Time-Use study during crises

Prepared by the sub-group[1] on Time-Use Statistics during Crises of the UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics

Introduction

This short instrument is to be used to inform policy makers on the impact crises have on people's daily life and routines. It will provide a snapshot of the relative changes and how the population is adapting to the situation. This short instrument cannot replace a Time-Use Survey and the results obtained cannot be compared to previously collected Time-Use data. The methodology used for this short instrument is not comparable with Time-Use survey methodology where respondents need to provide information over a 24-hour period for a specific reference day and, as a consequence, a stylized set of questions are proposed below, instead of a diary format. The information obtained from this short instrument will only provide insights and comparison with before the onset of the crisis. This short instrument also requires background information essential to perform a valuable analysis. The background information can be obtained by using the proposed developed background questionnaire or this survey can be administered as a supplement or additional module of another survey already collecting the required background information.

The short instrument has been developed to be crisis agnostic. However, the recent COVID-19 pandemic was used as a point of reference. Some of the content or questions can be specific to some countries experience or specific situations and may have to be revisited and adapted by NSOs to address specific data needs and circumstances.

Question conventions

A number of conventions are used to indicate different types of text in the model questions. The conventions are most directly relevant for interviewer-assisted rapid surveys conducted by telephone. With a few adaptations, the questions can also be suitable for self-completed web surveys or face-to-face interviews using an information technology collection tool.

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[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), Dihlolelo 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).

- Regular bold text: Indicates the question and answer text. This is the only text to be read out by interviewers in interviewer-assisted surveys
- *Black Italics:* Indicates interviewer or respondent instructions or aids. These aids should also be maintained for self-completed rapid surveys for example by web.
- Regular text: Indicates the questions number and response categories not to be read out by interviewers

Additional conventions particularly relevant for survey designers and programmers:

- *RED ITALICS IN CAPS:* Filters and skips that should be programmed to manage the interview flow
- (Parenthesis): Indicates that a choice or a substitution must be made based on the current situation/crisis
- Blue text: Indicates optional questions that may be included/excluded as per relevance to the country context
- Green text: indicates an alternative way of asking questions

National adaptation, translation and testing

As described earlier, the modules have been designed to enable adaptation to the national context, unit of observation and analysis, topic priorities, space limitations and other considerations.

Further adaptations will be necessary to incorporate relevant terms used locally, examples, possible additional response categories, etcetera. Translation to local languages should prioritize use of colloquial terms widely understood by the target population. At the same time, translations should avoid introducing changes to the underlying meaning or interpretation of the questions or response categories.

More adaptations might be necessary for self-completion web surveys. To the extent possible, the revised modules should be tested in the selected mode of data collection for validation and to address any identified problems that could introduce measurement error.

Reference periods

For this short instrument, the reference period selected to facilitate recall is "Yesterday" for the daily activities, "last week" for less frequent activities and based on the "start of the crisis" for volunteering activities.

Collection period

The collection period suggested is a minimum of 7 days and is dependant on the country's needs, capacities, sample size, costs, etc. It would be advised to collect information for all days of the week, but since this short instrument is not bound to the Time-Use strict methodology, it is not mandatory.

The results from the Time-Use study during crises should clearly specify the period of time to which the information collected refers to.

Unit of observation and analysis: Individual level

Target respondent: One household member aged 15 years and above. Note, 15 years and above is in line with SDG 5.4.1 recommendation. Countries may prefer to select a different minimum age according to their usual survey conventions. If countries want to select more than one person per household, especially to measure gender difference, it should be noted that careful considerations will need to be put forward to gather non-responding units information for the non-response adjustment.

Target population: To be established based on country's needs. For example, persons 15 years and over from all provinces, states, or a particular city.

Sampling method: It is recommended that a probability sampling method; random, age order, etc. is used. This will reduce bias risks and enable the production of weights so that information can be related to the target population producing national or lower level estimates. This will also make the sampling and non-sampling error calculation possible as well as non-response adjustment.

Possible frames: Telephone frame or Random Digit Dialling (RDD), address based frame where telephone information can be linked, Census or other large-scale household surveys. A population or person register where it exists can be used as a sampling frame[2].

Instrument total length: 40 questions (25 core + 15 optional)

- Sleep: 4 questions
- Representativity of "yesterday": 1 question
- Unpaid domestic and care work: 8 questions
- Unpaid production of goods for Own Final Use: 3 questions
- Travel: 9 questions
- Paid Services: 2 questions
- Eating: 3 questions
- Personal Social Contact: 4 questions
- Volunteering: 5 questions

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[2] A population or person register used as a frame could allow the selection of multiple persons from the same household as the non-responders characteristics will be known and be adjusted for in the weights.

