



GIRLS  
GET EQUAL

# THROUGH HER LENS:

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON  
FILIPINO GIRLS AND  
YOUNG WOMEN

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Plan International Philippines truly appreciates your time, insights, and support in amplifying the voices of Filipino girls and young women during this trying time.



# MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

**DENNIS O'BRIEN**  
Country Director  
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Girls and young women are often invisible during disasters and crises – their needs unmet, their voices unheard, their contributions undervalued. This reality undermines the resilience of girls and young women and overlooks the fact that they have capacities and capabilities. As a result, their vulnerabilities are heightened, and the impact of disasters on their lives is heightened and prolonged.

This research wants to rewrite that story by providing girls and young women a platform to share their views and experiences of the impact of COVID-19 on their lives, their families, and their communities. The study shows that girls and young women are capable of helping themselves and others while overcoming the effects of this pandemic in their lives.

In a protracted disaster such as the COVID-19, girls and young women face unique challenges. The study revealed that limited access to sexual and reproductive health services and information, access to hygiene necessities, disruption on education, limited economic opportunities, and mental and emotional health and well-being are among the challenges girls and young women face. Worse, girls and young women suffer from gender-based violence, domestic violence, and even online exploitation and harassment as they remain locked down in their homes.

While their vulnerabilities during disasters are unique, girls and young women also have the unique power to transform their lives and the lives of the people around them. When needs are met and platforms to speak up and be heard are provided, girls and young women offer innovative and creative solutions to challenges they face. But it means we must listen, communicate, and bring them into the conversation, and in the decision-making and planning processes. Knowing what they need, how they are affected, and how they can contribute are important first steps in ensuring that girls and young women are protected and safe during disasters.

This research aims to contribute to our collective responsibility of listening to and amplifying the voices of girls and young women during this pandemic. It forms part of Plan International Philippines' commitment to protect girls and young women from harm, violence, and exploitation, as well as in support girls and young women in overcoming life challenges and in achieving their full potential even during disasters and crises.

However, the realization of girls' rights and women's rights even and especially amid disasters or crises requires a multi-sectoral, whole-of-society, and whole-of-government approach. Through our Girls Get Equal campaign and Resilient Girls and Young Women in Crises campaign, we call on every duty-bearer, decision-maker, government official, civil society organization, and private sector company to provide humanitarian assistance that is inclusive of the needs of girls and young women. We appeal to every humanitarian and development organization, agency, and institution to ensure protection, safety, and enjoyment of equal rights of girls and young women to learn, lead, decide and thrive especially during disasters and crises.

Together, let us invest on girls' equal power and support them to become leaders and decision-makers on all matters that affect their lives. This is how #GirlsGetEqual.



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## ACRONYMS

<b>BHWs</b>	Barangay Health Workers	<b>LGU</b>	Local Government Unit
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organizations	<b>NGOs</b>	Non-government Organizations
<b>ECQ</b>	Enhanced Community Quarantine	<b>PNP</b>	Philippine National Police
<b>DSWD</b>	Department of Social Welfare and Development	<b>PWD</b>	Persons-with-Disabilities
<b>DOLE</b>	Department of Labor and Employment	<b>SAP</b>	Social Amelioration Program
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-based Violence	<b>SRHR</b>	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
<b>GYW</b>	Girls and Young Women	<b>VAWG</b>	Violence against Women and Girls
<b>LGBTQIA+</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Plus	<b>WCPD</b>	Women and Child Protection Desk

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

## ADVOCACY

is the deliberate process, based on demonstrated evidence, to directly and indirectly influence decision-makers, stakeholders and relevant audiences to support and implement actions that contribute to the fulfillment of children's and women's rights.<sup>1</sup>

## CHILD PROTECTION

refers to preventing and responding to violence, exploitation and abuse against children – including commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, child labour and harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation/ cutting and child marriage.<sup>2</sup>

## CONTACT TRACING

is the process of identifying, assessing, and managing people who have been exposed to a disease to prevent onward transmission.<sup>3</sup>

## CONTRACEPTIVES

refers to any safe, legal, effective, and scientifically proven modern family planning method, device, or health product, whether natural or artificial, that prevents pregnancy but does not primarily destroy a fertilized ovum or prevent a fertilized ovum from being implanted in the mother's womb in doses of its approved indication as determined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).<sup>4</sup>

## COUNSELLING

a method of relating and responding to others with the aim of providing them with opportunities to explore, to clarify and to work towards living in a more personally satisfying and resourceful way. Counselling may be applied to individuals, couples, families or groups and may be used in widely differing contexts and settings.<sup>5</sup>

## COVID-19

refers to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 which is caused by the virus known as the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2).

## CYBERBULLYING

the posting or sending of electronic messages, including pictures or videos, aimed at harassing, threatening or targeting another person.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Unicef.org. (2010). Advocacy Toolkit A guide to influencing decisions that improve children's lives. [https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/Advocacy\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/Advocacy_Toolkit.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2006, May). Child Protection Information Sheet. unicef.org. [https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/What\\_is\\_Child\\_Protection.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/What_is_Child_Protection.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Contact tracing in the context of COVID-19. World Health Organization. (2020, May 10). <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/contact-tracing-in-the-context-of-covid-19>.

<sup>4</sup> Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10354: GOVPH. Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2013, March 18). <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2013/03/18/implementing-rules-and-regulations-of-republic-act-no-10354/>.

<sup>5</sup> International Round Table for the Advancement of Counseling. (1998). Counselling as a Profession: Status, Organization and Human Rights. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000112804>.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations. (2018). Bullying and Cyberbullying | UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children. <https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/content/bullying-and-cyberbullying-0>.



## DISADVANTAGED SECTOR

groups of persons that experience a higher risk of poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and violence than the general population, including, but not limited to, ethnic minorities, migrants, people with disabilities, isolated elderly people and children.<sup>7</sup>

## DISASTER

a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Disasters are often described as a result of the combination of the exposure to a hazard; the conditions of vulnerability that are present; and insufficient capacity or measures to reduce or cope with the potential negative consequences. Disaster impacts may include loss of life, injury, disease and other negative effects on human, physical, mental and social well-being, together with damage to property, destruction of assets, loss of services, social and economic disruption and environmental degradation.<sup>8</sup>

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

or intimate partner violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviours including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion used by adults or adolescents against their current or former intimate partners.<sup>9</sup>

## ENHANCED COMMUNITY QUARANTINE

refers to the implementation of temporary measures imposing stringent limitations on movement and transportation of people, strict regulation of operating industries, provision of food and essential services, and heightened presence of uniformed personnel to enforce community quarantine protocols.

## FAKE NEWS

refers to false information or propaganda published under the guise of authentic news. Fake news websites and channels push their fake news content in an attempt to mislead consumers of the content and spread misinformation via social networking sites.<sup>10</sup>

## FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKERS

workers at the front of the fight against diseases and ill health, with proven record of reducing preventable deaths, hence, the pillars of effective health systems key to achieving universal health coverage. In addition, we recognize that they form the core foundation or base of the intelligence for disease and disease outbreak prevention, and cost-effective providers of interventions for disease prevention to communities in need.<sup>11</sup>

## GENDER

refers to a set of socially ascribed characteristics, norms, roles, attitudes, values, and expectations identifying the social behaviour of men and women, and the relations between them.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup>. European Institute for Gender Equality. (2020). Disadvantaged Groups. <https://eige.europa.eu/thesaurus/terms/1083>.

<sup>8</sup>. Republic Act No. 10121: GOVPH. Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines. (2010, May 27). <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2010/05/27/republic-act-no-10121/>.

<sup>9</sup>. UNICEF Child Protection Section Programme Division. (2006). Behind Closed Doors The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children. <https://www.unicef.org/media/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup>. Rafols, P. A. A. S. (2020). ACG-CYBER Security Bulletin No. 153 Understanding the Risk of Online Fake News. Anti-Cyber Crime Group. <https://acg.pnp.gov.ph/main/cyber-security-bulletin/292-acg-cyber-security-bulletin-no-153-understanding-the-risk-of-online-fake-news>.

<sup>11</sup>. Kitua, A. Y. (2017, June 10). Frontline Health Workers Nobel Role in Disease Prevention for Achieving Global Health Security: Why are we not Learning the Lessons? Journal of Healthcare Communications.

<sup>12</sup>. Republic Act 11313: Safe Spaces Act Implementing Rules and Regulations

## GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females. It includes acts that inflict physical, sexual, mental and economic harm or suffering; threats of such acts; coercion; and deprivations of liberty whether occurring in public or private life. The term is primarily used to describe violence caused by an expression of power inequalities between women and men that gives women and girls lesser social, economic, and political power in relation to men and boys.<sup>13</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS

Rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.<sup>14</sup>

## INEQUALITY

the state of not being equal, especially in status, rights, and opportunities.<sup>15</sup>

## INTERSECTIONALITY

a theoretical framework that posits that multiple social categories (e.g. race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status) intersect at the micro-level of individual experience to reflect multiple interlocking systems of privilege and oppression at the macro, social-structural level (e.g. racism, sexism, heterosexism).<sup>16</sup>

## MASS TESTING

also known as screening, is defined as the presumptive identification of unrecognized disease in an apparently healthy, asymptomatic population by means of tests, examinations or other procedures that can be applied rapidly and easily to the target population.<sup>17</sup>

## MENTAL HEALTH

a state of well-being in which an individual realizes his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.<sup>18</sup>

## ONLINE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (OSEC)

is the buying, selling, possession, distribution, transmission and production of visual, audio, or written materials that show sexual abuse or exploitation of a child or minor for themselves or another person. A perpetrator may access these through photos, videos, and live streaming. He or she is usually not physically present (in front of the victim), but is connected through the internet with a computer or through mobile devices.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). (2019, January). Gender-based Violence in Emergencies. <https://www.unicef.org/media/69216/file/Gender-Based-Violence-in-Emergencies-Operational-Guide.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup>. United Nations. (2020). Human Rights. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/human-rights/>.

<sup>15</sup>. Development Strategy and Policy Analysis Unit w Development Policy and Analysis Division Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2015, October). Concepts of Inequality Development Issues No. 1. United Nations. [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess\\_dev\\_issues/dsp\\_policy\\_01.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_dev_issues/dsp_policy_01.pdf).

<sup>16</sup>. Bowleg, L. (2012, July). The Problem With the Phrase Women and Minorities: Intersectionality- An Important Theoretical Framework for Public Health. US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3477987/>.

<sup>17</sup>. World Health Organization. (2017, February 3). Screening. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/cancer/prevention/diagnosis-screening/screening/en/>.

<sup>18</sup>. World Health Organization, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. (2004). Promoting Mental Health Concepts - Emerging Evidence-Practice. [https://www.who.int/mental\\_health/evidence/en/promoting\\_mhh.pdf](https://www.who.int/mental_health/evidence/en/promoting_mhh.pdf).

<sup>19</sup>. ECPAT International, 2016; RA 10175, 2012; RA 7610, 1992; Protacio-De Castro, n.d.

## ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

refers to online conduct targeted at a particular person that causes or likely to cause another mental, emotional or psychological distress, and fear of personal safety. Online sexual harassment acts include unwanted sexual remarks and comments, threats, uploading or sharing of one's photos without consent, video and audio recordings, cyberstalking and online identity theft.<sup>20</sup>

## PANDEMIC

is the worldwide spread of a new disease.<sup>21</sup>

## PERSONS-WITH-DISABILITIES

the term persons-with-disabilities, is used to apply to all persons with disabilities including those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various attitudinal and environmental barriers, hinders their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.<sup>22</sup>

## PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

Any act which causes physical harm to another person as a result of unlawful physical force. Physical violence can take the form of, among others, serious or minor assault, deprivation of liberty and manslaughter.<sup>23</sup>

## PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

refers to acts or omissions causing or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering of the victim such as but not limited to intimidation, harassment, stalking, damage to property, public ridicule, or humiliation, repeated verbal abuse and marital infidelity. It includes causing or allowing the victim to witness the physical, sexual or psychological abuse of a member of the family to which the victim belongs, or to witness pornography in any form or to witness abusive injury to pets or to unlawful or unwanted deprivation of the right to custody and/or visitation of common children.<sup>24</sup>

## PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

is the term adopted by the international community and the World Health Organization to refer to the development and implementation of culturally appropriate mental health training and services for communities devastated by a disaster.<sup>25</sup>

## POVERTY

entails more than the lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods. Its manifestations include hunger and malnutrition, limited access to education and other basic services, social discrimination and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in decision-making.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>. Republic Act 11313: Safe Spaces Act Implementing Rules and Regulations

<sup>21</sup>. World Health Organization. (2020, March 12). What is a pandemic? World Health Organization. [https://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/frequently\\_asked\\_questions/pandemic/en/](https://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/frequently_asked_questions/pandemic/en/).

<sup>22</sup>. United Nations. (2007). UN Enable - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). United Nations Enable. <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/faqs.htm>.

<sup>23</sup>. Glossary of definitions of rape, femicide and intimate partner violence. (2019, February 26). <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/glossary-definitions-rape-femicide-and-intimate-partner-violence>.

<sup>24</sup>. Republic Act 9262. Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004.

<sup>25</sup>. American Psychological Association. (2020). APA Dictionary of Psychology. [dictionary.apa.org. https://dictionary.apa.org/disaster-psychology](https://dictionary.apa.org/disaster-psychology).

<sup>26</sup>. United Nations. Ending Poverty. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/poverty/>.

## QUARANTINE

a situation wherein individuals who have been exposed to a communicable disease are separated from others for the duration of the disease's incubation period.<sup>27</sup>

## RESILIENCE

the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.<sup>28</sup>

## RISK COMMUNICATION

refers to the exchange of real-time information, advice and opinions between experts and people facing threats to their health, economic, or social well-being. The ultimate purpose of risk communication is to enable people at risk to take informed decisions to protect themselves and their loved ones. Risk communication uses many communications techniques ranging from media and social media communications, mass communications and community engagement. It requires a sound understanding of people's perceptions, concerns and beliefs as well as their knowledge and practices. It also requires the early identification and management of rumours, misinformation and other challenges.<sup>29</sup>

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT

is any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favour, verbal or physical conduct or gesture of a sexual nature, or any other behaviour of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another.<sup>30</sup>

## SOCIAL AMELIORATION PROGRAM

subsidy for the provision of basic necessities and tool for the recovery and rehabilitation of the most affected families and individuals, such as the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS), augmentation of Food and Non-food items (FNI), and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).<sup>31</sup>

## SOCIAL SKILLS

skills we use every day to interact and communicate with others. They include verbal and non-verbal communication, such as speech, gesture, facial expression and body language.<sup>32</sup>

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

defined as the set of policies and programs designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability by promoting efficient labor markets, diminishing people's exposure to risks, and enhancing their capacity to protect themselves against hazards and interruption/loss of income.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>27</sup>. Corporate Author: Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform. (2020, June 14). Quarantine in the Context of COVID-19. <https://www.socialscienceinaction.org/resources/february-2020-social-science-humanitarian-action-platform/>.

<sup>28</sup>. Office of Civil Defence. (2019). Republic Act No. 10121 . National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council. [https://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/45/Republic\\_Act\\_10121.pdf](https://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/45/Republic_Act_10121.pdf).

<sup>29</sup>. World Health Organization. (2015, June 19). General information on risk communication. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/risk-communication/background/en/>.

<sup>30</sup>. United Nations. (2013). UN Women | UN System Coordination - Anti-harassment. UN Women. <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/uncoordinated/antiharassment.html>.

<sup>31</sup>. Department of Social Welfare and Development. (2020). DSWD Memorandum Circular No. 4 . [https://www.dswd.gov.ph/issuances/MCs/MC\\_2020-004.pdf](https://www.dswd.gov.ph/issuances/MCs/MC_2020-004.pdf).

<sup>32</sup>. Admin, K. (2016, November 27). Social Skills. Retrieved on September 03, 2020 from <https://childdevelopment.com.au/areas-of-concern/play-and-social-skills/social-skills/>

<sup>33</sup>. Asian Development Bank. (2003, July). Social Protection. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/32100/social-protection.pdf>.

## SPIRITUAL HEALTH

a state of being where an individual is able to deal with day-to-day life in a manner which leads to the realization of one's full potential; meaning and purpose of life; and happiness from within.<sup>34</sup>

## TROLLS

someone who leaves an intentionally annoying or offensive message on the internet, in order to upset someone or to get attention or cause trouble.<sup>35</sup>

## UNPAID CARE WORK

'Unpaid' means that the person doing the activity does not receive a wage and that the work, because it falls outside the production boundary in the System of National Accounts, is not counted in GDP calculations.

'Care' means that the activity serves people and their well-being, and includes both personal care and care-related activities, such as cooking, cleaning and washing clothes. 'Work' means that the activity entails expenditures of time and energy. Unpaid care work is also referred to as 'reproductive' or 'domestic' work in order to distinguish it from market-based work.<sup>36</sup>

## VERBAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

the use of words to cause harm to the person being spoken to. It is difficult to define and may take many forms. Similarly, the harm caused is often difficult to measure. The most commonly understood form is name-calling. Verbal abuse may consist of shouting, insulting, intimidating, threatening, shaming, demeaning, or derogatory language, among other forms of communication.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

those that face higher exposure to disaster risk and poverty including, but not limited to, women, children, elderly, differently-abled people, and ethnic minorities.<sup>38</sup>

## WELL-BEING

includes the presence of positive emotions and moods (e.g. contentment, happiness), the absence of negative emotions (e.g. depression, anxiety), satisfaction with life, fulfillment and positive functioning. In simple terms, well-being can be described as judging life positively and feeling good.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Dhar, N., Chaturvedi, S., & Nandan, D. (2011, October). Spiritual health scale 2011: defining and measuring 4 dimension of health. US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3263147/>.

<sup>35</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. (2020). TROLL: definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary. TROLL | definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/troll>.

<sup>36</sup> Fälth, A., & k Blackden, M. (2009, October). Unpaid Care Work. Policy Brief Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction. <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/womens-empowerment/policy-brief--unpaid-care-work.html>.

<sup>37</sup> US Legal, I. (n.d.). Verbal Abuse Law and Legal Definition. Retrieved September 03, 2020, from <https://definitions.uslegal.com/v/verbal-abuse/>

<sup>38</sup> Office of Civil Defence. (2019). Republic Act No. 10121 . National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council. [https://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/45/Republic\\_Act\\_10121.pdf](https://www.ndrrmc.gov.ph/attachments/article/45/Republic_Act_10121.pdf).

<sup>39</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2018, October 31). Well-Being Concepts. Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL). <https://www.cdc.gov/hrqol/wellbeing.htm>.





# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**“I AM CONCERNED ABOUT FINANCES AND  
HOW MY EDUCATION WILL BE CONTINUED,  
BECAUSE I AM WORRIED THAT MY AGE  
WILL NOT MATCH THE GRADE LEVEL  
ANYMORE.”**

**- ASHLEY, 13, CAVITE**



COVID-19 has affected all Filipinos, in varying degrees, in all aspects of their lives. This study zooms in on the effects of the pandemic on girls and young women, as told from their own perspective. Girls and young women also stated how they viewed the responses of the government and private sector, and what they think could be done to improve that response whether for the general populace and for their specific group.

The online survey among girls and young women between the ages of 13 and 24, conducted between April 20 and May 15, 2020, yielded 1,203 valid and complete responses from all 17 regions across the country.

## A PROFOUND IMPACT

“As much as it’s important to learn about what COVID-19 is, personally for me, I’d also like to learn more about where to seek medical help on how I can mentally cope with the situation.”

- Bam, 21, Cagayan De Oro

“I am concerned about finances and how my education will be continued, because I am worried that my age will not match the grade level anymore.”

- Ashley, 13, Cavite



The survey found that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the girls and young women’s health and well-being, education, and safety and protection.

Forty-two percent of respondents reported feeling sadness, followed by frequently-changing emotions (40%). Many respondents also felt bored, afraid and anxious. Some felt happy, uncertain, irritated and angry.

Girls and young women worried about the health of their family (68%), about the duration of the quarantine (53%), slim chances of returning to school and being able to leave one’s house (both almost 49%). These were more pronounced over their concerns of contracting the virus (40%). After these come their worries about human rights violations and gender-based violence against girls and young women.

The pandemic has significantly reduced the number of hours that girls and young women devote to learning. Twenty-eight percent of respondents said they studied for one to two hours a day. Twenty percent said they studied for less than an hour. Only around 12% said they still studied between three and five hours a day.

This inability to study at home has two main causes: Internet connectivity problems and the need to help with household chores. A good percentage cannot study or work as they want to because they are given responsibilities around the house more than the male members of their families.

While a majority of the surveyed girls and young women did not observe, first hand, violence at home or their immediate environment, some 56% reported observing violence on social media or television. Such violence occurs in the form of cyberbullying, trolls and fake news, indecent photos, video or messages, online sexual harassment, and messages of threat and violence.

