

# Regional seminar on time-use surveys

## *From data to public policy: Using data from time use surveys for developing national policies*

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**Iliana Vaca**  
**Lucía Scuro**

Division of Gender Affairs



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# Political and institutional factors that facilitate the use of Time Use Surveys

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- Partnerships and interagency work
- Political will
- Action of civil society
- Role of the legal framework
- Massive and timely dissemination of data
- Building a technical but accessible discourse



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# Using Time-use Data for public policies

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Countries have followed different processes but with similarities:

- Data for advocacy which is requested by civil society in its attempt to improve services
- Strengthening capacity for data analysis in government and civil society
- Preparation of proposals based on the results of TUS and using these to advocate
- Integrating data into existing debates and use them as mobilizers for new demands



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# How and by whom has time-use data been used?

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- Costa Rica: National Gender Equality policy formulation, proposed Bill on Unpaid work, and National Care Program
- Ecuador: Used to debate and concrete articles in the 2008 Constitution, National Plan for Good Living, Organic Law of the People's Solidarity Economy, developing satellite account of unpaid work, strengthening public capacities.



# How and by whom has time-use data been used?

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- Mexico: Satellite Account, Evaluation of the Opportunities Program, the National Equality Program and the Equality Act
- Uruguay: data used in discussion and development of the National Care System; modification National Health Fund to integrate uninsured spouses and cohabiting partners.



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# Possible uses in sectoral policies:

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## Employment policies

- Time spent on Unpaid work determines if a person can participate in paid employment, as well as their position (formal/informal) or time they can spend (full/ part time)
- The relationship between employment and Unpaid work is direct since the time spent is inversely proportional
- Labour market and employment policies have to take into account this reality to articulate with other sectoral policies, and promote labour practices that impact use of time, such as redistribution of care tasks for example.
- Use of time can be assessed according to labour insertion (by occupational group, sectors of low productivity, branch of activity)



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# Possible uses in sectoral policies:

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## Social Security policies

- Unpaid work determines a persons employment position, and hence their access and participation in the pension system, or exclusion from it.
- Time Use data can be used to request:
  - Integration of those who are dedicated exclusively to unpaid domestic and care work
  - The partition of pension funds upon divorce



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# Possible uses in sectoral policies:

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## Poverty Reduction Policies

- Permits evaluation of programmes
- Time poverty – deficit which affects freedom and wellbeing
  - Poverty as income or consumption does not give information on time distribution in the household, although domestic production is required to achieve consumption
  - Time poverty associated to income poverty



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# Possible uses in sectoral policies:

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## Health policies:

- TU data provide information on how the burden of health care is distributed in households.

## Education policies:

- Reproduction of sexual division of labour in children and adolescents and its impact on objectives of education policies
- Initial education: importance of not overburdening families (mothers) when designing policies and their incidence on women's time use.



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# Challenges

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- Difficult dialogue between policies and gender statistics, lack of knowledge of the existende usefullness of time-use data and indicators
- Absent political actors , generally dependent on how TUS is arrived at, need to involve more actors from beginning and keep them engaged
- Lack of demand for information (needs to come to MAM but also other sectoral ministries)



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# Challenges: MAM

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- ❑ Strengthening installed capacity in national gender machineries for analysis of statistical information (necessary also to know what information to request from statistical institute)
- ❑ Institutional position of the national machinery and their possibility to dialogue and impact other governmental sectors
- ❑ Dissemination of Time Use data with an interpretive framework easily understood by CSOs and state institutions ( beyond the convinced )
- ❑ The construction of an expert discourse that can permeate public policies that will be part of the decision-makers



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# Challenges: NSO

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- Institutionalisation of Time Use surveys in national statistical offices, implying periodicity and its inclusion in the planning, programming and budget of the NSO
- Training of personal (to orientate survey, avoid bias, deal with illiteracy) with practical activities
- Ensure time does not escape - between questionnaire design and training which is key for people to remember
- Learn from accumulated experience and document survey process
- Standardization for international comparison

THANK YOU

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