

VIOLENCE against **Women** in the Family

in the Republic of Moldova





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in the Family in the Republic of Moldova

2011

„Violence against Women in the Family in the Republic of Moldova”

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW – UN Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women

DGEPVP – Department for Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Policies

FG – Focus Group

FV – Family Violence

GCGE – Government Committee on Gender Equality

HIV/AIDS – Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

IIS – Integrated Information System

LPA – Local Public Administration at rayon level

MDT – Multidisciplinary Teams

MH – Ministry of Health

MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs

MJ – Ministry of Justice

MLSPF – Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family

NBS – National Bureau of Statistics

NGO – Non-governmental Organization

NRM – National Referral Mechanism

SDH – Study of Demography and Health

UN Women – United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

UNECE – United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The significant progress obtained in addressing the issue of family violence in the Republic of Moldova is a real fact. Nevertheless, a number of legal, institutional, and policy gaps still persist and need to be tackled. In this context, it is very important to have data and evidence on the prevalence of violence against women, the factors determining this phenomenon, as well as the impact of violence on the health and well-being of women and on the family in general.

To know and understand the situation of violence against women in Moldova, the National Bureau of Statistics carried out in 2010 the study *Violence against Women in the Family* for the first time ever. It involved a rather complex approach, combining results of qualitative and quantitative research.

One of the basic objectives of the study is to quantify the indicators on prevalence rates of violence over lifetime and in the last twelve months, violence committed by current or the most recent husband/partner or another family member. The data from the study reveal the fact that violence against women is more frequent among rural women, the phenomenon progresses together with a woman's age and is indirectly proportional to a woman's level of education. Married women are more reticent to disclose cases of violence, hence the highest rates of violence prevailing against women are registered among divorced/separated women and widows.

Violence against women is manifested through different forms. The study collected information about psychological, economic, physical, and sexual violence. Thus, 60% of women reported at least one form of psychological violence, one in two women confirmed that she was subject to social control and isolation, manifested mainly by her husband's insistence to know where she was, or her husband getting angry when the woman talked, especially to another man.

Economic violence is not as widespread. The employees and the unemployed women are most vulnerable to economic violence. In case of the unemployed

women, economic violence is determined, most probably, by the economic dependency on husbands/partners, while in the case of women employed on the labour market, the likelihood for economic violence may be influenced by a combination of factors, such as, difference in incomes, the occupational status of husbands/partners, social status, and other reasons.

The prevalence of physical violence committed by the current or most recent husband/partner over a lifetime is reported by almost 40% of women, and 9% also experienced such violence in the last 12 months, the biggest share being registered in rural areas. Women aged between 45 and 59 years old are most vulnerable to physical violence over their lifetimes; while women aged 15-34 years old suffered more in the last 12 months before the interview. This finding reveals the fact that physical violence prevails during the early years of the marriage/relationship, probably influenced by economic challenges, the appearance of children, behavioural changes, etc., but also by a lack of skills to solve problems that emerged – skills that are acquired over time. Most of the time, women are slapped, pushed, and beaten; there are also cases when women are kicked, choked, or even threatened with a weapon by their husband/partner. Many acts of physical violence were perpetrated repeatedly in the case of the majority of victims. Due to gender stereotypes and because some specific characteristics are attributed to each gender, physical violence is widespread, and in some cases it is accepted and justified from a social-cultural point of view.

Sexual violence is less frequent, nevertheless such cases exist. About 19% of women reported that they experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime, while 4% reported such cases happening in the last 12 months. Divorced and separated women reported most of sexual abuses perpetrated by husbands/partners, when compared to married women and widows. Probably this finding is derived from the fact that these women are more open about disclosing incidences of sexual abuse from their ex-husbands/

partners. Cases of sexual violence should be analyzed carefully, taking into account the individual subjective perception what sexual violence is.

Analogically to the findings of other studies carried out in the area of violence against women, the consequences of violent acts on the mental and physical health of victims are different. Most of the time, women reported aches and bruises, followed by eye injuries, and sprains. More serious cases also existed: internal injuries and broken bones were also reported.

The phenomenon of violence and the moment of its appearance are not correlated directly with the husband's/partner's level of education, marital status, occupational activity, and other indicators, as there is a number of external factors, such as economic problems, poverty, alcohol addiction, and other factors which may influence the persistence of family violence. Nevertheless, there are situations when violence occurs when there are differences between women's and men's education levels, occupational status, or size of income. The situation when women have a higher level of education, a more advantageous job, or a better salary is perceived by men as something that undermines their masculinity.

Non-partner violence is a less widespread phenomenon. About 6% of all the women who were interviewed reported such experiences over lifetime, while only 1% in the last 12 months. While partner physical violence is reported more often by rural women, non-partner violence is mainly reported by urban women. Women cohabiting with a partner, without being married are the most vulnerable in this case. Reality confirms once again that family continues to be a mechanism of social control which limits occurrence of physical violence from other family members. Young women are more frequently victims of non-partner violence, these being usually the cases of problem solving between children and parents.

Most of the time, men are the perpetrators, including fathers and step-fathers, but there are also cases when women (mothers or mothers-in-law) are violence towards women. Hence, the traditional family model is confirmed, when the parents, parents-in-law have a disciplinary role in Moldovan society, this results in a higher level of social and cultural permissiveness for

physical force use when solving interpersonal conflicts within the family. When determining the likelihood for non-partner violence occurrence, one of the causes to be taken into consideration would be the family's individual characteristics based on the habit of using physical abuse, as well as sharing cultural norms that accept such behaviour.

Most frequently, the victims of violence report the partner's or non-partner's violent behaviour to their parents and family members, followed by close relatives, police, and medical workers. Women would contact police and social assistance services only in cases of severe acts of physical violence. More than half of the women mentioned that they did not report violent incidents, because they considered that they could cope with such problems by themselves or because of the shame. Hence, social stigma and beliefs that women become victims of violence if they do something to deserve it, as well as the fact that family violence is perceived more as a private problem and not a public one, have a significant impact on women's decision to report or not cases of family violence.

Acceptance of violence from a social-cultural point of view, as well as a result of people's stereotypes and beliefs results in situations when violent acts remain to be unsanctioned. This situation is confirmed by both: the opinions and knowledge of interviewed women and those of the participants of focus group discussions and in-depth interviews. Even though over 80% of interviewed women know about the fact that family violence is a criminal offence, less than half of them know about the existence of Law No. 45.

All these findings should be taken into consideration to enhance the efforts of society and the authorities in preventing and combating family violence.

CHAPTER 1.

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context and objectives of the study

Violence against women and family violence are prevalent throughout the world, while the Republic of Moldova is no exception to this. Although there is some knowledge and evidence regarding the aspects of the given problem, available studies and data, based on a limited number of surveys, reveal not only the existence of violence against women, but also the increase of the given phenomenon during the transition period, which is marked by high rates of poverty, an instable political situation, and an imperfect legal system. However, the available information does not offer enough evidence about the underlying causes of this problem, the role of gender inequality, the factors determining violence, and the possible consequences of violence on the health and wellbeing of the victims and of the society as a whole.

To provide a comprehensive information framework related to violence against women at the national level, from June – November 2010, the National Bureau of Statistics with the support of the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM, currently UN Women), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), carried out the first national survey on violence against women in the Republic of Moldova.

Hence, the main objective of the respective study aims to offer comprehensive information on violence against women in the Republic of Moldova, identifying the root-causes, estimating the prevalence of different forms of violence, establishing the frequency and severity of violent acts, as well as determining the impact and consequences of this phenomenon on victims' physical and mental health.

Specifically, the study aimed to:

1. measure violence against women in the family (committed by husband/partner and non-partner) over lifetime and during the last twelve months;
2. measure the frequency of the occurrence of violent acts, their impact and consequences for the health and wellbeing of women and their families;
3. point out the root causes of violence, including the ones related to individual, cultural, and social-economic factors;
4. identify the attitudes and perceptions related to violence against women problem among the Moldovan citizens in general, and among the relevant decision-makers and service providers.

Respondents were interviewed about a wide range of topics in order to gather quantitative and qualitative data related to a number of analytical variables, such as: a) social-economic status of the victim (woman), the characteristics of the perpetrator and of the family (level of education, occupational status), b) socio-cultural context (attitudes, perceptions, beliefs, stereotypes about gender and violence), c) access to services and quality of available services (level of familiarization and satisfaction with the available services for victim's protection).

The given report covers the information about the main findings of the study, as well as an overview of the institutional, legal, and policy framework related to violence against women.

1.2. Methodology of the quantitative survey

The quantitative survey was carried out by NBS from July – November 2010. The toolkit for data collection was based on the pilot module developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)¹, which was revised and adjusted to the national context.

¹ UNECE module is based on WHO previous study on violence against women.

1.2.1. Definition of the main indicators

Prevalence of violence was determined based on the answers received for certain questions, which define indirectly the different forms of violence. It should be mentioned that the word “violence” was not used within the quantitative survey.

Physical violence committed by husband/partner² implies the occurrence of at least one of the following situations:

- slapping or throwing things to hit the woman;
- pushing, shoving or pulling the woman by hair;
- hitting with fists or with anything else that could hurt the woman;
- kicking, dragging or beating the woman;
- choking or burning on purpose;
- threatening or actually using a weapon or other dangerous objects/weapons (knife, ax, lawn mower, etc.).

Sexual violence committed by husband/partner implies the occurrence of at least one of the following situations:

- forcing the woman to have sex without her consent;
- forcing the woman to have sex with degrading or humiliating practices;
- forcing the woman to have sex by using fear.

Psychological violence committed by husband/partner implies the occurrence of at least one of the following situations:

- insulting;
- belittling, humiliating in front of other people;
- intimidating on purpose;
- threatening verbally.

Economic violence committed by husband/partner implies the occurrence of at least one of the following situations:

- taking the money earned by the woman;
- refusing to give enough money for household current expenses.

Actions of social isolation committed by husband/partner imply the occurrence of at least one of the following situations:

- prohibiting, limiting meetings with friends;
- restricting visits to family;
- always insisting on knowing where the woman is;
- ignoring, treating with indifference;
- getting angry when the woman speaks to another man;
- being suspicious that the woman is unfaithful;
- expecting for the woman to ask permission from him before going to see a doctor;
- deciding what the woman can and cannot do.

Physical violence committed by other persons than husband/partner:

The woman was at least once pushed, pulled by her hair, slapped, kicked, beaten or had to suffer because of the physical violence acts from other persons than husband/partner.

Sexual violence committed by other persons than husband/partner:

The woman was at least once in the situation to be forced to have unwanted sexual intercourse under threat or by creating situations where she could not refuse. The forced attempts not resulting in a sexual intercourse were not taken into consideration.

Prevalence of partner violence over lifetime is determined as a ratio between the number of women who reported cases of at least one violent act, since the age of 15, perpetrated by the current or most recent husband/partner (married, divorced/separated, widowed women, and those living together) and the total number of interviewed women.

Prevalence of partner violence in the last 12 months is determined as a ratio between the number of women who reported at least one violence act, in the last 12 months before the survey period, perpetrated by the current or most recent husband/partner (married, divorced/separated, widowed women, and those living together) and the total number of interviewed women.

² The concept of husband/partner was adjusted to the country's legal and social context, thus taking into consideration only the situations when women live together with the husband/partner.

Physical consequences - measured as share of married, divorced or separated, and widowed women, who reported physical consequences as a result of physical or sexual violence acts perpetrated by the current or most recent husband/partner.

Violence reporting rate – share of women-victims of physical or sexual violence who reported such cases, not necessarily to the bodies which are empowered with offering support to family violence victims.

Knowledge and attitudes regarding gender roles and stereotypes, information and assessment of existing legal framework implied the evaluation of women's information level about the legislation on family violence (expressed as percentage of women who are informed about the existence of the law, protection orders), as well as about the existence of support services for victims (expressed as a percentage of interviewed women who heard about the existing support services).

Women's empowerment is expressed as a percentage of the total number of women who agree with certain situations that reveal the traditional gender roles of women and men in society

1.2.2. Survey questionnaire

As it was already mentioned, the quantitative study used the module developed by UNECE. Nevertheless, additional questions were added to the survey questionnaire, especially about the composition of the household, some characteristics of the victims and perpetrators, as well as a whole section on attitudes and knowledge in the area of violence against women (see Annex 3 1). Thus, the questionnaire was divided into 6 sections:

1. Composition of the household
2. Section R – general information about the interviewed person
3. Section V – relationship between the woman and the current or most recent husband/partner
4. Section N – relationship between the woman and non-partner
5. Section A – attitudes and knowledge
6. Section Z – finishing the interview.

Taking into account the sensitive nature of the topic surveyed, during the data collection process, the name of the study "Violence against Women" was changed into "Study on Relations between Men and Women." The structure of the questionnaire was set so as to offer flexibility during the interview. If the woman was not cooperating at the beginning of the interview, the interviewer had the possibility to start the interview with the section dealing with attitudes and knowledge or that on non-partner violence.

The questionnaire sections/modules include also filter-questions which allow for the interview to be taken in a short period of time, but ensuring at the same time the completeness and the accuracy of the information about every violent act perpetrated by the current or most recent husband/partner. If the woman suffered from violence committed by several husbands/partners, the study limited itself only to 2 husbands/partners, including the most aggressive ones.

The questionnaire of the quantitative study was tested; special attention was granted to the formulation of questions and answer options, so as to avoid any wrong perception of the tackled subjects.

1.2.3. Sampling frame

The "*Violence against Women in the Family*" Survey is based on a complex sampling frame stratified into four stages, so as to meet, at maximum, the aim of the study, and namely to obtain some qualitative estimates (with acceptable accuracy level) regarding family violence at the national level and by areas of residence, guaranteeing results with a probability of 95% for the main variables (age groups, marital status, and level of education).

For the purpose of the respective survey, the national territory was divided into 11 strata so as to ensure representativeness at the national level, as well as at the level of area of residence. The sample volume accounts for 1,575 households, of which 615 households were allocated for urban area and 960 – for rural area. The distribution by areas of residence was performed in line with CUATM³. Women aged 15-65 years old represent the reference population for the study.

³ CUATM – Classifier of Territorial Administrative Units of the Republic of Moldova.

Out of the total number of 150 PSUs⁴ extracted at the first sampling stage, a number of 1,575 women were to be interviewed, but due to the fact that during the survey implementation, one of the PSU's territory was flooded by the River Prut, and the population was evacuated out of the respective zone, it was not possible to perform the interviews in the respective PSU. Hence, a total of 1,565 households were visited, from which 1,116 interviews were obtained. To ensure the random selection principle, the rule of the closest birthday date was used, meaning that if the selected household included more eligible women, the interview was made on the person with the closest birthday date to the interview date.

The general response rate accounted for 71.3% - a rather high response rate, taking into consideration the sensitive nature of the surveyed topic. Refusals accounted only for 5% out of the total number of non-response rate; the main reasons being: *"does not consider it necessary to participate in the survey, "is not sure of data confidentiality" and "no time to answer"*.

1.2.4. Data collection

The option to have a separate study was determined by the fact that NBS collects data through a single network of data collection, which employs, as a rule, persons from the community selected for the survey. Due to the sensitive nature of the studied topic, as well as women's reticence to talk about cases of violence, it was decided to create mobile teams of interviewers to perform the interviews.

The interviewers were trained not only about the content of the questionnaire, but also about the general topic of violence against women, and were familiarized with the legal framework and the existing services for victims of family violence. Special attention was paid to the way of addressing the situations of severe violence. By the end of the interview, every woman received a leaflet with information on the women's trust line 0 8008 8008, as well as a list of centres which offer the necessary support for victims of family violence.

A number of 40 interviewers were involved in collecting field data. Their activity was coordinated by the people responsible for the survey. The data were validated and processed by a team of specialists from NBS. The SPSS software was used to analyze the data and calculate the aggregated indicators.

1.3. Qualitative survey

The qualitative survey included the organization of focus-group discussions and in-depth interviews with the representatives of service providers, victims and perpetrators, mass-media, and the general public. Measures to ensure participants' privacy, confidentiality, and security were taken during the interviews, including even psychological assistance provision. The qualitative survey was performed by Valentina Bodrug-Lungu and Natalia Vladicescu.

1.3.1. Focus groups

The general aim of the focus groups was to identify and assess the way in which knowledge and attitudes about violence against women in the family influence the efficiency of the national response to this phenomenon, as well as to identify the needs and priorities for capacity building in this area.

For this purpose, eight focus groups were organized:

a) Two focus groups were organized with the representatives of **local public administration authorities (LPA)**⁵, which were divided into two sub-groups: one sub-group benefited previously from training in the area of violence against women in the family and issues related to the National Referral System (10 persons) and another sub-group of persons who were not involved in such training (10 persons). The aim of this approach was to better understand the impact of on-going training activities and to identify additional training needs. Of those 20 participating specialists, 17 were women and 3 – men. The focus group sessions were held in August 2010 in Chisinau.

b) One group was organized for discussions with the **Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTS)** working at the com-

⁴ PSU – Primary Sampling Unit.

⁵ Representatives of social assistance sections, police commissariats, family doctors' centers, local public administration (rayon level), education sections, prosecutors, labor force employment agency.

munity level. Ten representatives of MDT⁶ were included, of which 5 have been previously involved in trainings on family violence and National Referral System, while the other 5 persons did not attend the training course. Just as in the case of previous focus groups, the aims of the discussions tackled not only the assessment of knowledge and attitudes regarding the respective problem, but also the identification of the future training needs. The focus group was held in August 2010 in Anenii Noi.

c) Two focus groups were organized **with randomly selected citizens, one with women and one with men**, in order to explore their attitudes and stereotypes on the role of women and men in the family and in society that contribute or could determine violence against women in the family. The focus group with men included 10 persons with the following characteristics: age - 50% below 35 years old, 30% between 35-50 years old, and 20% between 50-65 years old; level of education - 40% with secondary education, 30% with higher education, 30% with secondary vocational education; occupational status - 20% temporarily unemployed, 40% employees, 40% managers; marital status - 70% married, 10% divorced, 30% unmarried; area of residence - 50% rural area and 50% urban area. The focus group discussions took place in August 2010 in Chisinau.

The focus group discussion with women included 8 persons with the following characteristics: age - 50% below 35 years old, 25% between 35-50 years and 25% between 50-65 years; level of education - 12.5% with incomplete secondary education, 50% with secondary education, 25% with higher education and 12.5% with secondary vocational education; occupational status - 25% employed, but on maternity leave, 25% temporarily unemployed, 25% employees, 12.5% with occasional employment, and 12.5% pensioners; marital status - 50% married, 12.5% single mothers, 25% divorced, and 12.5% widows; area of residence - 50% from a rural area and 50% from an urban area. Focus groups interviews were organized in August 2010 in Chisinau.

d) Twelve women were selected for the focus group with **women – victims of family violence**, according to the following criteria: to be a victim of family violence and to have used support from the Centres for Protection of Victims from Drochia and Causeni. The participants

had the following characteristics: age – 83.3% under 35 years old and 16.7% between 35-50 years old; level of education - 25% with incomplete secondary education, 50% with secondary education, 8.3% with higher education, and 16.7% with secondary vocational education; occupational status – 33.4% employed, but on maternity leave, 25% temporarily unemployed, 25% with occasional jobs, 8.3% employees and 8.3% students.

This focus group aimed at exploring participants' knowledge and perceptions regarding the issues related to family violence, and the impact of violent acts on them, to better understand the level of satisfaction with the services offered by the relevant institutions, and to identify the needs of more efficient and better services for victims of violence.

e) Eight men were selected for the focus group with **men who have committed acts of violence against women** in the family, according to the following criteria: to have committed violence against women in the family and to have used the rehabilitation program for alcohol abusers ("Viata Noua" NGO). The selected men had the following characteristics: age - 50% under 35 years old and 50% between 35-50 years old; level of education - 100% with secondary education; occupational status – 37.5% unemployed and 62.5% - employed. This focus group aimed to explore knowledge and perceptions of the perpetrators regarding the issue of family violence; the role of masculinity in perpetuating violence and men's attitudes regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of the protection orders, as well as to identify the needs for developing and improving the services for perpetrators. The focus group took place in August 2010 in Anenii Noi.

f) The focus group with **the representatives of mass-media**: seven persons were selected based on the criterion of being a well-known journalist and/or holding a managerial position in relevant mass-media (radio, TV, newspapers). Three of these seven participants were men, and four were women. The objectives of this group were to explore knowledge and perceptions about violence against women in the family, to assess the interest and the motivation to report such problems and to identify the needs for improving the role of the media role in tackling violence in the family. This focus group was organized in August 2010 in Chisinau.

⁶ Social assistants, police officers, family doctors, mayors, principles of schools.

1.3.2. In-depth interviews

The in-depth interviews were carried out with the representatives of different relevant institutions with duties in preventing and combating family violence, decision-makers and heads of service provision structures: the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the General Prosecutor's Office, courts of justice, the Forensic Medicine Centre, the Legal Centre from Causeni, Republican Narcology Centre, and Centre for Victims' Assistance from Causeni (10 persons). The operational objectives of the in-depth interviews were the following: to analyze the functionality of the structures having duties in preventing and combating violence against women in the family and to identify the existing problems, as well as the areas that should be enhanced. The questions were focused on the following aspects: functionality of the National Referral

System, availability of adequate services for victims' assistance and protection, the provision of the Law No. 45-XVI to protect victims and to bring to account perpetrators to account, identification of barriers hindering victims' possibility to access the existing services, identification of obstacles hindering the efficient application of protection orders, etc. At the same time, the interviewed persons were asked to formulate proposals for measures that would encourage women not to become victims of violence, how victims' assistance services could encourage victims' trust in a system of protection, how the state could help men not to become family abusers, what victims' assistance services and perpetrators' rehabilitation services could be developed by the state, etc.

The main findings and recommendations deriving from the focus groups' discussions and in-depth interviews are presented in Chapter 4 of the given report.

CHAPTER 2.

FAMILY VIOLENCE IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA – LEGAL, INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY CONTEXT

The phenomenon of violence against women in the family was a topic that was covered widely in the Moldovan media due to efforts undertaken by the international organizations and civil society to raise awareness and to improve victim protection services. In spite of growing concern over the issue, violence against women continues to be perceived in the context of the family's importance as the main social structure of the society. That is why the general legal, institutional, and policy system is based on the concept of violence in the family. This is not surprising, as the traditional gender roles persist in Moldovan society and the country has a short tradition of democracy and respect for human rights.

2.1. Legal and policy framework

By adopting the Law on Ensuring Equal Opportunities between Women and Men⁷, the Moldovan Government made a major step forward in setting up the legal framework for ensuring gender equality and establishing an efficient system for tackling violence against women. Apart from sanctioning gender-based discrimination, this law also provides for establishing the Governmental Committee on Gender Equality (GCGE) and the Department for Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Policies (DGEPVP) within the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF), thus setting up the basic structures to enhance efforts made to address violence in the family..

In compliance with the recommendations of the Specialized Committee CEDAW⁸ from 2006, which urge the country to tackle the implementation of some exhaustive measures to address violence against women with more attention, the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence (Law. No. 45)⁹ was adopted in March. It was promulgated by the President of the

Republic of Moldova on March 18, 2008, and became law on September 18, 2008. The adoption of this law and the subsequent amendments of the legislation in the respective area aimed to set up a mechanism to implement the law, was a major step forward in the fight against violence in the family, which contributed significantly in raising this problem to the highest political and decision-making levels.

According to the Law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, the phenomenon of family violence is defined as "any intentional action or inaction with the exception of cases of self-defense or defense of other persons, of physical and verbal nature, through physical abuse, sexual psychological, spiritual or economic abuse or through causing material or moral damages by a family member against other family members, including against children and common and personal property¹⁰". This law extends the applicability of its provisions for physical, sexual, and psychological violence, including economic and spiritual violence, but also it defines as family violence the acts committed by partners who are not formally in marriage. These

⁷ Law on Ensuring Equal Opportunities between Women and Men, No. 5-XVI, 9.02.2006, Official Gazette No. 47-50/200, 24.03.2006

⁸ United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Comments on eliminating discrimination against women: Republic of Moldova, CEDAW/C/MDA/CO/3, 2006

⁹ Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, Nr. 45 dated 01.03.2007, Official Gazette No. 55-56, March 18, 2008, <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=327246>

¹⁰ Art. 2, Law No. 45 to Prevent and Combat Family Violence

definitions are important as they relate directly to the scope of the given study.

The initial efforts to implement the law revealed a number of deficiencies that endanger the effective enacting of this legislative act. These deficiencies were attributed mainly to the fact that the law is based on a family-centered approach, lacking mechanisms to ensure the efficient enforcement of protective measures¹¹. To eliminate such deficiencies, amendments were developed for a number of normative acts, which were passed based on the Law No. 167, dated July 09, 2010¹². They refer to “sexual harassment” (art. 173 from Criminal Code¹³) and “family violence” (art. 201 from the Criminal Code), covering both: physical and psychological violence that ranges from light bodily injuries to severe bodily injuries, as well as acts leading to death of the victim. The new amendments also provide for new procedures in the Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes to enable the application of protection orders by the judges. Yet, there are still some gaps and needs for improvement in order to ensure the enforcement of urgent protection measures, including provisions that would regulate violation of issued protection orders.

In addition to such legal framework, relevant policy documents that address gender inequality and family violence have been recently developed in the Republic of Moldova, the most important being the National Programme on Gender Equality for 2010 – 2015 and the Action Plan for 2010-2013 to implement the Programme. One of the policy priorities adopted in this area related to preventing violence against women, including violence in the family.

2.2. Institutional framework

The main institution empowered to deal with problems related to family violence is the MLSPF, through its Department for Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence Policies. At rayon level, the Divisions for

Social Assistance are responsible for family violence problems, but their competences in this area are not fully elaborated¹⁴. The Government of the Republic of Moldova has recognized the existence of some visible deficiencies in the existing social assistance system, such as: lack of community social assistance services; fragmentation of social assistance services at different levels, programmes, and measures for people in difficulty; excessive institutionalization; lack of coordination and collaboration for implementation of coherent and integrated social policies¹⁵. Currently, there are 25 day care centres for adults and disabled persons, 25 centres for families with disabled children and 30 day care centres for families with children at risk. Additionally, there are 936 social assistants on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, considered to be the key intervention units in identifying and preventing cases of family violence. Social assistants deal with family issues, including cases of violence¹⁶. However, there is shortage of state specialized social assistance services for victims of family violence, as well as specialized programmes for perpetrators. Some services are offered mainly by NGOs and they are presented below.

Other line ministries, such as the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA), the Ministry of Health (MH), and the Ministry of Justice (MJ) also play an important role in the respective area. MIA is responsible for registering and solving the cases of family violence in a systematic way, by maintaining public order and supervising law enforcement. The cases when family violence results in criminal offences are handled by the MIA in accordance with the Criminal Code. This institution is also responsible for recording the cases of family violence, and even keeps statistical data on the prevalence of family violence.

In the area of health, currently, the Forensic Medicine Centres are the key entry points for victims of family violence. There are 32 centres operating on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and they are located within

¹¹ In art. 13 and 15, the law provides for protection orders to be issued within 24 hours since the moment the act of violence occurred.

¹² <http://lex.justice.md/index.php?action=view&view=doc&lang=1&id=335828>

¹³ Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova No. 985 dated 18.04.2002

¹⁴ Law No. 45-XVI, art. 8, provides for social assistance competences.

¹⁵ Decision 1512 as of December 31st 2008 regarding the approval of the National Programme on the Development of an Integrated System of Social Services, 2008 to 2012;

¹⁶ According to the Decision 1512 as of December 31st 2008 regarding the approval of the National Programme on the Development of an Integrated System of Social Services 2008 to 2012, social assistants are tasked with identification and assessment of potential beneficiaries, who may include children, older people,

people with disabilities, people with addiction to alcohol, drugs and other toxic substances, HIV/AIDS-infected persons, people who have been neglected or abused persons, and victims of family violence or of human trafficking. The social assistants develop individualized care plans, provide primary social assistance services (including counseling services, support to families, and monitoring the progress of children who are placed in substitute families), and refer cases to specialized services, as well as responding to more general queries, carrying out community needs assessments and drafting recommendations for the development of new social assistance services. According to the Moldovan government, the number of social assistants is still insufficient comparing with the diversity of social needs and demand of population for these services. Only 10 % of community-level staff has the adequate qualification. Low salaries lead to a high turnover.

the premises of rayon hospitals. The role of the family doctors and specialized gynecological centers in relation to cases of family violence is not clear, because there are no internal regulations and protocols on family violence in this key sector. Several trainings on family violence and the role of the medical workers to identify, assist, and counsel victims of family violence were organized in 2010 with the support of UNFPA. They are however, not organized in a systematic manner. The interview with the representatives of the health care sector in Cahul¹⁷ confirmed that the capacities and motivation of health care professionals in identifying and managing the cases of family violence are very weak. The Maternal Centers from Cahul, Drochia, Causeni, etc. can serve as a good example of how the health care system can act efficiently in response to cases of family violence.

Inter-sector collaboration is another weak point of the institutional response system to FV in Moldova. To date, the MIA and MH signed an agreement on regulating the collaboration arrangements between the two sectors, establishing the responsibility of the health care personnel to report to the MIA when there is a case of bodily injuries, but it is not targeting specifically the cases of FV only. However, given the existing capacities of the health care sector to eradicate the family violence phenomenon, it is not clear to what extent this is addressing the given problem. Unfortunately, the MIA and the MLSPF did not sign such an agreement, nor have other relevant sectors, such as MJ. To improve the collaboration between the central and local authorities on preventing and solving family violence cases, as well as to ensure the implementation of the existing legal framework, specific sector guidelines have been developed (for social assistants, health care workers, and police). These guidelines are to be approved by the MLSPF, MH, and MIA.

It is necessary to mention the poorly developed institutional mechanism and structure to ensure the efficient management and adequate prevention of violence cases, including the reduced capacities of the

nongovernmental organization to get involved in this process, especially in the area of service provision¹⁸.

2.3. Available information on family violence

The availability and the need to collect and analyze data on violence against women has been reiterated in the Concluding Comments of the CEDAW Specialized Committee (2006) and in the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women (2009). However, official unified statistics based on cross-sector sources on family violence are not yet available, because there is no unified and standardized system of data collection. Currently, data collection and recording is performed mainly manually, using non-standardized forms, separately for every sector (police, social protection, and health). Hence, data processing within a unified national system is a difficult, if not impossible task and to date it is still not clear when such unified system for a nation-wide collection of data and information on family violence would be operational¹⁹.

To cope with significant data gap, estimates on prevalence and incidence of family violence are based on household surveys and research studies. The Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) from 2005 showed an over lifetime prevalence rate of 27% among the interviewed women since the age of 15 years old, while the violence rate in the last 12 months prior to the survey was estimated at the level of 13%. The majority of cases of violence occurred in the family and were committed mostly by husbands, followed by fathers and step-fathers. Mothers with children represented most of the family violence victims²⁰.

DHS data also showed that separation and divorce represent important factors inducing prevalence of violence: 60% of divorced or separated women report having experienced violence since the age of 15 years old, as compared to 28% of married women. Widows

¹⁷ Tatjana Shikoska, 2009, Report of the Evaluation of the Project "Development of an Integrated Information System for Family Violence as Part of an Integrated Approach to Managing Family Violence in the Republic of Moldova" (Mda1g41a).

¹⁸ Only a few NGOs are active in the area of gender issues and family violence in the country: Gender-Center NGO (research, training, and advocacy in gender equality and violence against women area), shelter-center "Casa Marioarei" from Chisinau (rehabilitation services, mainly for victims of family violence, shelter, psychological counseling, social assistance, and legal assistance), maternal center "Ariadna" (shelter for mother with children up to 3 years old, including victims of family

violence), Association of Single-Parent Families, Cahul (legal, psychological, and social assistance for single mothers, as well as for family violence victims).

¹⁹ In 2009, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, with the assistance of UNFPA and support from the Government of Romania, developed an Integrated Information System (IIS) on family violence and piloted it in Drochia and Cahul. The Concept of the IIS was approved through Government Decision on September, 9, 2009. The IIS would provide a nation-wide monitoring infrastructure that would allow collecting information and better management of the national response system to family violence.

²⁰ Demographic and Health Survey, Moldova, 2005, p. 207

report higher rates of violence than married women (34% and 28% respectively). Likewise, the survey reveals that rural women are more likely to report family violence cases than urban women (29% and 24% respectively). A similar trend is observed for experience of violence in the past 12 months prior to the survey: 14% of rural women and 10% of urban women reported experience of family violence²¹.

According to the key socio-economic characteristics of the victims, the DHS showed that experience of violence decreases while the level of education increases, for both: violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months. However, only women who have higher than secondary education are much less likely to report violence. For instance 18% of women with higher than secondary education reported experiences of violence since the age of 15 years old, while 28% of women with secondary and secondary vocational education reported cases of violence. Women who are not employed are less likely to have experienced violence than those who have a source of income (23% as compared to 30%). More cases of violence were reported by women from poor households, as compared to those from well-off households (33% as compared to 22%). The main perpetrators of violence against women are their husbands (69%) and to a lesser extent, fathers/step-fathers (14%) and mother/step-mothers (7%)²².

Another study conducted in 2005 "Women at Risk in the Republic of Moldova" revealed that 41% of interviewed women aged between 16 and 35 suffered from family violence over their lifetimes. According to the respective study, women in the 16–24 year old age group are subject, mainly, to violence from fathers, while women aged 25–35 years old are subject to violence committed mainly by husbands and partners. The survey also showed that over one third of all interviewed women aged between 30 and 40 suffered from physical abuse, while 30% of women and young girls aged 16–19 years old experienced sexual violence²³.

The data from these two surveys were presented for information purpose and are not comparable, as these two surveys use different methodologies and samples, as well as different indicators and definitions, such as prevalence over lifetime and in the last 12 months, types of violence, etc²⁴. Due to methodological differences and restrictions of these studies, it is obvious that there is a need for exhaustive data standardized from methodological point of view, and comparable on international level regarding the prevalence of family violence and its consequences.

An effort to understand better the level of knowledge among Moldovans on family violence, as well as their perceptions about this problem was made through an opinion poll carried out in 2007 by La Strada²⁵. This survey revealed that 50% of interviewed persons had heard about family violence, but did not know details about the given problem. With only half of respondents knowing about the problem, it is not surprising that only 41% of those interviewed considered that violence is a serious problem in the Republic of Moldova. The level of knowledge among the urban population is higher than that among the rural population. It is interesting that the majority of respondents (79%) consider excessive alcohol consumption to be the main cause of violence, while only several respondents mentioned the authoritarian model of family relations (17%) and the emancipation of women (8%) to be important determinants of violence against women in the family.

Given the fact that this survey was conducted using a small non-representative sample and included women and men alike, the need to understand better the level of knowledge and attitudes among women about family violence, using a representative national sample, as well as different qualitative research methods becomes more important, as was one of the basic objectives of this study.

²¹ Demographic and Health Survey, Moldova, 2005, p. 208

²² Demographic and Health Survey, Moldova, 2005, p. 209

²³ IMAS inc. and Winrock International, 2005, Women At-Risk in the Republic of Moldova. National Representative Study http://www.atnet.md/public/46/en/Women%20At%20Risk_eng.pdf, p.63

²⁴ For example, while the DHS is based on nationally representative probability sample of over 11,000 households requiring post-survey weighting adjustments to make national estimates, it included women age 15–49, the Women at Risk Survey used a probability sample of only 1030 persons excluding respondents from Chisinau targeting women aged 16–35.

²⁵ La Strada, Research on Public Opinion in regards to Family Violence, 2007, Magenta Consulting.

CHAPTER 3.

PREVALENCE, DETERMINANTS, AND CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FAMILY *(quantitative study)*

The survey uses two key indicators to measure violence against women in the family: prevalence of violence committed by current or most recent husband/partner and prevalence of violence committed by other persons (details on definitions see in section 1.2.1). Two periods of reference are used for both indicators: over lifetime, starting at 15, and the last 12 months prior to the interview.

As violence against women in the family is mostly husband/partner violence, and this in turn is at the core of gender inequality, the survey focuses on comparative analysis of partner violence in relation to non-partner violence. Data on the prevalence of husband/partner violence are analyzed based on a number of factors related to the socio-economic status of the woman-victim and husband/partner. Analysis is also performed for the specific/characteristic types for every form of violence, as well as for violence occurrence frequency.

3.1. Violence against women in the family committed by husband/partner over lifetime and in the last 12 months

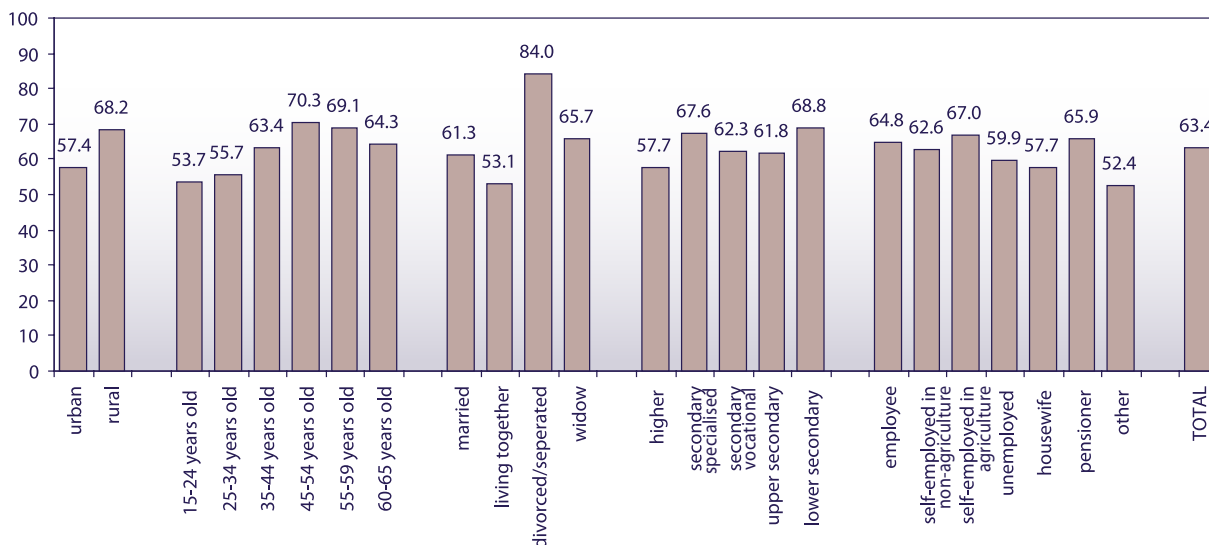
This chapter presents the situation regarding psychological, physical, and sexual violence committed by the current or most recent husband/partner in line with a number of background characteristics. As women may experience multiple forms of violence at the same time, all the cases are measured and are not mutually exclusive.

According to the survey results, the total prevalence rate of partner violence over lifetime (psychological, physical, or sexual) is 63.4% (see annex 3, table 1) or 6 out of 10 women experienced since the age of 15 at least one form of violence. The social-economic status of the victim and the area of residence determine to a certain

extent the likelihood for women to experience violence from their husbands/partners. Thus, the prevalence rate of violence over a lifetime among rural women (68.2%) is higher than that among urban women (57.4%). Age is another factor determining the risk of being exposed to violence committed by the partner. Although partner violence is widely spread among all age groups, the highest percentage of women that have ever experienced partner violence is among those aged 45-54 years old (70.3%), followed by women aged 55-59 years old (69.1%) and 60-65 years old (64.3%). However, data reveal that more than a half of younger women also reported cases of psychological, physical, and sexual violence (see figure 1).

The marital status of the victim is correlated with the experience of violence cases. Divorced or separated women report more cases of violence committed by

Figure 1. Total prevalence rate of violence (psychological, physical or sexual) committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime, since the age of 15, %



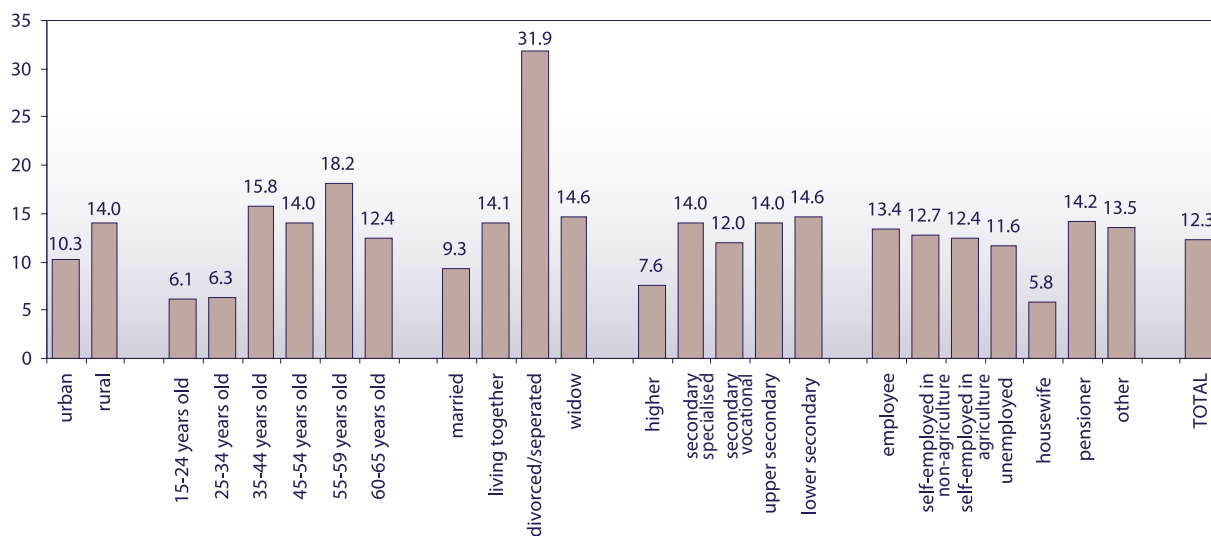
their husband/partner (84%), while the lowest prevalence of violence is registered for women that cohabit with a partner but are not married (53.1%). The survey data also suggest that experience of husband/partner violence seems to decrease slightly when a woman's level of education increases. The higher the woman's educational level is, the lower is the probability for her to experience violence committed by the husband/partner. While about 58% of women with higher education reported cases of violence, this rate is even higher for women with completed lower secondary and secondary specialized education, 69% and 68% respectively.

The relationship between partner violence and occupational status of the victim shows some influence on woman's exposure to partner violence. Housewives and unemployed women (57.7% and 59.9%) report fewer cases of violence committed by husbands/partners than those who are employed and have their own income. The lowest prevalence rate among the employed

women is registered by those self-employed in non-agricultural activities (63%), followed by employees (65%), the most affected being those who work on their own account in agricultural sector (67%).

When referring to the cumulative prevalence of all those three forms of violence committed by the current or most recent husband/partner, it is noted that 12.3% of women have experienced over their lifetime all the three forms of violence. Just like in the case of the general prevalence rate of violence, rural women reported more cumulative experiences of all the three forms of violence, 14% as compared to 10.3% of urban women. The occurrence of multiple violence cases was reported more frequently by women aged 55-59 years old, and those who divorced or separated from the most recent husband/partner. Housewives seem to be exposed to a lower risk of being victims of multiple violence (5.8%) as compared to women which are involved in other categories of activities (see figure 2).

Figure 2. Total prevalence rate of cumulative violence (psychological, physical, and sexual) committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime, since the age of 15, %

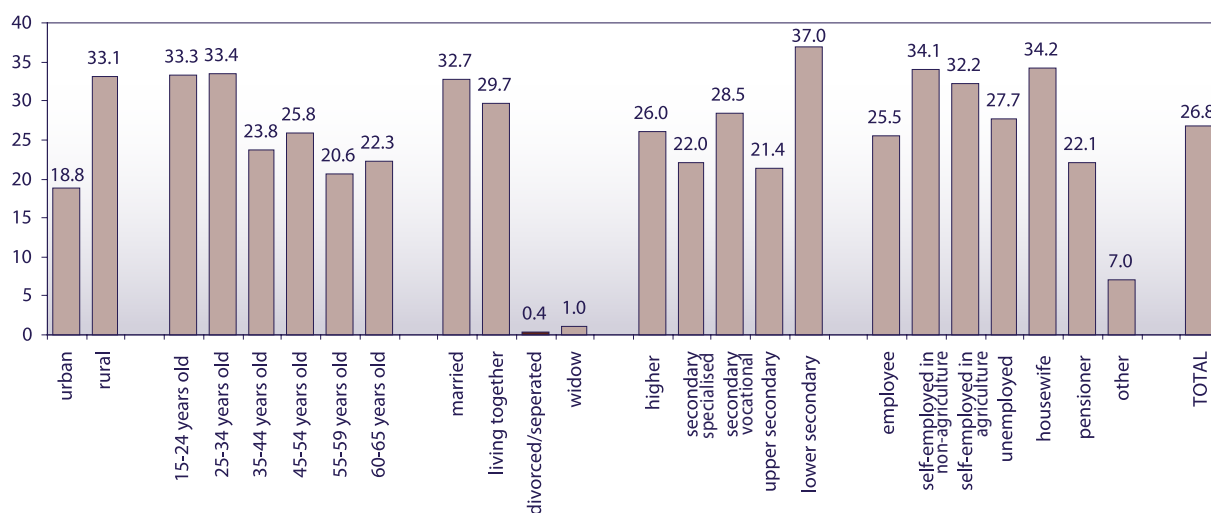


The general prevalence of violence committed by husband/partner in the last 12 months, measured as the total percentage of partnered women that have reported experience of any form of violence in the last 12 months²⁶, is significant and represents 26.8% of the total surveyed women. The incidence of violence in the last 12 months is higher in rural areas, where one in three women reported cases of violence in the last 12 months, as compared with one in five women in case of urban areas. When comparing the prevalence of violence over

lifetime with the violence in the last 12 months for rural and urban women, it may be noted that the share of rural women who experienced any type of violence in the last 12 months increased insignificantly as compared to the share of women who at least once in their lives experienced cases of violence committed by husband/partner (see figure 3).

The social-economic context of violence in the last 12 months reveals similar trends as in case of violence over lifetime, the most affected being married women (33%),

Figure 3. Total prevalence rate of violence (psychological, physical, or sexual) committed by husband/partner, in the last 12 months, %



²⁶ See definition in section 2.1 "Quantitative Survey"

those with lower secondary education (37%), and one fourth of women with higher and secondary vocational education reported cases of violence committed by husband/partner in the last 12 months.

Cumulative experiences of the three forms of violence were reported by women also in the last 12 months. About 1.5% of the total interviewed women have experienced cumulatively the three types of violence; 2.3% of total women and only 0.4% of urban women reported such cases. The highest proportion of surveyed women who have reported experiences of repeated cases of violence are unemployed (3.7%), while housewives and pensioners were the least affected (0.6% and 0.8% respectively). The correlation with the level of education indicates the same model as in case of the general prevalence rates; women with lower secondary education are at highest risk to become victims of repeated violence, including in the last 12 months (4.8%) (see annex 3, table 2).

In conclusion, data analysis shows that partner violence against women in the family is extremely widespread in Moldova and affects all women regardless of their age, place of residence and social and economic status. However, the analysis also shows that some specific trends were detected having significant correlation with a number of individual, socio-economic and cultural factors, such as the place of residence of the victim, their age, marital status, occupational status and the level of education. Prevalence among rural women, women of lower level of educational, women who are unemployed or self-employed in agriculture is higher. Overall, the above findings confirm the complexity of the problem and show that a number of factors and determinants do impact the prevalence of partner violence against women and that only systematic, sustained and multi-leveled interventions could help decrease its prevalence.

3.2. Prevalence of husband/partner violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months, by specific forms of violence and frequency

3.2.1. Prevalence of psychological violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months²⁷

The study collected information regarding different specific forms of violence over lifetime and in the last 12

months, thus allowing analyzing every type of violence separately. In average, about 60% of the total number of interviewed women reported experiences of psychological violence over their lifetime, and 26% were exposed to such experiences in the last 12 months. The socio-economic characteristics of the victim reveal similar trends to those registered for the prevalence of the violence in general (any form), both over lifetime and in the last 12 months.

