**UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls**

**Questionnaire on women’s and girls’ human security in the context of poverty and inequality**

The information referred to in this information note is based on the findings of the *Research on Deep Poverty and Access to Human Rights During the Pandemic[[1]](#footnote-1)*implemented by the Deep Poverty Network, data of 400 households experiencing poverty from Deep Poverty Network’s database, as well as field observations gathered by NGO’s activities, official resources of the government of Turkey, and data from various persons and organizations operating in Turkey.

*Relevant data*

1. What are the general levels of poverty in your country/region and those specifically of women and girls?

* According to the 2020 statistics of Turkstat, the economical poverty ratio is 27,2%; the relative poverty ratio is 14,4% and the relative poverty ratio is 15% for 2019. Government do not produce publicly available disaggregated data on gender and poverty.
* According to the 2020 statistics of Eurostat on Turkey, 23% of people are under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold. The proportion of males under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold is 22.4%, and the proportion of females under the at-risk-of-poverty threshold is 23.5%.

1. Which are the levels of economic inequality in your country/region? Could you present disaggregated data concerning women and girls?

* According to the 2020 statistics of Eurostat on Turkey, the income quintile share ratio S80/S20 for disposable income is 9,20. This ratio a 9,15 for males, and 9,25 for females.
* According to Turkstat, the ratio of total income received by the 20 % of the population with the highest income is 46,7%, while the ratio of total income received by the 20% of the population with the lowest income is %6,1. There is no disaggregated data for women and girls, which renders women and girls invisible. At last, the Gini coefficient for 2020 is calculated as 0,4.

1. Also, please present if available, disaggregated data on the specific conditions of such women in poverty (e.g., whether they belong to an ethnic or religious minority, are indigenous, migrants, asylum-seekers, stateless, or refugees).

* There is no disaggregated data on specific conditions of women in poverty that government release publicly.

*Risks and structural barriers*

1. In which way are girls and women living in poverty or experiencing a situation of economic and social marginalization/disadvantage exposed to threats or risks in your country/region? In particular, in terms of:

