



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Addressing gendered impacts of COVID-19

Experiences from Pakistan

Speakers

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Moderator

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With support from



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FAO Pakistan

Addressing Gendered Impacts of COVID-19: Experiences from Pakistan

Mina Dowlatchahi

Country Representative, FAO Pakistan

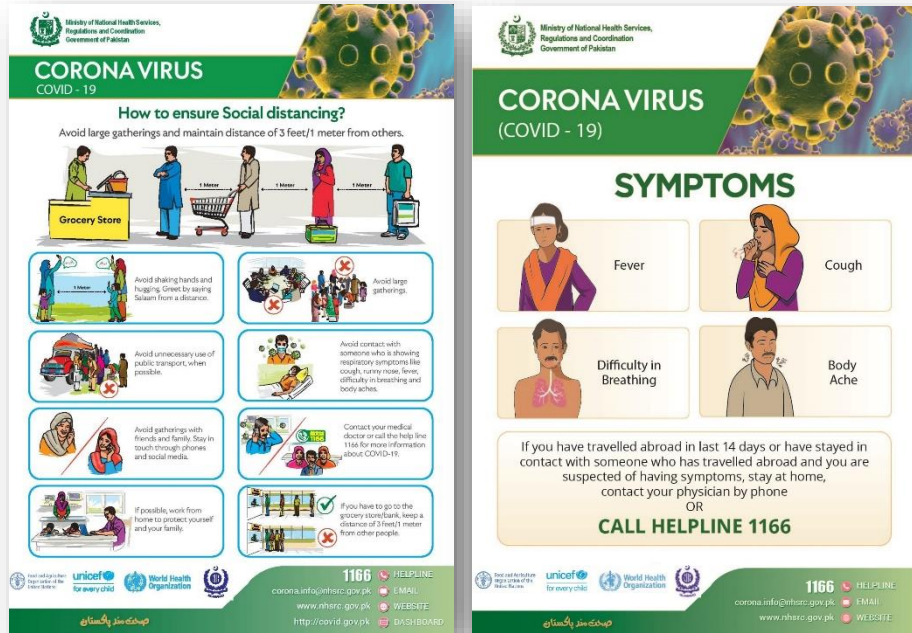


Context

- Pakistan, with the population of 64% residing in rural areas, depends on agriculture and allied activities for their livelihoods.
- Pakistan stands at 152 out of 189 countries from the Human Development Report Index.
- 68% of rural women and girls in the labor force are employed in the agriculture sector.
- Due to COVID-19, livelihoods of millions of people, including smallholder farmers, were severely disrupted.
- National Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Task Force for the COVID-19 response.
- FAO is helping raise awareness amongst rural farming communities in some of the most remote areas across the country, where the organization has wide networks and is running parallel campaigns (both online and at the field level) to harness broader networks.



Strong coordination



Closely collaborating with UN partners in support of Government efforts to maintain uniformity of messages to the public and oneness of information and reaching out.

Community awareness



> **150 000** UN and Government of Pakistan approved Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials distributed amongst local communities in FAO's intervention districts through men and women Farmer Field Schools.

Online campaigns

Shop sensibly –
buying too many fresh foods at
one time will mean you cannot eat
them all before they spoil.



**That wastes food –
and it wastes your money.**



Buy food from small businesses and
shops to **support their livelihoods** in
these difficult times



