

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV): AN ONGOING CHALLENGE FOR 2022



THE INCIDENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE INCREASED IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN DURING THE PANDEMIC

Increases in GBV were higher where social distancing measures were stricter

THE FACTS

During lockdown, calls to domestic violence helplines increased by:

- +36%** Mexico
- +91%** Colombia
- +48%** Peru
- +32%** Argentina
- +81%** Chile



During lockdown, cases of femicide rose by:

- +50%** Panama
- +25%** Costa Rica
- +25%** Ecuador

In **Brazil (São Paulo)**, the probability of femicide more than doubled during the more pronounced isolation period of COVID-19. Throughout 2020, 1,350 cases of femicide were recorded in the country.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN (LAC) COUNTRIES

Gender mainstreaming with particular attention to GBV has been the exception rather than the rule in COVID-19 policy responses adopted by countries



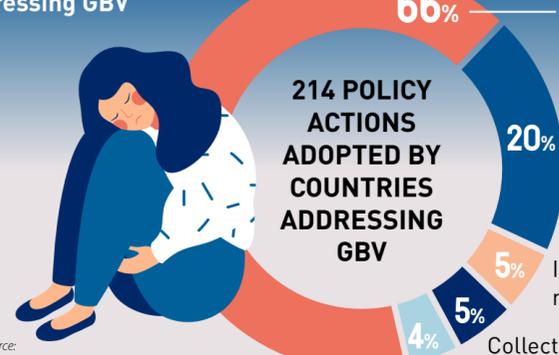
47 gender-sensitive financial aid measures were implemented



LAC countries adopted 214 policy actions addressing GBV



The majority (66%) focused on strengthening of services, primarily as police and justice responses to address impunity



214 POLICY ACTIONS ADOPTED BY COUNTRIES ADDRESSING GBV

Awareness-raising campaigns

Integration of GBV on COVID-19 response plans

Collection and use of data

Other measures

Source: UNDP Gender Tracker, World Bank 2022



Initial spikes of domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic were mostly associated with quarantine measures. Job losses and constrained financial sustainability for women were identified as potential drivers of increased abuse within the home and declines in reporting in later stages of the pandemic.

PROTECTING WOMEN BEYOND THE PANDEMIC



Strengthen services for survivors and adapt them to virtual contexts, including police and justice responses and mental health



Expand financial aid emphasizing GBV survivors, including direct cash transfers, staple foods packages, cash for care, and electric and wage subsidies



Use technology-based solutions for prevention and protection, including GBV helplines, apps, websites, and other user-friendly services to mitigate the threat of violence escalation



Ensure funding and resources are available beyond the pandemic for GBV services, including organizations, civil society, and support groups



BUILDING FORWARD FOR GENDER EQUALITY

Intensify efforts on prevention and medium to long-term approaches that tackle the systemic economic and social inequalities as underlying components of GBV risks

Ensure more effective protection and redress, access to education, social protection support, and decent work, and change discriminatory gender norms

Implement policies fostering women's economic empowerment, participation and leadership as part of recovery measures and beyond

Build an equitable society where we all work together to prevent GBV

FOR AN INCLUSIVE WAY FORWARD, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WOMEN PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE AND WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO BUILD AN EQUITABLE SOCIETY