“I personally think that it would just better if we would communicate and cooperate with our local government units or even barangays to make a move and create innovative ways to fight this pandemic, instead of just waiting for help and relying on the government's response.

—Andrea, 17, Cebu

Some of the respondents who observed violence in their homes or environment did report the incident to authorities but had no way of knowing whether these were acted upon. Many did not know where to go or how to report, thus preferring to keep quiet instead.

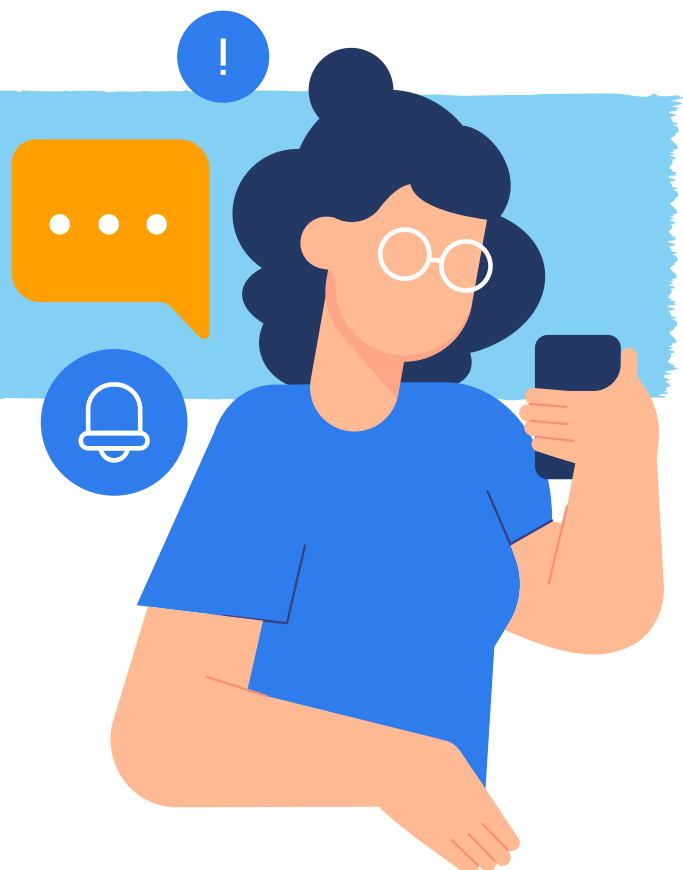
## UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

“

Young women deserve accurate information from legitimate sources to avoid panic and fear, at the same time.

—Dianne, 14, Rizal

Data suggest that girls and young women are potential communicators and advocates, specifically because of their approach to receiving information and verifying it. They could definitely contribute in efforts against COVID-19 more than what they are already doing by staying at home, following health protocols, doing advocacy on social media, and for some, repacking and distributing relief.





Most of the respondents are able to receive news and information about COVID-19. This includes the current situation of the country, what to do about the current situation, and about the government's response. The primary source of information is television, followed by social media and family members.

Two-thirds believe they have information on COVID-19 sufficient to protect themselves.

The girls and young women are generally confident about their ability to distinguish legitimate information from fake news. More than three-fourths immediately verify the information they receive before sharing them with others.

They also want continued access to quality education through stronger and reliable Internet and communication signals.

### RESPONDENTS INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION ON:



where to access hygiene and sexual and reproductive health items and services



how to protect themselves from harassment and violence



how to report cases of gender-based violence



how to protect themselves from the pandemic including psychosocial support and coping mechanisms

## GIRLS AND WOMEN IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

“Girls and young women should receive support from other girls and young women by educating them on how to live a healthier and more productive life. Also, support women's rights by voicing out their opinions on important issues that women face, volunteering in women's rights advocacies, and empowering each other.”

– Raeven, 15, Nueva Ecija

Inequities have placed girls and young women at a disadvantage during this time of the pandemic. The survey also reveals the gaps in social protection and relief assistance for them at this crucial time. Moreover, their capacities are undervalued and they are consigned to performing household chores despite their continuing desire to learn and be productive, and their potential to become good communicators and channels of information.

The study offers recommendations for the government, for civil society, and for the private sector in addressing the gaps identified in the study. These recommendations generally take on the form of collaboration among different sectors in addressing the girls and young women's need for mental well-being and education, as well as the gender inequalities prevalent in the home and the community. Violence online should also be checked. Poverty and social inequality which were worsened by the pandemic, need to be addressed as well, hand in hand with the provision of social protection and relief assistance.

Finally, girls and young women are able and willing to contribute to the community during a crisis. They should be given the opportunity to air their views and to live up to their role for themselves, for their families and for the bigger society at this time of the pandemic and after it.



# ABOUT THE SURVEY

**“YOUNG WOMEN DESERVE  
ACCURATE INFORMATION  
FROM LEGITIMATE SOURCES  
TO AVOID PANIC AND FEAR,  
AT THE SAME TIME.”**

**—DIANNE, 14, RIZAL**



## OVERVIEW

This study, entitled “Through Her Lens”, is designed to analyze the impact of COVID-19 on Filipino girls and young women aged 13 to 24 years old.

Through an online survey, girls and young women from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao provided information on their perception on the effects of COVID-19 on various areas of their lives, specifically environment, health, education, and economic opportunities.

Data on areas such as child protection, gender-based violence, risk communication, decision-making, and leadership were also collected.

The results of the survey were then processed, organized, and analyzed. The information allowed the researchers to obtain respondents’ insights into these areas and to draw recommendations from girls and young women themselves.

## METHODOLOGY AND SAMPLING

The survey method was utilized in the collection of data. The survey data was analyzed using a descriptive approach.

Quantitative data, both numeric and categorical, were collected from the participants using closed-ended survey items. These were organized and then analyzed using descriptive statistics.

Qualitative data were collected using closed-ended survey items that required participants to provide brief answers to specific questions. These items were meant to deepen and provide context to quantitative responses. Qualitative responses were analyzed using content analysis to identify different themes and potential relationships.

The survey was conducted between April 20 and May 15, 2020, when Metro Manila and nearby areas were under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

Under ECQ, everyone was asked to stay home. Movement was limited to accessing basic necessities such as food, medicine and other health services. Work and school were also suspended, and all modes of public transportation were disallowed. Uniformed personnel conducted surveillance and were deployed at strategic border points of local government units.



During this time, city- and provincial-wide curfews from 8:00 PM to 5:00 AM were imposed. Those at risk, including persons sixty (60) years old and above, pregnant, immuno-compromised, and those below twenty-one (21) years old were required to remain at home at all times.

A combination of purposive and convenience sampling approaches was used in this study. Because a face-to-face survey was not possible due to quarantine restrictions, an online survey form using Google Forms was prepared by Plan International Philippines. The online form could be filled out using a mobile phone, a laptop or personal computer, a tablet, or other similar computing devices. Pen-and-paper forms were used in areas where there is limited to no access to the Internet or computing devices. The survey was self-administered.



## THE GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN PARTICIPANTS IN THE SURVEY WERE DRAWN FROM THREE SOURCES:

1

Sponsored children and advocates from Plan International Philippines' Programme Areas. They were from Occidental Mindoro, Masbate, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, West Samar, and Central Mindanao.

2

Network of Plan International Philippines' partner organizations. Their names were drawn from Plan International Philippines' email list of contacts and network partner organizations in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

3

The general public. They are girls and women following Plan International Philippines' Facebook page, where the survey was promoted.

In total, Plan International Philippines received 25,232 survey responses. Rigorous data cleaning and validation were done, and incomplete and invalid survey responses were removed. For example, responses from those who did not meet the requirements of the study (i.e., boys and young women; above 25 years old), were omitted from the analysis.

Afterward, 1,203 complete and valid responses were randomly selected from the pool of responses for analysis.

All valid responses from regions with small sample sizes relative to the regional population share of the overall Philippine population were included in the sample. This is because of limitations of the hybrid sampling method and the skewed number of responses per region. The balance was drawn from regions that had a large number of respondents (e.g. CALABARZON).

This survey is meant only to generate some insights as to the state and experiences of girls and young women in different parts of the Philippines. The sample and results should not be treated as representative of the national population.

## RESPONDENT PROFILE

A total of 1,203 responses from the 17 regions of the Philippines were analyzed. The distribution of responses by region and province, however, varies greatly due to the nature of the survey administration. In a span of three weeks, the survey was administered using a purposive sampling method.

Figure 1 below presents the distribution of respondents by region. The list of respondents by province is found in Appendix A.

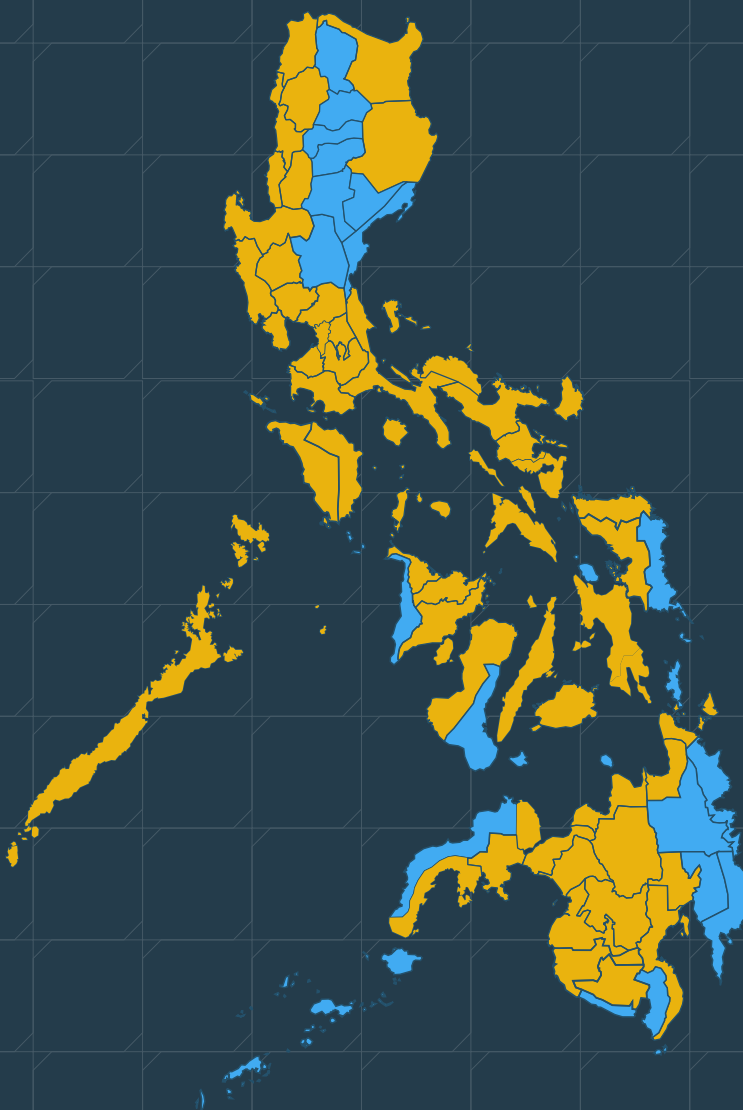
Since most of the survey respondents – 73% (880 out of 1,203) -- are from Central and Southern Luzon and the National Capital region, the predominant ethno-linguistic group from the sample is Tagalog, followed by Bisaya and Cebuano. As shown in Table 1 below, 22 respondents (almost 1.9%) did not mention their ethnolinguistic roots.

### Region

Region 4A (CALABARZON)	417
Region 3 (Central Luzon)	222
National Capital Region (NCR)	216
Region 5 (Bicol Region)	84
Region 7 (Central Visayas)	62
Region 8 (Eastern Visayas)	31
Region 10 (Northern Mindanao)	29
Region 6 (Western Visayas)	27
Region 4B (MIMAROPA)	25
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)	23
Region 11 (Davao Region)	20
Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)	13
Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN)	11
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	7
Region 1 (Ilocos Region)	7
Region 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula)	6
Region 13 (CARAGA Region)	2
BLANK	1

**TOTAL 1203**

**FIGURE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY LOCATION**



**TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY ETHNO-LINGUISTIC GROUP**

Tagalog	871	Kapampangan	19
Bisaya	97	None of the above	18
Cebuano	58	Ilonggo	9
Bikolano	43	Maguindanaon	8
Ilokano	25	Masbateño	8
Waray	25	Subanon	0
Others	22	Ivatan	0

**TOTAL 1203**

The survey was intended for girls and young women. Hence, the surveyed respondents were aged 13 to 24 years old, with most of the survey participants classified as adolescents (13 to 17 years old).

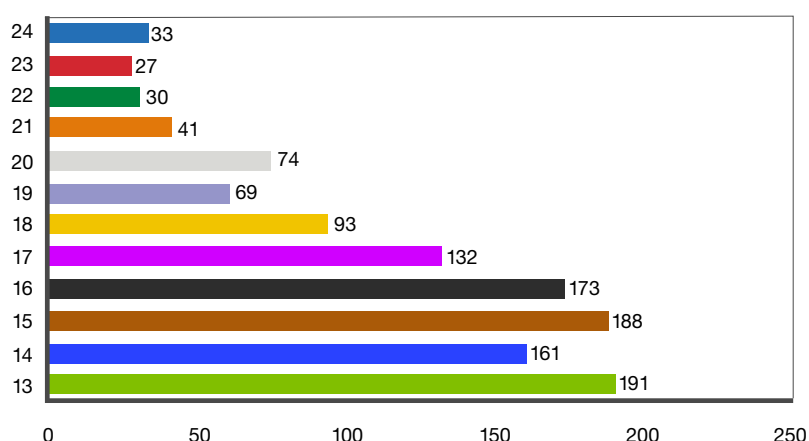
Young women (18 to 24 years old) comprised more than 30% of the participants.

In addition, almost 77% (923 of 1,203) said that they are not part of the LGBTQIA+ community. Around 12% (147 respondents) identified themselves as part of the community.

In terms of disability, almost 88% (1,053 respondents) said they are not differently-abled. Among those with identified disabilities, the prevalent type is visual impairment (145 out of 1,203) followed by mental health concerns (39 respondents).

It is notable that 15 out of the 1,203 respondents checked all types of disabilities, as enumerated in Figure 3 below.

### DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE



### “ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?”

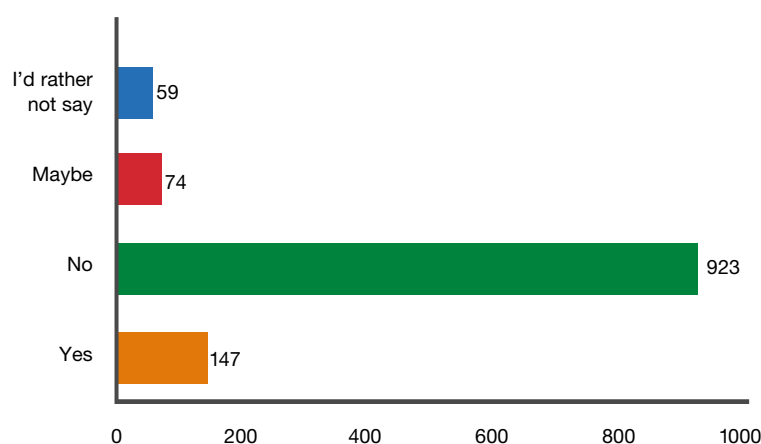


FIGURE 2. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE AND IDENTIFICATION AS LGBTQIA+

### DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY DISABILITY

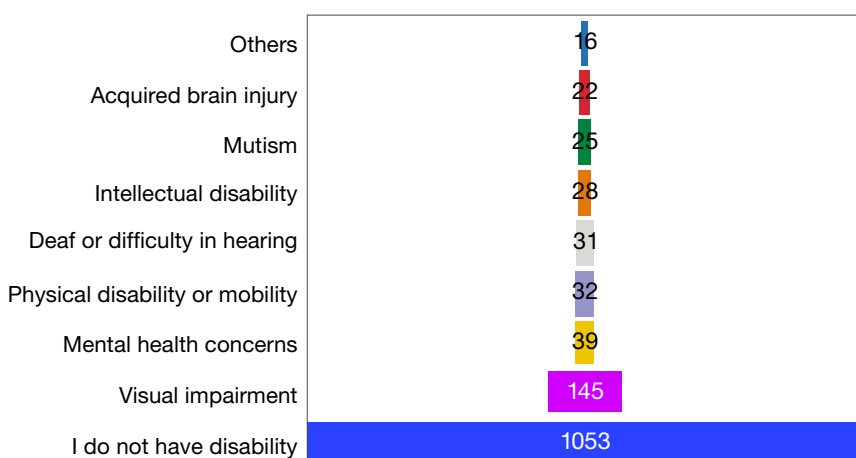


FIGURE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY DISABILITY

Note: Multiple Response Item<sup>40</sup>

### DISABILITY

Others  
Acquired brain injury  
Mute  
Intellectual disability  
Deaf or hard of hearing  
Physical disability or mobility problem  
Mental health conditions  
Vision impairment  
I do not have a disability

<sup>40</sup> 50 respondents checked, "I do not have a disability."





# COVID-19 IMPACT

**“I AM CONCERNED ABOUT FINANCES AND  
HOW MY EDUCATION WILL BE CONTINUED,  
BECAUSE I AM WORRIED THAT MY AGE  
WILL NOT MATCH THE GRADE LEVEL  
ANYMORE.”**

**- ASHLEY, 13, CAVITE**



# IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

“Because of this pandemic, we can't go out of the house unless we have a quarantine pass. Another problem is that stockpiles are running out. Girls have their period every month, and I think sanitary pads are important supplies that must be distributed. Also, girls need psychological support too. It's hard these days, but we will survive.”

– Veronica, 15, Cavite

“We need psychosocial support because during this time, girls, especially those who are underage, tend to feel anxious or afraid. It is common for us, teenagers, to develop depression, panic attacks, and anxiety.”

– N, 16, Rizal

“My mom and dad are seniors. My brother has no salary since March. He works in a cruise ship and he is still stuck in the United States. My dad needs maintenance medicines. I don't have work. I can't help them. They didn't give my mother [financial] assistance, but others received theirs. My mother cannot stand in the line for too long, as she might collapse.”

– Jess, 24, Rizal



## PERSONAL AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Figure 4 illustrates the breakdown of responses to the questions “How are you?” and “How is your family?”. The score of 1 is the lowest possible response, equivalent to “not okay”. The score of 5 is the highest, saying that the respondent and everyone in her family is doing well.

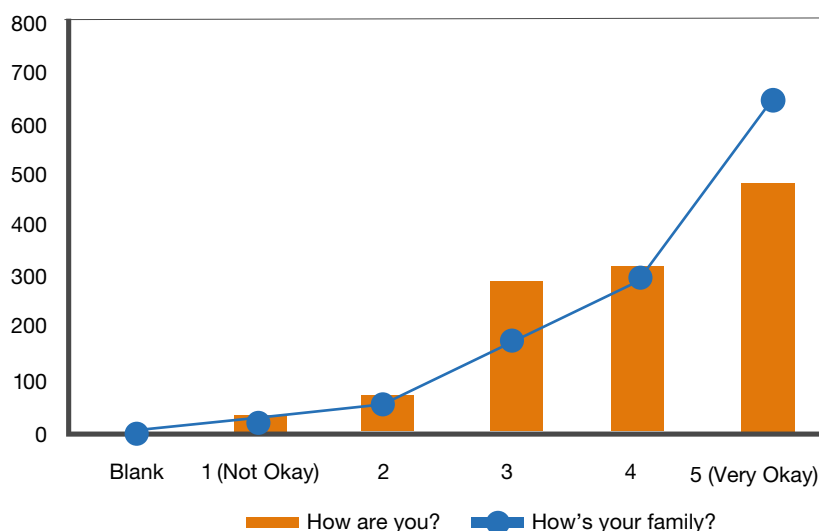


FIGURE 4: ASSESSMENT OF PERSONAL AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Respondents provided a higher assessment of their family's well-being than their personal well-being. The mean answer to the question "How are you?" is 3.91 out of 5, while the mean value for "How is your family?" is 4.32 out of 5.

Nonetheless, both scores suggest that the surveyed girls and young women, together with their families, are doing relatively okay.

GIVEN SCORE	HOW ARE YOU?	HOW IS YOUR FAMILY?
Blank	1	1
1 (Not Okay)	42	11
2	69	45
3	289	171
4	325	293
5 (Very Okay)	476	682
MEAN	3.91	4.32
MODE	5.00	5.00
CORREL COEFFICIENT	0.527422714	

Roughly 57% (682 out of 1,203 respondents) said that their families are doing well, while only 40% (476 out of 1,203) felt that they are personally doing well. Consequently, more respondents gave a score of 4 out of 5 for their individual well-being (326 out of 1,203) compared to those who gave the same score for their family's well-being (293 out of 1,203).

The number of uncertain respondents (score of 3 out of 5) is significant for both personal well-being assessment (24%) and family well-being assessment (14%), respectively. Although the number of those who gave a negative assessment (a score of 2 and below) is significantly lower, this should and does not discredit the fact that some of the surveyed girls and young women, together with their families, are unwell. One respondent failed to give an assessment for both items.