- Key messages
- Easy to understand info graphs
- Twitter, WhatsApp campaigns

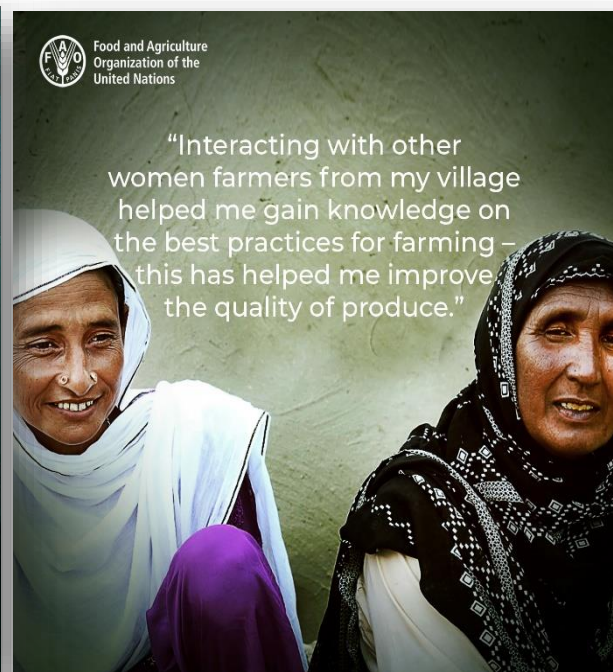
> 160 000
people engaged



- Regular online sessions
with smallholder farmers



Communication campaigns

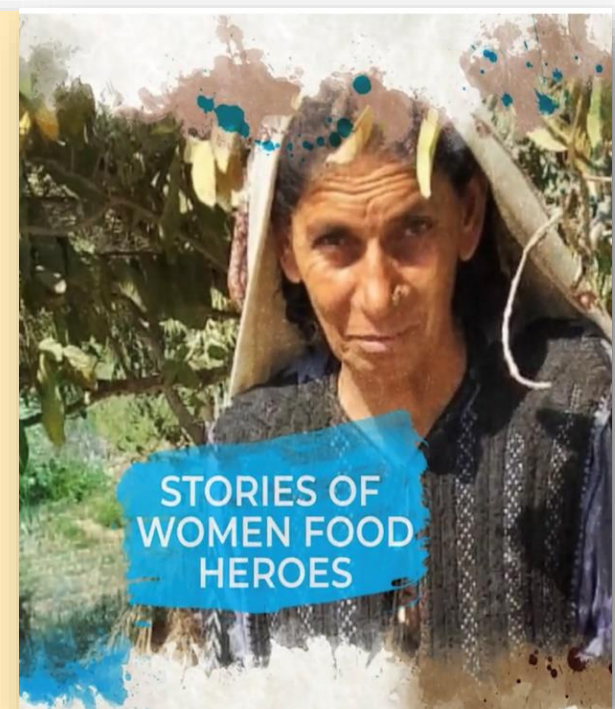


- Digital campaign highlighting women's role in agriculture
- Public Service Messages

> 200 000 people engaged



- Video testimonials of women farmers
- Radio messages, infographics



Gendered Impacts of COVID-19



- Traditional norms, cultural barriers, and conservative society, especially in rural areas.
- Women farmers responsibilities increased to sustain the livelihood of their families.

- Daily wage laborer women lost their jobs and suffered from lack of financial resources, affecting their household income and food security.
- Women farmers faced issues related to access to quality seeds and inputs, disruption of markets and lack of buyers.

Challenges

- In Pakistan, 19% are in paid employment in agri-sector and 60% are unpaid workers.
- Disseminating messages related to the COVID-19 situation is a big challenge amongst a large low-income and less literate population.
- Limited mobility of women during COVID-19 resulted in lack of access to resources and health care.

Moving forward

- FAO is raising awareness amongst rural women regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on food and agriculture, value and supply chains, food prices and food security.
- FAO is working in close collaboration with the Government and UN partners to analyze behavior patterns and social data to understand the risk perceptions, behaviors and practices of the public on COVID-19.
- FAO is upscaling interventions to strengthen resilience by contributing to national efforts to curb the transmission of the virus through national communication campaign using all platforms, RCCE, technical work to develop women's capacities and increase productivity.
- FAO aims to further communicate mitigation behaviors at the individual, household and community level through the Farmer Field School approach.
- Access to digital technology and telecommunication to counter the negative impacts of the pandemic, transforming it into opportunities and bridging the gender gap.