* having difficulty with accessing social security, health care, housing, water, food, education, and employment.
* being in a situation of homelessness or experiencing social exclusion and economic ‘unfreedom’
* facing violence or discrimination, or stigmatization due to living in poverty
* lacking access to justice and reparations for violations of their rights
* facing undue/disproportionate or excessive criminalization for different causes
* According to the statistics of the Ministry of National Education[[2]](#footnote-2), although the general schooling rates of girls and boys in primary and secondary education are the same; there are differences between different regions and provinces. Schooling rates for girls in the 2020-21 period are 78% for the Eastern Anatolia Region and 74% for the Southeastern Anatolia Region; while the schooling rates for boys in these regions are 79% and 77% respectively. These regions are the ones that have the lowest income rates and more rural areas, and the population of these regions mostly consists of Kurdish people. There are more drastic differences when comparisons are made regarding the specific provinces. For example, in the Şanlıurfa province, the schooling rate is 62% among girls and 72% among boys. Among the children who need special education, schooling rates of girls are lower; the proportion of girls among children in special education is 37%[[3]](#footnote-3).
* Our experience in the poverty field showed that girls experiencing poverty are at risk of early marriages, and taking part in domestic labor and childcare. According to the statistics of Turkstat[[4]](#footnote-4) the number of boys (aged 16-17) who married in 2020 was 726, while the number of girls (aged 16-17) who married in 2020 was 13.014. Also, according to Turkstat[[5]](#footnote-5), among the children, 16% of boys and 28% of girls allocate more than 8 hours a week to domestic work.
* According to the results of the Being a Women in Pandemic report[[6]](#footnote-6), 73% of all women experience economic distress due to the pandemic. Among the women who have their own income, 47% stated that they gave their all income or part of it to their families or husbands; some of them voluntarily, some of them involuntarily. Also, half of the women said to have difficulty in reaching the health services they needed during the pandemic.
* According to the data of 1580 people followed by the Deep Poverty Network:
  + 21% of households are single-parent women.
  + While 50.33% of women are illiterate, this rate is 42% for men.
  + While 44.4% of women have never been educated, this rate is 20.6% for men.
  + While the rate of women who are at least primary school graduates is 30.36%, this rate is 39.45% for men.
  + 75.16% of women do not work; 18.24% work in daily jobs, and 5.71% work in regular jobs.
  + 33.17% of men do not work; 22.67% work in daily jobs, and 12.81% work in regular jobs.
  + While 52% of women do not work because of childcare, this rate is only 1% for men.
* According to our research called " Deep Poverty and Access to Rights in times of Pandemic":
  + In 66% of the households interviewed, women do not work.
  + 55% of non-working adults in households cannot work due to childcare responsibilities.
  + Some of the women do not feel safe in the regions they live in due to sexual assault risk.
  + 82% of women cannot reach sanitary pads during the pandemic.
  + In 17% of the households interviewed, women are the only adult.
* According to the OECD statistics on Turkey[[7]](#footnote-7), the Gender gap in feeling safe (The percentage difference that women feel less safe than men when walking alone at night in the city or area where they live)is -0.17. The gender wage gap is %6.9 and the long-term unemployment rate is 1.72 for males and 3.98 for females.
* According to our experience with the poverty field, women are exposed to social discrimination in the public sphere as well as in public utilities. In our focus group interview with women experiencing poverty, women talked about the discriminatory attitudes of public workers such as being not allowed to wait in the waiting area in the Social Service Center, being rebuked due to misunderstanding something, being accused of not making enough effort to get a job and being lazy.
* Regarding access to complaint mechanisms for human rights violations, human rights complaint mechanisms in Turkey are not independent. The Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey, which was the responsible institution for the prevention of discrimination and for monitoring human rights violations, is worked affiliated with the prime ministry. Also, the Ombudsman is not independent.
* Article 37 of the Misdemeanor Law No. 5326 can be given as an example of a discriminatory practice applied to sex workers in Turkey by the state. This article, which envisages punishing the person who "disturbs others in order to sell goods or services", is found "unenforceable" by the Constitutional Court, yet it is used against sex workers, creating situations of marginalization and criminalization. Within the framework of Article 227 of the Turkish Penal Code; mediating, inviting and advertising prostitution is defined as a crime in the law, but prostitution is not defined as a crime.

1. What is the legal and policy framework in your country/region to address such risks and prevent human rights violations affecting women and girls in poverty?

* Within the framework of the constitutional amendments made in 2001, 2004 and 2010;
  + Article 10 of the Constitution states that women and men have equal rights and that the state is obliged to ensure that this equality is realized and that the measures to be taken in this regard cannot be contrary to the principle of equality.
  + Article 41 of the Constitution states that the family is the foundation of Turkish society and an institution based on equality between spouses.

* Within the Turkish Civil Code No. 4721, which entered into force on January 1, 2002;
  + Equality is recognized between men and women in the custody of children, division of acquired property in case of dissolution of marriage and division of inheritance.
    - However, the equal right between men and women is defined with civil code, religious marriages conducted by imams are not forbidden. However, there were no validity of imam marriages in law, men are free two marry with more than one women and there is not any framework that protects the women’s civil and economic rights in these situations.
  + One of the spouses is not obliged to obtain the permission of the other in choosing a profession and job.
  + In the event of poverty due to divorce, indefinite alimony (poverty alimony) can be requested. Poverty alimony continues until an income is obtained or until remarriage.

* Within the Turkish Penal Code No. 5237, which entered into force on June 1, 2005;
  + The distinction between women and girls was abolished, and many crimes against individuals were removed from the scope of crimes against society and included in the scope of crimes against individuals (honor killings, marital rape, harassment and rape in workplaces, etc.) and included in the framework of severe punishment.
    - However, there are legal framework on violence against women and girls; violence mostly defined as physical and there were many gender-based violence cases ended with impunity. Also, in gender-based violence cases, there are victim-blaming discourses and legal decisions consisting the women’s “seductiveness”. “Seduction” and “goodwill” of the perpetrator are claimed as mitigation matters.
  + Women who want to terminate a pregnancy have the right to abortion within 10 weeks, and women who become pregnant as a result of rape have the right to abortion within 20 weeks.
    - However, the abortion defined as legal, in practice, most of the state hospitals refuse to do abortion and political discourse of government about abortion is judgmental based on religious norms.

