

# Assessment of time use during COVID-19

Patricia Houle

Chair of the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics and Subgroup on Time Use Surveys during crises

Time Use Survey Manager, Statistics Canada



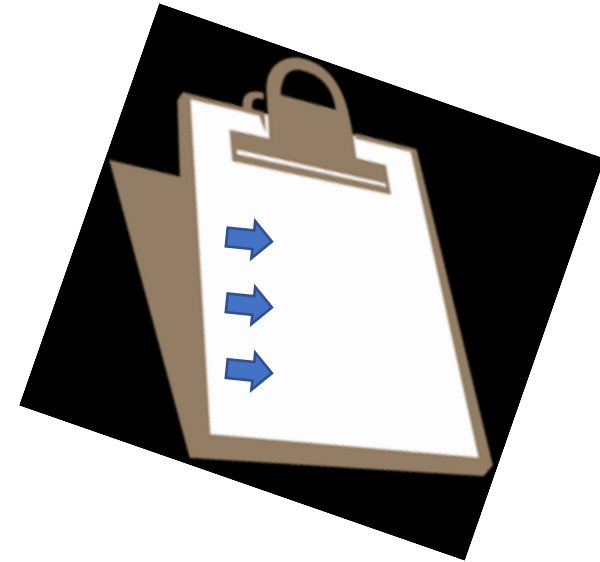
Éclairer grâce aux données, pour bâtir un Canada meilleur

Virtual  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020

## Outline

---

- Idea
- Members
- Instrument development
- Limitations / Next steps
- Discussions



## Idea

- Gender-based impact of crisis
  - Zika, Ebola
- Need of Time Use data
  - Assessment of time spent on unpaid activities, especially child care
  - Teleworking / homeschooling
  - System of National Accounts



# UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, since 2018

- Experts from national and international organizations and academia
- Members:
  - 🌐 (also a member of the sub group on TUS during crisis)

🌐 Australia

🌐 Canada (chair)

China

Finland

🌐 Italy

Japan

🌐 Mexico

Mongolia

🌐 Morocco

New Zealand

🌐 South Africa

Thailand

🌐 United Kingdom

United States

🌐 ILO

UNICEF

🌐 UNWomen

UNECE

🌐 UNECLAC

🌐 UNSD (Secretariat)

Eurostat

IATUR

🌐 Time-use expert (Marge Guerrero)



## Instrument development



- Based on countries information need
  - Matrix completed by members according to their countries needs
- Review of countries instruments during COVID-19
  - Italy – United Kingdom – Un Women – ILO – Australia – LAC
- Virtual meeting held monthly or bi-monthly to develop and agree on stylised questions format for yesterday in addition to a background questionnaire to get socio demographic characteristics, employment and activity status and literacy
  - Keep it short (15') – min burden on respondents and min processing time (for timely data during crises);
  - No verbatim – re-coding of activities would be too long to process;

## Proposed draft of the instrument

### Required content

- Sleeping
- Eating
- Own final use (e.g. construction, collecting water)
- Unpaid house work and care work
- Volunteering
- Background questionnaire: household composition, demographic information, ILO questionnaire questions

### Optional content

- Travel
- Items in the background questionnaire:
  - Food production for own use
  - Job searching
  - Changes in work situation
  - Type and location of work
  - Work situation of the spouse

## Limitations / next steps

---

- Limitations:
  - This is solely to provide an assessment of the impact a crisis has on the daily life and routine habits
  - It is not comparable to Time Use data collected using a diary and is only a snapshot for a specific moment
- Next steps:
  - Provide methodological guidance around collection and data dissemination
  - Test the questionnaire in different collection mode and countries



## Questions

---

- Looking for new partners in terms of piloting this new tool, what would be the best timelines for countries if the instrument become available in the Spring?
- During a crisis, how often should a Time Use assessment be done?