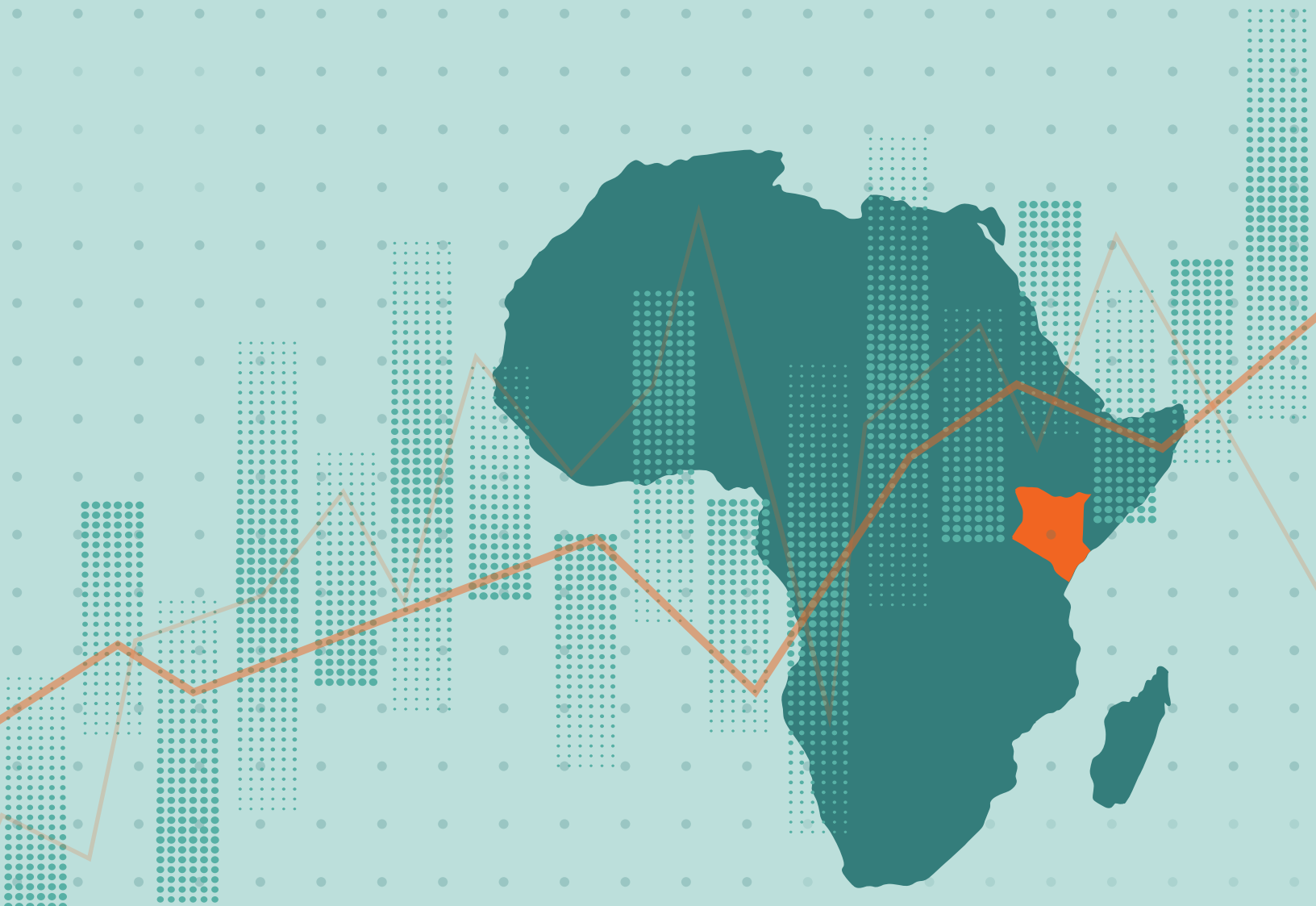


Role of Time Use Data in Policymaking in **Kenya**



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- CRC: Convention on the Rights of the Child
- CSO: Civil Society Organization
- GOK: Government of Kenya
- ICATUS: International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics
- ICRW: International Center for Research on Women
- ICT: Information Communication Technology
- IDRC: International Development Research Centre
- ILO: International Labour Organization
- KNBS: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- LFS: Labor Force Survey
- NTA: National Transfer Accounts
- NTTA: National Time Transfer Accounts
- SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
- SNA: System of National Accounts
- TUS: Time Use Survey
- WEE: Women's Economic Empowerment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Unpaid care work, mostly done by women and girls, develops human capabilities, maintains the labor force, and enables economies to function and grow. At the same time, the unpaid care work is distributed unevenly, constraining the options of women and girls, including participation in the labor force and schooling. Time use data, a key instrument for measuring unpaid care work, can significantly contribute to the design and analysis of policy options to address gender inequalities, redistribute this work, reduce women's workload, promote their labor force participation, and build strong economies. Data2X has commissioned a series of country case studies to examine the country's experience in collecting time use data and the role of time use data in policymaking under varied settings. Each of the four country cases—Kenya, Mongolia, Senegal, and South Korea—explores the motivation for and key features of the national time use surveys, and analyzes the extent of time use data influence and uptake in policymaking and policy discourses. The case studies then identify the enabling factors as well as challenges in the use of this data at the country level. This case study examines Kenya's experience in implementing a time use survey in 2021 and efforts to use that data for policymaking.

The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) identified the need to conduct a national time use survey after signing international and national treaties and instruments addressing the issue of gender equality and women's rights and after participating in global and regional discussions around the measurement of unpaid work to monitor SDG target 5.4. The survey came out of discussions between the KNBS staff and researchers with the National Time Transfer Account (NTTA), a global project to measure the economic status of women and men using a lifecycle approach. Researchers in Kenya could not effectively include Kenya in the NTTA analysis without a national time use survey. As a result, time use data became a priority area in the KNBS workplan.

Kenya's first national time use survey was conducted in 2021 as a module of the 2021 Kenya Continuous Household Survey (KCHS). The module design enabled time use estimations at the national, county, rural, and urban levels using data collected during the four quarters of the 2021 KCHS. Of the eligible households, 16,945 households completed the questionnaire. The time use module targeted individuals aged 15 years and above and covered the previous 24 hours (from 4 a.m. the previous day to 5 a.m. on the day of the interview). The survey used a retrospective diary method with pre-designated activity codes administered by an interviewer.

