

RAPID ASSESSMENT SURVEY ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MEXICO SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

The Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has urged the States Parties to go beyond short-term emergency measures, to respond to the impacts that COVID-19 has left on societies and on the lives of women and men. He proposes the embracement of an entirely new set of health, economic, social and industrial policies, which implies building back with equality, redefining the development model towards one anchored in human rights and factoring in the environmental dimension, aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations, 2020).

In order to have information for decision-making on public policies, both global, regional and national, including strategies, actions and budgets with a gender perspective, UN Women through the global programme “Making Every Woman and Girl Count” (Women Count), has promoted methodologies to remedy the lack of timely statistical information with a gender perspective. In some Asian Pacific countries, a global methodology was developed to generate information and improve knowledge of the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on the life of women and men from different regions, based on the application of Rapid Gender Assessment Surveys (RGAs).

Using similar methodologies and themes, the RGAs have been carried out in 55 countries in different regions: Asia and the Pacific (11), Europe and Central Asia (16), the Arab States (9), West and Central Africa (8), Eastern and Southern Africa (8) and Latin America and the Caribbean (3).

The results will be very useful to make decisions and thus contribute to the efforts that national statistical offices have been making to produce information that supports actions and public policies to ensure the well-being of women, young women and girls – who have suffered the greatest impacts of the pandemic.

THE MEXICAN CONTEXT

In Mexico, the first cases of COVID-19 were registered in March 2020. In the last week of February, there were 2,086,938 confirmed cases, 49.9% women and 50.1% men. The age range with the highest number of confirmed cases, for both women and men, is 30 to 34 years (SSA, 2021).

To tackle this situation, the Mexican government introduced a measure called the “National Day of Healthy Distance” in March of 2020 (DOF, March 24, 2020). With this, a phase of home confinement began, coupled with the suspension of non-essential activities, which in turn resulted in loss of employment and business closings, as well as an increase in the time spent on unpaid domestic work and caregiving, which is mainly carried out by women, youth and girls.

In order to generate data to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 in Mexico, UN WOMEN, through the Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS) and in alliance with the National Institute of Women (INMUJERES), carried out the: “Rapid Assessment Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 (ENERICOV-2020)”.

TARGET POPULATION

Women and men over 18 years

DATA COLLECTION METHOD

Telephone interviews (only one person per household)

SAMPLE SIZE

1,201 interviews

PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

September 30 to October 9, 2020

DATE OF REFERENCE

March 2020 (start of the pandemic in Mexico)

DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT

Structured questionnaire in six sections:

- Identification;
- Knowledge of COVID-19;
- Employment and income;
- Characteristics, activities and distribution of household tasks;
- Access to basic services and security, and;
- Sociodemographic characteristics.

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

National

1 Data referring to February 2021, taken from Encarnacion, Jessamyn (2021).

PROFILE OF THE PEOPLE INTERVIEWED

- Of the total number of people interviewed,

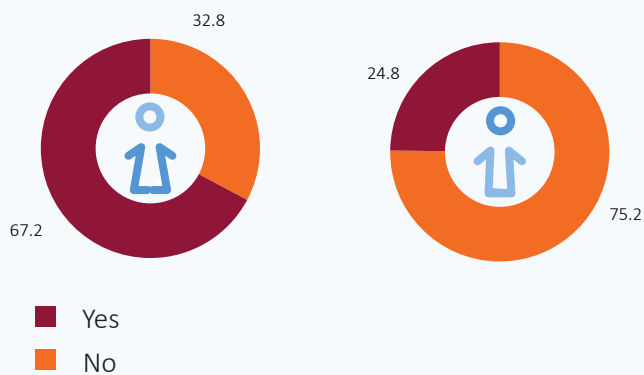


- The largest proportion (62.2%) of both women and men who responded to the survey were in the 18-44 age group.



32.8% of the interviewed women declared that they were the “main breadwinner” of the household. In contrast, this percentage rises to 75.2% of the total men interviewed.

