

POLICY EFFORTS ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) DURING COVID-19

LATIN AMERICA: MEXICO, ARGENTINA & BRAZIL

When COVID-19 hit, governments quickly bolstered hotlines, but struggled to meet demand for essential services (e.g. women's centers and shelters).



Simple, free and 24-hour nationwide hotlines are essential. Mexico stands out as not having one.

Argentina and São Paulo established cash transfer programmes for GBV-survivors, to help them leave abusers.



The presidents of Mexico and Brazil between 2020-2022 downplayed GBV during the pandemic, undermining government policies.

Before COVID-19, 1 in 3 women reported experiencing violence by a partner or sexual violence by a non-partner (WHO).



SINCE COVID-19 HIT, UN WOMEN REPORTS...



48%

that nearly half of women state they have experienced violence or know a woman who has.



856

that 856 governmental GBV measures were adopted by 163 countries.



13

that 13 countries included GBV into their COVID-19 contingency plans.

LATIN AMERICA

Nearly all countries have laws against domestic violence, and at least some GBV services. Most have national action plans. Yet a large gap remains between laws, plans and implementation.

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

Sub-Saharan Africa and MENA have fewer laws against domestic violence. Both regions have lower policy infrastructure on GBV compared to Latin America.

SUB-SAHARA AFRICA: UGANDA & SOUTH AFRICA

Uganda and South Africa have more advanced laws but a large gap remains between laws and implementation.



South Africa had a stronger policy infrastructure and declared GBV services essential



In Uganda, hotlines were mostly provided by NGOs and UN agencies.



Reduced public transport during lockdown prevented access to services in both countries



Lack of internet reduced access to hotlines in both countries

MIDDLE EAST: EGYPT, LEBANON & TURKEY

Despite legal advances, leaders in the past years have sidelined the issue of GBV.



In Egypt & Lebanon, VAW services are mainly provided by civil society organizations, funded by international aid.

Egypt & Lebanon set up their first GBV hotline during the pandemic.



Shelters were overwhelmed by demand.

Turkey's existing policy infrastructure kept services operational.



The conservative views of the Turkish president have hindered policy efforts.