As indicated by the correlation coefficient shown in Figure 4, scores for the personal well-being assessment is indicative of respondents' assessment of their respective families' well-being by 53%. The correlation coefficient suggests a moderate link between the two categories—a respondent's personal well-being and the respondent's family's well-being.

The cross-tabulation in Table 2 presents the respondents' assessment of their personal well-being alongside the period of time that they have been feeling such emotions. Around 37% have consistently felt the same way for more than a month.

Since the survey was administered from the end of April until the middle of May, it can be assumed that the respondents have been feeling the same way since the implementation of the ECQ. Note that one respondent failed to provide an answer on the question, "How are you?".

## TABLE 2. CROSS-TABULATION ON PERSONAL WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING THIS?	HOW ARE YOU?						Total	
	1	2	3	4	5			
A month	5	14	55	37	49	160		
Every other day				1		1	13.31%	
More than a month	25	32	18	92	173	440	0.08%	
None			1			1	36.61%	
One day	2	3	20	24	67	116	0.08%	
One week	4	4	21	41	31	101	9.65%	
Several days	4	0	80	62	114	270	8.40%	
Since COVID happened		1				1	22.46%	
Two to three weeks	2	5	31	32	42	112	0.08%	
Total	42	69	26	289	476	1 202 <sup>41</sup>	9.32%	
	3.49%	5.74%	27.12%	24.04%	39.60%	100.00%	100.00%	

<sup>41</sup> Note: One respondent failed to give an answer to the question, "How are you?".

Respondents were also asked to identify all of their emotions among the list enumerated in Figure 6.

The most prevalent feeling among the respondents is sadness, reported by 42% (511 out of 1,203). This is closely followed by frequently changing emotions, reported by 40% (484 out of 1,203).

The number of those who are **bored, afraid, and anxious** also makes up a significant percentage of the responses. Feeling happy, uncertain, and irritated comprise of only 6% to 8%.

**Anger** is felt by the least number of participants (3%).

Note that six respondents answered “others.”

## EMOTIONS FELT BY RESPONDENTS DURING QUARANTINE

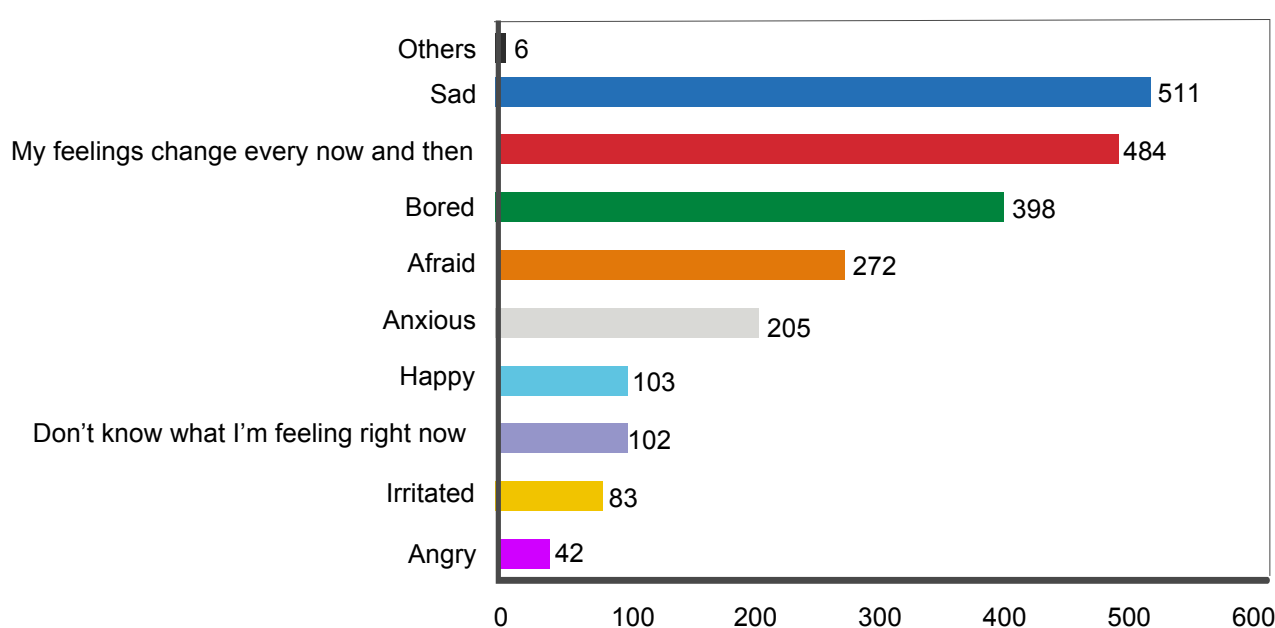


FIGURE 5: FEELINGS OF THE RESPONDENTS WHILE IN QUARANTINE

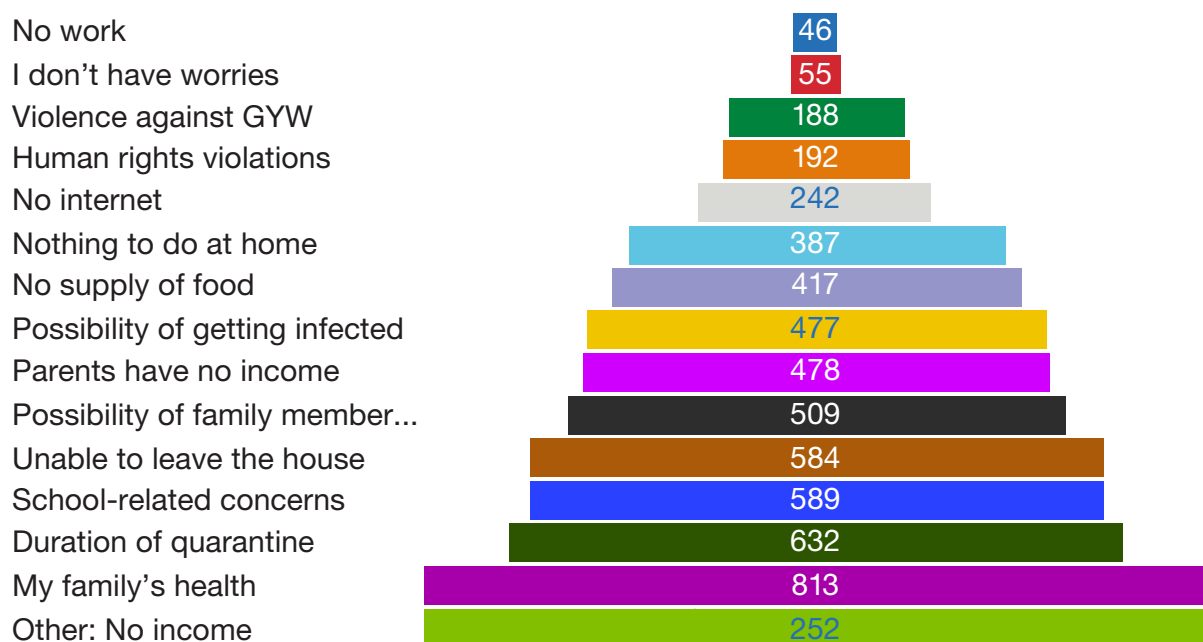
The surveyed girls and young women were also asked to identify their worries or concerns brought about Tabby or related to the COVID-19 situation. Figure 6 shows that the most pressing concern among the respondents is the **health of their family** (68%), followed by the **duration of the quarantine** (53%). The slim chances of returning to school and **being able to leave one's house** are next, with almost 49% of the respondents (584 and 589 out of 1,203, respectively) listing them as worries.

The possibility of **contracting the virus**, be it by the respondent or by any of their family members, also significantly bothers the participants, making up almost 40% of the responses. Having **no income** (parents and self), **no food**, **no internet**, and having **nothing to do** also worries a notable fraction of the respondents.

**Human rights violations and gender-based violence against girls and young women** are also among the concerns of the surveyed participants, with 16% citing it. The same percentage of respondents are concerned with violence against girls and young women.

Those without any worries nor concerns only make up 5%.

Fewer than 5% listed **“no work”** as a concern. This is presumed logical given the age range of the sample. However, a significant percentage (21%) also enumerated **“no income”** as a concern.



Note: Multiple Response Item<sup>42</sup>

**FIGURE 6: WORRIES OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN**

These worries and concerns have taken a toll on the emotional and mental health of girls and young women. In fact, in response to a question on what they think they need during this pandemic, a significant number said they need psychosocial support, tips on how to stay emotionally and mentally fit, wellness activities, and tips on how to remain productive while on lockdown.

Here are some of the responses from girls and young women:

"I think information on how to take care of your emotional well-being would be beneficial for girls and young women. Also, information about availing social services should be easily provided for them."

– Regie, 23, Quezon City

"As much as it's important to learn about what COVID-19 is, personally for me, I'd also like to learn more about where to seek medical help about how I can mentally cope with the situation."

– Bam, 21, Cagayan De Oro

"Guidelines on how to avoid COVID-19 as well as things or activities that can be done during the enhanced community quarantine to cope with stress and boredom."

– Angge, 22, Quezon

<sup>42</sup> Of the 55 respondents who said they did not have any worries and concerns, 26 checked other listed item(s) from the choices. Six respondents checked all options.



# IMPACT ON EDUCATION



“Sometimes, I study to prepare for the next school year; or maybe sleep because I've been using my phone too much, which is not very good for my health.”

– Chelzy, 13, Rizal

“I am concerned about finances and how my education will be continued, because I am worried that my age will not match the grade level anymore”

– Ashley, 13, Cavite

Respondents were asked about the hours they spent studying during the onset of the community lockdown. More than a quarter (28% ) said they allot around one to two hours a day studying. A fifth of the respondents (246 out of 1,203), study for less than an hour, while almost 12% study for three to five hours a day.

These show a substantial reduction in the number of hours spent daily on studying.

According to the respondents, inability to study at home is caused by internet connectivity problems (7%) or the need to help in household chores and to take care of their siblings (almost 5%).

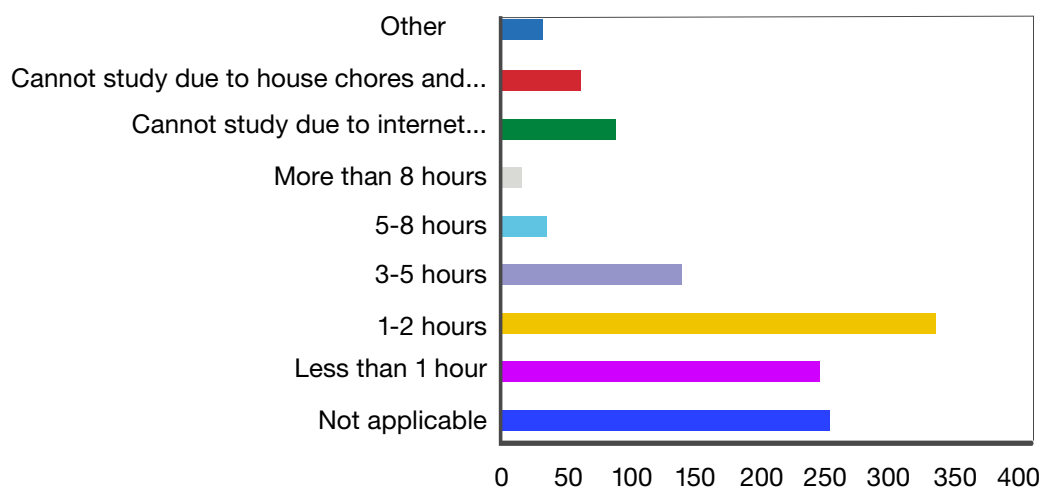
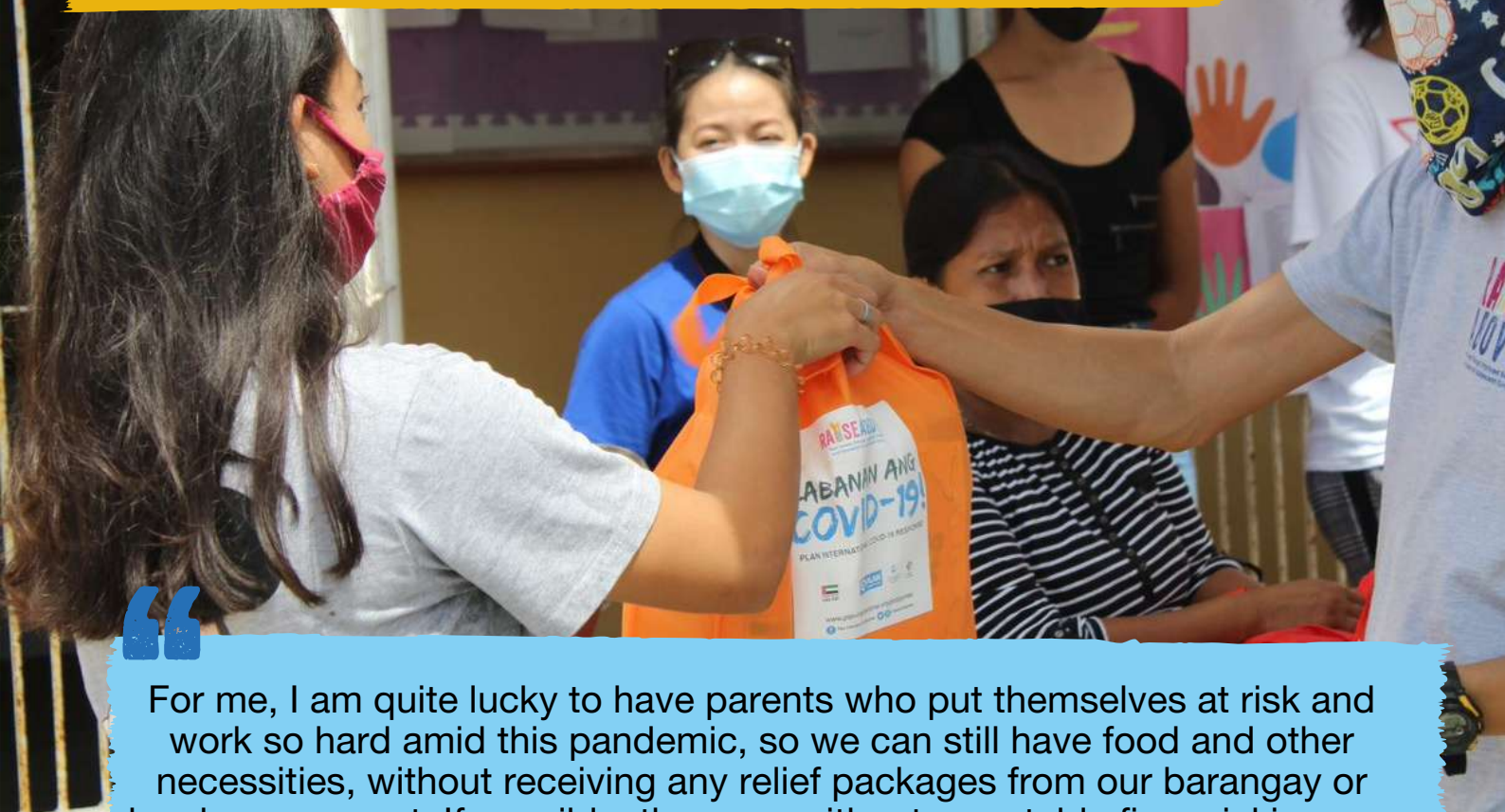


FIGURE 7: TIME SPENT STUDYING

## IMPACT ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES



“

For me, I am quite lucky to have parents who put themselves at risk and work so hard amid this pandemic, so we can still have food and other necessities, without receiving any relief packages from our barangay or local government. If possible, the ones without any stable financial income should be prioritized in receiving support.

– Andrea, 17, Cebu

“Girls and young women must have sidelines or work that we can do during the quarantine period so we can still have income. Even a young woman like me, who's an incoming college [student] this school year, needs funds for my education.”

– Hazel, 18, Rizal

“I try to sell food outside our home and talk with other people so I'd feel less overwhelmed with my mixed and messy emotions.”

– Bam, 21, Cagayan de Oro

“I try not to think a lot about what is happening as soon as I'm out of the office. I worry a lot as I go out and still work.”

– Anonymous, 24, Cagayan de Oro

Given the age range of participants, 1,088 (90%) of the 1,203 were not working at the time the survey was conducted. The remaining 115 respondents declared that they have work.

Figure 8 shows that among the respondents who were working, the most common type of job is related to teaching/tutoring/school-related, followed by Marketing, Sales, and Service. Forty-eight respondents had varying jobs which did not fall within the pre-identified options.<sup>43</sup>

## DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY EMPLOYMENT

Survey question: Do you have work?

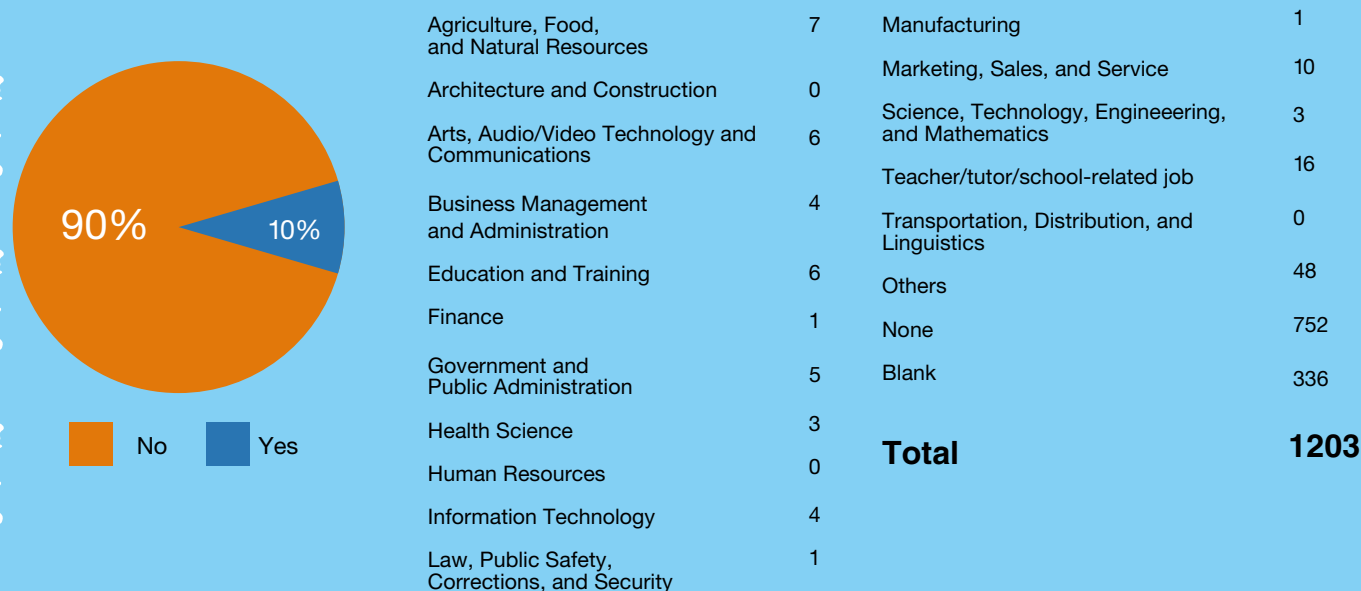


FIGURE 8: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY EMPLOYMENT

The respondents were also asked about the hours they spend working. Since most of the surveyed girls and young women did not have work, they found the question or item not applicable for them (763 out of 1,203). On the other hand, 10% of the respondents (121 out of 1,203) said they spend around one to two hours per day working. Seven percent of respondents (80 out of 1,203) worked between three to five hours per day.

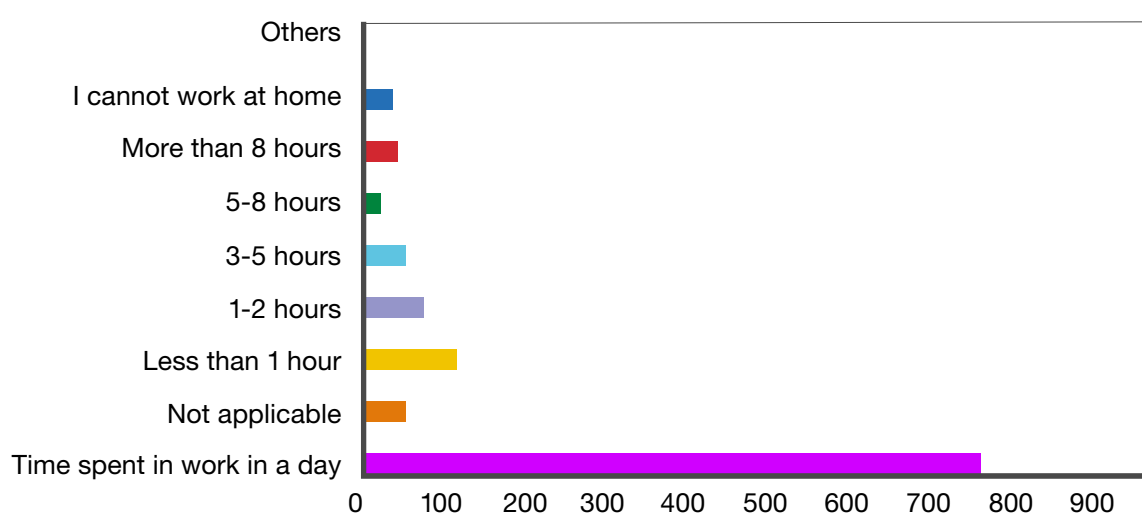


FIGURE 9: TIME SPENT WORKING

<sup>43</sup> Nine respondents initially said they have work but answered "none" when asked about their work. In addition, six respondents who initially said they do not have work identified a type of work.