Topic coverage:

- Sleeping
- Representativity of yesterday
- Activities participated in yesterday
    - Alternative version found in Annex 2 for country wanting to collect beneficiary of unpaid work
- Time spent on yesterday's activities
- Change in time allocated yesterday to selected activities
- Children at home
- Unpaid domestic and care work distribution now
- Unpaid domestic and care work distribution before crisis
- Unpaid production of goods for own final use activities yesterday
- Recipients of unpaid production of goods for own final use activities
- Average time spent on unpaid production of goods for own final use activities yesterday
- Change in time spent on own final use activity
- Left home yesterday
- Frequency of leaving home yesterday
- Day period left home
- Places went to
- Amount of time spent away from home
- Main mode of transportation
- Crisis impact on main mode of transportation
- Reason for impact
- Mobility restriction due to crisis
- Change in use of paid services[3] by households
- Running out of food last week
- Eating less last week
- Change in food consumption since beginning of crisis
- Last week face-to-face contact with family or friends not living in the same household
- Change in frequency of face-to-face contact with family and friends not living in the same household
- Last week social contacts via phone or video with family or friends not living in the same household

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[3] Paid services include childcare services, medical help services, indoor cleaning services, outdoor maintenance services; where workers or non-household members are hired to provide the service against payment

- Change in frequency of social contacts via phone or video with family and friends not living in the same house
- Volunteer work done since crisis
- Recipients of the volunteer work
- Number of times volunteered or helped others in the last 4 weeks
- Average time spent on volunteering
- Volunteer work prior to crisis

Main outputs:

- Assess hours of sleep (day before)
  - Average waking up time
  - Average time spent on sleeping
  - Average bed-time change in sleep amount since beginning of crisis
- Yesterday, represent daily life since crisis
- Activity participation and time spent in selected activities by sex, age group*
  - Participation rate in selected activities yesterday
  - Average hours spent on selected activities yesterday
  - Frequency distribution of change in time spent on selected activities since the beginning of crisis
- Children at home
- Distribution of unpaid domestic and care work among householders and family members
  - Before crisis
  - now
- Participation rate in unpaid production of goods, by sex and age groups*
  - Recipient of own final use activity
  - Average time spent in unpaid production of goods, by sex and age groups
  - Change in time spent on own final use activity
- Travel by sex, age group*
  - Left home yesterday
  - Frequency
  - Time period
  - Where
  - Total time spent away from home
- Main mode of transportation by sex, population group, age group*
  - Limited access to main transportation mode

- o   Reason for the limitation
- Travel restrictions due to crisis
- Use of paid services[4] before and after crisis
  - o   changes of paid services
- Eating by sex, population group, age group*
  - o   Not enough food
  - o   Ate less meals
  - o   Change in food consumption
- Face to face contact with family and friends living outside household by sex, age group, population group*
  - o   Change in frequency
- Call or video conference with family or friends living outside household by sex, age group, population group*
  - o   Change in frequency
- Volunteering since crisis by sex, age group, population group*
  - o   Volunteer work done since crisis and type of beneficiary
  - o   Engagement in organized or direct help
  - o   Number of times volunteered or helped others in the last 4 weeks
  - o   Average time spent on volunteering
- Volunteering prior to crisis by sex, age group, population group*

Possible breakdowns will depend on the sample size and design of the Time-Use study during crisis

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output
INTRO		**The information collected through this survey will be used to better understand how (crisis) impact the daily lives of (Country citizens). Your answers will be kept strictly confidential.** **The next questions will ask about activities done yesterday**	
Sleep	SLP_Q1	**At what time did you wake up yesterday?** **Hours Minutes** **(0-24) (0-60)**	Time woke up day before

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[4] Paid services include childcare services, medical help services, indoor cleaning services, outdoor maintenance services; where workers or non-household members are hired to provide the service against payment

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output
	SLP_Q2	**How many hours of sleep did you have that night? Please round it to the nearest full hour** **Hours** ☐ **(0-24)**	Number hours of sleep
	SLP_Q3	**At what time did you go to bed last night?** **Hours Minutes** ☐ ☐ **(0-24) (0-60)**	Bedtime

	SLP_Q4	**Compared to before the (crisis) has the number of hours that you sleep …**
		  1. **increased?**
		  2. **decreased?**
		  3. **stayed the same?**
			Change in number of hours spent on sleeping

