

What is the purpose of this Guidebook?



This Guidebook offers a toolbox that is intended to help improve the collection, analysis and utilization of data and statistics on unpaid work to ensure more relevant policy-making and programming. The approach emphasizes the need to understand how economic activities, time use and valuation of unpaid work are likely to affect development programmes that are responsive to people's needs and situations, particularly those of women.

The Guidebook draws heavily from country experiences. These show the utilization of time-use data as a tool for measuring and estimating the economic value of unpaid work, and the inclusion of the results in policy formulation. It is designed to draw on the collective expertise of statisticians and technical staff involved in policy and planning as well as advocates of gender-friendly policies in engaging in a participatory process of change.

The overall purpose is to help build capacities in the collection, analysis and use of statistics on unpaid work in order to facilitate the achievement of sustainable, equitable and efficient development through gender-sensitive policies and strategies.

The Guidebook thus provides methodologies, materials and tools for producing and utilizing time-use data and gender-based information. It introduces the rationale and methodology of recognizing and measuring unpaid work as part of the full range of work undertaken by women and men.

For whom is this Guidebook intended?



Specifically, the Guidebook aims to assist statisticians, policy analysts and development advocates, and collaboratively, enable them to:

- Plan and conduct a time-use survey either as an independent study or as part of a multi-purpose survey;
- Apply approaches in the measurement and valuation of unpaid work;
- Analyse the status of unpaid workers in the broader context of human rights and development;
- Generate policy options using time-use survey data and related statistics and information; and
- Use data and statistics as tools for advocacy for policy action that addresses unpaid work.

This Guidebook is directed toward statisticians, policy analysts and development advocates. Together, they can create an impact in highlighting the contribution of women's work to the economic and social development of families, communities and society as a whole. Statisticians will find the Guidebook informative and useful in appreciating that data generation is part of a process that ultimately should result in policy and public action. On the other hand, policy analysts will find the Guidebook useful in understanding that a sound database is the key to informed decisions for public action. Working with statisticians and policy analysts, development advocates play a key role in helping convert data and statistics into actionable messages, and ensuring that these messages reach those who have the power to act on them. Statisticians and policy analysts themselves are essentially development advocates.

The Guidebook has been designed to enable these groups to use or adapt the materials on their own or in team-training to help maximize their individual contributions. The Guidebook also provides useful resource material for ongoing training in the application of statistics in development planning, and could easily serve as a learning tool in self-directed training.

How is the Guidebook organized?

The Guidebook introduces the context of the issues and concerns related to unpaid work. It further outlines the main steps from the collection and valuation of time-use data to policy formulation and advocacy as contained in the five modules. The sixth module presents selected country experiences that attempt to illustrate the process of choosing and promoting policy action based on time-use and other related data. Each module is designed to stand alone; however, together, the modules address the needed connectedness among the three groups of intended users.

Module 1 stresses the importance of time-use data in analysing unpaid work performed by women and men in society. Based on 19 country experiences, this module shows that time-use surveys, whether undertaken independently or as part of a multi-purpose survey, are capable of collecting data on unpaid work. There are reasonably well-developed concepts, methods and tools that could help guide the undertaking of such surveys at the national level.

Module 2 defines unpaid work in the context of household production. It examines various approaches in the valuation of unpaid work outside the System of National Accounts (SNA) activities. The module raises the significance of information on unpaid work as inputs to gender-friendly policy decisions and action. National accounts compilers and other interested users will find this module especially helpful in

understanding or measuring the monetary value of unpaid work in household domestic and personal services for self-consumption.

Module 3 provides the context in which unpaid work is being shared by women and men, by analysing the prevailing situation in the country including an understanding of the antecedents and consequences of unpaid work. The situation analysis covers the existing policy environment in a country as a basis for any further policy intervention to bring about gender equality in sharing unpaid work.

Module 4 discusses and presents policy components designed to lead to the integration of unpaid work in national policies. Ideas for possible policy action are also proposed. These policy considerations are intended to promote gender equality in bringing about women's economic empowerment.

Module 5 places advocacy work within the overall social mobilization and communication framework for integrating the issues of unpaid work into national policies. These efforts begin as early as the planning stage of the time-use survey or a multi-purpose survey integrating time-use data collection. The module outlines the steps in policy advocacy work. It is designed to help ensure that key actors fully understand the significance of increasing the visibility of unpaid work and, consequently, are able to take appropriate policy action.

Module 6 presents country experiences on how time-use data have been collected, analysed, measured and valued, and how they have provided information for policy action and advocacy. The experiences of the Republic of Korea, India and Mongolia convey useful lessons

in overcoming issues that emerge in the process of time-use data collection. More importantly, the country case studies point to the use of data and statistics for policy decisions that would positively affect women and men engaged in unpaid work.

How can this Guidebook help in promoting women's economic empowerment?



Materials from country experiences in the Asia-Pacific region are used to highlight concepts, principles and lessons learnt in exploring time-use data to highlight disparities in the day-to-day work that women and men do. Hard data and statistics will make the unpaid work of women and men more visible so that these workers will not remain marginalized by policy actions that exclude them. The Guidebook offers a roadmap in formulating and enacting policy action designed to improve the situation of unpaid workers, especially women. Such informed policy action can make a difference in the lives of women and men who have the existing potential to increase their contribution to national productivity. It is hoped that statisticians, policy and planning staff and development advocates will join together in promoting public action that will not only help recognize the contribution of unpaid workers but also enable them to articulate their needs and initiate self-development.