# IMPACT ON SAFETY AND PROTECTION

“During the quarantine, young women should be informed about the basic information on COVID-19, like what to do, where to go, and how to self-quarantine.

Also, they must be educated about domestic abuse and sexual harassment, especially now when worldwide news talks about the increase of domestic violence.”

–Nancy, 18, Sorsogon

“I think, girls and young women should be assured that every woman is safe during the pandemic and that they can contact someone if they are molested or violated by someone they live with.”

– Angela, 17, Tagaytay



One of the aims of this study is to look at the situation of girls and young women, particularly in relation to violence and abuse. Tensions inside the household due to the lockdown could be intensified by anxieties over health and economic survival. This may result to negative coping mechanisms such as violence and exploitation at home. With children staying indoors because of the disruption of classes, they – girls and boys alike – are at greater risk.

This section discusses the violence observed or experienced by the surveyed girls and young women. It also includes their perception on government response on reported cases of gender-based violence at home, outside, and online.

Figure 10 shows that a greater percentage of the surveyed girls and young women did not observe first-hand violence at home or within their immediate environment. Eighty-eight percent (1,053 of 1,203) and 74% (896 respondents) answered “No” when asked if their observed VAWG cases inside and outside their home, respectively.

Still, there were around 5% (62 out of 1,203) who said that VAWG cases were observed at home. Further, the number of observed VAWG cases increased when the scope was expanded to outside their homes. Some 210 – more than 17% – witnessed cases of VAWG outside their homes.

## OBSERVED VAWG CASES

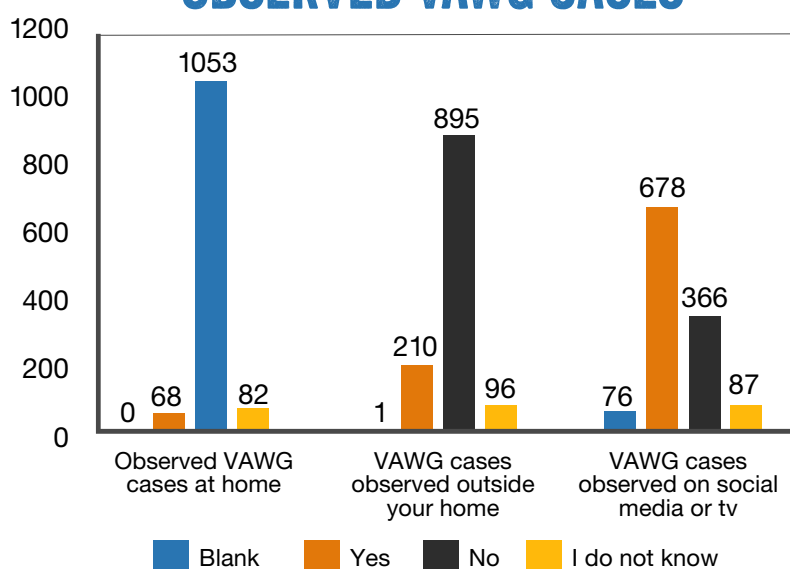


FIGURE 10: OBSERVED VAWG CASES IN DIFFERENT SETTINGS



These numbers still raise the alarm. They need immediate response from the authorities and concerned organizations and individuals. It is also likely that these numbers have risen, considering that the survey was conducted at the beginning of community lockdowns.

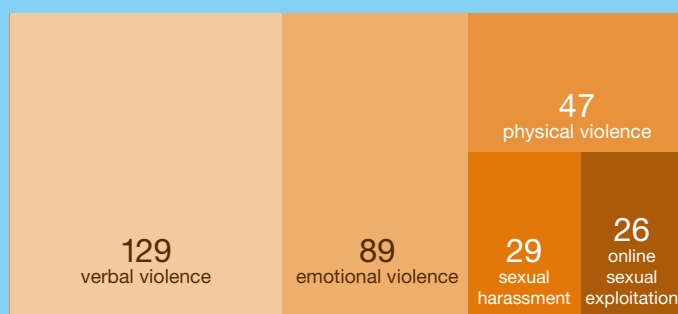
Meanwhile, online violence has been rampant. This is primarily because of increased screen time among children – many of them spend their time using social media during this lockdown. In the survey, 56% (674 out of 1,203 respondents) have observed cases of VAWG in social media or on television.

The respondents were also asked to enumerate the common types of violence they were able to observe in the three different settings. Figure 11 shows the top five kinds of violence observed.

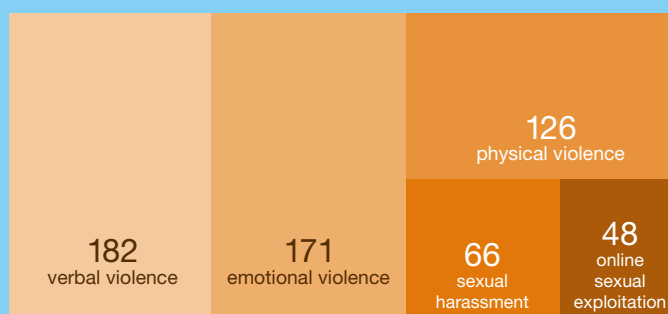
The types of violence, ranked from most observed to least observed, are similar within the respondents' home and outside their home. **Verbal violence** is the most prevalent type of violence observed, followed by **emotional violence**. Physical violence ranks third, while sexual harassment ranks fourth. **Online sexual exploitation** ranks fifth based on the frequency of the tally.

As for the violence observed in social media or television, the most common type of violence observed is **cyberbullying**, followed by **trolls and fake news**. **Sharing and/ or posting of indecent photos, videos, or messages, online sexual harassment, and receiving threatening and violent messages** also made it to the top five list.

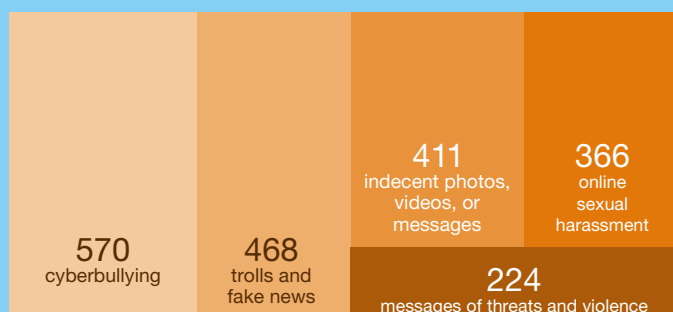
### TOP 5 TYPES OF VAWG OBSERVED AT HOME



### TOP 5 TYPES OF VAWG OBSERVED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE



### TOP 5 TYPES OF VAWG OBSERVED ON SOCIAL MEDIA OR TV



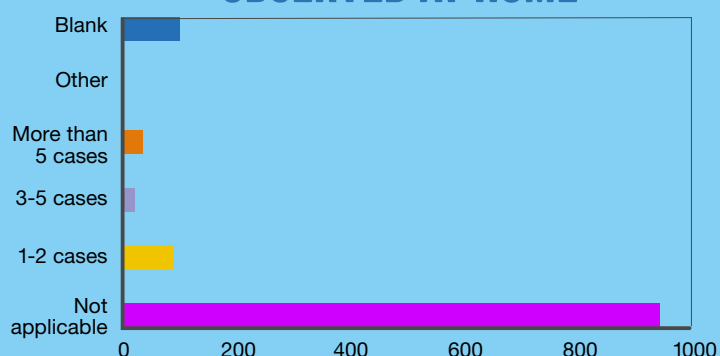
Ninety respondents observed cases within their homes and 173 respondents witnessed cases outside their homes.

Most respondents noted around one to two cases<sup>44</sup> of VAWG which they observed or experienced during the community lockdown. There were 38 respondents – roughly 3% of the sample -- who were able to observe more than five cases both within and outside their homes.

**FIGURE 11: TOP FIVE TYPES OF VIOLENCE OBSERVED**

<sup>44</sup>. The question was phrased "how many cases were you able to observe?". Note that there was a handful of respondents who answered "yes" to observing VAWG cases but responded "not applicable" when asked about the number. Several respondents who initially answered "no" gave a specific number in the preceding question.

## NUMBER OF CASES OBSERVED AT HOME



## NUMBER OF CASES OBSERVED OUTSIDE THE HOME

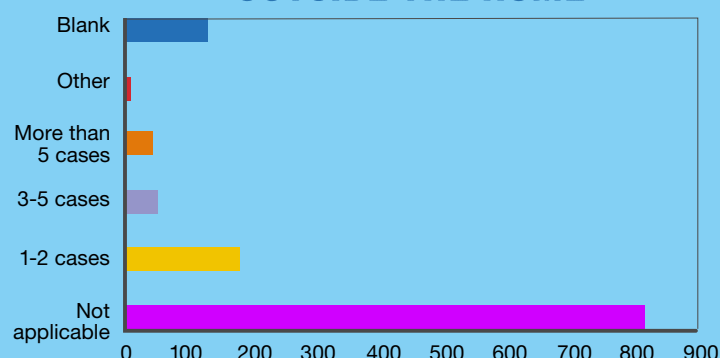


FIGURE 12: NUMBER OF OBSERVED VAWG CASES

As illustrated in Figure 13<sup>45</sup>, most respondents appeared to have no knowledge of what happened regarding the cases they have observed -- be it inside or outside their homes, or on social media or TV. Nevertheless, the number of answers under “reported to proper authorities” is greater than those that were not reported. This is again consistent in all settings.

Similarly, the number of responses under “authorities did respond” is greater than the cases wherein authorities failed to respond to reports of violence.

These figures, however, still raise some concerns since majority of the respondents are clueless about the cases they observed. This can imply that cases of VAWG may be among the least of their concerns or priorities. A similar assumption can be made for cases that were not reported nor addressed.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO OBSERVED VAWG CASES

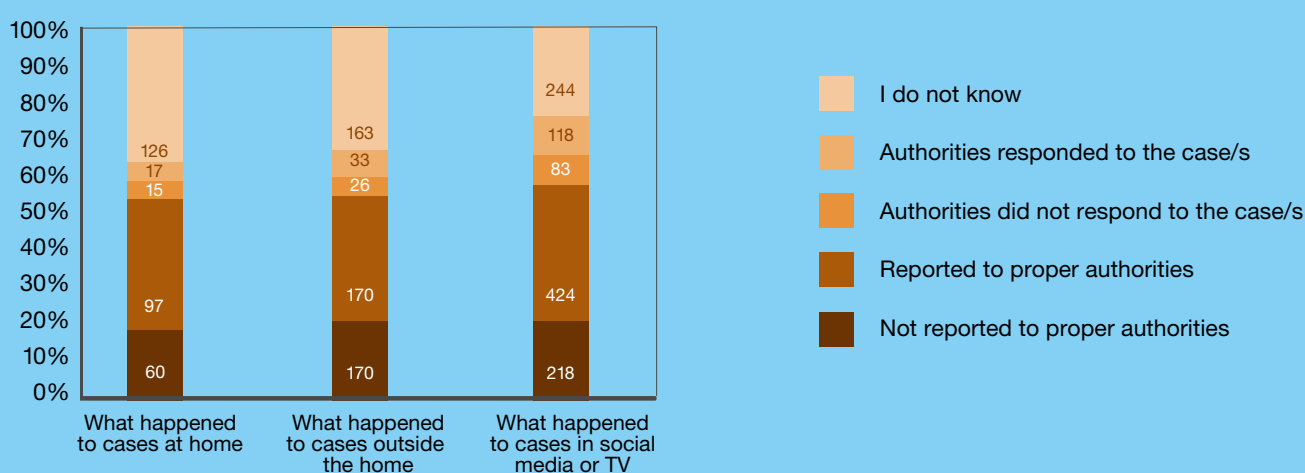


FIGURE 13: WHAT HAPPENED TO OBSERVED VAWG CASES

<sup>45</sup> Respondents who answered null, none, and “not applicable” are not shown in the graph. The number of “not applicable” responses outnumbers the figures shown in the graph. As presented in Figure 10 earlier, more respondents did not observe VAWG Cases. Additionally, inconsistencies in the manner of responding should also be noted. Item on Figure 11 should have been a skip question dependent on the response on Figure 10.

Respondents were also asked about their knowledge in handling observed or experienced cases of VAWG. Figure 14 indicates that while more respondents (57%) are not aware of how the government responded to address VAWG cases, 70% (845 out of 1,203) know where to report cases of VAWG.

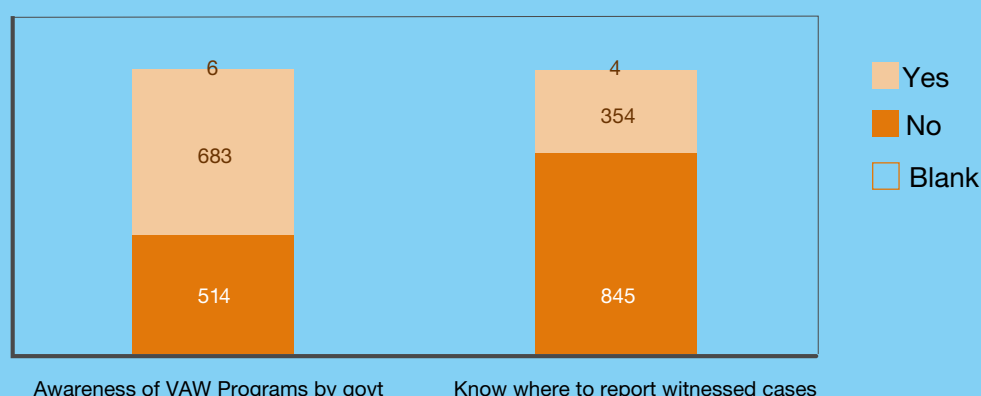
The number of respondents who are unaware of the government's responses, as well as the number of those without knowledge of where to report cases of VAWG, suggest the need to improve information dissemination across the country.

Respondents were asked about their knowledge on the VAWG-related programs of the government. Almost 23% identified medical services.

Meanwhile, others cited youth programs, financial assistance, education and psychosocial support. Note that the answers shown in Figure 15 are limited to the top five responses based on the frequency count.

Figure 15 shows that respondents are more familiar with barangay-related offices or services. The most common organization identified by the respondents is the Barangay Child Protection Committee, followed by the Barangay Gender/Sexual Harassment Desk, Bantay Bata, Barangay Outpost, and the Commission on Human Rights.

## REPORTING OF VAWG CASES



Awareness of VAW Programs by govt

Know where to report witnessed cases

FIGURE 14: REPORTING OF VAWG CASES

## IDENTIFIED VAWG PROGRAMS IDENTIFIED VAWG REPORTING MECHANISMS

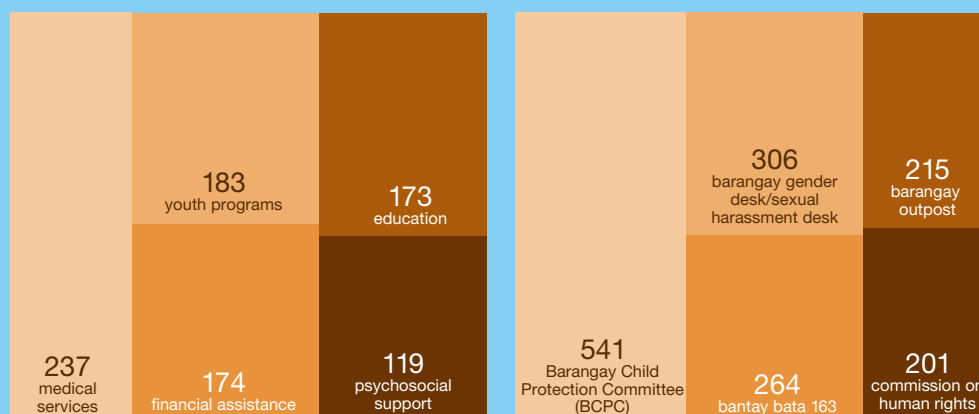


FIGURE 15: KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO VAWG PROGRAMS AND CASES

Note: Multiple Response Item

# COPING MECHANISMS OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN



"I watch less news and only watch parts that are essential to keep me updated about the current situation and how I can help. I also try to put some distance between social media and myself"

– Kimberly, 19, Quezon City

"I always tell it to my friends and they comfort me, and I also try to be positive to cope up with every emotion I'm feeling."

– Susana, 13, Rizal

"I do my best to watch out for my thoughts and stay productive but I let myself feel what I need to feel."

– Alyanna, 18, Rizal

"I cook, watch Youtube or movies, and if I am in the mood or really in terrible state of preoccupation, I turn to meditation. Other times, I just let the day pass."

– Mitz, 21, Laguna

“

I divert my attention to the things that make me feel at ease. I look at how front and back liners work for the country. I watch different life lessons from pastors and I am taking care of my mental health by empowering myself.

– Raeven, 15, Nueva Ecija

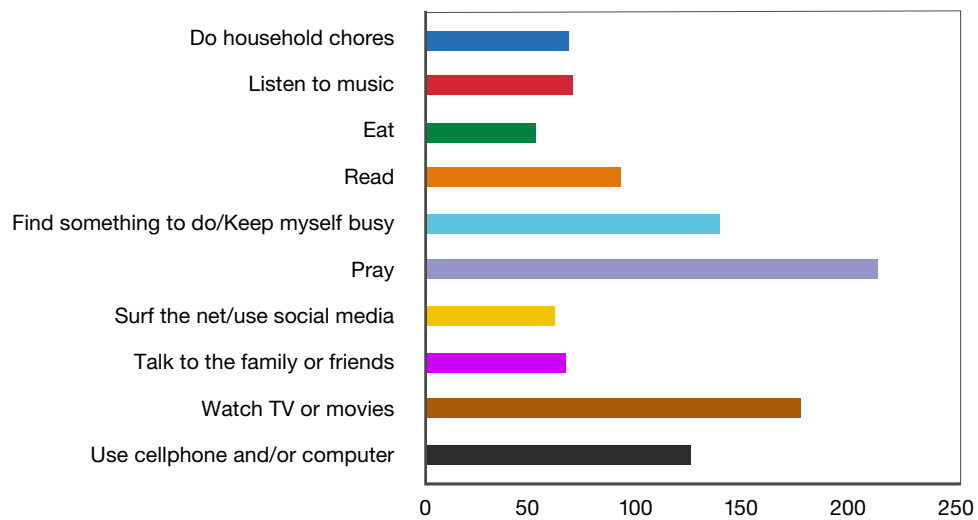
Surveyed girls and young women were asked how they are coping with current circumstances. In particular, they were asked about what they do when they feel anxious, afraid, angry, sad, or irritated.

Figure 16 shows the top ten responses. At the top of the list is **praying**, which accounts for almost 18% of the responses. This is followed by **watching movies or television**, accounting for 15% of the responses. **Using cellphones and/or computer (10%)** and **finding something else to do (11%)** were also among the top responses.

Other coping mechanisms identified by respondents include **listening to music, doing chores, eating, reading, surfing the internet, and talking to friends and family members.**



## COPING MECHANISM



**FIGURE 16: COPING MECHANISMS OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN**

# RISK COMMUNICATION



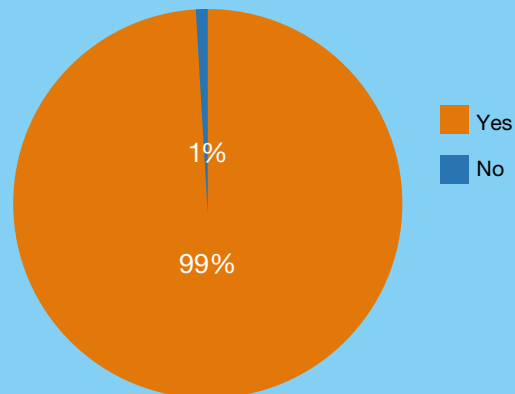
Likewise, this section delves into the capacity of girls and young women as agents of good communication. It analyzes how they consume the information they receive and whether or not they share information they find valid.

