



Gender-responsive Social Safety Nets during Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract: Throughout the life cycle, people have specific gender needs which require consideration during times of crisis. Such gendered needs exist regardless of whether people are affected directly or indirectly by Social distancing and isolation caused by COVID 19 pandemic. Reproductive-age girls and women are more likely to live in deprived households than men and boys do. Women are often overrepresented in informal-sector occupations which are especially vulnerable in times of economic instability and are often poorly protected by social-security systems. Social distancing and isolation policies have repercussions not just about the economy but also about the distribution and strength of unpaid medical jobs which is usually undertaken by women and girls. COVID-19 continues to have a strong impact on women already confronted with food safety challenges before the pandemic. Globally, women are poorer than men and have a less stable place in the labor market. As the governments struggle to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, social safety nets initiatives have been implemented to cushion the vulnerable person including women and girls. The economic assistance being offered has not put gender aspect into account. Considering that the COVID-19 crisis affects men and women in various ways, gender must be taken into account in the steps to address it. This paper seeks to examine the impacts of a lack of gender-responsive social safety nets during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recommendation for decisive implementation of gender-responsive social safety nets were made.

Keywords: Gender-responsive, Social Safety Net, Social Assistance, Social Protection, COVID-19, Pandemic

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1. Introduction

Gender and age play a significant role in how people respond to threats, vulnerabilities, and opportunities. Gender imbalances and prejudices contribute to disparities in women's and men's lives and well-being (Fisher & Ryan, 2021). At various stages of their lives, such as marriage, childbirth, and retirement, women and girls are exposed to various risks and vulnerabilities. Because of the combination of gender disparities and norms with ages and stages in life, women and girls are at a higher risk of poverty. The pandemic has the potential to undo hard-won

progress toward gender equality. Women were more likely than men in low- and middle-income nations to be engaged in vulnerable forms of labor, were overrepresented in sectors with the most economic disruptions, and bore the brunt of increased care work prior to the crisis (Heinemann, & Beegle, 2021). Their earning opportunities have been severely harmed as a result of the crisis. Cash transfers or health insurance are examples of social protection that can help people overcome poverty and vulnerability, as well as support them through life's ups and downs (Barrientos & Hulme, 2009). To deal with the escalating economic crisis produced by COVID-19, governments are increasingly

relying on social protection to safeguard vulnerable populations from widespread economic downturn and to sustain them through times of health risk and economic scarcity. The primary goal of these social protection interventions has been to give immediate financial aid; gender issues have not been a priority. This is unsurprising, given that the majority of existing social protection programs in Low and middle - income countries are either gender-blind or gender-neutral (Hidrobo, Kumar, Palermo, Peterman, & Roy, 2020). Despite the benefits of social protection systems, many fail to address gender and life-course imbalances, limiting their effectiveness to eliminate poverty. The purpose of this study was to look at the difficulties of non-gender-responsive safety nets during a COVID epidemic.

2. Literature review

The COVID-19 pandemic, a profound shock for our societies and economies, highlights the dependence of society on women both at the front and at home, while at the same time highlighting systemic disparities in all domains, from health to economy, from defense to social safety (Zabaniotou, 2020). In times of crisis, when resources are stretched and institutional capacity is limited, women and girls face disproportionate impacts with far-reaching effects that are only further compounded in vulnerable, overlapping, and emergency contexts (McLaren et al, 2020). Scholars say that vulnerabilities of women are compounded during periods of crisis, such as drought, conflict, natural disasters, and the outbreak of disease. It is because the added expectations cast on women build upon their disadvantages in pre-disaster circumstances where gender constraints are already inequitable (Donati, 2020)

Although COVID-19 affects all, gender inequality and inequalities make women and girls more vulnerable to the pandemic's economic and health impacts (Gausman & Langer, 2020). The economic downturn will have the strongest effects on the weakest. Poverty is especially affecting women and children. Reproductive-age girls and women are more likely to live in deprived households than boys and men. Women are also over-represented in informal sector jobs, which are particularly vulnerable in times of economic upheaval, and are often poorly covered by social protection systems (Long et al, 2020).

