

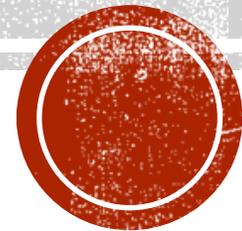
COVID-19 FROM GENDER LENS

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In

Launch of the Impact on COVID-19 on Inclusive Development and Governance: Rapid and Post-Pandemic Assessment in the Mekong Subregion,

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GENDERED IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Loss of employment
- Increase in domestic violence
- Food security
- Increase in workload for women
- Workers in the frontline
- Access to support



LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT

- 140 million full-time jobs may be lost due to Covid-19
 - Women's employment is 19% more at risk than men (UNWomen 2020)
- There are predominantly more women workers in garment factories
 - One in five women in Cambodia and one in nine women in Myanmar work in garment industry (ILO 2020)
 - 78% of garment workers in Vietnam and 90% of garment workers in Lao PDR are women. (UNWomen 2020)
 - Demand for clothing decreased by 50% (Global is Asian 2020)
- There are predominantly more women in informal sectors
 - 25% of self-employed women lost their jobs (21% for men)
 - 94% of women in Cambodia and 87% of women in Myanmar work in informal sector (UNESCAP 2020)
 - Informal sector are lost more than formal sector + they do not qualify for social protection.



- **Women entrepreneurs**
 - Women have more difficulty in accessing loan and other support because of their lack of access to assets
- **Vulnerable sectors to lose jobs**
 - Sex workers
 - Domestic workers



INCREASE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- 84% of women (79% of men) reported deterioration in mental health (Unicef et al. 2020)
- "Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to cause 15 million additional GBV cases worldwide for every additional three months of lockdown" (UN Population Fund). Or 20% increase in violence during lockdowns. (ESCAP 2020)
- Increased exposure to perpetrators during lockdown
- Stressful environment
- Reduced support services or access to services



- **Child marriage**
 - School closure → girls having less access to outside
 - 50% of Household had children stopped attending school (ADB 2020)
 - Myanmar – 52% of children stopped going to school (Morgan and Trinh 2020)
- **More time online leading to increased cyber harassment**
 - Digital violence (unsolicited pictures, sexist comments, physical threats, stalking) (UNESCAP 2020)



FOOD SECURITY

- Decrease in consumption
 - 80% of those decreased food in Myanmar(Morgan and Trinh 2020)
- Fewer meals or less nutritious food.
 - In Bangladesh, 79% of women did not have enough food in June (70% for men) (ILO 2020)
- Women are responsible for managing household food
- Decrease in remittances because of return of migrants
 - More than 260,000 migrant workers returned from Thailand to Myanmar.
 - Reduced remittance income puts additional pressure for women to manage household.



INCREASE IN WOMEN'S WORKLOAD

- 13% in increase in unpaid care work for women (ILO 2020)
- Increase in care burden
 - Daycare closed, schools closed
 - Taking care of the sick
 - Myanmar – women noted child/elderly care as reasons for productivity loss, while men referred to increase in hours of work as the reason. (Hill et al. 2020)
- Unpaid domestic work
 - Women increased more than men → daughters and sons increased more than husband (UNWomen 2020)



FRONTLINE WORKERS

- Healthcare workers
 - 70% of paid global health care workforce are women (UNWomen 2020)
 - Gender pay gap in health sector is higher (28% compared to 16% overall)
 - Community healthcare workers – often not supported.
 - Bad working conditions and low wage did not improve
 - 8-38% of health workers suffer physical violence by patients or visitors (UNESCAP 2020)
 - Stigma because of their proximity to the sick



ACCESS TO SUPPORT

- Women have less access to phones
 - Lower digital literacy
- Women have less access to medical services (UNWomen 2020)
 - More women than men are not able to seek medical care (Thailand and Cambodia)
- Women have less access to state support
 - Lack of registration/ asset → cannot access state subsidized loan
 - State support / cash transfer to household – given to head of household
 - Tax based support (deferring tax payments – Laos , Myanmar, Vietnam) → do not benefit informal sector workers
- Support targeted for women focus on DV and childcare but less on economic opportunity
- Less women in decision making



CONCLUSION

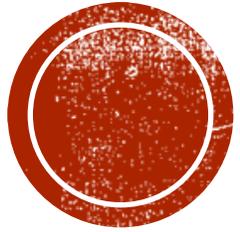
- Gendered effect can be for long term
 - Lost opportunity/ lost employment
 - Education, food
 - Experience in violence
- Women's absence in decision making positions is a problem
 - Involving women in research and policy making important
- Less data/ information on gender issues
 - Statistics on GBV
 - Gender disaggregated data including informal workers
 - Not only welfare but political and economic opportunities for women
 - How to change status of women workers –e.g. status of healthcare workers (paid/ unpaid)



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THANK YOU!

