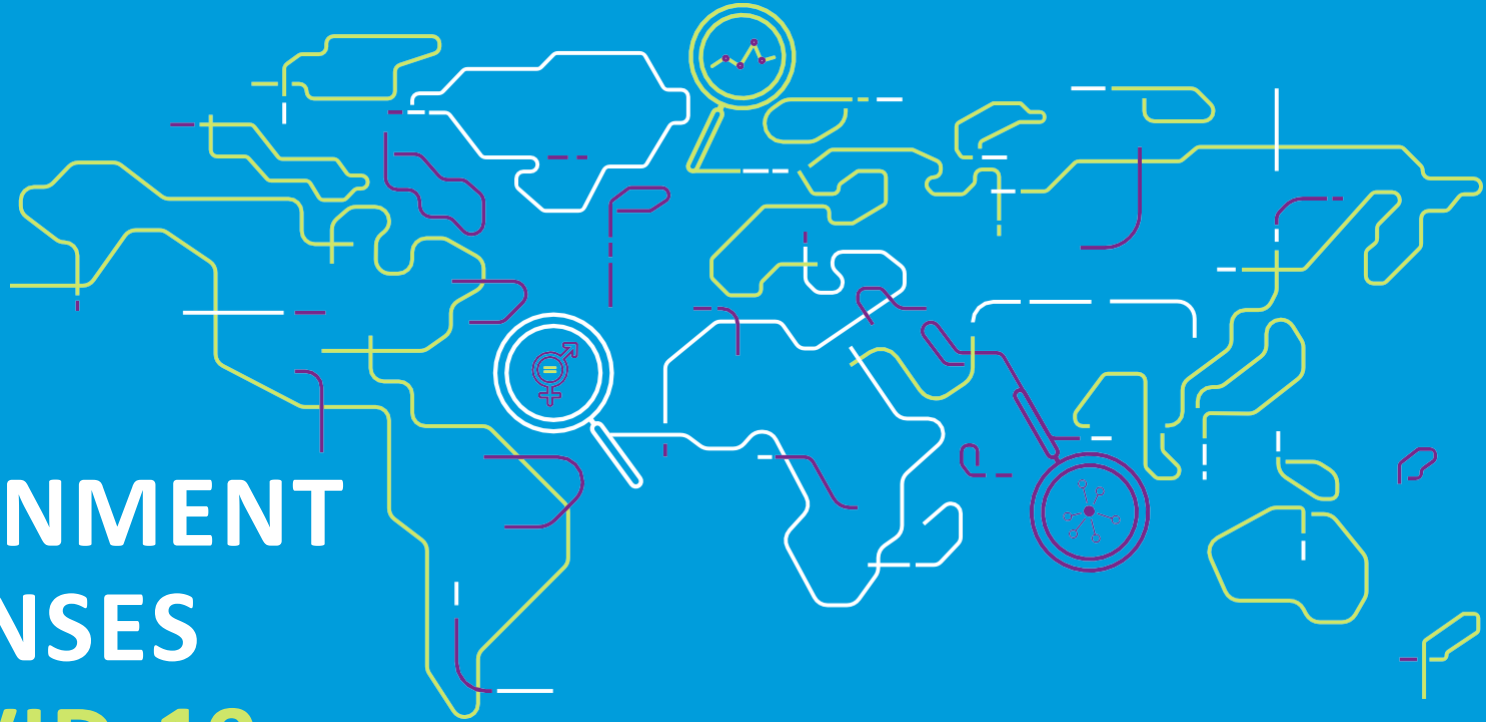


GOVERNMENT RESPONSES TO COVID-19:

Lessons on gender equality
for a world in turmoil



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UN
WOMEN

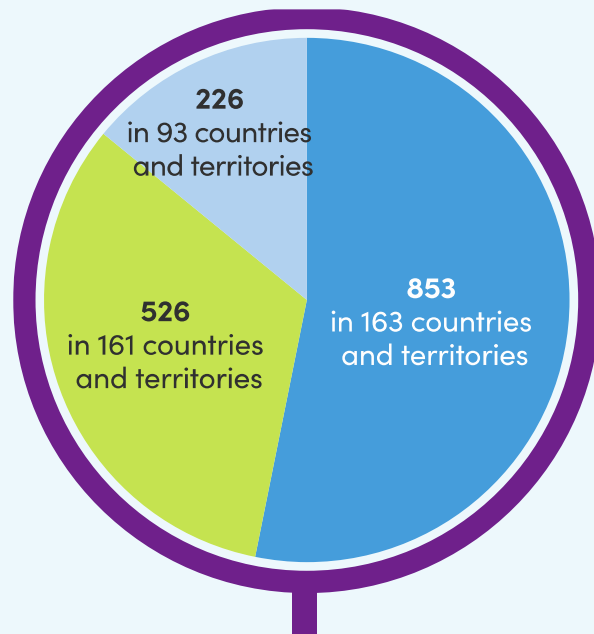


- **The data:** close to 5,000 measures taken by 226 countries and territories during the first 18 months of the pandemic
- **The question:** How have governments responded to the specific challenges that women have faced?
- **The verdict:** overall insufficient attention to gender dynamics, but significant cross-country variations and instances of innovation.
- **The opportunity:** identify the constraints and enablers of gender-sensitive emergency response

HOW HAVE GOVERNMENT RESPONSES STACKED UP?