Figure 17 shows that 99% of the respondents said they are able to receive news or information about COVID-19. Most of them (1,022 of 1,203) said that they receive news about the **current situation of the country**.

Meanwhile, 874 respondents said they receive **information about what-to-dos given the current situation**. Six hundred fifty-four respondents said they get **news about the government's response or assistance**. Around the same number also said they obtain information explaining what COVID-19 is. A significant number of respondents also noted that they receive information about **medical assistance and where to seek help** should it be necessary. Twenty-four respondents said the question was not applicable, and ten respondents gave other answers.

This section looks into the information that girls and young women are receiving during this pandemic. Risk communication -- providing accurate and timely information about the crisis -- helps girls and young women make decisions, as well as adjust and adapt to the situation. The absence of quality information can oftentimes make girls and young women feel anxious. They feel afraid to move around and regain a sense of normalcy in their lives.

## "HAVE YOU BEEN RECEIVING COVID-19 NEWS OR INFO?"

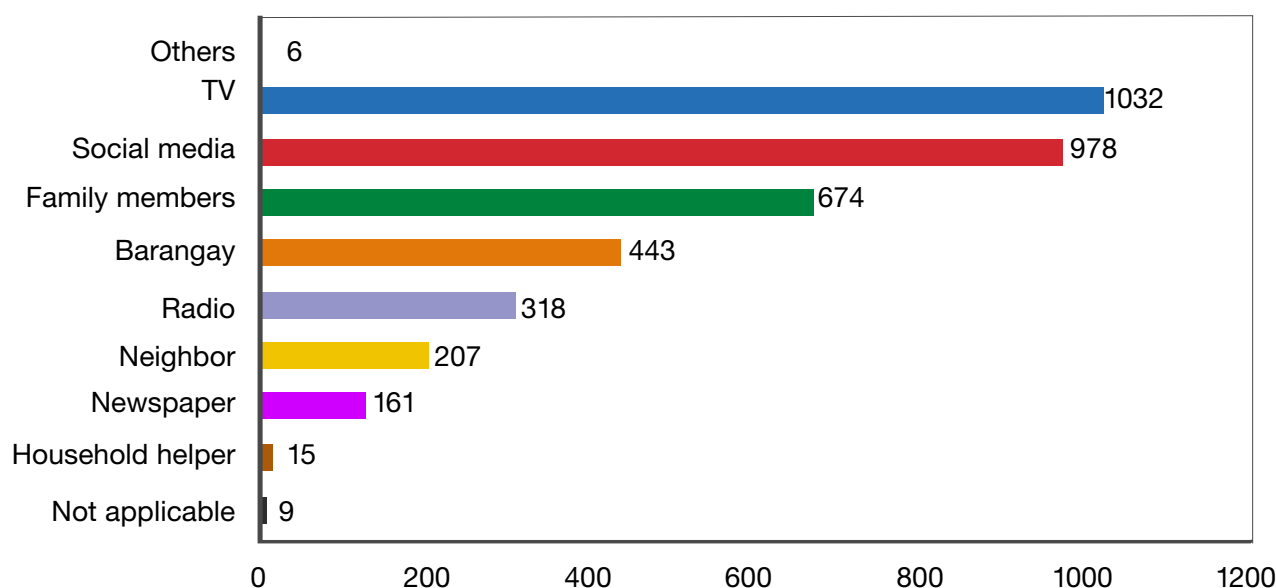


## KINDS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED

News about the current situation of the country	1022
What to do during the COVID-19 situation	874
The kinds of assistance or response given by the government	654
What COVID-19 is	610
Where I can see medical assistance, if there is a need	509
Who I can ask for help, if there is a need	497
Not applicable	24
Other	10

FIGURE 17: INFORMATION RECEIVED DURING COVID-19

Note: Multiple response item



**FIGURE 18: SOURCES OF INFORMATION DURING LOCKDOWN**

Note: Multiple response item

Most of the respondents (1,032 out of the 1,203) said their main source of news or information is **television**, followed by social media (978), and **their family members** (674). Among the other sources of news or information identified are the **barangay, radio, neighbor, newspaper and household helper**. Household helper was the least identified source of news or information by the survey participants. A few answered “not applicable” or “others.”

Two-thirds of the respondents said that they have sufficient information on COVID-19 necessary to protect themselves. Table 3 shows that 793 out of the 1,203 respondents said they have adequate information. However, the number of respondents who are neutral about the issue -- indicated by the score of 3 out of 5-- is also significant: 343 out of 1,203, or 29%.

Those who are not confident in the information they are receiving, indicated by a score of 2 out of 5 or lower, make up 6% of the respondents.

**TABLE 3: CROSS-TABULATION OF INFORMATION ON COVID-19 AND ABILITY TO VALIDATE NEWS**

	DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH INFO ON COVID-19 TO PROTECT YOURSELF?	DO YOU HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHECK FAKE VS LEGITIMATE INFO?
Null	0	5
1	23	44
2	44	58
3	343	345
4	427	354
5	366	396
MEAN	3.89	3.84
MODE	4.00	5.00
CORREL COEFFICIENT	0.3943	

The answers given by the respondents about their personal ability to distinguish fake from legitimate information follows the same trend. Some 62% of the respondents (750 out of 1203) are confident with their ability, reflected by the scores of 4 out of 5 or higher.

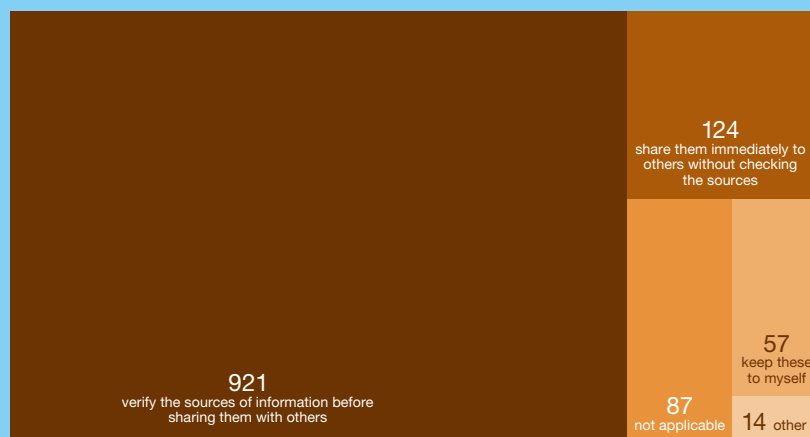
Around 8% of the respondents are not confident with their ability, as reflected by a score of 2 (or lower) out of 5.

The number of respondents who are uncertain, indicated by a score of 3 out of 5, makes up almost 29% of the sample.

Table 3 also suggests that the two variables illustrated have a moderate relationship.

A correlation coefficient of 0.3943 suggests that one's confidence in her ability to receive news moderately affects her evaluation, whether the information the respondent is getting is sufficient or lacking or vice-versa. Overall, when it comes to receiving news and information about COVID-19, the surveyed girls and young women seemed to fare positively.

## HOW GYW CONSUME NEWS AND INFORMATION



## RECIPIENT OF SHARED INFORMATION

Parents	995
Siblings	629
Friends from school	410
Uncle/Aunt	408
Cousins	403
Grandparents	333
Social media friends/followers	310
Neighbor	220
I am not capable of sharing information	42
Not applicable	66
Others	11

**FIGURE 19: HOW GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN USE THE INFORMATION THEY RECEIVED**

Note: Multiple response item (recipient)

Figure 19 shows that 77% of the respondents said they immediately verify the information or news they receive before they share them to others. Only 10% said they immediately share the news or information they receive about COVID-19 without verifying them. Meanwhile, 57 respondents keep the information to themselves.

With whom do they share information? Eighty-three percent of the respondents identify their parents, followed by siblings (52%). A significant number of participants also identified other family members, such as their uncle/aunt, cousins, and even grandparents. Two hundred-twenty respondents, or 18%, share the news or information with their neighbors.

Forty-two respondents (3%) said they were not capable of sharing news or information about COVID-19 to anybody.

Interestingly, almost 26% share news or information with their social media friends or followers, suggesting that a significant number of the respondents are active social media users.

This is further supported in Table 4, which presents the ways girls and young women share the news or information they receive.

**TABLE 4: MEANS OF SHARING INFORMATION**

Sharing through social media or messenger	741
Talking to them personally/face-to-face conversation	573
Phone call or text message	379
Not applicable	84
Others	4

Note: Multiple response item

Around 62% of the respondents actively use social media to share news or information. Forty-eight percent talk personally with family members, relatives, or friends when sharing news or information about COVID-19. Only 32% said they make phone calls or send text messages. Seven per cent found the question not applicable to them.



These findings suggest that girls and young women are reliable sources of information during crises and emergency situations. When further trained on spotting fake news, girls and young women can be one of the reliable tertiary sources of information, both offline and online.

Girls and young women were also asked to share their views on what information they need during this pandemic. Majority of the answers can be categorized into the following:

1

## INFORMATION ON WHERE TO ACCESS HYGIENE AND SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ITEMS AND SERVICES



Girls and young women need to know the current situation of our country and where they can find goods that they need. Not all girls and young women can afford to buy important things especially for their hygiene because of lack of finances due to the COVID-19

– Jhoana, 19, Pangasinan

“Girls and young women need information about pregnancy, and laws that can protect them in case they have been abused.”

– Julie Ann, 15, Rizal

“Where to access birth control or emergency contraceptives; where to seek help in case of gender-based violence.”

– CC, 23, Manila

“As a young girl or young woman, I think sanitary essentials are topmost. These must be included in supplies or any donations from concerned government or non-government authorities.”

– Fahada, 20, Zamboanga City

“Where and how to report domestic abuse and gender-based violation; how to take care of our sexual and reproductive health; what to do when you cannot go to the clinic for your chosen contraceptive method.”

– Kat, 23, Manila

2

## INFORMATION ON HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE, AND ON HOW TO REPORT CASES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

“

“Girls and young women need information on how they can seek help from authorities about possible violence that might happen in their household and how they can protect themselves from it.”

– Jonalyn, 15, Cavite

“Girls and Young Women need information about how to protect themselves from COVID-19 and how to defend themselves from persons who abuse them during this time”

– Dion, 13, Quezon

“In my opinion, there should be a hotline or a way to contact authorities when in need of medical or safety assistance. (If there is one then they should create ways to spread information about it.)”

– Patrice, 16, Taguig

3

## INFORMATION ON HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE PANDEMIC INCLUDING PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND COPING MECHANISMS

“

How to protect girls and young women during enhanced community quarantine especially when they go outside. The protective clothes that they need to wear. And also, what woman can do to help those people who need help.

– Mamae, 17, Batangas

“As much as it's important to learn about what COVID-19 is, personally for me, I'd also like to learn more about where to seek medical help on how I can mentally cope with the situation.”

– Bam, 21, CDO

“Guidelines on how to avoid COVID-19; and things or activities to do during the enhanced community quarantine to cope with stress and boredom.”

– Angge, 22, Quezon

“I think information on how to take care of your emotional well-being would be beneficial for girls and young women. Information also on availing social services should be made available for them.”

– Regie, 23, Quezon City

“Young women deserve accurate information from legitimate sources to avoid panic and fear at the same time.”

– Dianne, 14, Rizal

# PERCEIVED NEEDS OF GYW DURING AND AFTER COVID



Girls and young women need holistic assistance that doesn't just deal with financial and material needs but, most importantly, mental, emotional and spiritual needs.

– Bam, 21, Cagayan De Oro

This section of the report delves into the relief and assistance received by the surveyed girls and young women, together with their families, during the nationwide lockdown.

Figure 20 shows that 82% of the respondents were aware of the response measures of the government. The remaining 18% did not have knowledge of such measures.

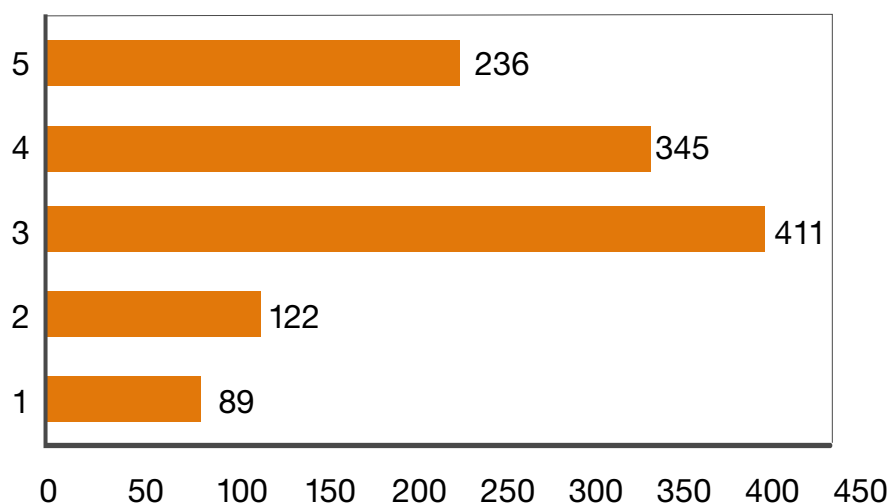
Related to this, 91% of respondents received assistance. Seven percent said their families did not receive any help from the government. The remaining 2% were not certain.

The respondents were also asked to evaluate the government response. Figure 20 shows that 34% were unsure of their evaluation of the government's response, as they gave a score of 3 out of 5.

Nonetheless, more respondents appear to be satisfied (scores of 4 and up) than those who were dissatisfied (scores of 2 and below). Specifically, 29% gave a score of 4 out of 5, and 2% gave the highest possible score. This indicates that the respondents found the government response adequate.

On the other hand, 10% rated the government response 2 out of 5, while 7% gave a score of 1 out of 5. A score of 1 out of 5 suggests a perception that the government response was inadequate.

## OPINION ON GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE



	AWARENESS ON GOVT'S RESPONSE MEASURES DURING THE COVID-19 SITUATION	RECEIVED ANY ASSISTANCE
Yes	982	1092
No	221	87
I do not know		24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1203</b>	<b>1203</b>

**FIGURE 20: KNOWLEDGE AND SATISFACTION RATING ON GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE AND ASSISTANCE**

The respondents were asked to explain their rating. Table 5 presents the cross-tabulation between the numerical scores given by the respondents with their corresponding explanation.<sup>46</sup>

The first three categories of the explanations – **the government is doing their best, we received government aid, and services are delivered fast**– are considered positive reasons or evaluation. As Table 5 suggests, respondents with such explanations gave a numerical score of 3 or higher. Almost 10% gave the highest possible score of 5 out of 5 with the explanation that the government is doing its best.

Table 5 also suggests that the respondents based their numerical scores on the aid they did or did not receive.

A significant number of responses was recorded with explanations such as: **“not enough aid or unequal distribution of aid,”** and **“many people are suffering or starving.”**

The number of respondents who gave these reasons is even higher than those whose primary concern was the inability of the government to conduct mass testing, contain COVID-19, or the rising number of people with COVID-19.

<sup>46</sup> Kindly note that what is presented are the coded or categorized responses.

## TABLE 5: CROSS-TABULATION OF SCORES GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT RESPONSE AND THE CORRESPONDING EXPLANATION

EXPLANATION FOR SCORE GIVEN ON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE	1	2	3	4	5
Government officials are doing their best to help	0	0	45	104	5
We received government aid	0	0	14	10	116
Services are delivered fast; needs are provided	0	0	5	26	13
Not enough aid; unequal distribution of aid; not everyone receives financial assistance	22	38	105	57	26
Lack of transparency	1	1	5	1	5
Slow action	0	2	4	3	0
Many people are suffering/starving; many people do not receive aid	6	13	41	17	3
No concrete plans	5	5	4	0	0
Militarization is prioritized over medical solutions	2	2	2	0	0
COVID-19 is not yet contained	0	4	8	5	0
Lack of support for frontliners	0	0	1	1	0
Corruption amid the pandemic	4	3	9	2	2
No mass testing yet	0	1	0	0	1
Rising number of people with Covid-19	3	4	6	2	1
Others	10	19	91	74	44
None	11	14	43	34	19
Multiple Responses	25	16	24	9	5
Blank					1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>236</b>

Some of the written evaluations from girls and young women showed that while they acknowledge that the government is doing its best, they still demand better and appropriate services, especially for the most vulnerable sectors of society.

Some respondents also shared their disappointment with COVID-19 plans of the government and the actions of some politicians. They said that the government's response, in terms of transparency, distribution of help through the Social Amelioration Program, and information dissemination, are inadequate.



Below are the suggestions from girls and young women on how to improve the government's COVID-19 response:

1

## IMPROVE COVID-19 PLANS THROUGH PROPER FUND ALLOCATION, ORGANIZED AND WELL-COORDINATED ACTIONS OF LGUS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND CLEAR ACTIONS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

“

The government's handling of the pandemic situation is very poor. They do not have proper plans to prevent the spread of the virus. Lack of funds, medical personnel, testing kits, etc. Also, even the LGUs are very unorganized when it comes to distributing the SAP. It has caused turmoil between the citizens. Basically, everything is chaotic.

– Zaf, 18, Cagayan De Oro

“The failure to provide an adequate supply of protective equipment. Of course, it all boils down to the lack of plan of action in precautionary measures. It could've been prevented in the first place if travel ban was initiated right away. The massive scarcity of our resources, facilities, and equipment, especially to our frontliners.”

– Sugawara, 17, Talisay City

“Our budget is inadequate, not everyone could receive the Social Amelioration Program. During this situation, many families don't have enough money, so they still choose to go outside and risk their lives to ways to buy their basic necessities. I think the government's response is still not strong enough to flatten the curve.”

– N, 16, Rizal

“The government should review their implementation of programs that are related to COVID-19. Avoid instigating fear to the public. Improve teamwork among different government agencies and the LGUs”.

– Zaf, 18, Cagayan De Oro

“No or no plans for economic relief for the majority in our community. No transportation options to go to supermarkets and hospitals nearby, if you don't have a car.”

– Ria, 24, Pasig

“Also, rather than building and nourishing questionable international relations, financing efforts should be focused on the nation's needs. Rather than broadcasting to project an image and use this crisis as a free campaign period, I would like to see them as genuine in their efforts to help.”

– Thea, 18, Cavite

“I actually don't know how to say it. But one thing I can only say is that I hope there is good coordination or perhaps good monitoring of the situation.”

– Fahada, 20, Zamboanga City

## 2

## IMPROVE SYSTEMS AND MECHANISMS FOR TRANSPARENT, JUSTIFIED, APPROPRIATE, AND EQUITABLE RELIEF AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

“

Here in our place, the government rarely give relief goods. The ECQ has been enforced for almost 2 months, but the supplies we received are only good for a week or two. Also, I heard this from my mom that some government officials only select people they will help and they don't give relief assistance who need them more. Seems like they're being biased. I understand that it is not easy to pack relief goods and deliver it to people but the problem is that they're acting too slow, like turtles. I'm expecting immediate actions from our government here.

– Keirstein, 13, Rizal

“There is no equality in the distribution of relief goods. And they don't fulfill their obligations, because a lot of people still disobey them and go out despite the quarantine.”

– Julie Ann, 15, Cavite

“The government doesn't consider other things, such as freedom of expression of those who are really in need as well as the welfare of healthcare workers.”

– Raeven, 15, Nueva Ecija

“The government is not practicing transparency, and having a fair and justifiable system in terms of the distribution of financial assistance. An example of this, from my experience, is the distribution of SAP. I personally want to understand why people, like my father, who were already on the list were denied to receive the assistance. This and more questionable circumstances.”

– Bam, 21, Cagayan De Oro

In times like this, we need transparency. However, they give us confusing information. Also, issues arise and the government can't seem to handle it. “

– Cear, 17, Tacloban

“We haven't received cash aid. The relief goods weren't enough. LGUs and Barangays were biased on the list of cash aid. Some families who have ties with officials have received cash aid even if they are well off. CHED has not released any memo about the online classes in universities and colleges.”

– Antoinette, 21, Batangas

“Adequate in terms of strict implementation of curfew hours, relief goods; Lacking in terms of giving SAP. DSWD failed to be fair in giving SAP. Some LGUs include their relative's name though they are not qualified as per guidelines. From Pres. Duterte's point of view, the funds are enough to help everyone. But it seems like other agencies' interpretation is way different and that only those who belong to the poorest of the poor are qualified for assistance. Those who work and do their part in society are now the new face of poverty.”

-- Alex, 17, Cavite

“In my opinion, despite the efforts shown by the government, they still lack transparency regarding the data and they are unfair in giving punishments to those who have violated the quarantine rules, specifically, those who are allied with the government.”

– Enri, 17, Cavite

## 3

## FOCUS ON CONTACT TRACING THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF MASS TESTING.

“

Instead of focusing on flattening the curve, it seems like their attention is rather focused on taking down people who oppose them. It has been more than a month since the quarantine started and yet mass testing only started recently. The government is incompetent. Instead of testing the citizens first, high ranking officials and their families were prioritized. People from provinces and cities are not even tested and yet the government is already planning to bring things back to normal.

