Time-use statistics
to inform public policies

Updates on the revised UN Guide on time-use statistics (2024)

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UNITED NATIONS
9TH GLOBAL FORUM
ON GENDER STATISTICS
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Relevance of time-use statistics for informing public policies

QUALITY OF LIFE, WORK-LIFE BALANCE, GENERAL WELL-BEING
Understand the living conditions and well-being of the population and its sub-groups; overall time allocation to the whole range of activities (incl. leisure, sports, cultural activities)

ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF INVISIBLE & UNPAID WORK
Measure and value unpaid household service work through the compilation of extended accounts

GENDER EQUALITY & GENDER ANALYSIS
Analyse the difference in use of time between women and men

For SDG monitoring
Post 2030 Agenda

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Target 5.4. Recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work ….
SDG 5.4.1. Proportion of **time spent on unpaid domestic and care work** by sex, age and location

Challenges faced by National Statistical Offices in relation to time use surveys
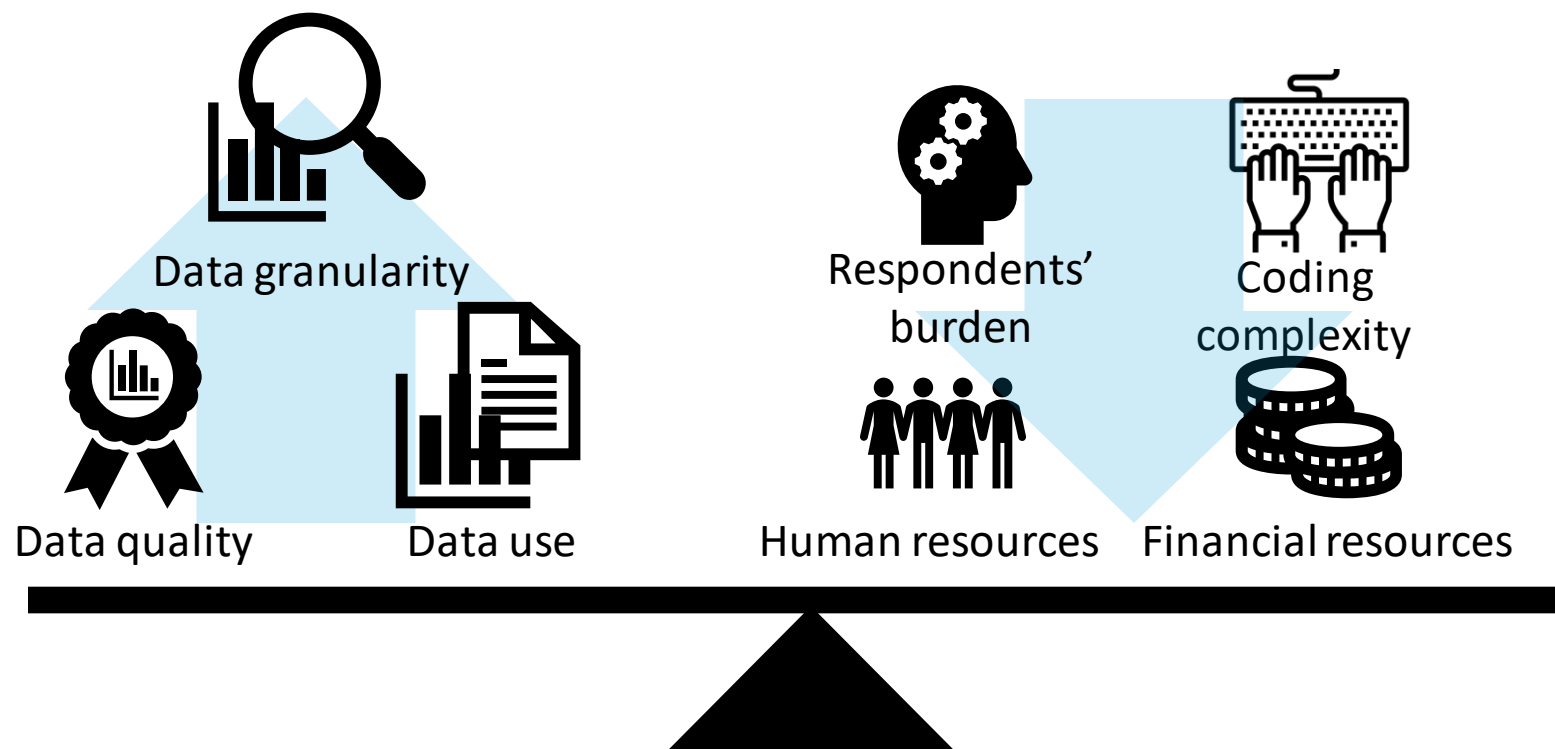
Indicator 5.4.1 in SDGs global database

