



Closing the Gender Data Gap on unpaid care and domestic work to support monitoring the 2030 Agenda – Independent Final Evaluation

QUICK FACTS

Countries: Global

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Evaluation type: Project

Evaluation timing: Final

Administrative Office: STATISTICS

Technical Office: STATISTICS

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Key Words: Key Words: gender data; measuring unpaid care work; measuring domestic work; labour statistics

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Summary of the project purpose, logic and structure

The purpose of the global project “Closing the Gender Data Gap on unpaid care and domestic work to support monitoring the 2030 Agenda” was to develop, test and mainstream a method with which low and middle-income countries could effectively, efficiently and regularly collect data on unpaid domestic and care work. The main output is a survey module to the Labour Force Survey. The project was funded by Data2X via the UN foundation. Besides the project leader, regular core staff of the ILO Statistical Department (STATISTICS) were involved in the project.

Present situation of the project

The project started during the Covid-19 pandemic. As of July 2023, the developed methodology is being integrated into ILO and global guidance on time use measurement. Several countries have started the process of integrating the module into their upcoming Labour Force Survey. The project leader’s contract was extended to enable further mainstreaming and dissemination activities.

Purpose, scope and clients of the evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation is to provide a summative assessment of the project, as per project document and ILO evaluation guidelines. It is also meant to draw learnings and recommendations to inform STATISTICS’s modular approach to LFS. It covers the entire project up to July 2023. Evaluation users are STATISTICS, Data2X, UN Women and the World Bank, the UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics as well as National Statistical Offices in low and middle-income countries.

Methodology of evaluation

The evaluation is based on semi-structured (online) interviews with project stakeholders, a desk review and a stakeholders workshop to discuss initial findings and co-create recommendations. Because the evaluation took place during the closing phase of the project, some results were not observable. This was addressed by taking into account early signs of outcomes and by drawing from secondary evidence, mostly from interviews.

MAIN FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

1. The project offered a highly relevant response to demand for data and methods for a substantial segment of countries. It responds both to a growing demand for statistics on unpaid care and domestic work and for a methodology to capture this phenomenon. The developed module constitutes a very meaningful trade-off between sophistication and feasibility. The time use module is relevant



to a specific but nonetheless substantial segment of countries that have a Labour Force Survey and do not have the capacities or tradition to collect time use data with full diary formats as part of a dedicated or stand-alone time use survey.

2. The project is reaching outcome-level results because it is institutionally embedded in the ILO Statistical Department. The sole availability of the time use module is not sufficient to guarantee its uptake. In implementing the module, National Statistical Offices will require ILO’s support to different degrees. With the project funding coming to an end, ILO regular headquarters and regional staff will become responsible for mainstreaming the time use module, among other modules to the Labour Force Survey. Not having one person at the headquarters level completely dedicated to mainstreaming the time use module would likely affect the outcome-level results.

3. The project is institutionally embedded in UN efforts to develop guidance on time use measurement in a coordinated way. The development and testing of the time use module involved **active communication but less coordination or collaboration with stakeholders** inside and outside ILO. There is no rule saying that “the more coordination, the better” and no reliable evidence that a higher degree of collaboration at this stage would have benefited the project's results. This report however notes that this was not based on deliberate strategic decisions. Stakeholders agree that coordination and collaboration will become crucial in the scaling up phase as well as promising efforts in this direction.

4. While the project results contribute to factors of institutionalization, their sustainability also depends on factors outside of the project’s sphere of control. The sustainability of the time use module will likely strongly differ between countries, depending on their capacity and willingness to institutionalize it. ILO’s support will remain indispensable for continuing mainstreaming and sustaining time use measurement in the longer run.

RECOMMENDATIONS, LESSONS LEARNED AND GOOD PRACTICES

Main lessons learned and good practices

Lesson 1: Mainstreaming and ensuring countries’ uptake of modules to the Labour Force Survey requires dedicated activities and adequate resources;

	<p>Lesson 2: NSOs are not necessarily aware of ILO’s mandate and guidance to support them in capturing own-use production of services. Awareness-raising activities are important in mainstreaming;</p> <p>Good practice 1: The early-on collaboration with UN Women in Eastern and Southern Africa accelerated progress towards outcomes countries’ uptake of the time use module;</p> <p>Good practice 2: The project’s adaptivity is a good practice in results-oriented management.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Recommendation 1: To maximize the results under constrained resources and STATISTICS should follow a targeted communication and outreach strategy to foster the module’s uptake by relevant countries. This means, on the one hand, identifying and directly reaching out to countries in the relevant target segment and, on the other hand, continuing to transparently communicate on the trade-offs the module entails and the segment of countries for which it is relevant. Communication and outreach to relevant countries should be embedded in existing efforts at STATISTICS to develop a larger communication strategy.</p> <p>Recommendation 2: STATISTICS should dedicate resources to fostering countries’ uptake of and adapting the time use module. Ensuring countries’ uptake of the module requires continued awareness-raising, on-the-job support, monitoring and fostering the institutionalization of time use measurement at national and regional levels. This would likely involve mobilizing extra-budgetary resources for a follow up, upscaling project.</p> <p>Recommendation 3: STATISTICS should strategically use mechanisms to foster coherence. Efforts to communicate, cooperate, coordinate and collaborate with other agencies at different stages should be the result of deliberate strategic decisions of STATISTICS that carefully balance the resource implications and the benefits of engaging with stakeholders to different degrees. Where (and only if) strategically meaningful, STATISTICS should seek to establish collaborative settings with relevant actors to foster the uptake of the time use module.</p> <p>Recommendation 4: STATISTICS should engage in a strategic reflection on the internal sustainability of the modular approach within STATISTICS. This involves a results-based estimation of the resources needed for reaching outcomes-level results, as well as a strategy to obtain adequate funding.</p>

