

MEASUREMENT

NOTE

Can we capture exposure to Gender-based Violence (GBV) through Phone Surveys during a Pandemic?

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This Measurement Note was prepared by Elizaveta Perova and Forest Jarvis of the East Asia and Pacific Gender Innovation Lab (EAPGIL), with inputs from Diana J. Arango and Amber Peterman. We are grateful to Daniel Halim, Ervin Dervisevic, Alana Teman, Abhilasha Sahay, Avi Astuti and England Rhys Can for their work designing and implementing the surveys shown in this document. We thank Indochina Research Lao, Survey Meter and IPA Philippines for excellent implementation of the surveys in the field, and Hillary Johnson, Andy Mason, Michael Anderson and Penelope Lantz for insightful comments and suggestions.

Introduction:

The unprecedented economic and public health shocks of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic are bringing with them wide-ranging social consequences, including an increasingly documented upsurge in violence against women and girls.¹ The sudden change in economic conditions combined with pandemic safety measures that result in increased time spent at home leave victims with a higher exposure to violence and less ability to escape their situation. Timely data on the effects of the pandemic on gender-based violence (GBV) is a valuable resource for policy makers and helps them prioritize issues and response. Robust data is needed to assess the impacts of the pandemic and measure the effectiveness of policies and programs to mitigate these effects. However, just as there is a need for rapid measurement, it is also critical that these data are as accurate as possible and collected without compromising the safety of respondents.

In order to meet the need for accurate and timely data on the consequences of the pandemic, EAPGIL has been carrying out phone surveys with women in Lao PDR, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Our phone surveys measure the economic and social changes felt by our respondents since the onset of the pandemic, including their experiences of GBV and their mental health. We use a variety of innovative approaches to measuring GBV that can capture our respondents' experiences confidentially.² This includes direct questioning, vignettes, and list randomization, as well as modules addressing respondents' feeling of safety in their current environment and measures of stress and happiness.

EAPGIL is providing these modules on our website as a resource to practitioners who may wish to carry out similar work. Our complete modules can be found in this document. Translations of some modules into Bahasa Indonesia, Lao, and Tagalog are also available upon request.

¹ <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/covid-19-and-violence-against-women-and-children-second-research-round>

² We are grateful to Amber Peterman and Diana J. Arango for their contributions and insights.

Questionnaires:

You can find the questionnaires on pages 4-13 of this document. Documents with individual modules and/or translated modules are available upon request.

General Instructions for Survey Administration:

- These surveys are designed to be administered to women over the phone through a voice call, rather than through text or email.
- All respondents for EAPGIL's phone surveys were previous respondents in other studies and were over the age of 18. Any sampling strategy should first be reviewed by an ethics review board, and additional precautions may be necessary if respondents are expected to be under the age of 18.
- All respondents should be provided, and agree to, an ethics review approved informed consent statement that assures the survey is voluntary, confidential, provides the expected length of the survey, discusses benefits and risks, and provides contact info of investigators.
- Before beginning sensitive modules, enumerators should ensure that respondents are in a private environment with no-one listening in to the call (this is asked specifically in some modules provided).
- In some modules, respondents are instructed to tell the enumerator "**skip skip**" if at any point during the interview someone begins listening to the call; in this case, enumerators should skip immediately to the next module or finish the interview.
- An ethical review is strongly recommended before beginning sensitive phone surveys to determine the necessary protocols enumerators should follow if a respondent is found to be in immediate physical danger or reports worrying mental health issues. Ethics training of enumerators is also recommended, and resources can be found below.
- If possible and available, we recommend that enumerators provide the contact information for local support services for mental health and victims of violence to all interviewed, noting it is a standard practice. Due to safety concerns, this is best provided over the phone rather than in text after the interview.
- For administration of the **List Randomization** module, some respondents should be randomized into a control group where they are not asked sensitive questions. More information on the list randomization method can be found [here](#) and should be reviewed prior to designing the survey. Instructions for randomization and analysis are also available on request.
- For any additional questions, concerns, or resources, please contact EAPGIL Senior Economist Elizaveta Perova at eperova@worldbank.org

Resources on Design and Enumerator Training for Gender-Based Violence Surveys:

Ellsberg M, and Heise L. (2005). [Researching Violence Against Women: A Practical Guide for Researchers and Activists](#). Washington DC, United States: World Health Organization, PATH.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2015. [Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery](#).