– Cacai, 17, Cebu City

“There still hasn't been ANY mass testing, despite the promise almost a MONTH ago. The curve is far from being flattened, and it seems like the government as a whole isn't taking this pandemic seriously and is only using it to advance their militaristic agenda.”

– Nica, 19, Bohol

“There is no accessible mass testing yet in the country, which lowers my confidence that quarantine measures may be loosened and things can go back to normal fast. Added to this are the spread of misinformation regarding COVID-19, and the somehow questionable actions of some public officials.”

– Erina, 20, Rizal

## 4

## IMPROVE PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION DURING THE PANDEMIC.

“

Leaders and its people lack unity. We need to be as 'one' in order to fight this pandemic. The government, together with the frontliners, cannot fight this alone so people must be disciplined enough to follow certain rules. Also, politicians must address COVID-related concerns first, and dwell with politics later.

– AJ, 17, Iloilo

Though the government is doing their best to give Filipino citizens what they need, there are still people who are not getting enough relief to sustain the needs of their families. The Philippines lack medical assistance, funds, and even explanation to its citizen.

It is not only the government who is lacking, the Filipino people also lacks discipline to follow the rules and regulations during quarantine.”

– Jo, 20, Rizal

“I personally think that it would be better if we would communicate and cooperate with our local governments or even barangays to make a move and create innovative ways to fight this pandemic, instead of just waiting for help and relying on the government's response.”

– Andrea, 17, Cebu

## 5

## FOCUS ON CONTACT TRACING THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF MASS TESTING.

“

I can say that I am on the neutral side since government are doing what they need to do. But, there are areas and families that still haven't received relief goods. Some only received once since the ECQ started. There's a case of robbery inside a store and the burglar stole food from that house because, I think, his family doesn't have food anymore. However, I can see that they're still doing a good job.

– Kheiazra, 15, Rizal

“Being in a third world country, lots of people are still starving due to the ECQ, and it seems that the government will not do anything about it.”

– Selene, 18, Rizal

“Most of the people who don't have work because of the ECQ are having a hard time finding food or money. But the government finds a way to give what each person needs. So that's why the government response measures are adequate.”

– Ching, 14, Rizal

“In one community, not all of them were given a chance to receive relief goods or to be listed for financial assistance. Not all people have money to buy their necessities, they don't have the source of income because of the ECQ.”

– Jhoana, 19, Laguna

“There is no accessible mass testing yet in the country, which lowers my confidence that quarantine measures may be loosened and things can go back to normal fast. Added to this are the spread of misinformation regarding COVID-19, and the somehow questionable actions of some public officials.”

– Erina, 20, Rizal

“The government is providing us with our essential needs, the only issue is that not everyone is being given enough supplies because some live in remote places. Also, the government is doing the best they can to get assistance and skills needed from other countries to prevent the spread of the virus.”

– Ella, 15, Rizal

“The needs of citizens are not well addressed by the government at a crucial time like this, and the minority are left behind just because they cannot be reached by the authorities. Special attention must be given to the most vulnerable who will suffer from starvation brought by work suspension. They do not have sources of income to buy food and get through the day.”

– Mau, 17, Samar

“Their response is for physical health. They are leaving the vulnerable groups behind, including children and women who may be at risk of experiencing violence at their own home. Also, mental health support is lacking. We need that, too, as much as physical health protection.”

– Mitz, 21, Rizal

“Aids for the vulnerable members of society are lacking.”

– Jo, 24, Northern Samar

“My LGU supports every family here in the best way they could, but the Philippine government doesn't have a concrete plan on what to do with the less fortunate who are not qualified for the DSWD support. Plus, the fact that a lot of PWDs are having a hard time accessing hospitals in other LGU; and that there are some human rights violations committed around the Philippines.

– Anonymous, 17, Tagaytay City

“While relief goods are being given, the quality is not ideal and may worsen conditions of those who are immunodeficient or already malnourished, leading them to acquire COVID. Though I also understand that quality could not be guaranteed in this situation.”

– Thea, 18, Cavite

“The government response is adequate, because there is a lot of information drive about the virus. There is a lot of financial assistance from different agencies. However, not everyone was given financial assistance. There are also police and military soldiers on the streets to monitor the people coming and going, and to enforce social distancing.”

– Mary, 13, Tagaytay

## 6

## IMPROVE IMPLEMENTATION OF COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANS THROUGH PROPER MANAGEMENT OF COVID-19 FUNDS AND RESOURCES.

“

Although the government's actions are claimed to be for the sake of the public, there are still problems on its execution. The directives are so vague and LGUs (in my area) are not putting an effort. It seems that instead of helping out of their call of service, they take advantage of the situation and prioritize their political ambitions. The Social Amelioration Program of DSWD is also not strictly supervised. There are people who reported in the news that they did not receive their financial assistance despite being qualified.

– Enna, 17, Cavite

“We know that our country is not rich like other countries. I think the government is doing enough in giving efforts to solve this huge problem. On the other hand, there are some people in the government who are selfish especially when it is about money. Another is that there are a lot of people who does not follow the protocols and rules of our government, the reason why infected people are increasing, instead of decreasing.”

– Trisha, 23, Quezon

“The government plans are adequate but implementing is not. There're a lot of corruption cases happening when it comes to relief ration and financial assistance that should have been for every Filipino.”

– Jasmine, 18, Rizal

## 7

## IMPROVE INFORMATION DISSEMINATION TO FIGHT THE SPREAD OF FAKE NEWS.

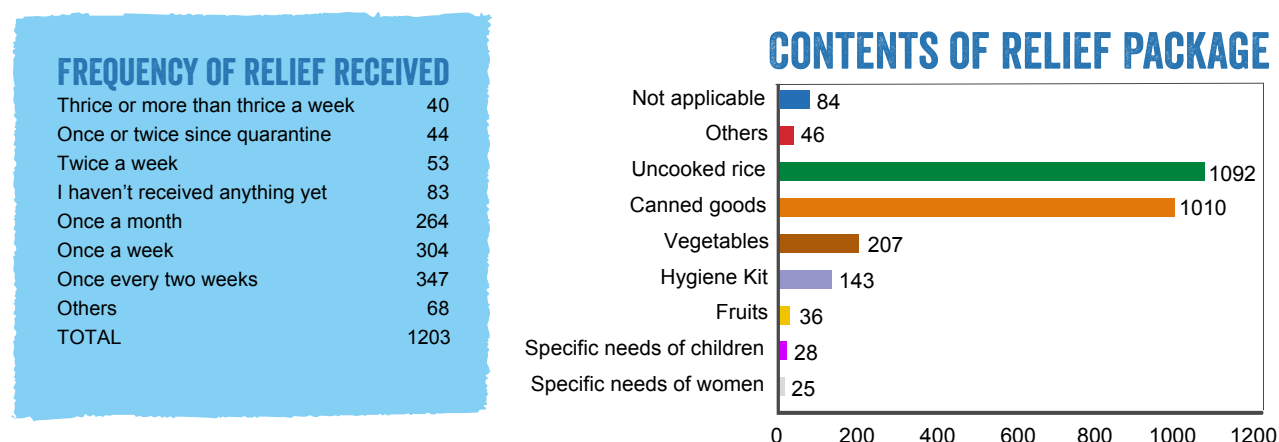
“

The government is not providing enough information to the public about the pandemic. This can cause panic and for the public to rely on fake news or other unverified sources of information online, such as from people they know. There seems to be more focus on how they can keep people indoors, instead of what they can do or what kind of help they can provide in the efforts to find a cure for COVID-19.

– Izzy, 18, Laguna



With regards to concerns about aid and relief, Figure 21 shows the contents of the relief package received by the respondents and their families, as well as the frequency of receipt. Most respondents received relief packages, usually containing uncooked rice and canned goods, once every two weeks.



**FIGURE 21: ASSISTANCE RECEIVED DURING THE COVID-19 SITUATION**

Note: Contents of Relief Package is a multiple response item

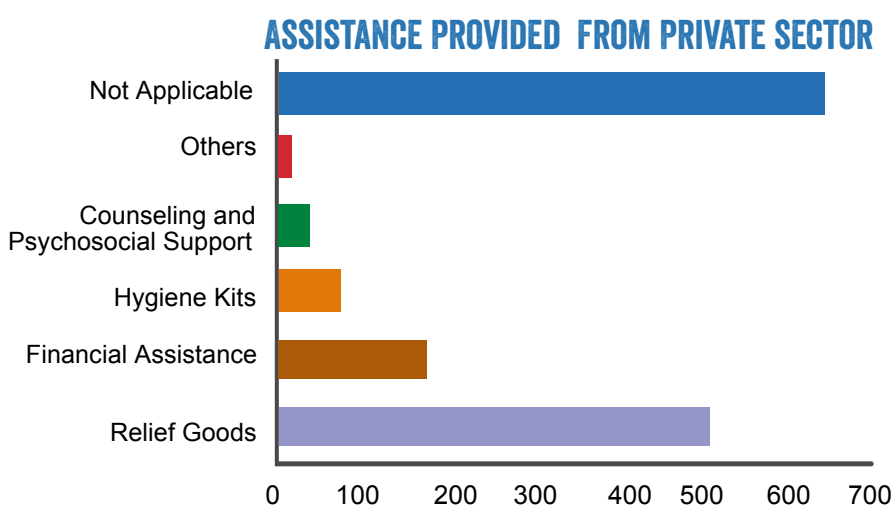
Figure 21 illustrates how much more frequently uncooked rice and canned goods are given compared to other items in the relief package such as vegetables, hygiene kit, fruits, and specific needs of children and women. More notably, only 2% of the 1,203 respondents received relief items specific to the needs of women and children.

The frequency of the delivery of relief also greatly varies. Nearly 30% of respondents (347 out of 1,203) received packages once every two weeks. Meanwhile, 22% of respondents (304 out of 1,203) received relief every week. Interestingly, some respondents received relief very often, as frequently as twice or thrice a week.

Several respondents even said that they received relief packages up to five or more than five times in a month.

Almost 7%, or 83 out of the 1,203 respondents, noted that their family had not received anything since the start of the lockdown.

Respondents were also asked whether they were aware of relief provided by the private sector.



**AWARE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY PRIVATE SECTOR**

Yes	384
No	819
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1203</b>

**FIGURE 22: KNOWLEDGE OF ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE SECTOR**

Note: Assistance from Private Sector is a multiple response item

<sup>47</sup> Figures do not add up to the numbers presented in Figure 20. Some respondents who answered "no" in figure 20 indicated an answer or frequency to the question shown in Figure 21; while some of those who answered "yes" failed to provide an answer to the question in Figure 21.

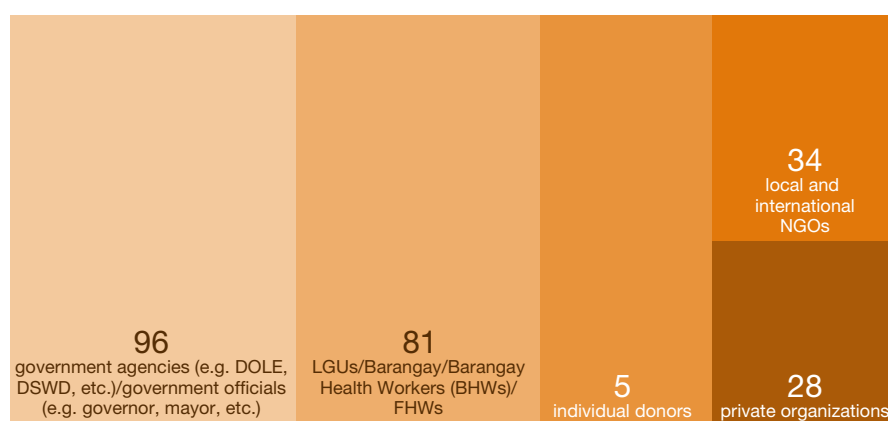
Figure 22 shows that 68% (819 of 1,203) of respondents, were not aware of the assistance provided by the private sector during the COVID-19 situation.

Surveyed girls and young women were also asked to identify the type of assistance provided by the private sector to their respective communities. Some 43% cited relief goods, with financial assistance trailing far behind.

Almost 7% (80 out of 1,203) of respondents noted that the private entities had given hygiene kits, while 4% (43 of 1,203) cited counseling and psychosocial support.

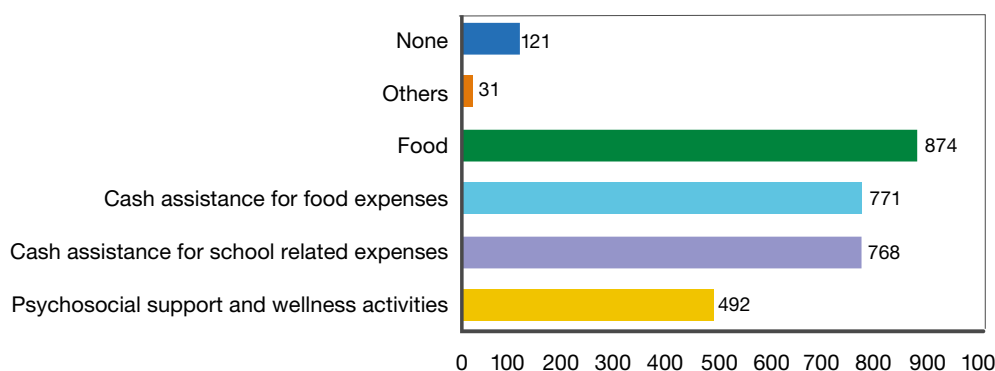
The majority answered “not applicable.”

Among the private groups or individuals who have provided assistance to the respective communities of the respondents, the most commonly identified were government agencies and/or government officials. The top five private entities identified include LGUs or Barangay Health Workers, individual donors, local and international NGOs and private organizations too.



Lastly, respondents were also asked about the assistance they may need after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**FIGURE 23: GROUPS OR INSTITUTIONS THAT PROVIDED ASSISTANCE**



**FIGURE 24: ASSISTANCE NEEDED AFTER THE COVID-19 SITUATION**

Note: This is a multiple response item

Figure 24 shows that respondents are most concerned about **food**. Seventy-three percent identified food as the assistance they need. This is followed by **cash assistance**, with 64% of the respondents needing financial aid for both food expenses and school expenses. **Psychosocial support** and **wellness** activities ranked third, with 41%.

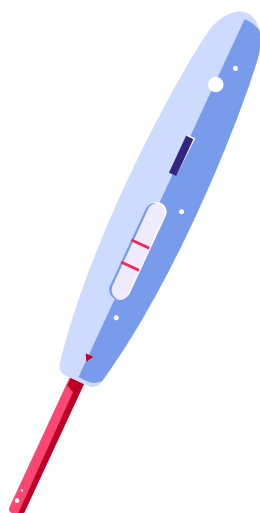
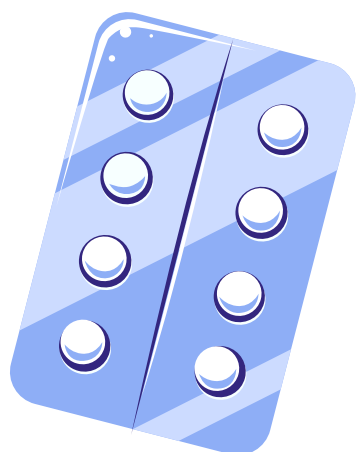
<sup>47</sup> Figures do not add up to the numbers presented in Figure 20. Some respondents who answered “no” in figure 20 indicated an answer or frequency to the question shown in Figure 21; while some of those who answered “yes” failed to provide an answer to the question in Figure 21.

Girls and young women were also asked to elaborate on their answers and identify other forms of assistance they may need to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below is the summary of their responses:

1

## ACCESS TO BIRTH CONTROL, CONTRACEPTIVES, AND HYGIENE KITS INCLUDING SANITARY PADS, AND OTHER SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES



“

Physical, mental and emotional support or assistance from people that we are with. It is kind of irritating to struggle with the limited amount of sanitary napkins that I have during these times so I guess it'll be good news if we can get access to more of those.

– Ella, 15, Rizal

“Access to birth control/emergency contraceptives, emotional and psychological support.”

– CC, 23, Manila

“Sanitary napkins should be provided/included in the relief goods because not everyone is able to avail these during the current pandemic (due to loss of income/work, etc.)”

– Izzy, 18, Laguna

“Woman should receive some things that they need especially to those women who have children. In terms of tangible needs, women need some sanitary napkin every month.”

– Mamae, 17, Batangas

“Girls experience their period every month, and I think sanitary pads are a important supplies to also distribute. Also, girls need psychological support, too. It's hard these days, but we will survive”

– Veronica, 15, Cavite

## 2

## INFORMATION ABOUT GENDER-BASED AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ACCESS TO SAFE REPORTING, GRIEVANCE, AND JUSTICE MECHANISMS FOR THE VICTIMS

“

During the quarantine, young women should be informed about the basic information on COVID-19, like what to do, where to go, and how to self-quarantine. Also, they must be educated about domestic abuse and sexual harassment, especially now when worldwide news talks about the increase of domestic violence.

– Nancy, 18, Sorsogon

“Girls and young women need assurance that no abuse was done to girls/women during the quarantine. Staying at home would mean a lot of danger or harassment to vulnerable women.”

– Cyan, 18, Rizal

“I’m really grateful that we are well and satisfied on what we have, but based on what I have seen on the web that domestic violence has been increasing when the quarantine was put to order, I suggest to create ways for women that are abused to report their suspects in an unnoticeable way.”

– Kyla, 18, South Cotabato

“I think, girls and young women should be assured that every woman is safe during the pandemic and that they can contact someone if they are molested or violated by someone they live with..”

– Angela, 17, Tagaytay

## 3

## MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, INCLUDING PSYCHOSOCIAL AND WELLNESS PROGRAMS

“

Women, girls and boys living in unsafe environments need mental health support and protection. I hope the government talks about the significance of coping psychologically during these times, not just physically. Yes, we do wash our hands and distance ourselves, but what if we also have a hard time handling the situation? We get sad, sometimes. Sometimes, we can do more or less for ourselves. I don't see their response for psychological help. I worry about PWDs who are struggling mentally with this more intensely.

– Mitz, 21, Rizal

“Psychosocial support since everyone, not just women, need to deal with their mental health. Some aren't capable of managing their own mental health because they don't have a strong foundation and support system, for example, their own family. Teens were exposed at a very young age to social media which can bring harm to them if not used properly. Women experienced getting bullied in Facebook and Twitter by posting a picture wearing clothes that show a lot of skin. They are called names. Some gets bullied because of the way they look resulting to low self-esteem. Things like these need a serious help because it messes up their head.

– Ji, 17, Cavite

“In my opinion, people should receive information in support mental health conditions -- who to talk or where to run to.”

– Charlaïne, 17, Cavite

## 4

## ACCESS TO SAFE PLATFORMS WHERE THEY CAN REPORT, SPEAK UP, VOLUNTEER, AND CONTRIBUTE TO DECISIONS AND SOLUTIONS TO FIGHT COVID-19

“

Girls and young women should receive support from other girls and young women by educating them on how to live a healthier and more productive life. Also, support women's rights by voicing out their opinions on important issues that women face, volunteering in women's rights advocacies, and empowering each other.

– Raeven, 15, Nueva Ecija

“A hotline suited and safe for girls and young women. An online community of peer support composed of girls and young women who can commit to help others who may be feeling something detrimental could really help.

– Mau, 17, Southern Leyte

“We need to hear the voices of young girls, when they need help or when they have a problem”

– Mamae, 17, Batangas



# PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION OF GYW IN DECISION-MAKING



“

I personally think that it would be better if we would communicate and cooperate with our local governments or even barangays to make a move and create innovative ways to fight this pandemic, instead of simply waiting for help and relying on the government's response.

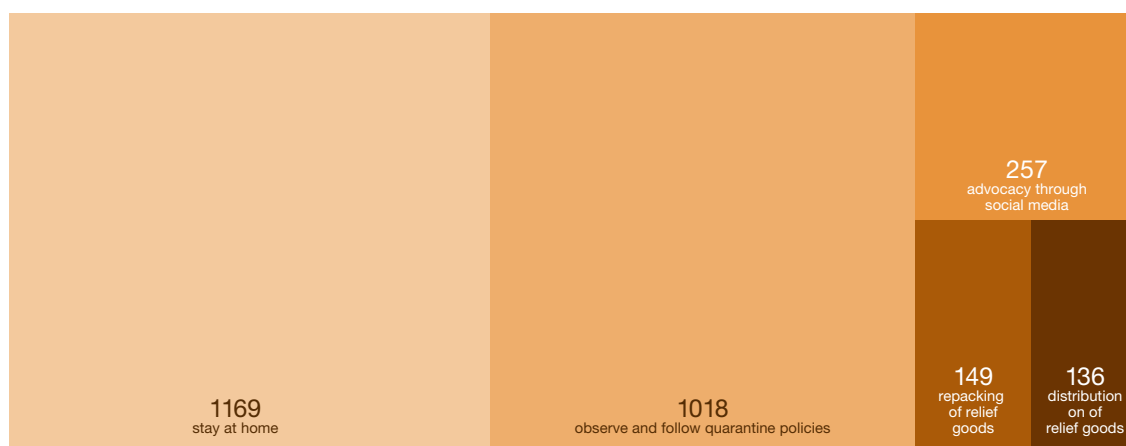
—Andrea, 17, Cebu

Among the objectives of this survey is to know how girls and young women can play a role in decision-making. Figure 25 identifies some ways girls and young women are carrying out this role during the COVID-19 situation.