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

Addressing the Gendered Impact of COVID-19 Experiences from Pakistan

Sharmeela Rassool
Country Representative

- **50%** Pakistani population are women and suffer from multidimensional inequality
- Pakistan ranks at **151** out of 153 countries on global gender parity index. COVID-19 further **compounded** these pre-existing gender inequalities
- **70%** of frontline health workers are women
- **52%** women reported increase in unpaid care and domestic burden
- **86%** women reported income from family business sources declined, **74%** reported income from farming declined
- **52%** women faced more challenges in accessing medical care in need as compared to 46% men
- Unemployment and tensions due to the economic downturn increased women **vulnerabilities** and risk of **GBV**
- **Cyber Harassment** cases increased from average 23.5 per month to **93** per month after lockdown



- Evidence Based Approach
- Internal & External Communication
- Community Engagement
- Policy Advocacy and Coordination

ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE ARE UNACCEPTABLE
What is Domestic Violence: Things UN Personnel should Know

What Is Domestic Violence
 Domestic violence (DV) refers to abusive behaviour whether physical, sexual, economic, emotional and/or neglect that occurs within the private, domestic sphere, generally between individuals who are related through blood or have been in a domestic relationship including but not limited to spouse, siblings or in laws.

Global evidence shows that 1 in every 3 women experiences violence.
 According to Pakistan Demographic and Health Survey (PDHS-2017-18), 34% of ever-married women have experienced spousal violence, whether physical, sexual, or emotional.

Forms of Domestic Violence

- Beating, slapping, hitting or kicking
- Burning or choking
- Pushing, shoving and throwing things
- Threatening with or using weapon
- Constant humiliation and criticism
- Shifting responsibility of abuse
- Controlling/ preventing use of financial or other resources
- Forcing into unwanted sexual acts
- Isolating from family ties and loved ones
- Curtailing activities and monitoring

How you can help others
 Many survivors find it difficult to talk to anyone about domestic violence. Friends and family are often the first, it is important to know how to help.
Listen without judging if a survivor is willing to talk, listen carefully, be empathetic, believe her
Support what survivor is saying and reassure that the abuse is not her fault and build her confidence
Help survivor to recognise the abuse and understand how it may be affecting her and children
Help survivor to understand that domestic violence is not her fault, she does not deserve to be abused
Help find a support service and provide information about the available domestic violence support services
Maintain some level of contact with survivor as talking regularly to a supportive friend or relative can be very helpful
Don't blame victim for the abuse or ask questions that suggest that it is somehow her fault.
Don't keep trying to work out the 'reasons' for the abuse and don't be critical to survivor.
Don't give advice this can reduce survivor's confidence to make own decisions but provide information.
Don't press to escape, focus on listening and supporting survivor to make her own decisions; survivor knows her own situation best.

Safety Planning
 A safety plan is a set of steps you can take to reduce the risk of harm in unsafe situations. You know your situation better, so devise your safety plan what you feel the safest. But remember:
Digital Safety: Use a safe phone or computer that someone does not have direct or remote access
Friend Code Word: Identify two/three people that you can contact, with a "Code Word" if in trouble
Safe places: Identify the lowest risk areas/room at home so you may be able to reduce harm
Emergency Bag: Pack an emergency bag with bank cards, set of keys, clothes, medications, copies of important documents, laptop, extra charger for phone etc.
Exit Plan: Make an exit plan with someone who can support in need, like a trusted friend/relative/ neighbour and who you can also stay with, if needed?

Your are Not Alone, Help is Available

Ministry of Human Rights tollfree helpline: 1099 and WhatsApp # 0333 906 5709
 Islamabad Police Gender Desk focal person
 Ms. Semina, SHO, Cell No 0336 699 3335
 UNDSS Counselling Unit for psychosocial and emotional support:
Mr. Fawad Haider
 Email: fawad.haider@undp.org
 Desk Phone: + 92 (51) 8355728
 Mobile: 0345-5005731
Ms. Aisha Kashif
 Email: aisha.kashif@undp.org
 Desk Phone: + 92 (51) 8355721
 Mobile: 0345-8509011

Gendered Impact and Implications of COVID-19 in Pakistan

COVID-19, the novel Corona Virus Disease that was first detected in China in November 2019, has now spread to 206 countries or regions. As of April 5, 2020, 1,203,485 cases have been reported worldwide with 64,784 confirmed fatalities.