Jewkes R, Dartnall E and Sikweyiya Y. (2012). [Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Research on Perpetration of Sexual Violence](#). Sexual Violence Research Initiative, Medical Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa.

World Health Organization (2001). [Putting women first: Ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women](#).

World Health Organization (2005). [Sample design, ethical and safety considerations, and response rates \(chapter 3\)](#). WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women: initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women's responses.

World Health Organization (2007). [WHO Ethical and safety recommendations for researching, documenting and monitoring sexual violence in emergencies](#).

World Health Organization (2016). [Ethical and safety recommendations for intervention research on violence against women](#) - Building on lessons from the WHO publication: Putting women first: ethical and safety recommendations for research on domestic violence against women

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PHONE QUESTIONNAIRE MODULES

NOTE TO ENUMERATOR: Questions are to be administered to the female head of household or the spouse of the male head of household. Ensure privacy before asking each set of questions. Do not read headings out loud.

Module A: Perceived Stress Scale- Spouse of Head of Household
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(Lao translation available upon request)

[READ] I would now like to ask you some questions about your thoughts and feelings during the last month (last 30 days). For each question, I will ask how often you thought or felt a certain way -- never, almost never, sometimes, fairly often, or very often.						
		Never	Almost Never	Sometimes	Fairly Often	Very Often
PS01	In the last month, how often did you feel that you were unable to control the important things in your life?	0	1	2	3	4
PS02	In the last month, how often did you feel confident about your ability to handle your personal problems?	0	1	2	3	4
PS03	In the last month, how often did you feel that things were going your way?	0	1	2	3	4
PS04	In the last month, how often did you feel difficulties were piling up so high that you could not overcome them?	0	1	2	3	4
PS05	Thinking about these topics I've mentioned in the last month, would you say the COVID-19 situation has made the difficulties, stressors and your ability to control things better, worse or the same?	Better		Worse		Sam
		1		2		3

[READ] Now I want to ask you questions about emotions that are experienced by most people. Can you tell me:					
PS06	In the last week how often have you felt depressed?	Rarely/none of the time (less than 1 day)	Some or a little of the time (1-2 days)	Occasionally or a moderate amount of time (3-4 days)	Frequently, all the time (5-7 days)
		0	1	2	3
PS07	Would you say COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same?	Better		Worse	Same
		1		2	3
PS08	In the last week how often have you felt lonely?	Rarely/none of the time (less than 1 day)	Some or a little of the time (1-2 days)	Occasionally or a moderate amount of time (3-4 days)	Frequently, all the time (5-7 days)
		0	1	2	3
PS09	Would you say COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same?	Better		Worse	Same
		1		2	3

Module B: Feeling Safe vs. Afraid

(Lao and Bahasa Indonesia translations available upon request)

FS01	[READ] Now I want to talk about some very personal issues, for you to hear alone. Just to make sure, before we continue, are you alone on the phone? If you are alone, please say yes. Alternatively, if someone is listening to our call or is nearby that can hear, please say no.			1. Yes → FS02 2. No → Next module
FS02	In the last six months, have you been injured in any way, for example, have you had cuts, bruises, aches, burns, sprains, dislocations, broken bones, or any other wound that limited your functioning?			1. Yes 2. No 77. Skip 66. Skip to next module
[READ] OK, I will now ask you some questions about your feelings at home and in your community. Please listen to each question and then answer to the best of your ability. If you are uncomfortable answering any question for any reason, please say "skip" and I will move to the next question. If anyone joins you on the phone, please say "skip skip." [IF PARTICIPANT SAYS "SKIP SKIP," STOP ASKING THE QUESTION IMMEDIATELY AND MOVE TO THE NEXT MODULE.]				
FS03	In the last six months, did you feel safe in your home?			1. Yes 2. No 77. Skip 66. Skip to next module
FS04	Would you say COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same?	Better	Worse	Same
		1	2	3
FS05	In the last six months, did you feel safe in your community?			1. Yes 2. No 77. Skip 66. Skip to next module
FS06	Would you say COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same?	Better	Worse	Same
		1	2	3