Almost all of the respondents – 97% -- identified **staying at home** as their way of contributing. This is followed by **observing and following quarantine policies**, cited by 85% of the respondents.

Figure 25 shows very clearly the gap between these first two responses and the rest of the answers.

Other means of contribution include **advocacy through social media** (21%), repacking relief items (12%), and distributing these goods (11%).



**FIGURE 25. WAYS GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN ARE HELPING DURING THE COVID-19 SITUATION**

Note: This is a multiple response item<sup>48</sup>

<sup>48</sup> Note: Others and null responses were removed from the figure because of the small percentage of such responses.

Consistent with the responses shown in Figure 25, surveyed girls and young women identified **staying at home** as the top assistance (38%) they can provide during the pandemic.

Other forms of assistance include: **following ECQ, sharing verified information, sharing tips on how to stay safe online, and doing volunteer work.**

These suggest that when given the opportunity, girls and young women are capable of helping the government and civil society in responding to the situation. Consistent with the findings that girls can be reliable sources of information, girls and young women can lead information drives and advocacy campaigns during a crisis.

The data also suggests that girls and young women are interested in providing volunteer work during emergencies.

**TABLE 6: ASSISTANCE GYW CAN PROVIDE**  
Advice to other girls and young women

Stay at home; don't go out of the house	463
Follow ECQ rules	289
Others	149
Share verified information; don't spread fake news	109
Pray	72
Donate	68
Stay healthy; boost immune system	49
Volunteer for organizations/ the government	34
Share tips on how to stay safe online	13
None	

Note: This is a multiple response item

Finally, respondents were asked to provide their advice to other girls and young women.

Again, consistent with Figure 25 and Table 6, **staying at home** is the top response (28%). **Staying healthy or taking care of one's self** follows with 184 responses, followed by **knowing one's rights and reporting abuse to authorities.**

**TABLE 7: ADVICE TO OTHER GYW**  
Advice to other girls and young women

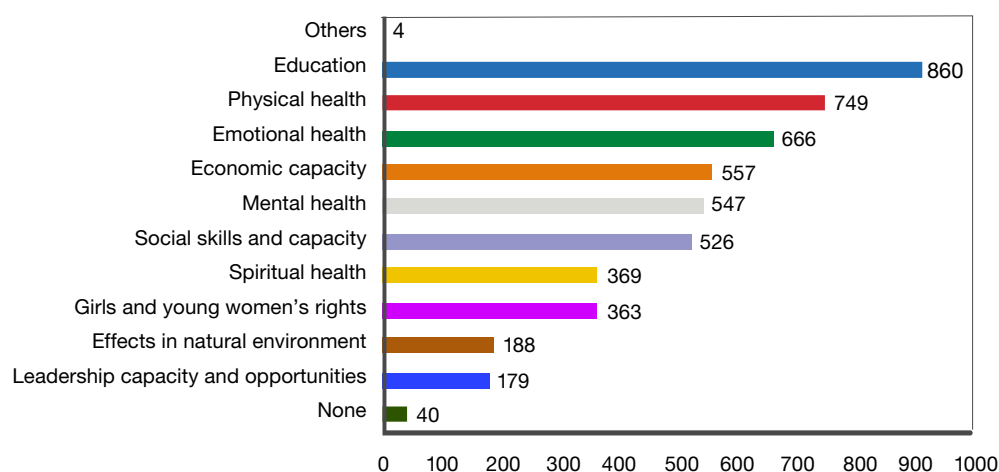
Stay healthy; take care of yourself	335
None	207
Stay calm; be strong and courageous	184
Stay healthy; take care of yourself	184
Report abuse to authorities	133
Follow the rules	128
Report abuse to authorities	82
Observe proper hygiene	63
Stay calm; be strong and courageous	54
Stay calm; be strong and courageous	29
Be productive	25

Note: This is a multiple response item

# OVERALL IMPACT OF COVID-19

Figure 26 shows the aspects of the respondent's lives affected by the quarantine. As noted earlier, returning to school is among the top concerns of the surveyed girls and young women. Seventy-one percent cited that their **education** is heavily affected by the quarantine. This is followed by **health** (physical and emotional), **economic capacity**, **mental health** and **social skills and capacity**.

Meanwhile, the **rights of girls and young women** are among the least affected (30%) during the quarantine period. Those who cited **natural environment** and **leadership capacity and opportunities** made up 15% of the responses. Forty respondents answered "none," while four respondents said "others."



**FIGURE 26. ASPECT OF LIFE OF GYW AFFECTED DUE TO THE QUARANTINE**

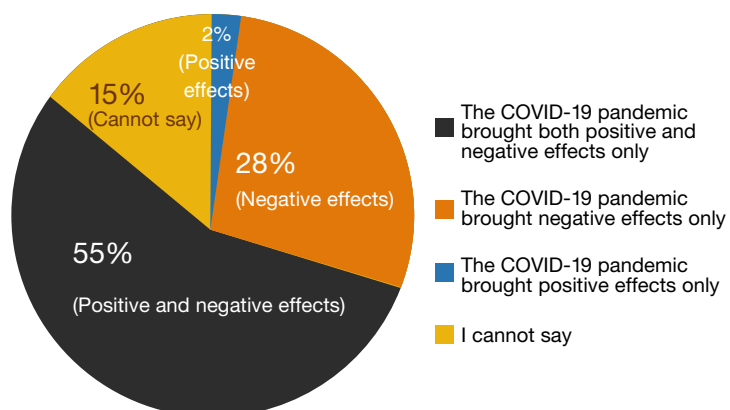
Note: Multiple Response Item<sup>49</sup>

What positive or negative effects did COVID-19 bring to the respondents?

Figure 27 shows that 55% (663 out of 1,203) of the respondents believe the pandemic has had both positive and negative effects on their lives.

Twenty-eight percent, (341 out of 1,203) believe that the pandemic has caused only negative effects, while only 2% of the sample -- 20 participants -- perceived the pandemic to have brought solely positive effects.

A significant 15% (175 out of 1,203) are undecided.



**FIGURE 27: EFFECTS BROUGHT BY THE PANDEMIC**

## PERCEPTION ON THE EFFECT OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic brought positive effects only	20
The COVID-19 pandemic brought negative effects only	341
The COVID-19 pandemic brought both positive and negative effects only	663
I cannot say	175
Others	2
Blank	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1203</b>

<sup>49</sup> Ten respondents checked "none" but also marked the other choices. Two respondents checked all enumerated options.

What have been the positive effects of the pandemic?

One-third of the respondents (34%) cited the **cleaner and less polluted environment** as the top positive effect of the lockdown.

Nearly one-fourth (23%) identified **spending quality time with their family**. A further 11% saw the quarantine as a **time for reflection and self-improvement**. Some saw it as a **break from work or school**. The rest answered “none” or “others”.

The negative effects are plenty. Nearly 22%, cited **cancellation of classes, unemployment, or having no income** as the top adverse effects of the pandemic.

These concerns outranked the possibility of contracting the virus, which generated 13% of 1,203 responses.

Other adverse effects brought by the pandemic are: being **stuck at home; mental and emotional health concerns; not having sufficient resources nor access to resources; higher risk of experiencing domestic abuse; and boredom**.

Note that **violation of human rights** was the least considered negative effect of the pandemic, with only 20 respondents (almost 2%) citing it.

## TABLE 8: BREAKDOWN OF IDENTIFIED EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

POSITIVE EFFECTS OF ECQ OR COVID-19		NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ECQ OR COVID-19	
Cleaner environment; less pollution	414	Cancellation of work/classes; unemployment; lack of income	259
Quality time with the family	280	Others	237
Time for reflection and self-improvement	134	None	179
Others	291	Possibility of getting sick/infected with COVID-19	161
None	243	Stuck at home; isolation	154
Rest from work/ school	22	Impact on mental and emotional health	128
Blank	1	Not enough resources; no access to needs (e.g., food, medical supplies, hygiene kits, etc.)	122
		Higher risk to experience domestic abuse	67
		Boredom	41
		Violation of rights	20
		Blank	1

Note: Multiple Response Item



# CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

**“IN TIMES LIKE THESE, WE NEED  
TRANSPARENCY. HOWEVER, THEY GIVE US  
CONFUSING INFORMATION. ALSO, ISSUES  
ARISE AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN'T  
SEEM TO HANDLE IT.”**

**— CEAR, 17, TACLOBAN**



This section consolidates the emerging issues of the study. Key insights and the key suggestions and recommendations from girls and young women will be discussed. The insights are grouped according to key areas of concern, while the suggestions and recommendations are identified as general or specific.

These insights aim to provide a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by girls and young women during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In highlighting these problems, we hope that authorities, decision-makers, civil society, and the private sector take action by creating response interventions and recovery and rehabilitation programs suited for girls and young women.

Meanwhile, the recommendations presented here are reiterations of how to address the perceived needs presented above. The recommendations also emphasize the demand from respondents to make COVID-19 response sensitive to the needs of various sectors, particularly the sector of children, girls, and women.

# 1

## COVID-19 AFFECTS THE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN.

Filipino girls and young women are concerned about their mental health as they remain locked down in their homes. Boredom, anxiety, depression, fear, and failure to be productive are among the indicators that their mental and emotional health are suffering.

Girls and young women worry about their parents not having work, lack of money to buy basic necessities, not receiving government aid, violence observed and experienced offline and online, inability to go outside, and shifting of classes online. These threaten their emotional and mental well-being.

If these issues are not addressed, girls and young women's ability to cope with and recover from the impact of this pandemic will be adversely affected, resulting in prolonged suffering.

This will be worse for girls and young women who have existing mental and health conditions and disabilities<sup>50</sup>. Those who belong to poor families are also at higher risk of mental and emotional breakdown<sup>51</sup> due to limited or absence of access to resources, increased risk of domestic and gender-based violence, and inability to access social coping mechanisms due to isolation. Mental and emotional health may also affect the education and economic opportunities of girls and young women in the long run<sup>52</sup>.

Girls and young women reported various coping mechanisms during the lockdown. These include spending quality time with family, watching movies and shows, playing online games, drawing, singing, and doing some advocacy and volunteer work. These help them survive amid the restrictions brought about by the pandemic. However, their suggestions are clear that they need psychological and wellness interventions for their mental and emotional health.

# 2

## COVID-19 AFFECTS GIRLS' EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

The disruption of education is one of the most visible effects of the lockdown. In March 2020, face-to-face classes in all levels were cancelled indefinitely.

This has considerably affected the education of girls and young women since most of them were forced to finish the academic year online<sup>53</sup>.

<sup>50</sup>. "Person with a mental disorder have their own set of vulnerabilities and risks, including an increased likelihood of experiencing disability and premature mortality, stigma and discrimination, social exclusion and impoverishment." World Health Organization, 2012. "Risks to Mental Health: An Overview of Vulnerabilities and Risk Factors"

<sup>51</sup>. "Mental or psychological well-being is influenced not only by individual characteristics or attributes, but also by the socioeconomic circumstances in which persons find themselves and the broader environment in which they live." Ibid

<sup>52</sup>. "Mental health or psychological well-being makes up an integral part of an individual's capacity to lead a fulfilling life, including the ability to form and maintain relationships, to study, work or pursue leisure interests, and to make day-to-day decisions about educational, employment, housing or other choices. Disturbances to an individual's mental well-being can adversely compromise these capacities and choices, leading not only to diminished functioning at the individual level but also broader welfare losses at the household and societal level." Ibid

This abrupt shift caused many students to miss their online classes, exams, and submissions due to factors such as access to the internet, limited technology, distractions at home, and mental and emotional adjustments to community lockdown regulations.

There are also economic effects due to the disruption and closure of markets and businesses. Girls and young women have felt these as well. The breadwinners in their families -- especially those engaged in manual labor and who are earning daily wages -- have lost their source of income.

They have become reliant on relief and financial assistance from the government and civil society.

This situation has caused anxiety and stress on girls and young women. They also worry that the financial resources and capabilities of their household have become limited. They are worried about not having money to buy food and other basic necessities. They are also worried that their education would have to stop because their parents do not have money to pay for their enrollment. Meanwhile, respondents working at the time of the survey also shared that getting infected while working worries them a lot. Still, they choose to ignore this worry so they can continue earning to support their families, and for some, their own education.

### 3

## COVID-19 AMPLIFIES GENDER INEQUALITIES AT HOME.

COVID-19 has not only worsened gender-based violence experienced by girls and young women. It has also amplified gender inequalities at home, resulting in unequal division of labor, undervalued care and domestic work, missed classes, and limited economic opportunities for girls and young women.

In the survey, girls and young women reported their inability to study and work at home because they have to take care of their younger siblings or do house chores such as cooking, cleaning and washing.

This responsibility, which is often delegated to female household members, places a burden on girls who are studying and young women who retained their work during the crisis.

Some girls also shared that the current economic crisis pushed them to look for online tutoring jobs and even online selling. However, these have proven to be more difficult because they also have to do house chores and unpaid care work. The burden of unpaid care and domestic work prevents some girls and young women from looking for opportunities while on lockdown.

### 4

## COVID-19 WORSENS ONLINE VIOLENCE.

Girls and young women reported more cases of gender-based violence online. Fake news, aggressive trolls, cyberbullying, and offensive exchanges online are among the examples mentioned in the survey.

More alarming, however, are the increased reports from girls on incidences of sexual harassment, circulation of lewd and indecent photos and videos, and even sexual exploitation online. More are people spending their time on social media due to a lack of alternatives on how to pass the time while on lockdown. This has contributed to the alarming surge of online violence<sup>54</sup>.

<sup>53</sup>. School year in the Philippines begins in June and ends in April every year.

<sup>54</sup>. "Women and girls are using internet with greater frequency during the pandemic while there is a gender digital divide". Brief: Online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19: Digital library: Publications. (n.d.). Retrieved September 03, 2020, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/brief-online-and-ict-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls-during-covid-19>

This result shows that while we have laws and systems in place to apprehend perpetrators, these are not enough to ensure the safety of girls and young women online. Awareness of the existing laws on sexual harassment, cyberbullying, and sexual exploitation online is still not enough to prevent these from happening.

There is also a lack of awareness of where and how to report cases. As a result, people simply choose to be silent and not report these cases. It is also important to note that the surveyed girls who said that they reported cases of violence, either online or offline, are not aware what happened to the cases.

They also said that most authorities did not respond to the report.

Girls and young women have shown great potential as social media influencers. On a related survey question on how they consume the information they receive and whether they can spot fake news, the majority of girls and young women answered positively – they know how to spot fake news, they check the information they receive, and share this verified information to their friends and families.



## COVID-19 EXACERBATES INEQUALITIES AND POVERTY FOR THE DISADVANTAGED SECTOR.

While the COVID-19 pandemic affects everyone, its impact is felt differently across sectors.

Girls and young women spoke up on the effects of COVID-19 on the poor and disadvantaged sectors. Citing the Social Amelioration Program as an example, many girls said that the distribution of financial assistance is unfair as many deserving families and individuals were not able to receive assistance.

The issues were lack of guidance on distribution, the tendency of government officials to favor their family members, and perceived corruption. Long lines are also cited as a factor contributing to the struggle of the vulnerable sector, such as those with existing health conditions, persons-with-disabilities, and pregnant women. Indeed, relief assistance is perceived to be unevenly and unfairly distributed.

Some families are receiving weekly relief from their LGUs, while others never received any.

This prompted girls to call out both national and local governments to improve coordination and relief efforts and organize the implementation of their response plans.

Girls and young women are also concerned about the disruption of economic activities during the lockdown. They acknowledge that middle class and poor families are suffering from hunger due to income loss. This is particularly difficult for daily wage earners, single parents, and breadwinners in the family. Among the cited effects of the loss of jobs on girls and young women are food insecurity, inability to continue education, and heightened tensions at home, resulting in domestic and gender-based violence.

<sup>55</sup> "Research findings reflect a world in which people of low SES are more vulnerable in the face of disasters and are more likely to suffer more serious consequences during impact, from property damage to homelessness to physical and financial impacts. Disasters can contribute to more adversity for people of low SES than for others who are not low SES—and, as the World Bank and GFDRR report observes, in part due to their financial effects, natural disasters make it more likely that people in poverty will remain in poverty (Hallegatte et al., 2017)." Greater Impact: How Disasters Affect People of Low ... (n.d.). Retrieved September 3, 2020, from [https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs\\_campaigns/dtac/srb-low-ses.pdf](https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/dtac/srb-low-ses.pdf)

<sup>56</sup> Vidili, Monica. 2018. Why we must engage women and children in disaster risk management. (n.d.). Retrieved September 03, 2020, from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/sustainablecities/why-engaging-women-and-children-disaster-risk-management-matters-and-how-it-makes-difference>

<sup>57</sup> "Conflict affects women, girls, boys and men differently. Women and girls face heightened risks due to displacement and the breakdown of normal protection structures and support. They also face increased care-related tasks such as providing food and water, and caring for the sick." ActionAid (2016). On the frontline: Catalyzing women's leadership in humanitarian action., p.20. Available from [http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/on\\_the\\_frontline\\_catalysing\\_womens\\_leadership\\_in\\_humanitarian\\_action.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/on_the_frontline_catalysing_womens_leadership_in_humanitarian_action.pdf)

## 6

## COVID-19 EXPOSES GAPS ON SOCIAL PROTECTION AND RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN.

Studies have shown that people of low socio-economic status and those living in poor areas are likely to suffer more from the severe consequences of disaster and crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, partly due to limited access to food, basic necessities, and financial resources.<sup>55</sup>

Furthermore, “people living in poverty are much more vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and climate changes, and so are marginalized groups like the poorest women and children.”<sup>56</sup>

These socio-economic inequalities are compounded by harmful gender norms and behaviors, leaving young women and girls disproportionately affected by disaster and crisis<sup>57</sup>. Since girls and young women are often not involved in decision-making, their voices are not heard. Current interventions and responses do not appropriately address the needs of this sector.<sup>58</sup>

The major key finding in this study is the gap in social protection and relief assistance for girls and young women. The majority of surveyed girls said that while their families are receiving relief assistance from the government and the private sector, the assistance excludes their needs.

Financial assistance provided by the government is perceived as unevenly distributed, with vulnerable, poor, and marginalized families and individuals, including pregnant women, not prioritized for assistance. Prior to the pandemic, access to social protection such as health and financial insurance for young women, both in the formal and informal economy, was already a challenge<sup>59</sup>. With limited mobility, girls and young women need the assistance of the government for social protection and relief now more than ever.

## 7

## GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN'S CAPACITIES ARE UNDERVALUED DURING EMERGENCIES.

Girls and young women's participation in emergency and crisis situations remain to be an afterthought. At best, these are and confined to protective and control measures such as staying at home to take care of children and perform household chores<sup>60</sup>. This survey highlights that girls and young women, when given the platform and opportunities, are capable of helping and improving our response efforts during a disaster.

Aside from following guidelines by staying at home and staying healthy, girls and young women also cited volunteer work such as relief packaging, information dissemination, and even advocacy activities among their contributions during this crisis.

The major key finding in this study is the gap in social protection and relief assistance for girls and young women. The majority of surveyed girls said that while their families are receiving relief assistance from the government and the private sector, the assistance excludes their needs.

<sup>58</sup> “Despite the large numbers of adolescent girls so profoundly affected by ongoing crises around the world, it is rare that either their own communities, national governments or the humanitarian sector at large, pay much attention to them: girls' rights in a crisis situation are not seen as a priority nor are their particular needs, or their rights under international law, recognised and addressed.” (Plan International, 2018, pg. 4.). Plan International 2018), “Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Experiences of Risks and Resilience Across Three Humanitarian Settings”

<sup>59</sup> “...stark discrepancies between women's access to social protection compared to that of men continue to exist. This difference in access may be attributed to a more systematic and complex structure of gender inequality that permeates through all dimensions of society.” Towards Inclusive Social Protection Program Coverage in ... (n.d.). Retrieved September 3, 2020, from [http://www.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/6.3.4%20Social%20Protection%20of%20Women%20in%20the%20Philippines\\_0.pdf](http://www.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/6.3.4%20Social%20Protection%20of%20Women%20in%20the%20Philippines_0.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> Plan International Philippines, 2013, pg. 18. “State of the World's Girls Report. In Double Jeopardy: Adolescent Girls and Disasters”. Digital library: Publications. (n.d.). Retrieved September 03, 2020, from <https://plan-international.org/publications/state-worlds-girls-2013-adolescent-girls-and-disasters>



Financial assistance provided by the government is perceived as unevenly distributed, with vulnerable, poor, and marginalized families and individuals, including pregnant women, not prioritized for assistance.