Representativity of yesterday	REP_Q1	Considering yesterday as a whole, would you say it was representative of how you are spending your day since the (crisis)?
		  1. Yes
		  2. No
			Yesterday, represent daily life since crisis

Daily activities[5] (UHC)	UHC_Q1	**Yesterday, which of the following activities[6] did you participate in?** *Mark all that apply* Please include activities that were done for your household or for another family member's household.		Yesterday activity participation
		Paid work --	☐	
		Education (for your own benefit whether formal or informal)------------	☐	
		Meal preparation and dish washing --	☐	
		[7]**Making, processing food products, beverages and tobacco** -----------------------------	☐	
		Indoor house cleaning ---	☐	
		Laundry, clothes or shoes repair ---	☐	
		Repair, painting or renovation ---	☐	
		Outdoor maintenance ---	☐	
		[6]**Construction activities** ---	☐	
		Managing household i.e. paying bills, planning, organizing -------------------------------	☐	
		Physical caring i.e. feeding, washing, etc for household child/dren or for family child/ren not living with you ---	☐	
		Interactive caring i.e. reading, playing for household child/dren or for family child/ren not living with you --	☐	
		School work, helping with homework, and learning care for household child/ren or for family child/ren not living with you ---	☐	
		Caring for adult household members or caring for family members not living with you	☐	
		Unpaid work for other households i.e. for friends or neighbors excludes family members households---	☐	
		Pet care --	☐	
		Shopping for the household ---	☐	
		Socializing ---	☐	
		Unpaid work for community, for example help cleaning a park or organization-based volunteering ---------------------	☐	
		Doing sports or exercising --	☐	
		Leisure activities such as watching TV, reading, games… ---------------------------------	☐	

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output
	UHC_Q2	**Yesterday, how much time did you spend on these activities: *CALL IDENTIFIED ACTIVITIES IN UHC_Q1*** (table below)	Number of hours spent on activity yesterday
	UHC_Q3	**In general, would you say that yesterday you spent less time, equal time or more time on these activities compared to before the (crisis)?** *CALL IDENTIFIED ACTIVITIES* **IN UHC_Q1** (table below)	Change in time spent on selected activity

UHC_Q2 table:

Activities	Less than 1 hour	1 hour to less than 2 hours	2 hours to less than 3 hours	3 hours to less than 4 hours	4 hours to less than 5 hours	5 hours to less than 6 hours	6 hours or more

UHC_Q3 table:

Activities	Spent less time	Spent equal time	Spent more time

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output

	UHC_Q4	**Has/Have your child/children been staying home from school, childcare or their usual education or caring routine as a result of the (crisis)?**
		    1. **Yes (all children)**
		    2. **Yes (at least one of the child)**
		    3. **No**
			Child/children staying at home

	UHC_Q5	**How was the unpaid domestic and care work shared in your household before (crisis)?** *Enter shares that add up to 100%.* **Me** **My spouse/partner** **Other household members** **Non household members**	Distribution of unpaid domestic and care work done in the household before crisis

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output
	UHC_Q6	**How is the unpaid domestic and care work shared in your household now?** *Enter shares that add up to 100%.* **Me** ☐ **My spouse/partner** ☐ **Other household members** ☐ **Non household members** ☐	Distribution of unpaid domestic and care work done in the household now
	Alternative UHC_Q5	**How was the unpaid domestic and care work shared in your household before (crisis)?** **Mostly me** ☐ **Mostly my spouse/partner** ☐ **Equally between household members** ☐ **Mostly other household members** ☐	Distribution of unpaid domestic and care work done in the household before crisis
	Alternative UHC_Q6	**How was the unpaid domestic and care work shared in your household now?** **Mostly me** ☐ **Mostly my spouse/partner** ☐ **Equally between household members** ☐ **Mostly other household members** ☐	Distribution of unpaid domestic and care work done in the household now
	Alternative UHC_Q5	**How was the unpaid domestic work shared in your household before (crisis)?** *Enter shares that add up to 100%.* **Me** ☐ **My spouse/partner** ☐ **Other household members** ☐ **Non household members** ☐	Distribution of unpaid domestic work done in the household before crisis