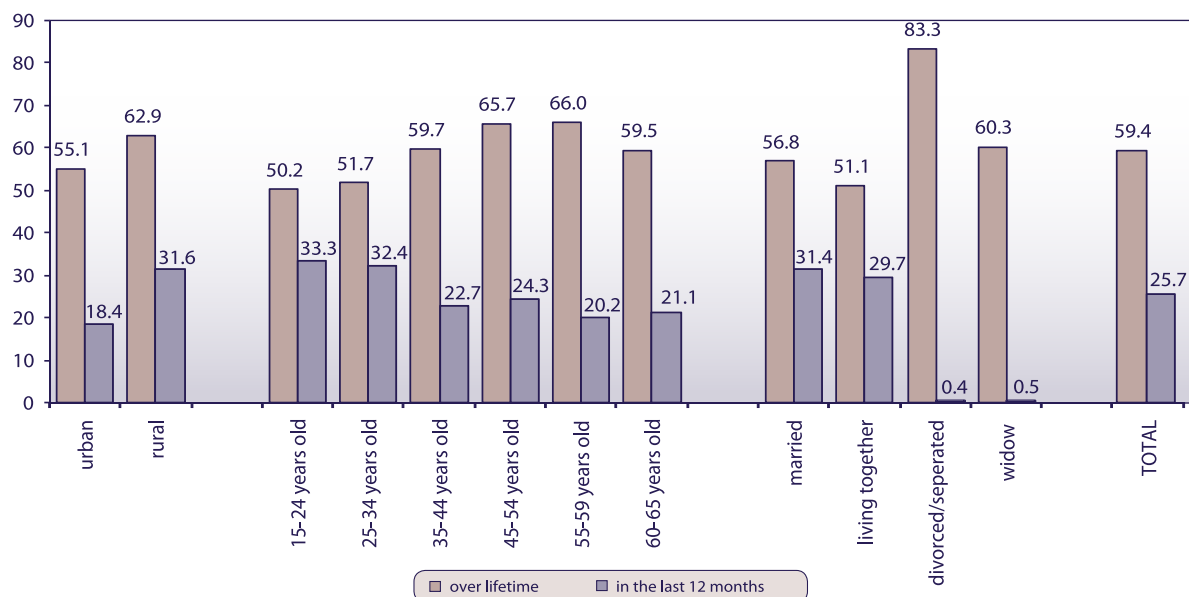
Just as in the case of psychological violence, rural women were more affected over their lifetime (62.9%), while urban women are exposed to this form of violence in a proportion of 55.1%. Psychological violence is more frequent in the case of women aged 45-59 years old (66%), while younger women are less affected (50.2%). The situation is different, when referring to the cases of violence in the last 12 months, as the prevalence of psychological violence is decreasing as the age goes up. In average, one in three women aged 15-34 years old reported experiences of psychological violence, as compared to one in five women aged 55-65 years old (see figure 4). The difference between the prevalence rate of psychological violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months, for these two age groups, may be explained by the fact that the older the women is, the higher the probability is for her not to have a partner in the last 12 months.

The correlation between the marital status of the victim and the prevalence of psychological violence is consistent with the findings related to the prevalence of any form of violence. Separated/divorced women reported most of psychological violence cases over their lifetime (83.3%), followed by widows (60.3%) and married women (56.8%). In the last 12 months, it is the married women who reported the most of cases of psychological violence (see figure 4).

Psychological violence in relation to the victim's level of education does not register significant differences for the prevalence rate over lifetime. Women with higher education report fewer cases of psychological violence (56.8%), the highest rate of psychological violence prevalence is registered for women with lower secondary education (62%) (see figure 5). Wider gaps are registered for violence cases occurred in the last 12 months. The psychological violence rate is with 10 percentage points higher for women with lower level of education as compared to women with higher level of education. This

²⁷ Psychological violence excludes acts of economic violence, social isolation and controlling behavior of the victims.

Figure 4. Prevalence of psychological violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by area of residence, age, and marital status of the woman, %

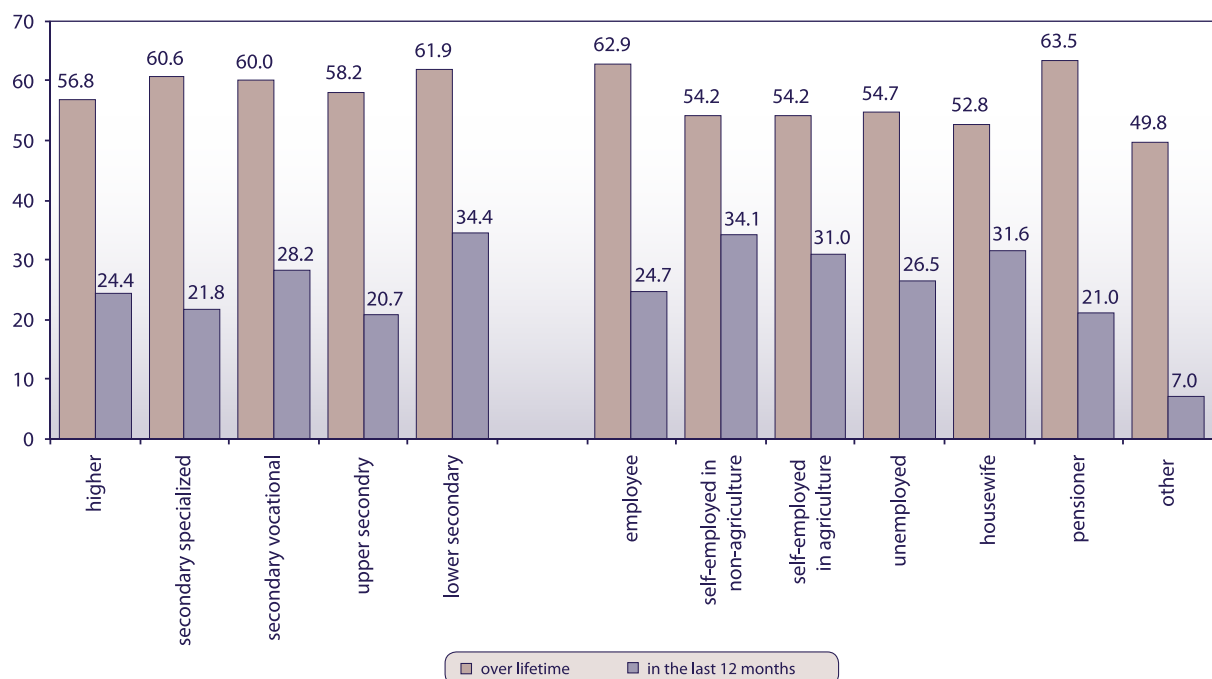


fact confirms the importance of education for women, as more educated women probably live with more educated men and their relationship is less influenced by the traditional and patriarchal gender roles that constitute the roots for the psychological violence.

There is a positive correlation in reporting cases of psychological violence depending on victim's occupational

status. Employees (63%) and pensioners (63%) reported most of psychological violence cases over their lifetime since the age of 15. Similar rates were registered for self-employed women (54.2%), unemployed women, and housewives. Nevertheless, in the last 12 months, fewer pensioners were subject to psychological violence than self-employed and housewives (see figure 5). Although

Figure 5. Prevalence of psychological violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by women's level of education and occupational status, %



this trend may be explained by the wide period of reference, other factors could also influence it, such as specific family background for households with elderly people.

a) Prevalence of psychological violence by specific forms – over lifetime and in the last 12 months

The study collected data on those four different forms of psychological violence: insults, humiliation, fear and intimidation, and verbal threats. The vast majority of women – victims of psychological violence stated that they were insulted at least once in their lifetime (91.4%), one in two women were subject to intimidation and fear, 38.1% were subject to verbal threats, and 37% were humiliated. The same forms of psychological violence were used by husbands/partners in the last 12 months to control women; insults and intimidation being the prevalent forms (see figure 6).

Practically all types of psychological violence, except for humiliation, have been experienced mainly by rural women, while insults have affected almost equally both rural and urban women (92.2% and 90.2% respectively). Data disaggregation on the basis of the victims' age show some variations across different age groups in terms of the extent to which specific forms of psychological violence has been experienced (see annex 3, table 3). However, it should be mentioned that the majority of surveyed women across all age groups reported

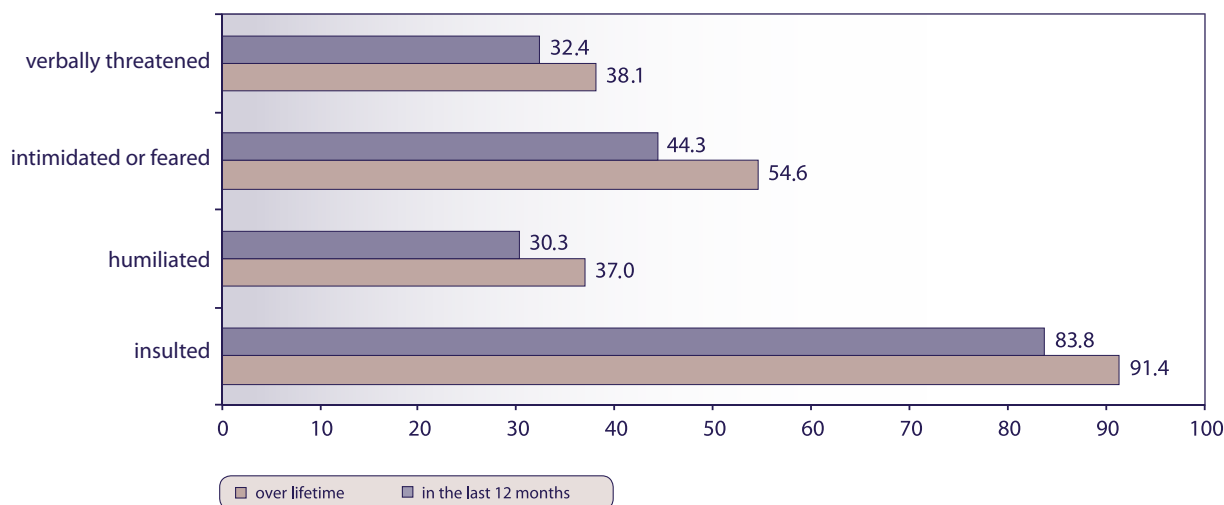
being subject to insults, followed by intimidation and fear. This fact attests the existence of culturally accepted men's behaviour focused on exercising control over women, where women still continue to fear their husbands. There is considerable difference between cases of humiliation experienced by women who are not married but cohabit with their partners and the women from other categories: 77.4% of unmarried women living together with the partner were humiliated over their lifetime, while only 31.9% of married women were subject to humiliation. The level of education of women does not seem to be an important factor predominating one or another form of psychological violence, because there is no correlation between the level of education and the form of reported violence.

It can be concluded that husbands/partners more frequently insult, or use intimidation, and fear to maintain their power and control over their wives/partners. Nevertheless, the occurrence of different forms of psychological violence is individual and related more to the subjective characteristics of the partner, the dynamics of the relation between the partners, and women's perception of insult, intimidation, humiliation, and verbal threats.

b) Frequency of psychological violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months

In terms of frequency of psychological violence cases

Figure 6. Share of women subject to different forms of psychological violence committed by husband/partner, over their lifetime and in the last 12 months, %



over a lifetime, it should be noted that two-thirds of women who suffered psychological violence were subject to this type of violence on a frequent and permanent basis. Only a very small percentage of women reported only one single case of psychological violence (4.6%) (see annex 3, table 4). This fact confirms that such behaviour is culturally and socially accepted as a way of controlling women. The impact on women's psychological wellbeing and health should be seriously considered and further analysis of the traditional gender-based social and cultural norms should be undertaken to understand better the dynamics of the relationships between spouses and partners.

Data on the frequency of different forms of psychological violence experienced by women in the last 12 months show the same trend of repeated cases of psychological violence. Only a small number of women experienced psychological violence only once. These findings reconfirm the presence of a clear and permanent model of psychological and verbal violence used by the current or most recent husband/partner against his spouse/partner.

3.2.2. Prevalence of psychological violence focused on woman's social isolation over lifetime and in the last 12 months

To understand the extent to which women are subject to controlling behaviour by their husbands/partners, respondents were asked a number of specific questions: a) does he ban you from seeing/meeting your friends?; b) does he restrict your visits to your family?; c) does he always insist to know where you are?; d) does he ignore you and treat you with indifference?; e) does he get angry if you talk to another man?; f) is he often suspicious that you are unfaithful?; g) does he expect you to ask his permission to go to the doctor?; h) does he decide what you can and what you cannot do?

The answers to these questions, although relate to psychological violence in a wider meaning, were registered and analyzed separately, as they offer good indication on prevalence of cultural and social norms dealing with the gender-based relationships between women and men.

Thus, according to the results of the survey, practically one in two women reported cases of controlling be-

Figure 7. Prevalence of psychological violence focused on women's social isolation over their lifetime and in the last 12 months, by area of residence, age, and marital status of women, %

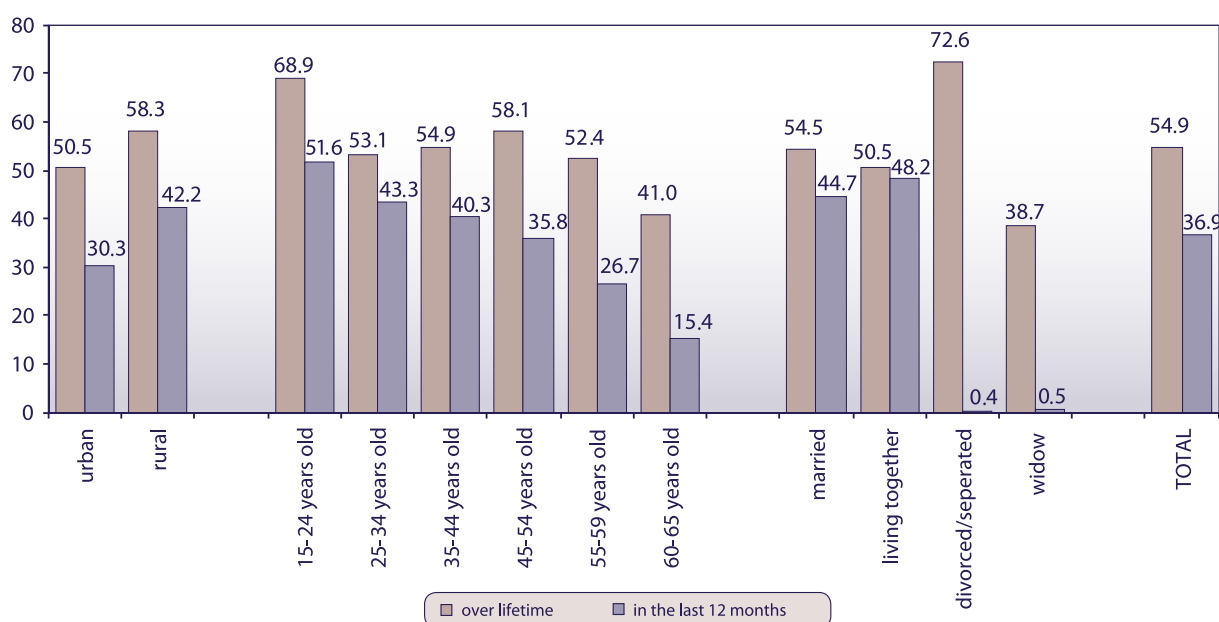
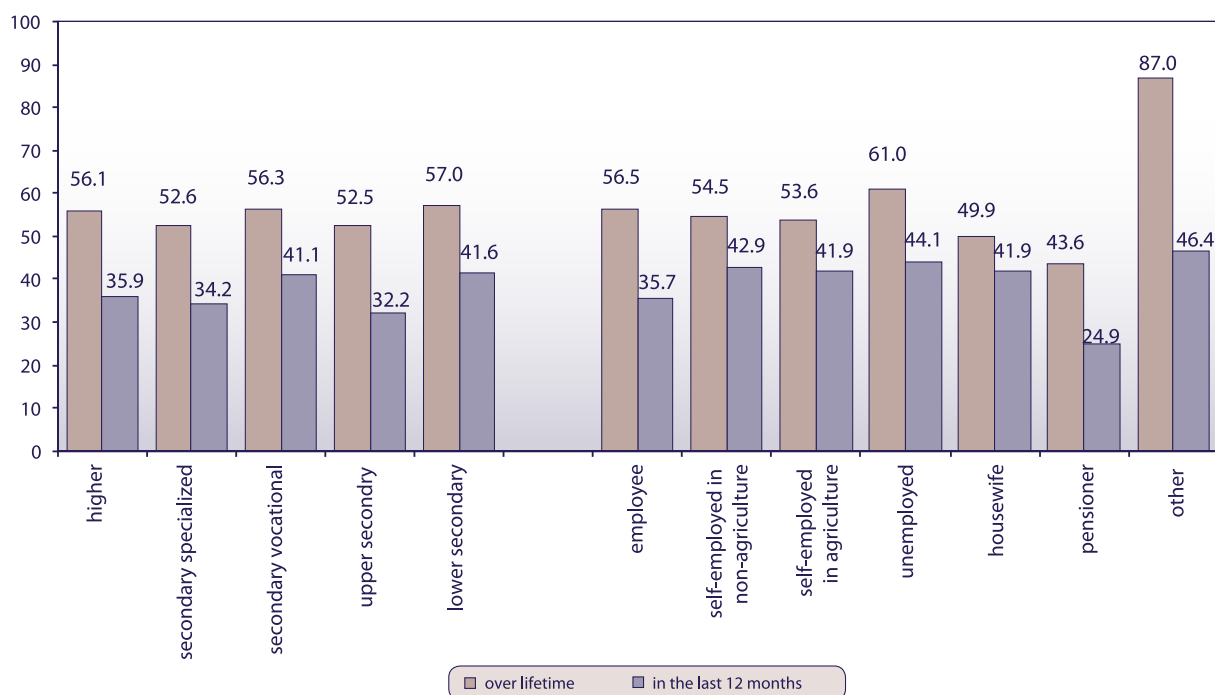


Figure 8. Prevalence of psychological violence focused on social isolation over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by women's level of education and occupational status, %



behaviour manifested by the current or most recent husband/partner, over lifetime since the age of 15; and one in three women reported the same type of violence in the last 12 months (see annex 3, table 5). In general, rural women suffer from this type of violence more often than urban women (58.3% and 50.5%). Moreover, the data on prevalence of this type of violence in the last 12 months show an increased percentage of rural women that have experienced this type of violence as compared to urban women (42.2% as against 30.3%) (see figure 7).

More than a half of women of all ages (except for those aged 60-65 years old) have been subject to controlling behaviour over their lifetime; this type of violence is almost equally present in all age groups. Nevertheless, younger women are more often subject to such controlling behaviour not only over their lifetime, but also in the last 12 months (68.9% and 51.6% respectively). This may imply the fact that due to the changing nature of the traditional gender roles in Moldovan society and the consequent empowerment of women, young husbands/partners tend to maintain the traditional gender relationships, by using control and imposing their role as power holders and decision-makers in the household.

Just like in the case of other types of violence, the highest percentage of women who have reported occurrence of social isolation violence at least once over their lifetime is registered for divorced/separated women (72.6%), followed by married women and unmarried women but living together with their partners (54.5% and 50.5% respectively). The situation is different when referring to the last 12 months prior to the survey: divorced women reported the fewest cases of controlling behaviour, as the divorce/separation did not happen during the last year. As argued for other types of violence, the high prevalence of violence among divorced/separated women may be one of the reasons why these women have divorced or separated from their husbands/partners; but it may also imply that their former husbands/partners seek to find a way to control and exercise power over women-victims.

Although there are differences recorded for the prevalence rate of the psychological violence focused on social isolation depending on women's level of education and occupational status, these differences are not significant, except for the pensioners who report lower rates over lifetime and in the last 12 months. Hence, it can be concluded that these factors are less important for the occurrence of this type of violence (see figure 8).

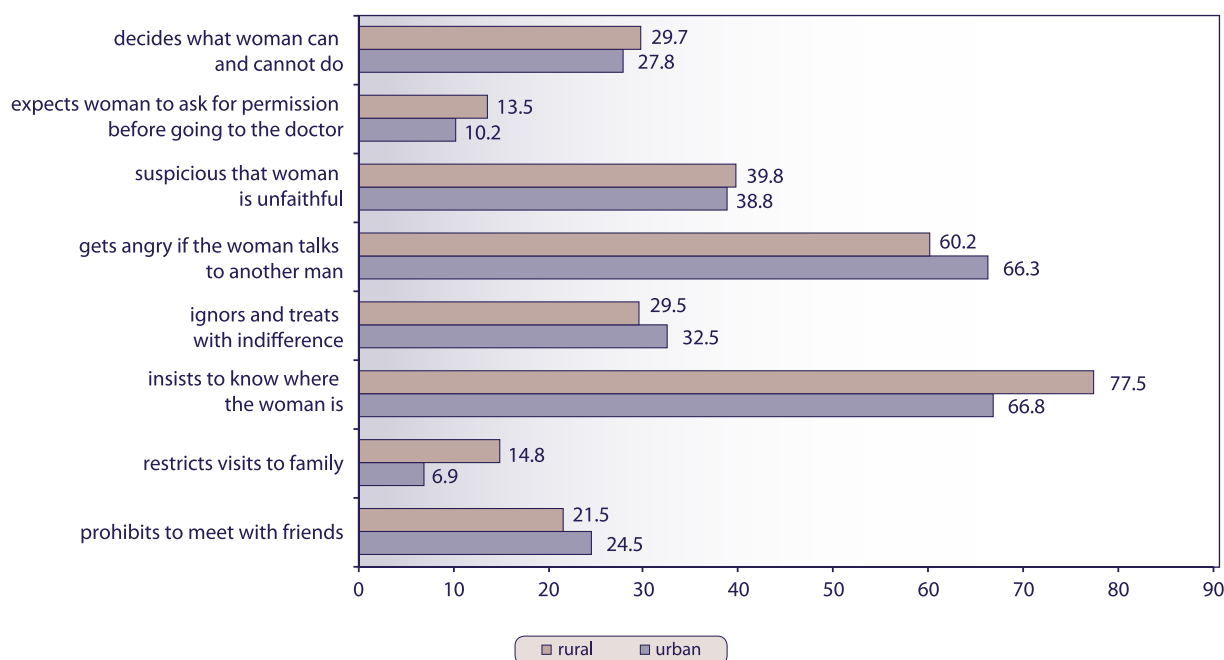
To better understand husbands'/partners' controlling behaviour, it would be interesting to analyze cases of psychological violence focused on social isolation by some specific forms. The most typical way to exercise control as indicated by women is their husband's/partner's insistency to know where the woman is all the time (73.1%). Two thirds of women indicated that their husband/partner becomes angry when they talk to another man; about 39% were under suspicion that they were unfaithful. At the same time, 30.7% mentioned that they are ignored or treated with indifference, 28.9% indicated that their husbands/partners can decide what they can and cannot do. Even though to a lesser extent, women were also restricted from meeting with friends (22.7%), 12.1% of women mentioned that they have to ask for husband's/partner's permission to go to the doctor, and 11.6% of women need their husband's/partner's approval to go to see their families (see annex 3, table 6).

There are differences registered by urban and rural distribution when talking about husbands'/partners' controlling behaviour. Urban women cope more often with situations when the husband/partner becomes angry if they talk to another man and they are more frequently

limited in seeing their friends, and urban women reported more cases of ignorance and indifference from their husbands/partners. Rural women face controlling behaviour more often. About 76% mentioned that their husbands/partners always insist on knowing where they are and 30% of women mentioned that their husband/partner decides what they can and cannot do. Unlike the women from urban areas, rural women are more isolated from their families and relatives, than from their friends. As well, rural women more frequently cope with the situation when they have to ask for permission before going to see a doctor (see figure 9).

When analyzing the forms of social isolation and controlling behaviour, it should be noted that young women (15-24 years old) face more frequently restrictions to meet with friends (36.7%), and register the highest percentage among women experiencing episodes of their husband's/partner's jealousy (80.9%). This category of women reported also more frequent cases of their partner insisting to always know where the woman is (see annex 3, table 6). It is interesting to note that the highest distribution of women that have ever experienced their partners being suspicious of unfaithfulness is among

Figure 9. Prevalence of violence focused on women's social isolation by specific forms and women's area of residence, %



women aged 60-65 years old; half of them reported exposure to such controlling behaviour over their lifetime, and the main reason could be either the longer period of reference, as well as the fact that the older couples have lived by more traditional social and gender norms. As well, one of the reasons could be the fact that more women of this age are widows, thus they are more open in reporting such behaviour.

In terms of marital status of the victims, the data show that married women are more exposed to situations when their partners insist on knowing where they are (73.8%) and less exposed to situations when husbands/partners insist on them asking for permission to go to the doctor (10.3%) (see annex 3, table 6). In fact, when analyzing all the categories of women, it may be noted that the distribution of women that need to ask for permission to visit the doctor is the lowest; the same goes to women who are restricted to visit their families. Divorced and separated women once again are among those that have a very high share in all the different types of controlling/social isolation behaviour.

Although there are some variations in the number of women with different levels of education, who report cases of controlling behaviour from their husbands/partners, it should be nevertheless mentioned that regardless of their educational level, the majority of women report mainly experiences of two types of controlling behaviour: "insisting on knowing where they are" and "getting angry because the woman talks to another man" (see annex 3, table 6). In terms of women's occupational status, it can also be noted the prevalence of these two types of controlling behaviour manifested by their husbands/partners.

Hence, it can be concluded that of all the forms of violence focused on social isolation and control of women, two types are predominant: insisting on where the woman is and getting angry because the woman talks to another man, regardless of women's social-economic status, age, level of education, and area of residence. Both forms are strongly correlated with the masculinity notion as understood in traditional terms. It is not surprising that in order to preserve and exercise "such masculinity", men tend to control every movement and behaviour of their wives/partners.

3.2.3. Prevalence of economic violence over a lifetime and in the last 12 months

Economic violence was tackled in this survey as a separate category of psychological violence²⁸. Women were asked to give answers to two questions on this matter: "does the current or most recent husband/partner take the money you have earned?" and "does the current or most recent husband/partner refuse to give enough money for household expenses?" One in ten women reported such cases of violence to happen at least once in their lifetime, while in the last 12 months the prevalence of this type of violence accounts for 4.2%. There are no significant differences among rural and urban women, as similar rates are observed for both: over lifetime starting with the age of 15 (10.9% in rural area as against 10.2% in urban area), as well as in the last 12 months (4.5% as against 3.8%).

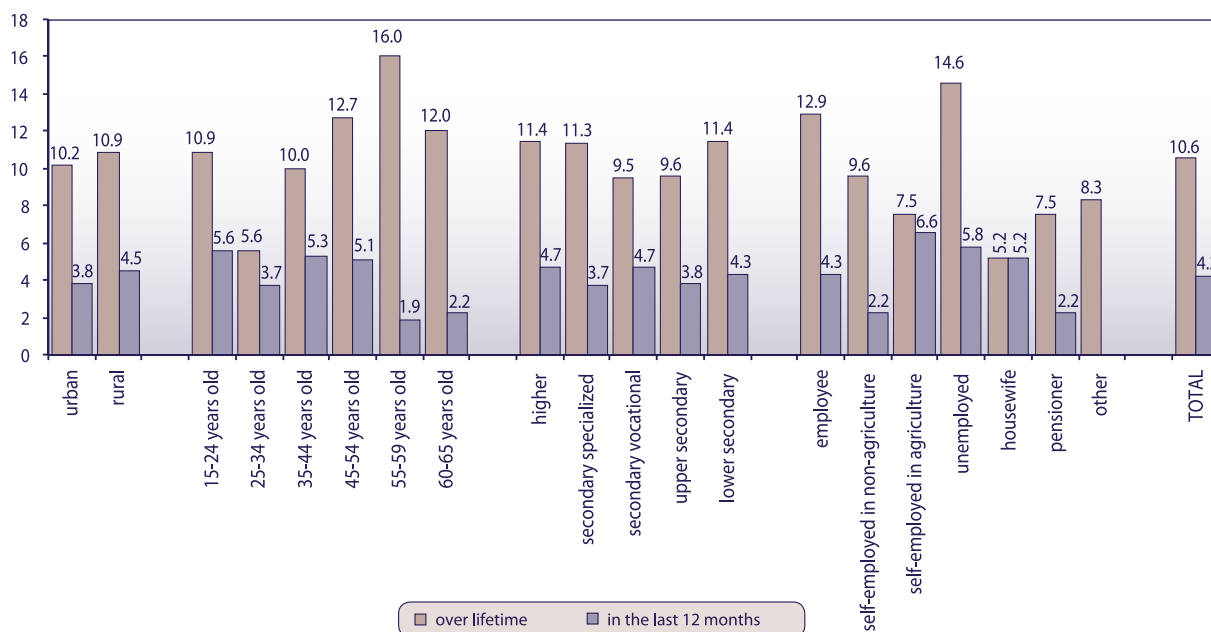
Although similar prevalence rates of economic violence over lifetime may be observed in the majority of age groups ranging in between 10%-12%, there is a notable difference in the prevalence rate of economic violence among women aged 25-34 years old and 55-59 years old: the women from the first age group report the fewest cases of economic violence (5.6%), whereas those from the second age group – the most of such cases (16%). A possible reason for this situation could be sought in the existing trends on labour market, where younger women are more active from economic point of view and, respectively, depend economically less on their husbands/partners and eventually have better negotiation power in the households, hence being less exposed to economic violence committed by the current or most recent husband/partner (see figure 10).

Economic violence in the last 12 months, in terms of women's age, registers some difference in the prevalence rate. The younger women (15-24 years old) reported the most of economic violence cases (5.6%), being followed by those aged 35-44 years old (5.3%). This situation differs from the economic violence prevalence over lifetime, and the possible reasons could be the impact of the recent economic crisis on the occupational status of women and men from this age group.

In terms of marital status of victims of economic violence, it can be noted that unmarried women living

²⁸ The Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence in Moldova stipulates that economic violence is a separate form of violence.

Figure 10. Prevalence of economic violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by women's area of residence, age, level of education, and occupational status, %



together with a partner report twice as many cases of economic violence compared to those who are officially married (see annex 3, table 7). The highest prevalence rate of over lifetime economic violence is registered for divorced/separated women (37.8%), and the lowest rate was reported by married women (7.2%). These data are not surprising and confirm the fact that divorce/separation is a factor that contributes to economic violence or economic violence could be the cause inducing the divorce/separation. This fact involves the need to tackle the respective problem in the context of divorced/separated women's economic vulnerability.

The survey data do not reveal a direct correlation between women's level of education and experiences of economic violence both: over lifetime and in the last 12 months. While in terms of women's occupational status²⁹, it seems that it plays some role in determining the risk of economic violence occurrence. Thus, employees and unemployed women are most affected by economic violence (12.9% and 14.6% respectively). While it is easier to explain the economic dependency of unemployed women and why they are more likely to be potential victims of economic violence, it is rather difficult to draw such a direct conclusion for women-employees, because

such factors as difference in income, occupational status of the husband/partner and his general social status also have an impact on the occurrence probability for economic violence and other types of violence³⁰.

When the two specific forms of economic violence are analyzed separately: (i) husband/partner takes away the money the woman has earned and (ii) husband/partner refuses to give enough money for household expenses, even when he has money for other things, it may be noted that eight in ten women experienced at least once in their lifetime situations when the husband/partner refused to give enough money for household expenses, while only four in ten women mentioned that their husbands/partners take the money the women have earned (see annex 3, table 7). This finding highlights the importance of women's economic empowering to decrease the prevalence of economic violence, and also reveals that women could be subject to economic violence even though they have their own income sources and are independent from economic point of view. This fact again confirms that such factors as family's economic status, partners' occupational status, and men's and women's income size may and really do influence partner violence against women.

²⁹ The occupational status of women is determined based on the situation in the last 12 months and does not reflect necessarily women's status over their lifetime. Hence even "housewives" and "unemployed" report experiences of economic violence over lifetime.

³⁰ Women's average salary constitutes 70% of men's average salary. This fact affects negatively the level of economic independence, as well as the dynamics of relations between the partners.

In conclusion, it may be stated that economic violence is spread widely throughout the Republic of Moldova and the predominant form is the husband's/partner's refusal to provide the woman with enough money for household expenses. As more rural women, less educated women and those with less secured/profitable jobs, as well as those who live together with their partners without being married reported cases of economic violence, it becomes clear that women's and men's economic dependency results in women's vulnerability to this form of violence. However, the survey also reveals that more than one third of women who work and earn money are also victims of economic violence, even though they are economically independent, their status in the family remains unequal and the factors related to gender roles, social norms and views, and women's capacity to negotiate more equal status in the family also have an impact on their vulnerability to economic violence.

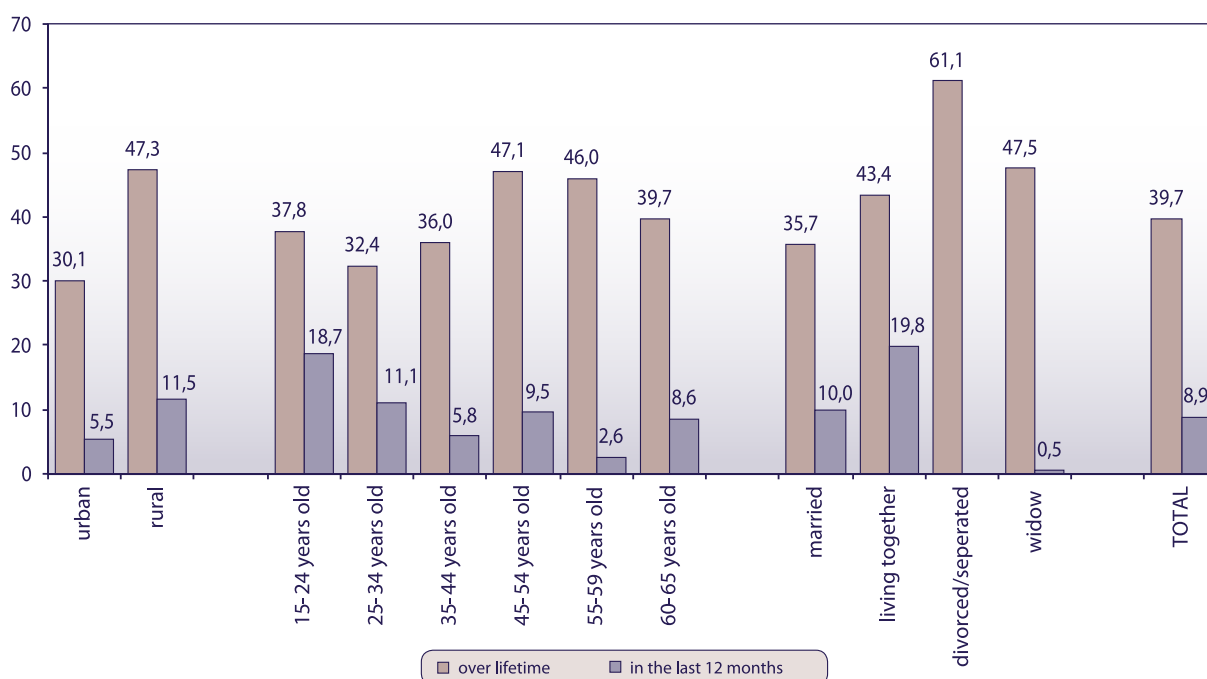
3.2.4. Prevalence of physical violence over a lifetime and in the last 12 months

According to the survey data, about 40% of women suffered at least once from physical violence committed

by their current or most recent husband/partner over their lifetime. In the last 12 months, cases of physical violence were reported by almost 9% of women. Unlike the other types of violence, significant differences are noted in prevalence of physical violence starting with the age of 15 years old for rural women (47.3%) as compared to the prevalence of physical violence registered for urban women (30.1%). Moreover, in the last 12 months prior to the study, rural women register a double prevalence as compared to urban women. These notable differences may be explained by persisting differences in the prevalence of traditional gender roles among rural and urban population and the impact they have on the social and cultural norms guiding the behaviour of men and women in rural and urban areas (see figure 11).

Age plays some role in determining the risk of becoming a victim of physical violence, and although data show that over one third of women from all age groups reported cases of physical violence, the most affected are the women aged 45-59 years old (46 - 47%). Most likely, this is related to the experiences accumulated over lifetime. However, the situation is different in the last 12 months: the highest prevalence of physical violence is registered

Figure 11. Prevalence of physical violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by women's area of residence, age, and marital status, %



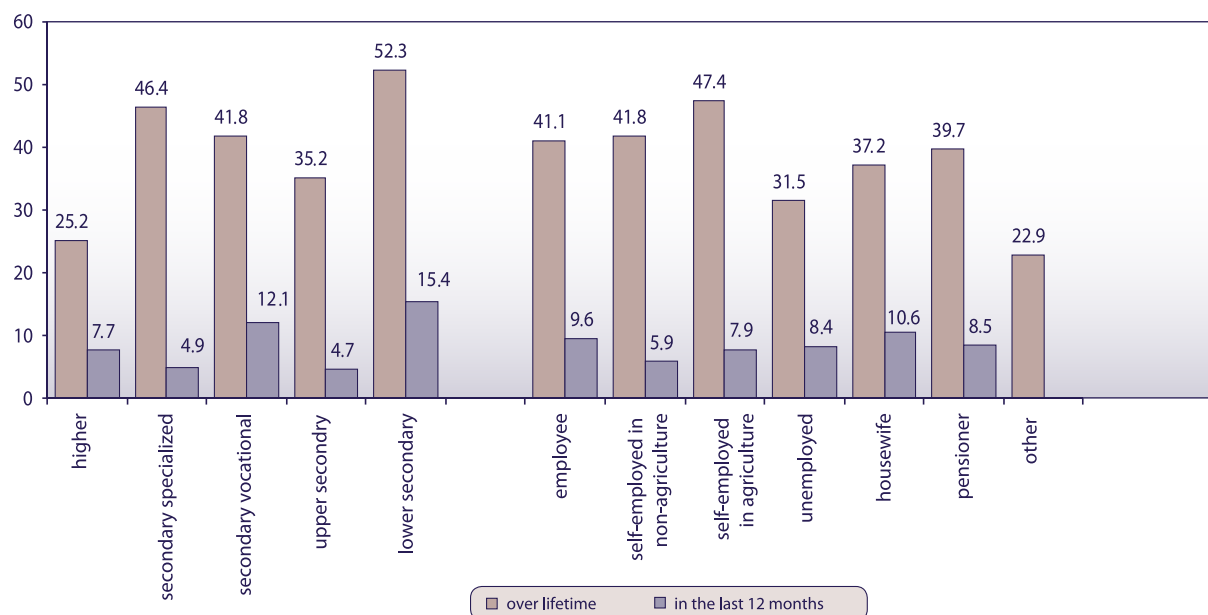
among young women (15-34 years old). Hence, physical violence tends to occur even in the first years of marriage/living together. This fact needs a more detailed analysis of the causes inducing such a trend over the last year; at the same time, it is an indication that physical violence against women persists from generation to generation. All these findings are also based on social-psychological surveys carried out in the respective area, that show that violence prevails more during the first years of marriage/relation, as during this period of time couples usually face a lot of challenges, including economic ones, the appearance of children, changes in behaviour, etc., but also they still lack skills to solve the emerged problems – skills that are acquired over the time³¹.

The prevalence of physical violence over lifetime in terms of marital status of the victim denotes similar trends as in case of psychological and economic violence - the most vulnerable being divorced/separated women: 6 in 10 women from this category suffered over their lifetime of physical violence committed by the current or most recent husbands/partners. Married women were the least affected (35.7%). It should be mentioned that unmarried women living with a partner experience higher rates of

physical violence prevalence as compared to those who are officially married (both: over lifetime and in the last 12 months). These trends are also confirmed by other surveys carried out in other countries in the area of family violence in cohabitating couples. According to these studies, the possible causes for such a situation could be the fact that those who are cohabitating are not subject to institutionalized mechanisms of social control, which could limit violent physical behaviour within marriage³².

Women's level of education is one of the factors that determine their level of vulnerability in the case of physical violence. A lower level of education is associated with a higher level of physical violence prevalence. One in two women with lower secondary education experienced over her lifetime violent actions committed by her husband/partner, while only one in four women with higher education reported cases of physical violence (see figure 12). This is consistent with the findings of surveys conducted in other countries, which confirm a close correlation between the prevalence of physical violence and women's level of education, meaning that the more educated the woman, the less likely she will experience physical violence³³. Anyway, this trend should be carefully

Figure 12. Prevalence of physical violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by women's level of education and occupational status, %



³¹ Markman, H. at all., 1998, Prevention of Marital Distress: A longitudinal Investigation, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology; Frye, N., Karney B., .2006, Journal of Family Psychology, Vol 20(1); Shumacher, J., Homish, G. Leonard, K.Quigley, B. and Kearns-Bodkin, J. 2008, Longitudinal Moderators of the Relationship between Excessive Drinking and Intimate Partner Violence in the Early Years of Marriage, in Journal of Family Psychology, Vol. 22(6).

³² For more see: Stets and Straus 1989 "The marriage license as a hitting license: A comparison of assaults in dating, cohabiting, and married couples." In Violence in Dating Relationships: Emerging Social Issues. Edited by Pirog-Good and Stets, Stets 1991 "Cohabiting and Marital Aggression: The Role of Social Isolation," Journal of Marriage and the Family 53: 669

³³ WHO Report, World Report on Violence and Health, Geneva, 2002..

analyzed, taking into consideration also the factors related to the occupational status and occupations of women with gymnasium education.

There are no significant differences in prevalence rates of physical violence among women with different occupational status, except for unemployed women, for whom the prevalence rate is significantly lower (31.5%) and self-employed women in agriculture (47.4%), who are the most affected by physical violence committed by their husband/partner. A possible reason for such high prevalence rates of physical violence among self-employed women in agriculture might be women's economic and financial insecurity, social-economic status, area of residence in rural localities and small towns, where traditional gender roles predominate, as well as a lower level of knowledge and information regarding the incriminated nature of physical actions focused on controlling women, etc. These findings point out once again the importance of women's level of education and occupational status, as inhibitors of physical violence and other types of family violence – factors that should be taken into consideration in the efforts to eliminate violence against women.

The prevalence of physical violence in the last 12 months varies less depending on women's occupational status; the highest rate of physical violence being registered for housewives (10.6%), and the lowest rate – for self-employed women. This fact confirms once again the argument that women's economic status is one of the factors that affects the prevalence of physical violence, along the occupational status of men, the difference in partners' incomes, social status, etc³⁴.

a) Prevalence of physical violence over a lifetime and in the last 12 months by specific forms of violence

The forms of physical violence used by husbands/partners vary from a slap to the use of weapons and strangling. On average, one in three women in the Republic of Moldova was slapped at least once in her life; one in four women was pushed or shoved; one in five women was hit with a fist or with anything else that could have hurt her. At the same time, one in ten women mentioned that she was beaten up or kicked, and about 5% of women

have been choked or subject to attempts to be choked or burnt with something (see annex 3, table 8).

When analyzing the distribution of women-victims by the most typical forms of physical violence since the age of 15, it may be noted that the majority of women were slapped (87.9%), pushed, shoved or pulled by hair (59.9%), punched (49.3%), kicked (27.3%), threatened with a weapon (16.1%), choked or burnt with something (13.7%). In the last 12 months, the hierarchy of physical violence specific forms did not change significantly, registering mainly cases of slapping, but also more serious physical aggression, such as threatening with a weapon, choking or beating (see figure 13).

The occurrence of different forms of physical violence over lifetime is characteristic for all age groups, except for women aged 15-24 years old, who did not report any experience of "being threatened with a weapon". Of the total number of female victims of physical violence, women aged from 55 to 59 are most often exposed to being threatened with a weapon (29.4% of the total number of victims from this age group), followed by women over 60 years old (21.2%) and those aged 45-54 years old (20.2%). Women aged 45 years old and over are more exposed to shoving (about 63%). Even though the fewest cases of shoving were reported by victims aged 15-24 years old, nevertheless this percentage is rather high (29.9%) (see annex 3, table 9).

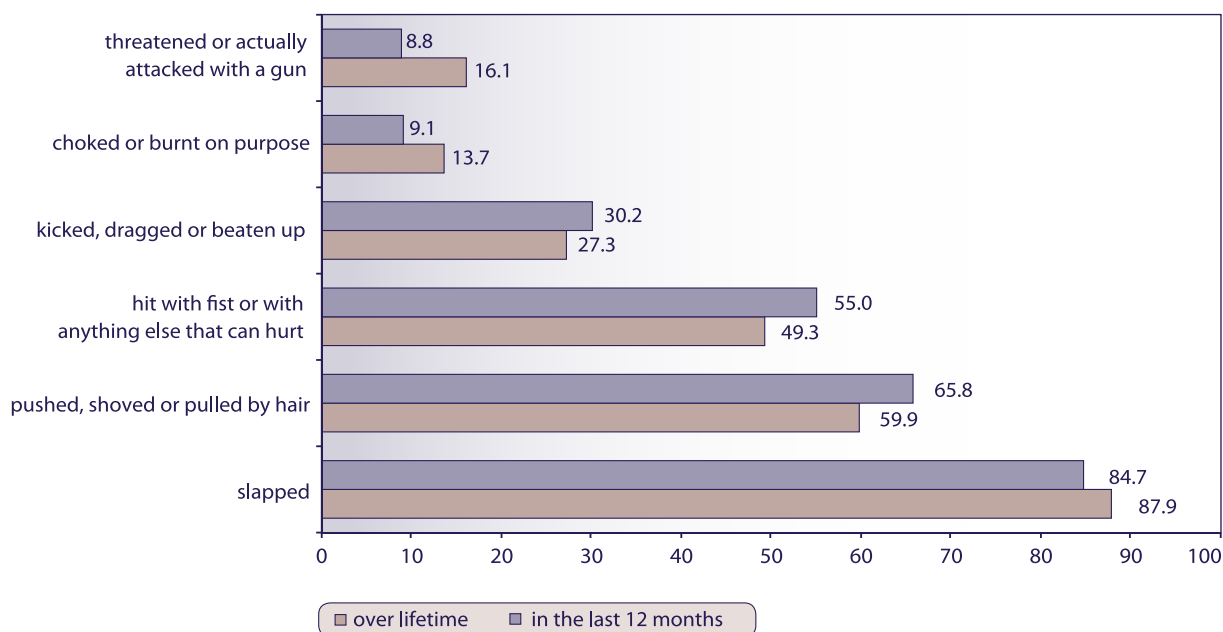
It is rather alarming the fact that practically one in five women aged between 15 and 24 was slapped at least once in the last 12 months, and one in ten women of the same age was pushed, shoved or punched (see annex 3, table 8). This finding induces serious concerns and confirms once again the exposure to physical violence from early age. Slapping was reported also by women aged 60-65 years old (about 92% of women-victims from this category). Hence, there is a high vulnerability risk for elderly women, which may be determined directly by women's social-economic status.

The World Health Organization classifies the forms of physical violence by severity level into two categories: i) moderate violence, which includes at least one case of "slapping" and "pushing, shoving, pulling by hair", and se-

³⁴ Number of research studies provide empirical evidence that it is not only the employment status of the partners but other economic dimensions such as income, status compatibility among partners and social class that are correlated to experiences of physical and other types of violence (see for example Bowlus&Seitz). Likewise, research related to the impact of layoffs to the

perpetration of partner violence also shows that such condition creates greater psychological distress among partners and is directly correlated to an increase in partner violence against women. However, such correlation should always be controlled for factors such as age, marital status, behavior disorders, social norms, and gender.

Figure 13. Share of women-victims of physical violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by specific forms of violence, %

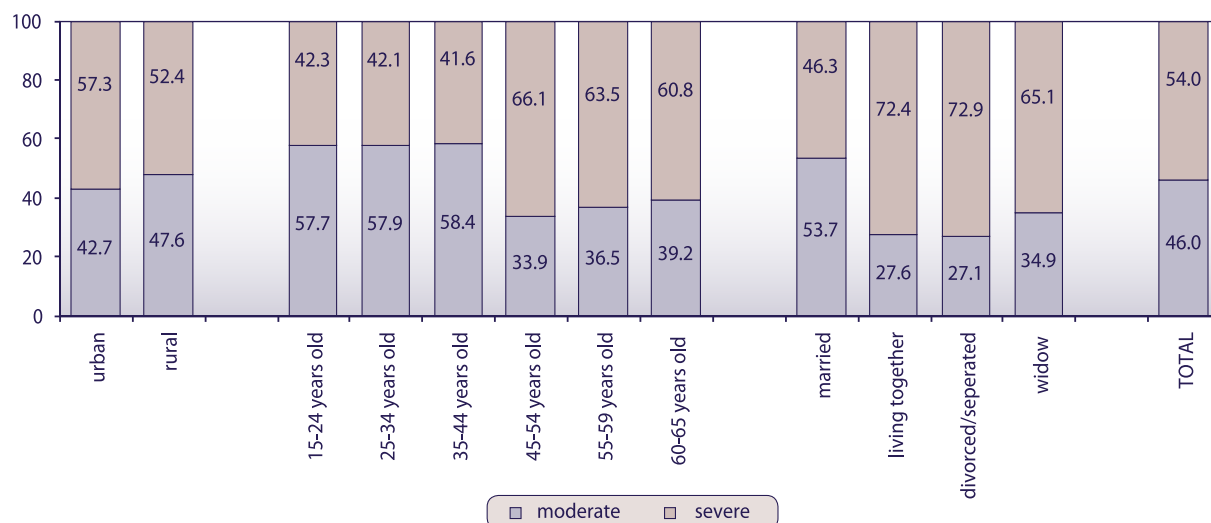


vere violence, which includes the other forms of physical violence. According to this distribution, severe violence cases predominate, 54% of women-victims suffered at least once from severe physical violence forms over their lifetime (see figure 14).

In general, women aged up to 44 years old suffer more from moderate physical violence, while severe violence predominates more for women over the age of 45. Ex-

cept for married women, the other categories of women experienced more cases of severe violence; the most affected being the unmarried women living together with the partner, the divorced/separated ones. If in the case of divorced/separated women the predominance of severe violence might be one of the causes of the divorce/separation, it is not clear why unmarried women living together with their partner are subject to a higher risk of severe physical violence than those who are officially married.

Figure 14. Distribution of women-victims of physical violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by level of violence severity, %



The fact that the same general trends of physical violence specific forms are maintained during their lifetimes and in the last 12 months confirms the arguments based on social theories and observations that claim that behaviour learned in childhood at home and through socialization impacts significantly the behaviour of the partner, and coupling these theories with the existing social permissiveness towards the use of physical violence by men against women creates an environment conducive to the perpetration of physical violence. It is important not only to work with the perpetrators of physical violence, but also to undertake efforts to change social and cultural perceptions regarding the acceptability of the use of physical violence.

b) Frequency of physical violence over a lifetime and in the last 12 months

The frequency with which different forms of physical violence occurs over a lifetime and in the last 12 months varies from one-off episodes to repeated situations of physical violence. One in two female victims of physical violence was subject to at least one form of physical violence a number of times over their lifetime; about 42% of victims reported repeated cases of slapping; more than half of women-victims reported repeated shoving and hitting; one in two women was threatened with the use of a weapon a number of times since the age of 15 (see annex 3, table 11). One-time experiences were reported only by 15% of female victims of physical violence. At the same time, at least 20% of women-victims suffered from severe forms of physical violence, such as choking or threatening with a weapon.