* Within Labor Law No. 4857, which entered into force on June 10, 2003;
  + No lower wages can be paid for work of the same or equal value on the grounds of sex.
    - There is no legal framework that determine sanctions for unequal payment.
  + Pregnancy, maternity, and breastfeeding leaves are available; women workers are not allowed to work for certain periods of time before and after childbirth.

* Within Law No. 6284 on the Protection of the Family and Prevention of Violence against Women, which entered into force on March 8, 2012;
  + A woman who is subjected to violence or is under threat of violence can request temporary protection (close protection), removal of the perpetrator of violence from the house and concealment of his address, change of identity and other relevant information, temporary custody, and precautionary alimony, temporary financial aid, and the annotation of the house she lives in as a family residence.
    - Framework for meeting the women’s stated request were not identified in the legal framework and there were many inadequacies in the protection systems for women survived from violence.
  + Women who have been subjected to violence have the right to request shelter and Women's Guesthouses have been opened in this context.
    - In practice, shelters are not enough for women needed them and practices such as not being able to staying at shelter with their sons older than 12 years-old, make the shelter not accessible for all women.
  + Protection and cautionary decisions against violence or threats of violence can be taken by the police in urgent cases, without the need for authorization.
* Legal framework on preventing human rights violations regarding poverty:
  + Article 5 of the Turkish Constitution states that “ensuring the prosperity, tranquility, and welfare; removing the political, economic, and social obstacles that restrict to access the individual rights; and provide the conditions for material and moral entities of people” are among the “Basic purpose and responsibilities of the State”.
  + The Social Services Law numbered 2828, defined social services as “a whole of systemic and programmed services aiming to prevent and solve the material, nonmaterial and social deprivations, met the needs of individuals, prevent and solve the social problems, and improving and advancing the life standard of individuals and families.”
  + Social Aid and Solidarity Law numbered 3294 is the fundamental law that determined the social policies of the state in alleviating poverty. With this law a fund was created with an aim “to help people who do not liable to social security institutions and is not able to get any income from these institutions, and who could become beneficial to the society and productive with a little help or education opportunity; to ensure the income justice by making provisions to consolidate social justice, and to promote social aid and solidarity”. Activities regarding this fund are conducted by Social Aid and Solidarity Foundations.
  + The Law on Providing the Health Expenses of People with Low-income with Green Card numbered 3816 ensures the government’s provision of health expenses of people who do not have social security.
* Policy framework on preventing human rights violations regarding poverty:
  + As seen in the legal framework, policy framework in alleviating poverty mostly leans on material (in-kind and in-cahs) social supports. There is a lack of empowering policies. According to the 2020 statistics of Turkstat; the ratio of social protection expenses to the gross domestic product was 12.8%, the ratio of family and child support expenses among gross domestic product was 0.6%, and the ratio of social discrimination reduction expenses was 0.1%.
  + The main social support program conducted by governmental organizations is the Social Economical Support Program which aims to support families to ensure the children’s continuation of their education. However, according to our experiences, the mechanism is implemented as solely in-cash support without any support or monitoring of school attendance or the well-being of children. Also, in the distribution and maintenance of the Social Economic Support program, which is the main economic support for children in poverty, we have been encountering discriminatory practices. The examination process is longer and decisions are more prone to be negative for the application of Gypsy or Kurdish families.
  + Policy frame regarding the women living in poverty, the government’s perspective prioritizes the “protection of the family”, far from recognizing the women’s individuality. In their budget projection, Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Services declined to reserve 1 billion 76 million Turkish Liras for the “Empowerment of Women Program” while reserving 3 billion 781 million Turkish Liras for the “Protection and Empowerment of the Family Program”. The economic support that women are able to receive is mostly needed from them to be a mother of a family. Among the ones who get economic and social support from the government, 65% are women. The reason for this situation is that government’s program that gives in-cash aids to the “caregiver”.