Topic	Q_ID	Question		Main Output
	Alternative UHC_Q6	**How is the unpaid domestic work shared in your household now?** *Enter shares that add up to 100%.* **Me** **My spouse/partner** **Other household members** **Non household members**		Distribution of unpaid domestic work done in the household now
	Alternative UHC_Q7	**How was the unpaid care work shared in your household before (crisis)?** *Enter shares that add up to 100%.* **Me** **My spouse/partner** **Other household members** **Non household members**		Distribution of unpaid care work done in the household before crisis
	Alternative UHC_Q8	**How is the unpaid care work shared in your household now?** *Enter shares that add up to 100%.* **Me** **My spouse/partner** **Other household members** **Non household members**		Distribution of unpaid care work done in the household now
Own Final Use (OFU)	OFU_Q1	**Yesterday, did you spend any time on the following activities… ? [exclude paid work]** 01 = Collecting firewood or fetching/getting water from public or natural sources [6]02 = Construction activities 03 = Agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining [6]04 = Making, processing food products, beverages and tobacco	1. Yes 2. No 1. Yes 2. No 1. Yes 2. No 1. Yes 2. No 1. Yes	Own final Use activity done yesterday

Topic	Q_ID	Question		Main Output
		05 = Making, processing herbal and medicinal preparations	2. No	
			1. Yes	
		06 Making, processing of products using other materials	2. No	
	Condition	IF OFU_Q1_01 OR OFU_Q1_02 OR OFU_Q1_03 OR OFU_Q1_04 OR OFU_Q1_05 OR OFU_Q1_06 = 1 GO TO E2 ELSE GO TO OFU_END		Flow condition
	Edit	**E2 FOR EACH ACTIVITY SPECIFIED, ASK OFU_Q2 AND OFU_Q3 AS A LOOP** *DYNAMIC TEXT*: **IF 01** *USE COLLECTED WOOD, FETCHED WATER*, **IF 02** USE *DO CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES*, **IF 03** USE *DO AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING, MINING*, **IF 04** USE *MAKE OR PROCESSED FOOD, BEVERAGES, TOBACCO*, **IF 05** USE *MADE, PROCESSED HERBAL OR MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS*, **IF 06** USE *MADE OR PREPARED OTHER PRODUCTS*		Create loop based on selected activities from OFU_Q1 Dynamic text to be used in OFU_Q2

	OFU_Q2	**For whom did you *DYNAMIC TEXT*?**
		    1. Household member(s)
		    2. Non-household family member
				Recipient of own final use activity

	OFU_Q3	**How much time did you spend on this activity?** **Hours Minutes** [ ] [ ] **(0-24) (0-60)**		Time spent on own final use activity
	OFU_Q4	**In general, would you say that yesterday you spent less time, equal time or more time on these activities compared to before the (crisis)?** *CALL IDENTIFIED ACTIVITIES* **IN OFU_Q1**		Change in time spent on own final use activity

Activities	Spent less time	Spent equal time	Spent more time

Topic	Q_ID	Question				Main Output
Confidentiality Statement		**Remember that all information provided is strictly confidential**				

Travel (TRL)	TRL_Q1	**Did you leave your house yesterday?**
		    1. Yes → *GO TO TRL_Q2*
		    2. No → *GO TO TRL_Q6*
						Respondent left or not the house yesterday

	TRL_Q2	**TRL_Q2 How many times did you leave your house/usual place or residence or (crisis specific situation)?** number ☐ (1-50)				Number of times respondent left the house yesterday

	TRL_Q3	**When did you leave home/usual place or residence or (crisis specific situation) yesterday?** *Mark all that apply*
		
		    1. Morning ☐
		    2. Afternoon ☐
		    3. Evening ☐
		    4. Night ☐
						Time period when the respondent left the house yesterday

	TRL_Q4	**Where did you go*?** *Mark all that apply*
		
		    1. Workplace
		    2. Walking with the dog
		    3. Shopping (grocery, pharmacy, …)
		    4. Outdoor sport activity
		    5. To visit an elderly / sick person;
		    6. Other (specify) _____
		
		*(to be specified based on crisis)
						Places where respondent went to

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output
	TRL_Q5	**In total, how many hours and minutes did you spend away from home/usual place or residence or (crisis specific situation)? yesterday?** **Hours Minutes** [ ] [ ] **(0-24) (0-60)**	Number of hours and minutes respondent spent away from home
	TRL_Q6	**What is your main mode of transportation?** 1. Car, truck or van - as driver 2. Car, truck or van - as passenger 3. Public transit (e.g., bus, streetcar, subway, light-rail transit, commuter train, ferry) 4. Walking 5. Bicycle 6. Motorcycle 7. Taxicab 8. Other – Specify _____	Main mode of transportation of respondent
	TRL_Q7	**Because of the (crisis) do you have limited access to your main mode of transportation?** 1. Yes → Go to TRL_Q8 2. No → Go to TRL_Q9	Limited access to main mode of transportation
	TRL_Q8	**Why is it limited?** 1. Roads closure 2. Reduced services 3. Unsafe 4. Afraid for own health 5. Spouse/partner or family members do not want me to go out 6. Other, specify _____	Reason for having a limited access to main mode of transportation

