



**United Nations**

Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Statistics

**Measuring Time Use and Quantifying Care:  
Challenges and strategies in the design and harmonization  
of Time Use Surveys**

# Modernization of time-use data collection

**United Nations Statistics Division and  
the Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics**

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Photo by Fabrizio Verrecchia, Unsplash

**Webinar**  
**20 August 2020**

# TUS - Challenges faced by NSOs

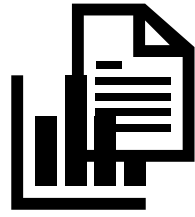
## Data expectations



High data quality



Data granularity

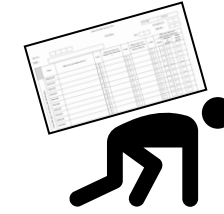


Usability

## Current challenges



Financial and human resources cost increase



Respondent burden



Declining response rate

## Indicator 5.4.1 in SDGs global database

- **89** countries between 2001-2018, with data disaggregated by sex
- **37** with trend data and comparable age groups

**How can time-use data be produced more regularly and efficiently?**

# UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics, since 2018

- Experts from national and international organizations and academia, with extensive experience in time-use surveys in terms of data collection instruments and collection modes, coding and activity classifications-including ICATUS 2016, and data analysis
- Members:

Australia	Morocco	UNWomen
Canada (chair)	New Zealand	UNECE
China	South Africa	UNECLAC
Finland	Thailand	Eurostat
Italy	United Kingdom	IATUR
Japan	United States	Time-use expert (Marge Guerrero)
Mexico	ILO	
Mongolia	UNICEF	

# UN Expert Group on Innovative and Effective Ways to Collect Time-Use Statistics

Solutions to modernize time-use data collection in line with ICATUS 2016 and SDGs

Output

Outcome



[Making the case for time-use data](#)



[Promoting consistent concepts and definitions](#)



[Ensuring high-quality data](#)



[Applying latest technologies](#)



Promoting more frequent collections ([Minimum harmonized instrument](#))



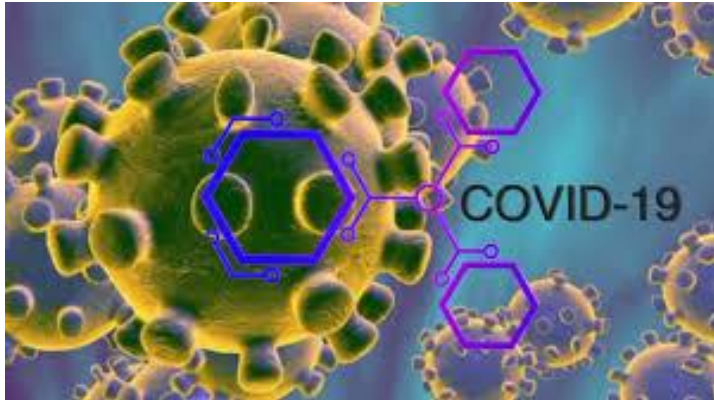
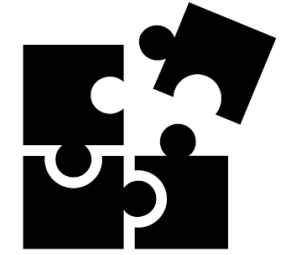
**New UN Guidelines on the production of time-use statistics**

**More:**

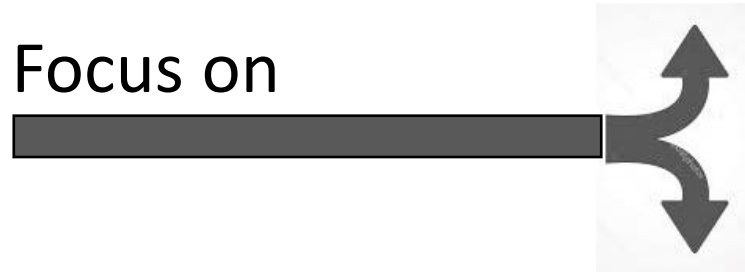
- Relevant
- High-quality
- Reliable
- Comparable
- Frequent
- Timely
- Cost-effective
- Accessible
- Consumable time-use data in all countries