1. Are there any particular groups of women and girls most at risk or conditions that especially determine barriers for women and girls to access such rights and why (such as by living in poverty, working in the informal labor market, unpaid care work, or domestic work, migrant, asylum-seeker, refugee or stateless status, race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender identity, sexual orientation).

* According to our observations, women living in poverty are at risk to access their rights because they encounter intersectional discrimination and disadvantages. Girls that have been born in families living in poverty were at risk for school drop-offs and early marriages; because of the families’ economic inability to maintain their children’s educational and developmental needs. Also because of the social norms that load the care work on girls and women, we observe that many girls drop school for caring for their little siblings. Lack of access to their developmental needs, inability to access their right to education, exposure to social discrimination, and early marriages make poverty be transferred from generation to generation; girls living in poverty become women living in poverty. Women living in poverty, due to the inability to access uncharged and reliable childcare services, do not enter paid jobs which causes economic dependence on their husbands or families. Furthermore, they are exposed to social discrimination and insulting attitudes when dealing with public utilities. Also, living in a neighborhood in poverty creates risks; the capacities of public utilities and services in neighborhoods living in poverty are insufficient for the needs of residents (e.g. physical qualities of schools, sanitation services, lack of playgrounds, etc.).
* Among the women and girls living in poverty; ethnic minorities such as Kurds and Gypsys encountered more complex and extreme forms of discrimination both social and structural which makes them at more risk in accessing their rights. Also, single mothers are the ones experiencing the most extreme forms of poverty due to the burden of child care and the responsibility for the needs of the household. Immigrant women also encounter intersectional discrimination and enhanced risk to access their rights. In Turkey, international migration is mostly from Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Turkish policy framework on the human security of migrants is based on the necessity that migrant persons should live in a city that the Turkish İmigration Authority decided. If the people choose to live in another city, they are not able to access the social security system and health insurance, allowance to work, or get any social support.

1. Are there laws and/or practices in your country/region that differentiate between persons on the basis of sex or gender, i.e., between girls and boys to access education, the ability for men and women, both inside and outside marriage, to enter into contracts, own/administer property, purchase land and/or housing, own/administer the business, and gain access to credit? If so, what are they?

* One of the discriminatory practices on the basis of gender in Turkey is maternity leave. Men are granted 10 days of paternity leave in the public sector and 5 days in the private sector, as opposed to the 112 days granted to women for maternity leave. This situation violates the equality between spouses and increases women's labor on child care. The stereotypical idea that the burden of childcare, elderly and sick care in family life in Turkey falls mostly on women is reinforced by the state's practice on maternity leave.
* Another example is the use of women-only vehicles in public transportation in Malatya province, which started in 2017 and lasted for two years and was implemented in countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Japan. This project, which aims to prevent harassment and violence against women, means exposing women to discriminatory practices under the name of "protection". Furthermore, restricting women's use of public spaces means turning their presence in the social sphere into a "threat".
* Another issue that is discriminated on the basis of gender is abortion. Under Law No. 2827 on Population Planning, which came into force in 1983, pregnancies up to 10 weeks can be terminated through abortion on demand. According to the law, abortion services should be provided free of charge at Family Health Centers and hospitals. However, this is not the case in practice.[[8]](#footnote-8) Many women in Turkey are misinformed that "abortion is forbidden according to the law" when they go to state institutions for an abortion, or their abortion request is denied by the institution. Due to the de facto prohibition of abortion in state-owned health institutions, private health institutions provide this service.
* Another question that segregates women in Turkey is the lack of a constitutional guarantee for the freedom to wear the turban in public institutions. The freedom to wear the headscarf, which was recognized by various regulations introduced in 2007, 2008 and 2013, is still not constitutionally protected. This issue is being used as election propaganda in Turkish politics and women's social rights are being exploited through insecurity.
* There is the issue of the age of marriage, which leads to gender-based discrimination and its exploitation. Article 124 of the Turkish Civil Code stipulates the age of 18 for marriage. However, a man or woman who turns 17 years of age with the permission of a parent or guardian, or 16 years of age with the decision of a judge in extraordinary circumstances and for a very important reason, may be allowed to marry. This law is a practice based on gender inequality that reinforces gender stereotypes against girls and hinders their education, jeopardizes their health, and exposes them to the risk of violence and poverty.

