



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



United Nations

DESA
Statistics Division

Regional Workshop on Time Use Statistics: Methods and Uses

Tunis, 10 -12 October 2023

Time-use surveys and statistics have become an essential component of international statistics since their introduction more than a century ago. Time-use surveys provide a detailed time accounting of activities people engage in through their day-to-day lives providing thus crucial insights into the formulation and monitoring of gender-responsive public policies and development strategies in a diverse range of areas with implications for the lives of women, men, girls, and boys.

The international scope of time-use surveys has obviously raised the need for the exchange of good practice and for coordination in defining the concepts, methodology, and ways of aggregation of the results. This is necessary for obtaining reliable time-use statistics that can answer pertinent policy questions and be comparable across countries.

Recognizing the need to support countries in strengthening their capacity to collect and use time-use data for better policies and approaches to implement the 2030 Development Agenda at local, national, and regional levels, the United Nations Statistics Division and the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics have been working towards the implementation of the [International Classification of Time Use Statistics 2016 \(ICATUS 2016\)](#). The modernization of time-use surveys, in the context of updating the Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work (referred to here as the United Nations guidelines) has been at the core of their work.

The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) resolution 286 (XXV) on Gender Statistics for Equality and Empowerment of Women, supports the enhancement of the statistical capacities of the national statistical offices (NSOs) to produce time-use statistics. ESCWA implements this resolution through the organization of workshops covering the production of time-use statistics where countries have highlighted the urgent need to promote the development of guidelines and methods to produce harmonized and comparable data and requested the development of a unified toolkit for time-use statistics based on international standards and adapted to the regional context. Up-to date, eight countries in the region have carried out at least one measurement of time use, while only Morocco and Egypt have calculated the economic value of unpaid work in households and Morocco has calculated the satellite account of unpaid work in households.

Despite the efforts made, the Arab countries face challenges to move towards harmonization and greater comparability of measurements of time-use and unpaid work. NSOs are also facing challenges with current financial and human resources to conduct time-use surveys. To advance towards the implementation of quality time-use measurements and their harmonization in the Arab region, ESCWA has revised the Arabic translation of the ICATUS 2016 in 2022.

Under the umbrella of the Development Account 12th tranche project on *Time-use data for Better Policies in Africa, Western Asia and Latin America* led by UNSD in collaboration with ECWA and other UN Regional Commissions, a three-day regional workshop in Tunis in October 2023 is being organized.

The objective of the workshop is to develop national capacities on the methodology to collect and regularly produce comparable high-quality time-use data in cost-effective ways by adopting innovative and digitalization data collection methods; to analyze data to inform and answer policy questions; and to better understand progress

towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The workshop will provide the opportunity to share the updates to the UN Guidelines on time-use statistics and to provide hands-on training on the adaptation at the national level of proposed methods to collect, analyse, disseminate, and communicate time-use data, including time spent on unpaid care and domestic work. It is expected that the newly developed tools will lessen the burden on respondents and the high cost associated with paper diaries and improve data quality.

Proposed Agenda

<i>Day 1, 10 October 2023: Basic concepts of time-use statistics</i>		<i>Responsible</i>
09:00 - 09:30	Opening and administrative matters - Opening and welcome remarks - Introduction of participants - Administrative and logistical matters - Introduction of the workshop agenda	UNSD ESCWA
09:30 – 10:00	Session I: Time-use statistics The session will focus on: -What are time-use statistics? - Relevance of time-use statistics - Time-use data and SDGs -Time-use data and crises – lessons learned from the COVID-19 -Time-use data for analyzing gender inequalities -History of time-use statistics in the region	UNSD (6 min) IATUR (video) (8 min) ESCWA (6 min) Q&A (10 min)
10:00 – 10:45	I.b Group activity -Small group discussion on the relevance, users, and current and potential uses of time-use statistics (30 min) -Plenary discussion (15 min)	All participants
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 11:45	Session II: Time-use activities classification The session will focus on: -Conceptual frameworks -ICATUS 2016	UNSD and ESCWA (20 min) Tunis (15 min) Q&A (10 min)
11:45 -13:00	II.b Group activity -Coding activities using ICATUS 2016 (45 min)	All participants
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Session III: International recommendations - UN Guidelines -Time-use surveys as modules of LFS -Experiences using CAPI	UNSD (30 min) Egypt (15 min) Q&A (15 min)
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:15 – 16:10	III.b Group activity - Minimum Harmonized Instrument and national instruments for the collection of time-use data	All participants
16:10-16:30	Group activity -Reflections and lessons learned of Day 1	All participants

Day 2, 11 October 2023: Improving data quality		Responsible
9:00 – 10:45	Session IV: Modernization of time-use statistics -Why and how to modernize time-use statistics -Country in the region experience with CAPI -Statistics Canada on lessons learned from using CAWI	UNSD (5 min) Iraq (15 min) Canada (video) (15 min) Q&A (10 min)
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00 – 12:00	Session V: Other considerations on time-use statistics -Time-use survey for people with disability -Measuring simultaneous activities -Measuring supervisory care -Measuring time use in children	UNSD (5 min) Iraq (15 min) UN Women (video) (15 min) UNICEF (video) (15 min) Q&A (10 min)
12:00 – 13:00	V.b Group activity - Using existing tools for data collection (diary)	All participants
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:00	Session VI: Quality and dissemination of time-use data -Dissemination practices of ESCWA -Quality assurance of time-use data -Communicating statistics	ESCWA (15 min) UNSD (10 min) Morocco (25 min) Q&A (10 min)
15:00 – 15:15	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:15 – 16:30	Group activity -Reflections and lessons learned of Day 2	All participants

Day 3, 12 October 2023: Measuring and valuing unpaid work		Responsible
9:00 – 9:40	Session VII: Calculating time-use indicators -SDG indicator 5.4.1 -Total work time	UNSD (25 min) Q&A (15 min)
9:40 – 10:30	VII.b Group activity -Calculating time-use data indicators	All participants
10:30 – 10:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:45 – 13:00	Session VIII: Valuation of unpaid household work -International Guidelines and recommendations -Delimitation of activities -Methods to value unpaid household work - Practical example of how to assign monetary values to unpaid work activities	Morocco Q&A (15 min)
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:00 – 15:30	Group activity -Reflections and lessons learned of workshop	All participants
15:30 – 15:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15:45 – 16:15	Conclusions	Groups
16 :15 – 16 :30	Final remarks and closure	ESCWA UNSD