The Kenya TUS was published only last year, as a response to a global study demand rather than a specific policy need, so tracking its influence on policy formulation is premature. Still, the Office of the President used the TUS to develop Kenya's National Care Policy, which was announced during the International Day of Care and Support in October 2024. The case study focused on investigating public knowledge about the survey and accessibility to the survey data. Of the 22 key informants interviewed, more than half of respondents working in civil society organizations (CSOs) and half working in the government had a moderate or high level of awareness and understanding of time use data, while only a few academics did so; a majority of respondents who are aware of time use data accessed the Kenya time use data directly from the KNBS website, signaling the data's accessibility.

The case study also explored key informants' views of the potential policy implications of the time use data. Informants agreed on the important potential role of time use data in the development of fiscal policies to reduce the burden of care and the incorporation of unpaid work into the System of National Accounts (SNA). Time use data analysis, they mentioned, can provide evidence in support of programs aimed at strengthening the care economy, supporting

caregivers by enhancing caregiving skills and addressing their heavy workload, providing incentives to caregivers, and developing public care services and infrastructure. Additionally, they saw the usefulness of time use data to estimate the growth in jobs that can be created by expanding the care economy.

Good communication channels between policymakers, CSOs, academics and researchers on various aspects of policymaking around the care economy and care support initiatives were identified during the interviews as facilitating factors for the effective use of time use data in policymaking. The case study also notes that CSOs, academics, and researchers have engaged with policymakers and invited them to dissemination workshops and policy dialogues to discuss potential policy applications of their research.

There are, however, several challenges in the use of time use survey data to inform care interventions, including:

- Standalone surveys of time use data have limited use unless they are integrated with other datasets by using common identifiers or appending time use modules to different surveys.
- Respondent fatigue, as surveys can grow quite long. KNBS is attempting to combat this by using a light time use module developed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) as a module for labor force surveys.
- There is no historical time use data in Kenya, which would enable testing the impact of policy reforms. Undertaking continuous time use surveys could help overcome this.
- There is also inadequate capacity to use time use data to perform the analysis necessary to develop care and labor policies. The solution is to develop and conduct training modules on how to analyze time use data for policymaking.
- Lastly, there are inadequate financial resources to implement continuous surveys. Resource mobilization is needed in correspondence with any national survey, and discussions with possible funders should start as early as possible.

