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Making the case for time-use data collections in support of SDGs monitoring *
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Policy relevance - Making the case for time-use data collections in support of SDGs monitoring

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Introduction

The value of time-use data is increasingly acknowledged, particularly to measure unpaid household service work, wellbeing and gender equality. Time-use data are also critical to guide policies and research related to changing work practices, commuting and transportation as well as education, health, culture, environment and sports. Additionally, time-use data can provide interesting insights related to the life conditions of certain population groups, such as older people, children and people with disabilities, and understand the challenges they face in their lives. Over time, time-use surveys also provide valuable insights into the changing patterns of how people use their time and the impact that new technologies, such as the Internet, have on how people allocate their time. Therefore, time-use data analysis is fundamental for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a broad range of public policies, including those called for the achievement of sustainable development and the Goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, time-use data are necessary and the direct input for monitoring progress made towards the achievement of SDG indicator 5.4.1 on the *proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location* and they contribute to the evidence needed for monitoring other SDG goals and targets. The following paragraphs briefly describe the richness of time-use data.

International agreements

Different international agreements point to the importance of collecting time-use statistics for evidence-based policies and research. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted during the fourth World Conference on Women on 4-15 September 1995, requested the regular undertaking of time-use studies to measure unpaid work (Strategic Objective H.3. (g)(i)), among others (*see below for relevant actions related to time-use statistics contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*). More recently, since 2015, target 5.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals calls upon States to "recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate". The related global indicator "SDG 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location" was agreed to measure and monitor progress towards better distribution of unpaid work between women and men. Although no other target/indicator has a direct/specific reference to time-use data, these data can be used to provide evidence on other SDGs (*see below "Time-use data crucial for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: going beyond SDG 5"*).

Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[2]

Actions related to time-use statistics in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Strategic objective H.3. Generate and disseminate gender disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation

Actions to be taken by national, regional and international statistical services and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies, in cooperation with research and documentation organizations, in their respective areas of responsibility:

Action (e) Improve data collection on the full contribution of women and men to the economy, including their participation in the informal sector(s).

Action (f) Develop a more comprehensive knowledge of all forms of work and employment by:

(i) Improving data collection on the unremunerated work which is already included in the United Nations System of National Accounts, such as in agriculture, particularly subsistence agriculture, and other types of non-market production activities;

(ii) Improving measurements that at present underestimate women's unemployment and underemployment in the labour market;

(iii) Developing methods, in the appropriate forums, for assessing the value, in quantitative terms, of unremunerated work that is outside national accounts, such as caring for dependents and preparing food, for possible reflection in

[2] United Nations, 1995.

satellite or other official accounts that may be produced separately from but are consistent with core national accounts, with a view to recognizing the economic contribution of women and making visible the unequal distribution of remunerated and unremunerated work between women and men;

Action (g) Develop an international classification of activities for time-use statistics that is sensitive to the differences between women and men in remunerated and unremunerated work, and collect data disaggregated by sex. At the national level, subject to national constraints:

(i) Conduct regular time-use studies to measure, in quantitative terms, unremunerated work, including recording those activities that are performed simultaneously with remunerated or other unremunerated activities;

(ii) Measure, in quantitative terms, unremunerated work that is outside national accounts and work to improve methods to assess its value, and accurately reflect its value in satellite or other official accounts that are separate from but consistent with core national accounts.

Why collecting time-use data

Regardless of the level of development, the purposes to collect time-use data in countries can be grouped as follows:[3]