GRAPH 1. Percentage distribution according to condition of “main breadwinner of the household”, by sex



Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

KNOWLEDGE OF COVID-19

- The means of communication that people use reflect important variations by age groups and sex, which have impacts on the opportunity to access information on sanitary measures. People over 45 years old use traditional media more (radio, television and newspapers), while those between 18 and 44 years use media such as the internet or social networks.

² In order to encourage the inclusion of everyone, interviewees were asked: “Do you identify yourself as a man, a woman or another?” Only four people (unweighted sample) answered another identity: neutral (2), gay (1) and transsexual (1). Due to the above, these cases had to be imputed as “woman” or “man”, in order to analyze the information.



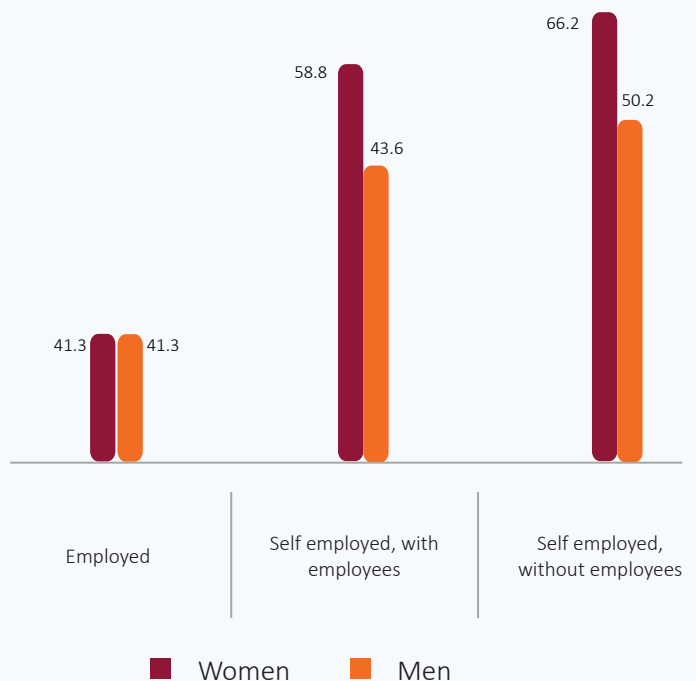
- Even among young women and men (18 to 29 years old) there are differences. For young women, the main source of information about COVID-19 was the radio, television and newspapers. This percentage is higher compared with young men (43.6% against 36.2%). Meanwhile, 52% of men versus 49.5% of women used internet and other digital means of communication to find information.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME



As an effect of the pandemic, a higher percentage of women than men claimed to have lost their job or closed their business. The impact was greater for self-employed women (without employees).

GRAPH 2. Percentage of the employed population before confinement, who reported having lost their job or closed their business as a result of the pandemic, by sex and type of activity



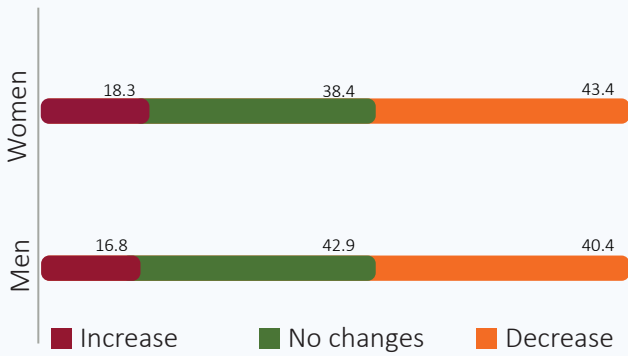
Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

Note: the remaining percentage corresponds to women and men who reported that they did not lose their job or close their business.



- On average, four out of every ten people who managed to continue with their work activity during the pandemic decreased the number of hours allocated to their activity. This was due both to the restriction of working hours in the confinement and to the stoppage of certain activities that had to be carried out in person. For this reason, the impact is mainly noted among the self-employed in the service sector.

