



# **GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE UNPAID WORK AND THE ECONOMY**

**GENDER, POVERTY AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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**A NEW ROUND OF TIME-USE STUDIES FOR AFRICA:  
MEASURING UNPAID WORK FOR PRO-POOR  
DEVELOPMENT POLICES**

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# **Why Unpaid Work is Important for Development Policy?**

- ❖ Household economy is a continuing and growing part of the total economic system**
- ❖ Estimates of the value of household work as a proportional GDP vary between 33 and 55%**
- ❖ Ironmonger describes Household Economy (HE) as two-legged animal – with a market leg and a household leg – Both are necessary for the economy to stand up, to walk and to run.**

# Where are we with Measurement of Unpaid Work in Africa?

- ❖ TUS are emerging as a very useful statistical tool to generate data on how individuals spend their time
  - Time spent can be used to estimate value of unpaid work
- ❖ TUS have become common in other regions but only 5 African countries have undertaken TUS because:
  - New concept, tools and capacity lacking
- ❖ Surveys in 5 countries were expensive, not designed to provide timely and adequately required GDD statistics
- ❖ TUS procedures different, GDD statistics not comparable between/within countries and cannot be replicated

# What is ECA's Contribution to Unpaid Work?

- ❖ **There is a sentiment from the international community including ECA that lack of TUS to measure unpaid work is a serious data gap in statistical system**
- ❖ **To address this serious data gap ECA's 2001 – 2005 program on GM in NABP focused on four areas:**
  - (i) advocacy to garner the support of African governments and partners to invest in TUS to measure unpaid work**
  - (ii) Development of tools to measure and integrate unpaid work in national planning instruments and policies**
  - (iii) to build capacity of national experts to use the tools developed**
  - (iv) to backstop the implementation of time use surveys.**

## Why Continuous Household Surveys (CHS)?

- ❖ CHS are quarterly, six monthly or annual national studies on time use and other household data of a representative sample size of not more than 5,000 households per country.
- ❖ Provide a modern, scientific and cost-effective way to generate new, timely and more accurate figures of the complete economic system
- ❖ CHS provide data on time use, income and expenditure as well as access to productive resources other surveys do not generate
- ❖ Establishment of CHS throughout all African countries is the essential starting point for the creation of modern, vigorous and up-to-date national statistical systems
- ❖ CHS aim to produce two new statistical systems in Africa for use with existing national accounts: **National Time Accounts** and **National Satellite Accounts of Household Production**

## What are NTA?

**NTA are a set of estimates of total income and expenditure of time, similar to the estimates of national income and expenditure, which account for market transactions in monetary units.**

- ❖ They provide a more complete understanding of households than is available from accounts, which focus solely on the use of money**
- ❖ NTA provide a better understanding of the total economy: market production from the formal sectors plus non-market production from the informal or household sector**
- ❖ Two new sets of data follow from the regular estimate of sets of national time accounts. These are: (i) regular estimates of GHP and (ii) NSAHP**

# What are Applications of Measurements of Unpaid Work for Development Policy?

- I. To fill a statistical gap and to produce extended labour statistics and extended production accounts
  
- II. To use statistics on unpaid work to convince policy makers to recognize unpaid work by reforming statistical systems
  - ❖ As a priority development stakeholders should change their thinking about work and economic activity
  - ❖ As a policy, governments should introduce regular time use studies that inform policies in many fields: child care, health, education, care of the sick
  
- III. To ensure that government policies help non – market household production to be allocated productive resources commensurate with its economic significance
  - ❖ Put in place policies for promoting gender equality
    - Reducing women’s time burden
    - Measuring unpaid work to reflect women’s contribution to economy

# What are Applications of Measurements of Unpaid Work for Development Policy (Cont'd)?

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- IV. To help formulate labour market policies and labour market planning to enhance women's employment and income**
    - ❖ **Creation of equal opportunities employment policy**
    - ❖ **Upgrading skills of women to allow women to participate in labour markets**
  
  - V. To help formulate policies to reduce gender bias in macroeconomic policies**
    - ❖ **Introduce gender responsive budgets that ensures public money is raised and spent equitably**
  
  - VI. To help formulate policies to monitor changes in the allocation of extended labour resources and to monitor impacts of policies on household production & poverty**
    - ❖ **Policies to adopt both qualitative and quantitative measures to regularly evaluate impacts of policies before implementation**
    - ❖ **Use evaluation results for advocacy on unpaid work and directing actions and resources to address gender issues in unpaid work**