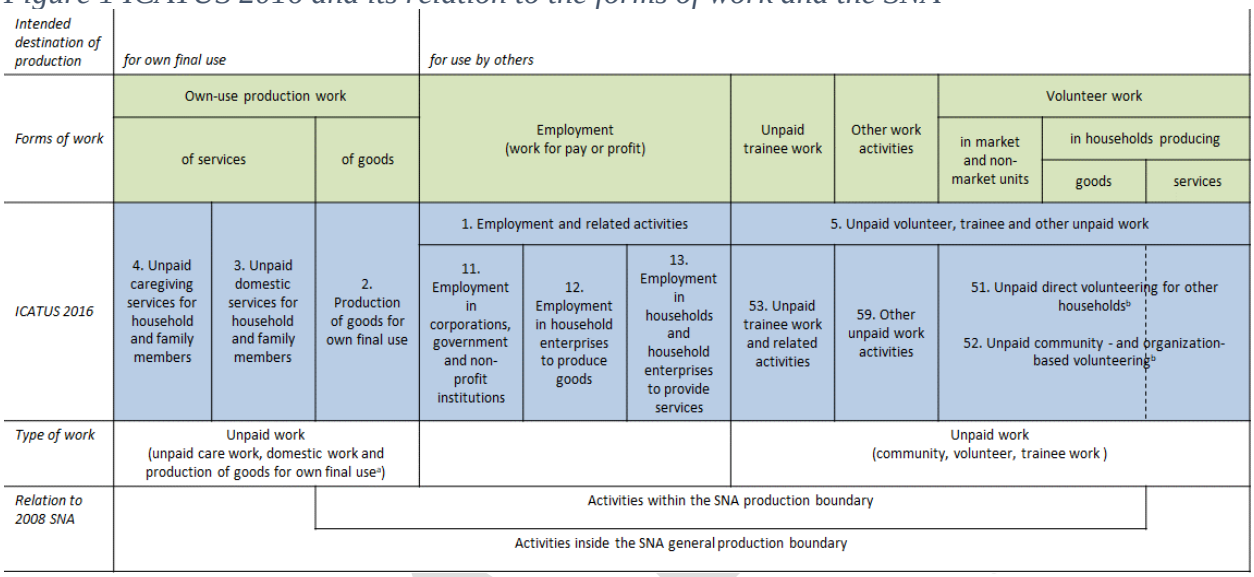
1. Measure and value unpaid household service work
2. Understand the living conditions and well-being of the population
3. Analyze the difference in use of time between women and men

1. Unpaid household service work

Unpaid household service work includes own-use production work of services and the direct provision of services for other households (i.e. volunteering). Own-use production work of services are services provided by the households for the consumption of the household members or other family members living in other households[4], and include activities such as cooking, cleaning, maintaining the dwelling, managing the household, shopping, childcare and adult care. All these activities can be done also directly for other households (different from own and other family members) considering them direct volunteering (see Figure 1). Time-use data have proved to be an important source of information on these activities.

[3] Based on UNSD review of country practices.
[4] ILO, 2013.

Figure 1 ICATUS 2016 and its relation to the forms of work and the SNA



Although unpaid household service work contributes to the well-being of the household, its members and family members, following the 2008 SNA, these activities are beyond the production boundary but inside the general production boundary, and therefore not accounted for in the compilation of national accounts.[5] However, the lack of information on these activities could result in misleading conclusions about the production in a country. For example, the services produced in a country increase when childcare services provided by the government or private sector increase. However, this is only the result of producing the same service in another institutional sector different from the household.[6]

Using time-use data, countries have calculated the monetary value of unpaid household service work to complement their national gross domestic product through the compilation of satellite accounts providing important information on the economy and society on the contribution of these services to the economy. The valuation of these services is also important from a gender perspective to ensure that women's economic contribution is visible and valued, as recognized by countries in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.[7] To provide methodological guidance on how to value the unpaid services produced in the households for own use that in most of the cases are intangible and on compiling Household Satellite Accounts, UNECE developed the *Guide on Valuing Unpaid Household Service Work*. The Guide does not cover volunteering

[5] 2008 SNA paragraph 6.30
[6] UNECE, 2017.
[7] Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, for example, recognizes the importance of unpaid household service work, given that women bear most of their burden, and requested countries to measure, value and develop satellite or other official accounts to highlight them. United Nations, 1995.

given the methodological challenges to measure volunteering through time-use methods due to the short reference periods used.[8]

In general, time-use data are ideal for a more comprehensive measurement of all forms of work,[9] including the production of goods by households for own consumption. This production, included in the SNA production boundary, may be significant in the context of developing countries, and time-use data provide information that can complement SNA.