There is an unequivocal evidence that COVID-19 is not just a global public health emergency but is also leading the world to a major global, economic downturn, with potentially strong adverse impacts on the livelihoods of vulnerable groups. In a developing country like Pakistan with already very low indicators of socio-economic development, an epidemic is likely to further compound pre-existing gender inequalities.

This policy brief provides evidence on existing multidimensional gender inequalities, identifies specific vulnerabilities of women and girls to COVID-19 transmission and impact, and provides broad policy recommendations to mitigate immediate risks for women and girls and prevent exacerbation of the existing gender gaps.

Taking Stock of the Current Gender Inequalities:
 Women make almost half of the population of Pakistan; however, despite contributing significantly to economic and social growth, they generally suffer from multidimensional inequality of opportunities. The following thematic areas are analyzed through the gender lens:

Education	Health	Labor Force Participation	Time Use & Mobility	Financial Empowerment	Gender Based Violence
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Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
 To Ensure Protection of Women and Girls in Quarantine Facilities

All women and girls in the quarantine facility should be treated with respect for their dignity and human rights.

Required details of women and girls brought to the quarantine facility must be properly recorded and maintained for ensuring protection and safety.

Women and girls in quarantine must be informed about the point of contact that they have to reach in case of any protection, gender-based violence, health or service provision issue.

Taking photographs of women and girls at the quarantine facility should



Asia and the Pacific



I am Generation Equality - Female leadership during COVID-19

Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2020

I am **GENERATION EQUALITY**



PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILIES FROM CORONA VIRUS INFECTION:

- Avoid contact with people with flu like symptoms
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing and coughing or use flexed elbow
- Dispose the used tissue immediately in a covered bin
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol based hand rub regularly
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

- Ensure availability of sex-disaggregated data
- Embed gender dimensions within response plans
- Ensure equal voice for women in decision making in the response
- Strengthen women's economic resilience
- Ensure public health messages properly target women
- Priority support for women on the frontlines of the response
- Prioritize services for prevention and response to gender-based violence
- Reduce disproportionate domestic care burden on women

UN WOMEN

This Monday listen to **ZEHRA KAMAL**
Clinical Psychologist and Development Professional
on the **Mental Health Issues during COVID-19**

Host: Shabana Arif | Technical Advisor NCSW
22 June 2020 | 09:25 am - 10:00 am
Live on FM 101

میرا حق آج نہیں تو کب؟
mera haq aaj nai tau kab?

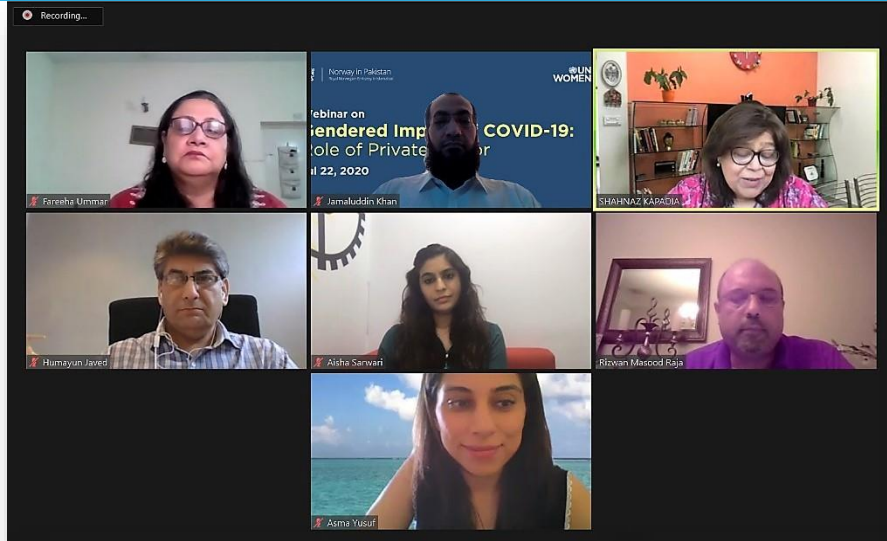
40 million people across Pakistan reached



