Regional Workshop on Time Use Statistics: Methods and Uses

Reflections on key messages

Group 1
A: What are the main learnings?

• Day 1:
  • Importance of time-use statistics
  • Understanding of ICATUS 2016 Classification Framework
  • Exercise: identifying current and potential users, their needs, and expected benefits.
  • An overview of the Minimum Harmonized Instrument (MHI – list of activities).

• Day 2:
  • Learning, through practical exercises with real world cases, how to codify different activities in alignment with the ICATUS 2016 classification framework.
  • Training on how to fill-in a sample time-use survey (diary questionnaire).
  • Importance of communication with concerned stakeholders as well as the importance of disseminating of time-use key data and findings.
A (Contd.)

• Day 3:

  • The Moroccan experience on time-use survey including their online portal.
  • Examples on how to utilize the SNA to value the unpaid domestic work.
  • An overview of the treatment of simultaneous activities.
  • Exercise of calculating key time-use indicators including the SDGs 5.4.1
B: How can this knowledge be applied when we go back to our countries?

• Adopting the Minimum Harmonized Instrument or its corresponding list of activities (according to national contexts and priorities) as part of the time use survey Methodology.

• Taking advantage of the use of CAPI tool for time use data collection and processing.

• Providing a thorough training for data collectors to clarify any misunderstandings or confusions with certain activities.

• Creating a communication/visibility strategy to maximize the benefits of the time use statistics for social and economic developmental plans.
C: what are the challenges:

• Objectives of time use surveys are not always clear.
Frequency/periodicity of conducting the survey.

• Challenges related to memory decay of the respondents such as remembering the sequence of activities and its timing or duration.

• Technological challenges with the use of CAPI tools.

• Financial limitations.

• Challenges related to self reporting in case of using CAWI tools in rural areas, where there is a low literacy rates.

• Lack or insufficient coordination among national line ministries.
Proposed solutions:

• Objectives should be clearly identified and prioritized right from the very beginning of the preparatory stage.

• Periodicity: if possible, time use surveys can be implemented as a module with in other household surveys like Labor Market Panel Survey or Household Income & Expenditure Surveys.

• Capacity building for the use of the ICATUS 2016 Classification for standardization and regional/int. comparability.

• More reliance on the use of technological tools like CAPI for quick and accurate results.

• Funding: Mobilizing more resources from the government along with regional and international organizations or development partners.

• More coordination is required on the national level.
D: Way ahead: what are the plans for TUS in countries in the region?

- **Iraq**: 2023/2024 as a module within the social and economic survey (IHSES-3)
- **Egypt**: 2023 as a module within the Labor Market Survey.
- **Oman**: 2025: as a module within the Household Income & Expenditure Survey.
- **Somalia**: Proposal : Option 1: Labor Force Survey – Option 2: MICS Survey
- **Yemen**: No current Plans (hopefully in 2025)