GRAPH 3. Percentage distribution of the change in hours of paid work as an effect of the pandemic, by sex



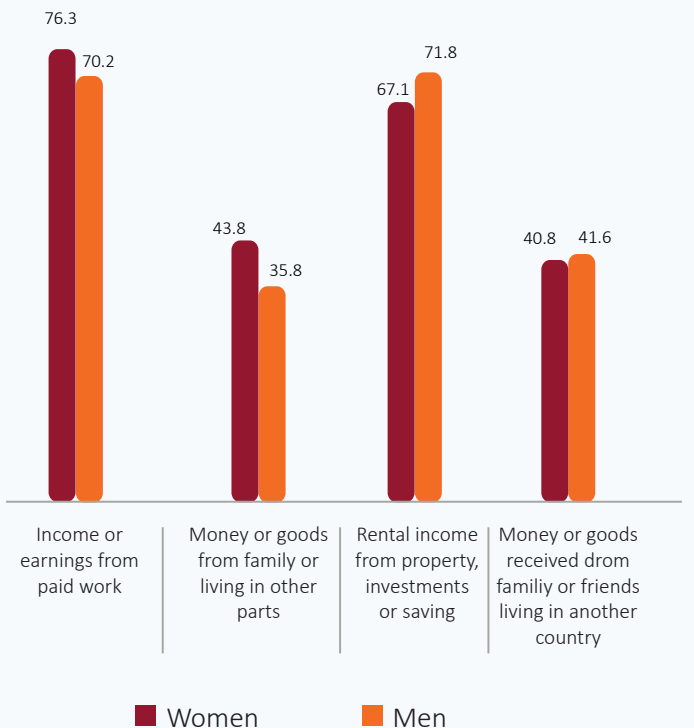
Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

- When disaggregating the data by type of work, it becomes evident that the adjustment in working hours depends both on the possibility of doing so –being self-employed– or on the activities carried out when people are employed. This situation is observed among women, since they were the ones who decreased their working hours the most as self-employed; 76.8% of women against 50.4% of men among the group without employees and 57.5% of women against 51.9% of men among the group with employees (Graph 4).
- As an effect of the pandemic, the income from paid work has plummeted, which has had a greater impact on women: 76.3% of the interviewed women have experienced a drop in income, compared to 70.2% of the men. A higher percentage of women also experienced a drop in income from money or goods sent by family or friends who live in other parts of the country (43.8% versus 35.8%). On the other hand, a higher percentage of men, compared to women, have experienced a decrease in their income from leases, investments or savings and from external remittances (Graph 5).

GRAPH 4. Percentage distribution of the change in hours of paid work as an effect of the pandemic, by sex and type of activity



GRAPH 5. Percentage of people who saw their resources diminished since the spread of COVID-19, by sex and type of resources

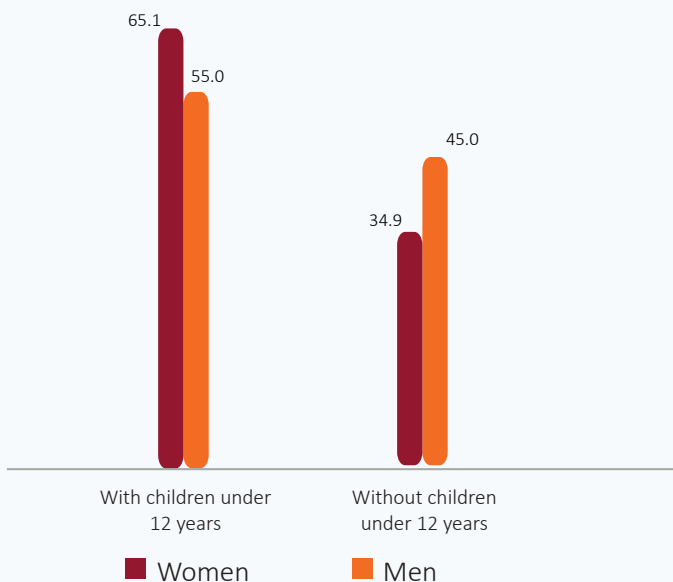


Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.