Tailor-made interventions to reach out to **women in communities**

Policy Advocacy and Coordination

A series of webinars as part of virtual advocacy campaign



UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime | **UNFPA** | **UN WOMEN** | **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

GENDER AND THE SHADOW PANDEMIC

GBV Courts and e-Justice in Pakistan: Importance, Challenges and Way Forward

Hosted by UNODC Country Office Pakistan in collaboration with UN Women and UNFPA

Wednesday - 1 July 2020 | 15:00 - 17:00 Hours (PST)

SPEAKERS

- Fauzia Viqar: Former Chairperson, Punjab Commission on the Status of Women and Women Rights Activist
- Sahail Warraich: Researcher and Human Rights Activist
- Shahid Shafiq: Senior Faculty Member, Sindh Judicial Academy
- Zafar Abbas Mirza: Law Officer, KP Prosecution Service
- Chaudhry Jahangir: Director, Center for Professional Development of Public Prosecutors of Punjab

GUEST SPEAKERS

- Saman Ahtsan: Portfolio Manager, EAW, Governance and Human Rights, UN Women Pakistan
- Joushaida Hanano: Criminal Justice Advisor, UNODC Pakistan

HOST

- Syed Saifi Pirzada: National Programme Manager-Police, UNODC Pakistan

UNODC Country Office Pakistan | **Virtual Advocacy Campaign**

HELPLINE 1700

TOTAL CALLS RECEIVED BY WOMEN & CHILD PROTECTION 9,252

Support to PDMA-KP helpline

UN WOMEN | **WOMEN COUNT**

[BACK TO RESOURCES](#)

GENDER AND COVID-19

Surveys show that COVID-19 has gendered effects in Asia and the Pacific

29 Apr 2020

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In April 2020, two weeks after COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) started

Rapid assessment surveys to quickly capture the gendered consequences of COVID-19