92 countries with data disaggregated by sex (2000-2020)
⇔ *only **72** countries by 2010*

- **49%** of countries with at least 2 data points (2000-2020)

Data granularity

Data quality

Data use

Respondents' burden

Coding complexity

Human resources

Financial resources

Combination of instruments & mode of data collection can address many of these challenges

Key features of the revised UN Guide to Producing statistics on Time Use

Guide statisticians of **national statistical offices**

11 stand-alone chapters linked together through hyperlinks where relevant

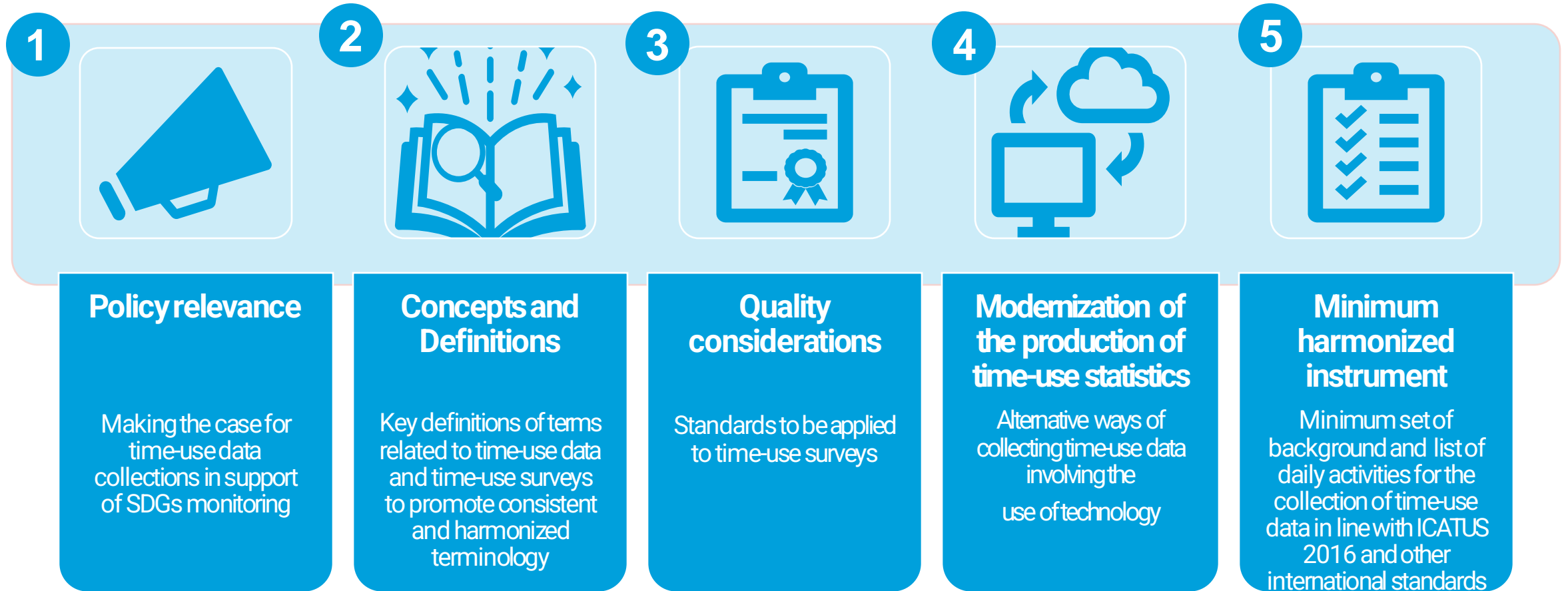**Time-use hub** references and related materials to complement the Guide

Participation of experts from national and international organizations

Basket of options Not prescriptive Covers different instruments and modes

Each chapter in the Guide ends with a **quality checklist**

UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics (EG-TUS)

1

Policy relevance

Making the case for time-use data collections in support of SDGs monitoring

2

Concepts and Definitions

Key definitions of terms related to time-use data and time-use surveys to promote consistent and harmonized terminology

3

Quality considerations

Standards to be applied to time-use surveys

4

Modernization of the production of time-use statistics

Alternative ways of collecting time-use data involving the use of technology

5

Minimum harmonized instrument

Minimum set of background and list of daily activities for the collection of time-use data in line with ICATUS 2016 and other international standards

Using the latest technologies and different instruments for **more frequent and efficient** production of time use data, responding to **national data needs** and meeting **international standards**

Minimum Harmonized Instrument

- Why and when using it?
  - For more frequent collections
  - As a starting point for countries not already collecting time-use data

- What it consists of?
  - Essential Background characteristics
    - Minimum individual and household data
    - Set of questions capturing economic and labor characteristics of respondents
  - List of 25 activities covering a 24-hour period
    - Light diary survey option
    - Stylized questionnaire survey option

- International comparability
  - Correspondence table for activities between MHI and ICATUS 2016

Household level	All persons eligible as time-use respondents
Minimum	
Household size	Age
Household composition: classification based on age and sex and/or gender	Sex [1]
	Marital status*
Place of residence (urban/rural)	Educational attainment*
Household income	Current school attendance (and grade)*
	Current employment status*
	Labor force status*
	Labor force status of spouse/partner*
Additional as relevant in national context	
Access and use of care services	Disability status*
Presence of persons requiring help with activities of daily living	Race/ethnicity
	General health status
Access to utilities	Access to time-keeping devices*
Household wealth	

[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.