1. How would you say that structural obstacles and ongoing phenomena or threats in your country (such as the Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, ongoing conflict, etc.) impact risks for women and girls, particularly in the way women and girls access economic and social rights?

* The COVID-19 pandemic caused daily wagers to lose their job. In Turkey, people living in deep or extreme poverty mostly do daily jobs such as waste-picking, daily work in textile mills, and hawking. However, during the pandemic, due to the lockdowns, maintaining these jobs was not possible. Also, starting just before the pandemic and gathering speed after the COVID-19 period, Turkey has been faced with high inflation rates. The Consumer Price Index has increased by 102% from January 2022 to October 2022[[9]](#footnote-9). These conditions have made the people living in poverty at more risk of not being able to access even their basic needs.
* Agriculture is an important component of Turkey’s economy. Due to climate change and agricultural policies (e.g. policies discouraging the fallow, low incomes for the primary producer), employment in the agricultural sector, productivity, and quantity of agricultural lands has been decreasing[[10]](#footnote-10). These situations obstruct the right of access to food security and also cause migration from rural to urban areas which in turn causes the rise in urban poverty.
* The attitudes of governing political party (Justice and Development Party (AKP)), have been becoming more oppressive and conservative. This political context has been ratifying any opponent movement including the human rights movements. This political stance has been reflected in politicians’ attitudes toward gender policies. Mainstream political discourse on women is based on the phenomenon of “protection of the family”. The government has inhibited the traditional march that has been organized at International Women’s Day every year for three years with police interventions and custody. Also, the government’s defection from İstanbul Contract is worrisome for women’s rights. The Istanbul Convention, which aims to prevent discrimination on the basis of gender, has been manipulated by a group trying to normalize homosexuality, which is incompatible with Turkey's social and family values. Turkey's decision to withdraw from the convention is based on this reason.[[11]](#footnote-11) This situation shows both the legitimization of gender-based discrimination and the approach of the government, which produces family-based policies.

1. Are there any specific actors, such as business corporations, or macroeconomic norms or policies in your country/region -such as trade agreements, taxation, debt and redistribution measures- that create particular or disproportionate risks or concrete human rights violations for women and girls?

—

1. Is there any legal framework or policy, program or part of your work, that focuses on the role of men in preventing economic risks or vulnerabilities of women and girls and/or ensuring the human rights of women in the context of poverty and inequality? Is there any that makes visible or emphasizes the benefits for the whole of society of a gender-equal and inclusive economy?

—

*Promising practices*

1. What are the concrete ways in which the State –at the executive, legislative or judicial branch- addresses the situation of women and girls’ structural disadvantage in relation to economic and social rights? Are there any particular issues and platforms in which the State protects them from the systemic threats they face due to poverty and inequality?

* In order to support women, the state provides various types of support through public banks or the Ministry of Family and Social Services. Housewives can receive interest-free loans, while women entrepreneurs can receive grants, low-interest loans and tax exemptions.
* The Ministry of Family and Social Services provides social support for children's education through Conditional Education Assistance (ŞEY), Educational Material Assistance, and Social and Economic Support (SED) Services. Within the scope of ŞEY, girls are provided with slightly more support than boys, but both types of support are far from economically empowering.
* In Turkey, there are various vocational training programs, such as Public Education Centers, Practical Girls' Art Schools, Maturation Institutes, etc., which aim to empower women economically and socially and provide employment - sometimes with job guarantees.

1. How does your institution/Government/organisation contribute to ensuring girls’ and women’s access to their basic economic and social rights in your national context? Are there particular issues, platforms or levels in which the State/your institution encourage their participation, inclusion and engagement and what role does it play?

