals, cleaning, repair and household management, shopping for the family, taking care of elderly and taking care of children (teaching, playing, care) is significantly increased for women than men in BiH.



In more than 50 municipalities, COVID-19 outbreaks increased girls' and young women's duties of caring for elderly and ill family members, as well as for siblings who are out of school. As more people work from home, are under-employed or unemployed, **men may take on more care and domestic work**, which would affect the gendered division of labour and social norms.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



Increased time at home due to social distancing and isolation measures is placing individuals at risk of violence. Most of local governments in BiH expressed **serious indications that the family-based violence, economic and emotional abuse was significantly increased during the COVID-19 pandemic**.



60% of local governments in BiH do not have data on domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 80 local governments in BiH and cities reported that **survivors of domestic violence, women with children below 10 and single women parents will be more negatively affected than men**.



Most of the local governments in BiH noted that **regular communication among relevant actors and more field workers to provide rapid response are two key elements to improve effective response toward domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic**.

IMPORTANCE OF GENDER DATA



75 local governments in BiH consider that there is an **urgent need for sex-disaggregated data** to fully understand how women and men are affected by COVID-19.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT



The negative socio-economic impact of COVID-19 may have more of an effect on women. 90% of local governments in BiH consider that **economic consequences will most affect self-employed and women-owned medium businesses in the private sector**.

SOLUTIONS



All interviewed local governments in BiH consider that **unconditional cash transfers to women are expected to improve the financial and intra-household status of female beneficiaries, as well as their psychosocial well-being**.