Module C: Household conflicts and disputes**(Lao translation available upon request)**

HC01	[READ] When people live together in the same household, they usually share both good and bad moments. And it is normal for people who live together to have arguments. How often in the last six months would you say that people in your household have argued or have had some sort of conflict among themselves?	1. Never 2. Once or twice 3. Weekly 4. Daily 99. Don't know 77. Refuse to answer 66. Skip skip → Next module
HC02	Would you say COVID-19 has made conflict more frequent, less frequent or about the same?	1. More frequent 2. About the same 3. Less frequent 55. NA (only one person lived at home in April) 99. Don't know 77. Refuse to answer 66. Skip skip → Next module

Module D: Vignettes

(Lao and Bahasa Indonesia translations available upon request)

[READ] I would appreciate your help learning what your community is like. This will help us understand what type of support people in your community need. To do this, I will tell you some short stories. These are stories and not real. But we will ask how similar these stories are to real couples in your community. OK?

[Wait for participant to agree to hearing and answering questions about the stories.]

[READ] [Female name]³ and [male name] are a couple. They have been married for several years and have two children. [Man] works in a repair shop, but lately the business has been bad and they are worried about money. Sometimes when [Man] gets stressed, he takes out his anger by yelling at [Woman], and sometimes he hits her. [Woman] feels hurt and wants him to stop, but does not know what to do.

VN01	How common do you think this story is for couples to experience in your community?	1. Very uncommon 2. Uncommon 3. Common 4. Very common 66. Skip skip → Next module
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VN02	Would you say COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for [Woman]?	Better	Worse	Same
		1	2	3

[READ] [Woman] and [Man] are a couple. They have three children, all who are in school, but also help out in the family business. The children are good and behave most of the time, but sometimes they fight amongst themselves and become unruly. Sometimes [Woman] and [Man] lose their temper and yell at the children and hit them to make them behave.

VN03	How common do you think this story is for families to experience in your community?	1. Very uncommon 2. Uncommon 3. Common 4. Very common 66. Skip skip → Next module
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VN04	Would you say COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for the family?	Better	Worse	Same
		1	2	3

³ Researchers can insert male and female names that will be familiar to respondents they are working with

[READ] **Woman** is a woman. She sells goods in a store in town, she commutes to it in the morning and from it home in the evening. She often finds herself alone in the store, especially when she is in charge of closing it at night. Sometimes, men in the town come into the store to say things about her appearance and their desires that make her feel unsafe, and are unpleasant. She is afraid of traveling in the evening, in case one of them may harm her.

VN05	How common do you think this story is for women to experience in your community?	1. Very uncommon 2. Uncommon 3. Common 4. Very common 66. Skip skip → Next module		
VN06	Would you say COVID-19 has made things better, worse or the same for women?	Better	Worse	Same
		1	2	3

Module E: List Randomization

(Tagalog translation available upon request)

[READ] For the next set of questions, we will be reading you a series of statements. We would like you to tell us HOW MANY of these you agree with. Please take note that you should not tell us about which ones you agree with.

We'll give you a practice question first.

[READ] For the following example, I will read you statements and, for each one, please think in your head whether you agree or not. Please count silently in your mind. At the end, please tell me HOW MANY of the statements you agree with.

A) Sinigang is better than adobo.

Think to yourself if you agree with the statement. If you agree, the count in your head should be 1. If you disagree, the count should be 0.

B) I don't have the appetite to eat breakfast if there's no rice.

Think to yourself if you agree with the statement. If you agree with this statement and the previous one, the count in your head should be 2.

C) Coconut water is my favorite drink

Think to yourself if you agree with the statement. If you do not agree with any, the count in your head should be 0. If you agree with only one of the statements, the count should be 1.

[READ] Let's try one more example. This time, I won't be instructing you about what to do. How many of the following statements do you agree with?

A) I like Showtime more than Eat Bulaga!⁴

B) Kathryn Bernardo is the best actress.

C) Darna has been rebooted too many times.

Are the instructions clearer now? Great, let's proceed.