* We conducted/have been conducting two projects regarding the women’s access to their basic economic and social rights:
  + Supporting the Women’s Labor Program: We act as an intermediary for the local producers to participate in the Women's Labor Markets organized by the Istanbul Volunteers, so that the handmade products done by households that we have met during the fieldwork meet with the buyers. Women sell and promote their products, they keep all the income and prepare for the next market.
  + “Holistic Support for Single Mothers’ Empowerment Project”: This project aimed to establish a holistic support system for 60 single mothers living in extreme poverty during the coronavirus outbreak in eight districts in Istanbul. Holistic support system is composed of three main angles: food support, medical advice and mental health support, and legal and political rights literacy training. This system aimed to strengthen single mothers to overcome the adverse effects of extreme poverty during the pandemic.

1. Could you refer to legal norms and policies for eliminating poverty, as well as for reducing economic inequality, such as taxation, debt and redistribution measures, or specific economic or social policies, and could you specify if they adopt a gendered perspective and/or if there are any specifically directed to women and girls?

* The Income Tax Law No. 193, which entered into force on December 31, 1960, is based on the establishment of a developed and civilized tax system. The exemptions and exceptions in the law are stated as tools used to fight poverty. Examples that can be given to this situation: No. 23/16, exemption of the entire benefit from income tax in the case of nursery and daycare center services provided by female employers, and No. 32, minimum subsistence allowance. In general, however, the policy framework in Turkey tends to deny poverty.
* There is no element of poverty alleviation in taxation policies. Only as of July 1, 2022, Turkey has implemented the practice of not charging income tax and stamp duty on the minimum wage. In addition, due to high inflation, the Value Added Tax on basic food products was reduced from 8 percent to 1 percent under the regulation issued on February 13, 2022.
* Social policies developed in Turkey are based on in-kind support and are far from being rights-based. Policies shaped by the protection and reproduction of the family are not inclusive and therefore do not directly target women and girls and do not aim to eliminate poverty. An example of the further narrowing of existing inclusiveness is the gradual exclusion of medicines from the list of medicines provided by the Social Security Institution.
* Due to the high rates of inflation, the government made reductions in taxes such as taxes on staple food (from 8% to 1%), menstrual products (from 18% to %8), and baby formulas (from 18% to 8%).

1. Could you refer to any good practice or innovative measure or initiative that has helped advance women’s and girls’ socioeconomic human security?

* Foundation for the Support of Women's Work (KEDV); Aims to empower women and women's organizations in Turkey from the grassroots to become both pioneers of economic, political, and social change and local, national, and international leaders of movements that will build a strong, inclusive and sustainable society. The areas of work include supporting grassroots women to organize and cooperate against poverty around their common needs, promoting women's leadership and economic empowerment in the development and building of resilient societies, and strengthening the role of women in disaster and migration management.
* Istanbul95; Launched under the leadership of the Netherlands-based Bernard van Leer Foundation, the 'Istanbul95' project plans to design a more livable city through the eyes of a child looking at the world from 95 centimeters tall. The Istanbul 95 project, which aims to create healthy, prosperous, and vibrant cities where babies, children, and families can live in suitable conditions, is implemented through regular visits to homes. With this project, which provides voluntary counseling services and psychological support to mothers, physical spaces are organized so that young children can play.
* Suna'nın Kızları; Focuses on the needs of girls between the ages of 0-18 who grow up without services that can support their development and aims to benefit both girls and boys with solutions created by considering these needs. It aims to create a supportive ecosystem for children by working with non-governmental organizations, public institutions, private sector organizations, and all other key actors, especially parents and teachers around children.
* KA.DER; It is a women's organization that advocates equal representation of women in all areas where there is no discrimination based on gender. It works to ensure the equality of women and men in all decision-making bodies formed by election and appointment, where decisions concerning society and individuals are taken.
* SES Women's Sports; It is an amateur sports club that has set out with the mission of making adult women between the ages of 18-55 do sports and giving them the experience of being an athlete and is growing day by day. It is only open to women between the ages of 18-55, free of charge, and without any prior sports experience.
* Women in Fisheries Society; Women fishers face structural problems due to the perception of fishing as a male profession and the established gender roles in the sector. In Turkey, at least one out of every 30 fishermen is a woman. In the fishing sector, as in most sectors, women are not visible in official records and are not equal in terms of rights or wages. The association works to improve the adverse conditions of women fishers by organizing and empowering them to act together.
* AÇEV; Activities supporting early childhood, parenting training, personal development, individual healthcare, women's labor, and participation in decision-making are the main topics addressed to empower young women between the ages of 18-35 in a multifaceted way and make them more active in life. Young women gain awareness and skills on many current issues such as completing their educational deficiencies, setting personal goals, communication, meeting business life, technology-media, child protection, and equal role distribution at home.
* Payda; ​​The aim of the Payda Together with Students Project is to support girls from economically disadvantaged families to continue their education starting from the primary school level and to enable them to graduate from university. The activities carried out in the project aim to empower female students and enable them to participate in society as independent women who make their own decisions.