In terms of frequency of cases of physical violence, and specific forms in the last 12 months, the survey data show a rather uniform pattern for “slapping” – one third of women-victims have experienced it once, one third – a few times, and one third – a number of times. Almost half the women who reported physical violence have experienced “shoving” a few times (44.8%) and over a third of women – many times (35.7%); and “punching” was registered repeatedly for 30% of women-victims. In the last 12 months, women-victims also suffered from “choking”: about 41% reported one case and 37.9% – many cases (see annex 3, table F11).

Thus, it can be concluded that practically one in two women-victims of physical violence experienced violent acts committed by husband/partner both: over their lifetime and in the last 12 months. Hence, women-victims of physical violence probably are more exposed to psychological and physical injuries that affect their mental and physical health. This fact confirms that the use of physical violence against women by a partner is a very serious problem in the Republic of Moldova and it should be tackled accordingly at all the levels: individual, social, cultural, normative, and institutional.

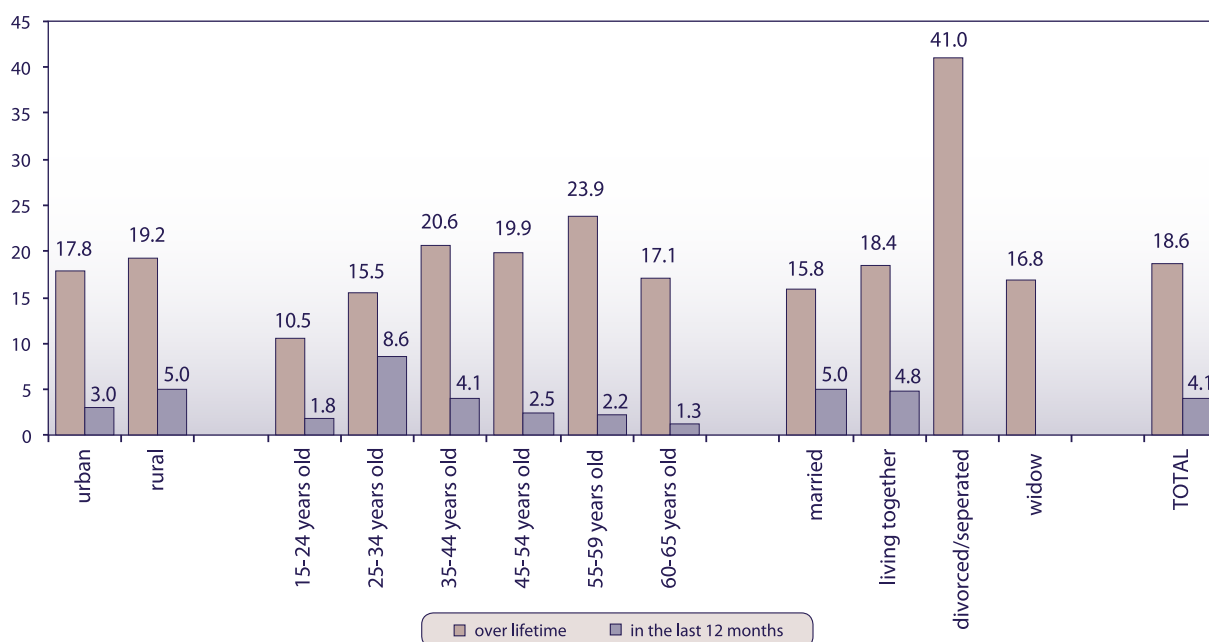
3.2.5. Prevalence of sexual violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months

The survey also estimated the prevalence rate of sexual violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months. The prevalence of sexual violence is defined as occurrence of the following situations at least once: i) forced sexual intercourse or sexual intercourse without consent, ii) sexual intercourse using fear, and iii) forced sexual intercourse with humiliating or degrading elements for the victim.

According to the survey data, about 19% of women were at least once victims of sexual violence committed by their husband/partner over their lifetime, and about 4% – in the last 12 months. Just like in the case of physical violence, rural women reported more cases of sexual violence over their lifetime (19.2%) than urban women (17.8%). The probability of sexual violence increases with the age, with the highest rates of sexual violence being registered for women aged between 35 and 59 years old. Sexual violence prevalence is significantly lower among women from other age groups, especially among elderly and younger women (see figure 15).

It is not surprising that divorced or separated women reported more cases of sexual abuse committed by husband/partner over their lifetime, because these women are generally more open in reporting experiences of their partner's violent behaviour. Hence, the rate of sexual violence committed by former husbands/partners accounts for 41%, as compared to 16% for married women and widows (see figure 16).

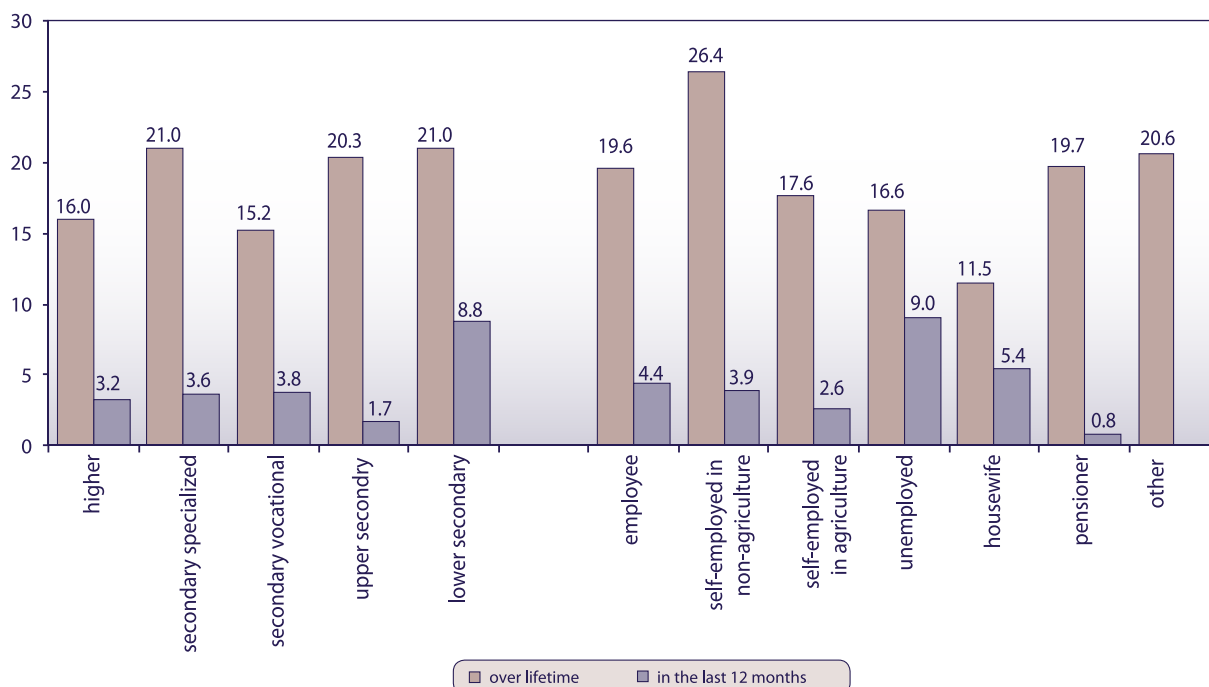
Figure 15. Prevalence of sexual violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by women's area of residence, age, and marital status, %



An explanation for this situation could be women's perception of abusive acts committed by husband/partner as one of the "marriage duties" or maybe marriage as an "institution" offers a safer environment against use of sexual violence by the partner.

When referring to women's level of education, similar trends with the psychological and physical violence prevalence are found: women with lower secondary and secondary specialized education are most affected by sexual violence (21%), and women with higher educa-

Figure 16. Prevalence of sexual violence committed by husband/partner over lifetime and in the last 12 months, by women's level of education and occupational status, %



tion are the least affected (16%). Although the difference in the prevalence rates of sexual violence committed by the most recent husband/partner among different occupational groups of women is also not very significant, it should be noted that housewives report fewer cases of sexual violence (11.5%), while self-employed women in non-agriculture activities are the most affected by this type of violence (26.4%) (see figure 16). It is not clear why self-employed women are most at risk of becoming victims of sexual violence. Possible reasons could be their economic independence and social status, which allow them to perceive better what form of partner sexual behaviour constitutes an act of sexual violence, thus being more open about disclosing such information. The feminist theories on family violence argue that when women have a higher social and occupational status than that of men, men perceive this situation to be a threat to their masculinity and role as head of the family, and due to peer and social pressure, they often resort to the use of violence against their partner.

Sexual violence occurrence in the last 12 months prior to the survey reveals the following trends depending on the characteristics of women-victims: women aged 25-34 years old were the most affected (8.6%); there are no difference between married women and those who live together with the partner unofficially (5%); a lower level of education is also associated with a higher risk of sexual violence; and unemployed and housewives are the most affected by the abusive sexual acts committed by their husbands/partners.

Trying to understand and explain the prevalence of partner sexual violence in Moldova, it should be noted that household surveys often underestimate the real situation regarding sexual violence, due to the simple reasons that women are not willing to report such cases. However, when comparing the survey results with the findings of the recent survey carried out by WHO in a number of countries related to women's health and family violence against women, as well as with the results of other available studies³⁵, it can be noted that the rates reported in Moldova are indeed comparable with findings from other countries. The WHO study also reveals that a history of sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence has consistently been found to be signifi-

cantly associated with increased health risks and health-risk behaviour for both women and men. Many of these findings were identified as risk factors for both sexual violence victimization and the perpetration of sexual violence in adulthood.

a) Prevalence of different types of sexual violence

The most typical form of sexual violence over lifetime mentioned by women who are or were in consensual unions is "sexual intercourse without consent" – 14.4% of the total number of women, followed by "forced sexual intercourse with humiliating and degrading elements" – 11.7%, and 4.4% women accepted "sexual intercourse using fear". The same hierarchy of sexual violence specific forms is registered in the last 12 months as well (see annex 3, table 12).

From a regional point of view, it may be noted that urban women reported more frequently cases of sexual intercourse with humiliating and degrading elements, as well as those of sexual intercourse under fear. The occurrence of all forms of sexual violence tends to increase at age 35 years old until 59 years old, after which women are exposed to a lower risk of becoming victims of sexual violence in general, and by specific forms of violence, respectively.

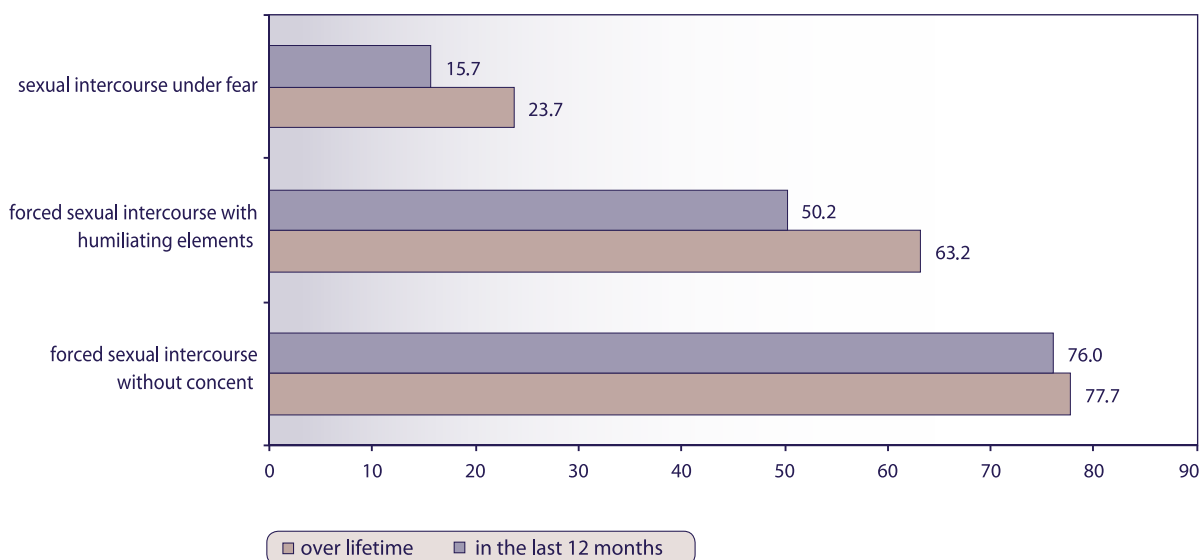
A share of 77.7% of women-victims of sexual violence mentioned that at least once in their lifetime they were forced to have sexual intercourse without their consent; 63.2% were subject to sexual intercourse with degrading and humiliating elements; and 23.7% reported having sexual intercourse with coercion or fear used by their partner. The survey data regarding the specific forms of sexual violence in the last 12 months reveal similar partner behaviour for occurrence of one or another form of sexual violence (see figure 17).

Urban women were more affected by those three forms of sexual violence. Sexual intercourse without consent was registered in 83.1% of the cases of urban women-victims and in 73.8% of the cases of rural women. Just like in the case of other forms of sexual violence, significant differences are registered in occurrence of violent acts committed by the husband/partner (see annex 3, table 13).

³⁵ WHO Multi-country study on women's health and family violence against women interviewed over 24 000 women between the ages of 15 and 49 in rural and urban areas in 10 countries and found that between 1 and 21% of those interviewed reported experiencing child sexual abuse under the age of 15 years; sexual violence by a partner at some point in life up to 49 years of age was reported by 6–59% of interviewees. Another study by The Musasa Project

in Zimbabwe reported that out of a total of 759 women interviewed, 73% said that they had been made to have sex with their partners against their will. Out of these women, 69 said that they had had unprotected sex with their partner despite knowing that he had a sexually transmitted disease at the time because they were afraid of being beaten or killed if they refused

Figure 17. *Share of women-victims of sexual violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime and in the last 12 months, by specific forms of violence, %*



Almost all women-victims of sexual violence (92.4%) aged 60-65 years old reported at least one experience of sexual intercourse without consent over their lifetime, while more than half of them were forced to sexual intercourse with degrading and humiliating elements (62.2%), and one in five women mentioned encounters where they accepted sexual intercourse only due to fear. Women-victims aged 15-24 years old reported mainly sexual intercourse without consent (42.2%), while those aged 55-59 years old were forced to have sexual intercourse with humiliating and degrading elements (85.8%).

In terms of marital status of the women-victims of sexual violence, it should be noted that most of the cases were reported by those living with the partner but not officially married: 90.1% were forced to have sexual intercourse without their consent, 54.4% accepted sexual intercourse due to fear and coercion, and all women mentioned that they were forced to sexual intercourse with humiliating elements (see annex 3, table 13). These findings confirm once again that marriage is a barrier for sexual violence or married women do not perceive some acts of their partners' sexual behaviour as sexual violence.

Regardless of the level of education of women-victims of sexual violence, at least one in two women reported

cases of forced sexual intercourse and sexual intercourse with humiliating elements. Higher education appeared to be an important factor only in case of sexual intercourses due to fear and coercion (9.0%), which is probably due to better negotiation skills that women in this category have (see annex 3, table 13).

When analyzing the factors that contribute to the occurrence of different forms of sexual violence, as well as the way in which such factors as - area of residence, marital status, level of education, and occupational status of victims - influence women's exposure to sexual violence acts, women's disclosure level, as well as the subjective nature of their individual perceptions of every form of sexual violence should be taken into consideration. Therefore, there is no logical explanation for the factors that influence the specific forms of their partners' behaviour. Nevertheless, it should be kept in mind that historically, marital or intimate partner rape was not considered a crime and the consent of the wife for sexual intercourse was presumed. It is very difficult to change these beliefs among women and men, and this makes it more difficult to establish the link between sexual violence and partners' social-economic and cultural characteristics. However, the survey reveals high rate of sexual violence and this phenomenon should be analyzed more thoroughly from the perspective of cultural acceptance of "men's sexual coercion and abuse

of their wives and girlfriends” as something normal, as well as the implications of such behaviour on women’s health and well-being.

b) Frequency of sexual violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months by specific forms

The data on frequency of occurrence of different acts of sexual violence over lifetime reveal that half of women-victims of sexual violence experienced more than once one of the specific forms of sexual violence, and only 3% of victims reported only one single episode of sexual violence (see annex 3, table 14). Multiple experiences were registered for all forms of sexual violence, the most frequently mentioned situations being the cases of “forced sexual intercourse with humiliating elements” (58.2%), followed by “forced sexual intercourse” (54.7%). Hence, the majority of female victims of sexual violence experienced multiple sexual abuses committed by their current or most recent husband/partner.

Partners’ violent behaviour in the last 12 months does not reveal significant changes related to frequency of sexual violence as compared to the situation registered over lifetime. Although there is a higher percentage of women-victims who reported “one single case” or “several cases” of sexual violence, it cannot be concluded that women are more seldom exposed to multiple cases of sexual violence due to the simple reason that the period of 12 months is much shorter than the lifetime period. Nevertheless, even in such a short period of time, over 40% of women reported multiple experiences of sexual violence, denoting again a wide spread of sexual violence within consensual unions.

Thus it may be concluded that sexual violence over a lifetime committed by the current or most recent husband/partner is reported by almost one fifth of women in the country, and the prevalence of this type of violence increases with the victims’ age and is influenced to a certain extent by such factors as area of residence, level of education, marital status, and the occupational status of the victim. One striking fact, which should not be neglected, is that such behaviour is accepted by younger generations as one tenth of women aged 15-24 years old are victims of sexual violence. Nevertheless the high level of prevalence of sexual violence in Moldovan society is a rather concerning factor. It is necessary to seriously tackle such factors as the persistence of traditional gender roles and permissive social norms

based on predominance of masculine models of behaviour, fear and shame, etc., further enhance women’s vulnerabilities and inhibit them to negotiate and decide upon their sexual behaviour.

3.3. Consequences of violence committed by current or most recent husband/partner on women’s health

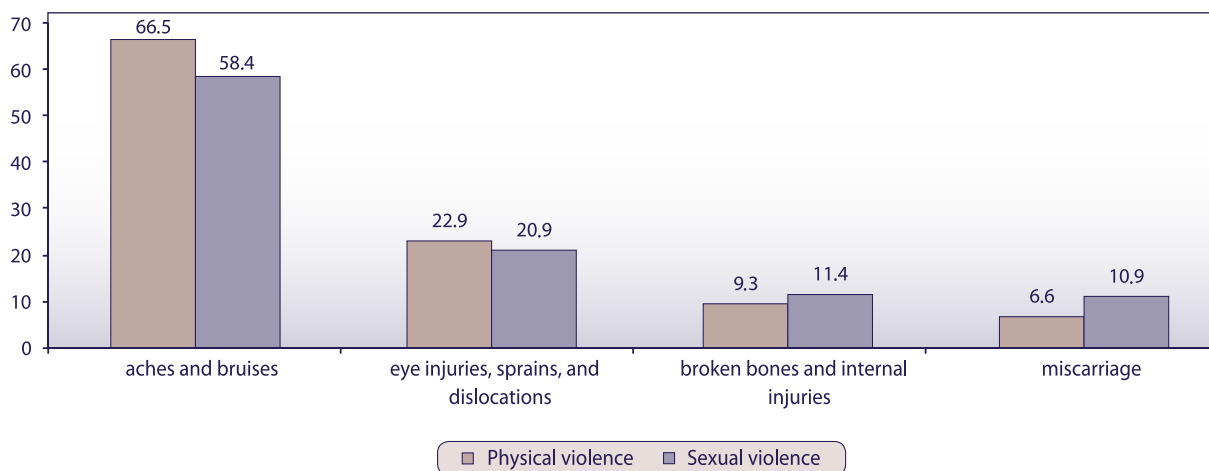
Women who reported cases of physical or sexual violence committed by current or most recent husband/partner were asked whether such acts resulted in certain injuries and what is their perception of the impact of those injuries on their wellbeing. About two thirds of the total number of women-victims of physical violence over lifetime reported aches and bruises as a result of their partners’ violent acts; one in five women reported eye injuries, sprains, and dislocations. More serious consequences were reported practically by one in ten women-victims, and in 6.6% of women reported suffering miscarriages resulting from violent acts.

Cases of sexual violence were also accompanied by acts of physical violence committed by husbands/partners, but unlike the cases of physical violence, the most reported injuries were broken bones and serious injuries as a result of sexual violence (11.4%), including miscarriage (10.9%). Nevertheless, the most often reported consequences are bruises and aches (58.4%) and eye injuries, sprains, and dislocations (20.9%).

Similar consequences are also reported in cases of physical or sexual violence occurred in the last 12 months (see annex 3, table 15). Generalizing the data on violence consequences, it may be concluded that sexual and physical violence are often accompanied by less serious injuries (bruises and aches), while a significant part of victims also suffering from serious consequences.

When referring to the basic characteristics of female victims, it is noted that the share of women who reported consequences as a result of partners’ violent acts increases with the age, due to the experience accumulated over lifetime; urban women and divorced/separated women reported more cases of injuries, and practically there are no well-defined evidence regarding the correlation between the level of education and physical consequences of physical and sexual violence against women (see annex 3, table 16).

Figure 18. Share of women-victims of physical and sexual violence by types of consequences on women's health, %



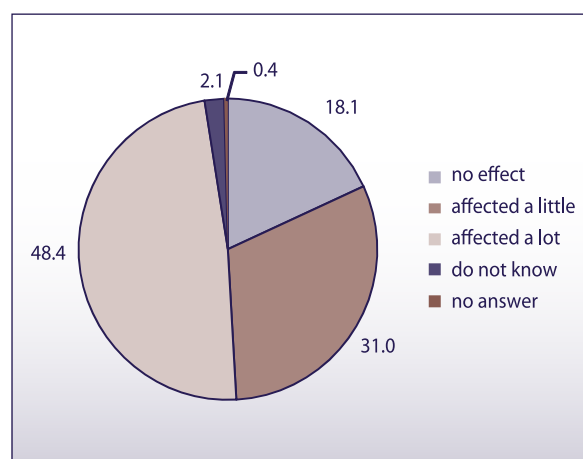
It is also interesting to analyze women's perception of partner's violent behaviour on their physical and mental health. Practically one in two women reported suffering a great deal because of their partner's violence, while one in three women was affected to a lesser extent. Only about 18% consider that they did not suffer physically or mentally as a result of the violent acts committed by their husbands/partners: either these cases occurred only once, or women are not aware of the severity the physical injuries have on their health and emotional condition.

Thus, besides the physical consequences suffered by female victims of violence committed by the current or most recent husband/partner, they also suffered emotional distress and the impact on their health should be assessed within some separate studies. This is consistent with the findings of the WHO study on women's health and violence against women in the family, which shows that in all the countries where the study has been carried out, the women who suffered less as a result of physical or sexual violence reported significantly higher rates of emotional distress and were more likely to think of suicide or to attempt committing suicide as compared to women who have never experienced violence from their partners.

3.4. Husband's/Partner's characteristics and indicators on women's status

To better understand the phenomenon of partner violence, it is important to know the basic characteristics of husbands/partners and to what extent violence against women varies depending on the indicators which define women's and men's status: a) partners' level of education; b) difference of education level between spouses/partners; c) age difference between spouses/partners; d) social/psychological characteristics of the partner.

Figure 19. Perceptions of women-victims on effects of violent acts committed by husbands/partners on their health, %



a) Distribution of women-victims and non-victims by partner's level of education

Regardless of the family violence type, the structure of women-victims by partner's level of education is dominated by cases of husbands/partners with lower secondary education and secondary vocational education. The least affected by cases of violence were women whose husbands/partners have higher or primary education. In general, no correlations may be drawn between the partner's level of education and the occurrence of violence, as the structure of women who did not suffer from partner violence registered the same distribution by partner's level of education (see annex 3, table 19).

The partner's level of education proved to be important in occurrence of one or another form of violence. Hence, women whose husbands/partners have higher education are less likely to suffer from physical violence (6.4% of the total number of victims). In the case of psychological or sexual violence, the share of women from this category is higher (11.8% and 15.4% respectively), but it does not exceed the share of women who did not suffer as a result of violent acts committed by husbands/partners with higher education.

b) Distribution of women-victims and non-victims by difference in level of education between spouses/partners

It is accepted and recognized that the difference between the level of education of women and men may play a role in the dynamics of spouses'/partners' relations, determining thus the occurrence of partner violence cases. One third of women-victims of at least one form of violence have a higher level of education than their partners, while one in two women-victims of violence has the same level of education as her husband/partner. In general, the prevalence rate of violence is lower when the partner has a higher level of education or both spouses/partners have the same level of education (see annex 3, table 18).

c) Age difference between spouses/partners

Data from table 19 (see annex 3) show age difference between surveyed women and their partners and how this fact is mirrored in the distribution of women-victims and non-victims of violent acts committed by partners.

About 32% of the total number of victims who suffered from at least one type of violence are women whose husbands/partners are 3-6 years older, followed by women with an age difference between the spouses/partners of up to 3 years. Women-victims who are or were married with men who were 7 years older than them, represent the smallest share; this category of women is the least represented in the structure of women who did not experience partner violence. Hence, it cannot be concluded that age difference between spouses/partners has an important impact on women's experience of violence (see annex 3, table 19).

d) Problems affecting the husband/partner

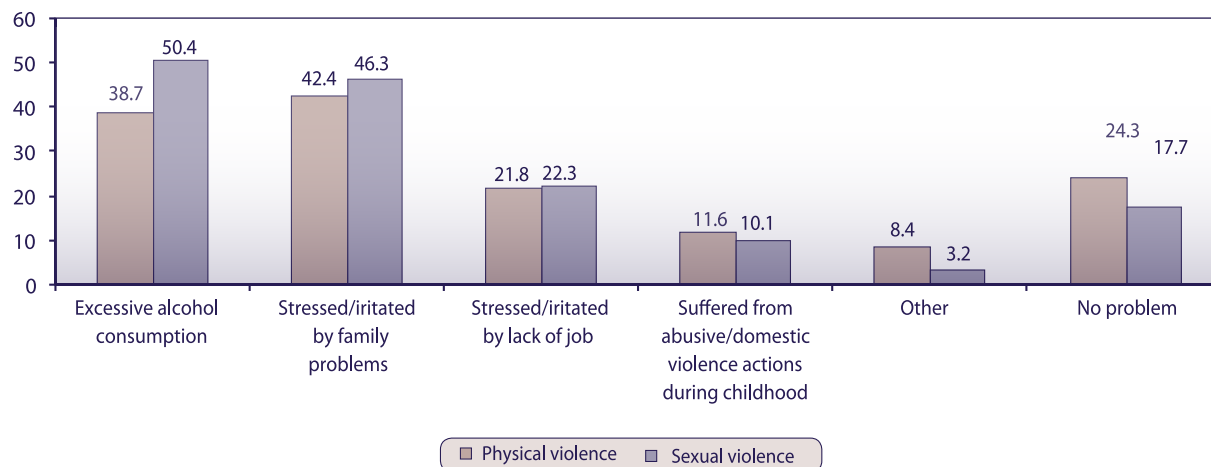
The occurrence of family violence cases is determined directly by partners' individual and social characteristics and circumstances. To understand better to what extent husband's/partner's characteristics may influence violent behaviour, the survey collected information about the partner's violent behaviour, family problems, alcohol consumption, drug abuse, violence experience in childhood, etc.

Regardless of the type of violence, the most dominant problems indicated by women-victims are the following: family problems, alcohol consumption, lack of a job (see annex 3, table 19). Nevertheless, violent acts were also registered in couples where the woman has mentioned that the husband/partner has no problems considered to be risk factors.

When referring to certain types of violence, it may be noted that one in two victims stated excessive alcohol consumption to be partner's main problem, mentioning as well existence of some family problems. The cases of physical violence also have a higher probability to occur when partners have problems with alcohol consumption, as well as when family problems exist, but these factors are not so often mentioned by women-victims of physical violence (see figure 20).

The economic situation and possible unemployment is another factor mentioned by one in five of female victims of physical or sexual violence, while in case of psychological violence, this problem is reported by about 23% of victims. A visibly increasing trend is registered for the number of women-victims who suffered violent acts in the last 12 months committed by the husband/part-

Figure 20. Share of women-victims of physical or sexual violence over their lifetime, since the age of 15, by husband's/partner's characteristics, %



ner who was stressed/irritated because of family problems and lack of a job (see annex 3, table 19).

Even though the study does not reveal positive correlation between men being a victim of violence in childhood and occurrence of violence against women, it has registered, however, a certain increase in percentage of women-victims of physical violence in the last 12 months, who reported cases of violence in partner's childhood (from 11.6% over lifetime up to 21.6% in the last 12 months). Such a trend complies with the findings and knowledge existing on the international level regarding the correlation between experience of physical violence in childhood and perpetuation of this phenomenon from generation to generation.

Hence, the survey data confirm that such factors as poverty, unemployment, alcohol abuse, individual experience of violence during childhood, relations between partners, etc. have a significant impact on prevalence of violence against women committed by husband/partner. Nevertheless, partner violence may be committed even when the husband/partner does not suffer from certain problems, and men's individual characteristics, women's status, impact of social and cultural arrangements also play an important role in occurrence of violence against women.

3.5. Prevalence of non-partner physical and sexual violence against women

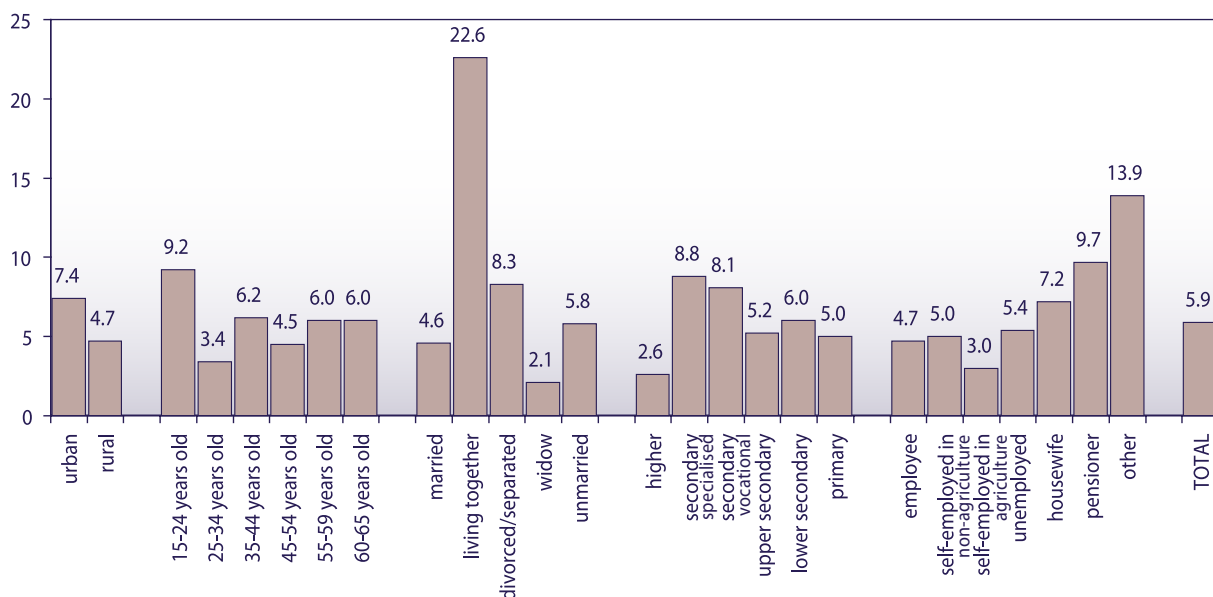
3.5.1. Prevalence of non-partner physical and sexual violence

Although the survey focuses mainly on estimating prevalence of violation against women committed by a partner, to better understand the magnitude of the gender-based violence problem, the survey also collected information about women's experiences of physical and sexual violence committed by other members of the family.

Just like in case of other similar studies, the prevalence of non-partner violence is a less widespread phenomenon. On average, about 6% of the total number of interviewed women mentioned at least one experience of non-partner physical violence over their lifetime. In the last 12 months prior to the survey, the risk for non-partner physical violence is even lower, with only 1% of women reporting cases of physical violence (see annex 3, table 20).

Non-partner physical violence was mainly reported by urban women: 7.4% as compared to 4.7% of rural women, over their lifetime, and 1.4% of urban women and 0.5% of rural women – in the last 12 months. This situation differs from the trends registered for prevalence of partner physical violence, when rural women reported

Figure 21. Prevalence rate of non-partner physical violence against women over their lifetime, starting with the age of 15, by women's main characteristics, %



significantly higher rates than urban women. There is no clear evidence about the factors causing such discrepancy in data, but these findings should be further on investigated, especially in the context of such factors as economic stress, change of value system in urban areas, as well as change of the life dynamics in general in towns and cities.

Unlike the violence committed by husband/partner, when the experience of physical violence rises with the age of the woman, the non-partner violence registers an opposite situation. The prevalence rate of non-partner physical violence decreases while the women's age goes up, the most affected being the women aged 15-24 years old – 9.2% of women. These data are correlated in a certain way with the prevalence of cultural norms and practices accepted by family members to solve conflicts and misunderstandings with children by using physical violence. However, the survey data reveal significant percentages for other age categories as well, thus confirming the occurrence of violent acts committed not only by husbands/partners, but also by other family members. The fewest cases of non-partner violence are reported by women aged 25-34 years old (3.4%) (see annex 3, table 20). The same trend is noted also for occurrence of physical violence cases in the last 12 months, when the youngest women reported the

most of cases (2%), being followed by those aged 45-54 years old (1.5%).

Women's marital status is another factor determining the probability of non-partner physical violence occurrence. Women living together with a partner without being officially married are at greatest risk, with one in five women in this category mentioned as being subject to at least one non-partner act of violence (see annex 3, table 20). Divorced/separated women, as well as those unmarried also reported experiences of non-partner physical violence, the least affected by this type of violence being the married women (4.6%). These findings confirm that marriage remains to be an institutionalized mechanism of social control which limits the use of physical violence by other family members, while women's age and marital status are closely correlated and have a significant impact on the probability to become victim of physical violence. However, these findings should be treated with a certain level of caution, as married women are probably not so open about disclosing information regarding violence due to fear and shame.

Just as in the case of violence committed by husbands/partners, the cases of non-partner violence are less frequent among women who have higher education.

Only 2.6% of women with higher education reported cases of non-partner physical violence in comparison to those with secondary specialized and secondary vocational education, who reported the highest rates (8.8% and 8.1% respectively). It is obvious that women's level of education determines to a certain extent their position in the family, as well as their relations with other persons within and outside the family. Better educated women are better equipped to solve conflicts peacefully, whereas women with primary education have probably learned to cope with conflict situations by giving in to the authority of their parents and other family members, thus avoiding potential escalation of conflicts into physical violence acts. Hence, the women's level of education is an important factor, but it is not determining for occurrence of physical violence, as other individual factors, such as income, social status, experience of violence and abuse in the family, etc., also play an important role.

As only two cases of non-partner sexual violence were registered over the period of a lifetime and none in the last 12 months, it is not possible to analyze this type of violence, because of statistical irrelevance of collected data.

Taking into account the fact that cases of non-partner physical and sexual violence are fewer than those committed by husbands/partners, it can be concluded that violence against women is mainly violence committed by their husbands/partners. The knowledge of relations between women and men in the context of social-economic status, of the system of social values and behaviours, and of their impact on the relations between partners represents the key for dealing with violence, as well as for preventing this phenomenon in future. This said, however, does not imply that non-partner family violence should not be properly understood and addressed³⁶.

3.5.2. Frequency of non-partner physical violence against women

In majority of cases, non-partner violence does not happen only once. One in two female -victims of non-partner physical violence experienced multiple violent

acts in their lifetime, and one in four victims reported repeated cases of violence, and only 18.4% of women-victims experienced only once violent act committed by non-partners (see annex 3, table 21).

Hence, non-partner physical violence is most often a repeated form of abuse rather than a one-off incident, and the individual family characteristics, including the history of physical abuse, consumption of alcohol, etc., as well as social acceptance of violence are the key factors to be addressed in order to prevent non-partner abusive and violent acts. As age, area of residence, level of education, and the marital status of victims play a certain role in determining the probability of such experiences, but also based on the fact that these variables are closely correlated with the social, cultural, and economic context, efforts to prevent non-partner physical violence should be directed at changing social views and norms, as well as working directly with families who are most at risk.

3.5.3. Distribution of women-victims of non-partner violence by perpetrator's characteristics

Persons who committed acts of physical or sexual violence may be divided into two categories: persons from within the family³⁷ and those outside the family. According to the survey data, more than half of women who reported cases of physical violence over their lifetime were abused by their fathers (58.1%). Almost one quarter of these women have experienced it only once (24.5%), while one in two women experienced it many times (52%) (see annex 3, table 21). These findings are consistent with the results of similar studies in other countries that show that male family members, including fathers and stepfathers are the most common perpetrators of non-partner physical violence and this pattern is related to the cultural and social context, based on the authority of the male head of the family.

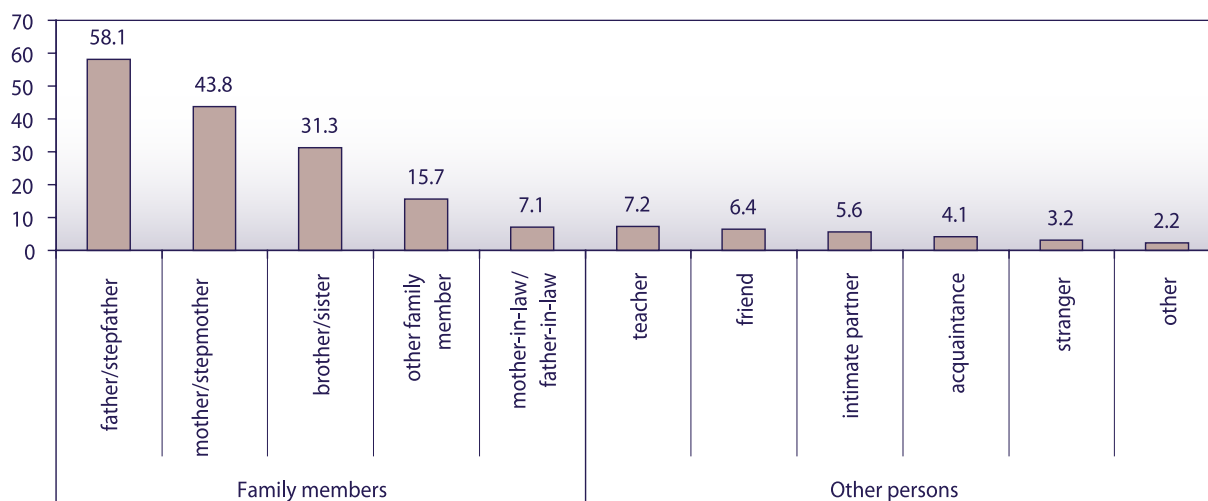
A share of 43.8% of female-victims of non-partner physical violence reported that their mothers/mothers-in-law were the perpetrator, and almost half of them (48%) have gone through multiple experiences of physical abuse committed by their mothers/mothers-in-law.

³⁶ The WHO multi-country survey of family violence and health indicates as well that women are more at risk of violence by a partner but however it shows that in many settings in the ten surveyed countries non-partner violence is relatively common and it ranges between 11% and 38% of women except Ethiopia and Japan where less than 8% of women did report it. In either case, these rates are much higher than those obtained in the Moldovan survey and may indicate

that Moldovan women are either less prone to report such cases due to social stigma and shame or that use of physical violence is less common.

³⁷ The list of family members-perpetrators of violence used in the survey is based on the Moldovan Laws - members of the family are father, father-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, step mother and step father, son, son in law, brother, sister, sister in law and other blood relative.

Figure 22. Share of women-victims of non-partner physical violence over their lifetime, by category of perpetrator, %



Thus, the model of the traditional family, where the mother has a disciplinary role remains predominant in Moldovan society.

Less often, brothers and sisters are also reported as perpetrators by almost one third of female victims of non-partner physical violence. As a rule, these cases are not permanent, more than half of victims questioned mentioned experiences of violent acts committed by brothers, sisters several times over their lifetime, and one in ten women reported about one-off cases (see annex 3, table 21).

Besides the family members, women were also abused physically by non-family members: 7.2% of women-victims said the teacher was the abuser, 6.4% - were abused by friends, 5.6% - by the intimate partner, and about 4% were abused by a stranger.

In conclusion, it may be noted that male family members, fathers and brothers, and to a certain extent mothers – are the main perpetrators of physical violence acts against women, and this fact derived from the social and cultural context of the Republic of Moldova, based on the traditional family model.

3.6. Reporting partner and non-partner violence

The level of reporting of cases of violence represents an important indicator of the society's attitude to gender-based violence, of the level of information and perception of violence as a criminal offence, and of the availability of assistance services for victims of violence. In this context, the survey collected information on victims' reporting rates of both, partner and non-partner violence, whom they have reported the cases, and what were the reasons for non-reporting the cases of violence.

3.6.1 Reporting partner violence

In general, the reporting level³⁸ of violence committed by husbands/partners is high. Hence, about 73% of women-victims of physical violence reported these cases, and 27% did not tell anyone about such experiences. Rural women are more open in reporting experiences of partner physical violence (73.5% as compared to 70.5% in urban areas).

³⁸ A reported case is considered when the woman-victim tells about the experience to any person, family member, relative, representative of police, mayor, etc.

Except for women aged 25-44, other categories of women reported cases of violence more frequently. Married women register the lowest reporting rates for violent actions committed by their current husband (67.4%), the highest rates being registered by women living together with the partner, but not married (86.9%). Hence, married women are more reticent in disclosing cases of physical violence committed by the husband, the main reason being the existence of social norms, prejudices, fear, and shame.

The reporting rate for actions of committed by a partner over a lifetime varies depending on the severity of these actions. Cases of moderate violence were reported by 57.9% of women victims, while the more serious ones were reported by 84.8% of victims (see annex 3, table 23).

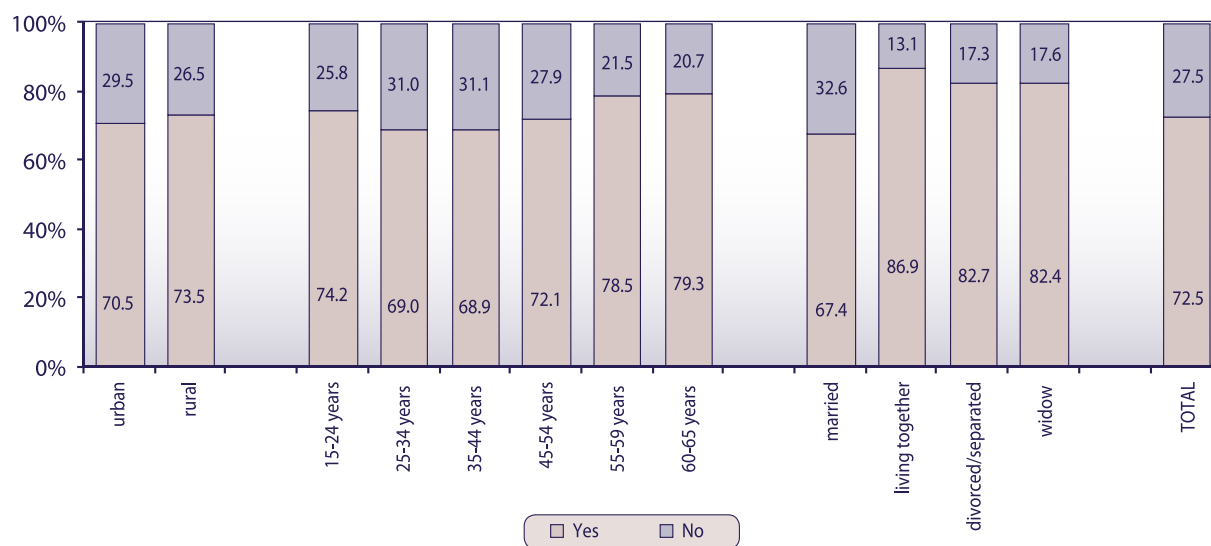
The situation is different in the case of reporting sexual violence. On average, 68.4% of women-victims reported violent actions committed by their husbands/partners. Just as in the case of physical violence, urban women are more reserved in reporting sexual violence, compared to those from rural areas (62.6% as against 72.7%). This finding, to a certain extent, comes into contradiction with the arguments that say that reporting rates

depend a lot on social stigmatization and shame level, availability of adequate social services, as well as women's perception of the sexual violence act in their relation/marriage with their partner.

In terms of women-victims' age, the lowest reporting rate of sexual violence is registered for women aged 25-34 years old (38.3%). One of the reasons could be the fact that namely, at this age, women get married, get their first job, and frequently, to save their marriage, and to keep the place of work, thus maintaining their social status, they are not willing to report abusive actions committed by husbands/partners. This finding is also supported by the fact that married women registered the lowest reporting rate for sexual violence (59.1%), the highest rate being registered by divorced/separated women (88.7%), who probably feel themselves less inhibited in reporting such cases and probably these experiences of violence could serve as one of the reasons for divorce or separation (see figure 24).

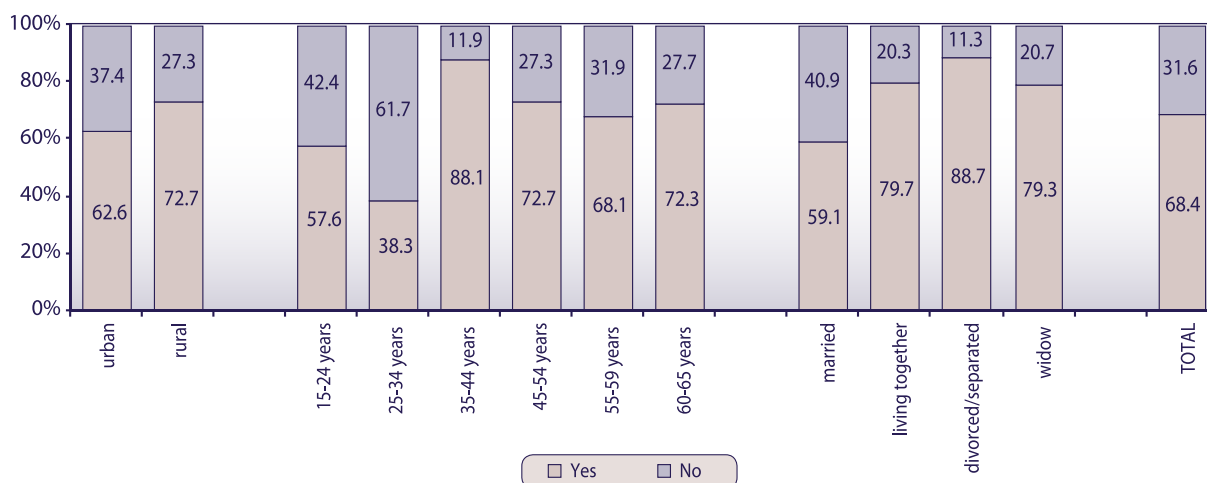
The lower reporting levels of sexual violence is consistent with the findings of other studies about reporting rates of violence, and of sexual violence in particular³⁹: When a "woman faces a situation that does not comply with her understanding of what constitutes rape or

Figure 23. Reporting rate of physical violence cases committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime, by women's area of residence, age, and marital status, %



³⁹ Du Mont, J., K.L. Miller, and T.L. Myhr. "The Role of 'Real Rape' and 'Real Victim' Stereotypes in the Police Reporting Practices of Sexually Assaulted Women." Violence Against Women 9(4) (April 2003)

Figure 24. Reporting rate of sexual violence committed by husband/partner over women's lifetime, by women's area of residence, age, and marital status, %



other type of sexual abuse; she may be reluctant to report the incident, feeling that she is to be blamed, she will not be believed; that reporting will make her more vulnerable to future acts of sexual violence or simply because she is unaware of or there no available service to report to."

Level of education and occupational status of the woman reveals some trends in reporting both, physical violence and sexual violence. The lowest reporting rate is registered for women with higher education (63.4% in case of physical violence and 59.7% - sexual violence). A possible explanation for this situation could be the fact that better educated women probably have better jobs, and in order to maintain their social status, they often opt not to disclose such information due to societal and cultural pressures and stereotypes.

At the same time, unemployed women are the most reticent in reporting physical or sexual violence; only one in two victims reported cases of violence committed by their husband/partner (see annex 3, table 22). This situation suggests that women's economic independency is an important condition for victims to report cases of violence. Reporting violence could result in separation, and eventually the woman risks to be exposed to additional economic and social risks, including those related to income and housing security. However, other factors also should be considered for assessing the women's decision to report or not to report cases of violence.

Hence, housewives, although economically dependent on their partners, register a rather high violence reporting rate (71.7%).