Key messages from this case study are the importance of having good communication channels between government, CSOs, and academics/researchers to bridge the gap between data production and potential use; the ever-present financial constraints in developing economies and, in response, the need to mobilize domestic and international financial resources to undertake light time use modules on a regular basis; and the need to strengthen capacity to analyze time use data with clear gender-informed policy objectives in mind.

INTRODUCTION

Many countries have long demonstrated a failure to recognize care work as productive work, resulting in undervaluing this work and not recognizing it in policy formulation and analysis. In recent years, efforts have ramped up in some countries, including Kenya, to make the care economy a policy priority.¹ This includes measuring unpaid care work, a critical step towards the formulation and implementation of gender-sensitive economic and social policies, including care policies. In 2021, Kenya conducted its first national time use survey that can be used to develop policies addressing gender inequality. Kenya is incorporating a light time use module developed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in the 2024 labor force survey.

This case study documents the experience of Kenya in developing and collecting national time use data to inform public policies. This study provides a brief background on the global, regional, and national efforts to recognize and reduce the significant amount of unpaid work performed predominantly by women, which served as a primary motivation for the Kenyan government to conduct a national time use survey. It highlights the experience of addressing care issues in Kenyan policies using the 2021 national time use survey results. The study also examines the production and use of this data based on interviews with key informants and stakeholders, including Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) staff, policymakers, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs), and researchers/academicians.² The list of organizations interviewed is provided in Appendix 2.

KNBS staff detailed the key elements of how the survey was designed and implemented, and how the resulting data was disseminated. Other stakeholders discussed the potential use of the data and its policy relevance, as well as related challenges and successes. The study relies on these informants to explore the link between time use data and care policies and its uptake by policymakers, academics, and practitioners.

The importance of addressing unpaid care work is articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 5 Target 5.4.1), which commits United Nations member states to recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibilities within households and families as nationally appropriate.³ The Kenya Constitution (2010) explicitly gives provisions for care work by indicating that it is the shared responsibility of both parents to care for their children. Kenya has also ratified various international treaties and instruments in previous decades that address the issues of gender equality and women's rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC 1989), the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), and the African Union Agenda 2023, among others.

Alongside these international and regional agreements are the Government of Kenya's efforts to improve the care economy. These include the National Policy on Older Persons and Aging, published in 2009 and revised in 2014, which mandates the provision of reasonable care and assistance to older persons by family and the state; the Palliative Healthcare Policy (2021-2030), which seeks to enhance palliative care services; Persons with Disabilities Act (2003), which

1 Salimah Valiani. 2022. The Africa Care Economy Index for FEMNET – The Africa Women's Development and Communication Network www.femnet.org

2 The authors conducted a stakeholder mapping. Twenty-four stakeholders were initially targeted.

3 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (n.d.). Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5>

provides for the care of persons with disabilities; and the Children Act (2022), which includes the care of children. More recently, Kenya has drafted the National Care Policy, a key document that addresses care using 10 broad priority areas with clear objectives (see Appendix 1).⁴

Despite these good intentions, unequal gender distribution and the low status of care work continue to be critical barriers to women's social, political, and economic empowerment. Using household surveys and small sample datasets, several studies show that women and girls in Kenya are primarily responsible for unpaid care work, which is a prevalent global phenomenon.⁵ A 2014 African Women's Studies Centre study underscores the economic implications of unpaid care work in Kenya, finding that it significantly restricts women's ability to participate in the formal economy.⁶ These findings are echoed in a 2016 ActionAid report that highlights the need for policy interventions to recognize and redistribute unpaid care work in Kenya.⁷ A 2019 Oxfam report noted that Kenyan women in rural areas spend up to 12 hours a day on unpaid care work, a significant time burden that restricts their opportunities for paid employment.⁸ A 2020 KNBS and UN Women report shows that women in Kenya spend an average of 11.1 hours per day on unpaid care work, compared to just 2.9 hours for men, a disparity that perpetuates gender inequalities.⁹

