

Tanzania: Time Use Surveys and Policy Case Study



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Identify and Prioritize

Tanzania Gender & Networking Program (TGNP) took the lead in advocating for increased production of gender statistics and time use data. An NGO funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, TGNP works to increase knowledge generation, research, and analysis of gender topics. It also provides advocacy training to women and youth. Its basic objective was to recognize women's unpaid work and monetize this contribution as a percentage of gross domestic product. TGNP organized workshops for government officials from Tanzania's Ministry of Finance, the Planning Commission and the National Bureau of Statistics, on the importance of accounting for unpaid care work when developing policies and budgets.¹ TGNP explained how time use data could be used in the macroeconomic modeling that informs the government's budgeting and policy. They also conducted small-scale research to reveal the time spent by members of AIDS-affected households on care work.

After several years of research and advocacy, TGNP's efforts resulted in a decision by Tanzania's National Bureau of Statistics to add a time use module to the 2006 Integrated Labor Force Survey.² TGNP provided the necessary technical assistance, including training and monitoring.

Collect and Analyze

The 2006 ILFS was intended to supply the data needed to monitor the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction or "MKUKUTA." The ILFS was implemented by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Youth Development. The survey was funded by the government of Tanzania through the vice president's office, in collaboration with development partners under the PRSP.

A three-stage sampling approach was agreed upon during the planning stage. The sampling work started in November 2005 and ended in December 2005, before the execution of the fieldwork for the ILFS. The sampling was based on the National Master Sample (NMS) that covers Tanzania's Mainland and Zanzibar.

The three-stage sampling used the 2002 Census to determine representative samples of rural villages and urban enumeration areas that were reduced at the third stage to a random selection of 20 representative households in each selected village and 30 households in each urban EA. Five questionnaires focusing on different aspects were administered in each of these households. All household members seven years and older were interviewed for seven consecutive days in each quarter of the year using a diary with 90 groupings of activities, following a UN classification. The sample size included 3,000 households and 10,553 individuals.

2005

The Tanzania Gender & Networking Program (TGNP) pioneers the idea of conducting a time use survey (TUS) to recognize women's unpaid contributions. The Poverty Eradication Division of the vice president's office endorses the idea

2006

The first nationally representative time use module is incorporated into the Integrated Labor Force Survey (ILFS).

2014

A second TU module is implemented through ILFS

2017–2018

Forthcoming household budget survey (currently under development) will include a time use module to measure women's assets and derive an individual poverty measure. The TU module is promoted and will be funded by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

¹ Esplen 2009

² Budlender 2007

The 2014 ILFS was implemented by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) from January 2014 to December 2014. Funding for the survey was provided by the World Bank and other donors through Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) Basket Funds.

The 2014 ILFS used the sampling frame derived from 2012 Census for Dar es Salaam, rural areas, and other urban areas. The sample selection methodology for the 2014 ILFS was again based on a stratified three-stage sample design. The time use questionnaire was administered only in every fifth household in the sample. During data collection, the interviewer developed a household register for persons, ages 5 years or older based on their sex and age. One household member was selected from the register using the Kish grid criteria (a scientific method to select a representative household member by sex and age) and the time use questionnaire was administered to the selected member of the household in each selected household in the subsample. Approximately 1,440 household members were interviewed.

The time use module uses ICATUS which is now in line with System of National Accounts (SNA) categories; the classification system contains 15 categories which fall into one of three umbrella activity categories: SNA activities, extended SNA, and non-work.

SNA activities:

1. Work for corporations, quasi-corporations, nonprofit institutions, and government
2. Work for household in primary production activities
3. Work for household in non-primary production activities
4. Work for household in construction activities
5. Work for household providing services for income

Extended SNA:

6. Providing unpaid domestic services for own final use within household
7. Providing unpaid care giving services to household members
8. Providing community services and help to other households

Non-work:

9. Learning
10. Socializing and community participation

11. Attending, visiting cultural, entertainment and sports event
12. Hobbies, games and other pastime activities
13. Indoor and outdoor sports participation and related courses
14. Mass media
15. Personal care and maintenance

Inform and Influence

The 2006 ILFS report was written by a team which included staff from the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics; Ministry of Planning, Economy and Empowerment; Ministry of Labor, Employment and Youth Development; Research on Poverty Alleviation; and Tanzania Gender Networking Program.

According to the published report, adding the time use modules to the standard labor force questions would help meet the main data users' specific needs. The government as the main data user was interested in labor force data in general. The International Labour Organization (ILO) was especially interested in the child labor module, because it wanted to determine the extent to which children are denied their basic rights, such as schooling, due to economic activities. TGNP was interested in the time use module, because it would shed light on gender disparities resulting from various economic activities performed at the family, community and national levels. The time use component was implemented with the technical support of an expert from the Republic of South Africa.

Findings

In "Gendered Patterns of Time Use in Tanzania: Public Investment in Infrastructure Can Help," Fontana and Natali (2008) present findings from a gender analysis of the 2006 TU data. The data showed that women, and particularly those from low income groups and living in areas with limited facilities, spend long hours on water and fuel collection, food preparation, and other domestic and care activities to compensate for poor infrastructure. Children, too, are heavily involved in unpaid work. Girls are more involved than boys. Examples of public policy mentioned in the paper to address these gender differences are infrastructure in the water sector, sanitation services, electrification, roads, and better transportation, especially in rural areas.

Findings from the 2014 module included:

- Caregiving accounts for 16 percent of women's total unpaid work in Tanzania.³

- Women spent 22 minutes of each day collecting water.⁴
- Males spend more time in SNA production activities (342 minutes per day) than females (195 minutes). On the other hand, females spend more time in extended SNA (238 minutes per day) than males (64 minutes).
- About 9 in 10 females are engaged in unpaid work compared to only 5 in 10 males.

Policy

The 2014 TU results, disseminated by the National Bureau of Statistics in collaboration with the Labor Ministry, launched an important national conversation and debate on the large amounts of time people spend (particularly men) in non-work activities or idle time during the day. The TUS recorded an average of only four hours daily spent on economic activities, according to an NBS expert. This fact was picked up by politicians, some of whom wanted to place restrictions on card games and the sale of alcohol during the day, which led to complaints from brewery companies. These TU results triggered a national conversation. No specific policies or regulations were enacted as a result, however.

In April 2016 TU results on child labor were also disseminated.

Summarizing, an NBS expert said that while the 2014 TUS had an impact in the national conversation and debate (shaping policy horizons), its results have not been fully used for policy. Greater awareness and training on the uses of TU data are needed to increase demand for this information, especially from the pertinent ministries, like the Women's Ministry.

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⁴ Ibid.