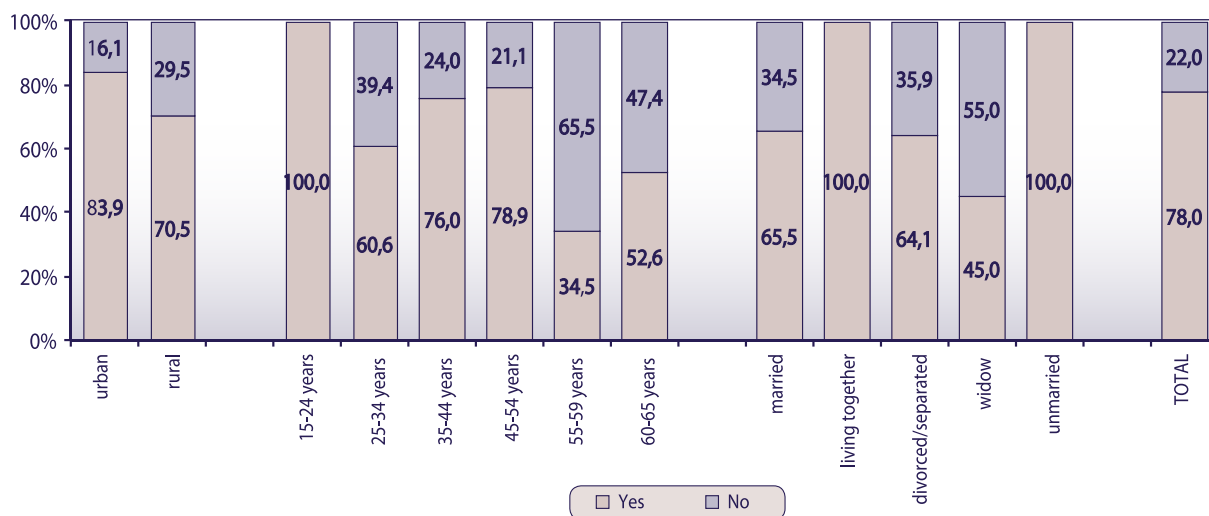
3.6.2. Reporting non-partner violence

The reporting level for non-partner physical violence is much higher than that for partner violence, with 78% of women-victims reporting such cases on average. The survey data show some differences in non-partner physical violence reporting rate as compared to partner violence reporting. Hence, urban women-victims are less reticent in reporting non-partner violence (83.9% against 70.5% in rural area) as compared to partner violence (see figure 25).

The decision to report non-partner physical violence varies a lot depending on the age of the victim. All the victims from the 15-24 year-old age group reported cases of violence, the most reticent being the women aged 55-59 (34.5%). The low violence reporting level among elderly women is probably due to their vulnerable position in the family, because of their economic and social dependency, as well as due to the shame resulting from existing traditional social and gender norms.

100 % of unmarried women, as well as those living with a partner without being married reported experiences of non-partner physical violence over their lifetime. These 2 categories of victims are more empowered and less inhibited in disclosing non-partner physical violence. Al-

Figure 25. Reporting rate of non-partner physical violence over lifetime, by women's area of residence, age, and marital status, %



though married women reported non-partner violence cases at a higher rate (65.5%) than partner violence cases, the possible marriage impact on the reporting trend of non-partner physical violence is still controversial.

Contrary to our expectations, a higher level of education does not imply a higher reporting level of non-partner physical violence. Practically there is no difference in reporting rates registered for victims with minimum secondary vocational education and those with maximum higher education (see annex 3, table 22); except for women with upper secondary education, who registered the higher reporting level of non-partner violence (92.1%). As it was previously mentioned, women's ability and capacity to protect themselves can be restricted also by other factors, including social stigma and shame.

3.6.3. Whom do victims of partner and non-partner violence report to?

As a rule, victims of partner violence tell family members about their husband's/partner's violent behaviour as well as close friends, and only rarely go to relevant bodies and institutions to solve cases of family violence (see annex 3, table 24). About two thirds of women who reported cases of partner violence told their parents; one in three women told their close relatives, and only one in four women asked the police for help. Medical workers' assistance was requested by 7.8% of victims who reported cases of partner physical violence. Police and health care services were contacted mainly when

women suffered from some severe physical violence, and less when they faced some moderate violence cases (see annex 3, table 25).

Similar trends are also observed in reporting partner sexual violence. Nevertheless, the sexual violence cases register more calls for assistance to police (32.9%) and medical workers (10.8%).

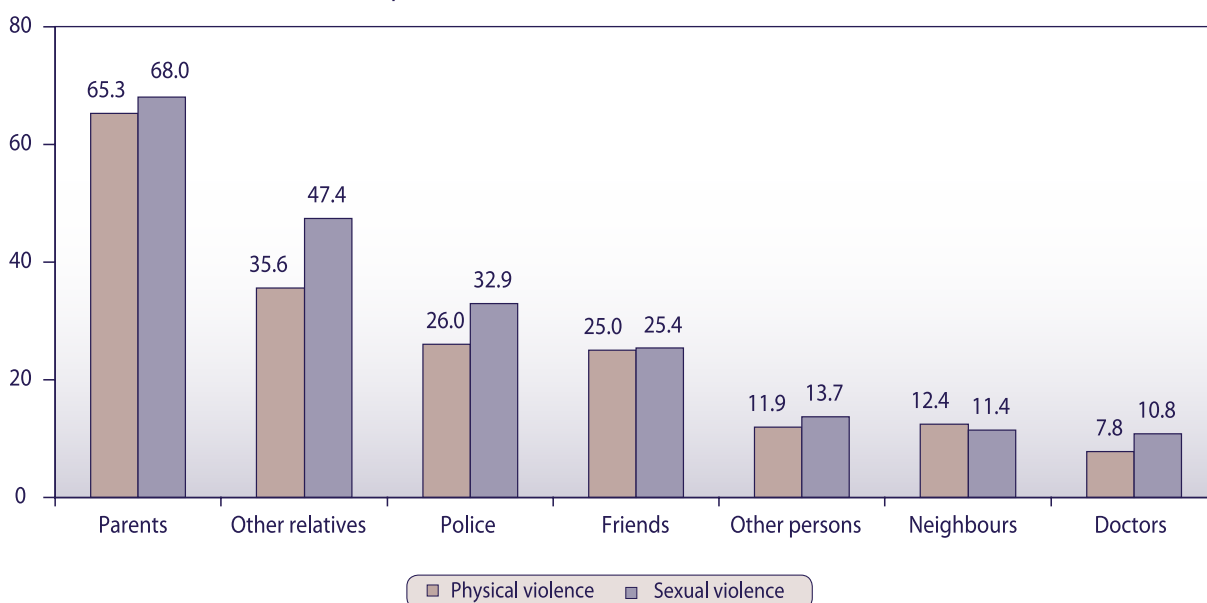
In case of non-partner violence, women-victims also disclosed such experiences mainly to their parents (60.7% of respondents reporting such cases), relatives and friends (respectively 35.2%). However, police was called by 19.1% of women-victims, and doctors by 4.1%. This finding reveals a low level of trust for service providers, as well as existence of too strong social prejudice and shame to be overcome by victims.

It seems that victims trust the police more only in case of partner sexual violence. The partner and non-partner physical violence is reported mainly to close relatives and friends, and rarely to police or other service providers (see annex 3, table 25). Medical workers are not trusted by the victims of violence either, and this finding implies additional concern regarding their capacities to identify and manage cases of physical and sexual violence.

3.6.4. Whom would victims of partner and non-partner violence report to?

The decision to report cases of violence and to whom is influenced by a number of factors, including the

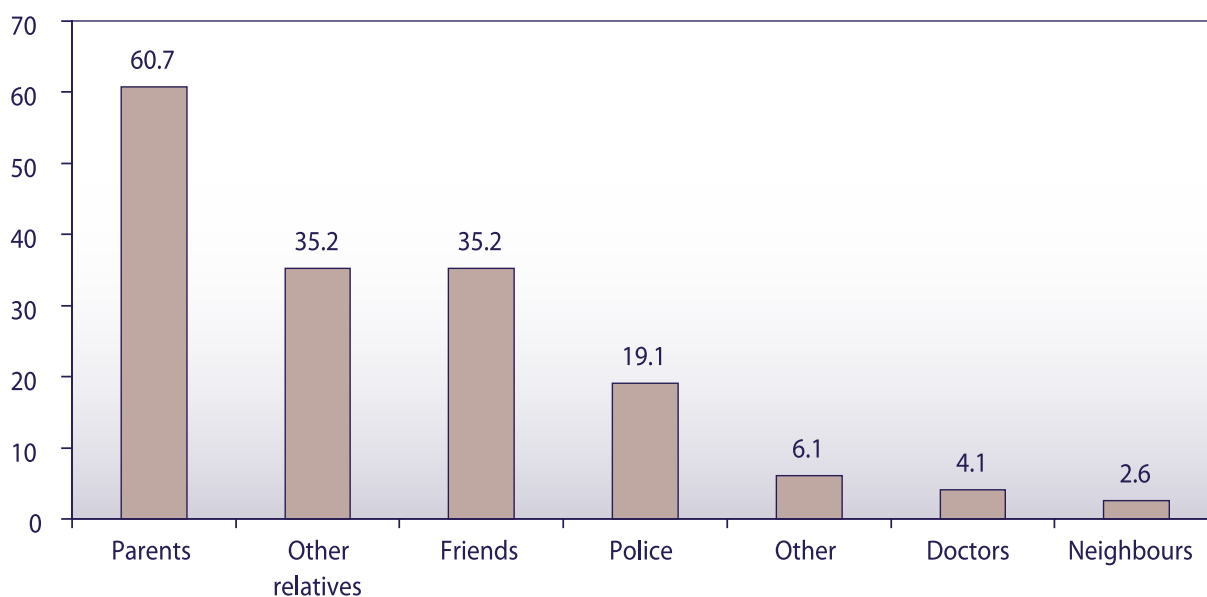
Figure 26. Share of women-victims of partner physical or sexual violence by persons to whom the violence cases were reported, %



perception of how the overall system responds to family violence, individual perception of what happened, which is in turn highly influenced by the woman's social-economic status, knowledge and attitudes to family violence, as well as the relations and values which prevail in the family and community.

The intention of reporting cases of violence are similar to the findings on de-facto reporting of violent actions by women-victims. If violent actions were to occur, 36% of women said they would report violence to their parents, 33.3% would go to police, which is followed by relatives and friends (19.9% and 12.1% respectively).

Figure 27. Share of women-victims of non-partner physical violence, by persons to whom the violence cases were reported, %



Medical workers and social assistants would only be contacted by 3.1% of women. Nevertheless, one in ten women stated that she would report to no one the cases of violence (see figure 28).

Some differences are registered for the intention to report in case of urban women in comparison to rural ones. Urban women trust the police more than rural women, as 37.2% of urban women would go to police in case of violence occurrence, compared to 30.1% of rural women. Unlike urban women, rural women would report more often to mayors, as well as to priests in the case of violence (see annex 3, table 27).

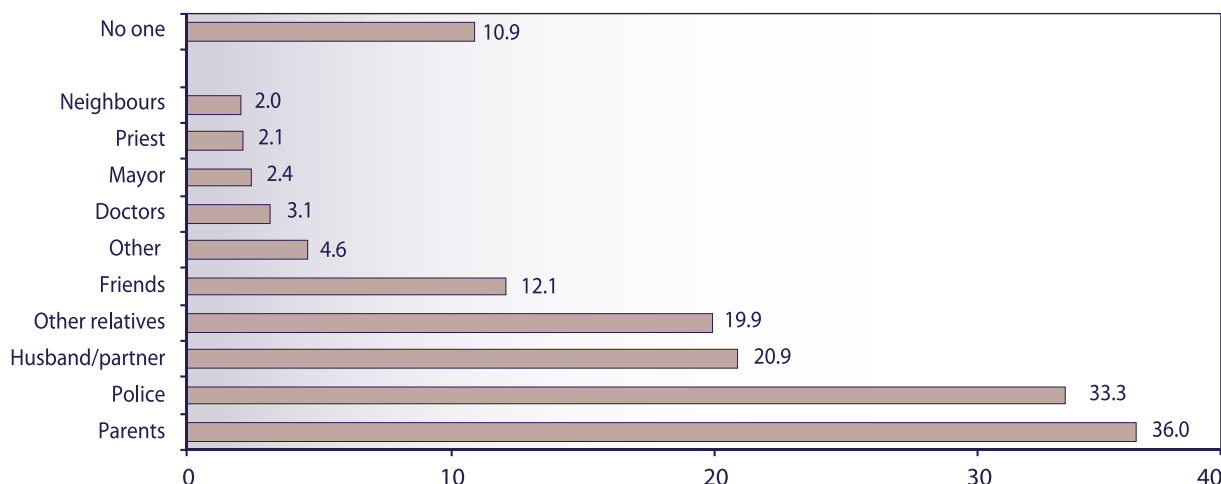
When the age of the woman is considered, data show that younger women (aged 15-44 years old) would report more to their parents than to the police, particularly in case of very young women (15-24 years old), followed by those aged 25-34 years old (42%). The older the women are, the less chances that they would have living parents which is why older women would report mainly to their relatives, priests, and mayors. The intention of reporting to police representatives is practically one and the same for all the age groups (about 30%). Taking into account this fact, it should be assumed that age does not influence the level of trust in police; it is more a general trend in the society relating to the credibility level for this institution. Nevertheless, the intention not to report violence is closely correlated with a woman's age: the older the woman is, the more likely she would not report to anyone (see annex 3, table 27).

When referring to a woman's marital status, it should be noted that widows and married women are the most likely not to tell anyone, while only 3.6% of unmarried women would not report violent acts to anyone which had been committed by other persons. Divorced/separated women trust the police more, as one in two said that they would report violence cases to police, compared with only 29% of married women who would do so. Married women are less likely to talk about violence experiences with their parents and relatives (25.0% and 21.5% respectively), than unmarried women and those living together with a partner (49.2% and 24.2% respectively). Hence, parents continue to be the main refuge for the majority of women, especially for young and unmarried ones (see annex 3, table 28).

3.6.5. Reasons for not reporting violence

To increase the level of trust in services offered by relevant authorities dealing with preventing family violence, it is important to know the reasons which are guiding women not to report the cases of violence. According to the survey data, the women's decision is based on two major reasons: a) the belief that they can cope themselves and solve their own problems, and b) shame. Practically one in two women (44.7%) stated that she would not report a case of violence, as she is able to solve the problem by herself, and 40.2% indicated shame to be the reason for not reporting. These findings confirm once again the existence of social stigma, inflicted beliefs that when a woman is a victim of vio-

Figure 28. Share of women who would report violence, by types of persons/institutions to whom the women would call for assistance, %



lence, she has done something to deserve it, prevalent beliefs that family violence is a private and not a public matter, etc. – all these impact significantly the decision of the woman to report or not family violence.

One in five women would not report cases of violence because their families would grant them the necessary support. A share of 18.2% of women would not report because they do not trust police; 7.2% - do not trust social protection system, 6.3% - do not trust justice system, and 3.7% - do not trust the health system (see figure 29).

The reasons for not reporting possible cases of violence seem to vary significantly with the woman's area of residence. More than two thirds of urban women consider that they can cope with the situation themselves, and less than one third of rural women (26.9%) consider that they can deal with such situation all by themselves. Family is more important in the case of rural women, 28.1% will seek their families' support, as compared to only 8.5% in case of urban women (see annex 3, table 29). Shame is the main reason for non-reporting in case of 47.2% of rural women and 31.1% of urban women.

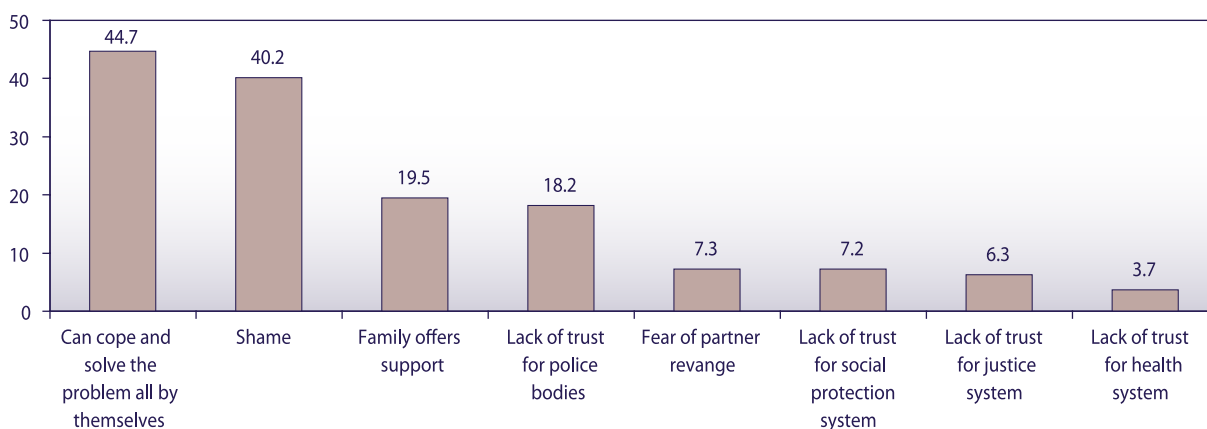
The decision to report or not cases of violence is based on different reasons in case of younger and older women. About 85% of women aged 15-24 stated that their family can grant them the necessary support, while women aged 60 years old and over do not count on their families so much and rely more on themselves to deal with such problems. Fear of a partner's revenge is a cause indicated by about 14% of women aged 15-34.

Lack of trust in state institutions is one of the reasons for non-reporting cases of violence among women aged 25-34 and 45-65 years old, and it is not an important factor for young women (15-24 years old). A lack of trust in the police is the cause for not-reporting indicated by 27.3% of women aged 55-60 years old and by 25.1% of women aged 45-55 years old (see annex 3, table 29).

The reasons for not reporting violence are correlated with women's marital status. Whereas shame, trust in the family, and trust in themselves to cope with the situation figure as important determinants for all categories of women, lack of trust in the relevant state institutions was mentioned as one of the reasons only by married women. Shame is also one of the main reasons serving as a basis for the decision to report or not violence for 62.4% divorced/separated women, 56.1% widows, 44% of unmarried women living with a partner, and 37.7% of married women. Over half of widows (58.0%) and almost half of married women (47.7%) think they can cope by themselves with violence against them, followed by 43.2% of divorced/separated women. On the other hand, 81% of unmarried women think that their family can offer them the necessary support (see annex 3, table 30).

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that the reporting level of partner and non-partner physical and sexual violence is high, although sexual violence is reported less than physical violence. The lower reporting rates of partner sexual violence result from prevailing stereotypes and prejudices about sexual relations in marriage

Figure 29. Share of women by reasons of not-reporting cases of violence, %



and when a woman faces a situation that does not conform to her understanding of what constitutes a rape or other type of sexual abuse, she may be reluctant to report the incident, feeling that she is to be blamed, and that she will not be believed; that reporting will make her more vulnerable to future acts of violence or simply because she is unaware of or there is no available service to report to.

As physical violence most often results in visible injuries, the chances that such acts would be reported are much higher. The survey data reveal that reporting rates are influenced by victim's occupational status and level of education. Thus women with a lower level of education or those that are unemployed tend to report less due to the fear of separation and consequent income and housing insecurity. The victim's area of residence also influences the reporting rates for partner and non-partner physical violence, as partner physical violence is mainly reported by rural women, while non-partner physical violence – by urban women.

Parents and family members are the most important reference points for reporting partner and non-partner violence in case of majority of women victims. The reporting level to police and medical workers is low – this finding is really a concern related to the trust and awareness about the role of service providers, but also concern related to the capacity of the national response system to address cases of family violence, including through adequate dissemination of information, change of cultural and social norms, and building trust for those bodies which deal with issues of family violence.

3.7. Attitudes and knowledge about family violence

Violence against women in the family is largely an outcome of gender inequality and discrimination, which are accepted from a social point of view and remain unsanctioned. The survey collected information about women's attitudes regarding gender dimension and violence in general, legal, institutional, and policy framework related to violence in the Republic of Moldova. In addition, interviews and focus group discussions were organized with service providers, women and men from the general public, and representatives of mass-media, victims of violence and perpetrators.

3.7.1. Knowledge of and level of satisfaction with existing legal and institutional system in family violence area

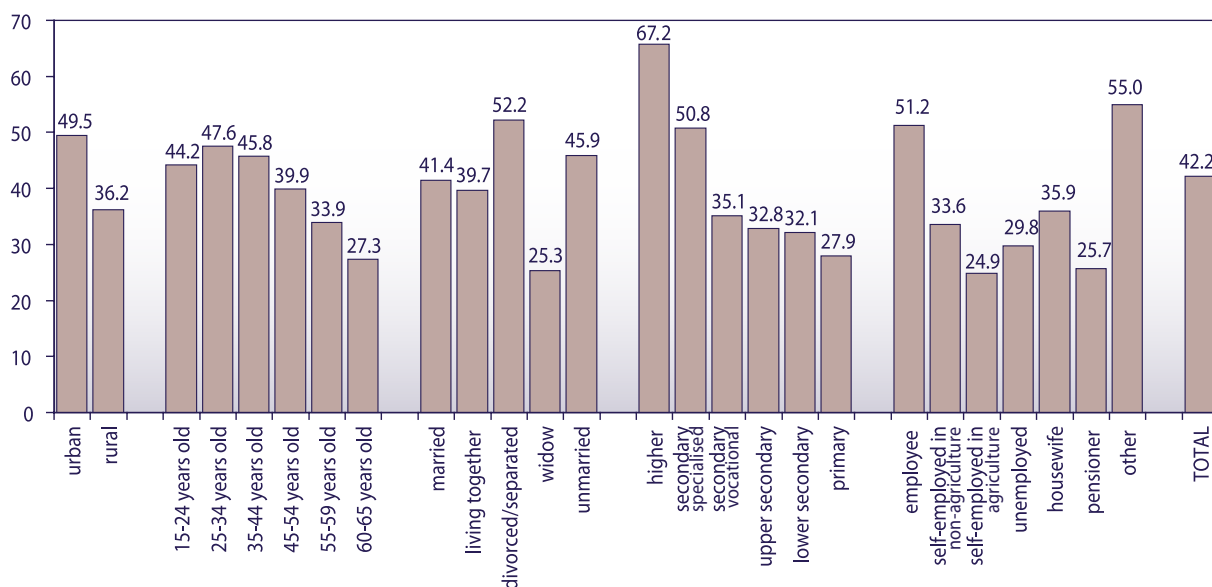
The survey data show that 42.2% of the total number of interviewed women stated that they have information about the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence. Just like in many other cases, rural women are less informed, as only 36.2% have heard about this law in comparison with 49.5% of urban women. The information level is lower among victims of physical and sexual violence: about 39% stated that they have heard about the Law No. 45, and in rural area, about 33% of victims are informed about it (see annex 3, table 31).

The level of women's information is closely related with their level of education, and the older the woman is, the lesser she heard about the respective law, which in case of women aged 60-65 years old, only 28% are informed. An explanation would be the fact that this law was approved recently and the probability for women from this age group to be informed is much lower. However, the information level of women who have heard about the Law No. 45 denotes the need to direct the educational and awareness raising activities to all the age categories (see annex 3, table 31).

In term of the woman's marital status, it is noted that the best informed are divorced/separated women (52.2%) and unmarried women (45.9%), while only 25% of widows have heard about the respective law (see figure 30). The same trend is observed among the divorced/separated women who were victims of physical and/or sexual violence. A possible reason for this finding could be the fact that because of the divorce or separation, women were more exposed to legal proceedings, thus having more possibilities to have heard about the Law No. 45.

In general, a higher level of education implies a higher level of information. On average, only 28% of the total number of women with primary education have heard about the respective law, while in case of women with higher education, the share of those informed accounts for 67.2%. The situation is practically identical when referring only to women-victims, except for women with primary education, who register the highest share of women informed about the existence of the Law No. 45. Most probably, such a trend is due to the fact that namely

Figure 30. Share of women who know about the existence of the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, by women's characteristics, %



women from this category were more exposed to partner and non-partner violence (see annex 3, table 31).

Women's occupational status also determines to a certain extent the level of information about the Law No. 45. Hence, regardless of the fact of being or not a victim of violence, one in two employed women is informed about the respective law. The least informed are the self-employed women in agriculture (24.9%), pensioners (25.7%) and unemployed (29.8%).

During the survey, women were asked if they know that family violence is a criminal offence. On average, about 83% stated that they know about it, the share being higher in case of non-victim women (83.4% as compared to 80.8% for victims of violence). Women's information level about the fact that family violence is a criminal offence differs depending on the women's area of residence. In urban areas, nine out of ten women stated that they know about the fact that violence is an offence, in rural area, only seven out of ten women are informed about this fact.

The age of respondents does not influence significantly the level of information about family violence being a criminal offence, except for the women aged 15-24 years old. This finding may be explained by the shorter period of time of being exposed to possible violent acts.

Women aged 25-34 years old are the best informed, as 87% know that violence is an offence. In terms of women's marital status, a higher level of information is registered for divorced/separated women (88.5%), while widows are the least informed (74.5%) (see figure 31).

The level of women's information about family violence being a criminal offence is much higher among women with higher education (94.9%). At the same time, a higher level of information is also registered among women with primary education (59.7%). It should be mentioned that no woman-victim of physical or sexual violence with primary education mentioned that she knows about this fact. Hence, this would be an important indicator to guide the future educational and awareness raising activities, by making more efficient the modality of sending the respective message to this group of women.

Women who have a job are better informed about the fact that family violence is a criminal offence (87.5%), while the least informed are those who are self-employed in agriculture (76.1%). The same trend is observed in case of women-victims of violence, although the situation is different when referring to women who did not suffer from violence. Thus, housewives are the least informed, being followed by women self-employed in agriculture

and pensioners (see annex 3, table 32). Although it is difficult to understand the circumstances influencing the information level of these two categories of women, a possible explanation would be the one related to the socialization models for these women.

Protection orders represent a protection measure for victims of family violence. Out of the total number of women who mentioned that they know about the Law on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, 9 in 10 women stated that they are informed also about the existence of protection orders⁴⁰ provided in the respective law. No significant differences are noted for the level of information of women victims and non-victims, as well as for urban and rural women (see annex 3, table 33). The level of information about the existence of protection measures for violence victims varies from 86% in case of women aged 15-24 years old, up to 95% for women aged 25-34 and 60-65 years old.

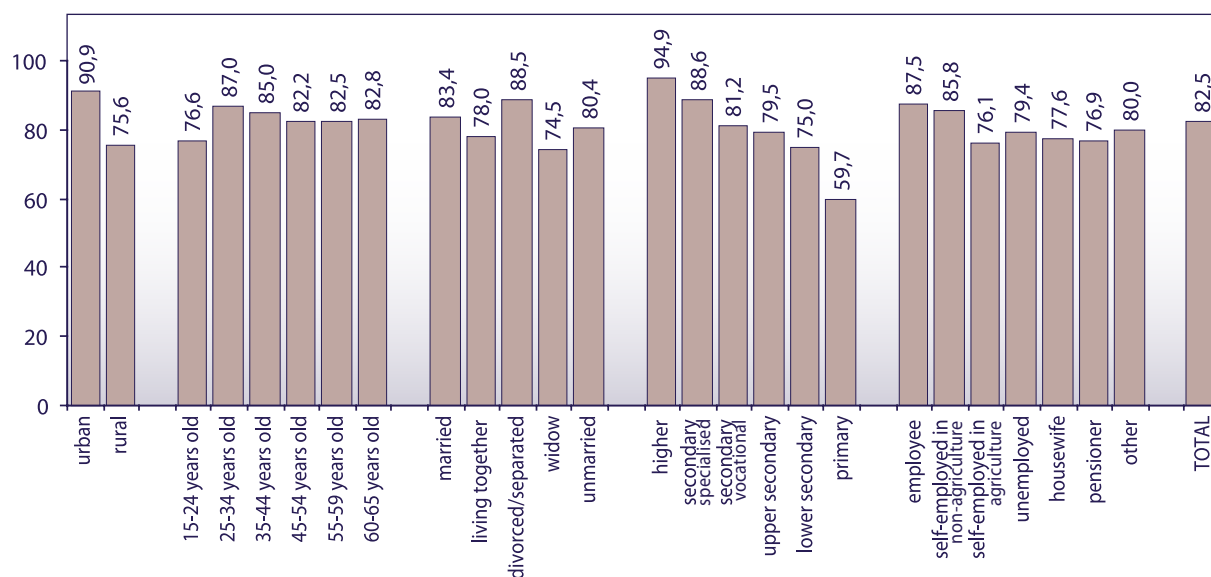
The information level about the possibility of issuing orders to protect victims is similar to the information level regarding the Law No. 45. The most initiated are the women with higher education (93.0%) and, respectively

the least informed are the women with primary education (74.2%). At the same time, women-victims with lower secondary level of education, at least, are the best informed about the protection provisions for victims of family violence (see annex 3, table 33).

Although the information rates regarding the existence of the Law No. 45 vary a lot depending on women's occupational status, the level of information about protection orders carries less from one category of women to another: housewives (87%) are the least informed, while self-employed women who do not work in the agriculture sector are the best informed (95.5%). In the case of women-victims: again housewives are the least informed about the provisions on protection of family violence victims.

Besides respondents' knowledge and information about the existing legal provisions regarding family violence, the survey also included opinion questions referring to what extent the Law No. 45 ensures the victims of violence with the necessary protection and the perpetrators with adequate punishment. Hence, out of the total number of women who stated that they heard about

Figure 31. Share of women who know about the fact that family violence is a criminal offence, by women's characteristics, %



⁴⁰ A Protection Order is a measure that aims at protecting the victim. It is issued by the Court at the request of the victim within 24 hours for a period of up to 3 months. Some of the measures that the Order might include are: obligation of

the perpetrator to leave the common premises, not to approach the victim, not to contact the victim and the children (if the case), pay the damages caused by the violence, follow a relevant counseling and/or treatment course, etc.

the Law No. 45, about 43% consider that this law ensures protection for victims of violence, 34.8% say that protection is not ensured, and 22.5% could not offer an answer to this question (see figure 32).

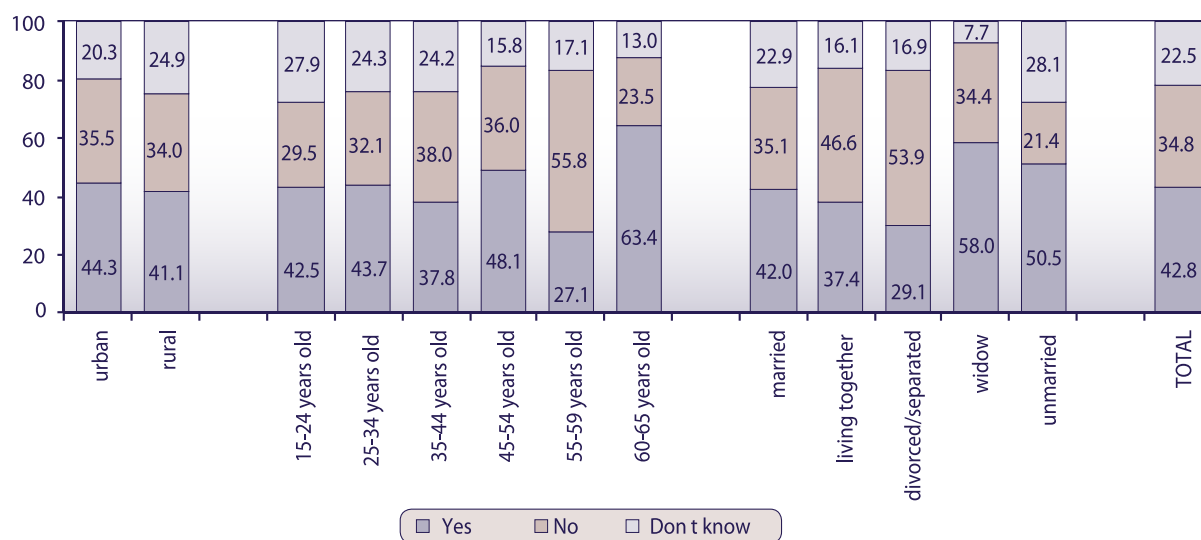
Female victims of violence are the least satisfied with the protection measures ensured by the respective legal framework: 43.1% consider that the law is inadequate and inefficient, and this could be the main reason for the victims' lack of satisfaction with the services offered by the national system based on the Law No. 45. But also 47.2% of women non-victims of violence consider that the legal framework is not efficient (see annex 3, table 34).

Women's opinion does not differ a lot depending on their area of residence, but is determined more by women's individual characteristics, such as age, level of education, marital status, etc. The most positive opinion regarding the adequacy and efficiency of the law is registered among women aged 60-65 years old (63.4%), including both, victims and non-victims from this category of women. Law No. 45 is supported and considered to be efficient mainly by widows (58.0%) and those who have never been married (50.5%), while only less than one third of divorced/separated women have the same opinion (29.1%). This fact could be the result of

the negative experience from divorce and separation period. This conclusion is supported to a certain extent by the fact that 26% of women-victims of violence assess positively the respective law, being followed by women who are not married but live together with a partner (21.5%).

Even though women with higher education are the best informed about the legal framework regarding family violence, this category of women is the least satisfied with the respective law, considering it inefficient to ensure victims' safety and the sanctioning of perpetrators (43.7%). Women with a lower level of education have positively assessed Law No. 45 more frequently, and five out of ten women with lower secondary education consider the law to be efficient. The opinions of female victims do not differ a lot from those expressed by the general population, except for the women-victims who have primary education 100% of whom could not express an opinion regarding the given subject. Hence, it may be concluded that the level of education is an important factor in empowering women, and only the better educated women may redress the existing situation, including requesting more efficient protection for women and for the possibility to sanction the perpetrator.

Figure 32. *Distribution of women by their opinion regarding the adequate and efficient nature of the Law No. 45 to ensure the necessary protection for victims of violence and to apply the adequate punishment for perpetrators, by women's characteristics, %*



Housewives and unemployed women are the least satisfied with the provisions of the Law No. 45, while self-employed women in non-agriculture activities are the most satisfied with the law (see annex 3, table 34). In the case of women-victims, housewives and unemployed women also are the ones to trust the least the efficiency of the provisions of the Law No. 45, self-employed women being the most optimistic in this respect.

The trust line for victims of family violence is one of the services developed for women at risk. In this context, it is important to know to what extent women are informed about the existence of this service⁴¹. In average, 6 out of 10 women stated that they have information about the existence of the trust line, the non-victims being more informed than the women-victims (65.2% and 58.9% respectively).

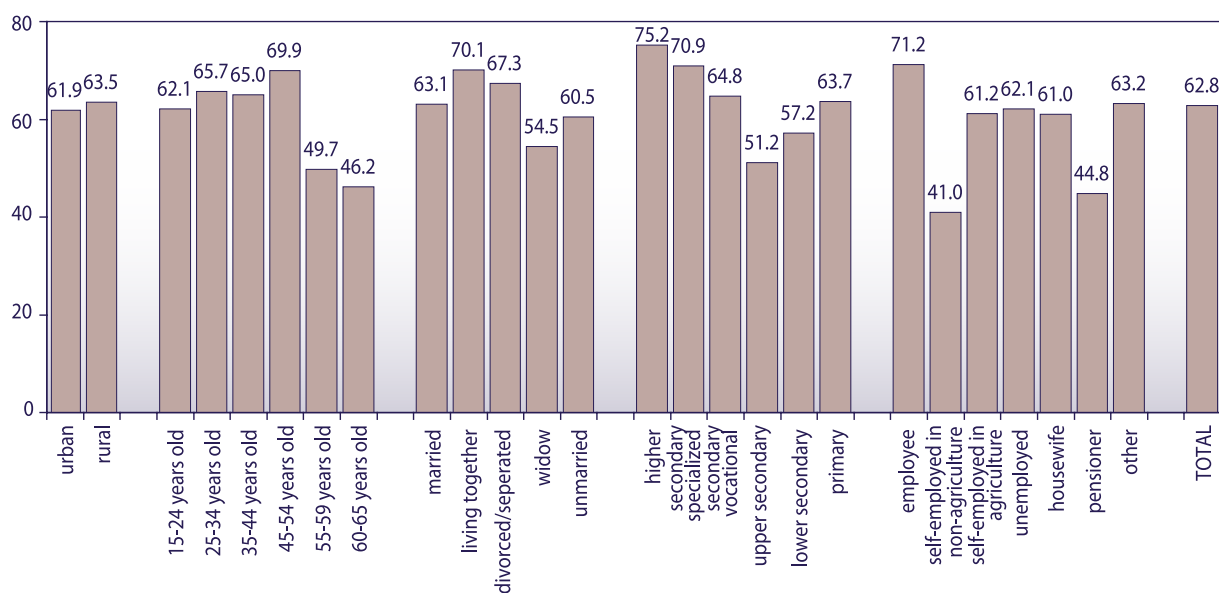
The survey does not reveal significant differences for the level of information between urban and rural women, but certain trends are set for women's information from age and education point of view. Hence, women aged 25-54 are better informed about the trust line, and the least informed are those over 55 years old. When referring to the level of education, women with secondary

general education reported the fewest cases of being informed about this service for women (see figure 33).

However, the situation is different for female victims of family violence: fewer women from rural areas know about the trust line 0 8008 8008, respectively 57.2% compared to 61.7% from urban areas. Nevertheless, a higher number of rural women who did not suffer from violence know about the trust line, 67.9%, compared to 62.3% of urban women. It is difficult to say why only victims of violence from rural areas compared to other women from rural and urban areas are less informed about the trust line.

There is no well-defined correlation between the level of information about the trust line and the marital status of women surveyed. However, women living together with a partner, and those divorced/separated, regardless of the fact if they have been or not victims of family violence, seem to be better informed about the existence of the trust line for women. Women-victims of violence, who were not married when the survey was carried out, represent the category of women of whom only 28% know about the trust line. Thus, namely this segment of women should constitute a priority target

Figure 33. Share of women who know about the existence of the trust line for women 080088008, by women's characteristics, %



⁴¹ The Trust Line for women who suffer from violence, 0 8008 8008, is managed by the International Centre "La Strada. It has been operational since the 2nd of November 2009. This service offers primary psychological counseling to persons

suffering from family violence, advice on how to recognize early signs of violence and how to build a non-violent relationship, as well as information on relevant legislation and references to specialized services.

for the population information strategies about women violence issues.

Analyzing the data depending on women's occupational status, it may be noted that employees are the best informed (71.2%), while the self-employed in non-agricultural activities (41.0%) and pensioners (44.8%) are the least informed.

Women-victims of violence who have called for services provided by the authorities responsible for offering the necessary support were asked to assess the level of some services' provision. Out of the total number of victim who have called for help from certain authorities, bodies, the big majority have called for police assistance (86%), followed by medical workers (21.9%). The least requested services were those of legal and psychological assistance (2.8% and 1.3% respectively). And no victim reported about the use of services provided by NGOs or social assistance services.

In spite of the fact that police bodies were contacted mainly by victims, the level of satisfaction with the offered support was the lowest in this group (33.7%). Women-victims were mostly satisfied with the services provided by medical workers (92.7%) and psychologists (76.4%) (see annex 3, table 36).

According to the opinion of the women-victims of violence, the main reasons for dissatisfaction with the support offered by police is a lack of interest in solving cases of violence (74.8%), inefficiency of provided services (57.7%) and the fact that victims were treated rudely, ignorance and lack of professionalism (32.5%). The lack of interest and bad conditions of the institution were identified as key reasons for the low level of satisfaction with the services offered by medical workers. In case of the legal assistance services – the main reason for dissatisfaction identified by two-thirds of women-victims is the lack of interest (32.5%) and inefficient management of cases (28%).

Hence, the lack of interest on behalf of service providers is one of the main problems affecting the efficiency of service providers' activities in the area, less important being the conditions of the institutions or their operational modality. In this context, it is visible the need to increase the interest as well as awareness about the role and importance of the services provided by the institutions dealing with prevention of family violence. It is

also important to have clear mandate for every institution and to create a transparent system for monitoring and assessing the performance of service providers.

And finally, it can be concluded that the level of women's information about the existing legal framework and services available for victims is low. Less than half of women heard about the existence of the Law No. 45, the least informed being rural women, those with a lower level of education, as well as self-employed women in the agricultural sector. The majority of women who know about the law are also informed about the protection orders, and factors such as area of residence, level of education, occupational status, marital status, and age which determine women's level of information. Nevertheless, even though women stated that they know about Law No. 45, they do not consider that the existing legal framework ensures efficient protection for victims and adequate punishment for perpetrators.

Women who are victims of violence are the least satisfied with services offered by police; while services offered by medical workers and psychological counseling are better assessed. The main reasons for dissatisfaction are lack of interest and the inefficient activity of the service providers.

3.7.2. Attitudes of women towards gender roles and gender-based stereotypes

Women's attitudes towards the traditional gender roles and stereotypes indicate the values and rules existing in Moldovan society. The existence of some prejudices and attitudes could justify the gender-based discrimination, which eventually could reduce women's ability to ensure not only the observance of their rights, mental and physical security at the place of residence, but also continuous consolidation of traditional division of labour, thus inhibiting women's capacity to redress the created situation.

During the survey, women expressed their views about supporting and or negating the stereotypes that persist in the society about the traditional gender roles. In case of the statement that "women should agree with husband's/partner's opinion, even though they disagree", 6 in 10 women denied it, while one in three woman supported this approach of relations between men and women (see figure 34). Women's opinion varies with the age: the older the women are, the more they support

this statement, which is due to existing social norms and perceptions in the Republic of Moldova which did not change considerably over the last 20 years. When referring to the level of education, it may be noted that women with higher education (18.8%) are the ones who agree least with this statement and the lower the level of education that the woman has, the more women agree with the given statement or could not say anything about the given subject.

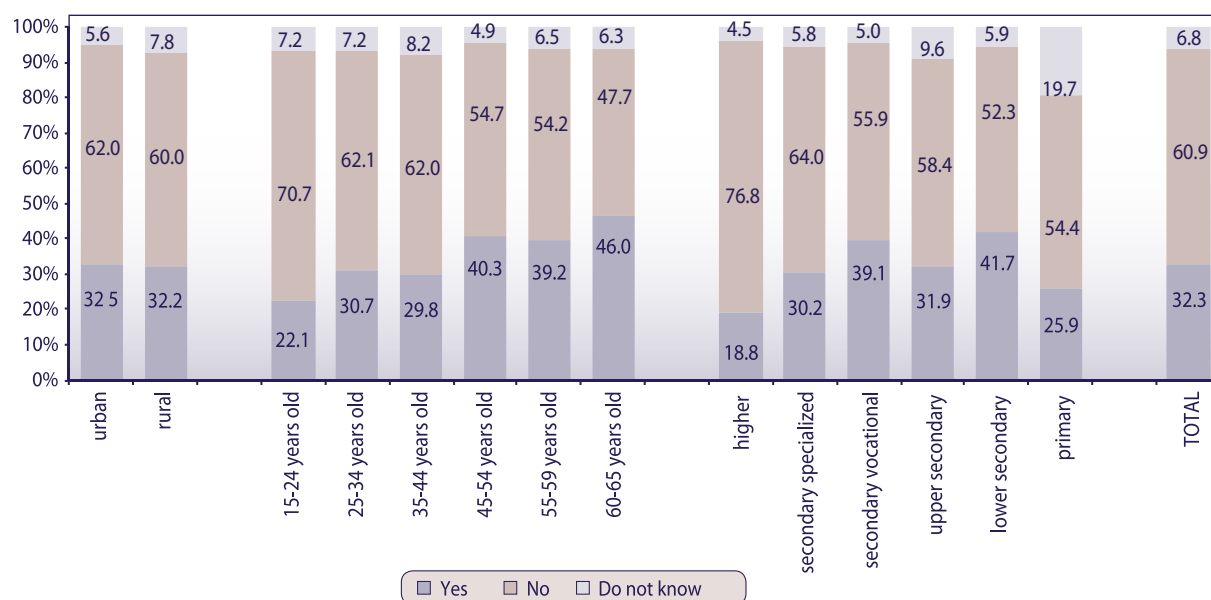
About 65% of women-victims of physical or sexual violence consider that women should support husband's/partner's opinion, while in case of women non-victims, this statement is not supported by 70% of women. This finding could mean that insufficiency of women's empowerment and docility could be factors that contribute to men's usage of violence.

For the question "should the husband/partner feel that he is the head of the family", the majority of women answered affirmatively (70.2%). It is not surprising the fact that rural women support this idea more than urban ones (72.7% as compared to 68.5%), as villagers tend to hold on stronger to traditional beliefs (see annex 3, table 37). No different opinions are registered in relation to the age of the respondents, except for women aged 35-44 years old, who support this statement less.

The marital status of victims plays a significant role for respondents' opinion, and the biggest difference is noted among married and divorced women, on one hand, and those who are not married but live together with a partner, on the other hand. Hence, over 73% of married and divorced/separated women agree with such a statement, while only 54.4% of those not married but living together with a partner support this statement (see annex 3, table 37). Just like in the case of the previous statement, the better educated the woman is, the lower is the share of those who opt for positive statements. At the same time, the opinions of women-victims of physical or sexual violence do not differ essentially from the opinions of the non-victims.

The extent to which women support traditional gender roles and social norms not only in their family lives, but also in general, is another important aspect of the relations among the woman, partner, and the family, which should be analyzed for a better understanding of the gender relations in the family, as well as of the fact if they can influence or not the family violence experiences. Hence, the respondents were kindly asked to say if they agree or not with the following statement: "women should never contradict their husbands/partners in front of other people".

Figure 34. Distribution of women who agree with the fact that women should always agree with husband's/partner's opinion, even though they disagree, by women's characteristics, %



Practically one in two women considers that it is not good to contradict their husbands/partners in front of others (53.8%), thus confirming the continuous predominance of traditional social norms offering authority and unconditioned rights to the man, at least in public, and impose women's full conformity with this idea. Rural women agreed with this statement with 2 percentage points more than urban women (54.6% and 52.8% respectively). At the same time, about 64% of women aged 45-54 years old support this approach on men's and women's relations, while the younger women mainly disagree with the respective statement (see figure 35).

Married women and widows support this statement at a level of 57%, while women living together with a partner agree less with the given statement (40.6%). There are no well-shaped trends depending on women's level of education, as the positive opinion varies from 63.1% for women with secondary vocational education down to 38.8% for women with primary education. It is surprising, but almost half of women with higher education agreed with the given statement. As well, the survey does not reveal significant differences related to the opinions of women-victims and non-victims of physical or sexual violence (see annex 3, table 37).

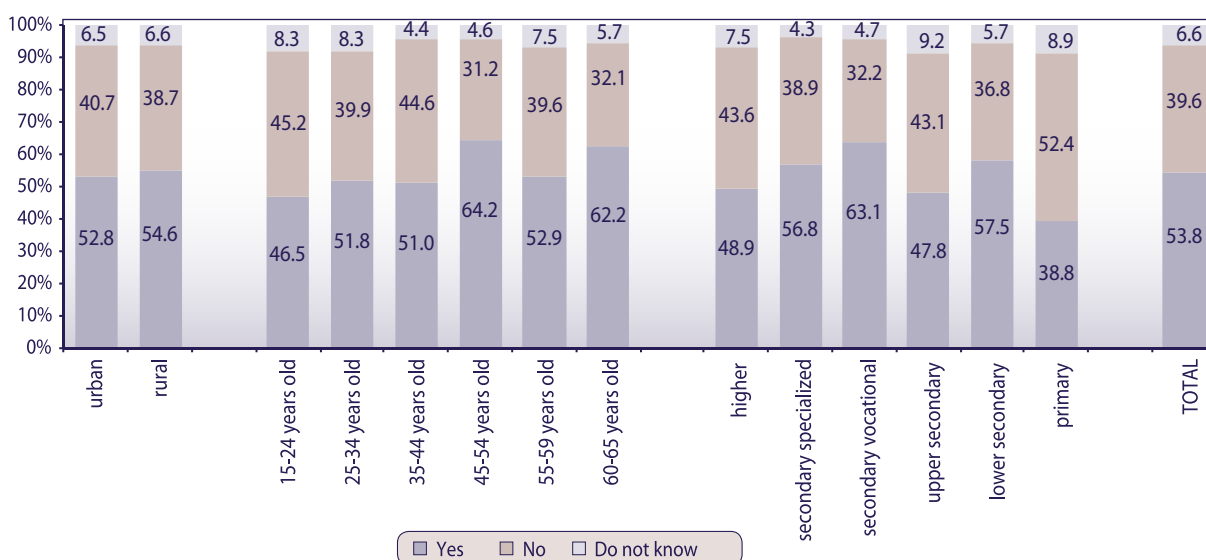
Control of women's movement and the need to seek permission from the husband/partner to engage in social

activities is one of the key aspects of gender inequality and a very widespread form of psychological violence. Although, women have preponderantly disagreed with this statement, 22% still support such behaviour. Unlike other situations, in this case the opinion of rural women differs from that of urban women. About 27.2% of women from villages agree with the fact that women should seek permission of their husband/partner before going to see their relatives, friends, while only 17.1% of urban women support this statement.

The disagreement with the given statement does not vary so much from one age group to another, the lowest percentage being registered for women aged 45-59 (71%). The situation is different when analyzing respondents' opinion by their level of education. Negative opinions are mainly stated by women with secondary specialized and higher education, while women with primary education (38%) do not agree with the fact that women should seek permission of their husbands/partners to visit someone, about 40% of them agree with the statement, and 22% do not know how to answer this question.

The respondents' marital status is one of the factors that determine the formation of the visions related to the control actions from husband's/partner's behalf. Divorced/separated women and those married better

Figure 35. Distribution of women who agree with the fact that women should not contradict their husbands/partners in front of other people, by women's characteristics, %



support such behaviour from husbands/partners (25.1% and 23.3% respectively). Unmarried women are the least to agree with controlling actions from husbands/partners – an explanation for this situation might be the absence of the experience of being married/living with a partner, and respectively their opinion is based more on some hypothetical ideas and not real life experience.

