Launch of Global Center of Excellence on Gender Statistics and the First Global Conference on Gender Equality and the Measurement of Unpaid Care and Domestic Work

10 – 11 September 2018
Mexico City
Measuring Unpaid Care Work to Inform Policy-Makers on Women’s Economic Empowerment: Lessons learnt from the OECD Policy Dialogue
Unlocking Women’s Economic Potential by Recognising, Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Care and Domestic Work through better policies addressing:

- Infrastructure
- Social protection
- Public services
- Shared responsibilities within the household and gender norms

- Generate cross-country comparable data
- Produce evidence-based analysis
- Provide policy guidance on “what works” to Recognise, Reduce and Redistribute unpaid care and domestic work
Generating cross-country comparable measure of unpaid care work

- Time Use Surveys (TUS) have been conducted in **83 countries** (30 OECD countries + 53 non-OECD economies)

- A number of **comparability issues** affect TUS, e.g. different classifications, population coverage, simultaneity of activities, etc...

**Selection criteria:**
- Population coverage (e.g., national, urban, rural)
- Year of the survey (TUS are conducted every 5/10 years)
- Availability of micro data
- Coverage of different world regions and income levels (low- and middle-income countries)
  - **Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Peru, South Africa + 30 OECD Countries**
Recognising UPCW as a female economic contribution

Unpaid care work is not considered an “economic activity”:
- Unpaid goods and services produced by household members for their own consumption were excluded from GDP
  ⇒ ineffective policymaking that does not account for the constraints individuals, particularly women, face when pursuing different economic and social activities
  ⇒ incorrect inferences about an individuals’ well-being and the value of time

Unpaid care work represents a significant share of countries’ GDP:
- USD 11 trillion, or 9% of global GDP (ILO, 2018)
- In the UK: ‘extended GDP’ (home produced services + GDP) grew at an average annual rate of 3.8% per year between 2005 and 2014, compared to 3.5% using the standard GDP computation
  ⇒ As women perform more than 75% of household productive activities, these calculations provide a more realistic estimate of women’s contribution to the national economy, challenging the traditional view of men’s greater economic productivity
Unpaid Care Work: the Missing Barrier to Women’s Economic Empowerment

Higher inequalities in UPCW, higher inequalities in labour market outcomes

Note: Controlling for GDP per capita, fertility rate, urbanisation rate, maternity leave and gender inequality in unemployment and education.

Gender Gap in UPCW and GDP

↑ GDP per capita → ↑ access to time-saving technology and infrastructure → Huge ↓ time women spend on UPCW

↓ Discriminatory social norms as measured by the SIGI → Slight ↑ time men spend on UPCW

↓ Gender Gap in UPCW time but persistent
Informing Policy-Makers: focus on access to infrastructure

Access to electricity:
- 34% of the Ghanaian women do not have access to electricity in their house
- Having electricity at one’s house increases women’s time in paid activities (formal or informal) by **73 minutes**

Access to water
- 19% of women are fetching water vs 6% of men
- for 25% of the Ghanaian Households drinking water is piped into their house, their garden, or their neighbour’s yard
Conclusion

**UPCW: a missed opportunity**
- policies very rarely incorporate addressing UCW as an objective
- (harmonised) TUS are restricted

**UPCW: a barrier to women’s economic empowerment**
- Higher gender time use gap, higher gender gaps in labour market outcomes

**Need for public commitment:**
- GDP growth itself would not be enough to achieve equality on both UPCW and labour market outcomes
- Social transformation challenging traditional gender norms is needed to promote women’s economic empowerment
Thank you for your attention

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More information on


• Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) www.genderindex.org

• OECD Time Use Database http://www.oecd.org/gender/data/