Valuing Women’s Unpaid Care and Household Work
The Policy Potential of Time Use Data

What is unpaid care and household work? Unpaid care and household work is work that people do to take care of their households and others: cooking, cleaning, caring for children, the ill, and the elderly, and many other important tasks.

What is a time use survey? Time use (TU) surveys are quantitative summaries of how people spend their time over a specific period and how much time is spent doing each activity. TU surveys help collect data that can be used to improve economic and social policies and have been used to:

- Advocate for policies that reduce the care burden including expanding care for preschool children, elderly people, and people with disabilities.
- Help countries better value the contribution of unpaid care work to an economy relative to GDP.
- Inform and promote child protection policies by highlighting child labor and promoting broader child welfare systems.
- Drive public campaigns to promote shared responsibilities in the home.
- Measure the impact of development interventions by highlighting impact on girls’ time use.

DID YOU KNOW?

Around the world, women spend two to ten times more time on unpaid care work than men.1 Countries have valued unpaid care work between 15 and 39% of national GDP.2 Data shows that women often have a higher total work burden than men when paid and unpaid work are combined.3 88 countries have conducted some type of time use analysis, helping to highlight the hidden burden of unpaid care work.4

Learn more at data2x.org/time-use-report