As for the level of education of the surveyed women, data show a positive correlation between the level of education and the support for the given statement in case of 13.9% women with higher education in comparison with 39.4% women with primary education (see annex 3, table 37). Women's experience regarding some forms of violence have an impact on their attitude to control actions of their husbands/partners, thus these actions are more supported by women-victims of sexual violence (29.2%).

The traditional belief that women should please the husband/partner sexually even if she is not feeling like doing so is not only a justification for sexual violence, but also a reason why many women do not recognize and identify certain sexual behaviour of the husband/partner as act of sexual violence. Nevertheless, about 14% of respondents mentioned that they agree with this patrimonial "duty", with minor differences noted in opinions expressed by urban and rural women (13.1% and 14.6%). The need to have sexual relations with the

husband/partner is recognized more by women over 45 years old, especially by those aged 60-65 years old.

The need to please the partner sexually, even if they do not feel like it is recognized more women with marriage experience, especially by widows (18.1%) and women who were married when the survey was carried out (17.3%). The most categorical seem to be the unmarried women, of which only 4.5% agreed with the given "duty". This situation reveals the persistent nature of the traditional values among married and unmarried women - this fact leads us to conclude that social perception of marriage and women's traditional role in the marriage is very strong, and in order to keep their marriage, women maintain these beliefs more than other categories of women.

Women's level of education influences to a certain extent the attitudes regarding the need for women to please sexually their partner, even if they do not feel like it. The highest level of disagreement is registered among women with secondary specialized education (82.2%), followed by those with secondary vocational education (75.5%), and women with higher education (73.4%). At the same time, women with primary education registered the lowest level of disagreement (60.2%), and 30% of them did not have a defined opinion about it. The survey reveals also that women's opinion is influenced by life experience, so victims of violence state

Figure 36. Distribution of women who agree with the fact that women should seek permission to go see their relatives and friends, by women's characteristics, %

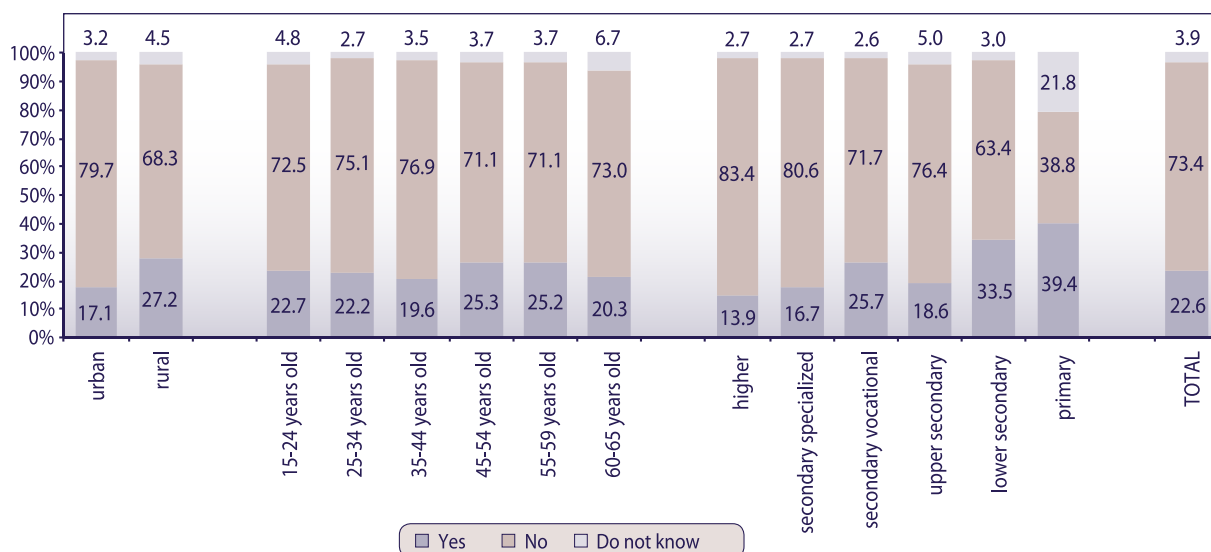
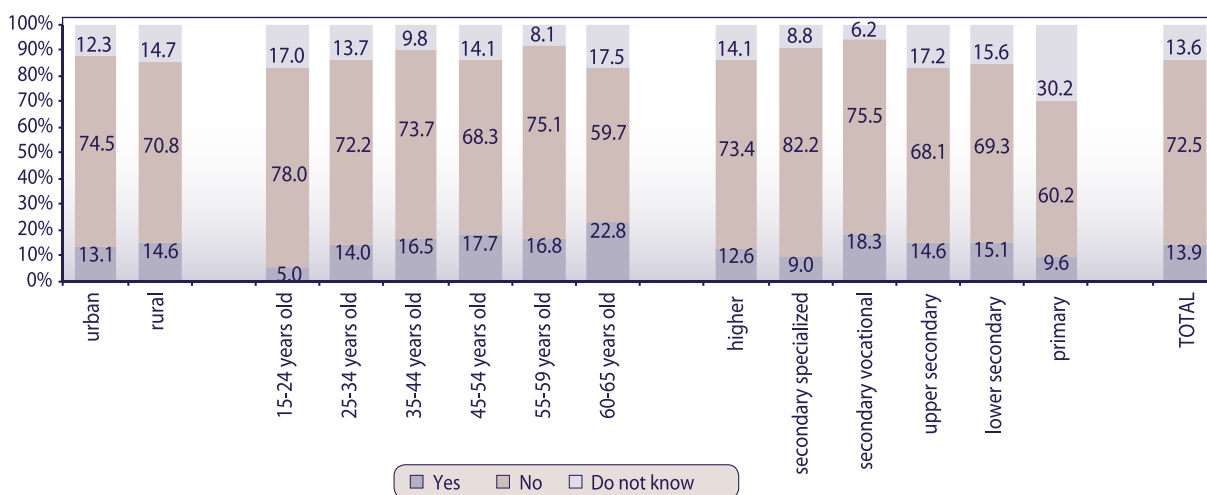


Figure 37. Distribution of women who agree with the fact that women should please the partner sexually even if they do not feel like it, by women's characteristics, %



more frequently that they agree with the duty to sexually please the partner.

To understand better the abusive behaviour of the husband/partner and to what extent the women justify or not such a behaviour, as well as how such situations are tackled, surveyed women were asked to agree or disagree with physically abusive partner's behavior when a woman does or fails to do certain things.

The first situation of "physically abusive partner's behavior when a woman fails to perform domestic chores" is not supported by the vast majority of women (94.0%). Physically abusive actions are justified mainly by rural women. Some 5.4% stated that they agree with such behaviour, compared to 2.6% urban women. The highest level of agreement with such behaviour is registered among women aged 60-65 years old (11.1%), while the highest level of disagreement is registered among young women (see annex 3, table 38).

A share of 14% of widows support physically abusive behaviour in cases where a woman fails to perform domestic chores, while women that are not married but live together with a partner are categorically against this statement. Even though there is no clear trend between women's level of education and their visions regarding the respective topic. Nevertheless women with higher education are the least to agree with this statement (1.5%), while those with secondary vocational and lower secondary education are the ones most likely to agree with such behaviour (7%). It is a paradox that 6.3% of

victims of physical or sexual violence justify the application of physically abusive actions as compared to 2.8% of women who have never experienced violence.

The second situation related to use of physically abusive actions is "when the woman does not conform with the husband's/partner's decision." In this case, again the majority of women do not agree with violent behaviour from the husband/partner (93.2%), the highest level of disagreement being registered among urban women, 95.7% compared to 91.1% of rural women (see annex 3, table 38). Older women justify more frequently abusive actions from the husband/partner, except for women aged 55-59. The respective abusive situation is accepted more by married women (2.6%) and widows (2.3%), as well as by women with secondary vocational education (3.9%) and upper secondary education (4.4%). The same trend as in the previous situation is registered for this case – women-victims justify violence more frequently than the non-victims.

The fact that the woman refuses to have sex with the husband/partner is not a reason for the latter to use violent actions against the woman. This opinion is supported by 91% of surveyed women, including 92.7% urban women and 89.7% of rural women. When referring to the respondents' age, it may be noted that violent behaviour in this case is supported mainly by young women and the older ones (see figure 38).

Women that are not married but living together with a partner are categorical in this situation, and none of

them agrees with violent behaviour in the case where a woman refuses to have sex with her husband/partner, unlike unmarried women – among which 5 % justify such behaviour from their husband/partner. Both women with higher education and those with primary education do not support the use of violence by a partner, while about 6.2% of women with upper secondary education stated that they agree with such abusive behaviour from a partner (see annex 3, table 38).

Another situation tackled within the survey relates to “the use of abusive physical actions where there is suspicion that the woman has been unfaithful”. This reason is often invoked by husbands/partners when justifying their violent actions. Unlike the situations analyzed above, in this case, the share of women who support violent actions is higher (8.7%). Urban women are more categorical in this case, only 4.3% accept violent behaviour in such situations, compared to 12.2% of rural women (see figure 39). This finding confirms the importance of women’s fidelity and respect for men’s reputation.

Physical abuse in case of suspicion about a woman’s unfaithfulness is least agreed upon by women aged 60-65 (69.0%). At the same time, one in five women from this category were unable to express an opinion about the given subject. Just as in previous situations, younger women support the use of violence more often; thus one in ten women agrees with the given statement. These

findings induce the need for more interventions focused on this group of women, so as to overcome the traditional gender stereotypes and to make women aware about the right to their own decisions and choices.

Married and unmarried women more frequently justify the use of violence in situations when the woman is suspected of being unfaithful (see annex 3, table 38). Respondents’ level of education reveals a clear trend for women’s vision in this case and the lower the level of education, the more women justify the use of violence or cannot express an opinion in this respect. Women-victims of physical or sexual violence stated more frequently that women should bear all consequences whenever they are suspected of infidelity.

Another reason for the husband/partner to physically abuse the woman is when the woman is actually discovered to have been unfaithful/to have committed adultery. In this situation, one in four women justifies the violent behaviour of the husband/partner, and practically one in two women does not agree with the respective statement, while 15% could not formulate their opinion about the respective subject (see figure 40).

A significant difference of about 20 percentage points is noted in relation to the negative opinion expressed by rural and urban women (70.7% versus 50%). At the same time, one third of rural women agree with a husband’s

Figure 38. *Share of women supporting the use of physically abusive acts if the woman refuses to have sex with the husband/partner, by women’s characteristics, %*

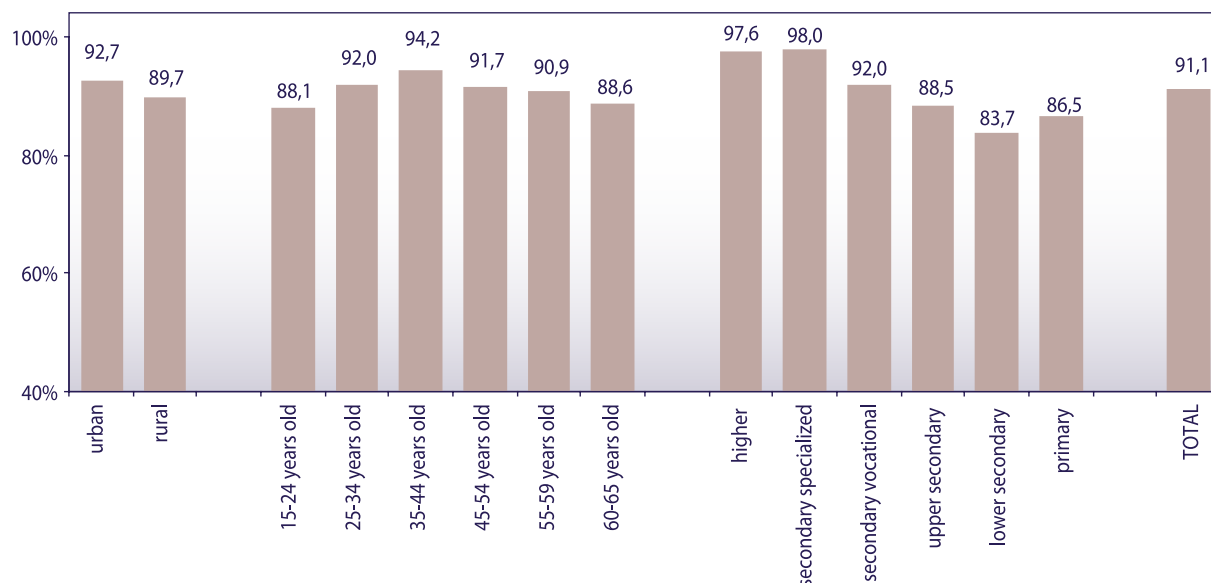
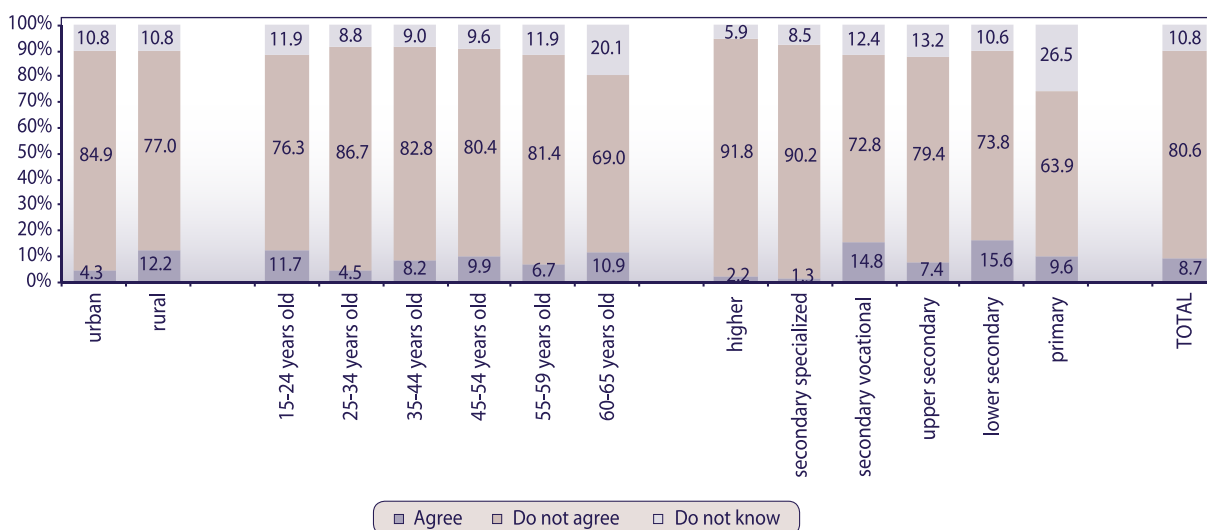


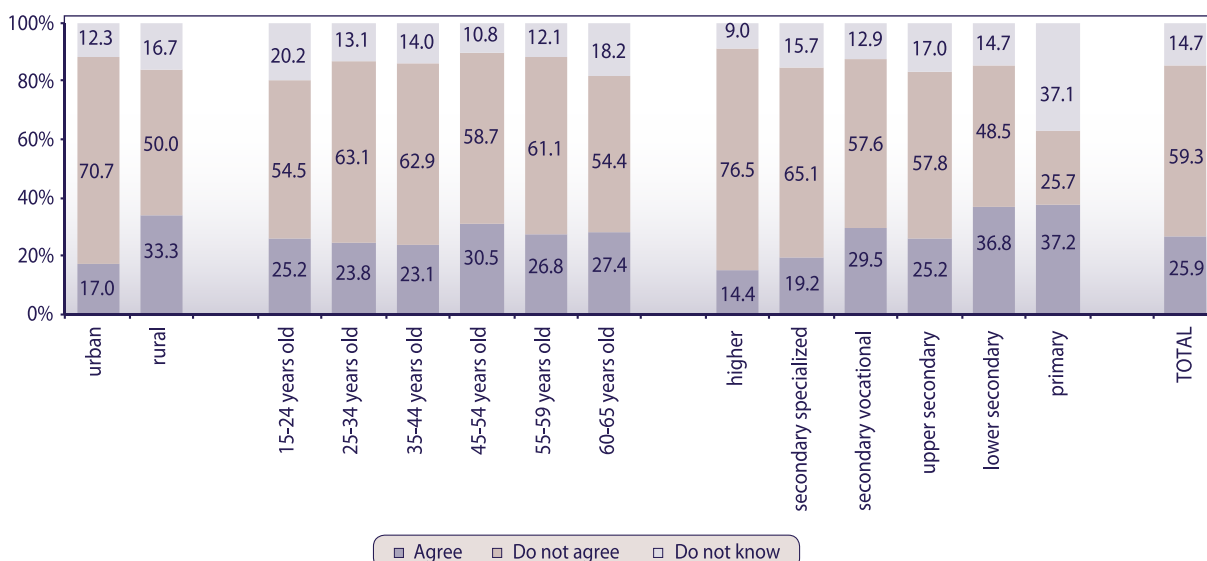
Figure 39. Distribution of women who have expressed their opinion about the use of abusive physical acts by husbands/partners in cases where the woman is suspected of being unfaithful, by women's characteristics, %



abusive behaviour against his wife, if the latter has committed adultery. There is no significant variation between the age and the opinion of interviewed women. The highest percentage of women who do not agree with this statement is registered among those aged 25-34 (63.1%), while the lowest percentage – among those aged 60-65 years old (54.4%). Another interesting finding is the fact that the highest percentage of women who agree with the given statement is registered among those aged 45-54 years old (30.5%).

Women's infidelity is used as a justification to commit physical violence against women. This opinion is shared by 66.5% of women who are not married but live together with a partner, followed by those divorced/separated (62%), widows (60.3%) and married women (59.9%). At the same time, the largest number of women who supported the given statement is registered among those who are divorced/separated (28.3%), followed by those who are married (27.7%) and widows (26.8%). One could expect this distribution of opinions, as it is

Figure 40. Distribution of women who have expressed their opinion regarding the abusive physical actions of the husband/partner when the woman committed adultery, by women's characteristics, %



closely correlated with the prevailing traditional gender roles and afferent views. In terms of respondents' level of education, the data indicate significant differences in relation to women's opinions. Hence, the share of women who treat negatively violence against women due to infidelity reasons is directly proportional with their level of education (from 76.5% for women with higher education down to 25.7% for those with primary/no education). Over one third of women with primary/no education agree with the fact that husbands have the right to use physical violence if wives are not faithful (37.2%), and an equal number of women from the same category did not have any opinion about the given situation (37.1%); this finding indicates the need to work more with these women. A similar level is registered for women with lower secondary education (36.8%). When disaggregated by women's life experience, data shows that half of women who have been victims of physical or sexual violence do not agree with this statement (52%) as compared to 64.7% of non-victim women.

Logically, more women-victims of physical or sexual violence agree with the statement (33.4%), as compared to 20.3% of non-victims of family violence.

All the above findings offer us the possibility to conclude that women's attitudes towards the traditional roles and gender stereotypes are very indicative of the existing cultural values and rules. Although many of the interviewed women disagree with the majority of statements included in the survey, nevertheless the majority of women agree with the importance for the man to feel that he is head of the family, especially in public, hence contributing to the maintenance of the prevailing cultural and social norms, which are based on the idea that the man is the head of the family, the main breadwinner and the decision-maker. These beliefs are obviously deeply rooted in the social and cultural environment existing in the Republic of Moldova, and as such remain to be a significant determinant in the prevalence of family violence and a barrier for women and men seeking to change these trends.

CHAPTER 4.

KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES ON FAMILY VIOLENCE (*results of focus group discussions*)

As mentioned in Chapter 1 of this report, a number of focus group discussions and in-depth interviews⁴² were organized in order to determine the knowledge and attitudes on family violence, as well as the gaps and needs to improve the modality in which this subject is tackled in the Republic of Moldova. The key findings of these investigations are presented in the sections below and will serve as basis to complement the findings of the quantitative survey so as to inform the measures to be undertaken in order to improve the existing situation, which are described in Chapter 5.

4.1. Specialized authorities of Local Public Administration at rayon and community levels

When talking about the level of knowledge of the service providers engaged in the respective area, it should be noted that in general, respondents do recognize different forms of family violence. The specialists from rayon and community levels who benefited from specialized training in the area, mentioned a large range of physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence manifestations as forms of family violence. The specialists at the rayon level who did not benefit from training related to the NRS identified the manifestations of the physical violence (maltreatment, beating), and psychological violence (quarrels, use of children to manipulate men). Community specialists with no training identified mainly the actions of physical violence.

The specialists who benefited from training in this specific area, mentioned about the importance of adopting Law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, specifying the need to enhance the mechanisms for law enforcement and tackling the subject related to protection order's implementation. It was mentioned that the law only partially ensures victims' protection

and it can be enforced when services for victims and perpetrators will be in place. According to the respondents, the Law is not known by the population and by many specialists, and this fact impedes the efficient enforcement of the legal provisions.

Only some specialists at a rayon level, with no training related to NRS, have some knowledge about Law No. 45 regarding Preventing and Combating Family Violence. Some respondents do not know the exact name of the document. A limited number of persons have heard about the protection orders (especially social assistance, police, and prosecutors). Respondents consider that the state does not protect women enough, as there is an inefficient enforcement of the law. The National Referral System (NRS) is also not understood properly and reveals the persistence of serious gaps in knowledge among specialists.

With regard to the attitudes/perceptions about family violence, there are differences between the trained and not-trained respondents. Hence, the rayon specialists, trained within the NRS, identified a large range of FV causes, tackling them in the social development context: economic causes (lack of jobs, poverty, etc.), migration, patriarchal traditions and stereotypes, abuse

⁴² For more details regarding the objectives and methodology of the focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, see chapter 1.3. from this report.

of alcohol, etc. In their opinion, there is absolutely no justification for violence against women in the family, regardless of the situation. The views of the trained community specialists are similar and they also pointed out the persistence of patriarchal mentality among the majority of population, especially among the rural population, being a major social problem. They also mentioned that the permissive attitude towards family violence: "the woman is the victim, she is judged by the society, she fears what people would say" complement the existing situation. Hence, all specialists emphasized the need to challenge these attitudes and to work on raising women's self-awareness, appreciation, and empowerment.

The not-trained rayon specialists also identified similar factors contributing to family violence, such as: economic factors (poverty, lack of jobs), patriarchal traditions (men underestimate women), transformation of gender roles (men lose their status of family's breadwinner and women are blamed for this), and abuse of alcohol. They have also specified that women-victims endure violence because of the traditions (shame) and lack of victims' protection (fear/fear for children). It was also mentioned that urban women (who are educated and have more self-esteem) are more determined to divorce, while rural women do not divorce so easily. It is interesting to note that some respondents were firm in justifying violence against women by making reference to traditions (as the saying goes "the unbeaten woman is like an un-swept house") and to situations when women "deserve" to be punished (if they hang out in bars, drink, come home at night, and do not take care of their children). Moreover, violence was mentioned as an efficient method compared to a lapse of parental rights.

Consequently, according to the not-trained community specialists, family violence is a problem, but not a serious one: "family violence has always existed and will continue to exist. It is an issue of medium importance. But victims are starting to wake up and ask for help." The responsibility of both partners/spouses for the violent acts is specified more frequently. Still the traditional approach for the indirect responsibility of the woman is sustained as well: "the wife uses ugly words to her husband, and he hits her, this is how the row starts."

In terms of the existence of services for the protection of victims, trained rayon specialists seem to be well in-

formed. They identified not only the bodies which are actively involved in tackling such cases (police, social assistance, mayoralty, and partially health services), but also the existing problems, such as: specialists' insufficient skills, insufficient number of services for victims and perpetrators, insufficient cooperation among specialists, insufficient human and material resources, etc. Likewise, they also pointed out the need to improve the way the women-victims are informed, so as to motivate them to disclose family violence cases.

On the other part, only several not-trained rayon specialists (mainly from the area of social assistance) know about the existing services for social protection and assistance for victims. They mentioned the activity of the centres in Balti and Drochia and pointed out the need to create such centres in every rayon. The victim's information, legal assistance, referral to specialized services under the above-mentioned centres were mentioned among the working methods with victims. Specialists have also mentioned that victims are often placed with their relatives, but this method proved to be inefficient, as victims are ashamed to stay with their relatives, or the relatives are afraid of the perpetrator, thus instead of calling the police, they use inefficient informal methods. Shame was mentioned as the main cause for such situations: "women refuse to file complaints and we cannot help them."

In conclusion, it can be stated that not-trained community specialists have a low level of awareness about the problem, existing services, and possibilities to refer the cases of family violence (NRS, MDT), ways of crisis intervention and settlement of cases. However, specific differences are observed, as follows: 1. There are significant differences regarding the level of knowledge about the legal and policy frameworks among specialists who benefited from specialized trainings and those who did not attend such training, especially at the community level. These differences are valid for both, understanding the problem, as well as the role of gender dimension and stereotypes for the given problem; 2. There are differences in specialists' opinions regarding the modality to ensure better protection for women. Trained specialists focus on making the perpetrator responsible for his/her acts, including through removal from the house and temporary isolation, while the not-trained specialists think that victims should be isolated and placed in shelter-centres.

4.2. Women and men from the general public

Participants in focus groups who were randomly selected from the general public recognized different forms of family violence (punches, aggression, slapping and quarrelling, use of vulgar words, etc.). However women also identified some manifestations of economic violence where the husband fails to ensure the family's living.

Both women and men have gaps in knowledge about the legal-normative framework in the area; they do not know about Law 45 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence. Nevertheless, there are some gender-based differences related to respondents' attitudes/perceptions about the problem. Even though the majority of women and men participants identified the same main cause of violence (bad economic situation), men refer more frequently than women to the importance of social-cultural aspects, such as: „if he does not beat you, he does not love you,” the experience of violence in the family, lack of communication, jealousy, etc. On the other hand, besides economic causes, women have also identified the influence of alcohol, relatives' involvement, women's attempts to challenge the traditional norms “when the woman starts to look after herself more, taking more care of herself and men do not like this,” etc.

Gender-based differences are also observed regarding the justification of family violence use against women. Most of the time, women justify men's violent behaviour based on the following arguments: influence of alcohol and men's stress because they cannot provide for their families' welfare, while men make women responsible for everything: “she was looking for it, women do not respect their traditional position, and they do not fulfill their households responsibilities” or even worse “there are women who cannot live without being beaten, like children without sweets.”

Women and men similarly believe that women put up with violence because they are concerned about their children and they wish to preserve the family. At the same time, men mentioned also some other specific causes, which may be grouped according to the following: the need to preserve the social image (“what would people say in the village”), the love for the perpetrator,

women's economic dependence on men, a lack of adequate protection from the state system (this being limited to the payment of fines), the hope for a change in the perpetrator's behaviour.

In turn, women mentioned similar causes, but in a different consecutiveness: social-economic dependency, love for the perpetrator, social image, shame, etc.

A number of gender differences are reflected in women's and men's approach to current social situation, although both think that everyone has difficulties due to lack of jobs and small wages. For instance, men consider that it is easier for women to get a job; while women consider that life is easier for men. Major differences are observed regarding the roles in the family. Some men keep the traditional positions of work division in the family: the husband should bring money in the family, and the wife should take care of children and household; others think that women and men have the same roles, rights, and duties. The majority of women think that “it is normal for women to take care of children and the man, but the man should also help (to change a diaper, to be able to cook something)”. Many women believe that there is too much burden on the women's shoulders, “we take the “plough,” but we have to agree”. However, some women-respondents stick to the traditional positions, identifying “cooking, cleaning, and children's education” as the main roles of a woman. In addition, an important difference was made by some respondents who claim that urban women have more freedom and urban men are more involved in household activities, compared to those from rural areas.

The analysis of men's and women's opinions allows identifying a number of aspects related to gender stereotypes. Hence, half of respondents support the traditional patriarchal positions (“the wife should listen to the husband”), the other half proves to be more liberal (“spouses should listen to each other”). Women have mentioned that the best is for spouses to listen to each other, recognizing the fact that women are the ones to always give in, even if the men's opinion is not correct.

The issue of sexual relations between the partners was also addressed. This problem is considered to be the “bone of contention” and a tool to manipulate family relations. A non-univocal attitude was pointed out in the case of men: there is a general agreement that women

can refuse to have sex if she has health problems, for example. On the other hand, sexual relations are perceived as a marital obligation, as something compulsory. Women expressed the opinion that a wife may refuse sexual relations when her husband is drunk, when she has health problems, etc. The absolute majority of women-respondents recognized that there were situations when they had to accept sexual relations even though they did not want them, just for their partners not to go to other women, etc.

A major difference among women and men is observed with regards to the questions of whether or not family violence against women is an important social problem: women consider it to be an important problem, while men consider it is not an important problem, as people do not perceive it as such.

And finally, focus group participants also discussed the efficiency of the existing services. All participants, men and women, acknowledged that services are inefficient in many cases. However, the majority of women had a more critical attitude towards the existing services, mentioning a number of deficiencies: police inefficiency (police tend to blame women for the violence and to make them responsible for violence situations), a low level of awareness about the existing services, men are confident in their impunity, etc. One third of respondents mentioned the unsuccessful attempts of calling the trust line for women – victims of family violence.

Special considerations:

During the focus group discussions, the interviewers observed participants' behaviour, separately for men and women. When the topic of discussion was announced, men were rather nervous and felt uncomfortable; nevertheless they got actively involved in discussions later. Sometimes, participants were hesitant in formulating their answers, showing a combination of sincere and open answers and "correct" answers. Half of respondents (those who were older) recognized that they had used physical violence against their spouses, but they had a reason for their actions. They also mentioned verbal violence, even if its use was insignificant and usual - "unconsciously, a man wants to prove that he is the master in the house."

Women were overwhelmed with controversial emotions related to the topic under discussion: from tears

and frustration (based on the experience they went through) up to aggression against men and a denigrating attitude. Practically, all women-respondents experienced or were close to experience violence in the family. The psychologist present in the focus group discussion got involved and provided assistance to the extremely emotional respondents.

In conclusion, it can be stated that men and women from general public are aware of some manifestations of physical and psychological violence, however, they are not fully aware of the existing legal-normative framework. Likewise, they have similar positions regarding the causes determining a woman to endure violence, although the order of their importance differs. This order is based on differences regarding the gender roles in the family and society, where more men and women favour traditional roles.

However a gradual transformation of these attitudes has been noticed, although it is still insufficient, as it is obvious that persistence of these traditional roles seems to be an important cause of violence against women in the family.

4.3. Victims of family violence

When analyzing knowledge in the area, it was noted that interviewed women (representing victims of family violence who benefited from support offered by the Centres for Protection of Victims from Drochia and Causeni) recognized that they have experienced multiple acts of violence: physical (beating), psychological (humiliation, prohibition to visit the relatives, forcing to leave the house, etc.), sexual (forcing to have sexual relations), economic (withdrawal of money), etc. The interviewed women have mentioned more frequently they have to deal with partner physical violence.

Although women-victims are informed about Law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence and have heard about it in the centres where they have been placed, they also doubt its efficiency. One respondent who had such an experience, mentioned that it was not enough to apply the protection order, it is also necessary for the perpetrator to be isolated.

The perceptions of the majority of respondents regarding the current situation of women and men in the Republic of Moldova show that women are placed

in more difficult situations than men, due to financial reasons and lack of support from society. The participants mentioned that women are in a more difficult situation than men in the families where violence persists and there is no respect between the partners.

Women-victims of violence participating in the focus group discussions believe that family violence is determined by a number of factors, such as: abuse of alcohol (absolute majority), bad economic situation (lack of money, jobs), transformation of gender roles (men losing the status of being the family's breadwinner, which is taken over by women), relatives' involvement (more frequently of the mothers-in-law), the experience in the parents' family, etc. Some women also mentioned that men beat women because they love them. "They tell us they beat us, because they love us. They think the beating is light and does not harm us. But they cannot control the power of the punches."

Others also mentioned the importance of the more traditional approach to the family violence phenomenon: "Because the woman is the most sinful, men, being the head of the family, consider themselves to be superior to women. Men wear hats, women wear a headscarf. Men consider themselves to have the main role in the family, they start giving orders to women, and if women do not obey, they will have to suffer. Women become men's servants".

Women-victims of violence identified the following reasons for a woman to put up with violence: economic dependence, psychological/emotional dependence, willingness to preserve the family for the sake of the children, fear of spoiling the social image, compliance with patriarchal traditions and lack of safety (fear of the perpetrator).

Women proved to have a controversial attitude on how justifiable the violence is. Although the majority of women were categorical that men have no right to beat the women, nevertheless some of them still find reasons to justify family violence, correlating it with the fact that women do not fulfill their domestic responsibilities.

An interesting example is how women-victims responded to the saying "the unbeaten woman is like an un-swept house.". All of them think that this is a stupid saying, which is frequently used in society. In addition, women mentioned that very often, they have to ask

for men's permission to go to relatives or to see friends. Although they believe that women are not obliged to have sexual intercourse with their husbands against their will, they mentioned that there are situations when they had to accept it because they were threatened with punches: "in our village this happens to the majority of women, if she does not want – he beats her and gets what he wants anyway".

The majority of women-respondents recognize that at the first incidence of violence, they did not report it to anyone, because they did not know whom to report to. Some of them have called the police, but they criticized them for being inefficient ("the perpetrator gets even angrier if a fine is applied, he blames the woman for what happened", etc.). Such negative experience left a mark on their attitude towards the entire state protection system, and therefore they were rather sceptical regarding the efficiency of the police in applying the protection orders. One respondent who had the experience of protection order application, mentioned that it is not enough just to issue a protection order, as the abuser continued to persecute her. Usually abusers are afraid only of prison, so isolating the perpetrators would be more efficient. Perpetrators may be stopped only when force is used against them. Women-respondents mentioned that law should be tougher and police should be more responsible towards women's complaints.

Referring to the centres where they have benefited from assistance, women-victims mentioned that they found out about these institutions from different sources: family doctors, mayors, social assistants, hospital doctors, and women with whom they stayed in hospital. When staying in these centers, women benefited from different services: assistance, understanding and support from psychologist, legal assistance, and help from social assistants. All women-respondents were pleased with the assistance they received, mentioning the friendly attitude of the personnel in these centres. Some of them succeeded to get divorced from their aggressors, to obtain a job, and to feel safer, etc. One respondent was helped to persuade her husband to attend an anti-alcohol treatment, after which all acts of violence ceased. At the same time, other respondents (half of those interviewed) said that the situation in their families did not change: they came back to the abuser, lacked the courage to leave the abuser, fearing that they will not get through the situation..

Some respondents tried to help their husbands to follow anti-alcohol treatments, because alcohol abuse encourages their violent behaviour, but frequently men would oppose such treatment, considering them useless. Several women-respondents, as a result of multiple unsuccessful efforts of changing perpetrator's behavior, got totally disappointed and lost any hope of solving the situation. "Only the spade and the scoop may calm down those who took this path."

In conclusion, it can be mentioned that women-victims are aware of the multiple forms of violence and that despite this, due to financial-economic factors, are unable to leave the family. Although they understand the negative consequences of violence, they still continue to justify the violent acts based on the deeply rooted patriarchal views and stereotypes. In spite of the fact that women-victims requested support from the relevant actors, such as police, nevertheless there are many reserves regarding the efficiency of police intervention and law enforcement. Respectively, it is necessary to establish an efficient system for perpetrators' temporary isolation and special programs to work with them.

4.4. Perpetrators

Participants in the focus groups with men who have committed violence against women in the family (and benefited from rehabilitation programmes for alcohol abusers) proved to be aware of the multiple forms of violence and recognized that they have used them against their wives/partners: physical violence (beating, punches), economic violence (failure to ensure a living for the family, spending money on alcohol, destroying goods and assets), psychological violence (humiliation, blackmail, prohibiting visits to relatives, etc.) sexual violence (forcing sexual relations) etc. Physical violence was mentioned most frequently.

In spite of the fact that they have committed violence, they were not fully familiar with the legal provisions, the majority of them not knowing about Law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence. All respondents were very critical with regard to the efficiency of the protection order used by police and believe that its application may lead to more violence: "Removing a man from the house will diminish his authority in front of relatives and neighbours. After such a humiliation, I

cannot imagine how his wife could look him straight in the eye, no understanding can exist between them."

Although the majority of perpetrators believe that women are in a more difficult situation due to economic difficulties, cultural and traditional norms, the absolute majority of them still respect the patriarchal approach towards the role of women and men in the family: men must have higher wages in comparison to women; men are responsible for maintaining the family, while women are responsible for children and domestic work: "a man is a man"; "the man is two levels higher than the woman".

According to the respondents, family violence is determined by a series of causes: difficult economic situation (lack of money, lack of jobs), abuse of alcohol (absolute majority, based on personal experience), difficulties in the family, psychological factor related to man's insistence to maintain control and position in the family in the context of reduced possibilities to earn money and ensure a decent living for the family. They think that women endure violence, because they are economically, psychologically, and emotionally dependent on men.

All respondents invoked multiple justifications for men's violent behaviour: tradition/culture ("beats – loves"), woman's provoking behavior ("if she keeps asking for money; when the wife does not obey the husband"), influence of alcohol, etc. Very frequently, respondents mentioned jealousy which affects man's dignity and may lead to violent acts. Respondents disagree with the saying "the unbeaten woman is like the un-swept house". At the same time, they responded positively when asked whether a woman should ask for her partner's permission to go somewhere.

As a result of this focus group discussion, it could be noted a symbiosis of patriarchal-modernist perceptions and attitudes among the men-perpetrators, thus denoting respondents' psychological-emotional and social instability related to their previous and present life experiences. However, more men who attended rehabilitation programmes changed positively, including their attitudes towards the problem: a more critical attitude towards the previous violent actions, refuse of alcohol, accepting the idea that women should not live with fear and should not be subject to violence, etc. They proved to acknowledge the need for changing their attitudes

towards sexual relations in the couple/family. Respondents expressed their agreement with the fact that there might be situations when women cannot have sex and the use of force and power is unacceptable. At the same time, respondents' answers confirmed a strong stereotypical thinking regarding family violence, perceiving it as a private issue and a problem only between partners.

With regard to the efficiency of the efforts to combat family violence and sanction perpetrators, the absolute majority of respondents mentioned about the inefficiency of police interventions, considering that fines, community work, and preventive arrest are inefficient and really represent a challenge for new violent acts. Moreover, more men consider the spouse's call to police for help as betrayal and threat on men's dignity. Respondents consider that police should apply sanctions to perpetrators only after assessing the incident and its causes. Based on the experience from the rehabilitation programmes, all respondents mentioned the need to have rehabilitation centres/programmes for perpetrators, with the participation of psychologists.

The abuse of alcohol favors men's violent behaviour – this fact was mentioned as a problem related to violence against women in the family. According to the opinion of the respondents who had such experiences, alcoholism treatment is efficient only when the persons accept it and are willing to follow it. The family and the people surrounding the perpetrators play an important role in motivating men to accept treatment and rehabilitation programmes.

And finally, respondents mentioned about the need to train police to intervene in cases of family violence, so as to be able to discuss with men, to explain them the consequences of violence, to help them overcome the aggressive phases. Although men-perpetrators know that their behavior is a criminal act, nevertheless they justify such behaviour with a number of social-economic and cultural reasons and believe that they should be subjected to psychological-educational methods so as to stop their violent behaviour. This is confirmed by the fact that those who have attended rehabilitation programmes report positive changes in their attitudes regarding the problem, as they become more critical towards their previous behaviour, stop using alcohol, and show more respect for women.

4.5. Journalists

Mass-media representatives, who participated in focus group discussion, identified a large range of violent acts in the family in general, starting with the violent words and ending with punches. Violence was mentioned as an extreme act that may induce damages, physical and/or moral suffering, such as hatred, disrespect of personality, regardless of gender and age. At the same time, some respondents mentioned that men can also be victims, but they do not declare such situations due to shame. Men's traditional status includes the image of a strong man, "head of the family," the image of man as victim does not correspond to traditional social status.

Although women are more frequently subject to physical violence, they also stated that men experience psychological violence (women bait men to bring money). According to the majority of respondents from the focus group, violence represents a serious problem in the country.

Journalists are informed about Law No. 45, although many of them think that it is not efficient: "these 20-30 protection orders mean nothing for all the cases that we have." Respondents also mentioned the low level of information in society about the law, especially among victims of violence, although some journalists mentioned that the document is widely discussed in mass-media, especially on national television.

According to journalists, the main causes of violence against women in the family are: women's financial dependency on men especially in rural areas), public indifference and tolerance of violence, as something normal, the low level of culture, including a low level of legal awareness, experiences from parents' family, persistence of men's patriarchal mentality (priority for men's social status; women fear men), women's acceptance of it, etc. In respondents' vision, there is no justification for violence, specifying that love/education/respect is the only alternative.

One important aspect mentioned during the discussions, was the impact of migration on the phenomenon of violence. As put by one of the respondents „conditions all over the country are different and for example in my village the women are those who act as perpetrators. Half of women returning from working in Italy are maltreating their husbands using their earnings to

exert pressure or threats on their husbands. This phenomenon comes like a snow ball which gets bigger and bigger, because nowadays Moldovan women have become the sole breadwinners in families”.

With regard to why women decide to endure violence, the following criteria were mentioned: financial-economic dependence on the husband (the most significant one), insufficient training of police officers in protecting women and preventing this phenomenon, etc. Respondents recognized that the low level of protection orders’ enforcement is due to a lack of information in the field. According to the majority of respondents, the topic of family violence is reflected in mass-media rather sporadically, from case to case, becoming more active during some awareness raising information campaigns. Some institutions were mentioned that followed up the subject: “Ziarul de Gardă”, National TV Moldova 1, Centre of Journalist Investigations, etc. Yet, they think that most frequently, this issue is tackled from a sensational perspective: describing the offence without addressing the problem in depth. This is due to a number of factors: limited access of journalists to relevant information (difficulties in contacting victims and obtaining information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, low motivation of journalists, low level of interest from editors (the majority of whom are men) for the given topic, preference of media institutions for sensational topics, weak involvement of experts, marketing of mass-media institutions, etc. The respondents also referred to the poor skills of journalists in this regard. They mentioned the failure to observe deontological principles in cases of violence (due to lack of knowledge), the habit of some representatives of mass-media to rely only on information from press conferences or existing articles that are just adjusted, without ensuring continuity in approaching the issue of family violence, and offering people useful information, etc. The respondents consider that preparing of materials, analyses, investigations, and human stories would be the most efficient method to cover the gaps in this area.

As for whether this issue is important or not, the journalists who participated think that the subject is relevant and needs a systematic approach. Due to the sensitivity of the issue, they believe it is necessary to undertake actions to raise awareness of the problem taking into con-

sideration the gender dimension of the phenomenon.

The respondents listed a number of means to motivate the journalists to tackle this subject more frequently, including by establishing partnerships between journalists and organizations active in the area, so as to ensure provision of relevant and qualitative information, facilitate journalists’ meetings with specialists and beneficiaries, establish some experts’ groups per different areas, organize national competitions for journalists to address different aspects of the problem, prepare video materials with real cases, train journalists, and develop a collaboration between the media and international organizations through projects, and create web pages with support from donors, etc.

In conclusion, it could be stated that currently, family violence is not addressed systematically or in an in-depth manner by the media, and motivating journalists to address the issue depends on a number of factors including their skills, marketing of mass-media institutions, the capacity to provide information to active stakeholders, the capacity of the state system to solve the cases of family violence, etc. In order to improve the situation, it is necessary to replicate the positive experiences in the field already accumulated by the media, and to improve their capacities to inform and educate the population by promoting positive models of behaviour based on non-traditional gender roles and stereotypes.

4.6. Gaps and needs to improve the National Response System for preventing and combating family violence (*in-depth interviews and focus groups*)

Au fost organizate interviuri în profunzime cu un număr de reprezentanți relevanți ai instituțiilor naționale, care sunt abilitați în domeniul prevenirii și combaterii violenței în familie. Principalul obiectiv a fost de a obține o înțelegere mai bună a principalelor lacune și deficiențe ale sistemului național de prevenire și combatere a violenței în familie și de a identifica necesitățile pentru îmbunătățire. Opiniile acestor reprezentanți, cât și a participanților la discuțiile de grup cu privire la cele mai importante lacune și necesități de a îmbunătăți sistemul de protecție și cadrul normativ sunt prezentate mai jos.

