

***The challenges in integrating unpaid work
into economic policy
in lower and middle-income countries:***

Focus on Benin

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Beninese Context

- ❖ **1998 Benin HDR focuses on gender inequalities & the role of women**
- ❖ **Growing govt. recognition of the role of women**
- ❖ **UNDP partners with Beninese government to conduct one of first TUS in Africa**

Methodology

- **Incorporated into existing national surveys (urban & rural)**
- **Conducted March-April (low agricultural season)**
- **24 hr recall interview method**
- **Accounted for days entirely dedicated to social activities**

FINDINGS

- TUS showed that more than 50% of women are in active population whereas census showed only slightly over 40% (census undercounted contribution of both men & women).
- If domestic activities are taken into account, women spend 43% more time than men working. This is true in urban as well as in rural settings.
- Principle non-market activity is fetching water.

TUS in National Reports

- Common Country Assessment, 2002

UN/Benin govt. report including a chapter on gender inequity quoted wide range of ground surveys. No mention of TUS.

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, 2002

2002 Strategic Country Gender Assessment, briefing note for PRSP, refers directly to TUS. Final PRSP contains no direct mention. Joint Staff Assessment suggests “producing sex-disaggregated data”.

- HDRs 1998 and 2003

1998-Full chapter dedicated to methodology and results of 1998

TUS. 2003-Acknowledges gender inequity but no reference to TUS as relevant source of data for policy reform.

- MDG Report 2003

Despite lack of reference to TUS, some correlations between objectives in MDG report & conclusions of TUS.

➤ Identifies “weak” evaluation mechanisms, information management capacities and capacities to integrate statistical analyses in elaboration of policy and resource allocation mechanisms

Challenges

- Insufficient but increasing appropriation of the concept of gender equality by decision makers & political authorities
 - 2002 CCA explicitly refers to a “weak appropriation of equity and gender equality (by decision makers and national and traditional political authorities).”
- Lack of capitalization of TUS
 - Limited national ownership of TUS and concept of gender equality
 - Limited capitalization of TUS results by the UN System (CCA, 2003 HDR, MDG Reports)

Ensuring a better integration of unpaid work into economic policy

- ❖ UN agencies and departments to invest more in gender sensitive capacity building before, during and after TUS
- ❖ Resident Coordinators to promote greater collaboration and coordination among UN agencies and depts. Provide greater visibility to TUS data.