Care work is a key factor in determining whether women enter and stay in employment and the quality of jobs they perform. The disproportionate responsibility for care work, especially unpaid work, results in time poverty and significant opportunity costs, particularly among the poorest and most marginalized women and girls. For instance, women in low-income households in Kenya spend an average of 6-7 hours per day on unpaid care work, five times as much as wealthier women.¹⁰ The unequal distribution of unpaid care work reinforces gender inequalities and dependence, which increase women's and girls' financial vulnerability and risk of violence. These studies and the growing body of empirical evidence in other countries call for urgent policy interventions to recognize, reduce, and redistribute unpaid care work to promote gender equality and economic development in Kenya.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST NATIONAL TIME USE SURVEY IN KENYA

Identification and Prioritization of Time Use Survey

The need to monitor SDG target 5.4.1 motivated KNBS to conduct its first nationally representative time use survey. Global and regional discussions on the measurement of unpaid work also informed this decision. The actual genesis of the survey can be traced to initial discussions between KNBS staff and researchers on the global project, the National Time Transfer Account (NTTA). The objective of the NTTA is to measure the economic status of women and men using a lifecycle approach. Without national time use data, researchers could not compare the economic statuses of men and women within Kenya, or Kenya's experience to other countries. As a result of these myriad factors, time use data became a priority area in the KNBS workplan.

4 Government of Kenya (2023) KENYA NATIONAL CARE POLICY Draft. State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action

5 Folbre, N., & Warlick, J. L. (2020). The measurement of care: Cross-cultural comparisons of paid and unpaid caregiving. *Journal of International Development*, 32(7), 1019-1041.

6 African Women's Studies Centre. (2014). Kenya National Gender and Equality Commission: Unpaid Care Work and Gender Equality. University of Nairobi Press

7 ActionAid. (2017). Redistributing Unpaid Care Work: Why It Matters in Kenya. Action Aid International

8 Oxfam. (2019). Time to Care: Unpaid and Underpaid Care Work and the Global Inequality Crisis. Oxfam International

9 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) & UN Women. (2020). Gender Sector Statistics Plan: Improving the Availability and Use of Gender Statistics in Kenya. KNBS.

10 Gender and Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEMPI). (2019). Gender Dimensions of Unpaid Care Work in Kenya. Nairobi: African Women's Development and Communication Network

KNBS received support from many entities during data collection and dissemination. For example, UN Women provided technical and financial support, with the assistance of Oxfam and the World Bank. Civil society organizations and academic institutions such as GROOTS Kenya, SDGs Kenya Forum, and the University of Nairobi aided in designing the survey questionnaire and participated in the dissemination of study findings. Honorable Harriette Chiggai and the Office of the President’s Advisor on Women’s Rights were instrumental in publishing and disseminating the survey results, including during an International Day of Care event in 2023. Key government agencies in Kenya, such as the State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action, the National Gender and Equality Commission, and the Council of Governors, provided technical support, especially in formulating the survey questions and module design.

Survey Method

The national time use data was collected in 2021 and published in 2023.¹¹ The time use survey was one module in the 2021 Kenya Continuous Household Survey (KCHS) that began in 2019. It thus followed the sampling design and methodology of the 2021 KCHS. The sample size allocation and sampling frame were similar with one exception. The 2021 KCHS employed a two-stage stratified cluster sampling design, while the time use survey added a third selection stage of eligible individuals from within the household. The enumerators first listed all the usual members of the selected households, and then all members eligible for the time use module were rostered. Two individuals aged 15 and older were selected randomly using a Kish Grid. The module was then administered to these individuals without replacements.¹²

The module design enabled time use estimations at national and county levels as well as in rural and urban areas, using data collected during the four quarters of the 2021 KCHS. A total of 24,000 households were sampled, and 19,522 of the sampled households were found to be eligible for the survey. Out of the eligible households, 16,945 households participated in the survey and completed the questionnaire. There were 40,764 individuals eligible for the module from the 16,945 households interviewed.