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output

	TRL_Q9	**Because of the (crisis), are you restricted on where you can go?**
		
		  1. Yes
		  2. No
			Restriction on travel

Intro		**The next questions will ask about situations you experienced last week or since the beginning of the (crisis).**	
Paid Services (PDS)	PDS_Q1	**Before the (crisis), did your household use any of the following services from paid providers on a weekly basis?** *Mark all that apply*

Personal care	House cleaning	Laundry/dry cleaning	Gardening	Childcare (nanny, sitter, daycare)	Tutoring or lessons for children	None

| Use of paid services by household before crisis |
| Paid Services (PDS) | PDS_Q1 | **Since the beginning of the (crisis) does your household use any of the following services from paid providers on a weekly basis?** *Mark all that apply*

Personal care	House cleaning	Laundry/dry cleaning	Gardening	Childcare (nanny, sitter, daycare)	Tutoring or lessons for children	None

| Use of paid services by household since crisis |

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output
Sensitive Statement		**The next questions may not apply to all and may be considered more sensitive, but it is important we ask of everyone.**	
Eating (EAT)	EAT_Q1	**Last week, did you run out of food because of the (crisis)?** 1. Yes 2. No	Running out of food last week
	EAT_Q2	**Last week, did you cut the size of your meals, skip meals or eat less because of the (crisis)?** 1. **Often** 2. **Sometimes** 3. **Never**	Eating less last week
	EAT_Q3	**Would you say that since the beginning of (crisis) the amount you eat has decreased, stayed the same or increased?** 1. **Decreased** 2. **Stayed the same** 3. **Increased**	Change in food consumption
Confidential Statement		**Remember that all information provided is strictly confidential.**	
Personal Social Contacts (PSC)	PSC_Q1	**Last week, have you seen in person family or friends who do not live with you?** 1. Yes 2. No → *GO TO PSC_Q3*	Last week personal social contact with family or friends not living in the same house

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output
	PSC_Q2	**Has the frequency that you've seen them in person last week increased, decreased or remained the same compared to (before crisis)?** 1. **Increased** 2. **Decreased** 3. **Remained the same**	Change in frequency of personal social contact with family and friends not living in the same house
	PSC_Q3	**Last week, did you call or video-call family or friends not living with you?** 1. Yes 2. No → *GO TO VLT_Q1 OR IF NOT SELECTED GO TO END*	Last week social contact via phone or video with family or friends not living in the same house
	PSC_Q4	**Has the frequency that you spoke to them last week increased, decreased or remained the same compared to (before crisis)?** 1. **Increased** 2. **Decreased** 3. **Remained the same**	Change in frequency of social contact via phone or video with family and friends not living in the same house
Volunteering (VLT)	VLT_Q1	**Since (crisis), have you done any volunteer work or spent time helping without pay…** *READ AND MARK ALL THAT APPLY* 1. *An organization, association, club (such as …)* ↔ *Go to VLT_Q3* 2. *(the/your) community* 3. *Neighbours or other people not part of your family* 4. *the environment, street or wild animals* 5. *Did not do any volunteer work* ↳ *Go to VLT_Q4*	Volunteer work done since crisis and type of beneficiary

Topic	Q_ID	Question	Main Output

	VLT_Q2	*Ask if VLT_Q1= 2,3,4*
		The help that you provided, was it organized by an institution, association, club or other type of organization? For example, an NGO, local government office, religious institution, self-help group, etc.
		   1. **Yes, all help was organized**
		   2. **Some of help was organized**
		   3. **No**
			Engagement in organized or direct help

Optional for longer period	VLT_Q2a	**How many times have you done volunteer work or help others in the last 4 weeks?**
		
		   1. **1 to 3 times**
		   2. **4 to 6 times**
		   3. **More than 6 times**
			Number of times volunteered or helped others in the last 4 weeks

	VLT_Q3	**Since (crisis), on days when you volunteered, how much time on average did you spend on volunteering?**
		
		   1. **Less than 1 hour**
		   2. **1 hour to 3 hours**
		   3. **More than 3 hours**
			Average time spent on volunteering

Volunteering prior to crisis	VLT_Q4	**Before (crisis) did you volunteer or help others?**
		
		   1. More often than now
		   2. About the same as now
		   3. Less often than now
		   4. Did not do volunteer work before (crisis)
			Volunteer work prior to crisis

	END		