⁴ These options can be replaced with cultural references appropriate to the community in question

No.:	Statement:	No. of true statements:
LR01 (Prompt: <i>Physical IPV</i>)	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1) I have faced severe economic hardships in life 2) I want to open a new business 3) I have been slapped by my husband or partner 4) I want to have children/more children	 _ _ _
LR02 (Prompt: <i>Emotional IPV</i>)	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1) I am jealous of my neighbor 2) My husband/partner has insulted me in front of others 3) My friends respect me 4) I feel depressed on most days	 _ _ _
LR03 (Prompt: <i>Sexual IPV</i>)	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1) My husband/partner forced me to have sexual intercourse 2) I have been in an earthquake 3) I enjoy watching telenovelas. 4) I feel healthy	 _ _ _

Block 2: To be administered to control group

No.:	Statement:	No. of true statements:
LR01 (Prompt: <i>Physical IPV</i>)	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1) I have faced severe economic hardships in life 2) I want to open a new business 3) I want to have children/more children	 _ _ _
LR02 (Prompt: <i>Emotional IPV</i>)	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1) I am jealous of my neighbor 2) My friends respect me 3) I feel depressed on most days	 _ _ _
LR03 (Prompt: <i>Sexual IPV</i>)	Please tell me how many of the following statements you regard as true: 1) I have been in an earthquake 2) My friends respect me 3) I feel healthy	 _ _ _

Module F: Safety Perception (for migrant workers)

(Bahasa Indonesia translation available upon request)

[READ] We would like to ask you about your recent feelings of safety, and of other people who you know. If at any time you do not feel comfortable answering these questions in your current environment, please let us know and we will move on to the next module.

SP00	Is there anyone around you older than 2 years old who can overhear this conversation?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes → Skip SP02, SP05, SP06, SP07, SP08 2. No
SP01	Do you live at the same address with your employer?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes 2. No
SP02	<p>Prior to March 2020, did you feel safe living with your employer?</p> <p>SKIP IF SP00=1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very safe 2. Somewhat safe 3. Not too safe 4. Not safe at all
SP03	Do you live in a shared accommodation with other workers in the same room?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes, with كاتب co-residents 2. No → SP05
SP04	Prior to March 2020 , did you feel safe sharing accommodations with other coworkers?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very safe 2. Somewhat safe 3. Not too safe 4. Not safe at all
SP05	<p>Since the onset of COVID-19 in [placement country], do you feel more or less safe living in your residence?</p> <p>SKIP IF SP00=1</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More safe → SP07 2. Somewhat more safe → SP07 3. No change → SP07 4. Somewhat less safe 5. Less safe 98. DON'T KNOW → SP07
SP06	<p>Why do you feel less safe?</p> <p>DO NOT READ ANSWERS. SELECT ALL THAT APPLY</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Shelter is insecure (e.g. no locks) B. There is physical violence in my home C. There is verbal violence in my home

		<p>D. I am unable to communicate/reach out for help</p> <p>E. I am living with people I cannot trust</p> <p>F. I have a disability and feel vulnerable</p> <p>G. I have a serious medical condition and feel vulnerable</p> <p>H. I fear getting COVID-19 from other co-workers in my accommodation</p> <p>I. I am stigmatized for having been infected with COVID-19 or being perceived to be</p> <p>J. I fear abuse and exploitation from my employer</p>
SP07	<p>Since the onset of COVID-19, do you know if any of your coworkers/friends/neighbors/someone in your community has experienced abuse or harassment?</p> <p>SKIP If SP00=1</p>	<p>1. Yes</p> <p>2. No</p>
SP08	<p>When was the last time you went outside your residence?</p>	<p>1. <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/><input type="text"/><input type="text"/><input type="text"/><input type="text"/> DD/MM/YYYY</p> <p>2. <input type="text"/><input type="text"/><input type="text"/> Days ago</p> <p>98. DON'T REMEMBER</p>
SP09	<p>Do you still continue to interact with your friends and social groups?</p>	<p>1. Yes, with the usual frequency</p> <p>2. Yes, with reduced frequency</p> <p>3. Yes, but rarely</p> <p>4. No, not at all</p> <p>5. No, mostly only virtually0</p>