Gaps:	Needs:
Normative and Policy Framework	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficient enforcement of provisions set in Law No. 45 regarding the protection measures, because of an inefficient enforcement mechanism (normative regulations) • Gaps at the level of the applying / enforcing Protection Orders (PO) including due to failure of police bodies to implement them as well as their incompetency to intervene when a person is under immediate threat of violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To adjust the national normative and legal frameworks to the provisions of Law No.45 by establishing a clear mechanism to ensure enforcement of protection orders • To provide for sanctions for the non-execution of court decisions related to enforcement of protection orders, including by relevant institutions such as police bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficiency of sanctions applied to perpetrators: detention for 3 hours, fines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To re-evaluate the measures undertaken to punish perpetrators, so as to combine the efficient restrictive measures with psychological support programmes, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak enforcement of the provisions of Law No. 45 regarding the roles and responsibilities of various authorities and institutions, due to their undefined mandate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To adopt some guidelines for dealing with cases of family violence for the relevant specialists
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficient operation of the National Referral System on vertical and horizontal levels, due to the undefined mandate of the specialists acting in the area, insufficient interaction among such specialists (reluctance to collaborate); lack of services for perpetrators, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further consolidate the NRS by developing measures / regulations regarding the intervention / interaction of the relevant authorities and institutions, building the capacities of all involved specialists • To develop regulations for MDTs' operation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent / complicated mechanism to involve perpetrators in anti-alcohol use programmes (bureaucratic procedural aspects; obligation for the person's consent, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To draft guidelines to facilitate the activity of the relevant specialists in family violence cases (with clear instructions for all intervention stages and documentation tasks) • To adopt some measures (laws) which would reduce the consumption of alcohol among the population and would restrict the consumption of alcohol among young people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is much more focus of the judicial system on the observance of the suspects' rights, accused of perpetration of different offences, and less focus on ensuring the victims' rights (thus encouraging the perpetrators and violating the victims' rights) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To re-evaluate the principles of the legal-normative framework so as to prioritize the observance and protection of victims' rights, • To adopt the legal-normative acts, which would allow the police to enforce the law in victims' interest, since now policemen may be held accountable for entering a person's domicile
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a state policy that would ensure the sustainable activity of the victims' protection centres, after the end of the donors supported projects; • Inadequacy of the regulatory framework to ensure state support to NGOs service providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To pass some normative regulations so as to empower (to make accountable) the LPA for taking over / developing the existing services • To adopt the accreditation system for social services in family violence, including those provided by NGOs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of an automatic information system (which would include a range of data, various statistics regarding the type, conditions of the violent actions, actors involved, available services, etc.) • Lack of a system for case reporting, so as to know the magnitude of the phenomenon and to establish the national peculiarities, necessary to be taken into account while developing specific measures to redress the situation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop the concept of the automatic information system which would include the family violence component • To develop and use formats for data collection at the level of the relevant bodies and specialists

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient measures taken by CPA and LPA in order to regulate the migration process (which affects the families, especially the children) / Lack of jobs, especially in rural areas (which favour population poverty and abuse of alcohol, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop adequate policies and efficient measures for men and women employment on the labour market
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack (insufficiency) of a state policy to “raise people culture” about organization of the free time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop and implement policies and measures at the state /local levels regarding social/cultural services for youth and adults (community centers, cultural houses, clubs for different interests, sport clubs, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of Civil Registration Office to get involved in preventing family violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To initiate special informative and consultation programs for the youth submitting requests for marriage registration at the Civil Registration Offices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No subject on preventing and combating family violence in the national curriculum, insufficient coverage of the human rights observance perspective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include the earlier mentioned topic in the Education Code, curriculum (mainstreaming this topic all taught subjects, ensuring a complex and multidimensional approach), especially in the lessons led by the class moderator, To include this topic in the curriculum for initial and continuous training of the teaching personnel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak involvement of the Forensic Medicine Service in identifying and reporting family violence cases / both, the specialists and people hesitate to address to this service (especially due to involved costs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To complete art. 34 (par.5) of the Law nr.1086 with stipulations regarding the forensic expertise for family violence victims
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient coordination at the country and LPA levels of the actions aimed at enforcing the Law No.45 and other legal-normative provisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a plan of actions, involving all relevant bodies for the implementation of the Law 45
Service Provision	
<i>Specialists’ competences</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient level of training (information, perception and application) among judges, prosecutors regarding the implementation of Law no. 45, especially regarding the issuance of the protection orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train the judges, prosecutors regarding the legal-normative framework in the area of FV and the competence in the area To adopt sanctioning measures for the failure to fulfill professional duties in the area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient level of awareness of the community specialists regarding the Law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence and the specific responsibilities in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train the community specialists (LPA, social assistants, policemen, doctors, teaching personnel) about the legal-normative framework in the FV area and the competences in this area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low functionality of the MDTs due to the insufficient training (especially on case management, etc.), reduced mobility (functional overload of the specialists), subjective attitude towards the victims, reluctance for cooperation, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train the members of the MDTs in the area To make the members of MDTs accountable for the activity in the area (to adopt sanctioning measures for failure to fulfill professional duties in the area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient level of awareness of community specialists regarding the National Referral System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train the community specialists (LPA, social assistants, policemen, doctors, teaching personnel) regarding the operation of the NRS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient competences (knowledge and skills) of the social assistants, police officers, doctors at the community level to provide primary assistance to victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train the community specialists in provision of primary assistance to victims
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient competence (knowledge and skills) of social assistants, police officers, prosecutors in applying protection orders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train the relevant specialists in applying protection orders in line with the legal provisions To adopt sanctioning measures for failure to fulfill the professional responsibilities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient competence (knowledge and skills) of community social assistants, police officers, doctors in provision of primary psychological assistance to perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To train the community specialists in primary psychological assistance for abusers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient competences (knowledge and skills) of community specialists in identification and registration of cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To train the community specialists in identifying cases and filling in the case registration files
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persistence of patriarchal gender stereotypes among the majority of specialists, which impedes the tackling of family violence as a social problem and holding the perpetrators accountable for their acts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To train the community specialists on family violence phenomenon in the context of human rights, gender equality. To mainstream the above topic into the initial and continuous training of specialists
Functioning of state institutions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient involvement of the Prosecutor's Office, Supreme Council of Magistracy in solving cases of family violence, due to perceptions that family violence is a private family problem and does not need involvement from state authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To re-focus the approach to the family violence problem as a private problem towards treating it as a social problem • To train the prosecutors, judges about the legal-normative framework in FV area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficiency of police interventions resulting from personal attitudes of the police (family violence is a private matter, the victims is accountable for what has happened, etc.) and systemic weaknesses (such as inadequacy of sanctions applied to perpetrators) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To train police officers regarding their obligations and proceedings in cases of family violence and sensitize them on the issue of family violence and gender inequality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficiency of human resources (turnover / lack of human resources in police, social assistance, education, especially in rural localities) to work in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the necessary number of (competent) human resources by motivating them to be active in the area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficiency of financial resources (including of equipment, fuel, transportation, especially for the law enforcement bodies, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the specialists with adequate resources (equipment, fuel, transportation) for efficient interventions in FV cases
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of psychologists – specialists at community level, who would be able to undertake psychological-social interventions to assist the victims and perpetrators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To train the psychologists in all the educational institutions, regardless of the number of children, who would also explore the psychological-social assistance of FV subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underestimation of the social assistant's role in solving FV cases / reducing their activity just to offering social help 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve and apply work guidelines for the social assistance in cases of FV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient involvement of mayors in solving FV cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and apply work guidelines for LPA in cases of FV
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficiency of anti-alcohol-use services for the perpetrators, reduced access of the population due to lack of money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fortify the anti-alcohol-use service through strict monitoring • To ensure the access to these services by simplifying the procedures, re-assessing the costs (to be covered by CNAM)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inefficiency of police interventions, which is the result of personal attitudes (perception of the FV as a private phenomenon, making the victim accountable, denigrating the victims, etc.) and of the system (inefficiency of the punishment measures applied to perpetrators, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To approve and apply work guidelines for police officers in FV cases and to train them based on the respective guidelines

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient involvement of education system employees in preventing and solving FV cases due to insufficiency of human resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To train teaching personnel in preventing and solving the FV cases, especially in the families with children To include the interpretation of Law No. 45 and other documents in the activity regulations for the teaching personnel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient involvement of the health protection system employees in preventing and solving the FV cases due to insufficiency of human resources, unclear responsibilities, and low level of self-identification, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To fortify the role of the medical workers in counseling the population, promoting healthy lifestyle, referring the FV cases to other relevant services To increase the level of self-identification by calling for doctors' assistance, by informing the population about the rights, services, consequences of FV, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient involvement of forensic doctors in identifying and reporting FV cases due to low level of assistance calls from other specialists and population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To include the forensic doctor in the multidisciplinary team at rayon level To provide them with necessary equipment, and respective training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient cooperation / coordination of specialists, structures competent in the FV area due to indefinite mandate of intervention and lack of MDTs at community level (in the majority of localities, with certain exceptions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To set up community multidisciplinary teams by replicating the positive experiences To apply work guidelines for specialists
<i>Centres for the protection of victims</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficiency of centres at rayon level (except for the existing one in Chisinau, Balti, Drochia, Causeni, Cahul) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make more efficient the activities of the existing centres so as to extend their activity, to cover the needs of the persons from other rayons, according to need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access of FV victims to these services, due to insufficiency of relevant information, especially in rural localities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To inform the general public about the exiting services (informative billboards within the mayoralties, health centers, etc. at community level)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited support from the state / LPA for the victims' protection centers set up within international projects and dependent on external funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To institutionalize the activities of the centers, as being of national interest (to ensure the rights of the victims to protection and assistance) / combination of State – LPA – NGO efforts, etc.
<i>Centers of correction, rehabilitation, and reintegration of perpetrators</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of services, programmes of psycho-social rehabilitation / reintegration of the perpetrators of FV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a network of programs/services of psycho-social reintegration /rehabilitation of perpetrators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of sustainable anti-alcohol-use services including for perpetrators of FV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop sustainable anti-alcohol-use services for perpetrators of FV who excessively use alcohol
<i>Trust line</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access to the services provided by the specialists of the trust line: the attempts of a number of respondents to call this service failed, as it was not available (did not work) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To fortify the mentioned service by ensuring it with adequate human and technical resources

CHAPTER 5.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study is based on quantitative and qualitative research and aims to offer an information framework regarding the different aspects of violence against women in the family. It reveals not only the prevalence of the given phenomenon, but also explores its causes, determinants, and consequences, identifies the needs to improve the legal and institutional frameworks so as to improve more efficiently violence against women in the family.

5.1. Main findings and conclusions of the study

Prevalence of partner violence (physical, sexual or psychological)

1. Violence affects a large number of women, regardless of their age, area of residence, or social-economic status. The **total prevalence rate of husband/partner violence over a lifetime** (psychological, physical, or sexual) since the age of 15 is **63%**, and the prevalence rate of husband/partner violence in the **last 12 months** is about **27%**. Rural women, women with a low level of education, unemployed and self-employed women in agricultural activities are the most vulnerable.

2. Women who have experience simultaneously physical, sexual, and psychological violence committed by current or their most recent husband/partner are in a more difficult situation. The prevalence rate of **cumulative experience of violence** (psychological, physical, and sexual) over their lifetime is **12.3%**. Rural women, elderly women, and those separated or divorced reported the highest prevalence rate of multiple forms of violence.

3. Women from **rural areas are at a higher** risk of experiencing all the forms of violence, both over their lifetime and in the last 12 months. This fact may be conditioned by a number of factors, including higher

economic dependency of rural women⁴³ in their husbands/partners, lack of sufficient support mechanisms, including family and community networks, as well as shelters, psychological counselling, legal services⁴⁴ and stronger adherence to traditional gender roles which place women in subordinated position to their husbands, who in turn use this to exercise power and control, including through use of violence⁴⁵. An argument for higher prevalence rates among rural women is their lower economic status, and respectively higher dependency on their husbands/partners, as well as a consequence of the recent economic downturn in Moldova, which has affected more rural communities, resulting in higher unemployment rates and financial difficulties. However, further qualitative research is required to analyze such direct causality between prevalence of violence and the impact of economic hardship.

4. Although partner violence is widely spread among all **age groups**, the prevalence rate of violence over a lifetime rises with age. The longer women are in a relationship (marital or cohabitation), the higher the chances are for violence against them to occur. At the same time, data also show that one third of women aged 15-34 years old have experienced partner violence **in the last 12 months**. Hence, the conclusion may be drawn that violence against women is deeply rooted and widely spread in society, and individual and social beliefs, as well as the behavioural patterns that determine the oc-

⁴³ A number of research studies do link greater economic dependence of rural women on their partners with higher prevalence rates of violence. For more see: Mathews, 2004; Rothman et.al, 2007; Bornstein 2006, etc.

⁴⁴ Research conducted by Weiss, 2000, Sullivan et.al, 1994, etc. suggests strong links between the absence of available support services and higher prevalence rates of partner violence against women in the rural areas.

⁴⁵ Feminist advocates argue that partner violence is a gender-based violence and it is deeply rooted in the unequal status of women and men in the family resulting from the traditional gender roles and division of labour.

currence of violence against women are being repeated from generation to generation.

5. The study reveals certain dependency between a woman's **marital status** and the probability of violence occurring. Divorced and separated women are the most affected by violence from their former husbands/partners, while women who are not married, but living together with a partner are less affected by partner violence. This finding in a way confirms the findings of the DHS⁴⁶ and reveals the fact that partner violence is probably present during the marriage and is more obvious during the divorce/separation process. Another explanation would be that divorced/separated women are less reticent to report cases of violence, as they do not fear anyone anymore, are not dependent or pressurized by family or community, etc.

6. The prevalence rates decrease slightly with the increase of women's **education**. Hence, the lowest rates of prevalence were registered for women with higher education. This finding confirms the arguments voiced by feminist theories, according to which women with higher level of education are not only better able to secure their economic independence, but also have the possibility to better negotiate a more equal relationship with the partner and in the family, thus decreasing the chances for the partner to exercise control and use violence to maintain the traditional gender relationships. However, the findings also indicate that women's education is an important but not critical determinant of the likelihood to experience or not violence, as other factors including the attitudes of women towards gender roles and violence, their economic status, personal relations, place of residence, etc. do impact women's position in the family.

7. Although the majority of surveys conclude that women's **economic independence** reduces to minimum the likelihood for partner violence occurrence (in marriage or cohabitation), this survey data reveal a lower rate of violence prevalence namely for persons who are dependent from economic point of view. One possible explanation could be the fact that reporting rates in case of women with no income (unemployed and housewives) are lower due to the fact that economic dependence makes women fearful of disclosing such information. At the same time, the prevalence of violence in the case of women with a source of income could be caused by the material situation of the hus-

band/partner, who is either unemployed or earns less, or does not accept a woman's economic independence. This finding is supported also by literature in the area, which offers arguments saying that greater economic empowerment of women is linked to an increase of male partner violence, as this impacts negatively their masculinity and the "self- image" of a man being the breadwinner and the decision-maker in the family.

Prevalence of partner psychological violence

1. About **60%** of women reported cases of psychological violence **over a lifetime**, and **one quarter** of interviewed women stated that they had experienced violence **in the last 12 months**. Just as in the case of total violence, psychological violence occurs more frequently in case of rural women. Differences are registered between the prevalence rate of psychological violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months among the different age groups. The highest rates of violence over their lifetime were registered for women older than 45; while for prevalence of violence in the last 12 months – the highest rates were reported by women aged between 15 and 34. An argument for this finding would be the fact that the older the woman is, the lower the probability is for her to have a partner in the last 12 months.

2. To maintain their power and control over their wives/partners, men most frequently use insults, intimidations, and fear, acting psychologically on women. The survey data do not reveal that experience of different **forms of psychological violence** has individual peculiarities related to partner's subjective characteristics, dynamics of relationships, and last but not least, women's perception of what an insult, intimidation, humiliation, or verbal threat represents.

3. Victims of psychological violence often confirm the fact that such partner's behaviour is accepted by society, being deeply rooted from generation to generation and serving as means to control women.

4. Another type of psychological violence experienced by some women is a partner's **social control**. This type of violence is most frequently expressed by husband's/partner's controlling behaviour aimed at a woman's social isolation. Hence, according to the survey data, practically **one in two** women reported cases of controlling behaviour over their lifetime, and **one in three** women reported this type of violence in the last 12 months.

⁴⁶ 2005 Moldova Demographic and Health Survey conducted by the National Scientific and Applied Center for Preventive Medicine, Ministry of Health.

5. Social isolation cases were equally reported practically by women from all **age** categories. Nevertheless, younger women are **most often** subject to such behaviour from their husbands/partners both over their lifetime and in the last 12 months. This idea may be explained by the fact that due to changes related to women's traditional role and economic empowerment, the young husbands/partners tend to maintain the relationship, using sometimes controlling behavior to express in this way the power and the will to be the totalitarian decision-maker in a relation. An important moment for elderly persons would be the individual perception of social isolation aspects. Hence, these women reported fewer cases of social isolation as compared to younger women due to the simple reasons that some actions committed by their husbands/partners are not perceived as controlling behavior that can affect them.

6. The most typical **control modality** mentioned by women is their husbands'/partners' insistence to always know where the woman is, followed by the situation when husbands/partners get angry when women talk to another man. These two types of controlling behaviour are exercised more by rural men and men whose partners are aged 15-24 years old. As it was expected, married women report the highest rates of controlling behavior as compared to women from other marital status categories.

7. One in ten women mentioned that at least once in lifetime experienced **economic violence**, while in the last 12 months, the prevalence rate of this type of violence is **4%**. No significant differences exist among rural and urban women, registering similar prevalence rate over lifetime and in the last 12 months.

8. According to the survey data, women-employees and unemployed women are the most vulnerable to economic violence. The explanation for unemployed women would be the fact that they are dependent of their husbands/partners, while for those employed, the probability of economic violence occurrence is influenced by a number of factors: difference of income, occupational status, and social status of husbands/partners, etc. All of these attribute women unequal status in spite of their economic independence.

9. One in three divorced/separated women experienced economic violence over their lifetime. This finding con-

firms that fact that divorce/separation is a factor that contributes to economic violence or economic violence persistence can be the important factor influencing the decision to separate and divorce.

Prevalence of partner physical violence

1. About **40%** of women reported cases of **physical violence** committed by the current or most recent husband/partner, and **9%** experienced physical violence **in the last 12 months**. Unlike the other types of violence, physical violence prevalence registered significant differences between rural and urban women. Moreover, the prevalence of physical violence in villages in the last 12 months registered a doubled value as compared to the rates registered in urban area. This situation derives from the differences registered in relation of gender role prevalence between rural and urban population, as well as their incidence on social and cultural norms guiding men's and women's behavior in rural and urban areas.

2. According to the survey data, women **aged** 45-59 are more vulnerable to physical violence over their lifetime. The high reporting rates for elderly women would express more the experiences accumulated by them over lifetime. Another concern would be the prevalence of physical violence in the last 12 months, where women aged 15-34 years old register the highest rates. This finding shows that physical violence prevails during the first years of marriage/cohabitation, being most probably influenced by many challenges, including economic problems, the appearance of children, behavioural changes, etc., but also lack or insufficiency of skills to peacefully solve the problems that arise – skills that are acquired over the time.

3. In terms of **marital status**, the highest rates of physical violence prevalence over lifetime were registered for divorced/separated women. According to the survey data, women who are not married, but living with a partner are more exposed to physical violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months than those who are officially married. One of the causes would be the fact that cohabitating relations are mainly treated as a contact/relation with no family status, with no obligations, responsibilities, rights, and behavioural rules for partners.

4. Data analysis shows that women who reported cases of physical violence are mainly those who experienced slapping, pushing, hitting, while other types of physical

violence, such as punching, strangling, and threatening with a weapon are less prevalent. Most acts of physical violence have been experienced repeatedly by the majority of victims.

5. Use of physical violence seems to be not only widespread, but also culturally accepted. This fact represents a result of **gender stereotypes** and attributing to every sex some specific characteristics. Hence, in order to tackle successfully the problem of physical violence, it is necessary to revise the social norms that are permissive to the use of physical violence. For this, it is of great importance not to allow association of masculine identity with the physical force as means to reinforce such masculinity. At the same time, it is necessary to study the norms and beliefs shared by many women in the Republic of Moldova that such behaviour is acceptable and is a way used by men to show their status in the family and society.

Prevalence of partner sexual violence

1. According to the survey data, about **19%** of women reported experiences of **sexual violence** at least once **over their lifetime**, and **4% - in the last 12 months**. Just like in case of physical violence, the prevalence of sexual violence over lifetime and in the last 12 months is higher in rural area. The most numerous cases of sexual violence were reported by women aged in between 35 and 59 years old. A lower rate of sexual violence is registered among younger and older women. In terms of women's marital status, it is visible that divorced or separated women are more often sexually abused by their husbands/partners over lifetime, as compared to married women and widows. Probably this is due to the fact that they are more open in disclosing violence experiences committed by their former husbands/partners. One in five women with **lower secondary education** and secondary specialized education was affected by sexual violence, and women with higher education were the least affected. This finding proves that a higher level of education implies also a higher level of information to prevent sexual violence.

2. Women-victims of sexual violence have more often reported cases of forced sexual intercourse without consent, some of them were forced to sexual intercourse with degrading and humiliating elements, and others were forced to sexual intercourse due to fear and

coercion. Nevertheless, these findings should be analyzed with certain precaution, taking into consideration data reliability due to two reasons: women's openness when disclosing such experiences and their subjective perception of what an act of sexual violence means. According to the data provided by women who have experienced different forms of sexual abuse, such experiences have occurred more than once – a finding which again attests to the fact that such behaviour is deeply rooted and represents a consequence of individual and social norms of men-perpetrators, which to a certain extent, justify these violent actions.

3. In order to tackle the problem of sexual violence, it becomes imperative to further understand the role of factors related not only to the social-economic status of the women-victims and perpetrators, but also those related to the wider social-cultural context that contribute towards the persistence of sexual violence, including the **traditional gender roles**, prevalent forms of masculinity, fear and women's shame to speak up about it, etc. Hence, addressing the problem of sexual violence and its impact on the health of women requires delicate, but consistent actions at all levels: individual, social, and institutional.

Consequences of partner violence on woman's health

1. Partner violence against women has a serious negative impact on women's physical and emotional status, which leads to a deterioration of women's general well-being and also the wellbeing of their families. These findings are consistent with the findings of some similar surveys, which show that women who have experienced physical or sexual violence from a partner, reported significantly higher levels of physical and emotional trauma/problems.

2. Women-victims of physical violence have more often reported aches and bruises, eye injuries, sprains, and dislocations. Nevertheless there are cases with more serious consequences, although not as many. Thus, a significant number of women reported broken bones and internal injuries as result of physical violence. More serious consequences were faced by those women who had a miscarriage as a result of the physical violence, as they had to deal with physical and psychological trauma.

3. The majority of women, who reported consequences from physical violence, believe that those have had a very strong impact on them. The survey shows that the severity of the impact varies positively with the severity of the injury, and that miscarriage is considered to have had the biggest negative impact on their emotional health and overall wellbeing.

Partner characteristics and women status indicators and their correlation to violence

1. Women's experiences of all three types of violence do not seem to be correlated to the level of **education** of the husband/partner. Data show an insignificant/unimportant correlation between the level of education of the husband/partner and experience of violence. However when analyzing the differences between women's and men's level of education, it can be noted that experience of violence evolves positively when husband's/partner's level of education is lower than that the woman. An explanation of the violent actions in such cases would be men's perception of such situations as undermining their masculinity.

2. According to the survey data, women who have partners who are 7 years **older** are less likely to be victimized. At the same time, this category of women is the least representative in the structure of women who experienced violence committed by a husband/partner. Hence it cannot be stated that there is a correlation between women's experience of violence and age difference of spouses/partners.

3. There is a range of factors that induce the occurrence of family violence phenomenon. According to the survey data, the majority of women-victims of violence reported that their husbands/partners have family **problems**, abuse alcohol, are unemployed or stressed because of not having a job. This confirms the importance of these factors in having a triggering effect on violence against women in the family. However, the survey cannot establish a direct causal effect between these factors and the occurrence of cases of violence, as a significant number of women that have never experienced partner violence report their partners being stressed out due to family problems. Many of other victims also reported that none of those risk factors are present in their families.

4. Hence, it can be concluded that poverty, unemployment, abuse of alcohol, individual experiences of violence in childhood, the nature of the relationship between the partners, etc. have important bearing on the prevalence of intimate partner violence against women; however, they are not an exclusive determinant as factors such as the individual characteristics of the man, the status of the woman, the overall social and cultural settings do contribute greatly as well.

Prevalence of non-partner violence

1. Prevalence of physical violence committed by a family member other than a partner is a less spread phenomenon. About **6%** of interviewed women reported that at least once **over lifetime** they suffered of non-partner violence, while the share of those who reported non-partner violence **in the last 12 months** is smaller - **1%**. Unlike the situation registered for partner physical violence prevalence, when rural women reported higher rates, in case of non-partner physical violence – the most significant rates were reported by urban women. The cause of these discrepancies is not clear, but these findings would be a good topic for other surveys. Nevertheless, factors, such as changing value system and models of behaviour in the urban areas, the impact of economic distress and even the general dynamics of life in urban area should be further explored.

2. Women that are not married, but live together with a partner in the same household are more likely to be victims of non-partner physical violence. These findings confirm that **marriage** continues to be an institutionalized social control mechanism that limits the use of physical violence by other family members.

3. Survey findings also suggest that the **age** influences the non-partner's physical violence manifestations. The younger the woman is, the higher the probability is for her to be victimized. The situation is different in case of partner violence. An argument for this situation would be the individual norms and cultural practices accepted by the family members in solving the conflicts with their children using physical violence.

4. Women's level of **education** is also an important determinant of the likelihood to experience or not non-partner family violence, as the reporting rates of experience of violence decrease while the women's level of

education increases. Better educated women are wiser in solving conflict situations by giving up in front of parents' and other family members' authority, thus avoiding perpetuating the conflict until it degenerates into acts of physical violence.

5. The male family members, including fathers and step-fathers are the most common perpetrators of non-partner physical violence. This behaviour pattern relates to the cultural and social context based on the authority of the male head of the family. At the same time, according to the survey data, physical violence is committed by female family members (mothers and mothers-in-law). This finding confirms that the traditional family model where the mother/mother-in-law has the main disciplinary role remains predominant in the Moldovan society and this fact results in greater social and cultural permissiveness towards the use of physical force to solve inter-personal family conflicts.

6. Non-partner physical violence is most often a repeated form of abuse rather than a one-off incident, and age, area of residence, education, and marital status of the victims do play some role in determining the likelihood of such experiences. Likewise, such factors as individual family characteristics based on history of physical abuse usage, consumption of alcohol, economic hardship, etc., as well as adherence to norms guiding the acceptance of it are also important factors impacting the occurrence of violence against women in the family. Hence, efforts to prevent non-partner physical violence should be directed at changing social views and norms, as well as intervening directly in most at risk families.

Reporting of cases of violence

1. According to the survey data, the highest reporting rates are registered for **physical and/or sexual violence** committed by partner or non-partner, although sexual violence is reported by women to a lower extent. This is a result of prevailing stereotypes and prejudices about sexual relationships in marriage, as well as of the situations when women do not understand what rape or other types of sexual abuse actually represent, thus being reluctant to report such cases. Another aspect could be the fear that she will be blamed and not believed and case reporting will make her more vulnerable to future acts of sexual violence. And last but not least, an important moment is lack of any **information** about the existence of special services to report to such

situations. In the case of physical violence, which often results in visible injuries, the chances for cases of violence of being reported are higher.

2. In general, the victims' level of **education** and **occupational status** have a significant impact on their decision to report cases of physical and sexual violence committed by a partner. Women with lower level of education and unemployed women reported the fewest cases of violence and this is strongly related to their economic dependence and fear of separation, which will expose them to income and housing insecurity.

3. There is a significant difference in reporting rates of partner and non-partner physical violence among **rural and urban** women. While the reporting rates of physical violence committed by a husband/partner are higher among rural women, non-partner physical violence was reported more by urban women, which again attests to the important shift in the attitudes of urban women about non-partner family violence and to the changing family model in urban areas.

4. In terms of marital status, the highest reporting rates for physical violence are registered among women who are not married, but living with a partner. Due to their status, these women feel more empowered and less inhibited in disclosing such information. In turn, this raises again the question on the impact of marriage and/or divorce, that is, a presence or absence of a husband/partner, on the dynamics of reporting physical violence committed by non-partners.

5. Parents and family members remain the most important reference points for reporting violent behavior from a partner or non-partner, followed by close relatives and only afterwards by police and medical workers. Police and health assistance services are most often contacted only when women experience severe actions of physical violence.

6. Women who would not report cases of violence motivate their decision in two ways: a) they think that they can cope with the situation and solve their own problems and b) shame. Almost half of women stated that they would not report cases of violence because they believe that this is their problem and that they are able to deal with it by themselves, without calling for help. A smaller number of women mentioned that they are ashamed to report such cases. This indeed is com-

mon for many women as social stigma, inflicted beliefs that when a woman is a victim of violence she has done something to deserve it, prevalent beliefs that family violence is a private and not a public concern, etc. impact significantly the decision of a woman to report or not family violence.

Attitudes towards and knowledge about family violence

1. Violence against women in the family is largely an outcome of gender inequality and discrimination which are socially accepted and hence remain largely unsanctioned. This is confirmed by both the opinions and knowledge of the surveyed women and the participants on the focus groups discussions and in-depth interviews.

2. Knowledge of the **existing legal framework** and victim support services is extremely low in Moldova. Even though more than 80% of the interviewed women know that family violence is a criminal offence, only less than a half of them have heard about the existence of Law No. 45. Rural women and older women are less informed about the law than those from urban areas. At the same time, the share of younger women who know about the existence of the respective law is also very small. Better educated women and those with better occupational status know more about Law No. 45 and about the fact that family violence is a criminal offence. All these findings would be useful to consolidate the authorities and society in undertaking necessary measures to increase awareness level among all women, focusing mainly on rural, less educated, and older women.

3. An optimistic moment is the fact that the overwhelming majority of women that **know** about Law No. 45 also know about the existence of protection orders. Nevertheless, this finding confirms once again that more attention should be paid to dissemination of information and knowledge about protection orders among women, especially among rural, less education, unmarried, self-employed in agriculture, and older women.

4. The fact that perpetrators are not knowledgeable of the fact that **family violence is a criminal offence** and are unaware of Law No. 45 and its provisions is a particular concern. This is an important gap that should be addressed by targeting men through awareness raising and educational activities.

5. Of particular significance are the findings of the survey related to the **efficacy and adequacy of the law**. Hence, a worrying conclusion derives from the statements of those women who know about the existence of this law, but do not trust it is an efficient one. The survey shows that less than a half of women who know about the law and its provisions think that the law is adequate and efficient. Women-victims of family violence have more negative than positive opinions about the law. Further insights are necessary to find out why women believe that the legislative document is inefficient and inadequate, so as to initiate a possible revision and improvement of the law.

6. Knowledge among surveyed women about the existence of services for victims is slightly higher although still insufficient, as less than two-thirds of them have heard about the **trust line**, with female non-victims being more aware than the victims themselves. This indeed is an indicator that shows the unavailability and/or inadequacy of the channels for information dissemination, particularly among women-victims who despite their experiences show lower levels of knowledge than women that have not been victimized. Such factors as the area of residence, education level and marital status of the women do influence to some extent the level of knowledge and the findings of this survey should be used to guide the process of targeting the information dissemination interventions.

7. Based on the answers of women-victims, it is clear that police is the institution that has been used by the overwhelming majority of them to report cases of violence and seek support. Health care professionals have been approached much less, while the services for legal and psychological assistance have been used by a very small percentage of women. This finding is indeed indicative of both: how much do victims know about the different available services and the level of trust they have for such services. In addition, the survey findings related to the **quality of provided services** revealed the following: in spite of the fact that police has been approached by the majority of the victims, their level of satisfaction with the received support is lower than for example the level of satisfaction with the services received from the health professionals and psychological counselling.

8. Understanding why victims of violence are not satisfied with the support they received from different

service providers is crucial if those are to be improved. Survey data shows that the main reason for dissatisfaction with the police is their lack of interest in providing support, followed by inefficiency in their response and ignorance. Lack of interest has also been identified as a key reason for dissatisfaction with the health care services, as well as the bad physical/material conditions of the medical facilities. Similar reasons are identified when legal assistance services are in question. Obviously there is a clear trend pointed out by the victims and that is the lack of interest of the service providers to support them. This factor ought to be addressed and in order to do so, the findings of the interviews and focus group discussions with the service providers contained in the previous section of this report should be considered in order to ensure adequate redress.

9. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews confirmed all of the above findings.

Attitudes regarding gender roles and stereotypes

1. Attitudes of women towards traditional **gender roles and stereotypes** are very indicative of the existing cultural values and rules and may help us understand better gender based discrimination and violence and women's ability to protect their physical and mental security at home. While more of the interviewed women disagree than agree with most of the gender-biased statements used in this survey (except to the statement confirming the importance of the man to feel/be the head of the family), it is important to note that on the statement which relates directly to the status of men and women as presented in the public the opinions of women are divided. This implies that although in the private realm of the home most women would disagree with the husband exercising predominant and controlling role, in public, women still tend to agree that such role of men should not be questioned as this is in a direct opposition to the prevailing cultural and social norms and beliefs.

2. Despite variations in the level of support towards keeping the traditional social norms, granting unconditional authority and rights to men at least in public and demanding women's compliance with it, based on some of the socio-economic variables determining the status of women, the fact remains that such beliefs are obviously deeply rooted in the social and cultural

environment of the country and as such remain to be a significant determinant in the prevalence of family violence and a barrier to women and men seeking to change these trends. For that, interventions aimed at both challenging such views and beliefs at cognitive and behavioural levels should be employed in parallel to those aimed at direct empowerment of women through education, employment and improvement of service provision.

3. Focus group discussions and in-depth interviews confirmed the above findings.

5.2 Key recommendations of the study

Normative, policy, and service provision framework:

1. Adjust the national normative framework to the international standards by specifying clearly the mechanism for applying protection measures in cases of family violence and to re-evaluate the measures used to sanction perpetrators in order to improve their efficiencies (to combine the punitive measures with the psycho-social support programs).
2. Review art. 34 (par.5) of the Law No. 1086, by adding the category of victims of family violence, beneficiaries of forensic expertise.
3. Adopt normative provisions which would empower / make accountable the LPA for taking over / developing the protection and assistance services for victims.
4. Adopt legal-normative provisions for developing the accreditation system for social services in the area of family violence, including those provided by NGOs.
5. Strengthen the institutional mechanism by developing structures at the national, regional, and local levels so as to ensure the coordination, monitoring and accountability for the measures used to solve cases of family violence.
6. Strengthen the National Referral System through passing regulation on intervention and interaction, accountability of authorities and institutions dealing with prevention and combating family violence (guidelines for family violence cases, activity regulations for MDTs, etc.).

7. Establish provisions that would mandate regular data collection both through surveys conducted on a regular basis by the National Bureau of Statistics as well as an integrated system that will record reported cases.

8. Develop adequate policies / efficient measures for employing men and women / economic empowerment of potential victims and victims of family violence (provision of jobs, material support, access to rehabilitation services / social reintegration, etc.) so as to prevent their victimization and re-victimization within the abusive family relations.

Service provision:

1. Train representatives of authorities and institutions working in prevention and assistance in cases of family violence about the existing legal-normative and policy framework.

2. Strengthen the capacities of the relevant specialists by including family violence in the curriculum of initial and continuous training of specialists (social assistants, police, doctors, teaching personnel, LPA, lawyers, prosecutors, judges).

3. Improve the capacities of service providers to respond better by equipping them with adequate resources (equipment, fuel, transportation).

4. Train the community multidisciplinary teams by replicating the positive experiences accumulated in the area.

5. Establish the position of psychologist in all the educational institutions, regardless of the number of children, who would explore also the area of psycho-social assistance to victims.

6. Ensure access of perpetrators where appropriate to anti-alcohol-use services, forensic services, etc., by simplifying the procedures, re-assessing the costs (covering such services by the National Social Insurance Company).

7. Guarantee support for victims by ensuring the access to adequate and secure services: to institutionalize the activities of the centers, as being of national interest (combination of State – LPA – NGO efforts), etc.; to make the activities of the existing centers more efficient, so as to ensure that the needs of persons from other rayons are covered as well.

8. Develop a network of programmes / services of psycho-social rehabilitation / reintegration of the family abusers, including the programs of sustainable rehabilitation of family abusers and alcohol users.

9. Increase the level of self-identification and request for services, by informing victims about their rights, especially about the protection measures, existing services; to ensure assistance for victims in cases of protection orders' issuance, implementation, as well as during the legal proceedings; to monitor strictly the activity of the police bodies when applying the protection order.

10. Allocate adequate resources for developing the relevant services of assistance and protection; to ensure access of family violence victims to justice and rehabilitation.

Awareness and cultural change:

1. Empower the victims by informing them about their rights, especially about the protection measures, existing services, building of an adequate self-assessment, increase of the self-esteem and valuing women's human dignity, especially for women from rural areas, so as to prevent their victimization and re-victimization, etc.

2. Engage in active transformation of the patriarchal attitudes of the overall population and of men in particular, by informing them about the consequences of the violent actions (making them more accountable) and the punitive measures to be applied; involvement in the activities considered traditionally to be „feminine”, as part of social integration programs, for them to exercise other gender roles and overcome stereotypes; involvement in managing emotions and preventing anti-social behaviour.

3. Promote a culture of zero-tolerance to family violence by undertaking information campaigns based on notions of human rights, gender equality and non-traditional masculinity as well as to inform them of the existing legal and policy framework and the available services.

4. Actively engage in transforming the patriarchal attitudes (stereotypes) regarding the subordinated role of women in the family and society, targeting women in rural areas in particular.

5. Actively involve mass-media in building non-violence culture: organization of national information campaigns (with positive messages) representing family healthy relations; motivating the journalists to cover the subject of family violence in the context of human rights.

6. Actively involve the community leaders and public persons (from LPA, education, business, media, religious

confessions, etc.) to promote and support the actions to educate a zero tolerance of community towards family violence.

7. Encourage a more active involvement of men and boys (especially of public persons) in the activities to prevent violence against women.

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ANNEX 1.

QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE STATISTICAL SURVEY "VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FAMILY"

STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FAMILY

INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

Strictly confidential

The answers offered for the questions from this questionnaire shall be used exclusively for statistical reasons.

The Questionnaire is filled in only for persons of **15 years old and over**.

- The answers to the questions shall be marked with X, in the cells ☐, and text, digits shall be introduced on the space indicated by a line _____.
- The figures following the sign ➤ on the right side of a cell indicates the number of the question to which you should jump after marking the answer in the respective cell.
- If the marked cell is not followed by the sign ➤, you should go to the following question.
- A number of answers may be registered for the questions with the sign ©.

Code of the territory	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Place of residence (city-1,village-2)	<input type="text"/>				<input type="text"/>
Number of the household	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Interviewer
Name and surname: <input type="text"/>
Signature <input type="text"/>

Controller
Name and surname: <input type="text"/>
Signature <input type="text"/>

Beginning of the interview hour _____ minutes _____

End of the interview hour _____ minutes _____

NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

MD2019, or. Chişinău, str. Grenoble 106, tel. (+373 22) 731 520, 403 078, 241 501, fax (+373 22) 226 146

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SELECTING THE RESPONDENT									
<p>Good morning, my name is _____ and I am coming from the team of the National Bureau of Statistics which is carrying out a study in your locality regarding some problems encountered by women in our society.</p> <p>Would you please tell me how many persons live in your household? Would you please name these persons? The head of the household shall be the first person to be listed.</p>									
Code pers	Name	Age, years already reached	Sex 1 - M 2 - F	Kinship level	Nr. of mother's row	Nr. of father's row	Nr. of spouse's and partner's row	Level of education	Presence in the household
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
01									
02									
03									
04									
05									
06									
07									
08									
09									
5. Kinship level with the household head				9. Level of education			10. Presence in the household		
Household head.....1				Preschool or without primary school1			Present.....1		
Spouse2				Primary.....2			Temporary absent.....2		
Partner.....3				Lower secondary/gymnasium.....3			Left abroad for work.....3		
Son/daughter (incl. adopted).....4				Upper secondary /lyceum.....4					
Son-in law/daughter-in-law.....5				Secondary vocational5					
Father/mother.....6				Secondary specialized / college6					
Father-in-law/mother-in-law.....7				Higher / university7					
Grandfather/grandmother8									
Brother/sister9									
Grandson/granddaughter10									
Other relative.....11									
Unrelated person.....12									
In the below table, list the name of women of 15-65 years old, who are present in the household (col. 10=1) and indicate their birthdates									
Name			Date, month and year of birth			Indicate the selected person check with X			
<p>(ELIGIBILITY CRITERION OF THE RESPONDENT: any woman of 15-65 years old who is member of the household and is present in the household.</p> <p>MORE THAN ONE ELIGIBLE WOMAN IN THE FAMILY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RANDOM SELECTION: register the name of every eligible woman, indicating the birthdates for each of them, and then select the person with the nearest date of birth. MARK THE NUMBER OF SELECTED WOMAN. Ask if you can talk with the selected woman. If she is not at home, find out when she is coming back so as to pay her a visit. CONTINUE WITH THE INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE <p>NON-ELIGIBLE WOMAN FOR INTERVIEW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviewer "I cannot continue the interview as I must interview women of 15-65 years old.. Thank you for your support." <p>FINALIZE HERE</p>									

INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRE - IQ

GENERAL DATA ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

Indicate the name of the selected person _____ code of the person ☐☐

INTERVIEWER! Now I would like to ask you some questions about some important aspects of a woman's life. Some of the topics may be difficult to discuss, but many women have found it useful to have the opportunity to talk. You do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to. I want to assure you that all of your answers will be confidential and no one will know about today's discussion.

Do you have any questions? Do you agree to be interviewed?

It is very important that we talk in private. Is this a good time and place to hold the interview, or is there somewhere else that you would like to go?

Check for the presence of other persons. Do not continue until effective privacy is ensured.

Privacy possible.....1

Privacy not possible2 ☒ A01

R01. Are you at the moment married or living together or do you have a relation with a man without living together?

- Married and LIVING TOGETHER..... 1 ☐
- Married and NOT LIVING TOGETHER 2 ☐
- Living with a man, but not married 3 ☐
- Currently with a permanent partner (involved in a long relation) without living together 4 ☐
- Not married, not living with a man, not involved in a relation with a man 5 ☐

R02. Have you been married previously, did you live together with a man? Please select only the option referring to the most recent relation.

- Previously married and lived together..... 1 ☐
- Previously married and not lived together 2 ☐
- Previously living with a man, without being married..... 3 ☐
- Had a permanent partner (involved in a long relation), without living together 4 ☐
- Never been married, never been involved in a relation with a man 5 ☒ R05

R03. The last relation with a man ended with a:

- Divorce..... 1 ☐
- Separation..... 2 ☐
- Widow/partner died 3 ☒ R05
- Don't know/don't remember 4 ☐
- Refuse/no answer 5 ☐

R04. What was the reason for ending the last relation?

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- Husband/partner left home/abandoned me..... 1 ☐
- I left home..... 2 ☐
- Husband/partner met another person 3 ☐
- I met another person 4 ☐
- We had permanent quarrels 5 ☐
- Husband/partner acted irresponsibly and I had to do everything alone 6 ☐
- Husband/partner started to consume alcohol, drugs 7 ☐
- Mistreated me physically..... 8 ☐
- Husband/partner controlled me permanently (what I do, when and with whom, etc..... 9 ☐
- Insulted me..... 10 ☐
- Abused me sexually 11 ☐
- Maltreated the children..... 12 ☐
- Jointly decided to get separated..... 13 ☐
- Other (specify)..... 14 ☐

R05. In your life, how many times have you been married, or did you live together, or did you have a relation with a man without living together?**Number of cases***Include the current partner as well count every person just once.**If all the answers are 0 then you should go to the question N01.*

- Married..... 1
- Lived with a man without being married to him..... 2
- Had a regular partner (involved in a long relation), without living together 3

V. RELATIONS WITH THE CURRENT OR MOST RECENT HUSBAND/PARTNER**(If the interviewed person is not married and does not live with a man, please refer to the most recent relation). This chapter shall not be filled in for regular relations without living together.****V01. What is your current employment status?**

- Employee..... 1 ☐
- Employer..... 2 ☐
- Own account worker in non-agricultural activities 3 ☐
- Own account worker in agricultural activities 4 ☐
- Unemployed/no occupation..... 5 ☐ *☞ V04*
- Student/pupil..... 6 ☐ *☞ V04*
- Housewife..... 7 ☐ *☞ V04*
- Pensioner 8 ☐ *☞ V04*
- Other 9 ☐ *☞ V04*

V02. Can you tell me the reasons why do you work? (maximum 2 answers)

- Financial support for the family 1 ☐
- Economic independency 2 ☐
- To go out of the house, to meet people 3 ☐
- Professional accomplishment 4 ☐
- Other (specify)..... 5 ☐

V03. Would you say that your current or the most recent husband/partner likes that you have a job?

- Yes 1 ☐
- No..... 2 ☐
- Do not know..... 3 ☐

V04. Did you have a job previously?

- Yes..... 1 ☐
- No..... 2 ☐ ~~V06~~

V05. Why did you interrupt/stopped your activity?

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- Small wages..... 1 ☐
- Inconvenient working hours 2 ☐
- My husband/partner did not allow 3 ☐
- My parents/my husband's parents did not allow..... 4 ☐
- The working place had slumped..... 5 ☐
- The work contract ended 6 ☐
- The company went bankrupted..... 7 ☐
- Got married 8 ☐
- Continued my education..... 9 ☐
- Family responsibilities 10 ☐
- Pensioner..... 11 ☐
- Other (specify)..... 12 ☐

V06. Are you looking for a job now?

- Yes..... 1 ☐ ~~V08~~
- No..... 2 ☐

V07. If No, why?

©

- I have already a job..... 1 ☐
- Prefer to do household work and take care of children 2 ☐
- Do not succeed to combine work and household work 3 ☐
- Cannot find a job 4 ☐
- My husband/partner does now allow 5 ☐
- My parents/my husband's parents do not allow..... 6 ☐
- I am not sufficiently prepared/trained 7 ☐
- Student/pupil..... 8 ☐
- Pensioner..... 9 ☐
- Other (specify)..... 10 ☐

Interviewer! When two people are married or live together, usually they share both good and bad moments. I would like now to discuss with you how your (current or the most recent) husband/partner treats you. If anyone interrupts us, I will change the topic of our conversation.

V08. For how many years does your relation with the current or more recent husband/partner last?.....

V09. What level of education did your current or most recent husband/partner had?

- Preschool or without primary..... 1 ☐
- Primary 2 ☐
- Lower secondary /gymnasium 3 ☐
- Upper secondary /lyceum 4 ☐
- Secondary vocational..... 5 ☐
- Secondary specialized/college..... 6 ☐
- Higher/university..... 7 ☐
- Do not know..... 8 ☐

V10. Is your current or most recent husband/partner employed? (does he work or did he work for a salary or other income in money or in nature)

- Yes 1 ☐
- No..... 2 ☐
- Do not know..... 3 ☐

V11. Did your current or most recent husband/partner work during the last 12 months?

- Yes, indicate how many months..... 1 ☐
- No..... 2 ☐
- Do not know..... 3 ☐
- Is not applicable (in case of previous relations)..... 4 ☐

V12. Would you say that your current or most recent husband/partner:

©

read the answer options

- Is stressed/irritated by family problems 1 ☐
- Is stressed/irritated because he is unemployed/with no occupation..... 2 ☐
- Abuses alcohol 3 ☐
- Consumes drugs..... 4 ☐
- Suffered as a result of the abusive and violent actions in the family in which he grew up..... 5 ☐
- Other (specify) 6 ☐
- None of the above..... 7 ☐

V13. Did it happen to you to be afraid of your current or most recent husband/partner?

- Never..... 1 ☐
- Sometimes..... 2 ☐
- Many times 3 ☐
- In majority of cases 4 ☐
- Do not know/do not remember..... 5 ☐
- Refuse/no answer..... 6 ☐

V14. Did it ever happen in the family of your parents:

(read the answer options)

	YES	NO	DNK/ hard to say
a) To have permanent quarrels	1	2	8
b) For the father to humiliate the mother	1	2	8
c) For the father to use to hit/beat the mother	1	2	8

V15. As far as you know, did it happen in your husband's family:

(read the answer options)

a) To have permanent quarrels	1	2	8
b) For the father-in-law to humiliate the mother in law	1	2	8
c) For the father in law to use to hit/beat the mother in law	1	2	8

INTERVIEWER! I am going to ask you about situations that are true for many women

V16. Thinking about your (current or most recent) husband/partner would you say that it is generally true that he:	YES	NO	Do not know	If YES, did this happen during the last 12 months	
				YES	NO
a) prohibits you to see/meet your friends?	1	2	8	1	2
b) restricts your visits with your family?	1	2	8	1	2
c) always insists on knowing where you are?	1	2	8	1	2
d) ignores you and treats you with indifference?	1	2	8	1	2
e) gets angry if you speak with another man?	1	2	8	1	2

f) is often suspicious that you are unfaithful?	1	2	8	1	2
g) expects you to ask his permission before going to see a doctor?	1	2	8	1	2
h) decides what you can and cannot do?	1	2	8	1	2
i) takes away the money you have earned?	1	2	8	1	2
j) refuses to give you enough money for household expenses, even when he has money for other things?	1	2	8	1	2

INTERVIEWER! The following questions refer to the things that happen to many women and that, possibly, your current or most recent husband/partner have done to you...

V17. Has your husband/partner ever...	A If YES ☞ B		B Did this happen during the last 12 months YES ☞ C NO ☞ D		C In the last 12 months, would you say that this has happened:			D Did this happen before the past 12 months?			
	YES	NO	YES	NO	Once	Few	Many	NO	Once	Few	Many
a. insulted you or made you feel bad?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b. belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c. done things to scare or to intimidate you on purpose (e.g. by the way he looked at you, shouted at you and smashed things)?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
d. verbally threatened you or someone you care about?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

V18. Has your (current/most recent) husband/partner ever...	A If YES ☞ B		B Did this happen during the last 12 months YES ☞ C NO ☞ D		C In the last 12 months, would you say that this has happened:			D Did this happen before the past 12 months?			
	YES	NO	YES	NO	Once	Few	Many	NO	Once	Few	Many
a) slapped you or thrown things to hit you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b) pushed you, shoved you or pulled your hair?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c) hit you with his fist or with anything else that could have hurt you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
d) kicked you, dragged you or beaten you up?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
e) choked you or burnt you on purpose?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
f) threatened you with/or actually used a gun or other dangerous objects (knife, axe, scythe, etc.)?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

If all answers indicated in column A for question V18 are 2 „NO”, go to question ☞ V21

If at least one answer is 2 or 3, go to question ☞ V19

All other go to question ☞ V21

V19. Regarding the things mentioned above, can you tell me how frequently did such things happen during the last 12 months? (all indicated cases shall be considered)

- Every day or almost every day 1 ☐
- Once or twice per week 2 ☐
- Once or twice per month 3 ☐
- Less than once per month 4 ☐
- Do not know/do not remember 5 ☐
- Refuse/no answer 6 ☐

V20. Can you tell me how often such things happened during the last 12 months? More or less. It does not need to be precise. I would like to remind you that we are interested in separate incidents, and not each time when individual acts occurred.

- Total number of cases/incidents
- Many times, I cannot give you a number 995 ☐
- Refuse/no answer 999 ☐

V21. Did it ever happen...	A If YES \Rightarrow B		B Did this happen during the last 12 months YES \Rightarrow C NO \Rightarrow D		C In the last 12 months, would you say that this has happened:			D Did this happen before the past 12 months?			
	YES	NO	YES	NO	Once	Few	Many	NO	Once	Few	Many
a) Did your (current/recent) husband/partner ever force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want it?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b) Did your (current/recent) husband/partner force you to do something else during the sexual intercourse that you did not want to do or that you found to be degrading or humiliating?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c) Did you ever have sexual intercourse when you did not want it, because you were afraid of what your (current/recent) husband/partner might do?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
If all answers indicated in column A are 2 „NO”, go to question \Rightarrow V24					If at least one answer is 2 or 3, go to question \Rightarrow V22			All other go to question \Rightarrow V24			

V22. Regarding the things you have told me about earlier, can you please tell me how often such things happened in the past 12 months? (to be considered all indicated actions/incidents)

- Every day or almost every day 1 ☐
- Once or twice per week 2 ☐
- Once or twice per month 3 ☐
- Less than once per month 4 ☐
- Do not know/do not remember 5 ☐
- Refuse/no answer 6 ☐

V23. Can you tell me how often such things happened in the last 12 months? More or less. It does not need to be precise. I would like to remind you that we are interested in separate incidents, and not each time when individual acts occurred.

- Total number of cases/incidents
- Many times, I cannot give you a number 995 ☐
- Refuse/no answer 999 ☐

V24. INTERVIEWER! Check if at least one “YES” answer was indicated for questions V18 and V21, column A

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- V18 Yes, physical violence 1 ☐
- V21 yes, sexual violence 2 ☐
- V18 and V21, no 3 ☐ **V29**

V25. Did it ever happen, as a result of your husband/partner's actions for you to have:

read the answer options

	YES	NO	If YES, did this happen during the last 12 months?	
			YES	NO
a) cuts, scratches, bruises or aches?	1	2	1	2
b) injuries to eyes or ears, sprains, dislocations or burns?	1	2	1	2
c) deep wounds such as: broken bones, broken teeth, internal injuries, or any other similar injury?	1	2	1	2
d) miscarriage, threat to lose the pregnancy?	1	2	1	2

**V26. Would you say that your husband/partner's behavior affected your physical or mental wellbeing?
No effect, more or less affected?**

- No effect..... 1 ☐
- A little..... 2 ☐
- A lot..... 3 ☐
- Do not know/do not remember 4 ☐
- Refuse/no answer..... 5 ☐

V27. Did you try to change somehow the given situation?

- Yes 1 ☐
- No..... 2 ☐
- Refuse/no answer..... 3 ☐

V28. Did you tell anyone about the violent behavior of your current or most recent husband/partner?