The reference period used in the time use module was the past 24 hours, from 4am of the previous day to 5am of the day of the interview. It used a retrospective diary method with pre-designated activity codes administered by an interviewer. The interview relied on the recall of the household member responding. Before data collection commenced, KNBS staff were trained and, in turn, trained the interviewers. The training covered why the survey was necessary, concepts of time use, the methodology/survey design, the questionnaire, and how to collect quality data.

Activity Categorization

The 2021 Kenya time use survey collected data on activities detailed in the nine major divisions of the International Classification of Activities for Time Use Statistics (ICATUS-16).¹³ The ICATUS-16 is used to classify the activities that people engage in (United Nations 2021a). It is a three-level hierarchically organized classification scheme with nine major divisions (one-digit), disaggregated across 56 divisions (two-digit), and 165 groups (three-digit). The scheme is

11 The data, survey manual, and report are publicly available on the KNBS website, <https://www.knbs.or.ke/>.

12 A detailed description of the methodology is provided in the Kenya Time Use Report available on the KNBS website: <https://www.knbs.or.ke/>.

13 For the care economy, the time use survey collected both paid care activities covered in Major Division 1 and unpaid care activities covered in Major Divisions 3, 4, and 5. See the list of activities reported in the time use survey in Appendix 3.

harmonized with the SNA (2008) production boundary, general production boundary, and the 19th ICLS forms of work framework.

The Kenya time use survey allows respondents to note when they engage in two or more activities simultaneously, called “simultaneous activities.” The survey questionnaire allows for the collection of time spent on primary and secondary activities, along with selected context variables such as: for whom, who was with you, where did the activity take place, for pay/profit, did you do the activities at the same time/did you do anything else, and how long did the activity take.

First National Time Use Survey Results

A primary objective of the 2021 Kenya time use survey was to gather data on paid and unpaid work to monitor the impact of government policies on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The survey provided valuable data on how time spent on unpaid work is heavily gendered, with women overwhelmingly engaged in domestic tasks.¹⁴ Statistics from the survey indicate that Kenyan women spend 4-5 hours per day on average on unpaid care work compared to about 1 hour by men. If all forms of work (paid and unpaid) are added up, Kenyan women work on average 7-8 hours per day compared to men’s 6-7 hours.¹⁵ Nationally, the proportion of total time that girls aged 15-17 years spend on unpaid work is three times as much as that of boys in the same age group (14 percent versus 4.1 percent).

There are variations at the county level. Women in Marsabit county have the highest unpaid time burden, spending 30.2 percent or 7 hours a day on unpaid care work. This is followed by women in Wajir (26.8 percent), Samburu (24.2 percent), Mandera (23.8 percent), and Garissa (23.7 percent). Further, the survey findings show that gender inequalities are evident in the participation rates in non-System of National Accounts (SNA) production activities (activities that are not reported in the national income account). Nationally, the participation rate in non-SNA production activities was 68.7 percent, of which women’s participation was 93.5 percent, while men’s participation was 42.7 percent.

USE OF KENYA TIME USE DATA

Awareness of Time Use Data

The Kenya Time Use Report was published in 2023 as a response to a global study demand rather than a specific policy need. Its influence on policy is limited to a recent policy announcement by the Office of the President. This office announced that it is developing a National Care Policy on the International Day of Care and Support in October 2024 that uses the TU survey data.

This case study focuses on investigating knowledge of the TU survey and accessibility to the survey data. About 40 percent of the 22 respondents exhibited a deep understanding of time use data. An additional 33 percent have a moderate understanding of data, indicating that they are acquainted with the fundamental concepts of time use data but lack in-depth knowledge or the capacity to use this data. The remaining 27 percent of respondents (mostly academics) lack an understanding of time use data, indicating a significant segment of stakeholders are uninformed or unfamiliar with the concept.