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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   **SDG 5.4.1**
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
12. Taking care of or helping adults (own household or family)
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

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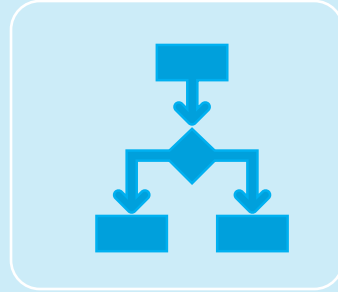| |
|---|
| A1. (Yesterday/Assigned day/Last week) how much time did you sleep? |
| A2. (Yesterday/Assigned day/Last week) how much time did you spend on personal hygiene *(taking showers, getting dressed, getting a haircut)* or personal health care *(resting sick, visiting doctors)*? |
| A3. (Yesterday/Assigned day/Last week) how much time did you spend eating or drinking? |
| A4.a. (Yesterday/Assigned day/Last week) did you attend any education classes, participate in an online course or work on education-related assignments?
1.Yes→A4.b
2. No→A5.a

A4.b How much time did you spend on it? |
| A5.a. (Yesterday/Assigned day/Last week) did you commute to and from school, college, or university?
1.Yes→A5.b
2.No→B1

A5.b How much time did you spend on it? |

What is new?

Supervisory care

Definition of supervisory care

Measurement of supervisory care

Coding rules

Standard coding rules for implementing ICATUS 2016

Harmonized coding decisions for hard-to-code activities

Survey population

Intersectional approach

Survey outputs

Key time-use statistics

Basic tabulations

Dissemination and communication

Dissemination products

Reaching different audiences

Supervisory care

Definition of supervisory care

Unpaid supervisory care refers to the time the caregiver is in hearing or visual proximity to a dependent household or family member to provide unpaid caregiving services, should such a need arise.

The provision of supervisory care does not require the active involvement implied in the provision of those caregiving services where an interaction between the caregiver and dependent household or family member is needed.

Supervisory care may occur at any location where the dependent household or family member is present and in close proximity to the caregiver. There is no requirement for bodily proximity of the caregiver with the dependent household and family member, such as being in the same room.