- As an effect of the pandemic, 30.5% of women declared that they have stopped paying rent or mortgage or stopped paying for public services, versus 26.4% of men. The percentage of women who have stopped paying is higher when there are children under 12 years in the household; 65.1% against 34.9%, in households without children.

GRAPH 6. Percentage distribution of people who have stopped paying rent or mortgage or stopped paying for basic services, by sex and by presence of children under 12 years of age



Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

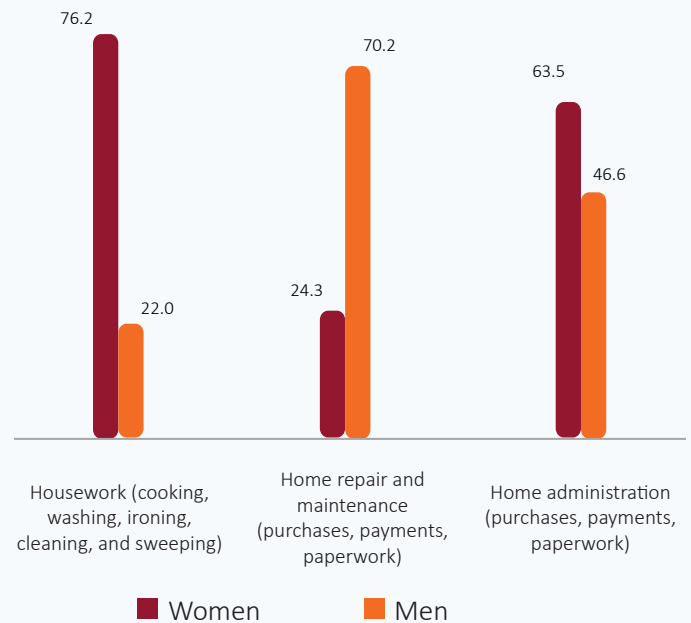


CHARACTERISTICS, ACTIVITIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD TASKS E LAS TAREAS DEL HOGAR

- According to data from specialized surveys,³ there are important differences in the distribution of time dedicated by women and men to domestic work and caregiving.
- 76.2% of women answered that they carried out household chores before the confinement. In contrast, 22.0% of men reported that the activity was carried out by another member of the household or a domestic worker.

- The highest male participation was observed in home repair and maintenance tasks: seven out of ten men reported having performed this type of activity. There is also a significant percentage of men who, before the pandemic, carried out activities related to home administration, however, this percentage is lower than that of women (63.5% versus 46.6%).

GRAPH 7. Percentage of people who did domestic work before the pandemic, by sex and type of activity



Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

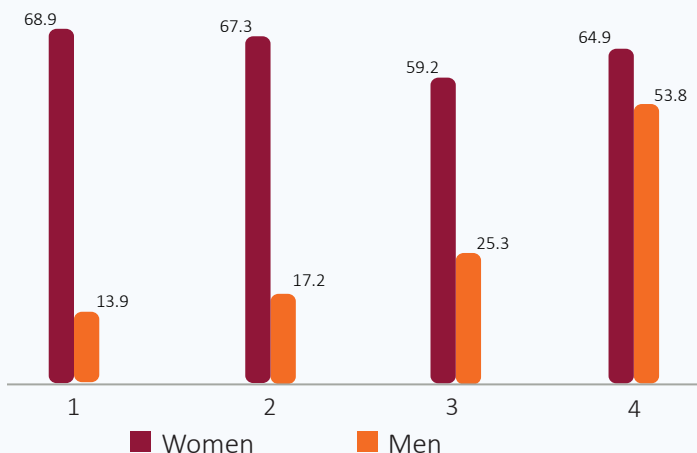
Note: The remaining percentage corresponds to the responses of "another member of the household" or "domestic worker, nanny or nurse".



- About seven out of ten women answered that, before the pandemic, they did caregiving duties at the same time as they performed other tasks, such as paid work or housework.
- Just as in household work, there is a low participation rate of men in caregiving activities. Men have their greatest participation in caring for older adults, but this does not exceed the participation rate of women.