©

- No one..... 1 ☐
- My parents..... 2 ☐
- His parents 3 ☐
- Other relatives..... 4 ☐
- Friends 5 ☐
- Neighbors 6 ☐
- Police..... 7 ☐
- Doctor/nurse..... 8 ☐
- Priest..... 9 ☐
- Counselor/mayor..... 10 ☐
- Social assistant..... 11 ☐
- NGO/women organization..... 12 ☐
- other (specify): 13 ☐

INTERVIEWER! Check how many cases were indicated in question R05. If 2 or more cases are indicated, go to the next question V29. If only 1 case, go to question N01.

NEXT QUESTIONS REFER TO YOUR PREVIOUS HUSBAND/PARTNER (referring to the most recent relation)

Interviewer! I would like now to ask you some questions about your previous husband's/partner's behaviour. In case there are two or more previous husbands/partners with whom you lived together, please refer to those relations where violence existed. If there were no such cases, we will discuss about your last husband/partner (any partner that you have had before the partner that we just have talked about)

V29. For how many years did your relation with your previous husband/partner last?.....

V30. What level of education did your previous husband/partner have?

- Preschool or without primary..... 1 ☐
- Primary 2 ☐
- Lower secondary /gymnasium 3 ☐
- Upper secondary /lyceum 4 ☐
- Secondary vocational..... 5 ☐
- Secondary specialized/college..... 6 ☐
- Higher/university..... 7 ☐
- Do not know..... 8 ☐

V31. Was your previous husband/partner employed? (did he work for a salary or other income in money nature)

- Yes 1 ☐
- No..... 2 ☐
- Do not know..... 3 ☐

V32. Would you say that your previous husband/partner:

©

read the answer options

- Was stressed/irritated by family problems 1 ☐
- Was stressed/irritated because he was unemployed/with no occupation..... 2 ☐
- Abused alcohol 3 ☐
- Consumed drugs..... 4 ☐
- Suffered as a result of the abusive and violent actions in the family in which he grew up..... 5 ☐
- Other (specify) 6 ☐
- None of the above..... 7 ☐

V33. Did it happen for you to be afraid of your previous husband/partner?

- Never..... 1 ☐
- Sometimes..... 2 ☐
- Many times..... 3 ☐
- Most of the time 4 ☐
- Do not know/do not remember..... 5 ☐
- Refuse/no answer..... 6 ☐

V34. Thinking about your previous husband /partner, would you say that, generally, he:	YES	NO	DO NOT KNOW	If YES, did this happen in the last 12 months	
				YES	NO
a) prohibited you to see/meet your friends?	1	2	8	1	2
b) restricted your visits to your family?	1	2	8	1	2
c) always insisted to know where you were?	1	2	8	1	2
d) ignored you and treated you with indifference?	1	2	8	1	2
e) got angry if you spoke with another man?	1	2	8	1	2
f) often was suspicious that you were unfaithful?	1	2	8	1	2
g) expected you to ask his permission to go to the doctor?	1	2	8	1	2
h) decided what you could and what you could not do?	1	2	8	1	2
i) took the money you have earned?	1	2	8	1	2
j) refused to give you enough money for household expenses, even when he had money for other things ?	1	2	8	1	2

V35. Has you previous husband/partner ever	A If YES → B		B Did this happen during the last 12 months YES → C NO → D		C In the last 12 months, would you say that this happened:			D Did this happen before the last 12 months?			
	YES	NO	YES	NO	Once	Few	Many	NO	Once	Few	Many
a. insulted you or made you feel bad?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b. belittled or humiliated you in front of other people?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c. done things to scare or to intimidate you on purpose (e.g. by the way he looked at you, shouted at you, and smashed things)?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
d. verbally threatened you or someone you care about?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

V36. Has your previous husband/partner ever....	A If YES → B		B Did this happen during the last 12 months YES → C NO → D		C In the last 12 months, would you say that this happened:			D Did this happen before the last 12 months?			
	YES	NO	YES	NO	Once	Few	Many	NO	Once	Few	Many
a) slapped you or thrown things to hit you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b) pushed you, shoved you or pulled your hair?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c) hit you with his fist or with anything else that could have hurt you?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
d) kicked you, dragged you or beaten you up?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
e) choked you or burnt you on purpose?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
f) threatened you with/or actually used a gun, or other dangerous objects (knife, axe, scythe, etc.)?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
If for question V36, in column A, all the indicated answers are 2 "No", go to question V39					If at least one answer is 2 or 3, go to question → V37			All other, go to question → V39			

V37. Regarding the things you have told me about can you please tell me how often such things happened in the past 12 months? (to be considered all indicated actions/incidents)

- Every day or almost every day 1 ☐
- Once or twice per week 2 ☐
- Once or twice per month 3 ☐
- Less than once per month 4 ☐
- Do not know/do not remember 5 ☐
- Refuse/no answer 6 ☐

V38. Can you tell me how often such things happened in the last 12 months? More or less. It does not need to be precise. I would like to remind you that we are interested in separate incidents, and not each time when individual acts occurred.

- Total number of cases/incidents
- Many times, I cannot give you a number 995 ☐
- Refuse/no answer 999 ☐

V39. Did it ever happen...	A If YES ☞ B		B Did this happen during the last 12 months YES ☞ C NO ☞ D		C In the last 12 months, would you say that this happened:			D Did this happen before the last 12 months?			
	YES	NO	YES	NO	Once	Few	Many	NO	Once	Few	Many
a) Did your previous husband/partner ever force you to have sexual intercourse when you did not want it?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b) Did your previous husband/partner force you to do something else during the sexual intercourse that you did not want to do or that you found to be degrading or humiliating?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c) Did you ever have sexual intercourse when you did not want it , because you were afraid of what your previous husband/partner might do?	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
If in column A all indicated answers are 2 „NO”, go to question ☞ V42					If at least one answer is 2 or 3, go to question ☞ V40			All other, go to question ☞ V42			

V40. Regarding the things you have told me about can you please tell me how often such things happened in the past 12 months? (all indicated cases shall be considered).

- Every day or almost every day 1 ☐
- Once or twice per week 2 ☐
- Once or twice per month 3 ☐
- Less than once per month 4 ☐
- Do not know/do not remember 5 ☐
- Refuse/no answer..... 6 ☐

V41 Can you tell me how often such things happened in the last 12 months? More or less. It does not need to be precise. I would like to remind you that we are interested in separate incidents, and not each time when individual acts occurred.

- Total number of cases/incidents.....
- Many times, I cannot give you a number 995 ☐
- Refuse/no answer..... 999 ☐

• V42. INTERVIEWER! Check if at least one answer 1 “YES” was indicated in column A for questions V36 or V39 ©

- V36, Yes, physical violence 1 ☐
- V39, yes, sexual violence 2 ☐
- V36 and V39, no 3 ☐ ☞ **N01**

V43. Did it ever happen, as a result of your previous husband/partner's actions for you to have:
read the answer options

	YES	NO	If YES, did it happen during the last 12 months?	
			YES	NO
a) cuts, scratches, bruises or aches?	1	2	1	2
b) injuries to eyes or ears, sprains, dislocations or burns?	1	2	1	2
c) deep wounds such as: broken bones, broken teeth, internal injuries, or any other similar injury?	1	2	1	2
d) miscarriage, threat to lose the pregnancy?	1	2	1	2

V44. Would you say that your previous husband/partner's behavior affected your physical or mental wellbeing? No effect, more or less affected?

-
- No effect..... 1 ☐
 - A little..... 2 ☐
 - A lot..... 3 ☐
 - Do not know/do not remember 4 ☐
 - Refuse/no answer..... 5 ☐
-

V45. Did you try to change somehow the given situation?

-
- Yes 1 ☐
 - No..... 2 ☐
 - Refuse/no answer..... 3 ☐
-

V46. Did you tell anyone about the behavior of your previous husband/partner?

©

-
- No one..... 1 ☐
 - My parents..... 2 ☐
 - His parents 3 ☐
 - Other relatives..... 4 ☐
 - Friends..... 5 ☐
 - Neighbors..... 6 ☐
 - Police..... 7 ☐
 - Doctor/nurse..... 8 ☐
 - Priest..... 9 ☐
 - Counselor/mayor..... 10 ☐
 - Social assistant..... 11 ☐
 - NGO/organization for women..... 12 ☐
 - Other (specify): 13 ☐
-

N. NON-PARTNER RELATIONS OF THE RESPONDENT IN THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY

INTERVIEWER! In their lives, many women have unwanted experiences and experience different forms of maltreatment and violence from all kinds of people, men and/or women. These may be relatives, other people that they know, and/or strangers. If you don't mind, I would like to briefly ask you about some of these situations. Everything that you say will be kept confidential. I will first ask about what has happened since you were 15 years old, and thereafter during the past 12 months.

N01. Since the age of 15, has anyone ever hit, beaten, kicked or done anything else to hurt you physically? Thrown things at you? Pushed you or pulled your hair? Choked or burnt you on purpose? Threatened with or actually used a gun, knife or other weapon against you?

YES..... 1 ☐
NO 2 ☐ N10

Who did this to you? ©	How many times did this happen since you were 15?			How many times did this happen in the last 12 months?			
	Once	Few times	Many times	No	Once	Few times	Many times
a. Father/step father	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b. Mother/step mother	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c. Mother in law/father in law	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
d. Sister/brother	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
e. Other male member from the family	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
f. Other female member from the family	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
g. Someone from work	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
h. Intimate partner, without living together	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
i. He-friend	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
j. She-friend	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
k. Acquaintance	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
l. Stranger	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
m. Teacher	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
n. Doctor/nurse	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
o. Priest	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
p. Policeman	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
q. Other persons, indicate _____	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

N03. Indicate three cases from the above-mentioned options which were the most serious.

Indicate the letters that correspond to these persons who have committed such actions

person 1. []

person 2. []

person 3. []

INTERVIEWER! Fill in question N04 initially for each of the 3 persons indicated in question N03

N04. Did it ever happen, as a result of the actions mentioned above, for you to have... <i>read the answer options</i>	A) Person 1		B) Person 2		C) Person 3	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
a) cuts, scratches, bruises or aches?	1	2	1	2	1	2
b) injuries to eyes or ears, sprains, dislocations or burns?	1	2	1	2	1	2
c) deep wounds such as: broken bones, broken teeth, internal injuries, or any other similar injury?	1	2	1	2	1	2

N05. What level of education had the person who committed the actions mentioned above?	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3
• Preschool or without primary	1	1	1
• Primary	2	2	2

• Lower secondary /gymnasium	3	3	3						
• Upper secondary /lyceum	4	4	4						
• Secondary vocational	5	5	5						
• Secondary specialized/college	6	6	6						
• Higher/university	7	7	7						
• Do not know	8	8	8						
N06. Was the person who committed the above-mentioned action employed at that time?	Person 1	Person2	Person 3						
• Yes	1	1	1						
• No	2	2	2						
• Do not know	3	3	3						
N07. Would you say that the person who committed the above-mentioned actions was at that time: <i>read the answer options</i>	Person 1			Person 2			Person 3		
	yes	no	dnk	yes	no	dnk	yes	no	dnk
• Was stressed/irritated by family problems	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
• Was stressed/irritated because s/he was unemployed/with no occupation	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
• Abused alcohol	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
• Consumed drugs	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
• Suffered as a result of the abusive and violent actions in the family in which s/he grew up	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
N08. Did you tell anyone about the action committed by the above-mentioned persons?									

©

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3
• No one.....	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
• My parents.....	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
• His parents.....	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Other relatives.....	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Friends.....	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Neighbors.....	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Police.....	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Doctor/nurse.....	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Priest.....	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Counselor/mayor.....	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Social assistant.....	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	11 <input type="checkbox"/>
• NGO/organization for women.....	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Other (specify): _____	13 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 <input type="checkbox"/>
N09. Would you say that these actions of physical violence that we talked about have affected your physical or mental wellbeing? No effect, more or less affected?			
• No effect.....	1 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• A little.....	2 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• A lot.....	3 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Do not know/do not remember	4 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Refuse/no answer.....	5 <input type="checkbox"/>		

INTERVIEWER! Now I would like to ask you about other unwanted experiences you may have had. I ask you to think about any person, man or woman, EXCEPT FOR YOUR CURRENT, THE MOST RECENT OR PREVIOUS HUSBAND/PARTNER with whom you lived together.

N10. Since the age of 15, has anyone ever forced you into unwanted sexual intercourse, though threatening, holding you down, or putting you in a situation when you could not say no? Please refer to the persons you know, as well as strangers. Please do not include here the cases of attempts to force you into sexual intercourse.

INTERVIEWER! IF IT IS NECESSARY you should specify that: sexual intercourses imply oral sex, anal and vaginal penetration.

and vaginal penetration.

YES.....	1
NO.....	2 A01

N11. Who did this to you?	How many times did this happen since you were 15?			How many times did this happen in the last 12 months?			
	Once	Few	Many	No	Once	Few	Many
a) Father/step father	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
b) Mother/step mother	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
c) Mother in law/father in law	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
d) Sister/brother	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
e) Other male member from the family	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
f) Other female member from the family	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
g) Someone from work	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
h) Partner involved in a relation without living together	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
i) Boyfriend	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
j) Girlfriend	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
k) Acquaintance	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
l) Stranger	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
m) Teacher	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
n) Doctor/nurse	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
o) Priest	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
p) Policeman	1	2	3	0	1	2	3
q) Other persons, indicate	1	2	3	0	1	2	3

N12. Indicate three cases from the above-mentioned options which were the most serious? Indicate the letters that correspond to the persons who have committed such actions.

person 1. []
 person 2 . []
 person 3. []

INTERVIEWER! Fill in question N13 for each of the 3 persons indicated in question N12.

N13. Did it ever happen, as a result of the actions mentioned above, for you to have	Person 1		Person 2		Person 3	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
<i>read the answer options</i>						
a) cuts, scratches, bruises or aches?	1	2	1	2	1	2
b) injuries to eyes or ears, sprains, dislocations or burns?	1	2	1	2	1	2
c) deep wounds such as: broken bones, broken teeth, internal injuries, or any other similar injury?	1	2	1	2	1	2

N14. What level of education had the person who committed the above-mentioned actions?	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3
• Preschool or without primary	1	1	1
• Primary	2	2	2
• Lower secondary/gymnasium	3	3	3
• Upper secondary/lyceum	4	4	4
• Secondary vocational	5	5	5
• Secondary specialized/college	6	6	6
• Higher/university	7	7	7
• Do not know	8	8	8
N15. Was the person who committed the above-mentioned action employed at that time?	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3
• Yes	1	1	1
• No	2	2	2
• Do not know	3	3	3
N16. Would you say that the person who committed the above-mentioned actions was at that time:	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3
	yes no dnk	yes no dnk	yes no dnk
• Was stressed/irritated by family problems	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
• Was stressed/irritated because s/he was unemployed/with no occupation	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
• Abused alcohol	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
• Consumed drugs	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
• Suffered as a result of the abusive and violent actions in the family in which s/he grew up	1 2 3	1 2 3	1 2 3
N17. Did you tell anyone about the action committed by the above mentioned persons?			

©

	Person 1	Person 2	Person 3
• No one.....	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
• My parents.....	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
• His/her parents	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Other relatives.....	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Friends.....	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Neighbors.....	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>	6 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Police.....	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>	7 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Doctor/nurse.....	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>	8 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Priest.....	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>	9 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Counselor/mayor.....	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>	10 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Social assistant.....	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	11 <input type="checkbox"/>	11 <input type="checkbox"/>
• NGO/organization for women.....	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 <input type="checkbox"/>	12 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Other (specify):.....	13 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 <input type="checkbox"/>	13 <input type="checkbox"/>
N18. Would you say that these actions of physical violence that we talked about have affected your physical or mental wellbeing? No effect, more or less affected?			
• No effect.....	1 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• A little.....	2 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• A lot.....	3 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Do not know/do not remember	4 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Refuse/no answer.....	5 <input type="checkbox"/>		

A. ATTITUDES, KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN GENDERS AND VIOLENT ACTIONS AGAINST WOMEN

A01. Do you agree with the following statements: <i>read the answer options</i>	yes	no	DNK/hard to say
• A good wife/woman should always conform herself to the opinion of the husband/man, even though she does not share the same opinion	1	2	3
• It is important for the husband/partner to feel himself the head of the family	1	2	3
• It is important for the wife/woman never contradict her husband/partner in front of other members of the family or in front of other persons	1	2	3
• It is important for the wife/woman to ask for her husband's/partner's permission to go visit the relatives or friends	1	2	3
• It is the duty of the wife/woman to make love/sex with her husband/partner, even if this is against her will	1	2	3
A02. Do you agree that the husband/partner may undertake actions of abusive physical manifestation against the wife/woman if she: <i>(read the answer options)</i>	yes	no	DNK/hard to say
• Does not execute fully the tasks related to the household	1	2	3
• Does not conform with the decision of the husband/partner	1	2	3
• Refuses to have sexual contact with the husband/partner	1	2	3
• Is suspected by the husband/partner to be not faithful	1	2	3
• Was discovered by the husband/man to be unfaithful	1	2	3
A03. Do you agree with the following statements: <i>(read the answer options)</i>	yes	no	DNK/hard to say
• If he beats me, means that he loves me	1	2	3
• The problems existing in a couple should not be made public, you "don't get the skeleton out of the wardrobe"	1	2	3
• An unbeaten woman is like a un-brushed house	1	2	3

A04. If you would suffer from some abusive actions from some persons, whom would you address in such cases:

©

• No one	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Parents	2 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Other relatives	3 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Friends	4 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Neighbors	5 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Police	6 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Doctor/nurse	7 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Priest	8 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Counselor/mayor	9 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Social assistant	10 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• NGO/women organization	11 <input type="checkbox"/> A06
• Other (specify): _____	12 <input type="checkbox"/> A06

A05. What would be the reasons/causes for you to not ask for help?

©

• Fear/dread that husband/partner could revenge	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Shame	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Do not trust police bodies	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Do not trust the judicial system	4 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Do not trust the social protection system	5 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Do not trust the health system	6 <input type="checkbox"/>

• I can cope with the situation and solve the problem by myself	7 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• The family can grant me the necessary support	8 <input type="checkbox"/>		
A06. Do you know that violence in the family actions represent criminal offences?	Yes	No	
	1	2	
A07. Did you hear about the Law nr. 45 on prevention and combating violence in the family?	Yes	No A10	
	1	2	
A08. Do you know that this law provides for protection of women against violence from family members through temporary isolation of the aggressor and his removal away from the victim?	Yes	No	
	1	2	
A09. Do you think that this law ensures the necessary protection to the victims of violence and the respective punishments for the offenders?	Yes	No	DNK
	1	2	8
A10. Do you know that there are certain services in Moldova aiming to protect the victims of violence and that there are centers of social assistance?	Yes	No	
	1	2	
A11. Did you hear about the existence in Moldova of a trust line for women 080088008?	Yes	No	
	1	2	

S. LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES (only the persons who have called previously for such service will answer) V28, V45, N08, N17 answer option 7-12.

S01. What types of services did you call for in the past?

©

• Police	1 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Social assistance	2 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Medical assistance	3 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Psychological assistance	4 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Legal assistance, lawyer	5 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• NGO/women organization	6 <input type="checkbox"/>		
• Other (specify):	7 <input type="checkbox"/>		
S02. Were you satisfied with the services provided by the ... (it is filled in only for the services indicated in S01)	Yes	No S03	Hard to say
• Police	1	2	8
• Social assistance	1	2	8
• Medical assistance	1	2	8
• Psychological assistance	1	2	8
• Legal assistance, lawyer	1	2	8
• NGO/women organization	1	2	8
• Other (specify):	1	2	8

S03. What is the reason for your dissatisfaction?

©

• I was treated with rudeness, ignorance, lack of professionalism	1 <input type="checkbox"/>
• I felt lack of interest in helping me and granting me support	2 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Lack of efficiency (assistance/help granted with delay, etc.)	3 <input type="checkbox"/>
• Bad conditions of the institution	4 <input type="checkbox"/>

Z. COMPETITION OF THE INTERVIEW		
Z01	<p>We have now finished the interview. Is there anything else that happened to you and that I have not asked? Do you have any comments, or is there anything else you would like to add?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
Z02	<p>I have asked you many difficult questions. How has talking about these things made you feel?</p> <p>WRITE DOWN ANY SPECIFIC RESPONSE GIVEN BY THE RESPONDENT</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>good/better 1</p> <p>bad/worse 2</p> <p>same/no difference 3</p>
Z03	<p>RESULT ONE – IF RESPONDENT HAS DISCLOSED PROBLEMS/VIOLENCE</p> <p>I would like to thank you very much for helping us. I realize that these questions may have been difficult for you to answer, but it is only by hearing from women themselves that we can really understand about their experiences of violence.</p> <p>From what you have told us, I can tell that you have had some very difficult times in your life. No one has the right to treat someone else in that way. However, from what you have told me I can see also that you are strong, and have survived through some difficult circumstances.</p> <p>Here is a list of organizations that provide support, legal advice and counseling services to women. Please do contact them if you would like to talk over your situation with anyone. Their services are free, and they will keep anything that you say private. You can go whenever you feel ready to, either soon or later on.</p> <p>RESULT TWO – IF RESPONDENT HAS NOT DISCLOSED PROBLEMS/VIOLENCE</p> <p>I would like to thank you very much for helping us. I realize that these questions may have been difficult for you to answer, but it is only by hearing from women themselves that we can really understand about women's experiences in life.</p> <p>In case you ever hear of another woman who needs help, here is a list of organizations that provide support, legal advice and counseling services to women. Please do contact them if you or any of your friends or relatives needs help. Their services are free, and they will keep anything that anyone says to them private.</p>	
Z04	<p>Respondent's notes [make sure that there is at least half a page space in the final questionnaire to write comments]</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	

To be filled in by the interviewer!		
01	<p>Please indicate, in your opinion, to what extent the respondent was opened/willing to discuss?</p> <p>- Very sincere.....</p> <p>- Sincere.....</p> <p>- Was not sincere.....</p>	<p>1 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2 <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3 <input type="checkbox"/></p>
02	<p>What questions the person was not so willing to discuss about?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
03	<p>What was the respondent's behavior during the interview?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	
04	<p>Other comments</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	

ANNEX 2.

METHODOLOGY FOR EXTRACTING THE SAMPLE FOR “VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE FAMILY” QUANTITATIVE SURVEY

To obtain the sample, a stratification of the Primary Sampling Units (PSU) was performed at the first sampling stage according to the following criteria:

- Geographic criterion – North, Centre, South, and Chisinau municipality;
- Area of residence – urban, rural;
- Size of communes – big and small.

Hence, a number of 150 PSUs was selected during the first sampling stage, with a probability proportional to their size. The list of administrative-territorial units of second level (communes) was used as sample frame for the first sampling stage, according to the Classifier of Administrative-Territorial Units of the Republic of Moldova.

A number of PSUs proportional to the number of inhabitants within it was extracted from every stratus resulting from the stratification; the total number of extracted PSUs accounting for 150. Every PSU extraction probability is proportional with its size (number of population) and is calculated based on the following formula:

$$p_{1i} = a \cdot \frac{M_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n M_i},$$

where:

a – represents the number of PSUs extracted from one stratus;

M_i – represents the number of population from the PSU i .

The list of electricity consumers obtained from electricity providers was used as sampling frame during the second sampling stage. A number of 48000 households were extracted randomly at this stage during the first stage – these households participated in the Labour Force Survey (continuous survey carried out by NBS) during 2009. The households' extraction probability at the second sampling stage was determined according to the following formula:

$$p_{2i} = \frac{n_i}{M_i}$$

where, n_i represents the number of households extracted from the PSU i .

The participation of these households in the study served as a screening resulting in data regarding presence of women – heads of households and their age. Hence, during the second stage, only the households with at least one woman aged 15 – 65 were selected – this being the sample frame for the third sampling stage.

During the third sampling stage, a sample of 1,575 households was selected out of the eligible ones, using the simple random extraction method within each PSU. Hence, 10 households were extracted from every PSU, except for the PSUs from Chisinau and Balti municipalities, where 13 households were extracted due to the high non-response rate identified during the pilot study.

The extraction probability at this stage was determined according to the following formula

$$p_{3i} = \frac{k_i}{n_i^f},$$

where, k_i represents the number of households with women extracted during the III sampling stage within PSU i , and n_i^f is the number of households with women aged 15 - 65, determined as a result of the screening.

The fourth and the last sampling stage included the selection of only one woman in the household to answer the questionnaire. To ensure a random selection, the rule of the closest birthday date was used, meaning that if there were more eligible women in the selected households, the interview was held for the person with the closest birthday date to the date of the interview. To avoid the survey results' bias, the need appeared to determine the probability of including women in the sample at this stage:

$$p_{4i} = \frac{1}{f_i}$$

where, f_i represents the number of women from the household aged between 15 and 65, inclusively. Thus, the final probability of including a woman in the survey is calculated according to the following formula:

$$p_f = p_{1i} \cdot p_{2i} \cdot p_{3i} \cdot p_{4i} = a \cdot \frac{M_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n M_i} \cdot \frac{n_i}{M_i} \cdot \frac{k_i}{n_i^f} \cdot \frac{1}{f_i}.$$

Table 1. Sample distribution

Stratus	PSU	Households (women)
North, big communes	15	150
North, small communes	17	170
North, cities	9	90
Balti	5	65
Center, big villages	14	140
Center, small villages	24	240
Center, cities	8	80
South, big villages	11	110
South, small villages	12	120
South, cities	9	90
Chisinau, suburbs	6	60
Chisinau, city	20	260
Total	150	1575

Sample coverage area and response rate

A number of 1,575 women should have been interviewed out of the total of 150 PSUs extracted at the first sampling stage, but due to the fact that during the survey implementation, the territory of one PSU was flooded in by the River Prut and the population was evacuated from the zone, interviews were not held in this PSU. Hence, all in all, 1,565 households were visited, within which 1,116 interviews were obtained.

The general response rate accounted for 71.3% - a relatively high response rate considering the sensitive nature of the survey topic. Refuses accounted for 5% out of the total number of non-responses, the main reasons being the following: "do not consider it necessary to participate in the survey", "confidentiality of data is not assured" and "don't have time" (see table 2 below). When analyzing the non-response rates by areas of residence, it can be noted that in rural areas the response rate was 11 percentage points higher than in urban areas, while the refuse rate was respectively only 3% as compared to 9% in urban area.

Table 2. Distribution of interview response categories

Category of answer	Total	Rates	Absolute values		Rates	
			Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Accept	1116	71%	396	720	64%	76%
Inexistent address	3	0%	3	0	0%	0%
Other	16	1%	14	2	2%	0%
Physically cannot take part in the survey	25	2%	10	15	2%	2%
Does not consider it necessary to participate in the survey	58	4%	46	12	7%	1%
Do not have time	19	1%	9	10	1%	1%
Not convinced about data confidentiality	4	0%	1	3	0%	0%
Cannot be found at home	147	9%	90	57	15%	6%
Has gone abroad	122	8%	29	93	5%	10%
The head of the household is dead, the house is empty	55	4%	17	38	3%	4%
Total	1565	100%	615	950	100%	100%

Determining the extension coefficients

The sample design shows that the sample is not a self-weighted one. First of all, the PSUs were extracted with a probability proportional to their size (PPS), and in case of Chisinau and Balti municipalities – a larger sample volume was allocated from the very start to compensate the non-response effect on the number of obtained interviews. This section describes the procedure for determining the extension coefficients used to analyze the survey results. The extension coefficients were calculated for every woman participating in the survey.

The procedure for determining the extension coefficient provides for the following steps:

1. Determining the main weights,
2. Adjusting them depending on the non-response rates,
3. Calibration of extension coefficients.

The main weights have the role to describe in a precise way the sample design used for the survey and are determined as the reverse probability of inclusion in the survey, according to the following formula:

$$w_i = \frac{1}{p_f} = \frac{1}{a \cdot \frac{M_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n M_i} \cdot \frac{n_i}{M_i} \cdot \frac{k_i}{n_i^f} \cdot \frac{1}{f_i}}$$

Hence, in line with the non-response rates, in order to diminish their effect and the under-estimation of the totals for the population level, the main extension coefficients were multiplied with the reverse response rate, according to the following formula:

$$w_i^a = w_i \cdot \frac{n_i}{r_i}$$

where:

$\frac{r_i}{n_i}$ - represents the response rate in the PSU *i*;

r_i - represents the number of respondent households in the PSU *i*.

After adjusting the extension coefficients in line with the response rate, they were calibrated. The raking ratio method was used as the calibration method in this survey – a technique that implies the adjustment of sample marginal structure with that from an auxiliary source, in our case, the current demographic statistics. This method leads to eliminating the bias induced by non-responses and, respectively, to improving the quality of estimators. In order to do this, the auxiliary information was used regarding the number of population as of 1.01.10, according to the statistical data on current population.

Calibration was carried out according to the following variables: age (6 groups), zone (4) and area of residence (2). Calibration implies carrying out of several iterations after every calibration variable until the relative bias of the estimated number of population within every calibration cell does not exceed the real number of population from the same cell with more than 1%. Calibration was carried out according to the following formula:

$$w_i^{cal} = w_i^{adj} \cdot \frac{P_s}{\sum_i w_{i,s}^{adj}}$$

where, *s* represents the number of classes within calibration variables.

The following tables represent the distribution of reference population from auxiliary sources by those variables that were used for calibration.

Table 3. Distribution of reference population by age, as of 1.01.10

Age groups	Number
15 - 24	321751
25 - 34	290112
35 - 44	238055
45 - 54	282239
55 - 59	125109
60 - 65	89767
Total	1347033

Table 4. Distribution of reference population by statistical zones, as of 1.01.10

Zone	Number
North	380557
Center	378362
South	258735
Chisinau	329379
Total	1347033

Table 5. Distribution of reference population by area of residence, as of 1.01.10

Area of residence	Number
Urban	606665
Rural	740368
Total	1347033

Hence, the structural bias is under 1%; after the calibration variables, the maximum registered bias was 0.95% in the case of Chisinau municipality.

After carrying out the calibration, the ratio between the maximum value of the extension coefficients and the minimum one accounted for 75 times. According to some international recommendations, this ratio should not exceed the value of 10. The wide variation registered for extension coefficients leads to bigger variations in estimations and, respectively, influences estimates' quality. That's why a special technique was used for calibrated coefficients, which is called „trimming”. This technique provides for substituting the extension coefficients' extreme values according to the following algorithm:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} w_i^{trim} = \overline{w^{cal}} \cdot 0.33 & \frac{w_i^{cal}}{\overline{w^{cal}}} < 0.33 \\ w_i^{trim} = w_i^{cal} & \text{if } 0.33 \leq \frac{w_i^{cal}}{\overline{w^{cal}}} \leq 3 \\ w_i^{trim} = \overline{w^{cal}} \cdot 3 & \frac{w_i^{cal}}{\overline{w^{cal}}} > 3 \end{array} \right.$$

After trimming, the ration between the maximum and minimum values of the extension coefficients accounted for 9 times – a fact that reveals the homogenization of extension coefficients' distribution.

And finally, because after trimming differences appeared in the sample structure as compared to current population structure, two more calibration iterations were performed, after which the final extension coefficients were obtained.

Determining estimates' accuracy

Accuracy determination implied determination of variation coefficients and confidence intervals for the main survey estimates, with the help of WesVar v5.1.17 soft. Balanced Repeated Replications was use as method. The results on accuracy of the main survey indicators are presented in tables 6-8 which follow below.

Table 6. Prevalence rate of psychological, physical, and sexual violence over a lifetime (committed by husband/partner)

	Type of violence																			
	Psychological				Physical				Sexual				Physical or sexual				Physical and sexual			
	%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%	
Area of residence																				
Urban	55.1	±	6.6	B	30.1	±	11.2	C	17.8	±	17.0	D	37.5	±	9.2	B	10.4	±	23.1	E
Rural	62.9	±	4.2	A	47.3	±	5.5	B	19.2	±	8.9	B	51.9	±	4.6	A	14.6	±	11.5	C
Age																				
15-24 years old	50.2	±	17.9	D	37.8	±	21.1	E	10.5	±	40.8	F	42.3	±	19.7	D	6.1	±	62.7	F
25-34 years old	51.8	±	8.9	B	32.4	±	10.2	C	15.5	±	17.9	D	41.6	±	8.8	B	6.3	±	30.6	E
35-44 years old	59.7	±	7.0	B	36.0	±	9.4	B	20.6	±	21.0	E	40.9	±	9.7	B	15.8	±	22.3	E
45-54 years old	65.7	±	4.6	A	47.1	±	7.7	B	19.9	±	11.6	C	51.9	±	6.7	B	15.1	±	14.8	C
55-59 years old	66.0	±	7.1	B	46.0	±	12.8	C	23.9	±	20.8	E	51.3	±	11.9	C	18.6	±	24.4	E
60-65 years old	59.5	±	7.8	B	39.7	±	12.7	C	17.1	±	24.9	E	43.6	±	11.7	C	13.3	±	29.8	E
Marital status																				
Married	56.8	±	4.1	A	35.7	±	6.2	B	15.8	±	9.7	B	41.6	±	5.1	B	9.9	±	13.1	C
Living together	51.1	±	19.6	D	43.4	±	22.7	E	18.4	±	35.9	F	47.7	±	20.3	E	14.1	±	43.7	F
Divorced/ separated	83.3	±	6.9	B	61.1	±	9.7	B	41.0	±	20.1	E	70.2	±	10.8	C	31.9	±	20.3	E
Widow	60.3	±	9.6	B	47.5	±	13.8	C	16.8	±	28.8	E	49.6	±	13.4	C	14.6	±	32.1	E
Level of education																				
Higher	56.8	±	7.7	B	25.2	±	14.5	C	16.0	±	24.4	E	33.6	±	14.7	C	7.6	±	32.1	B
Secondary specialized	60.6	±	6.4	B	46.4	±	9.3	B	21.0	±	16.8	D	52.7	±	8.1	B	14.7	±	22.5	B
Secondary vocational	60.0	±	6.7	B	41.8	±	10.8	C	15.2	±	24.3	E	44.8	±	9.6	B	12.2	±	28.5	B
Upper secondary	58.2	±	7.1	B	35.2	±	11.3	C	20.3	±	16.1	D	40.5	±	10.4	C	14.9	±	20.2	B
Lower secondary	61.8	±	7.0	B	52.2	±	8.7	B	21.1	±	18.7	D	58.3	±	7.0	B	14.9	±	20.6	B

Table 7. Prevalence rate of psychological, physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months (committed by husband/partner)

	Type of violence																			
	Psychological				Physical				Sexual				Physical or sexual				Physical and sexual			
	%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%		%	
Area of residence																				
Urban	18.4	±	13.3	C	5.5	±	32.1	E	3.0	±	49.6	F	8.2	±	27.3	E	0.4	±	74.5	F
Rural	31.6	±	7.6	B	11.5	±	13.5	C	5.0	±	21.1	E	14.1	±	12.1	C	2.4	±	29.8	E
Age																				
15-24 years old	33.3	±	22.9	E	18.7	±	31.6	E	1.8	±	112.5	F	20.5	±	31.5	E	0.0	±	.	F
25-34 years old	32.4	±	13.0	C	11.1	±	24.1	E	8.6	±	30.9	E	17.5	±	19.3	D	2.2	±	50.4	F
35-44 years old	22.7	±	15.4	D	5.8	±	34.1	E	4.1	±	38.8	F	7.5	±	30.6	E	2.4	±	46.6	F
45-54 years old	24.3	±	10.8	C	9.5	±	20.8	E	2.5	±	35.6	F	11.4	±	18.5	D	0.7	±	81.2	F
55-59 years old	20.2	±	22.6	E	2.6	±	54.1	F	2.2	±	47.5	F	3.7	±	41.6	F	1.0	±	76.6	F
60-65 years old	21.1	±	20.8	E	8.6	±	40.9	F	1.3	±	101.7	F	8.6	±	40.9	F	1.3	±	101.7	F
Marital status																				
Married	31.4	±	6.6	B	10.0	±	13.3	C	5.0	±	22.2	E	13.2	±	12.1	C	1.8	±	28.9	E
Living together	29.7	±	27.1	E	19.8	±	36.8	F	4.8	±	79.7	F	23.0	±	33.0	E	1.7	±	115.1	F
Divorced/ separated	0.4	±	102.1	F	0.0	±	.	F	0.0	±	.	F	0.0	±	.	F	0.0	±	.	F
Widow	0.5	±	103.7	F	0.5	±	104.3	F	0.0	±	.	F	0.5	±	104.3	F	0.0	±	.	F
Level of education																				
Higher	24.4	±	15.4	D	7.7	±	33.8	E	3.2	±	46.4	F	10.1	±	28.9	E	0.7	±	78.3	F
Secondary specialized	21.8	±	13.7	C	4.9	±	39.1	F	3.6	±	42.3	F	7.6	±	30.3	E	0.9	±	71.1	F
Secondary vocational	28.2	±	14.6	C	12.1	±	24.6	E	3.8	±	45.8	F	14.6	±	22.3	E	1.4	±	65.3	F
Upper secondary	20.7	±	15.6	D	4.7	±	33.5	E	1.7	±	64.2	F	6.4	±	30.1	E	0.0	±	.	F
Lower secondary	34.2	±	12.4	C	15.5	±	20.1	E	8.9	±	31.0	E	19.5	±	18.6	D	4.9	±	36.1	F

Table 8. Criteria for establishing estimates' quality

Quality symbol	Coefficient of estimator's variation	Explanation for estimator's quality
A	under 6%	Excellent
B	6% - 10%	Very good
C	11% - 15%	Good
D	16% - 20%	Acceptable
E	21% - 35%	May be used with caution
F	over 35%	Insufficient volume to obtain reliable estimators

Sample errors were calculated with a probability of 95%.

ANNEX 3.

TABLES WITH STATISTICAL DATA

Table 1. Share of women who experienced partner psychological, physical or sexual violence since the age of 15, %

	Psychological violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Psychological, physical or sexual violence	Physical and sexual violence	Psychological, physical and sexual violence
Area of residence							
Urban	55.1	30.1	17.8	37.5	57.4	10.4	10.3
Rural	62.9	47.3	19.2	51.9	68.2	14.6	14.0
Age							
15-24 years old	50.2	37.8	10.5	42.3	53.7	6.1	6.1
25-34 years old	51.7	32.4	15.5	41.6	55.7	6.3	6.3
35-44 years old	59.7	36.0	20.6	40.8	63.4	15.8	15.8
45-54 years old	65.7	47.1	19.9	51.9	70.3	15.1	14.0
55-59 years old	66.0	46.0	23.9	51.3	69.1	18.6	18.2
60-65 years old	59.5	39.7	17.1	43.6	64.3	13.3	12.4
Marital status							
Married	56.8	35.7	15.8	41.6	61.3	9.9	9.3
Living together	51.1	43.4	18.4	47.7	53.1	14.1	14.1
Divorced/separated	83.3	61.1	41.0	70.2	84.0	31.9	31.9
Widow	60.3	47.5	16.8	49.6	65.7	14.6	14.6
Level of education							
Higher	56.8	25.2	16.0	33.6	57.7	7.6	7.6
Secondary specialized	60.6	46.4	21.0	52.7	67.6	14.7	14.0
Secondary vocational	60.0	41.8	15.2	44.8	62.3	12.2	12.0
Upper secondary	58.2	35.2	20.3	40.5	61.8	14.9	14.0
Lower secondary	61.9	52.3	21.0	58.4	68.8	14.9	14.6
Occupational status							
Employee	62.9	41.1	19.6	47.4	64.8	13.4	13.4
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	54.2	41.8	26.4	54.1	62.6	14.0	12.7
Self-employed in agriculture	54.2	47.4	17.6	50.1	67.0	14.9	12.4
Unemployed	54.7	31.5	16.6	36.5	59.9	11.6	11.6
Housewife	52.8	37.2	11.5	42.9	57.7	5.8	5.8
Pensioner	63.5	39.7	19.7	44.4	65.9	15.1	14.2
Other	49.8	22.9	20.6	30.0	52.4	13.5	13.5
TOTAL	59.4	39.7	18.6	45.5	63.4	12.8	12.3

Table 2. Share of women who experienced partner psychological, physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months, %

	Psychological violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Psychological, physical or sexual violence	Physical and sexual violence	Psychological, physical and sexual violence
Area of residence							
Urban	18.4	5.5	3.0	8.1	18.8	0.4	0.4
Rural	31.6	11.5	5.0	14.1	33.1	2.3	2.3
Age							
15-24 years old	33.3	18.7	1.8	20.5	33.3	-	-
25-34 years old	32.4	11.1	8.6	17.5	33.4	2.2	2.2
35-44 years old	22.7	5.8	4.1	7.5	23.8	2.4	2.4
45-54 years old	24.3	9.5	2.5	11.4	25.8	0.7	0.7
55-59 years old	20.2	2.6	2.2	3.7	20.6	1.0	1.0
60-65 years old	21.1	8.6	1.3	8.6	22.3	1.3	1.3
Marital status							
Married	31.4	10.0	5.0	13.2	32.7	1.8	1.8
Living together	29.7	19.8	4.8	23.0	29.7	1.7	1.7
Divorced/separated	0.4	-	-		0.4	-	-
Widow	0.5	0.5	-	0.5	1.0	-	-
Level of education							
Higher	24.4	7.7	3.2	10.1	26.0	0.7	0.7
Secondary specialized	21.8	4.9	3.6	7.6	22.0	0.9	0.9
Secondary vocational	28.2	12.1	3.8	14.6	28.5	1.4	1.4
Upper secondary	20.7	4.7	1.7	6.4	21.4	-	-
Lower secondary	34.4	15.4	8.8	19.4	37.0	4.8	4.8
Occupational status							
Employee	24.7	9.6	4.4	12.5	25.5	1.5	1.5
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	34.1	5.9	3.9	7.6	34.1	2.2	2.2
Self-employed in agriculture	31.0	7.9	2.6	9.1	32.2	1.4	1.4
Unemployed	26.5	8.4	9.0	13.7	27.7	3.7	3.7
Housewife	31.6	10.6	5.4	15.4	34.2	0.6	0.6
Pensioner	21.0	8.5	0.8	8.5	22.1	0.8	0.8
Other	7.0	-	-		7.0	-	-
TOTAL	25.7	8.9	4.1	11.5	26.8	1.5	1.5

Table 3. Share of women who experienced partner psychological violence by specific forms over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, %

	Since the age of 15				In the last 12 months			
	insulted	humiliated	Intimidate or frightened	verbally aggressed	insulted	humiliated	Intimidate or frightened	verbally aggressed
Area of residence								
Urban	90.2	40.0	49.1	32.7	90.8	30.7	38.7	22.8
Rural	92.2	34.9	58.4	41.8	80.5	30.2	46.9	36.8
Age								
15-24 years old	94.2	41.2	62.4	55.8	77.4	34.0	51.2	48.3
25-34 years old	93.1	33.3	53.0	29.7	88.7	27.7	43.4	23.7
35-44 years old	85.6	30.6	44.7	34.0	71.4	24.6	33.0	35.2
45-54 years old	93.3	38.9	61.9	44.2	87.3	33.2	54.4	33.9
55-59 years old	89.5	39.2	56.3	38.7	82.2	25.6	32.1	28.4
60-65 years old	97.4	50.0	51.6	34.5	95.8	48.6	51.9	39.7
Marital status								
Married	90.5	31.9	51.3	34.4	82.6	27.4	44.4	31.4
Living together	93.7	77.4	66.7	50.7	98.0	66.0	43.4	45.5
Divorced/separated	92.7	50.5	68.9	52.6	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
Widow	95.9	32.1	51.2	37.1	100.0	100.0	-	100.0
Level of education								
Higher	90.0	31.3	53.0	44.8	92.0	28.0	32.9	34.1
Secondary specialized	89.5	40.1	52.3	37.0	79.2	34.3	34.1	24.1
Secondary vocational	92.3	35.8	64.1	33.4	79.5	28.2	59.9	38.5
Upper secondary	93.2	37.0	48.0	33.8	84.9	26.8	42.9	31.0
Lower secondary	92.0	41.1	55.2	41.7	83.1	34.1	47.0	31.8
TOTAL	91.4	37.0	54.6	38.1	83.8	30.3	44.3	32.4

Table 4. Distribution of women-victims of psychological violence by specific forms of violence and frequency, %

	Since the age of 15			In the last 12 months		
	Once	Several times	Many times	Once	Several times	Many times
Insulted	5.8	36.3	57.9	11.0	56.5	32.5
Humiliated	5.4	30.6	64.0	18.6	46.0	35.4
Intimidated/frightened	6.8	33.0	60.3	14.9	47.5	37.6
Verbally attacked	2.2	30.3	67.4	7.8	43.4	48.9
TOTAL	4.6	30.0	65.4	6.8	52.6	40.6

Table 5. *Share of women who experienced psychological violence focused on social isolation over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, %*

	Since the age of 15	In the last 12 months
Area of residence		
Urban	50.5	30.3
Rural	58.3	42.2
Age		
15-24 years old	68.9	51.6
25-34 years old	53.1	43.3
35-44 years old	54.9	40.3
45-54 years old	58.1	35.8
55-59 years old	52.4	26.7
60-65 years old	41.0	15.4
Marital status		
Married	54.5	44.7
Living together	50.5	48.2
Divorced/separated	72.6	0.4
Widow	38.7	0.5
Level of education		
Higher	56.1	35.9
Secondary specialized	52.6	34.2
Secondary vocational	56.3	41.1
Upper secondary	52.5	32.2
Lower secondary	57.0	41.6
Occupational status		
Employee	56.5	35.7
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	54.5	42.9
Self-employed in agriculture	53.6	41.9
Unemployed	61.0	44.1
Housewife	49.9	41.9
Pensioner	43.6	24.9
Other	87.0	46.4
TOTAL	54.9	36.9

Table 6. Distribution of socially isolated women by partner's specific controlling behavior, since the age of 15, %

	Forms of controlling behavior							
	Prohibits to meet with friends	Restricts visits to family	Insists on knowing where the woman is	Ignores and treats with indifference	Gets angry if the woman talks to another man	Suspicious of woman's unfaithfulness	Expects woman to ask his permission to go to the doctor	Decides what woman can do
Area of residence								
Urban	24.5	6.9	66.8	32.5	66.3	38.8	10.2	27.8
Rural	21.5	14.8	77.5	29.5	60.2	39.8	13.5	29.7
Age								
15-24 years old	36.7	13.5	76.4	30.9	80.9	40.8	11.7	25.3
25-34 years old	16.5	7.2	73.3	23.0	63.4	37.8	9.3	25.0
35-44 years old	21.2	8.4	76.5	22.9	54.2	36.3	13.7	30.9
45-54 years old	23.0	14.1	68.5	36.9	64.7	42.6	13.9	32.6
55-59 years old	25.9	13.6	72.8	42.3	60.9	33.4	8.7	27.4
60-65 years old	24.2	21.1	76.9	38.4	58.5	50.0	15.8	27.3
Marital status								
Married	17.3	8.6	73.8	23.7	61.5	36.3	10.3	29.4
Living together	25.2	15.5	77.6	11.6	80.1	50.8	13.6	13.4
Divorced/separated	49.4	19.3	66.0	70.6	65.4	48.9	15.5	33.8
Widow	29.5	29.8	77.4	48.7	54.9	45.7	26.7	25.6
Level of education								
Higher	23.7	8.1	68.9	26.4	56.6	34.3	9.7	27.1
Secondary specialized	15.7	13.1	72.8	24.6	64.9	36.3	11.5	27.1
Secondary vocational	26.4	7.4	74.3	36.1	68.0	37.9	7.7	33.7
Upper secondary	18.9	9.8	71.0	34.2	65.0	43.7	12.2	28.5
Lower secondary	28.4	20.7	79.3	31.7	59.1	45.2	20.3	27.8
Occupational status								
Employee	23.9	10.3	70.3	34.0	65.2	42.8	10.9	29.5
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	44.7	18.3	75.3	21.0	71.9	57.0	8.7	32.1
Self-employed in agriculture	17.7	12.5	79.7	33.5	50.6	28.2	22.0	26.6
Unemployed	19.8	5.2	76.6	28.2	72.6	36.9	12.8	42.9
Housewife	23.3	16.9	72.3	18.2	55.0	35.6	8.6	16.8
Pensioner	14.4	17.6	83.1	29.5	53.1	39.1	13.9	31.5
Other	23.2	4.3	58.3	37.7	69.3	21.1	11.1	13.6
TOTAL	22.7	11.6	73.1	30.7	62.7	39.4	12.1	28.9

Table 7. Share of women who experienced partner economic violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by specific forms of economic violence, %