1. How can women and girls participate in decision-making in this area?

* In regarding political participation, there are women neighborhood representatives' and women and child courts in some municipalities. However, there are no mechanisms to include women and girls in the decision processes on the topics that concern them.

*International norms and policies: for UN agencies, offices and institutions, particularly international economic institutions (especially WB, IMF, WTO)*

1. Are there any policies implemented by your organization, or recommended to/applied in States, to protect women and girls from risks and sudden economic shocks derived from crises, and strengthen their resilience and that of the communities they live in?

—

1. What are the main actions taken by your organizations to reduce poverty of women and girls and/or to reduce their levels of economic inequality?

—

1. Could you mention any concrete action adopted to promote and protect the economic and social human rights of women and girls?

—

*Recommendations/ the way forward*

1. What concrete measures should States adopt and implement to eradicate poverty and tackle in particular the situation of women and girls living in poverty and the disproportionate impact poverty has on them?

* The Istanbul Convention should be put into effect again.
* The right to alimony should be protected.
* Free and qualified pre-school education opportunities should be provided for 0-6 years old so that women living in poverty can access their working and social rights.
* Tax reductions should be made on menstrual hygiene products; access should be free for those living in poverty conditions.
* Accessible legal counseling and psychosocial support services should be provided.
* Economic and psychosocial support mechanisms should be established for single parents.
* Facilitating education models should be implemented for women who have dropped out their education and want to continue.
* Literacy and vocational courses should be widespread and accessible, childcare support should be provided for women who want to attend the courses.
* Sexual health education should be provided free of charge through the health system.

1. What concrete measures should States adopt to address systemic gender-based/age-based/socioeconomic-based discrimination and challenges affecting women and girls living in situation of poverty?

* Equal pay for equal work policy should be guaranteed by law.
* Programs should be adopted for strengthening the public employees to prevent the discriminatory attitutes and implementations women and girls encountered.

1. What would be your main recommendation to advance women’s and girls’ socioeconomic human security?

* Social support programs should be implemented to prevent children from leaving education.
* Social support mechanisms should change their focus on the “protection of the family” and should prioritize women’s access to their human rights.
* Ensure access to safe housing, health care, clean water, and safe food for all.

1. <https://derinyoksullukagi.org/en/raporlar/research-on-deep-poverty-and-access-to-human-rights-during-the-pandemicsuggestions-for-local-governments-for-crisis-intervention-programs/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. MEB, 2021a [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ​​Feriver ve Arık, 2021, s., 40. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. TÜİK, 20 April 2021 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. TÜİK, 31 March 2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://kadinininsanhaklari.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Salg%C4%B1nda-Kad%C4%B1n-Olmak-Uzun-Rapor-Final.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://www.oecd.org/economy/surveys/TURKEY-2021-OECD-economic-survey-overview.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://gender.khas.edu.tr/sites/gender.khas.edu.tr/files/docs/2020-12/2020-kurtaj-arastirmasi-raporu.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. <https://enagrup.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://tr.euronews.com/2020/05/14/turkiye-de-ciftci-sayisi-yuzde-38-dustu-tarim-alani-yuzde-12-azaldi> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://www.iletisim.gov.tr/turkce/haberler/detay/turkiyenin-istanbul-sozlesmesinden-cekilmesine-iliskin-aciklama> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)