UN WOMEN ASIA PACIFIC
COVID-19 RESPONSE

EXECUTIVE BOARD INFORMAL
8 FEBRUARY 2021

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INTRODUCTION

• Focus on both immediate relief and long-term solutions
• Enabling cash transfers and assistance to women in need
• Adapting services to meet the needs of GBV survivors
• Producing and using data and gender analysis to inform regional and national preparedness and response
• Innovative data collection: rapid assessment surveys and analysis of social media trends
• Coordination and supporting system-wide response
**EARLY DAYS: HEALTH FIRST**

### Nepal: Safety and Dignity in isolation centres
- Checklist and tools to monitor standards of safety and dignity and service access for women, girls, children, people with disabilities, and LGBTQI people in mandatory isolation
- Guidance on screening for GBV risks during lockdowns

### Bangladesh: Engaging Women in Prevention
- Engaged Rohingya women in refugee camps and host community women in mask production and COVID-19 prevention
- Dignity kits and critical life-saving GBV services for Rohingya women

### Papua New Guinea: Safer Markets
- Implemented awareness programmes for a core group of women market vendor’s associations in Koki Market
- Enabled them to educate other market vendors and customers on avoiding infection.

### Viet Nam: Protection in Quarantine
- Checklist on safety, hygiene, nutrition, prevention of violence and sexual abuse in 392 quarantine centres
- Similar initiatives took place in Cambodia, Myanmar, Pakistan and Timor-Leste
RIGHTS ALWAYS:
ESCALATING VIOLENCE, SCALED-UP RESPONSE

Regional

Collaborated with Twitter across eight countries (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam) so that searches for certain keywords led to a hotline number and Twitter handle to contact for support.

Indonesia

Supported development and implementation of human rights-based and survivor-centered protocol for systematically handling cases of gender-based violence (GBV) and the trafficking of women migrant workers.

Afghanistan

Developed guidelines, with UN partners and health officials, for women’s shelters to operate safely.

Bangladesh

Communications technology was used to shift public discourse around GBV. Texts were sent to encourage nearly 17,000 imams to spread awareness of domestic violence in their sermons.

Photo credit: UN Women / Gunjan Jha
Gearing up: putting women and gender at the centre

Pakistan
Worked with National Disaster Management Agency to advance women’s participation and leadership in disaster risk reduction.

The Philippines
Working sessions with legislators helped define legislative priorities to address the pandemic and informed revision of Philippine Development Plan and COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

Fiji
With Ministry of Women, Children, and Poverty Alleviation, convened partners to identify gender-responsive approaches to feed into COVID-19 response and preparation for the next cyclone season.

Myanmar
Engendered COVID-19 response through technical assistance and coordination support. Coordinated support to returning women migrants including cash for work, GBV referral, psychological support.
Viet Nam
Small cash grants to 3,500 impoverished people in a district hit by COVID-19 and a protracted drought, in collaboration with FAO.

Nepal
Comprehensive relief package, cash and in-kind support to 3,000 women and people from excluded groups in seven districts.

Thailand
Provided policy recommendations on a stimulus package to develop protection schemes to assist at least 12 million vulnerable individuals, particularly women in the informal sector.

Bangladesh
Supported 800 most vulnerable women of two districts, who were affected by both COVID-19 and the cyclone Amphan and floods, with cash-based assistance transferred via mobile phones, together with public health information.

Timor-Leste
Engaged diverse women’s networks to monitor the government Monetary Support Programme to ensure it would cover women most in need, in collaboration with ILO. Systematically reached more than 400 most vulnerable individuals.

SUSTAINING GAINS THROUGH SOCIAL PROTECTION
BUILDING BACK BETTER: RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

Challenging Gender Norms Around Care Work

UN Women kicked off the #HeForSheAtHome campaign in Thailand, including on TikTok, which received 46 million views.

Innovative entrepreneurship

A Malaysian app called Kiddocare helps working parents find babysitting services and employs 600 babysitters. The platform pioneered virtual nannies and helped women gain new skills and enter the workplace. It is collaborating with UN Women to roll out in other countries.

Women Leading the Recovery

Early in the epidemic in China, funded by the Rockcheck Puji Foundation, UN Women adopted a two-year project to support women-owned small and medium-sized enterprises in Hubei and Tianjin to recover from the economic impacts, build future resilience and promote women’s role and leadership.

Photo: UN Women/Fahad Kaizer
Thank you!