Gender and the COVID-19 Outbreak: Emerging Gender Impacts and Recommendations

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Graphic: WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific
Emerging Gender Impacts

- Exacerbated burdens of unpaid care work on women and girls
- Addressing needs of women healthcare workers
- Increasing GBV and protection risks
- Impact on women’s economic empowerment and women migrant workers
Emerging Gender Impacts

- Interrupted access to sexual and reproductive health
- Exclusion from leadership roles
- Need for targeted approaches to reaching marginalized groups
Recommendations for Planning

Disaggregate data related to the outbreak by sex, age, and disability

Ground country strategic plans in gender analysis

Ensure plans address the burden of unpaid care work and heightened GBV risks for women and girls

Ensure human rights are central to the response
Recommendations for Targeted Approaches

- Strengthen the leadership and meaningful participation of women and girls in all decision-making processes.
- Ensure that women and girls are able to get information about how to prevent and respond to the epidemic in ways they can understand.
- Develop cash transfer programmes and targeted strategies for women’s economic empowerment to mitigate the impact of the outbreak.
First responders must be trained on how to handle disclosures of GBV.

GBV referral pathways should be updated to reflect primary and secondary healthcare facilities that may be requested to take on the caseload of GBV survivors.

Psychosocial support should be available for women and girls who may be affected by the outbreak and are also GBV survivors.

Measures taken to relieve the burden on primary healthcare structures should prioritize access to sexual and reproductive health services.
Tools and Resources
Thank you!