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The pandemic has exacerbated persistent gender gaps in the labor market

Women were substantially more likely to stop working at the initial stages of the crisis (between April and June, 2020)



Note: Dark (light) colors indicate that the difference between groups is (not) statistically significant at 5% level or less. Source: Kugler et al. (forthcoming), based on analysis of harmonized high frequency phone survey data for 40 countries.

Women have been disproportionately laid off during COVID-19



Source: World Bank Enterprise Surveys

The recovery in employment has been uneven and is slower for women

Share of respondents employed





Source: Bundervoet, Dávalos and Garcia 2021, based on analysis of harmonized high-frequency phone survey data for a sample of 34 countries.

Estimates for return to employment based on level of education (tertiary or secondary), location(urban or rural), presence of school going children and gender based on employment data between Wave 1 and Wave 2 of post-pandemic surveys for 13 countries



Women-led businesses have also been disproportionately affected by COVID-19



Sales have fallen more, especially in hospitality and for micro & small firms...

Source: WBG Business Pulse Survey



.....while access to public support has been lower

Source: WBG Business Pulse Survey

Examples of Gender Equality Lens in Tax and Fiscal Work



Turkey Resilience, Inclusion and Growth: This DPO tackles the issue of low female labor force participation via a series of legal actions, including the introduction of tax incentives for private nursery schools and amendments to the country's Labor Code with respect to making labor market programs more flexible through the introduction of various work contract modalities.



Integrating a gender lens to fiscal incidence analysis:

Developing a new methodology to analyze differential impacts of fiscal interventions on households with different economic/demographic profiles. Identifying fiscal reforms to increase gender equality through public programs that are designed, financed and implemented in an inclusive manner (currently piloting in two countries where the Bank is engaged in fiscal policy dialogue).



Female Property Ownership in India: The project aims to document evidence of property tax related incentives for female owners in India; and. whether tax incentives boost compliance among women. It will also provide analysis on whether there are differences in compliance patterns.



Ethiopia Technical Assistance to Support Data Collection and Policy Guidance on Taxation and Gender: This project supports capacity-building in data collection and analysis on taxation, contributing to strengthening the design of domestic tax and spending policies in an efficient and equitable manner. It includes data collection on gender and taxation as well as sex-disaggregated analysis on taxation across different socioeconomic and demographic groups.