³ Data from the National Survey of Time Use 2019 indicate that 49.5% of the total working time of the population aged 12 years and over is devoted to unpaid household work. This distribution is differentiated by sex: women devote 66.6% of their total time to unpaid household work, while men only assign one third (27.9%) of their time to it.

GRAPH 8. Percentage of people involved in caregiving before the pandemic, by sex and type of activity

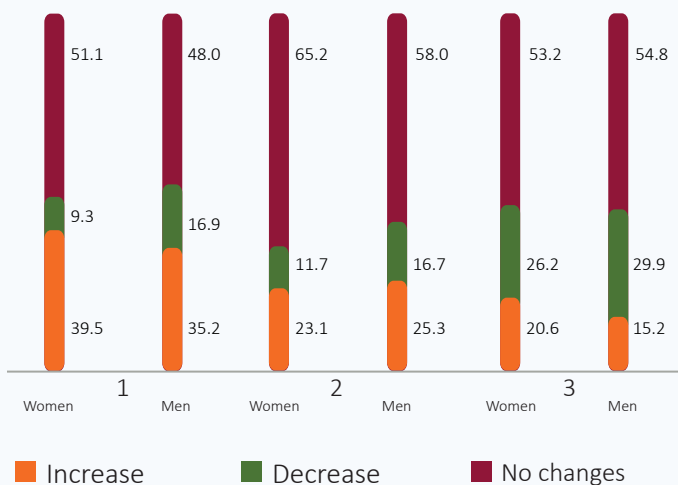


1. Taking care of children while at the same time performing other tasks (for example, paid work, housework).
2. Childcare (feeding / cleaning / playing).
3. Teach and help children with homework.
4. Care of elderly, sick or disabled adults (medical care, food, cleaning and administrative tasks and payment of bills).

Source: CEEG, ONU Mujeres, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.
 Note: the remaining percentage corresponds to the response "another member of the household" or "domestic worker, babysitter or nurse".

- According to the interviewed people, the time dedicated to housework increased during the pandemic, in particular cooking and cleaning. Four out of ten women experienced this change.

GRAPH 9. Distribution by sex of the change in time spent on domestic work during the pandemic, by type of activity

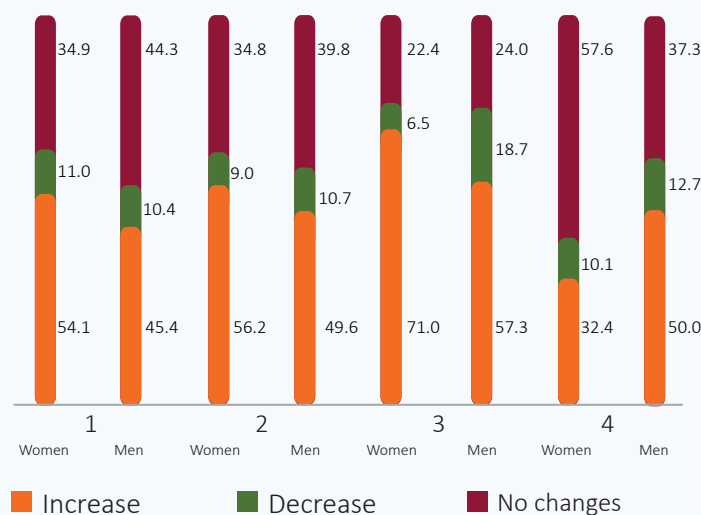


1. Housework (cooking, washing, ironing, cleaning, and sweeping)
2. Home repair and maintenance
3. Home administration (purchases, payments, paperwork)

Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

- The interviewed people stated that, during the pandemic, the time spent on all caregiving activities increased considerably. In particular, 71% of women reported that there was an increase in the time spent teaching and helping children with their homework.

