Modernizing time use surveys

United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and
Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (TUS)

Harumi Shibata Salazar
United Nations Statistics Division

13th Meeting of the IAEG-GS - NY, USA, 7-8 November 2019
Why time-use statistics?

Importance of time-use statistics

Quality of life
Travel
Unpaid domestic work
Leisure
Volunteer work
Environment/energy
Gender
Learning
Unpaid care work
Health
Paid work

International agreements


2) Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs (2015)

Indicator 5.4.1
Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location

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UNSD and Time-Use Statistics

• Methodological work
  • Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work (2005) → to be updated
  • International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016)

• Data
  • Time-use portal
  • Custodian of SDG indicator 5.4.1

• Capacity building
  • Workshops and trainings
Indicator 5.4.1 in SDGs global database

• ~90 countries between 2000-2017, with data disaggregated by sex
  • Approximately, 90% with further disaggregation by type of unpaid work;

• Age: about a 40% with the recommended age-groups;

• Location (U/R): about 40% with disaggregation by urban and rural

But can we assess progress over time?

15%
29%
56%

1 data point 2 data points 3 or more data points

=> Need for more regularly collected time-use data
Challenges faced by NSOs with TUS

- Data quality
- Data granularity
- Data utilization
- Human resources
- Economic resources
- Respondents’ burden
- Coding complexity

Combination of instruments & mode of data collection can address many of these challenges
Overall objective: to improve national capacity in producing comprehensive time-use data that meet international standards and use the latest technologies.

Conceptual framework: Basket of options
Workstreams

• Concepts and definitions

• Set of questions to capture economic characteristics of the respondents that will allow the classification of activities according to ICATUS 2016

• Minimum list of activities

• Quality in the context of time-use surveys and statistics

• Modernization of time-use surveys with the use of technologies
## Next steps

| Discovery 2019 | • Research needs and challenges faced by NSOs |
| Alpha 2019 | • Develop conceptual framework – basket of options |
| Alpha 2019 | • Explore and research approaches |
| Conceptual framework 2020 | • Further develop and finalize conceptual framework |
| Conceptual framework 2020 | • Countries start using it and provide feedback |
| Guidelines 2021-2022 | • Update conceptual framework based on feedback |
| Guidelines 2021-2022 | • Develop UN Guidelines on TUS and present to UN Statistical Commission |
Thank you!