Women and girls will be the hardest hit by compounding economic pressures. Physical separation and isolation policies have ramifications not just for the economy, but also for the distribution and volume of unpaid medical work, which is disproportionately carried out by women. Parental leave with wages, child support, and childcare Vouchers could all help to tackle this increasing unpaid care crisis (CEPAL, 2020) Research has shown that females dominate micro and informal small-scale enterprises (Winter et al, 2020). Regardless of gender

differences in jobs and wages, there are chances that payroll tax relief benefits cannot be compared between men and women as women are disadvantaged informal work (Simuchimba et al, 2020). Women dominate informal micro-enterprises which the government has so far assumed will benefit through increased on-the-ground consumption of goods and services. In Ethiopia, for example, women were found to be more likely than males to have lost their jobs (15 percent versus 12 percent) in a phone poll done during the early stages of the pandemic (Ambel et al. 2020). At the start of the COVID-19 crisis in Latin America, women employees were 44 percent more likely than men workers to lose their jobs. Compared to equivalent enterprises led by males, women-driven microbusinesses, those in the hospitality industry, and those in nations more severely affected by the COVID-19 shock were disproportionately affected (Torres et al. 2021). In addition, women and older girls suffer a disproportionate share of the care duties that arise as a result of school closures among COVID-19-affected family members. Gender-based violence has becoming more common around the world.

The COVID-19 crisis and lockdown destabilized work not only in the paid economy but also in the unpaid (care) economy, with the burden of childcare significantly increasing (Casale & Posel, 2020). All schools, early childhood development centers (ECDs), and child care facilities were closed during the hard lockdown period, and domestic and child care staff were unable to work in private households. Like so many other, different facets of COVID-19, there is considerable uncertainty about how men and women will be affected by the unfolding health, social and economic crises (Settersten Jr et al, 2020; Ataguba, 2020).

We know from past crises that while the impacts of an economic shock that differ over the distribution of wealth, the poor face a multitude of vulnerabilities to the consequences of the pandemic. Across certain cases, the poor are more likely to have underlying or untreated health problems (such as obesity, diabetes, vitamin D deficiency) which, if exposed, raises the risk of serious illness (Aldridge et al, 2020; Awuchi et al, 2020). Poor households are often more likely to cope with income loss by either selling productive assets or doing work that is potentially more dangerous (e.g. construction or sex work) or increasing their risk of exposure to coronavirus (de Paz et al, 2020). On reopening, their children may also be less likely to return to school, potentially reducing their earning potential.

Before the COVID-19, women were less likely to be working than men, and when working, they appeared to work considerably fewer hours and gain much less on average than men (Posel & Casale, 2020). Several studies have recorded that care work in the household remains overwhelmingly undertaken by women globally (Blaskó et al, 2020). COVID-19 pandemic has affected women

unequally they are vital workers who take the load as service workers, housekeepers, sales associates, and storehouses. Plenty of them live in heavily populated areas without adequate sanitation. Studies show social distancing and lockdown policies have affected a large percentage of the world's workforce, mostly women (Woskie & Wenham, 2020; Farré et al, 2020; Gupta et al, 2020)

In the small formal enterprise sector, which the government has prioritized for economic stimulus, women are also marginalised. If concerted efforts are made to integrate gender in accessing small-scale formal sector entrepreneurial capital, women are likely to be marginalized due to their low bargaining power (Eisenhart & Allen, 2020). There is currently low demand for non-essential products such as crafts, clothing, and other commodities leading the informal sector and it is projected to be even lower as households tend to spend only on essential services such as food and health. Due to prescribed social distancing rules, small food kiosks which are largely run by women have been forced out of business. Closure of schools, childcare facilities in both formal and informal settlements were also closed, jobs were not only lost but the burden of childcare shifted to households and more specifically to women. The extra care work and declining wages mean that gender-sensitive measures will only tackle the pandemic effectively.

COVID-19 has devastated worldwide economies (Yenilmez & Çelik, 2020; Renzaho, 2020). Several countries, including the Government of Kenya, have adopted economic and health policies to avoid the catastrophic impact of the pandemic on people and health systems. Social assistance as a means of social security is one of the main policies introduced to curb poor people, especially those who have lost their livelihoods as a result of the pandemic (Swinnen & McDermott, 2020). During the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for gender mainstreaming in social security and other economic policies is much greater now to ensure that structural disparities are addressed while protecting citizens (men, women, youth, and children) and the economy as a whole (Wilkinson, 2020). The responses to women's needs are not deprivation or gender-specific interventions. Women are likely to be adversely impacted by the effects of this pandemic, and ignoring their needs and concerns in the COVID-19 responses could disrupt the continuity of progress made in advancing gender equality, women's empowerment, and women's rights on the continent (Liaga, Menang & Namango, 2020; Speed, Thomson & Richardson, 2020). Consequently, responses to COVID-19's prevention, containment, management, and eradication must take into account gender equity and women's empowerment so that women and girls are not left behind (Rafaëli, & Hutchinson, 2020).

