THE ECONOMIC AND GENDERED IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Sustainable Responses for a Post COVID-19 Economic Recovery: Online Meeting for Parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean
11 June 2020

Monika Queisser
Head of Social Policy
OECD Directorate for Employment, Labour & Social Affairs
1. The OECD’s outlook for the world economy

2. Women and the COVID-19 crisis

3. Policies to help women through the COVID-19 crisis
We are seeing an unprecedented collapse in output through the first half of 2020

Per cent change in GDP between 2019Q4 and 2020Q2

Notes: GDP at constant prices. Data for China refer to the change in output between 2019Q4 and 2020Q1.
We expect a slow recovery, especially in the case of a ‘double-hit’

Actual and projected gross domestic product, constant prices, quarterly, 2019-2021

1. The OECD’s outlook for the world economy
2. Women and the COVID-19 crisis
3. Policies to help women through the COVID-19 crisis
Women are often over-represented among essential service workers.

Distribution of the long-term care workforce, by sex, 2016 or nearest year

Notes: The OECD average is the unweighted averages of the 29 OECD members shown in the chart. EU-Labour Force Survey data are based on ISCO 4 digit and NACE 2 digit classifications. Data for Greece, Italy and Portugal are based on ISCO 3 digit and NACE 2 digit classifications. Data for Greece must be interpreted with caution because of small samples.

Women are also shouldering much of the additional unpaid work at home

Gender gap (female minus male) in minutes per day spent on unpaid work, 15-64 year-olds, by sex, OECD countries, latest available year

Notes: Data for Lithuania refer to 20- to 64-year-olds. Reference years vary across countries. Data for Slovenia refer to 2000/01, for Latvia and Lithuania to 2003, for Austria 2008/09, for Estonia, Finland, France, New Zealand and Spain to 2009/10, for Hungary and Sweden to 2010, for Norway to 2010/11, for Germany to 2012/13, for Belgium, Greece and Luxembourg and Poland to 2013, for Italy to 2013/14, for Mexico to 2014, for Turkey and the United Kingdom to 2014/15, for Canada to 2015, for Japan and the Netherlands to 2016, and for United States to 2018.
Unlike past crises, women’s jobs may be at most risk from the pandemic

Notes: Data refer to women’s share of employment in ISIC Rev 4, category 47 (Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles)
Source: OECD calculations based on data from ILO ILOSTAT, [https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/](https://ilostat.ilo.org/data/)
Reports suggest increased risks of domestic violence, as also seen in past lockdown situations.
1 The OECD’s outlook for the world economy

2 Women and the COVID-19 crisis

3 Policies to help women through the COVID-19 crisis
Examples of emergency measures that have been particularly valuable for women

**Workers with additional family care needs**
- Targeted child care options for parents in “essential” occupations
- Special paid leave for workers affected by school or child care closures
- Special paid leave for workers who need to care for sick or quarantined children or relatives

**Workers facing job and income loss**
- Improved and extended short-time work schemes
- Improved and extended out-of-work benefits, especially for non-standard workers
Examples of emergency measures that have been particularly valuable for women

Small businesses owners and the self-employed
- Dedicated financial facilities to help small businesses address the short-term consequences of the outbreak
- Access to financial measures, especially if they do not qualify for out-of-work benefits

Victims and survivors of domestic violence
- Ensure health supports to survivors is not sacrificed as health systems move on to a “war mind-set”
- Make sure shelters and women’s centres remain open through lockdown
- Pro-actively engage with women and children at risk
- Use remote hearings to ensure that lockdown measures do not obstruct women’s access to justice
Recovery policies must take women into account

Use gender impact assessment processes and tools in emergency management
• But this integration requires a well-functioning system of gender mainstreaming, ready access to gender-disaggregated evidence in all sectors, and technical skills.

Use gender budgeting for response and stimulus packages
• This can help ensure that a gender perspective is applied to response measures, and allow governments to understand the collective impact of the package on gender equality objectives.

Ensure women’s voices are well heard in decision-making processes
• Step up measures to increase the role and numbers of women (and women’s agencies) in both decision-making and advisory positions