14 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). (2019). Kenya Time Use Survey. KNBS

15 Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). (2023). Kenya Time Use Report. Published by: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics Real Towers, Upper Hill. info@knbs.or.ke / directorgeneral@knbs.or.ke / library@knbs.or.ke

Breaking down the interview information by specific categories of respondents provides additional insights. About 60 percent of civil society organizations (CSOs) and 50 percent of policymakers (Ministry of Labor and Social Protection; Ministry of Public Service, Gender and Affirmative Action; and Ministry of Youth Affairs, Sports and The Arts) interviewed had a moderate or high level of awareness and understanding of time use data. This is particularly noteworthy given their role in societal development and policy formulation. Only 25 percent of the academics interviewed had a high level of understanding of time use data. This suggests a potential area for capacity strengthening, education, and training initiatives in the different sectors, particularly academic circles, to enhance the understanding and use of time use data. The interview findings align with the findings of other studies on time use data awareness. For instance, a 2021 Journal of Time Use Studies study found that while awareness of time use data was relatively high among government officials and non-profit organizations, it was notably lower among university faculty and researchers.¹⁶

Knowledge of Time Use Data Sources

Fourteen out of 22 respondents who are aware of the time use data accessed it directly from the KNBS website. Time use data and research available at UN Women, Oxfam, and the Kenyatta University Women's Economic Empowerment (KU WEE) Hub websites were accessed by two of the respondents, reflecting some level of engagement with international organizations and NGOs that focus on gender and economic issues. The ILO light time use module is the least known; only one of the respondents was aware of plans to use the module. Respondents who have accessed time use data and related research mentioned the following as their sources:

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS): As the government's main statistical agency, it provides extensive national data on a wide range of socioeconomic indicators, including time use.

UN Women: Its analysis of time use data shows the disparities in how men and women allocate their time. Its research focuses on gender equality and women's empowerment issues, such as unpaid care work and economic participation to advocate for gender-responsive policies and programs.

Oxfam: Its time use data analysis explores the intersection of economic inequality and time poverty, providing insights into how socioeconomic status affects individuals use of time in their daily lives and their capacity to improve their livelihoods.

The ILO: The International Labor Organization (ILO) 2021 Light Time Use data collected in other countries provides a comprehensive overview of how individuals allocate their time across various activities, focusing on work and related activities. This dataset helps understand gender disparities in labor patterns and productivity. The ILO plans to add a light time use module to Kenya's labor force survey in 2024.

Kenyatta University Women's Economic Empowerment (KU WEE) Hub: The KU WEE Hub focuses on research and advocacy to enhance women's economic participation. The project sheds light on women's economic activities, aiming to identify barriers and opportunities for improving women's economic outcomes.

The preference for KNBS as the primary source of time use data among most respondents highlights the importance of official statistics in shaping public understanding and policy.

16 Smith, J. (2021). "Awareness and Application of Time Use Data in Policy Making and Research." *Journal of Time Use Studies*, 45(3), 210-225

Although general socioeconomic data is widely used, there is ample room for enhancing the recently published 2021 Kenya time use data to undertake more nuanced analyses that address specific gender and economic issues. The minimal awareness of plans to use the ILO light time use module in Kenya indicates a potential need for better discussion and promotion of the planned work. Ensuring broader access and awareness of these diverse sources of time use data could lead to more informed and effective policymaking, particularly in addressing gender disparities and economic inequality.

Uptake of Time Use Data

National time use data has only recently become available in Kenya and has yet to be widely used for policymaking. However, the stakeholders interviewed for this case study noted that time use data has value for policymaking and can and should be used in developing policy. Among the 18 key informants, 12 suggested that the data is a powerful tool in promoting gender equality, and seven indicated that the data is helpful for policy development.

Seven also said including care labor in gross domestic product calculations was helpful. The interviewees emphasized the important role that time use data can have in promoting gender-sensitive economic and social policies. It can play a critical role in developing fiscal policies, such as social protection schemes for the elderly, reducing the burden of care, and allowing the incorporation of unpaid work into the SNA. Time use data analysis can provide evidence in support of targeted interventions to promote gender equality and programs aimed at strengthening the care economy and addressing women's heavy workload, as well as developing public care services and infrastructure. Additionally, time use data can be used to estimate how many jobs could be created by expanding the care economy.

Currently, policymakers in Kenya primarily use time use data to guide policy actions addressing unpaid care responsibilities. This includes incorporating unpaid work into the SNA, which helps recognize the economic value of unpaid caregiving. They have also used the data to develop policies that compensate women by giving them incentives for time spent in caregiving. CSOs and NGOs use time use data for policy development, promoting gender equality, and conducting economic analysis. This supports their advocacy work and efforts to influence public policy and social programs. They have also used it to enroll individuals in programs designed to enhance caregiving skills and to advocate for public services and infrastructure that support caregivers.