2. Well-being

In 1972, the 4th King of Bhutan declared the "Gross National Happiness (GNH) to be more important than the Gross National Product (GNP)" [10] implying the importance of a holistic approach of well-being. [11] The importance of how people spend their time and balance daily activities has been reflected in the calculation of the GNH index which includes a domain measuring the use of time.[12] Furthermore, the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission report highlights the need to "shift emphasis from measuring economic production to measuring people's wellbeing", and proposes a multidimensional concept of well-being with the following key dimensions to be considered simultaneously: material living standards (income, consumption and wealth); health; education; personal activities including work; political voice and governance; social connections and relationships; environment (present and future conditions); insecurity, of an economic as well as a physical nature. The report highlights time-use data as an important source to inform several dimensions of well-being.[13]

Information on the types of activities people engage in can provide an indication of their quality of life. For example, people engaged in employment or other productive activities for most of their time might not have the opportunity to engage in learning activities, relax or participate in other leisure activities, such as sports, physical exercise and cultural activities.[14] The collection of information related to the enjoyment level or mood while undertaking certain activities provides additional evidence in terms of the well-being of the individual.

[8] UNECE, 2017.
[9] ILO has identified 5 five mutually exclusive forms of work: own-use production work; employment work; unpaid trainee work; volunteer work; and other work activities (ILO, 2013).
[10] Centre for Bhutan Studies, 2012.
[11] Centre for Bhutan Studies, 2012.
[12] Centre for Bhutan Studies, 2012.
[13] Stiglitz, Joseph E. et al
[14] Time-poverty has been defined as the "burden of competing claims on individuals' time that reduce their ability to make unconstrained choices on how they allocate their time, leading, in many instances, to increased work intensity and to trade-offs among various tasks". (World Bank, 2006)

3. **Gender equality**

Time-use data are essential for gender analysis and the development of related public policies. Time-use statistics aim to capture the human behavior in terms of what is being done. As behavior is the reflection of social norms and gender roles, time-use statistics are perfect to understand how men and women spend their time differently in terms of the type of activities, when and how long they engage in. These different uses of time result, for example, in unequal distribution of the unpaid domestic and care work in the households: women devote on average around three times more hours a day to unpaid care and domestic work than men, limiting the time available for paid work, education and leisure.[15] Time-use data are essential to understand the participation of women and men in unpaid household service work and their contribution to the economy.

Several countries have used time-use data to inform policies that aim to address the unequal distribution of unpaid work between women and men. In Uruguay, national attention was brought to the women's burden of care and the consequences in an aging society facing economic challenges. Time-use data were used to study care work and develop a law on an integrated national care system with the objective of generating a model with shared care responsibilities between the family, state, community and the market, as well as promoting shared care responsibilities between women and men to overcome the work burden in women.[16] Some countries have used time-use data to modify the family leave system, by adding or extending the paternity leave (for example Finland, Republic of Moldova, Albania).[17]

Other areas

Time-use data are also a great input to understand engagement in activities that can affect a person's health, such as eating, drinking, sleeping, exercising, and engaging in sports and other physical activities. For example, studies have found that short sleep duration and poor sleep quality are risk factors for the development of obesity.[18] Data on the location where activities are undertaken and of how people move or engage in sports and exercise could provide useful information on the physical activity (or the sedentary behaviour) of the population.

Time-use data can help understand the engagement in educational activities by certain groups of the population and how they balance them with other activities, such as employment. Some studies have tried to find a link between the time spent in studying and academic performance.[19] Contextual information about who oversees and helps

[15] UNSD data.
[16] Law 19.353 on integrated national care system (Ley 19.353 Sistema Nacional Integrado de Cuidados).
[17] data2x, 2018.
[18] Beccuti, Guglielmo and Silvana Pannain, 2011.
[19] For example, Stinebrickner, Todd R. and Ralph Stinebrickner, 2007.

children with their homework can be useful to study the involvement of parents in the education and development of their children.

