Invisible no more? How time use surveys measure unpaid work

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

Mexico City, 11th September, 2018
Written by Mayra Buvinic and Elizabeth M. King

• Featuring an inventory of 257 time use surveys across 88 countries

Volume II: Country Case Studies

• Includes 18 country case studies on the data-to-policy link of time use surveys

Read the report and case studies at www.data2x.org/time-use-report
Evidence of policy momentum: unpaid work

Sustainable Development Goals

19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS 19)

• Indicator 5.4.1
• Broadened definition of work
• Employment is counted only as work for “pay or profit” →

ICATUS 2016

• Harmonizes activities with ICLS 19
• Helps ensure international comparability and quality of time use data
Global Female and Male Labour Force Participation Rate, 1990-2030

Source: ILOSTAT Database
### Advantages of Time Use Data for gender-sensitive policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unpaid domestic and care work</strong></td>
<td>- Time use surveys are currently the most appropriate way to measure unpaid work activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Unpaid/ poorly captured market work**            | - Unpaid family workers  
- Casual, temporary, seasonal labor in agriculture and small informal enterprises |
| **Simultaneous paid and unpaid activities can be difficult to capture** | - Women often perform paid and unpaid activities simultaneously |
Time use surveys conducted globally

Figure 4. Number of time use surveys completed by country as of 2017.
## Time use surveys’ role in policymaking – country studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Policy Influence</th>
<th>Indirect Policy Influence</th>
<th>No or Unclear Policy Influence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Chile</td>
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<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
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<td>Moldova</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Data to policy: chronological stages

Across 18 country case studies:
What has helped foster the data-to-policy link?

Identify and prioritize

Demand-driven data is more successful
What has helped foster the data-to-policy link?

- Identify and prioritize
- Collect and Analyze

High quality data = better chance of policy impact
What has helped foster the data-to-policy link?

1. Identify and prioritize
2. Collect and Analyze
3. Identify and prioritize

Effective communication is key
What has helped foster the data-to-policy link?

- Identify and prioritize
- Collect and analyze
- Identify and prioritize
- Develop Policy

Multiple uses of data= Policy development, monitoring and evaluation
What are the steps to link data to policy?
Time use surveys’ role in policymaking – country studies

Direct policy effects:

**Albania, Mexico**
- Used to define, monitor, or evaluate gender equality policies

**Cambodia, Colombia, Uruguay**
- Care policies

**Moldova**
- Employment policies for women, child care centers

**Finland**
- Employment projects for rural women, early retirement policies, child/family policies, media and cultural programs
Conclusions

• Unravelling the relationship between paid and unpaid work is crucial for economies: Time Use Data provides the missing link

• Time Use Data has directly and indirectly impacted policy

• But, TU data remains underproduced and underutilized

• There are a number of factors that mediate data uptake

• Policy-makers and data producers must work together to produce relevant and useful information in their context