**1,605 gender-sensitive measures
across 196 countries and territories**

- Two-thirds of these measures were adopted between March and May 2020
- More than half (52%) focused on responding to violence against women and girls



- Violence against women and girls
- Unpaid care work
- Women's economic security

Violence against women and girls: a significant response, but gaps remain

163
COUNTRIES

adopted

856

MEASURES

to address violence
against women
and girls

Only

13

COUNTRIES

mainstreamed VAWG
into their COVID-19
response plans

Only

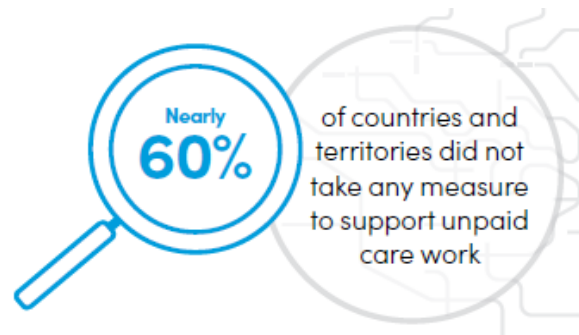
0.0002%

of COVID-19 response
funding by major
donors went towards
ending gender-based
violence

Women's economic security and unpaid care were not prioritized

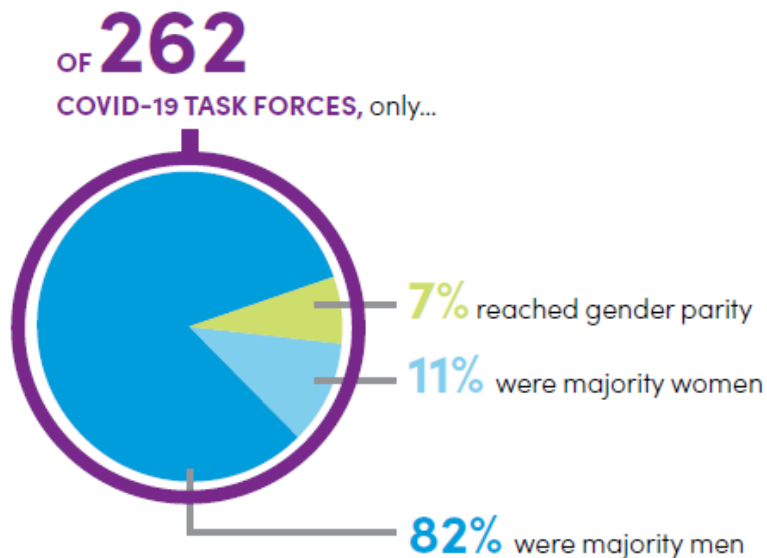
Out of all social protection and labour market measures...

only **12%** targeted women's economic security only **7%** supported unpaid care work



Across 32 countries, only **10% of women** reported receiving **cash relief** compared to **16% of men**

Women's participation and leadership: Inequalities persisted during the pandemic



Glass ceilings



Glass walls





LESSONS ON GENDER EQUALITY FOR A WORLD IN TURMOIL

1 Strong democratic institutions are critical for an inclusive gender response

Countries with **powerful feminist movements**, **stronger democracies** or **higher women's representation in parliaments** adopted an average of...

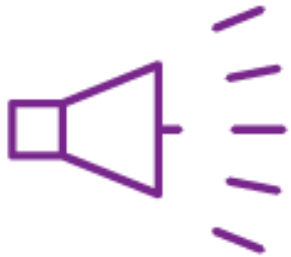
5 more GENDER-SENSITIVE MEASURES

... than those countries without those features



2

Women's participation and leadership is a key driver of gender-responsive government action



In the first year of the pandemic, women staged

2,711 PROTESTS

to demand action on VAWG across **100 COUNTRIES**

Women in public office supported gender-sensitive from violence against women services in **Iceland**, **Fiji** and **Uzbekistan**, to measures for women entrepreneurs in the informal sector in **Brazil** and **Egypt**, to emergency family leave for parents in **Chile** and **Norway**.

3

Countries with more robust public services and social protection systems have a head start when crises hit...



...but policy innovation happened amid constraints.

At least **41 countries** extended social protection to informal workers, and **15** of these introduced special provisions for women in the informal economy.

4

Digital tools can sustain feminist activism online and enable rapid roll-out of support



Electronically paid cash transfers reached beneficiaries on average one **MONTH FASTER** than manual or part-electronic programmes

More than **100 COUNTRIES** used digital tools to adapt support to VAWG survivors

Togo's fully digital cash transfer programme for informal workers during the pandemic, reached 30,000 recipients **within two days** of its launch. By 2021, **women** accounted for 63% of the over 800,000 recipients.

5

Real-time data on the gender impacts of crises and what works to mitigate them are critical

- Limits on in-person data collection, triggered a rise in remote data collection.
- UN Women partnered with mobile phone operators to conduct rapid gender assessments in over 50 countries.
- Data innovations have directly informed gender-sensitive government responses across a range of countries.

In **Indonesia**, **Senegal** and **Ukraine** gender data were used to advocate for additional resources to mainstream gender into recovery programmes and policies.

Thank you!

#GenderTracker