In Brazil, the Emergency Assistance transfer is given to unemployed women and men who do not receive the Bolsa Familia's conditional cash transfer, and it

specifically assists women in single-parent homes who receive double payment of the subsidy (CEPAL, & WOMEN, 2021). Colombia developed the Solidarity Income Program, a new unconditional cash transfer that benefits individuals and households in poverty and vulnerability who are not eligible for other social programs, with women being prioritized for the transfer (Bronfman, 2021).

Several developed-country governments have increased cash transfer levels or introduced new transfers within the context of current programs. In Argentina, for example, many policies have been proposed whose clear targeting criteria include women who get universal child or pregnancy allowances (Bergallo, Mangini, Magnelli, & Bercovich, 2021).

3. Methodology

This was a desktop study that used search engines that applied different keywords to get data relevant related to social safety nets during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gender-responsive, Social Safety net, social assistance, Social protection, COVID-19, Pandemic were the main terms. It looked for both general and specific engines. Literature concentrated on researches from 2019 to 2020. The first task in conducting the literature search was to identify keywords. The researcher searched and located relevant research, journals, books and related information sources. The second step was identifying and categorising literature in a given area (including establishing what constitutes 'relevant' material. ISI's Web of Knowledge; PsycINFO; EBSCOHost; PEP-Web Search were the source of data during literature search. A search strategy that is, a list of keywords helped to search databases. Boolean search operators- AND, OR, NOT, SAME- helped manage the study's strategy and were particularly useful in the later stages in order to refine the search. A total of 50 articles was searched and included in this study after disregarding studies that did not adequately address the research question. The study utilised the CHIP tool for ensuring comprehensiveness in literature search. This enabled a consideration was made in terms of content of the data, how, for example the methodology employed in the studies, issues or real research problem and the population or research participants were considered in various studies.

4. Results and Discussion

This section presents the results of the study around gender responsiveness in safety net interventions as a social protection strategy in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

4.1 Type of social safety net responses during COVID-19 Pandemic

The social safety net (SSN) is a system of non-contributory aid that aims to ameliorate the lives of poor and destitute families and individuals. Social pensions, in-kind and food transfers, conditional and unconditional cash transfers, fee waivers, public works, and school feeding programs are all examples of SSNs (World Bank, 2018). The poor and other disadvantaged people suffer the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic's effects. In response, several governments are rapidly increasing social security services. Security networks are important resources in global crises, detailed guidelines exist about how such systems can be adapted and applied to improve their immediate effectiveness— and provide a path to faster recovery for families, communities, and national economies (Hermanto, & Akrim, 2020; Corburn et al, 2020). The length and scale of the COVID-19 pandemic's health and economic shocks are shocking. Although the disease has later arrived and spread more steadily in many low- and middle-income countries, COVID-19 threatens millions of poor people's lives and long-term livelihoods, and could drive an additional 140 million into severe poverty (Bartik et al, 2020; Bonaccorsi et al, 2020)

Since most of the region's workers operate in the informal sector and eat by hand, extreme poverty became an urgent problem because most people couldn't even stay in lockdown for a day (Swinnen, & McDermott, 2020). Without any State emergency aid, the lockout meant that the poor and needy could be doomed to death by starvation in trying to save lives from the danger posed by COVID-19. Most countries are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by using cash transfers— a resource that can be quick and help local economies (Glassman, Chalkidou & Sullivan, 2020; Ashraf, 2020). For years, the humanitarian sector has used this strategy to ensure populations living through disasters are not falling into deep poverty. Cash transfers were the most widely used during this crisis among the responses from governments to social assistance (Peppiatt, Mitchell & Holzmann, 2001).

In 81 countries, there are 143 cash programmes, which have been expanded or adapted to the crisis. Among those programmes, 65 are new programs launched in 43 countries as part of the COVID-19 response (Gentilini, et al, 2020). It will be easier for some countries to handle cash transfers than others. Some countries have developed social security networks that can be extended and others already have well-established ways of easily distributing cash, such as the widespread use of mobile money. Several countries now have social security networks that provide cash transfers to priority groups, such as those living in poverty, disabled people, or elderly persons. The COVID-19 crisis has also impacted many people who do not usually need support and do not belong to any formal social security network.

