

4th Expert Group Meeting on Revision and Finalization of ICATUS

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Women in Informal Employment:
Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)

Session 2

History of ICATUS

- 4th World Women's Conference (1995) Beijing Platform for Action: Develop an international classification of activities for time-use statistics, sensitive to the differences between women and men in remunerated and unremunerated work
- 1995 Women's Conference gave new impetus to time use surveys—internationally and in countries
 - Between 1995 and 2000, 24 developing and 22 developed countries completed or initiated nationally representative time use surveys; now there are 46 developing and 29 developed
 - UNSD began work on classification and its testing in countries; the first expert group meeting was held in 1997

Objectives of ICATUS /Unique Contribution of Time-Use Surveys

- Earlier priority in time use classifications in developed countries was on leisure activities ; in developing countries, time use surveys were generally small anthropological studies
- Sample surveys of time use needed in developing countries but to do so the detailed classification of activities needed to include SNA activities undertaken in households
- Primary objective of ICATUS -- a classification that gives priority to all forms of work both within and beyond the SNA boundaries
- Unique strengths of time use surveys in capturing all forms of work
 - Full 24 hour gives a more realistic estimate of time
 - Captures detailed information on work in the home

Important Features of the Revised ICATUS to Understand the Characteristics of Work and Differences between Women and Men

- Simplified framework
- Retains the specific and distinct categories/divisions that provide for detailed information on all work, especially work that takes place in the home
- Application relevant to developing and developed countries

Questions Requiring Time Use in Detailed Household Economic Activities

- If employment is located in the home, how does it affect the hours that women spend in employment? Are women working for pay in the home able to work longer hours than those who are employed outside the home? Do they spend more or less total time (both paid and unpaid) in work than their counterparts who are employed outside the home? Do they spend more or less time than men? How is this affected by the type of employment they are engaged in.
- The questions above have always been important for developing countries where work traditionally has been in the home but these questions have become more important for **developed** countries as employment in the home increases with the new flexible work arrangements
- **Time spent in work related travel** is important for informal workers: WIEGO study of home-based workers shows that 1/3 of their expenses are connected to travel and ¼ of those who had transport expenses operated at a loss ; domestic workers often live at a distance from the home they work for