Time-use information can also provide insights about the accessibility to education and health services by studying the time spent in getting there, the mode of transportation, and in the case of health services, the waiting time to receive medical attention. Health care activities, in the households, mainly undertaken by women, can be studied with time-use data. Time-use data have been also used to understand access to improved drinking water, by analyzing the time needed to get to a water source, collect the water and return home. The burden of collecting firewood due to the dependency on it for cooking and heating can be studied also with time-use data.

Several studies have used time-use data to understand how commuting and transportation relate to other activities, such as employment, childcare and other domestic activities,[20] and provided an indication of the level of well-being based on the duration or people's satisfaction during commuting.[21]

Analysis of time-use data can provide insights about the screen time of the population in general and for specific groups, as well as the activities that are mainly done using electronic devices or on the internet. Researchers have studied the adverse effects of screen time, especially in children. A recent study has found underdevelopment and disorganization of brain white matter in preschoolers who spend excessive amount of time in front of a screen, whereas preschoolers who are regularly read to present growth in organized white matter in the language and literacy areas.[22]

Older people, children and people with disabilities

Time-use data could be used to study the lives of children and young people. For example, data could be used to understand if children are engaged in employment and do not attend school or spend little time in doing homework and recreational activities. Not many national time-use surveys collect data from children[23] due to the methodological complexities (very young children cannot report the information themselves; parents need to give the consent for children to provide information, for example). ILO's Child labour programme has supported collection of data on children's participation in productive activities, including time-use data on own-use production work (goods and services) through specialized child labour surveys as well as child labour modules attached to LFS.[24] Information on time spent by boys and girls in own-use provision of services is an

[20] Gimenez-Nadal, J. Ignacio and Molina, José Alberto, 2014; Gimenez-Nadal, J. Ignacio and Molina, José Alberto, 2015.
[21] Stone, A. Arthur and Stefan Schneider, 2016; Lancée, Sascha et al, 2017.
[22] Hutton, John S. et al, 2019.
[23] Italy collects data for people 3 years and above. An adult in the household provides the children's time-use information.
[24] More information can be found at https://www.ilo.org/ipec/ChildlabourstatisticsSIMPOC/lang--en/index.htm

important component for the measurement of child labour, in particular "hazardous unpaid household services" by children as defined by the international statistical standards concerning statistics of child labour (20th ICLS).[25] Furthermore, UNICEF is developing a module to collect data on children's time-use to be included in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS).

In the case of older people, time-use data could provide insights related to the process of ageing and to older people's needs in terms of care. It might be possible to learn as well with whom and where older people spend their time and the most enjoyable activities they undertake and report about. Similarly, analyzing time-use data obtained from people with disabilities could help to better understand the barriers they face to social inclusion.

[25] More information can be found at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_667558.pdf

Time-use data crucial for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: going beyond SDG 5

Time-use data analysis is fundamental for the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies that would allow society to achieve sustainable development and the Goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Gender equality and women and girls' rights and empowerment play a central role in the 2030 Agenda. It is explicit across the whole agenda. It is present in the declaration, in the Sustainable Development Goals and corresponding targets, in the means of implementation and Global Partnership and in the follow-up and review, and in the proposed indicators for measuring progress. In addition to being embedded in most of the goals and being a cross-cutting theme on the Agenda as a whole, gender equality is also a goal of its own through SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls". Target 5.4 of SDG 5 calls upon States to "recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate." At the global level, indicator 5.4.1: *Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location* was proposed to monitor the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls by assuring a better share of unpaid work.

