



Promoting Gender Equality and Engendering Change

The COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately impacting women's health and socio-economic well-being. Women are losing their livelihoods and they are suffering increased rates of gender-based and domestic violence, all while shouldering ever heavier burdens as caregivers and first responders – both in the workplace and at home. To meet these challenges, the UN Secretary-General's COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund has made **gender equality** an integral part of its operations in 100+ countries.

The Fund's **dedicated focus on gender equality is achieving urgent and durable results – helping millions of women impacted by the pandemic into a safer and more equitable future.**

At the institutional level, lessons learned from the Fund's pioneering and **successful use of gender markers** will inform fund design well into the future. Building on the use of gender markers in its initial financing round, the Fund's second allocation required 30% of all funded projects to qualify as a Gender Marker 3. This meant gender equality was fundamental to project design and its expected results. As a result, **69% of proposals supported by the Fund's second allocation qualified as Gender Marker 3.**

Further, the gender guidance provided by the COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund is helping UN Country Teams focus on the **UN's collective gender policy and programme offer during** the pandemic – a process involving both **complex analysis of gender and planning** for UN collective support on gender in-country. Lessons learnt from incorporating gender into national Socio-Economic Response Plans will be critical to ensuring improved gender analysis and planning and better recovery during the Decade of Action.

The Fund's rigorous evaluation of programmes for their gender impact has translated into **action towards gender equality in 80 countries.** Funded programmes are **helping women cope with the health and socio-economic burdens** the pandemic has wrought. Here are some **emerging results** from funded projects that support **healthcare, personal safety, social safety nets, and livelihood opportunities for women.**

Emerging Programmatic Results

Access to Health

- In **Malawi**, maternal and neonatal services continued and were safe in the pandemic context, with **256,282** women utilizing **maternal and neonatal health services**
- In **Morocco**, a programme focused on the continuation of women's healthcare benefited **21,473** women by instating **mobile health services** across **30** health facilities
- In **Viet Nam**, the programme provided **12,600** pregnant women with quality antenatal services, and **newborns** and their mothers received a postnatal home visit. A smart phone application was developed and used to **schedule 210,400** sexual and reproductive health visits

- In **Lao PDR**, with programmatic support, the percentage of women receiving **antenatal care** services **rose steadily by 10%** in targeted districts
- In Papua New Guinea, **pregnant and postpartum women** received antenatal and postnatal care and information campaigns increased the proportion of **births delivered in health facilities** rose from 58% to **64%**. Further, **pregnant and lactating women** received nutrition **education**.
- In **Jamaica**, the programme provided **16,000 doses of Depo Provera** to the National Family Planning Board



Cash Transfers and Social Safety Nets

- In Indonesia, a programme offered a gender-responsive cash for work programme to **300 women**, in addition to reaching approximately **180,000 women through an expanded national social safety net**
- In **Guatemala**, the programme is helping in the implementation of gender-responsive integrated national household social registry to identify and **support vulnerable women in multidimensional poverty**. This action will support the **most vulnerable women** in the country to be **included in the social protection schemes** of the government



- In **Maldives**, the programme increased access to digital technology for most vulnerable and helped to build an integrated social protection system towards expanded and digitized national social protection policy
- In **Cote d'Ivoire**, a programme provided **1,322 women-headed households** with financial assistance. In Cabo Verde, **1,000** of the poorest and **female-headed households** received a cash transfer for three months

Eliminating Gender-based and Domestic Violence

- In **Maldives** the lockdowns have increased the risk of rising gender-based violence, limiting the ability of the victim to separate from the attacker. The programme has been providing **mental health facilitation** for women at risk. The programme is **protecting women and children** by digitalizing & streamlining social services and creating a unified platform for national care. The programmes have helped strengthen national capacity to **change social norms** to prevent gender-based violence and increase women's access to reproductive health and economic opportunities
- In **El Salvador**, the programme trained Postal Service staff delivering to the doorstep to **identify women** who had suffered or were suffering **domestic violence** and advise them on where to seek assistance; and it launched an innovative **campaign** to ensure that a **postmark** was added on all the mail with the **telephone number of the Attorney General's Office** - one of only two government institutions delivering psychological, crisis, and legal support to women victims of violence



- In **Ghana**, **essential personal hygiene dignity kits** were distributed to women and girls and a refurbished national shelter now offers sexual and gender-based violence victims a safe space in the Greater Accra Region
- In **Cote d'Ivoire**, the project **operationalized a helpline that assisted 4,062 cases** of violence, abuse, exploitation, and mistreatment
- In **Kosovo**, **online psycho-social sessions** were provided to **689 beneficiaries** including **195 women and children in shelters** as survivors of DV and GBV
- In **Uzbekistan**, a project helped **301 women and children** to be hosted by **shelters for violence survivors**; and it **launched the national GBV hotline, receiving 5,623 calls** from women and girls

Providing Food, Hygiene and Supplies

- In **Moldova**, **7,939 vulnerable and marginalized women**, including **young girls and their dependents**, were given food and hygiene packages. The programme also provided protective equipment to **women from the vulnerable Transnistrian region (1,800)**, **women living with HIV (3,145)**, **women with disabilities (108)**, and **survivors of domestic violence (336)**
- In **Kiribati**, a project provided **19,155 pregnant women and children under 5 years old** with essential nutrition services such as vitamin A, iron, and folic acid
- In **Uzbekistan**, **families of women with disabilities** and mothers of children with disabilities received food packages



Entrepreneurship and Workplace Safety

- In Vanuatu, **4,500 direct beneficiaries of this programme, 90% of whom were women**, were provided **WASH and PPE supplies and trainings to keep markets and vendors safe**
- In Bhutan, a project provided **668 smallholder farmers, of which 70% were women**, with agriculture inputs that helped increased vegetable production by **20% compared to previous years**
- In Sao Tome, a project reached **600 family groups** of which **93% were headed by women** to provide the provided **trainings** to families engaged in agriculture to support their hygiene, health, and safety in the agricultural workplace



- In **Madagascar**, a programme supported the production of **400,000 masks** in cooperation with **10 local associations and companies**, which created **2,565 jobs**, of which **1,500 were occupied by women**. **Six of the mask production shops were led by women**
- In **Uzbekistan**, a project **identified 100 women mardikors** (casual workers) who had been hit hard by the pandemic and offered them **trainings** on business and family entrepreneurship **100 women** from more than 80 mahallas were selected for **credits and bank loans for their businesses**