Minimum harmonized instrument



Focus on



TUS during crisis



# Solutions: current focus



Minimum Harmonized Instrument to promote more frequent collections

Questions on economic characteristics



A minimum list of 25 predefined activities + contextual information + probing questions

Linking information

International Classification of Activities for Time-Use Statistics – ICATUS 2016

activity	0	30	1 am	30	2 am	30	3 am	30	4 am	30	5 am	30	6 am
1. Working in paid job or r													
2. Making goods for own ho													
3. Volunteer work													
4. Preparing and serving fod													
5. Cleaning own or family d													
6. Maintaining and making													
7. Cleaning and care of clo													
8. Managing own househ													
9. Looking care of pet													
10. Shopping													
11. Taking care of own (hou													
12. Taking care of or helpin													
13. Education													
14. Socializing and commur													
15. Community participatio													
16. Cultural, entertainment													
17. Hobbies, games and oth													
18. Sport participation and													
19. Reading for leisure													
20. Watching TV/Listening t													
21. Sleep													
22. Eating and drinking													
23. Personal hygiene and ca													
24. Travel													
25. Other													
Probing questions													
Contextual information													

# Solutions: current focus



## Minimum Harmonized Instrument to promote more frequent collections

### A minimum list of 25 predefined activities

Activity	0	30	1am	30	2am	30	3am	30	4am	30	5am	30	6am
1. Working in paid job or in													
2. Making goods for own ho													
3. Volunteer work													
4. Preparing and serving fo													
5. Cleaning own or family d													
6. Maintaining and making													
7. Cleaning and care of clo													
8. Managing own household													
9. Taking care of pet of own													
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24. Travel													
25. Other													
Probing questions													
Contextual information													

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

**SDG 5.4.1**

# Solutions: current focus



## Minimum Harmonized Instrument to promote more frequent collections

### A minimum list of 25 predefined activities

Activity	0	30	1am	30	2am	30	3am	30	4am	30	5am	30	6am
1. Working in paid job or in	→												
2. Making goods for own use	→												
3. Volunteer work	→												
4. Preparing and serving food	→												
5. Cleaning own or family dwelling	→												
6. Maintaining and making	→												
7. Cleaning and care of clothes	→												
8. Managing own household	→												
9. Taking care of pet of own household	→												
10. Shopping for own household	→												
11. Taking care of own household	→												
12. Taking care of or helping	→												
13. Education	→												
14. Socializing and communicating	→												
15. Community participation	→												
16. Cultural, entertainment	→												
17. Hobbies, games and other	→												
18. Sport participation and	→												
19. Reading for leisure	→												
20. Watching TV/Listening to	→												
21. Sleep	→												
22. Eating and drinking	→												
23. Personal hygiene and care	→												
24. Travel	→												
25. Other	→												
Probing questions													
Contextual information													

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



# Next steps:



- **Finalize the minimum instrument:**
  - Develop a “model questionnaire” and supporting material as hands-on tool for countries to test and adapt to own context, while promoting international comparability (ICATUS 2016):
    - Finalize probing questions and flows linking diary with background information
    - Develop option for stylized questions aligned to diary (25 activities)
    - Context variables: list of categories for each contextual variable
    - ...
    - Develop communication strategy to explain the instrument and use of data
    - Link to TUS data collection during crises (COVID)

# TUS during crises



Goal: to provide recommendations for countries on collecting TU data during crisis

- Keep it short (15') – min burden on respondents and min processing time (for timely data during crises);
- No verbatim – re-coding of activities would be too long to process;
- Location information (“where”) is critical;

Currently reviewing the instruments used during COVID by countries and determining measurement priorities





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<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/time-use/time-use-expert-group/>