Although this is a major step for the inclusion of time-use data to inform public policies, the use of data from time-use surveys should not be reduced to monitoring indicator 5.4.1[26] under Goal 5 only. This could lead to the misconception that such an important statistical tool provides information about the proportion of unpaid work only, jeopardizing its hierarchization in the National Statistical System. Time-use information collected and analyzed around the world has shown that there is a very close link between economic poverty (SDG 1) and time poverty; most of health care is provided by households (SDG 3) and these activities are socially allocated to women in general; the provision of early childhood education services (SDG 4) not only prepares children for primary education, but also frees up time for their caregivers; the sexual division of labour is a structural challenge of gender inequalities (SDG 5, 8 and 10); and the lack of

[26] Metadata of SDG indicator 5.4.1 is available at https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-05-04-01.pdf

services such as drinkable water, electricity or transport infrastructure increases unpaid work time and disproportionately affects women (SDG 6, 7, 9,11).[27]

Box 1 summarizes some of the links between the ambitions embodied in the SDGs and how time-use data could provide evidence for the design of policies aimed at accelerating the implementation of SDGs.

Box 1: Link between SDGs and time-use data

	Time-use surveys are the ideal information source to analyze the link between monetary poverty, income and time distribution and use. Monetary poverty and lack of time sustain a vicious circle that is very difficult to break without policies focused on strengthening women's economic autonomy. Time use and income data analysis have shown that women in the lowest-income households spend the most time on unpaid work due to the lack of possibility of acquiring goods and services in the market that would replace their time in domestic and care work. In order to eliminate poverty in all its forms, as proposed in Sustainable Development Goal 1, it is essential to incorporate a gender perspective and eliminate the structural factors of the feminization of poverty in the lowest-income households. As income measurements are relevant for monetary redistribution policies, time-use data is crucial for policies geared towards the redistribution of unpaid work.
	Health care of household members is a very common unpaid activity. It is often the responsibility of the household itself, in particular women, to complement or take charge of the health care of its members through the purchase of medicine, the use of private services or the direct care of the patient, among other tasks. This has been made visible by the different time-use surveys and it should be considered by the policy makers in the area. Healthy lives and well-being can hardly be achieved without the provision of health care services at home. In order to guarantee quality health services for all without overloading women's unpaid work time, the formulation of public policies that take into account the population's health care needs is paramount. In addition to strengthening the administrative records of health services, it is necessary to strengthen time-use surveys so as to have a more comprehensive knowledge of the demand for these services. Time-use data are also a great input to understand engagement in activities that can affect the health, such as eating, drinking, sleeping, exercising, and engagement in sports. For example, studies have found that short sleep duration and poor sleep quality are risk factors for the

[27] ECLAC, 2017 and Vaca Trigo, 2015.

	development of obesity (Beccuti, Guglielmo and Silvana Pannain (2011)).
	While major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels and enrollment rates in schools for girls and women, there are still gender gaps in enrollment and completion rates. Child marriage, teenage pregnancy and the overburden of unpaid domestic and care work are causes for girls and young women to drop out of school. Time-use data have shed light on how traditional gender roles are expressed from a young age and have an impact on the time available to boys and girls for their childhood development and well-being. In addition, the information on the time that the adults of a household, mostly women, spend on the care of young children, is a crucial input for the design of educational strategies that would provide care services, thus relieving families from part of the care burden. Time-use surveys have shown that the presence of children under the age of five in a household increases the amount of time spent on unpaid work for the adult women in the household. Time-use data are also a great input to understand how, how long and the type of learning activities people engage in depending on their different characteristics. For example, time-use data could be used to understand the time that children dedicate to learning outside school, such as homework and additional learning, which directly impact the educational outcomes.
	Production structures, gender roles and family arrangements have reinforced the differences between men and women with respect to time distribution. This has led to inequalities in opportunities and outcomes for personal development. Gender-neutral public policies usually ignore distribution of time as a fundamental resource for the social and economic well-being of people and society. The failure to recognize the contribution by both men and women to families' well-being and to sustainable development through unpaid work widens gaps and reproduces inequalities. To guarantee a better balance between time spent on domestic, occupational, public and personal activities and to increase well-being and sustainable development, time distribution should be included as a central element of analysis for evidence-based public policies. The analysis of time-use surveys reveals a model of care provision by families that is maintained thanks to the unpaid work of women and which is not sustainable, especially in light of demographic changes.