Operationalization of definition

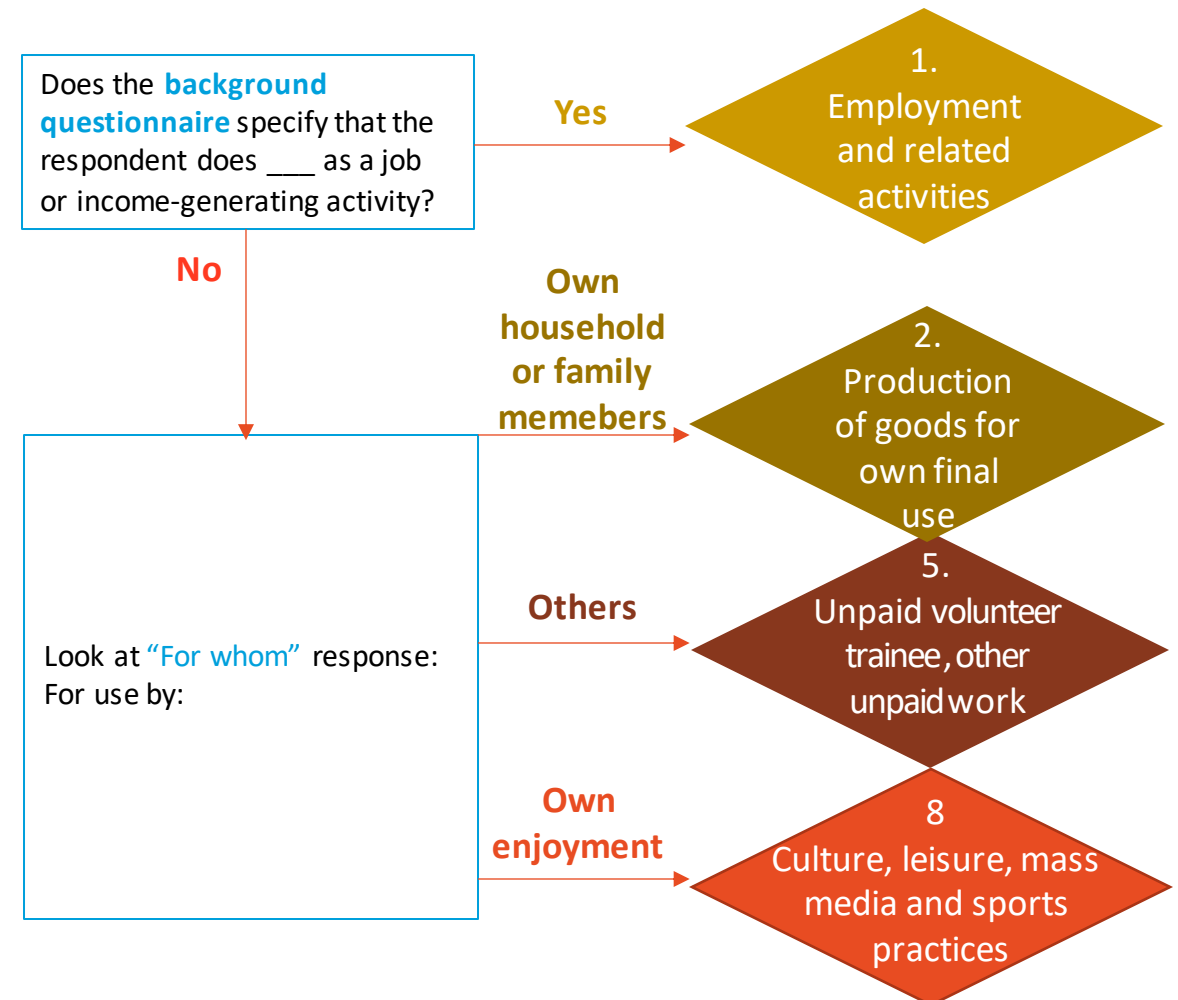Indicators and processing rules

Links with SNA revision!

Alignment with ICATUS, ILO resolutions and SNA

Coding rules

Challenging scenarios

1. *Activities that could be classified under more than one code:* Rules to use background information and contextual variables to consistently assign the right code.

2. *Several activities that are reported as one activity*: Prioritization criteria

3. *Other challenging scenarios:* Activities related to technology use (such as virtual activities and developing digital content) and self-administered surveys (where inconsistent or insufficiently detailed responses create the need to edit or impute data).

Reported activity: **Fishing**

Does the **background questionnaire** specify that the respondent does ____ as a job or income-generating activity?

Yes → 1. Employment and related activities

No ↓

Look at "For whom" response: For use by:

Own household or family memebers → 2. Production of goods for own final use

Others → 5. Unpaid volunteer trainee, other unpaid work

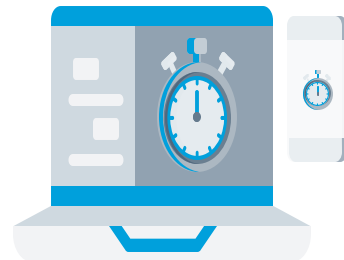**Own enjoyment** → 8 Culture, leisure, mass media and sports practices

What's next?

Revised UN Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use

Strengthen NSOs capacities

Sustainable Development
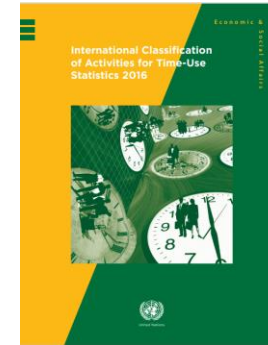
Time-use data hub

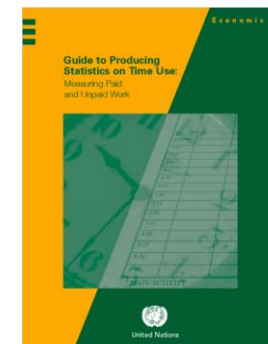Effective policies

policy

Improved collaboration

Thank you!

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/

- Policy relevance: Making the case for time-use data collections in support of SDGs monitoring (as of 14 February 2020)

- Time-use data and time-use surveys: Concepts and definitions (as of 14 February 2020)

- **Towards defining quality for data and statistics on time-use**
  - Draft as of 14 February 2022
  - As of 25 January 2022 (endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission at its 53rd session)

- **Modernizing of the production of time-use statistics**
  - Draft as of 14 February 2022
  - As of 25 January 2022 (endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission at its 53rd session)

- **Minimum Harmonized Instrument for the collection of time-use data**
  - Draft as of 14 February
  - As of 25 January 2022 (endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission at its 53rd session)

International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics 2016 (ICATUS 2016)

Guide to Producing Statistics on Time Use: Measuring Paid and Unpaid Work,