Academics and researchers use time use data to incorporate unpaid work into economic measurements within the SNA, quantify time spent on caregiving, and offer evidence-based policy recommendations. For example, researchers have examined gender inequality in economic sectors, analyzed the reasons behind gender gaps in the workforce, and assessed the impact of unpaid work on girls' school attendance and performance.

Engagement With Stakeholders and Dissemination of Time Use Data

Kenyan policymakers have involved CSOs, academicians, and researchers in various aspects of policymaking and implementation.¹⁷ Policymakers have brought in experts and researchers to provide statistics and evidence on effective practices to help secure funding for caregiving support initiatives. Additionally, CSOs, academics, and researchers have engaged with policymakers in translating their research findings into actionable policies and have invited them to dissemination workshops and policy dialogues to discuss potential policy applications of

¹⁷ This was mentioned by 26.32 percent of sampled key informants.

their research.¹⁸ There are also collaborative efforts among NGOs and universities in analyzing and using data to inform and influence policy.¹⁹ Academics and researchers also engage with county governments as part of their advocacy efforts to support gender-sensitive policies and ensure that their study findings lead to concrete actions at the county and local levels. Policymakers, academics, and CSOs working closely together brings evidence and valuable insights in selecting strategies that are practical and can be effectively implemented.

Key Challenges in the Production and Use of Time Use Data

Although researchers, CSOs, and policymakers generally agree on the importance of time use data in designing and implementing policies and programs, stakeholders cited several challenges related to doing so.

First, using a stand-alone module to collect time use data tends to limit the use of this data unless it can be statistically combined with other datasets. For example, analyzing poverty differentials among unpaid care workers would require matching consumption and expenditure data. Hence, it was recommended that time use surveys should be appended to a larger survey or have identifying variables that enable the data to be merged with other datasets.

However, incorporating a time use module into a larger survey, like household budget surveys, will likely cause respondent fatigue. One solution is to design simpler time use modules that are easy to administer, such as the Light Time Use Module developed by the ILO, which KNBS will implement soon (see below). Another challenge is the lack of historical data on time use. Without having data spread over time periods, it is impossible to test how policy reforms or interventions have impacted women's time use. Undertaking continuous time use surveys would be very helpful.

Some CSOs felt that data collection could sometimes be influenced by culture. One CSO respondent notes:

“Regarding gender analysis on what women do, there is a challenge in sharing data based on cultural beliefs. You may not get what you want from people. Some believe it’s women’s work and do not provide the data. The feeling is that it’s work for women, so why bother them? Women are not complaining, and the community has very strong beliefs in Kenya.”

There were also concerns regarding the age limit for time use survey respondents set at 15 years as it does not include activities carried out by younger individuals, resulting in data gaps. It was argued that some care-related activities do not necessarily constitute child labor. Unfortunately, this challenge is difficult to solve since time use data is expected to follow the SNA format to ensure that the care economy can be integrated into the SNA or national income accounts, where contributions by individuals under the age of 15 are not directly considered in national income computation.

Policymakers and researchers also pointed to a lack of technical capacity to perform the analyses on time use data necessary to support the creation of care and labor policies as a significant challenge. This capacity gap can be bridged with additional training on analyzing time use data for policymaking.

¹⁸ This was mentioned by 18.42 percent of sampled key informants.

¹⁹ This was mentioned by 15.79 percent of sampled key informants.

LIGHT TIME USE MODULE FOR THE 2024 KENYA LABOR FORCE SURVEY

According to KNBS, the light time use module is meant to simplify data collection. The module, developed by the ILO, is intended to take the least time possible while capturing all the necessary elements of time use. Kenya has not yet piloted the light time use module. However, there are plans to incorporate the module in the 2024 labor force survey (LFS). According to KNBS, the ILO technical officers have already extensively discussed the module design with them, but the actual training has not yet been completed. KNBS has shared its concern that the LFS is already a large survey, so adding a module may cause respondent fatigue. However, the light time use module is less time intensive than the traditional standalone survey that KNBS implemented in 2021. Therefore, respondent fatigue may not necessarily be an issue. There is a lot of interest in this ILO-sponsored initiative in Kenya since one of the key recommendations from the 2021 Kenya time use survey is to routinely collect data on time use. One of the key challenges of the light time use module is inadequate financial resources. Resource mobilization for this type of survey should correspond with any national survey, and discussions with possible funders should start as early as possible.