4.2 Cash transfer as a COVID-19 response

Although cash programming is picking up globally, the implementation of new cash transfer systems in response to COVID-19 in low-income countries has been slower. India is well placed to make progress with cash transfers thanks to its proven social security network programmes (Ray & Subramanian, 2020). Kenya also has existing cash transfer services that reach more than one million individuals, earning 2,000 Kenyan shillings, or \$19 a month. During this pandemic time, the national treasury allocated a further 10 billion shillings to this program to help vulnerable groups including elderly people and orphans (Warjri, & Shah, 2020; Austrian et al, 2020). Apart from India In the above case studies of countries that have implemented cash transfers COVID-19 response to cushion the vulnerable individuals in those countries, it is not clear whether gender was one of the aspects that were considered in distributing the money. The biggest drawback of various countries' cash programs is that they tend to maintain women's traditional roles in the home because they are only "empowered" under the designation of "guardians of the children" (Soares, & Silva, 2010).

4.3 Food transfers COVID-19 response

The COVID-19 crisis is expected to have a major effect on food systems, both by disturbances caused by steps to curb the disease spread and the economic downturn that it has triggered. Food systems at all levels — worldwide, at home, globally, and at home — will feel the effect and need to adapt to new realities (Béné, 2020). Women and men both work as food producers, processors, and traders; however, the various constraints they face contribute to gender differences that disadvantage women (Ragasa & Lambrecht, 2020). Several equitable developments of the agricultural value chain and gender-sensitive agricultural programmes indicate that such gaps can be effectively reduced. Some countries have adopted the COVID-19 Economic Relief Programme, which includes funding for producers, small-scale agri-processors, seed producers, and agribusinesses, but does not have a clear gender goal (Lambrecht et al. 2020). In countries where men are considered the head of households and main income earners, women often struggle to provide farmers or entrepreneurs with relief packages, knowledge and technical support

During COVID-19, Kenya's government was at the forefront of providing various household reliefs. It is believed that the impact of the measures will be gender-neutral and that the effect will be the same for all households, whether male or female (Ragasa & Lambrecht, 2020). There has been an indication that

perhaps the policy framework in Kenya, as generally believed, is not gender-specific. Access to diverse services, for instance, varies by gender. Obligations are also determined by class in the family and the society at large. Admittedly Kenya's political history is not merely theoretical. Throughout this circumstance should anticipate initiatives to also have gender-specific implications and will change the expected outcomes unless gender is factored in the implementation of the policy.

4.4 Public works programs COVID 19 response

Historic pandemics have had significant and enduring repercussions for the health and livelihoods of women. Mobility limitations and other protective measures seriously impacted the livelihoods of women traders in West Africa during the 2014 Ebola crisis (Bardosh, Leach & Wilkinson, 2016). Although men's economic activity returned to pre-crisis levels soon after the lifting of these measures, the impact on women's economic security lasted much longer. The COVID-19 crisis is also expected to strike hard on women having joblessness rates, particularly in the most vulnerable economies. In many countries, the first round of layoffs was particularly acute in the services industry, including retail, hospitality, and tourism, where women are over-represented. Part-time and temporary workers, most of whom are also women, are expected to experience dramatic job losses due to COVID-19 impacts; and they still lose exposure to job security programs, such as short-term jobs or job sharing and unemployment compensation, also in developed countries (Ferrer & Butt, 2020; Betcherman et al, 2020). This is particularly worrying given that fewer women than men are able to access a cushion of savings to build up the banking system. Without steps to substitute wages, many will fail to abide by curfews and lockdowns, placing themselves and others at risk to put food on the table (Han, Meyer & Sullivan, 2020). For example in Kenya, Kazi Mtaani initiative is a form of social safety net for employees whose prospects for day-to-day or casual work have been disrupted by the containment policies implemented to curb Covid-19. It is structured as a program of local economic recovery while nurturing environmental responsibility.

