

Time-Use during crises instrument - background questionnaire

The background questionnaire for the Time-Use during crises instrument collects a comprehensive set of information designed to support the analytical objectives of a rapid assessment of time-use namely to:

- assess the distribution of unpaid care and household work between sex and for certain subgroups of the population during a crisis;
- better understand changes in daily activities caused by a crisis; and
- better understand the relationship between the effects of the crisis on daily activities based on economic and other social characteristics.

The background questionnaire and the Time-Use instrument during crises were prepared by the sub-group on Time-Use Statistics during Crises of the UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics¹.

Key recommendations

For the background questionnaire, efforts were made to choose common collected information to maximise comparability across countries and groups within countries and to enable disaggregation /analysis by important characteristics of the population using internationally agreed concepts and definitions.

Recommendation1. The background questionnaire should collect information in the following six main areas:

- basic demographic characteristics (age and sex);
- household and family characteristics (number of person in the household, marital status and relationship);
- educational characteristics (education attainment, school attendance);
- labour-force status and employment (Country's questions to get at employment status, occupation, industry and labour force status or Minimum set of questions proposed by ILO);
- geography (country specific minimum); e.g., urban/rural; subnational categories); and
- migration characteristics (country of birth, country of citizenship, year of arrival).

Recommendation2. It is recommended that countries use their current standard questions whether from Census or other surveys, to collect information on the six main characteristic areas to reflect national circumstances and improve coherence across national sources.

¹ Lead author: Patricia Houle (Canada-Chair). Members of the sub-group: Lisa Scanlon (Australia), Tania Cappadozzi (Italy), Adriana Oropeza Lliteras (Mexico), Bouchra Bouziani (Morocco), Dihlolo Eileen Phoshoko (South Africa), Cecilia Tinonin (UNWomen), Christopher Payne and Gueorguie Vassilev (the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Elisa M. Benes and Samantha Wilson (the International Labour Organization (ILO)), Iliana Vaca Trigo (the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)), Margarita Guerrero (time-use expert) and UNSD-Social and Gender Statistics Section (Secretariat).

Recommendation 3. Understanding the distribution of time spent on activities by sex and across subgroups of the population is one of the major objectives of the instrument on Time-Use during crises. To this end, in addition to information on the above characteristics, the country could also decide to collect data regarding the language, disability, visible minority, indigenous or any other characteristics of interest for analytical purposes.

Questionnaire Items and Examples of Questions

This section provides examples of questions wordings that can be used or adapted in developing the background questionnaire.

➤ **Household size**

How many people currently live in your household, including yourself?

#Enter number () between 1 and X

➤ **Household composition and relationship**

For each person living in your household, please provide the following information starting with a household adult member.

Name	date of birth (YYYY/MM/DD)	Sex M or F	Marital status (Drop down list country's answers)	Relationship to 1st person entered (drop down list country's answers)
An Example	9999/11/22	M or F	Single	1st person

➤ **For geographic distribution it is recommended to collect the country specific minimum or as collected in the census questionnaire**

-What is your postal code?

Country specific scheme for collection

(numbers, numbers and letters, ...)

OR

-In which town/village/district do you live? (drop down list)

➤ **Ethnic origin questions**

Respondent's country of birth / Citizenship / year of arrival

-Where were you born? (drop down list of countries)

-From which country/(ies) are you a citizen? (drop down list)

-Are you now, or have you ever been a landed immigrant in (country name)?

In what year did you first arrive in (country name)?

➤ **Respondent educational attainment questions**

Respondent's highest level of school achieved

- What is your highest level of school completed?
- Are you currently attending school?

➤ **Labour force questions**

Respondent's activity status, occupation, industry, status of employment

- **Please consult Employment Annex 1 prepared by ILO**