Additionally, limited technical capacity is a constraint. The ILO has begun training KNBS staff on the module. It is equally important to build the capacity of academics who collaborate with KNBS on time use analysis and use in policy evaluation, as well as on the potential uses of the 2024 light time use module.

CONCLUSION

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 Target 5.4.1 has emphasized the importance of measuring unpaid work to inform policies that promote gender equality. Kenya has signed several international commitments and initiated care-related policies to tackle gender inequalities, including drafting the Kenya National Care Policy. Despite these initiatives, Kenya continues to experience wide gender disparities regarding unpaid care work. Women, on average, spend four times more hours than men doing unpaid care work.

This study assessed the production and use of time use data for gender-sensitive policies and its potential application in the Kenyan context. KNBS produces time use data in consultation with different stakeholders, including CSOs, policymakers, researchers, academics, and institutional partners such as UN Women, the World Bank, and Oxfam. The primary users of time use data in Kenya are CSOs. Academics and researchers are less likely to use time use data than CSOs and policymakers. A key reason for their relatively low use is their lack of training and knowledge about time use data. Some policymakers have been sensitized to the time use data and are currently using it to develop policies. The State Department of Gender, the National Gender Economic Commission, and the Office of the President are the key government agencies spearheading using time use data in Kenya, along with CSOs.

The 2024 ILO time use module is still a new concept in Kenya and has not yet been implemented. KNBS is aware of the module, although this is limited to the staff dealing with gender statistics. KNBS plans to, depending on funding availability, include the module in the next labor force survey.

A key message from the interviews is the need for capacity building on time use data analysis, especially among researchers keen on pursuing gender-related research. There is also a need to institutionalize the time use data collection to have several data points over time to conduct gender impact assessments of policies and projects. Regarding the ILO light time

use module, training sessions should be made available to KNBS statisticians, policymakers, and researchers to provide a good orientation and understanding of the module and potential uses of the resulting data for policy analysis.

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APPENDIX 1: PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DRAFT KENYA NATIONAL CARE POLICY, 2023

NUMBER	PRIORITY	OBJECTIVE
1	Measurement of Unpaid Care Work	Ensure availability of accurate and timely data on time spent on care activities by men, women, boys and girls.
2	Employment Policies and Labor Policies/ Regulations	Promote family friendly employment policies and regulations that recognize and seek to reduce the additional responsibility of care work on men and women.
3	Social Protection	Improve the livelihoods and reduce vulnerabilities of those in need of care (including children, elderly, persons with disability, the sick).
4	Child Care	Ensure adequate care for children especially those below three years who are not catered for within the existing early childhood development centres.
5	Healthcare	Ensure access to quality and affordable health care (as provided for by the constitution) to the underserved population who are in need of care especially the need for palliative care.
6	Social and Cultural Norms	Address the socio-cultural beliefs that guide the assignment of roles and responsibilities with regard to care work.
7	Care for Elderly persons	Ensure adequate access to affordable and quality care by the elderly persons.
8	Care for Persons with Disabilities	Ensure adequate access to affordable and quality care by persons with disabilities.
9	Care Support Infrastructure	Enhance government investment in the care economy through provision of gender responsive public services that would reduce the responsibility of unpaid care work.
10	Domestic Work/Services	Ensure decent work for paid domestic workers and redistribution of the responsibility of unpaid domestic work.

APPENDIX 2: INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATIONS OF INTERVIEWEES, 2024

- Centre for Rights Education and Awareness for Women (CREAW) Kenya (CSO)
- Chuka University
- Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD)
- County of Kiambu/GROOTS Kenya
- County of Nyeri, Director, Youth and Social Services
- GROOTS Kenya
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- International Labour Organization
- Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- Kidogo
- Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
- Ministry of Planning, Office of the Prime Minister
- National Gender and Economic Commission
- SDGs Kenya Forum
- State Department of Gender
- University of Nairobi
- University of Nairobi Women's Economic Empowerment Hub (UoN-WEE)
- Kenyatta University Women's Economic Empowerment Hub (KU-WEE)