	Since the age of 15	In the last 12 months	Specific forms of economic violence			
			Takes the money the woman earns		Refuses to give enough money for household need	
			Since the age of 15	In the last 12 months	Since the age of 15	In the last 12 months
Area of residence						
Urban	10.2	3.8	32.0	10.3	91.6	89.7
Rural	10.9	4.5	41.6	39.9	79.8	91.9
Age						
15-24 years old	10.9	5.6	53.5	62.0	78.6	100.0
25-34 years old	5.6	3.7	41.0	20.1	65.8	90.3
35-44 years old	10.0	5.3	34.3	37.0	94.7	90.0
45-54 years old	12.7	5.1	27.3	16.5	86.2	93.5
55-59 years old	16.0	1.9	56.9	41.0	81.0	59.0
60-65 years old	12.0	2.2	25.6	0.0	94.7	100.0
Marital status						
Married	7.2	4.7	30.5	26.1	84.1	89.3
Living together	10.2	10.2	40.9	40.9	100.0	100.0
Divorced/separated	37.8	-	42.6	-	86.3	-
Widow	8.9	0.5	60.8	0.0	67.8	100.0
Level of education						
Higher	11.4	4.7	35.5	18.6	89.8	100.0
Secondary specialized	11.3	3.7	31.8	22.3	85.0	87.6
Secondary vocational	9.5	4.7	34.0	26.3	100.0	100.0
Upper secondary	9.6	3.8	51.5	42.4	64.4	62.9
Lower secondary	11.4	4.3	35.4	32.4	84.2	100.0
Occupational status						
Employee	12.9	4.3	37.3	21.4	88.6	94.1
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	9.6	2.2	20.8	0.0	88.4	100.0
Self-employed in agriculture	7.5	6.6	18.2	13.4	81.8	86.6
Unemployed	14.6	5.8	39.9	29.2	65.4	84.1
Housewife	5.2	5.2	54.2	54.2	100.0	100.0
Pensioner	7.5	2.2	37.8	58.3	85.9	71.3
Other	8.3	-	77.2	-	54.5	-
TOTAL	10.6	4.2	37.5	28.0	84.8	91.0

Table 8. Share of women who experience partner physical violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by women's characteristics and physical violence specific forms, %

	Since the age of 15						In the last 12 months					
	Slapped	Pushed/shoved/pulled by hair	Hit with the fist or with anything else that hurts	Kicked, dragged or beaten up	Choked or burnt with something	Threatened or attacked with a weapon	Slapped	Pushed/shoved/pulled by hair	Hit with the fist or with anything else that hurts	Kicked, dragged or beaten up	Choked or burnt with something	Threatened or attacked with a weapon
Area of residence												
Urban	27.3	17.8	15.6	7.9	4.6	5.4	5.0	3.6	3.7	2.2	0.6	0.2
Rural	40.9	28.5	22.7	13.1	6.2	7.2	9.5	7.6	5.8	3.1	1.0	1.2
Age												
15-24 years old	30.7	19.3	11.3	5.6	6.8	-	18.7	9.9	11.3	5.6	5.2	-
25-34 years old	30.1	17.9	12.9	3.8	2.0	3.2	10.4	6.8	6.3	3.1	0.8	0.7
35-44 years old	29.2	22.5	14.3	7.3	2.9	3.7	3.1	4.1	2.5	1.0	-	0.6
45-54 years old	41.4	30.0	27.3	17.1	9.3	9.5	7.8	7.1	5.1	3.7	0.4	1.2
55-59 years old	43.1	25.8	28.6	19.5	7.5	13.5	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.0	0.7	1.0
60-65 years old	35.3	25.1	22.6	12.8	6.0	8.4	7.9	6.0	5.3	2.5	0.6	0.4
Marital status												
Married	30.9	19.8	15.2	8.1	3.8	4.5	8.4	6.7	5.1	3.0	0.9	0.9
Living together	43.4	28.4	28.9	15.7	2.6	11.0	18.1	12.3	16.0	6.6	1.8	1.1
Divorced/separated	51.5	44.9	37.3	20.8	17.1	15.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Widow	45.3	31.0	30.9	20.0	8.4	9.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of education												
Higher	21.4	14.1	10.1	4.4	4.1	4.3	6.1	4.6	4.0	1.4	1.3	0.2
Secondary specialized	41.0	29.2	22.1	11.5	7.1	6.2	4.6	2.7	3.6	1.3	-	0.2
Secondary vocational	38.4	26.5	25.1	14.7	6.5	8.9	11.1	9.2	6.7	4.8	1.3	1.3
Upper secondary	30.8	19.9	15.5	10.2	3.7	5.3	3.7	3.2	2.6	1.9	0.3	0.9
Lower secondary	44.9	30.7	26.3	13.9	6.2	7.4	12.5	9.7	7.7	4.0	1.1	1.3
TOTAL	34.9	23.8	19.5	10.8	5.4	6.4	7.5	5.8	4.9	2.7	0.8	0.8

Table 9. Share of women-victims of partner physical violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by women-victims' characteristics and physical violence specific forms, %

	Since the age of 15						In the last 12 months					
	Slapped	Pushed/shoved/pulled by hair	Hit with the fist or with anything else that hurts	Kicked, dragged or beaten up	Choked or burnt with something	Threatened or attacked with a weapon	Slapped	Pushed/shoved/pulled by hair	Hit with the fist or with anything else that hurts	Kicked, dragged or beaten up	Choked or burnt with something	Threatened or attacked with a weapon
Area of residence												
Urban	90.6	59.1	51.7	26.4	15.1	17.9	91.3	65.3	67.1	39.2	11.3	3.6
Rural	86.5	60.3	48.0	27.7	13.0	15.2	82.2	66.0	50.4	26.9	8.3	10.7
Age												
15-24 years old	81.2	51.1	29.9	14.9	18.0	-	100.0	53.0	60.6	30.2	27.8	-
25-34 years old	92.9	55.1	40.0	11.6	6.3	9.9	93.8	61.2	56.3	27.9	7.2	6.3
35-44 years old	81.1	62.7	39.7	20.3	7.9	10.2	53.3	69.5	42.4	17.3	-	10.5
45-54 years old	87.8	63.7	57.9	36.3	19.7	20.2	81.4	74.5	53.8	38.8	4.4	12.6
55-59 years old	93.8	56.1	62.2	42.4	16.3	29.4	83.5	67.2	67.5	38.9	26.2	38.9
60-65 years old	88.8	63.1	56.8	32.2	15.0	21.2	91.8	69.4	61.2	29.1	6.8	5.1
Marital status												
Married	86.5	55.5	42.7	22.8	10.7	12.7	83.6	66.8	51.2	29.9	9.2	9.3
Living together	100.0	65.5	66.6	36.1	6.1	25.3	91.4	62.0	80.5	33.2	9.2	5.8
Divorced/separated	84.3	73.5	61.1	34.1	28.0	24.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Widow	95.2	65.2	65.1	42.0	17.7	19.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Level of education												
Higher	84.9	55.9	40.0	17.5	16.3	17.0	79.9	60.6	51.9	18.9	16.6	2.4
Secondary specialized	88.2	63.0	47.5	24.7	15.3	13.5	92.7	55.8	73.0	25.8	-	4.1
Secondary vocational	91.8	63.4	60.1	35.1	15.4	21.3	91.4	75.7	55.7	39.7	10.5	10.7
Upper secondary	87.5	56.5	44.0	28.9	10.5	15.1	77.5	67.2	55.9	40.3	7.0	18.9
Lower secondary	85.9	58.7	50.3	26.6	11.8	14.1	81.4	62.8	49.8	26.2	7.3	8.7
TOTAL	87.9	59.9	49.3	27.3	13.7	16.1	84.7	65.8	55.0	30.2	9.1	8.8

Table 10. Share of women who experienced partner physical violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by women's characteristics and violence severity level, %

	Physical violence since the age of 15	of which:		Physical violence in the last 12 months	of which:	
		moderate	severe		moderate	severe
Area of residence						
Urban	30.1	42.7	57.3	5.5	32.9	67.1
Rural	47.3	47.6	52.4	11.5	46.2	53.8
Age						
15-24 years old	37.8	57.7	42.3	18.7	23.1	76.9
25-34 years old	32.4	57.9	42.1	11.1	43.7	56.3
35-44 years old	36.0	58.4	41.6	5.8	57.6	42.4
45-54 years old	47.1	33.9	66.1	9.5	46.2	53.8
55-59 years old	46.0	36.5	63.5	2.6	32.5	67.5
60-65 years old	39.7	39.2	60.8	8.6	38.8	61.2
Marital status						
Married	35.7	53.7	46.3	10.0	45.9	54.1
Living together	43.4	27.6	72.4	19.8	19.5	80.5
Divorced/separated	61.1	27.1	72.9	-	-	-
Widow	47.5	34.9	65.1	0.5	100.0	-
Level of education						
Higher	25.2	45.3	54.7	7.7	48.1	51.9
Secondary specialized	46.4	48.6	51.4	4.9	27.0	73.0
Secondary vocational	41.8	37.4	62.6	12.1	35.4	64.6
Upper secondary	35.2	52.1	47.9	4.7	44.1	55.9
Lower secondary	52.3	47.0	53.0	15.4	50.2	49.8
TOTAL	39.7	46.0	54.0	8.9	42.5	57.5

Table 11. Distribution of women-victims of partner physical violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by violence specific forms and frequency of physical violence cases, %

	Since the age of 15			In the last 12 months		
	Once	Several times	Many times	Once	Several times	Many times
Slapped	19.3	38.3	42.4	35.6	34.5	29.9
Pushed/shoved/pulled by hair	10.2	30.6	59.1	19.4	44.8	35.7
Hit with fist or with something that hurts	11.6	25.2	63.2	24.4	43.7	31.9
Kicked, dragged, or beaten up	1.5	30.7	67.7	26.8	21.5	51.7
Choked or burnt with something	35.8	12.7	51.6	41.3	20.8	37.9
Threatened or attacked with a weapon	22.1	27.9	50.1	26.6	20.0	53.4
TOTAL	14.8	37.0	48.3	23.0	29.8	47.3

Table 12. Share of women who experienced partner sexual violence, over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by women's characteristics and sexual violence specific forms, %

	Since the age of 15			In the last 12 months		
	Forced to have sex without consent	Forced to have sex using fear	Forced to have sex with humiliating elements	Forced to have sex without consent	Forced to have sex using fear	Forced to have sex with humiliating elements
Area of residence						
Urban	14.8	5.3	12.9	3.0	0.2	1.8
Rural	14.2	3.7	10.8	3.2	1.0	2.3
Age						
15-24 years old	4.5	2.6	3.5	-	-	1.8
25-34 years old	10.7	2.2	8.6	6.6	1.4	4.6
35-44 years old	17.9	3.6	12.1	3.4	1.1	2.1
45-54 years old	16.2	6.8	13.0	1.8	0.1	0.9
55-59 years old	16.8	6.6	20.5	1.8	0.4	1.0
60-65 years old	15.8	3.8	10.6	1.3	-	-
Marital status						
Married	12.2	3.3	8.7	3.7	0.7	2.3
Living together	16.6	10.0	18.4	4.8	1.7	4.8
Divorced/separated	29.8	11.2	32.8	-	-	-
Widow	14.4	1.9	9.0	-	-	-
Level of education						
Higher	9.4	1.5	11.2	2.5	0.7	1.1
Secondary specialized	17.8	4.7	9.6	3.2	0.2	1.5
Secondary vocational	12.8	7.2	13.3	2.6	1.2	3.5
Upper secondary	17.8	4.6	11.7	1.7	-	0.9
Lower secondary	14.8	4.1	12.9	5.9	1.2	3.4
TOTAL	14.4	4.4	11.7	3.1	0.6	2.1

Table 13. Share of women-victims who experienced partner sexual violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 month, by women's characteristics and sexual violence specific forms, %

	Since the age of 15			In the last 12 months		
	Forced to have sex without consent	Forced to have sex using fear	Forced to have sex with humiliating elements	Forced to have sex without consent	Forced to have sex using fear	Forced to have sex with humiliating elements
Area of residence						
Urban	83.1	30.0	72.5	100.0	7.8	60.0
Rural	73.8	19.0	56.3	64.4	19.6	45.5
Age						
15-24 years old	42.2	24.9	32.9	-	-	100.0
25-34 years old	69.0	14.2	55.6	77.6	15.9	54.1
35-44 years old	86.6	17.4	58.7	84.2	26.4	51.8
45-54 years old	81.2	34.1	65.2	69.3	5.5	36.2
55-59 years old	70.1	27.7	85.8	81.7	18.3	46.8
60-65 years old	92.4	22.0	62.2	100.0	-	-
Marital status						
Married	77.4	20.9	54.9	74.2	14.2	46.4
Living together	90.1	54.4	100.0	100.0	35.4	100.0
Divorced/separated	72.7	27.4	80.1	-	-	-
Widow	86.2	11.1	53.6	-	-	-
Level of education						
Higher	58.9	9.0	69.8	79.3	20.7	34.1
Secondary specialized	85.0	22.3	45.6	89.0	5.4	41.1
Secondary vocational	84.5	47.7	87.4	69.2	30.7	92.4
Upper secondary	87.8	23.0	58.0	100.0	-	56.0
Lower secondary	70.2	19.3	61.5	67.3	14.1	39.0
TOTAL	77.7	23.7	63.2	76.0	15.7	50.2

Table 14. Distribution of women-victims of partner sexual violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by violence specific forms and frequency of sexual violence cases, %

	Since the age of 15			In the last 12 months		
	Once	Several times	Many times	Once	Several times	Many times
Forced to have sex without consent	3.5	41.8	54.7	6.7	51.4	41.9
Forced to have sex under fear	2.5	46.9	50.7	-	71.7	28.3
Forced to have sex with humiliating elements	2.5	39.3	58.2	11.0	50.7	38.3
TOTAL	2.7	40.8	56.5	5.9	51.7	42.4

Table 15. Physical consequences of partner physical or sexual violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, %

	Bruises or aches	Injuries to eyes, sprains or dislocations	Broken bones, internal injuries	Miscarriage
Physical violence				
since the age of 15	66.5	22.9	9.3	6.6
in the last 12 months	55.1	23.5	4.9	-
Sexual violence				
since the age of 15	58.4	20.9	11.4	10.9
in the last 12 months	26.3	5.3	4.3	-
Physical or sexual violence				
since the age of 15	58.4	20.0	8.1	5.8
in the last 12 months	43.1	18.1	3.8	-
Physical and sexual violence				
since the age of 15	83.5	30.4	16.7	15.9
in the last 12 months	68.1	14.6	12.1	-

Table 16. *Share of women-victims of partner physical violence over lifetime (since the age of 15 years old), by victims' main characteristics and type of consequences on victims' health, %*

	Bruises or aches	Injuries to eyes, sprains or dislocations	Broken bones, internal injuries	Miscarriage
Area of residence				
Urban	71.6	26.3	12.9	9.1
Rural	64.0	21.2	7.5	5.4
Age				
15-24 years old	68.5	14.9	5.7	-
25-34 years old	52.7	12.1	-	3.6
35-44 years old	63.0	7.5	5.3	10.8
45-54 years old	71.3	30.6	15.7	4.0
55-59 years old	71.4	41.8	11.4	15.9
60-65 years old	79.2	32.8	16.1	3.9
Marital status				
Married	62.0	16.9	7.1	4.4
Living together	78.6	33.9	1.8	19.8
Divorced/separated	79.3	45.5	20.4	10.6
Widow	69.3	21.0	12.5	6.6
Level of education				
Higher	67.0	17.6	6.7	5.7
Secondary specialized	60.5	19.7	10.5	6.9
Secondary vocational	76.2	29.7	16.8	9.6
Upper secondary	63.1	18.7	5.6	8.7
Lower secondary	65.6	26.0	5.8	2.7
TOTAL	66.5	22.9	9.3	6.6

Table 17. Share of women-victims of partner sexual violence over lifetime (since the age of 15 years old), by victims' main characteristics and type of consequences on victims' health, %

	Bruises or aches	Injuries to eyes, sprains or dislocations	Broken bones, internal injuries	Miscarriage
Area of residence				
Urban	48.2	23.6	12.9	11.7
Rural	65.8	18.9	10.4	10.4
Age				
15-24 years old	35.6	-	-	-
25-34 years old	35.7	5.1	-	7.5
35-44 years old	63.4	7.3	9.3	17.9
45-54 years old	61.2	28.7	15.8	7.6
55-59 years old	74.8	48.3	19.0	15.5
60-65 years old	69.9	34.1	23.1	6.4
Marital status				
Married	51.8	12.2	10.0	6.9
Living together	76.8	34.4	4.2	46.8
Divorced/separated	65.1	42.4	16.2	13.8
Widow	81.4	20.3	16.0	7.4
Level of education				
Higher	29.8	10.9	1.4	7.1
Secondary specialized	54.1	10.0	9.7	7.6
Secondary vocational	75.2	47.7	36.9	23.9
Upper secondary	66.1	14.5	4.9	13.4
Lower secondary	65.7	26.1	8.6	4.5
TOTAL	58.4	20.9	11.4	10.9

Table 18. Partner violence by characteristics of husbands/partners, over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 month, by type of violence, %

	Psychological violence		Physical violence		Sexual violence		Physical or sexual violence		Physical and sexual violence	
	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months
Partner's level of education										
Higher	48.8	28.3	17.9	5.6	18.5	6.2	29.4	11.4	6.9	0.4
Secondary specialized	56.6	13.9	36.9	6.1	16.7	2.8	42.5	8.3	11.1	0.6
Secondary vocational	62.9	27.4	43.9	9.3	19.4	3.8	48.9	12.1	14.3	1.0
Upper secondary	58.8	24.9	39.3	8.2	14.8	2.1	40.4	9.4	13.7	1.0
Lower secondary	63.6	31.7	51.3	13.7	21.2	6.1	58.7	15.2	13.8	4.7
Primary	88.9	16.6	88.9	12.0	40.9	-	88.9	12.0	40.9	-

	Psychological violence		Physical violence		Sexual violence		Physical or sexual violence		Physical and sexual violence	
	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months
Difference in education levels										
Better educated husbands/partners	56.2	25.1	32.5	7.5	19.7	5.1	40.5	11.9	11.7	0.7
Better educated wives/partners	65.6	24.9	43.3	8.9	21.0	3.4	51.0	11.0	13.2	1.3
Both with the same level of education	57.2	26.6	41.1	9.5	16.6	4.1	44.7	11.6	13.0	2.0
Age difference between the husband and wife										
Wife/partner older than husband/partner	57.8	28.9	45.2	10.6	20.9	4.9	49.2	12.9	16.9	2.5
The same age	60.0	40.5	35.2	18.9	3.4	1.0	36.6	19.5	2.0	0.4
Husband older by:										
< 3 years	55.8	30.2	40.5	12.2	17.9	4.7	46.7	15.1	11.7	1.8
3-6 years	53.8	35.2	33.8	9.8	15.4	7.8	39.7	14.6	9.5	3.0
7-9 years	64.8	27.0	30.8	10.6	14.1	5.4	42.2	16.0	2.7	-
10+ years	49.5	18.6	27.2	3.4	7.9	-	29.2	3.4	6.0	-
Husband's/partner's characteristics										
No problem	44.5	14.4	27.6	3.1	12.9	2.7	33.8	5.8	6.7	0.1
Stressed/irritated because of family problems	74.0	36.7	51.5	13.1	26.1	5.8	58.1	17.0	19.5	1.9
Stressed/irritated due to no job	69.0	39.1	42.7	10.5	21.0	6.9	48.8	13.6	14.9	3.9
Abuses of alcohol	90.9	31.6	74.4	17.8	42.4	4.8	78.5	18.7	38.3	3.9
Suffered in childhood of family violence/abuse actions	94.4	50.8	81.1	31.6	33.0	5.8	89.5	32.9	24.6	4.5
Other	69.8	32.8	47.7	11.5	11.8	-	48.5	11.5	11.0	-

Table 19. Distribution of women-victims and non-victims of different types of partner violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by perpetrator's and victim's characteristics, %

	Psychological violence		Physical violence		Sexual violence		Physical or sexual violence		Physical and sexual violence		Women non-victims of violence
	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	since the age of 15	in the last 12 months	
Husband's/partner's level of education											
Higher	11.8	17.5	6.4	10.1	15.4	24.2	10.1	15.9	6.2	4.5	21.1
Secondary specialized	14.3	7.9	14.4	10.1	12.5	10.1	14.0	10.6	12.5	6.0	15.3
Secondary vocational	34.8	35.9	34.2	35.5	30.6	31.2	33.6	35.5	31.0	23.6	30.8
Upper secondary	19.3	16.9	20.1	16.3	17.2	9.1	17.6	14.3	24.8	11.9	18.1
Lower secondary	18.2	21.0	22.7	26.6	21.7	25.4	22.6	22.6	21.7	54.0	14.3
Primary	1.6	0.7	2.4	1.5	2.7	-	2.1	1.1	3.9	-	0.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Difference in education levels											
Better educated husbands/partners	21.5	23.2	18.9	20.1	22.8	29.4	20.6	24.6	18.6	10.7	25.1
Better educated wives/partners	32.8	28.0	32.5	28.9	36.3	23.9	33.2	27.7	35.8	24.5	24.4
Both with the same level of education	45.7	48.8	48.6	51.0	40.9	46.7	46.2	47.7	45.6	64.8	50.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age difference between the husband and wife											
Wife/partner older than husband/partner	12.6	13.1	14.0	13.5	12.7	14.1	13.8	13.0	13.0	19.2	14.4
The same age	13.5	16.1	12.7	21.2	3.2	2.5	11.6	17.2	2.9	2.8	11.8
Husband older by:											
< 3 years	30.0	27.5	33.4	30.4	39.8	27.8	33.3	29.8	45.0	28.1	27.9
3-6 years	31.7	34.9	30.7	27.5	36.0	49.1	31.5	32.0	35.5	49.9	33.8
7-9 years	7.0	5.1	5.3	5.6	5.8	6.5	6.2	6.7	1.0	-	4.9
10+ years	5.2	3.4	3.8	1.8	2.6	-	3.7	1.4	2.7	-	7.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Hasband's/partner's characteristics											
No problem	28.5	23.1	24.3	11.6	17.7	30.7	26.2	19.6	7.6	2.6	61.7
Stressed/irritated because of family problems	41.7	48.4	42.4	48.4	46.3	50.6	42.6	49.6	47.6	45.4	22.2
Stressed/irritated due to no job	23.5	32.2	21.8	24.9	22.3	36.1	21.7	24.9	23.1	56.3	16.2
Abuses of alcohol	30.2	24.0	38.7	40.0	50.4	25.9	35.8	32.6	66.5	58.3	3.8
Suffered in childhood of family violence/ abuse actions	9.3	11.9	11.6	21.6	10.1	6.4	11.3	17.4	10.5	12.2	0.8
Other	8.4	9.4	8.4	9.2	3.2	-	6.8	7.1	6.5	-	5.3

Table 20. Share of women who experienced non-partner physical or sexual violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by women characteristics, %

	Physical violence		Sexual violence
	Since the age of 15	In the last 12 months	Since the age of 15
Area of residence			
Urban	7.4	1.4	-
Rural	4.7	0.5	0.2
Age			
15-24 years old	9.2	2.0	-
25-34 years old	3.4	0.3	0.3
35-44 years old	6.2	0.3	-
45-54 years old	4.5	1.5	-
55-59 years old	6.0	-	-
60-65 years old	6.0	-	0.5
Marital status			
Married	4.6	0.6	0.2
Living together	22.6	1.1	-
Divorced/separated	8.3	-	-
Widow	2.1	-	-
Unmarried	5.8	2.3	-
Level of education			
Higher	2.6	0.6	-
Secondary specialized	8.8	0.3	0.2
Secondary vocational	8.1	1.7	-
Upper secondary	5.2	1.3	-
Lower secondary	6.0	0.7	0.3
Primary	5.0	-	-
Occupational status			
Employee	4.7	1.0	0.2
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	5.0	-	-
Self-employed in agriculture	3.0	-	-
Unemployed	5.4	-	-
Housewife	7.2	0.6	-
Pensioner	9.7	-	0.3
Other	13.9	-	-
TOTAL	5.9	0.9	0.1

Table 21. Distribution of women-victims of non-partner physical violence over lifetime (since the age of 15) and in the last 12 months, by perpetrator and frequency of violence cases, %

	Over lifetime. since the age of 15		
	Once	Several times	Many times
Perpetrator			
Father/step father	24.5	23.6	51.9
Mother/step mother	23.4	28.6	48.0
Mother in law/father in law	9.6	65.4	25.0
Sister/brother	10.0	56.2	33.9
Other family member	46.8	11.0	42.3
Intimate partner	54.1	34.6	11.2
Friend	17.9	82.1	-
Acquaintance	75.8	24.2	-
Stranger	86.4	8.5	5.1
Teacher	17.6	58.7	23.7
Other	66.2	33.8	-
TOTAL	18.4	26.6	55.0

Table 22. Share of women-victims of partner and non-partner violence, over lifetime, by types of violence and women's characteristics, %

	Partner violence				Non-partner physical violence
	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Physical and sexual violence	
Area of residence					
Urban	70.5	62.6	61.6	88.9	83.9
Rural	73.5	72.7	69.2	87.8	70.5
Age					
15-24 years old	74.2	57.6	66.4	100.0	100.0
25-34 years old	69.0	38.3	54.5	89.4	60.6
35-44 years old	68.9	88.1	69.5	92.6	76.0
45-54 years old	72.1	72.7	68.1	86.8	78.9
55-59 years old	78.5	68.1	73.9	77.8	34.5
60-65 years old	79.3	72.3	72.2	93.2	52.6
Marital status					
Married	67.4	59.1	60.3	84.0	65.5
Living together	86.9	79.7	81.5	95.7	100.0
Divorced/separated	82.7	88.7	80.6	94.9	64.1
Widow	82.4	79.3	78.9	90.8	45.0
Unmarried	-	-	-	-	100.0
Level of education					
Higher	63.4	59.7	57.9	79.7	69.2
Secondary specialized	71.1	73.0	66.1	91.5	69.2
Secondary vocational	76.6	72.4	72.0	88.3	68.8
Upper secondary	84.9	76.7	76.3	97.3	92.1
Lower secondary	65.5	58.9	59.6	79.2	83.5
Primary	-	-	-	-	100.0

Occupational status					
Employee	73.5	72.3	67.9	91.5	74.9
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	85.4	59.7	69.1	100.0	73.3
Self-employed in agriculture	79.8	82.2	77.2	91.3	42.0
Unemployed	50.8	48.7	43.8	69.7	83.9
Housewife	71.7	67.8	66.8	100.0	72.7
Pensioner	71.5	64.8	66.3	78.3	59.7
Other	61.6	55.9	47.1	85.2	100.0
TOTAL	72.5	68.4	66.4	88.2	78.0

Table 23. Ponderea femeilor-victime ale violenței fizice din partea soțului/partenerului, care au, raportat cazurile de violență, după gravitatea acțiunilor violente survenite pe parcursul vieții, %

	Partner physical violence	of which:	
		moderate violence	severe violence
Area of residence			
Urban	70.5	51.0	85.0
Rural	73.5	61.1	84.7
Age			
15-24 years old	74.2	69.3	81.0
25-34 years old	69.0	54.2	89.2
35-44 years old	68.9	58.5	83.6
45-54 years old	72.1	50.7	83.2
55-59 years old	78.5	65.4	86.0
60-65 years old	79.3	67.1	87.0
Marital status			
Married	67.4	53.4	83.5
Living together	86.9	57.5	98.1
Divorced/separated	82.7	93.7	78.6
Widow	82.4	62.5	92.8
Level of education			
Higher	63.4	46.2	77.6
Secondary specialized	71.1	50.7	90.2
Secondary vocational	76.6	54.3	89.9
Upper secondary	84.9	78.0	92.5
Lower secondary	65.5	56.4	73.5
Occupational status			
Employee	73.5	57.8	83.8
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	85.4	71.6	100.0
Self-employed in agriculture	79.8	67.1	90.1
Unemployed	50.8	26.3	74.5
Housewife	71.7	58.6	90.9
Pensioner	71.5	61.4	82.5
Other	61.6	63.4	57.9
TOTAL	72.5	57.9	84.8

Table 24. *Share of women-victims who reported cases of partner and non-partner violence over lifetime, by the person to whom the violence was reported and types of violence, % of total victims of violence*

	Partner violence				Non-partner physical violence
	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Physical and sexual violence	
Police	18.8	22.5	16.4	32.8	14.9
Parents	47.3	46.5	42.9	61.7	47.3
Other relatives	25.8	32.4	23.6	43.4	27.5
Friends	18.1	17.4	16.8	21.8	27.5
Neighbours	8.9	7.8	7.8	11.4	2.0
Doctors	5.7	7.4	5.0	10.8	3.2
Other persons	8.6	9.4	7.5	13.7	4.8

Table 25. *Share of women-victims who reported cases of partner and non-partner violence over lifetime, by persons to whom violence was reported and types of violence, % of the total number of victims who reported cases of violence*

	Partner violence				Non-partner physical violence
	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Physical or sexual violence	Physical and sexual violence	
Police	26.0	32.9	24.7	37.1	19.1
Parents	65.3	68.0	64.7	70.0	60.7
Other relatives	35.6	47.4	35.5	49.2	35.2
Friends	25.0	25.4	25.3	24.7	35.2
Neighbours	12.4	11.4	11.8	12.9	2.6
Doctors	7.8	10.8	7.5	12.2	4.1
Other persons	11.9	13.7	11.4	15.5	6.1

Table 26. *Share of women-victims who reported cases of partner physical violence over lifetime, by severity of violence cases, % of the total number of victims who reported cases of violence*

	Partner physical violence	of which:	
		moderate violence	severe violence
Police	26.0	3.5	39.1
Parents	65.3	66.3	64.7
Other relatives	35.6	36.1	35.3
Friends	25.0	21.4	27.0
Neighbours	12.4	9.3	14.2
Doctors	7.8	1.1	11.8
Other persons	11.9	6.9	14.9

Table 27. Share of women who would report non-partner violence, if such cases occur, by types of persons/institutions to which they would report, women's area of residence and age, %

	Total	Area of residence		Age					
		urban	rural	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-55	55-60	60-65
No one	10.9	10.6	11.1	1.9	10.2	10.3	14.3	19.9	23.0
Husband/partner	20.9	18.0	23.3	4.9	31.3	25.3	26.6	24.3	10.4
Parents	36.0	36.8	35.4	77.9	42.0	31.3	11.7	3.6	1.1
Other relatives	19.9	17.5	21.8	9.8	16.0	20.8	26.0	31.1	30.8
Friends	12.1	16.9	8.2	23.0	7.9	10.9	8.7	5.9	9.6
Neighbours	2.0	1.1	2.6	0.6	2.6	1.7	2.9	1.4	3.1
Police	33.3	37.2	30.1	37.1	34.7	29.2	32.2	31.7	32.2
Doctors/nurses	3.1	3.6	2.7	1.3	2.6	5.4	4.2	1.6	4.1
Priests	2.1	1.6	2.5	1.0	1.4	3.4	1.7	4.8	2.7
Mayor	2.4	0.7	3.8	1.2	0.6	0.6	5.3	3.7	6.2
Other persons	4.6	6.3	3.3	7.8	3.6	6.8	3.2	0.5	1.1

Table 28. Share of women who would report non-partner violence, if such cases occur, by types of persons/institutions to whom they would report and women's marital status, %

	Total	Marital status				
		married	living together	divorced/separated	widow	unmarried
No one	10.9	13.1	6.7	10.9	15.6	3.6
Husband/partner	20.9	34.6	-	-	-	-
Parents	36.0	25.0	49.2	29.1	13.0	76.6
Other relatives	19.9	21.5	24.2	12.1	41.4	10.9
Friends	12.1	7.6	18.6	17.2	8.6	23.1
Neighbours	2.0	2.6	1.4	0.8	3.7	-
Police	33.3	28.7	28.4	49.8	33.0	41.2
Doctors/nurses	3.1	3.1	1.3	6.7	3.2	1.8
Priests	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.5	5.6	1.6
Mayor	2.4	3.2	2.6	1.1	3.9	-
Other persons	4.6	2.2	22.3	5.3	3.4	8.0

Table 29. Share of women by reason of non-reporting the case of violence, by women's area of residence and age, %

	Total	Area of residence		Age					
		urban	rural	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-55	55-60	60-65
Non-reporting reason									
Fear of partner's revenge	7.3	7.8	6.9	14.8	13.8	-	10.9	2.4	3.4
Shame	40.2	31.1	47.2	47.2	38.1	30.7	39.4	37.2	57.3
Lack of trust for police bodies	18.2	11.0	23.8	-	9.6	12.5	25.1	27.3	18.5
Lack of trust for justice system	6.3	1.2	10.2	-	6.5	-	10.1	6.1	8.0
Lack of trust in the social protection system	7.2	5.3	8.7	-	6.5	-	7.5	15.7	8.0
Lack of trust in the health system	3.7	1.2	5.7	-	3.8	-	5.6	1.7	8.0
Can cope with the problem all by themselves	44.7	67.5	26.9	32.4	39.9	59.0	38.1	37.7	59.4
Family grants support	19.5	8.5	28.1	85.2	27.6	24.5	12.9	9.6	7.1

Table 30. Share of women by reasons of non-reporting the case of violence, by women's marital status, %

	Total	Marital status				
		married	living together	divorced/separated	widow	unmarried
Non-reporting reason						
Fear of partner's revenge	7.3	9.0	-	-	8.7	-
Shame	40.2	37.7	44.0	62.4	56.1	13.8
Lack of trust for police bodies	18.2	20.1	44.5	8.1	18.5	-
Lack of trust for justice system	6.3	8.6	-	-	-	-
Lack of trust in the social protection system	7.2	9.9	-	-	-	-
Lack of trust in the health system	3.7	5.1	-	-	-	-
Can cope with the problem all by themselves	44.7	47.7	23.5	43.2	58.0	5.1
Family grants support	19.5	18.3	11.4	0.0	6.0	81.2

Table 31. Distribution of women-victims and non-victim of physical or sexual violence by their level of information about the existence of the Law No. 45 on Preventing and Combating Family Violence, by women's characteristics, %

	All interviewed women		Victims of physical or sexual violence		Non-victims of physical or sexual violence	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Area of residence						
Urban	49.5	50.5	48.5	51.5	49.5	50.5
Rural	36.2	63.8	32.7	67.3	38.7	61.3
Age						
15-24 years old	44.2	55.8	49.4	50.6	42.1	57.9
25-34 years old	47.6	52.4	36.4	63.6	53.6	46.4
35-44 years old	45.8	54.2	50.3	49.7	42.2	57.8
45-54 years old	39.9	60.1	36.7	63.3	42.7	57.3
55-59 years old	33.9	66.1	33.2	66.8	36.3	63.7
60-65 years old	27.3	72.7	17.1	82.9	36.3	63.7
Marital status						
Married	41.4	58.6	36.4	63.6	44.2	55.8
Living together	39.7	60.3	35.2	64.8	46.6	53.4
Divorced/separated	52.2	47.8	57.6	42.4	42.9	57.1
Widow	25.3	74.7	20.1	79.9	31.0	69.0
Unmarried	45.9	54.1	54.5	45.5	45.4	54.6
Level of education						
Higher	67.2	32.8	66.6	33.4	67.6	32.4
Secondary specialized	50.8	49.2	49.9	50.1	51.8	48.2
Secondary vocational	35.1	64.9	36.9	63.1	34.3	65.7
Upper secondary	32.8	67.2	20.8	79.2	36.3	63.7
Lower secondary	32.1	67.9	25.3	74.7	37.3	62.7
Primary	27.9	72.1	81.0	19.0	24.4	75.6
Occupational status						
Employee	51.2	48.8	50.1	49.9	52.3	47.7
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	33.6	66.4	35.1	64.9	31.6	68.4
Self-employed in agriculture	24.9	75.1	17.7	82.3	32.4	67.6
Unemployed	29.8	70.2	17.5	82.5	37.4	62.6
Housewife	35.9	64.1	33.6	66.4	37.9	62.1
Pensioner	25.7	74.3	21.0	79.0	30.6	69.4
Other	55.0	45.0	73.1	26.9	40.8	59.2
TOTAL	42.2	57.8	38.7	61.3	43.9	56.1

Table 32. Distribution of women-victims and non-victims of physical or sexual violence, by level of knowledge about the fact that family violence is a criminal offence, by women's characteristics, %

	All interviewed women		Victims of physical or sexual violence		Non-victims of physical or sexual violence	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Area of residence						
Urban	90.9	9.1	90.3	9.7	91.3	8.7
Rural	75.6	24.4	74.9	25.1	75.9	24.1
Age						
15-24 years old	76.6	23.4	76.7	23.3	76.4	23.6
25-34 years old	87.0	13.0	79.5	20.5	90.9	9.1
35-44 years old	85.0	15.0	83.9	16.1	85.9	14.1
45-54 years old	82.2	17.8	80.7	19.3	84.5	15.5
55-59 years old	82.5	17.5	83.4	16.6	80.7	19.3
60-65 years old	82.8	17.2	78.4	21.6	86.7	13.3
Marital status						
Married	83.4	16.6	81.6	18.4	84.3	15.7
Living together	78.0	22.0	72.5	27.5	86.5	13.5
Divorced/separated	88.5	11.5	86.3	13.7	92.2	7.8
Widow	74.5	25.5	69.5	30.5	80.7	19.3
Unmarried	80.4	19.6	85.8	14.2	80.1	19.9
Level of education						
Higher	94.9	5.1	93.1	6.9	95.8	4.2
Secondary specialized	88.6	11.4	87.5	12.5	89.9	10.1
Secondary vocational	81.2	18.8	77.4	22.6	84.7	15.3
Upper secondary	79.5	20.5	75.7	24.3	80.7	19.3
Lower secondary	75.0	25.0	75.4	24.6	75.1	24.9
Primary	59.7	40.3	-	100.0	63.7	36.3
Occupational status						
Employee	87.5	12.5	85.7	14.3	89.1	10.9
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	85.8	14.2	82.2	17.8	90.5	9.5
Self-employed in agriculture	76.1	23.9	70.1	29.9	82.3	17.7
Unemployed	79.4	20.6	81.4	18.6	78.2	21.8
Housewife	77.6	22.4	77.5	22.5	77.7	22.3
Pensioner	76.9	23.1	74.7	25.3	79.2	20.8
Other	80.0	20.0	79.0	21.0	80.8	19.2
TOTAL	82.5	17.5	80.8	19.2	83.4	16.6

Table 33. Distribution of women-victims and non-victims of physical or sexual violence by level of knowledge about the existence of provisions to protect women-victims through perpetrator's temporary isolation, by women's characteristics % respondents of the total number of women who had heard about Law No. 45

	All interviewed women		Victims of physical or sexual violence		Non-victims of physical or sexual violence	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Area of residence						
Urban	91.9	8.1	95.2	4.8	89.8	10.2
Rural	89.1	10.9	88.6	11.4	89.8	10.2
Age						
15-24 years old	85.9	14.1	88.6	11.4	84.6	15.4
25-34 years old	94.8	5.2	96.4	3.6	93.8	6.2
35-44 years old	89.1	10.9	90.4	9.6	87.9	12.1
45-54 years old	93.0	7.0	92.5	7.5	94.4	5.6
55-59 years old	87.8	12.2	86.0	14.0	89.4	10.6
60-65 years old	94.4	5.6	100.0	-	92.1	7.9
Marital status						
Married	91.1	8.9	90.1	9.9	91.4	8.6
Living together	91.0	9.0	100.0	-	80.4	19.6
Divorced/separated	95.0	5.0	92.8	7.2	100.0	-
Widow	88.7	11.3	89.5	10.5	88.1	11.9
Unmarried	87.3	12.7	100.0	-	86.3	13.7
Level of education						
Higher	93.0	7.0	95.9	4.1	91.2	8.8
Secondary specialized	92.1	7.9	91.8	8.2	92.4	7.6
Secondary vocational	89.4	10.6	83.1	16.9	95.5	4.5
Upper secondary	88.5	11.5	83.6	16.4	89.9	10.1
Lower secondary	89.9	10.1	100.0	-	85.3	14.7
Primary	74.2	25.8	100.0	-	68.5	31.5
Occupational status						
Employee	91.8	8.2	91.8	8.2	91.9	8.1
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	95.5	4.5	92.4	7.6	100.0	-
Self-employed in agriculture	88.7	11.3	100.0	-	82.3	17.7
Unemployed	92.1	7.9	100.0	-	89.8	10.2
Housewife	86.4	13.6	83.8	16.2	88.4	11.6
Pensioner	91.5	8.5	91.5	8.5	91.5	8.5
Other	91.0	9.0	84.7	15.3	100.0	-
TOTAL	90.6	9.4	91.7	8.3	89.8	10.2

Table 34. Distribution of women-victims and non-victims of physical or sexual violence by their opinions regarding the adequate and efficient nature of Law No. 45 to ensure the necessary protection for victims and to apply the adequate sanctions for perpetrators, by women's characteristics, %

	All interviewed women			Victims of physical or sexual violence			Non-victims of physical or sexual violence		
	Yes	No	Do not know	Yes	No	Do not know	Yes	No	Do not know
Area of residence									
Urban	44.3	35.5	20.3	36.5	47.1	16.4	47.8	30.0	22.2
Rural	41.1	34.0	24.9	32.0	39.5	28.5	46.5	30.5	23.0
Age									
15-24 years old	42.5	29.5	27.9	26.7	34.9	38.3	45.2	28.3	26.5
25-34 years old	43.7	32.1	24.3	38.9	34.7	26.4	47.1	30.7	22.2
35-44 years old	37.8	38.0	24.2	38.3	37.0	24.7	37.3	39.0	23.7
45-54 years old	48.1	36.0	15.8	36.0	48.2	15.8	57.7	25.3	17.0
55-59 years old	27.1	55.8	17.1	13.7	70.5	15.8	40.0	41.7	18.3
60-65 years old	63.4	23.5	13.0	52.2	47.8	-	68.1	13.4	18.5
Marital status									
Married	42.0	35.1	22.9	34.9	37.9	27.3	45.7	33.8	20.5
Living together	37.4	46.6	16.1	21.5	55.7	22.8	55.9	35.9	8.2
Divorced/separated	29.1	53.9	16.9	26.1	61.5	12.4	36.2	36.4	27.4
Widow	58.0	34.4	7.7	47.1	46.6	6.3	65.4	26.0	8.6
Unmarried	50.5	21.4	28.1	73.9	-	26.1	48.8	23.0	28.2
Level of education									
Higher	43.7	36.7	19.6	42.3	35.8	21.9	45.6	36.7	17.7
Secondary specialized	42.7	46.0	11.3	28.5	60.3	11.2	59.6	28.9	11.5
Secondary vocational	30.7	38.7	30.6	23.3	45.1	31.6	37.9	32.5	29.7
Upper secondary	42.0	31.2	26.8	24.8	41.3	33.9	42.7	30.2	27.2
Lower secondary	53.5	17.6	28.9	52.3	26.4	21.3	54.1	13.5	32.4
Primary	25.5	56.5	18.1	-	-	100.0	31.1	68.9	-
Occupational status									
Employee	42.9	36.6	20.5	35.1	43.3	21.6	50.1	30.5	19.4
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	62.8	25.4	11.8	50.0	42.4	7.6	81.9	-	18.1
Self-employed in agriculture	40.2	36.0	23.8	51.8	24.5	23.7	33.6	42.6	23.8
Unemployed	34.3	51.8	13.9	12.3	59.1	28.6	40.6	49.7	9.7
Housewife	20.2	44.8	34.9	16.3	34.3	49.4	23.2	52.9	24.0
Pensioner	42.0	39.7	18.3	31.8	57.0	11.2	49.1	27.7	23.2
Other	26.8	41.7	31.5	13.0	71.3	15.7	46.2	-	53.8
TOTAL	42.8	34.8	22.5	34.2	43.1	22.7	47.2	30.3	22.5

Table 35. Distribution of women-victims and non-victims of physical or sexual violence by level of information regarding the existence of the trust line for women (080088008), by women's characteristics, %

	All interviewed women		Victims of physical or sexual violence		Non-victims of physical or sexual violence	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Area of residence						
Urban	61.9	38.1	61.7	38.3	62.3	37.7
Rural	63.5	36.5	57.2	42.8	67.9	32.1
Age						
15-24 years old	62.1	37.9	62.3	37.7	61.5	38.5
25-34 years old	65.7	34.3	60.7	39.3	69.3	30.7
35-44 years old	65.0	35.0	61.8	38.2	67.4	32.6
45-54 years old	69.9	30.1	66.1	33.9	74.0	26.0
55-59 years old	49.7	50.3	42.3	57.7	58.5	41.5
60-65 years old	46.2	53.8	43.0	57.0	49.1	50.9
Marital status						
Married	63.1	36.9	58.8	41.2	66.3	33.7
Living together	70.1	29.9	67.2	32.8	74.6	25.4
Divorced/separated	67.3	32.7	61.6	38.4	77.3	22.7
Widow	54.5	45.5	59.3	40.7	50.1	49.9
Unmarried	60.5	39.5	27.9	72.1	62.5	37.5
Level of education						
Higher	75.2	24.8	74.7	25.3	76.8	23.2
Secondary specialized	70.9	29.1	67.3	32.7	75.3	24.7
Secondary vocational	64.8	35.2	62.0	38.0	68.3	31.7
Upper secondary	51.2	48.8	39.7	60.3	55.0	45.0
Lower secondary	57.2	42.8	53.2	46.8	59.8	40.2
Primary	63.7	36.3	81.0	19.0	62.5	37.5
Occupational status						
Employee	71.2	28.8	66.7	33.3	75.5	24.5
Self-employed in non-agriculture sector	41.0	59.0	31.4	68.6	53.9	46.1
Self-employed in agriculture	61.2	38.8	61.4	38.6	61.0	39.0
Unemployed	62.1	37.9	58.0	42.0	64.6	35.4
Housewife	61.0	39.0	60.7	39.3	61.2	38.8
Pensioner	44.8	55.2	44.2	55.8	45.5	54.5
Other	63.2	36.8	75.7	24.3	53.4	46.6
TOTAL	62.8	37.2	58.9	41.1	65.2	34.8

Table 36. Distribution of women-victims who requested specialized assistance services, by the type of services and level of satisfaction, %

	% of women who requested for help out of the total number of women who approached the institutions mandated to offer support	Are you satisfied with provided services		
		Yes	No	Do not know
Type of services				
Police	86.0	33.7	51.1	15.2
Health assistance	21.9	92.7	6.0	1.4
Psychological assistance	1.3	76.4	-	23.6
Legal assistance	2.8	22.1	41.4	36.5
Other	15.4	54.2	12.8	33.0

Table 37. Share of women, victims and non-victims of physical or sexual violence who approve the partners' violent behaviour against women, by the women's characteristics, %

	Share of women who approve the following situation:				
	The woman should obey husband's opinion	The husband should feel he is the head of family	The woman should not contradict the husband	The woman should ask for husband's permission to go visit her relatives, friends	The woman should have sex with the husband even though it is against her wishes
Area of residence					
Urban	32.5	68.5	52.8	17.1	13.1
Rural	32.2	72.7	54.6	27.2	14.6
Age					
15-24 years old	22.1	67.9	46.5	22.7	5.0
25-34 years old	30.7	74.0	51.8	22.2	14.0
35-44 years old	29.8	64.7	51.0	19.6	16.5
45-54 years old	40.3	73.0	64.2	25.3	17.7
55-59 years old	39.2	74.3	52.9	25.2	16.8
60-65 years old	46.0	75.1	62.2	20.3	22.8
Marital status					
Married	36.0	73.6	57.6	23.3	17.3
Living together	21.1	54.4	40.6	19.9	10.2
Divorced/separated	31.3	73.7	54.2	25.1	11.3
Widow	40.9	64.1	57.9	18.1	18.1
Unmarried	21.6	66.7	44.0	21.5	4.5
Level of education					
Higher	18.8	65.7	48.9	13.9	12.6
Secondary specialized	30.2	71.4	56.8	16.7	9.0
Secondary vocational	39.1	68.3	63.1	25.7	18.3
Upper secondary	31.9	68.8	47.8	18.6	14.6
Lower secondary	41.7	76.8	57.5	33.5	15.1
Primary	25.9	82.6	38.8	39.4	9.6
Victims of physical or sexual violence	35.2	69.9	54.1	25.0	17.9
Non-victims of physical or sexual violence	30.1	71.1	53.4	20.6	10.8
TOTAL	32.3	70.8	53.8	22.6	13.9

Table 38. Share of women, victims and non-victims of physical or sexual violence who support actions of abusive physical manifestations against women from their husbands/partners in certain situations, by women's characteristics, %

	Share of women who support actions abusive physical manifestation against women from their husbands/partners, if the woman:				
	Does not perform domestic chores	Does not conform to husband's/partner's decision	Refuses to have sex with her husband/partner	Is suspected of being unfaithful	Is discovered to be unfaithful
Area of residence					
Urban	2.6	1.7	1.6	4.3	17.0
Rural	5.4	2.5	2.7	12.2	33.3
Age					
15-24 years old	2.2	1.2	3.7	11.7	25.2
25-34 years old	1.4	0.9	1.1	4.5	23.8
35-44 years old	4.9	3.2	1.4	8.2	23.1
45-54 years old	6.5	3.5	2.0	9.9	30.5
55-59 years old	3.6	1.6	2.7	6.7	26.8
60-65 years old	11.1	3.3	2.2	10.9	27.4
Marital status					
Married	4.9	2.6	1.7	9.1	27.7
Living together	-	0.6	-	4.8	10.2
Divorced/separated	0.3	1.1	1.1	6.7	28.3
Widow	13.7	2.3	2.4	7.6	26.8
Unmarried	1.5	1.5	4.6	9.5	23.0
Level of education					
Higher	1.5	0.3	-	2.2	14.4
Secondary specialized	2.6	1.9	0.7	1.3	19.2
Secondary vocational	7.0	3.9	1.3	14.8	29.5
Upper secondary	3.4	0.6	2.0	7.4	25.2
Lower secondary	6.7	4.4	6.2	15.6	36.8
Primary	-	-	-	9.6	37.2
Victims of physical or sexual violence	6.3	3.1	2.4	12.3	34.5
Non-victims of physical or sexual violence	2.8	1.4	1.9	6.2	20.2
TOTAL	4.1	2.1	2.2	8.7	25.9

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