	Time-use data could be used to inform public policies that seek to expand water networks, sanitation and drinking water distribution, by identifying population groups that need safely managed drinking water and that spend a significant amount of their time collecting water. In some countries, especially in rural areas, part of the population, mainly women and girls, spend a considerable amount of time collecting water. Therefore, public policies that extend water networks, sanitation and drinking water distribution could have an impact on gender equality as well as ensuring access to water and sanitation for all.
	Lack of access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services implies that many households, mainly the poorest and rural ones, continue to use solid fuels, which not only generates air pollution but also causes respiratory problems, which in turn impacts on the time spent on unpaid health care work. The search for fuels such as firewood has a high opportunity cost, especially for women and children since it prevents or restricts their participation in the labour market or school. Information provided by time-use surveys could shed light on the relationship between access to clean energy and the use of time.
	The overburden of domestic and care work is one of the major barriers to a full participation of women in the labour market. When monitoring the SDGs, it is therefore important to have a comprehensive approach recognizing work in the labour market as well as unpaid work and the links between the two. Care work is a prerequisite for undertaking all other activities in any society and is essential to sustain the labour force. Counting the time invested in care-related activities and valuing it at market prices reveals its direct contribution to the economy. Moreover, one of the targets of Goal 8 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the reduction in the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (SDG 8.6), which means there is a need for information that explains the barriers to their integration into the labour market and the education system. Time-use data for this age group have shown that a large proportion of young people who are not in school or in employment spend their time on unpaid care and domestic work, especially young women. The burden of unpaid work limits their possibilities for development in educational activities, opportunities for generating income and participation in public life and decision-making. They also miss out on skill building that would allow them to find good-quality jobs, making them more vulnerable to poverty and hampering their access to main social protection mechanisms. Additionally, under SDG 8.7.1, data on time-spent by children in unpaid care and domestic work is an important component for the identification of child labour, particularly, children in hazardous “unpaid household

	services", or hazardous household chores. Studies of children's time-spent in unpaid household services show how children's household chores are differentiated by sex, how they interact with children's employment, how they are correlated with early marriage and, most importantly, how household chores impact on children's schooling and health.[28] While household chores that do not pose health or safety risks, and that are performed only for reasonable amounts of time can be a normal part of childhood and even beneficial to children's socialization, involvement in household chores for excessive amounts of time each week, has been shown to negatively impact children's participation in schooling and be correlated with early marriage. More so, children can also be exposed to double-work burden, being engaged in household chores and employment, further impacting their opportunities for learning and long-term development. Recent global estimates put at 54 million the number of children aged 5–14 years who perform household chores for at least 21 hours per week, the threshold beyond which initial research suggests household chores begin to negatively impact on the ability of children to attend and benefit from school. Girls account for 34 million of this group, or about two-thirds of the total.[29]
	Investments in infrastructure —transport, water, energy, health and care— with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all are crucial to achieving sustainable development and empowering communities in many countries. Time-use data provide relevant information about demand of care and health services, time spent on commuting, waiting and receiving for services, relevant for the development/creation of infrastructure that is accessible for all.
	In order to reduce inequality, policies should be universal in principle paying attention to the needs of disadvantaged and marginalized populations. Although Sustainable Development Goal indicator 5.4.1 offers a perspective of the global situation, the average figures hide many specific situations. As highlighted by the 2030 Agenda, the universal focus should be accompanied by a perspective that sheds light on the inequalities affecting specific groups, which are concealed by average figures. An important discussion relating to the Sustainable Development Goals is the disaggregation of data. With a view to ensuring that "no one is left behind" the most vulnerable population groups and those affected by various factors of inequality should be identified. Therefore, time-use patterns for vulnerable population groups must be identified.

[28] More information can be found at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_221638.pdf

[29] Please refer to Figure 18a in ILO, 2017.