As it helps to provide the people affected with a welcome lifeline, it provides a safe world as one way to counter the devastating pandemic. Though the intuitive is excellent at cushioning the weak, a gender lens has not been applied. Women-headed households are also likely to be vulnerable, as they struggle with the loss of livelihoods as well as additional loads of treatment. Government social security programs need to find ways to provide them immediate economic support, such as direct cash transfers to ensure women have access to capital (Woolard & Leibbrandt, 2013). Targeting women's cash transfers will

help foster small enterprises, minimize intimate partner abuse, and facilitate a more equal distribution of household labour and capital. Bundling of cash transfers with mobile phone provision might potentially resolve multiple issues that women could face in a COVID-19 sense, including access to mobile money transfers, other banking services, and knowledge (Gender Innovation Lab, 2020).

4.5 Challenges being experienced by women exacerbated by COVID-19

Indigenous women remain the majority of the poor, the dispossessed, the landless, the unemployed, those who work in the informal sector, and those who bear the burden of care, especially where conflict, hunger, and disease have disrupted state capacity and responses. In this context, because of their economic vulnerability, women are more likely to suffer the negative effects of COVID-19 related steps, such as closing borders and markets and curfews (Bennett, et al, 2020).

Incapacity and limited access to income-earning resources, employment losses, and livelihoods have provided a fertile ground for prospering gender-based violence. Owing to social isolation and curfew steps, restricted access to service services such as health facilities, police stations, and access to courts has hindered justice for victims of violence affected. African women have shown incredible resilience, operating and owning small informal businesses as a source of everyday life that needs to be recognized and extended. Instead, COVID-19 restrictions on the movement and lockdowns would seriously affect their company (Gumede et al, 2020). Most women work in the informal sector, where health care is likely to be inexistent or insufficient and income is not secure. Women are found mostly in seasonal, low-paid, and precarious occupations, and are more likely to be hit hard by the economic downturn. Most workers in the hospitality and leisure industries are women who are already faced with low wages, inconsistent working hours, and few benefits or no.

Despite lockdowns leading to restaurant closures, with more consumers staying at home to prevent contagion, as well as hotel workers still out of work due to reduced travel, these women face much greater income loss challenges (Shah, 2020). Women still make up the bulk of retail staff and women are at risk of job loss as the retail sector is already facing pressure. In the aviation industry, for example, where women are the majority of workers, they are likely to be on the losing end of pay cuts or unpaid layoffs. Despite the well-known economic benefits of gender mainstreaming, policymakers during the pandemic still neglected gender-sensitive programming in social security and other policies. Researchers believe the COVID-19 pandemic will have a significant effect on the health of women downstream by undermining formal and

informal health services and social support networks (Gausman & Langer, 2020; Wenham et al., 2020)

In most countries, particularly developing countries, access to family planning, including modern and emergency contraception and infertility services, is becoming a challenge for women. (Ryan & El Ayadi 2020).); this is becoming a problem for low-income countries, particularly as funding for existing reproductive health services is being redirected to this emergency Poorer women, ethnic minority women, and women with disabilities are likely to have fewer accesses to services or help for leaving abusive connections. Maternal mortality has risen dramatically as healthcare services have redirected resources, and women have avoided healthcare facilities due to fear of COVID-19 thus increasing obstetric complications due to delivery at home (Ryan & El Ayadi 2020).

Since those living in poverty are more likely to be female and are more likely to hold insecure or unstable jobs, women are more likely to bear a greater burden of COVID-19's economic impact, rising women 's dependence Women with numerous or compounding vulnerabilities may be more at risk of COVID-19's long-term effects due to limited health systems, lack of education, and social and economic impacts. Then there is confirmation that even in times of crisis such as this, poor households follow coping strategies such as consuming less food, moving to less nutritious food, and reducing the number of meals consumed daily in response to decreased available income (FAO et al., 2017). In this type of situation, given the socio-cultural values and practices that underpin gender inequalities in households, women and girls tend to experience a reduction in the quality and quantity of their food intake.

Evaluation of the gender aspect of the Ebola virus has shown that quarantines can significantly reduce the economic and livelihood activities of poor and disadvantaged women, increase malnutrition levels and worsen food insecurity (Geyer et al, 2020, de Paz,et al, 2020). Although lockdowns affect men and women running businesses, women are much more likely to be in informal trade, whose businesses are not listed as important, i.e. running small hair salons, bars, tailoring shops, etc., and with little security from lockdown effects. As COVID-19's aftermath worsens, the damage to livelihoods, social security, health, education, and shelter will worsen for women and children in their care, leaving them food insecure and their coping strategies and wealth(Arthur et al, 2020).

