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OSCE-LED SURVEY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

WELL-BEING AND SAFETY OF WOMEN

In Europe and Central Asia
26-27 November 2019, Vienna
What was measured?

1) Prevalence of
   • Physical, sexual, psychological violence;
   • Stalking & sexual harassment;
   • Perpetrated by partners or someone else;
   • Lifetime experiences and 12 months prior.

2) Consequences of violence including witnessing;

3) Reporting behavior and support;

4) Attitudes and opinions of gender roles.

5) Exposure to armed conflict and conflict related violence

Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

Moldova and Ukraine

The research was also conducted in Kosovo.¹

¹All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.
Methodology

Sampling methodologies:
• Target sample size was 1,750, except for BiH (2,300), Ukraine (2,000) and MN (1,200)
• Multistage, stratified, random probability sample.

Cognitive Testing and Pilot
• Conducted in November and December 2017
• Aim: test every element of the quantitative survey, including the interviewer briefings, sampling approach and tools, questionnaire and other fieldwork materials.

Quantitative fieldwork:
• Completed in 20 weeks on average.
• Interviews conducted face-to-face using CAPI (tablet).
• 95% of interviews were conducted in complete privacy.
• Quality control.

Qualitative fieldwork:
• Key expert interviews.
• Focus group discussions.
• In-depth interviews.

Process:
• Survey company.
• Stakeholder Consultation.
• Validation roundtables.
Development of questionnaire

- Based on FRA questionnaire;
- Expanded to include additional modules (based on consultations and testing, incl. with OSCE FOs) on:
  - experiences related to conflict;
  - psychological violence (expanded on controlling and abusive behaviours);
  - norms, attitudes and behaviour;
- Full questionnaire reviewed by experts on VAW ⇒ improved phrasing to avoid misunderstandings;
- Cognitive test of questionnaire in May and June 2017 ⇒ changes made to length of questionnaire, change of structure, changes to wording;
- Pilot study in November and December 2017.
Conflict focus

Sections of questionnaire:
• Section A1 – Introduction
• **Section AA – Conflict experience**
• Section B – Health, feelings of safety, knowledge about services
• **Section C – Sexual harassment**
• **Section D – Other experiences with non-partners – physical and sexual violence**
• **Section F – Experiences with the current partner**
• Section G – Current partner background
• **Section H – Experiences with previous partners**
• **Section I – Repeated incidents (stalking)**
• **Section J – Experiences in childhood**
• **Section CO – Violence in conflict**
• Section K – Respondent background/Firearms
• Section L – Conclusion – attitudes and behaviours
• Section M – Self-completion form

For conflict-affected women, Sections C, D, F, H, I and J included questions on whether any incident and specifically the most severe incident of violence experienced were connected to an armed conflict the respondent had lived through.
How was it measured?

- Representative sample of **15,179** women aged **18–74**;
- **63** focus groups;
- **35** in-depth interviews;
- **114** key expert interviews;
- Follows methodology of EU-wide VAW survey by **Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)** and definitions of **Istanbul Convention**.
- Response rate varied between **35% (UA)** and **61% (AB)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of violence</th>
<th>EU average %</th>
<th>OSCE-led survey average %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual harassment since the age of 15</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relevant Findings: Childhood violence

21% of women did experience some form of physical, sexual or psychological violence before the age of 15. Large variation across countries: between 9% (BiH, North Macedonia) to 31% (SR), 32% (ME).

Physical violence is the most common form indicated, by 17%, while psychological violence is indicated by 8%* and sexual violence by 3%.

The current social-demographic situation of women with higher rates of childhood violence:
  • Women who are poor versus the once who feel financially comfortable today: rate of 33% versus 14%
  • 37% of (currently) disabled women
  • 32% of women who (now) are a refugee or IDP

A pattern for life: Among those women who experienced childhood violence, nearly all of them (93%) say they have had some experience of the same in adulthood, compared with 65% of those who did not experience childhood violence.

Early marriage: 6% of women who have ever been married were under the age of 18 when they first got married. Equivalent of 1.1 million women in the area covered by the OSCE-led survey.

Early marriage is related to violence: 7.4% of those who reported some kind of abuse in their childhood married underage, as opposed to 5.2% of those not exposed to violence.
**Relevant Findings: Abusers of girls**

### Perpetrators of violence against girls <15

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violence</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Non-family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sex of perpetrators of violence against girls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violence</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All types</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Relevant findings: Impact of IPV on children

Being a child of an abused mother

- 36% of mothers who experienced IPV with former partner said their children were witness to these incidents.
- 31% in case of current partner violence.
- 7% of mothers have been blackmailed with the abuse of children or seen their children abused.

Mothers more vulnerable to, and more defenceless against violence

- Women with children are more likely to have experienced some form of abuse in the 12 months prior to the survey (35% compared to 28% without children).
- Women with children are less likely to report to police or seek help: 15% versus 24% of women without children.
Outputs: reports

- Main Results Report
- At A Glance Report (summary)
- Technical Report (incl. Annexes)
- National results reports
- Thematic reports:
  - Disadvantaged groups
  - Conflict and VAW
- Policy Paper on women with disabilities - UNFPA
- Link between VAC/VAW - UNICEF