UN-Women’s Results and Priorities in the Europe & Central Asia Region

Alia El-Yassir, Regional Director for UN-Women in Europe and Central Asia
What we know based on what we heard:
20,000+ partners and stakeholders

• Progress in **sex-disaggregated statistics** remains uneven.
• Women’s engagement in **innovation and technology** offers transformative opportunities
• Targeted engagement to advance **women’s role in decision-making and public life** is essential for 2030 Agenda
• Addressing **structural drivers** of gender inequalities, exacerbated by the pandemic, is essential.
• **Women’s economic empowerment** is a game-changer
• **Eliminating Violence against Women** requires further attention and investment.
• **Gender transformative financing** for gender equality is critical
• Gender mainstreaming across the UN system needs to be applied across all policy sectors including in the **economic/financial and environmental spheres**.
How has COVID-19 compounded gender inequalities in the Europe and Central Asia region?

- **15 per cent** of women respondents stated that they lost their jobs.
- **41 per cent** of women respondents faced reduced paid working hours.
- Self-employed women suffered the worst economic consequences: 25 per cent lost their jobs and 49 per cent saw reduced working hours.
- Approximately **50 per cent** of women reported a salary decrease.
- **70 per cent** of women spend more time on at least one unpaid domestic work activity.
- Women in **7 out of 10** countries/territories will have greater difficulties in paying for basic expenses.
Results

Coordination

Normative

Governance & Leadership
EVAW, WPSH & WEE
What we know is working....

Our stories of impact
Using data and evidence in Georgia to advocate for legislative and policy change

“Only two years after the research was conducted by UN Women we got new amendments in law… this law is a significant mechanism to protect women and also changing work culture as a whole. Now, at least women know that they will not be objectified at work and if someone dares to sexually assault them, they won’t be the ones losing their career and a job.”

Ekaterine Skhiladze, Deputy Public Defender of Georgia
Communities in Kyrgyzstan transforming traditional gender roles within families

“I began helping my wife with the household chores, learned how to cook. I started milking cows myself, which in our culture is considered to be quite shameful for a man. But this was not the most difficult. The hardest thing for us was to break stereotypes, especially in the village.”

Maksat Kurmanaliev, Kytai, Eastern Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan
Women in leadership challenging stereotypes in Moldova

“Initially, many locals were skeptical about a woman mayor, but now most have radically changed their minds. If more women are in leadership positions, our country will be prosperous. I believe that women are capable in any field. Have you noticed how prosperous countries are where women are in charge? They can change the world.”

Elena Neaga is the mayor of Balasesti commune in Singerei district, Moldova
“After the digital skills training course, I started to use [Instagram] differently, to promote my handicrafts. If I didn’t have any digital skills, I couldn’t have continued my sales, which brings the only income we currently have as a family. I market on Instagram and receive online orders from all over Turkey.”

Berivan Atilgan, Şanlıurfa, Turkey
Moving forward
Scale and Impact

• Strengthening each of the pillars of UN Women’s triple mandate and the interlinkages between them

• Continuing to lead and leverage UN reforms to advance gender equality and women’s empowerment

• Boosting multi-stakeholder partnerships for transformative change

• Brokering evidence, knowledge and tools to address complex root causes and intersecting drivers of inequalities