GRAPH 10. Distribution by sex of the change in time spent on caregiving during the pandemic, by type of activity



1. Taking care of children while at the same time performing other tasks (for example, paid work, housework).
2. Childcare (feeding / cleaning / playing).
3. Teach and help children with homework.
4. Care of elderly, sick or disabled adults (medical care, food, cleaning and administrative tasks and payment of bills).

Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.



- 64.4% of women and 80.7% of men indicated that, since the beginning of the pandemic, their partner has been more involved in household work. Women perceived a higher involvement of girls and young women than from their male counterparts.

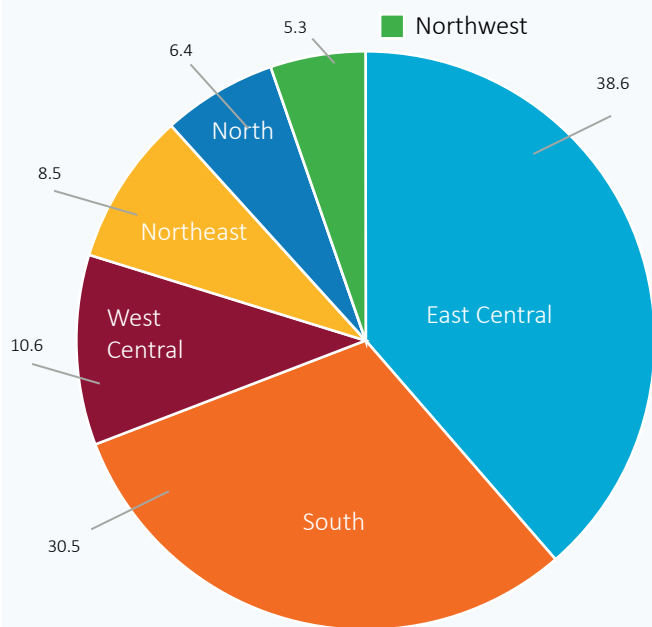


- 31.4% of the interviewed women compared to 25.2% of the men reported that disagreements or conflicts have occurred in their households during the confinement.

Among the people who indicated that disagreements or conflicts have occurred, a higher proportion of women (56.9%) compared to men (47.5%) perceive that there are some or many such problems.

- On the other hand, women have had difficulty accessing maternal and child health services. The highest percentage of women who have faced difficulties in accessing maternal and child health services are found in the Central-East region, which includes the most populated states and the highest number of accumulated cases of COVID-19.

GRAPH 11. Distribution of women with difficulties in accessing maternal and child health services as an effect of the pandemic, by region (%)



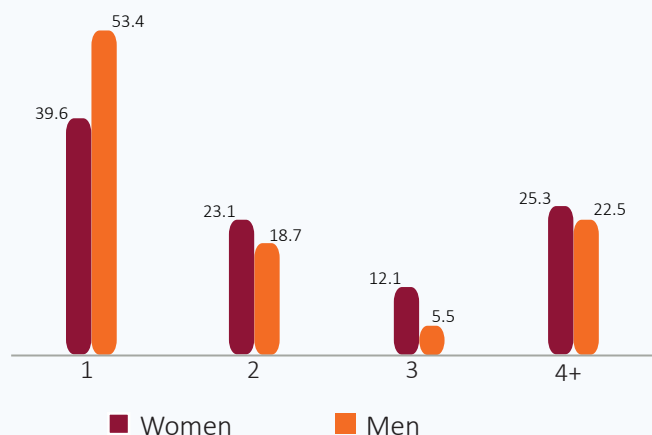
Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

Note: Northwest: Baja California, Baja California, South: Sinaloa y Sonora. North: Coahuila, Chihuahua, Durango y Zacatecas. Northeast: Nuevo León, San Luis Potosí y Tamaulipas. West Central: Aguascalientes, Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Michoacán y Nayarit. East Central: Ciudad de México, Hidalgo, Estado de México, Morelos, Puebla, Querétaro y Tlaxcala. South: Campeche, Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Veracruz y Yucatán.