9:58 AM

Ministry of Human Rights
Government of Pakistan

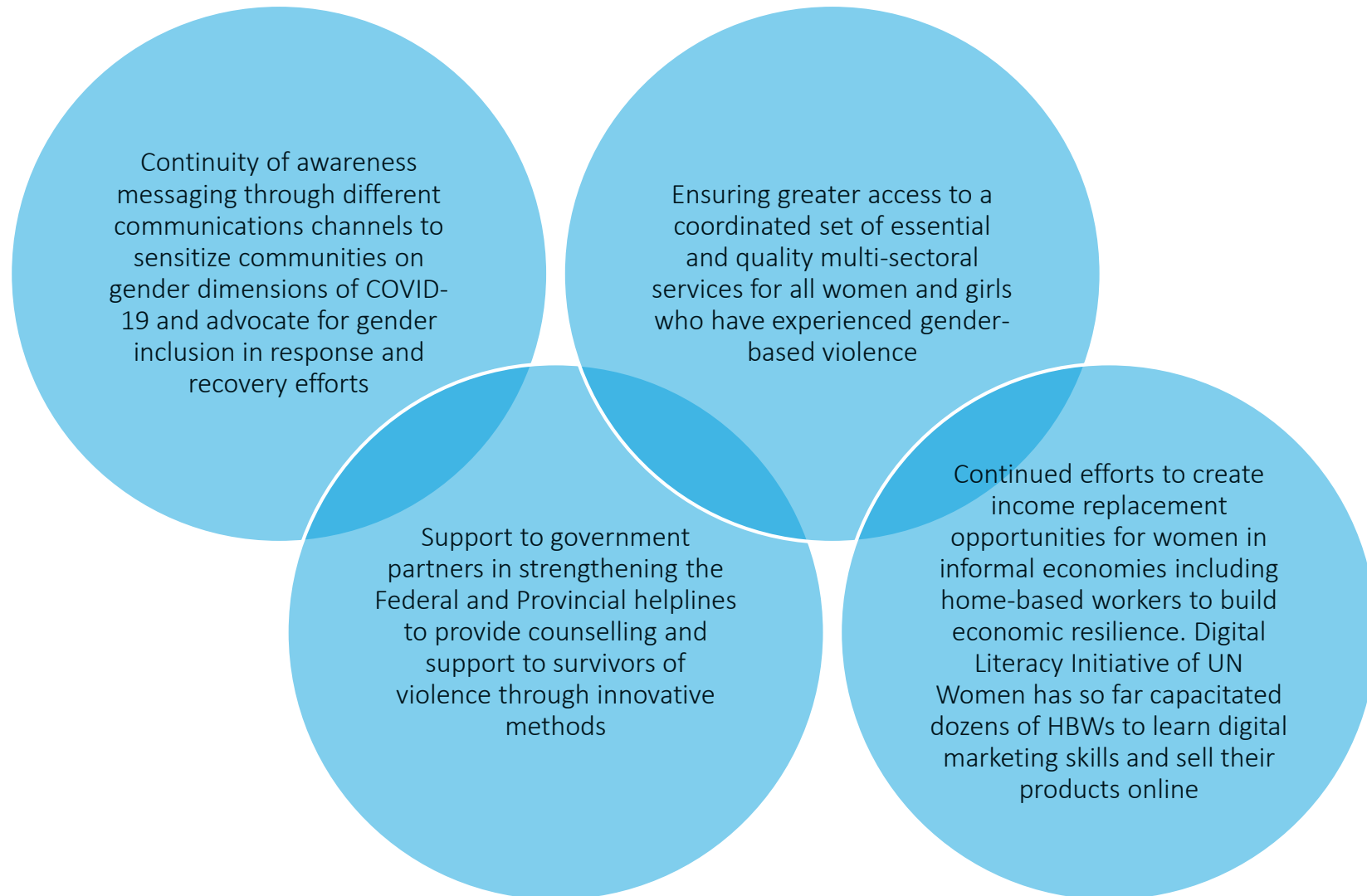
Helpline 1099

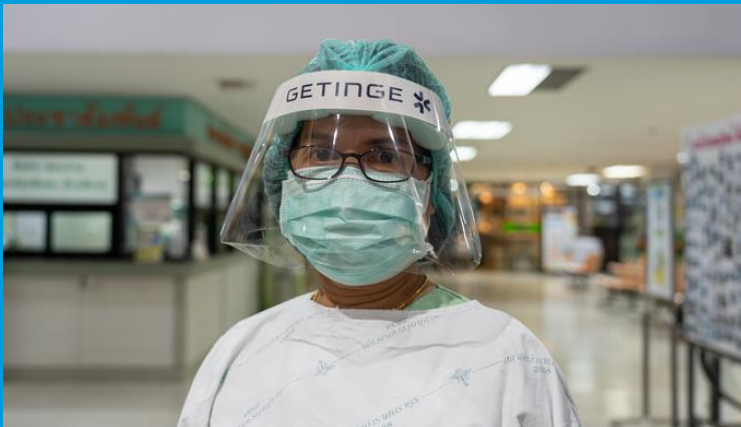
With support from **UN WOMEN**

Federal Ministry of Human Rights supported in development of an App and upgradation of their existing helpline

Challenges & Way Forward

- Literacy rate among women
- Outreach of communication channels
- Women's leadership and participation
- Coordination among stakeholders
- Lack of funding for gender mainstreaming





Thank you!