

# 3 THINGS TO WATCH IN 2021: MATERNAL HEALTH



## 1 Devastating Effects on Work

COVID-19 is causing women's unpaid work to increase, while their paid work is plummeting. The proportion of women in the U.S. labor pool is at its lowest level since 1988, a setback to gender equity that will be felt for years to come.



## 2 Humanitarian Settings & Vulnerable Populations

Maternal mortality and poor maternal health concerns are higher for vulnerable populations, including Indigenous women and women in conflict, displacement, and natural disaster zones. During times of crisis and conflict, women are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence, exploitation, rape, and dangerous birth conditions.

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## 3 COVID-19: Gender Inequities & Gender Roles

While men have accounted for a majority of COVID-19 deaths, the pandemic has had an outsized impact on women and girls. Women make up the majority of frontline health workers, and are disproportionately impacted by gender-based violence, lack of access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, and issues related to economic and food insecurity.