	Moreover, target 10.7 has a specific focus on migration. Global care chains are transnational mechanisms in which migrant women from low-income countries cover care needs that are not addressed by national policies, deepening inequalities both within and between countries.
	Information on time use allows the understanding of how transformations in cities have affected the lives of women and men in different ways. The lack of time-use data at subnational levels hinders gender mainstreaming in territorial planning. Generally, urban planning is only based on information about time spent on work for the labour market and ignores the needs linked to the reproduction of daily life and, therefore, the time that goes into unpaid work for the well-being of people. The spatial division of cities based on this model has obviated the needs of women and has not considered socioeconomic, ethnic or age inequalities. This conception of cities promotes spatial segregation, which results in a misuse of people's physical, economic and time resources; that is, it has generated an unsustainable urban model. The incorporation of time-use analysis into urban planning allows for cities to be built by taking the needs of all inhabitants into account, and thus favors the reduction of inequality and a more equitable enjoyment of rights.
	The link between gender equality and the environmental pillar of sustainable development has not been sufficiently highlighted. Being also the pillar with the least amount of data available for the monitoring of the SDGs, the lack of information on women's decisions of consumption and production patterns, their access, use, and participation in decision making processes and protection of natural resources is a limitation for the development of relevant gender-sensitive policies. Actions related to the environment and climate change require information for assessments of the impacts of extreme weather events and climate disasters on the lives of people. From a gender perspective, policies need to monitor that extreme weather events do not disproportionately affect women, and therefore mechanisms that allow measuring the impact on gender-based violence, job losses, the overload of unpaid work, among others, need to be in place. Time-use surveys provide information to make visible the contribution of people to mitigation efforts as producers, workers and consumers, and allow for measures to contribute to the sustainable development.

	Data have shown that women as main caregivers in the households are in charge of food production, community management, natural-resource and biodiversity management, education of children and family care and that are disproportionately affected before, during and after extreme climatological events and contend most of the care related activities when the environment worsens. (UNDP, 2011).
	The 2030 Agenda calls for measurements of progress on sustainable development that goes beyond the gross domestic product (target 17.19). A set of activities, goods and services necessary for social reproduction is one of the main contributions made by the care economy - predominately through women's unpaid work to support households needs. Time-use data is instrumental to measure, on the one hand, the contribution that the care economy makes to current production arrangements, which is usually invisible; and on the other hand, the additional contributions that this sector could make to the economy if it were duly recognized, remunerated and redistributed. The lack of macroeconomic registration of unpaid care work done mostly in households affects women and men unequally in terms of the possibility of participating in the economy. The fact that it is not included in the national accounts diminishes social recognition and the possibility for those who work unpaid to claim part of the wealth generated. In recent decades progress has been made in creating satellite accounts that value the contribution of unpaid work by households. Time-use data has been effectively used to measure the value of unpaid work for satellite accounts as well as for measurements of expanded domestic product. In addition, more research is becoming available on microeconomic models that incorporate unpaid care activities.[30]

Countries are expected to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by characteristics relevant in national contexts to inform policy formulation. This document has made the case for time-use data as crucial for monitoring the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, however many countries are facing challenges in conducting time-use surveys as they are complex and costly operations. In response to this challenge and with the aspiration to support countries to enhance their national capacities (as outlined in SDG 17.18) the Statistics Division and the *UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics* have been working towards the operationalization of the International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics (ICATUS 2016) and the modernization of time-use surveys. The outcome of this Group's work will be a set of guidelines for national statistical offices and policymakers with recommendations on collecting, processing, analyzing and disseminating time-use statistics ensuring access to a sustainable model to institutionalize the systematic collection of these data.

[30] ECLAC, 2019.

Research on time-use, and particularly the analysis of time-use survey data, has revealed patterns of inequality in time distribution and allowed the quantification of time allocated to daily activities. Given that time shapes all human activities, time-use data is key to inform policies to achieve sustainable development.

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