Prior to the pandemic, access to social protection such as health and financial insurance for young women, both in the formal and informal economy, was already a challenge<sup>59</sup>. With limited mobility, girls and young women need the assistance of the government for social protection and relief now more than ever.



<sup>58</sup>. "Despite the large numbers of adolescent girls so profoundly affected by ongoing crises around the world, it is rare that either their own communities, national governments or the humanitarian sector at large, pay much attention to them: girls' rights in a crisis situation are not seen as a priority nor are their particular needs, or their rights under international law, recognised and addressed." (Plan International, 2018, pg. 4.). Plan International 2018), "Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Experiences of Risks and Resilience Across Three Humanitarian Settings"

<sup>59</sup>. "...stark discrepancies between women's access to social protection compared to that of men continue to exist. This difference in access may be attributed to a more systematic and complex structure of gender inequality that permeates through all dimensions of society." Towards Inclusive Social Protection Program Coverage in ... (n.d.). Retrieved September 3, 2020, from [http://www.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/6.3.4%20Social%20Protection%20of%20Women%20in%20the%20Philippines\\_0.pdf](http://www.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/6.3.4%20Social%20Protection%20of%20Women%20in%20the%20Philippines_0.pdf)

<sup>60</sup>. Plan International Philippines, 2013, pg. 18. "State of the World's Girls Report. In Double Jeopardy: Adolescent Girls and Disasters". Digital library: Publications. (n.d.). Retrieved September 03, 2020, from <https://plan-international.org/publications/state-worlds-girls-2013-adolescent-girls-and-disasters>



# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

Girls and young women acknowledge that the role of national and local government is vital in our fight against the pandemic.

Still, while they appreciate the efforts of the government and various institutions to contain the spread of the virus, girls and young women emphasize the need to look at COVID-19 not just as a health crisis but also an economic and social crisis. In the eyes of girls, the impact of COVID-19 goes far beyond the infection and spread of disease.

The impact cuts across education, mental health, economy, and child protection and safety.

Thus, the nation's response has to be more holistic to be able to address pre-existing and arising inequalities brought about by the pandemic and its intersections with poverty, gender inequalities, and weak institutions of governance.

Below are the recommendations from GYW themselves:

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 Improve COVID-19 plans through proper fund allocation focusing on improving the health care system, economic and financial assistance, education, and protection;
- 2 Have a clear action plan on how to stop the spread of COVID-19, including a focus on contact tracing and mass testing;
- 3 Improve implementation of COVID-19 response plans through more organized and well-coordinated actions of government agencies, local government units, non-government institutions, and private groups;
- 4 Improve system, guidelines, and mechanisms that allow transparent, justified, appropriate, and equitable relief and financial assistance program;
- 5 Strengthen people's solidarity and cooperation during the pandemic;
- 6 Ensure that relief assistance reaches the most vulnerable, including children, women, persons-with-disabilities, the poorest segments of the population, and families whose jobs were affected by the economic disruption;
- 7 Improve implementation of COVID-19 response plans by addressing potential misallocation and misuse of funds and by immediately conducting financial and performance audits of COVID-19 resources; and
- 8 Improve information dissemination to fight the spread of fake news.

In addition to the general recommendations provided above, survey findings also emphasized that girls and young women have particular needs that have to be met for them to be able to live decently during this pandemic. Below are the recommendations that will apply to the government's, private sector's, and civil society's response to COVID-19.

## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN:

- 1 Provide mental and emotional support, including psychosocial and wellness programs;
- 2 Provide assistance and guidance for parents and guardians to support girls and young women who are studying from home;
- 3 Ensure access to quality education by improving internet connection and signals in the localities and rural areas, and exploring other means of distance learning;
- 4 Provide information about gender-based, domestic and online violence and access to safe reporting, grievance, and justice mechanisms for the victims;
- 5 Provide access to birth control, contraceptives, and hygiene kits including sanitary pads, and other sexual and reproductive health services;
- 6 Include guidance on where to access hygiene and sexual and reproductive health items and services, how to protect themselves from harassment and violence; and where to access psychosocial support services during the pandemic in the information dissemination and knowledge awareness drive;
- 7 Allocate and prioritize funding for the specific needs of girls and young women including psychosocial support and wellness program, hygiene kits and sexual and reproductive health services, and protection programs to prevent harassment and violence; and
- 8 Provide access to a safe platform where girls and young women can report, speak up, volunteer, and contribute significant inputs to decisions and solutions in emergency and response plans, such as for COVID-19.

# SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PLAN INTERNATIONAL

To address the needs of girls and young women and to ensure that their resilience does not get compromised, Plan International Philippines urgently recommends the following actions to power-holders, government institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector:

KEY AREA	GOVERNMENT	CIVIL SOCIETY	PRIVATE SECTOR
<b>Mental health and well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutionalize provision of mental health and wellness programs and services in all LGUs</li> <li>• Ensure that mental health services in public hospitals are available</li> <li>• Provide knowledge awareness and information campaign on how to protect mental and emotional health during lockdowns</li> <li>• Tap the Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Council) to develop online events and programs that will address mental health and wellbeing of young people</li> <li>• Provide counseling and psychosocial services online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with the government in providing mental health and wellness programs and services</li> <li>• Provide knowledge awareness and information campaign on how to protect mental and emotional health during lockdowns</li> <li>• Develop child-and youth-friendly mental health and wellness activities online</li> <li>• Provide counselling and psychosocial services online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with the government in providing mental health and wellness programs and services</li> <li>• Ensure that mental health services in private hospitals are available</li> <li>• Provide counselling and psychosocial services online</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure continuity of learning during the pandemic through equitable access to education and flexible learning options</li> <li>• Prioritize poor and disadvantaged children and ensure that their education is not disrupted</li> <li>• Ensure that teachers have enough tools, knowledge, and skills to deliver and perform a variety of teaching modalities and strategies</li> <li>• Ensure that students, caregivers, guardians, and parents are fully informed of the new learning modalities and that they have enough capacities to support their children in their education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Education in Emergencies interventions to assist the government in ensuring learning continuity</li> <li>• Provide the government with financial and technical support to fully implement the shift in education and learning strategies</li> <li>• Support teachers in localities in the transition to new learning modalities</li> <li>• Partner with children and youth in constantly monitoring their needs, including a support system to ensure a smooth transition to new education and learning modalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist the government in increasing internet access in areas with weak internet connection and signal</li> <li>• Provide the government with financial and technical support to fully implement the shift in education and learning strategies</li> </ul>

KEY AREA	GOVERNMENT	CIVIL SOCIETY	PRIVATE SECTOR
<b>Economic opportunities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop jobs and economic programs for young women</li> <li>• Prioritize in financial assistance girls and young women from disadvantaged areas and those pregnant and single mothers</li> <li>• Ensure that social protection assistance of young women in the formal and non-formal sector are equal with young men</li> <li>• Ensure that economic programs consider gender roles at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop programs that will increase the economic opportunities of girls and young women</li> <li>• Advocate equal economic rights and opportunities of girls and young women</li> <li>• Provide financial assistance to girls and young women from disadvantaged areas, as well as pregnant women and single mothers</li> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness on the economic effects of unequal gender roles at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that workplaces are safe for young women</li> <li>• Provide and develop online working relations that consider gender roles at home</li> <li>• Ensure that social protection benefits of young women in the formal and non-formal sector are equal with those of young men</li> </ul>
<b>Gender inequalities and gender-based violence at home</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the promotion of gender equality in its messaging</li> <li>• Develop programs to improve knowledge on gender equality in households and to increase co-sharing of tasks</li> <li>• Develop knowledge materials on how to equalize roles at home and how to address inequality and prevent violence at home</li> <li>• Ensure that reporting and response mechanism at the local and national level are functional with enough staff and capacity to respond to a surge of reports on violence at home</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness efforts on how to address gender inequality and gender roles at home</li> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness efforts on how girls and young women can protect themselves from violence and abuse at home</li> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness efforts on the government's reporting and response mechanism related to violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Advocate greater economic opportunities for girls and young women, including the provision of capacity building and skills training on jobs and careers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner with government and civil society in addressing the root causes of gender inequality and violence at home, in particular, provide more economic opportunities for girls and young women to stabilize their position in the family through stable economic income. This may include capacity and skills training on traditional male careers and jobs</li> </ul>
<b>Violence online</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen efforts to prevent cases of online violence, including a child and youth-centered awareness building on online protection and online referral mechanisms</li> <li>• Invest in girls and young women as social media influencers through capacity building and organizing to fight violence online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen online child protection efforts to prevent cases of violence online</li> <li>• Invest in girls and young women as social media influencers through capacity building and organizing to fight violence online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoin technology and social media companies to develop a mechanism to prevent and monitor online violence happening in their platform</li> <li>• Enjoin technology and social media companies to increase security measures and protocol in creating social media profiles to avoid duplication of accounts for trolling</li> <li>• Enjoin technology companies and social media companies to develop a mechanism to spot and remove fake news circulating in their platform</li> </ul>

KEY AREA	GOVERNMENT	CIVIL SOCIETY	PRIVATE SECTOR
<b>Violence online</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the skills and awareness of girls and young women in handling and protecting themselves from misinformation and online violence</li> <li>• Ensure that authorities have enough capacities to respond to online violence and exploitation during emergencies</li> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness on what constitutes as violence online including fake news, trolls, cyberbullying, sexual harassment, and sexual exploitation online</li> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness on how to report cases of violence online</li> <li>• Work with technology and social media companies in persecuting cases of online violence, including working with them to develop systems and mechanism for reporting, case filing, and preservation of online evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the skills and awareness of girls and young women in handling and protecting themselves from misinformation and violence online</li> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness on how to report cases of violence online</li> <li>• Advocate and partner with technology companies and social media platforms in creating and developing a system that addresses online violence, including trolls, cyberbullying, and fake news</li> <li>• Work with government and technology companies in developing systems and mechanism for reporting, case filing, preservation of evidence, and persecution of cases of online violence that is sensitive to local context and nuances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoin technology and social media companies to increase awareness of equal freedom of girls and boys online</li> <li>• Enjoin technology and social media companies to increase awareness of equal freedom of girls and boys online</li> </ul>
<b>Poverty and socio-economic inequalities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that disasters and crises affect girls and boys, women and men differently, and ensure policies and interventions to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 are equitable, gender-transformative and protective of human rights</li> <li>• Prioritize in financial and relief assistance the most vulnerable, marginalized, and poorest sector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize in financial and relief assistance the most vulnerable, marginalized, and poorest sector</li> <li>• Ensure that response interventions are gender-transformative and address the needs of the vulnerable sector, including girls and young women</li> <li>• Advocate response interventions that are gender-transformative, equitable, and protective of human rights</li> <li>• Advocate a sector-based response plan and actions from the government that consider the needs of vulnerable, marginalized, and poor sectors, including the needs of girls and young women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize in financial and relief assistance the most vulnerable, marginalized, and poorest sector</li> <li>• Ensure that response interventions are gender-transformative and address the needs of the vulnerable sector, including girls and young women</li> </ul>



KEY AREA	GOVERNMENT	CIVIL SOCIETY	PRIVATE SECTOR
<b>Social Protection and Relief Assistance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that the Social Amelioration Program and other financial assistance have to consider the needs of girls and young women, especially those living in the poorest areas, those bearing children and those who are young mothers;</li> <li>• Include specific needs of children such as milk, diapers, and other essentials in the government's relief assistance; and</li> <li>• Provide girls, and young women access to information and services related to their sexuality and reproductive health, including menstrual hygiene and contraception</li> <li>• Increase social protection programs for girls and young women</li> <li>• Conduct knowledge awareness activities on where to access SRHR services and information including menstrual hygiene and contraceptives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include hygiene and menstrual kit and sexual and reproductive health kits in humanitarian relief;</li> <li>• Increase awareness of the rights of girls and young women, particularly teenage and child mothers, for social protection before and during emergencies</li> <li>• Increase knowledge awareness on the needs and rights of girls and young women during emergency</li> <li>• Conduct knowledge awareness activities on where to access SRHR services and information including menstrual hygiene and contraceptives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that humanitarian organizations and government actors have access to hygiene, menstrual kits, and SRHR supplies during emergencies</li> <li>• Include hygiene and menstrual kit and sexual and reproductive health kits in humanitarian relief</li> </ul>
<b>Role of Girls and Young Women in Emergencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult girls and young women during emergency response planning and ensure that they have a platform where they can speak up and provide recommendations to the government during emergencies</li> <li>• Partner with girls and young women in information drive and fight against fake news and misinformation</li> <li>• Engage girls and young women in disaster risk management and resilience efforts</li> <li>• Build leadership capacities of girls and young women during emergencies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop volunteer programs where girls and young women can participate during response</li> <li>• Build leadership capacities of girls and young women during emergencies</li> <li>• Increase advocacy efforts for girls' participation in decision-making and planning the processes of the government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop volunteer programs where girls and young women can participate during response</li> <li>• Include in corporate social responsibility capacity building and leadership programs for girls and young women during emergencies</li> </ul>



# APPENDICES

**APPENDIX A. LIST OF RESPONDENTS BY PROVINCE**

**APPENDIX B. RESPONDENT BREAKDOWN BY AGE AND BY REGION**

**APPENDIX C. COPING MECHANISMS OF GYW (MULTIPLE RESPONSE ITEM)**

**APPENDIX D. TYPES OF OBSERVED VAWG CASES (MULTIPLE RESPONSE ITEM)**

**APPENDIX E. KNOWLEDGE ON VAWG PROGRAMS AND REPORTING OF VAWG CASES (MULTIPLE RESPONSE ITEMS)**

**APPENDIX F. LIST OF GROUPS WHO HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY OF RESPONDENTS**

## APPENDIX A. LIST OF RESPONDENTS BY PROVINCE

Province			
BLANK	48	Lanao del Sur	1
Abra	1	Leyte	21
Agusan del Norte	1	Maguindanao	19
Aklan	6	Marinduque	1
Albay	3	Masbate	64
Bataan	2	Metro Manila	186
Batanes	1	Misamis Occidental	3
Batangas	22	Misamis Oriental	25
Benguet	4	Negros Occidental	4
Bohol	3	North Cotabato	1
Bukidnon	1	Northern Samar	2
Bulacan	17	Nueva Ecija	163
Cagayan	5	Occidental Mindoro	13
Camarines Norte	2	Oriental Mindoro	6
Camarines Sur	8	Palawan	1
Capiz	1	Pampanga	23
Catanduanes	1	Pangasinan	3
Cavite	289	Quezon	26
Cebu	56	Quezon City	1
Davao	3	Rizal	65
Davao de Oro	1	Romblon	1
Davao del Norte	6	Samar	8
Davao del Sur	11	Sorsogon	2
Guimaras	1	South Cotabato	7
Ilocos Norte	1	Southern Leyte	2
Ilocos Sur	3	Sultan Kudarat	3
Iloilo	12	Surigao del Norte	1
Isabela	5	Tarlac	4
La Union	1	Zambales	2
Laguna	23	Zamboanga	1
Lanao del Norte	1	Zamboanga del Sur	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1203</b>	

APPENDIX B. RESPONDENT BREAKDOWN BY AGE, BY REGION

	AGE												
REGION	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	TOTAL
Null/Blank						1							1
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)				2	2			5	6	4	2	2	23
Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)	1	1	2		1		1				1		7
National Capital Region (NCR)	18	27	31	30	18	18	22	14	11	9	7	11	216
Region 1 (Ilocos Region)	2		2						2		1		7
Region 2 (Cagayan Valley)	5			1	1	2	1	1		1	1		13
Region 3 (Central Luzon)	70	41	29	26	26	12	6		1	2	5	4	222
Region 4A (CALABARZON)	66	83	93	79	44	32	7	6	1	2	2	2	417
Region 4B (MIMAROPA)	2	3	3	5	4	3	1		2	1	1	1	25
Region 5 (Bicol Region)	5	2	6	10	6	7	11	26	4	5	1	1	84
Region 6 (Western Visayas)	7		6	4		4	1			1	1	2	27
Region 7 (Central Visayas)	3	1	6	10	2	5	4	4	8	2	2	2	62
Region 8 (Eastern Visayas)		1	3	2	15	3	1	11	1			5	31
Region 9 (Zamboanga Peninsula)	1		2	1	6		2	2	1	1			6
Region 10 (Northern Mindanao)	5		1	1	2	3		4	2	2	3	2	29
Region 11 (Davao Region)	4	1	3	1	3	1	1		2			1	20
Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN)	1	1	1		2	2	2	1					11
Region 13 (CARAGA Region)	1			1									2
Grand Total	191	161	188	173	132	93	60	74	41	30	27	33	1203
	15.88%	13.38%	15.63%	14.38%	10.97%	7.73%	4.99%	6.15%	3.41%	2.49%	2.24%	2.74%	100.00%

## APPENDIX C. COPING MECHANISMS OF GYW (MULTIPLE RESPONSE ITEM)

Play games	43
Use cellphone and/or computer	124
Watch TV or movies	176
Draw, do art-related stuff	24
Talk to family or friends	66
Surf the Internet/social media	61
Pray	212
Think happy thoughts	25
Find something to do/ keep myself busy	138
Read	92
Study	13

Sleep	11
Dance or sing	17
Cry	11
Eat	51
Hide what I feel from other people	14
Listen to music	70
Overthink	12
Do household chores	67
Write	8
Others	143
None	79
Blank	1



## APPENDIX D. TYPES OF OBSERVED VAWG CASES (MULTIPLE RESPONSE ITEM)

Types of VAWG inside the home		Types of VAWG outside the home	
Others	1	Others	1
Commercial sexual exploitation	15	None	15
Sexual abuse	17	Commercial sexual exploitation	17
Online sexual exploitation	26	Sexual abuse	26
Sexual harassment	29	Online sexual exploitation	29
Physical violence	47	Sexual harassment	47
Emotional violence	88	Physical violence	88
Verbal violence	129	Emotional violence	129
Blank	147	Verbal violence	147
Not applicable	848	Not applicable	848
None	40	Blank	40

Types of VAWG on social media or TV	
Others	12
None	14
Stalking online	185
Incessant messaging	190
Messages of threats and violence	224
Online sexual harassment	366
Indecent photos, videos, or messages	411
Trolls and fake news	468
Cyberbullying	570
Not applicable	328

## APPENDIX E. KNOWLEDGE ON VAWG PROGRAMS AND REPORTING OF VAWG CASES (MULTIPLE RESPONSE ITEMS)

Awareness on VAWG program	
Not applicable	536
Medical services	237
Psychosocial support	149
Reporting mechanism	130
Crisis intervention unit	61
Shelter or center for children victim-survivors	97
Education	173
Financial assistance	174
Life skills program	91
Trainings on protective behavior	88
Parenting seminars	93
Livelihood assistance	122
Youth programs	183
Others	9
Note	
Replied with NA + 1 response	17
Replied with Yes in previous then NA in this item	37
Replied with No in previous then a response other than NA in this item	79

Awareness on VAWG program	
Not applicable	325
Barangay Child Protection Committee (BCPC)	541
Barangay outpost	215
Barangay gender desk/sexual harassment desk	306
Philippine National Police - Violence Against Women and Children Desk (VAWC Desk)	84
Online hotline	149
Bantay Bata 163	264
1343 Actionline against human trafficking	126
Commission on Human Rights	201
Others	26
Replied with NA + 1 response	5
Replied with Yes in previous then NA in this item	31
Replied with No in previous then a response other than NA in this item	42

## APPENDIX F. LIST OF GROUPS WHO HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY OF RESPONDENTS

1	Religious organizations	20
2	Local and International NGOs	34
3	Individual donors	57
4	LGUs/ Barangay/ Barangay Health Workers (BHWs)/ FHWs	81
5	Government agencies (e.g., DOLE, DSWD, etc.)/ government officials (e.g., governor, mayor, etc.)	96
6	Private organizations	28
7	Fraternities/sororities	5
8	I don't know the name of the organization/ individual/Anonymous	25
9	Cooperatives	2
10	School organizations	1
11	Others	46
12	None	630
99	Blank	228

# ABOUT PLAN INTERNATIONAL



We strive to advance children's rights and equality for girls all over the world. We recognize the power and potential of every single child. But this is often suppressed by poverty, violence, exclusion and discrimination. And it is girls who are most affected. As an independent development and humanitarian organization, we work alongside children, young people, our supporters and partners to tackle the root causes of the challenges facing girls and all vulnerable children. We support children's rights from birth until they reach adulthood, and enable children to prepare for and respond to crises and adversity. We drive changes in practice and policy at the local, national and global levels using our reach, experience and knowledge. For over 80 years, we have been building powerful partnerships for children, and we are active in over 75 countries.

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