Regional Workshop on Time Use Statistics: Methods and Uses

Tunis, Tunisia, 10-13 October 2023

Minimum Harmonized Instrument for the collection of time-use data

The Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics developed a “Minimum harmonized instrument (MHI)” for the collection of time-use data, including for the measurement of SDG indicator 5.4.1, in line with ICATUS 2016 (second level activities) and other international standards to ensure cross-country comparability.

**Part I: Activities**

How the instrument used in your country for the collection of time-use data compare to the Othe MHI? Please use the list of activities of the latest diary developed in your country to compare the list of activities collected by your office and the correspondence with the Minimum harmonized list. Further details of which activities are included or excluded in each activity of the Minimum Harmonized List please see: [BG-Item3m-MinimumHarmonizedInstrument-E.pdf (un.org)](https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3m-MinimumHarmonizedInstrument-E.pdf)

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| **#** | **Minimum Harmonized List of Activities** | **Corresponding activities in country instrument** |
| **1**  | Working in paid job or income generating activities  |  |
| **2**  | Making goods for own household or family use  |  |
| **3**  | Volunteer work   |  |
| **4**  | Preparing and serving food and meals for own household or family members  |  |
| **5**  | Cleaning own or family dwelling  |  |
| **6**  | Maintaining and making small repairs in own or family dwelling  |  |
| **7**  | Cleaning and care of clothing and footwear of own household or family members  |  |
| **8**  | Managing own household  |  |
| **9**  | Taking care of pet of own household or family  |  |
| **10**  | Shopping for own household or family  |  |
| **11**  | Taking care of own (household or family) child (use country definition of child)  |  |
| **12**  | Taking care of or helping adults (own household or family) (use country definition of adult)  |  |
| **13**  | Education  |  |
| **14**  | Socializing and communication  |  |
| **15**  | Community participation, civic and related responsibilities, and  religious practices  |  |
| **16**  | Cultural, entertainment and sports events  |  |
| **17**  | Hobbies, games and other pastime activities  |  |
| **18**  | Sport participation and exercising  |  |
| **19**  | Reading for leisure  |  |
| **20**  | Watching TV/Listening to radio or streaming  |  |
| **21**  | Sleep  |  |
| **22**  | Eating and drinking  |  |
| **23**  | Personal hygiene and care  |  |
| **24**  | Travel  |  |
| **25**  | Other (specify)  |  |

**Part II: Background characteristics**

The collection of time-use data should be accompanied by selected background characteristics of the respondents and their households. Background characteristics of respondents and their household composition, are critical to support the analysis, interpretation and uses of time-use data, including from a gender lens. They may also be necessary to select those respondents eligible to complete the time-use data component of the survey and may serve to optimize and enhance the collection of time-use data.

Please select all the background characteristics collected by your country at the household and personal level from the list below:

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| **Minimum Harmonized Instrument** | **Time-use survey in your country** |
| **At the household level** |
| Household size  |  |
| Household composition: classification based on age and sex and/or gender |  |
| Place of residence (urban/rural) |  |
| Household income |  |
| Access and use of care services |  |
| Presence of persons requiring help with activities of daily living |  |
| Access to basic services |  |
| Household wealth |  |
| **All persons eligible as time-use respondents** |
| Age |  |
| Sex[[1]](#footnote-1)  |  |
| Marital status  |  |
| Educational attainment |  |
| Current school attendance (and grade) |  |
| Disability status |  |
| Race/ethnicity |  |
| General health status |  |
| Labor force status of spouse/partner |  |
| **Employment characteristics** |
| Labor force status |  |
| Current employment status |  |
| *For employed population* |
| Multiple job-holding status |  |
| *Core characteristics of the main / second / other jobs as relevant:* |
| Status in employment |  |
| Occupation |  |  |
| Industry |  |
| Institutional sector of employment |  |
| Business incorporation for those employed in the private sector |  |
| Business registration |  |
| **Own-account production** |
| Participation in own-account farming, animal husbandry and fishing during the specified week  |  |
| Main intended destination (sale versus own-use) of the products from farming, animal husbandry and fishing  |  |
| Main products from farming, animal husbandry and fishing |  |

1. The Minimum Harmonized Instrument recommends collecting data on sex for all household members. NSOs should collect data on gender identity in accordance with their national practices. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)