MENTAL HEALTH

- 53.4% of the interviewed men reported having experienced at least one emotional problem since the spread of COVID-19. However, the percentages of women who experienced two (23.1%), three (12.1%) or more than four emotions (25.3%), simultaneously, are higher in relation to the percentages of men.

GRAPH 12. Percentage of people who reported experiencing emotional problems since the spread of COVID-19, by sex

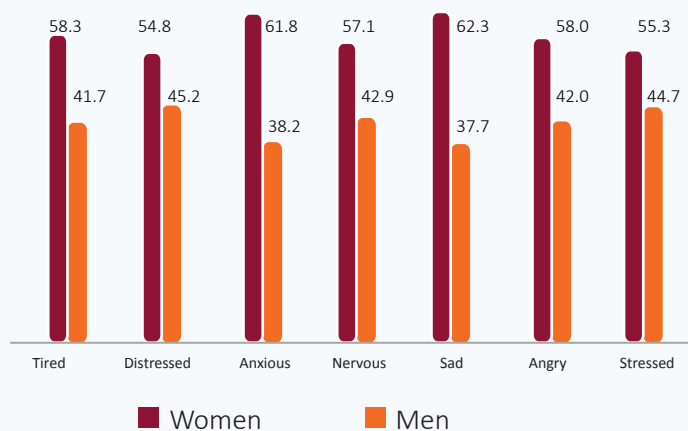


Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

Note: percentage of people who, during the pandemic, have felt: 1. Tired, 2. Distressed, 3. Anxious, 4. Nervous, 5. Sad, 6. Angry, 7 Stressed, 8. Other (for example, fear). The data refer to the number of emotions, regardless of the order in which they were asked, so that a person could experience one or more emotions at the same time.

- The main emotional problem that affected women was sadness; 62.3% mentioned having experienced this emotion, followed by anxiety (61.8%). For men, the main emotional problem was anguish; 45.2% experienced this emotion, followed by stress (44.7%).
- According to the findings of the survey, women have had a greater emotional impact than men regarding negative emotions during the pandemic, with a difference of at least nine percentage points.

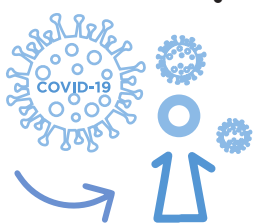
GRAPH 13. Percentage of people who reported experiencing at least one emotional problem since the spread of COVID-19, by type and sex



Source: CEGS, UN Women, INMUJERES, ENERICOV-2020.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- In Mexico, in order to take quick and evidence-based decisions, great efforts have been made to produce gender statistics that shed light on vulnerability for women and men, due to the impact of COVID-19.
- With this, Mexico joins the global efforts in the construction of methodological and technical alternatives for the collection of statistical information with a gender perspective. Through rapid surveys and the use of fixed and mobile telephony, data can be made available to respond to emerging problems and to the design public policies.



- It should be noted that the collection of data with a gender perspective, complementary to regular measurements, and in particular the ENERICOV-2020, has confirmed that it is women, young women and girls who have suffered the greatest impact of the loss of jobs and income, as well as the increase in domestic work and caregiving, and mental health issues after almost a year of confinement.



- The strength of rapid evaluation surveys (polls) lies in the fact that they can, in a timely manner, make available empirical evidence for the identification of needs that require the design and immediate application of public policies. In these moments in which it is still not possible to contain and mitigate

the effects of the pandemic, these efforts are taken in addition to those that national statistical offices and mechanisms for the advancement of women are undertaking.

- Among the challenges that the pandemic has left, there is undoubtedly the challenge of monitoring the effects of the pandemic, in order to be able to evaluate the situation and to propose evidence-based solutions. For this reason, institutions should continue collecting gender statistics periodically about transformations in the lives of women and men. This requires a consolidation of global, regional and national strategic alliances.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WEB PAGES:

- UN Women: <https://www.unwomen.org>
- UN Women Mexico: <https://mexico.unwomen.org/es>
- Women Count: <https://data.unwomen.org/women-count>
- Global Centre of Excellence on Gender Statistics (CEGS): <http://cegsunwomen.com/>