4.5 Measures towards gender-responsive social safety nets in COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19's effect on women is multifaceted and so the responses need to be sufficient to address the diverse and various forms women can be affected. COVID-19 responses cannot be achieved in isolation from women being regarded as agents of progress, the founders and innovators, and their full participation as engaged people. Financial responses to COVID-19 should be gender-sensitive and consider women's varying needs and supporting gender mainstreaming of COVID-19 research (Alon et al, 2020).

Financial incentives with e-payments and in-kind transfers will boost women's economic security. Policies and services must also promote dignified job prospects encouraging sustainable economic development, equitable workspaces, and livable pay for women to ensure maximum workforce participation (Mohun et al, 2016). A specific treatment to adolescent girls and young women should be compensated, and the equality of women should be strengthened by demanding expectations that increase their vulnerability in the society affecting women to evaluate and examine policy decisions ensuring greater fairness of effect.

Economic instability, civil strife, and disasters-like pandemics-are associated with increased violence against women. In particular, by-first responders, offering women (1) access to structured health / mental health facilities, free access to mental health care, and free legal advice. (2) expanded access to informal social assistance; (3) direct government coordination on the prevention/intervention of crime, and to help families alleviate the financial burden that could cause violent incidents, actively ease restrictions (Tal, 2020). Provision of cash to poor households to ease economic hardship in a dignified manner and, in particular, to poor women-headed households, including disabled people. Giving priority to women, disabled and child-run households as they face vulnerability and food is granted to individuals rather than households to regulate unequal power relationships within households, reduce women's dependency on men and ensure that women have enough for their children. This should also include the Distribution of hygiene kits such as sanitary towels to disadvantaged women and girls.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

The goal of a gender-responsive social safety net is to address gender equality, in particular taking into account the specific needs, risks, and roles of women and girls in responding as caregivers, increased exposure to GBV with containment measures, challenges faced by a large number of front-line female health workers in response to COVID-

19 pandemic. It is evident that during emergency crises, laid down measures to contain emergencies like the COVID-19 exacerbate gender inequalities, and measures initiated to cushion the vulnerable persons like the safety-nets do not put gender aspect into consideration during the implementation process.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for gender mainstreaming in social security and other economic policies is much greater now to ensure that structural disparities are resolved while protecting citizens (men, women, youth, and children) and the economy as a whole. Gender programming in social security and other economic policies will be a good strategy for ensuring more successful results for the vulnerable people and a more resilient economy with more chances of a "fast bounce-back" after the pandemic.

The following are some recommendation to ensure a more gender-responsive cushioning of vulnerable people in the society during the COVID-19 pandemic

1. The government should ensure access to social security schemes, such as cash transfers, public service programs, and wealth transfers, is mostly limited to women.
2. The design and implementation of gender-sensitive social security programs are crucial to mitigating risks and ensuring that women in rural areas will benefit equally from these.
3. Stay-at-home measures and economic closures tensions increase levels of gender-based violence. There is a need for government and concerned parties in Identifying the most vulnerable women and girls (as well as men and boys) and developing measures to reduce their risk exposure and enhance access to support services are crucial.
4. The gender commission should Promote gender perspective and gender age-disaggregated data is

an integral part of tracking gender impacts and influencing the design of responses that properly recognize and resolve rural women's and men's differentiated needs and priorities during pandemics.

5. The government should ensure gender-responsive allocations to fund emergencies relief for women's businesses and initiatives to accelerate recovery effects of COVID-19 and build resilience against any future economic and fiscal shocks
6. One of the measures of containing COVID-19 pandemic is washing of hands and ensure general cleanliness to reduce the risk of transmission, the government department concerned with the distribution of water should develop clean and potable water facilities, including public hand-washing stations in villages, communities, and townships to save women from the hard task of fetching water from far distances to keep their families and their environment clean and safe from COVID 19 pandemic
7. There is a need carry out nquiries for funds allocated from the various special funds set up at national or continental level and mobilizes more funding from international development partners and other sources to be explicitly dedicated to the security of women and girls from GBV.
8. Implement legislation banning employee lay-offs during lockdowns and providing for paid leave, particularly for vulnerable women during the national emergency.
9. In this pandemic, the Government should find responses to ensure vulnerable families are provided with food packages to mitigate the impact on them. They should develop strategic alliances with community-based organizations for distribution and support those in need in accessing it

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